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Nouse



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Shortlisted for Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2015



Suffragette



Director
Sarah
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speaks to
Features

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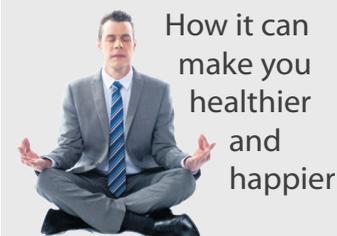
Pot heads

A walk-
through
tour of York
Art
Gallery



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Meditation



How it can
make you
healthier
and
happier

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New Chancellor claims “austerity not favourable to university funding”

Malcolm Grant also said tuition fee model needs “revisiting” and Britain leaving EU is “major threat for research funding” in comments to *Nouse*

Chris Owen
Liam Mullally

THE CHAIRMAN of NHS England Malcolm Grant has spoken out against the Conservative government’s ongoing line of austerity, claiming it will have a negative effect on how universities are funded.

He made the claims prior to his inauguration as the University of York’s new Chancellor, telling *Nouse*

that he believes “continued economic austerity will not be favourable to university funding” and also that “the current tuition fee model is going to have to be revisited”.

Professor Sir Grant, who was formerly inaugurated two weeks ago followed by a lavish fireworks display, also weighed in on the debate surrounding Britain’s membership of the EU. He told *Nouse* that “the possibility of Britain leaving the

EU is a major threat for research funding and also to the flow of international students.”

“It often sounds trite to say it, but we still have one of the finest higher education systems in the world, though not the most richly funded,” the Cambridge alumnus said in the feature length interview.

“In research in particular, measured both in terms of excellence and value for money, we are

world leaders.

“But things are going to be difficult. The current tuition fee model is going to have to be revisited; continued economic austerity will not be favourable to university funding.”

This is not the first time that Sir Malcolm has spoken out about the dangers of government cuts to university finances. During his time as chairman of the Russell Group of universities, Grant criticised cuts by

the government to research funding that he claimed would “prevent hundreds of PhD students from embarking on pioneering research”.

Former Director-General of the BBC and Chairman of the FA Greg Dyke, Grant’s predecessor as Chancellor, also questioned the current model of how university tuition is paid in recent comments to *Nouse*.

Continued on Page 5

Editorial

Nouse 

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A note from the Editor...

I'd like to say that I spent the last week lovingly crafting this, my first Editor's Note, with the due care and attention that such a billing deserves. But, like all good Editor's Notes, I'm churning it out at 1am on Deadline Day. 0.58am, to be exact. The smell of stale Doritos and stress has settled over the *Nouse* office. Sport still isn't finished. I'm keeping myself going on Skittles. The end would be in sight if my vision wasn't blurred by too much InDesign and too little sleep.

It's been a whirlwind week crafting this flimsy wodge of paper you're holding. (If you're reading over someone's shoulder, pick up your own copy - it's free and you

can't escape from it anyway).

Armed with a shiny new team led by yours truly, our 49 Editors have created 48 pages across 14 sections in 7 days, mainly for our pleasure, but also for yours too. We do this to bring you the guarantee that when you pick up of a copy of *Nouse*, you know what you're getting: quality student journalism, a diverse mix of content and opinion, and, if nothing else, some quite nice pictures here and there.

I recently had a discussion with a friend of mine about changing that very name. *Nouse*. It really is truly, truly dreadful. Like something halfway between a slur and a sneeze. When notifying friends and fam-

ily of my election as Editor, I would embark on a cul-de-sac of conversation that would take us from "What's a Nowse?" through to "What do you mean, like the river?" before arriving at a definitive "I don't get it."

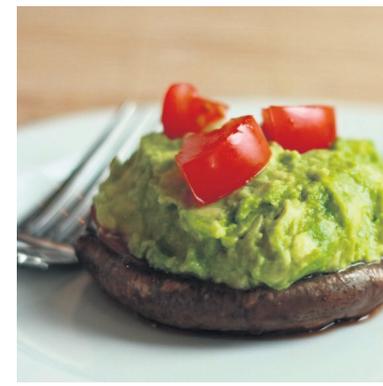
As I sit on the office sofa writing this, that name leers down at me from the walls plastered with former covers. The covers date back as far as 2008 and, if I were to dive into our extensive set of filing cabinets, I could trace that questionable portmanteau all the way back through its history, via the god-awful monochrome Central Hall logo, to the very first edition - all the way back to 1964.

51 years. Through various it-

erations, and forays into the deeper ends of both tabloid and broadsheet territory, that name endures, in all its awkward, overthought glory. Somewhere along the way, 'Muse' got thrown into the mix, to make up for the fact that 'Nouse' had stuck. But the damage was done.

Yet that's the beauty of history. It isn't always pretty. And this paper is as old as our woefully ugly University itself. So, while the name might be as dreadful as sin, it's an absolute honour to be a part of it. It isn't going anywhere. A bit like me. For a year at least. Fingers crossed. 1.23am. Nailed it.

Chris Owen

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Food and DrinkNews in brief 

Tory society fox-hunting social returns

The University's Conservative Society saw a return to its 'fox hunting' themed social. A similar event was cancelled in 2013 amid claims of sexism. The format of the social has been modified from previous years with committee members dressing up as foxes and other members as hounds, as opposed to women as foxes and men as hounds. A member of the society who took part in the social said that: "I would like next year's social to be an actual fox hunt." The Hockey Club also decided to run a fox hunt themed social.

Evolution of chickens faster than expected

Combined Research by the University of York and Oxford University has discovered that the evolution of chickens occurs at a much faster rate than previously thought with two mutations occurring in their mitochondrial genomes in 50 years. The lead author and lecturer of Bioarchaeology at The University of York said: "The one thing everyone knew about mitochondria is that it is almost exclusively passed down the maternal line, but we identified chicks who inherited their mitochondria from their father."

Petition started for lighting on Walmgate Stray

A petition has been started by Ben Leatham, YUSU president, to get lighting put on Walmgate Stray. The path provides a quicker route from the University campus to Fulford but the path does not have any lighting and has been described by students, staff and local residents as "unsafe". Due to the lack of lighting it is particularly inaccessible to people with certain disabilities such as visual impairments. A number of injuries have been reported from people who have slipped on ice or had collisions involving bikes or wildlife.

Remembrance services held across York

Remembrance Day services were held across York on Sunday. The main parade departed from Clifford's Tower to the Memorial Gardens where a service was held. A student Remembrance service will be held on the grass by the Quiet Place on Wednesday 11 November at 10.50am. The University has invited students to observe a two minutes' silence and ask those who do not "to respect those who do, and understand that service within the University may be briefly suspended at 11.00am."

Nouse

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Want to write for us?

Get in touch: editor@nouse.co.uk

We are always on the lookout for writers, photographers and cartoonists to join our team. It doesn't matter if you have never written for *Nouse* before, send an email to editor@nouse.co.uk, or to muse@nouse.co.uk for Muse sections, to get involved.



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James Hostford

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Left to right: Walnut

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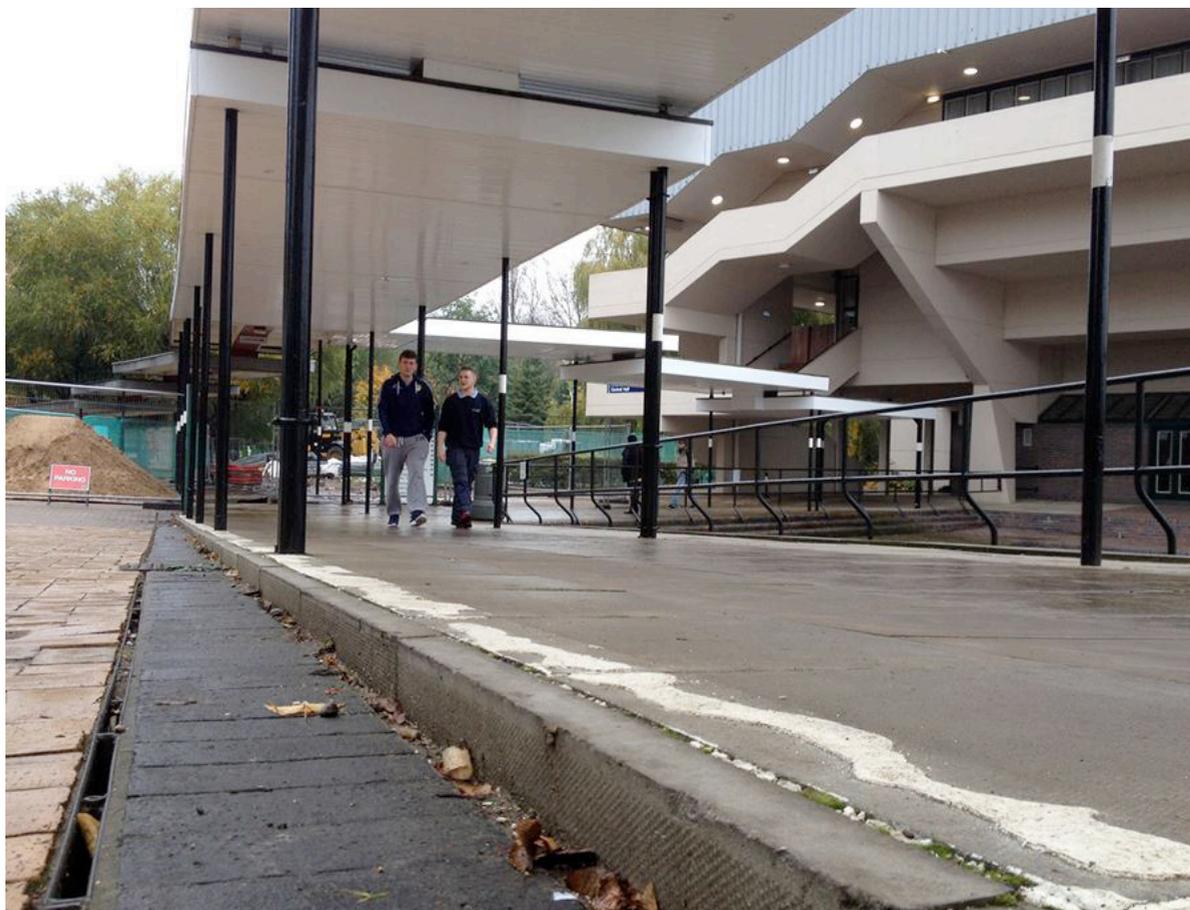
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Disabled students cut off from walkways by “unacceptable” building works

Wheelchair users cannot freely move from Derwent to Central Hall as ramp access to main walkways has been removed



Chris Owen
EDITOR

ACCESS TO SOME of campus' main thoroughfares has been limited to some students with disabilities, and completely cut off to those in wheelchairs, as a result of ongoing building works.

The covered walkway leading from Derwent College through to Vanbrugh that makes a junction with the path to Central Hall and on to the Exhibition Centre is currently blocked off, forcing students to walk around the obstruction and rejoin the path on the other side.

However, the path beyond the obstruction is raised an inch off the ground, meaning that wheelchair-bound students cannot easily rejoin the walkway to get to Vanbrugh or Central Hall. Instead, they must make lengthy detours across two bridges and along the opposite side of the lake to reach the University's main hall.

Building works on Heslington East have also obstructed wheelchair users' access to buses. Alice Dunn, a student and wheelchair user, told *Nouse* that the building works on both campuses have been “a total nightmare” for her. She spoke of having to take 40 minute detours to get from one side of Hes West to the other, and “being totally unable to get onto the bus on Hes East because of an inexplicably huge and un-dropped kerb.”

“I've had builders parking their cars over the tarmac pathways leav-

ing me stuck in the mud like a Range Rover at a county show,” she said. “I don't think anyone at the University has thought about how wheelchair users can get around with all the work going on around campus; we're mostly just an occasional afterthought. I just want to get to my seminar on time like everyone else can, dammit.”

Another student with a severe visual impairment told *Nouse* that the campus buildings works have been an inconvenience that resulted in him having to “take a significant detour by accident”.

“I thought that I would get to a landmark sooner or later but things got progressively worse,” said the student, who has had to commit the main network of paths around campus to memory in order to negotiate the main thoroughfares.

“I understand that things have to be done from time to time but it's a bit strange, maybe, to have it during term time,” he said. “I understand that there can be bureaucratic problems with organising things for vacations...maybe someone should be on duty to assist people who rely on going by a particular path routinely.”

Information and guidance on footpath diversions is provided alongside the walkway obstruction. No alternative routes for those in wheelchairs, or for those with other limiting physical disabilities, are provided.

The University provides a comprehensive and far-encompassing

range of aides for those with disabilities, and custom makes support to students' specific needs. The Equality and Diversity Committee promotes the cause of equality and inclusivity under the slogan ‘Dignity and Respect’.

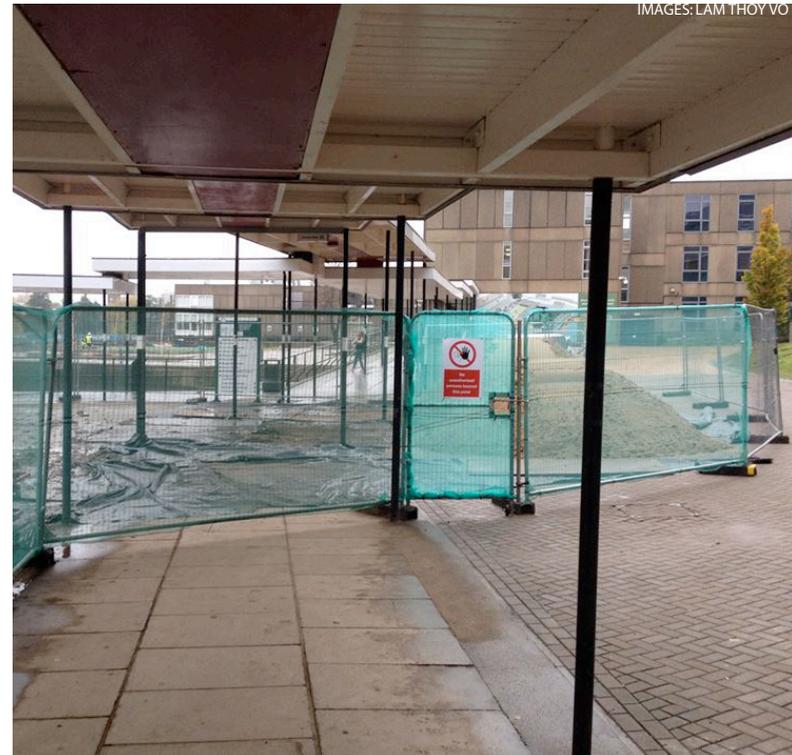
Yet it seems as though the specific needs of students with disabilities have not been factored into the diversion routes in light of on-going building works, some of which will become long term features on campus stretching as far ahead as Autumn 2016.

Zohra Khan, YUSU's Disabled Students Officer, has called the situation “completely and incredibly unacceptable” in light of the fact that, while students had been made aware of ongoing building works, “there was no notice of how this would affect accessibility requirements”.

