

NOUSE



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Are we a racist university?



- Cantor speaks out about the importance of racial integration and tolerance at York
- 49% of foreign students say they feel excluded, while 30% have experienced racism

By Heidi Blake
EDITOR

A *NOUSE* POLL has uncovered potentially worrying divisions between international and home students at York, with 49% of international students saying that they 'feel excluded by British students' and 30% saying that they have experienced what they consider to be racist attitudes from students or staff during their time at York. This comes at a time when concerns have been raised in some quarters about creeping racial tensions at

the University and in York. Speaking to *Nouse* on Sunday, Vice Chancellor Brian Cantor broke a long silence on student issues to express his support of international students, saying "The foreign students that come to York are a great benefit to the York community; they do very well, they're good students, and they go on to do marvellous things in the world. There's no way we wouldn't want international students coming here." Of all the international students polled, 89% said they enjoy their courses, while 70% said they

are involved in extra-curricular activities at the University. However, the *Nouse* poll, which was conducted over the internet, also revealed surprising levels of racial tension on campus, with many of the participants submitting detailed written accounts of what they consider to be personal experiences of racism. One participant wrote "Non-academic staff seem to be prejudiced when seeing someone with an Asian appearance. The assumption seems to be that I should be pliant and not protesting when I'm treated in a lax way." The same par-

ticipant said he had experienced violent and threatening behaviour on and around campus, on one occasion when "someone in a car tried to attack me with an egg" and another when the driver of a BMW "attempted to intimidate me by pretending he wanted to run me over while I was crossing University Road." Bukky Ojo, last year's SU Racial Equality Officer, said "During my officership, a lot of people did talk to us about experiencing racism on campus." Michael Batula, Ojo's successor as Racial Equality Officer, said

in a recent interview with the *York Press* "There are certainly not any racial undertones at the University. The Students' Union at the moment is working very closely with the University to ensure all students - particularly internationals who may find it difficult - feel integrated into the University." However, concerns about underlying racial tensions in York have been augmented in recent months by the increased presence of the BNP, who put forward candidates in nine York wards in the recent council elections and gained

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Controversy over use of Fruit of the Loom as Roses kit supplier

By Heidi Blake
EDITOR

THE AU PRESIDENT Tom Moore has come under scrutiny this week for his decision to source Roses merchandise from the controversial clothing supplier Fruit of the Loom.

Moore decided to use the supplier, which has come under fire in the past for poor working conditions and the use of sweatshops, despite the fact that the Union Code states that YUSU will promote 'sound ethical choice' of products and 'will purchase, where practical, from suppliers graded highly by the NUSSL Environment and Ethics Committee.'

Tom Moore justified his decision to purchase the merchandise from Fruit of the Loom by claiming that "the order for the shirts was made weeks ago.

"Ordering through 'fairtrade' suppliers, which breaches commercial contractual agreements made by YUSU, would mean they simply would not have been delivered on time and they would have cost 60% more to buy."

Moore also added that the company ADM, through which the SU sources its merchandise, and which deals with Fruit of the Loom, are ecologically sustainable and check the trading standards of the companies they source from. He added "You may also want to ask the YUSU environment and ethics officers as they have checked everything through with this company."

However, when contacted, the current



AU President Tom Moore wearing a Roses t-shirt. Photo: Georgi Mabee

Environment and Ethics Officers, Tom Williams and Tom Langley, claimed they "weren't aware that the Roses merchandise had been sourced from Fruit of the Loom" and said they were "more than a little dismayed to have this brought to our attention - the decision, had we been

aware of it, would certainly not have been supported."

Charlotte Bonner, the previous Environment and Ethics Officer said she "had not been involved in the decision making or even consulted."

Langley and Williams told *Nouse* 'part of the problem is that until the

Ethical Merchandise motion was finally passed at the last UGM members of the union weren't obliged to consult on merchandise, and so it would have been fully within the AU's power to order from any company they liked without us being aware of it. The situation is now

very different, and from this point on Union merchandise should only be purchased from companies (and initially sourced from manufacturers) that we approve, and I very much hope that this will be the last occurrence of its kind."

Fruit of the Loom have been condemned by the International Textile Garments and Leather Workers Federation as having "a history of virulent anti-union activity" as well as subjecting employees to long hours, "poverty pay" and dangerous conditions reminiscent of a Victorian mill rather than a modern transnational company.

Derwent College decided to unilaterally abandon contracts with the company as long ago as 2005.

The SU has already been caught up in another ethical clothing gaffe earlier this year over the t-shirts for the Viking Raid II, where Fruit of the Loom was the supplier despite objections from Environment Council as well as staff and students. The same excuse was used then as now; that the merchandise would not have arrived in time for the event had it been ordered from a fair trade supplier.

Roses is pre-scheduled to take place every year, arguably giving the current AU adequate time to prepare an order with a manufacturer with a better record on workers' rights.

With the passing of the recent UGM motion it is hoped that this will be the last time YUSU will order merchandise from a supplier not considered ethical by the NUSSL.

Baroness attacked by mother goose

A VISIT to the University of York by the Baroness Thornton of Mannington ended with an attack by an ill-tempered goose. The Baroness was visiting the University to address the New Generation Society on the topic of the future of the House of Lords. After leaving the event the Baroness crossed over Langwith bridge where she startled a goose protecting its nest. James Townsend, President of the NGS, who was with the Baroness at the time, said the goose "didn't appreciate her status or rank" and "hissed and nipped at her" as she went by the goose and its goslings. Neither the Baroness nor the goose was injured during the incident.

YUSU win award for eco-friendly policies

YUSU WON silver the Sound Impact Awards for "greenest" student union in the country. The awards look to encourage, nurture and reward the most environmentally friendly universities. While ultimately York was beaten by Loughborough for the title of 'greenest student union', the judges were impressed by "the grass roots activity of the students and the sheer number of them involved in environmental activities." Service and Finance Officer, Amy Woods, said YUSU will "build on this for next year and become a contender for Gold" which will be achieved "with further documentation on our targets and environmental practices".

Student gambles loan

A FIRST YEAR student at York has been forced to leave university, after an online gambling addiction left him unable to afford to continue studying. Adam Colley, a member of Langwith college, left mid way through the second term of the year, after his debts related to online gambling spiraled out of control and he had lost his student loan to online gambling companies. This case only further highlights the lack of advice available to students concerning their financial affairs, but also brings into question exactly how students spend their loans.

Reporting by Raf Sanchez and Sarah Foster

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With summer approaching and the array of festivals ever-widening, *Nouse* provides the ultimate guide to where to head for the perfect weekend of sun-soaked hedonism. Plus, what you might find when you get there.

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Students denied right to vote

By Raf Sanchez
 NEWS EDITOR

A UNIVERSITY administrative error which left 52 students unable to vote in Thursday's council elections has drawn widespread criticism from both students and electoral candidates.

Despite assuring all students that they would automatically be registered to vote in an email sent out through the colleges, the University failed to pass their details on to the Council's Electoral Services. The actual number of students who were unable to vote is widely believed to be significantly higher than the confirmed total of 52.

University spokesman David Garner said of the error, "It is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure their name is on the register. We supply the names if they are in University accommodation, but the responsibility for checking is theirs."

However, all students living on campus received an email via college administrators a week before the election saying "If you're living in College accommodation you will automatically be registered to vote."

Heslington ward candidates from all three major parties condemned the University's failure to provide a complete list of students living on campus. Liberal Democrat Councillor Ceredig Jamieson-Ball, who was re-elected on Thursday, said "It is very disappointing



Students arrived at the Vanbrugh polling booth to find that their details had not been put on the electoral register. Photo: Georgi Mabee

that people have been disenfranchised because the University did not do the job that they were supposed to do...it is the responsibility of the University to ensure that the information they supply to Electoral Services is full and correct." Labour candidate Grace Fletcher-Hall said "the University has been going on about how it's people's individual responsibility to make sure they are registered but they have given

students repeated assurances that would be registered automatically." She added: "I am furious at how the University have handled this." Conservative candidate Julia Heaton described the University's handling of the situation as "a disgrace".

John Grogan, the local MP, also voiced concern. He said "In reality most students will assume that they are on the register and I will certainly be writing to the Vice-

Chancellor to ask the University to review why some students were left off the register and to try and review their procedures so next year they can get as near to 100% possible."

Students also expressed their anger and frustration over Thursday's events. Dan Thornton, who made a four-hour round trip to vote at home when he realised he wouldn't be able to in York, said "To say it's our own fault

is stupid. The University sent emails saying that we would be registered to vote. I'm sorry for having faith in the system." Iona Josephine Howe added "I take my right to vote seriously and am disappointed that I have been cheated out of this."

YUSU criticised the University's lack of reaction when it became apparent early on Thursday that some students were unable to vote. Communications Officer

Colin Hindson said "they didn't see it as a problem. Without someone mentioning it to them they didn't take it up as an issue. They wait for the issues to come to them instead of actively seeking to address them". Only after pressure from YUSU did an advisory notice appear on York Extra for students unable to vote.

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Protesting York students targeted online

By Jamie Merrill
 NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER Executive Officer of the National Union of Students (NUS) and several York students have been targeted by a far right fascist website with links to the British National Party (BNP) and a history of encouraging violence.

Daniel Randall, former NUS Executive Officer, and several members of the York Socialist Students society had their photographs posted on Redwatch after an anti-fascist rally at the University of York in week eight of last term.

Anti-fascist campaigners have condemned the tar-

geting of the students and expressed concerns that a York student may have passed on details to the far right group. The photographs, originally taken by a *Nouse* photographer, were taken from a copyrighted website and passed onto Redwatch.

Redwatch, whose slogan is "Remember places, traitors' faces, they'll pay for their crimes" posts photographs and personal details of left-wing activists and anti-fascist campaigners. The website made news on campus when *Nouse* reported in January that a York academic and several students were targeted whilst attending an anti-war demonstration.

Randall said, "Being targeted by a disgusting Nazi website such as Redwatch isn't pleasant but it's not particularly surprising. Several of my comrades have appeared on Redwatch before and I'm sure we will again in the future."

"Although Redwatch's contributors are probably limited to a few sociopathic Hitler-fetishists behind computers, the growing strength of the BNP may create an atmosphere in which white-power activists feel more confident about coming out of cyberspace and onto the streets."

A senior member of the Socialist Students, who requested to remain anonymous to ensure his safety,



A number of York students' photos are on Redwatch

said, "It concerns me more that there are people at the University of York who want to contribute to an openly

fascist website than it does that I have appeared on it."

Redwatch has a history of encouraging violence. In

May 2006, Alan McFadden, a Liverpool Trade Union Congress leader, was seriously wounded by a knife attack by a Redwatch supporter after appearing on the site.

Ben Drake, chair of York City pressure group Unite Against Fascism said "Redwatch has obvious criminal intent, its not subtle, there is no other reason to post than to intimidate. The students involved should complain both to the police and the University."

Photographs of several other students have also appeared on Redwatch. The students, who were pictured at a demonstration last term, have declined to comment, citing personal safety concerns.

Question of NUS membership to be settled with referendum

By Nicky Woolf
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK STUDENTS will vote in a referendum next term on whether the Students' Union will retain its membership of the National Union of Students (NUS).

The decision to hold the referendum was taken at a meeting of the YUSU Senate on Wednesday. The motion was proposed by Louis Wihl, Chair of Alcuin JCRC, and stated that the YUSU President must call a referendum on the question "Should the University of York's Student Union maintain its affiliation with the NUS?" in week six of the Autumn term 2007.

Senate, which consists of YUSU officers, JCRC chairs voted almost unanimously in favour of the motion.

Anne-Marie Canning, who will be President of YUSU when the referendum takes place, described it as "an educational tool," and expressed a hope that the debate surrounding the referendum will "get people interested in NUS and what they're doing for us."

According to Colin Hindson, YUSU Communications Officer, the referendum will be held in the middle of the Autumn term so that first-year students have a chance to settle



Left: Anne-Marie Canning will be YUSU President in the coming year. Right: Gemma Tumelty is NUS President.

in before the vote takes place.

This is the first referendum that the student body will have held in more than six years. In order to pass, voted approval by 6.75% of students will be required, meaning that more than 650 students will need to mobilise to vote if a decision

is to be made.

Matt Burton, who will replace Amy Woods as YUSU Services and Finance Officer next year, has expressed concerns that despite having less than a third of the number of student members that unions like those of the universities of Leeds or Manchester, York



are paying only £12,000 per year less for NUS affiliation than these far larger institutions. Burton said that "they [Manchester and Leeds unions] can pay that much without blinking, whereas we have much more trouble finding that amount of money."

When asked if the NUS

represented good value for money at the price York are expected to pay, Canning said "We can milk NUS for more, and I fully intend to do that. But I do think they offer us a good deal."

Rich Croker, the current YUSU President, whose election manifesto last year included the promise to re-

assess York's membership of the NUS, said that "if students choose to disaffiliate, then that is what we should be doing, and it's good that we're going to referendum. The one thing we need is a properly conducted referendum on this."

However, Wihl was keen to stress that he himself is not in favour of leaving the NUS, claiming he merely wants to "promote the NUS and show everyone why it's a good thing." He said that "discussions on this issue are happening at a lot of universities around the country, and it would be good for York to have that discussion here."

The NUS affiliation fee that York pays is due to drop in the next year from £36,000 to £32,000, but questions have still been asked as to the value for money that membership represents at that price.

Gemma Tumelty, President of the NUS, told Nouse that the NUS was "committed to reducing the amount of money that your union spends on affiliation," and argued that the NUS "does make a difference to your [students'] everyday life - from supporting your union, to lobbying the government on student issues." Tumelty highlighted the NUS's recent lobbying successes on council tax exemption and student tenancy.

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Petition brought against students

By Jenny O'Mahony
DEPUTY EDITOR

RESIDENTS OF Badger Hill, Fulford and Heslington have signed a petition against the "studentisation" of the areas and are being backed by newly re-elected Councillor for Heslington, Ceredig Jamieson-Ball, himself a former York student.

Jamieson-Ball, who was recently re-elected with a healthy majority, has supported the petition for bringing the issue to the attention

of the Local Development Framework (LDF) of York City Council. Accusations of hypocrisy are being levelled at the councillor after drawing attention to the time Jamieson-Ball spent in York

as a postgraduate student.

The petition comes weeks after York students were praised in the *York Press* by Colin Mellors, Chief Executive of Higher York, a partnership of local colleges and universities, described the University of York's recent Making Space at Fulford Youth Room project as "a particular success". The project also won the team award at the Regional Millennium Volunteer of the Year Award ceremony, held in Leeds last term.

Another view of the current situation came from David Horton, the Labour spokesperson for Housing. "We also need to recognise that many students wish to play an active role in community life," he said.

More police to patrol campus

By Helen Citron and
Anjli Raval

THERE WILL BE an increased police presence on campus following a rise in the number of burglaries and bike thefts since the start of the year.

Sergeant Andy Haigh of the area's neighbourhood policing team has said that although crime at the University has gone down by nearly 25% since 2005, more still needs to be done.

Rob Little, the University's Security Operations Manager, said, "The most prevalent crime on campus at the moment is the theft of bicycles, with almost one a day being stolen. We work closely with the police on this and have tried a number of initiatives."

In a bid to further

reduce crime, Haigh and his team have improved the efficiency of their existing resources with undercover and uniformed officers making patrols on campus when they feel it is necessary. Community Development Officer PC Sam Bolland has also been allocated to the University campus, which has proved to be a crime hotspot for the south of York. Communication between campus security teams and the local police force has been tightened through the creation of a radio link.

Four bike-tagging events have taken place on campus in the last twelve months alongside a sticker campaign involving warning stickers being given out to be put on open windows and doors. It is hoped this will highlight the danger of burglary.



Bikes are stolen almost daily. Photo: Milda Sabunaite

First year Hannah Elliot, of Goodricke college, has recently been a victim of bicycle theft. "I don't think these initiatives will make a difference," she said. "It's not possible for there to be police by every bike on campus."

According to Little, sneak-in burglaries occur

more during the summer term, due to students and staff leaving windows and doors open. Students are urged to report any suspicious behaviour, secure their windows and doors and lock their bicycles through the frame in a well-lit area on campus.

York slips in University league tables once again

By Nicky Woolf
 DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK HAS SLIPPED seven places in the recent *Guardian University Guide* league tables, in the wake of claims that budget cuts are affecting teaching quality at the University.

The tables, which claim to "concentrate on teaching", take into account spending per student, staff-to-student ratio and graduate career prospects, as well as the rankings of the recent National Student Survey, a nationwide poll of student satisfaction.

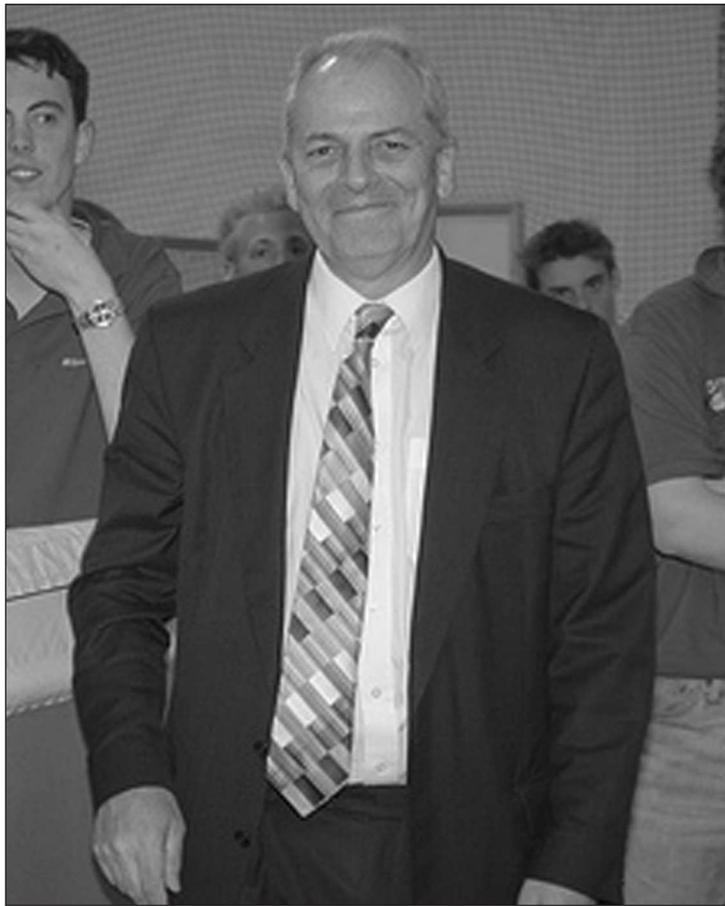
The *Guardian* now places York 15th in the country, down from its eighth place position in 2005.

The *Times' Good University Guide* last year also saw York sustain a similar slip from seventh to 15th place. Earlier in the year *Nouse* reported that a proposed reworking of the Quality Assurance Agency university rankings would see York fall from first place to 57th.

Students and academics have expressed concerns that the recent spate of severe budget cuts to academic departments and the library would affect teaching standards.

Amy Foxton, YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer, said YUSU "realise the University must spend its money responsibly, but are opposed to the University cutting its spending on students."

When interviewed, the University's Press Officer David Garner denied any links



Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor has presided over the slips

between the league table drops and the dramatic budget cuts that academic departments and the library have suffered in recent years, saying the cuts were "what any big organisation does from time to time." Garner also said the cuts were "not directly linked to the Heslington East development."

Last autumn, *Nouse* quoted a senior academic from the English department who said

"at this point the financial crisis... seems to be having a supremely negative effect on both teaching and research."

A senior departmental administrator said that the University administration had become "complacent... spending far too much time, money and effort on Heslington East and forgetting the importance of our students."

When asked for a response,

Garner said "It is inevitable with something of this scale that there will need to be careful planning." Garner was unwilling to comment on where money from these departmental budget cuts was going, saying only that he did not want to "give incorrect information."

Garner linked the league table drops to the *Guardian* and *The Times'* stopping use of the Teaching Quality Assessments and Subject Reviews, an independent assessment of teaching quality in which York has always done very well, in compiling their tables. The *Guardian* tables now use the National Student Survey, in which York do not rank as highly.

However, a lecturer in History, who wished to remain nameless, said that "the overall staff workload has gone up dramatically over the past five years."

This creates obvious tensions as students put pressure on the department for more teaching whereas they should really be putting pressure on the administration who make the spending decisions."

He concluded that "If nothing is done, bright students and high quality staff will decide they don't want to work in York. It won't happen overnight, but gradually the University will decline." Brian Cantor, Vice-Chancellor of the University of York, who is responsible for the University's financial security, was unavailable for comment.

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Hockey club 'fish and milk' initiation messy

THE UNIVERSITY of York Hockey Club held its yearly initiation ceremony on the bowling green outside Langwith bar last week. The ceremony, which involved such bizarre rituals as drinking week-old chocolate milk from a Wellington boot, drinking a bottle of wine through a fish-head and drinking an entire can of Carlsberg, caused all participants to be sick, in some cases four or five times. One bemused onlooker was heard to comment: "Well, that was extremely odd."

Roses Karate teams left without medical aid

SAFETY CONCERNS were raised after the complete lack of medical facilities available for participants in the Roses Karate competition became apparent. A woman was punched in the throat, blood was drawn from a male competitor and a third was knocked to the floor and taken to hospital. After each incident, calls for medical assistance were left unheeded. Alex Imrie, head of the Women's team, said that the Karate Society had been "complaining about a lack of trained medics for years" and that the "Judo Club have a similar problem."

Matt Burton proposes juice bar on campus

MATT BURTON, next year's YUSU Services and Finance Officer, has pledged to install a juice bar on campus at some point during the coming year. Currently working on a business plan for the venture, Burton, whose manifesto for election included a student-run venue in the city centre, was hopeful that a juice bar would be popular enough to recoup its costs within a year of starting up. "The business model's looking really good," he said "I talked with the franchise people at the NUS conference last term, and it really could make money."

Popular James Provost retires after 17 years

KEN TODD, James College Provost, has announced his retirement after 17 years in the role. Todd, the first ever James College Provost, took on the role in 1990. A well-liked and well-respected campus figure, Todd was always happy to listen to the concerns of the students in his care. Todd, described by ex-James JCRC Chair and incoming YUSU President Anne-Marie Canning as a "complete legend," will be retiring to Devon on September 30. A keen ale-drinker, Todd was often to be sighted in Heslington village, frequenting the local public houses.

Former SU President elected to York Council

FORMER YUSU President James Alexander has been elected to York City Council, winning in Holgate ward as a Labour candidate. Alexander beat the incumbent Liberal Democrat with a majority of 113. Alexander was YUSU President 2004-2005 and was commonly referred to as "the Badger".

Reporting by Nicky Woolf, Jenny O'Mahony, Jamie Merrill and Raf Sanchez

Is York a racist University?

<< Continued from front

3,582 local votes. In February this year, *Nouse* reported that Ogtay Husseyini, chair of Islamic Society, was the victim of an alleged racist incident involving local BNP Officer Ian Dawson who allegedly approached Husseyini and photographed him, threatening to place his photograph on the far-right website Redwatch and telling him to "get out of my f**cking country". The BNP have recently circulated leaflets in York calling for the burqa to be banned and immigration from Muslim countries to be halted.

Campus newspaper *York Vision* opened a new area for debate recently with the publication of an article headlined 'Immigration Shambles', which claimed "Incredible new evidence suggests that foreign stu-

dents are exploiting the university to gain entry into Britain". This claim was based on the fact that 43 foreign students, who have been granted student visas to enter Britain, have dropped out of their courses without informing the University during the last three years.

Of the *York Vision* article, Brian Cantor said on Sunday "I'm a believer in freedom of speech, but at the end of the day people will make up their own minds, and if you try and play a story up too much then you lose credibility. I'm not saying it has been played up too much; I'm not commenting on that, I'm just saying that the numbers are very low and that people should draw their own conclusions from that."

"It is also worth noting that there are lots of British students

whose whereabouts are unknown, because students have the right to decide where they go. International students are a credit to the University community and as such we should do our best to support visa requirements which make their entry possible."

Writing in *York Vision*, Richard Byrne Smith called for 'students who claim visas on the basis of their place in York' to be 'thoroughly scrutinised before they are offered a place to study'. One participant in the *Nouse* poll said of the article "I found *Vision's* latest headlines about the 'Immigration Shambles' extremely irritating... Jumping on the anti-immigrant band-wagon that the tackier publications of this country tout is a cheap step back. I have had an amazing time as an international student

at York, and do not feel that a more stringent effort to supervise my behaviour would be anything but patronizing."

Several of the participants in the poll suggested ways in which international students might become better integrated into the campus community. One wrote "I believe international students need to be more outgoing if they wish to improve their experiences. You have to immerse yourself in the culture here in order to gain the most from being in York. Another wrote "I would like to have more chances to meet local residents so as to engage with British culture more easily". One participant wrote "Studying at York is the greatest experience of my life, but sometimes racist problems spoil it."

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Nine York students arrested while protesting at Faslane nuclear base

By Raf Sanchez
NEWS EDITOR

NINE UNIVERSITY OF York students were arrested after successfully blockading Faslane Naval Base as part of the ongoing Faslane 365 campaign against government plans to renew the Trident nuclear missile system.

The students, as well as three other York residents, were arrested on March 19 after chaining themselves together and lying on the roads in front of the North and South gates of the base. Grouped into fours, the protestors chained their arms together inside of multi-layered tubes of carpet, drainpipe and chicken wire, designed to slow down attempts by police to cut the chains.

Both groups successfully deployed out of the van and onto their positions on the road, a stage many protestors don't reach without being arrested by waiting police. Ric Lander, one of the students arrested, said, "All on my mind was that five seconds of getting out of the van and onto the ground. I'd heard of so many groups that didn't manage, that got arrested as soon as they got out. I just hoped and prayed that didn't happen. I kept thinking about those five seconds."

The human barricades stopped traffic going into the base for about 45 minutes at the North gate and over an hour at the South. The

groups were surrounded by lines of police while they waited for cutting equipment to arrive. Lander said "there was a really good feeling of camaraderie between everyone" as they lay surrounded by police.

Camilla Wimberley, another York student arrested, described how the police covered the protestors with sheets designed to protect them as they used a "rotary blade saw" to cut through to the chains. Describing one protestor who had covered his tubing with tar, she said, "Apparently, one policeman got quite annoyed because he got tar on himself and had to go get gloves which delayed the whole thing."

When the chains were finally cut, the students were arrested and removed from the area of the base. The males were taken to Dumbarton police station, while the females were taken to Grennoch. The students were all released after a few hours.

Speaking of his incarceration, Lander said, "It does sort of break your spirit to be in a room which smells a little bit of sick with absolutely no idea how long for. Thinking I was going to be in there for 24 hours was very hard. I was trying to mentally prepare myself for being there all night." He added that "the police were really good, really sympathetic and friendly."

The decision was taken not to prosecute any of the students. Andrew Miller, Procurator Fiscal for

Dumbarton, said, "Having reviewed the evidence in this instance, the decision was taken not to take criminal proceedings."

Upon receiving the news that the government was not seeking to prosecute, Lander said, "One of the objectives of the Faslane 365 campaign is to try and clog up the courts in order to cost them time and money and I would have been quite glad to be part of that objective, because I think it's worthwhile. But from a personal point of view, it's a relief."

When asked about the decision to take direct action by protesting outside, Lander said, "Part of the injustice of the Trident issue is that the debate in Parliament is one-sided. The public seems on two sides, but the government seem so dead-set on what they're going to do." Wimberley described the Trident nuclear system as "a colossal waste of money."

The Faslane 365 website describes the campaign as "an audacious civil resistance initiative to apply critical public pressure for the disarmament of Britain's nuclear weapons." As of March 2007, there have been 576 arrests at the base but just 22 prosecutions.

The protest took place four days after a vote in the House of Commons in which a bill was passed to renew the Trident nuclear system. The Government faced a rebellion by 95 Labour backbenchers, including some 16 former Cabinet ministers.



Ric Lander being led away by police at Faslane nuclear base. Photo: Dave Taylor

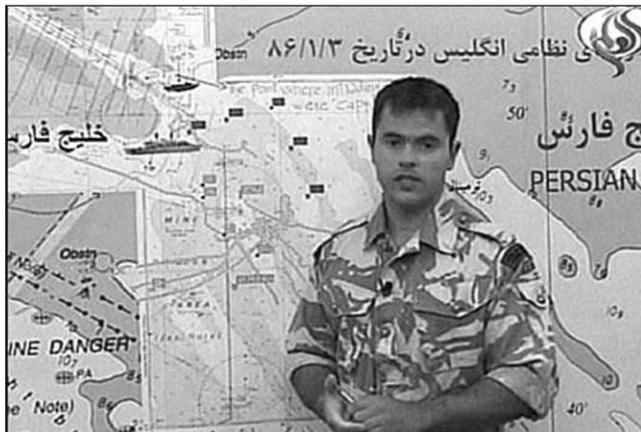
York graduate among British captives in Iran

By Jamie Merrill
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY of York graduate, among the Royal Navy personnel seized and detained by Iranian authorities, has spoken out against Iran's "pathetic" attempt to make itself seem powerful and magnanimous by releasing the 15 captives 13 days into their ordeal.

The 15 British personnel were released on April 4, 2007 when, in a surprise move, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced their release as a "gift" to the British people for Easter.

Royal Marine Captain Chris Air graduated from



Captain Chris Air speaking on Iranian state television

York in 2003 with a BSc in Chemistry before joining the Royal Marines in August 2004.

Speaking after his release, Air said, "We were

certainly well within Iraqi waters, 1.7 miles from Iranian waters. We were taken illegally from inside Iraqi territorial waters by force and against our will."

Capt Air condemned the action of the Iranian regime saying, "It wasn't an accident. They didn't think we were in Iranian waters. They clearly decided to go into Iraqi waters. It was all part of a pre-meditated plan to be seen as powerful and then be seen as meaningful. Now we have had a chance to state the truth. It's clear that the rest of the army can see it as a pathetic act, that they have to break the law and force some people to lie to gain credibility."

Air went on to describe how the sailors and marines were flown to Tehran and subject to random interrogation and rough handling, facing constant psychological pressure before being shown

on Iranian state TV. Capt Air said, "that was quite humiliating, being paraded as trophies, in front of the media. That was really annoying to me."

The worst moment, according to Air, was when "they lined us up, blindfolded us and put blankets over our heads. We could hear people cocking weapons and laughing. Using your imagination, you imagine the worst."

Iranian state television had showed footage of Air indicating on a map where the crew had been captured, appearing to support the Iranian claims, which the British government have repeatedly denied.

In the footage he said:

"On the morning of Friday the 23rd of March at approximately half-eight, we left coalition warship Foxtrot 99. Our task, our two boats, was to go up to the area around this Persian Gulf area round here. And approximately, about 10 o'clock in the morning, we were seized, apparently at this point here from their maps on the GPS they've shown us which is inside Iranian territorial waters."

Whilst at York, Air played University sport and worked for Doorsafe, the student security body. John Emerson, a friend of Air at University, said, "It came as a shock when I saw him on the news, but it's good to know he is okay."

Burton withdraws YUSU website host bid over conflict of interest

By Raf Sanchez
 NEWS EDITOR

A BID BY a company owned by Matt Burton to host the YUSU website has been withdrawn amidst controversy after concerns were raised over possible conflict of interest.

Burton, Service and Finance Officer-Elect, withdrew a bid by B3, an internet company of which he is a director, after concerns were raised during a heated Executive Committee debate. Burton entered the bid after seeing the terms of the contract currently favoured by YUSU, which he described as a "complete rip-off" and said was "rushed through over Easter".

The contract currently favoured was put forward by an internet hosting company called UKC and offers to host the YUSU website for £140/month. Burton claims his company could provide the same service for £90/month as well as hosting the websites of all college JCRCs and University societies. Burton also claimed to have consulted an employee of the University's Computing Service who agreed with his assessment.

When asked why he thought that YUSU had not



Matt Burton has already caused controversy with a provocative acceptance speech. Photo: Adam Sloan

immediately switched over to the more favourable deal, he said it was because Communications Officer Colin Hindson "doesn't want to get egg on his face" by backing out of a contract that Burton claims has already been informally agreed.

The controversy began when an internal YUSU memo was circulated on April 23 citing guidelines given by the NUS on issues of trusteeship. It specifically pointed to a passage reading: "The Charity Commission is of the view that there are two

distinct duties. Firstly, a trustee should not put him or herself in a position where personal interest conflict with the interests of the charity and secondly, a trustee should not profit." The memo concluded that if the B3 contract were to be

taken up then Burton, who will be become a trustee of the union once he takes power, would be in a position to "profiteer" from the union. Burton replied to the memo saying he "strongly rebuked" the claim.

During the April 25 ses-

sion of the Executive Committee, YUSU President Rich Croker ordered the meeting into "closed session" on two occasions. During a closed session all non-voting members are removed from the meeting and minutes are not taken. Burton said the decision to go into closed session, and remove the sabbatical officer-elects, was a "cloak-and-dagger tactic." He also refuted assurances by Croker and Hindson that there would be no discussion of the contract until they returned, saying repeatedly, "They're discussing it".

Divisions emerged between the old and new YUSU officers. Burton and Canning, as well as newly-elected Training Officer Tom Langrish, argued that the conflict of interest associated with the B3 contract could be negated as long as "it was managed appropriately". However, the proposal was met with hostility by the current sabbaticals.

Croker said that upon assuming power, Burton would become the "line manager" for all YUSU staff. Should conflict arise between B3 and YUSU staff there would be a "conflict of interest outside of the trustee issue". After an hour of debate Burton withdrew the bid.

Tenancy law aims at protecting students

By Milda Sabunaite
 DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A NEW Tenancy Deposit Scheme, created to increase the protection of deposits taken by landlords, was put into practice on April 6. However, according to recent surveys, neither students nor landlords are sufficiently aware of the scheme and the ways to use it.

The Scheme is designed to protect deposits up to £25,000 and eliminate cases of landlords keeping the deposits on false property damage claims.

However, difficulties to successfully implement the scheme have arisen since a survey of the Deposit Protection Service has revealed that one in four landlords is still unaware of the change in law. Furthermore, a survey carried out by Nouse has shown

only one in twenty students has heard of the new Scheme protecting their deposits.

Doubts have also been expressed about the effectiveness of the new law. One of the interviewed students commented on contacting the Scheme in case of conflict, saying, "It depends on your relationship with the landlord. If it's good, there should be no problems, but if it's bad, contacting a third party might complicate things even more."

The Tenancy Deposit Scheme applies to every tenancy agreement signed after April 6. The landlord is obliged to follow one of two types of schemes to protect the deposit and inform the tenant about the choice within 14 days of signing the contract.

According to the new law, the deposit must be returned within ten days of reaching an agreement.

By Alex Stevens
 STAFF REPORTER

YUSU HAVE VETOED a request from *Playboy* to allow a day of marketing for a modelling talent search. The SU would have been paid for granting campus advertising rights, but denied the request because the idea was "heterosexist" and "involved the objectification of women."

