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Rule breaches in NUS Referendum spark controversy

The NUS has come under fire for 3rd party campaigning

Amy Gibbons and Ben Rowden
DEP EDITOR AND NEWS EDITOR

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students has been accused of unauthorised third party campaigning in the NUS Referendum at York following an email that was sent out to NUS Extra customers last week, urging them to vote Remain.

The email, which was sent on Wednesday, listed eight reasons why customers should vote to remain in the NUS, in addition to the benefits assumed from owning an NUS Extra card.

It read: "NUS is more than just a discount card, it is an organisation dedicated to making a better life for all students [...] Make sure you vote YES to NUS here."

Official campaign rules state that: "Third party campaigning is not allowed under the terms of YUSU's By-Laws and these Referendum Rules, and every effort will be made to ensure Referendum campaigning and debate is led by

student members."

Campaigners on both sides have taken starkly opposing views on the matter, with ambiguity about whether the email counted as 'third party campaigning' proving a contentious issue. Such ambiguity has left questions open as to how clearly rules have been established between stakeholders in the campaign.

Lucas North, on behalf of 'York Says Yes to NUS', told *Nouse*: "Yes to NUS' do not consider the email sent to students a breach of the campaign rules, this is because they are an external party who are not bound by the rules, and students who received it opted in to receiving communication from NUS Extra.

"To my understanding, personally, both the 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns were made aware of the campaign rules. Both Chris Wall and myself told the NUS that external campaigners were not allowed on campus, and they have not attended at our request. We checked with the YUSU Returning Officer, and we would have been able to use an NUS

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Sprint with a twist: Cycle Circuit turns technicolour as York Active throw all they have at Colour Run, P.27

Student anger at further planned lecturer strikes

Elliott Banks
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS HAVE voiced concerns over last month's industrial action by lecturers as the University and College Union suggest that further strikes are likely to happen. The

dispute revolves around pay for lecturers, after the UCU rejected the 1 per cent pay increase offer.

The UCU decision to escalate industrial action means that disruption is likely to occur in the autumn term of next year unless a deal can be reached.

The College Union have already rejected a revised offer nationally, after universities came back and of-

fered a 1.1 per cent increase in pay.

One third year History student told *Nouse* that, "These strikes are seemingly constant, and can only be to the detriment of students. Many of us are attempting to enter a saturated job market, so to watch the teaching unions demand a bigger pay rise every year is a little galling."

A first year History student also said, "Lecturers are already paid a

lot, maybe they should think about their students who are under increasing financial pressure rather than wasting our money by striking".

However, some students were sympathetic to the lecturer's concerns. A third year Economics student said, "Lecturers work really hard for their students and they wouldn't be taking strike action un-

less it was necessary; many haven't seen pay increases for several years but have seen the Vice Chancellor's salary increase massively."

Geoffrey Wall, UCU president and lecturer in the English Department, confirmed to *Nouse* that a national ballot had taken place and that the Union's membership has

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IMAGE: YORK CASTLE MUSEUM



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

It says something of the quality of the debate on either side of the EU Referendum that the argument that really made me stop and think was the following.

Some clever soul wrote on Facebook that wanting to leave the EU was like being in a club with your mate, who tells you "this is shit, let's go." He's got no idea where else you're going to or who you're going to meet up with, and you can't get back in; instead you wander aimlessly around the streets for 20 minutes before ending up in an anonymous kebab shop arguing about whether to walk or get a taxi home.

Now we all know that nightclubs are overpriced, often disappointing, and wildly undemocratic. There's a good chance that MC Junker will be playing a dodgy Merkel remix that no-one really likes nor asked for. We can probably all agree on the fact that the EU, and the NUS like it, is almost certainly more of a Kuda than a Willow, where you were too gone to know or care if your request got played.

But whether you're a committed clubber or a Kuda-sceptic, or even an intrepid tiki-bar reformist, we can all agree on the importance of having a plan. Our soon-to-be-graduates, staring down the barrel of employment, can testify to this better than anyone.

The significance of taking the time to weigh up all the options can't be overstated, even when scrambling onto a masters or jetting off to East Asia are the knee-jerk

responses with the most comforting instant gratification.

As the results of our own NUS Referendum loom, it seems that a collective third-year breakdown is long overdue. Perhaps the moment for it has even passed. Have we as a university suitably stopped in our tracks, nursed an entire tub of Ben and Jerry's, and agonised over that eternal question - what's next? Or are we leaving the club prematurely, with only the promise of a real chicken burger and a lonely walk home?

In the case of the EU, the opposite criticism may be levelled - that circular debates have grown increasingly outlandish and bizarre, statistics twisted, arguments both for and against bloated, weighed down with the drudgery of excess. It's been the longest run-up in history to a jump we haven't yet decided to take, with speculation about life post-Brexit providing great soundbites but little nuance.

Our own little accelerated referendum positively pales in comparison, but has perhaps suffered, rather than benefitted from, its own momentum.

Regardless, we've all got a lot of voting to be getting on with. If only you could get in shape by excersising your democratic right. Better that than letting yourself get dragged to the kebab shop.

Chris Owen

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Referendum poll shows York set to leave NUS

Chris Owen
EDITOR

AN EARLY POLL of NUS Referendum voting intentions has revealed a staggering lead for the Leave campaign, with 65 per cent of respondents declaring that they will vote to disaffiliate from the Union, compared with 35 per cent opting to vote Remain.

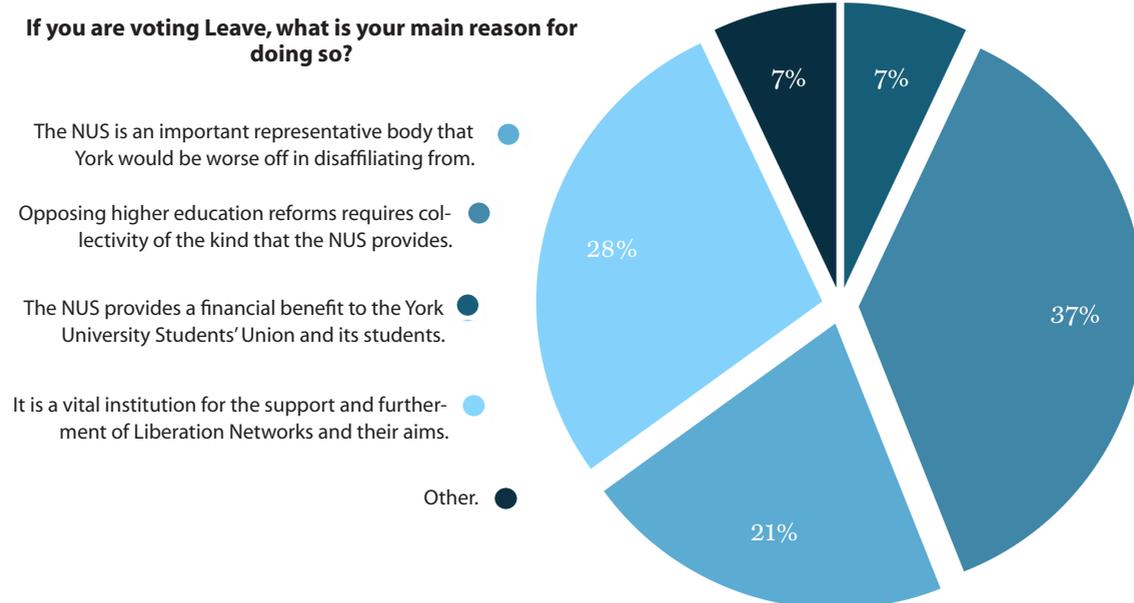
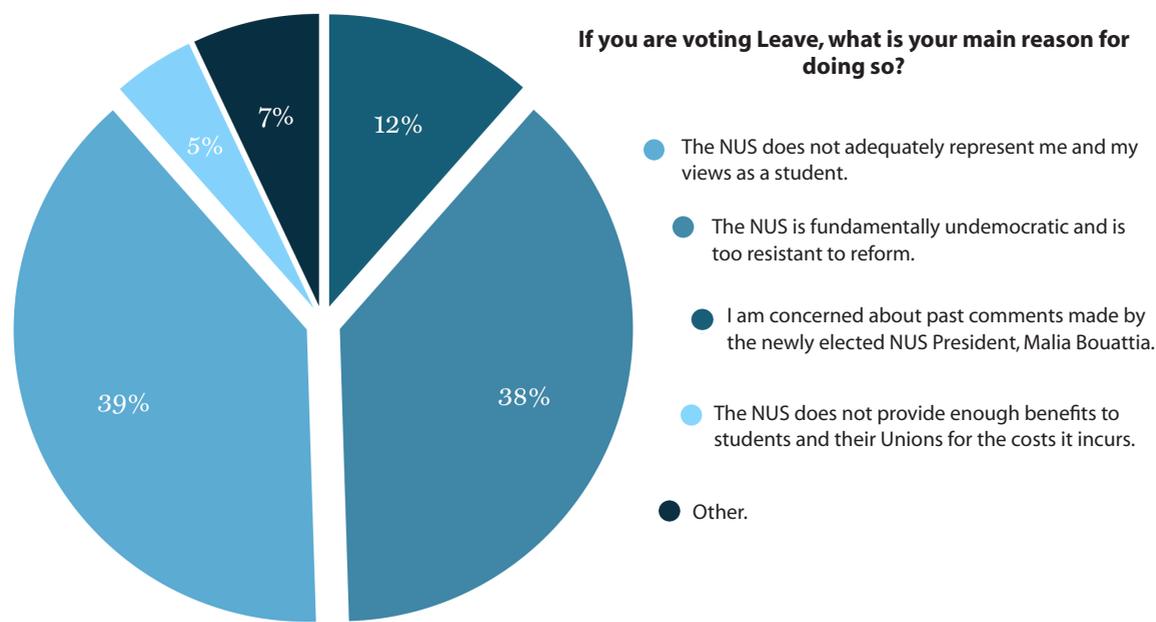
The poll recorded 273 responses, opening the day before campaigning began and closing on Sunday. It appeared publicly on the *Nouse* website for the duration of the period.

Turnout for the Referendum itself was recorded as being just short of 2000 on Saturday, and passed the 5 per cent quoracy boundary within the first days of voting being open to the student population.

Poll data shows that the main reason students wanted to leave the NUS was that "the NUS does not adequately represent me and my views as a student", closely followed by "the NUS is fundamentally undemocratic and too resistant to reform".

The Remain vote showed a more varied set of motivations, with the top main reason being that "opposing higher education reforms requires collectivity of the kind that the NUS provides". The second most popular reason for voting Remain was that the NUS is "a vital institution for the support and furtherment of Liberation Networks and their aims".

The Referendum was accelerated earlier this term following a



policy submission from lobbyists that brought forward the review of York's NUS affiliation from the autumn term. Campaign groups No2NUS and York Says Yes To NUS have since contested the vote, led by University of York Green Party leader Robin Brabham and YUSU Activities Officer Chris Wall respectively.

At last week's Referendum Debate, which pitted Wall opposite Brabham, a statement from the University of York Jewish Society was read out declaring that the group believes the NUS "does not guard our welfare".

Incoming YUSU Activities Officer Alex Lusty, who presented the letter to the debate, commented that "the letter speaks for itself".

"The NUS has, since the eighties, repeatedly admitted to having problems with anti-Semitism, repeatedly said it will tackle it, and repeatedly failed to do so," he said.

Newcastle, Lincoln and Hull universities voted to disaffiliate from the Union last month, following a string of controversies at the recent conference that centred around newly elected President Malia Bouattia and the dismissal of a proposal for a One Member One Vote election structure. However Exeter, Oxford and Cambridge all recently voted to remain within the Union.

A Leave vote at York would see the University join Southampton, Newcastle, Glasgow and Imperial College London as the only Russell Group member universities outside of the NUS.

York's results will be announced on Thursday, with referendum voting closing tomorrow.

Multiple exam errors cost students valuable time

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THIS YEAR'S exam period saw several errors occur in different exams across various departments, which could impact overall grades for students and cause stress for those in the exam procedures.

A first year Physics mathematics exam included an impossible proof. Due to the complexity of the mathematics it was not found to be impossible until after the exam when students calculated it without timed conditions. The Physics department has said that all marks for the question will be awarded for working out on the paper as it has been found that it would have been impossible to get the correct answer.

First year Physics student Nick Meadowcroft-Lunn told *Nouse*:

"The error was present, but due to the complex nature of the question and the maths involved, very hard to spot or confirm during the exam, meaning people did all the correct working out, got the "wrong" answer and therefore assumed they'd lost marks, affecting their grade and confidence. Secondly, I know many people who spent ages trying to get the question to just work, failing, and spending over 45 minutes on a question that frankly wasn't answerable, meaning they either didn't do other questions, or did them badly."

In a core English exam students were confused and frustrated when the invigilator interrupted their writing to clarify an admin error. Micah Mackay, a first year English student said: "There seemed to be some sort of miscommunication between the English department and the invigilators. We were told by our module convenor we would need to answer in two separate an-

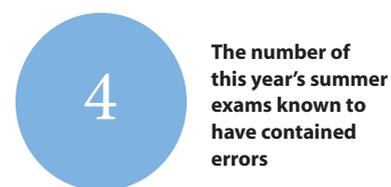
swer booklets but were only given one. Students who then queried this were told to continue in the same one. Halfway through the invigilator asked for our attention, as a result many students stopped writing to listen to him.

"He talked about the fact that we should've been given two answer booklets but should carry on in one if we'd already started the second question in the original booklet. Other invigilators then started passing round a second booklet to those who hadn't started the second question so they could continue in that. The invigilator did not add on the time that he had taken up by speaking at the end, resulting in many students feeling as if they hadn't got the two full hours for the exam due to disorganisation."

A problem was found in an Economics paper, Macroeconomics III, as well, and the paper setter was unavailable during the exam to

correct the error. Management students were also given an incorrect paper in the Strategic Management of Risk module. This was rectified and the correct paper given with the time of the exam being extended so that students had the full three hours to complete the exam.

There were also issues with students who require particular examination conditions being al-



located inappropriate exam spaces. Some students with ADHD or eating disorders were put in small rooms in close proximity to others, and supervisors were rumoured to respond to complaints by saying

"complain to the exam office".

Academic Officer Thomas Ron commented on the issues saying: "I think that mistakes like these are completely unacceptable and there needs to be more vigilance in the future. If students are unsatisfied with the steps the department has taken then they should contact me and I can take it further if students' concerns are not being taken seriously."

A Standing Committee on Assessment Papers chaired by Dr. Steve King will be looking into the errors in detail next term. Dr King said: "We regret any errors in exam papers that slip through the careful checking processes that all departments follow. We recognise that any such errors can be upsetting for students. SCA receives a detailed report each year on exam errors, and we follow up with departments where it seems that the checking processes are not achieving their objectives."

IMAGE: JOHN ROBINSON



Could universities like York gain competition because of the white paper?

VC speaks out over university overhaul

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York Vice-Chancellor Koen Lamberts has released a statement outlining his personal position on the government's higher education white paper, entitled: 'Success as a knowledge economy: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice'.

The white paper, which is the official response to the government's green paper consultation last year, discusses competition, the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and a new regulatory structure for higher education.

Lamberts discussed all three in his response, outlining how the first chapter is aimed at removing barriers for new providers, the second will seek to enhance quality and choice, and the third outlined the new market regulator.

Despite refusing to outline the desirability of the proposals, Lamberts did discuss the potential impact it will have on York.

Referencing the changes in

the TEF, he stated how "universities will be challenged to think more about the purpose of the teaching they offer, about how they allocate their resources to teaching and research, and about how they can develop innovative partnerships with external organisations to deliver key elements of their mission".

Lamberts accepted that these changes will impact the University, but reinforced his message that he is confident York is in good stead.

"For some time at least, we will be protected by our strong reputation as a comprehensive, research-intensive Russell Group university with excellent teaching and high standards for entry and progression."

However, Lamberts did comment on how competition will increase and placed importance on what York must do to attract a greater number of students to stand the University in a good financial situation.

Lamberts also spoke of how he believed the University is in a good position on the research front, stating York is "well set up to benefit from the new Global Challenges funding streams".

York Award numbers rise

The University of York are hopeful for the future of the York Award after seeing participation rise this year. The Award is an employability certificate from the University, and a means of recognition for the skills students develop at York. It gives credit for skills training, work experience, volunteering, and personal interests. The system is currently undergoing a transition, so there are two routes students can take: one for first and second years (from October 2016), and another for all other students. As participation looks to increase, the University hope to reach their target of 50 per cent over the course of the next year.

Uni 'uncertainty' report

The *TES* supplement has published its financial balance sheets for UK universities. The accompanying report, or 'health check', asks which universities have dealt best with uncapped student numbers and uncertainty over international income. It emphasises the competitive nature of universities as businesses, and calculates total income across UK universities as £33.1bn in 2014/15, an increase from £30.7bn the previous year. The figures for our University look healthy, with York making £339,631 in income for 2014/15 and a net surplus before exceptional of 5.8 per cent.

Nurses protest Parliament

A group of five student nurses and a midwifery student have visited parliament to lobby MPs over the changes to university tuition fees and bursary funding. They claim the changes will exacerbate the current staffing crisis in the NHS. From 1 August 2017, new nursing, midwifery and allied health students will no longer receive NHS bursaries. Instead, they will have access to the same student loans system as other students. Such changes will not affect current students at that date, or those who have deferred to start in 2017. The government claims this will enable universities to provide up to 10,000 additional nursing, midwifery and allied health training places by 2020, but the news has provoked an angry backlash from students across the country.

'Monster' seen in lake

A woman who was visiting the University of York from her "Mayfair residence" to hold a ladies luncheon/raffle for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has written to the University and Vice-Chancellor alleging that she saw a "reptilian beast" in the Heslington West lake. In an emotive report, she details her sighting of what she has coined the "Yorkness monster", and shares her concern that: "It's only a matter of time before the ducks become its prey and who knows possibly even a student!" She has offered to pay for drenching of the lake, inspection of the beast and refilling of the lake, and to even send her helicopter to fly University officials to her office to discuss action plans.

Head STYC training criticised for warning against the dangers of "mansplaining"

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

A RECENT HEAD STYC training event has been criticised by a number of students present as bringing up "irrelevant and confusing concepts" in a "condescending manner", as officers in charge were accused of demonstrating sexism towards men and alienating the male audience.

The criticism is aimed mainly at the YUSU Women's Officers and their choice to include an explanation of 'mansplaining' in their section of the training.

'Mansplaining' is a relatively new and controversial term which is broadly defined as 'to explain something to someone, typically a man to a woman, in a manner regarded as condescending or patronising'.

The term was brought up in a list of 'dos and don'ts' which were featured alongside topics such as manhandling and calling out sexism and homophobia.

In conversation with future Head STYCS-to-be *Nouse* learned of how many students were left feeling somewhat 'patronised' by

the officers.

One student who attended the training and who wished to remain anonymous, stated how "mansplaining itself is clearly a sexist term and there is simply no need to create a gender-specific term for simply being patronising, we already have a word for that".

The student went on to clarify that "the Head STYC training was, for the most part, very informative and not biased against men in any way until the Women's Officers stepped up to present. Clearly they feel that women are incapable of being patronising and it just seems to be the wrong image to project to freshers."

The Women's Officers appeared alongside the International Officer Roberto Avelar who also delivered a small talk on microaggression and discussed how Head STYCS should aim to avoid and combat offending international students and students from a different ethnic origin.

Microaggression is a term which has come to generally refer to the cultural degradation of any member of a socially marginalised group. An example of microaggression would be assuming that a person likes a certain food product based on their cultural/ethnic background or their

IMAGE: CLUB REVOLUTION



STYCs were engaged in discussion about "consent and microaggression"

country of origin.

YUSU Community and Well-being Officer Scott Dawson responded to the criticism by stating that, "The comment took place in the context of a wider discussion on consent and microaggression. The presenters were looking at a wide range of examples drawing on students' real life experiences on campus."

"Feedback has been over-

whelmingly positive with 94 per cent of those attending agreeing that the training was relevant to them.

"I always welcome feedback to help improve the head STYC training in the future, as it is important we keep training relevant and up to date for colleges."

It is unclear as to whether the training will continue to use the term in the future.

Backlash at mitigating circumstances failures

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

A *NOUSE* investigation has found that a number of students are dissatisfied with the mitigating circumstances system at York. It includes evidence of instances of breakdowns in communication within departments and unreasonable demands made of individuals in crisis.

In many instances, it has emerged that the system has left students at a significant disadvantage,

“
The system has left students at a significant disadvantage

or unclear as to whether they are entitled to support. Complaints range from students struggling with physical conditions and debilitating illnesses, to those seeking compensation

for mental health difficulties, and in some cases instances of trauma.

It is stated in the Mitigating Circumstances Policy 2015/16 that: “The University defines mitigating circumstances as problems that students have encountered which go beyond the normal difficulties experienced in life and which have affected their academic performance adversely during the assessment period for which they are claiming.”

However, students have raised concerns as to the vagueness of this policy; how it is implemented, and with what consistency across departments.

Many gave evidence as to how efforts to regulate the system have led to students being ‘placed in boxes’, or inappropriately categorised in nuanced circumstances, with one student blaming specifically what they deemed a “one size fits all” policy, arguing that such a regime could not be fit for purpose, given different students with different needs have varying requirements.

The same student, who is in their second year studying English Literature, gave an account of her own experience applying for support, explaining: “I applied for mitigating circumstances after a traumatic incident in my personal life, requesting to sit my exams as planned the following week, but to be permitted to resit ‘as if for the first time’ and not have it capped at

IMAGE: ROBERT COUSE BAKER



The University has this academic year reviewed the policy with student input and is considering a new proposal

40 should I perform poorly, due to the immense stress I was currently under. I did not want to sit the exam for the first time ever in August, as I did not want to further disrupt my schedule.

“The department informed me that it would not be possible to allow an uncapped resit, as mitigating circumstances ‘could not be used to account for poor performance’, and that the procedure could not be ‘customised’ to fit my individual needs.”

It transpired that the policy was

vague to such an extent that there was a breakdown in communication between members of the same department. The student continued: “This was despite the assurance of different members of said department and of the University’s student support network that an uncapped resit would be possible.”

They concluded: “I am appalled that the department believes mit circ can be one size fits all, as it currently wishes to operate, since different individuals have different needs which cannot possibly be fairly catered to under a universal policy.”

In another instance of ambiguity, Kerry Douglas, a second year English and Linguistics student, had to miss an assessed presentation due to a kidney infection and was left unclear as to whether she might be granted mitigating circumstances. She explained: “I messaged my supervisor about it saying the doctor wouldn’t allow me to fly home until I had a scan and it calmed down or I was risking damaging my kidneys since it was really bad.

“I got two doctor notes saying I was not fit for work and wasn’t able to go back to York in time for my presentation however I did all the work and explained to my group who were fine with it. I did everything but present due to illness.

“Then the department told me my MC probably won’t go through because I shouldn’t have been at home and should have been in York. They won’t tell me the final result until summer so it’s been super stressful and I was very sick.”

In addition to listing specifically what it deems does and does not constitute mitigating circumstances, the University website clarifies: “Academic studies are challenging and everyday life is full of ups and downs. It is important you develop the resilience and skills needed to cope with everyday inconveniences and illnesses so they do not stop you completing assessments in good time.”

In some instances, the latter statement has provided confusion as to what constitutes a suitable

application in the case of mental health complications; in particular, how one might distinguish between general stress and medical Anxiety. For this reason, one student found it difficult to persuade their department that their situation warranted excusing from contact hours.

They told *Nouse*: “I was suffering from anxiety and depression for the first time at university. I was stuck in bed one day with constant panic attacks. I was so worried for my mental health and emailed my tutor explaining. The tutor replied this wasn’t a good enough excuse to miss class.”

The mitigating circumstances policy has been in review over the past year, and a new policy is currently being considered.

When asked, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof John Robinson commented: “The University operates a

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The department believes mit circ can be one size fits all

robust system which gives due consideration to all properly reported mitigating circumstances. The system is overseen by a committee of academics drawn from across the faculties and is supported by an experienced team of professional staff. The policy and process are kept under regular review with input from student representatives.

“In the current academic year, improving clarity and making interpretation more straightforward have been important themes, leading to development of a new policy. Students have had input to this process and representatives are participating in all stages of approval.”

80% of students take a leave of absence for financial reasons

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

YUSU research has found that 80 per cent of students who have considered taking, or have taken a leave of absence (LoA), did so for financial reasons.

In a study conducted by Maddie Boden, former YUSU LGBTQ Officer and postgraduate student, 144 students were surveyed, of which 64 had taken a leave of absence.

In addition to the overwhelming proportion who cited financial support as a main concern, 67 per cent of those who had taken a break said it was due at least in part to falling behind on work, and 67 per cent again attributed their decision to missing out on societies or socialising.

The study also gathered information on students’ chosen place of residence while away from university. Only 43 per cent stayed in York full-time, with 37 per cent returning home, and 18 per cent doing a mixture of the two. 30 per cent of students on a leave of

absence were found to be second years, and 29 per cent third years.

In regards to means of accessing support, 80 per cent of the whole group said they had at some point discussed the possibility of taking a leave of absence with their academic tutor.

Following the study, YUSU are in discussion about what more could be done to support students through the process. In collaboration with a series of focus groups in Weeks 8 and 9, they will consider how the system might be improved, addressing both an initial lack of support or information during the process of initiating and immediately after taking an LoA, and a lack of support in re-integrating with the University following a year of LoA. Following this, a report will be drafted collating suggestions and outcomes.

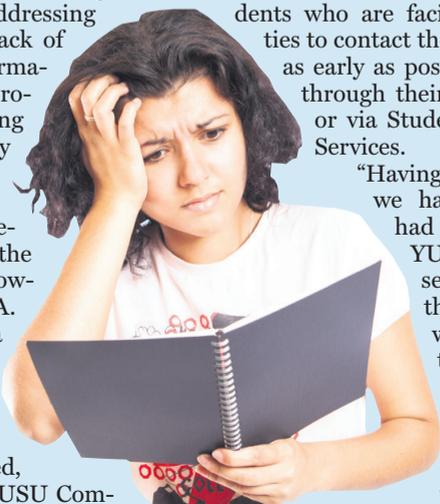
When asked, Scott Dawson, YUSU Com-

munity & Wellbeing Officer, said: “We hope that the focus groups will help us expand our knowledge on issues surrounding LoA. Over the summer we look forward to working with the University to address some of the problems highlighted by the survey.”

David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, also commented: “We are conscious of the financial pressures which students face and are anxious to mitigate these where possible.

“We would encourage students who are facing difficulties to contact the University as early as possible, either through their supervisor or via Student Support Services.

“Having said that, we have not yet had sight of YUSU’s research on this issue and would want to consider it carefully before responding more fully.”



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New petition site will hold University to account

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

AS PART OF the new website updates for YUSU it has been announced that there will be a petition section. Petitions will apply to the University as well as the Student Union.

Students will be able to submit petitions and vote on others. If the petitions reach an allocated number of votes they will automatically go to the University Executive Board for discussion.

The threshold figure is yet to be confirmed, but will be based off upvotes, not down votes. The petitions that reach this threshold and are discussed will then receive a written response that will be made public.

Ben Leatham, YUSU President, told *Nouse* that the petition system “provides a direct channel to the uni executive board”.

It is after speaking to Koen Lamberts, Vice Chancellor of the University, that it was agreed to that petitioning could apply to both the University as well as the Student Union.

Leatham continued: “I’m thrilled to announce plans to in-

troduce a petitioning platform and would like to thank the VC for taking on board feedback about the need to listen to students in a clear and transparent way. The exact model of the platform will be developed in the new academic year and form part of wider consultation plans to address how YUSU’s policy processes can be improved to better serve students.”

The new website changes and YUSU policy reform will come into effect in August. The submission of petitions and the ability to vote on them will only be available to students.

David Duncan, University Secretary and Registrar told *Nouse*: “We work very closely with YUSU and the Graduate Students’ Association to ensure that the views of students are heard and are taken into account at all levels of decision making. We welcome this initiative and look forward to hearing the results of it in due course.”

Huddersfield University Students’ Union have a similar petition facility on their website in which petitions have been submitted on subjects such as free access to the gym for students, eliminating printing charges in the library and getting a Slush Puppy machine in the Student Union shop.

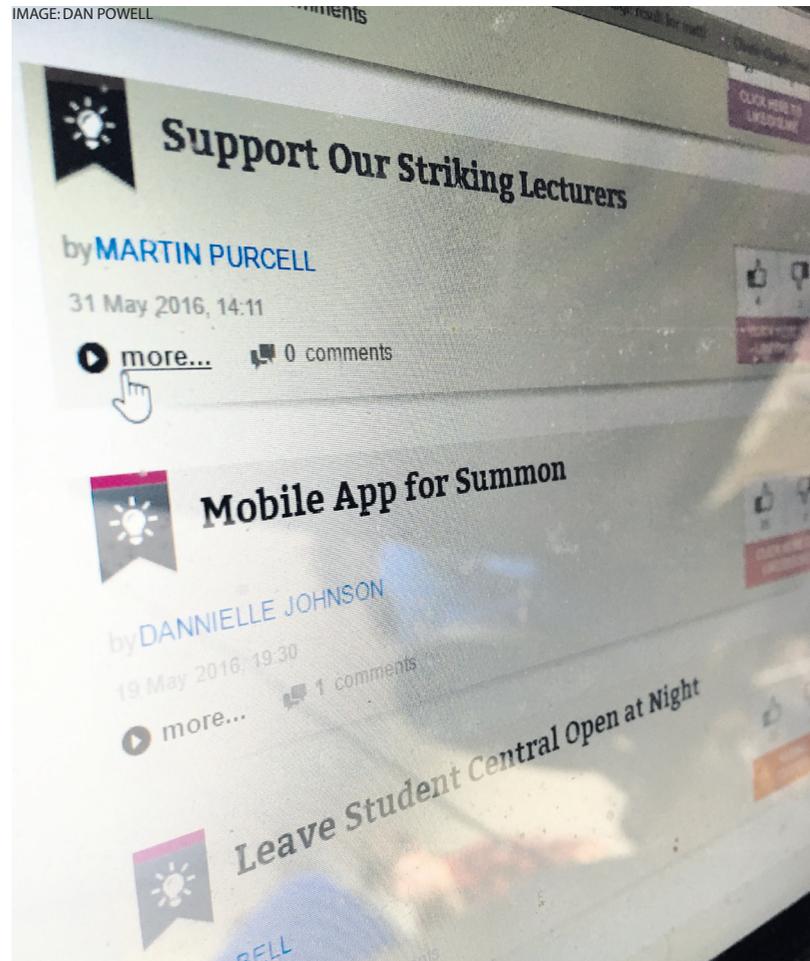
A first-year Pharmacy student

at Huddersfield University told *Nouse*: “it has been really good having the ability to go to our Student Union website and petition for things that students really want. There is such a variety of different ideas that people have for what would make the University better and it is great to have a platform where they can be heard.”