“Students are being forced to take alternative routes, causing delays and frustration with the building contractors and Estates,” Khan said. “I have raised this issue with the Equality and Diversity department as well as Estates who have been investigating this issue, so potential solutions are now being formed.”

After *Nouse* contacted the University to raise the issue of accessibility around Central Hall, the following statement was issued on Friday by the Estates Officer who deals with disability:

“I met with the project managers on Site this afternoon and have



Building works on both Heslington West and East have left disabled students unable to access parts of campus

arranged for the fences to be moved to enable level movement from the covered walkway to the diversionary routes. The fences will also be moved where the works may have left the footpaths with unsafe and uneven edges. This should resolve the issue of the wheelchair access in this area.”

Further significant works

around the Vanbrugh kitchen area and Harewood way tomorrow will result in the closing of the covered walkway in front of the lake for five hours. This is to make way for a wagon and crane to access the area. There will be a signed diversion around this closure, which will hopefully accommodate wheelchair access.

IMAGES: LAM THOY VO

News

Nouse is shortlisted for Student Publication of the Year 2015 award

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

NOUSE HAS BEEN shortlisted for Student Publication of the Year in the *Guardian* Student Media Awards. The nominations are judged on the publication that gives the appropriate balance of news, features and ideas-driven editorial.

Chris Owen, *Nouse* Editor, has been nominated for critic of the year, as well as Alfie Packham. Edward Greenwood from the University has also been nominated for Student Opinion Writer of the Year. Owen commented: "I'm still in a fair amount of shock to have been shortlisted for Critic of the Year in recognition of my half-baked ramblings about music written, more often than not, on a demented whim at 1am.

"It's a privilege to even have been shortlisted, and even more so to appear on the list alongside my extremely talented friend and *Nouse* legend Alfie Packham. Rumour has it he is the odds-on favourite. You heard it here first."

For 36 years the awards have been recognising and celebrating quality student journalism from across the country including awards for editors, writers, photographers,

and designers.

The prize for the winners of the awards is a two week work experience placement with editorial at the *Guardian*, in addition to a place on the *Guardian's* journalism masterclass. Runners up in the awards will get one week of work experience with *Guardian* editorial.

Judges of the awards include Katharine Viner, editor-in-chief of *Guardian* News and Media, Lisa Markwell, editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, Emma Tucker, Deputy Editor of the *Times*, Sarah Sands, editor of the *London Evening Standard*, among others.

At the 2014 awards *York Vision* won student publication of the year, with *Nouse* as runner up. Patrick Greenfield from the University of York was awarded Student Reporter of the Year, and James Tyas was runner up for student critic of the year.

Owen spoke on behalf of *Nouse* saying, "It is a wonderful thing to see the tireless work of hundreds of student writers and editors go rewarded by this prestigious recognition, and this shortlist spot is as much down to the writing of the occasional dabbler as it is the hours of work put in by *Nouse's* team of over 50 editors and deputies."

The winners of the awards will be announced on 1 December.



York Vision previously won the *Guardian* Student Publication of the Year in 2014, with *Nouse* as runner up

YUSU'S new Code of Conduct called into question by societies

Benjamin Reid
NEWS REPORTER

A NUMBER OF non-sports societies have spoken out against YUSU's Societies Code of Conduct. Questions have been raised over its lack of consultation and the increased responsibility and pressure on society chairs.

The Societies Code of Conduct is a document published by YUSU that defines "the expected behaviour of all society members". All society members are to adhere to the outlined terms.

One notable section of the code is dedicated to 'Initiations' and claims "YUSU and the University of York do not permit Initiation Ceremonies", defining an initiation ceremony as an event where members are "expected to perform an activity as a means of gaining credibility, status or entry into that group". However many sports societies at the University still hold initiation socials such as football, rugby and hockey, among others.

Previous initiations have been criticised for encouraging peer pres-

sure, alcohol consumption, nudity and humiliating behaviour.

There is a clear guide to the sanctions that will be issued upon breach of the code to be applied to the society as a whole and individual members.

Sanctions range from writing a letter of apology to removing funding and disbanding the society. Individual members who breach the code can be excluded from YUSU, banned from society events and even the society itself. Appeals can be made to YUSU against any sanction made.

Societies are concerned because the Code of Conduct was not made clearly available to the wider student body before it was issued. The Code of Conduct has been taken from the code already agreed by sports clubs. There are also concerns over the responsibility of society chairs to communicate the code to members and the laborious task of having every member understand it.

Huw Davies, The University of York Conservative and Unionist Association Secretary, has raised concerns over the Code of Conduct saying: "I don't think there is a need,

particularly as it makes the chairman now liable for the actions of any one society member. The chair could literally be out of the country when an incident occurred and he would still be liable."

YUSU Activities Officer Chris Wall has written a blog to respond to some of these issues and concerns.

He claims that consultation had been sought from YUSU and University professionals and that society Presidents simply have to make members aware of the code's expectations. He closed with the following statement:

"I will not apologise for trying to educate our members in what can be considered harassment... Perhaps this is not the best way to do that, and I agree that certain elements could have been handled slightly better, but our Union is committed to zero tolerance. Anything we can do to help make that a reality is something we will seriously consider implementing."

It is unclear whether YUSU now have the power to exclude members from societies without the society's consent.



Societies have been concerned about consultation of the Code of Conduct

Grant speaks out against gov policy

>>> Continued from front

He opposed the introduction of the £9,000 fee contribution, and claims to be “one of the few people at the University” who did so.

In 2011, Grant supported the removal of the £3000 cap on tuition fee contribution “subject to safeguards to protect less well-off students” and subsequently prompted the tabling by students of a Vote Of No Confidence in his presidency at University College London. It is not completely clear what his new comments about “revisiting” the tuition fee model allude to in terms of fee contribution.

His divisive words may be surprising after his controversial inauguration as Chancellor last month.

The role of Chancellor is considered a broadly ceremonial one, whose main duty is chairing the Court of the University of York, a representative body of ‘ambassadors and friends’ according to the University website.

His willingness to speak out about political issues affecting the funding of university and tuition fees may point to a desire to be a more hands-on kind of Chancellor. “I have the benefit of having headed up a university myself, and this experience will come in useful as I get closely engaged with academics and students at York,” Grant told *Nouse*.

Sir Malcolm was knighted in 2013 for his services to higher education. During his time as President and Provost of UCL, he launched ‘The Campaign for UCL’, a fundraising project tasked with generating £300mn for facilities and research initiatives, of which £50mn went towards funding student bursaries, scholarships and post doctoral study.

IMAGE: UCL NEWS



Chancellor Prof. Sir Malcolm Grant

New University of York staff adoption policies

Leah Huws
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK has revealed it will be introducing a new adoption leave and pay policy in order to support members of staff considering adopting a child. The changes were announced on 22 October, which coincided with National Adoption Week.

The new policy grants staff the right to claim up to two days of paid leave to explore an adoption application. Members of staff will have the option of these two days in addition to the leave already guaranteed by official legislation surrounding the adoption process.

Currently, employees taking adoption leave are guaranteed paid leave of up to 39 weeks and unpaid leave of up to 13 weeks for employees.

Dr David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, said: “The University is keen to support members of staff who are wishing to adopt and to help working parents balance work and family life by offering flexibility in providing care for their children.”

Between March 2014 and March 2015, 5,330 children were adopted from care in England.

The UK currently has one of the lowest rates of adoption in Europe

(source www.baaf.org).

Dr Duncan acknowledged the need to do more to encourage adoption, stating: “As an employer, we recognised that we could do more to support members of staff who are considering adopting a child. We hope that this enhanced leave and pay package will result in more staff pursuing adoption.”

National Adoption Week has been running for 10 years in the hope of raising awareness of the adoption process. This year’s theme was ‘Too old at 4?’ which showcased the difficulty of placing older children with adoptive families. The over 4s group, as well as sibling groups and BME children are among the children who wait longest to be adopted.

Responding to the University’s decision, Hugh Thornberry, Chief Executive of Adoption UK, said: “Adoption UK is pleased when employers recognise the needs of adopters in what can be a long and complicated process.

“It’s great that they offer to support them in their endeavour to provide a loving, stable, forever family to children who can no longer live with their birth families.”

However, pay changes at the University aren’t all so positive, as it was revealed some porters are facing having their annual salaries re-

duced by £5000.

The University currently employs 50 porters, who are responsible for both manning college reception desks and monitoring accommodation. Many face a salary fall from £25,700 to around £20,000, with the exception of 14 porters who work night shifts who may see their salaries rise to around £29,000.

When the news first surfaced in July, a University spokesman said: “The University is reviewing a number of services it offers in light of the changing nature of higher education. To this end, a working group was established to look at the portering and reception services...The group made a series of recommendations which the University is now looking to implement.”

The University has subsequently launched a staff consultation to discuss the recommendations, and has confirmed that it does not intend to implement any changes before the end of the year.

One porter told *Nouse*: “I have been working here for a long time and I’m approaching retirement – this pay cut will seriously damage my pension. It’s a disgrace. It means we will have to budget and we won’t be able to do the things we’ve been working towards all our lives, some of us.”

Students angry over long waiting times at campus doctors surgery

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS AT the University of York have revealed to *Nouse* the poor conditions they are subject to while waiting for healthcare from Unity Health, the on-campus provider of healthcare. Citing long waiting times, having to wait in the cold for up to 40 minutes in order to make the ‘drop-in’ sessions and their anger at the regular offer of an appointment two weeks later.

One student, a 1st-year at Halifax College, suffering from tonsillitis, told *Nouse* how he arrived at 8:36am one Wednesday, expecting to be in time for the ‘drop-in’, which opens at 8:30am.

Instead he was told by staff that they were ‘already full’ and was offered the choice of an appointment two weeks later or to try again the next day, but that he should arrive around 8:00am.

The next day the student arrived at 7:50am to find that he was 4th in line and that he would have to wait outside in, what he described as, “the freezing cold”. Expressing his anger at the fact that he and others were forced to wait outside in cold and damp weather, which only helped to exacerbate his symptoms. The student commented that he felt

“dreadfully ill and incredibly annoyed at the fact that you could see the receptionist staff looking at us outside from around 8am”, adding that if you “didn’t bring music the wait would be awful”.

Another 1st-year patient explained to *Nouse* how she too had to wait outside in harsh conditions, adding how she was “disappointed that despite arriving at 8am, [she] was still 10th in the line”.

Pointing out that such a service would not be acceptable in an NHS-run clinic, she was equally angry about the poor appointment availability and lack of ‘drop-in’ sessions over the weekend, which only run Monday to Friday.

The patient continued to add that “as a first point of improvement students should be able to wait inside, away from the often freezing conditions”.

A focus group is set to take place on Wednesday 18 November with the goal of helping to ‘shape the provision of healthcare at York’, though the outcome of this group remains unclear. Given that over two years ago, this very paper reported on student anger over two week waiting times for appointments and rising student dissatisfaction with the service, it is clear that the issue is still an ongoing one.

IMAGE: PETER IVESON



The University’s on campus Health Centre has been criticised by students for having excessive waiting times

News

Soc-Box

Amnesty International

IMAGE: AMNESTY INT.



UNIVERSITY OF York Amnesty International are running two major campaigns: Save the Act and Refugees Welcome.

Save the Act is a campaign aiming to prevent the Human Rights Act 1998 from being abolished and replaced with an 'English Bill of Rights'.

The Refugees Welcome campaign is part of another national campaign aiming to change government policy on the refugee crisis, with the goal of increasing the UK's refugee intake.

They will be having a debate on 17 November on the Human Rights Act being abolished in the UK and on 23 November they are holding an event "Amnesty for Refugees", which is a music event at the Spread Eagle raising money for AIUK and Refugee Action York.

No doubt you will see them around campus too, with the many petitions they will be running!

Anyone interested in the work of Amnesty on campus should contact them via Facebook, Twitter or amnesty@yusu.org

LGBTQ Boycott

STAYING ON the topic of civil rights, the Socialist Society have teamed up with the LGBTQ and BME networks to lobby YUSU over the issue of the government's 'prevent' scheme.

Prevent is a government scheme which aims to ensure that public institutions, such as the NHS and universities, monitor people for signs of extremism and radicalisation. The scheme has been around since 2006 under the Blair government, however the new Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has now made it statutory for institutions to follow the guidelines.

The societies are calling for YUSU to boycott the University's 'prevent duty', labelling it Islamophobic on the grounds that it would target Muslim students. LGBTQ officer, Jack Chadwick, also critiqued its restrictions on freedom of speech and academic freedom, stating "I am especially worried by the threats this poses to free speech on campus."

The motion against 'prevent' will be involved in the next round of policy discussion, which will determine whether YUSU will adopt it as policy.

More info can be found via the groups' Facebook pages.

IMAGE: YUSU



Cooking causes significant kitchen fire in James accommodation

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A FIRE TOOK place in D Block House 2 student accommodation in James College around 4pm on Friday afternoon.

The fire was started by cooking that was left unattended in one of the kitchens in the block. Gareth Dybiec, James College JCRC Chair, reported that the fire occurred because "a bit of toast got stuck in the toaster".

Several fire brigades from the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and Security and Fire Safety staff were on the scene promptly to deal with the accident. Students were evacuated from the building to a safe location once the fire alarms went off.

The kitchen has been left considerably damaged, but the fire was contained and nobody was hurt in the incident.

A second year Politics student told *Nouse*: "I was walking towards James College when I noticed a considerable amount of smoke surrounding the student accommodation. When I got closer to the building it looked like it was coming from the ground floor. People who seemed to have been evacuated were stood around the building. Soon enough there were three fire engines on hand and lots of security staff were there too."

"I just hoped that everyone was okay, but it seems that no one was injured. It is scary though how a fire can so easily start."

12 students from the block were rehoused for the weekend to deal with the damages and to ensure the safety of the students in the building once they returned.

Dr David Duncan, Registrar and Secretary of the University has said: "It is a salutary warning for everyone on campus about fire safety and in particular the importance of not leaving cooking unattended."

Mike Britland, Assistant Head of James College thanked the staff and students: "I'd like to thank everyone concerned, in particular North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and our campus Security and Fire and Safety staff for their quick response and effective action. I'd also like to thank all the students concerned, who have been very patient while we dealt with the emergency."

A major fire took place in the Chemistry Department in 2012 in which 400 people were evacuated and 11 fire engines were called to the scene. The blaze supposedly started in a cabinet or fume cupboard.

In January this year an unfinished laboratory at the University of Nottingham burnt down in a fire caused by an electrical fault. As the building was 70 per cent finished there were no fire doors or windows, allowing the fire to spread.

A fire was also caused by unattended cooking in student accommodation in Bristol city centre last month when a pan of oil was left over heat in the kitchen. Four fire engines were called to the blaze which damaged the fifth floor of the building and ripped through

the roof. Nobody was hurt but 100 students had to be rehoused and the street that the building was on was out of bounds for the rest of the week after the fire took place.

Each year all students who are living in on-campus accommodation at the University of York are required to attend a fire safety talk at the beginning of the year. Advice is given on not cooking when under the influence of alcohol, keeping electric heaters in bedrooms and restrictions on lighting candles.

The University will continue to give these fire safety talks, with this incident in mind in the future.