Playboy's aim was to promote their Playboy UK Model contest, in which women upload pictures of themselves wearing lingerie to a website. Each model has a profile which displays their "vital statistics".

Viewers of the website are encouraged to vote by text for their favourite model, with texts charged at a premium 75p rate. At the end of each month the winner is granted, among other things, a "lingerie shoot for

Playboy is not for YUSU



A *Playboy* marketing initiative was vetoed by YUSU

Playboy.co.uk" and "your pictures on our website advertising promotions."

Amy Foxton, YUSU's Academic and Welfare Officer, said; "It was decided that *Playboy* are a company we do not wish to promote because they contravene the work we do in promoting equality."

The decision has met with mixed reaction from students.

"I think it's great that the SU aren't supporting *Playboy*," said Ros Sharpey, a third-year. "This is essentially the market of objectifying women in a rather degrading way."

But according to David

Hughes, a third-year, YUSU's policies are "rife with inconsistency".

"If this conflicts with YUSU's stated policy, how can it allow events such as the Playboy Mansion? YUSU needs to sort out its own ethical position before rejecting money from brands which it already appears to endorse."

Campus events have been the subject of controversy in the national press; the *Guardian* featured third-year Bronnach Kane's campaign against Pole Exercise society.

Advertising for their Goldrush event featured a naked woman sliding down a pole of coins and "clearly promoted the idea of women as sexual objects to be bought and sold", she said.

Hughes countered; "no-one is forcing anybody else to whip off their clothes and parade around in frilly knickers."



NOUSE
Est. 1964

Comment & Analysis

A shambles of sensationalism

The front-page headline in the last edition of *York Vision* might appear to the casual observer to represent yet another in a long line of exposed failings in University management. However, closer examination of the University's actions reveals that for once the smoke conceals no fire. York is not being swamped by bogus international students intent on defrauding the British taxpayer; to suggest that such a phenomenon is widespread not only flies in the face of all common sense, it also obscures the real challenges posed by the increasing numbers of students coming to York from abroad.

The real problem is not students from abroad who have fallen off the radar, but rather those who were never really on it in the first place. That York is a relatively tiny, highly parochial institution makes it very easy to forget that the visibility of non-British students here is minimal, and that sometimes they can be effectively segregated from University society. This segregation takes many forms, but has no singular, identifiable, blameable source. Instead, it is the product of a culture where international students, particularly those who do not speak English as a first language, find it difficult to become involved in campus life. The survey *Nouse* has conducted provides plentiful evidence to suggest that this need not be the case. Most international students are keen to get involved in student societies and enjoy their academic courses, but, crucially, many admit that they do not always feel all that welcome at York. Whatever the reasons for such a situation, the need to rectify it is pressing.

Ensuring that racist and xenophobic attitudes are not tolerated on campus is an important part of the solution, and students and staff alike ought to be applauded for their efforts to make sure this remains to be the case. However, effort must be directed not only at the expressions of poor relations between different groups, but also at their root causes. It is often suggested that the high fees paid by international students mark them out as something of a commodity, valued not for their contribution to student life but their contribution to the University's coffers. Anyone subscribing to this view needs to think very carefully about the basic assumptions that underpin such an exploitative standpoint.

More importantly, two temptations must be avoided. The first is to assume that decrying racism and voting against the BNP is all we should be doing as people concerned to live in a society where all feel welcome. The second, opposite but equally pernicious, is to think that sensationalising such a complex and subtle issue comes anywhere close to confronting it.

No-one past the post

Anyone who has ever bemoaned students' lack of interest in political participation could be forgiven for softly banging their heads against a wall last Thursday night. Hordes of eager students arrived bright-eyed at Vanbrugh polling station to exercise their democratic right, only to be told that - at least as far as the electoral register was concerned - they did not exist. This was not a symptom of lack of forethought, since all students resident on campus ought to have been automatically registered to vote. Worse, many students were reassured that they would be eligible, only to find out that this was not the case.

No bureaucratic procedure is free from the risk of administrative slip-ups, and the electoral process is more Byzantine than most. This, though, is no mere slip-up: it amounts to the systematic disenfranchisement of untold numbers of eligible voters, for many of whom last Thursday's election would have been their first. It is, in short, nothing short of an outrage. Every possible precaution must be taken to ensure that this problem never occurs again, and students denied the right to vote ought to expect nothing less than a full investigation, and a sincere apology from those responsible - as well as an assurance that no student at York in the future will be denied their fundamental democratic right to cast a vote in a free, fair and open election.

No matter whether it affected the result, the result for the Heslington ward cannot be said to satisfy these conditions, and that is a sorry state of affairs indeed.

In praise of York

Shakespeare had him spend his final moments on his knees in the mud of Bosworth field, pleading for a horse, a horse, his kingdom for a horse - but on Thursday morning the ghost of King Richard of York had the last laugh, as our students on horseback comprehensively trounced the visitors from across the Pennines. This would mark the beginning of a weekend that saw Lancaster thoroughly bested, and the Roses trophy triumphantly returned on Sunday afternoon to its rightful owners.

All those involved in organising the event are to be applauded for putting on a fine weekend. All the sportsmen and women involved we salute for a job well done. The Lancaster rugby team also merit an honourable mention, for their impressive attempt to redistribute hundreds, possibly thousands of cans of cheap Dutch lager all over our campus, by way of their dangerously overworked urinary tracts. Cheers for that, lads.

A final word must be said for the intrepid *Nouse* web team, who risked life, limb and sunburn to provide what was universally recognised - even by the losing side's Vice Chancellor - as the best Roses coverage the Internet has ever seen. Here's looking forward to next year.

The Educationalist

Considers league tables



Amy Battye
 Contributing Writer

The publication of *The Guardian's* 2008 University League Tables raises familiar questions: are British universities achieving as they should? Is York achieving as it should? Are tables at all useful within the education sector?

I am assuming most prospective students won't look at the rankings in conjunction with the methodology, probably due to it being rather confusing and very boring. However, it yields some interesting insights. Most important are the different weightings given to various factors, perhaps the most important of which are those based upon the responses of graduates to the National Student Survey. These give the most recent information on universities and their courses, and are formulated from the views of students, not just nitty gritty facts and figures. *The Guardian* rankings refer to these in their 'feedback' and 'teaching quality' sections and they are weighted at five and ten percent respectively; not much compared to the 17% allowed to 'student-staff ratio' and 'funding per student'.

Secondly, the highly publicised tables give a broad-brush picture, but there are also rankings for individual subject areas. On these figures, York varies greatly from the overall 15th place: for Art and Design we're 2nd, Computer Science 3rd and Psychology 4th, while at the other extreme English has dropped to 21st, Physics 32nd and Education 42nd. But even these rankings aren't as clear-cut as they might seem. These are broad subject areas; for example, 'Education' combines both teaching and educational studies. Is it fair to combine these two considering that one is a vocational course, the other focused on theory and research? Similarly, 'Art and design' lumps together fine arts, computer graphics and video games.

Tables also differ wildly from year to year. In 2007 *The Times* ranked York 15th, *The Sunday Times* had York as 7th in 2006 and 6th in 2004. The drop is there to see, but there is wide variation in methodology between the three. The most recent *Guardian* Table includes a value-added score and another for graduates' job prospects which were determined using a different calculation than in previous years. It also has to be borne in mind that the National Student Survey was introduced only in 2005 and the rankings are still adapting to its inclusion even as universities themselves try to implement its recommendations.

I know that the tone of what I've written might suggest I'm defending the University: I'm not. Over the last three years, I've seen standards and faith in the academic reputation of this University drop amongst present and past students. There are many reasons for this and I'm not going to go into them here. I do, however, implore you to be skeptical of these tables and rankings, and their utility as a source of comparative data.



"Who's pissing in the flowerbeds now?"

Pick a side, any side will do

And now for something completely indifferent



Sam Thomas
 Comment Editor

Two battlegrounds have loomed large in the run-up to this edition. In one corner of campus, the local elections determined once and for all which political animals would seize control of York's awesome can recycling and road-widening powers. Meanwhile, generous buckets of Lancastrian blood were spilled out on the Astroturf, as the annals of history were ceremonially rewritten in the annual Roses competition.

Enthusiasm for both these events has run high in the *Nouse* office the last few weeks. The news team were giddy with excitement at the prospect of another chance to flex their pundit muscles, eagerly ambushing polling stations and pestering beleaguered candidates. More general, however, was the palpable desire shared by all to prove, once and for all, that this newspaper and its staff of sensitive bookish types could adequately cover a major sporting event without getting something catastrophically and embarrassingly wrong.

If I was going to don my battered and tattered cultural commentary hat, I might well opine that politics and sport represent the two last red-blooded activities left for those seeking release in our neutered, consensual society. What I

mean by this is that the opportunities for a proper, old-fashioned fight - a real, gritty knee-in-the-ballsack bust-up, with a gloating winner, and a bruised, brave-faced loser - are few and far between these days. Elections and sporting competitions are two rare occasions upon which people can abandon all their pretences to co-operation or tolerance and really, truly hate their neighbour: be he a Tory stuffed shirt, a Labour apparatchik or a Lancastrian scumbag.

The coincidence of the two on the same bank holiday weekend, then, is something close to a dream ticket, particularly for the ravenous hacks of Grimston House: even the fabled 'other paper' felt compelled to cut their holiday sort and scamper back to their burrow, even if it was only to use the photocopier. Only one person was left feeling a little confused in the midst of this jamboree of good old-fashioned animosity. That lonely soldier, dear reader, that proverbial nun in a brothel, was yours truly.

I will confess a selective and casual interest in political affairs, in much the same way that someone who once watched *Rambo* might confess an interest in going to fight in a war. I certainly find it all very interesting, and even occasionally feel compelled to take sides, but the second it turns into something combative, with people staking out their positions and insisting I pick a side, I'm finished. Naked political ambition is the one thing I find truly frightening, and this applies no matter how much I like people personally or agree with their views. There's just something about elec-

tions, and all they involve, that makes me feel uneasy around anyone who takes them seriously.

This lamentable apathy for the democratic process, though, this unfortunate lack of interest in who storms the citadels of power, pales in comparison to the way I feel about the sporting life. Come disbelief, mockery or spitting vitriol from the devout, I remain totally, unreservedly and unapologetically indifferent to the outcome of any sporting event. Football, cricket, rugby, competitive dancing - it doesn't matter, I just can't care who wins. It's not that I hate sport, or even dislike it: I can see perfectly well that many people get a lot out of it, and I will happily sit and watch cricket on a warm summers' day with a pint. I just don't care who's winning at the time, nor do I really understand why I should. And for that reason I will forever remain an intrigued but confused onlooker.

I'm aware this is an unpopular view, particularly on a victorious Roses weekend, and I'd hate to pour cold water on any celebrations, particularly since the rest of this paper is full of them. Personally, I'm delighted we won, because it's a small reward for the boundless enthusiasm of everyone involved. True, I've no idea whatsoever where that enthusiasm comes from - but am grateful all the same that everyone else makes up for my obvious shortcomings, which will leave me forever bored on a Saturday afternoon and doomed to failure in every pub quiz in which I ever partake. I'll leave it to you to decide who the real winner is.

No room for the BNP racists

The party's local election disaster is a credit to student activism



Francis Boorman
 Contributing Writer

Despite fielding a total of nine candidates for election to York City Council, far-right party the BNP managed to gain only 3582 votes and failed to win a single seat. To put this result in context, the anti-BNP organisation Unite Against Fascism has reported that the BNP fielded a record 750 candidates in the recent council elections with Yorkshire and the Humber being a major target area. After large increases for the party in both votes and council seats won in the past couple of years, the most recent elections have yielded the BNP only one extra council seat.

The failure to gain popular support in our local area is highly encouraging given efforts by the BNP and associated fascist website Redwatch to make their presence known. Attempts by members of both these organisations to intimidate York University staff and students have

been reported recently by *Nouse*. It's therefore good to see these bullying tactics are gaining all the success they deserve.

The BNP's spectacular failure to perform at the ballot box shows that vigilance pays off. We should be proud that students at our University are willing to make it be known that we are not impressed by underhand tactics and thinly veiled threats, nor will we stand by as racists and extremists try to spread their pernicious political views by masquerading as a voice from the mainstream.

It's good to see the BNP's bullying tactics are gaining all the success they deserve

A national press officer for the BNP has compared YUSU to the Marxist Communists of the Soviet Union "who stifled debate and free speech". This rather bizarre characterisation comes

from an organisation which is still free to speak, free to contest elections, but has failed to win the debate and persuade people that it is right. That they are railing against student organisations shows that we, as students, must be doing something right in combatting their rhetoric. The same press officer also expressed frustration that students are too ready to accept the idea that diversity is a wonderful thing. Enough said.

With overall turnout at only 41.8% and even lower at 37.2% in the overwhelmingly student-based electorate of Heslington ward, there is a clear lack of interest in local politics among students, and very little desire to turn out in support of the major political parties. Such a high level of apathy is definitely a worrying trend that needs to be addressed, but it is good to see that, in York at least, this is not translating into a protest vote for parties like the BNP.

Student politics currently has a problem in working out it ought to fight for, but at the very least the politics of intolerance is something we can all agree that we must fight against. There was no room on York Council for the BNP this time around. Let's make sure it stays that way in the future.

Red herrings and scapegoats

The AWOL Internationals: an issue blown well out of proportion?



James Macdougald
 Contributing Writer

The recently disclosed disappearance of 42 international students from the York campus has provided a crucial insight into the stock method of apportioning blame in crises such as this. The pattern is increasingly familiar. First and foremost, students are immediately absolved of all blame for whatever went wrong. Accountability is dealt out in broad strokes, both to the government and the University authorities.

The University has limited PR capabilities and has so far wisely decided to hold its peace. But the government - in this case the local government and, more specifically, Cllr Ceredig Jamieson-Ball, recently returned to his Heslington ward with a significant majority - is quicker on the draw.

In this instance, Jamieson-Ball has deftly shifted all responsibility onto weaker shoulders, claiming it is 'imperative' that overseas students receive a proper level of support from the University. I do not want to paint the University authorities as helpless victims in this, but it must be obvious that it is not necessarily they who bear the entire responsibility for the disappearance of these students.

All in all there seem to be three main problems. The first plays out like a detective drama: the students have gone AWOL, and no-one is quite sure where they are now. This is in fact an enormous red herring. Why exactly ought we to be concerned about their present whereabouts? Perhaps because their student visas do not permit them, having discontinued their studies at the University, to remain in the country? But then surely if they are breaking the law, that must be a Home Office matter, and not the University's responsibility. Most likely (why not go with the simplest explanation - after all, 'entities should not be multiplied beyond necessity') is that they have all legally returned to their native countries.

If some or all of them have remained in the UK, we arrive at the second perceived problem: that the country is being overrun by an army of self-serving economic migrants! This is a little difficult to swallow when one considers the hefty fees incumbent on non-EU overseas students. If the students have coughed up these fees, voluntarily dropped out of education and then remained in the country (albeit in breach of immigration laws), there is still no reason to assume that they are not making a valid contribution to the economy by earning their keep elsewhere.

Problem number three: perhaps these students disappeared on account of their struggle successfully to integrate into the social life of the University. A problem, admittedly. Imperative, as Ceredig would say. But whose imperative

is it to remedy this problem? Can anyone really deny that the University upholds its end of the bargain with a multitude of social provisions and welfare support staff?

The idea of a problem without blame must be difficult to fathom for some, but that is all this really amounts to. Britain offers residency to foreign students in exchange for increased fees and the obvious economic returns inherent in educating a foreign labour force. It's the Government's job to administrate immigration. It's the University's job to educate students, immigrant or otherwise. So far, help has arrived in the form of an intertemperate blame-fest. History ought to have taught us that witch-hunts do not solve problems: they obfuscate the potential for real solutions, and instead create a menagerie of red herrings and scapegoats to make sure that finding them is all but impossible.

So let me be absolutely frank: there isn't really a problem, and if there is, it can't be taken to be the fault of any one party in particular. Most enrolled overseas students are still with us. If anyone feels like launching a vigilante action-wagon, such as hunting the missing students down and delivering them a hefty slap on the wrist for dropping out without notifying the proper authorities, you may do as you please. For my part, I plan to join the overwhelming majority of York students in failing to worry about international students using York as an unorthodox asylum loophole. Instead, I'll be enjoying the warm weather and getting on with my life.

>> FESTIVALS SPECIAL M10-11
Which ones will you go to?

>> CAMPUS KEN M9
The life of a York legend

SUMMER WEEK THREE
Tuesday May 8 2007

MUSE



In it for the money:

Why some students choose to combine their nightlife with their worklife

Muse 08.05.07



Student strippers >> M4

Caroline Macfarland meets York's most daring part-timers

Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant

The creators of 'Extras' air their views on America, the future of the show and tormenting people for fun >> M7

A passage to Africa >> M6

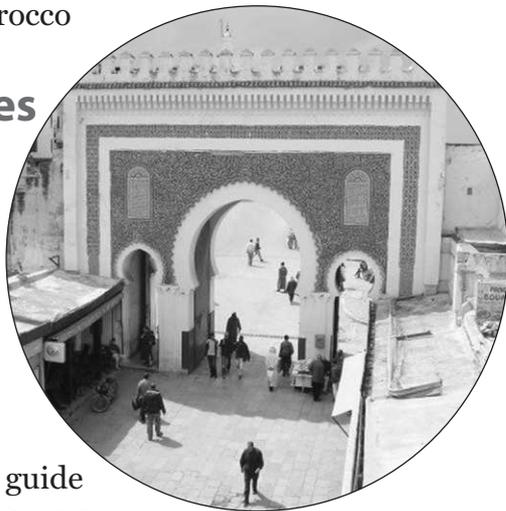
Amy Milka on hitching across France and Spain, all the way to Morocco

The life and times of Campus Ken

Jamie Merrill has a pint with the campus legend of hairdressing >> M9

Mud, music and mayhem >> M10

We provide the ultimate guide to this summer's festival season

**Music:** New Young Pony

Club and Bob Dylan >> M16

Arts: *Women Beware*

Women, book reviews and Open Drama Nights at the Drama Barn >> M17

Film: *The Curse of the*

Golden Flower >> M18

B&R: Which lolly pop to cool you down? >> M19

Listings: YUSU Elections and Hilary Benn >> M20

NanFlory



My life as a spy; or, friendship for finalists

It's hard to find something to write about these days. Especially something that does not involve consoling third years about the terrible tragedy that has befallen them all: the end of university and the prospect of finding something else to do (I'm sure it's not going to be all that bad). No, these last couple of months have been pretty quiet. I know a lot about AIDS in the 1980s, about cowboys, violence and America, not nearly enough about the philosophy of literature, and very little about what everyone else has been doing.

I only keep track of my housemates through the state of the carpets. We have a policy against vacuuming, which means that you can tell who's been hanging around by the imprints they leave in close to a year's worth of accumulated dust. Lately, there have mostly been small, fawn-like tracks - a sure sign that Holly's been sneakily watching the Jeremy Kyle show again - and a few man-size feet shapes outlined in cigarette ash: Jack's back. Footsteps on my ceiling mean Sophie is home and hearing the Beatles across the hallway means Rebecca's in. A full fridge means five housemates co-existing and over the weeks I've developed a sense of the nuances of fullness which means that, at any one time, I can tell you how many people are at home, even if I haven't physically seen them.

The other day, I realised that I don't have a relationship with my housemates; instead, I spy on them. Actually classing this as a realisation is perhaps a bit rich; it's more of a reframing on my part and one which is well worth it. Being a spy is much cooler than being antisocial. Although I suppose that only works if the reason you're being antisocial in the first place is not just because of the fact that you're a spy. I'm being antisocial because it's finals time.

The spy in *The Lives of Others*, a spy film (ish) that I saw recently, is very sad, lonely, bitter and twisted until he stops being a spy. In fact, he never really gets over the whole spy experience. Conclusion: being a spy is only a good idea if it's just for fun, to take your mind off a duller reality, an alternative to actual socialising when extraneous circumstances rule it out.

I've been practising. Some tips: invest in lace curtains which you can see through - they're like domestic one-way mirrors. Also, flicking them feels distinctly spy-like - a classic move. Thick glasses will make people think you can't see when you take them off, and encourage them to let their guard down and do telling things while you're around. Oh, and a trenchcoat you can hunch under, maybe in grey.

A good place to start is the relevant letterbox. Post tells you loads. For example, if someone

gets *Men's Health* delivered, you can make certain assumptions. Depending on how committed they are, *Men's Health* readers range from those who get up at 2am to drink protein shakes to those who spend all their time and effort trying to trick girls into having sex with them. *Men's Health* reveals the little known fact that, if you're a boy, you don't ever actually like girls, you just convince them that you do so that they'll give you right of way on the slip road to the sex autobahn. Extra surveillance for those types. A step up from noting the type of post your subject receives would be actually reading their mail. I haven't gone that far yet. I think steaming envelopes is for the career spy only.

The library is a good place to combine recreational spying with more productive behaviour. Library desks can be very informative. The type of books, how many there are, the neatness of note-taking - it's all wordless communication. The other day I saw one girl who'd brought in her own desk tidy. (I think she might get a first.) She had a paper shredder as well, that she periodically fed notes into. If you see her, steal from her out-tray before she gets around to disposal time, ok? Here's betting genius is getting torn up by that stubborn little metal box. At the other extreme, unless this person is doing a media studies course, reading



Ben TattersallSmith

Confessions of an addict

I've never tried crack, or heroin, for that matter. Hell, I'm so straight-laced I've never even smoked a cigarette before. Last week though, I got a small taste of what addiction feels like when I started watching *Heroes*.

For those of you who don't know yet, *Heroes* is the new blockbuster television show from the States, featuring a large cast of predictably beautiful people who begin to discover that they have superpowers. Think the 'ooh I wish I could do that'-ness of *X-Men* meets the epic scale of *Lost*. Oh, and *Heroes* is actually good, whereas *Lost* is just frustratingly awful.

Heroes has only just started showing in the UK and can only be viewed on an

obscure Sky channel, however it's available in all its glory online at one of a multitude of websites that allow you to watch episodes of your favourite TV shows on the internet. My choice for *Heroes* is currently www.tv-links.co.uk.

I started to watch *Heroes* one evening after I'd heard about it in passing on the radio. It started off innocently enough - a quiet night when no one was going out and I had reached my limit with revision; why not check out what the buzz was about this new show? Fast-forward 24 hours: 13 episodes watched, an economics lecture missed and squat all other work done. I was a *Heroes* junkie, desperate for another fix. The gripping storyline and cunning use

of cliff hangers, combined with the instant access provided by the internet, had just proved too much for my notoriously weak willpower to take. I had devoured episode after episode, immersing myself in a world of flying men and indestructible cheerleaders.

There are loads of other legally dubious sites springing up online allowing you to watch the back catalogue of your favourite TV shows and films. Try www.yourtvlinks.com or www.alluc.org, for example. A legal alternative well-worth checking out is Channel 4 On Demand (www.channel4.com/4od), which offers crucial student viewing, such as *Hollyoaks* and *Peep Show*, for free. It's good to see Channel 4 taking the lead in this area.

A face you may remember from Channel 4's past is that of Adam Buxton, one half of the Adam and Joe show. He has created quite a splash online with a num-

ber of his videos going viral over the past couple of months. Buxton's clever manipulation of media clips, ranging from *Songs of Praise* to Richard and Judy to the Pope's Funeral, clearly puts him at the forefront of internet comedy. You can see them all at www.youtube.com/adambuxton.

Another comedy talent embracing the internet is Will Ferrell, who has put his considerable clout behind the new website www.funnyordie.com. This video sharing site is solely for comedy, and was launched with quite a bit of hype recently thanks to a hilarious sketch from Ferrell himself, in which he clowns around at his very best and runs the full gambit of emotions, from aggressive to sad victim, in a matter of seconds during a confrontation with his unlikely landlord.

Anyway, I'd love to stay and tell you more, but - what can I say - there's a new episode of *Heroes* to watch.



Russia in statue row with F...
 Philippine...
 Warm weather b...
 Earthquake...
 risk of summer...
 Man arrested...
 Police chief attac...
 Man convicted of ha...
 distance found at flat...
 ash-kidn...
 first to ban...
 plastic bags...
 house/brain simulated on...
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 Man convicted of ha...
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The world's gone mad

Stories you might have missed

The organisers of last month's inaugural Horsham Reading Festival, which invited an array of literary talent to read aloud to enraptured book fiends, were inundated with some 5000 ticket requests on their website. Their delight turned to bemusement when only 200 people turned up. A small-scale telephone survey, conducted after the event, revealed that the vast majority of their online customers believed they had purchased tickets to Reading Festival.

A pot of jam has received an official warning from Suffolk County Council for public order offences. Residents of Stowmarket complained about loud music being played at night from a disused turkey slaughterhouse. After several late-night calls from noise control officers were ignored by the owner (because, it later transpired, he had emigrated to Bermuda), the police forced entry into the premises to serve a summons on the miscreant. It turned out to be a jar of Tiptree Raspberry Seedless which had fallen from a shelf onto a radio, switching it on. 'Nobody is above the law,' said a council spokesman. The jam was unavailable for comment.

The inhabitants of Palzem in Germany were last week talking with police about a package delivered to them by an alleged terrorist cell with links to Al-Qaeda. The parcel contained detailed bomb-making instructions, a carbon detonator, 300 cross-head screws, instructions for the development of pitch-blende and a packed of 'Easi-Stir' chow mein noodles. A source said that the package had been intended for delivery to Palzem in Sirmak on the Turkey-Iraq border. 'We couldn't think who could do such things,' the astonished postmaster of Palzem told reporters, 'although we suspected the French.' The mayor's office of Palzem in Turkey issued a translated statement which read: 'We despises these the alleges her Germans outcast the mental condition foolish.' Which, it goes without saying, didn't help matters.

Elderly Margaret May McKenney of Roanoke, Virginia, suffered a fatal heart attack when telephoning her daughter to say that she'd just won the \$2 million state lottery. 'She was getting all excited and I guess she just died of happiness,' sighed Louisa McKenney. The visiting coroner found the successful ticket clutched in Mrs McKenney's hand. It did not contain any of the evening's winning numbers.

A man in Knocknalina, Ireland, claims he is being haunted by the ghost of the late Mary Whitehouse, self-proclaimed guardian of public morals. Giving his name variously as 'Michael' and 'Mary Whitehouse', the medium told the local newspaper that Mrs Whitehouse urges him to crusade for Christian morality in the media. 'To be sure, she can be a bloody auld nuisance,' said Michael, before adding sharply: 'Now you cut that filthy talk out this minute, young man!'

A different kind of education

I've been watching a lot of daytime TV. I have this theory that writing essays in front of the telly is a good way to focus; it stops you from being able to think tangentially. You can't think about much more than your essay thesis and a cooking programme, rather than your essay thesis and all the alternative theses that you might be writing on. I found out some good stuff. How to make: a lychee martini, lychees stuffed with cream cheese, lychee marinade for smoked salmon. I also found out some weird stuff. Daytime TV and Channel 5 are the destination of choice for exhibitionists with unusual talents. Like thinking you're a reincarnated famous person, maybe Elvis or Marilyn Monroe. Or Merlin or the Timelord. It's horrible really. While most of society is at school or work, insecure students and homemakers get an entirely

warped impression of the outside world. If daytime TV rang true, the whole country would be populated with pathological attention grabbers and very brave children.

I've also seen some late-night TV. A film where Richard E. Grant cultivates a talking boil on his neck and has to start wearing a wine carton on his head so his facial movements won't wake it up. He starts off as an advertising executive and if that's not a clear hint about unsavoury career paths, I don't know what is.

And *Wayne's World* was on. Cathartic and didactic in equal measure. 'Are you mental?' Wayne says. 'Are you mental?' My response is along the line of hahahaha, oh god, yes, a bit, hahaha, cry cry cry, hahahaha. The film moves on swiftly to Alice Cooper being Zen. And then it's Party Time, Party Time. Just what we all need.

dle-aged kit and caboodle is too much to bear. I made him promise to abstain from marital fornication until further notice. I needed to consider whether I could overcome my jealousy and, if not, what to do about it. If I asked him to leave her, could I tie myself down indefinitely? If he refused, would I leave him? My feelings for Mike were becoming problematic. After years of dipping willy-nilly in and out of lustful liaisons sans regard to consequences, I had finally come unstuck. He agreed to my request and I felt reassured.

Meanwhile, my housemate Tina was having a great time whiling away the evenings with a young gentleman named Simon. However, she was suspicious that his avoidance of inviting her back to his was due to his con-

cealing of a wife, Mr. Rochester style. Turning up unbidden at his home, she was horrified to stumble on a scene of dinnertime domesticity involving not a spouse, but parents. It soon appeared that Simon was not, as claimed, a 24-year-old post-graduate, but a 17-year-old A Level student. She shagged him anyway. There's something titillating about inappropriate age gaps. After being reintroduced to the 'three pumps and a squirt' school of love-making, Tina concluded that he was not only younger than claimed but also less experienced. That's right, gawping readers, Simon was a virgin.

Meanwhile, I was questioning Mike's promise. Searching in his bedside drawer, I stumbled upon a photograph of him at the mercy of his aging yet beleathered succubus. A recognisable lovebite on his neck told me this was recent. This stung. Not only had he

lied, he had also set up a camera on timer to record his betrayal.

Determined to complete the transaction, I took the sly route. 'She's so much older than you,' I murmured. To my surprise, he ventured guiltily: 'Actually...' Turns out Mike is well into his 50s, maintaining a semblance of youth by virtue of follicle implants and a superior gene pool.

Back in halls, I found Tina bemoaning the inadequacies of youth. Comparing stories, we realised that dishonesty was a common male feature. Why do men feel okay lying to women to lure them to bed? I'm no angel, but I'm honest, even if brutally so. After Tina's brief encounter, which left her sticky but by no means happy, she dumped him in the manner befitting to a schoolboy: by text. I sense that solving my own sticky love triangle won't be so simple.

Heat is not going to help, even if you are reading it in the library.

If frivolous spying gets you hooked, I suggest you contact MI5. They recently carried out a big operation which involved sneaking into a storage facility and exchanging half a tonne of fertiliser for half a tonne of cat litter. Actually, I wonder if it was still half a tonne - the equivalent volume of cat litter might not be as heavy, or perhaps it's heavier, as the fertilizer. This is the kind of stuff you'd know if you were a career spy. I don't recommend it though; my idea is definitely to get back to socialising - to wash that spy right outta my hair, along with the 1980s, cowboys and philosophy. Spying might be more fun, but health-wise it's the poor-man's alternative to conversation. I can't wait to rejoin the madding crowd.

Sex, lies and love truncheons

Allow me to recap - lying three abreast with my cleaner and my married lover Mike, all sticky but happy, the first seeds of guilt were planted when our post-orgasmic snug was disturbed by a call from Mike's wife. The guilt quickly turned into jealousy.

Much as I wouldn't want some tart and her cleaner meddling in my marriage, I don't relish the interference of a dried up old crone and her insipid rugrats in my illicit affair. The idea of him sticking his love truncheon into her mid-



Nipple tassles and essay hassles

Stacking shelves at Sainsbury's or stripping? **Caraline Macfarland** talks to students who have chosen the more controversial of the two to fund their university degrees

If asked to imagine a stereotypical stripper, most people would come up with a picture of a busty, peroxide-blonde, 'Page Three' type female. The three strippers I know, however, are average-looking brunettes - and students at the University of York who have chosen to balance their studies with stripping.

When I talk to the three women about their jobs, it quickly becomes clear that the main reason they chose to enter this 'niche' area of employment is, fairly predictably, the money. Earnings in one night, I am told, can vary from £100 "on a really bad day" to the best part of £1,000 at the weekends. Technically self-employed, dancers pay an entry fee to work in a club and then keep around 70% of their earnings in the night. One lap dance, lasting around three minutes, is between £10 and £20, so potentially the girls can earn up to £140 an hour.

"To a certain extent it depends on your luck and how busy the club is," says Lara*, a third year Politics student. "The clubs I've worked in cater more for businessmen and the higher end of the market, so it's not unusual to find people willing to spend a few hundred pounds at a time."

In the last year, two lap dancing clubs have opened on Micklegate. Only one of the women I spoke to, however, works in York; the others only take jobs in cities such as Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester. Sally*, a second year nursing student, prefers to work in York because the early licensing laws means the clubs close at 3am, whereas dancers in larger cities may be working until 7am. The other two girls say that they would never work so close to home, in case someone they knew came into the club.

Only one of the women freely tells her friends and family about her controversial part-time job. Sally has told a handful of her friends, whereas even some of Lara's closest friends and housemates don't know how she earns

her money. For Marie*, a third year History of Art student, people knowing isn't such a problem, but she still wouldn't work in York because "it's small enough as it is. I don't want to be walking past people on the street that I danced for the night before."

Marie first lap danced on her gap year in Australia to fund her travels, and she now finds lap dancing a good solution to student debt. "Students need money, fast, and we don't have much time. In that sense this is the ideal job." However, she does find that others are quick to make judgments about what she does. "People don't know about it like we do. They just create a picture in their heads of what it's like in a strip club. They don't know the half of it. I think it's easier to call us whores or slags than to understand it."

Whilst it may be "the ideal student job" in terms of money, what about the dangers of working in that sort of environment? The women all seem very sure about their safety, however: "I think the potential dangers are very similar to any sort of bar work" says Lara. "You have to be able to handle people who have been drinking, and as long as you're confident and firm with them then you can avoid any problems. It's certainly not the sort of job where 'the customer is always right' and we're obliged to do whatever they want."

There are strict no-touching rules in most clubs, bouncers on the doors and often camera surveillance. "In the club I first worked in, if a man so much as rested his hand on a girl's leg he would be physically thrown out by the bouncers, who would come at the smallest signal. Where I work now there are similar rules, but the bouncers and management are more relaxed so you have to draw the line yourself."

So do they find it enjoyable? "I don't get off on it, but it's easy money," shrugs Marie. "It's not amazingly glamorous, but in my experience strip clubs aren't the seedy, sleazy sort of clubs you see in the films."

Lara says. "And it's the only job I can think of where you can just sit all night drinking champagne and chatting! On the other hand, I have met some of the most repulsive men. But that's just part of the job. The other girls are generally really nice and we all get on and have a laugh, it's not all bitchy and back-stabbing like you'd think."

I asked the women if they felt that the fact they are students helped or hindered the job in any way. They all perceived a certain divide between them and the women who choose to dance as a full-time job. "It does set you apart... I feel distanced intellectually because some of the girls don't have the same intellectual capacity..."

"At the end of the day we're taking men's money and just doing is quick dance. There's two sides to the exploitation"

***Names have been changed**

but that's like anyone you meet on a day-to-day level," Marie explains. It can be a hindrance in terms of interaction with the clientele, however: "The men don't like us to talk, they prefer it if we haven't got brains. I think we scare them because we're threatening when we're intelligent - they can objectify us if we're not."