On the Huddersfield University website it is displayed which petitions the University is working on, which ones it may make changes based on one day, and which petitions have resulted in actual changes being made at the University.

A third-year University of York student told *Nouse*: “It will be good to have somewhere that students can tell the University what issues are really affecting them and what changes they would like to see being made. Even if changes take a long time to happen it will bring some issues to light that can be spoken about.”

Currently several petitions associated with the University have been submitted through change.org. Already some of these have resulted in action such as the petition for lights on Walmgate Stray, in which light disks are going to be installed along the sides of the path leading to the University.



YUSU website will change to include a facility for students to submit petitions

Six student suicides at York since 2006

Chris Owen
EDITOR

A *NOUSE* investigation has revealed that University records show only six student suicides having taken place in the last ten years. However management has conceded that “it does not keep statistics on suicides” and this information “is not routinely recorded”.

The statistic has been widely queried, with students alleging that up to as many as six students may have taken their lives in the last three years alone. A third year commented that “the number seems quite low – I’m confident that in my three years alone the University has seen this many student suicides. However there are obviously complications in monitoring such a statistic.”

In its response to a request for the information, the University has declared that it “does its best to keep track of student deaths” and that the numbers given relate to cases the University knows of

where the inquest verdict was suicide.

“The University does not keep statistics on suicides, but while this is not routinely recorded as a statistic, the University does its best to keep track of student deaths,” the reply reads.

“It cannot give a categorical confirmation that there are no other student deaths with a suicide verdict in that period, because no reliable source of comprehensive data is available to it.”

It follows reports that half of all ambulance call outs to the University have been for self-harm or suicide related incidents in the first month of 2016, with such incidents accounting for 32 per cent of all callouts in 2015.

University Registrar and Secretary David Duncan clarified, “We are of course aware of any sudden deaths of students. The decision on whether or not a sudden death is a suicide is a matter for the coroner’s inquest, which sometimes happens some considerable time after the death. A member of staff attends the inquest and reports back to senior colleagues on the outcome.”

Socs fail to spend £22,000 in YUSU grant money in 2015/16

Jack Davies
NEWS REPORTER

IT HAS EMERGED that a total of £21,908.01 allocated to University of York societies in 2015/16 has gone unspent, according to data obtained by *Nouse*.

YUSU allocated £67,500 at the start of 2015/16 between 108

societies included in the grant. This means that over 32 per cent of funds dispensed at the beginning of the year have not been spent.

The total amount that was requested by societies this year was £248,213.68, around £180,000 more than was actually granted to societies, and over £200,000 more than the societies have spent during the last 12 months.

Just 28 of the 108 societies who received the grant have spent all of

their funding from the past year, meaning that 80 societies have seen at least some of their YUSU funding go unused, which is described by YUSU’s Student Activities Officer Chris Wall as “not unusual”.

As many as 1 in 3 societies have failed to spend a single penny of funding received from YUSU.

Elsewhere, a total of 68 societies still have over £50 left to spend, 51 still have over £100 at their disposal, and 5 societies have as much as £1000 remaining.

The President of one society told *Nouse* that they think it is “extremely unclear as to why societies should not make the most of funding available to them to make improvements”.

Wall further commented: “It is not unusual for the full allocation of grants to have not been spent at this stage in the academic year but the figure is higher than we would expect. Claims are however being submitted by students on a daily basis so this is unlikely to be the final year end figure. If we reach the year’s end next month and any unspent funds are still remaining we will ensure that the money goes back into supporting students.”



United Nations Association made the biggest grant application request

NUS accused of unauthorised 3rd party campaigning

Amy Gibbons and Ben Rowden
DEP EDITOR AND NEWS EDITOR

>>> Continued from front

officer as the delegated speaker - the 'No' campaign were against this (see my post on their page for more) and so we did not invite any of the several NUS officers who were willing to attend. To my personal understanding, NUS were aware that external campaigners are not allowed on campus, and they have not attended."

In stark contrast to this, Robin Brabham, leader of the 'No2NUS' campaign, stated:

"This was absolutely a breach of campaign rules by NUS. Third-party campaigning is explicitly forbidden and NUS clearly violated this, once again demonstrating NUS' systematic disregard for a fair and open democratic process. As coordinators, Chris and I bear some responsibility for ensuring our sides are informed about election rules. I briefed the 'No' side a week before voting opened and have been keen to keep our side on the right side of the rules. I cannot speak for Chris, but I hope that he has taken similar proactive measures.

"This was discussed at length with the Returning Officer prior to the Referendum, and we had been informed that numerous phone conversations had taken place with

the NUS senior management team and that they had been made fully aware. Everyone in this campaign - 'Yes', 'No' and Returning Officer - has wanted all parties to be well informed to prevent rule breaches. Shamefully, NUS has clearly shown no intention of wanting to obey YUSU election rules."

However serious doubt has been cast over communications between YUSU and the NUS; despite YUSU assuring campaigners that the NUS had been informed of the rules both before and after the email, when approached by *Nouse* on two occasions, an NUS spokesperson stated: "NUS has not been informed of any rules about campaigning and no complaints have been received by NUS about rule breaking or NUS Extra card emails."

In addition, YUSU has this week received "a number of complaints" of breaches of the official NUS Referendum rules by both 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns, including several instances of vandalism. Allegations first surfaced when it emerged on Wednesday that a 'No2NUS' sign had been defaced to read 'YES TO NUS', and a number of others were torn down. The 'Yes' campaign also later reported damage to signage.

The campaign rules state that: "Campaign supporters must not obscure, tamper with or remove the publicity of any other campaign."

The 'Yes' campaign stated: "'Yes' signs have been ripped down relative to 'No' signs; on Tuesday even-



IMAGE: DAN POWELL

Both campaigns have allegedly had signs vandalised, with one 'No' sign completely defaced to read 'YES TO NUS'

ing, almost half of our signs were destroyed, on Wednesday afternoon, two 'Yes' signs were defaced in a tit-for-tat response. Since then, we are aware of more 'Yes' signs being torn down but not of any further abuse of 'No' signs. We believe supporters of the 'No' campaign are behind most acts of vandalism, but we condemn the vandalism regardless of who does it."

The 'No' campaign in turn told *Nouse*: "We can say categorically that the 'No' campaign has been uninvolved in attacking any signs. We are disappointed that some

signs have been removed and do not in any way condone this. We were very disappointed to see that our signs were spray painted over to read 'YES 2 NUS', and then systematically ripped down across campus. This is particularly worrying given that this was premeditated and would have required significant planning and expenditure. We understand that the leaders of the 'Yes' campaign were uninvolved with any malpractice and trust that they have conducted themselves in a manner conducive to a constructive debate."

When asked for comment, Ben

Leatham, YUSU President, stated: "A number of complaints regarding the Referendum have been received and these are all being investigated. Where appropriate and there is a breach of election rules by relevant parties, action will be taken. The rules set out clear procedures to ensure a fair election and both internal and external returning officers are in place to provide a check and balance, investigate concerns and handle any formal complaints. I am confident that the Referendum is being conducted fairly, in line with the rules."

Sexual harassment and assault figures "not collated centrally"

Chris Owen
EDITOR

INSTANCES OF reported sexual assault or harassment at the University are not recorded in a central database or document, and information is not easily retrievable, a response to a Freedom of Information request submitted to the University has declared.

The request was refused on the grounds that the retrieval of the information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" for FOIs to universities because, according to UoY management, "the information, where held, is held across several departments" and not held "in a single database or document".

However when asked for clarification, University Registrar and Secretary David Duncan commented: "Formal complaints of harassment and assault are recorded centrally and action is taken where necessary." It is therefore unclear

exactly why the FoI request was denied and on what grounds.

The University directs students who wish to report a sexual assault to the police and campus security phone numbers, and also to the Safezone app.

"External authorities such as the police are also involved where appropriate," Duncan continued. "However, our policy is to encour-

52%
YTT research has revealed that 52% of students at York have been victims of sexual harassment

age students to raise minor issues informally with College staff, harassment advisers or others so that advice can be given and matters dealt with as quickly as possible.

"While we do not believe it would be helpful to attempt to collate data on the many contacts that students have with College and other staff, we keep in constant contact with those staff so that we

are fully aware of issues which require formal action."

Of the failure to hold information in a codified location, YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer Scott Dawson said: "The University has been proactive in changing its harassment procedures, particularly with regards to reporting incidents around sexual assault and clarification of the reporting process. A significant number of harassment cases can be resolved through mediation or at a local level, with college tutors or academic supervisors, without recourse to formal mechanisms, which are rightly in place to support the most serious cases.

"To ensure continuous improvements to support services, it is important that adequate monitoring and recording is in place to understand the real scale of the challenge. Where necessary this should include centralised recording. It's concerning that provision for such documentation doesn't seem to be in place and I urge the University to address this."

Abusive commentary at Roses Darts match

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

FOLLOWING ROSES 2016, details have emerged of unsporting and discriminatory behaviour from commentators at the Women's and Men's Darts tournaments.

The annual Darts competitions took place on Sunday 1 May at Lancaster University. Lancaster came out on top in both tournaments with 5 points to York's 4 on each occasion.

YUSU Sport President Grace Clarke has spoken out against the conduct of Lancastrian commentators at the Roses 2016 competition, assuring students that alleged sexist and body shaming comments are being fully investigated.

Clarke also commended the positive work that both universities have taken in creating a more equal, diverse and accessible Roses tournament. She went on to state how both universities will shortly

be meeting to begin planning Roses 2017, set to be held at York.

Clarke told *Nouse*: "For the first time at Roses 2016, both Lancaster and York team captains from every sport signed a pledge to respect the Rose, to act in a respectful manner demonstrating ultimate sportsmanship. However, clearly the conduct of the commentators at Lancaster Roses Darts was not in the spirit of this pledge.

"YUSU takes discrimination extremely seriously, we acted quickly and immediately contacted Lancaster to ensure they took appropriate action. We have been advised that they will investigate and use the relevant disciplinary procedures to address those students directly involved at Lancaster.

"Very shortly, we will meet with Lancaster to begin discussions and plans for Roses 2017 with a strong commitment to equality and diversity at the top of our agenda to ensure the same issues do not arise at York next year."

It is not yet clear what exactly the comments made were.

Minster neo-Nazis 'may have included students'

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

A PROTEST from the Neo-Nazi group National Action which was staged in York last Saturday allegedly had participants who "looked like students" according to eye witness reports.

The protesters were seen outside the Minster holding a banner in support of Hitler and even performing the Nazi salute. A large police presence was established quickly and numerous members of the public were seen denouncing the protesters and their actions.

According to first year History student Anna Coughlan the protesters, numbered at around 40, seemed to include members who "looked just like normal students, our age".

Coughlan, who was present at the event, went on to state how "it is incredibly worrying that people our age hold such views, views which are associated with the most hateful aspects of society".

Coughlan also described how she felt "concerned at the hostile environment and that the scene was one completely at odds with the York I have become used to throughout my first year at university".

Following the event there have been a number of arrests, includ-



Protesters found themselves kettled in by the police as crowds gathered

ing that of a 21-year-old man from Swansea. Police are appealing to anyone with footage of the event to come forward and aid the identification of protesters.

The incoming Lord Mayor of York has also joined a group of 14 key civic leaders in the city who have denounced the actions of the group, stating that their "message of hate" has no place on the streets

of York.

Ben Leatham, YUSU President, also joined the Lord Mayor in signing an open letter which denounced the protesters. The letter stated how "to have a group of fascists on the streets of York bearing a banner claiming 'Hitler Was Right', as we did on Saturday, dishonours the memory of all those who fought against the Nazi regime".

Staff strikes could continue into next academic calendar

Elliott Banks
NEWS REPORTER

>>> Continued from front

voted for further industrial action.

He explained: "Lecturer's pay has declined by nearly 15 per cent since 2009 so we are now effectively working for nothing for 15 per cent of 37 hours every week. That's 5.55 hours, working for nothing, and that's an hour and a bit every day. We are not happy, working for nothing for an hour a day."

If strike action is to occur it is likely to have an impact on students. Thomas Ron, YUSU Academic Officer, said: "We took steps during the strikes to make sure that there was continuity of provision for students and we have not heard of any reports of disruption. Lecturers now are working strictly to hours, meaning that they will not work overtime. However, as most contact time is in the working day the effect on students for the direct hours of their contact time should be minimal.

"Once again, we very much hope both sides return to the table and work out a solution to ensure that our university can be at its best for students."

When asked about the likelihood of a quick resolution to the strike, University Registrar and Secretary David Duncan told *Nouse* that: "The University & College Union (UCU) has announced 'Action Short of a Strike' in the form of working to contract; this action

began on Wednesday 25 May."

He further explained that the University is looking to arrange a settlement that will avoid industrial action and prioritise essential work, minimising any negative impact on students.

Wall addressed frustrated students: "To those students feeling angry, we want to say that we did not take this decision lightly. We know that the action has caused disruption and we regret this. But the truth is that University employers could end the dispute today. With rising tuition fees, the system currently has over £1.8bn in operating surpluses.

"This is your money. And you may well ask where it's going. Into buildings, into VC's salaries, into schemes for increasing revenues. Rather than being invested in staff.

"This is a familiar commercial strategy: building the brand, while surreptitiously squeezing labour costs at the expense of quality. The evidence is all around us: seminar groups that feel too big, too many tutors on short-term contracts, overworked lecturers who can't remember your name, long delays in replacing staff who leave. It doesn't have to be like this.

"These things come from decisions that are being made against your best interests. You can help to make your university a better place in which to learn. We ask you to support our campaign for a fair deal. Email the VC and urge him to press national negotiators to make a better offer. Talk to your lecturers about the action. Talk to your Students' Union."

Department agrees to cap students' book costs at £50

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

STUDENTS AND STAFF on the English department Board of Studies are together working towards an agreement whereby a number of concerns regarding book costs and email turnarounds will be addressed.

The agreement, which will be proposed at Wednesday's Board of Studies meeting, will be reached by the collation of two proposals: one each on the behalf of students and staff, which will clarify the 'reasonable' expectations of both.

The students' proposal, which has already been drafted in collabo-

ration with some staff members, details a number of concerns, predominantly those of costs and communication.

In light of recent discussions regarding financial demands on students, the group propose that book costs are capped at £50 per module. Staff will ensure this by calculating costs of reading lists in advance and making certain texts available for free in printed format or online.

Jim Watt, senior lecturer in the English Department, confirmed the proceedings, but reaffirmed the agreement is very much in the interests of both staff and students, and significantly still a work in progress.

"I'd stress that the discussion so far has been very collaborative," he told *Nouse*, "and hasn't been about either side trying to hold the other

to account - it's been more about staff trying to recognise some of the pressures that students face, and vice versa".

"We hope to approve the agreement as it stands at next week's Board of Studies meeting, then build on it with reference to staff and student feedback over subsequent months, with the aim of developing a more formal agreement which we can present to students and include in the departmental staff handbook."

Angelica Curzi, second year Course Rep, also commented: "Staff warmly welcomed the laying down of the SSA with the student reps, seeing it as a brilliant opportunity to improve communications and relations with the English Lit students at large."



Staff will cut costs by printing extracts and increasing online availability

The NUS, prisons and jumping the shark

The latest NUS motion suggesting the abolition of prisons is one more in a line of fatuous interjections that do the NUS little credit



IMAGE: LUIS ARGERICH

Niall Whitehead



Prisons are obsolete! Abolish them now! That's the recently passed Motion 304 from the NUS Black Students' Campaign, which calls for "the abolition of the prison-industrial complex". The motion claims that prisons are "sexist" in their treatment of women and "racist" by targeting minorities: it therefore declares that the NUS should campaign for "prison abolition" through means up to and including "direct action".

Notably, it doesn't say what prisons are actually going to be replaced with. For all we know, the UK's 85,000 prisoners are just going to get dumped outside to roam free, like a community outreach programme mixed with Arkham City. Maybe we'll just invent the world's biggest naughty step.

Of course, we'd have to put some walls around it, eventually, to stop offenders leaving too early. Maybe some staff just to make sure. We could even get some of the staff to try and rehabilitate the offenders, just to make sure they didn't end up on the step again.

But at least we won't have any more prisons.

The thing is, there's a grain of truth in the NUS' arguments. It's true that minorities are overrepresented in prison – black Britons make up 10 per cent of all prisoners

but 2.8 per cent of the population. It's also true that as a way to stop recidivism, they could be improved, since 58 per cent of those imprisoned for fewer than 12 months re-offend. But whatever your opinion, the fact that the NUS is riding out to tackle it reveals a few unflattering truths about the organisation.

For one, "the NUS votes to take down the prison-industrial complex" is a political statement on par with "One Direction moves to cancel farm subsidies" or "the Botswana Meat Industry Union votes to leave the EU" – you can certainly do it, but

We probably shouldn't ban prisons

you won't exactly be a bastion of expertise, and it's not the sort of thing laid out in your mandate.

"Reach for the Stars" is a political manifesto usually restricted to the S-Club Party, but the NUS seems to have taken it to heart, passing motions demanding "the building of millions of council houses" and "taxes on second homes" in 2015, while pushing for macroeconomic social change through "heavy taxation of the rich and democratic, public ownership and control of the banks". These are noble goals, but not the highest priorities for the UK's student population, who the NUS allegedly represent.

Others have questioned whether or not the NUS even has a man-

date to argue on behalf of all students any more. Malia Bouattia only got voted in by 372 students, 0.005 per cent of the UK's student population. Furthermore, students aren't the most conscientious when voting for the union reps that represent us at NUS conferences.

Only 18 per cent of students voted in the average SU election across the country, according to a 2015 poll. The result is that a handful of radical students (radical as in politically, as opposed to any ability to pull off a sick-nasty kick-flip) can make the difference between candidates winning and losing.

Over time, the absence of any external engagement becomes almost necessary for the system to work, as inward-facing, hard-learned policies become the norm and the whole thing becomes utterly detached from student life. And so, to the wider world, the NUS are no longer a powerful, focused organisation realising students' concerns, but those obsessive navel-gazers who banned clapping.

Now the whole thing seems to have reached its inevitable conclusion. One after the other, universities have been voting to disaffiliate and get their cheaper hamburgers and Alton Towers tickets from elsewhere – meanwhile, Bouattia stares out at the rising waves as the violinists finish up "Nearer My God To Thee". Hopefully, that'll be the trigger for some much needed reforms, especially One Member One Vote – if not, maybe a better alternative can rise from the ashes.

And also, no, we probably shouldn't ban prisons.

Iranian forces in Iraq: Saviours or sectarians?

Iran has been instrumental in the fight against IS, but is this a positive development, or is it adding fuel to the sectarian fire?

Sam Lees



On Saturday 28 May, the Iraqi Parliament condemned the visit by Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani, the head of foreign military operations for the Revolutionary Guards, to paramilitary forces who have been taking part in the Iraqi government operation to retake the city of Fallujah. The reason for this outcry: fears of sectarian violence.

The fears are likely well-founded; after all, al-Qaeda in Iraq spent most of the last decade attempting to fuel a sectarian war between

Sunni and Shia Muslims. The Islamic State (IS) has followed hard on their heels, persecuting religious minorities such as Christians, Druz, Yazidis and various Shia sects. With the majority of the members of the al-Hashd al-Shaabi or Popular Mobilisation Units being Shia, despite state sponsorship from the Ministry of the Interior, the groups have considerable power to enact violence against minorities if they should choose to do so.

With the recent history of Iraq pointing towards such trends, be that by IS, the Hashd or Iraqi army, there is good reason for the parliament to be on edge.

There have already been reports of Shia militia torching farms and mosques after retaking Karmah, a city near Fallujah, and throughout the conflict, there have

been rumours and allegations flying left, right and centre at various groups purportedly acting on behalf of the government. While it's true that allowing groups with a sectarian background to form in the first place at a time when divisions and tensions are so high is very risky, the Iraqi government also badly need the military assistance.

At the time of the foundation of the Hashd, back in the summer of 2014, Mosul, second city of Iraq, had just fallen. In six days, two divisions of the Iraqi security forces numbering over 30,000 men, not to mention the backing of heavy armour and support systems were defeated by an estimated 1000 IS fighters. The Iraqi military had proven that despite a decade of training, in the face of terror tactics and the threat of execution, crucifixion or worse,

they could not stand in the face of IS.

However, the tribal and sectarian militias, some over a decade old, had been able to stand in the face of the might of the NATO peace-keeping force. They had persevered, and while they had lost men, leaders and arms, and with no formal training, their resolve could not be questioned. With further promises of assistance from the Iranian government, and the desperate situation showing that something fairly radical might be required, the Iraqi government created the Hashd as a part of its security forces.

In the long run, it may prove to be a foolish decision. It has allowed Iranian military assets to be created or beefed up in the region. It has allowed for the potential further growth of the risk of sectarian

warfare occurring in Iraq itself on a massive scale. But at the same time, what choice was there? The international community had no interest in offering serious help to the Iraqis; many nations had only just left, and weren't keen to go back for more.

Since Iran is currently being brought back into the international fold, and since it is actively trying to assist Iraq and Syria against the actions by IS, should we perhaps stop being so suspicious of its actions? Back during the Iran-Iraq war, after all, predominantly Sunni Kurds and Shia Iranians fought side by side. Just because there is a potential for sectarian conflict, it does not mean Iran or Iraq desire one; after all, if it did, Iran would see decades of hard diplomatic work obliterated in an instant.

Who wants that?

IMAGE: DONKEYHOTY



The most unpopular election in US history

Trump and Clinton are both electoral poison: US electorate, be very afraid

Anand Goyal



President Trump was once a distant fiction that is fast becoming a possible reality. When your opponent has offended almost everyone except white males, you should be trouncing him. Worryingly, Clinton is not.

In May, Donald Trump closed the gap between Clinton from seven to two points, within the margin of error, according to the polls gathered by the Huffington Post. Unfavourable deficits for both candidates are at record highs. Trump is the most unfavourable in US history - negative 20 per cent - with Clinton the second most at negative 13 per cent.

In a CBS poll, both Clinton and Trump did terribly among the electorate. When asked if they thought the candidates were honest and trustworthy, 64 per cent said no for both Trump and Clinton. It is disastrous for the Clinton camp considering Trump contradicts himself within the same sentence, but it points to the underlying distrust that the American public have of the Clintons.

In short, Clinton is a bad gen-

eral election candidate; decades of flip-flopping for political expedience and contradictions have been scrutinised this election season. Critics point to her opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership that she once called the "gold standard" of trade deals, or her sudden move to support marriage for same-sex couples in 2013, just as public opinion changed in favour on the matter.

Clinton is further damaged by an investigation that the FBI are conducting over her using an e-mail server inside her private residence to transmit classified information while acting as Secretary of State under the Obama administration, which Clinton tried to downplay as a "security inquiry". Soon after, FBI Director James Comey said he was not familiar with the term "security inquiry". Instead, he said, "We're conducting an investigation. That's what we do."

While it would be unfair to pin her image problem with Republicans solely on her due to baseless Republican attacks that have haunted her for decades, much of her problem with progressives in the Democratic Party is her past dismissiveness to the movement. However, sensing the changing winds, Clinton now describes herself as a progressive, when earlier on the campaign trail she pled "guilty" to being "kinda moderate

and centrist". It did nothing to improve her image.

Meanwhile the forgotten candidate on the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders, beats Trump by 11 per cent in a poll-of-polls general election match up, a trouncing if those numbers were to become reality. Further, he maintains a positive 10 per cent favourable rating among the American electorate, significantly better than both Trump and Clinton, notably the only positive favourability rating of any of the remaining three. Unfortunately, the delegate difference between him and Clinton is almost impossible to overcome and it is extremely unlikely he'll be the democratic nominee.

As Trump and Clinton look towards the general election, it is Trump who is dealing the first blow, with television adverts about Hillary Clinton's treatment of alleged victims of Bill Clinton's past sexual transgressions, contrasting with tweets she has posted about not silencing victims of sexual abuse. The ad is a clear attempt to sway female voters away from her, a demographic she performs well in. This below the belt politics is what Trump likes to play, and there will only be more of it.

A two-point lead isn't great; Trump saw off 16 other candidates, it's time to get worried, he could see off one more.

BNOC culture - how we've drunk our own Kool-aid

Does anyone actually care about all these BNOCs?

Deborah Lam



Just because you're from Derwent doesn't mean you have to lick the arses of the college Big Names On Campus. Nor should you feel obliged to, regardless of the college you come from. Although BNOCs are thought of as part and parcel of university culture, there are convincing reasons why we should seriously assess the position of the BNOC on campus, just as we have lad culture.

We far too easily dismiss what would otherwise be seen as inexcusable behaviour as "just the way BNOCs are" like a parent pardoning children.

Some BNOCs may be equally spoiled, self-entitled and conceited, but unlike children, the existence of the appellation reflects on us as the student population. For all the talk about university being a place for vigilant criticism and debate, we let BNOCs off the hook: a large dent in our critical faculties.

It's difficult to diagnose the problem because it is impossible to identify a group of JCRC members, student politics or sports groups as BNOCs without grossly generalising and implicating people who genuinely care about serving their communities or are passionate about their societies.

People in any position of power - be it through popularity or formal authority - need to constantly appraise their intentions and involvement in social groups. Just as we have recognised the toxicity of lad culture, the BNOC equivalent is similarly, but more subtly, pernicious. In an age where the cult of the celebrity is so pervasive, it's easy to forget to critique the people - or institutions - we see as representative of the values we hold.

But placing anyone or anything in a position of power, regardless of the situation, dangerously over-emphasises particular qualities and often excuses behaviour that needs to be criticised objectively.

It's no longer good enough to dislike them or meet any BNOC news with an eye roll. For all our distaste for BNOC culture we may profess,

we are the ones that perpetuate its self-fulfilling prophecy.

From articles (admittedly written by student journalists) offering purportedly official lists of BNOCs on campus or worse, advice on how to become one yourself, we create the narratives that spawn them.

People become BNOCs when we confer status onto them. When I couldn't identify someone a friend pointed out to me while walking to campus one day, my friend asked if I was even from Derwent.

The tired absurdity of BNOC culture is that we don't even like

“
The tired absurdity of BNOC culture is that we don't even like the majority of them

the majority of them. But if tearing down the myth of the Big Name On Campus was as easy as simply choosing to extricate ourselves from the phenomenon, there wouldn't be so many infesting universities with elitism, inside jokes and aggressive self-promotion.

The BNOC social phenomenon paradoxically publicises their parties and gatherings while stressing their exclusivity, as if to tell us, "Look at all the fun you aren't invited to." Perhaps the inability to remove ourselves completely is indicative of an addiction to the cult of the celebrity - and a hope to one day become one.

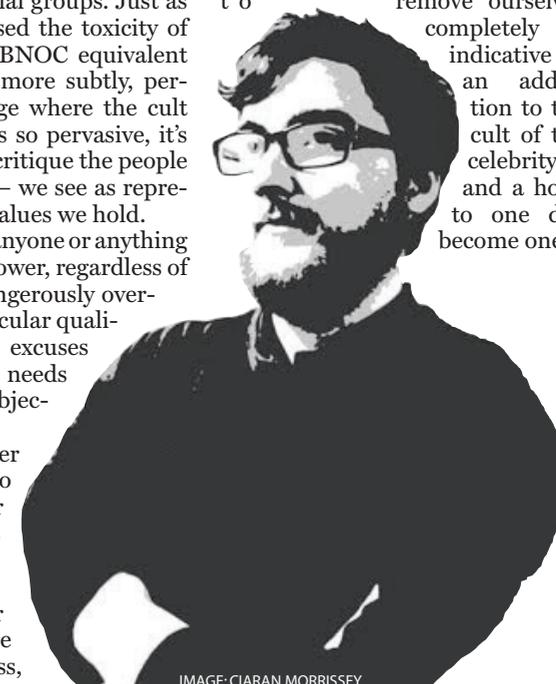


IMAGE: CIARAN MORRISSEY

We should protect ‘throwaway’ modern art

Art has a life of its own, beyond the musings of critics, pranksters, customers and gallery owners. It’s probably best to leave it be

Chloe Kent



There seems to be a near universal consensus, concerning modern art, of a slight disappointment with the pieces before our eyes, the oft muttered phrase flitting between the canvasses: “I could have done that.”

Worse still, it can be mistaken as not being a carefully crafted art piece, but just a mess needing to be disposed of; Sara Goldschmied and Eleonora Chiari’s installation *Where Shall We Go Dancing Tonight* was recently mistaken by gallery cleaners as the aftermath of a party, and disposed of – quite forgivably, one may maintain.

Underwhelmed by a number of the exhibits on display at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Kevin Nguyen and TJ Khayatan, 16 and 17 respectively, placed Nguyen’s glasses on the gallery floor, underneath a printout apparently describing the ‘piece’. Patrons of the museum flocked around the glasses, believing them to have been put on display by the museum, crouching down to take clearer photographs.

As the spectators took pictures of the spectacles, Khayatan and Nguyen in turn took pictures of their work being admired, and shared them on Twitter, where they went viral.

One headline maintained that the gallery-goers taken in by the prank made a “complete spectacle

of themselves” – how embarrassing, to mistake not-art as art.

In placing the glasses on the floor, Khayatan and Nguyen attempted to critique the nature of modern art, the eternal “I could have done that.” The glasses discarded on the floor now said, “I not only could have done that, but I have done that, and it is still not art – you all are not the artists you claim to be.”

They appeared to comment on the supposedly hollow, superficial nature of modern art. They maintained the position that a prank scraped together by two teenagers can gain just as much of a response,

The teenagers inadvertently produced a piece of modern art

just as much applause, as an artwork which had gone through the museum’s vetting process, been approved for public display – if not more so, considering the number of articles reporting upon this event, while other exhibitions at the gallery seem to have fallen by the wayside in the media.