The North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have provided safety information on preventing fires in the kitchen.

This includes not putting anything metal in the microwave, keeping soft items such as tea towels away from cookers and toasters, and ensuring that ovens and hobs are not allowed to build up grease between cooking.

IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK HEALTH AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT



IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK HEALTH AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT



IMAGE: YIK YAK



Clockwise from top: Image of the source of the fire in the kitchen, the outside of the building with smoke from the ground floor, the inside of the kitchen

Changes made to joint honours supervision

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE SCHOOLS of SPS (Social and Political Sciences) and PEP (Politics, Economics and Philosophy) have agreed to start a new scheme in which joint honours students in these departments will be given contacts to go to in the subjects that they do not have a supervisor in.

This contact is to give students the ability to ask questions related to specific departments, such as what modules or assessment topics to pick.

Natural Sciences are running the scheme too and came up with the idea for it independently. It has been pioneered by Roddy Vann, head of the department.

This need for change came from the concerns of joint honours students regarding the amount of supervisor contact provided to them.

This issue was a main feature in the election manifesto of Thomas Ron, Academic Officer. Ron told *Nouse*: "As a former Joint Honours student I know full well how difficult supervision can be for us. This system should provide students both the one-to-one pastoral support they rely on from their supervisor and the variety of advice they need from the multiple aspects of their course."

In a survey conducted by *Nouse* earlier in the year nearly half the number of students doing joint honours

described themselves as being 'very satisfied' with their supervisor compared to single honours students.

Joseph Simnett, PEP student welcomes the changes by saying: "It's good, rather than chasing up individual professors who may teach you a module but aren't qualified to handle general affairs, you can have a representative in each discipline. This way I won't keep being referred between departments whenever I see my supervisor."

87 per cent of joint honours students said that they supported the idea of an academic supervisor with knowledge of all of the subjects that they study, or several points of contact within each discipline that they do on their course.

The movement has been formally passed by the Board of Studies for SPS. Matt Hodges, course rep for SPS, commented: "Although the (SPS) department considered changing the supervisor scheme, we felt it was less a problem with the set up now, and more a problem of students not having the correct information on who they should contact. So we went with increased visibility over any particular change."

It is hoped that the new changes will help joint honours student feel more reassured that they have a contact in each of their subjects thus giving them the ability to ask specific, subject-related questions and avoiding department referrals.

Success for York in Times league table for Arts and Humanities

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK is celebrating success in the international league tables, where the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2015-16 have placed York an impressive 25th for Arts and Humanities.

The rankings assess teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

Upon hearing the release of the league tables Professor Mark Ormrod, Dean of Faculty of Arts and humanities, said: "The THE ranking is fitting recognition of York's outstanding achievement in producing world-leading Arts and Humanities research."

The league table results have not been York's only success story in the past few weeks. York has been placed in the top ten for Research Council income according to THE figures.

According to the figures, York had a total research income of £46,097,047 for 2014-15, an increase of 81 per cent in comparison to the previous year. This placed York 10th in the UK for research income with the increase largely down to its leadership of one of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's £120 million Quantum Technology Hubs.

In terms of grant application success rate, the University was



IMAGE: JONATHAN BUTTEN

York has improved its position on THE Arts and Humanities league table

placed 5th scoring 35 per cent.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research Professor Deborah Smith said: "Our research council awards improved considerably in 2014/15 due to several factors: increased success rates across three of the councils; success in several larger focused funding calls (notably, EPSRC Quantum, BBSRC Industrial Biotechnology); strong AHRC

performance; a drive to increase cross-institutional applications and strengthening of internal monitoring and peer-review processes."

A first year History student commented on the ranking: "It is an impressive step for the University as it was not included in the rankings in 2013 and it is a credit to the staff. It is reassuring that York is being recognised for its excellence."

Government paper may increase tuition fees

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

NEW PLANS have been unveiled by Universities Minister Jo Johnson to allow higher tuition fees for universities that offer high quality teaching.

The green paper released on 6 November also outlined the creation of a new Office for Students, which will be a regulatory body ensuring value for money and quality in university education across the country.

Mr. Johnson said: "We must do more to ensure that the time and money students invest in higher education is well spent."

"Our ambition is to drive up the quality of teaching in our universities to ensure students and taxpayers get value for money and employers get graduates with the skills they need."

The paper also recommends giving ministers the power to set tuition fee caps, bypassing the current need for secondary legislation and a vote in parliament. It suggests that universities should be grouped and graded on the quality of their

teaching.

The highest performing universities would then be able to charge higher fees, within a tuition fee cap, set by ministers proportionally to inflation.

The Shadow Education Minister Gordon Marsden has raised concerns that the new recommendations are a pretext for raising tuition fees, and stated that the "green paper for higher education will effectively brand some universities as second class, impacting on their students' life chances."

The National Union of Students president Megan Dunn has said: "NUS and students' unions will be going through the consultation in full detail, and we will make sure the student voice is too loud for the government to ignore."

"Change should be driven by the people at the heart of the system - students, teachers and staff. It will not be good enough for the government and institutions to decide what is in students' interests without asking them."

The paper is currently under consultation with a deadline of 15 January 2016 for responses and it is expected to go on to a white paper.



IMAGE: DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Jo Johnson suggests fee increases

URY success at Student Awards

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

UNIVERSITY RADIO YORK (URY) won two station and three individual prizes at the Student Radio Awards 2015 last Thursday.

The awards, which first occurred in 1995 and are sponsored by BBC Radio 1 and Global, aim to celebrate the success stories of student radio throughout the UK.

Various celebrity presenters have made appearances at the event in the past, including Nick Grimshaw and Scott Mills.

The society won five out of the six awards for which they were nominated, on top of the four nominations they received for the I Love Student Radio Awards earlier this year.

This makes URY one of the most awarded student radio stations in the country. For their coverage of the YUSU Elections Results Night and design of unique Roses Mini OB Kits, URY won the Silver Awards for Best Live Event or Outside Broadcast and Best Technical Achievement respectively.

Alex Light, URY's station man-

ager for 2014/15, told *Nouse* "the results were amazing and it was brilliant to see all the hard work put in across the station rewarded, from those who had been there for years to our newcomers."

Individual nominee Rebecca Saw won the Gold Award for Best Newcomer, and Harry Whittaker took the top prize for Best Entertainment Programming and Bronze for Best Male Presenter.

Light added, "it makes me really proud to have been Station Manager this year and to be able to say I played a tiny part in the successes."

It was an improvement on the 2014 awards, where URY were shortlisted for just one. The station held elections for their 2015/16 team last night as they set their sights on another successful year of student media.



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York student wins Intern of the Year

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York's Student Internship Bureau (SIB), based in careers, has named Lucio Longo as 'Intern of the Year,' following the end of its annual summer scheme.

Four students were shortlisted by representatives from Santander Universities and Make it York for significantly impacting their host organisations and displaying personal development.

The other shortlisted students include: Jenny Bunga for developing a market-testing model for SACCADE, a Scottish company in the health sector; Sarah Birkett who innovated HR practice in York CVS; and Alex Hall who built a model railway to display the future benefits of construction works at Kings Cross station for Network Rail.

Longo worked on a project looking into consumer attitudes to the use of mobile phones to make credit card payments for TSYS, a Fulford based company that specialises in payments processing.

He said: "The prize of best intern of the year means a great deal to me. It made me appreciate that hard work and studying pays off. At times, the summer period was not very easy for me to manage as I had to work on two different projects:

my master's dissertation in Global Marketing and my internship project."

The York SIB sources paid internships for University of York students and graduates that are primarily with local organisations such as Network Rail, the City of York Council, and York Theatre Royal, or with departments on campus.

The assistant director of careers at The University of York, Andrew Ferguson said: "Student interns bring immediate and tangible benefits to local businesses engaging with the University. The year on year growth in the number and quality of the projects involved really illustrates the value that the business, students and the University put into the scheme."

As of summer 2015, The York SIB has provided over 400 internships. Most internships are in the summer and info on future opportunities can be found through the careers website or the SIB Facebook.



Four York students were shortlisted

Both Law and Philosophy adopt opt-out lecture capture

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

FOLLOWING A number of months of lobbying, student representatives have persuaded both the Law and Philosophy departments to adopt an opt-out framework on Lecture Capture.

At the forefront was Thomas Ron, Academic Officer for YUSU. Sharing news of the success on his Facebook page, Ron enthused "This is a major step forward and as BoS meetings come around we hope to be seeing more departments take this trend forward."

Departments are being encouraged to adapt to the opt-out framework so students can listen back to their lectures. Lecture Capture technology benefits those who may have missed lectures due to illness or would like a reminder of the content covered.

The online resource is a quick and easy point of reference, especially for those looking to specialise in specific research material.

The opt-out ruling replaces the standard opt-in framework, by which it is assumed lectures will not be recorded. For most departments lecturers may be recorded if they so wish.

The change means all lectures conducted by the cooperating de-



Ron has been campaigning to achieve lecture capture in all departments

partments will be recorded unless the lecturer specifically chooses not to be.

Capitalising on his success, Ron has set his sights on implementing the framework University-wide. Since announcing that both Law and Philosophy have adopted the framework, Ron has indicated his enthusiasm to have others follow suit, which he insisted "won't happen without student buy in".

He continues to encourage students to play an active role in their departments, whether that be by attending Staff Student Forums or engaging with student reps.

Ron told *Nouse* "We are very supportive about the decisions [...] I think that Dom Smithies and Lydia Bonnefoy-Jenkinson (Department

Reps for Philosophy and Law respectively) deserve a huge amount of credit for their hard work in making this happen.

"These are not the only discussions that will be happening. All science and social science departments that do not have this system are going to be actively discussing it as are many Arts and Humanities departments, so I have very high hopes that a majority of the University will move to the opt-out system by the end of the year."

It is due to students taking action that this change has been implemented.

Concluding a recent plea for student lobbying, Ron insisted "with your voice, your Department WILL change for the better".

IMAGE: ALLAN HARRIS



York city Illuminations

A selection of York's most iconic attractions were illuminated between 28 and 31 October. Drawing inspiration from the UNESCO year

of light, the festival is in its tenth year.

This year the festival "celebrates light in all of its forms, from the flickering flame to the

light emitting diode." An interactive candle projection was displayed from the St. Michael le Belfrey Church while the Shambles sparkled with disco balls.

Tobacco and tuberculosis research

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A NEW STUDY has begun at The University of York aimed at finding ways to reduce pressure on health-care systems around the world from the treatment of tobacco and tuberculosis (TB).

A four-year long collaborative project between the University's Department of Health Sciences and Hull York Medical School (HYMS), the study aims to reduce the burden of tobacco related lung diseases.

The project will be led by Dr. Kamran Siddiqi, a senior lecturer in public health in the Department of Health Sciences and HYMS.

Over half of the world's TB cases are found in Pakistan and South-east Asia, which will be the focus of the study with the project working in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

They will look at the most effective and inexpensive ways to stop people from smoking and incorporate these into TB programmes.

Dr. Siddiqi said: "We hope that by studying the 'real world' influences on the implementation and success of tobacco cessation, we'll be able to translate study findings into benefits for patients."

Comment



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Germaine Greer should not be no platformed



Lily Rawstone Hannigan

The writer's past publications on trans* people should not be used as a basis for censorship

Feminism in 2015 is one of inclusion and temperance which is entirely at odds with Germaine Greer's unapologetic rhetoric. She has referred to transwomen as "female impersonators", "ghastly parodies" and "delusional". Her language is grossly insensitive especially considering trans* people are at a higher risk of violence and harassment. In her academic writing Greer does not consider trans* issues for their own sake, rather uses them in the abstract as exemplary of institutional cis-misogyny.

Accepting transwomen as women conflicts with her explanation of the social construction

Greer does not consider trans* issues for their own sake

of gender identity. She claims this does not enter into her treatment of transwomen on an individual basis; in a recent interview on BBC Newsnight she attests that she would "with someone who wished to be known as female, use female speech forms as a courtesy". In the

same interview Greer notes the fact that she has not written about transwomen for "a long time" and it is not a subject she has any interest in returning to. Figuring her as actively propagating transmisogyny is therefore unjustifiable.

On 18 November Greer was due to give a talk at the University of Cardiff to address the triumphalist understanding of 20th Century Feminism. A petition was drawn up to no platform her on the grounds that she has used inflammatory language towards transwomen, does not consider them to be women and denies the existence of transphobia. The petition gained 2,965 signatures of its 5,000 target, though it may have been met had Greer not already pulled out of the talk due to the backlash.

YUSU Women's Committee reacted similarly to news of Julie Bindel debating the legalisation of sex workers last month, a figure with whom the NUS has deemed too threatening for its officers to share a platform due to her authoring similar writings on the subject of transwomen.

No platform was founded on preventing racist and fascist hate speech, with the intent to deter violence. It is my feeling that no

platform is becoming a tool to censor people who hold controversial opinions and refuse to publically retract them. For such a phenomenon to enter the university space which should be one of pluralism, freedom of thought and open debate is unacceptable.

In a discussion with Evie Brill Paffard, co-chair of the LGBTQ

No platform is a tool to censor people who hold controversial opinions

network, I was alerted to the importance of regarding campus as a domestic space as well as a work space, i.e. a place where trans* students live.

Nevertheless I believe that if an individual or a group has socially corrosive ideas, a university is a comparatively safe environment to deconstruct them.

Recent attempts to no platform Greer and Bindel were based upon qualms that were unrelated to the subjects they were discussing. Nei-



ther have volunteered their opinion on transwomen in the last five years. It is only in light of this petition that Greer has returned to the subject rendering the claim that she continues to perpetuate transmisogyny problematic.

When asked for comment, Ashley Reed, trans* convener, said "The big problem is cis people (like your-

self) speaking over trans* voices, blotting out our real experiences of oppression and ignoring what we're saying." I therefore urge trans* individuals to respond publically.

I don't agree with Greer's views on transwomen or FGM or clitoral orgasms, but if she were to give a talk at the University, I wouldn't censor her.

New Leftists are ruining it for everyone



Luke Rix-Standing

Post-election politics is plagued by peacocking and petulance



The die-hards of the Labour electorate, on the evening of their election defeat, did not go gentle into that good night.

Indeed, there is currently a concerning trend among the supposed 'left wing' in this country to shelve reasonable discussion in favour of vitriol, and abandon inclusivity for self-righteousness. Instead of quietly hanging their heads along with

their disgraced figurehead, the urban left took to the streets; 'stop the Tory coup' events were held on every self-respecting campus, and anyone who admitted to voting Tory was immediately savaged on social media. Some months on and young Conservatives (and left wing journalists) are being egged at the Tory party conference. The archetypal 'wet lefty' now has a hardened, em-

bittered visage and an over-active twitter account.

I'm not saying that I always disagree with them. The cuts introduced by this government have been harder and deeper than expected; gone is the moderating influence of the Lib Dems, leaving us to face the stark realities of a truly Conservative Britain. My objection is instead that such behaviour is not constructive. A democratically elected party preparing to enact its manifesto is no justification for protests at number 10, and an egg splattered over the face of a teenager has never led to intelligent debate. Both are reminiscent of a toddler stamping its foot because it didn't get its way.