To a certain extent, Lara agrees: "A lot of men want their classic 'stripper fantasy' and I can't really bring myself to act like a bimbo for over eight hours at a time. They always know straight away that I'm a student, probably because I don't sound like I'm from up north, and sometimes they say 'good on you, you're better than these other girls', but I do get the impression it sometimes puts men off. But

many don't care, and then there's the times that being able to make intelligent conversation is an advantage. I've had men pay £100 just because they want to talk to me for another half hour... well, that's what they say anyway!"

It certainly seems like a fairly varied job. "I've seen it all!" Marie reminisces. "The guys never cease to surprise me. There was this guy who told all the other customers that he was my husband - it was so embarrassing! And whenever I gave him a dance he cried, because he was such a lonely man. And the things you hear, from stags who are supposed to be getting married in a week, or married men even, really undermines my faith in men."

Which brings us to the issue that makes this particular job controversial in many people's opinions. Isn't the concept of taking your clothes off for money degrading to a woman, the feminist in me asks? The overall consensus is no: "If you've got it, why not use it to earn money with!" says Sally.

"At the end of the day, men are paying us to take our clothes off. But we are taking their money and all we're doing is a quick dance. There's two sides to the exploitation!" insists Lara. "At least it's a fair exchange without any false pretences. To be honest I've felt far more degraded by the typical arrogant rugby boy who's only after one thing."

"It's only degrading if you let it be," says Marie. "As long as you don't let the job define who you are, then self-respect and dignity acts as a body-guard." She maintains that the job can also be seen as empowering for women; "a power trip both ways". She does feel, however, that the job has changed her perception of men. "When I first started dancing, it did ruin my trust in blokes in general, but now that I'm older, and understand how the whole strip club thing works, I realize it's a certain type of man who come.





I can't generalise or it would completely ruin my faith in guys."

None of the women would ever date someone they met at the club. It seems that the women are certainly not impressed with men who choose to frequent strip clubs out of choice (as opposed to say, going to a stag party). "A couple of weeks ago a guy was telling me about an FHM article that gave tips on 'how to pull a stripper,'" Lara recalls. "Things like 'have just one dance from her, then talk to her friends for a while so she doesn't think you're too keen,'" she laughs. "As if I would ever go out with a guy who likes to pay to see a girl naked! Okay, there are some fanciable guys that come in, usually with stag parties, but it would be ridiculous to have a relationship with someone who first met you as a stripper. When it comes down to it we are dancing for money, not because we think its a good way to meet men, and the guys that think they have a chance are just deluded."

Whether degrading or empowering, does taking their clothes off for money change the way these women see themselves and their bodies? "I'm a very independent person, and always have been," says Marie. "To a certain extent doing this job has extended that independence, especially when I was alone in Australia at the age of 18. I think I'm more empowered, and nothing phases me now. I also pride myself on not being judgemental."

"I don't see myself differently because I don't think of myself as a stripper," Lara admits. "I still have issues with my body and go on diets and all the rest of it, even though I have dozens of men telling me I'm beautiful and practically falling in love with me every week. It's a bit of an ego boost though, that men willingly spend money to see me take my clothes off."

The women all keep their lives separate from work, creating a persona when they are at the clubs (they have stage names) and acting quite indifferently to the job itself. I ask, money aside, if the job contributes to their life in any positive way. "Actually, it sounds strange but there are skills to be learnt, or at least developed from the job," argues Lara. "If I had to defend my choice of work, say if a future employer ever found out, I'd be able to do so. We make our money by convincing men (and women sometimes) to have as many dances from us as possible. We have to be confident with communication and persuasion – it's like a sales and marketing pitch!"

Bizarrely, this line of work also seems to have good travel prospects. Sally recently went to New York for a week and worked in a club there. "After flights and the hotel I didn't actually make any money, but it was a good trip," she says. "The club was much seedier though."

"Some of the dancers I know have worked all around the world, in places

"People don't know the half of it. I think its easier for them to just call us whores or slags than to try and understand it."

like Tenerife, France and Denmark," says Lara. She is putting her earnings towards a gap year after she graduates this year, while Marie intends to use hers to fund an MA in Australia.

As much as the women are pre-

A working night: strippers often work until early morning

pared to defend what they do, when asked if they would recommend the job to other students, the answer is a resounding "no". "My sister was thinking of doing it, and I told her not to," Marie explains. "I've seen girls who aren't as confident and comfortable with it cry and cry after their first dance."

"You have to have a strong character and be able to be detached from the job," says Lara. "It shouldn't be a last resort."

Since the money is almost definitely better than the average graduate job, I ask if any of them are consider-

ing a full-time career as a lap dancer after they leave university? "It's easy to get used to earning so much, and get sucked into the lifestyle," says Sally, who earned up to £40,000 last year. Towards the end of our interview, however, she admits that she is thinking of dropping out of her course, and cites her job as one of the reasons. Nevertheless, she intends to get a full-time job eventually, and dances only to pay off the mortgage on a house she has just bought with her earnings.

It would be understandably hard to go back to earning in a month in a graduate job what they can currently

earn in one night. But they all maintain that they couldn't see themselves becoming full-time strippers, not only due to the physically demanding and unsociable hours but also because of the lack of intellectual skills required for the job. "I need to use my brain, or it's not good for the soul," says Marie.

"I'm very ambitious. I know what I want to do in my life, and I don't see myself following a career in stripping," says Lara.

"Even if the money isn't as good, I'd prefer a challenging career. But if I'm ever short of cash, this is always something to fall back on!"

Morocco: the Hitchhiker's Guide

This Easter, **Amy Milka** joined the annual student migration to Africa. She remembers the OAPs, squaddies and French fascist who helped her to blag her way across the continent

Things I have gained from the hitch to Morocco: a newfound appreciation for toilet roll, confidence in my ability to botch communications in a mixture of pidgin Spanish and frantic hand gestures and an inexplicable urge to quit university and become a truck driver.

This Easter, whilst many nestled in the nourishing cocoon of suburbia, a motley crew from York joined students from across the country in the hitch to Morocco. A journey of around 1600 miles, crossing time zones and borders and smashing language barriers with a mixture of big smiles and non-threatening movements, the goal was to raise £300,000 for the charity Link

'One group walked 10km in the dark. Another got in with a coach of possibly-illegal immigrants'

Community Development. With every participant raising at least £300, it is one of the biggest fundraising events in the country. And, although the glow of charity work adds a sense of legitimacy, any excuse for a holiday, right?

Our journey began at the beginning of the M1, where my hitch partner Matthew and I tumbled from the safety of his Dad's estate car, along with an assortment of backpacks and luminous outdoor clothing. There is much to be said for fresh-faced enthusiasm and at first we were relatively lucky, securing a lift to Nottingham within a few minutes. From there, we began to discover that hitchhiking is not as easy as just sticking out your thumb.

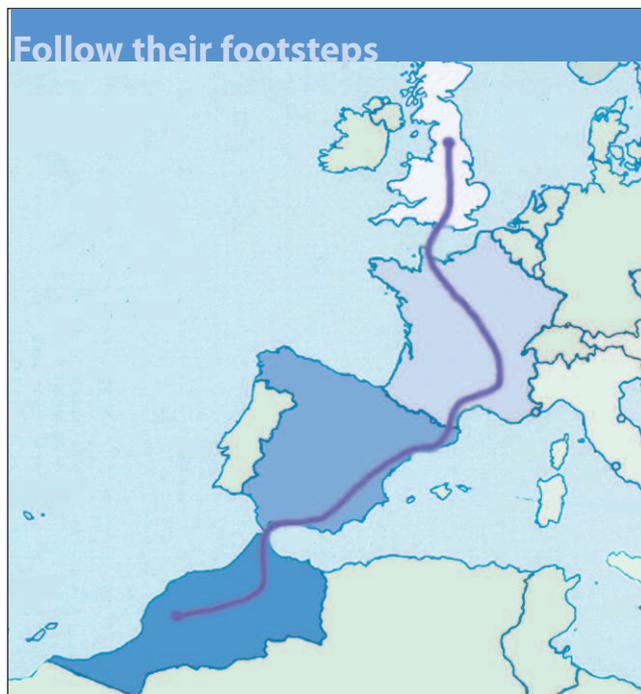
Any hitcher will tell you that it is a journey of amazing highs and incredible lows, all of which are forgotten as soon as your next ride pulls up. Several hours spent cluttering up a grass verge in a service station becomes a pleasant lunch stop once you're on the move again. Similarly, the last hitch, which you pounced upon when it arrived, becomes the worst lift ever if the driver drops you off in the wrong place.

We left Nottingham in a 60-foot lorry headed for Poole, a five-hour journey away. Upon arriving at an industrial estate in the aptly named Blandford our fortunes suddenly changed. Hiking through deepest suburbia to the main

road, we discovered that the area was solely populated by OAPs. One of these, however, took pity on us, and took us two miles in a cab filled with bouncing toddlers and Labradors, nearly causing a pile-up by dropping us off directly on a roundabout. We reached Portsmouth by nightfall, after being rescued by two squaddies, who squashed us into the back of an Audi TT, and taking a sneaky rail journey. At the ferry port, exhausted, we met a bunch of fresh-faced York students who had enjoyed a leisurely train ride from their southerly homes, and were so excited to see how this hitching lark would go.

Perhaps our first day's experience had given us an edge, as we overtook them coming off the ferry and blagged a friendly lorry driver and a nine-hour hitch to Lyon. By early evening, Yves and I were best friends, and whilst Matthew snoozed contentedly on the bunk, I learnt about his family members, his taste in dubious French folk music and why he was voting Le Pen.

The next morning, the toll road and a couple of lucky hitches took us south, and by 11am we were in Valence, fishing for that perfect lift to Spain. We caught a white van man completely off guard as he hacked apart a baguette and a hunk of ham. The young Spaniard, affectionately nicknamed 'Sandy', as we were unable to pronounce his name, took us all the way to Barcelona, combining breathtaking speed with texting, eating and singing at the wheel. He dropped us off in a prime location, a service station teem-



Photos: Richard Hackforth-Jones and Tom Gatehouse

ing with HGVs. Unfortunately, our extremely limited Spanish didn't stretch to reading the 'under construction' sign next to the symbol for a hotel.

A frustrating issue which haunts the hitcher from an early stage is how to get back onto the motorway. If you end up, as we did, in a dodgy suburb with no main slip road, the sight of the motorway speeding past a hundred yards away is enough to induce tears of hysteria. Coupled with the disappearance of service stations in southern Spain, and the fact that lorries don't move on a Sunday, this is notoriously the most difficult part of the hitch. As the week wore on and the distance covered in a day dwindled, we grew desperate. A hitch from a Moroccan couple with a shattered windscreen and a collection of incessant Arabic music left us in a provincial maze of roadworks and a second hitch, hours later, got us into slightly hot water. The driver took us back to his house and gave us his keys whilst he parked, resulting in his keys dangling in the door and us shuffling off as fast as people carrying three stone on their backs could go. Round the corner in a cafe, we gave up on hitching to Algeciras and a sympathetic local drove us to the station. As we boarded the bus in Malaga, a sheepish group from Warwick appeared, escaping the hitching hellhole of Spain. As the bus filled up with hitchers, we began to realise that we hadn't done too badly after all.

Everyone comes back with a few stories to tell, and I managed to get

mild ammonia poisoning from one service station's overzealous toilet cleaners, resulting in a lot of stress, mainly induced by Matthew's insistence that he couldn't smell burning. And, when the adventure was over and the holiday began, our first night in Morocco was interrupted by a drunken man getting into our hotel room at 1am. He left when we started screaming like little girls and we departed too early to ask the owner how it had happened.

Other hitchers had similarly colourful experiences. One group from Leeds counted the police amongst their hitches; another had walked 10km cross-country in the dark. Our friends from Warwick had hitched a lift with a possibly-illegal coach load of Romanian immigrants, whose driver listened to non-stop accordion music and honked the horn if any passengers fell asleep.

So, after 15 hitches, too much junk food and not nearly enough showers, our holiday began. Our first night in Fes, a local took us out to a shisha bar where we spent the night in style for £1 each. The next morning our guide took us to a carpet cooperative where the trio from Warwick were hassled into spending £400 on a small rug.

Marrakech, too, was a great experience. Although it is the main tourist centre (the shop keepers will assure you their goods are "Primark prices"), it is a unique city, centring on the large Place Djema el Fnaa which comes alive at night with open air food joints and street performers. The best way to enjoy the sights without finding a snake round your neck and a monkey on your shoulder is to retire to a rooftop cafe and watch the world go by, sipping an addictive thé a la menthe and ordering the local specialty, tagine, a kind of casserole served in a conical pot.

Unfortunately, Matthew and I only left 12 days for the whole trip, which left us short of time when we actually arrived in Morocco. However, despite the ups and downs of an inevitably difficult journey, we have both come away with some great memories and, though lacking a tan, I think it is one of the most worthwhile experiences university has to offer.



Ricky Gervais, you big bully

Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant are a dream comic team. **Toby Green** finds out how they get their kicks off-screen

Top: Ricky and Stephen with Extras co-star Ashley Jensen

If you're wondering why Ricky Gervais seems so rejuvenated recently, what with bathing in the afterglow of a successful second series of *Extras* and selling out dates within the hour for his new stand-up tour *Fame*, perhaps it's because the Reading comic has found himself a new victim.

After basing what has become the world's most successful podcast around "that round-headed freak" Karl Pilkington, and spending the whole of his 2004 Politics stand-up tour persecuting his friend and support act, Robin

Ince, Ricky has found himself a new "muse".

"For the *Extras* DVD we've done a variety of extra films. But my favourite is a programme about the different ways in which I torment our editor, Nigel Williams; he's prepared to do anything. In one sequence, I tie him to a machine. It's like one of those experiments they used to try in institutions during the 1950s before they got stopped on grounds of cruelty! I couldn't even get away with that with Karl. He'd say, 'Alright, that's enough.' When I wanted to paint Karl's head orange and put it in a fruit bowl, he wouldn't do it. But Nigel would be up for that."

His co-star and long-term writing partner, Stephen Merchant, also seems to take a certain pleasure in Ricky's child-like tormenting. "During the first series, Ricky tried to fashion costumes for him out of Sellotape. This series Ricky reached Blue Peter levels of inventiveness with the costumes he made, doing things like locking him in a cage. At one point, Jonathan Ross even joined in with the bullying."

The duo's good mood may also have something to do with defying the

age-old truism that it's tough to remain at the top. Ricky has recently enjoyed starring roles in the hit movies *Night at the Museum* and *For Your Consideration* and Stephen seems to be enjoying the higher profile afforded him by his part as Darren Lamb, the useless agent of Ricky's character, actor Andy Millman. "I really enjoyed it, although I had to rely on Ricky to rein me in because my inclination is always to ham it up. I particularly love those moments where Darren bashes his leg against the furniture - I think my two-dimensional performances really make that work."

The recent release of *Extras Series Two* on DVD has presented yet another opportunity for plaudits of the duo, although the irony of having such mainstream success through openly criticising the kind of shows that normally achieve *Extras*' ratings is by no means lost on Ricky. "I'd rather make something that is the favourite show of one million than the fifth favourite show of ten million. Anything artistic is about making a connection, and Stephen and I have always tried to do that. We make our programmes for like-minded people. We also make them on our own terms and we are never interfered with."

Similarly, a factor in the show's success is the frequent guest appearances; yet, thanks to the self-reflexive nature of the show, this is equally ridiculed. "If you just get someone for the 'ooo, look who it is' factor, that dates very quickly," Ricky observes. "We're asking people to play original characters around their personas or the opposite of their personas. It's not just a case of dressing up for Comic Relief and thinking 'it doesn't really count'.

"Viewers have got to be able to get who these stars are in five years' time. I think after 91 films, Samuel L. Jackson will be OK, and I reckon David Bowie is safe. I think people might just about know who he is next year."

Stephen is particularly pleased about the magnitude of the stars he and Ricky recruited for the second series of *Extras*. "The danger is that everyone is so jaded about celebrity that they take these stars for granted. 'Oh look, there's Robert De Niro in a sitcom, so what?' Do they know how hard we had to work to get these people? I think they should buy two copies of the DVD as a sign that

"I wanted to paint Karl's head orange and put it in a fruit bowl, but he wouldn't do it"

they appreciate all our hard work!"

Ricky and Stephen have not ruled out a further jaunt into the world of *Extras*. "We're a bit intimidated by the administrative headache of it, but Ricky and I have recently been musing about the idea that there might still be enough life in *Extras* for a special," says Stephen. "It feels slightly like unfinished business."

Ricky agrees. "The Americans are gagging for a third series. The cachet is very high now, and it feels like we could get anyone we want. It would be a good time to do another. We've got an idea for a special, but that would certainly be the last of *Extras*."

A case of Krishna consciousness

As **Anjali Raval** begins to question her faith, she finds herself at Bhaktivedanta Manor, discovering her spiritual side through the ancient teachings of Hare Krishna



describe 'Sanatana-Dharma', the eternal and natural inclination of mankind towards spiritual activity. The two main sections of The Vedas, the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam, form the foundation of the Hare Krishna philosophy.

Das had been a devotee for 14 years, and although he currently resides at the Manor, his upcoming marriage to another devotee will mean he has to move to a house outside to carry on his devotional work.

The most devoted Hare Krishna followers live at the Manor. Male monks must shave their heads leaving a central patch of hair called a 'sikhā', and

Despite Hare Krishna's association with mainstream Hindu philosophy, ISKCON does not describe themselves as being affiliated solely to this one faith.

The priest offered food, water, incense, an oil lamp and even flowers to the deities. The Hare Krishnas put emphasis on 'bhakti', which is yoga and meditation through the repetition of the infamous Hare Krishna chant. Whilst I was admittedly hesitant to join them by closing my eyes and waving my arms about, the aura in the room was astounding; I felt like I was in a trance.

I think what appeals to people the most is that the Hare Krishna movement is about spirituality rather than religion; it's about your own personal connection with God. Kripamoya Das, another priest at the temple, said: "Real religion is the esoteric practises – the mystical realisations – that permeate and sustain any spiritual tradition, not their external forms and terminologies".

For me, the appeal of the Hare Krishna movement lies in the fact that the philosophy is accessible and understandable (it's in English, at least). Although I won't be giving up booze and hair-straighteners any time soon, I do feel I'm one step closer to getting some answers.

"Namaste." I said tentatively to the tall, white-robed man who had been sent to greet me and who knew more about my religion than my entire family put together. Being brought up as a Hindu has meant that religion has always played an inescapable part in my life, and the fact that my grandparents live with me has meant that certain traditions and customs from generations ago have been practised year after year unquestioned. It was only recently, however, that I started to question my faith and examine my religion, with its various sects and affiliations, a little closer.

This is what led me to Bhaktivedanta Manor in Hertfordshire, the UK headquarters of The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), more commonly known as the Hare Krishna movement. I expected tambourine-banging, arm-waving, enthusiastic groups of people chanting the fairly well-known chant of "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna, Krishna, Hare, Hare", so I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted warmly by a priest called Radha Mohan Das. All holy men in this sect receive a Sanskrit name (one of the many names of God) plus the suffix 'Das' ('Dasi' for women) which means 'servant of'. Incidentally, 'Hare' addresses the energy of God, and 'Krishna' means 'all attractive', a reference to one of the many Hindu Gods.

This is how Hare Krishna differs from the mainstream polytheistic Hindu religion, as it teaches that Krishna alone is the Supreme Being. Krishna Consciousness propagates the teachings of ancient scriptures known as 'The Vedas', which were written in Sanskrit in about 3000 BC. The Vedas

The Manor, donated in 1973 by The Beatles' George Harrison, is not simply a retreat for those wanting to get away from the stresses of daily life; it is also a theological college with a school for the children of its followers. I met three girls who were students at the Gurukul (the school) - Narayani Koyle, 15, Shari

'I had expected a sea of brown faces, but there was a variety of nationalities and backgrounds, all worshipping together'

Macnamara, 17, and Nadia Mani, 19 - and asked them what life was like growing up within the confines of the temple. All three agreed that although they live relatively sheltered lives, the opportunities they have to meet new people and travel the world were second to none and they would never consider changing their lifestyle.

ISKCON itself has two divisions: an order of monks and priests who live at the temple (who number 35) and those that live offsite. Radha Mohan

wear saffron-coloured robes called 'dhotis' to signify celibacy. Married monks, or those to be married, wear white robes, whilst female devotees wear simple, traditional saris. All monks take an oath wherein they vow to abandon mind-altering substances such as cigarettes, alcohol and drugs, reject activities like gambling, and follow a peaceful vegetarian diet. Illicit sex is prohibited, and sexual activity for married couples is solely for procreation.

I was invited to attend the 12.30pm 'aarti', an opportunity for the public to come and worship the deities of Krishna. As the room slowly began to fill up with people, I realised how unbelievably ignorant I had been. I had expected a sea of brown faces, but there was a variety of nationalities and backgrounds, all worshipping together.

A spiritual brand? Hare Krishna in popular culture

The Hare Krishna movement has begun to penetrate popular culture, as evidenced by Russell Brand's "Hare Krishna" sign off at the end of every episode of Big Brother's Big Mouth, and the devotees' appearances as pedestrians in videogames such as Grand

Theft Auto. Its rise in prominence in the UK has clearly been helped by celebrity endorsements (like that of Brand, a regular at Bhaktivedanta Manor whose 'faith' reportedly helped him ditch heroin), and the inclusion of the Hare Krishna

mantra in songs by the Beatles, Boy George, Stevie Wonder and Tenacious D have helped to boost the practitioners' profile. Today, aspects of the Hare Krishna lifestyle, such as yoga, meditation and vegetarianism, have been incorporated into the mainstream.

Given the chop: goodbye, Campus Ken

He's seen the mullet, buzz-cut and 'shag' but after a career cutting the student barnet Ken's moving on.

Jamie Merrill meets a York legend

After 23 years of tending to the locks of both staff and students, Ken Fairburn - or Campus Ken as he is affectionately known - is due to 'retire' at the end of July. Since arriving on campus in 1984, Ken has become a bit of a University institution, so much so that one senior University official described him as part of the "fixtures and fittings". This isn't surprising considering Ken has been here longer than most students have been alive.

Sitting down with Ken in Derwent bar over a pint of Tetley's bitter, I realised how much Ken is valued by York's community. He seemed to know most of the staff wandering by and a fair few of the students. Ken's room in Langwith is a testament to his popularity; postcards from students and staff from around the world cover the walls. Adding to this is Ken's spoof honorary degree in 'follicle engineering' and a photo of Ken and his wife representing the University at the Queen's Millennium garden party.

A campus legend he might be, but he also knows pretty much everything there is to know on the University grapevine. This is likely to stem from the fact he still cuts the hair of the old vice chancellor as well as numerous heads of departments, provosts, and senior academics. It's not just his razor sharp blades and hair cutting credentials that keep me coming back for a 2 on top and a 1 on the side; he has always kept me up to date with all the campus news. For a student hack, such a regular story source can be a blessing.

Back in 1984, Ken moved into the dressing rooms of Central Hall from his town centre salon and brought haircuts to campus. "This goes back to when Geldof got all the groups banned" says Ken, "they told him not to get everyone up dancing but of course he did and we haven't had any good groups back there since". Just as promptly as Geldof was chucked out of Central Hall, Ken was moved onto what was the Vanburgh sick room, before the days of the medical centre.

Ken moved into his current Langwith room in 1990, in time to see Jools Holland play the forerunner to Big D, the Derwent BBQ. An event so popular, says Ken, that students regularly swam the lake James Bond style to get in. "The security used to let them in for making such an effort."

Ken reminds me that campus used to attract big names. He seems scornful of the lack of quality acts on campus today; when he first came to campus, Paul McCartney and The Wings played

Vanburgh for 50p, and Rory Bremner and Lenny Henry played Central Hall. "Back in the 80s bands and comedians were happy to come and play to students to practise their new material. You won't get big names back here unless the Students' Union get a venue on the new campus."

As with most hairdressers, Ken's good for a chat whilst he trims away. He seems to have taken the role of agony uncle; he even had a column in *Your:Mag* for a few years dealing with the troubled love lives of York students. He's not just good for a joke, though; he has really helped some people out over the years. Andy Hunt, who now lectures in Electronics and first went to Ken as a student in the 80s, said, "for years he has offered more than a shortening of the hair, he's been an unofficial counselling service and an amazing human 'directory' of contacts within the University." In fact, Andy says Ken's knowledge of York academics has led to one of his most interesting research collaborations.

Ken recalls when the lake used to freeze solid in winter. Back then, students used to ice skate or cycle across the lake near Derwent and one year an adventurous first year parked his Triumph Herald on the frozen lake. In fact, the driver was a customer of Ken's and is now head of HSBC on Parliament Street. Ken laments the fact that student pranks seem rarer now, saying the head of security, Ken Batten, would "jump on them, he's just so worried about health and safety. Things have really changed."

The University changing is a theme Ken and I return to whenever he is coiffing my hair. Despite some great academics and staff, Ken thinks the University is not always changing for

'Ken even had a column in *Your:Mag* for a few years dealing with the troubles love lives of York students'

the better. "All the good administrators and bursars who founded the University retired at the same time and all the new generation of management came in at once. The problem is they are trying to run the University as a business, but they're not very good at business." Even worse, Ken complains, "they don't integrate. Ron Cooke, the old Vice Chancellor, used to eat with the students all the time. No disrespect



Ken shares a laugh with a soon-to-be satisfied client. Photo: Georgi Mabee

to the current lot; I don't know Brian Cantor, he might be a great guy, but we're not going to find out".

Ken views the recent porters crisis as a sad sign of how the University has changed. "Everybody helps produce our product; the cleaner, the porters... How many young people in the first few weeks of term have porters managed to persuade to not go home because they were home sick? You can't put that on their job description."

Ken has a slight personal gripe against some of the University managers. For six years he has been fighting a battle with them not to be moved into Market Square. "I told them that I'd rather stay where I am, but they want me in Market Square paying £17,000 a year rent plus rates and £30,000 to fit it out". In 2001, after Ken refused to budge and staff, students and *Nouse* ran a campaign to 'Save Campus Ken', the University backed down and gave him five more years. But after a one-year extension, Ken's tenancy ends this July with no sign that the University is be willing to extend it.

Ken's not complaining though: "I

just want to say thank you to the people who have supported me over the years. Cutting hair is the only way I could get to university, I appreciate that and I'm a more educated person now than I was when I came because of all the people of other faiths and nationalities who have come in and educated me". Ken added, "we've had a good gossip and sorted out the world's problems".

"It's just sad for me to go though," says Ken. "I've just got this awful feeling of coming in and taking down all my few hundreds postcards from students around the world, putting them in a box and handing in my key. It's going to be a really sad day for me."

Perhaps though, if some senior University manager is reading this, the University could allow Ken to stay a few more years in the room he's occupied since 1990. "In an ideal world, it would be nice if I could stay on and then try to get somebody else to take over in a few years time. There is obviously a market for it."

For you, Ken, I hope that somebody in Heslington Halls takes notice. Otherwise, goodbye Ken and thanks.

Leeds or Glasto, V or T? Pick one, then get your wellies on

Glastonbury might be *the* festival of the summer, but it certainly isn't the only one. Some cheaper events have equally competitive line-ups, as **Sam Noble** discovers

There is something decidedly English about music festivals, events which allow us simultaneously to celebrate the summer sunshine and indulge our whims for wellies and colourful headgear. Or, more likely, to drink obscene amounts whilst having the time of our lives.

At festivals, thousands of people gather to celebrate, well, just about anything: the music, the friends, the sunshine, the sex, the drinking and all of them combined (preferably at once). And if things like the weather, mud or incessant queuing get bad, we can rely on the Dunkirk spirit to rally us together and bring out the best in each other.

Most importantly, however, it's about the music. The sheer volume of festivals held in Britain every year, many of which are internationally renowned, attests to the diversity and huge amount of music Brits both produce and enjoy: Glastonbury, Reading and Leeds, V Festival, T in the Park, Gatecrasher and Isle of Wight to name but a few. Not to mention the hundreds of smaller festivals offering a diverse range of music and atmosphere throughout the summer. Festival season is now a five-month season starting as early as March and ending reluctantly in September and, thanks to global warming, all the festivals should now come with the added feature of being enjoyed in unremitting sunshine.

It is a difficult decision choosing which festival to go to; the plethora of choice can be stifling, and I would love to recommend all of them. A friend and I did seriously consider attempting the feat of going to all of them but worked out that we'd be lumbered with a £10,000 debt before we'd even made it to the European festivals. So picking the right festival is key to making summer 2007 the best one yet.

GLASTONBURY June 22-24

I was 15 years old when I first went to a proper festival, diving straight into the deep end. Glastonbury. It is the behemoth, the Godfather, the holy grail of all festivals. To all those who think otherwise, I simply ask: have you ever been? I can say without hesitation that it is the best festival I have been to. As one of the festival organisers, Thomas Crimble, says: "I've experienced more in a few weeks at Glastonbury than some people have in the whole of their life."

Festivals have the effect of catalysing hedonistic behaviour, and when I arrived at the tender age of 15, I was awe-struck at the scale of the festival. It overruns Somerset's village of Pilton like a holy war crusade, with flags, tents and intrepid campers eagerly awaiting excitement and danger. So many groundbreaking performances have occurred here, making it the cultural highlight of the year. David Bowie, Johnny Cash, REM, Paul McCartney, The White Stripes, Radiohead and - ahem - Rolf Harris have all played seminal performances above the hallowed ley lines, giving Glastonbury a spiritual quality perfect for a musical mirabilis.

This year The Who, Arctic Monkeys, The Killers, Arcade Fire and Björk are set to stoke the fires of musical genius. However, considering all 150,000 tickets sold out in one hour and 45 minutes at £145 a ticket, you either already have a ticket and know the line-up, or else I'm just rubbing salt into the wounds of people who (like me) couldn't get one. It really is that good.

Glastonbury holds a unique reputation by providing an event which disregards corporate cash yet maintains an excellent standard, overcoming all its security and council-related problems year after year, as well as raising

awareness for the charities WaterAid, Greenpeace and Oxfam. Most of the great work has been done by head festival organiser and farmer Michael Eavis who, since 1971, has cultivated the best atmosphere one is likely to ever experience. Allowing the community of travellers and hippies to erect their wigwams and face-painting tents gives the festival the communal love-in vibe and spiritual aegis that makes Glastonbury such an enchanting place to be.

READING AND LEEDS CARLING WEEKEND August 24-26

I am in two minds about Reading and Leeds festival. While it consistently manages to get incredible rock acts - past alumni include Nirvana, Pixies, and Rage Against The Machine - the Carling Weekend embodies the bloated corporate mechanism which turns a perfect summer weekend into a high-priced showcase of indifferent but well-paid bands, and phone and beer slogans.

When I went to Reading, the sound quality of the PA was poor, the food prices were extortionate and the atmosphere was tense and negative. I've had a great time there and had an awful time there, all a part of the stoic collection of festival experiences I've accrued. I have been abused for walking away when Iron Maiden came on stage, a friend was beaten up for having emo hair, and another friend of mine was very nearly raped there. I suppose the Carling Weekend brings out the rock devil in all of us, allowing normally quiet teenagers and young adults who should know better to run riot in a shambling mess of drunkenness and sleep deprivation. I know I won't make myself popular by slagging off Reading and Leeds, but to me it doesn't embody what a festival is: a group of people celebrating



Clockwise from top left: The Killers will be headlining this year's Glastonbury; crowds await their favourite musical spectacle; getting wet on the Isle of Wight

together.

My lasting memory of Reading is of the Sunday when the last acts had finished and thousands of people proceeded to tear the campsite apart. It had apocalyptic overtones with the sky a hazy red from the burst of flames as tents, barbecues, chairs, dustbins and even ice-cream vans were all set alight. A group of shaggy, long-haired metallers who wouldn't look amiss in the Jorvik centre careened from campsite to campsite, searching for an 'emo' to beat up - my friend wisely put on a hat. A guy even got one of his testicles torched off by the infamous 'flame balls'.

Dismounting from my high horse, I concede that the line up this year does look fantastic with Red Hot Chili Peppers, Razorlight, The Smashing Pumpkins and - the greatest of them all - Biffy Clyro, taking to the stage.

CHELMSFORD AND STAFFORDSHIRE V FESTIVAL

August 18-19

Dave Grohl said at Reading in 2005 that "Glastonbury is for the smelly hippies, Reading is for the dirty rockers and V Festival is for posh people." I would take Glasto's distinctive '60s odour over the soulless non-event that is V Festival any day. An irate festival-goer described V rather accurately: "No noise, stalls, campfires or general fun in the camping area. Full of utter posers... girls in four-inch heels in six inches of mud. Heavy-handed security that will confiscate liquids (alcoholic or not) that have been brought in from the campsite to the arena thus forcing you to spend £3 on a bottle of coke... Virgin of course. The most unhelpful, unenthusiastic staff. Please, please don't waste your money on this 'festival'." I've never been to V for these reasons and, from what dissatisfied friends tell me, I shouldn't bother.

I know I shouldn't use column space to mouth off but V, Reading and some of the other big festivals seem to be just for promoters to wheel bands on and off as quickly as possible in order to make maximum profit in a quick, faceless weekend. The Mean Fiddler is, in fact, very mean. If you want to see the Radio One playlist live then Foo Fighters, Snow Patrol and The Kooks are just some of the bands unenthusiastically rocking in Chelmsford and Staffordshire.

Festivals like T in the Park and Glastonbury seem to be the last bastion for atmosphere amongst the large major festivals. Of course, you can have a good time at these 'festivals', but

a much better time can be had else where.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

I couldn't possibly mention all the big festivals occurring this summer, let alone the growing amount of smaller, indie festivals that are getting unusual - although no less fantastic - line-ups in beautiful locations all around the country. The Green Man festival, held in the Brecon Beacons, has former Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant headlining as well as the incredible Joanna Newsom and a whole host of folk, country and dance acts. All Tomorrow's Parties vs the Fans is an innovative festival held in a Butlins Holiday resort in Minehead in May. Nowhere else can you enjoy such a pleasing list of bands such as Mogwai, Explosions In The Sky, Do Make Say Think, Patti Smith and Modest Mouse with the added comfort of your own chalet. A personal favourite of mine is the newly established End Of The Road festival, held in plush botanical gardens in Dorset in September. Super Furry Animals, Seasick Steve and Howe Gelb are already confirmed, with loads of acts to be announced. For a cheap, small-scale festival with a great atmosphere, it is the best place to go before returning to uni.

There are a whole host of festivals abroad which have established great reputations and excellent line-ups, partly because they are the only major rock festival in their country, and are essentials for bands on the festival circuit. Take, for example, Festival Internacional de Benicassim at the end of

Festival etiquette: what you should expect

With becoming a hardened festival-goer, you might observe certain behaviour and characteristics which come with your wristband.

The first is an increased alcohol intake and lack of sleep, as more alcohol requires more hours in the day to drink it in, obviously.