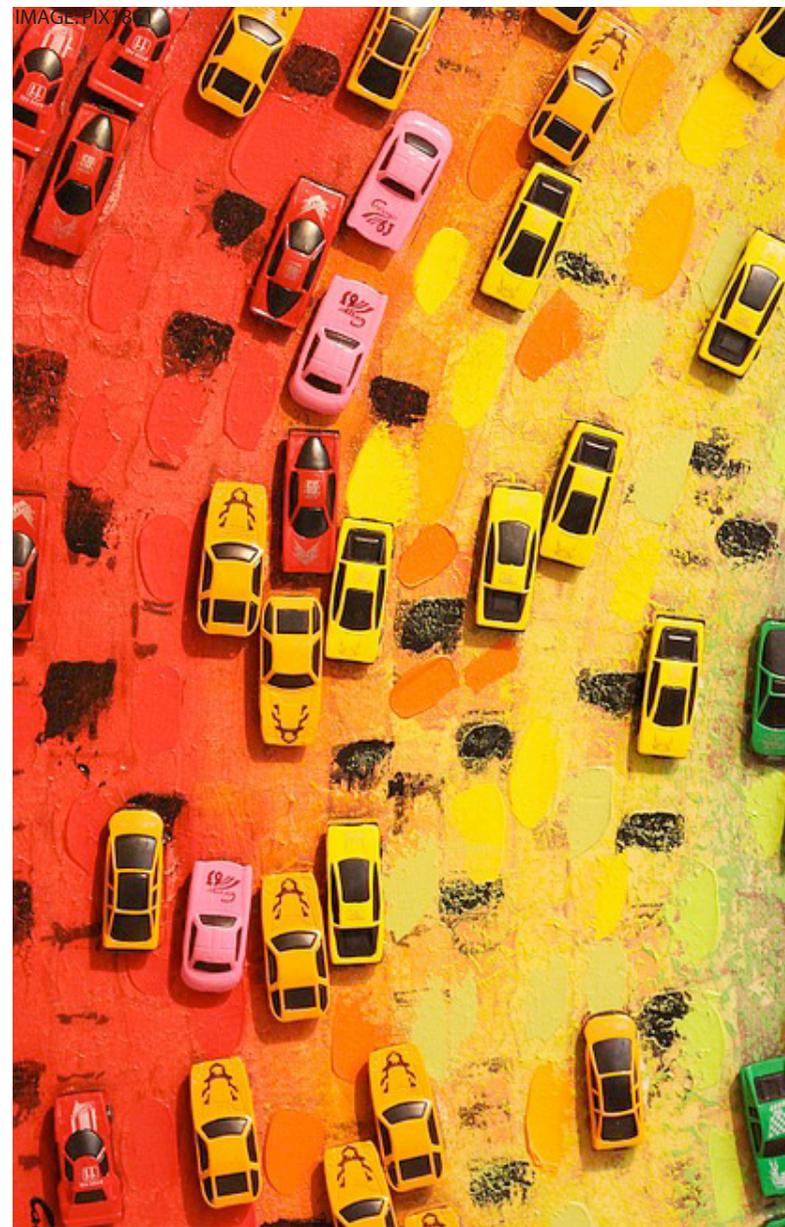
There is something to be said in the approval of the chairmen of a gallery dictating the value of a particular work. Why exactly is it that a piece is only worthwhile when supposed experts present it to us as being so? In what way would the

endorsement of a board of directors elevate the status of the glasses on the ground from an everyday, inanimate object, to a legitimate art piece? Why does a collective of individuals whose names and faces the observer will most likely never know get to dictate what is valuable, what is worthy of observation?

In truth, the approval of the critics, or lack thereof, does nothing to transform a work from not-art to art – an art piece is merely that which is endowed with intentional expression of opinion and/or emotion, which proceeds to provoke a reaction.

So, in critiquing the shallow nature of modern art, its supposed insincerity, the apparent ease with which it can be created, the teenagers inadvertently produced a performative modern art piece. In being not-art, the glasses then became art. They made a statement, provided a commentary on the world around them, projected an opinion, sent a message. In attempting to criticise the artistic canon, they instead find themselves absorbed by it. For when people still view modern art as inferior, pretentious, the creators putting in minimal effort in order to make some vague and ostentatious statement, it is still provocative.

As an ideology, modern art consumes its critics. The art piece exists independently of the creators, who did not intend for it to be one at all. The glasses were not approved for display by the museum, but what does it matter – the statement they made carried just as much weight as anything else confined within the gallery’s walls.



The EU is failing all in the refugee crisis

Far right solutions are abhorrent, while EU solutions are cruelly ineffective. The Mediterranean refugee crisis needs new focus

Anand Goyal



Since 21 May, over 1,000 migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The latest drownings push the death toll for the year to more than 2,000 people and highlight the tepid response from EU member countries to loss of life during the refugee crisis.

Instead, following anti-refugee sentiments, Europe’s leaders signed a controversial deal with Turkey that has sharply reduced the migrant flow into Greece. In 2015, roughly

a million people went through the Balkans towards Germany.

However, closing the route through Greece has shifted efforts to the longer, more dangerous sea route from Libya

to Italy, where the majority of deaths are now occurring. European leaders’ increasing focus on restricting access and putting up legal barriers to refugees is misguided at best, or racistly indifferent to the death and suffering of those fleeing

war and persecution at worst.

A guilty party in this is Austria. The government voted in favour of a law that will allow police to reject asylum seekers at the border and to stop most successful applicants from applying to be reunited with their families for three years. The legislation further

exacerbates the obstacles to achieving an EU-wide solution to the refugee crisis. Worse

still, as Austria shares a border with Italy, it’s a quick way of denying arrivals in Italy access to asylum elsewhere in Europe.

Those on the far right suggest other, darker measures, like letting refugees drown to deter others who’d make the same journey. They perpetuate unfounded claims that rescue missions fuel demand for the illegal trafficking of people across the Mediterranean Sea, conveniently leaving out war and persecution as the main driver of Libyans and Syrians seeking asylum.

It is blatantly ludicrous to suggest that actions such as these will do anything to stem the flow of people into Europe: one does not leave one’s home, risking death for a chance of life, unless there is no life for them at home.

Regurgitating myths about ref-

ugees being extremist terrorists, an ISIS invasion or those who wish to change the fabric of Europe into an Islamic caliphate is spitting in the face of the very people who are fleeing those same toxic ideas. It is inhuman to look them in the face and to shut the door on them, erecting fences and barbed wire, when what they need is food, water, shelter and a second chance at life.

Despite attempted crackdowns, the movement of refugees between Libya and Italy continues unabated. Similar numbers of people – 46,000 – arrived in Italy in the first five months of 2016 as during the same period last year. With summer comes a significant increase in the number of boats traffickers sent out across the Mediterranean Sea, the situation is going to get significantly worse before it gets better.



IMAGE: DANIEL ETTER

Deconstructing #BLM

Is Black Lives Matter hitting the wrong notes in its hunt for social justice?

Luke Rix-Standing



You've probably heard the statistical rundown: black people are more than twice as likely to be killed by police than whites, 25 per cent of black victims of police shootings are unarmed, and 38 per cent of inmates in American prisons are black. This is all true, and it's not a pretty picture.

If you unpack the statistics just a little, however, things become a bit less clear.

The Guardian keeps a running total of Americans killed by police, recording 1,146 deaths in 2015. Of these 305 were African-Americans: that's 26.2 per cent. Given that only 13 per cent of the country is African-American, they are disproportionately represented.

However, if you cross-reference these findings with African-American crime rates – an obvious indicator of likely police involvement – a different picture emerges. According to the FBI's official statistics out of the 5,723 homicides committed in 2013, 2,698 were committed by African-Americans: an easily calculable 47 per cent.

Though homicides are by far the most reliably reported form of violent crime, widening the net changes the figures a little, with African-Americans totting up 38.5 per cent of arrests for violent offences. Though this figure counts just arrests (which could potentially be due to police racism), the

percentages check out with the National Crime Victimization Survey, which records all descriptions provided by (often black) victims.

These findings surprised me. It seems that black crime is proportionally much higher than black fatalities in police shootings. This being the case, BLM's statistics could be considered misleading.

Obviously I'm not suggesting there's no racism in America (eg. minor drug arrests). But given the figures I'm left wondering if BLM is picking the right fights?

Statistically, the most significant issues seem to be black-on-black homicide and obscene levels of general police brutality. Statis-

The death of Eric Garner long went unnoticed

tically almost all of the victims of black murderers are also black: African-Americans account for 93 per cent of victims of black murderers. That means that 44 per cent of all homicides happen entirely within the 12-13 per cent African-American community. That's a horrifying loss of life.

As for the police, over 1,000 civilians are killed by the lawman every single year. Around 50 die to 'non-lethal' tasers, and roughly 30 die once already in police custody. If either of those stats surfaced in Europe, there'd be a continent-wide outcry.

If we imagine these two issues

as a Venn diagram then we find ourselves with two vast circles – one representing homicide in the black community, one police brutality – and the overlap between them is relatively small and statistically not unexpected. Publicity stems from controversy, but the issues that enflame Twitter aren't necessarily the ones that will save lives.

The Michael Brown case was beset by false narratives – anyone who behaved like that in America was likely to get shot – but went nationwide, while the appalling travesty that was the death of Eric Garner long went unnoticed. Because of social media we got 'hands up don't shoot', instead of the provable and deeply compelling 'I can't breathe'.

There are broader issues too of not caring for 'minorities within minorities'. Hillary Clinton has attracted criticism for her comments about young, black 'super-predators' in the early 90s, but a widely-shared Reddit post (penned by a Clinton-voting African-American) has rebutted accusations of racism. User 'sitveller' corroborates Hillary's position – 'Bruh that shit was real!' and who were the gangs killing? Other black people. It should be possible to criticise part of a demographic, so as to protect the rest of it.

Of course there's police racism in America, but when it comes to campaigning against loss of life it could be a distraction from the biggest issues. Surely tackling poverty and exclusion, police brutality and the gun lobby are the cast-iron ways of making black lives, and indeed all lives, matter.

EDITOR'S OPINION Legal highs and bureaucratic lows

Ciarán Morrissey



The Psychoactive Substances Bill has been shelved for the moment, but it still looms over us, with Home Office sources suggesting that there are still plans for it to come into force later this year.

That the Home Office can, with a straight face, draft a bill banning 'psychoactive substances' in general should be incredibly worrying. In reality, any substance that is fit for human consumption is psychoactive in some form. This doesn't mean that the distinction is meaningless, just that it's a bit nuanced.

Eating a piece of chocolate and getting cosy with some fine Colombian cocaine are two entirely different sorts of high, to the point where it's not really sensible to compare one with the other, however this bill would do exactly that; it just shows the sort of ignorant and chronic fun-sponge mentality that lies behind this legislation. Like suburban yummy mummies who tut loudly if you walk past their (trendily unvaccinated) kids

with a fag in hand, this is more about being seen to be doing something, and doing it as loudly as possible, than being informed, principled, or consistent.

The focus on legal highs is a desperate attempt to make it seem like the situation is under control, when in reality we already have good reasons to believe that these substances will not go away. Mephedrone (known as 'bubble' to the cool kids; 'miaow miaow' to tabloid journos) started off life as a legal high and is now a Class B drug, with the only appreciable difference being that it's now a bit more costly to buy and is of a substantially lower quality.

This Bill is more about the reactionary, 'I-Don't-Like-It' elements of British society trying to dictate the terms of our private lives, showing a mind-boggling misperception of the issues through everything from its scope to its wording.

Just like the Snoopers' Charter, this is nothing but ideologically driven puritanism that seeks to invade our private lives. Theresa May can't handle the concept of Brits out on the sesh, and instead of accepting this and taking a harm-reducing approach, she's going to make it more dangerous for everyone.

EDITOR'S OPINION Rape is nothing to do with the EU

Maria Munir



The ever-contentious Nigel Farage has once again decided to twist reality simply to serve his own warped agenda. The UKIP leader had been reported saying that staying in the EU could lead to "migrant sex attacks" becoming a regular occurrence in the UK.

It's deplorable that a so-called political leader would use the horrible experiences of sexual abuse survivors to score a moot political point at such a pivotal time in the EU referendum debate.

This is victim-blaming to the next level. If someone is sexually assaulted or raped by a non-UK citizen, is it because the survivor did not vote to leave the EU? Is it because, as Farage implies, we didn't stop hordes of migrants flooding to our shores?

No. Rape and sexual assault can happen to anyone and the reason for it never lies with the survivor. It is wholly the perpetrator

who is to blame.

Given that 90 per cent of survivors know their perpetrator according to statistics from Rape Crisis England and Wales, you'd think that people in this country are in more danger at home with the people they know, than with strangers from other countries. So maybe instead of putting the onus on voters to vote leave to protect themselves from assault, Farage should get a reality check and follow his own message of dealing with domestic policy issues.

Only 5.7 per cent of cases end with a conviction for the perpetrator, and this damning statistic needs to be rectified, and soon. No wonder that it's so difficult for survivors to get taken seriously, with most reporting historic cases. The fear of their experience not being believed is enough for some survivors to stay silent. Instead of diminishing their voices and reducing their experiences to political soundbites to help their cause, people like Farage should actually do something about this very serious crime.

Stop your xenophobic scare-mongering and make the criminal justice system fairer for survivors of sexual assault and rape.

IMAGE: THE ALL-NITE IMAGES





Jonathan Liew @JonathanLiew
TIL: the Russian "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" had to scrap Ask the Audience because the audience would deliberately give wrong answers. 4 Jun 2016

VANITY FAIR @VanityFair
Muhammad Ali, who has died at age 74, was a towering figure of confidence and magnetism 4 Jun 2016

Uday Maudgil @theoude
Gove is making the strong case that the British people need to have control over how their taxes are spent #InOrOut 3 Jun 2016

Joseph Hudson-Small @JoeHudsonSmall
We live in a country with a hereditary upper house, a monarchy, and a majority govt. with 37% of the vote and people complain about the EU. 4 Jun 2016



Dropped my toast and it landed butter side up?? I have broken the laws of physics

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"Some of the things I've done to guys would make FetSoc faint" - quiet flatmate, 2016

150

Not going to lie, I thought Muhammad Ali was already dead

12

Just want to be taken on a date lol

20

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should Obama have apologised for the atomic bomb while visiting Hiroshima?

YES.

Dom Smithies



Is it too late to say sorry? No Bieber, it isn't. Obama's visit to Hiroshima was certainly a step in the right direction, but his lack of apology has been criticised and I'm leaning towards the critics.

He's the first US president to visit Hiroshima, where an atomic bomb, deployed by the US, ended the Second World War - a rhetoric which arguably justifies its use. It was done in response to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour, where 2,335 neutral military personnel and 68 civilians were killed.

The atomic bomb, however, destroyed an entire city; it killed over 100,000 people in Hiroshima, with roughly half of those deaths occurring in the first day and the other half by prolonged suffering. Three days later, before the Japanese could fully comprehend the damage and destruction, Nagasaki was also bombed and a further 50,000+ died. The war ended soon after.

Now I want to quickly clarify that I am ready to condemn Pearl Harbour and think it deserves an apology, particularly as a pacifist. But regardless of my anti-war attitude - which I'm not going to consider here - there is decorum, ethical war theory, in declaring war and in how you act when at war.

Jus in bello - how you should act when at war - considers factors such as 'distinction', 'proportionality', 'military necessity', 'fair treatment of prisoners of war' and 'no

means malum in se'. Acts of war are unethical and condemnable, and so should be apologised for when they breach this. Attacking non-military objectives (Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for example), harming those who are no longer a threat while at war (Nagasaki, arguably), use of indiscriminate weapons (like atomic bombs), or attacking neutral targets (like Pearl Harbour).

Two wrongs do not make a right. I don't like war. Unethical war practices even more so. If you're going to do something which results in innocent people suffering, you have to be doing it for the right reasons and in the right way. The use of an atomic bomb is not the right way. Nuclear bombs are used now as a deterrent, as an 'if you do something wrong, so will I and you will suffer immeasurably'.

At every juncture of war, innocents suffer. Such suffering is a by-product of a brutal and embarrassing part of human history - but, granted, it is often defensible.

Whether you prescribe to ethical war theory, or question whether wars are ethical at all (like myself) in this context the point I would like to emphasise is this: The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki lead to untold suffering, but ended the war. So is it defensible?

But the effects and impact of an atomic bomb are unfathomable. The war is over, however there is still suffering and pain because of the devastation that only an atomic bomb could cause. An apology would have shown commendable tact and admittedly the visit was a step in the right direction, but we should always consid-

Elliott Banks



Obama's visit to Hiroshima is the first by a sitting US president since the B52 flying fortress called the Enola Gay dropped its cargo - the world's first atomic bomb.

The visit, as with all diplomatic affairs, was full of pomp and circumstance, but one image stood out in my mind - Obama and Shinzo Abe, the Japanese Prime Minister, walking through the Peace Garden in Hiroshima.

Obama laid a wreath for the dead of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The ceremony was profound and respectful. However, all attention of what Obama actually did in Hiroshima has dissipated as the world's media and Twitter became fixated on one word - sorry.

The dropping of the atomic bomb was an act that truly changed the world. Doctor Oppenheimer's remark after the first test stated "I am become death, the destroyer of worlds" which shows that everyone knew that this would change the world. The accepted narrative in the US is that they shortened the war and forced Japan to surrender, because the fear of the atomic bomb was almost as strong as the bomb itself.

Indeed, before the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, US tactics up until then had been the mass firebombing of Japanese cities. Hundreds of thousands of people died, mostly civilians as the US Airforce

carpet-bombed Tokyo and others indiscriminately. In two nights of firebombing in Tokyo, close to 150,000 people died as the wooden homes were engulfed.

The Japanese government did not want to surrender. In fact they rejected it.

Now I am not ignoring the magnitude of what the atomic bomb meant or trying to say 'why apologise for just the atomic bomb?' like some tragedy hipster.

At least 140,000 died in Hiroshima and a further 70,000 in Nagasaki, each death a tragedy. The destruction was absolute and the death toll hard to imagine.

However, as uncomfortable that this may seem, the dropping of the atomic bomb forced Japan to surrender. Hundreds of thousands of lives were saved by President Truman's act. Does this lessen the horror? No it does not, but certainly in American eyes it makes them feel a comfortable unease.

But what of Obama and indeed the Japanese?

Well the BBC reported recently that in Japan, most people want the suffering acknowledged but sorry wasn't needed. In fact a poll in Hiroshima found that 86 per cent of the population did not feel that they needed an apology.

Indeed, the US gave Japan millions to rebuild itself after the War and the two nations are now firm and long-standing allies. By visiting Hiroshima Obama acknowledged the suffering, he hugged a survivor and honoured the Japanese dead.

A sorry would seem hollow in such a poignant act; by experiencing and talking about it, Japan, America and the world can come

NO.

#minstergram

Nouse takes a look at what you've been Instagramming recently in York



@alyshanugget when the clouds are so fluffy they don't even look real #bluesky #clouds #green #uni #campus #uniofYork



@evem_kennedy Back at The Charles after all these years. #uniofYork #heslington #halifaxcollege #studentlife



@jessmason97 Gin Fest @yusubars @fentimansltd @yorkshiregin #gin #gandt #yorkshire #york #uniofYork #ginandtonic #fentimans

MUSE.

Formal education

The summer shoot
brings the year
to a close



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FILM & TV

M13 Liam Dooley explores the peculiar origin story of Marvel's Doctor Strange, while Andrew Kendall considers another kind of adaptation: live-action Disney films

FASHION

M8 Formalwear is not quite as buttoned up as we think, writes Grace Howarth. That doesn't mean we can't still have nice wristwear, as Dale Lyster goes through the top men's watches right now

M9 A quick guide to the top male trends of this summer



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MUSIC

Feast your eyes on this year's summer festival guide, courtesy of the Music editors

FEATURES

M4 With ten more societies ratified just in time for the end of term, Features walks us through the newcomers

M16 Muse editor Jack Richardson celebrates York Brewery's 20th anniversary with a look at the institution and the beer it makes

M18 Features editor Lucy Furneaux bends over backwards to bring us a preview of York Castle Museum's 'Shaping the Body'

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GAMING

M12 Gaming brings us another tantalising hint at what's coming in *Pokémon Go*, while editor Adam Koper has fun with 64-bit buses



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ARTS

M6 The Turner Prize is back and with it another controversy about the nominations. Meanwhile, Christian Jackson defends youthful artists and Ella Barker talks to the cast of TFTV production *Hyde Park*



FOOD & DRINK

M17 Wine can be a scary (if tasty) drink. Thankfully, help is on hand as Sophie Crump speaks to sommelier and restaurant owner Kelly Latham, alongside a rundown of the best cookbooks to start your collection



“I spend a few hours every week sitting in front of a blank piece of paper”

New Yorker cartoonist Benjamin Schwartz on going from doctors to doodles and nursing stories back to life

You come from a medical family, and are medically trained yourself. Did medicine seem like a ‘default’ career?

Yes, it did - which is pretty silly, when you think about it. Who chooses a highly competitive career track that requires nearly a decade of training as the path of least resistance? And yet, I saw the fulfillment my father got out of being a doctor and thought, “hey, I guess I could do that, too.”

You seem to have enjoyed drawing from an early age, was this always an aspiration or consideration for you professionally?

Cartooning was always something I wanted to do professionally, but even as a little kid, I recognised that making a career out of it seemed pretty far-fetched. Self-doubt kept me from pursuing it too seriously (and pushed me towards the medical “default” path), until I reached a point where I realised I would rather try to make it as a cartoonist and fail than never really try at all.

Was there a favourite subject of your early drawing, or was it all doodling, etc.?

Lots of doodling, for sure. I always leaned heavily towards organic forms - people, animals, nature - things I didn’t need a ruler to draw properly. I liked (and still enjoy) playing around with body language and facial expressions.

Dare I ask, what is narrative medicine?

You dare! Narrative medicine is an approach to health care that extends from the premise that people don’t experience illness as the discrete set of signs and symptoms we record in their medical record but rather as one part in the larger story of their lives. From that perspective, health care workers are receivers of stories and storytellers themselves.

Classes like the one I teach take that

thinking a step further, and seek to directly bolster the storytelling skills of doctors-in-training by studying them in the context of the creative arts.

How did you get that first break in *The New Yorker*?

I submitted 10 cartoons a week, every week, for about 6 months - until I guess they finally got tired of rejecting me.

I had done freelance cartoon work here and there (for a greeting card company, a pharmaceutical company, and several other random places), but that was definitely my big break.

What is the process behind making a cartoon?

I spend a few hours every week sitting in front of a blank piece of notebook paper, actively daydreaming and free-associating with myself in an effort to generate ideas. Sometimes they flow freely, sometimes...not so much. Once a solid idea is in place, though, the next steps - pencilling, inking, and adding in grey tones - are pretty straightforward.

I’m always open to suggestions, but it’s rare that I hear an idea that’s both developed enough to turn into a cartoon AND fits my particular sensibilities, whatever those may be.

Do you have a preferred topic for cartoons?

One of my favourite things about cartooning for the *New Yorker* is that they give their artists full autonomy to come up with the topics and content for their cartoons. I can have one that comments on the current political climate and another that explores the possibility of dinosaurs wearing slacks.

Would you say there’s much of a commu-

nity among cartoonists of a certain level?

There’s a nice community of *New Yorker* cartoonists that spans generations, as well as a wider community of “gag” cartoonists that work in the same, single-panel format, but for other publications.

What would you say are the differences between cartoons and written pieces?

I’m not so sure there’s anything you could put in a written piece that couldn’t be communicated in a cartoon and vice versa. At least in theory.

In reality, I think a lot of the differences stem from concerns like space constraints; a magazine is going to devote, say, a single page to a satirical piece. That page could comfortably hold an 800 word satirical essay and take it in several different directions.

Comics have a different density. If you want to fit more than six or so panels on a single page, you’re going to have to draw small, and you’re going to have to sacrifice detail and information. Subtlety and understatement are possible, but often the most effective laughs in cartoon form come from exaggeration and/or cutting to the core of a seemingly complex issue.

Do you tend to keep your teaching and cartooning separate?

I think they feed off each other to a certain extent. They both actively test my storytelling skills, but with the cartoons, I’m mostly working off of instinct, while teaching gives me more of an opportunity for reflection and analysis. The challenge is in being thoughtful about my work without becoming either too self-conscious or mechanical.

So basically I try not to think about it, except for when I’m thinking about it.

Interview by Jack Richardson

Editor’s note



Deputy Muse Editor Joel Down on proposals and parting words

This term has been a relentless one, and now that it is all but over, there’s just one thing that I’m forced to write, the one thing I can’t claim mitigating circumstances for due to the “chronic condition” of my handwriting. For once, I’m not talking about this editor’s note, usually written by somebody else due to another semi-fatal affliction: the habit of rarely finishing my sentences, or for that matter, starting them. On the plus side, this should prove helpful on the off chance I ever get life imprisonment.

To return to the point, what I’m referring to is my dissertation. Proposal. Not the dissertation itself, which I’ll probably never do (it’s definitely optional) but the small bit of paper on which you write the names of the academics you haven’t been to see and the ideas that they haven’t given you. In anticipation, I assumed I might draw a blank. By which I mean, draw a lifelike copy of a blank piece of paper. But I realised I’m not an economics student so my soul’s not quite that empty.

Instead, I’ve decided that what the department really wants is flavourless and anaemic, so I’m thinking of delving into the much marginalised area of gluten-free literature. Or vegan poetry. The possibilities are endless with regards to dietary reads (and terrible puns), which is exactly why I can only think of two.

As for terrible puns, turn to Arts for the latest in ‘arsethetics’ and a discussion of the Turner Prize. Top on the priority list - though the last page of Muse - is, as ever, M20 in which our two third-year columnists deliver the last of their lamentable anthems. Expect tears, especially from us, who will have to find a way of filling yet another blank page.

In order to fill the remainder of this one, I’d rather we stuck an advert in place of the text if we really must...but it turns out the demand for very small posters is limited to the guy in charge of selling Donald Trump’s manhood. While that is certainly where I see myself in 10 years, I will nonetheless choose to plug something else, in a last ditch effort to be of some use to this paper and those of you looking for something to do in the summer. Tickets. Free. Edinburgh Fringe. Become as confidence-shattering a critic of plays, stand-up comedy and interpretive dance as our own Arts Editor, and get free unlimited drink, a tour of the city, as well as travel to Edinburgh courtesy of the very same. Cheers Liam.

Image Credits.

Cover: Jack Richardson

Opposite, from top: style.com, Wikicommons, Nintendo, Anthea Hamilton

New socs on the block

James Humpish walks us through ten new societies forming next year, including drones, hip hop, and *Game of Thrones*



IMAGE: THIS IS WEIRD!



IMAGE: JOHANNES JANSSON



IMAGE: DONALD BRAY



IMAGE: JACK RICHARDSON

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Up there with academia and sport, university life is coloured by societies and their capacity to pursue hobbies, develop skills and find like-minded people. What's more, when there's a gap in the society market which hasn't yet been filled, students are given the support to help set up and ratify a society by YUSU if there's sufficient demand.

It is good news then that 10 societies have been newly ratified for the forthcoming year, bringing the total number of societies to

“**The York Union may encounter obstacles in its bid to host a diverse range of figures**

just over 190. These consist of Comic Society, Drone Society, Educational Inequality Society, Filipino Society, *Game of Thrones* Society, Hip hop and Rap Society, Non-Drinkers Society, Sikhism Society, Spanish Society and York Union.

With a diverse influx of activities and organisations, Arts and Cultural, Campaigning and Political, Faith and International, Games and Activities, Media, Music and Performance and Special Interest all see new members to their society categories.

Joining the ranks of existing societies DougSoc, TolkSoc, MuggleSoc and SherSoc demonstrating loyal fandom towards Douglas Adams, JRR Tolkien, the *Harry Potter* universe and Sherlock Holmes respectively, YUSU welcomes *Game of Thrones* Society. Alternatively known as A Society of Ice and Fire, the society promises to deliver for both show-watchers and book-readers of the series with activities including group viewings of episodes of *Game of Thrones*, quizzes, Dothraki lessons, dragon egg painting and themed socials.

Having attempted ratification last academic year, students hoping to discuss everything from who they think the rightful ruler of Westeros ought to be to their thoughts on 'Jojenpaste' and 'Frey Pie' theories will be pleased that ratification has now been achieved. To borrow from the countless Cleganebowl videos on the internet, they're free to GET HYPE.

Comic Society organises itself around comic books, hosting discussions on the themes and arguments of comic book storylines as well as the art style. With the opportunity for comic-related quizzes, film screenings and cosplay events as well as workshops to develop writing ability and art styles, fans of everyone from Spiderman to Deadpool and Batman to Kick-Ass can find a way to express their keenness for comic books.

The secretary of Comic Society said that their aims for the next year are to “encourage

debate among members about various aspects of comics and also for members to develop their own art styles to create comics of their own”. She said that the society “provides a place for those who love comics to meet regularly and for those who aren't sure about comics to find recommendations and hopefully find something they enjoy themselves. We encourage everyone to come and attend meetings, even if you've never read a comic before because, as with books, there's a huge variety of genres and something for everyone to enjoy!”

Filipino Society, FilSoc, is a society dedicated to those from or with an interest in the Philippines with activities divided between social leisurely events involving food, music and arts, and more formal events centred on debates and discussion. Offering a variety of Filipino themed events brings together a new strand of activity that students can engage with. Talking to *Nouse*, the President of FilSoc said: “The main purpose of our society is to allow our culture to have a platform that enables us to share the beauty and hospitality of our people. This also includes allowing students from our university to experience our culture and traditions that many don't know about.”

FilSoc wants to provide a community for Filipinos at York, as well as benefiting their fellow students: “We'll be able to finally show students our culture, our food, our traditions.” Another purpose is educating others about the Philippines and Filipino culture and tradition. “Through the ratification of our society we can then have a platform that will allow many students to learn more about our country and hopefully build a good relationship between members and the larger student body.”

They wish to achieve this through various events where Filipino arts and culture can be shared with other students, such as “intellectual debates regarding current events in the Philippines”. They also wish to work with fellow societies to “hold events and activities that would celebrate our diversities and promote our culture”. Finally, the committee hopes that their society will provide somewhere for Filipinos studying at the University to socialise with one another, but they stress that they will welcome anyone from anywhere to meetings and events.

As well as Filipino Society, adding to the cultural inclusiveness on campus is Spanish Society. SpanSoc is open for everyone interested in Hispanic language and culture with the aim of sharing and increasing knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world through interaction with film, music, food and discussions about current affairs relevant to Spanish-speaking countries.

SpanSoc is eager to involve not only Spanish speakers but also everyone with a general interest in Spanish language and culture. When asked, the President of SpanSoc Catherine Phillips said: “We believe that this society would be an asset to the student community at the University of York as it will not only promote diversity and cultural awareness but also create a community of people who share similar interests.”

Adding FilSoc and SpanSoc to the number of activities brings the total number of international-related societies to 28 in the same year as the number of EU students has seen a decline from 505 to 340 and the number of



IMAGE: SAM HOWZIT



IMAGE: LEO REYNOLDS



IMAGE: THE GLOBAL PANORAMA

overseas students has declined from 2,820 to 2,585 between December 2013 and 2015 according to The University of York's Planning Office.

In terms of religious culture, Sikhism Society (YorkSikhSoc) has been ratified to provide an organisation for Sikhs and those who have an interest in Sikhism to meet one another. Their key aim is listed on the YUSU website as "to create awareness of Sikhism but also to have fun while doing it" and they hope to meet once a week. President of YorkSikhSoc Satnaam Singh said that the society will allow others "to learn about the religion and take part in the festival, promoting the bringing of everyone together". In the long term, the Society hopes to attempt to open a Gurdwara in York, as well as "allowing students to come and take part and build on their skills to enhance CVs for the future".