Worst of all, this kind of behaviour is intimidating. Perhaps the most worrying symptom of this trend has been the so-called 'million mask march' which gave London's youth the unique opportunity to disguise their identity in a V for Vendetta mask and act really pissed off for a while. Like all the worst elements of Twitter made flesh, 'anonymous' took to the streets to protest against 'capitalism' and 'the establishment' - whatever that actually means. It seems to have been merely an expression of youthful fury and

aggression, a directionless outlet of impotent bile from people who get a kick out of causing fear. Whatever it was hoping to achieve, it didn't achieve it and it never will.

The protests brought us the wonderful images of costumed anarchists picking up their named

Please can we stop convincing Britain's Tory-blue heartlands they've made the right decision

cappuccinos in Starbucks, with their masks on the backs of their heads. But 50 people were arrested, several injured, and large sections of Westminster closed for the night. So please can we put our masks back in the cupboard, our eggs back in the fridge, and stop convincing Britain's Tory-blue heartlands that they've made the right decision.

It is of course grossly unfair to

group these radical few in with the quiet majority of British left-wingers, those who desire discourse and benevolent government rather than those who are baying for the souls of their centre-right victims. In fact I'm sure that the self-styled Milibaeas are far more distressed than I am at the moment.

But there has to be a realisation that the so-called 'authoritarian left' - the marchers, the clicktivists, the egg-throwers - are more active on social media and on the streets, and are swiftly giving the British left a public face-lift that it could desperately do without.

I know the response I would get on Twitter: 'Blairite!', 'Tory scum!' (these have apparently superseded the c-word as the no-go areas of British swearing), or even 'we don't need you!' But you do need me. I'm a London-based, left-leaning, environment-caring, diversity-loving, pro-choice, anti-war, Elton John-listening *Guardian* reader, who would happily spend an entire lunchtime debating George Osborne's uncanny resemblance to a ferret. If you've lost people like me then you've lost the next election. The British left is dead, long live the British left.

Just stop worrying and love the bomb



Felix Forbes

Nukes are here to stay, whether you like it or not

Do you like the idea of the human race's extinction in atomic fire? Funny, me neither. The arguments in favour or against the bomb have raged even before 16 July 1945 - the very first successful test of a nuclear weapon. Recently, they've begun anew in the UK.

I blame Jeremy Corbyn. Ever since he took control of Labour, a few arguments have reopened like old injuries. He has endorsed anti-nuclear votes, and openly refused to contemplate the usage of the nuclear deterrent, a move diplomatically deemed "unhelpful" by his Shadow Defence Minister.

It is either epically hypocritical, or stunningly stupid, to vote against the renewal of Trident (as Scottish Labour has done). The world has to deal with Russia, which has adopted nuclear weapons into its conventional battle doctrine, and a Middle East gearing up for a nuclear arms race.

Corbyn may be a principled and decent man, but to pick one obvious example, Russian President Vladimir Putin is clearly not.

The atomic bomb is one of the most powerful symbols of our age - man's knowledge turned into something that can wipe cities off the map in the blink of an eye. To be genuinely comfortable with the

existence of such a weapon requires a personal decision, at some level, not to contemplate the awful power of such a thing.

This wilful blindness is nothing, however, compared to those who would ask that the United Kingdom rid itself of its own nuclear deterrent. The sheer power of the nuclear bomb is our nation's last, best, survival strategy. Not

The sheer power of the nuclear bomb is our nation's last, best survival strategy ”

liking the nuke is fine. Wishing no-one had it is fine. But being serious about getting rid of ours, opening us up to the randomness of the future in a move that does nothing for us? That requires a dedicated and blinkered nimbyism, bordering on pure idiocy. The world is only getting more unstable.

It is a happy irony that those

who most want rid of our nukes are those who also distrust America most. Why? Because if we got rid of our own deterrent, we'd be dependent upon America for protection. Not just now, but for as long as any country in this world possesses a bomb. I find much to admire in the United States, but I'd rather not outsource our last-ditch guarantee of survival to it. Maybe I'm just not that much of an optimist.

What about NATO? Can't that protect us militarily? Well, NATO is a nuclear alliance with a first strike policy. If you want rid of our nukes, but think we should be part of NATO, you're not even one of the happy optimists. You're alongside the Scottish National Party in the hypocrites' camp.

All this though, is almost completely irrelevant. The argument against nukes ended that day in the American desert in July 1945, when the world first saw atomic flame. We cannot un-invent the bomb. We can reduce access to it; we can block plutonium shipments; we can minimise the spread of the technology, but it will never go away. Trident is merely the most effective delivery system that we have. Let's not kid ourselves. The world is too big, too dangerous, and too unpredictable.

IMAGE: UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE



Re-thinking our approach to vulnerable groups



Evie Brill Paffard

No platforming serves only to protect the oppression of society's most vulnerable



IMAGE: CAITLIN CHILDS

This week begins the Sex Worker Solidarity campaign spearheaded by LGBTQ trans* convener Ashley Reed. The campaign seeks to address issues relating to sex work in a way accessible to university students.

According to Swansea University's Student Sex Work Project, five per cent of university students have been involved in sex work, with twenty-two per cent having considered it as an option.

The Sex Worker Solidarity campaign has its own survey with a total of 185 responses. The campaign relates to a greater extent to trans* issues since according to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey "11 per cent of trans* people said they had done sex work, compared to 1 per cent of cis women."

This all comes aptly in the wake of recent controversies relating to sex work and LGBTQ rights. A few weeks ago the York Union, an unratified debating society, held a debate on the decriminalisation of sex work.

They chose to invite trans*-exclusive and sex-worker-exclusive radical feminist Julie Bindel as a panellist. Interestingly, neither LGBTQ nor the Women's Officers were consulted on if this was a

good idea, though a statement was released in both networks condemning the decision.

The argument I always seem to hear against no platforming is that in the real world people get to say all sorts of nasty things. So therefore we must try to emulate that so that it isn't a shock to the poor sensitive PC types who've

By not promoting safe spaces you're maintaining the status quo ”

spent their lives wrapped in cotton wool.

I agree wholeheartedly with the former. What is rarely noted is that in the real world the people with power are the ones whose voices are prioritised. The voices of vulnerable people are stifled constantly by oppressive social structures.

Why should we try to emulate the real world when we could make changes to improve it at a

grassroots level?

On the York Union website it states that the society "believes in freedom of expression and *Nouse* is also committed to this principle. British universities have a duty to defend the 'unsafe' space. We feel both societies must play their part in promoting free debate and discussion on campus."

By not promoting safe spaces you're doing nothing more radical than maintaining the status quo. Safe spaces allow for the voices of people affected by issues to be prioritised, when they are silenced literally everywhere else.

In the event of people speaking at York, it is forgotten that the university campus is not a public space. Students live here and it should be treated as a domestic space.

Just as you might not want somebody coming to your own house and spouting abuse, students should likewise have the right to reject this from external speakers.

The voices of trans* students need to be at the forefront of this particular discussion, as well as the debate on sex work and the conversation regarding combatting oppression.

Comment

Nouse



Est. 1964

EDITORS' OPINIONS



Social justice is not an idle inevitability

Ciarán
Morrissey

When asked why the new cabinet of Canada had an even split of men and women, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau answered "because it's 2015". Trudeau's comment on social justice was preceded by an article from, of all places, *The Onion*.

"Because it's the current year" will never be an effective argument in favour of anything. It's a borderline nonsensical comment based on notions of modernity and a march of progress that does not exist. There's nothing inherent about the present or future that means social justice ought to or will magically be achieved. This sort of thing will always be a struggle, and will always have to be fought for. Complacency - or worse, flippancy - insults the memories of those who fought for those liberal values of freedom and equality. To suggest that this sort of thing is happening because it's the modern day, and that's just how the modern day works, is a rapid, triumphalist argument that accomplishes nothing. It makes those concerned with social justice, representation, and equality look like we are incapable of making compelling cases for it, and fuels division.

Trudeau's government has gender parity because Canada has taken significant steps to counteract the obstacles faced by women to achieving public office, and because of the social views of the party rank-and-file.

Secular morality is just as powerful as religious doctrine

Luke
Rix-Standing



For centuries, perceptions of morality have used the framework of 'piety' and 'sin'. It is an enduring image of the holy man in his monastery, giving to the poor, abstaining from lustful vices and devoting himself to study. Though many of the more archaic elements of this model are now obsolete, the association between religious belief and moral fibre remains.

A recent global study, however, is threatening to overturn these stereotypes.

12,000 children were tested for signs of altruism, and contrary to expectation it was the 4,000-strong 'no religion' group that came out on top. Religious children were found to be less generous, less empathic and far more judgemental of their peers. This trend became more pronounced the older the children were, implying that growing up in a secular environment can provide just as effective a moral education as the Bible or the Qur'an. In short, religious belief is far from a prerequisite for good behaviour.

Clearly this is a relatively small study, so to suggest that the religious of the world - 84 per cent of the global population - are being led into immorality would be a gross exaggeration, but evidently humankind does not need the carrot of heaven or the stick of hell to behave well.



UKIP's snub on Remembrance Day

Maria
Munir

Undoubtedly, Remembrance Sunday is significant for many reasons. Whitehall is being covered in red poppies to mark our respect for those who lost their lives in the First World War, but conflict still remains over the way the service is conducted.

UKIP pride themselves on being quintessentially British, and surely there is nothing more British than to protest who gets to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. Existing rules state that only leaders of parties with six or more MPs taking up their position in Westminster are allowed to take part in the ceremony itself. Thankfully, the Liberal Democrats just about made it in. Yet, UKIP has only one MP at the moment, so the party has no hope of being represented on the front page of a broadsheet this time.

If the anger was directed at the voting system, perhaps I would have more sympathy. Indeed, it is interesting how they haven't used this opportunity to appeal for voting reform instead, which would benefit the other parties trying to overcome the Tory-Labour scuffle for Number 10.

Alternatively, UKIP could do something completely unexpected and declare the romanticism associated with world wars a farce! Joking aside, the serious matter we are confronted with is the lack of emphasis put on how patriotism isn't always inclusive. I doubt UKIP want to be there to honour citizens who weren't from England, do you?

Tampons are not a bloody luxury



The MPs voting for the tampon tax show that Britain is stuck in the dark ages

Jack Davies

The UK's MPs voting 305 to 287 against the removal of a 5 per cent tax on women's sanitary products reveals that sinister and archaic views still exist prominently within our so-called 'first-world' nation.

In spite of a petition for the removal of the tax garnering over a quarter of a million signatures, the majority of our parliamentary representatives think it acceptable to continue charging an excess to half of the population for a biological process which is neither optional nor preventable.

Exotic meats such as kangaroo, crocodile and ostrich are not considered luxuries. HMRC thinks Jaffa Cakes are essentials, but apparently not tampons and sanitary towels. You don't need to be female or even particularly liberal to see what a ludicrous notion this is.

Interestingly, of the 305 MPs voting against the removal of the tax, 303 were Conservatives, including Chancellor George Osborne. I have news for even the most antiquated and Etonian of us out there, which the Conservatives may wish to keep in mind: this is no longer the 1950s.

Women are no longer second-class citizens, and excuse the image, but no human being should be charged a surplus for buying something to prevent their own blood trickling continuously down their

legs once a month.

Put it like this, and you see the preposterousness of the tax.

However, I don't wish to be completely and emphatically cynical to those who voted against its abolition. It is not plainly black and white. The tax is actually one levied by the EU, and five per cent is

HMRC thinks Jaffa Cakes are essentials, but apparently not tampons and sanitary towels

the absolute minimum that can be charged under their conditions (this minimum was imposed by Labour in 2000). To remove the tax in the UK Mr Osborne would have to publish a strategy for negotiating its removal with the other EU states.

Be that as it may, the fact that he and most other Tories voted against the amendment echoes one distinct view: "we just can't be arsed with the hassle".

What we have instead is a well-meaning but albeit token gesture

from Tory MP David Gauke, who has promised he will "raise the issue with the European Commission and other member states setting out our views that it should be possible for member states to apply a zero-rate to sanitary products".

This is nothing like the proactive and liberal stance that the UK could have taken had they actually already voted against the tax.

In my opinion, Cameron's government has missed a trick; making significant moves to preserve gender equality could have had sizeable benefits to a ministry that has been oft-criticised for being harsh and uncaring.

The tax itself was introduced in the UK following their joining of the European Common Market in 1973. The Sex Discrimination Act wasn't until 1975. This means that the UK is currently continuing to charge a sexist tax introduced prior to one of the first major steps in creating gender equality.

It's equivalent to continuing to employ a law regarding the rights of black people that was introduced before the abolition of the slave trade. In other words, it is entirely absurd.

But apparently, the majority of our parliament thinks not. Those in the upper echelons need to have an epiphany and drag Britain, and if needs be Europe, into the 21st century.

IMAGE: THE PERIOD BLOG



Minsk II - East Ukraine ceasefire on the brink of collapse?



Sam Lees

The fragile ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine risks devolving back into full-scale warfare

Between 11 and 12 February this year, the so-called 'Normandy Four', made up of the heads of state of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine met in Minsk to try to bludgeon together a ceasefire agreement in the Donbass region of Eastern Ukraine. The fighting up to that point had claimed over 3,500 lives, and a solution was desperately needed, both the Ukrainian gov-

ernment and rebels acknowledging that a humanitarian disaster was brewing. On the 15th, the Minsk II agreement came into effect.

Unfortunately, the truce took under 48 hours to break down. By the 17th, the Ukrainian government forces were routed from the Debaltseve pocket as the rebels pressed home a massive assault, ostensibly with Russian backing.

Somehow, by the 24th, the truce had been resurrected, and with international backing, artillery and tanks were being withdrawn from the front line.

Despite numerous incidents, the truce has managed to somehow hold, mainly due to massive international involvement in the conflict. One of the nations with the greatest stake in maintaining

the peace is Russia. Should the peace break down, their international reputation would be yet further damaged. President Putin has been using his vast influence with the rebels to force them into maintaining the truce.

However, among the fighters in both Donetsk and Luhansk tension is increasing, many believing that Russia has abandoned them. In early October, days before beginning his campaign of airstrikes in Russia, President Putin used his influence once again to delay local elections in the breakaway regions until February 2016. With Russian involvement in Syria being stepped up, the support being granted to the breakaway regions in Ukraine has been put on standby.

Allegations have recently been made by senior members of the 'Ghost Brigade', a rebel militia force, that Moscow has threatened the end of aid convoys to support the civilian population if hostilities resume. Due to the total reliance on this aid, such a move is tantamount to the Russian government threatening the rebels with the starvation of civilians and the collapse of medical services.

As such it is probably a somewhat justified feeling of betrayal that is being felt by the fighters in

the Donbass.

As well, somewhat ironically, the rebels feel that they are at an advantage in the conflict and that they should be consolidating their position instead of dragging their heels.

Unless President Putin can

“
The truce has managed to somehow hold, mainly due to massive international involvement

re-establish his control over the rebels, there is a serious risk that the truce will break down and full scale warfare will resume.