When shouting "bollocks" won't do, you may also notice the previous year's pop culture referenced in one short, concise and shoutable phrase; for example, "Do do do do do" (you remember that Japanese rockabilly girl group in *Kill Bill*, right?), "Gay Bar", "Hi I'm Ed Winchester", "Devo Mate" and many others. When you ask all your friends around the dinner table this evening, you will realise you were all at that festival that year and saw that band play x, y and z and so forth.

The next, with which I am thankfully blessed, is constipation. Festival toilets are disgusting and there is no readily-available alternative to the constantly in-use shacks above a mound of tissue, piss and shit. And if it is a hot, sticky day and the wind is right...

July. Not only is it cheaper and longer than most British festivals (£107 for four days!), it plays host to Muse, Arctic Monkeys, The Stooges, Bright Eyes and The B-52's. Love Shack in

"I've experienced more in a few weeks at Glastonbury than some people have in their life... It really - really - is that good"

Spain anyone? Cheap flights mean that if you book early you can make Exit festival in Serbia, Roskilde in Denmark or Wacken in Germany (only for the serious metallers). South By South West, Coachella (Rage Against The Machine have reformed for a one-and-only performance here) or Bonaroo in the States are serious festival considerations. The list is fruitful, nearly endless and littered with fantastic artists.



well I'll stop now, shall I? I'm retching from the memories. It is all part of the festival experience, but one my body doesn't allow me to partake in. Neither will I ever wear a stupid hat; as much as I find it utterly hilarious, I do not see it to be such a necessity as half of a campsite does.

I always maintain that a festival should be a place where you try something you never have before. I have eaten ostrich burgers, not washed for

a week (for anyone who knows what Pilton Smeg is, I got it) and my proudest achievement was sneaking backstage at End Of The Road festival. Traipsing through a few bushes, I allayed the security guards' fears by merely saying, like a groupie: "I'm with the band." From then on I watched Brakes, British Sea Power and Badly Drawn Boy from the comfort of the side of the stage. I must admit that I was very, very drunk at the time.

It isn't difficult to see why festivals are so bloody brilliant. What with the combination of friends, drink, good weather, great music and thousands of like-minded neighbours bringing out the best in everyone, it will always be a recipe for success; providing beer companies and the Mean Fiddler don't stick their unwanted oars in too much. So whatever your musical inclinations, if musically inclined at all, there are a whole host of festivals to tickle your fancy this summer. Inevitably, the cost of most festivals is going to put many people off. However, there are great opportunities to work with Oxfam, stewarding or working in beer tents, which are surprisingly easy jobs to get - and come with the added bonus of a free festival. Visit www.oxfam.org.uk for stewarding opportunities and vacancies.

It is also worth checking the exhaustingly detailed www.efestivals.com to find out prices, dates, line-ups, news, directions and everything else festival-orientated. Have a fantastic, enriching and safe summer and remember: always wear sunscreen.

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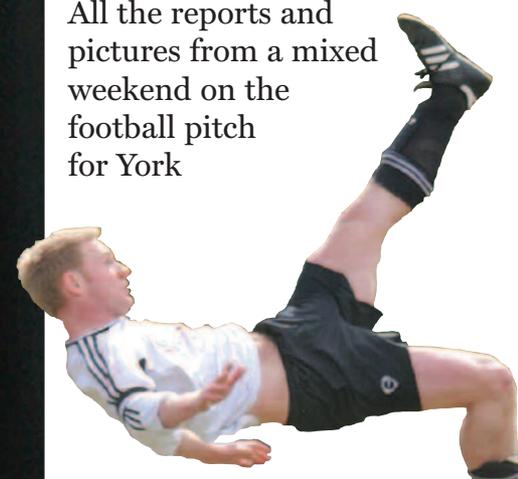


YORK 143 - 103 LANCASTER



FOOTBALL

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>> Centre spread

THE LOSERS

An inside view of how the other side saw the weekend in which they lost the Roses



>> Page 11

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THEWEEKEND



By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

ROSES IS the one event of the University calendar where the whole of campus unite to cheer on their side. As the largest inter-university competition in the country, covering 107 sporting fixtures within a 4 day period, Roses has a special ability of creating a sense of pride in a University that we all inhabit.

To be victorious as well as proud is quite an experience, and the performances offered by the Squash, Badminton and Women's Rowing teams were nothing short of sensational. However, for some this week there will be a feeling of emptiness and disappointment at a performance that never really got started.

Despite Lancaster AU President Dave Greenshields promising to bring the Carter-James trophy back from York and across the border for the first time since 1985, the prediction never looked like becoming true, as Lancaster failed to lead at any stage in the competition.

A brilliant first day from York saw them take a monu-

mental lead into the weekend, and one that would prove to be too great for Lancaster to fully come to terms with.

Despite expecting victorious performances in the field events such as Hockey and Football and the Rowing Regatta, Rugby was the only sport that truly proved fruitful for the Lancastrians as they tried wilfully to fight back the tide of points.

A mid-Saturday fight back provided brief hope for the away team, but York seemed to have too much confidence and ability in the majority of the sports for Lancaster's dogged determination and boisterous crowds to cope with, meaning the tie was never in doubt.

An obvious cause for the lower levels of performances by the Lancastrians may be due to their sleeping and living conditions, but that's obviously the price you pay as the away side, and something which Lancaster should perhaps cope with better than they have in recent times.

Yet, despite the one-sided nature of the weekend there were numerous inspiring performances from either side and we have provided in-depth coverage of the weekend's highlights.

Content ranges from the conventional sports of cricket, football and rugby to the more unique events such as archery and equestrian. We hope you enjoy it.

York victorious after

By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER OVER 1000 hours of sport over four days in 107 different events, the University of York triumphed over their Lancaster rivals to re-claim the Carter-James trophy by an emphatic 40-point victory.

The weekend followed a pattern similar to that of recent years, with the home team leading convincingly throughout. York took an early lead in the Equestrian on Thursday and from that point on were ahead in the scoring throughout. The hosts rarely looked pressurised in their pursuit of victory, with a short blip on Saturday afternoon being the only moment when the result looked in question.

Although such a comfortable scoreline looked unlikely at the beginning of Sunday, and was probably slightly unfair on the visitors, it was made attainable by an inspirational performance from York throughout.

On Friday, York was faced with potentially close encounters across the board, but the home team seemed in no mood to take prisoners as they laid siege to Lancaster on several fronts including the Cricket, Badminton and Skiing.

However, the most resounding victory of the day came from the Squash Club who won in the Women's, Men's and Mixed 1sts in straight sets, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0, embarrassing their Lancaster counterparts. Elsewhere York were finding other fixtures similarly comfortable, as they dominated the Badminton tournament with the Mixed team winning 8-1, inspired by the performances of Jonty Hiley, and Sarah Myers.

The Rugby Seven's tournament proved to be the only blip on an otherwise perfect day, as Lancaster's powerful backlines and skilful attack proved too much for the York teams. However, end of day victories in the Swimming and Cricket overshadowed the disappoint-



ment and provided York with a monumental 30-point lead at the end of the first day.

Day two proved to be a much tighter contest, and the most frantic. An early start saw fixtures in the Canoeing, Trampolining and Hockey being split between the teams.

AU President Tom Moore led his side to victory in the Indoor Football Men's 2nds with a domineering hat-trick. A nervous afternoon lay ahead for the home team however as Lancaster produced a string of excellent performances in the Tennis, Ballroom Dancing, and Table Tennis.

This was followed by a catastrophic performance by the York Women's 1sts in the Rugby Union as they were defeated by 47 points to nil. Suddenly the Lancastrian crowd were spurred on by their teams' performances, and you could sense the nerves across campus as news filtered through that Lancaster had closed the gap to a meagre point.

The comeback was not to last though, as York recovered wilfully with an important victory in an exciting and tense hockey Men's 1sts game, won eventually by York 2-0. From



that pivotal moment, York clawed their lead back and found themselves 20 points ahead at the end of the second-day, requiring less than 30 points to reclaim the Carter-James trophy.

Entering the final day as the underdogs, Lancaster went into the early-morning rowing regatta requiring a big victory. A promising start from the away team Men's Fours led to a short period of anxiety, but class prevailed as the Women's rowing team provided a sterling perform-

Tom Moore



We won! Months of early mornings, late nights, ruined degrees and preparation meant we came in easy winners, not that it felt that way.

Thursday and Friday were fantastic days that saw Lancaster completely shell-shocked with our performance. Saturday was less emphatic and saw them slowly scrambling back. It was all left to play for by Sunday but we continued to increase our lead until the winning target of 124 was reached, something that never looked beyond doubt after the Women's rowing results.

I like to think I am quite

a laid back person but the last three days have been the most stressful of my life. I have hardly slept and am exhausted, but I can honestly say I have never been this thrilled. For some, Roses is something that comes and goes without being thought of, but over the last few days I have come to realise just how much it means to so many people.

I have never been so proud of every single one of our competitors, and in my mind every single competitor showed a determination and a resolve that you should be tremendously proud of.

The squash, swimming, basketball, women's rowing, sailing, pool and cricket clubs should all be very proud of their performances due to their domination of all their fixtures.

I must say a big thanks to Katie, Sam and Nigel and all of the AU exec who, without their help, this weekend simply would not have happened. Also to Gill, Adele and Jill who have been willing to help me in every way I could wish.

Good luck to Jo for next year when hopefully we can get a coveted away win.

And did I mention; we won!



Dave Greenshields

Roses truly is a fantastic event. A total of 107 fixtures took place over four days ranging from equestrian, to skiing, and rowing to rugby.

I've had a great weekend, and obviously it's a shame the trophy went in the wrong direction, but Tom Moore and his team deserve credit and we've got to be proud of our competitors. After Friday's performance I think it was always going to be difficult to recover, and perhaps it could be said that we lost it on the first day.

However, you've got to believe you can win or there's no point in any of this. Going

into the final day I genuinely believed we might be in with a sniff, but we needed everything to go our way today and it didn't. The Regatta on Sunday morning didn't go as well as I had hoped, and if we had won I think we would have been in with a really good chance of retaining the trophy. But it was not to be and even though the rowing boys did fantastically well, we needed a 20-0 to hold any chance of victory.

Reflecting on the weekend as a whole, my personal defining moment of the weekend was the Men's Rugby 1sts. Despite

the controversy that has surrounded the club over the past few years, we've seen the re-generation of a team that was in a bad place.

From a sporting perspective, I feel the defining moment came in the first over of the Men's cricket 1sts on Saturday when we lost two wickets in the first over. That was a bad over for the rest of the weekend, however I'm not in a place to say who performed badly.

Finally, I'd like to thank Tom Moore, my stewarding team and the competitors for a brilliant and memorable weekend.

ROSES2007

great weekend of performances



Clockwise from above: Various York players hold aloft the trophy; the York Rugby Men's 1sts get clapped off after their defeat; an unwitting spectator about to be surprised. Photos: Georgi Mabee and Ally Carmichael

The key moments:

How the weekend of action developed on Nouse's online commentary

Friday - 7:00pm

York are running away with the Carter-James trophy at the moment. York are on top 43.5-13.5 - that's a 30 point lead and way above the 20 points that Lancaster President Dave Greenshields apparently planned for.

Saturday - 3:00pm

It's bad news, I'm afraid: the Rugby Union Women's 1sts are losing heavily in the second half of the game by 32 to nil. Apparently the Lancaster contingent aren't suffering as heavily as might be expected from last night's highly vocal drunken excesses.

Saturday - 4:00pm

The signs of strain are beginning to show on the familiar if now somewhat haggard countenance of our beloved AU Pres, Tom Moore. It seems he hasn't been keeping track of the score, and visibly paled when informed of Lancaster's sudden surge.

Saturday - 5:55pm

Sights we've seen today include old SU Pres Micky Armstrong taking a break from Tesco's, current SU Pres Rich Croker riding a girl's bike and a naked Lancasterian by the rugby pitch that looked like a peroxide blonde baby.

Sunday - 1:10pm

The first big game of the day is underway, and it's pretty even. Two tries for York Men's 1sts mean York had a 12-0 lead. Also, the rowing has finished in a tie. Amazingly all the York men lost, whilst all the York women won. The lead's down to 24...

Sunday - 3:03pm

It is safe to say that York have won the 2007 Roses competition. Congratulations to all the contestants: you deserve it after all the training and preparation that went into Roses this year. Thanks must also go to the organisers, whose co-ordination and dedication has been indispensable. We really are the best.

ance, winning all of their races and all but confirming York's 11th consecutive victory as the home team. Things went from bad to worse for Lancaster as they were heavily defeated in the Archery and lost surprisingly to a sprightly football Men's 2nds 1-0.

Unfortunately the edge was taken off a second day of powerful displays by defeats in the Rugby Union and Football Men's 1sts, but it was not to ruin the York party, and by mid-afternoon they were confirmed victors of Roses 2007.

Speaking after the presentation ceremony, York AU President Tom Moore

declared the victory as a "convincing" one and a "very proud moment" for himself. He added: "Ever since I got the position [of President] a year ago this has been one of my main aims." Talking about the weekend as a whole he said: "A lot of the fixtures were awfully close but if we'd carried our form from Friday into the two following days we could have been 80, or even 100 points in front."

He singled out the Squash Club for providing the most impressive performance of the weekend and added that he thought the pivotal performance came in the Rowing Regatta on Sunday. Moore

concluded with a special tribute to a beleaguered Rugby team who conceded the most points of any club to the opposition. "I'm very impressed by the rugby guys, even though they didn't get too many points I'm proud of them. They deserved a lot better than what they got".

Lancaster AU President Dave Greenshields was in a sombre mood afterwards stating he was "proud" of his team despite an eventual heavy defeat and agreed that the Rowing Regatta proved the "turning point" in the weekend, adding "I think we lost this on Friday to be honest".

York Player of the Tournament



Tom Hudson - the first year cricketer was inspirational in his performances over the weekend. His opening knock of 90 runs provided a great foundation for the comfortable victory that followed.

Lancaster Player of the Tournament



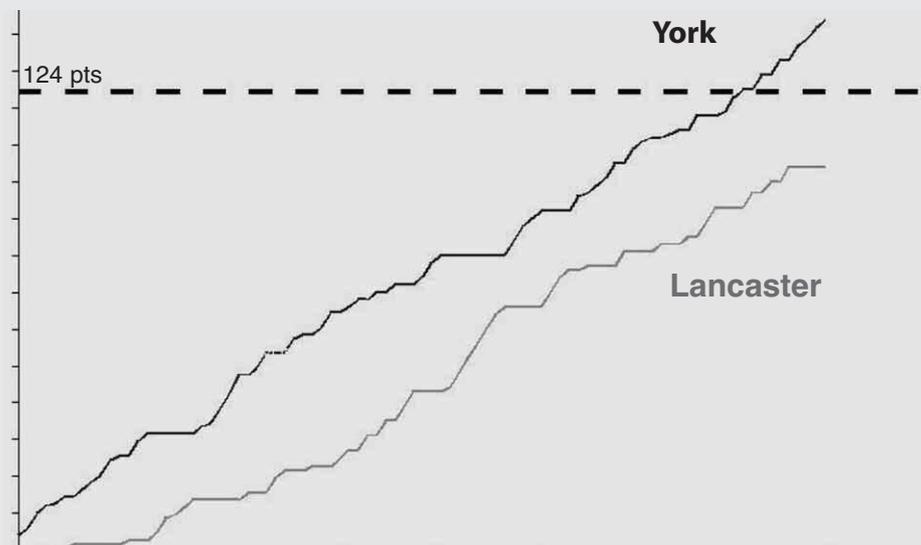
James Hopkins - the Men's 1sts football centre-back was a rock at the heart of Lancaster's hard-fought 1-0 victory. He was at the heart of all of Lancaster's play and scored the winning goal with a glancing header.

Game of the weekend



Men's 1sts Hockey - York's team faced a Lancaster team a league above them in the BUSA rankings and emerged triumphant. A series of powerful attacks from midfield opened a stunning performance under intense pressure, taking York to a thrilling 2-0 victory that changed the course of the Roses.

Race to the finish:



ROSES2007

Batsmen drive on for simple victory

CRICKET

York Men's 1sts XI

279 all out

Lancaster Men's 1sts XI

144 all out

By Dave Coates

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IN A GAME that began with much promise, but ended as a contest, after eight deliveries of the Lancaster innings, York Men's 1st XI came out the clear victors.

York elected to bat on a strip that looked flat and slow, and the opening pair of Tom Hudson and Nick Vanner pressed home their advantage, racing to 54-0. This forced Lancaster to drop their opening bowlers in favour of a more conservative pair.

While York continued much as they had started, the slow left arm of Alex Gledhill and the accurate pace bowling of Luke Stockhill stanchied the flow of runs.

The increased pressure soon told, as Vanner, after batting superbly to his half-century, played late to a yorker-length delivery from Stockhill. This ended an excellent knock on 57 and the opening partnership accounted for 102 runs.

Left-hander Matt Belk soon had the scoring back on track, and by the 24th over had supported

Hudson to a well-controlled 50.

Belk himself survived a couple of strong LBW appeals and a dropped catch before playing an all round slower delivery from Lancaster captain Mike Stephens, going for 32.

Hudson and Portlock made a stand of 67 for the third wicket, but in the space of 10 balls they were both dismissed. After Portlock was stumped mistiming a big heave, Hudson ended a terrific innings of 90 with a weak chip to mid-wicket in the 40th over.

The lower order contributed its fair share to the total, with Dave Foster making 17, captain Jamie Varner 15, and came innings of 11 each for Nick Townson and wicketkeeper Tom Henry.

Tail-ender Anthony

Butterfield was bowled on the last ball of the innings to set a target of 280 for victory.

Lancaster started their innings confidently, but the visitors' spirits were badly dented as York's opening bowlers, Andy Exley and Jamie Vanner, reduced the opposition to 2-2 after just eight balls.

Whiteman and Gledhill were dismissed for 30 and 40 runs respectively after a slow but steady partnership, and restrictive bowling and top-class fielding kept the visitors to 86-4 at the drinks break.

By the time Lancaster was bowled out for 144, the game had been over for a long time. The performance proved an impressive display and provided vital points for York's Roses quest.

Photo:
Georgi Mabee

Score card

York Men's 1st XI		Lancaster Men's 1st XI		York		O	M	R	W
279 - 10		144 - 10		J. Vanner	6	2	13	1	
				A. Butterfield	5	2	30	1	
				N. Townson	5	5	19	0	
				T. Hudson	10	3	30	1	
				I. Smith	7	0	28	2	
				M. Belk	3	1	7	1	
				A. Exley	7.2	2	15	1	
				Lancaster					
				N. Thompson	9	0	48	3	
				B. Thorne	4	0	32	0	
				A. Gledhill	10	2	29	0	
				L. Stockhill	10	0	54	4	
				N. Gest	0.1	0	1	0	
				M. Stephens	6.5	0	51	1	
				R. Child	10	0	52	2	
Total: 279		Total: 144							



Early cricket success for York

CRICKET

York Men's 2nds

272 all out

Lancaster Men's 2nds

235 all out

By Heidi Blake
EDITOR

YORK MEN'S 2nds secured a hard fought victory at the end of an exciting day of cricket at the 22 Acres on Friday.

Having won the toss and batted first, York racked up a total of 272 runs which Lancaster fell short of by a modest 37.

The early dismissal of York's openers, Richard Remington and Andrew Lewin, brought Adam Child and Nick Hudson to the crease. The pair held their nerve and racked up a partnership of 128.

Hudson maintained



A York wicket falls. Photo: Georgi Mabee

his poise against some vicious balls and survived several big shouts for LBW. He was finally bowled on 90 by a quick delivery from Fernley.

Adam Child was caught at mid-wicket on 37 off the bowling of Scott, and Cook was soon after caught and bowled on 16 by Grub, leaving the score

at 210 for 5 off 42 overs.

York's tail end then collapsed, leaving Lancaster with a total of 272 to chase after lunch.

Lancaster made a slow start to their innings, and they were left with just 38 runs for no wicket after 12 overs. However, the opening batsmen capitalised on a sudden col-

lapse in York's fielding effort to increase the run rate.

York's fielder Nick Hassey was on the receiving end of some sledging after he dropped three catches. Lancaster opener Baluchandran scored a poised 72 runs, including a series of boundaries.

Despite a three-figure partnership from Lancaster's opening batsmen, York's bowling side managed to get back on top of the game as two successive wickets from Andrew Emmerson followed by a further two from Guy Baxendale put paid to the efforts of Lancaster's top order.

The Lancaster batting side chased York's total down to 235 runs, but were bowled all out in the 46th over.

Opening partnership sets up Firsts' victory

ANALYSIS

By Criss Noice
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

After another great start from opening batsmen Nick Vanner and Tom Hudson, York put on a textbook performance to dispatch Lancaster in the highlight of the Roses cricket schedule.

Following on from a dominating win during the week, the York Men's first cricket team were in high spirits going into their Roses encounter, especially as their captain Jamie Vanner returned to full fitness after a mid-week absence through injury.

The attitude and teamwork of the York batsmen was to be crucial in the opening stages; first-years Vanner and Hudson once again opened the batting order and got off to a great start - racking up a familiar partnership of

102 before Vanner was beaten by a Yorker in a delivery not too far removed from the full toss he was dismissed with in the mid-week.

Once the middle order batsmen came in, there was a definite slowing down of the running, possibly in part due to the dull weather. In the overs leading up to the 30th, the shot selection of the batsmen was occasionally dubious and combined with the casual running, Lancaster were rewarded with wickets - Hudson going for 90 and Portlock for 32.

The Lancaster batsmen, on the other hand, looked far from comfortable.

By the mid-point of the innings it was just a matter of time before the York first team players celebrated their third win in three games, looking strong all the way to victory in this year's Roses.

ROSES 2007

Close win for Lancaster giants

RUGBY

York Men's 1sts	19
Lancaster Men's 1sts	24

By Albi Furlan
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK'S fast-flowing play was neutralised on Sunday as a tough Lancaster pack helped the visitors run out 24-19 victors.

York started quickly, and the huge effort put in by all the squad this year showed from the kick-off. Strong running by full-back James Wilson opened up the Lancaster defence and a smart pass in the tackle by fly-half Tom Benbow saw winger Rob Milnes score in the corner in the third minute.

Even when Lancaster had the ball, they could find no holes in York's defence. Good tackles by Nick Mason and Dan Newcombe kept the red rose pinned in their own half.

Strong play by the mobile York pack freed up the back line and slick handling by Mason, Benbow and Wilson left outside centre Danny Stacey with a clear run for to the posts. He was stopped short by the speedy Lancaster half-backs, who had to kill the ball to keep it from being stolen, and Wilson scored through a tackle after taking the penalty quickly.

Rob Milnes slotted home the conversion from in front of the posts to give York a 12 point lead.

The large deficit was a wake-up call for the



Lancaster forwards however, who started stealing the ball at lineouts and rucks.

The first Lancaster try was scored off a rolling maul, driving their flanker

over after taking their own line-out. The second came when the ball went straight to the flanker, who simply flopped over the line for the try, which was duly converted to

Despite a strong start, York were unable to make their early advantage count. Photos: Ally Carmichael

bring Lancaster even at the end of the first half.

The second half started with Lancaster on the front foot, and it was not long until they outmuscled the York pack again, driving another maul over for their third try, which was then converted. While the red rose had a tough time withstanding the opposite scrum's pressure, in the loose and line-out their height and size was a telling advantage. The loss of winger and kicker Rob Milnes for concussion also proved a blow for the home side.

Lancaster's backs exploited a rare York mis-

take, stealing a pass gone to ground and spreading the ball right before the York defence could set up, sending the fly-half over line in the far corner.

Searching for a way back in, it was York's scrummaging technique, one of the team's strong points, which forced the red rose to collapse again, and the referee awarding a penalty try.

However, just as York were frantically looking for chinks in Lancaster's defence, needing a converted try to win, a bad pass went to ground, spelling defeat for the white rose.

York Rugby Sevens beaten by pace

RUGBY SEVENS
 By Albi Furlan
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK SUFFERED a disappointing loss overall in the Rugby Sevens on Friday, gaining only one point out of a possible seven.

Only the Men's 3rds managed to win their game, with Lancaster emphatically coming out on top in the other four.

It was the 3rds that kicked off first, and good pressure from Sam Dudley and Dave Thomas put Lancaster on the back foot. After a long stint of possession, Chris Carr broke through two tackles to score from 40 yards out.

The second half was dotted by missed chances from both teams, with the Lancaster winger knocking on with the try line begging. Carr scored beneath the posts to guarantee the points as York won 10 - 5.

The 2nds game started with some heavy hitting by Warwick Burrows and Nick Brown, but Lancaster's speed proved to be too much. Good tackling and pressure from York often left the opposition isolated, but despite a bullying scrummaging effort from Roberts, Hurst and Callis, Lancaster prevailed 24-0.

In the 1sts game, York simply did not secure enough possession to convert their running into tries. A few missed tackles were quickly preyed upon by the sheer velocity of the Lancaster back division. Despite some good running by a very mobile York team, the final score was 45-5 to the away side.

Chris Fox, Club Captain, said: "I'm very pleased with the way the third team outfought their rivals completely. In the other two games we were a bit starved for possession, and with a team that quick, not having possession becomes dangerous."

In the Women's 2nds, Lancaster immediately put York under pressure, scoring in under two minutes. York tried to fight back with some good distribution from Caz Davies and crunching hits from Allison Crittenden. Lancaster managed to maintain possession however, and the game finished with a loss for York by 10 to 0.

In the Women's 1sts Lancaster were simply more clinical and were quick to hack the ball downfield when the white rose's backs dropped it, pinning them in their own half and scoring two tries. A second-half revival was not enough for York to go down 21-0.

Lancaster Women's break down brave York

RUGBY

York Women's 1sts	0
Lanc. Women's 1sts	47

By Albi Furlan
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK WOMEN'S 1sts were outgunned by a dominant Lancaster side at 22 Acres on Saturday afternoon.

A slow start set the tone and pace for the rest of a match characterised by strong tackling from both sides. However it was Lancaster's speed in spreading the ball wide that caught the York defence out.

Lancaster's first try was scored 15 minutes in, when after several phases



Photo: Ally Carmichael

of possession, Lancaster touched down under the posts and converted.

A great scrummaging effort by York's pack, spearheaded by the vocal Katie Croft, put the opposition on their back foot. As a result, it was only a

great cover tackle on York's wing Chrissie Leahy that stopped her from scoring in the corner.

York went further behind after Lancaster's speedy outside centre scored two tries in as many minutes. The first half ended with a ghost try, when a Lancaster player seemed to be tackled short. However after a few minutes of debating, the referee decided to award it.

In the second half, Lancaster came out firing and continued pressure by the Lancaster XV kept the York girls pinned in their own 22.

The pick of Lancaster's remaining

four scores was a brilliant solo try by the Lancaster 12, who received the ball on the halfway line.

Late substitutions brought some extra speed to the home side, but this was not enough to keep possession. The referee

was a bit lenient on Lancaster during the scrums and rucks, and this affected the best aspect of York's game.

However it was ultimately Lancaster's distribution that provided the home team's demise.

MYWEEKEND

Brian Cantor - University of York Vice-Chancellor



My best moment of the weekend:
 I enjoyed playing croquet against the Lancaster AU President Dave Greenshields and Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster, Paul Wellings. I was very pleased with York's win in the afternoon and am unbelievably proud of the victory.

My worst moment of the weekend:
 Finding out the weather forecast predicted rain for the croquet was something of a blow to me. The match has had to be cancelled for the previous two years, which is why I was so glad that I was able to play today against Lancaster.

The best performance of the weekend:
 The Women's Senior Four Rowing victory in a tightly contested race was definitely the most thrilling event of the weekend. However, all the contestants must be congratulated for their hard work and dedication over this weekend.

ROSES2007

Long ball game fails

ANALYSIS

By Toby Green
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE OPINION of Lancaster's captain, Neil Morgan, that they were playing against a "poor side" was an overly harsh judgement on York's efforts, but the home team's tactics failed to take advantage of their strengths.

In a game characterised by battling midfield performances from both sides, it was the visitor's advantage in height that won them the game. Yet if York had stuck to what they had done best throughout the match, keeping the ball on the deck and spreading it out to the wide men, then they may have walked away with some of the points.

Booting high balls into the box was understandable in the last five minutes as York stretched for the equaliser they probably deserved, yet they had maintained this strategy with poor returns for the majority of the match. With the front men lacking decent possession, the tall Lancaster defence dealt easily with the York pressure. Attack after attack was swatted away, and although the York defence dealt admirably with Lancaster's similar tactic, they were ultimately more effective.

In fact, it was when the home team kept the ball on the ground, playing it out wide and displaying nice touches, that they achieved the most. The wide men often managed to get behind the Lancaster back line when given the chance, and low crosses across the area in the first half could so nearly have been buried in the back of the net.

Morgan's further observation that it was an "awful and scrappy game" seemed closer to the truth, yet this was always going to be the case. Despite the fact that the Roses was in the bag by the time the match started, the big games of the week-end always have that extra level of tension. As a result the tie had a cup-final feel to it; unfortunately this produced cup final football. Both sides gave away countless niggling fouls, which the referee could perhaps have limited with more discipline and better use of his cards.

Despite the superior height of the Lancaster team, the midfield battle was even, with Dan Brown, York's captain, excelling himself in getting stuck in. The game started at a frenetic pace, yet neither side managed to settle into a rhythm with no-one being allowed any time on the ball.

The stop-start nature of the game played into the away team's hands, and although the goal came against the run of play, the difference in height proved the decisive factor.

From that point in, Lancaster were not going to be bothered by the lack of fluidity and they would have scored more if it was not for the brilliance of York's keeper, the home team's man of the match.

As the crowd became more vocal at the end, urging York to find an equaliser, a succession of corners just failed to find a vital breakthrough. Both teams will have gone away feeling as if they had been in a tough game, yet York could be excused for wondering what could so nearly have been.



Photo: Georgi Mabee

Ten-man Lancaster scrape close win

FOOTBALL

York Men's 1sts 0
Lancaster Men's 1sts 1

By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

LANCASTER CLAIMED a hard-fought 1-0 victory in a tense and often fraught affair as Roses 2007 drew to a close.

Although York had already been announced as overall victors, it was a nervous atmosphere and the weight of expectation was reflected in the early exchanges as both sides looked overcome by the occasion.

Both teams played with great energy but little urgency as the midfielders pressurised the ball well, and prevented any prolonged periods of possession. It took until the 21st minute for the first chance to be fashioned from a tidy move down the right-side by York building up to an open opportunity which striker Dan O'Shea dragged wide of the left-hand post.

The first opportunity signalled a change in approach from both sides as

they looked to create more down the channels, but clear chances were generally thwarted by the dominant aerial performances from both central defences.

However, the opening and ultimately decisive goal came against the run of play in the 25th minute. A ferociously whipped in free-kick from Lancaster was met with a tame header from the commanding centre-back James Hopkins, but managed to find its way through several players and into the bottom left corner, as York goalkeeper Ben Taylor was left stranded.

Despite the setback, York recovered well, forcing three corners in quick succession from open play, but went into half-time a goal down.

The start of the second period saw a greater attacking threat from both teams as Lancaster looked to finish the game off. However, it was York who looked the more dangerous. A powerful run from right-winger John Seale produced an opening in the middle only for captain Dan Browne to hit a speculative overhead kick high and wide.

Play remained fragmented and frenetic, with chances few and far between. It took the sending-off of Lancaster player Paul Reay for foul and abusive language, to reinvigorate a tiring crowd.

Despite the renewed sense of optimism and the advantage of an extra man, York were starting to look jaded and lacked offensive penetration as Lancaster looked to run out time on the clock by holding the ball up on the wings.

Substitutions were made on either wing by the home side as they attempted to inject greater pace down the underexposed flanks. However, Lancaster worked hard, pressurising the ball well within their own half of the field and defending deep to prevent exposing themselves to the dangerous pace of the York forwards.

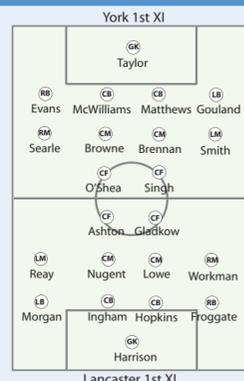
It took until injury time to see the next attempt on goal from a free-kick on the edge of the Lancaster penalty box. 10 men were sent forward for York, including goalkeeper Ben Taylor, and a great opportunity was spurned as the set-piece was drilled into a Lancaster player.

The final seconds saw increasing pressure on the Lancaster back-line from a series of resulting corners, but it was not to be for York as Lancaster broke free and missed an open net with Taylor stranded upfield. As the keeper took the goal kick, the referee signalled the end of the match. Lancashire celebrated, but in truth

both teams knew they could have won. Speaking after the game, centre forward Pardeep Singh expressed his disappointment at his own performance. He said: "It was always going to be a scrappy, poor game of football. The chances were few and far between, but they got the ball down and played it around better than us."

York 0 - 1 Lancaster

Sunday May 6 2007 22 Acres
Key Moments:
21 min - York Chance, free shot wide of goal (0-0), O'Shea
25 min - Lancaster Goal, from free-kick, (0-1), Hopkins
72 min - Lancaster Red Card, abusive language, (0-1), Reay
90 min - York Chance, shot deflects off defender, (0-1), Brennan
Player Ratings:
York: Taylor(7), Evans(6), McWilliams(7), Matthews(6), Gouland(6), Searle(7), Browne(5), Brennan(5), Smith(5), O'Shea(5), Singh(4)
Lancaster: Harrison(6), Froggate(6), Hopkins(9), Ingham(7), Morgan(7), Workman(7), Lowe(7), Nugent(6), Reay(5), Gladkow(6), Ashton(6)
Player of the Match:
James Hopkins(Lancaster) - Was at the heart of everything that Lancaster did well, he was dominant in the air, he got forward well and scored what proved to be the winning goal.



Late show stuns Lancaster in game of few chances

FOOTBALL

York Men's 2nds 1
Lancaster Men's 2nds 0

By Criss Noice
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

A LATE York goal was the only score in a game that had few clear chances.

After a close start, York took the initiative in the second half and dominated the possession, scoring in the last 10 minutes to seal their victory over Lancaster on the crucial last day of Roses point scoring.

In the early stages, neither side looked to be taking a distinct advantage, with the majority of the play being held up in the midfield.

However, when the breaks came in the first half, they usually came through the brilliant chasing of York centre forward Mike Flood who would not let the defenders rest. As a result, he caused them a number of problems, and created the first real chance of the match when a long ball over the top forced a save from Lancaster keeper Ed Middleton in the sixth minute.

York's defending in the first half was first-class, as both Graeme Wiggins and Jack Amiry made crucial tackles to cut out the Lancaster attack force. The strong defending was backed up by incisive passing through the midfield to the ever dangerous Flood, who in the 31st minute looked to beat the Lancaster keeper to the ball after the defence was left standing.

Both players went down and York captain Mark Worrall kept a cool head to step away from physical confrontation with the Lancaster keeper, allowing the game to continue.

From that point on, it was York who had the advantage going into the half-time break and were looking the more inventive with their passing and overall strength at the back.