Another entry to the catalogue of societies York has to offer is Non-Drinkers Society, or TeetotalSoc. This society hopes to promote awareness and facilitate a counter-drinking culture, opting to campaign for the destigmatisation of being teetotal and removing pressure to conform within university through alcohol consumption. Recent figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the proportion of young adults who are teetotal increased by more than 40 per cent between 2005 and 2013 with approximately one fifth of young people now being teetotal.

With students potentially becoming more aware of the risks alcohol poses to their health, if they actively choose not to drink alcohol then TeetotalSoc could well prove the ideal mechanism to allow non-drinkers to find support and help others in abstaining from and not letting alcohol affect their student life. President of TeetotalSoc Flinn Dolman said that he believes that the society "will help destigmatise being teetotal as well as provide non-drinking events at the University, hopefully creating an environment where those that previously felt excluded now do not".

He further added that the society will be releasing a timetable for their planned events

and campaigns and that in their first year they hope "to start promoting and facilitating a culture at our University that encourages inclusivity and helps to remove pressure on students to drink alcohol solely to fit into social situations".

On the musical frontier, Hip hop and Rap Society has been ratified for those keen to discuss the music and culture surrounding the genres. This joins the 25 societies which already exist under the banner of Music and Performance at York.

Drone Society will appeal to those who are technically-minded and enjoy the more light-hearted capabilities of unmanned aerial vehicles. The Society will organise itself around building, flying and racing drones. Once getting off the ground DroneSoc has the capacity to develop projects where multiple members can contribute to one drone or one highly-skilled person can create their own. The society will be able to provide equipment and expertise that otherwise is costly to come by to just trial on a one-time basis.

In recent years, interest in drones has soared due to the question of justifying use of combat drones in armed conflict, having historically been used for missions too "dull, dirty, or dangerous" for direct human involvement. Drone Society's formation can be taken as a reflection of this surge in interest, with Professor Andy Miah, the Principal Investigator in Project Daedalus which hopes to explore the creative potential of drones, noting that if 2014 was the year of the 'selfie' then 2015 was the year of the 'drone'.

Speaking on ratification, President of Drone Society Sam Willcocks said: "Ratification is a no-brainer for a new society due to how much it increases reach, the ability to organise activities on campus and position to be a 'legitimate' group in the eyes of the Union and student body." On what the society will have to offer interested students he said: "[The society's] goal is to promote the building and recreational flying of drones in a safe and fun way. DroneSoc is open to people of all levels of ability and experience, and you don't

have to have your own drone yet!"

Speaking to the President of the newly-ratified Educational Inequality Society, TeachSoc, Lorna Topp told *Nouse*: "We aim to address educational inequality in the local area through raising awareness, campaigning and taking action within the York community. We wish to create a platform for discussion about this issue and also provide students with opportunities to feel they are making a difference on this matter."

TeachSoc aims to "give students a platform to talk about a huge social issue" and they hope to make a real difference. They in-

established history on campus, having organised conversations and debates with public figures since 2013. Previous figures they've invited to the campus include Channel 4 News presenter Jon Snow, Tony Blair's Director of Communications and Strategy Alistair Campbell, *Spiked* Editor Brendan O'Neill and previous Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Alan Johnson. Now being brought under YUSU's remit, the issue of no-platforming will be a hot topic in the forthcoming year.

York Union's history has in fact been characterised by its independence from YUSU. It has a resolute opposition to no-platforming, and states on its website that independence "allows us to hold controversial speakers, motions and events that would not otherwise be welcomed on campus. Past speakers have let slip the truth about their past and what they really think - perhaps safe in the knowledge that York is too northern for any of the press to be taking note."

Now being brought under the remit of YUSU through ratification, it will be worth taking note of whether the York Union finds itself encountering obstacles in its bid to host a diverse range of figures. Outgoing presidents of the York Union Harry Scoffin and Lisa Rumbold said: "We are really happy to have now ratified with YUSU. We have received a tremendous amount of support from them this year and are confident that the York Union will continue to be a lasting feature at the University of York. Despite recent debates nationally about the erosion of campus free speech, YUSU has always encouraged and facilitated our society. As always, our events will remain free and open to all."

The selection of societies which have been newly ratified for the forthcoming year are a diverse selection which will play to the University's increasing demand for new activities. With more and more to choose from, students who are in York next year will show that whether they have an interest in a hobby, culture, language, campaigning or belief then if it doesn't exist already, there's the ability to craft a society on one's own.

“
York SikhSoc aims to raise awareness of Sikhism and have fun while doing it

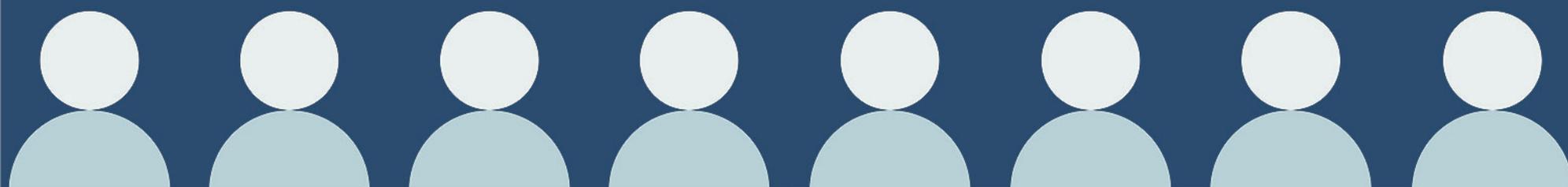
tend to set up links with nearby schools, eventually leading to supporting local students with their university applications.

To begin with, they want to raise awareness of their society and its aims, and encourage as many students to get involved as possible: "This could be by joining our society or buying a cupcake from a charity bake sale we run." They believe that if people hear their message, TeachSoc has an opportunity to make a real difference to local students and schools.

Finally, the York Union already has an

IMAGE: DEBORAH LAM

RATIFIED SOCIETY COMMITTEES HAVE TO CONSIST OF 8 ELECTED STUDENTS



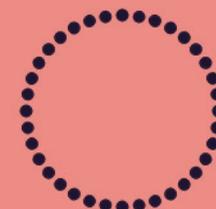
YORK IS THE OLDEST INDEPENDENT RADIO STATION IN THE UK



196 THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF RATIFIED SOCIETIES NATIONWIDE

3 TIMES A YEAR, YUSU'S SOCIETIES COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETINGS TO RATIFY SOCIETIES

AS A CRITERIA FOR RATIFICATION, SOCIETIES HAVE TO BE INCLUSIVE OF AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STUDENTS



Ars aesthetic

In light of the Turner Prize nominations, Deborah Lam looks at the current state of art

The plot to 'The Emperor's New Clothes' is not an unfamiliar one. A rather naïve ruler is tricked by con-tailors (note: not artists) into parading around in a set of clothes that they claim cannot be seen by stupid subjects. As a result, he flashes an astute child and gets embarrassed instead of his name on the sex offender registry.

A lot of art, but more recently, modern art in particular, gets a bad reputation for resembling said clothes. Perhaps not to the extent that all art is literally empty – although Oscar Wilde does declare that all art is useless – but in the sense that it is not easily understood and often seems to pride itself precisely on this opaque quality. Cultured elites may argue that what is essential is appreciation and not apprehension. Which is a fair, but a highly unsatisfactory evasion of the incomprehensibility that art nowadays seems to revel in.

The Turner Prize, as an annual award given to British artists (people who work in Britain, are from Britain or are British) under the age of 50, is a paradigm for the paradoxical problem that modern art faces today. Hosted by Tate Britain and adjudicated by a panel of judges chaired by its director, the Turner Prize is an important institution in the art world, shaping contemporary tastes and values. Yet, it is, in turn, heavily influenced by the pressures of a rapidly changing industry constantly under pressure to reinvent itself and come up with innovative ways of expression.

In this obsession with remaining relevant and new, the prize, which has seen the rise of winners such as Martin Creed and Damien Hirst (the latter artist bringing us memorable, shocking installations displaying the cross section of cows, innards and all) and nominees such as Tracey Emin, the

prize has neglected the value and merit of what is perceived as traditional or old-fashioned mediums and their ability to adequately represent modern issues and themes.

The last winner who worked strictly in a traditional medium was Tomma Abts in 2006, and even then, her oil paintings were prized for their unique three-dimensional quality that challenged conventional uses of oil paints. And while

some may see Josephine Pryde's nomination for *lapses in Thinking By the person i Am* where viewers ride on a model train while looking at her photographs as recognition of photography as an artistic, creative medium, the way the images are viewed places equal emphasis on staging the experience of seeing as on the pictures themselves.

Other

nominees include Anthea Hamilton who works with sculpture, performance and installation art with her eye-catchingly risqué centrepiece of an entryway consisting of a huge wooden bum with two hands firmly grabbing each cheek. And viewers get to walk through the narrowly spread thighs. Newcastle artist Michael Dean also works with sculpture and installation, posing an array of what are commonly seen as 'ugly' materials in interesting positions.

Finishing the list of four shortlisted nominees is Helen Marten, again working with various, often-incongruent materials, who creates sculptural-mixed-media collage-installations.

All four nominees are extremely varied, and yet, surprisingly and invariably all 'modern'. Exciting as the artists' explorations of new forms and mediums are, the celebration of art that embraces technology with multimedia presentations like Laure Provoust in 2013 and Duncan Campbell the year later or sculptural installations places the modern art world in a position that is intolerant to drawing, painting and photography sans toy train rides. This is also especially dangerous because these mediums are often the most accessible and affordable ones, leaving awards inaccessible to some.

The values that the Turner Prize affirms in its shortlist send a message to young, budding artists who work with easily available traditional mediums. It insists that emerging, relevant art must either be shockingly outlandish with grotesque depictions; a usurpation of beauty; undermine ways of experiencing art or require bafflingly long hyphenated compounds to describe it. It says to them, "It's nice, you're good, but your work has no place in contemporary art."

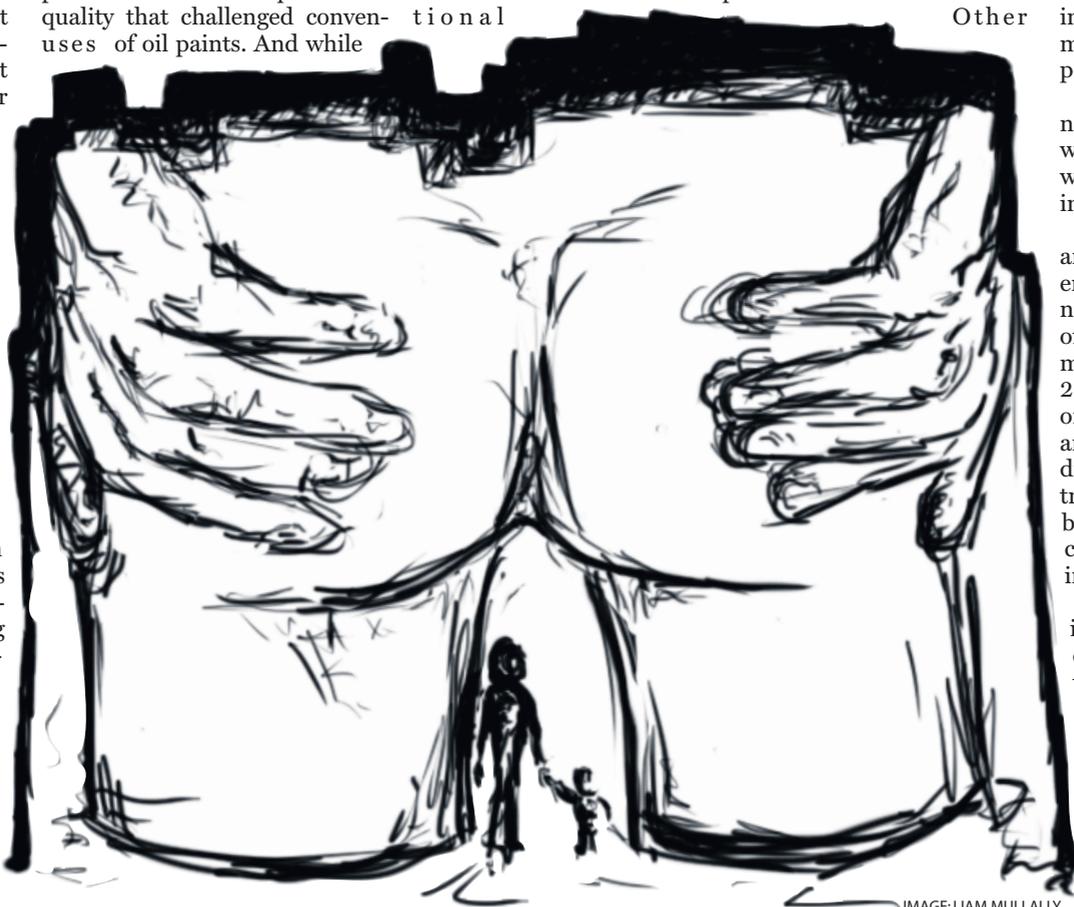


IMAGE: LIAM MULLALLY

The young ones

Christian Jackson thinks we shouldn't dwell on age when assessing the life's work of a poet

"My head is like some ridiculous barn packed full of stuff I want to write about," she said. "Images, scenes, snatches of words . . . in my mind they're all glowing, all alive. Write! they shout at me. A great new story is about to be born – I can feel it. It'll transport me to some brand-new place."

"Problem is, once I sit at my desk and put them all down on paper, I realize something vital is missing. It doesn't crystallize – no crystals, just pebbles. And I'm not transported anywhere."

The classic Murakami novel *Sputnik Sweetheart* deals with many themes on writing, particularly the relevance of youth. Sumire, a writer, worries that she cannot grasp the complexities of the world – she's collecting too many pebbles and not enough crystals. She is scared for many reasons, not least of which that her writing is failing because she is still too young.

We live in the age of novelisation, where writers are praised for the length of their works, the attention to detail. It is assumed then that the kind of character analysis required by the post-modern narrative needs to be attended by an older hand. People of-



ten argue that youthfulness is almost always synonymous with naïvety. That writers should patiently wait until the moment when the world can be sure that their genius was not just a fluke, and can then be praised.

As a student that writes, hearing these things makes me wonder whether I need to be left to stew for a few more decades – sit back and wait for the wrinkles to grow in before I

decide I have anything to say.

When 32 year old Sarah Howe won the TS Eliot Prize for her poetry collection *Loop of Jade* earlier this year she was met with praise and acclaim, but also criticism. Many were quick to suggest that she was too young to win the prize and that her poetry didn't stand up to the calibre required of such an award.

Ben Okri was also 32 when he won the Man Booker prize, the youngest ever to win at the time. In fact, the average age of a winner of a Booker prize is 48.8 – so slow and steady wins the race? I'd like to disagree.

There are many parts of Howe's poems that I don't like. Her descriptions of the Yangtze river are too subtle, I feel like I'm being lost in a stream of words that don't hold enough meaning. There's a distance in what she describes too. It's as if the memories she's recalling have to be looked at through a glass.

Often these things are so under the surface that it's easier to dismiss them as cynical writing or literary handwringing. But isn't this the strength of opinion, not a weakness of the author's age?

The views people form of Howe's work aren't a result of who she is, her age or her gender, but what sort of person comes across

in the words themselves.

It would be easy to just accept that literature is often judged by the person, but let's not forget that age cannot give us a valid obligation to dislike the quality of somebody's literature. As university students, we often wonder whether we are ready for the world – judging success by what you achieve and not who you

“Age cannot give us a valid obligation to dislike the quality of somebody's literature”

are is critical. Let others complain that someone is too young to write well. I'd rather praise (or detest) a piece because of what it is than who wrote it.

As Ernest Hemingway said: "All you have to do is write one true sentence." Age is just a number.

Hyde and seek

The cast and crew of *Hyde Park* talk to Ella Barker about warring couples



between the couplings of Shakespeare's Beatrice and Benedick and Shirley's Carol and Fairfield, but Max argues that Shirley's play is wittier and a hell of a lot more confrontational. Laughing at his own pun, he adds, "It's much ado...about talking with each other and the relationships between them rather than rumours and what's circulating." This notion of the 'warring couple' really gets Sam and Nick going, mainly owing to how instrumen-

I think Shirley is cherry-picking moments and having fun

”

tal Carol is in such arguments. Permissive and outspoken, empowered and enlightened, Carol holds an anomalous position within the context of the play. "She really puts Fairfield through his paces and makes him work... And it's brilliant." Part of this, Sam says, owes much to the complexities of Fairfield and Carol's mutual attraction, whereby it's not just lust or plain emotions that gets their blood running, but a "crazy platonic element [and] this idea of a challenge". Acknowledging that there may be some similarities with *The Taming of the Shrew* (at the very least to start with) Nick is keen to emphasise that "they both give as good as they get". Reluctant to give any more details about their relationship away, he urges, in typical directorial fashion, to come and see the show.

And yet the dynamics between Carol and Fairfield not only defy the audience's expectations of a 17th century comedy, they allow *Hyde Park* to be directly accessible to a modern audience. Sam's insistence that "a sex joke is always funny" is met with much hilarity by Nick. Still, it's not only the play's innuendos that she thinks students will lap up. Shirley's characters are identifiable and exude a timeless quality, she argues, whether it's candid women like Carol who elevate themselves within society, or jet set philanderers like Lord Bonville (played by Max). Irrespective of today's implicit (or explicit) class structures, Sam makes a valid point. Such theatrical tropes will always seem

familiar to audiences.

As a 'professional playwright', Shirley catered to the upper echelons of society and those privileged enough to attend indoor theatres. Some critics would argue that he oscillates between promoting these elitist values and correcting such abuses of status. Although Lord Bonville wields 'great power' and thus 'great responsibility', Nick is careful not to overstate Shirley's role as social commentator. "He's not holding up [a] mirror saying 'this is what you are', I think he's cherry-picking moments [from the aristocratic society that he's writing for] and having fun." Bonville might be "the greatest thing since sliced bread", proclaims a sardonic Sam, but ultimately his character "gets slashed down to size so nicely, it gives me the chills".

Lord Bonville's transformation seems to be something that equally enthuses and frustrates director and actor alike. Gesturing to Max, Sam gleefully admits, "I just love to smack you down. It's my favourite part of the rehearsals." Bonville does eventually uncover his humility throughout the course of the play, but it's bridging the gaps between his character's jocular advances and self-awareness that is most troubling for Max. Lamenting Bonville's lack of redeemable factors, "trying to like [him]," Max notes "and make him likeable...is the hardest challenge." The fact that Bonville's "got manners...he's polite" seems a pretty poor excuse. And yet when pressed on his source of theatrical inspiration, Max's shrewd choice of Tom Hiddleston seems apt in light of his current role. "Hiddleston's performance in *The Night Manager*, that ability to have the charm constantly turned on and adapt to any kind of situation," he finds wholly enviable. Let's hope that *Hyde Park* exudes as much charm as its actors aspire to. M

Hyde Park is on at the Scenic Stage Theatre between 9 and 11 June. Tickets can be purchased through www.hydeparktftv.com.



IMAGES: OLLIE JONES

YORK FESTIVAL OF IDEAS HIGHLIGHTS



"THIS ORIENT ISLE"
JERRY BROTTON
MONDAY 13 JUNE
KING'S MANOR



"A CENTURY OF YORK ON FILM"
GRAHAM RELTON
TUESDAY 7 JUNE
BELMONT ROOMS



"WRITING WITHOUT TIME"
J.T. WELSCH
SATURDAY 18 JUNE
TEMPLE HALL

The new formal

Grace Howarth looks at how fashion is moving away from traditional evening wear



Sometimes fashion may seem impractical, but can you argue with the big names in the industry? Whatever Versace, Chanel or Vuitton feature on their catwalks goes, right? When the red carpets are being navigated by the likes of Beyoncé and Taylor Swift, the pressure for celebrities and other lesser mortals to steal the spotlight and outdo one another is slightly impossible, though fashion, in a sense, does give one the opportunity to try. Evening wear is gradually moving away from the classic and simple pastel coloured gowns and high heels favoured by most celebrities at such events. Instead, the style conscious among us are aspiring towards something more chic and original. In a society where almost anything goes, especially in the fashion world, this shift provides us with more breadth to do and wear what we want.

One of the latest evening wear trends to hit the S/S 16 catwalks is the slip dress. As seen in Burberry, Givenchy and Calvin Klein's collections, the wispy and lacy silk slip theme is always a risqué look. However, as proved by Rihanna in her near naked Adam Selman dress made up of 210,000 Swarovski Crystals and Beyoncé at the 2015 Met Ball in a sheer Givenchy ensemble, the sensual effect of the concealed put on display, is a look that is hard to overshadow and ignore. As a look it definitely confronts the traditional idea of what we classify as evening wear.

More recently, a cutting edge item making its way to the fore front is the modest trainer. In Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel S/S 14 couture collection every single skirt, dress and, yes, evening gown was worn with trainers, a marked

change in the fancy shoe department. Indeed at the Cannes film festival in 2015 their stringent dress code came under fire as a group of women were denied entry to a film showing because they dared to wear flat shoes. Rather antiquated rules for such a style conscious event, it manages to negate its own intentions.

On the subject of stringent dress codes, last month the red carpet was alight again, with shimmery metallic celebrities for the Met Ball 2016 Benefit. The theme this year was Manis x Machina which is a nod to the Metropolitan Museum's costume institute exhibition on 'Fashion in the Age of Technology'. The theme's initiative was to highlight the contrast between the artistic techniques employed in Haute Couture and 'Ready to Wear'. From pleating and lacing in the former to more modern approaches such as laser cutting in the latter, the creative processes for these two disciplines have, more recently, become blurred.

The celebrity attendees of the Met Ball this year rather interpreted the man-made vs machine-made theme differently. For some it meant man as machine, (Zayn Malik, Kim Kardashian); others took a more futuristic and celestial approach, (Willow and Jaden Smith).

The latter two successfully looked the most comfortable and at ease with their attire, - a huge feat for any formal event - while Zayn Malik in Versace arm 'armour' seemed quite weighed down. However the matte-white and metallic aesthetic as a popular choice for the evening begs the question: what does the future hold for formal wear?

Watch it!

Dale Lyster looks at popular pieces from the menswear world

1. Mondaine Stop2Go

If you have ever had the pleasure of visiting Switzerland, and some particular nearby countries for that matter, this watch face may be familiar to you. This is due to it being Switzerland's official train station watch face. Of course a pioneer for minimalist design, Mondaine have updated their classic watch in recent times. Such can be seen in their designs now featuring a cool fifty-eight second tick, that stops at the hour for two seconds before beginning another minute, a feature that is going to receive the applause of others, while also gaining merit for its widely popular design.



3. Mont Blanc

Notably not one of the most student-friendly watches due to their price tag being as high as the moon featured on the dials. Montblanc are a company to be respected and considered in current watch trends. Two notable and distinct designs which they have pioneered back into fashion in modern times are that of the moonface and the globe backdrop. Due to the company's ethos of being universal in monitoring entities far greater than just the time, it seemed more than apt for the watches to include a full calendar, including the date, day of the week, month, and moon phase, just to name a few features.



2. Bulova Accutron II

Bulova have successfully reinvented the wheel in resurrecting their classic and iconic Sixties Accutron model, which was a pioneer for electronic watches to follow it. Though it, and these current models, may be classed as electronic, they are not so in the traditional manner. This is through Bulova's employment of a tuning fork to power the timepiece rather than the traditional use of a balance wheel, though you'll be happy to know the modern model comes without the buzz sounds of the original. This is one watch that will certainly attract attention while receiving nods from older watch fans.



4. Daniel Wellington

A traditionally British watch, which takes its model names from well known British cities and towns, which strives and achieves simplicity and class. One of the most appealing elements of the collection is the canvas straps, which originate from the British Navy where they use strong nylon straps over their wet suits. It can be argued that Daniel Wellington is the designer to thank for the recent popularity and resurfacing of the canvas strap, as well as the complimentary touch that the watch adds to the preppy dresser. With a collection such as this, it is certainly one to be thankful for.



Men's top summerwear trends '16



CUBAN COLLARS

Not conforming to the traditional tied collar approach to formal wear, the Cuban collar offers one the freedom of the neckline, while being suitable for both casual and formal wear.



HAWAIIAN SHIRT

Your comical shirt for fancy dress occasions is now casually cool. Throw this underneath a jacket and you are ready for anything. Such an increase in popularity can be found in their diverse appeal.



WIDE TROUSERS

After a seemingly never-ending decade of skinny trousers and the continual pressures to go tighter, baggy trousers seem to be the natural backlash to this trend. Though this trend has been dormant in popularity this reborn trend seems here to stay.

WORDS BY: DALE LYSTER

IMAGES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: INDIGITAL, GETTY IMAGES, THE FASHIONISTO, TOPMAN, MASSIMO DUTTI, THE FASHIONISTO, & INDIGITAL.



GREEN IS GOOD

Green has been loitering in and out of popularity for some time now, though with recent collections it has come straight to the forefront. This time of year naturally petitions for slightly brighter and more obvious tones than its previous seasons, but green is good here when chosen in more of a subtle tone. However, that's not to say that you should be subtle with your usage of it, with many recent collections adopting the green-on-green approach.



BLUE BLAZER

As with this time every year, there is a natural movement towards this popular and reliable colour. A shade which will always remain timeless, blue blazers are now accepted in more than just the traditional navy. Opt for something more adventurous than the norm and team baby blue with a darker shade for a cool twist on your usual look.



SILK BOMBER

A/W's tsunami of bombers have continued to wave into summer through their transition of material from cotton to silk, taking a more versatile approach to the summer.



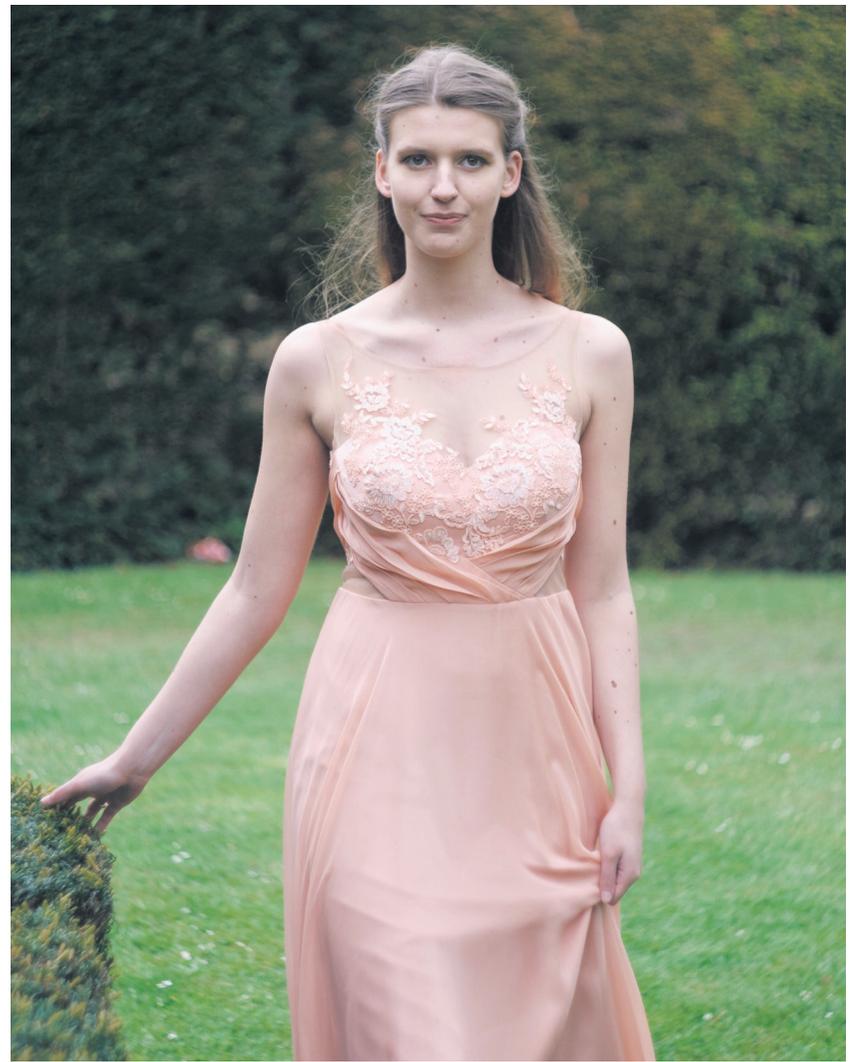
SUEDE JACKETS

The growing popularity of the 70s, overtaking the 90s as the most referenced decade in fashion, has brought with it a sea of suede. Store carefully to avoid a stressed effect.



SOCKS & SANDALS

The German tourist look that everybody seems to mock has been donned on many runways in recent times. However, it does not take the traditionally ridiculed approach - in recent times it is paired with leather sandals and luxurious cotton socks, to create a newfangled look.





Summer Ball

Fashion Editor: Grace Howarth, Photographer: Jack Richardson, Models: Jamila Hamze & Anna Tanner. Assistants: Victoria Roffey & Jasmin Hayward, Womenswear: Courtesy of Chic by Choice, www.chic-by-choice.com, Shoes and Accesories: Models own

Game review: *Omnibus*

Platform: PC, Mac, Linux
Release date: 26 May 2016

Omnibus is a pretty strange game. Much of its strangeness stems from the game's successful attempt at fusing together two seemingly disparate genres. On the one hand, it's a racing or driving game, but on the other hand it could also be described as an adventure game.

You start off as a big blue bus. However, this is no Bus Simulator 16, and instead of transporting passengers from one stop to another, you're given the strangest possible tasks to undertake. The game features a number

of different worlds to play through, each one with its own theme. In this way, *Omnibus* bears some resemblance to more traditional adventure games. In each world there are a number of levels, with each level offering a different challenge to overcome. In addition to the single player story mode, there is also a multiplayer mode. Up to four players using the same computer can go head to head in jousting matches where the objective is to knock your opponent off the stage.

There are only two controls throughout most of the game: a and d to turn the bus left and right. It may sound rather simplistic, but *Omnibus* is anything but. With only the ability to steer you can't control the speed of your bus,

which continuously ticks upwards throughout each level. Once you reach the maximum speed of 205mph, things become nigh on impossible as even the slightest bump or knock sends the bus flying skywards or tumbling off the edge of the map. The constantly increasing speed puts pressure on the player to finish each level as quickly as possible, before the bus becomes too difficult to drive. Each level is infuriatingly difficult (I can't deny that me being shit at racing games doesn't help), with absurd objectives that have remarkably little to do with public transport.