Should the truce break down and the war break out once again, the chances of lasting peace being established in the Donbass before 2020 will become confined to the imagination of international diplomats.



IMAGE: NYSTISLAV CHERNOV

MP revealed as dope fiend and boozehound



Luke Rix-Standing

James Cleverly has been outed for past drink, drug and porn use. And thank God for that

It is fair to say that news outlets have not been starved of stories in the past month or so. While the refugee crisis continues apace, with record numbers arriving on European shores through October, American Special Forces have entered Syria and a Russian passenger jet has been brought down over Sinai in mysterious circumstances. It is perhaps for this reason that James Cleverly, Conservative MP for Braintree, chose this precise moment to make the shocking disclosure that he had smoked marijuana and watched internet pornography while at university. Perhaps Mr. Cleverly thought he could release his indiscretions on the sly.

Not so. Cleverly's announcements are trending on Facebook and Twitter and have had negative coverage in the *Telegraph* and the *Guardian*, forcing Cleverly to tweet in his defense. They are now listed under his 'controversy' section on Wikipedia. To all his detractors, I say this: relax. This was marijuana and pornography, the tamest and most widespread manifestations of the 'sex and drugs' phenomenon, and arguably the two bastions of experimental kidulthood. He was not

snorting cocaine off a prostitute's posterior while whistling God Save the Queen. In fact, his measured summation that marijuana was 'a waste of money, waste of time, and wasn't good for your future prospects' was far more rational and persuasive than the so called 'war on drugs'. It's all the more powerful

“
By putting our politicians on pedestals, we may make them more likely to behave badly

coming from someone who has admitted prior knowledge.

Indeed, the most worrying aspects of the interview were the questions themselves. Treating 'did you ever watch online porn?' as an entrapping question negatively implicates 95 per cent of the population in something that is perfectly

normal and perfectly legal. And as for marijuana, I can count on one hand the acquaintances of my teenage years who never had a puff.

By putting our politicians on pedestals and obsessively sanitising every facet of their public image, we may make them more likely to behave badly. If the expectations of your private life are so unrealistic that you have to constantly lie about them anyway, then it doesn't matter what you're having to lie about. The result is teams of spin doctors and a fear among all politicians to express anything resembling a genuine opinion.

It is of course valid to say that those who make the law should always abide by it. But Mr. Cleverly was not an MP when these acts took place, and the law in question is very far removed from the realities of British youth. There is fundamental hypocrisy in attacking politicians for being 'out of touch', and complaining about the so-called 'politics of fudge', while facilitating both by insisting on standards of public image that no normal person could be expected to maintain.

So, Mr. Cleverly, I commend your honesty and live in hope of

IMAGE: @JAMESCLEVERLY



another spate of parliamentary confessions of rampant student antics. I can see it now: 'George Osborne and Tristram Hunt caught in 'compromising position' on Clapham Common during whirlwind teenage romance'; 'Balls and Cooper admit to debauched 'swingers parties' during early years of marriage'; 'Jeremy Corbyn briefly member of 'Thatchersoc' while studying at North London Polytechnic'. (ed: the scenarios

described are entirely fictitious products of the author's mind.)

Perhaps then no one would complain about disillusionment among the British electorate. The more binge-drinking and drug-taking delinquents are wrenched from the shadowy corners of the House of Commons, the more likely it is that Gaz from Swindon bothers to go to the ballot box. Perhaps Lord Ashcroft could help shed some light.

Comment

Topical Tweets



The SNP
@theSNP

The SNP will fight Tory privatisation of @Channel4 'tooth and nail' says John Nicolson MP

Nov 8

Chris Adkins
@scatatkins

Cameron suggests private investment to safeguard Channel 4. The only threat to ch4's future is privatisation by, er, David Cameron

Nov 5

Andreas Greuter
@AndreasGreuter

What could anyone wish from the privatisation of Channel 4? It already yields ad revenue. Probably to funnel profits off to shareholders.

Nov 6

Robert Harris
@Robert_Harris

Channel 4 so dumb-down compared to when it started (Big Brother, body image, etc), not sure exactly what would be lost by privatisation.

Nov 4

Yakking About



The average person has sex 89 times a year... looks like I'm in for a wild December

278

I don't like referencing, not et al.

182

It's started... The beginning of the end... They've started playing Michael Buble in NISA. he's back.

78

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should we wear white poppies instead of red?



Dom Smithies

YES.

I would happily wear a white poppy. Thatcher would say that's being "deeply distasteful", so I'll assume I'm doing something right. Or maybe I'm just being 'up myself'. Thanks for that mum.

"What the hell is the white poppy?" I hear most of you ask. Until two weeks ago, I didn't know either. The white poppy is sold by the Peace Pledge Union, who've been campaigning for a warless world since 1934.

What the British Legion does in commemorating the dead, supporting veterans, servicemen and women and their families, is exceptional and, more importantly, essential! But the question that irks me is, why is the government not paying for it?

Something about the state shipping off young people to war and then not funding the necessary support for them and their families when they get back seems a bit uncommitted. It shouldn't be easy for the government to make the decision to engage in a war. They should be prepared to pay the full cost of it - which includes the support and rehabilitation that the British Legion provides.

In buying red poppies, you offset this essential cost of war that the government should be paying as part of the war bill. They are then free to spend more of their funds on everything else required for war - guns, developing weapons, training troops, etc. It's like opting to contribute the fruit and juice to a punch so others can buy more alcohol to put in it and taking no responsibility for people getting drunk because you yourself didn't provide the alcohol.

Even veterans have turned away from the poppy because it is now a tool of the government to

instil a dangerous and compulsory military patriotism that people feel pressured to support because it is for a cause that people have fought for; a good and necessary cause that the government would rather not have to pay for itself.

The white poppy, for me, serves as the only true symbol remembering all the atrocities of war and its victims. It is a symbol of making an effort to ensure that no soldiers or civilians have to endure its evil, and to build hope and peace back up from where a dogma of fear and terror now rules over our military.

As those veterans did serve in the name of freedom and democracy, I don't just feel justified, but obliged, to question our government's commitment to militarism and the culture that is leading to violent patriotism.

The message I want to convey is that everyone should be allowed to remember in their own way and this is irrelevant of which poppy you emblazon on your chest or across your Facebook page.

Remember those who died or were wounded while in service and their families, remember the innocent civilians that suffered, remember those coerced into service on the other side who had sweethearts and families waiting anxiously back home. Remember that the red poppy is not the only symbol of remembrance.

Put your money behind the brilliant work the Legion do, if you so wish. But I'm going to optimistically put money towards making a future where service men and women and the Legion would be redundant, because I don't like war. Never have. Never will.

NO.

Let's get one thing straight: I am a pacifist. No, I haven't got confused and no, I'm not colour-blind. I don't believe in war of any kind, but I proudly wear a red poppy every year. Despite what my choice might imply, I have no issue with the white poppy; it stands for peace and honour, respect and solidarity. Those who choose to wear it certainly don't oppose the tradition of honouring those who have given their lives for their country.

My concern is that it is worn as an act of protest: an intended alternative to its red counterpart. Some people misunderstand the significance of the red poppy, since it has a stigma attached to it. If the white is to be worn, it should be worn alongside the red, because both stand for subtly different, but deeply congruous things. They agree on essential principles: remembrance and respect.

The poppies benefit different funds. The proceeds from sales of the red poppy are donated to the Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund, for current and former Services people and their dependants. Donations for white poppies are said to fund the associated organisation's 'peace education work'. I agree that all efforts should be made "to challenge the view that war and preparations for war are necessary or inevitable", as the Peace Pledge Union advocates. However, it's worth noting that some might be unclear about the destination of their money when they donate. Do sales of the white poppy, therefore, detract from donations to the Benevolent Fund?

Contrary to popular opinion among peace advocates, The Royal British Legion insists that the red poppy is not an endorsement of war or violence of any kind. Its red hue is

not intended to reflect the colour of blood, nor is it a political symbol. The charity states simply that "The poppy is a humble, neutral and universal symbol of remembrance and hope." Nothing more, nothing less.

So what's the issue? Many understand the red poppy to be a justification of conflict today or an empty symbol manipulated by politicians. But the poppy is, and always has been, a fundamentally important icon. If we attempt to change or protest it now, so much could be forgotten. That is because the red poppy is real; it is sown (pun intended) into our collective memory.

Modelled on the red poppies of the French and Belgian battlefields of World War One, the flowers that we don today transport us back to scenes of heroism and tragedy. Perhaps most importantly, we remember what cruelty human beings are capable of, and the horrors that war inevitably brings...which draws us back to today.

The symbol of the red poppy doesn't advocate conflict in Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq. Quite the contrary, it reminds us how terrible war can be, and draws attention to our own proximity to conflict. When I wear my poppy, I'm inspired to protest fighting to protect today's soldiers in the memory of those who died for us. Pictures of evacuated children diffuse and refigure as images of refugees fleeing by treacherous boats; stories of cities wiped out by bombs translate as this week's news bulletins: 50 killed in terror attack; mass shooting leaves village shaken and children orphaned. The little paper petals unite and humble us. Lest we forget.

So I wear my poppy with pride. It is the symbol that we as a nation choose to remember the fallen, and hope for peace. To displace it with the



Amy Gibbons

#minstergram

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



@annafines The university geese having a meeting on the hill, sadly, they didn't welcome me... Don't they look really cuddly? #geese #uniofyork #heslingtoneast #iwantto hugthem

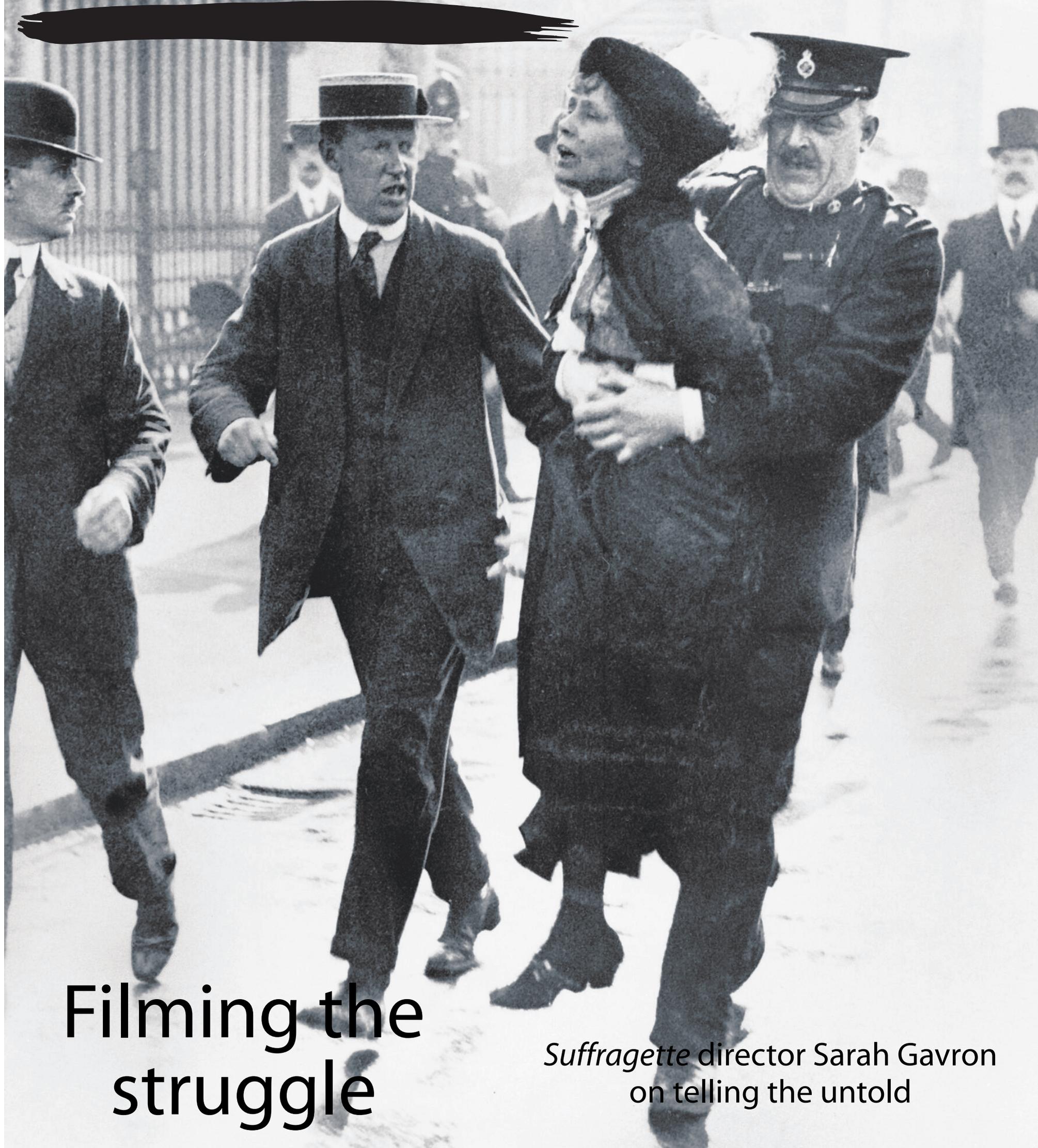


@yusushop Our massive merchandise sale next week includes accessories! At least 10% off all merch - next week only!



@freyaburgess Sun's out meaning an actual sunset for the first time in a while! #sunset #uniofyork #heseast #fields #Yorkshire

MUSE.



Filming the
struggle

Suffragette director Sarah Gavron
on telling the untold

MUSE.

M8 Trend update

Fashion gives you the low-down on this season's styles

M9 Great-coat Gatsby

Advice on how to look the part of literary icons

M10 Autumnal Ardour

The shoot welcomes the yellowing leaves with a trip to the riverside



FASHION.

M14 Wolf Alice

Music run with the wolves in an interview with Theo and Joel

M15 A nod to narcotics

Spotlight on the landmark drug-fuelled albums of the last 50 years



MUSIC.

M4 Making history

Suffragette director Sarah Gavron talks about working in the male-dominated film industry

M16 Voluntary action

Ellie Evans talks about how to make a difference through Action Medical Research

M18 Voluntary Human Extinction Movement

Les U. Knight explains why we should all stop breeding



FEATURES.

ARTS.

GAMING.

FILM.

FOOD & DRINK.



M6 Timely reminder

Boltanski's new exhibition draws attention to the inevitable

M7 Back in the frame

Arts put the focus onto York Art Gallery, open to the public after a two year hiatus



M12 Spaced out

Gaming makes the case for total freedom



M13 Spectral figures

Film explores the Bond characters who don't have a license to kill



M17 My vegan experiment

Food make for the dairy and meat free option and celebrate the results

Image Credits.

Top left to right: Andrea Klarin, RCA Records
Bottom left to right: Jack Richardson, Taylor Kiser

Editor's note



Muse Editor Jack Richardson is thinking about time

You might not have been able to see it through the fog, but Autumn has come, and with it sodden leaves, high heating bills and melancholic musings on time and the nature of human mortality.

Thankfully, for those of us who aren't Romantic poets, Muse offers more digestible considerations of death. Christian Boltanski's new exhibition *Faire-part* (M6) features a clock counting the seconds that he has been alive that will stop upon his death, while the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement (M18-19) looks much further into the future, and believes that the most responsible thing for humanity to do is stop breeding and die out en masse.