At the start of the second half, York

MYWEEKEND

Ioan 'Noah' Lewis -
Lanc's Rugby 1sts Capt.

Proudest moment of the weekend: The professionalism of the team. We've had a lot of stick throughout the last few years for being unprofessional - off the field, perhaps on the field as well - but we made a massive effort from two weeks before hand, and that showed through with great fitness and good skills.

Roses rivalry: I think Lancaster and York are two very similar teams. We've got two similar campuses, similar cultures and players. I won't take away any bad memories of the weekend at all, and I'm looking forward to next year and for Lancaster to regain the trophy.

Roses in six words: Huge effort. Emotionally draining. Great fun.



Moore (right) had a strong game upfront. Photo: Ally Carmichael

started as they left off by having the majority of the possession and playing great football down the wings through Flood and Ed Murrills. It was an attack down the flanks in the 56th minute that led to one of many clear cut chances for York in the second half, Tom Moore just shooting wide of the net from ten yards out.

Eventually the breakthrough came from substitute Carl Lewis, who lobbed the keeper from outside the box with just five minutes to play. Despite the shot being somewhat unintentional, Lewis believed that York were the better team by far. He said: "We created enough chances and held the ball well. We deserved the win."

York achieve payback

BADMINTON MIXED

York 8
Lancaster 1

By Jack Kennedy
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE MIXED badminton team produced a dominating performance to overwhelmingly defeat Lancaster in a 8-1 victory.

In the first event on Friday, York were clearly intent on proving that this year they will not be a pushover. They quickly raced into a 3-0 lead, with 1sts pair Jonty Hiley and Sarah Myers winning all three of their rubbers.

Despite a disappointing performance by 2nds pair Paddy Clarke and Lindsay McCann, York refused to slow down.

Rob Walker and Nicci Farr, York's 3rd pair, worked especially hard to record a very special win over



Photo: Georgi Mabee

Lancaster's 1sts team despite Tom Moore urging the players to take it easy for the afternoon games.

Hiley said: "[Lancaster] played with the same team last year and beat us convincingly, so it's very nice to turn it around. We've sent out a message."

ROSES2007

Races on the river
end in split points

ROWING

York	4
Lancaster	4

By Matt Jeynes
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ON A cold and windy Sunday morning on the River Ouse, York and Lancaster shared the points in a tightly contested series of races.

With home advantage all important in rowing, as the home coxes knew far more about the course than the away ones, confidence was high in the York camp. This was despite the scheduling mix-up that had left them having to race the day after the BUSA national regatta.

The opening races, the Freshers 4's, had no points value, but were good warm-ups for the crowd. There was early drama when the rudder broke on the Men's Freshers boat and it struck the Lancaster boat, the two careening towards the bank.

When the problem had been fixed, Lancaster streaked to a clear win, easing up at the end and balancing out the win for York in the Women's Freshers 4.

The next races were the first of the big events of the



York coxes had hoped for a home advantage. Photos: Georgi Mabee

morning, the Senior 4s. In the Women's, York had a great start and they pulled away from the Lancaster crew throughout their race, extending their lead to three lengths by the end. This came much to the delight of the mostly York crowd, which included a rare appearance from the Vice-Chancellor, Brian Cantor.

Unfortunately, the Men's could not capitalise on their quick start, as they lost a very tight race. Despite coming back from a length down coming into the final straight, the crowd could not lift them to the win and they were defeated by the narrowest of margins.

The Novice 4s then fol-

lowed, along with a strange sense of déjà vu for the spectators, as the women stroked confidently to a win. Once again the men fought desperately hard, but were just beaten on the line in almost identical circumstances to the seniors.

The crowd were then rubbing their eyes in disbelief as the formula was followed once more in the Senior 8s, with the women winning well and the men losing another very close race. One observer said: "The women rowed better than they ever thought was possible."

The Womens' Captain said she was just "pleased to have contributed to York's bid for the Roses trophy."



A win against the wind

ARCHERY

By Jo Shelley
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE YORK Archery Club took nine points out of the ten available on Sunday, as strong winds made it hard for both teams.

The match took place on the archery range behind the National Science Learning Centre. Archers from York and Lancaster lined up side-by-side to shoot concurrently at targets positioned 40, 50 and 60 meters away. All participants fired 30 shots at each target.

Five hours after the first shot had been fired, arrows were slung over shoulders and the teams' scores compiled. York, of course, had the advantage - not just because of being on home turf, but having taken all 10 points in the last two years of Roses.

Lancaster were left unsurprised but deflated as they failed to make an impact across the board, and



30 shots were fired at each target. Photo: Erik Lang

picked up just one point from their co-captain Amy Hall's victory in the 'Individual Female' category.

The York team kept up their high standard of shooting throughout the day. Dave Cox, Jess Walker and Fran Konitzer came top in the classes of 'Individual Male', 'Novice Male' and 'Novice Female' respectively, securing three crucial points for the home side. Another two points were won by York's top three novice archers.

The top performers

were Cox, Ed Russell-Johnson, Tom Walton and captain Andrew McArthur who, as the top scoring participants, collectively scored an astonishing 2547 to Lancaster's 2102, earning York their final four points.

Speaking after the match, McArthur said: "I'm really excited about the result, it's brilliant. The wind has hindered it a lot today, so the score's been a lot lower than it would have been, but it's just great to get the points."

Ambulance called as York
lose in violent Karate battle

KARATE

By Jenny O'Mahony
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

A VICIOUS battle in the Dance Studio on Saturday left Lancaster taking all four points, and a contestant in hospital.

Both the Men's and the Women's teams competed first in the Kata and then in the sparring. In the Kata, where the two contestants must replicate a series of Japanese commands, Lancaster Women's slight superiority in attention to detail left York ahead with a 2-1 advantage.

The York men manage to outdo their Lancaster counterparts by an equally slim margin, finishing up 3-2, resulting in the points being shared.

However, the real action came in the sparring competition. In the Women's match a Lancaster contestant was

hit in the throat, leading to calls for medical help which was not available. Just after, Kelly Robinson, who was competing for the first time, scored York's only point as Lancaster won 2-1.

The lack of medical assistance was also highlighted in the Men's competition, as first a Lancaster

contestant was left bleeding from the mouth and then an ambulance was called for a Lancaster contestant being knocked violently to the floor.

Despite the injuries, the Lancaster team took the Men's tie, and left them with all the points with a 3-1 win in total.

MYWEEKEND

Micky Armstrong

YUSU
President
2005-06

My best moment of the weekend:

The Men's Lacrosse was absolutely fantastic and although we didn't win, the Men's 1sts Rugby was a great game.

Roses D:

It was very good, although the Lancaster turnout was disappointing; after all, the whole point of Roses is the

whole social thing and the teams getting together, not just the competitive sporting side.

Predictions for future Roses:

This weekend is brilliant, it always has been and it always will be. So many people - players and supporters - turn out to watch the games, and it has the potential to go so far.

ROSES2007

Equestrian win ensures early points

EQUESTRIAN
 By Venetia Rainey
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK PRODUCED an impressive victory in the mixed Equestrian, the first event of Roses 2007.

There was an air of dignity to the event on Thursday, as both sides were decked out in their smart matching team gilets and jackets.

The event started with dressage, with all 16 riders rotating in order for a member of both the A and the B team from Lancaster and York to have a chance at riding the same horse.

Heather Stevens of York A provided a strong start on Matilda, a Hanovarian roan, and set the standard for the rest of the competition.

Despite some problems on Primrose, an Anglo-Arab horse who played up for riders from both York and Lancaster, there were also some fantastic tests from Sophie Hudson from York and Lancaster's Amelia Markey.

The jumping, which followed the dressage, started off on the wrong foot with a Lancaster rider being disqualified for a wrong course start after the bell had been rung.

Rules were firmly stuck to, and the fairness of the judging was proved after York rider, Heather Stevens, jumped the entire course perfectly, only to be told she too was disqualified because someone had forgotten to ring the bell first. Her dressage score was still allowed to count for team points, but she was not allowed to compete for individual placing.

The rest of the event went smoothly despite a long pause when Toni Newman's horse, Percy, got far too over-enthusiastic and refused to be controlled. Despite this, she went on to jump the course without fault.

York came out unequivocal winners of the event; 5th and 6th place individual performance rosettes went to Lancaster riders, and 4th place went to Lizzie Jordan, a last minute



competitor.

3rd and 2nd place were equally shared between York's Kat Boyd and Rebecca Harris, and 1st place was awarded to York's Sophie Hudson.

Team victories abounded too, as York A accrued only 8 penalty points compared to 17 gained by Lancaster A. York B secured a hearty victory with a brilliant 14 points against Lancaster B's 47.

Harris, York B's captain, said of their victory: "Our team is delighted with the Roses result, it is just what we had hoped for after months of training and pre-Roses preparation.

"I couldn't ask for a more dedicated team, including those who weren't able to compete today."

Katie Smith, York A's captain, said: "It was a brilliant day. Everyone rose to the occasion and this was clearly reflected in the result."

Lancaster's captain, however, remarked in a moment of poor spirit that they treated Roses as only a "fun event, not like BUSA."

Special mention should be made to Gemma Johnson and Kat Johnson who were unable to partake due to illness and exams, but who both made the Nationals.



The Equestrian kicked off Roses on Thursday. Photos by Erik Lang

MYWEEKEND

Richard Remington

York supporter and Football 2nds

Best moment of the weekend:

Everything about being involved. Coming into Roses as a Fresher, I thought I wouldn't enjoy it that much but once you get involved, it's such an amazing feeling. There have been a couple of scuffles, people might be a bit aggressive but it's expected and I think we're giving as good as we get. I just love it, it's really good fun.

Best match:

The indoor football. We won 10-4 and I scored a couple of goals, which of course was a really good feeling. I can't wait for the final ceremony, and I'm going out to celebrate in Gallery tonight!

Strong performance in the pool leaves York in front

SWIMMING	
York	87
Lancaster	49

By Natalie Nakasone
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

A FANTASTIC swimming performance on Friday saw York defeat Lancaster by 38 points.

The Women's 4x50 metre Medley Relay set the tone for the rest of the competition, as York finished with a time of 2 minutes and 18 seconds to beat the opposition. The Men's 4x50 metre Medley Relay was a closer race, but an aggressive finish by York got them the win.

The York Women's team saw top performances as they dominated in every match. The 50 metre Breaststroke saw strong effort with both York swimmers finishing before their Lancaster competitors.

The 100 metre Individual Medley witnessed the women at their

best, with a York swimmer finishing an incredible 10.52 seconds before her Lancaster competitors.

The Men's performance was not quite as dominating, with Lancaster prevailing in the the 50 metre Butterfly seeing Lancaster defeat York by just under half a second. However the closest defeat for York came in the 50 metre Breaststroke as Lancaster finished a mere 0.15 seconds ahead.

Yet in every other race the Men's won, finishing in top place even with competition from Lancaster. The most exciting race of the day came in the Men's 4x50 metre Freestyle relay. Lancaster built an early and considerable lead, starting off at a quick pace.

Halfway into the relay York began to cut back Lancaster's lead, but it still seemed they could only manage a close second. However, on the last



Photo by Erik Lang

competition drew to an end.

The last race of the evening was the 8x25 metre Cannon Relay in which York finished 2.35 seconds ahead of Lancaster.

York took the points despite the fact that their star swimmer, Steven Knight, had to sit out the majority of the competition due to illness.

Unsurprisingly the York competitors were extremely pleased with their performance. Knight said: "It was an awesome team effort." He also recognised that the home team had a key advantage, seeing as the team practices at the Holgate swimming pool.

Jo Betts praised York's dedication and skill. She said: "This is the third year we've won, so everyone is really pleased. We thought it was going to be a close competition but we completely annihilated them."

Swimming times			
Race	York	Lancaster	
W 4x50 Medley	2.18.51	2.31.65	
M 4x50 Medley	1.58.76	2.05.15	
W 50m Butterfly	33.07	34.82	35.84 38.43
M 50m Butterfly	20.34	30.64	28.78 32.48
W 50m Backstroke	36.50	34.68	40.82 37.65
M 50m Backstroke	32.37	31.67	34.98 33.04
W 50m Breaststroke	40.62	38.37	43.76 45.29
M 50m Breaststroke	34.16	36.07	34.01 34.18
W 50m Freestyle	33.47	32.06	35.29 36.50
M 50m Freestyle	28.00	26.81	29.17 30.68
W 100m Ind. Medley	1.15.09	1.25.61	
M 100m Ind. Medley	1.08.34	1.06.15	
W 4x50 Freestyle	2.10.01	2.10.03	
M 4x50 Freestyle	1.68.95	1.53.22	
Mixed 8x25 Cannon	1.56.29	1.58.64	

ROSES 2007

Tense win in hockey thriller

HOCKEY

York Men's 1sts	2
Lancaster Men's 1sts	0

By Nicky Woolf
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO SECOND half goals secured an important win for York in a tight game on Saturday afternoon.

Right from the start York were on the offensive, putting a complacent Lancaster defence immediately under pressure. An early short corner allowed York to display some beautifully quick passing with the resulting shot on goal going just wide.

Lancaster, a team who are ranked a league above in the BUSA competition, were forced to work hard to repel an early onslaught from York, with the first 20 minutes of the game seeing a concerted series of ambitious attacks from the forwards.

York player Ollie Hughes came the closest to scoring when he chipped a cross onto the top of the left goalpost. James Hume also made a spectacular shot straight through the legs of three Lancaster defenders which was only barely stopped by a frenetic effort by the Lancastrian goalkeeper, which meant at half-time the scoreline was still 0-0.

Lancaster regrouped over the break, and the beginning of the second half saw a renewed spirit infused into the Lancaster team. The York team suddenly found themselves on the back foot, and play was concen-

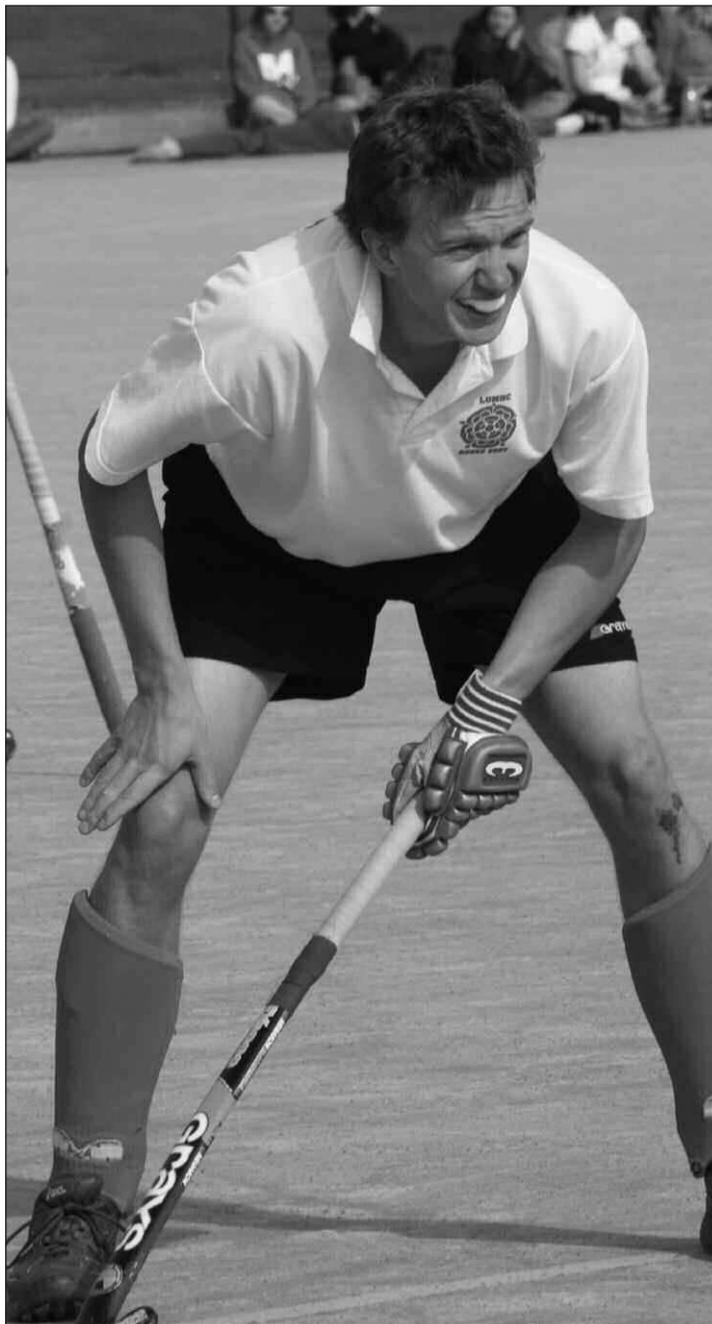
trated within their half.

This pressure was bound to see results eventually, and 10 minutes into the second half, the Lancaster team spotted a gap in the York defence.

A two-prong Lancastrian attack slid through the momentarily stunned York defence lined up with the goal, and missed completely, hitting a weak chip-ball slowly forward that was easily caught up by the recovering York defender and cleared.

A brief confusion ensued, possibly exacerbated by the jeers of the York supporters, which resulted in both the Lancastrian number 8 and the York number 13, Alex Topsfield, being awarded yellow cards.

The damage this did to Lancastrian morale was palpable, and a weak Lancastrian short corner



A painful finish for the Lancaster team. Photos: Erik Lang

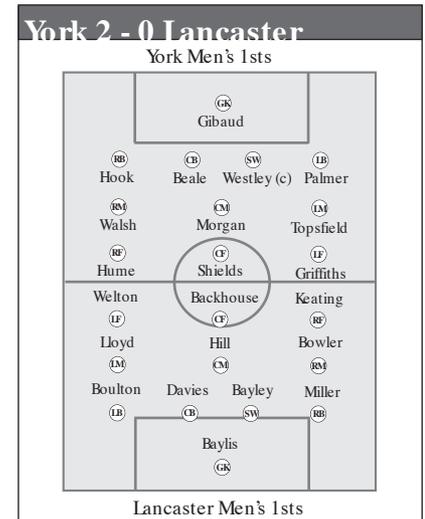
was gathered by York who drilled the ball up the field. From there, Fergus Shields flicked at a shot which was desperately parried away by the Lancastrian keeper into the waiting stick of Ben Griffiths, who slammed it easily home to open the scoring for York.

The opening goal was a blow from which Lancaster never fully recovered. Ten minutes of intense pressure from York turned the screw on the Lancaster defence as they struggled to break out of their half.

The second goal came from a spectacular run by Billy Walsh and Hughes, who ran rings around the Lancaster defence, before Hume took the pass and slotted the ball home to complete a neat attack.

With the score standing at 2-0, Lancaster knew the game was as good as over, and despite both Andy Hook and Griffiths suffering mild leg injuries, the final minutes of the game were York's.

As the final whistle blew the Lancaster players slumped to their knees, and York were jubilant after a surprising yet convincing victory.



Sharp shooting proves decisive

NETBALL

York 1sts	32
Lancaster 1sts	37

By Jenny O'Mahony
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

LANCASTER PRODUCED a solid performance to take the points in a high-scoring game on Saturday.

After just five minutes Lancaster were already leading, with the Lancaster Goal Attack François overpowering the York Goalkeeper.

Sarah Pycroft scored York's first goal to bring the score to 2-1, but immediately from the restart Lancaster stole two more points. The exciting nature of the end to end action of the first quarter was marred by numerous misses by York.

However, the players managed to claw back some points to draw level at 6-6 after an excellent catch and goal from the York Goal Shooter Mary. However, the



Lancs. won a free-scoring game. Photo: Georgi Mabee

first quarter ended with Lancaster holding an 8-7 advantage.

During the second quarter, York strode ahead to leave Lancaster trailing by two points at 10-8, thanks to some well thought out tactical throwing which led York to briefly dominate territory and possession.

The second quarter ended with the York team

really hitting their stride, as they continued to dominate, ending 13-9 at half time.

The second half of the game saw York change their Goal Shooter in order to give the attacking half of the squad new impetus, having seen them flag slightly and rely more heavily on the Centre for their lay-ups to shoot. She immediately made her presence known by

scoring 2 goals almost as soon as the third quarter began, and York took this precedent and dominated for the next ten minutes.

Unfortunately the Lancaster Defence then began to show some real strength in the fourth quarter, which began with Lancaster 21-16 up. Their Goal Keeper, Pearson, made some excellent steals and blocks against the York side.

The climax of the game saw a furious amount of scoring on both sides, as 15 minutes saw a total of 18 goals. The relentless running on the pitch emphasised the breathless action. Despite York battling hard to come back into the game, coming within 2 points late in the game, eventually the solid defence and extremely accurate shooting of the visitors meant that Lancaster finished up the winners with a deserved victory, the final score being 37-32.

Second-half collapse leaves Lacrosse team with too much to do

LACROSSE

York 1sts	3
Lancaster 1sts	5

By Matthew Jaynes
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a disappointing day for the Women's 1sts Lacrosse team as they succumbed to a 5-3 defeat at the hands of a pumped-up Lacrosse team.

Both sides experienced a nery start to the match, with York particularly scrappy in the opening exchanges.

However, York began to assert their dominance and the team was lifted by strong work in the midfield. A quick Smith run-and-pass set up Carina Topham for the opening goal, as York ended the first quarter 1-0 up.

In the second quarter,

York were still struggling to break down a very efficient and organised Lancaster defence.

It took a superb solo goal from Smith to finally break them down, as she beat two Lancaster players before unleashing a powerful shot into the bottom-left corner from a tight angle.

However, Lancaster started strongly in the second half and quickly leveled the scores. With the momentum in their favour, the team moved 5-2 ahead by the start of the final quarter.

York managed to pull a goal back through Alicia Hanlon but it was too little, too late as the clock was always against them. A delighted Lancaster team celebrated their victory as York rued missed chances.

ROSES2007

Sweat and booze: inside the enemy

While most enjoyed their Roses, Venetia Rainey decided to explore the view from the 'other side'

Most people will have relaxed over their weekend, lazing about watching the sport, or else being not so lazy and actually playing.

My task was to report on the social side of the weekend, especially from the Lancaster point of view. However, with the big matches being played on Saturday and Sunday, most Lancastrians were on a strict drinking ban, and thus were unable to go out. Despite this disappointment, there was plenty of fun to be had both on and off the pitch.

The weekend began with the arrival of the bleached-blonde Lancastrian rugby team. At a loss to understand why they had dyed their hair the colour of the York

rose (it really was that peroxide), I later found out that it had been done "for unity, to make us stand out." Apparently they didn't dye it red because "that would look stupid".

At Roses D, I was quickly approached by a fat student from the Lancaster side who assured me in slurred tones that the rugby team "were a bunch of girls". He didn't seem too sure whether he was talking about Lancaster or York, or in fact the girl's rugby team.

The next day was grey, but luckily for me the banter was much better than the weather and I was approached by a Lancaster footballer whose chat-up line was: "Oh, look, we're both wearing aviators! We



Photo: Ally Carmichael

The Lancaster Rugby team in all their beauty

should be sunglasses back to the community"), and, of course, last night's lashage: "Between us, we pulled about 15 girls last night. I got these ulcers in my mouth after kissing one of them and I got them downstairs as well."

By Sunday, I thought that the best place to go would be the Rugby 1sts match. Apart from our defeat (we battled hard throughout) and a fat, rather unappealing Lancastrian stalker, there was nothing. The football provided some pitch-side banter and some general good fun, but the wind proved too

much for most, and once all the matches had finished, everyone headed back home.

As a last resort, I attended the Roses closing ceremony where the trophies were handed out. We managed to chat to some of the Lancaster girl's rugby team (who, by the way, are really not as ugly as they look on pitch), and get their comment on the weekend: "We've had a really good weekend. The Roses Ball was awesome, but it wasn't worth 20 quid though. Oh yeah, and the rugby old boys are sleazy gits." Oh, how I concur, Lancaster.

Roses, all in all, was a brilliant weekend. If I hadn't been running around worrying about Lancaster, I expect I would have enjoyed it even more. For future AU organisers, I would suggest leaving a whole night free for everyone to socialise at a less expensive, good old mingling-orientated York event. Who knows, maybe I'll even play a sport next time round; at least it will get me into the dressing room.

Roses XXXIII: York 143 103 Lancaster

YORK				LANCASTER			
Y	L	Pts		Y	L	Pts	
MATCHES							
Archery							
Mixed N 1sts	W	L	2.0	Men's 1sts	111	135	4.0
Mixed S 1sts	W	L	4.0	Men's 2nds	135	75	2.0
Men's N 1sts	W	L	1.0	Women's 1sts	90	135	4.0
Men's S 1sts	W	L	1.0	Football			
W's N 1sts	W	L	1.0	Men's 1sts	0	1	4.0
W's S 1sts	L	W	1.0	Men's 2nds	1	0	2.0
Badminton				Men's 3rds	1	2	1.0
Men's 1sts	8	1	4.0	Women's 1sts	2	7	4.0
Men's 2nds	8	1	2.0	Hockey			
Women's 1sts	7	2	4.0	Men's 1sts	2	0	4.0
Mixed 1sts	8	1	4.0	Men's 2nds	4	0	2.0
Ballroom Dancing				Men's 3rds	1	4	1.0
Mixed	1.5	2.5	4.0	Women's 1sts	1	4	4.0
<i>(points split 1.5-2.5)</i>				Women's 2nds	1	2	2.0
Basketball				Mixed 1sts	3	0	2.0
Men's 1sts	50	42	4.0	Mixed 2nds	L	W	1.0
Women's 1sts	43	29	4.0	Mixed 3rds	3	0	1.0
Canoe Slalom				Indoor Cricket			
Men's	L	W	2.0	Men's 1sts	127	122	1.0
Women's	W	L	2.0	Indoor Football			
Canoe Polo				Men's 1sts	2	3	2.0
Men's 1sts	1	3	2.0	Men's 2nds	10	4	1.0
Women's 1sts	1	1	2.0	Men's 3rds	7	5	1.0
<i>(points split 1.0-1.0)</i>				Women's 1sts	1	4	2.0
Cricket				Women's 2nds	1	4	1.0
Men's 1sts	279	144	4.0	Indoor Frisbee			
Men's 2nds	272	235	2.0	Team	8	6	2.0
Darts				Indoor Hockey			
Men's	5	4	2.0	Men's 1sts	2	0	2.0
Women's	3	6	2.0	Men's 2nds	1	4	1.0
Equestrian				Women's 1sts	2	3	2.0
1sts	-8	-17	4.0	Women's 2nds	1	4	1.0
2nds	-13	-48	2.0	Karate			
				Mixed	1	3	4.0
Lacrosse							
Men's 1sts	14	0	0.0	Netball			
Women's 1sts	3	5	4.0	Women's 1sts	32	37	4.0
Mixed 1sts	8	3	4.0	Women's 2nds	38	20	2.0
Pool				Women's 3rds	29	38	1.0
Men's 1sts	8	1	2.0	Rowing			
Women's 1sts	5	4	2.0	Men's F4's	L	W	0.0
Rugby League				Men's N4s	L	W	2.0
Men's 1sts	4	70	0.0	Men's S4s	L	W	4.0
Rugby Union				Men's S8s	L	W	4.0
Men's 1sts	19	27	4.0	Women's F4's	W	L	0.0
Men's 2nds	13	19	2.0	Women's N4s	W	L	2.0
Women's 1sts	0	47	4.0	Women's S4s	W	L	4.0
Rugby 7s				Women's S8s	W	L	4.0
Men's 1sts	5	45	2.0	Sailing			
Men's 2nds	0	24	1.0	Mixed 1sts	3	0	4.0
Men's 3rds	10	5	1.0	Mixed 2nds	2	0	2.0
Women's 1sts	0	21	2.0	Ski			
Women's 2nds	0	12	1.0	Mixed 1sts	W	L	4.0
				Women's 1sts	W	L	0.0
				Snooker			
				Mixed 1sts	2	3	4.0
				Squash			
				Men's 1sts	5	0	4.0
				Men's 2nds	5	0	2.0
				Women's 1sts	5	0	4.0
				Swimming			
				Mixed	87	49	4.0
				Table Tennis			
				Mixed 1sts	11	6	4.0
				Mixed 2nds	13	4	2.0
				Tennis			
				Men's 1sts	8	7	4.0
				Men's 2nds	13	2	2.0
				Women's 1sts	4	11	4.0
				Mixed 1sts	4	2	4.0
				Trampoline			
				Novice	149.8	151.3	4.0
				Intermediate	L	W	0.0
				Advanced	L	W	0.0
				Elite	L	W	0.0
				Ultimate Frisbee			
				Team	12	14	4.0
				Volleyball			
				Men's 1sts	3	0	4.0
				Women's 1sts	0	3	4.0
				Mixed 1sts	3	1	4.0
				VC's Croquet			
				Special invite	W	L	0.0
				Water Polo			
				Men's 1sts	16	6	2.0
				Women's 1sts	13	3	2.0

ROSES2007

Toby Green

A proper old-fashioned feel-good event

This weekend has been my first experience of Roses, a fact I'm slightly embarrassed about. Having been too apathetic to attend any games in my first year, and not being involved enough in either the coverage or the playing of last year's event to warrant travelling to Lancaster, I was surprised by how much the weekend truly felt like a major sporting battle.

Forgive my cynicism, but big events are something York is not particularly known for. Yet from the moment the first scores and reports came in to our website from the Equestrian on the Thursday, I felt as if this was something the whole University was involved in. At first I thought manning *Nouse's* web coverage would be the best way to experience Roses. Yet there's only so much staring at a computer screen you can take, so I decided to take a few hours off each day to actually enjoy the competition.

It was the scale of the event that amazed me. The level of organisation required must have been incredible, yet apart from the poor case of the Lancastrian competitor being taken to hospital during the Karate due to an absence of medical assistance, there appeared to be barely a glitch.

Each match I attended



The competing Vice-Chancellors enjoy a cheeky game of croquet on Sunday. Photo: Georgi Mabee

seemed to have its own individual atmosphere, and although at times the total score seemed irrelevant in comparison to the specific clashes taking place all over campus, Tom Moore's delight at lifting the Carter-James trophy on Sunday afternoon unified the efforts of each individual club taking part.

The attraction of the Roses weekend should not really have come as a surprise to me, as testified by the amount of returning

and rarely-seen faces dotted around campus. During my time at *Nouse*, the two most elusive figures to track down, or interview, or even have a photograph of, have been the Vice-Chancellor, Brian Cantor, and head of Security, Ken Batten.

Yet on the sidelines of the Men's Football 1sts, there they both were. Cantor was enjoying a game of croquet with Tom Moore and the Lancaster VC, whilst Ken

Batten was making sure fans didn't encroach onto the pitch. For a guy who surely must have Sundays off, was this proof that security is his passion rather than his job?

Considering they are two campus notables that have both received their share of bad press, it did make me think whether having a more visible presence on campus would both boost their popularity and, more importantly, help to allay York students' fears that the

powers-that-be really couldn't care less about them. A smile and a chat every now and then wouldn't solve all the communication problems this University has, but it would certainly provide a bit more good faith.

It was also good to see old members of the SU returning, although perhaps the expulsion of Micky Armstrong (Crocker's predecessor) from Roses D wasn't quite the homecoming he imagined.

What was most surprising was how refreshingly honest they were about matters at the University now they've left their positions of responsibility, with quotes regarding campus media rivals and the management of the University that I wished I could have got hold of a year or so ago whilst they were still in power. However, this was probably more a sign of the amount of alcohol consumed over the weekend that any inherent truthfulness brought out by the event itself.

Lancaster also had their part to play in the weekend, and although I wasn't present at any of the evening events, I had some great chats with them.

All in all the weekend seemed like a great success, even if you don't actually care about the sporting results. You never know, Roses may actually tempt me back to this place once I leave.

Men's win as women fall in mixed day for York

TENNIS

By Anjli Raval
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK DEFEATED Lancaster in both the Mixed and Men's tennis matches but lost heavily in the Women's to complete a day of mixed fortunes.

York dominated the mixed doubles matches winning 4-2 overall. There were fantastic performances from Willis and Cockbill, as well as Downey and Taylor. Both teams won in straight sets: 6-1, 6-2 and 6-1, 6-1 respectively.

York's Men's 1sts were narrowly victorious, win-



Lancaster team.
Photo: Rob Banks

ning 8-7 in their doubles and singles matches, gaining four points. The 6 Men's Singles matches brought a variety of scores, with 3 wins and 3 losses.

There were notable performances from Schofield who won in straight sets 7-6, 6-3, and from Hynes who won his

singles match 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a nail-biting finish after 6 match points. Downey, the captain, praised his team mate's performance, saying that it was well deserved.

The Women's 1sts team did not perform as well. With all three Doubles pairs losing their matches, it made the overall Doubles and Singles score to 11-4 to Lancaster.

However, the most exciting match was between both teams' 1st pairs, consisting of York's Lauren Cockbill and Lisa Blair against Lancaster's Isabelle Reuecher and Louise Taylor, with

Lancaster winning 8-5.

Both teams had very strong players, in particular Cockbill and Reuecher, whose ground strokes and serves were powerful point winners. York began well, swiftly winning the first set. Reuecher's unbelievable power did not seem to concern Cockbill whose athleticism, and topspin, worked to her advantage and resulted in the Lancaster team over-hitting at times, losing crucial points.

Lancaster slowly began to win games back, with Reuecher's intimidating backhands and slices combined with

Taylor's agility bringing the score to 6-3 to Lancaster.

York's Cockbill convincingly kept hold of her serve, with Lancaster's Taylor unable to hit back, allowing York to secure one game, making the score 6-4. Lancaster's Taylor had her serve broken despite the efforts to

maintain control through cross-court rallies, thus losing the game, however still sustaining a lead of 6-5, which then quickly became 7-5.

The last game saw Lancaster at their best with Reuecher winning her service game, ultimately bringing the score to 8-5.

Nouse - Roses 2007 team

SPORTS EDITOR:

Daniel Whitehead

SUPPLEMENT EDITOR:

Toby Green

WEB EDITOR:

Emma Gawen

WEB COORDINATORS:

Jennifer O'Mahony

Venetia Rainey

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR:

Criss Noice

PHOTO EDITOR:

Georgi Mabee

PODCAST EDITOR:

Niamh Walsh

SPECIAL THANKS:

Tom Moore and

Dave Greenshields



To buy or not to buy: the real fashion victims

A clean conscience and tight student budget are not easy bedfellows in the fashion world. **Steph Dyson** considers some alternatives to the dubious ethics of high-street shopping

High-street fashion is notoriously lacking in ethics and morals. Most of us are aware of this, but few are active in boycotting the worst offenders or campaigning to prevent worker exploitation. You might feel a twinge of guilt when you're rifling through the bargain rails of Primark, ASDA and H&M, but, at these prices, who cares?

Well, campaigning groups such as War on Want and Labour Behind the Label (LBL) certainly do and both have released revealing reports indicating the shocking state of working conditions in clothing manufacturing.