For example, in one level it's your job to knock a giant gorilla off the top of a skyscraper, by driving at full speed up the side of the building. In the next level, you're breaking into a bank by ramming into it. After that, you must flee to the Moon in order to escape the police. Once in space, you must dodge between asteroids and then drive across what looks like a space station of some sorts.

In certain levels you're given a different bus to drive, often with special powers that alter the way in which you must play the game. One bus defies gravity, while another allows you to grip onto different surfaces.

As is the case with most indie games at the moment, a retro visual style is used throughout. The only difference here is that *Omnibus* hankers after the style of the first generation of consoles to use 3D graphics. Simplistic blocky visuals and bright colours are the order of the day - it looks like it could have been released on the original Playstation or the Nintendo 64.

Part of me would like to delve deeper into



the world of *Omnibus*.

Why is it up to the bus to do all these strange tasks? Who is the stranger who pilots this magical vehicle? How did the bus gain such an esteemed position in this society? But none of this really matters. The game simply sets out to befuddle the player, and is remarkably successful in doing so.

Omnibus is not a game for everyone. For some players, its irreverence and absurdity could come across as simply annoying. The game's difficulty might also be seen as a barrier to enjoyment. However, on the whole, *Omnibus* is a quirky and fun game, that is unique for the way in which it blends different video game genres.

Adam Koper



A wild beta-test appeared!

Pokémon GO goes public

The upcoming phone app *Pokémon GO* has been quietly building hype for a while now. And that's because the very premise grabs hold of your nineties-hued nostalgia and jerks until it can no longer do so: you are exploring the land and catching and battling Pokémon, but thanks to the magic of VR you're doing it in *the real world* this time!

As it turns out, the game's finally being beta-tested in the US and Australia, so details of how it's shaping up have started to leak. And while certain features still need to be polished, the overall impression is that of the game that pretty much everyone was hoping for.

We already knew that capturing wild Pokémon was going to be a central feature, and that's been neatly confirmed. After tracking down one of the original 150 - "were there ever any others?", I hear you cry - you flick a Pokéball at it to capture it, aiming to hit a target like a high-tech version of that Facebook basketball game. Some have said the mechanics are a little fiddly, but hopefully that'll get refined prior to release.

Also, if you truly want to catch 'em all, that's going to require some legwork. Certain Pokémon will only live in certain areas - for instance, water-types like Psyduck or Magikarp can only be found near the coast. Bulbasaur, Squirtle, Charmander and Pikachu are rumoured to be particularly elusive.

It's likely that legendaries like Mewtwo will also require special events and lots



of trainers to bring them down. The hardest to find so far, however, is apparently Eevee, so players will have to get working if they want to catch one.

Or any of its evolutions, come to that, since evolving Pokémon is a new feature uncovered by the beta. One potential leak says that you'll be able to do it by collecting "evolution shards" from wild Pokémon of the same species - once you get over a certain number, you can evolve one of them - though that has yet to be officially confirmed.

Another new feature is the existence of PokéStops, which will be found at real-world monuments, museums and other notable public spaces. Certain items can only be found at PokéStops, most notably the Pokémon Egg: just like in the game, walking a certain number of steps with the Egg will hatch a random Pokémon.

The final major new feature to be unveiled is battling, and it seems that there's going to be a lot of it. Not only can you battle or trade with other trainers at will, but after a certain point in the game you can choose to join the Red, Blue or Yellow teams.

You can then head to a local Gym, since Gyms have been reworked into a kind of capture-and-defend game, essentially a reskinned version of *Ingress* (the last game by *GO*'s developers, focused on base-capturing). You can drop off one Pokémon at the



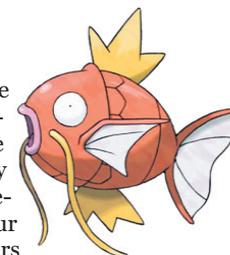
Gym and leave it there to defend that space from enemy teams. Conversely,

you can take your strongest monsters and strike out at an enemy's Gym, even teaming up with allied trainers and attacking all at once. If all the Pokémon there are defeated, it's yours! Until the enemy comes back.

Pokémon GO will be free to play, but in-game items like Pokéballs are going to cost money, so cough up if you want to capture anything. The dedicated player can also buy a special Bluetooth wristband, produced by Nintendo, which makes capturing Pokémon easier and vibrates every time one gets close.

We also haven't heard much about how much battery-life the app uses, but VR effects tend to suck down power. *Ingress* is infamous for basically requiring a portable charger. So bear that in mind - the best app in the world falls flat if you can't play it.

Still, at minimum, the game seems like a decent excuse to go outside, chase invisible Charizards and look a bit mental. But maybe it could end up being the very best, like no app ever was. Here's hoping for the latter.



Niall Whitehead

Journey to the past

Andrew Kendall weighs in on Disney's live-action remake loop

“Round like a circle in a spiral...” Those might be the words to a Dusty Springfield pop song but they seem an apt theme for the way things are going at the live-action section of Disney Studios lately.

A few weeks ago, online film writers were abuzz with the teaser released for the upcoming *Beauty and the Beast* 10 months before its slated release date in 2017. A new version for a new audience. It was in keeping with the consensus that this new *Beauty and the Beast*, like recently successful *The Jungle Book*, or last year's *Cinderella*, offers us a new version of the stories we used to love: very similar but with peculiar differences. But, to what end is this trend heading?

With the exception of *Mary Poppins* (still, easily the best live-action film to come out of Disney), the Disney brand has been built on its excellent animated films. From the first instance with *Snow White* in 1937 Disney has made their name by their family friendly iterations of fairy tales. They've never been truly able to zero in on the live-action market, not in the golden age during the 60s and not during the Renaissance of the late 80s and 90s.

For the last six years though, the studio has turned to using their animated classics as a template for live action success. It feeds into the contemporary movie culture of remakes and sequelitis that Luke Rix-Standing wrote about in our January issue.

But, it's more than a culture of remakes. Fairytales have always enjoyed multiple itera-



tions and all remakes aren't bad. The issue is Disney's self reflexive role in the equation.

Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, The Jungle Book: Disney live-actions filmed based on animated ones. *Dumbo, Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Mulan:* a smattering of those in pre-production. Is it enough to be creating copies of copies of copies that have a few aspects that make them memorable? Is the height of artistic creation that Disney is interested in creating films that are “not bad”?

And even if, IF, a great film is to come from a slated remake, what does it mean that

Disney's way of moving into the future is by clutching to its past?

The publicity line on the trend of remakes is that they will present a version of these films relevant to contemporary society. An “updated” version. But what does that mean for our larger cultural situation when it comes to engaging with the past?

In its own way an updated version suggests that things from the past are only significant as spectral inspirations and not legitimate being on their own. The willingness to release a newer, fresher version of these tales

seems nothing more than Disney bizarrely rendering their own past obsolete. It's not befuddling just because these old versions have their own charm, oftentimes difficult for the newer versions to capture, but because it points to a larger cultural issue within film culture - erasure of the past. And with the erasure of the past comes a situation where the audience is being continually let off the hook.

To be clear, an original story does not necessitate a good one, but Disney's implicit erasure of its filmic canon to reinvent itself as newer and more relevant condescends to those unwilling to open a door to the past. The fact is that the cursory film watcher is unlikely to decide to watch two versions of the same film with negligible differences.

Audiences will reach for the next thing before them, and overburdened with the new live action Disney it becomes the thing before us that people reach for, sometimes just for ease. True, Disney has no ethical responsibility to challenge the audience. They're just out to make money. And that is what they're doing. Making money.

And perhaps this cycle of reinventing their own is just as simply explained, albeit sadly, as an effort to make money. An argument for this indicating a legitimate artistic desire to create seems specious. So, with the love of money on their mind, the live-action part of Disney studios are currently taking Ouroboros to a whole new level with their cyclical meanderings.

Who exactly is Doctor Strange?

Liam Dooley takes a look at the backstory of the Sorcerer Supreme

Later this year, Benedict Cumberbatch will become Doctor Strange: one of the slightly more complicated superheroes in Marvel's roster. In order to get a clearer idea of exactly who this figure is before the film hits UK screens on 28 October, here is just some of the good doctor's backstory.

Before beginning his path to superhero stardom, Steven Strange was an amazing surgeon with one major downfall: his ego. His selfishness

ness

meant that he very often turned away desperate patients who could not afford to pay their medical bills. Strange had a gift for sure, but he put a very high price-tag on it.

However, on one fateful day a car accident means that Strange shatters his famous hands beyond all repair, developing an uncontrollable tremor that renders him unable to perform surgery. In his desperation to reverse the damage, he travels the world in search for a cure but to no avail. That is until his journey takes him to 'The Ancient One' high up in the Himalayas where he now seeks to restore his hands by means beyond medicine.

Upon Strange's arrival, the Ancient One is the current 'Sorcerer Supreme'. This effectively means that he is the strongest wielder of magical power in the universe. The title is awarded each century through a tournament conducted by an extra-dimensional mystical group known as the Vishanti and the Ancient One has held the role for over five centuries.

Seeing the cruelty in Steven's soul, the Ancient One denies his initial request to restore his hands to their former glory but instead offers to take him on as a

student, teaching him the ways of magic, hoping to bring out the goodness within Steven. The Ancient One's aim first comes to fruition when Strange finds out that another of the Ancient One's students, Baron Mordo, plans to kill their master.

The Ancient One was already aware of Mordo's plans, but seeing Strange's selflessness also serves to solidify his belief in the potential of Steven being able to complete his training. Strange soon becomes an adept magician, but he also gains a lifelong enemy in Mordo.

Furthermore, the reason why Strange was such a cruel and vile human being before his training ends up being the result of another plot by Mordo. The sorcerer had sent demons to plague Steven as a boy and although the Ancient One managed to defeat them and erase them from Strange's memory, the events themselves left a lasting impact on his psyche. In true superhero fashion, he has been good all along.

As Steven continues his training, he adopts the title of 'Doctor Strange'. He later becomes Sorcerer Supreme after a conflict with an extra-dimensional being known as Shuma-Gorath (which is basically a huge tentacle-monster with one big eye) which results in the physical death of the Ancient One (his soul still survives as he transcends and becomes one with the universe and an entity called Eternity). Strange's adoption of this role is later affirmed by one of the aforementioned Vishanti tournaments.

Strange's powers include flight, teleportation, telekinesis, astral projection, inter-dimensional travel, time manipulation and so on. Basically anything that you would think that the strongest sorcerer in the universe

should be able to do. He uses the Book of the Vishanti and the Orb of Agamotto, while donning the Cloak of Levitation and the Eye of Agamotto.

The Book grants him knowledge of white magic, the Orb is a very powerful crystal ball giving him clairvoyance, the Cloak enables him to fly and the Eye is the most complex of all, being capable of emitting a powerful mys-

Doctor Strange will make for an exciting addition to the MCU

tical light that can be used to fight the powers of darkness in a whole assortment of ways. Should Strange be unable to use his magic powers, he is an expert in several martial arts.

Doctor Strange is a weird yet wonderful character who will make for an exciting addition to the MCU. Hopefully the complex magical dimension of his story does not infringe upon the film's reception among the general public.

Equally, I hope that it is not oversimplified too much out of fear of this. *Guardians of the Galaxy* back in 2014 was also quite the leap of faith for the team over at Marvel and that turned out fantastically, so I have high hopes that the same will be said of *Doctor Strange*.



IMAGE: MICHAEL STEWART

Summer festival guide

GLASTONBURY

IMAGE: WIKICOMMONS



Chances are, if someone says “music festival” then Glastonbury is one of the first things you think of, right up there with wellies, mud and shitty pop-up tents from Argos. Michael Eavis has again described this year’s headliners as “the best ever”, with Muse, Adele and Coldplay topping the bill. The less said about Muse the better, but watching Adele try to manage a festival performance should be interesting, and Coldplay generally tend to put on a more than decent live show. Elsewhere in the line-up is where things at Somerset’s Worthy Farm get interesting, with hotly anticipated performances from artists throughout the entire musical spectrum, with the likes of Madness, ELO, The Last Shadow Puppets and even Earth, Wind and Fire performing across the five day festival. Glasto is where to go if you want a bit of everything, with over 100 stages exhibiting some of the best musical talent the world has to offer. This could be one of the last years where the festival will be held in its original location, but until then, see you at the farm! (Although it is sold out, so if you haven’t got a ticket, tough luck).

Jack Davies

In looking at festivals that set up shack in the nation’s capital one has plenty of choice, with smaller festivals like OnBlackheath in South-East London battling against commercial darling Wireless for the best performers, setup and general atmosphere. Despite this, Field Day stands out. Actually, I’d say Field Day is one of the top festivals in the UK this year with acts like James Blake and PJ Harvey headlining this two day event, and the return of The Avalanches hinting at new material among a cracking live show. Unlike festivals catering to certain tastes, Field Day has it all ranging from Sleaford Mods, Parquet Courts and Fat White Family to Skepta, Novelist and DJ Koze, truly giving Field Day the best line up of British festivals for 2016. Located in Victoria Park in the borough of Tower Hamlets, Field Day hosts London as a suitable festival location separate from the dank marshes of Somerset and the chilling heights of Scotland but retaining that free summer-fête feel with the event’s Village Mentality feature including egg and spoon races and a tug of war. Easily reachable for just about everyone (except perhaps those already in the Scottish mountains), you bascally have no excuse not to turn up and enjoy the sunshine.

Ant Noonan

IMAGE: CAROLINA FERREOLO



FIELD DAY

PRIMAVERA SOUND

IMAGE: ALEXANDRE ROMAN



Potentially the festival of the year. Seriously. With headliners including Radiohead, LCD Soundsystem and Sigur Ros to name just a few, travelling out to Barcelona to finish the weekend looking like a lobster may just be worth it. With hundreds of acts including Savages, Tame Impala, Battles, Freddie Gibbs, Beach House, Vince Staples and even Brian Wilson performing the entirety of Pet Sounds in the gorgeous Spanish sunset, few can argue that other festivals can top Primavera, especially if the British summer pulls its usual dirty tricks on us and showers us with mud, rain and possibly bodily fluids. The plane ticket, or even the ferry and/or bus if you’re feeling adventurous/slow will be more than worth avoiding the above and getting the best bands to boot. Of course many British people will squabble and moan about the travelling required to reach Barcelona and whether the actual festival will be worth it. Come on now, you’re getting proper summer sun in a holiday destination with Thom Yorke’s angelic wheeze surrounding you as you enjoy it. How can you complain about that?

Ant Noonan

Completely brand new for 2016, the two-day Down to the Woods festival in County Durham in August promises, in its organisers’ own words, to be “very special”. The latest addition to the UK small festival scene, the location appears idyllic, set amid a country club beside a forest and expansive lake. And they’ve gone all out in securing a magnificent line-up for the festival’s debut which actually stands as one of the best across small festivals in Britain, with Scottish rock legends Primal Scream and dance superstars Chase and Status headlining, along with some other eye-catching performances from the likes of Echo & the Bunnymen, Peter Hook, and Catfish and the Bottlemen. There’ll be a ton of other stuff to see including arts and comedy acts from performers such as Howard Read and Mike Wilkinson. If that isn’t enough, the organisers promise fairground rides, many, many bars and a ‘Gin Palace’ whatever that may entail. Best of all, a weekend adult’s ticket costs just £99, so if you’re on a budget but still fancy heading to a festival this summer, then Down to the Woods may well be the answer to your prayers.

Jack Davies

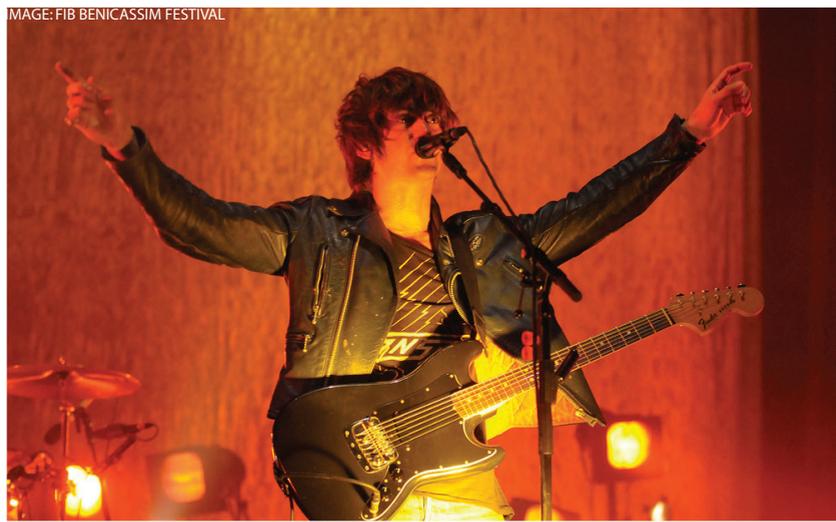
IMAGE: OLIVER LINDBERG



DOWN TO THE WOODS

BENICASSIM

IMAGE: FIB BENICASSIM FESTIVAL



When looking into summer festivals, I used to fall into the trap of wistfully browsing huge events in far-off lands like America and Australia, before turning back and pouring out my skimpy wallet for the usual festivals around me, e.g. Reading and Glastonbury. A year living in Canada, without the access I had grown so accustomed to, made me realise that I'd been wasting my advantageous European location. This year, however, I managed to bag tickets for the incredible Benicàssim festival. Located in the beautiful resort of Benicàssim, Spain, the festival offers eight days of camping and four days of music, for just over £100. If you think that's good, just wait for the line-up. In keeping with the quality I have come to expect from such European music festivals, Benicàssim boasts incredible genre variation and the seemingly occult ability to land an entire poster's worth of headliner talent. The mind-blowing list of acts includes Kendrick Lamar, Massive Attack, Major Lazer, Disclosure, The Chemical Brothers, Mac DeMarco, Catfish and the Bottlemen, Biffy Clyro, Muse and even Echo & the Bunnymen (not familiar? Think Killing Moon, Donnie Darko – you know them, trust me). This festival is an absolute gem and I would aggressively recommend you to grab remaining tickets now, lest you end up with Rock Werchter-esque life regrets.

Sarah McGregor

Summer is upon us, and for youths and music lovers across the world, this means festival season! This marks the start of the 'mad muddy months', a special time in which thousands of people gather to be gross and crazy together to music. Only eight years old, Boomtown is already famous for being one of the biggest, maddest music festivals in the UK. One of the main reasons for its popularity is the escapism people find in the unique fantasy world created by the festival's pop-up city and Boomtown 'legend'. Every August, the quiet countryside area of Winchester, Hampshire, is transformed into a sprawling party metropolis; nine colourfully themed districts host an incredible variety of music and art for the festival's 50,000 'citizens'. The line-up focuses on ska, reggae and party acts, but the scale and scope of Boomtown covers a mind-blowing range of genres, as well as offering an overwhelming selection of other art and activities. 2016 will see amazing acts like Damien Marley, Madness, Leftfield and Fat Freddy's Drop, and even more. Let me put it this way - there is literally no way you get around it all, but you'll have so much fun that you're not likely to mind.

Sarah McGregor

IMAGE: NATIONAL EXPRESS



BOOMTOWN

T IN THE PARK

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



The quintessential Scottish festival returns for another year of fun, and the second in the imposing shadow of Strathallan Castle. Leaving the carnage of last year behind with the promise of a new layout and better transport across the site, T In The Park looks to sort out the teething problems and allow us to all focus on the acts. This shouldn't be too much of a challenge, with a strong and (reasonably) varied headline lineup of The Stone Roses, Calvin Harris and Red Hot Chili Peppers; with Disclosure, Bastille and Chase & Status not far behind, there's bound to be something for (pretty much) everyone. But that's just on the main stage, with a near-ludicrous array of acts scattered around the other stages, like Jamie xx, LCD Soundsystem, Major Lazer and Kaiser Chiefs (well, I still like them). Even with such a titanic lineup, music alone does not a music festival make (nowadays, anyway), and accordingly there are a range of comedy acts, burlesque performances(?) and the amusingly punned 'Hot Dub Time Machine', promising "a trip down musical memory lane". And, of course, for a festival overtly sponsored by a beer company, there's bound to be plenty of capacity for drinking if that's your schtick.

Jack Richardson

The main attraction of Festival No. 6 may well be in its location – held in the glorious mock-Mediterranean village of Portmeirion, famed for its use as the setting of cult 60s TV show *The Prisoner*, in the heart of North Wales. Not only can you marvel at the stunning setting, organisers of Festival No. 6 have managed to put together one of the most impressive line-ups of all the smaller festivals out there, with performances from the likes of Hot Chip, Bastille and Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds. The festival also offers a range of other things for attendees to enjoy, with a food and drink festival and a plethora of arts, culture and comedy performances throughout the weekend long event in September, including comedy heavyweights Johnny Vegas and Paul Foot, alongside Dr John Cooper Clarke returning after his performance in 2013. Not only that, but the festival's location allows attendees to indulge in some of the more off-beat activities, like paddle-boarding and a re-enactment of the human chess game by *The Prisoner* Appreciation Society. It prides itself on being different, and apparently it's succeeding, with Beck declaring after playing that it is "the coolest, most surrealist, funkiest, freakiest festival in the world". If that doesn't make you want to go and see what Festival No. 6 is all about then I don't know what will.

Jack Davies



IMAGE: ANDREW WHITTON

FESTIVAL NO. 6

Bottoms up

For its 20th anniversary Jack Richardson gets drunk on the York Brewery's home grown success



A fact repeated to wide-eyed and beer-loving freshers is that York has a pub for every day of the year, and one to spare. While this isn't strictly true (CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale and all-round beer aficionados, put the number at about 270), there can be no doubting our city's penchant for the amber nectar.

It is perhaps surprising that, unlike the walls and buildings that have survived in York for centuries, until 1996 there hadn't been

“ York Brewery produce two and a half million pints a year

a brewery within the city walls for 40 years. Thankfully those dark days continue to be kept at bay as the York Brewery celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

Set up by a group of friends who quit their jobs to pursue a shared passion, the Brewery benefitted greatly in 2001 when the EU made provisions for member states to adjust their tax laws. International fiscal laws might seem a little dry (pun intended) for such an industry, but with this provision came a ruling from the British Government which allows microbreweries (like the one in York) to pay just 50 per cent of the tax that larger commercial ones owe.

This was a major step towards breaking up the monopoly held by companies such as Heineken and Greene King, which had until that point been rather successful in buying up emerging competition and either forcing it to brew their brand or simply closing it down indefinitely.

After the founders retired in 2008, they sold York Brewery to Mitchells of Lancaster, a well known pub and brewery chain. This was perhaps a contentious move considering the two cities' history, but the name and location remain under the white rose, for the time being at least. If nothing else, at least the people of Lancaster got the chance to drink some decent beer.

Even despite the scale of its owners, the Brewery remains classified as a microbrewery, and produce (only) two and a half million pints per year, in twenty barrel batches, with each barrel being 38 gallons or 288 pints. While the scale may seem enormous for a single building, the biggest brewing company in the world, Anheuser-Busch InBev, brews around 30,800,000 pints per year and controls 25 per cent of the global market share.

While the scale of beer production can vary wildly, the brewing process and ingredi-

ents are very similar indeed. The same four ingredients - water, malted (soaked then dried) grain, yeast and hops - have been used practically since beer's inception, possibly as early as 12,000 years ago, although what was drunk by the Egyptians would hardly be recognised today. Each separate ingredient's source, composition and ratio contributes to the overall flavour.

Water is far and away the biggest ingredient, and actually the least varying. In the UK and in many places around the world, gypsum is added to brewing water in a process known as 'Burtonisation,' designed to make it similar to the waters of Burton-on-Trent, which have long been considered especially good for brewing.

While malted grain is the most common, the important thing is to have a starch source - this can then be broken down into sugar, which is then fermented by the yeast to make alcohol. Malting grain for different lengths of time and at different temperatures can affect the taste and colour of beer. Combining hot water and malt in a 'mash tun' is the first stage of the brewing process, and causes enzymes in the malt to break down the starch in the grain, creating a thick sugary liquid delightfully named 'wort'.

After washing all the grains (called 'spar-ging'), the wort is boiled in a large tank called (and once made of) a copper, at which point hops are added. Hops are a (relatively) new addition to brewing, first mentioned by a Carolingian Abbot in 822 AD as an ingredient. The flowers and leaves of this bitter plant are dried and crushed before being added to

“ There can be no doubting our city's penchant for the amber nectar

the mixture to add the characteristic bitterness and flavour, while the whole mixture is boiled at length.

The boiling evaporates the leftover water and concentrates the sugars for greater efficiency.

Once everything has boiled and cooled, the wort is moved to yet another tank and the yeast is finally incorporated. Depending on how strong one wants one's beer, the mixture can be left anywhere from a week to a few months to ferment, allowing the yeast to feed on the sugar and release alcohol and carbon dioxide.

At the York Brewery, they brew this stage

in open-topped vats, allowing the yeast to form a protective crust on the surface to keep out bacteria which might spoil the flavour or compete with the yeast. Once everything is fermented, the yeast and other small particles that may be left in the beer are allowed to settle before it is packed into bottles, kegs or casks. Real ales continue fermenting in the cask, while lagers are pressurised in custom kegs.

While this process seems very involved and long-winded (not to mention chock-full of rather quaint anachronisms), York Brewery makes up to two batches per day, four days a week. This impressively fast turnover rate has allowed them to create an eclectic array of brews across many different styles and seasons.

There are, of course, many different types of beer, created by using different ingredients and adjusting timings and order in the brewing process. The type of malt used is a main influence on the colour of the beer, and also affects the taste, making it stronger and richer in the case of dark beers like stout or lighter and crisper for lagers or pilsners.

The amount of hops and how long they are boiled for will affect the aroma and bitterness. The longer the hops are boiled, the more bitter the final beer will be, but there will be less flavour and aroma from the hops itself.

The ambitious York Brewery uses a wide and diverse range of malts to create different flavours and colours, and imports hops and ingredients from all over the world. These range from the original Yorkshire Terrier, a 4.2 per cent golden ale, to the stronger ruby ale Centurion's Ghost, at 5.4 per cent. For the more adventurous, they teamed up with The Chili Jam Man to produce Mostly Ghostly, a version of Centurion's Ghost with ghost chilli added.

Alongside these permanent fixtures, seasonal beers like the increasingly prolific Nordic Fury, created for the wintertime Viking festival are created each quarter, and a different beer for each month also rotates (June's is Cascadian Summer, which uses Cascade hops from America). And, of course, two birthday ales were created for that special weekend in mid-May.

Despite (or perhaps because of) its size, the brewery is no stranger to awards, with several beers placing in the top three or winning the annual 'Champion Beer of Britain', at times even in more than one category.

To a city like York, which itself seems to be undergoing the fermentation process if one dares venture within the walls on a Saturday night, the brewery looks to remain a fixture. Long may it and our hundreds of pubs continue. Cheers!

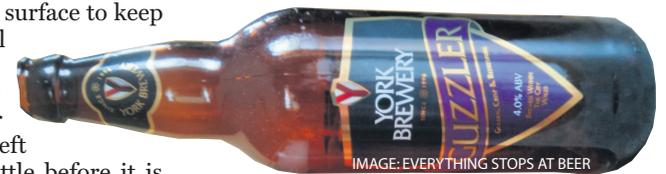


IMAGE: EVERYTHING STOPS AT BEER



IMAGE: RAWDON FOX



IMAGE: LAKES AND PEBBLES



IMAGE: LAKES AND PEBBLES



IMAGE: OMSKIRK BARONS



IMAGE: KBS



IMAGE: DOCTOR PINT

The art of Pairings

Sommelier and owner of Pairings in York **Kelly Latham** speaks to Sophie Crump about breaking down the barriers of the world of wine

For many students, wine is new territory as we start to become 'real adults'. Convoluted descriptions of oaky and full bodied reds can leave many feeling intimidated by the world of wine. Sisters Kelly and Kate Latham set up Pairings in York to try and break down that wall and bring their wine expertise into an approachable format. We spoke to Kelly, part owner and trained sommelier, about the journey to setting up the restaurant as well as the basics of wine tasting.

So where did your personal journey begin with wine and opening a wine bar?

Six years ago me and my sister sold up and went travelling around South America and southern Africa for a year. We used to live in Harrogate but we said that because we'd had such a life changing experience we didn't want to just go back to the same old jobs doing the same thing. We wanted to set up a business and we'd been to Italy 10 years ago and we talked about setting up a wine bar there so we kind of revisited that. We'd been to lots of wine bars and vineyards and so we thought, well we want to bring a little bit of this back. We decided on York, partly because of the tourist trade, but also as it was close to friends without moving back to Harrogate. It took about three years to get to where we are



as we wanted to get a feel of York and make sure it was the right decision. After finding this place it took a year till we opened.

Would you say there are any rules when it comes to pairing food and wine?

There are certain rules but then a lot is down to personal preference! I think that a lot of wine descriptions in general can seem very intimidating. When you listen to a lot of sommeliers and masters of wine they come up

with some very random and bizarre descriptions but I think it's a lot about personal association. So one wine reminds someone of something like a summer's day and for someone else it's something completely different.

What is some advice for choosing wine from a menu as we often just go for the second cheapest bottle?

Don't go for the second cheapest bottle! Everyone does that, but if you go for the house wine then that should represent the house that's holding it, so it should actually be good. Our house wines are very popular; they are the best quality at that price range. Everyone thinks I don't want to go for the cheapest and look like a cheapskate but it should be a representation of the restaurant so save yourself some money! The second cheapest is often not actually any better, in fact it can often be worse than the house wine but because they know everyone will choose it, they will mark that bottle up a lot more.

What is the process behind becoming a sommelier or master of wine?

It's about doing different exams really. I have done the WSET, that is the Wine Spirit Education Trust, and there are different levels you can get to. I've done the advanced which is level three. Above that then you've got a diploma which is two years but I think it depends where you want to go and why you're doing it. A lot of things that I've learnt I don't put into practice because a lot of people don't want to hear about it. The other week we had a husband and wife who had been given a tasting as a gift and the woman was terrified to come in. She thought I was going to bore her to death about soil and climate!

What do you offer at Pairings that is different from others?

Before I went away I was, like many, afraid to spend money on bottles I might not like. All our wines are sold by the glass and under £35 by the bottle. By doing them all by the glass it allows people to drink wines that you wouldn't normally try unless you go out as a group. My husband didn't used to drink white wine and so when we used to go out I would be limited to a Sauvignon, a Pinot Grigio and a Chardonnay. We offer a £19 tasting experience where you try six different fine wines. Then we also offer a food and drinks pairings package, where six drinks are paired with foods from the menu. Often people buy them



IMAGES: PAIRINGS

as gifts which is really nice and otherwise it's perfect for someone who's getting into wine or trying to work out what they like.

What is your favourite cheese and wine pairing?

I would probably say my favourite cheese and wine pairing we've got would be a Morning Fog Chardonnay which is oaked from Napa Valley paired with the Wookey Hole vintage cheddar; the butteriness of the Chardonnay and sharpness of the cheese is great. In terms of red, we've a Bogle Petit Sirah which again is from California which goes really well with the Yorkshire blue cheese. They're probably my two favourites.