If this all seems a little morbid, *Suffragette* director Sarah Gavron (M4-5) discusses the process of bringing history to life through a modern medium, as well as the very contemporary struggles of directing in a male-dominated profession. Keeping with cinematics, Andrew Kendall examines the culture of anticipation that has built up around modern-day films (M13), with increasingly crafted and early build-ups to the biggest releases of the year.

But despite this, it is important to remember that we can only exist in the present. The third-years might feel it more than the rest of us, but our time at university is all too fleeting. Be sure to enjoy it while you can. Many, as Ni-all (M20) says, are coming across the first assessments, or the first assessments that 'actually' count, but don't let this stress you out. There's still time to appreciate this beautiful city and slightly less beautiful campus, or at least the parts that you can see through the fog.

We're moving out of the extended Freshers' Week(s) that constitute the beginning of the first term and into long nights of revision or essay-writing in the library, but our fashion shoot (centrefold) will offer a bright vision of Autumn to banish the cold and the dark.

Beyond those travails, the holidays await, and with them the prospect of home-cooked meals, parental bill-paying and expanding waistlines to defend against the cold. Like Boltanski's clock, we must try to appreciate each second we are given, but also accept that the future is uncertain. We don't know when the clock will stop, but we can decide what it will show.

MUSE'S CULTURE CURRENCY

OUT

IN

John Lewis adverts

Much as we all want to love it, this latest offering simply can't top Monty the Penguin, which in turn couldn't top the Bear and the Hare of the year before.

Justin Bieber

It seems a little rich for the musically-dubious pop star to tell his adoring fans off for not joining in properly. Sadly, Justin, it's a little harder to autotune clapping from screaming fans.

Coldplay

They've hinted that they'll be headlining Glastonbury next year, to low collective groans from everyone on both sides of the recording booth. It wouldn't kill for a bit of variety, eh?

The new team

Following our elections, we've got a whole host of new editors who spend hours and hours slaving away to bring you this wonderful paper. Be gentle with us.

Star Wars

Terminally ill cancer sufferer Daniel Fleetwood was able to watch *The Force Awakens* two months early following a campaign on Twitter. A call from JJ Abrams later, and a dying wish was granted.

Drake Vines

The rapper probably should have known better than to include easily remixable dance moves in the video for *Hotline Bling*. Who'd have thought he'd be so good at *Wii Sports Tennis*?



Dark arts

Award-winning crime writer Marnie Riches reveals why youth is a virtue and how she sees her character as a 'real woman's heroine'

I grew up in one of the roughest parts of Manchester but always did very well at school. I went to Cambridge to study German and Dutch and really loved it. After graduation I tried to get into creative jobs; I did a stint at the BBC doing research for *Rough Guides to the World*, but I didn't enjoy it. Eventually I became a professional fundraiser for children's charities and educational courses, and that career lasted 20 years. I was good at it but hated it because it was so boring. I'd always hankered after a creative career, but when I reached my mid-thirties I was earning a pittance and I was really miserable.

I decided to write. When I was at university I'd written and abandoned a novelisation of a Dutch poem about Charlemagne the Great, so I developed that into a young adult historical thriller. My first agent got me a deal of six children's books, the *Time-Hunters* series, for Harper Collins under the pseudonym Chris Blake. It was great fun but my tastes are much darker, so I started writing *The Girl Who Wouldn't Die* which was my debut crime thriller. Much of it was set in Amsterdam and it actually won an award for its location.

I'd fallen in love with Stieg Larsson's character Lisbeth Salander, and realised that having a young protagonist is a really great idea. They can do all the stuff that you can't do in

“ I wanted to go against this pink, fluffy notion you get in commercial fiction where your heroine must be 'likeable'

your thirties and forties – not only are they more physically able, there are also fewer consequences of speaking their mind. It's a great time in your life. I had adored my time at university as formative years, and other than Larsson nobody else had made use of a younger protagonist in crime fiction,

so I thought it was a perfect opportunity.

I originally planned the *George McKenzie* series as a trilogy, but it has developed so each book can be read out of sequence. It's wonderful for readers to be able to grab standalone thrillers and start at book three without it being a problem. Having said that, the same characters do come and go throughout the three books. It was brilliant for me, because although I absolutely loved writing my debut, by the time you get to books two and three all your characters feel like old friends.

Bringing familiar characters back allows you to get deeper into their psyche. Ultimately, story comes from characters, so it makes it that much easier – you know exactly how your characters are going to react to certain situations. As a writer, producing a series is very satisfying. If you've got a great imagination, do plenty of research and keep your eye on the news, you'll always come up with a new story – but your main characters will always feel like a comfy shoe.

George is all the things that I as a 44-year-old with kids, a mortgage and responsibilities would like to be. Like me, she's grown up on a rough estate, but in South East London. She's mixed-race of Jamaican descent so there's a strong cultural tang in the books. I'm very much into diversity in fiction so this was key for me. She's outspoken and loyal but she'll sleep around if she wants to, and that's her right because it's her body. She's got boobs and hips and a terrible diet, and she smokes and drinks. But she's also bright as a button. In the first book she's doing an undergraduate degree in Social Politics, and in the second she's studying for a PhD in Criminology.

Lots of readers love George because she'll do and say things that someone who's older wouldn't. But I wanted to go against this pink, fluffy notion you get in commercial fiction where your heroine must be 'likeable', which usually means your heroine has to be really passive and girly. She's a real woman's heroine – confident and abrasive and daring – and she's a council estate kid made good. Those aren't represented enough in crime fiction, which is often dominated by middle class white people.

Interview by Lucy Furneaux

Never give up, never surrender

Director **Sarah Gavron** speaks to Alfie Packham about the male-centric film industry and the time she stormed Parliament



Whatever would Mrs Pankhurst make of the movie business today? The statistics are undeniably grim. Last year, women comprised only 26 per cent of creative leaders – namely directors, writers, producers, editors, and cinematographers – working on feature films in the UK.

The relevance of Sarah Gavron's *Suffragette*, then, is all too apparent. Gavron's second feature tells the story of working women's suffrage in early 20th century London, in which Meryl Streep stars as Emmeline Pankhurst herself. Streep has been the prominent face of the film's publicity campaign that has inspired passionate support – as well as some backlash – over recent months. She is part

“ 1 to 10 per cent of films every year are made by women

of a cast and crew that is largely women-led to mark a rare departure from Hollywood's more typical, Bechdel-flunking fare.

As a story of women, by women, it's the

collective voice of *Suffragette* that resonates.

To start from the beginning, I read that you weren't interested in film when you were younger. What changed?

When I was a teenager I wasn't one of those filmmakers who picks up a film camera from an early age and goes to the cinema every weekend. I wasn't in a 'film' environment. There weren't those kinds of influences around me. I did go and see some mainstream Hollywood films but I was more interested in drama and art. It was in my late teens, when I saw British films by Terence Davies, Stephen Frears, Ken Loach and Mike Leigh, that I started to think that there's a director behind these ideas, there's a vision.

I had ideas for stories that I always imagined in film, but I didn't think about being a filmmaker until much later. It was only when I was in my twenties, and I started working on documentaries, that I saw the films of Jane Campion, Mira Nair, Kathryn Bigelow, and Clare Denis – these female role models that made me think, 'if these women can do this, I can do this.' But it took me a while to gather that confidence.

As a student were you doing anything with your story ideas? Or were you bottling them up for later?

I was bottling them up. Doing an English degree is good food for a filmmaker because you're dealing with stories and dealing with

the past. There was a healthy drama environment at University too so I also got involved with the drama society. Aged 26, I'd eventually apply to the [National] Film and Television school where I made a whole lot of short films and came to fiction there.

***Suffragette* was largely staffed by women both behind and in front of the camera. How was this different to working on a more male-dominated film?**

It can be a hard one for me to judge as director, because unlike the actors and the crew and the execs, I'm not so often on different sets. But certainly the statistics are bleak. Somewhere between 1 to 10 per cent of films every year are directed by women with very few women crew members and protagonists. So with this film we were reversing all that. Two of our producers were women, we had a woman writer, a woman head of production design, head of costume, head of location – and then to have that many women in front of camera is so rare.

It was great because the cast were all very different. What we wanted to do was bring in an eclectic range of female actors who you don't often see together. Carey [Mulligan] has this amazing ability to inhabit character. She's incredibly truthful and intelligent and wise beyond her years. Helena [Bonham-Carter] brings a great screen presence too. It was great to work with people of that level of experience besides anything else.

Any stand-out moments?

One of the highs of doing the shoot was when we got access to the Houses of Parliament. Not only did we get in, but we got in with a

“ We knew we were telling this story which hadn't been told and we wanted to do it justice

couple of hundred supporting artists and horses and period cars and stunt people. And then we staged a riot! [Laughs.] Helena Bonham-Carter is also the great granddaughter of Asquith, who was against women voting, so it was exciting to see her recreating history with her forefathers in a place that had excluded women for hundreds of years.

It seems there's a parallel between the women's struggle and those working in the film industry today.

Suffrage-yet?

1881		Isle of Man
1893		New Zealand
1902		Australia
1913		Norway
1917		Russia
1919		Canada
1920		USA
1925		Trinidad & Tobago
1928		UK
1932		Brazil
1934		Turkey
1944		France
1946		Vietnam
1947		India
1948		Israel
1952		Greece
1956		Egypt
1958		Nigeria
1961		Rwanda
1963		Iran
1971		Switzerland
1980		Iraq
1994		South Africa
2015		Saudi Arabia
...		Vatican City

The stakes were much higher for these women, but yes, there is a way in which making a film is a political act in itself. There haven't been many female role models for women starting out, so it's like the chicken and the egg in that way. It takes a lot of confidence to walk onto a set with predominantly men. It's very hierarchical. You spend a lot of time from home and it's long hours. All those factors contribute to why there's so few women. What's exciting at the moment is that there seems to be a key change – it's part of the conversation now.

Were you active as a feminist when you were younger, before it became this mainstream debate?

No, actually, it was much later on. It was only when I began to read about the suffragettes that I realised I wanted to tell their story. At York I was reading feminist literature, though I wasn't involved in any group. I didn't know that there were any. But I did grow up very aware of women's issues. My mum moved into local politics and was one of very few women in a male dominated world, and she was part of that wave of 1970s feminism. I know that now there's a resurgence. It's in the ether now, which is exciting.

Your last film *Brick Lane* could be called a 'social realist' film, while *Suffragette* has a working-class protagonist. Gender issues aside, what drew you to these class-related themes?

No one's actually asked me that before. It's interesting you say that because I've never thought of myself as a social realist filmmaker. I mean, I approach each subject and think how best to tell the story. But I can see why you said that. Rather than just carrying on a theme though, it seemed exciting to tell the story through the working woman in *Suffragette* because we often overlook the role of working women in history.

What the suffrage movement did was bring women of all classes together. In telling the story of an ordinary woman who had so much more to lose than her middle class counterparts we could really access something that could connect with people all around the world today.

Did you have any films in mind while making *Suffragette*?

I went for films that I might not usually have looked for as references – things like *The Battle of Algiers* and the work of Paul Greengrass. Action, big set pieces, chase sequences. The suffragettes' motto was 'deeds not words', so they were very active – they didn't sit around chatting. We wanted to get that sense of scale and excitement into the film.

And those action films rarely present 'female' perspectives...

Exactly. To see action with women in skirts isn't what you expect. There was a lot of breaking taboos and we wanted to reflect that.

British suffrage is a new subject for cinema. How did you feel about telling the story of these women for the first time?

Maud is a composite character drawn from a few different women we read about. Creating that character was a liberating way of coming into the story. There's Emmeline Pankhurst and Lloyd George but we don't really see them close up. It's more about Maud and her cohort. We meet Emmeline Pankhurst when Maud encounters her in an important sequence in the film, but when you're making a historical political drama you feel that you want to embed it in the historical detail of the world, to make it feel authentic and true.

You mentioned that female role models in film were important to you. Do you see yourself as one?

I definitely want to do all I can to help other women filmmakers, and to encourage them and campaign for more diversity behind the

broken into the industry by now', but it was really my eighth or ninth by the time I broke through. I just had to keep at it for years and years, and that determination is what you need, not to give up.

As a story of women, by women, it's the collective voice of *Suffragette* that resonates

camera – not just in terms of gender. Films reflect our cultures and the stories around us and so I'm committed to that. I'm very drawn to female stories and there's an abundance of stories that we haven't seen.

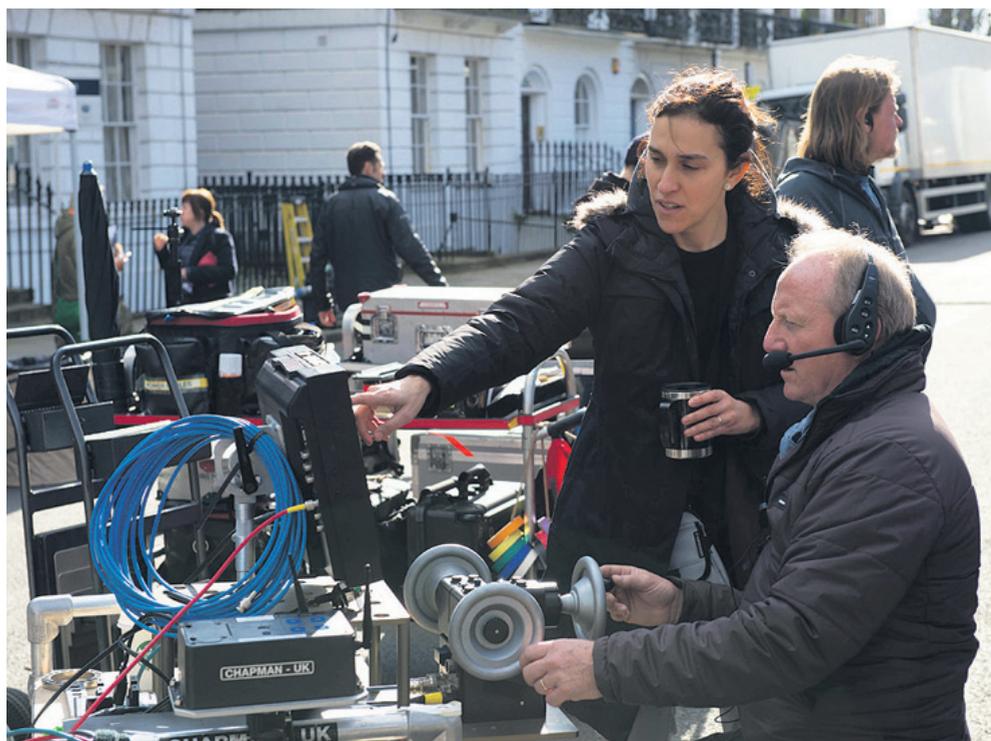
What would be your advice for those women and minority filmmakers?