The high street is to blame for the phenomena of disposable clothing. Now that ranges are changed every few months, cheap and cheerful copies of the hottest catwalk trends are produced quickly, worn a couple of times and then substituted for an equally inexpensive replacement. But by what means are suppliers able to speed production to this rate, whilst maintaining low costs? It doesn't take a genius to realise the conditions in these production factories are not quite as cheerful as the clothing that they manufacture.

According to a report issued by charity War on Want in December 2006, workers in Bangladesh regularly work 80 hours a week for a mere 5p an hour. The investigation, 'Fashion Victims', examined the working conditions in six Bangladeshi factories in the capital Dhaka which employ over 5000 workers – mostly women – and produce clothing for British companies Primark, Tesco and ASDA. Although all are members of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), an alliance of companies which promotes ethical consumerism and states that "living wages [must be] paid", research discovered that starting wages were around £8 a month in Bangladesh, around a third of the £22 a month required. Workers are also prevented from exercising another part of the ETI Base Code which promotes "freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining". LBL discovered that, in another of ASDA's Bangladesh factories, "if anyone tries to organise workers and form a union, he or she would be handed over to the police". In 2004, 22 workers at a factory who demanded their legal overtime pay were allegedly beaten, fired and imprisoned

on false charges.

You may think this is not representative of all high-street chains. However, the credentials of the decidedly more upmarket retailers such as Topshop, Dorothy Perkins, Burton and Miss Selfridge (all of which are part of the Arcadia Group) are not in anyway more reassuring. LBL's report 'Let's Clean Up Fashion' criticised the Arcadia Group for its complacency with regard to changes to prevent worker exploitation. The biggest high-street retailer not to have joined the ETI, it recently forced suppliers to cut prices by 1%, a move which will reduce wages and their workers' standards of living even further. Like supermarket slave-drivers ASDA and Tesco, they merely apply their supplying country's legal minimum wage, a worrying fact seeing as multinational companies can pressurise governments to lower national wages in return for the company's continual use of their factories and the subsequent money that this feeds back into the country.

On the surface, university students look like they want to take a stand on ethical fashion. Here at York, for example, fair trade fashion has followed ethical investment and boycotting Coca-Cola onto the activists' agenda: recently YUSU passed a Sweatshops and Ethical Merchandise motion, demanding University clothing be bought from fair trade companies. The York Union Code also encourages YUSU to "purchase fair trade products where possible".

The trouble, it seems, is that students are notorious for hunting out a bargain, whether it's a 15p can of Tesco Value Beans or a £3 H&M T-shirt. As Lucy Ford, a first-year campus fashionista puts it: "I want to be ethical in my clothing choices, but on a student budget, this just isn't possible. If fair trade clothing was less expensive, then I'd certainly choose that over anything else, but it isn't, and frankly I can't afford it."

Many other students seem to feel the same way, declaring that 'ethical' clothing, such as fair trade brands or vintage items, are too expensive for their decidedly small budgets. Some of those I questioned also felt that the plight of the exploited workers seemed almost too disconnected from our standards of living to be important to them. This might help explain why a survey by TNS Worldpanel Fashion showed that only 42% of under-25s take any notice of ethical issues when it comes to what they wear.

In light of this, are there really any viable options to the ethical debate for the individual? Like the organic and fair trade food explosion gripping our supermarkets, there is more emphasis now on extending this into fashion, with numerous new fair trade companies emerging with an eye on ethics, not profits. Although they've moved a long way from the downright dodgy charity catalogue animal jumpers made from 100% organic products (and guaranteed to

make you look 100% like an idiot), I'm not convinced that this is yet the answer. In theory, fair trade fashion is the obvious winner; organically and ethically produced clothing guaranteed to ensure fairer conditions for factory workers. In practice, many consumers are unwilling to pay the expensive prices demanded by these brands. Internet companies such as People Tree, Enamore Ltd, and Bourgeois Boheme offer collections of beautifully finished organic and fair trade clothes, but with basic cotton day-dresses retailing above £100, to the student population, their appeal begins to diminish.

There are a few alternatives which perhaps are more realistic. Although we might quite like the fact that clothing has never before been so cheap, it is necessary for consumers to recognise that these rock-bottom prices are unsustainable and based on exploitation and maltreatment of workers, even if they are thousands of miles away. By adapting our shopping to exclude the most unethical companies whilst opting for retailers who have proven themselves to be seriously connecting with the ethical

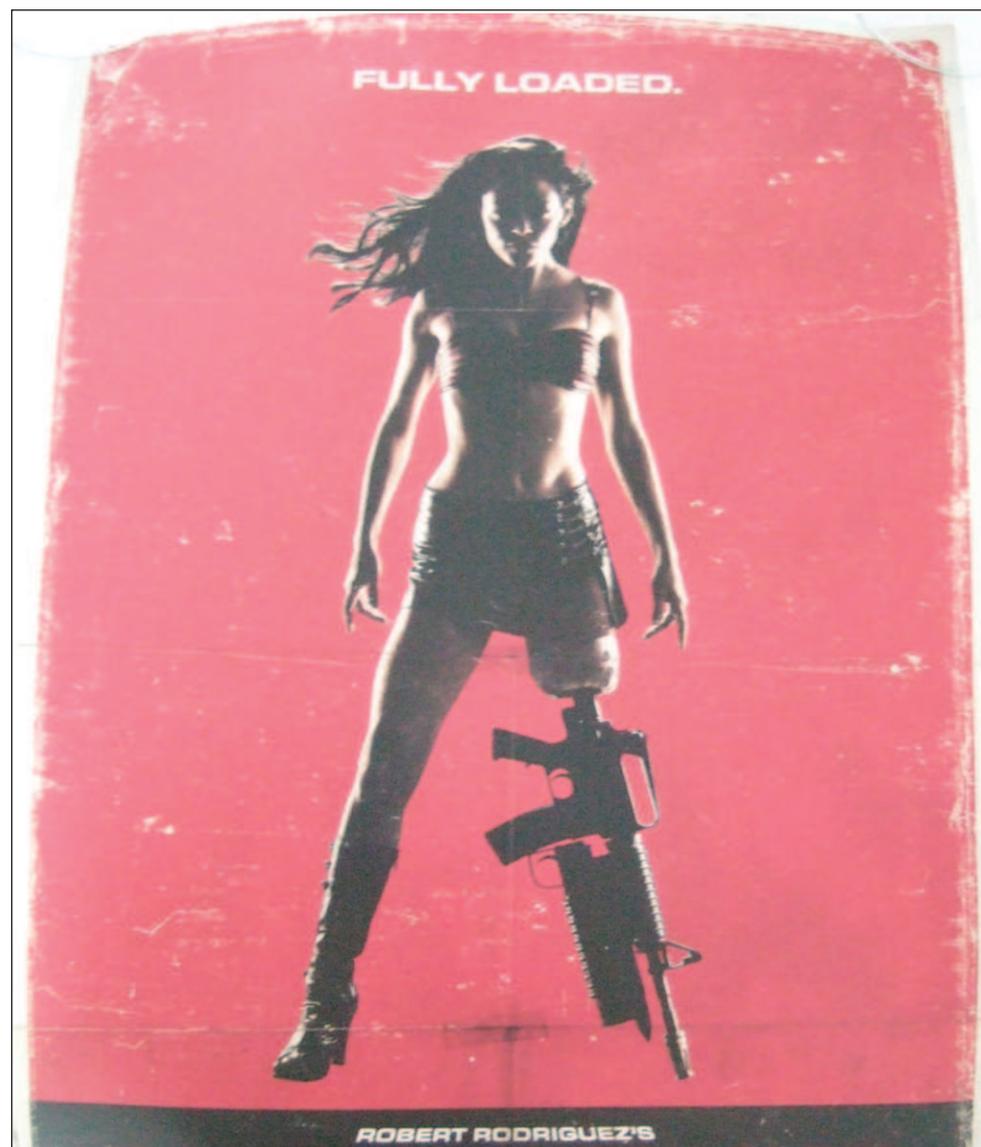
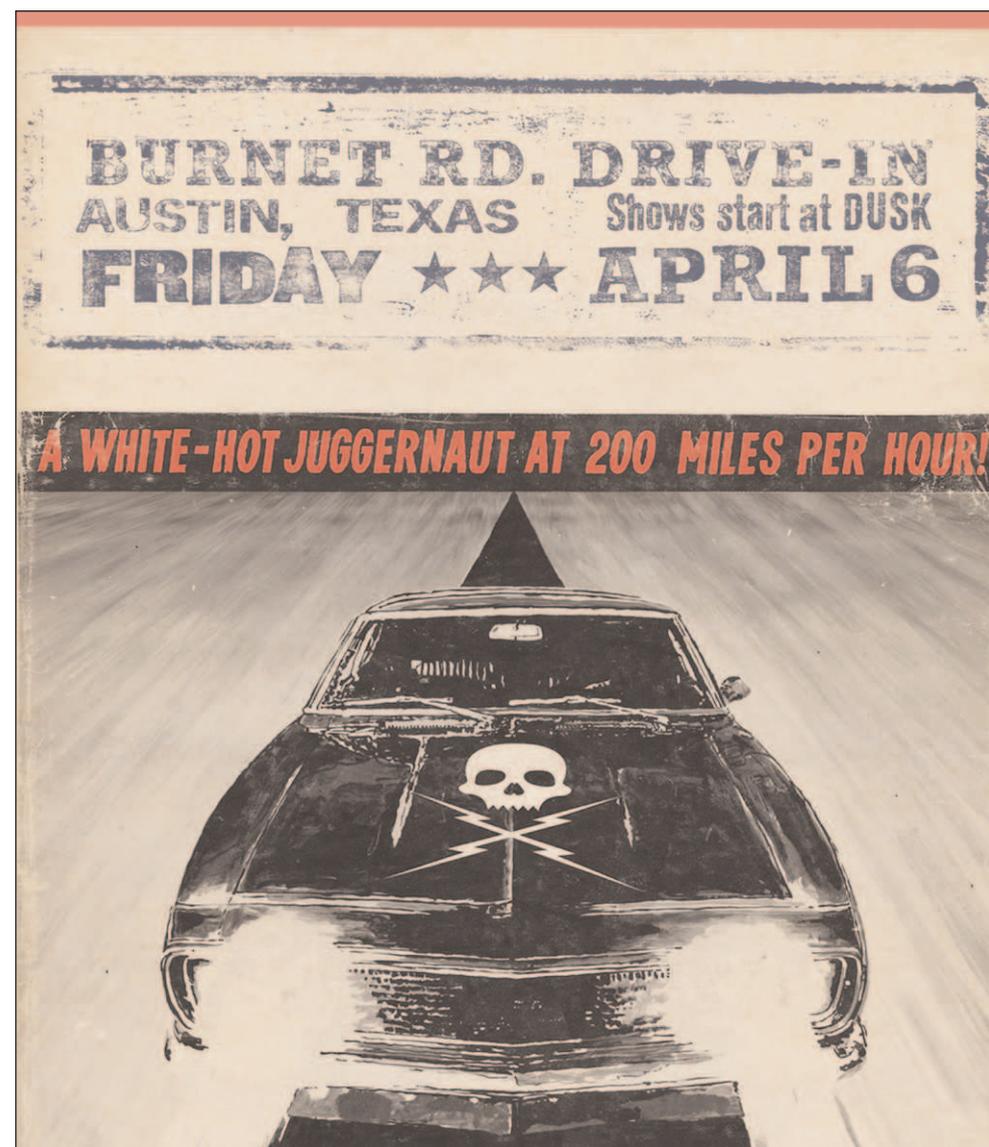
'The conditions in production factories are not as cheerful as the clothing that they manufacture'

debate and instigating concrete changes, we can force companies to reconsider their suppliers and begin to improve conditions for their workers. Although enforcing these changes will eventually result in price increases for us, the consumers, surely a couple of pounds extra on this side of the globe are worth proper living conditions on the other?

Some people view campaigns and boycotting companies as futile and having intangible results, yet the media furore regarding GAP's ethical practice during the past few years has been proven to have instigated positive change. In LBL's survey, GAP was discovered to be the most ethically minded of all the retailers researched, described as having taken "significant steps... to resolve the systematic abuses of workers' rights". Therefore, as a consumer, prove that you won't accept exploitation of workers' rights; buy from companies such as Gap, Next and Marks and Spencer who are proven to be making improvements to their ethical practice, whilst avoiding the most unethical companies, such as ASDA and the Arcadia Group, all of whom are concerned with money, not morality. I'd rather pay that little bit extra for a clearer conscience and the knowledge that efforts are being made towards fair trade.



The makings of a media massacre



Has the media's obsession with blood and gore really bred a generation of savage delinquents? **Jenny O'Mahony** asks whether violence is the new pornography

Last month, the new souped-up hyper-violent film from Tarantino and Rodriguez *Grindhouse* was released in America. According to *The New York Post's* review: "In one scene, a cute, topless girl is roughly tied down on a table by evil female Nazi experimenters who begin draining her blood and, as she screams in agony, they brand her like livestock with a coal-hot steel swastika." This was just one of the many spoof trailers.

We are increasingly confronted with the argument that the saturation of violence on our television screens, cinemas and computer games has bred a generation of violent delinquents who see nothing but economic gain, or social notoriety, in harming or even killing. Take, for example, the most recent gun massacre in the USA. The manner in which the 32 killings were carried out was thought to be inspired in part by the violent South Korean film *Oldboy*. Similarly, the Columbine High School killers re-enacted scenes from two other films: *The Matrix* and *The Basketball Diaries*. The recent tragedy at Virginia Tech has led many to ask if the media was responsible, just as Cho Seung-Hui's taunts of "You did this to me" begin to fade from our ears. *Grindhouse* is two films tacked together to imitate double bill B-movie

features, Rodriguez's *Planet Terror* and Tarantino's *Death Proof*, neither for the faint-hearted. The garish poster plastered on billboards around the nation depicts Rodriguez's heroine Cherry, played by Rose McGowan, with a semi-automatic machine gun where the bottom half of her left leg should be. While critics have lauded this new cinematic adventure, the public have sent out a clear message by staying at home. The film bombed in its first week, and takings have dropped by 65% since then. However, whether it was the violence that put people off remains to be seen; especially considering the massive success of 'torture-porn' films such as *Saw* and *Hostel*.

Should film directors be held accountable for injecting our society with such unashamedly unadulterated violence? *Grindhouse's* website contains lengthy interviews with its two directors, and it is immediately clear that they do not concern themselves with notions of social responsibility. They look ridiculously pleased with themselves at all times, smiling and nodding as Rodriguez gleefully asserts that he had to "melt anything good" out of his version of a grindhouse film; a sleazy '70s genre that the two have shrewdly capitalised on for a wider audience. But one must ask: why should they care about society? They

are artists, not politicians or teachers. Some would argue that it is their duty to push the boundaries of what is acceptable, and our duty as the consumer or audience to discern what we should and shouldn't watch. Particularly as in America the film has

Left: Tarantino's *Death Proof*; Right: Rodriguez's *Planet Terror*

'They are artists, not teachers or politicians. It is their duty to push the boundaries of what is considered acceptable'

been rated 'R', meaning that any child can see the film, so long as they are accompanied by someone over 21. The film's release in the UK has been postponed indefinitely.

Films, as a whole, are seen for

what they are: fantasy. But what of the minority in society who cannot distinguish between fantasy and reality? The majority of people garner a particular cathartic pleasure from watching a film, treating it as an escape of sorts. Whether you abhor directors such as Tarantino and Rodriguez as tasteless, or congratulate them for facing society's perverse obsession with blood and gore head-on is, in a sense, beside the point. The question is, are the people who take such images to heart already beyond our help? It is easy to make the media a scapegoat for the deeds of the psychopaths of our society; it is altogether much harder to examine our own actions, and our role in what is shown to us day to day. Maybe such people will always seek to cause harm, leaving us with little option but to try and understand them in order to limit the damage they could inflict.

Other films that have stoked the fires of controversy

Oldboy

This 2003 South Korean gore-fest, directed by Park Chang-Wook, was praised by Tarantino. It tells the story of a man who is unexplainedly imprisoned for 15 years and his attempts to discover the reasons behind his ordeal.

A Clockwork Orange

The 1971 adaptation of Anthony Burgess's novel was withdrawn from UK distribution by director Stanley Kubrick after being linked to a series of crimes, including a rape during which the attackers sang 'Singin' in the Rain'.

The Passion of the Christ

Mel Gibson's interpretation of the events surrounding Christ's crucifixion drew accusations of anti-semitism, deviation from the New Testament and excessive violence. None of these prevented it from being nominated for three Oscars.

Uncle Matthew



He would care, but he just doesn't want to...

'I think you dismiss your girlfriend too readily: who is to say what a pair of boots, tight-fitting tank-top and strategic (if expensive) plastic surgery might achieve?'

Dear Uncle Matthew,

I am doing something which I think might be wrong, and I need your help. I am a fresher and I have recently become involved with a much older woman. She is my manager at work and, although to me she is very beautiful, I am told by my friends that she looks every bit her age (which is 53). I know it seems an inappropriate age gap, and my friends say they don't understand what I see in her, but my mother left me when I was only four years old, so I find myself relishing the attentions of an older woman. My friends say I am sick, but I don't know how to stop. What should I do?

Lovesick, Vanbrugh

Dear Lovesick,

In matters of the heart, it really should not matter what your friends think. What is important is what you and your partner get out of the relationship. You say she is your manager: presumably therefore she earns a salary well in advance of your own, owns a comfortable (and hopefully unmortgaged) house and will shortly be enjoying a healthy pension. Statistically speaking, it should only be another 30 years or so before all that could be yours. I advise you to stay the course, and perhaps make a stronger commitment to each other, preferably of a legally binding sort. In couplings across the generational gap, I find that perseverance is its own reward.

Yours prenuptially,
Uncle Matthew

Dear Uncle Matthew,

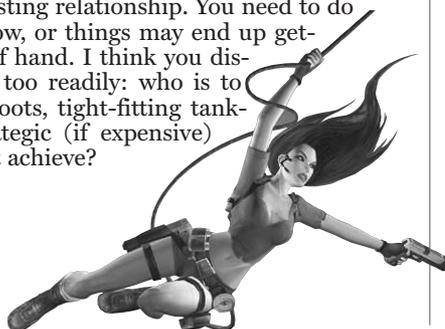
I think I love Angelina Jolie more than I love my girlfriend. I know it sounds strange, but I think she understands me better. The worst of it is that my girlfriend has cottoned on and has confiscated all of my Tomb Raider games, and my copy of *Mr and Mrs Smith*. She asked me outright if it was true and I couldn't deny it. I can't live without Angelina, but I am worried that if I don't overcome my obsession, I will lose my actual girlfriend who, though decidedly inferior, is at least more available to me in the flesh at present. What should I do?

Torn, Halifax

Dear Torn,

It seems like your infatuation with Angelina is in danger of breaking up your existing relationship. You need to do something drastic now, or things may end up getting hopelessly out of hand. I think you dismiss your girlfriend too readily: who is to say what a pair of boots, tight-fitting tank-top, shorts and strategic (if expensive) plastic surgery might achieve?

Yours pixellatedly,
Uncle Matthew



Dear Uncle Matthew,

I can't stop myself being vocally racist, sexist and offensively right-wing. This sort of thing is social suicide at a place like York, but I just can't help it. I recently posted on a public website that single mothers shouldn't be at university because they should have 'kept their legs shut' in the first place, told a dark-skinned student that he probably only got into university on the quota system and verbally abused a man in the pub for being Argentinian (when he turned out in fact to be French). My political views are having a terribly adverse effect on my social life. What should I do?

Misunderstood, Derwent

Dear Misunderstood,

Fitting in is never easy, especially for those like you who seem to have a lot to say. Rather than compromise your views, why not try and find some friends who feel the same as you? You will discover that they are not difficult to seek out. For example, there is a group of people who have been repeatedly posting leaflets through my door. They seem to be just as worried about immigrants and Britishness as you are (in fact, they even decorated the letter with some lovely Union Jacks). They must be lonely too, as they are continually asking for "my support". I'm sure they would love to welcome a new friend of your intelligence and wit.

Yours dictatorially,
Uncle Matthew

www.NOUSE.co.uk

Check out the improved Nouse website, with:



Podcasts - Relive the action with the Roses podcast, plus news, Muse and the all-new music podcasts.

Debate - Let us know what you think about the stories we run and the issues we cover.

Pictures - All the pictures from all the events over Roses weekend, plus many more.

Nouse meeting tonight:

Come along to our meeting at 6.30pm tonight in W/307 to discuss this edition, meet the editorial team and get involved in the next edition of Nouse.



Andreas Masoura

Immigrants and Hugh Hefner: the perils this University faces

Immigration shambles

I've just spotted an advert for *The Daily Vision's* forthcoming recruitment drive. After promptly jotting down the details in my ethically produced diary (only two exploited labourers died in the Cambodian factory, well below average), I realised it was a waste of time. I hadn't renewed my York visa, a requirement for those of Mediterranean descent who emigrate from London to the North. Some would even say I had slipped through the system, brutally exploiting those around me in order to clinch that dream job in Efe's. Changing burger grease these days is a challenging task requiring half a degree.

Disproportionate and inflated coverage of a handful of foreign students, 43 over three years, who apparently disappeared, clutching their student visas, has defined *Vision's* nationalist stance. As for the immigrants, the figure translates as 43 out of 10 000 students over three years which is under 1%. Perhaps these students simply left university and went home because they couldn't stand the rain. Have none of the usu-

ally adept and open-minded *Vision* editorial team for one moment considered this? Even if they had decided to stay, I cannot see an incentive to drop out of university in order to become a low-paid and probably exploited illegal worker. If these students were wealthy enough to come to university in the first place, then I'm sure they could resist the lure of a £2 an hour job as a kitchen scrubber in Camberwell. Ergo there is no incentive for the rational 'immigrant bastard, stop taking our jobs' type to disappear in the UK without a visa. I apologise for the patronising explanation. It is merely for the benefit of *Vision's* editorial team. I'm sure they

mean well really but there is a slight difference

between an overseas student and an Albanian on the back of a lorry. As for Britain being on the receiving end of exploitation, working on the plantations was all good fun, wasn't it?

League tables vs Bunnies

York has dropped down the university league tables. Maybe this is because of the immigrants, or maybe it is due to the lack of funds and general mismanagement of the Heslington East expansion which appears to be taking place at the expense of the existent University. According to David Garner, the University Press Officer, budgets are what we do. Fantastic. On the plus side, the University might become slightly more attractive. This has led to Playboy cancelling its talent-finding visit to York. Or perhaps it was because the YUSU exec, mainly comprising of narrow-minded idealists firmly rooted within the York bubble, decided that women would be exploited. From my limited experience of Playboy Bunnies, I have witnessed scores of students dress up in bunny ears given the slightest excuse. Some York students are even resorting to stripping for cash. Whether welfare likes it or not, sleaze and filth are a way of life.

Upping the ante

Much like the wet wipe that supplements

the toilet roll, *The Daily Vision's* high-quality Roses supplement littered campus lavatories all weekend. However, in future could it be made clear that anything produced by *Vision* is indeed by them when coinciding with our publication weekend? It was tiresome to repeatedly explain to people that the embarrassment of a handout was nothing to do with *Nouse*.

Supermarket sweep

Tesco's most notorious employee returned to York this weekend. Beep. He was thrown out of Roses D for breaking a window. Beep. Where's the bar code on this banana? Call the supervisor. Unfortunately, this was the highlight of Roses carnage, along with a karate match that ended with someone hurting themselves.

In other news...

Campus Ken is leaving. This signifies the end of York's unstylish yet manly look, paving the way for the Tony & Guy brigade complete with hair straighteners. Also, Baroness Thornton's visit to York was abruptly interrupted when she was violated by a goose. Apparently she enjoyed it so much that her visits are now weekly. Lastly, the University failed to register all students for the local elections, including several *Vision* editors. Their votes could have solidified the BNP's position in the area, cleansing York of any impurities.



FILLING IN THE GAPS

Nicky Woolf

An unusual air of excitement pervaded the leafy campus of the Greg Dyke Career Memorial Goose Sanctuary this weekend. It could have been the new-born hatchlings that are waddling around campus with that air of untouchability reserved for the sickeningly cute. It could have been the proud gooseparents, who are willing to go as far as butchering Baronesses to protect their ailing young ones. It also could have been a small sports tournament named after a large war that we hosted this weekend that brought with it joy, tears, victory, defeat and, most importantly of all, banter.

Tensions between York and Lancaster Universities came awkwardly to a head when a drunk Langwith student grabbed the head of a sleeping Lancastrian rugby player, thinking it was the famous Golden Duck (or to Goodricke students, Fit Duck), sitting on a chubby pink rocky outcrop. Did they really think that lucky hair made them look sexy? Did they really miss the fact that, when huddling in a pack, it

made them look like an identity parade for a sex crime?

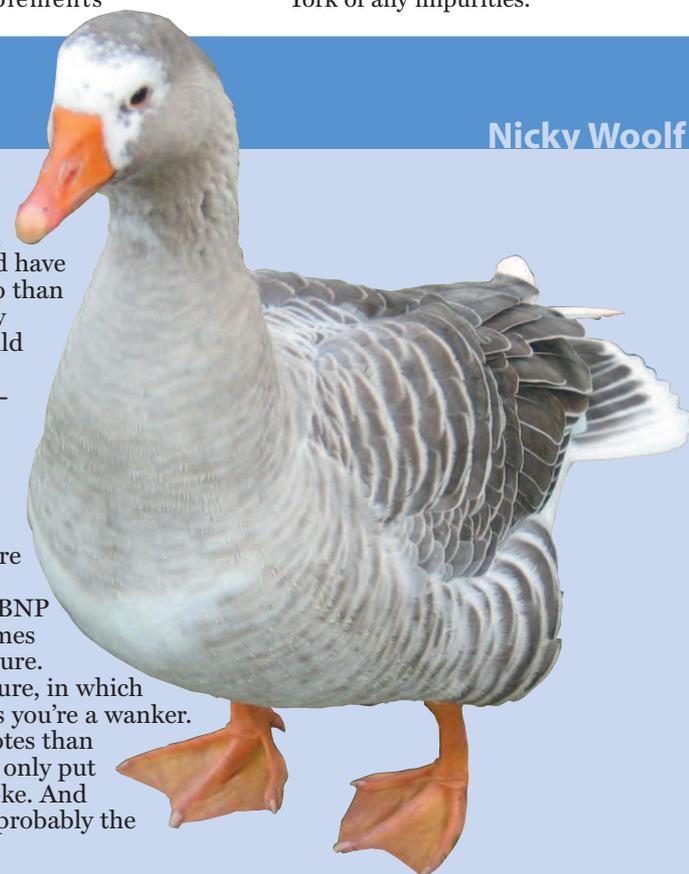
Anyway. We won. Hooray! Enough. A win at the manly sporting event whose name is suspiciously close to a girly flower serves only to distract us from the real issues. And the picture is grim. The University is taking our money to pay for Heslington East (of course they are. Don't believe the lies.), and I have Brian Cantor's word (off the record, of course) that if that pesky public enquiry doesn't allow the plans to go ahead, his Plan B is to take any remaining money the University has left and live out the rest of his years in hiding in Mexico City. If there is even enough money left to do that. If not, his Plan C is to open up a modest sweet shop in Dudley, which will, of course, go bankrupt after plans for a massive expansion, 'Haribo East', are refused permission by public enquiry. History is cyclic, don't you know.

As a result of all this, York campus will be empty, haunted by the ghosts of old YUSU sabbatical officers and

Redwatch informants.

Redwatch! You'd honestly think unhinged nationalist nutters would have found better things to do than hang around a university campus populated by mild centre-leftist alcoholics, eccentric academics, psychopathic geese and a hockey team who drink wine through fish heads prowling for victims. Apparently not.

Come on, guys! There are still council seats around without a failed BNP candidate. Sign your names up! Everyone loves a failure. Unless you're a BNP failure, in which case everyone still thinks you're a wanker. Ian Dawson got fewer votes than my mate's flatmate, who only put his name forward as a joke. And half of those votes were probably the geese anyway.



MusicReviews

SINGLES REVIEWS

BAND: MARILYN MANSON
SINGLE: HEART-SHAPED GLASSES

The inquisitive little blonde takes a darker twist down the rabbit hole in the first single from Manson's *Alice in Wonderland*-inspired album, *Eat me, Drink me*. However, a pre-warning for those who turn Marilyn-ward for your surreptitious fix of sadism and salacious debauchery - the only exorcism the track offers is in its torturing monotony. Unfortunately, Manson's attempts at melody have neutered the shock value, producing a comparatively saccharine tea party of a record.

BAND: ENRIQUE IGLESIAS
SINGLE: DO YOU KNOW

Who said that pre-packaged pop couldn't be innovative? Featuring nothing less than a Ping-Pong ball as percussion, the comeback single from Anna Kournikova's favourite Latino crooner is pushing boundaries. Well, one boundary; the rest of the track plays it fairly safe with pianos, strings and silky, emotive vocals. With the efforts of Timbaland and Xenomania, pop music has moved on in the three years since Enrique's last release. Alas, aside from the Ping-Pong, he doesn't seem to have caught on.

BAND: MAROON 5
SINGLE: MAKES ME WONDER

The 2005 Grammy's Best New Artist have reached the zenith of their musical journey and evolved into their grossly popular predecessors: The Backstreet Boys. Described by Adam Levine himself as "aggressive, upbeat and pounding", it does indeed make one ponder whether all Maroon's banging tunes have enforced premature deafness on the poor guy. Expect to hear this dance-pop gem on a Reflex revolving dance floor near you.

BAND: GWEN STEFANI
SINGLE: 4 IN THE MORNING

A rare ballad from the scarlet-lipped hipster as she goes back to basics, sharing the song-writing with No Doubt member Tony Kanal. Regarding the title and Gwennie's new yummy-mummy status, could little Kingston be the new sonic influence in pop's Von Trapp family? Oh, the sacrifices of motherhood. Not one to rock the dancefloor quite like 'The Sweet Escape', although a Thin White Duke remix may sort that right out.

Singles this week were reviewed by Sara Sayeed and Ben Rackstraw

Nouse Music Podcast

Like what you see here? Check out the new Podcast. Featuring a chat with Little Man Tate, clips of upcoming singles and campus band Magic P and the Innuendoes.

www.nouse.co.uk



BAND: NEW YOUNG PONY CLUB
VENUE: LEEDS COCKPIT
REVIEW: ALICE GREGSON
DATE: 30/05/07

★★★★☆

On May 30, when New Young Pony Club play the Leeds Cockpit, Tahita Bulmer (NME's 'Priestess of New Rave') and her motley musical crew of fluro, indie, electro-popsters, will allow her screaming audience a glimpse of the future. Were it up to her, Tahita would show them fantasy worlds with battling synths, epic songs cast into shadow by giant chess pieces, band members arriving on monochrome ponies and disintegrating techno lashed around the stage by get-up-and-dance beats.

But, alas, she can't. Pony Club's debut album *Fantastic Playroom* isn't out until June and with a fanbase best described as being closer to 'hardcore' than 'global', their budget is a tad too limited to fully enact their prophetic visions. The world will have to wait for the future to arrive in all its neo-punk



BAND: BOB DYLAN
VENUE: WEMBLEY STADIUM
REVIEW: ROBIN SEATON
DATE: 15/04/07

★★★☆☆

Despite its recent refurbishment, Wembley Arena manages to retain slightly less in the way of atmosphere than my local shopping centre. Not only that, but the staff appeared to be vigorously enforcing strict new guidelines on the maximum levels of fun per punter: "No running allowed!" Dylan's appearance was a welcome distraction - although the hyperactive warm-up message: "Voice of a generation! Poet of the '60s counterculture!" seemed a little superfluous.

Dylan certainly didn't betray any excitement at returning to the most soulless venue this side of the British Atheist Society's AGM. After playing guitar for the first couple of numbers, he swiftly shifted to his keyboard and barely moved for the next 90 minutes. 'Nettie Moore' and a stomping 'Blind Willie McTell' stood out, but the rest of the set lacked inspiration, variety and drive. The good humour and dry wit Dylan has recently shown on his Theme Time Radio Hour show were disappointingly absent and without Dylan providing a lead, his band seemed unwilling to do anything too exciting.

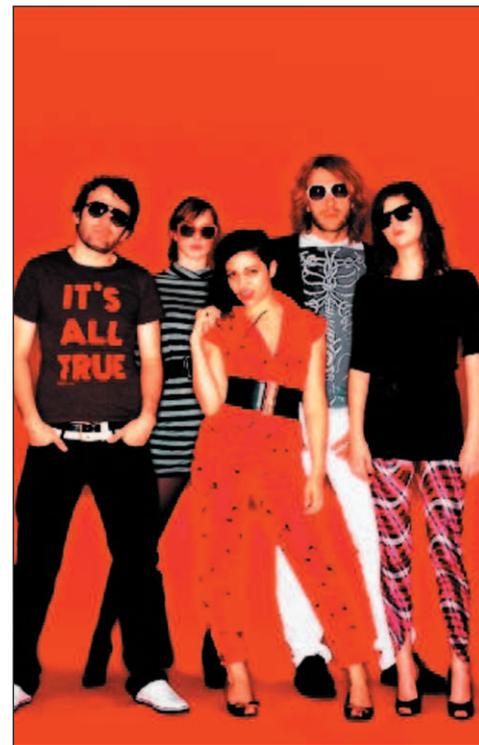
Bob Dylan is probably the sole artist to rival Aphex Twin for lack of interaction with his audience - most of whom would have had a better time staying at home and turning up *Live 1975: The Rolling Thunder Revue*.

glory. But, until the future does get here, or until Pony Club are handed the oracular funds they deserve, we will have to remain content with what we have.

And what we have is cooler than Marc Jacobs's new line of cocaine. 'The Bomb', 'Descend', 'Get Dancey' and 'Ice Cream' are all products of a band riding, leading and generating the most cutting edge movement in music. A movement that downs glow sticks for breakfast, runs onto stage playing guitars made of flashing lasers and finally hits the sack at eight in the morning only to do the same thing again that night.

But let's not jump ahead of ourselves. These kids haven't always been cool. Just like many of their fans, Pony Club are self-professed geeks. Happy to relax with Manga rather than bending over backwards to follow the music industry's every glib stylistic twitch, Pony Club are cutting their own path (and hair) through the jungle of superficiality to a clearing of inimitable hipness.

However, until Tahita and her acolytes of geek-funk chic can further share these bubbling nuggets of sound destiny with the rest of us on *Fantastic Playroom*, the only future date worth looking into is May 30.



BAND: GROOVE ARMADA
ALBUM: SOUNDBOY ROCK
REVIEW: BEN RACKSTRAW
DATE: 07/05/07

★★★★☆

How do you successfully follow the release of a *Best Of...*, so often the death-knell of a career? Groove Armada show it can be done with a slick sonic evolution, generating quite possibly the sound of the summer.

It seems like the disappointing *Love Box* was a chrysalis for the duo's style. The contrived thumpy beats and trance elements of the predecessor sound much more natural in this album, while the terrible rock posings of tracks like 'Madder' have thankfully been eclipsed by the reggae and dancehall influences that lent 'Superstylin' such a swaggering groove. Put to use most effectively in the title track and the lead single 'Get Down', these downright funky tunes settle happily amongst the progressive house that makes up the rest of the album.