Where would you say is an area that is producing great new wines?

American wines are up and coming but they are quite pricey because of all the export charges. Everybody goes for New Zealand Sauvignon but sometimes when things get very popular restaurants will exploit that and put it on the menu when it's not even a great bottle. The same thing happens with Prosecco, so we do a Cava instead as we think it's

better quality.

What is the difference then between Champagne, Prosecco and Cava?

Region, grapes and how they make them. Prosecco has more sugar in it which is why it's slightly sweeter. Champagne can be quite dry as they use a bit of oak in there, and some people struggle with that. It's more complex whereas Prosecco is a little bit more easy to drink.

What's a drink that you think is often underrated and people should try?

I think a Riesling has a very bad reputation and I actually think they have some really great ones out there. It really depends on the producer but we do a great one here.

What do you see for the future?

Well we've got room to expand downstairs and we want to do more private tastings for people. In three years we would love to open another one. We've had great feedback and although it's taken a little while to get the word out that we're here, Tripadvisor and Facebook have been giving great feedback. **M**



Recipes for success



Leah Hulmes gives a run down of some of the best cookbooks for budding chefs to start collecting

1. *Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Minute Meals* by Jamie Oliver
2. *The Little Book of Hangovers* by Quentin Parker
3. *Vegetarian Nosh for Students* by Joy May
4. *Plenty* by Yottam Ottolenghi

Oliver is, of course, an institution in the recipe book world, but this is a particularly handy collection. Although 15 minutes is a bit ambitious (the man must move at superhuman speed), and Oliver seems to inexplicably believe that everyone has tamarind paste (no idea) and capers knocking about in the cupboards, the recipes are truly easy and impressive. Try the lemon and parsley beef with ratatouille - you'll be forgiven for missing out the saffron.

Ideal for those mornings when your brain can hardly make sense of the world, this book is guaranteed to offer some uncomplicated yet special suggestions. Providing inspiration when you need it most, there are some hearty and healthy brunch ideas that will soon eliminate the memory of last night's tequila shots. The simplified step by step instructions would make it difficult for even the most hungover person to mess up, and will provide a welcome relief for any victims of Kuda.

Whether you're a committed vegetarian or merely getting around to your New Year's resolutions a few months late, this is the book for you. This is a handbook of simply-illustrated recipes that have their difficulty graded in stars. Ranging from tips on how to spruce up your beans on toast to fancier and more substantial meals and puddings, this is a book to turn to when you're in the mood for some fast food solutions that will make you forget why you ever ate meat in the first place.

If you're happy to splash out a bit more on a cookery book, then *Plenty* is the culinary bible that you've been looking for. Yottam Ottolenghi's book is packed full of good, vegetarian meals with suggestions here and there of how you might best add meat and fish to the mix. Whether you have a store cupboard full of spices or simply a desire to experiment, this is a good guide when you've got a bit more time to spare in the kitchen to enjoy the unusual flavours that Ottolenghi throws together.

Body language

Lucy Furneaux explores our developing attitudes towards body image and identity at 'Shaping the Body', a new exhibition at the York Castle Museum

It's 8.30 in the morning. York Castle Museum hasn't opened its doors to the public yet, but I'm sat in a large, atmospheric hall surrounded by headless mannequins dressed in a range of clothing from 400 years ago right up to the present day. It's a little unsettling, but I'm here to talk with Collections Facilitator Dr M Faye Prior about the Museum's latest exhibition, 'Shaping the Body', in light of its opening earlier this year and Mental Health Awareness Week in May.

The exhibition documents the ways in which people have used fashion, food and fitness to shape their bodies over the last 400 years. Dr Prior explains that one aim is to show how "changing your body shape to look

“ Fashion doesn't exist as just this pretty thing to be looked at; it's so much more intrinsic to our culture than that

a different way isn't a brand-new 21st century thing; it's been going on for centuries," and 'Shaping the Body' considers fashion, diet and lifestyle "in a multidisciplinary way" to explore these concepts.

Naturally, however, these topics bring with them a whole host of difficult issues. In 2015, a report commissioned by the charity Beat estimated that over 725,000 people in the UK are affected by eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia and binge eating disorder (BED). Meanwhile, the NHS estimates that approximately one per cent of the UK population suffers from Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD). Tackling topics like fashion, diet and fitness, and how people manipulate these as tools to shape their bodies, is therefore a much more complex challenge than it perhaps first appears.

With the rise of social media and the 'selfie generation', questions of body image are growing ever more prevalent in our society with each passing day. There's an awkward line to tread between health advocacy and body positivity campaigns, perhaps most recently demonstrated by Facebook's removal of an advert featuring size-26 model Tess Holliday as it was against their guidelines.

The advert was promoting Australian feminist talkshow group Cherchez la Femme's event 'Feminism and Fat', and featured a photograph of Holliday wearing a bikini. The group said that Facebook claimed that the image was against their "health and fitness policy" as it showed a body weight that was "extremely undesirable". Facebook later rectified this decision and approved the advert, though not before social media and journalistic backlash ensued.

Body-positive campaigners argue that it is these kinds of decisions – removing photo-

graphs of, for example, fatter bodies, rather than posting them – which make people feel bad about themselves. It is this particular shaming of overweight bodies, or very thin ones, which drives people to starve themselves or binge-eat. The mental impact of judgemental body-shaming, too, can be incredibly significant and debilitating.

Thankfully, 'Shaping the Body' doesn't hold back, actively addressing these issues head on. As someone who has struggled with body image issues for many years, this was something I was particularly interested in, both when I went to look around the exhibition some weeks ago and during my conversation with Dr Prior. She explains that the curators' aim to be "body-positive" was established in the very first conversation about the exhibition.

"We didn't want anybody to feel bad about themselves by coming here," Dr Prior stresses. "We wanted people to come in and think about their bodies – but not in a 'that corset is so tight, I'd never fit into that!' sort of way; instead, in more of a sympathetic way towards themselves."

The exhibition achieves this by encouraging that introspective thinking through interactive elements. Alongside the opportunity to dress up in fashion from across time, there is a quiz for individuals to find out how much they follow typical 'fashion', the data for which is collated by the Museum. Visitors can also submit their own ideas for the board featuring beauty ideals from around the world.

Dr Prior explains how important including other kinds of beauty standards was to the team: "What we didn't want to do was to say 'European beauty is the only beauty!' because that would be completely wrong. Represented in the fashion room are many different kinds of ideal beauty." For the Museum it's important that visitors can engage in a dialogue with the questions of the exhibition: "We want it to be something that evolves."

It was important to Dr Prior and her team that 'Shaping the Body' is more than looking at beautiful articles of clothing. She references the Victorian arsenic gown, a stunning and distinctive dress; its colour was created using a particular green dye called arsenic green because in that time arsenic

“ There's an awkward line to tread between health advocacy and body positivity

was used to enhance colours. "It has a very complicated history because the dressmakers who worked with arsenic green tended to get horrible lesions – some of them died because of it," she tells me. She settles on the gown as her favourite "because it has such a complicated and difficult history". Her passion for



IMAGES: YORK CASTLE MUSEUM

this complexity is clear: "Fashion doesn't exist as just this pretty thing to be looked at; it's so much more intrinsic to our culture than that."

Alongside the clothes, which include an 18th century man's wedding suit and a mourning gown worn by Queen Victoria, the exhibition also explores the history of fitness. In this section, visitors can look at silhouettes of different athletic bodies to figure out which one they're most similar to. For Dr Prior, this was important in the notion of body-positivity; she explains how some athletes, such as weightlifters or shotputters, tend to carry quite a bit of weight. As a result, "you can be an Olympic athlete and technically be obese according to the BMI scale at the same time".

For me, the most powerful interactive element was a mannequin on which members of the public can attach a short note saying how they feel about their body at the time of visiting. It comes right before visitors leave the fashion room, which is the most introspective section of the exhibition, and allows space for people to apply the questions 'Shaping the Body' asks to their own bodies

and minds. Looking through the hundreds of messages, you're greeted with some beautiful notes of positivity, contentment and happiness, but others – especially those written in children's handwriting – are harrowing, and serve to demonstrate the inherent ways in which society shames bodies which don't fit the ideal beauty – and even those that do.

Blogger Fiona Longmuir is all too familiar with this body-negativity. Last spring she led a short campaign against health store Protein World's now-infamous 'Are You Beach Body Ready?' advert. The ad in question featured fitness model Renee Somerfield wearing a bikini. Many felt that the tagline suggested that only women with bodies like Somerfield's could be considered 'beach body ready', and that the advert aimed to shame women into feeling like they needed to lose weight to enjoy the beach.

"I saw the advert on the London tube and it had really gotten my hackles up," explains Longmuir of the origins of her campaign, which led to her meeting fellow blogger Tara Costello over social media. "Less than 48

hours later, we found ourselves in a rammed Charing Cross Station in our bikinis!" The women posed in front of the Protein World advert, aiming to show two other body types alongside Somerfield's. Later, the bloggers decided to host a larger event for the public, which Longmuir describes as "a big body positive beach party in Hyde Park".

She adds that today it isn't just celebrities who portray an image of having the 'perfect' body or life: "it's people who portray themselves as completely ordinary". For Longmuir, one of her greatest frustrations with the Protein World advert was "the suggestion that looking like the gorgeous supermodel was the bare minimum, that looking like her would make you 'ready' to be looked at by the world".

This sense of one beauty ideal is openly criticised by 'Shaping the Body', and it focuses on inclusiveness of all ages, genders and body types. The 'Body Stories' section, which takes up one corner of the fashion room, focuses on people for whom clothing forms a significant part of their identities. It is the result of an appeal by the Museum asking people to be filmed telling their stories, and these clips are played on a continuous loop for public viewing, alongside donated articles of clothing from the individuals.

Some of the participants dress a certain way for fashion, such as Carmel who wears vintage 1940s clothing. Others have medical reasons; Dr Prior refers to Jane who had a double mastectomy after breast cancer and donated the prostheses she was given following the surgery. "After Jane had breast cancer, she decided not to have reconstruction and not to wear prostheses because she felt more natural without them," explains Dr Prior. "That's a very interesting, very intimate story that really emphasises how identity and body shape are very closely tied up."

Another 'Body Stories' participant is Lisa, a trans woman. "She's actually lent us for the exhibition the first outfit she wore after she transitioned where she truly felt that she passed [as a woman]." For the curators, it was important that 'Shaping the Body' engaged the public in a dialogue about body and identity. "We were hoping to make people think about their own identity and how they think about themselves," Dr Prior tells me, but also

Over 725,000 people in the UK are affected by eating disorders

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to "encourage them to have a bit more empathy and be able to understand people a bit better from the inside out."

It's an attitude that will be welcomed by Longmuir: "People make instant and often very wrong assumptions about women based on our bodies and I think how we respond to those assumptions definitely shapes us." Although it's very clear from statistics about eating disorders and BDD that body image and mental health are inextricably linked, she comments that for many "it's easy to write off low self-esteem as trivial," and that "attitudes like the one espoused by the Protein World advert aren't just causing hurt feelings; they're killing young people at an ever-increasing rate."

'Shaping the Body', therefore, has to tread a careful line between directly tackling issues of body image and mental health while not having a negative impact on people for whom these topics are difficult. Dr Prior tells me how they took this into consideration: "We didn't want [the exhibition] to be triggering for peo-



ple, because if you have that kind of issue and something triggers you it will ruin your day."

At the entrance to the exhibition, there is a notice that effectively functions as content advice, letting visitors know that what they are about to see will refer to difficult issues. The notice was a result of numerous conversations with participants in the 'Body Stories' project as well as the curators' own experiences and those of their friends and family. The key, Dr Prior tells me, was "to put together something where people won't feel that they're being patronised, but we do want people to feel that they're being forewarned".

'Shaping the Body' asks a lot of its audience. It poses many questions but does not attempt to provide clear-cut answers, because its curators understand that everyone's relationship with their body is different. Equally, the exhibition is aware of the link between body and identity and the ways in which each of these is shaped by the other. All of us are in some way affected by our bodies, and Dr Prior notes that everyone considers how they look or display themselves to other people: "Even if you make the conscious decision that you're not going to engage in fashion, that's still a conscious decision to look a certain way."

The exhibition also considers the crucial role of class and gender in body shaping. The vast majority of the clothes in the fashion room were worn by the upper classes, because working class people's clothes have fallen apart or been lost, considered not important enough to keep. Clothes were a clear way of displaying wealth: "Pink and pastel colours, they were for the aristocracy, and more earthy colours were for poorer people because pastels are incredibly difficult to clean and keep clean," explains Dr Prior.

She also recognises the ways in which clothing is heavily gendered throughout history. "Women's body shapes tend to be determined by their underwear," she reveals, "whereas men's body shapes - their outline - tend to be determined by their outerwear." She tells me how high heels were originally exclusively for men, but over time this switched; today men wearing high heels are often ridiculed, which angers Dr Prior: "Because of the really inherent misogyny in western culture, they became a thing that men could not wear without feeling like it denigrated them."

These kinds of debates are going on all around us today. I ask Dr Prior about the 'Let

Clothes Be Clothes' campaign, which runs alongside others such as 'Let Toys Be Toys' and 'Let Books Be Books'. All of these campaigns are fighting for gender neutral clothes, toys and books for children.

They ask why society tells young boys they can't play with dolls, or why clothes companies rarely put images of cars, superheroes or dinosaurs on clothing for little girls. Dr Prior knows exactly where she stands: "Kids should wear what they want to wear. Who cares if they're not fitting into this arbitrary culture of sanctioned gender roles?"

"I personally feel it's really

harmful to force kids into gender roles - we shouldn't treat them as girls and boys, we should treat them as children."

The exhibition, too, raises these kinds of questions: "Pink was not denied to boys back in the 18th century," Dr Prior argues. She believes that boxing children into gender roles from such a young age "helps to construct this culture of homophobia, transphobia and misogyny where people don't feel they can be themselves". The key is the word 'people': these issues affect and impact all genders.

The cu-

rators "didn't want to force people into certain answers", but I'm incredibly impressed that 'Shaping the Body' has had no qualms about raising these issues for the general public to consider. It strikes me as a powerful move towards both body-positivity and physical health, and the direct engagement with visitors to encourage them into the debate is very important. We need to be having these discussions, raising them in society and in our university bubble too, in order for us to become more accepting of those who differ from us in their choices about how they look and who they want to be.

It's the kind of statement that Longmuir and others like her can get on board with. "Some of the most inspiring women I know stuck two fingers right up at the idea that they should be a certain way because of their body shape," she passionately tells me, "and the simple act of making that choice has made them brave, resilient and fierce." M



Niall Whitehead: ANTHEM FROM A DOOMED YOUTH

As the saying goes, all good things come to an end. If it helps, all bad things come to an end, too. In fact, all things come to an end in general, and one day you too might well be chilling in some sort of afterlife while the kids trample over your body on the way to the hologram shop.

One thing that's just ended is my degree, which means that soon I'll get a little piece of paper telling me I passed for the low, low price of £27,000. Still, I've learned an awful lot over my past three years. Now I can pass my arcane wisdom onto you, through these very pages (the first draft was carved into stone and had a lot more 'thou shalt'-s in it, but *apparently* there isn't the budget for that at *Nouse*).

The first thing I learned is that yeah, there are a lot of people out there who are just as smart as, or smarter than you, as I went from a fairly-big-fish in a fairly small pond to OK-fish in a shark tank. That strips you of various airs and graces rather rapidly, and in fact, when it came to social interaction in general, university blew my mind open so wide I'm pretty sure I know how Hemingway felt.

I met Lib Dems, Tories and Greens (oh my), hung out with Norwegians, poets, teachers and people who could sing, played board-games and watched *Doctor Who* episodes and once dressed up as an ent for a few weeks and ran around a field, like a pound-shop Lord

“ It doesn't count as alcoholism until your degree is over

of the Rings. I wrote a whole lot of essays and most of a novel and managed to fanboy over Dickens for 10,000 words, every so often reassuring my parents that yes, watching this musical IS part of my degree.

I learned that clubs...well, exist, given that I'd never actually been to one until my STYCs carefully coaxed me in before releasing me into the wild. I learned that technically, it doesn't count as alcoholism until your degree is over, and that it's not a problem, it's a solution. I also learned that learning how to dance is a lot more effort and time-consuming than just drinking until you start to think you can dance.

I learned to expand my horizons. There are some



things, like broccoli or oral sex, where your parents make you try it as a child and then that puts you off it for ages afterwards. Some things I tried at uni failed – the kayaking attempt that gave me a taste of York's finest lakewater, for instance (thus far I've neither developed superpowers or cancer, which I'm told is the usual outcome). But there's things I tried that I'm sticking with for life.

I learned that sometimes you might have to try something scary, like sitting back as a doctor scrapes the surface of your eyeball with a needle to swab a corneal ulcer, or you might have to try something *really* scary like asking someone out. Still, it's worth doing, and, if nothing else, doing it can give you a form of closure, or possibly stop you going blind. Depends how extreme your dating life is.

And yeah, I wandered into Grimston House one day and developed a mild student-media addiction (granted, that makes for the kind of person that even vaping addicts probably bullied in high-school). Still, *Nouse* has been nice enough to print my ramblings for about three years, which saves me having to print out a manifesto and staple it to my chest or something.

So that's what I learned. If you're reading this with years of university still to come, cling to them and cherish them and wring every last drop of all the things you can try *right now* out of them while you still can. And if you're a final-year... I think that's the future up ahead of us. Let's go forward and scream at it together.

Good luck, and thanks for reading.

LAMENTATIONS

In which Deborah Lam mourns the seven columns she will never write, instead of writing any of them

1 I've always wanted to write a really pretentious article on something disgustingly literary from the bottom of my *Times Literary Supplement*-loving heart. What would it be on? Probably something very uncomfortable like erotica of the Victorian period, once again proving that the more repressed you are, the grosser your sexual fetishes are, even by modern standards.

2 Following the theme of English student columns, someone needs to write an exploration of how we have to spend roughly £400 on books. Nothing against science students, but I'm quite sure that we pay for your degrees. I think that it's only fair that we also graduate with a BSc so that we can get a chance at employment.

3 A list of suggestions of how to spend the summer holidays would be very timely and relevant, but I doubt 'get sunburnt while you still can', 'read non-degree books' and 'try gardening/plant homicide' would go down particularly well.

4 The thought-provoking, personal article about my experience as an international student in a British university is quite possibly the most sincere thing I have the right to write about. Unfortunately, I have an aversion both to anything too personal and anything too sincere. I'm only half-joking about the latter. But it is hard to write about being in love with a country that might never fully love you back.

5 What might be a good swansong would be the epic retrospective look at the state of culture in the modern era. I maintain that although someone more intelligent may attempt this, there can never be nuanced enough an account on the enormity of such a subject. This said, if you want to read an examination of one of the largest institutions that shape contemporary art, I've written an article on this in the Arts section. I may be a bad columnist, but I'm at least a mediocre advertiser.

6 If I was the least bit funny, I'd write a satire piece hiding a critique of absurd university self-defeating practices that are detrimental to staff, academics and students. But somehow I don't think satire will be any less painful than my attempts at humour.

7 The inspiring, un-clichéd final column reminding the seven of you who will read this (including editors and my mum) to remain critical, embrace challenges and be kind to others. I chuckled at the thought too. I'll do you all a favour and say what we're all thinking: how did I ever get a column?

HARRIET CHESHIRE IS BACK FROM CANADA, BUT STILL GETTING INTO TROUBLE



Wednesday 8 June, 19:30, P/L/005

Ever wanted to make sense of your opinions and criticisms, uphold truths and hold powers to account? Are you enthusiastic about quality journalism? Have you always wanted to see your name in print? *Nouse* can help. If you want to get involved with the oldest newspaper on campus, we'll be holding our Summer by-elections this Wednesday 8 June, with a range of positions available across the paper. If you're interested in joining the team, come prepared

with a one minute speech about why you'd be good for the job. You don't need any experience to be part of the team, just enthusiasm, a little commitment and maybe a few ideas. If you can't make it on the night, feel free to email your speech, your name and your email address to editor@nouse.co.uk. Likewise, if you have any questions about by-elections or about what's involved in any of the roles, don't hesitate to get in touch.

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Editor

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Ben
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Undercover seeking Brexit: Our man at a Vote Leave rally

Finn Judge
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE YORK Racecourse hosted Boris Johnson, former London Mayor, to preach Brexit to the converted. Finn Judge, an outspoken "Breainer", dons a Vote Leave t-shirt to investigate.

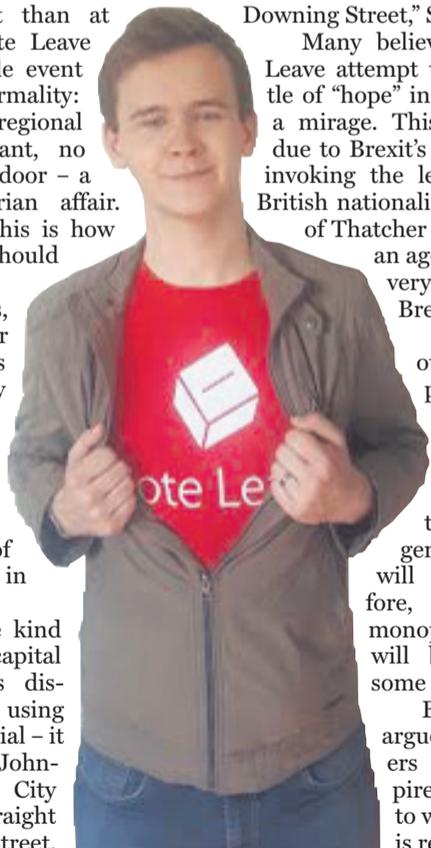
A sea of grey hair – turn on the TV and you'd be forgiven for not drowning in it. This is an audience the cameras tend to turn away from: Boris, ever the beacon of sprightly blonde, is instead seen to be surrounded onstage by swathes of York students.

Except these few students were half the young people attending. The demographic divide is clear: the Leave camp, despite being free to invent concepts of what an independent Britain could look like, has failed to attract youthful idealism. Equally, Remain campaigners have done little to challenge the narrative that the European Union is the preserve of a new, entrenched middle class.

Nowhere was this more apparent than at last night's Vote Leave rally. The whole event shrieked informality: beers flowing, regional accents abundant, no security at the door – a rather proletarian affair. Many believe this is how real politics should operate.

It seems, then, that Mr Johnson has conveniently become the new man of the people, in time for the post-referendum vote of no confidence in Cameron.

This is the kind of political capital that Farage is disqualified from using to its full potential – it could launch Johnson from his City Hall past straight into Downing Street.



So far, so predictable.

Yet for someone who seeks to unify the country under his potential premiership, the cult of Boris did little to limit generational tensions. Once the rally was over, middle-aged cheerers, all but satisfied, and student photo-ops complete, a group of young people spent a considerable amount of time arguing with an older Brexit supporter.

Except, this one was wearing a Swastika. With it pictured next to wind turbines and the Euro sign on his green t-shirt, the man attempted to preach the horrors of Britain being forced to be "the capital of wind turbinisation" to these young people. Naturally, he blamed "EU directives" for such "on-shore" defiling of the countryside.

"I came here to be convinced," Steve, one of the young people at the rally, said to *Nouse*. "But all I've seen is a lot of people who are scared of public affairs, scared of the future, and have seen a man who is doing nothing short of egging on people's fears."

He added that Johnson is "using nationalism as a tool to get his paws in on the electorate".

"I bet he'd love to walk into Downing Street," Steve remarked.

Many believe that the Vote Leave attempt to gain the mantle of "hope" in this campaign is a mirage. This is undoubtedly due to Brexit's associations with invoking the legacy of Empire, British nationalism and the spirit of Thatcher – all belonging to an age gone by, yet also very much to a core Brexit vote.

Boris, and other Leave campaigners, would be shooting themselves in the foot if any attempt is made to disaffiliate. The generational divide will continue, therefore, and the youth's monopoly on new ideas will be perceived by some to have ended.

But can one really argue that the Brexiters longing for Empire, glory and an end to wind turbinisation is really new at all?



Infighting within the Labour party has seen more left-wing, often anti-war activists pitted against MPs

Comment: UK political parties must reform or die

Felix Forbes
POLITICS EDITOR

WE LIVE in the age of presidential politics, don't you know? Hungry for some unifying leader to make us all get on, with believable promises and a cabinet full of great minds. Inconveniently for would-be Churchills, the fragmentation of actual political beliefs continues apace, making the election of some great unifier ever less likely. Worse, the internal differences once celebrated as the greatest strengths of UK political parties have become a millstone around their necks, threatening to rip each one apart.

The Prime Minister has launched a concerted campaign to discredit and destroy his greatest rival. The shadow chancellor recently demanded that a former cabinet minister apologise and withdraw a statement with one incorrect word in it. Opponents of a party leader are waiting for him to fail on a national issue so that they can finally cause his downfall. Politics as usual, except that the battle lines are drawn through the hearts of our two largest parties.

The two visible triggers are

the European Union referendum for the Conservatives, and the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader for Labour. Fashionable though it may be to incorrectly predict the doom of one monolith or another, one increasingly feels that with a different voting system we'd see both our major parties split instantly. This, too, is nothing new – but what's startling is that the splits in each have become so publicly visible, and so quickly.

First Past the Post, the UK system in which the side with the most votes is the hands-down winner, is what has forced these broad churches together. If one bands together with those of similar background beliefs it removes the need for German or Scandinavian-style coalitions and all their extra complexities. The trouble to now be wrestled with is that with or without First Past the Post, not only are voters changing the habits of decades (UKIP has only been a serious force for about 10 years, but got 3.9 million votes last election), but the parties are altered too.

Labour is the classic case of a party mid-identity crisis. Formerly loyal MPs now find themselves questioning whether they even want a Corbyn-led government in power, and though most will grin

and bear it, some will not. Membership charge increase has changed the party immeasurably – and the new election rules (£3 supporters and all) have cemented the altered, heavily left-wing stance embodied by the new leader. Labour Members of Parliament do possess a mandate from the country, not the now-huge party membership – but are unable, courtesy of rule changes, to make much of a difference to a leadership focused upon purity of ideas rather than electoral result.

The trouble is that unless the new members either leave or magically homogenise into the old membership, the party won't change except in one direction. Labour's options are to compromise somehow, to start to punish centrist MPs, or give up, roll over and die from repeated electoral defeat. The only salve is that the Conservatives (with an ageing, falling membership and toxic rows that may see them depose a recently elected Prime Minister) are on exactly the same road.

Internal rows, by and large, don't necessarily portend electoral defeat. The trouble for both sides is that prizing internal purity over electability and the repeated choice of people who think likewise does, by and large, end in disaster.

News in Brief

Migrants rescued in the Channel

The rescue of 18 Albanian migrants from a sinking boat in the English Channel has put the spotlight on the UK's 7000 miles of borders. The incident comes after the sentencing of men for smuggling arms into the UK by sea.

Chilcot report on Iraq due 6 July

Families of British soldiers are due to receive the £767 report for free, according to Downing Street. The report, investigating the lead up to – and conduct of – the Iraq War, will have arrived seven years after the beginning of its compilation.

Sports Direct boss to go before MPs

Businessman Mike Ashley will appear in front of a parliamentary select committee to defend his company from "serious allegations" of poor working conditions. He had initially refused to do so, apparently to "avoid a media circus".

Snoopers Charter under fire

It is reported that approximately 400 amendments have been filed to the government's Investigatory Powers bill, which would renew and strengthen its surveillance capacity. With no Tory majority, the bill may not pass in the Lords.

Brexit: Apocalypse now or into Elysium?

Our correspondents take a look at the odds of Staying or Leaving, what might sway the vote, and what's next for the UK and EU

Sam Lees, Katy Sandalls
POLITICS CORRESPONDENTS

Leave

WHAT DO you mean, “we left”? First off, there is the practical side to things; leaving is likely to be a lengthy process which will require a lot of negotiation with the EU – for starters we’d have to fix a date for when we’d actually formally leave the EU as this would likely be in itself a fairly drawn out thing. There’ll be treaties to renegotiate as well as a need to negotiate new trade deals with just about everyone.

Even the Leave campaign acknowledges that the process of leaving would be damaging economically. Michael Howard has stated that he “cannot offer you any guarantee” that jobs would not be lost if we left the EU. The IMF, the Bank of England and the Treasury are all also in agreement that voting to leave would damage the economy, plunging us into recession, with fewer jobs and higher prices. While Boris Johnson has claimed that “it would be like the Nike tick” with a period of downturn followed by a greater upturn, it seems unlikely that this would occur.

Next, immigration. Practically speaking, all EU and Irish citizens currently legally residing in the UK would be given permanent leave to remain. While future immigration would be harder, as the Leave campaigners propose rolling out the points based system we use for external immigration to cover EU migrants, they believe this would make things more fair.

However, this “Australian system” prevents immigration by lower income workers, and this could damage public services and access to manual labour and employees for lower income roles. While a fairer immigration policy would be lovely, this would be unlikely to produce one, and with the current government’s history on this front, we would not be seeing one any time soon.

While the In campaign and

the Leave campaign are both likely exaggerating and scaremongering when it comes to their critiques of one other, one thing does seem certain currently. If we leave the EU,

“
If we leave the EU, we would be losing out economically

we would be losing out economically. It would also be a lengthy process filled with negotiations, and the departure from the EU would likely take place in stages. If we choose to leave the EU, negotiations would also have to occur on whether we would remain bound to the European Court of Human Rights as it is independent of the EU, a vote to leave would also likely be interpreted as a green light for the dismantling of the Human Rights Act, and its replacement with another Bill of Rights, which would in itself spark

further treaty renegotiations.

At the moment, however, leaving is a serious possibility.

The pound crashed in value in response to a poll that showed that for the first time ever, the majority of respondents were in favour of voting to leave. And, as ever, those with the strongest opinion are more likely to vote. With many of those in favour of staying in the EU lacking the strong convictions of Leave voters, there is a genuine risk that the In campaign will face defeat at the

ballot box.

On the plus side, though, the *Washington Post* has managed to fulfil the duties of the internet, managing to bring a Hitler comparison into play in the EU debate, comparing the UK to Weimar and then to Nazi Germany. Fortunately, though, it concluded that those voting to leave were Eurosceptic nationalists and not the fascists of Nazi Germany.

Remain

THESE DAYS everyone is talking about Brexit, but what about its seemingly poorer older brother Breman? It’s definitely not edgy and could easily be your Nan’s best friend who comes over occasionally to play bridge. The EU has become an integral part of British life.

Simply put it’s not fashionable to say “stay”. That doesn’t mean, however, that it is any less likely to happen.