What I didn't know at that point in my career is how much you have to keep going. After a couple of short films I thought, 'I should have

Suffragette is an inspiring film, just as Sarah Gavron is an inspiring woman. The suffragette movement was such a revolutionary step that gave a voice to half the population, and in telling this story Gavron is educating new generations on the history of women's rights. She also makes a statement: by producing the film with an almost all female cast and crew, she adapts the issue of equality to be relevant to today's film industry.

The relevance of women's rights is still obvious in the UK, well demonstrated by the protest which disrupted the premiere of *Suffragette*. On Wednesday 7 October, more than a hundred feminist protesters stormed the red carpet, protesting the cuts made to domestic violence services.

However it is important to look at the issues highlighted in the film in a worldwide context. The final scene features a timeline of women's suffrage, and was an incredibly powerful finale to a compelling film. Women in countries across the world only had their rights realised a few decades ago, or in the case of Saudi Arabia, women registered to vote for the first time in August this year. **M**



*Saudi Arabia has promised the vote
**Women cannot be appointed as Cardinals and they cannot vote for the Pope

Watching the clock

Holly Woolnough examines Christian Boltanski's new exhibition *Faire-part*, and discusses the artist's exploration of time, art and death

As Paris' Marian Goodman gallery celebrates its 20th birthday, Christian Boltanski hosts his new exhibition, entitled *Faire-part*. The installation, which opened in October, is a contemplation on the themes of disappearance and the passing of time. These themes aren't alien to Boltanski, who said in an interview with *The Guardian* that his work "has never evolved," and that he

“*Faire-part* is art being produced in a social climate that is obsessed with the concept of remembrance

deals in “death, breath, and nature in decay”.

In dealing with the last theme, Boltanski allows his work to naturally deteriorate without intervention once the exhibition has started. The installation *Animitas* combines a video of the Atacama desert along with a grass

strewn floor. The exhibition runs until December, by which time these natural features will have decayed, echoing the theme of death that runs throughout *Faire-part*. *Animitas* is however also made up of hundreds of Japanese bells, which reflect the configuration of the sky on the day of Boltanski's birth, contrasting the ideas of life and death.

These more subtle ruminations on death are then offset by a much more overt example: a stopwatch counting the seconds that both he and the gallery's youngest employee have been alive. At the point of Boltanski's death, the stopwatch will cease its counting.

The clock can be interpreted in multiple ways: initially the counting of seconds may prove to be a terrifying reminder of the speed with which time passes, however on more careful consideration it is an example of just how much time

there is in an average lifespan.

Boltanski is creating art in a society that has an obsession with death. This obsession is found particularly in developed countries. As our standard of life and life expectancy has increased, human beings are left with more time on which to ponder death, leaving us preoccupied with the unfortunately finite nature of life.

This privileged position allows us, for better or for worse, to concentrate on the concept of death, leading to art such as Boltanski's, which serves as a morbid reminder of our mortality.

Faire-part is art that is being produced in a social climate that is similarly obsessed with the concept of remembrance after death. Perhaps Boltanski, in creating an installation that ends at the moment of his death, has instead created a piece that will ensure his longevity at the end of his

life.

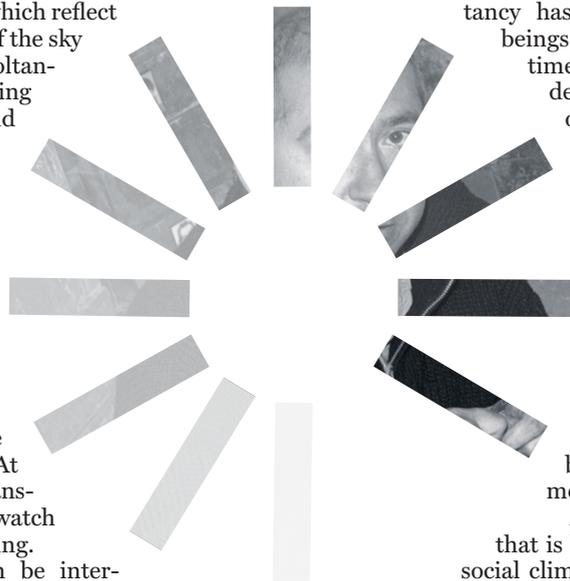
For Boltanski, art is the practice of conveying emotions. However, the commercialisation of art means that works are often also associated with the level of commercial success that they will achieve, both while the artist is alive and after they are gone.

Therefore in creating art that focuses on the ephemeral nature of life, Boltanski has created something that will succeed him after his death. It seems unlikely that when Boltanski dies, and the clock stops, there will be no attention brought to the event, leaving him able to continue to provoke thought from his audience after his death.

If Boltanski's considerations of death are to be seen as purely that, then perhaps they are predictable and just another example of a theme that has been overdone. However, if we see his work as something that reminds us of death, but simultaneously of the potential of life, then the work is much more than what we first think.

'Faire-part', the French phrase for 'announcement', is often followed by a qualifier. While one of these may be 'de décès' ("of death") it could also be 'de naissance' ("of birth"), leaving it up to the observer to decide what they take away from the exhibition.

Boltanski interweaves the theme of death with reminders of the capacity for life, creating something much more original.



Waste not want not

In light of Goldschmied & Chiari's accidentally binned exhibition, Isabelle Scott asks why we throw our art away

Yet another art installation falls prey to unknowing cleaners and their hoovers.

Following an event at the Museion art gallery in Bolzano two weeks ago, the cleaners arrived and mistakenly threw away a modern art piece filling one of the rooms. The installation reconstructed the aftermath of an extravagant party, complete with numerous empty bottles of expensive champagne, confetti, fallen banners and cigarette butts scattered across the floor.

The installment was entitled *We Were Going to Dance Tonight* and was created by Goldschmied & Chiari as a satire against the lavish parties thrown by the Italian political classes during the 1980s. Inspiration was taken from a guide to nightclubs written by Gianni de Michelis, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Italy.

The gallery's curator, Letizia Ragalia, told Alto Adige, "We told them just to clean the foyer because that's where the event on Friday night had been. Evidently they mistook the installation for the foyer."

For the cleaners, it seems an honest mistake (clearing away after a party is in their job description) but this isn't the first time that modern art has been accidentally chucked in the bin. What's 'rubbish' about modern art?

In 2001, art gallery bosses had to rescue a piece by Damien Hirst after cleaners threw it away. The artwork represented a messy studio, full of empty bottles and ashtrays. Three years later, a bag of paper and cardboard by German artist Gustav Metzger was also thrown out while on display at Tate Britain.

One assumption is often that the general public just don't 'get' it, or that without con-

text the objects remain mundane or meaningless. In any other space the same objects of cigarette ends and glass bottles are, quite literally, rubbish, but when placed in galleries their value is altered. The seemingly broken, old or used objects are given meaning and purpose.

A modern art piece is not necessarily unsuccessful if the viewer does not see its worth,

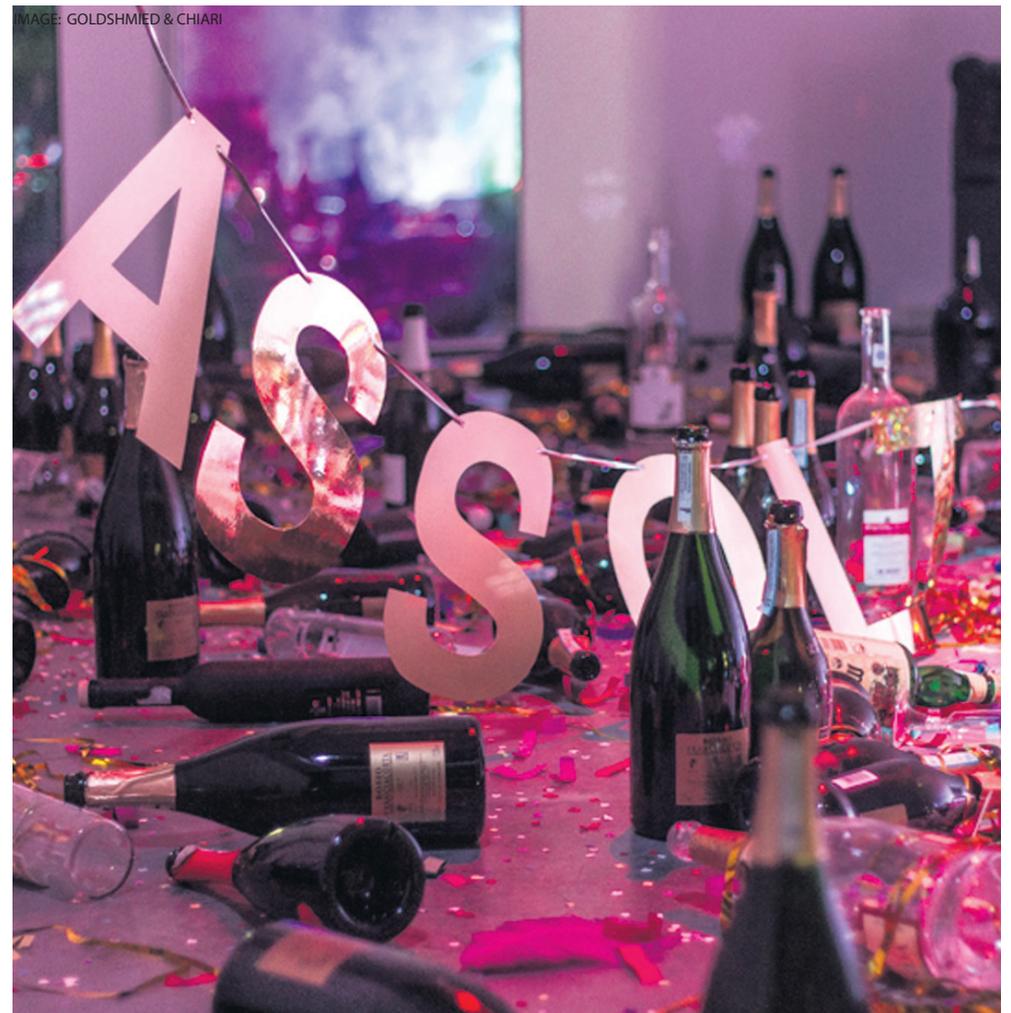
“Art is unsuccessful if there is no challenge to uncover its worth

it is unsuccessful if there is no challenge to uncover its worth. The importance lies in the viewer-object relationship and the way in which we encounter objects that subvert our usual assumptions and measures of value.

That Goldschmied & Chiari's scene was to be found in an art gallery and was ridiculously over the top, would point to the fact that it is an installation, but the fact that it is still confusing its audience is its success.

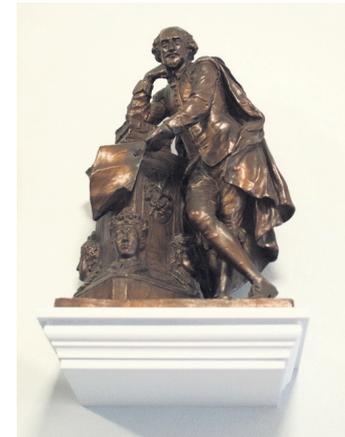
This is something previously explained by the city marketing commissioner, Antonio Maria Vasile, after a cleaner threw away a Sala Murat artwork last year, costing around £10,000.

Vasile said, "this is all about the artists who have been able to better interpret the meaning of contemporary art, which is to interact with the environment."



Top of the pots

Following its refurbishment in August, Liam Mullally takes a look at York Art Gallery's new spaces and exhibitions



The staircase which joins the two floors of the gallery is adorned with Edwardian portraits and sculptures



After a rainbow section of coloured pottery, visitors are greeted with an area to sit and interact with pots



ALL IMAGES: JACK RICHARDSON



The Centre of Ceramic Art sits at the heart of the York Art Gallery, with the UK's largest collection of British studio ceramics

Following an £8 million redevelopment over three years, the York Art Gallery reopened in August with 60 per cent more space than it had when it closed in late 2012. The renovations have occurred both in the galleries and behind the scenes, with a significant relocation of the stores of work not on show, in order to help preserve it.

Currently the gallery houses an impressively eclectic collection of displays, ranging from modern and Victorian sculpture in the permanent Burton Gallery, to etchings from 1678, watercolors from 2012 and pottery by local children in the temporary exhibits on the ground floor.

An impressive centrepiece of the redevelopment is the opening of the Centre of Ceramic Art in two of the gallery's central up-

stairs rooms.

Making up a total of 450 square metres of exhibition space this includes work dating from the prehistoric to the present. Speaking about the exhibit, representative for the museum Lauren Masterman claimed that it "is our ambition for CoCA to become a leading international authority on modern and contemporary British studio ceramics, encouraging new knowledge and research to promote this aspect of modern art."

The main room of the exhibit sits beneath the museum's original Victorian roof space. "Known to staff as the 'Secret Gallery' [it] had been covered up for decades and we knew that if we could open up that space then the whole gallery would be transformed". It, along with the sense of space it has added, seems to have

been a priority for the renovations.

Behind the gallery there is a previously inaccessible garden space. While still unfinished it does show the potential to serve as a particularly successful public space. It is tucked between the museum, the wall and the Museum Gardens, and notably, in contrast to the rest of the gallery, access to it is completely free.

The areas currently constructed include a seating area, some green spaces and an 'edible forest' (which amusingly features a sign asking visitors not to actually eat any of the edible plants - undermining its purpose somewhat). Unfortunately, however, several months after the gallery's reopening, the space remains unfinished. One noticeable change after the renovations is the introduction of a new £7.50

entry charge to the gallery, following a 60 per cent cut to the council subsidy offered to the York Museums Trust. A YMT card is available as an alternative, costing £22 for a year's access to York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum and the Yorkshire Museum or free with a York Card, however the question is still raised as to how this will affect the museum's ability to adequately serve the whole public.

There are two more major exhibitions coming by the end of 2016. One, an Imperial War Museum exhibition titled 'Truth and Memory', will showcase "the largest exhibition of British First World War Art for almost 100 years" and opens on March 25th. The other, titled 'Flesh', is "a daring look at how the human body is depicted through art and will open on September 23rd."

Autumn trend update

Victoria Roffey picks out essential pieces for this autumn

Winter is slowly creeping closer to halls and houses, but you can banish the freezing winds and rain typical of York with this season's clothes which put a new twist on classic pieces. Layering is key to surviving nights out while also braving the library's sweltering temperatures, and Topshop's twist on the classic brown mac is the perfect outer layer for many of this season's reworked classics. Team it with New Look's nude knitted jumper and Urban Outfitters' weather-defying suededette leggings for days on campus or Topshop's lace body-

con dress for nights out, using classic black accessories to pull it all together. Their pannelled pastel ankle-length trench coat is also a statement piece to be proud of - couple it with a mid-heel boot for a smart and chic take on daywear. For those of you who are still in denial about this woolly hat weather, consider Topshop's snake print fedora instead. Autumn need not be a time to bury your style under misfitting waterproofs - embrace the season and make the most of the high street's A/W offerings.



1.



3.



4.



5.



2.



6.

1. Topshop Snake Trim Fedora £25, 2. Inventive Black Zip Mid Heel Boot (available at Office) £75, 3. Topshop Colour Block Wool Blend Coat £125, 4. Topshop Lace Bodycon Dress £42, 5. New Look Camel Boxy Jumper £7.99, 6. Tassel Saddle Bag £30.