Almost all of the tracks scream out "dance anthem" like Dave Pearce after one too many cheeky Vimtos; this is the music you need after a day's sunbathing to take your evening to the sweaty hands-in-the-air conclusion it needs.

Even so, Groove's downtempo past isn't completely forgotten - after the popstastic, destined-for-the-chart, ex-Sugababes-featuring 'Song 4 Mutya', the album finally winds down with a couple of slices of relaxed chill-out that complete a fantastic comeback.



BAND: KINGS OF LEON
VENUE: DONCASTER DOME
REVIEW: STEVEN WILLIAMS
DATE: 26/04/07

★★★★☆

Having recently bucked the trend for diminishing returns with the five-star *Because of the Times*, the Kings return to the country which first embraced them, bringing along songs good enough to make you forget you're in Doncaster - almost. Hitting puberty in reverse, they've certainly matured since the days of beards and Zoë Ball endorsements. Now the sons of a preacher man brim with well-deserved confidence as they enter stage right, a far different animal from their somewhat shambolic beginnings.

It's testament to the strength of the songs that despite minimal crowd interaction from the Kings, all eyes in the room are unflinchingly transfixed for the full 90 minutes. The set exudes the impact of a greatest hits collection - quite the feat considering the majority of the songs are pulled from the new album. Nathan's thunderous drumming rejuvenates older songs like 'Molly's Chambers', which is transformed from generic rock into a swaggering and altogether sexier beast.

A wet dream for demographically minded record companies, the Kings' appeal extends from tweeie emos to middle-aged, married couples. But as the set finishes, all unite in open-mouthed rapture at Caleb's characteristically sonorous squawking.

ArtsReviews

BOOK: BLACK SWAN GREEN

AUTHOR: DAVID MITCHELL

PUBLISHER: SCEPTRE

PRICE: £7.99

REVIEW: RACHEL HOPKINS

★★★★☆

The fourth novel from two-time Booker Prize finalist David Mitchell, *Black Swan Green* promised to be a captivating read; a typical 'coming-of-age' novel set in 1982 against the backdrop of the Falklands War.

Perhaps autobiographically, Mitchell takes a frank look at early adolescence characterised in a young boy named Jason Taylor. He deals with the trials and tribulations faced by every teenage boy: first kisses, bullies and playground hierarchies.

In addition to the daily strife of a typical 13-year-old, Jason hoards two secrets. One is his irrepressible love of poetry, the other a daily battle with his biggest nemesis - his stammer, which he aptly names his "hangman". His desperation to hide it from his classmates sees Jason frustrated and bitter, with only one place he feels he can truly be himself: in poetry.

Though at times difficult to read with a confusing narrative structure, once you get your head round it this is a beautiful story filled with laughter and tragedy. Familiar to all, this book is an apt reminder of childhood trauma and shows a boy desperate to be accepted yet with a fierce determination to make his own way in the world.

CLASSIC BOOK REVIEW

BOOK: THE SEA, THE SEA

AUTHOR: IRIS MURDOCH

PUBLISHER: VINTAGE

PRICE: £7.99

REVIEW: CHLOE ALEXANDER

★★★★☆

Purchased on my first day of the university year, this book felt suitably grand and 'studenty'. It encompasses love, aging, self-discovery and loathing, loneliness and desire - pretty good going. It is the diary of Charles Arrowby, just retired to the coast after a seemingly glamorous life in the theatre, who indulges in reflection and playing house. Later, strands of his life creep back to reclaim his attention.

I was delighted with the speed at which disasters and passions accumulated. The descriptions are brilliantly sharp. It felt very real, reaching towards an everyday beauty, with which my imagination could really get to grips. As a food fan, I particularly enjoyed the description of Charles' eclectic lunches.

The sea increasingly reflects Charles's thoughts and feelings, even dominating them. Characters from Charles's past and present converge, showing his choice of isolation to be a sham. He is tied to them as they are to him, an extremely compelling theme. It was also a treat to be let in on the internal conniving of an old man, seeing the way he manipulates the people in his life.

Amy Scott visits the Drama Barn for an ample serving of sex, lies and a poisoned chalice

With a new line-up at the Drama Barn about to begin at the weekend, this term's directors and performers have a lot to live up to after the climax of the Spring Term's season; Matthew Lacey's production of *Women Beware Women*. Thomas Middleton's classic tells the story of a young and innocent bride, Bianca (Niamh Walsh), corrupted by the machinations of the sinister courtiers and aristocrats that surround her new home.

A veritable orgy of lust, violence and deceit, *Women Beware Women* was surely student drama at its very best. Costume designers Laura Archer, Anna Hogan and Helen Stay deserve a review of their own for their beautiful and varied classical designs. There were many high quality performances. Jamie Wilkes in particular, playing the role of Bianca's cuckolded husband Leantio, engaged the audience from first to last with his, in turn, witty and baffled performance. Walsh made a strong Bianca and, although her diction was at times unclear, handled the development from innocent naïf to corrupt seductress with the flair the role deserves. Other notable performances included Rebekah

Brazier's scheming Livia, and a bustling and biddish Rebecca Chalk in the role of Leantio's mother.

Although some individual performances shone, the real successes of this production came in the group scenes, orchestrated by Lacey with an uncanny attention to detail. Each performer remained fully in-role with idiosyncratic direction while out of the focus of the scene. This was a refreshing contrast to the usual tactic of vague 'crowd-scene' small talk, which added a richness and depth to the scenes that, handled badly, would simply have become distracting.

The centre-piece of the evening, and the pivot of the events of the play, was the rape of Bianca by the Duke of Florence (Dominic Allen). However, this is not a Shakespearean act of violence or revenge, but the Duke's attempt to win Bianca as his own. Furthermore, Middleton's Bianca, once raped, wholeheartedly embraces a life with her attacker. Indeed, most (male) critics of the play refer to the incident as seduction rather than rape. Any feminist reading of the play of course rejects the idea of Bianca's complicity in the incident, and instead



Women Beware Women cast Niamh Walsh and Tom Powis

portrays her as powerless in the face of the Duke's authority - thus mirroring the power relationships throughout the play. Lacey's production embraced the more woman-friendly view but perhaps took this stance too far. The dialogue of coercion between Allen and Walsh was garbled and incomprehensible due to the violence that encompassed it, and meant that the audience missed many important statements by the Duke about Bianca's future security as his mistress. This left Bianca's sudden turn against her husband following the rape unexplained and confusing.

The rape itself was well directed and successfully portrayed its horrific nature, but there was no need for this to replace rather than stand along-

side the seduction sequence. Middleton's play is by no means clear-cut, or there would be no critical debate on the issue. Lacey had every right to cast Bianca as a victim, and in fact would have little motivation to do anything else in this day and age. But to simply overshadow the confusion surrounding the Duke's actions is to limit the scope of the play, and force an interpretation on an audience that should be trusted to make up its own mind. Overall, *Women Beware Women* demonstrated the increasingly high level of quality in the University's theatrical productions and, after other publications having printed rather damning statements about its facilities, really demonstrated how the Barn can be used to a near-professional level.

WHAT'S ON

DRAMA BARN

Week 3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Lear's Daughters - Directed by Rasheeda Nalumosu, produced by Amy Scott.

The Cut - Co-directed, co-produced by Sophie Davies and Cheryl Gallacher.

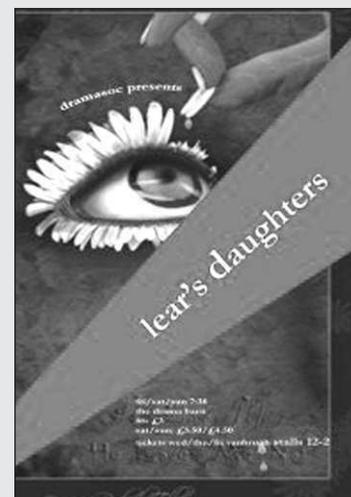
Subletting - Directed by Jethro Compton, produced by Alice Boagey.

Journey's End - Directed by Ellie Groom, produced by Beth Underdown.

Trainspotting - Co-directed, co-produced by Alex Wright and Simon Maeder.

The Tartuffe - Directed by Jamie Wilkes, produced by Raphael Gindre.

Daisy pulls it off/The Children's Hour - Directed by Rebekah Brazier, produced by James Hirst.



YORK THEATRE ROYAL

The Boyfriend

York Musical Theatre Company

May 9-19

Tickets £3.50-£17.50

The York Realist

York Settlement Players

May 9 - 19

Tickets £10

KINGS MANOR

Spring Show

Paintings by Heather Niven and

Rosalind Walker

Until May 18.

SPOTLIGHTON

Open Drama Nights - Monday nights in the Drama Barn

Open Drama Nights run every Monday in the Drama Barn and are available for anything that wouldn't suit the standard three-night run. The summer season presents an exciting variety of entertainment, all for the bargain price of absolutely nothing.

This term sees a wealth of new material from some of York's finest playwriting talent, including a new play by student Dominic Allen and the only York performance of Alex

Wright's *Tapestry* before it hits the boards at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer.

Last week's Open Drama Night featured a series of sketches and monologues from Shakespearean adaptations in conjunction with the Week 3 production of *Lear's Daughters*. Other highlights include an interactive play and a 'make your own adventure' night, as well as a night dubbed Thoughtless Comedy which is playfully

described as 'a workshop in cocking up'.

Every Open Drama Night is open to all and entirely, 100% free for both participants and audience.

Check out www.dramasoc.com for more info or email opendrama@dramasoc.com or speak to ODN reps Will Seaward and Andy Birnie - it couldn't be easier to get involved!

Amy Scott

Film Reviews

DAVIDCOATES

How far can artistic license stretch?



Zach Snyder's adaptation of the Frank Miller graphic novel *300* concerns the heroism of 300 Spartan soldiers who held back the massive Persian army for three days. There is no doubt that Miller took great artistic license with the facts; that in itself is nothing unusual nor particularly important. It is his portrayal of the major players that betray the prejudice of his work.

Spartan society was unique in the ancient world for its egalitarianism; women could own land, vote, gain an education and enjoy personal freedom and respect on a par with their male peers. The sole female role in *300* falls to Gorgo (Lena Headey), whose participation extends as far as servicing her husband, being raped by a senior politician (Dominic West's Theron) and delivering the most hackneyed pro-war speech since Rambo was still kicking about. Once her words fail – and it is made clear that they would never succeed – she shows Theron's treachery by stabbing him in the groin, where he has helpfully concealed a bribe from the Persians.

Politicians, priests, anyone in a role where words precede actions, is a coward in Miller's eyes. The 'ephors', portrayed as grotesque, deformed perverts in *300*, were in fact no more than elected citizens, who could not hold office for more than 12 months and were controlled by complex checks and balances. Yet Miller (and, implicitly, Snyder) sees fit to insert corrupt, black-hearted monks where they simply did not exist.

Miller seems similarly confused about the Persian forces, which appear on screen as an amalgam of Oriental, African, and – occasionally – Arabic cultures, led by an androgynous deviant with a preference for body piercing. Everything about the Persians is debauched and deformed; the monstrous executioner, the mutilated inmates of Xerxes' harem, even the hunchback Ephialtes are all portrayed as distorted reflections of the perfect simplicity of the Spartans.

For perfect they are. And in Miller's world, perfect means Anglo-Saxon, heterosexual, god-defying men. Snyder has since tried to distance himself from the work, claiming that criticising the film was "missing the point" and that it was "ninety per cent accurate." To produce a piece where *300* white men go to the Middle East to fight an infidel army of the east would be madness 20 years from now. But this is madness, and this is blasphemy. But this was not Sparta.

FILM: THE LIVES OF OTHERS
 DIRECTOR: FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK
 STARRING: MARTINA GEDECK ULRICH MUHE
 REVIEW: PAUL BECKER
 RUNTIME: 137 MIN



East Berlin, 1984. Socialism is alive and well in the German Democratic Republic. Gerd Wiesler (Mühe) is one of its chief enforcers, a captain of the Stasi (short for 'State Security'), the ministry whose objective is to see everything, to know everything. He wears authority like a suit, staring down the enemies of socialism in 48-hour interrogations with the icy, impersonal glare of the system he represents. He has a habit of not blinking, on the job or off. He lives in a spare apartment in an anonymous concrete building, wears a grey anorak over his suit, gets his intimacy by the half-hour.

One evening at the theatre, his eyes light up at the sight of George Dreyman (Sebastian Koch), a suspiciously unsuspecting playwright for whom, as a colleague drily remarks, "the GDR is the greatest country on earth." Or is it rather

Dreyman's lead actress and lover, Christa-Maria Sieland (Gedeck), who catches Wiesler's eye? Or perhaps something between them, the kind of warmth he knows nothing about? He is assigned to a full surveillance of the couple's apartment, not least because a party bigwig, a creepy fellow named Hempf, has himself set his sights on Christa and could stand to get rid of her boyfriend.

In this society you are expected to share every last shred of yourself, your love and your loyalty at the whim of your officials; and these latter, by appropriating the lives of others, forsake the right to have one of their own.

Not Wiesler, though. He listens to Dreyman and Christa talk, argue, make love, and, slowly, unconsciously at first, starts to feed from their energy. And gives back, by covering up for Dreyman when he anonymously publishes a subversive article in a West German magazine. He even appropriates the writer's creativity, filling his daily reports with the made-up plot of a fiercely pro-communist play Dreyman is allegedly writing.

With the pressure mounting, the drama moves towards its cruel climax; the final scene recalls *Chinatown* in all its tragic glory. The film itself ends on a reconciliatory note, with the idea that if good deeds come to nothing in life, they



may at least do so in art.

This film, incredibly, the debut of screenwriter-director von Donnersmarck, is a classic in the making. The skies are uniformly grey, the artistic folk may live in houses littered with books and lit in golden lamplight, but there is neither pretension nor stereotype in the simplicity and force of the central questions: what is an actress who cannot act? A writer who can-

not write? How far do these people need to bend to retain that essential part of themselves? And what is the man who listens to them if not their audience, and, realising this, what does he owe them?

The cast is uniformly excellent, drawing something redeemable from even the lowliest villain; not a false note is struck in this incredibly rich film. In German, with English subtitles.

FILM: CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
 DIRECTOR: YIMOU ZHANG
 STARRING: GONG LI CHOW YUN-FAT
 REVIEW: JAMES PATTERSON
 RUNTIME: 114 MIN



Yimou Zhang - director of *Hero* and *House of Flying Daggers*, irresistibly beautiful movies starring the brightest stars of Chinese cinema - knew he had a tough act to follow.

Set in the forbidden city in 10th-Century China, *Curse of the Golden Flower* recounts the efforts of Empress Phoenix (Li) to keep her household from self-destructing in the days before the Chrysanthemum Festival, a celebration of family unity. Her task is made somewhat difficult by her discovery that the Emperor (Chow) is poisoning her. But this is only the start of her troubles, as unspoken secrets return to the palace, threatening the stability of China's ruling house.

The film is stunningly beautiful, the impossible extravagance of the palace brought almost blindingly to life by a director who continues to raise the bar for artistic endeavour in cinema. His celebrated fights are used sparingly but effectively, never encroaching on the plot. Li performs beautifully on the edge of madness, aware of her



stepson's desires and her husband's machinations, but unable to act upon either.

For his part, Chow projects a convincing blend of austerity and malice as Emperor Ping, who remains religiously adherent to the symbols of family and state without concern for the reality of either. His actions bring about a startlingly brutal final act, more graphic than any of Zhang's previous offerings, the emotional violence of life within the palace reflected in the merciless slaughter without.

This is a tragedy in the classical sense and the ending may seem somewhat unsatisfactory. However, it remains in keeping with the spirit of the film, which favours the efforts of the characters to fight free from sovereign tyranny and suppression, but recognises the futility of fighting it on its own terms.

CLASSIC FILM: STAND BY ME
 DIRECTOR: ROB REINER
 STARRING: WILL WHEATON RIVER PHOENIX
 REVIEW: STEPH CREWES
 RUNTIME: 89 MINS



Stand By Me (1986) is the quintessential buddy movie. Set in 1959, the film explores the trials and tribulations of four young boys embarking on an adventure to find a dead body in the woods around their small hometown. A writer (Richard Dreyfuss) looks back on his childhood, recounting the characters of Gordie (Wheaton), Chris (Phoenix), Teddy (Corey Feldman) and Verne (Jerry O'Connell). Gordie is a shy, quiet, aspiring writer and the rock of the group, suffering after his older brother's death. Chris is the oldest, from the rough side of town. The stoic Teddy and goofy Verne complete the group.

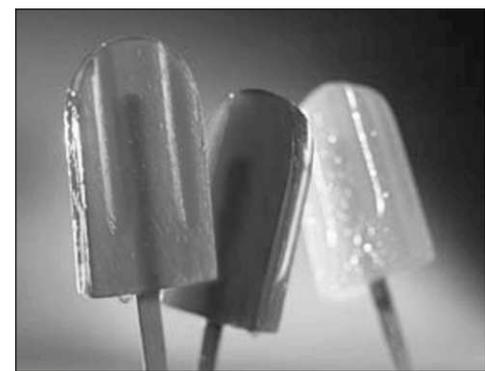
The film is beautiful, lit in perpetual golden sunlight. Reiner's stunning long shots of the boys walking across fields and down train tracks presents a sense of endlessness and anticipation. The four young actors challenge the film's underlying melodrama with convincing portrayals of friendship bound by loyalty and affection. *Stand By Me* holds the wistful innocence of childhood summer as the boys goof around and have inane conversations, "Mickey is a



mouse, Donald is a duck, Pluto is a dog. What's Goofy...?" However, as their weekend journey continues, they learn more about each other than they anticipated.

The power of friendship is the crux of the film, seen in a moving scene between Gordie and Chris around the campfire. Phoenix evokes the bridge between childhood innocence and painful experience when confessing the reality of being "one of those lowlife Chambers kids", shunned by town society. *Stand By Me* is a moving film, a film you watch with your best friends, wrapped in longing for childhood innocence, when the only thing with meaning was friendship. As the writer realises, "I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was 12. Jesus, does anyone?"

Food&DrinkReviews



WHICH ICE LOLLY?

Summer is officially back. The sun is shining, sunglasses are on, flip flops are back in fashion and the jingle of the traditional British ice cream van is once more becoming a familiar sound in the streets of York. At this time of year there is quite simply no better way to spend gaps between lectures than by indulging in a delicious ice lolly. Fruity or chocolatey? On a stick or in a tube? Walls or Nestle? The choices are endless. It seems the only way to choose is to let us at *Nouse* try them for you and we are only too happy to oblige.

LOLLY: TWISTER
PRICE: 70P

Bursting with the zingy and exotic flavours of pineapple, lemon and strawberry, this popular spiralled lolly came into our shops in 1982 and has been at the top of our ice lolly list ever since. The combination of fruity flavours sounds unusual but they compliment each other surprisingly well. I was shocked to discover that it contains a mere 58 calories, making it a pretty guilt-free summer treat. Fruity yet also creamy, Twisters never seem to disappoint and are just perfect for these beautifully sunny days.

LOLLY: FRUIT PASTILLE
PRICE: 60P

This lolly should gain extra marks for having a high variety of flavours but after a few minutes you end up with not five but one flavour, which rather disappointingly is lemon. Whoever made the decision to make yellow the base colour of the lolly obviously didn't do their market research. Everyone knows that red and orange are the best colours.... or is that just me?

LOLLY: FAB
PRICE: 50P

Strawberry lolly, vanilla cream and chocolate coated in hundreds and thousands make this a colourful and sweet summer treat. Still a childhood favourite but not quite as enjoyable as it could be and not my first choice on a summer's day.

LOLLY: CALIPPO
PRICE: 50P

A personal favourite and the perfect way to get me into the summery mood. The packaging is an added convenience; easy to eat whilst on the move and there's no worry of the awkward balancing moment of trying to keep the last piece of your lolly on the stick. The sickly sweet melted remains at the end of the tube are also an added bonus.

Lauren Menzies

RESTAURANT: DOODLES
ADDRESS: DERWENT COLLEGE
AVE. FOOD PRICE: £3
AVE. DRINK PRICE: £1.50
REVIEW: HELEN CITRON

★★★★☆

This term, the University of York welcomes a new addition to its existent array of campus restaurants. Doodles, marketed as a 'Fast-Food Bar', has just opened in Derwent.

Generic offerings such as burgers and chips are available but, I was assured by Reena Quarton of the Catering Communication Services, they are a far cry from the notoriously suspect offerings of Efe's. The burgers are delicious. Unlike the frozen meat used in other campus eateries, these burgers are made on-site from fresh beef mince and herbs. "We still feel they're under-seasoned, but we're working on improving them," Quarton tells me, showing an admirable dedication to campus catering.

Healthy eating is certainly top of the

agenda and the menu boasts offerings such as 'pitta pockets' - pitta bread filled with chicken and various accoutrements - which, I was told by my fellow diner, were excellent. For vegetarians there is a coriander and chickpea burger. Although a little dry, it was certainly filling and tasty and the 'skinny chips' that accompanied it were cooked to perfection. However, as the sole veggie option on the menu, it may leave York's vegetarians disgruntled.

Doodles is working in conjunction with Rollover Hot Dogs - a company providing this ever-popular snack in a healthy form. The company's promotional material proclaims that the hot dogs provide "the body with the right type of fuel to maintain better levels of concentratio". The frankfurters are reduced salt and fat and are GM-free. The distinctive Rollover Hot Dog stand will be making an appearance at future campus events such as Planet V.

Given that, amongst the student population, fast food is typically the preserve of the post-club drunkard, Doodles's opening hours are a drawback. Hot food stops being served at 2pm. However, for anyone looking for a cheap, filling and healthy lunch, Doodles is the place to go.



RESTAURANT: JADE GARDEN
ADDRESS: TOWER STREET
AVE. FOOD PRICE: £7
AVE. DRINK PRICE: £4
REVIEW: STACEY GO

★★★★☆



Unless you're willing to consume worryingly sub-standard cuisine and risk food poisoning, a reasonable Chinese restaurant in York is hard to find. Having been greatly disappointed with the city's oriental offerings in the past, it was with much trepidation that I entered Jade Garden. In retrospect, there was no need to be so pessimistic.

Upon entry, I was handed a menu boasting a wide variety of classic Chinese specialities. After much deliberation I chose the kung pao chicken (chicken marinated in oyster sauce served with Sichuan peppercorns, bamboo shoots and cashew nuts). The mixture of garlic, chilli peppers and sesame oil created a dish that oozed with flavour and contained the perfect balance of spice and sweetness. With every tender morsel of chicken I tasted, the more my preconceived notions of a sub-par establishment were erased.

If you're hankering after Eastern cuisine, Jade Garden is one of the better restaurants in York, serving authentic, top quality Chinese food. And what's best, you definitely won't walk away with a severe bout of food poisoning, as you may do from some of the 'all you can eat' restaurants. With Chinese it's certainly safer to pay that little extra.

RESTAURANT: EL GAUCHO
ADDRESS: WALMGATE
AVE. FOOD PRICE: £12
AVE. DRINK PRICE: £3.20
REVIEW: SAM WHITTAKER

★★★★☆



After the horror that was El Piano I opted to try my hand - and my taste buds - at its polar opposite, El Gaucho, an Argentinian steak house, after it was recommended to me by a waiter at Strada. As I strolled in, I was met with the image of a cow hide on the wall - perhaps not the ideal place for vegetarians to dine - and suspected that this may be more my cup of tea.

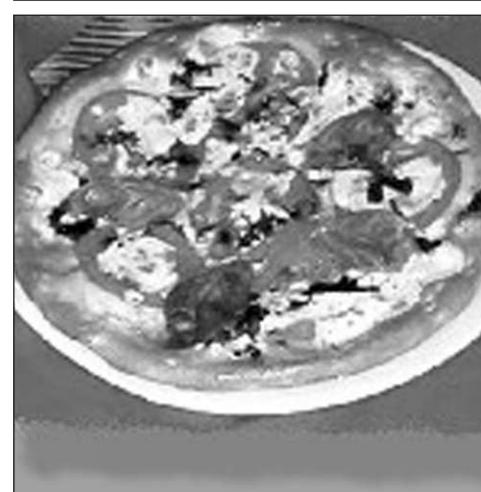
Perusing the menu, I found a range of steaks from various forms of grass-fed cows and finally opted for the Chuleton, a sirloin of the finest quality. Indeed, I wasn't disappointed, it was everything I look for in a steak: tasty, tender and most of all, filling. Served with home-made chips and salad, it was well worth the money.

However, the 'cake-biscuit' escapade that followed was, well, interesting. Upon ordering the Alfajor, an Argentinian cake, there was much furore among my friends and as it became clear the cake was not a cake but in fact a biscuit- adding another layer to the perennial Jaffa Cake debate.

Nevertheless, this was a thoroughly enjoyable meal and I would most certainly recommend any big meat-eaters, especially those who avoid eating steak in Britain, to give El Gaucho a chance.

RESTAURANT: TUSCANY PIZZA
ADDRESS: CONEY STREET
AVE. FOOD PRICE: £7
AVE. DRINK PRICE: £2
REVIEW: HELEN CITRON

★★★★☆



Anyone looking for an exciting culinary experience should not place Tuscany Pizza at the top of their list. The food is inoffensive and generously portioned but the restaurant brings nothing new to the plethora of pizza restaurants already present in York.

Compared to Pizza Express and Ask, located in perfectly furnished, high-ceilinged buildings, the bizarre interior of Tuscany Pizza cannot compete. Its attempts to combine space-age metallic surfaces with rustic wood only create an atmosphere which hovers uncomfortably between the two cliches of minutely-portioned nouveaux cuisine and the overcooked wares of a tacky Italian.

However, the food itself was perfectly good. The anti-pasti we had as starters gave a touch of the authentic and my Fiorentina pizza was generously proportioned, with a perfectly-cooked base. The pasta dishes were nothing to write home about; perhaps it is better to stick to pizza here. The cheesecake was disappointingly dry but the coffees were superb and rounded off the meal nicely.

The three years that this restaurant has lasted is testament only to its safe formula. I would not hesitate to recommend it to any hungry shoppers looking for a standard slice of pizza, but don't get too excited.



Clockwise from top left: *The York Realist* will be at the Theatre Royal this May; St. Olave's Church will host the Cancer Research Concert; *Spider-Man 3*; Nine Black Alps will be at Leeds Cockpit on May 17

Live Music

Thursday May 10, Fibbers, 8pm
The Ray Wilson Band

Replacing Phil Collins with Genesis, Ray released solo and assorted live recordings in the intervening years - and now it's time for the comeback. Paving the way for the likes of Nickelback and not ashamed to show it. £9.

Monday May 14
An Albatross

"Part church gospel, part cult ritual and increasingly chaotic, free-jazz-influenced prog-metal." The average song lasts about a minute but that's a minute of sheer thrill. £9

Sunday May 13, Leeds Refectory, 7.30pm
Mika

Still a relatively fresh face despite having sold a million plus copies of his debut album; sure to be playing favourites such as 'Love Today', 'Lollipop' and 'Grace Kelly' during his return to Leeds, playing at the Refectory. £12.50

Thursday May 17, Leeds Cockpit
Nine Black Alps

Playing the many great tunes from their debut album *Everything Is*. They already have a reputation for epic live performances and are described as the Dandy Warhols air-brushing Nirvana's jagged edges.

Campus Events

Friday May 11
Derwent Stars in Your Eyes

"Tonight, Derwent, I'm going to be..." Friday of Weeks 3 and 5 see the quarter finals of what promises to be more than just glorified karaoke. Dress up as your artist of choice and compete. Must book performance in advance. Details on Facebook.

Saturday May 12
Cancer Research Concert, 7.30pm

A summer evening with young, talented musicians from the University. Held at St Olave's Church featuring Soprano Francesca Geach with selected works by Guernsey, Rubbra, Warlock, Britten and Dring.

May 11-13
Lear's Daughters, 7:30pm

"Exploring the narrative threads of Goneril, Regan and Cordelia... just let the fast-talking Fool be your guide!" Directed by Rasheeda Nalumosu, produced by Amy Scott. £3.50/£4.50 Tickets from Vanbrugh stalls (Wed 9th 12 -2) or on the door.

Monday May 14
Morbid Curiosity, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Part of the Dramasoc's Open Drama Night features a rehearsed reading of *Morbid Curiosity* by Dom Allen. "Political intrigue, sexual deviance, brutal psychological torture. In a morgue."

Art and Performance

May 2 - June 19
The Hare and the Tortoise, York Theatre Royal

If the spring sunshine has you feeling young at heart, check out this traditional children's story in its new incarnation in collaboration with Kijo Picture Book Village in Japan. Tickets £4 with an NUS card, £6 otherwise.

May 9 - 19
The York Realist, York Theatre Royal
This production from the York Settlement Players explores the unlikely love between a Yorkshire farmer and a London theatre director. Tickets £5 with NUS card, £10 without.

May 22 - 26
The Wonderful World of Dissocia, York Theatre Royal

Commissioned for the Edinburgh Festival, Anthony Nielson's play about mental disorder draws on imagery from the Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland to create a disorienting vision. Tickets £5 with NUS.

May 26 - September 23
Painting the Summer: Henri Fantin-Latour
With loans from the National Gallery, Tate and Victoria and Albert Museum, the York Art Gallery is showing paintings by the French Realist Henri Fantin-Latour. The exhibition includes contemporary responses from local artist Lorna Green.

Cinema

Next
Nicholas Cage plays Cris Johnson, an LA showman with a tormenting secret - the ability to see a few minutes into the future. After going into hiding from government examinations, he makes a living 'gambling' and performing cheap magic tricks until he's recruited by government agent Callie Ferris in an attempt to stop a nuclear bomb planted by terrorists.

The Painted Veil
A woman becomes dissatisfied with her marriage, as her husband favours his research over time with her. An affair leads her on a journey of self-discovery, and her new dedication to fighting cholera brings her to the Far East.

Spider-Man 3
Peter Parker strikes a balance between his beloved M.J. and his superhero duties. However Peter faces a battle against fearful villains, whose unparalleled power threatens Peter and everyone he loves. Although the plot may be recycled, the visual effects are something spectacular.

This Is England
A story about a troubled boy growing up in England in 1983. He comes across a few skinheads on his way home from school after a fight. They become his new best friends, even like family. Based on the experiences of director Shane Meadows. Winner of a British Independent film award and a UK Film Talent Award.

Look before you leap

YUSU must tell students what leaving the NUS means



Tom Simon-Norris
Contributing Writer

two 'Rs': representation and resources.

What are these mythical resources provided for our benefit? Mostly information and advice pertaining to all the issues affecting students: money, housing, health, welfare, relationships and careers.

Additionally, the NUS provides services to students by running projects and events, offering training, researching student opinion and campaigning on our behalf. This indicates that NUS is a body representing the interests of students at national level.

However, if YUSU does disaffiliate, student representation at a country-wide scale will not be affected that much. The NUS would still have the support of almost all other higher education institutions in the country and its 'political clout' would not be unduly affected. It would still campaign on behalf of students and we would still benefit from this protection of our interests, only for free.

The argument is a cynical one – and selfish too. While other SUs across the country pay their dues so that our interests are protected, we give nothing. We free up £30,000 a year to spend on ourselves.

Personally, I'm not sure of my confidence in YUSU to replace the services provided by the NUS from that figure without a loss in quality.

Also, I wonder about the precedent disaffiliation would set. Other universities of similar size might follow suit. How many universities can the NUS lose and remain the unified voice of the student population? For me, the national representation that the NUS gives is too important to throw away. If York's affiliation fee is unfair (compared to institutions such as Manchester and Leeds who proportionally pay less in terms of their student population) then the way to proceed is to show the NUS that we are being hard done by. This requires a concerted campaign backed up by the facts: how much each service provided should cost, compared to what we pay for it.

YUSU has decided to trust student opinion on this matter, yet students must first understand exactly what question they are voting on, and to ensure they are made aware of the likely consequences of the result.

Which way will I be voting? To retain affiliation. There is surely no need to selfishly opt-out of national representation merely for the sake of an extra thirty grand a year.

Get myself arrested

How the South-west will be won



Stephanie Dyson
Deputy Comment Editor

change. Something close to my heart has to be the plight of my homeland; the much ridiculed, yet ultimately individual West Country. Well, two fingers to the Cornish, I want to create a campaign for the removal of Somerset from the United Kingdom. It should be

recognised as a country in its own right, providing my fellow West Country-ers with the national identity that stigma already give us. Perhaps its slogan could be "Independent Somersetians 'RRR' Us"?

It makes perfect sense to me. We have our own language – have a chat with a local, you'll see what I mean – and a strong sense of community and family. Combine this with our own national anthem – a

I've never actively campaigned for a good cause. I've never spent a week in a tunnel demonstrating against a bypass. I've never camped for six years outside of Parliament to protest against a mythical "war on terror". And neither have I been arrested for my efforts. The bizarre and original campaigning efforts of the most high-profile protesters put my lack of activism to shame. As a student, I think the time is nigh for me to jump right into the world of environmental protection, human rights or something else suitably close to my moral centre.

Getting into trouble with the police in an interesting and imaginative manner seems to be the main way of joining the direct action end of the political debate. Take Ric Lander, the York student who recently spent a night in a cell for chaining himself with chicken wire, carpets and drain-pipes to fellow protesters against Trident operating at Faslane. A big white elephant imaginatively emblazoned with the slogan "Say No to Nuclear Power – it is a white elephant!" was also taking part in the demonstrations. Or how about Rose Rickford, a YUSU LGBT officer facing trial this year for her part in a four hour runway sit-in against the aviation industry's seeming indifference to climate change.

Fighting for good causes should be fun, even if the government doesn't seem to view it this way. It failed to see the humorous side of Batman and Robin scaling the walls of Buckingham Palace or two hundred Father Christmases storming the lobby of the Lord Chancellor's department. The law now requires that prospective demonstrators inform the police of their plans at least seven days before they take place. Protests aren't exactly intended to be regulated in such a way.

Well I say stuff the government, I want to instigate massive

absence of reminder about verifying our presence on the electoral roll.

Wednesday 2nd May: Just after midday, less than 24 hours before the big day, I was informed that "If you're living in College accommodation, you'll automatically be registered to vote." This was followed by "You can vote without your polling card". This is cyber-clad Times New Roman proof, not to mention the polling card comment which actively encouraged students to have no bureaucratic involvement in the whole process.

The University has violated its duty of care towards the student body by being unclear and imprecise over the information they have

certain song including references to combine 'arvesters and personal acreage – and the argument for independence should be all but settled. Maybe to promote my cause I could climb the Houses of Parliament dressed as a large lump of extra-mature cheddar? Or ride through the middle of London on a bloody great big tractor, gleefully watching the traffic stack up behind me?