Polls are at best confused, at worst misleading. While it may look more scandalous to say Brexit is winning it’s not always true. An average of polls taken in May

and collated by Britain Elects suggested that Remain was still in the lead by 2.39 per cent. Definitely not the collapse in support that some would have you believe.

One factor not often mentioned that could help Breman win is the good old British value of conservatism (note the small c). We don’t really like change; look at the fuss we kicked up when Kraft changed the recipe for the creme egg. We really dislike the unknown whether that be financially, politically or simply where we are going to go for a booze cruise if we need to get visas to go to Calais. If there’s a chance that something could change we often stay away; think AV for example. Change = bad in the British mentality. That, and ambivalence. We aren’t really convinced by either side and then whoops we ended up watching an entire season of *Game of Thrones* and it’s past 10pm on polling day.

While some may say that this could help Brexit as much as Breman I’d return to my previous point that together with conservatism the two could spell disaster for those in desire of real change. An important column in the Britain Elects tables is labelled

“Don’t Know”; around 13 per cent were still undecided on average last month; this could easily swing it either way or make it difficult for either side to win convincingly.

Additionally turn out in what was supposed to be one of the biggest general elections for decades last year was only 66.1 per cent. The last referendum – AV – brought only 41 per cent of voters to the booths. If people fail to vote or simply stick with what they know then Boris Johnson may not be laughing his way to Downing Street after all.

So what would a Breman Britain look like? Strained relations with Europe possibly in the short term. Looking into the further future the real question would be whether another referendum would be called, Scottish Independence style.

Yes, it seems that such questions will not go away particularly quickly. If real change is achieved

in British – EU relations then the nay sayers may be more effectively silenced, otherwise they could kick up a nasty fuss for the PM.

In short Breman is not dead and could easily still win; it might not be fashionable but it’s what we know.



Ex London Mayor Boris Johnson has taken Leave’s side, angering Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

DO YOU CARE ABOUT BREXIT? If, like many others, your response was to scream “oh god make this awful referendum campaign end”, then this is the column for you.

If what you said was “I love referendums, I hope this never ends”, then I can only assume that you’re

bosom mates with Max Mosley and John Whittingdale and have a predilection for being spat on.

News has reached Left Wing Right Wing that the final crushing blow of the whole business will be Donald Trump visiting the UK on the day of the referendum, as the electorate has yet to actually beg for

death.

Did you know that if we stay in the EU, Jean-Claude Juncker will personally come to your house, rub filthy foreign garlic over all of your possessions and then make love to your aged mother? Or that if we leave, Germany will abandon its beautiful automobiles, buzzing cities, glorious clubbing and liberal views, issue stick-on toothbrush moustaches and invade France?

One does feel that the spectre of World War Three won’t be the help that Remain expected it to be. Giv-

en the nation’s sneaking suspicion that it’s all gone a bit downhill since the last one, offering us the ability to cosplay through our last Finest Hour might not help.

Leave haven’t covered themselves in glory either though, with Nigel Farage’s latest, absolutely-not-racist (lawyers, take note) promise being that to stay in the EU will inevitably lead to your loved ones being forcibly groped by swarthy men.

Michael Gove, a politician who still unifies the country in loathing, also rather neatly summed up his

team’s attitude with the declaration that “this country has had enough of experts”. I salute the Lord High Chancellor’s campaign to rid the country of the elites he so despises, and the happy advent of the new idiocracy.

This is LWRW’s final column, but a new enraged sceptic shall arise to carry on my name (after the traditional knife-fight). I would like to thank my five readers, and to reassure you that no matter where in the world you are, there will still be bad politics and thick politicians.

French score own goal as strikes threaten Euro 2016

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS EDITOR

FRANCE IS currently in the grip of the worst industrial action in recent times, with strikers and police clashing on picket lines up and down the country. The issue which has prompted the strike is the government's plan for trade union reform, which would make it easier for bosses to remove employees, if

underperforming.

The far-left Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) Union has been spearheading the action against the reforms. The CGT has successfully managed to block roads and restrict fuel supplies to petrol stations, which has seen nearly 20 per cent of France's petrol stations run out of fuel, with supplies being further drained.

The action by CGT hasn't just affected fuel distribution - the majority of the French transport net-

work has subsequently ground to a halt. Air traffic controllers, train drivers and the Paris Métro went on strike last week, with the union promising to escalate strike action during the Euro 2016 football tournament.

However, the CGT leader Philippe Martinez has blamed Hollande's government for the strike, arguing that this situation could be solved if Hollande capitulates to the Union's demand. For Hollande, this cannot happen. He has already

scrapped the majority of the reform bill, leaving it decidedly weaker than proposed, meaning giving in to the CGT would be a significant show of weakness.

As Hollande is facing a poll rating crisis, with support now at 14 per cent (unprecedented for a serving French president), he desperately needs to show that his government can perform.

Hollande may have a saviour, however the reformist Prime Minister Mr Valls has refused to yield.

He has attacked the CGT for trying to dictate French law and has vowed to stay the course of reform. Some French commentators are skeptical, but optimistic.

Now it has become a battle of both political and economic will. France's labour laws have long been a problem and no French government has adequately tackled the problem.

However, one thing is clear: Hollande is facing a rather tough time.

Comment: France would benefit from 'Thatcher moment'

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS EDITOR

BREAD. WHAT could symbolise France more than the nation's pride and joy, le baguette? However, bread represents a real problem in the French economy, a problem of overregulation and restrictive labour laws. In France, a local edict means that a bakery must close one day a week. Mr. Cazenave, a baker, opened his shop for seven days a week. He was taken to court, after the Bakers' Union found out and his bakery was fined and forced to close on Sundays by court order. Mr Cazenave said this cost him €250,000 and he'd have to lay-off staff.

The case of Mr Cazenave and his baguettes is sadly indicative of the problems in the French economy. Growth is sluggish, the labour market is restrictive and its trade unions are very powerful. This latest industrial action is over reform of employment law. The response: massive industrial action. For years, France's political elite have failed to tackle the problem of union power. Sometimes they win but most of the time radical trade unionism prevails. Hollande is the latest, and probably won't be the last, given that the majority of his reform plan has already been abandoned.

But what to do about France's unions? The French may have a model to follow. 1970s Britain saw power cuts, fuel shortages and mass strike action. Militant unions conducted secondary picketing, wildcat strikes - where workers down tools immediately - and closed shop practices meaning that Britain's heavily unionised workforce could paralyse the country, as both the Tories and Labour learnt in '74 and '79.

However in 1979, something changed. Margaret Thatcher was elected and decided to take on the unions. Before her: Barbara Castle,

Ted Heath and Jim Callaghan all tried and failed to reform industrial relations. Thatcher, however, had a public angry over the 'winter of discontent' and a conviction that change *had* to happen.

At the Conservative Party conference in 1980, Thatcher was defiant. The media had been calling for a u-turn for weeks but she drily replied with a smile: "U-turn if you want to, the Lady's not for turning." Instead of retreating like her predecessors had, she faced down militant trade unionism with the tenacity of a pitbull in a pearl necklace.

Over the next decade, union power was curtailed. Whether you agree with her methods or not, Britain today experiences little industrial action. Strikes do occur, as the Junior Doctors have proved, but the worst excesses of union power are gone. Some would say Thatcher went too far, but it seems that the awful-tasting medicine did work.

But what does my meandering history lesson have to do with France today? Ultimately, the lesson for France is that reform is needed no matter how difficult. Whether or not you agree with Thatcher, what is clear after nearly a decade of failure, is that her desire for labour reform was carried out. France is about to host the Euro 2016 but with its transport system being held hostage by the unions, something has to be done. Whether it is staying the course with the current legislation or trying to strengthen the reforms, the worst possible outcome is if France's political class gives up.

Now, of course, Monsieur Hollande is no Thatcher; ideologically Hollande is socialist and Thatcher is Margaret Thatcher. However, France may need to have its 'Thatcher moment' to tackle union power. Given that militant unions in France are resisting even moderate reform, like in Britain, something will have to give if France is to tackle its problem with militant trade unionism.

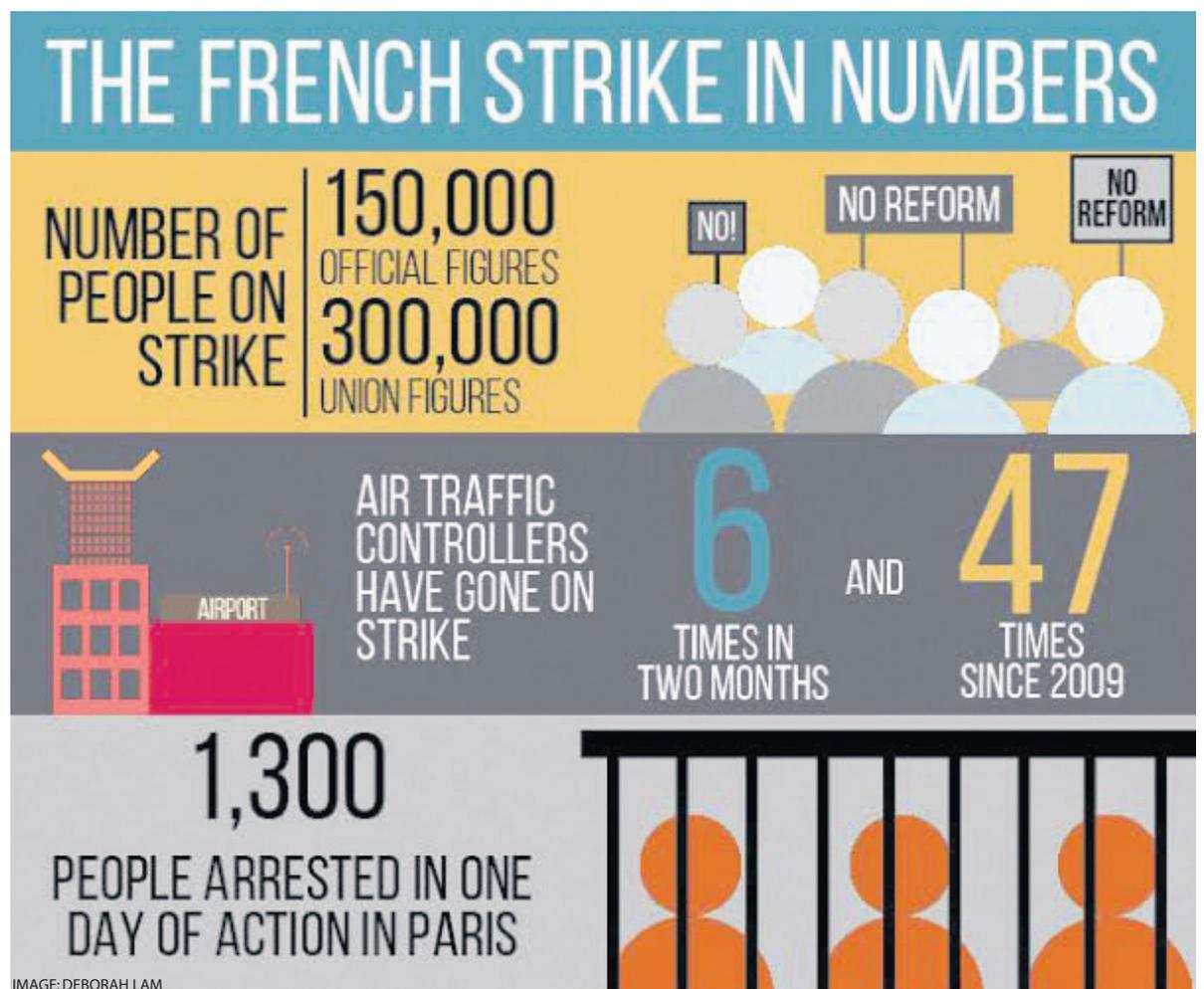


IMAGE: DEBORAH LAM



IMAGE: JULES78120

Strikers protesting against the government's reform idea with the issue dividing the French socialist government

Paradise lost: Venezuela's economic nightmare

Luke Rix-Standing
FOREIGN BUSINESS ANALYST

LAST MONTH the president of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro announced a nationwide state of emergency, after his country slumped into perhaps the worst economic crisis this century. In a speech broadcast on national television, Maduro came out fighting: "Washington is activating measures at the request of Venezuela's fascist Right," he thundered, "who are emboldened by the coup in Brazil." Shirking domestic responsibility by blaming foreign political enemies isn't the most original manoeuvre, but if it worked for Castro then maybe it could work here too.

Unfortunately for the benighted president, his people don't seem to be buying it. Protesters are filling the streets, a covert black market flourishes, and opposition MPs pack the National Assembly. It's not hard to see why: with rolling blackouts, desperate food shortages and enforced two-day weeks, many citizens are becoming frantic. 85 per cent of businesses, both private and public, have now enacted severe cuts to production, while Lufthansa and LATAM have suspended all service to the country. The economy contracted more than 7 per cent in 2015, and is projected to lose another 16 per cent before this year is out.

As is so often the case with international financial meltdowns, a lot of it comes down to oil. Sitting on the largest oil reserves of any country in the world, Venezuela relies on the viscous chemical for 95 per cent of its foreign income, so falling prices have shattered its export



IMAGE: ANDREAS LEHRER

Venezuela's President blames 'American Imperialism' for the country's woes

economy. Since OPEC buddies Saudi Arabia chose to flood the market with crude, in a misguided attempt to shaft American shale producers, the Venezuelan treasury has been in freefall. It's fair to say that Hugo Chavez had never heard of 'economic diversification'.

But for years the oil has covered up deeper problems. When the soaring crude prices of the early 2000s left government finances billions in the green, the Chavez administration spent and embezzled at will. Lavishly irresponsible social programmes and cash transfers kept the poor on side, while high-ranking officials systematically plundered the national vaults. In the annually

published Index for Economic Freedoms Venezuela lost 26.2 points in the Chavez tenure, the largest drop of any country in the world. The once-proud South American nation now languishes third from bottom, above only Cuba and North Korea.

After the boom comes the bust, and the Chavez chickens are now coming home to roost, take out a mortgage and start a family. Hours-long food queues stretch around every building, hospitals lack 80 per cent of essential medical supplies, and toiletries like soap have all but vanished. Just last week Coca-Cola became the latest corporation to buckle, as sugar shortages halted production of all Coke-branded

products. With default looming the national deficit is becoming untenable, with government officials servicing debt by exporting piles of gold bars to Switzerland. One of Chavez's daughters reportedly has \$4 billion stashed in foreign banks, while the national currency is practically worthless.

Reaction to the protest has been, to put it kindly, sluggish. To quote an official statement from Barclays: "It is impossible to understand why the government has not taken measures to alleviate the economic distortions that are destroying the real income of Venezuelans." Unrestrained social spending continues, while inflation has now hit levels comparable with Zimbabwe and Weimar Germany. Maduro has finally made some effort to curb the surge, deliberately devaluing the currency (gas prices in particular have increased more than 6000 per cent) while hiking the minimum wage by 20 per cent, but most onlookers agree that it's far too little, far too late. In the words of analyst Luis Vicente Leon: "It's like putting truffle oil on a rotten steak."

This sumptuously incompetent main course has a garnish of sheer bad luck. The so-called 'el Nino' weather pattern has caused droughts, exacerbating already critical food shortages, while the timely arrival of Zika has heightened social prob-

lems. Right now Venezuela must feel like God's toilet, and most of its people are stuck in the U-bend.

Whatever else Maduro tries to blame, however, the buck stops with economic totalitarianism, appalling corruption, incompetence, and electoral fraud. How is it that in a self-proclaimed socialist utopia, a contraband packet of butter costs 4 per cent of a lawyer's monthly income? How is it that Caracas, home of Petrolas de Venezuela, consistently records the second highest murder rate of any city in the world? How is it that when Jose Luiz Vasquez visits a public hospital with a gunshot wound to the chest, he has to pay for his own syringes? The socialistas Chavistas are going to have to explain to their people how the most resource-rich nation on the planet lies on the verge of catastrophic bankruptcy.

Nicolás Maduro finished his rousing speech by promoting Gustavo Gonzalez (a former intelligence head implicated in the murder of protestors) to Minister of the Interior, and claiming that "the sole enemy of Venezuela is the government in Washington".

Pull the other one Nicholas, it's got bells on.

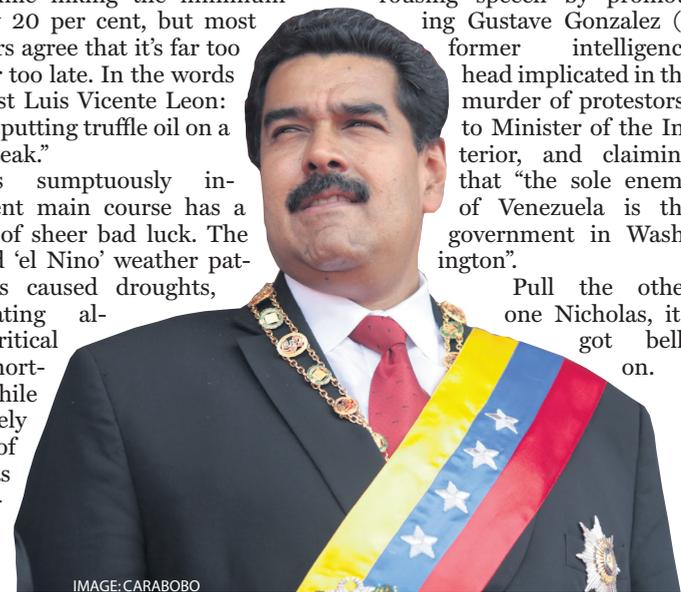


IMAGE: CARABOBO

9 out of 10 economists reject Brexit in new poll

Laura Henrique
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NINE OUT OF TEN of the top economists in Britain believe that the economy will only be harmed should Britain leave the European Union. The poll, undertaken by Ipsos MORI, on behalf of *The Observer*, gathered responses from over 600 of the most respected economists from the Royal Economic Society and the Society of Business Economists.

It found that 88 per cent believed that Britain's growth prospects would be negatively impacted should the UK leave the EU.

The loss of access to the single market along with increased uncertainty leading to reduced investment were the two most attributed causes of a downfall in GDP. In contrast, the survey showed that only 5 per cent believe that a Brexit would have a positive economic impact. These

worries are not unfounded. According to Vicky Pryce, a chief economic advisor at CEPR London, even speaking about the UK leaving the EU has had an unfavourable effect through a decline in business investment in the last quarter.

Moreover, the Treasury's economic forecast which predicted that, in the event of a Brexit, British households would be worse off by £4,300 have also recently warned that house prices may plummet and pension values will plunge by £300bn. Welcoming the findings, Cameron said in a statement: "This poll confirms the overwhelming view of economists - leaving the EU would damage our economy, costing jobs and increasing prices."

However, those in favour of a Brexit refuse to accept these figures, arguing that it fails to mention that the UK would be able to negotiate its own trade deals and would no longer be bound to the cost of regulation and the red tape imposed by Brussels should it leave the EU.

IMAGE: DILIFF



The EU referendum will be held later this month; with both sides level-pegging, the polls are too close to call

The drone wars: Menace or a useful tool?

Jessica Pound
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

DRONES ARE among the most topical pieces of technology at the moment. Not just a figure of science fiction depicted in movies like *Eye In The Sky*, drones are quite real, and quite relevant.

Only recently a story concerning a collision with a plane near Heathrow airport hit the headlines, proving drones or UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) are now becoming high profile, and increasingly widely used.

So where are all these drones coming from? They are easy to purchase online but there are some rules to follow.

Drones cannot be flown within 150 meters of a busy area and as your mother used to say when you were playing with footballs, not near people or vehicles.

Drones were originally designed for warfare but they are now becoming increasingly popular in everyday life. They are being used by the police, for documentary filming and for taking stunning aerial photography shots.

However, it is impossible to know that these landscape shots

are the only ones being taken by these machines and many reports of invasions of privacy have had to be addressed.

Drones are unmanned machines controlled from miles away. The aerial images taken can be relayed back to troops on the ground to design tactical pursuits. This in turn can help troops lead safer, more accurate missions.

Most importantly, drones have the ability to drop bombs. The incredible technology can be used to sight a target by real time camera images or infrared sensors.

By using a machine, there is no risk of life to the 'pilot' controlling it and so the drone can stay in flight for much longer than a normal aircraft.

Drones are also much cheaper and easier to maintain than normal military aircraft. These are great advantages for the 'protecting' side as the most wanted targets, be it a particular person or hideout, can be targeted when unsuspecting.

However, this technology falling into the wrong hands is a very worrying possibility.

Drones have many potential applications other than warfare. A very creative example was drones used by dancers Flying Bebob, in their *Britain's Got Talent* act.

Last July a solar powered



Drones, remotely controlled machines capable of beaming signals and dropping bombs, are becoming increasingly popular

drone named Aquila, developed by Facebook, was tested for beaming a Wi-Fi signal into remote areas. This could provide educational resources and communication in areas that are in need.

However, the drone was unsuccessful in establishing a connection and no progress has been made. A similar drone developed by Google crashed last year.

Similar to the cockroaches used in the series *Orange is the New Black*, just this week it has been re-

vealed that drones have been extensively used to carry drugs, mobile phones, weapons and other contraband over prison walls to supply inmates.

The versatility of these lightweight aircrafts is enormous, hence why drones have so many potential uses.

On a more optimistic note, there are drones in development by Amazon to deliver parcels under the title 'Prime Air'. They aim to get parcels to customers within 30

minutes.

However, the rapid expansion of this technology needs to be monitored as personal drone use could cause a range of issues. As recently reported, limited air space is already a problem, and collisions could impact those on the ground and the environment. Their versatility creates concerns over the misuse of drones should they fall into criminal hands; so by whom, when and where drone use is appropriate needs to be addressed.

Eukaryotic life, but not as we know it



Rebecca Hall
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of scientists from Charles University in Prague have discovered a living organism that appears to be missing mitochondria, a cellular organelle thought to be essential for life.

Mitochondria are the so-called powerhouses of living cells – they are responsible for making all of the energy for the organism. They are involved in the production of ATP as a final step in the metabolism of glucose and other energy molecules. It has long been thought by biologists that they are found in all eukaryotes.

Eukaryotes are organisms which, unlike prokaryotes, for example bacteria, contain a nucleus and other membrane bound organelles.

It has been suggested that mitochondria were acquired by eukaryotes way back in evolutionary time by a process called endosymbiosis.

Symbiogenesis theory is thought to explain the origin of eukaryotic cells from prokaryotic

cells. It suggests that an ancient ancestor of eukaryotes engulfed a single celled bacterium that managed to survive within its host. A beneficial relationship for both cells developed,

allowing both organisms to survive. This is unlike predatory-prey or parasite relationships where one organism's fitness suffers. This organism was more successful than those without the engulfed bacterium and so the relationship stuck around. Eventually the bacterium integrated into the host's cell and became the mitochondria present in hundreds of eukaryotes, including humans. The fact that mitochondria have their own DNA, RNA and ribosomes

supports the theory.

As this theory has been established for many years, it must have come as quite a shock when Anna Karnkowska's team discovered a eukaryotic microbe that appeared to manage just fine without mitochondria. This finding has the potential to really shake up what are the most

convincing and widely accepted evolutionary ideas. The scientists looked into the DNA of this microbe, *Monocercomonoides*, and found no genes associated with the presence of mitochondria, including a lack of

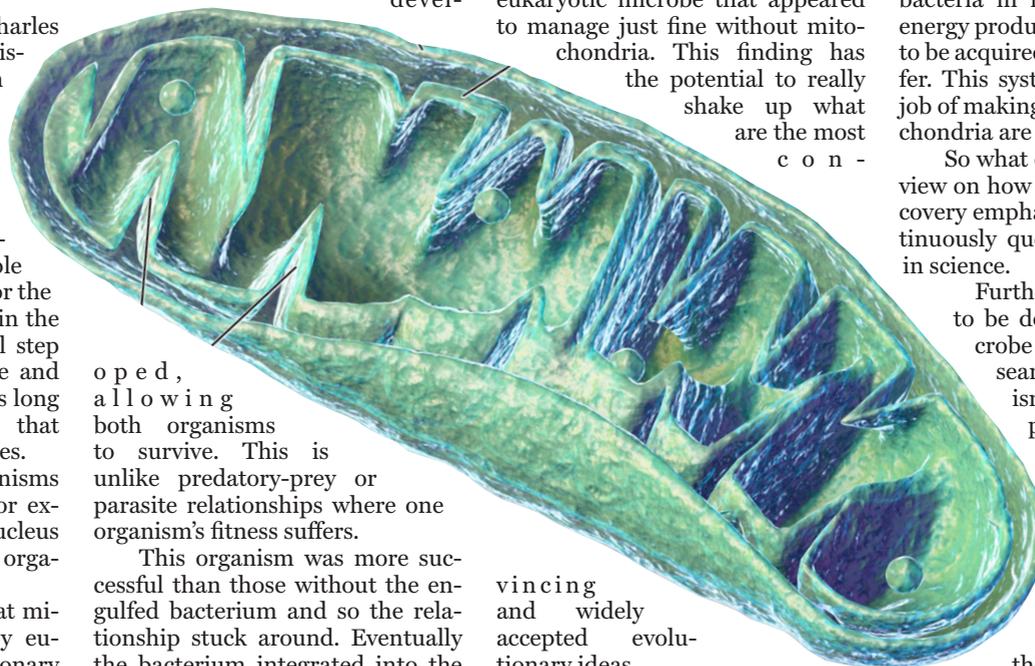
those to build the organelle.

They believe that the microbe manages to get around the need for the energy producing organelle by acquiring a second system from bacteria in its surroundings. The energy producing system is thought to be acquired by lateral gene transfer. This system does such a good job of making energy that the mitochondria are dispensable.

So what does this mean for our view on how life evolved? This discovery emphasises the need to continuously question accepted 'facts' in science.

Further investigation needs to be done into how the microbe survives, and the search for similar organisms has begun. It is possible that clusters of organisms are not as closely related as previously thought and that more systems may be acquired via lateral transfer.

The finding raises the possibility that there are other microbes that have also jettisoned seemingly essential components. This finding and the huge diversity of life on earth highlights the fluid nature of evolution.



NASA @NASA
Our upcoming CORAL #EarthExpedition will collect uniform, large-scale dataset on coral reefs
1 June 2016

Nature @nature
Proteogenomics connects somatic mutations to signalling in breast cancer
30 May 2016

Scientific American @sciam
About 250,000 Americans die each year due to medical errors
2 June 2016

TechCrunch @TechCrunch
As it expands in Africa, Uber adapts to local markets and adopts cash payments
2 June 2016

Study suggests that smoking is hot

Joseph Lloyd
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

I'M DOWN the local with a group of mates I've known since secondary school. It's cold, windy and raining yet one or more of our group will invariably disappear outside to light up.

Why in such conditions, I am left wondering, do they pursue cancer so tenaciously?

Well, whether they know it or not, according to research conducted by Eveline Vincke from Belgium's Ghent University, those guys are far more likely to get lucky by the end of the night.

Strict rules have been implemented to weed out the popular cultural image, that smoking is 'cool'. However, Vincke suggests that the allure of the cigarette-smoking rebel is still strong, despite society repeatedly being warned about the numerous health implications. Indeed it is thought that the appeal of the habits is linked to the risk we have come to associate with them. As such, constant

badgering by the government begging us to keep away from tobacco may not just be ineffective but also entirely counter productive.

During the study, 239 Belgian women aged 17 to 30 were shown 10 different profiles detailing the lifestyle choices of young men. The descriptions included lists of hobbies such as sports or sunbathing alongside how often the men smoked or drank.

Participants were then asked to rate how attractive they would find the individual as long or short-term partners. Finally they were asked if they thought the man would agree with statements such as: "Sex without love is OK".

According to the results, the men who undertake more risky behavior are perceived to be more sexually open and an attractive prospect for a one-night stand.

And these 'bad boys' seem to know it. Vincke described smoking as part of a 'short-term mating strategy'.

Furthermore it is thought that some engage in so-called social

smoking to enhance their sexual appeal and decrease the likelihood of them going home alone. Most of us have a friend who will only smoke under these social conditions. This is quite ironic when you consider that men with erectile dysfunction are twice as likely to be former smokers.

The second part of the study questioned men regarding their smoking and drinking routines and seemed to confirm what women perceive.

Of the 171 male interviewees, those who often undertook such activities were found to be more

open about sex and generally looking for a short-term encounter.

So why does putting pleasure before peril catch a woman's eye?

There have been hundreds of studies aiming to dissect human relationship behaviour. One theory is that a short-term fling is centered on

genetic quality, which may be augmented by taking risks. In contrast, the search for a more permanent partner places more emphasis on a willingness to care and protect for children.

Such inclinations result in women favoring non-smokers and moderate-to-non-drinkers as long-term partners. So, you could argue that in the end, the good guy always comes out on top. We are saturated with information about the negative health effects of smoking, through television ads, websites, even on the packets themselves; it is a wonder why so many people continue to smoke.

Whichever way this research is interpreted, it is apparent that anti-smoking campaigns focusing upon health consequences may actually be barking up the wrong tree.

Highlighting dangers may have inadvertently been glamorising smoking so perhaps such campaigns should change tact.

Personally, watching my mates shivering and trying to light up a cigarette in the wind and rain is more than enough of a deterrent. I can't imagine it's terribly sexy either.

SCIENCE SNIPPETS

Tiger Temple

The famous Thai Buddhist temple Tiger Temple has run into hot water as 40 dead tiger cubs, and various other animal parts have been found in a freezer. The temple is being closed due to accusations of trafficking and animal abuse. Although visited by thousands of tourists every year, the temple has a long controversial history and animal rights activists have long been campaigning for its closure.



Soda to fight carbon

Sponges with a crucial ingredient of baking soda are being tested by a Californian scientist to capture carbon. Rising CO₂ emissions contribute to global warming so reducing levels is paramount. So far carbon capture methods have been ineffective, energetically demanding to produce and expensive. The new technology could be effective, resulting in about 40 per cent lower energy use and capital cost.



Gorilla controversy

The shooting of a gorilla at Cincinnati Zoo made headlines this week after a young boy fell into his enclosure. Many disagree with the zoo's actions and argue that non-lethal methods should have been used. However, these are often slow to work, and so the child would have been at greater risk of injury. Portrayed as violent brutes in movies such as *King Kong*, it is true that gorillas are dangerous creatures. There have been two other cases of children in gorilla enclosures, strikingly in one 1986 incident when a gorilla acted in a protective way. The police are further investigating the incident.

Climate change: A student perspective

William Gibbs
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

SOME STILL question the theory of global warming and climate change, but the truth is, it's happening, it's real. There is an overwhelming amount of evidence to support it.

NASA released statistics showing that "April was the seventh consecutive month reported to break global temperature records". Furthermore, 2015 was around 0.8 degrees centigrade warmer than the 20th century average.

A recent *Nature* paper demonstrates that around two thirds of the climate change we are experiencing is due to human activities, such as greenhouse gas production and deforestation.

The mountain of evidence just keeps on growing, and it is clearer than ever that climate change requires more attention, fast. We, as the next generation, will have to endure the impacts and work to repair damage.

The impact of climate change is predicted to be extensive. For example, temperature increasing

globally (up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit), sea levels rising (0.8 – 2m by 2100), melting of glaciers and changes in circulation patterns.

The BBC recently reported that if climate change is allowed to continue, Antarctica's Totten glacier could become 'unstable' in the next few hundred years, which could increase sea levels by up to 2m. The International Panel on

Climate Change state: "Taken as a whole, the range of published evidence indicates that the net damage costs of climate change are likely to be significant and to increase over time." This shows how much of a problem we have on our hands.

It all seems rather bleak but there are things we can do. In April, 175 countries including



Scientists agree that climate change has been caused by human activity

China and the USA signed the Paris Agreement aiming to keep temperature increase below 1.5 degrees centigrade.

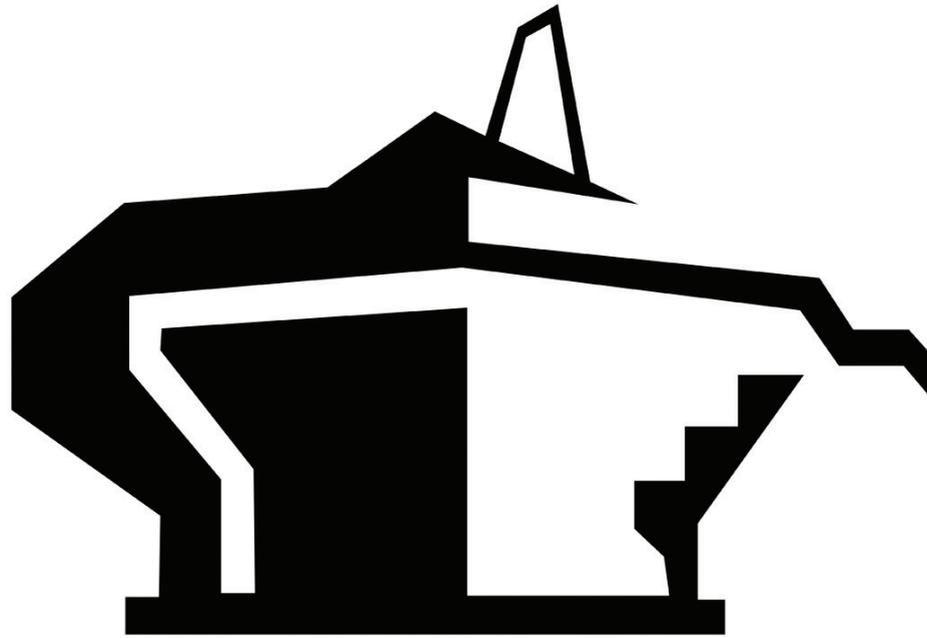
The University is already taking action to reduce its carbon footprint. David Duncan, University Secretary and Registrar, stated that "The University takes a proactive approach to climate change," which is implemented by himself and Professor Deborah Smith, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research.

The University promotes a range of strategies to reduce environmental impact: improving efficiency of heat and power supplies, ensuring that new buildings are built to high environmental standards and encouraging colleges and departments to reduce energy usage.

It seems that the University is ticking a lot of the boxes regarding combatting climate change, and aims to be a "sector leader in this area" but even David Duncan admits there is "much more to be done".

Overall, climate change is arguably the biggest threat our planet faces, and strategies need to be implemented at international, national and local scales to mitigate the impacts.

the *YORK* UNION



SAFE SPACE FOR OPINION

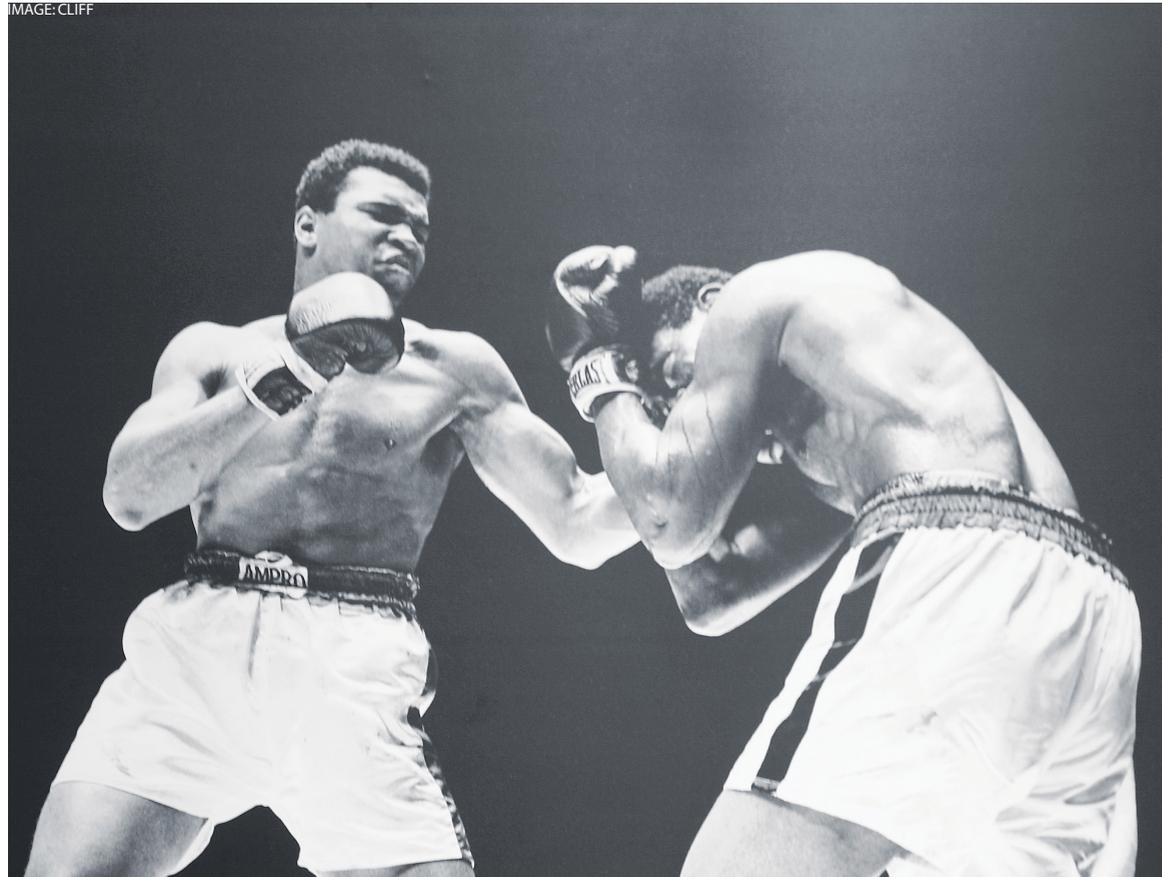
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Muhammad Ali: The man who lived on for the fight

He faced down Parkinson's like he faced each bout, and he lives on because of it



Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

1978 to 1979. His career totalled an impressive 61 professional bouts, with 56 wins and consequently only 5 losses. Ali was more than aware of his success as “the boldest, the pretti-

“
Ali was not solely loved for his sporting ability. His personality was as vibrant as his punches

est, the most superior, most scientific, most skilfullest fighter in the ring today”.

However, Ali was not solely loved for his sporting ability. His personality was as vibrant as the punches he threw and the controversial comments he made.

They are even more contentious when looking back on them now, bringing into question how he would have survived in our ever politically correct society.

But Ali was a product of his

time as much as a leader of it. Prevalent were issues of race and American Civil Rights. He was just as much a champion of equality as he was of the ring. It was in his capacity to encapsulate joy and happiness with a hint of sarcasm that merged his persona with the aspirational and the rational. With one foot in the ring and one foot at home he explored morals and current cultural questions in both the spheres of society and sport.

After a shining career Ali retired aged 40 after winning the world title for the third time aged 36 and then finally losing it for good in 1980.

It was after his fight against Trevor Berbick in 1981 that questions of his health began to propagate and ultimately it was revealed that he had Parkinson's disease.

It became a point of comment in the media repeatedly as he admirably continued to travel and appear across the world for various, often charitable, events. Unsurprisingly he was voted Sports Personality of the Century in 2000 as despite having such an attenuating illness, he strived to become and remain an inspiration for many generations.

Still pending is the question as to whether “they will ever have another fighter who writes poems, predicts rounds, beats everybody, makes people laugh, makes people cry and is as tall and extra pretty as” Muhammad Ali?

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR



As the year draws to a close, College Sport is the last one standing with a few intermediate events spread out over the final weeks of term.

Football in particular and the College Cup have come to the forefront of the scene, domineering the JLD with tinnies under the sun.

Starting mid-exams, it began as the ultimate form of procrastination. Many made the long walk down from the library to the Sports Centre, myself included, with their hopes of winning the Cup bundled up in flashcards and highlighted lecture notes. However, few remain and now find themselves grasping onto the final goals of the summer term with the same vigour with which they hold their beer cans on the sideline.

What began as yet another excuse to escape revision has turned somewhat into a bad habit, as comments from the sidelines have become alarmingly like clickbait on the *Daily Mail*. As the teams also progress there is a greater affiliation with your college and the

familiar faces of the sideline. The JLD becomes a second home to the football community in summer and what it lacks in physical comforts, it makes up for in its ability to encapsulate the atmosphere so entwined with the College Cup.

A mixture of competitiveness and general enjoyment results in an easy, entertaining afternoon spurred on by goals and tackles. It epitomises Grace Clarke's aim to “prove that sport belongs to everyone” in the most basic of ways.

The final of the Cup will no doubt bring out the crowds, especially if the weather remains as good as it has. With last year's winners James 1s out of the picture thanks to Derwent 1s, the Cup is arguably up for the taking which will make it all the more interesting to watch.

Derwent's mastery of James this year may also hint at their possible success. However the legacy of Heath in Halifax 1s harks back to 2014, when they won the Cup, to suggest them as the front runners.

Either way, Vanbrugh and Wentworth still remain in the way and both have their respective top picks from this season that will hopefully spice things up a bit. Not only does the final promise to be an exciting end to this academic year it also leads us nicely into the next one. Who will win the Cup, Plate or Vase is yet to be revealed and Week 10 will surely bring about some surprises.

TEAMMATES

60 seconds with UYWRUFC's Hema Trivedi

Name: Hema Trivedi

Role: Number 9, Tour Rep

Year: 1st

Course: English Literature

Strongest player?

Sarah Thalayasingham, known as the machine. Unstoppable player and smashing tackling as well.

Gym rat?

Kaitlyn Hunter, and also Zoe Hinchcliffe because she's known for doing weights with the gym lads.

Most intelligent?

Henry Stockdale knows literally

every fun fact especially ones about toads that break their own feet and use their skin to climb with.

Best motivator?

Serena Brymer, really good at encouraging players and bringing out the best in people on the pitch.

Best trainer:

Ruth Ellen Whitehead; knows her stuff and fantastic at helping players improve - always constructive and gives positive encouragement.

Most hardened drinker?

Gabriela Pryzgodzki has a strong drinking-wine-all-day game.



The College Cup Awards

DERWENT 1s



Derwent 1s are the only team left from their college, and no doubt they will receive large amounts of support as they head into the semi-finals of the Cup. So far they have played well enough to get through each stage, but admittedly it has been nothing special, nor worthy of a definite place in the finals. Players such as Josh Bew have brought them more than enough goals and Weighall stands out in defence. They played comfortably against James 2s in their last game, but they hardly breezed through, suggesting that they may have to push a little harder to beat Vanbrugh 1s.

VANBRUGH 1s



Vanbrugh 1s did well to end up in Group C and as such have avoided a few of the more challenging games. Against Halifax for example they were beaten by three goals and clearly struggled to keep up with the higher end of play in the Cup. Not that Derwent necessarily has the likes to match that of Garo Heath, but they won't be as easily beaten as say Langwith 2s or Derwent 4s which is where Vanbrugh scored most highly. That being said the team is fairly equal to that of Derwent 1s and will undoubtedly strive to reach the final. It will be interesting to see if the game goes to penalties.

WENTWORTH 1s



Wentworth 1s, although making it to the semi-final, can be seen to be the underdogs of their match against Halifax 1s. They only just equalised against Halifax 2s so to suggest they will find it easy to win against Halifax's better team is a little ambitious. However, they also equalised with Derwent 1s, so it is not as if they are particularly lacking in terms of their play. In light of this it may be that Wentworth is the key to a Vanbrugh vs Halifax final. It should be acknowledged though that this is also Wentworth's only team, and so unlike other colleges they have done well to reach this far.

HALIFAX 1s



It is not unexpected that Halifax 1s have reached the semi-final as they generally have got through their games with relative ease. That's not forgetting, however, their slight blip with Derwent 4s in which they lost by two goals. Arguably an anomaly, it was enough to shake the team a little, as they went on to beat Goodricke 2s 2-0. If anything it was perhaps a good thing to push them off their comfy 7-0 win against Langwith 2s. As long as they do not return too untroubled by playing Wentworth, the game should promise to be a high scoring one. The question is how much will they win by?

HALIFAX 2s



Halifax 2s were only one point behind Wentworth 1s in Group A, or in other words one point away from the Cup as opposed to the Plate. This should put them in a good position as they go on to play Constantine. They played well against Goodricke 1s and won 3-1. However, Constantine have also played Goodricke in Group D and beat them by 2-1. This would suggest the teams are of equal play but Halifax 2s may just have the edge. They have a particularly strong defence - Scanlon, Thomas and Blessed have most importantly been consistent. Constantine will really be challenged to score.

CONSTANTINE 1s



Constantine 1s have done well to reach the semi-finals of the Plate with none of their games being particularly high scoring. They have however left the group stages with an average number of points for those playing in the semi-finals of the Plate. Halifax 2s only have one point more of eight compared to seven, yet they were also fourth in a group of overall lower scores. Against James 4s though they appeared to struggle at the end of the groups which lends itself to a less hopeful outlook - as they only managed to equalise when James 4s had previously beaten Halifax 3s.

JAMES 2s



James 2s benefited greatly from only having to play Langwith 3s in the Plate quarter finals. They were unfortunate however with the likes of Group A and Derwent and Wentworth 1s, which saw them suffer, perhaps more than expected in the group stages. Their superiority over James 3s would suggest a win. However it may be that the competitive edge has been lessened slightly, taking away from the excitement of the game as it will most definitely be a James involved final. James 2s should win this as they won against them last year thanks to penalties in the quarter-finals.

JAMES 3s



James 3s have scraped into the Plate final with much thanks to Derwent 2s. Therefore it should in fact be a James vs Derwent semi-final, which would have been much more entertaining. They have however made it into the Plate final on only four points and without actually winning by a positive margin since Week 5. It does not put James 3s in the best position when facing James 2s. That being said they will be familiar with their teammates' style of play and training which will surely be beneficial and hopefully result in a close game - not forgetting this team's success last year.

VANBRUGH 3s



Vanbrugh 3s faced little opposition heading into quarter-finals as they faced Derwent 6s. They are therefore rather suited to their place in the Vase semi-finals. That being said this could be the beginning for this team and an opportunity for them to keep improving. They differ greatly from Alcuin 1s in that they are strongest in defence. Keeper Graves has played solidly throughout the cup alongside the likes of Ngwamah and Perry. This can also be seen in the score lines as Vanbrugh, often failing to make headway with goals, don't necessarily concede them. Alcuin in comparison strives by scoring.

ALCUIN 1s



Alcuin 1s had the greatest win in the Vase quarter-finals beating Langwith 4s 6-1. However their ability to score with McLarty and Barrie is often undermined by their lack of defence. If Alcuin can make headway and attack early on in the game they may have a greater chance of making it to the finals. That being said, as previously mentioned Vanbrugh 3s are stronger in defence. When against Langwith 3s, Alcuin did noticeably struggle. Their lack of consistency throughout the cup should also put Vanbrugh 3s at ease. Their scorelines go up and down as much as Jonny Long on the sideline.

ALCUIN 3s



Whether it says a lot about Alcuin 1s' lack of ability or Alcuin 3s' burgeoning capability to play down on the JLD is open to discussion. Favouring a combination of both, they played well in Group A, yet probably ended up in the quarter-finals because of a dip in the Derwent 6s' play rather than an increase in theirs. They lack a continuous level of play with scores dipping every now and again. They only just made it through by winning 5-4 in penalties. It easily could have been a James 4s vs Halifax 4s game but that is not to say that Alcuin don't at least have a chance of scoring.

HALIFAX 4s



Halifax 4s hardly broke a sweat making it to the semi-finals of the Vase from Vase Group B. Not losing once, they then did well to beat Goodricke 2s from the main cup ensuring their place against Alcuin 3s. A self-assured team, they offer a much surer win as their style of play is incredibly steady. If they continue in this fashion it might not be unreasonable to suggest that they could join the Cup and leave their Vase days behind them. To begin with though they must first make it to the finals. Alcuin 3s do not pose too much of a threat and with this team's consistency it could be a win.

BEST PLAYER

JOHN PACKER - WENTWORTH 1s

Once again Packer has made his presence known and reaffirmed his ability to score with a total of six goals and two assists.

BEST SAVE

SIMON LITTLER - JAMES 3s

Little's final save in their penalties against Derwent saw him push the ball away just in time, as it made an unexpected swerve across the net.

BEST COMMITTEE

A YORK SPECTATOR OVERHEARD

"Everything wrong with this committee can be summed up by Milton on a bicycle."

UNDERACHIEVERS

JAMES 3s FALL AWAY FROM THE CUP

Last year James 3s were deemed as overachievers as they made it to the quarter-finals of the Cup. This year they are comparatively lacking as they make their way into the Vase.

“ ”

2016's *Nouse* Fantasy Football has seen over 200 teams created in one of its biggest years yet

NOUSE SPORT TEAM



'Yes I still hate the North 2016' currently leads *Nouse* Fantasy Football 2016, with 181 points.

“ ”

Birtle's search for a goal continues

A YORK SPECTATOR OVERHEARD ON MATT BIRTLE'S LACK OF SUCCESS IN TERMS OF SCORING AS HE COULD POTENTIALLY LEAVE THE COLLEGE CUP HAVING NOT GOT THE BALL IN THE BACK OF THE NET

BEST SCORER

HARRY ANSTOCK - GOODRICKE 1s

Anstock has seven goals under his belt. As he scored a hat-trick in the group stages it appeared that he'd found a friend in the corner of the net.

BEST DOCUMENTARY IDEA

A YORK SPECTATOR OVERHEARD

"Could we have Kerr on coke with Louis Theroux?"

BEST MOMENT

DERWENT 4s BEATING HALIFAX 1s

In the history of the Cup no feat has seemed more unattainable than Derwent beating Halifax. Yet, rather remarkably, the 4s were able to storm the pitch.

OVERACHIEVERS

WENTWORTH 1s LEAD WITH PACKER

Wentworth have greatly improved with the aid of Packer in the last two years and have made it to the Cup finals. If they beat Halifax they really will have outdone themselves.

Fight night in D-Bar

On 11 June D-Bar will be hosting a charity fight night in aid of Mind. The charity supports and works with those struggling with mental health problems and all proceeds will be donated towards the cause. The night promises to be an entertaining one and tickets can be found on the YUSU website for the price of £6.50. The first fighters to be named are Theo Tanner and Cameron Blyth. However there has been much talk of the debut of Jamie Lambert and his dedication to his weight loss on the sidelines of the JLD.

Marie Curie Ladies Day

In the University's persistent push for equal opportunities, this year a Ladies Day has been introduced in aid of Marie Curie. The event aims to celebrate women's participation in sport and to debate and discuss the challenges that face women in sport while both getting active and learning new skills. There will be introduction sessions to Weightlifting, Cheerleading and Zumba as well as an all inclusive Rounders game at the end of the day. The day is aimed at women, trans and non-binary students with a special mention given to instructors not to push participants beyond their physical capabilities or the realms of their comfort zone. In light of this, Ladies Day 2016 aims to show how "inclusive sport at York can be and that sport belongs to everyone".

YuCycle returns

Sunday 5 June saw YuCycle return for its 4th year. There were three cycle rides of all different abilities - from experienced to novice. All rides began and ended at the the York Sport Village and followed through the Yorkshire Wolds countryside. Proceeds from YuCycle go to the University of York Sports Union Performance Programme which supports high performing athletes and clubs so that they can combine their academic work and sporting aspirations. The YuCycle event has been a popular feature of the campus sporting calendar for a number of years.

Kendo tournament

Sunday Week 10 will mark the first annual Northern England University Kendo League competition, set up by the University of York Kendo Club. Intended to be part of a wider national league, this regional tournament is the first to be set up, and is expected to match similar tournaments in Scotland, the southeast, and the west of England and Wales. This year the participants will be York, Durham, Lancaster, Newcastle and Northumbria Universities. The all-day event will feature team matches, as well as a mixed-university 3s knockout to further foster cooperation between the different clubs.

YSJ stumped by York bowlers

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

LAST SUNDAY WAS the third anniversary of the White Rose Trophy, where the Cricket Clubs of the University of York and York St John come together for an annual "grudge match".

In a twist of events however York St John cancelled unexpectedly, leaving the main event in disarray as it consists of a test match between the two clubs.

That being said, play still went on with a mixture of members playing for York St John against the University of York's Cricket Club in the latter part of the afternoon.

Preceding the test match there was also an intercampus Cricket tournament. The festival consists of two parts and so in the early afternoon one college or sports team is crowned victorious.

Speaking to the President of the University's Cricket Club George Dabby beforehand, he explained to *Nouse* that a few years prior to his taking over of the role, the Presidents of both clubs had come together in a bid to explore ways in which they could benefit from the rivalry between them. The

result of this was coming up with the idea of the White Rose Trophy.

This year's event was in aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research and all the proceeds from the day went to their affiliated charity. As the club's main sponsor this year the team not only endeavoured to raise money for them but also increase awareness and affiliation.

Information packs and t-shirts were given out on the day by members of the cricket club as they went round with a bucket for donations.

University Rugby, Hockey, Football and Derwent College all participated in the day playing with representatives from their respective clubs in the intercampus Cricket tournament.

The matches were 8-a-side and lasted for 6 overs each innings so a lot of big hitting and showboating play was to be expected.

The first game was between Football and Hockey. As Dabby had predicted Hockey struggled with Football's ability to hit a long ball. Even though there were in fact some crossovers between Hockey and Cricket they lost by 31 innings.

Ultimately it was also the members of the University's Football team that triumphed in the intercampus tournament. They won in the last over thanks to the play of Halifax's Marsh in their match



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

The annual White Rose Trophy clash was one for victorious York to remember

against Rugby.

After beating Derwent, Rugby then struggled to match Football's batting skills as their members were caught out too early. They entered their second match with perhaps too much confidence and then suffered for it on the field.

The main match should have seen the York XI assemble in full force on 22 Acres against York St John with the likes of Rob Carr and

Callum Mcilveen making strong appearances.

With a lack of competition throughout, the game was of course conceded, thus ensuring York's continuing reign and retaining of the trophy. Ironically though the final scores ended up as 165 for 3 for the made up York St John and 131 for 9 for the University of York. An apparent win for by York St John by 34 runs.

Mixed Touch Rugby makes money

IMAGE: PENELOPE LANE



A large turnout saw York RUFC defeat the University in the charity match

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

ON SATURDAY 4 June the Rugby community of York gathered under the sun on 22 Acres to raise money for IDAS in a charity touch tournament. The charity provides support services for those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence, whether that involves outreach support, refuge accommodation or the use of a helpline. The University of York's Women's Rugby club has worked closely with them for a while; Katie Layley, one of the organisers divulged: "They work widely throughout North Yorkshire. We have been working with them for about a year now, trying to raise awareness as not everyone actually realises what counts as domestic abuse. Now we'd like to make some money for them."

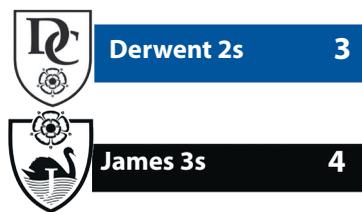
So, in the summer sunshine both members of the local York Rugby club and those of the University teams came together to both enjoy their sport and raise money for an important charity, bringing them further publicity and raising people's awareness of domestic abuse. Ruth Whitehead, also a member of UYWRUFC and an organiser of

the event, thought that "overall the tournament was a massive success considering the huge turnout of teams and the beautiful weather".

It was impressive to see the local community get involved alongside the sporting community of the University and equally to see men playing against women as Whitehead pointed out. In the joint effort of raising money for charity, in many ways previous boundaries melted away. Despite a previous night of debauchery at Captains the Men's Rugby team also turned up to support their fellow sportsmen and came second place. York RUFC won overall and sadly the women's teams did not make it through to the play offs. The 02 Touch Rugby team did however as they committed themselves to "practising every week".

In total the tournament raised "about £200 for IDAS and it was lovely to have them down to meet everyone", not only for the promotion of the charity but also to see the support people had for it. The day can most definitely be deemed a success and equally seen as a pleasant way to continue Rugby into the final weeks of term. Layley was very keen to highlight how she wanted the event to just as much be a "fun day for the Rugby community" as much as an opportunity to show their commitment to the charity.

Fierce Derwent 2s take it to penalties



Derwent 2s:

Felix Aylett
Alexander Milton
Max Palfreman
Daniel Barker
Aidan Reynolds
Tom Broderick
Alex Stones
Bertie Wnek
Henry Ferrao
Cam Aughterson
Freddie Benjamin

Subs:

Tom Mitchell
Matt Hosier

James 3s:

Simon Littler
James Axeford
Matty Trewartha
Sat Vye
Johnny Embleton
Norman Vitarigov
George Staddon
Pablo Martinez
Bochogen
Muken Lansana
Jamie Allen
Jordan Bediesha

with a very near shot from Ferrao which set the bar high for his personal standard of play.

Across both the teams though there was also a notable urgency in their style compared to that of the group stages.

This was reflected in the sublime first goal made by Aughterson which saw his shot slip into the net after a poor attempt from James to push back against a Derwent throw in.

This was not characteristic of the entire game though as Lansana in defence made his presence known for James in spite of the input of the notorious and incredibly vocal Derwent sideline.

The ref unfortunately did not fare so well as he made a generous call on a slide in favour of James, not that it came to any fruition as Hawkins commented "Palfe leapt like a salmon at the back post" in order to header it away.

Ignoring the Derwent commentary from the sidelines however, the game continued in a similar vein to before, as Wnek and Axeford battled it out and Barker continuously attempted to lead up the left wing.

James came out strongly in the second half, with Vye passing it immediately on, to not only increase possession but add an ounce of confidence despite the Derwent

IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD



A 1-1 stalemate was claimed by James 3s in a tightly fought penalty face-off

1-0 lead. With this they went on to almost score.

However a scrupulous mistake from Lansana ensured a Derwent ball for the following five minutes. From then on, both sides tried to find a breakthrough but strong play in midfield kept the scores level.

A kerfuffle and storming of defence caused nightmares for Derwent's Aylett in goal as he lost sight of the ball and conceded a shot made by Embleton, equalising the

score line.

But that was only the beginning as the game went to penalties. Initially, it appeared much like the match; as James scored, so did Derwent.

There was some hope early on however as James hit it wide and Derwent's Ferrao secured their goal lead. This quickly fell away however as several controlled slick balls slipped through Aylett's hands and Conner and Wnek missed.

Hard-won victory for Tanfield

Ashley Marsh

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

>>> Continued from back

became three, with Harry Tanfield making the move on the back end of the course and storming to a convincing victory over Andrew Nicholls in second place and Alex Dalton in third. Tanfield, representing Teeside University but wearing the colours of his trade team Pedal Heaven, declared that it was for him a "hard, hard race".

Having not ridden the particular circuit before, he said he was shocked by unusual parts of the course and was at the back of the bunch going up the main climb of Bulmer Bank for the first couple of crucial laps, but he was thankful that he felt "stronger and stronger as the race went on". It must have been the 21 one-year-old Pedal Heaven rider's racing experience that led him to follow the winning break and take a deserving victory to conclude an action-packed day of racing.

York adds a splash of colour

Jack Richardson

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE YORK Sport Village Cycle Circuit once again turned technicolour as York Active held its annual Colour Run.

The event was opened by current York Sport President Grace Clarke, and her incoming successor Isaac Beevor, as well as a group warm-up with a live DJ. Around 200 participants of all ages lined up at 17:30, dressed in white, and ended up to an hour later covered head to toe in coloured powder, having walked or ran around the track as many times as they wished.

This came in large part from the four or five stations set up, each stocking a different coloured set of powder bags and several rather mercenary volunteers aiming to get as much of it on the eager runners as possible.

In the end, all were successful - runners ran, walkers walked, volunteers threw bags of paint, and the event more than lived up to its name.

Watch out for more York colour run events in the future.

IMAGE: JACK RICHARDSON



College Cup

All the information on how the teams are doing plus the fantasy league P.24



Muhammad Ali

Anna Coughlan looks back on the life of a legend P.23



White Rose Trophy

The events of the inter-college tournament P.26



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Star peddlers win BUCS Road Race for York

Ashley Marsh

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ALICE SHARPE AND Harry Tanfield can now call themselves the 2016 University Road Race Champions after storming to victory in two thrilling races, taking place in North Yorkshire on Saturday.

The BUCS Road Races are the annual national championships for university students from across Britain. With over 50 universities being represented in the men's and women's races, it was expected to be a hotly contested event and it certainly delivered.

Both of the winners from 2015 were unable to make this year's event and so with the pre-race favourites not on the start line, the win was there to be taken but there was a tough course to overcome first.

The undulating course caused a near immediate split in the women's race and the leg-sapping climb of Bulmer Bank was certainly challenging the riders lap on lap.

At the mid-way point, there was a strong bunch of nine riders at the front of the women's race working well

together to maintain a significant gap over the chasing groups. These riders stayed together until the sprint for the line, where Alice Sharpe of SunSport Velo, representing Manchester Metropolitan University, took it from Emily Baker in second place with Charlotte Redden finishing third.

Alice Sharpe was delighted with her victory in her first BUCS Road Race. Speaking afterwards, Alice said that it was a "tough course" but she felt "strong on the hill" and this shows why she was a worthy winner on the day.

With such a great women's race in the morning, the expectations for the men's race were very high. Over 70 men started this race with some well-known names on the start line. From the gun, the pace of the men's race was very quick, but unlike the women's race the bunch stuck together.

It was then with a few laps to go when the winning break of four riders made their move and they managed to maintain a consistent gap ahead of the chasing pack. With four in-form riders working well together, it was going to take a big effort from those behind to pull the break back in.

On the final lap, the four riders

Continued on P.27