You hear all these stories of protesters being detained under numerous terrorist attacks and I quite like the fact that promoting Somerset independence may possibly brand me as a terrorist. I'm not planning on any Eta-style devastation – I have vision of pitchfork wielding peasants, all very medieval, I just want to inject some more fun into the politics of today. Surely, as students it's our duty to don silly outfits and get arrested in the most novel of ways. Join me in my campaign, or start one for yourselves. Meet you in the lower barn at sunset – oo arr.

supplied to us regarding the formalities surrounding the Local Elections. I also reproach their negligence for the repercussions it may have on encouraging future participation in the democratic arena. This whole incident has provided the already politically lethargic population of young adults with yet more ammunition to justify apathetic abstention.

While this scandal could be bantered around by those with the power to do something pro-active, I sincerely hope that the voices on campus will inspire a proper investigation into these inaccuracies, and that the findings will be aimed at preventing any such misfortune occurring in the future.

Vote of no confidence

Did student disenfranchisement determine the elections?



Emily Cousins
Contributing Writer

end result. Throw low student turnout into the mix, which inadvertently gives a larger voice to the antiquities of Heslington, and you have reached the nucleus of the brewing dissatisfaction.

As it happens, the Liberal Democrat victory was sound, as a split vote between the Labour and Green parties had ensured a return for the incumbent. Although it is galling for those who had their chance to vote stifled, the rather large margins suggest that the ratios would not have changed critically with a high-

The University has violated its duty of care towards the student body

er turnout.

So, this is therefore a crusade of principles that unites all individuals, regardless of party preference. It is refreshing for a political discussion to focus, for once, on what unites us, rather than what drives us apart. Together, we have concluded that the following are basic electoral criteria and practices, which unfortunately were absent from Thursday's proceedings.

When living on campus, students should automatically be registered to vote. Fact. When turning

up at the polling station, all students should be allowed to draw a cross next to their candidate of choice. Fact. All students should have had the opportunity to marvel at the serendipitous fortune that was the rhyming couplet created by the surnames of the two electoral front runners. Fact. So why were nearly 10% of undergraduate voters denied these basic rights?

Before continuing, I do have to concede on a pedantic point of technicality: responsibility to check our presence on the electoral roll ultimately rests with individual students. Fair enough. Yet communications from the University in the run-up to the election suggest that enough evidence exists for us to condemn their actions as irresponsible, albeit well meaning.

Exhibit A: my York email account. These messages fail to exonerate the administrative authorities from the blame being channelled towards them over this issue. Facebook alerts aside, my inbox testifies that many students were implicitly told they were already registered to vote.

Friday 20th April: I received an email saying "there is a polling card for you at the College Reception. You will need this when you go to vote at the Local Government Election". So far, so good. A pleasant reminder of our democratic right, before it was undermined, with the commendable intention of encouraging student turnout. However, note the

Friday Night. Goodricke Bar. A lot of noise being made. Due in part, it has to be noted, to the rowdy chanting of the testosterone fuelled Roses victors, but largely culpable was a subtler group of politically minded students, no less passionate, outraged at the shambles of the "accidental disenfranchisement" of Thursday's election.

This infringement of a basic civil liberty had unfair repercussions for both voters and candidate. Baying for blood, it would seem, was occurring both on and off the pitch. Physical and intellectual warfare hit York this weekend.

The first point of discontentment that needs raising is whether these lost votes would have affected the outcome of the election. Our voting behaviour can be classified using the various socio-economic divisions that occur in our society. Statistically, students tend to vote left of centre, in contrast to the more reactionary preferences of the older generations who habitually swing to the right-hand side of the political scale. Therefore, with only students affected by the registration complication, this had a potentially disproportionate effect on the

Nicky Woolf Goes way back

What are the first things you think of when you think of the '60s? Sex? Drugs? Rock'n'Roll? The same three, but in a different order? Now, if you will, imagine being one of the gentry in the '60s. Life for the toffs didn't change as much in the '60s as it did for the disaffected, baby-boomer, up-and-coming optimists of the middle- and lower classes. While the younger and less landed citizens of Britain were finding new and exciting pastimes such as free love, cheap psychedelics and ambitiously optimistic philosophies - resulting in such affecting and poignant lyrics as "I am the Eggman / I am the Walrus / goo goo ga-joob," - life for the upper classes changed very little. The butler still brought tea and scones for breakfast, the labradors still needed walking and the grouse still needed shooting. When you own half of Staffordshire and have shot most of its wildlife, time weighs very heavy on your hands.

Of course, the pastime of those with more money than land and a lot of both was then what it was a hundred years ago, and what it still is to this day - getting roaring drunk off expensive brandy and making expensive and dramatic wagers. In 1964, while students at the brand new University of York bopped to the Beatles, and students at the equally spanking Lancaster rolled to the Stones, the two Universities' Vice-Chancellors, Lord James of Rusholme (York) and Sir Charles Carter (Lancaster) had nothing more to do than attack the '56 Glenfiddich together and discuss their relative students' merits.

It must have been about half past two, the candles were low and so was the whisky, and it was perhaps Lord James (one likes to think) who belched politely, shuffled his whiskers, and said those immortal words: "I bet my lot are sportier than your lot." The rest, as they say, is history.

The first Roses tournament was a rowing race and, even though it was not on home turf (the lake, unfortunately, isn't deep enough; and Goodricke Bridge is just low enough to decapitate all the competitors as they speed underneath), Lord James' York emerged triumphant. The Carter-James Trophy was smelted from purest gold and handed to the victorious rowers, and Carter demanded a rematch to be held the very next year. Thus, Roses was born. What a time to be alive, eh?



Letters

Nouse welcomes your letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication.

Email letters@nouse.co.uk or write to:

Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Star Letter

Dear Nouse,

I was very interested in the article about single parents at the University of York. I am a third year mathematics and education student and I have a five year old son. I have been at the University for the last five years and although I have received a lot of support from my supervisor, it has not been the case from the University itself.

When I first started my course there was a waiting list for family accommodation and for the on-campus nursery. I had just moved to York from Bedfordshire where my parents live and was forced to find a house in York as well as a suitable nursery which could cater for my timetable.

I agree completely that being a single parent at the University is a very isolating experience and this is something which I find a great shame.

I would love to do my utmost in order to establish some sort of network for single parents at York. Maybe through booking a room and putting posters up around campus and inviting single parents to come along and take it from there?

Sabine

A First Year Mathematics and Education Student



Rich Croker
YUSU President

As I approach the end of my year as President a lot of people have asked me what my plans are for my future. The truth is, I don't know; after 11 years of being determined to do Law I've now decided it isn't for me; the chances are I'll be here again next year for an Masters course. Some will say "move on, you've got to leave some time"... "you can't be the eternal student"... and more often than not - "why don't you go somewhere else?". The very reason why I would rather be here than somewhere else can be summed up entirely by the Roses Weekend...

The truth is York is a wonderful place to be. No matter how much we dislike the University at times, or get annoyed at something that is happening - to quote my predecessor Micky Armstrong; "compared to Lancaster we will always be better - we are the University of York".

That people put themselves and their bodies on the line by training every hour

available and forgetting revision, all in the name of the 'White Rose', is something quite phenomenal and perhaps not something you see at all other universities.

It would be easy to mention the winning Roses' teams but in truth the Men's Rugby 1st XV exemplified this determination and commitment to the very core. They gave everything they had on Sunday. There was something eerie about the applause that rang out around the pitch side on 22 acres at the end; a silent respect and sympathy for a team who had given everything; for who being able to hold their heads up high just wasn't good enough; they wanted to win, they wanted to beat Lancaster.

Unlike a lot of universities, I truly believe that York makes people feel like they belong in a kind of community, and if any proof is needed to indicate this, you only need to see the number of 'old' boys and girls who return here. Sadly, for most of them their time here goes too quickly, loving as they would to live forever in the York concrete jungle and step on goose crap just one last time.

All that's left for me now is to congratulate Tom Moore and all the others who were involved in the 2007 Roses weekend. Whether it was through the blood, sweat and tears on the pitch, or the painstaking preparations that everyone put in, you all did York proud.

Taking away the 'tingle'

Dear Nouse,

Oh I'm an old (little bit older) resident of C Block too, and I'm devastated to read this and discover that my old home has bitten the dust!

But I agree, and much more importantly than this, it saddens me greatly to see that the University still doesn't understand that in addressing the issue of the college structure as a mere afterthought, rather than placing its protection and development at the very centre of plans for the future, it's chipping away, piece by piece, at its absolutely most valuable asset. Because it's the sense of community, derived from what originally was an almost scientifically calculated mixture of academic, residential, and social space, that makes York what it is (or at least was), not just socially, but academically and culturally too.

Take away the college system, and you'll take away the tingle that made me, and I imagine hundred and thousands like me, first want to go to York, and then that made it such a special place when we got there. And in a language that administration might be better able to understand, if people stop going, that's really bad for business.

Stephen

Trouble in paradise

Dear Nouse,

I am sick to the back-teeth of my flatmates. They are inconsiderate and unhygienic with regards to washing pots, pans and themselves. I have a sneaking suspicion that one of them stole a cape from Medieval Re-enactment Society, and he currently wears it shamelessly round campus. Another housemate persists on letting off firecrackers in the middle of the night, with complete disregard for the poor young man on the floor below with an eardrum problem and far less for the sanity of our block as a whole.

I am writing to demand that the University adopt a more strident filtering process when considering applicants, in order to weed out the kind of sociopathic freaks I have ended up with. Why does York seem to attract people like the quasi-alcoholic chemistry student on my floor who persists in urinating in our shower and shrieking endlessly when in a state of intoxication. I want to open up a forum for those with similar problems.

Disgruntled of James

More please...

Dear Nouse,

I would just like to say how much I enjoyed your last edition of Muse. Nicky Woolf's night behind the scenes in Ziggys was a great read and the photos were fantastic. Perhaps though he could return on a Saturday and offer us an extended tour.

Many thanks

Eager of Alcuin

Vanbrugh Paradise Corner

This week: A bit of banter, Roses Stylee by Anjli Raval

“The Roses weekend has yet again provided an abundance of stories of scandal and drunken misdemeanours, originating from both the York and Lancaster sides and all in the name of banter.

From pantomime horses to water balloons and the chanting of "your mum's your dad, your dad's your mum you dirty inbred Lancaster scum" or, "you're a Poly in disguise!" the tournament came to pass in its customary fashion.

The Lancaster first-year representative streaked across the field during half-time of the Men's First Team rugby match in a bow to tradition. He made his way towards the York team huddle, only to be ushered away angrily by the team coach. It was then that this rather well-rounded student was chased off the field by a York rugby 'old boy' style more akin to cops and robbers than to Rugby players.

The Lancaster Rugby boys seemed to take their nakedness seriously, with two of the team who had not scored during the season incurring the penalty of having to do a 'Naked Run'. Sadly their lack of scoring seemed to have proportionately affected their respective appendages, and spectators were left to wonder at the wisdom of baring all when 'all' happened to be very small.

On a sadder note, the Lancaster Men's Hockey First team captain, Bowler, was spotted crying after the teams 2-0 defeat and his sending off during the match on Saturday. Shame.

Hockey seemed to be at the heart of university rivalry and banter, with an infamous Lancastrian taking centre stage with his megaphone. He hurled abuse at the York Women's hockey team, shouting out players' shirt numbers followed by insults such as "you're ugly!". On the other hand, the charm-

ing student did also shout out his phone number to the girls he thought were better looking.

Excessive consumption of alcohol, as expected, generated hedonistic behaviour from York University students in particular. York's squash team were escorted out from the Roses Ball for doing press-ups on the dance floor; bottles were thrown outside of Mc Q's and even physical violence ensued in the car park of the Charles XII pub. Campus' notorious Richard 'Ginge' Davis even managed to push former SU President Mickey Armstrong through a window in Derwent in his drunken state.

Finally, I have been reliably informed that the teams that play together not only stay together but sleep together. The Lancaster University Women's Badminton team must be mentioned for having a drunken orgy in Derwent on Saturday.

The local elections: a judgement on Blair or a Tory breakthrough?



David Cameron on the local elections campaign trail

the regions surrounding Durham not having shifted from Labour control. However, it is clear that the Conservative Party have not had the same landslide success in the North as they have enjoyed in the Midlands and the South.

The Conservative Party will probably be happy with their result: it is a mirror image of the one Labour had over them in 1996, before they won the general election by a landslide.

The Conservatives have won nearly 900 seats across the country and 205 councils, with an average of about 40% of votes in constituencies.

Francis Maude, Conservative Party Chairman said: "We're now the only party that represents the whole of England. This is a great base on which we can build victory at the next election, taking our message of change, hope and optimism to more communities across the country."

However, according to the Labour Party, this is not a bad result.

With control of 46 councils, Labour's Chief Whip Jacqui Smith commented that the Tories have "failed to make any breakthrough" and that David Cameron's party "needed to win councils like Bury, Barrow-in-Furness, Bolton and Crewe... their failure to do so shows they have failed to break out beyond their heartlands in any significant way."

To add to Labour's woes, there is speculation that their canvassers violated the postal vote code by harassing elderly voters in Leeds and filling in their forms.

These results provide some degree of insight into the next general election, with Labour saying they will take nothing for granted and keep working to achieve a victory and the Conservatives feeling confident that these results are a reflection of who the people

will choose as next Prime Minister.

A further boost to David Cameron's confidence is a study by the Elections Centre at Plymouth University, conducted immediately after election results. The research states that if the voting patterns for the council elections were replicated in the next general elections, the Tory government would win 352 seats in Commons- 54 more than all the other parties.

Nevertheless, the Liberal Democrats will be the most disappointed of all. With the Labour Party on the decline, carrying the weight of the war in Iraq on their shoulders, and the Conservatives being blamed for relying more on their public image than actual policies, it was up to the Liberal Democrats to seize the day and the majority of the ballots.

But the results were disappointing; the Liberal Democrats won only 27 councils, and whilst there was a significant victory in 'Gordon Brown's backyard' of Fife, they are still far too small to pose a reasonable threat to the two giants of Parliament.

It would seem that Labour will be trying to sway the Lib Dem voters towards their camp in the general election, though at this moment in time it looks as though not even that helping hand would stop the blue tide.

But, as they say, a week is a long time in politics and the general election is still many, many weeks away.

A potential 33 million voters were eligible to vote in last week's local elections

By Albi Furlan

According to Tony Blair, the Labour Party fared better than was expected in the local elections. If that is the case, the expectations must have been extremely low.

With the exception of a few pockets of resistance in

areas such as Manchester, the map of the country is covered in blue. Incidentally, York seems to be the cut-off point for the Conservative wave.

To the south of Yorkshire, the majority of constituencies were won by the Conservatives, with only 21 being taken by the Labour

Party and 20 by the Liberal Democrats.

North of Yorkshire, meanwhile, the situation is decidedly less clear-cut, with most councils lacking a ruling majority. There are a few exceptions to be found, such as Newcastle and Durham, both of which were held by the Liberal Democrats, and

Scotland: no longer Labour's heartland

By Albi Furlan

The number of people reportedly walking to polling stations wearing kilts in Scotland was an immediate giveaway to the Scottish National Party's (SNP) electoral victory last Friday.

Alex Salmond's party won 47 council seats, beating the Labour Party's 46 seats in the area that has been dubbed 'Gordon Brown's backyard'.

The Scottish National Party is now the biggest in Scotland, and a pleased

Salmond said these results banish any idea that Labour have a "divine right to rule Scotland".

Dundee has become the first Scottish city to ever be completely ruled by the SNP. However, the results were not as clear-cut as either party might have hoped, with various problems arising that were initially thought to compromise the outcome.

Both local and parliamentary elections were held on the same day, and having two different ballot papers is thought to have confused voters, thus spoiling, accord-

ing to estimates, 100,000 ballot papers, which had to be scrapped.

There had been strong independent advice that this overlap should be avoided, but the Scottish Office decided to go ahead the system of electors marking their chosen candidates for both local councils and the Scottish Parliament at the same time.

This is mostly worrying because in some constituencies, the number of rejected votes (an average of 1,000) is higher than the margin by which the majority have won.

Other problems have

occurred with postal votes, including those supposedly lost in the Atlantic mist on the morning of the elections, as well as difficulties with the computers counting the ballot papers not working properly.

Parties are asking for clarifications and even investigations, specifically on the Holyrood Constituency, formerly Brown's stronghold, but it would seem that the current results are mostly correct.

The victory can be seen as the first step on the road to independence for Scotland, and while



The SNP have a majority

Salmond has promised to rethink his 2010 referendum on an independent Scotland, one cannot deny the fact that, whether they are willing to take the next step or not, they are nonetheless that little bit closer.

Elsewhere, Labour have had their worst result in Wales since 1945. Blair's party has lost their control over regions from Llanelli to Plaid Cymru.

The Welsh Party advocated secession, while the Conservative Party won three constituencies, making them a force to be reckoned with in Welsh politics.

York Council Elections 2007

The Results in detail

Winning candidates in bold

Fulford:

Aspden, Keith (Lib Dem) 503 votes
Craghill, Denise (Green) 212 votes
Smith, Alan (Labour) 266 votes
Suddons, Samantha (Conservative) 153 votes

Heslington:

Fletcher-Hall, Grace (Labour) 251 votes
Henniker-Heaton, J (Conservative) 182 votes
Jamieson-Ball, Ceredig (Lib Dem) 436 votes
Sanderson, Peter (Green) 266 votes

Fishergate:

D'Agorne, Andy (Green) 1,308 votes
Dickinson, Ernest Peter (Labour) 706 votes
Dickson, Robin (Conservative) 649 votes
Gibson, Thomas (Labour) 576 votes
Hudson, Nicholas (Lib Dem) 146 votes
Nunn, Susan (Lib Dem) 157 votes
Phillips, Stephen (BNP) 111 votes
Rutherford, Michael (Conservative) 495 votes
Taylor, Dave (Green) 1,086 votes

Hull Road:

Brown, David (BNP) 259 votes
Collingwood, Andrew (Green) 327 votes
Cossham, John (Green) 341 votes
Cregan, Richard Thomas (Labour) 819 votes
Crockett, Tom (Conservative) 643 votes
Johns, Michaels-Perring (Lib Dem) 355 votes
Pierce, Roger (Labour) 803 votes
Williams, Rachel (Lib Dem) 414 votes
Yonge, Alan (Conservative) 544 votes

Acomb:

Dawson, Ian (BNP) 520 votes
Dyson, Will (Green) 297 votes
Horton, David (Labour) 1,303 votes
Lewis-Strodder, R (Lib Dem) 448 votes
Mayne, Alexander (Lib Dem) 399 votes
Simpson-Laing, T (Labour) 1,301 votes
Thompson, D (Conservative) 426 votes
Tucker, Michael (Conservative) 529 votes



No party was left with overall control of the York City Council after the local elections. (Numbers represent seats available)

Claire Yeo analyses the implications of Thursday's York City Council election results

Last week's City Council election saw the return of a Liberal Democrat-dominated Council once more. This time, however, their monopoly over other parties in the Council has been dramatically reduced from a majority of 29 to a mere 19, only beating Labour's share of positions by one councillor.

The Conservatives, who have had no representation in the Council since 2003, were successful in winning eight of the Liberal Democrat's lost seats.

If Labour form coalitions with Green or the Conservative Councillors, the Lib Dems will be kept out of government, and how these coalitions are formed will now be the decisive factor in shaping the nature of local government in York for the next four years. Fortunately for all, with under 4,000 votes in total, the BNP will not have any seats in the

Council. The Lib Dems' dramatic reduction in votes mirrors widespread dissatisfaction with their performance in local government over the last term. Unpopular actions such as the closure of the Barbican Centre, the introduction of the Ftr buses and the likely approval of the Heslington East development at the University, were set to be key deterrents against a Lib Dem revival.

Heslington residents voted by a significant margin to return to office Lib Dem Councillor Ceredig Jamieson-Ball. The Heslington residents' opposition to the proposed Heslington East development has been well-publicised, making Jamieson-Ball's clear victory somewhat remarkable.

The Heslington ward itself is a very particular ward, consisting of both a transient student popula-



Grace Fletcher-Hall

tion and permanent local residents, who have been known to not always see eye to eye on many issues, not least the politics and policies of the local Council.

This particular make-up of the Heslington ward, similar to the other key student-dominated wards of Hull Road and Fulford, meant that the result was all the more unpredictable. The Green Party candidate, Peter

Sanderson, who has remained steadfast in his opposition to the Hes East development, might have seemed the most likely victor in a ward where local residents already keenly feel the drawbacks of proximity to the University.

Sanderson received the second largest number of votes, only beating the student Labour Party candidate, Grace Fletcher-Hall, by 15 votes. This is in itself somewhat surprising. The student candidates had been expected to fare well in wards with a high population of student residents.

"It is likely the student candidates would do better where the students are voting - but it's very difficult to predict a ward like this anyway, because obviously most of the people here haven't voted before", Grace Fletcher-Hall commented on polling day.

Jamieson-Ball has admitted, however: "I was

quite confident about my support base in the village, but obviously didn't really know what was going on on campus with facing a Student Union Labour candidate." With many students moving to the area only recently, it is likely that they will vote for familiar faces, rather than according to policy.

Despite this, neither student candidate was successful in winning the Heslington seat, nor were any other student candidates elected. On campus dozens of students were unable to vote due to registration problems.

"It is quite unjust that many students have been randomly disenfranchised," said Fletcher-Hall.

In a ward where voter turnout is far less than 50%, the denial of some of the electorate's right to vote has important implications for the legitimacy of those in power. According to

Jamieson-Ball, however, the loss of votes has not had a marked impact: "I don't think it was votes from any particular party that were lost...it was probably proportional as per the result."

National issues, it was claimed last week, would set the agenda, rather than local politics. The new Labour Councillor for Hull Road, Richard Cregan, was keen to distance himself from the now decade-old Labour Government: "I must emphasize the word 'local' because we are a local party".

"Some people vote for local reasons, others for national", Peter Sanderson explained. But in the Heslington ward, the expectation is that it is "going to be more national than local".

Jamieson-Ball agreed with this analysis, saying: "The electorate voted on issues they felt passionate about, some of which will be local, some of which will be national".

Life as a sports star

Daniel Whitehead interviews Steve Grundy, the York student star of Rugby League

A THIRD-YEAR politics student who by day works diligently towards his graduation and by night stars for the York Knights seems an unlikely combination, but Steve Grundy isn't one to care about stereotypes.

He speaks in a broad Lancashire accent about how he developed as a rugby player and came to sign a professional contract for the Knights at the start of the year.

His journey to the second division of the national league is an interesting one. At 17, while playing for his local team he was spotted by the Great British national side and chosen for the Under-

18's squad who travelled to Australia the following summer.

From there he moved to York, where in his first-year he was signed as an amateur player for Doncaster. After a season of impressive performances, he transferred to the York Knights in 2006 and, as captain, starred in the academy team before signing a one-year professional contract this winter.

Although sporting stardom and a decent salary is a dream for most students, finding the balance between student life and a predominately working-class league life has proved tough. "I'm not a good student" says

Photo: Georgi Mabee



Grundy. "I'm a good academic student, but I'm not a good social student. I'll never be in Toffs on a Tuesday, I'll never be at Ziggy's on a Wednesday. I choose not to go out, because I know if I go out drinking in the week I won't be able to train as well as I should. I only go out after the match on Sundays"

Whereas some would regret not taking the

opportunity to maximise their time as a student, it seems that Grundy already thinks he has. "Playing rugby has benefited me. It's helped me focus on my sport and my degree, it's helped me keep on track".

A sport which is met with mixed reactions by many students, rugby league is often seen to be the poor cousin of union. When I bring up the subject of union Grundy

seems to become slightly more introverted, as if comparisons are a topic of avoidance.

"Definitely rugby league provides a better spectator sport and better value for money. Rugby union is not as intense, it's fragmented. With league it's very hard, and very rewarding, and you feel like you've accomplished something when you come off the field. It requires a

very high skill level, plus a higher fitness level".

It's hard to find fault with Grundy's argument. Despite his diligence, he says he remains undecided about the future after his contract runs out at the end of the current season. However, his admittance that his current job isn't really a "viable career" suggests that Steve may have already have made up his mind.

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All our seasoned burgers are homemade daily & served in a bun with salad & red onions. (Meat burgers approx 6oz raw weight)

	Students ex VAT £	Others inc VAT £
Beef Burger	2.25	2.64
Cheese Burger	2.45	2.88
Bacon Burger	2.45	2.88
Doodle Burger (beef burger topped with cheese & bacon)	2.65	3.11
Coriander & Chickpea Burger (V)	2.25	2.64

BURGERS - PLUS

The burger of your choice plus skinny chips

Beef or Coriander & Chickpea (V) Burger PLUS	2.80	3.29
Cheese or Bacon Burger PLUS	3.00	3.53
Doodle Burger PLUS	3.20	3.76

*BURGERS - MEAL DEALS

The burger of your choice with skinny chips & regular coke / diet coke / lemonade

Beef or Coriander & Chickpea (V) Burger MEAL DEAL	3.40	3.99
Cheese or Bacon Burger MEAL DEAL	3.60	4.23
Doodle Burger MEAL DEAL	3.80	4.46

SPICY CHICKEN PITTA POCKETS

Strips of tender chicken breast, spiced with Tikka/Thai red curry/ Korma/ Teriyaki spice served in a warm pitta bread with homemade, oriental coleslaw & sour cream

Solo Pocket	2.75	3.23
Pocket & Skinny Chips	3.30	3.88
* Pocket Deal (pocket with skinny chips & regular coke/diet coke/lemonade)	3.90	4.58

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Solo Dog	1.99	2.34
Dog & Skinny Chips	2.55	3.00
* Dog Deal (dog with skinny chips & regular coke / diet coke/lemonade)	3.15	3.70

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Regular (with your choice of 1 sauce)	1.85	2.17
Combo (regular nachos with your choice of 2 sauces)	1.95	2.29
Mega (large nachos with your choice of 2 large sauces) Great for sharing	3.50	4.11

SIDE ORDERS

Just Chips	1.10	1.29
Cheesy Chips	1.50	1.76
Slaw Chips	1.50	1.76
Regular coke/diet coke/lemonade	0.82	0.96
Large coke/diet coke/lemonade	0.98	1.15

*Meal Deal Options (V) Suitable for vegetarians

Meal Deal

Any burger / hot dog / pitta pocket + chips + regular drink



minimum saving 75p
off individual purchases

Meal Deals

	Students ex VAT £	Others inc VAT £
Beef or Coriander & Chickpea (V) Burger MEAL DEAL	3.40	3.99
Cheese or Bacon Burger MEAL DEAL	3.60	4.23
Doodle Burger MEAL DEAL	3.80	4.46
Pocket Deal (pitta pocket with skinny chips & regular coke/diet coke/lemonade)	3.90	4.58
Dog Deal (hot dog with skinny chips & regular coke / diet coke/lemonade)	3.15	3.70

Meal Deal

Any baguette + selected homemade cake + plain Strathmore water



SAVE 55p
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Meal Deal

	Students ex VAT £	Others inc VAT £
	2.99	3.51

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Hudson and Vanner point towards York's cricket future

ANALYSIS

By Daniel Whitehead
 SPORTS EDITOR

IT HAS BEEN over six years since a player from the University of York Men's 1sts cricket team scored a century.

In an eventful week, York scored two within 20 minutes of each other whilst playing Bradford University last Wednesday and almost scored a third in the Roses meeting against Lancaster later in the week.

Despite the failings of previous seasons where York have struggled to provide a solid batting line-up, this one was reliable enough to post good scores match after match - this year the situation has reversed.

A thrilling opening partnership of 267 from new boys Tom Hudson and Nick Vanner saw both players making centuries against Bradford.

The two openers crashed the ball through the covers over after over, slog-ging the ball over the short boundary regularly, and when not scoring highly, they kept the runs ticking over with shrewd running between the wickets.

There was an obvious intrinsic understanding and confidence between the pair as they shared the scoring between them and built their innings in similar fashions. Eventually, both players were removed after taking poor, over-confident

shots.

Although it could have been assumed that Wednesday's performance was mere fluke, another fluid and dominant performance came from Hudson over the Roses weekend in which he scored 90.

Once again, Hudson showed he has the ability to build a convincing innings and time his offense correctly.

Not only did he impress in the batting line-up, but also starred as a pivotal bowler in the York attack. His accurate finger-spinning proved problematic for both Bradford and Lancaster as he took two wickets in three overs and one wicket in ten, respectively.

Opening batting partner Nick Vanner spoke post-match of his liking for playing alongside Vanner, saying their use of the shorter boundary at York's cricket fields to their full advantage had helped them succeed and that they were working on engaging with slower bowling which had previously caused the batting pair problems. The York team will be looking for more of the same in the next seven days. An intense fixture pile-up due to the postponement of games due to Roses means that within seven days, they will face games against Huddersfield, York St. John and a potentially crucial final game against Leeds University Men's 1sts which may decide who is promoted.



York Men's strong batting led to two centuries in a week. Photo: Georgi Mabee

York score big win against Bradford 1sts

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From this point onwards, Bradford never came to terms with the task which faced them, as the second wicket fell soon afterwards off impressive bowling from strike bowler Antony Butterfield.

Bradford came back in the middle stages to an extent, creating a solid partnership between the number 4 and 5 batsmen—but once the next wicket had fallen after a deceptive ball from man of the match Hudson, it was as good as over for the visitors. York bowled Bradford out for 200 with 12 overs to spare.

Hudson was the pick of the bowlers, despite having an injured wrist, taking two wickets with his first two overs and going on to take two further wickets by the end of the match. Post-match, Hudson was in an upbeat mood, saying, "We got off to a good start and it was always nice to get a century. I was glad to get a few overs in before Roses."

The injured York captain Jamie Vanner was also full of praise for his team, even though it was obvious he was itching to get back into the game despite recently suffering from tonsillitis. He put the performance down partly to the preparation the team went through before the opening match: "A major contributing factor this season is the indoor cricket and the vastly improved net facilities for training in the winter. They are fantastic facilities and helped us tremendously in preparing for the season ahead".

York made a strong start to their BUSA campaign, and with all players likely to be fit by the weekend, they surely have the momentum to go into their next game against Huddersfield, who lost to York St. John's last week.

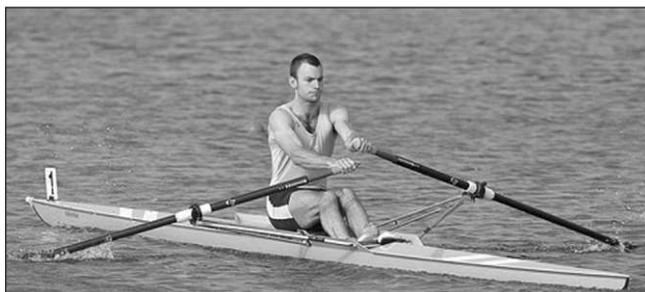
York rowers impressive regatta performance

By Harriet Edmonds
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK UNIVERSITY'S Boat Club achieved impressive results in the Women's Head of the River Race, the pinnacle Head Race of the winter season.

After travelling down to London at the end of March, the Boat Club's Senior Women's crew did even better than hoped and came 18th out of the 68 crews in the Senior 4 category, beating Manchester, UCL, Bristol, Warwick and Nottingham universities.

This is the first time the women have had a crew strong enough to compete in



York placed higher than Manchester, UCL and Bristol

this race in two years.

The crew had to battle the 7km sprint on the Thames from London's Mortlake to Putney against a strong head wind, although other than this the conditions were excellent. Sarah Woods said rowing the famous course was "exhila-

rating", especially when they could hear the lively York supporters who had come to watch the team, shouting loudly off Hammersmith Bridge.

Less exhilarating was the 'very long row home' against the current. They were on the water for a

whopping four hours.

University crews were a strong presence in the race, with Imperial, Cambridge and Durham predictably topping the list coming 7th, 8th and 9th respectively out of the total number of 286 crews, achieving times just over 20 minutes. York completed the course in 21 minutes 13 seconds, only 16 seconds slower than the Senior 3 York City boat, which for a small club like UYBC is an achievement.

The Tideway can be a dangerous course as it is wide and fast-flowing; huge in comparison to the narrow, red-boat dominated Ouse.

The York Novice Men's

Eight had less luck than the women, as the Men's Head two weeks later was cancelled after boats struggled to get to the start and several crews had sunk due to the awful weather conditions. This was a massive blow for the Novices, who had travelled to London to compete after remaining in York beyond the end of last term to train for the event.

On the Senior Men's front, it seemed that the huge amounts of training and commitment they have put in since the autumn term finally paid off.

Captain Ben Knowles and his Senior Coxed Four boat put up a solid performance at Nottingham City

Regatta last weekend, their first regatta this year. Competing in a single scull, Ben got through to the final and came 4th overall. The Four also battled through to the final of their category, despite horrific weather conditions.

The team train seven days a week, which on a typical day consists of two outings on the Ouse plus time spent in the gym. If any sports team deserves victory this season, it is undoubtedly this crew. Drinking bans will now be enforced in preparation for UYBC as Bedford, Met and ultimately, Henley Regattas are prepared for, by both the Men's and Women's squads.

STEVE GRUNDY

Daniel Whitehead talks
to York's new rugby
league star



York claim back Roses trophy - see Sports pull-out



York romps home to victory after massive innings against Bradford

CRICKET

York Men's 1sts 421-5
Bradford 1sts 200-10

By Criss Noice
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

YORK CRUISED to a 221 run victory on Wednesday as the men's first cricket team dominated Bradford despite the absence of their captain in the opening BUSA league game of the season.

Stellar performances from opening batsmen Tom

Hudson and Nick Vanner laid the foundations with a record breaking opening partnership of 267. It took a searing full toss from the Bradford seamer to unhinge the partnership which put York firmly in command - eventually reaching a total of 421 - 5, a team high for over six years.

The high scoring of York's batsmen was clearly having an effect on the fielders, who throughout the innings seemed uncomfortable and were making more

than occasional fielding errors - helping York on the way to a near insurmountable total.

At points the lack of experience and coaching in the field became comical, as Bradford players dropped several easy catches on the edge of the boundary and failed to prevent fours over after over, often simply due to a lack of commitment.

In the 36th over there was a snatched throw at the stumps which missed the stumps by several metres,

suggesting that the fielders were getting desperate for a wicket in the face of York's batting brilliance.

During the innings there was a hint at some underhanded tactics from the Bradford leg spinner, who appeared to be throwing the ball. However, despite the York team's complaints the umpire determined that the technique was a legal style, if rather unorthodox.

This caused some problems with the batsmen who

had to adapt quickly to avoid making a mistake in the face of unpredictable deliveries. They did this successfully though, playing their shots with care and not taking any unnecessary chances.

First year Nick Vanner who scored an impressive innings total, said, "I love batting with Tom [Hudson], he's a great strong batsman to partner with. I think we made great use of the shorter boundary on one side and we're starting to get used to the slower pitch. It was a top

performance from the guys."

After the break, Bradford came out to face an average run rate of 8.4. The score seemed to overwhelm Bradford, and instead of attempting to build an innings they forced themselves into playing poor shots.

However, the first wicket was taken after just the second ball when a error led to the opening batsman running himself out.

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