Ready for the ball?

Zohra Shahana discusses fashion in literature, and how to achieve a luxurious winter look



According to George Orwell's *The Road To Wigan Pier*, "you may have three halfpence in your pocket and not a prospect in the world... but in your new clothes you can stand on a street corner, indulging in a private daydream of yourself as Clark Gable or Greta Garbo." "Clothes," Virginia Woolf tells us in *Orlando*, have "more important offices than merely to keep us warm; they change our view of the world and the world's view of us".

These renowned novelists are style icons; they have penned some of the most influential words regarding fashion in literature.

Think of Jay Gatsby, standing outside his darkening mansion in a "gorgeous pink rag of a suit"; Anna Karenina at a ball, elegant in velvet, Venetian lace and a garland of pansies; Holly Golightly, effortlessly chic in dark glasses, "a slim cool black dress, black sandals, a pearl choker". These are all images conjured up by timeless literary works, imagery that will stay with you, long after reading their words.

Here's how I'd piece together some



looks from your favourite, timeless classics and channel your inner bookworm through style, try out a look at an upcoming event, or maybe even that Winter Ball which is coming by very soon.

To release your inner Gatsby, piece a sequined dress with a throw, to channel those 1920s style vibes. Accessorise with a sequined or pearl-covered purse.

For men, you cannot go wrong with a sharp crisp suit. Think clean colours, salmon pinks and bright whites to carry that classy ensemble. Ties and pocket-squares are a place to have fun, by teaming clashing and complimentary patterns.

You might not identify with Gollightly and her *American Geisha* vibes but there's no doubt - the girl knew how to dress. Keep it effortlessly cool with a striking dress and let the embellishments do the talking.

Want to step back in time without looking old-fashioned? Thinking Anna Karenina? With capped sleeves, a modest approach and old fashion embroidery, you will be the belle of the ball in this dress.



Balmain nation

India Mackenzie tells us everything we need to know about the Balmain x H&M collaboration

IMAGE: MARL KESKLA



The landscape of fashion is changing. According to Balmain's Olivier Rousteing, "social media represents its revolution and total modernisation."

Adopted as a baby from a Bordeaux orphanage into a white middle-class French family, Rousteing explains the pressure he felt to fit in; at 17 he left home, ignoring his "calling for fashion" to make his way to Paris to study law. After increasing support from his family, he dropped out of law school and went straight to work for Roberto Cavalli – something unheard of for somebody so young. After five years spent honing his skills, he ended up at Balmain, taking the position of creative director at just 25 years of age, and neither he, nor the fashion world,

have looked back since.

With his opulent vision of luxury Rousteing has taken what was in essence an old, traditional house, and made it relevant, with the help of fashion's most influential social media stars. And now, he's bringing it to the high street. From the beginning, Rousteing's Balmain x H&M collection was one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the fashion calendar. With the most sought-after items mysteriously finding their way onto eBay weeks before the launch, and at more than double their retail price, it seems as though everybody wants a piece of it. As each new piece of information teasingly trickled down, social media was set alight.

From Kendall Jenner's futuristic cameo in the Balmain x H&M music video to cryptic tweets and Instagram posts, it is safe to say that the launch party was never going to be a run-of-the-mill affair. The lucky invitees were treated to a catwalk display of who's who in the fashion world, with appearances from Karlie Kloss, Gigi Hadid and Jourdan Dunn to name just a few, and the night ending with a surprise rendition from the Backstreet Boys themselves.

After clamouring to dissect the lookbook when it was finally made available, here are a few of our favourites.

Balmain's **blazers** – sharply tailored and beautifully embellished – have always been a staple piece in each campaign. Previously worn as a dress by Kendall Jenner, the poster-child of the collaboration, the beaded blazer is the essence of classic Balmain style, but thankfully without the typical Balmain price tag.

While black is predominant throughout the collection, it is also peppered with striking jades and rich ruby reds. This season, add a pop of colour to your outfit with one of the gorgeous jewel-toned **bags and pouches**. Coming in green, red and blue, they will

easily brighten up a neutral or monochrome outfit. The only question left to ask is how many should you buy?

Make a serious style statement in earthy palazzo **trousers** – the flare adds elegance, the colour adds fun. Sophisticated, flattering and effortlessly cool, they are easy to dress up or dress down and perfect for any time of day.

Rousteing is bringing fun back into fashion. His models aren't just there to advertise the clothes; they represent the changing atmosphere of the fashion world today. Whatever your opinion on Rousteing's unique approach it is safe to say that Balmain x H&M will be everywhere this season, whether you manage to get a piece of it or not.



York style icon

Words by Grace Howarth
Image Grace Howarth

Street style photography is a fairly new phenomenon, every day there is a new blogger documenting their daily style choices to an audience. In today's society the internet affords us a cultural manoeuvrability where high fashion from the runways becomes instantly accessible, and is no longer limited to the rich and famous.

Through high street chain stores these trends are made available to the public. Although it may seem like fashion exists within a bubble of fashion week and careful following of cat walk trends, fashion is really a reflection of the social currents, and what is happening in music and the arts.

Through their choice of clothing, people can reinvent themselves; we can dress in a way that shows where we're from, a cultural group we belong to or rebel against. A university campus is a great place to witness individual style and so with this in mind I decided to choose subjects who have a certain way of putting themselves together and ask them about their choice of visual self-expression.



NAME Abigail Hermit.

COURSE 2nd year student, studying Education.

SOCIETIES & CLUBS I'm part of Ed soc.

I AM WEARING a black leather fitted skirt, black leather Chelsea boots, and a houndstooth check scarf all from New Look. On top I'm wearing a dark grey funnel neck crop top with a camel coat, both of which were from Primark and my bag is Michael Kors.

MY FAVOURITE ITEM in my wardrobe would be all of my coats, especially any from Zara.

MY FASHION ICON is Alexa Chung; I like her style and adaptability. She stays ahead of trends yet adds her own touch to outfits, but will still wear what she wants. I like the way she combines denims with throwback vintage items.

THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN YORK is the city centre. In particular the high street and the vintage stores as well as the clubs and the nightlife. **M**



Autumn Ardour



Fashion Editor: Grace Howarth, Photographer: Rob McConkey, Fashion and Styling Assistant: Victoria Roffey, Models: Jordan Bonner & Emily Shane, Make up & Hair: Sarah Martin, Jordan wears clothes courtesy of River Island & Emily wears clothes courtesy of Topshop

Make-your-own fun

Jack Richardson learns to love the freedom of objectiveless games

These days, gaming seems primarily about escapism. While physical and mental puzzles have existed for about as long as humanity has, the capacity for games to grow bigger means that it is very easy to jump into a completely different world. In general, both puzzles and computer games are linked by objectives: one must solve the puzzle, complete the task and the like. But one group of games intends to achieve a similar level of escapism, not by replacing the objectives of everyday life, but by taking all of them away.

My first experience with 'objectiveless' games was Nintendo's *Animal Crossing*. To those not already familiar or enamoured with it, the game is something of a hard sell: You play as a new resident (later mayor) of a small rural village and... that's sort of it. you can fish, catch bugs, design clothes, decorate your home, fill a museum of fossils, fall to higher-education levels of debt by expanding your house and

enjoy the general mix of high whimsy and anthropomorphic animal characters that Nintendo does so well. But the operative word here is 'can.' For all the game cares, you could spend the whole time weeding the grass and virtually staring into virtual space. Much like *Pokémon* before it, *Animal Crossing* very much feels like a tool for harassed city-dwellers to experience some Arcadian peace and tranquility in their lives, and in this aspect it shines.

That's not to say that such games have to follow this mode. Just a few days ago Giant Army released *Universe Sandbox*² and, despite it still being very much in Alpha, received critical acclaim. Billed as a "physics-based space simulator", it opens with a model of our solar system and the option to change just about every parameter from the force of gravity to the reflectivity of the moon. You can replace the Sun with a black hole and watch everything implode, or try to terraform Mars by shifting its position and atmospheric composition, all to the tune of suitably ambient space-y music. Even firing 57 copies of Neptune into Saturn's rings just to see what happens is an intensely relaxing and empowering experience. Despite this, you can still channel your inner *Animal Crossing* villager and simply watch the

planets spin, whether that be in real time or not. It achieves the same aim as the former in a very different way: the sheer scale is enough to foster escapism by reducing humanity down to, at most, a few lights on the dark side of Earth.

To these two examples I tentatively add a third category: sandboxes. Now, I never played *The Sims*, so allow me to use Squad's fantastic *Kerbal Space Program* instead as a game with a seemingly contradictory aspect: stress. Intense relaxation has been a hallmark of *Animal Crossing* and *Universe Sandbox*², and neither *The Sims* nor *KSP* offer much of it. However, despite the presence of campaign-esque modes in each, they fundamentally lack objectives. Neither launching rockets nor controlling the mental and bodily functions of four individuals is easy or simple, so let's call these the 'hard-core' objectiveless games to the former two's 'casual.'

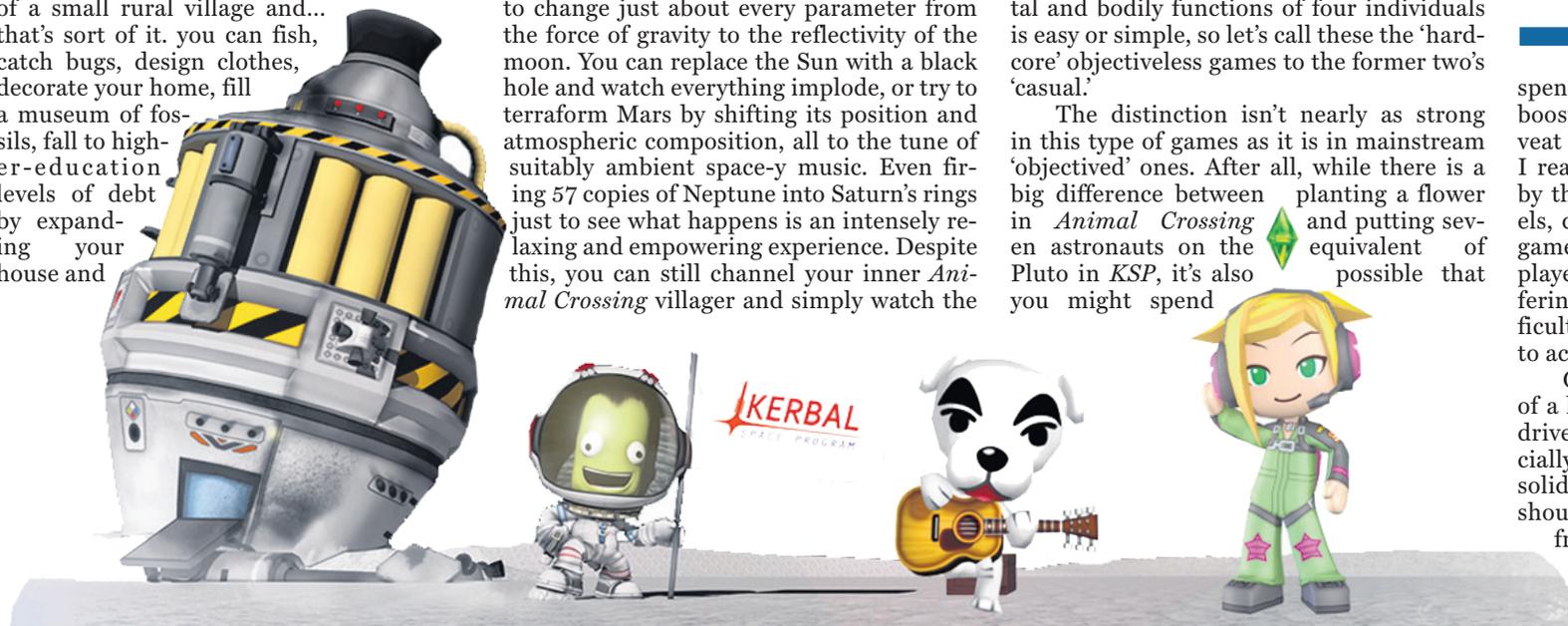
The distinction isn't nearly as strong in this type of games as it is in mainstream 'objectived' ones. After all, while there is a big difference between planting a flower in *Animal Crossing* and putting seven astronauts on the equivalent of Pluto in *KSP*, it's also possible that you might spend

your time in the former catching every fish and bug in the game; in the latter you'll

“ Rather than using levels, difficulty is, with the exception of bad game design, in the control of the player

spend your whole time crashing solid rocket boosters together on the launchpad. The caveat revealed by this is that by 'objectiveless,' I really mean 'without a fixed objective set by the developer(s).' Rather than using levels, difficulty is - with the exception of bad game design - in the mind and control of the player. The challenge for the developer is offering the player the tools to create this difficulty while also making it possible for them to achieve their own goals.

Often objectiveless games can be a bit of a hard sell when compared to their more driven and explosive counterparts, especially when so much of what we pay for is solid writing and a good story. However, you shouldn't let this put you off. The rewards from achieving your own goals, even if that's turning Earth into a gas giant and firing it into the Sun, are likely to be much greater.



Game review: Tales From the Borderlands

Platform: PC, PS4, PS3, Xbox One, Xbox 360
Release date: 20 October

Tales from the Borderlands, in itself, is a strange concept. Taking a first person shooter famed for its unparalleled 'shoot 'n' loot' gameplay and transferring that into a story-based point and click game sounds like nothing short of insanity.

Thankfully for fans of the franchise, Telltale Games have excelled themselves, producing an experience with an engaging story and a highly rewarding choice system.

While the story arc fundamentally begins and ends at the same places many other clichéd stories can be found, the gaps in between are where *Tales* makes its mark. Hilarious and insightful dialogue is brought to life by an all-star cast, including Troy Baker, Nolan North and Patrick Warburton, all of whom are surpassed by Ashley Johnson as adorable robot called Gortys. Dameon Clarke reprises his role as arch-villain Handsome Jack and is as wonderfully maniacal as we have come to expect.

The crop of new characters introduced throughout all five episodes bring much needed fresh faces as some of the original characters started to feel stale and overused upon completion of *Borderlands: The Pre-Sequel*. What's more, *Tales* develops these new characters more in the 15 or so hours in this

series than the rest of the *Borderlands* series has managed with the original cohort in three games.

One of the biggest advantages *Tales* has over its RPG-FPS cousins is that the connection between the character and the player is far greater. Main protagonists, Rhys and Fiona, are still both motivated by a lust for the material (aren't we all?), however the player-directed dialogue means you live through the development of relationships (some romantic) rather than witnessing them via cut scenes, or *Borderlands*' ECHO recorders. Equally, living through these relationships means you take their deaths even harder. The demise of Roland in *Borderlands 2* was awful, but in *Tales* I found myself pining after a robot more than I did Roland.

Perhaps the crowning jewel of *Tales* is its preparation for the final act, in which you choose people to fight alongside. Who you can choose from is based on the relationships you built with characters throughout the series. You can choose from those who want to make amends, those who want to make money and those who just want to shoot something in the face.

Personally, the most enjoyable moment



of each episode was seeing how my choices compared to other players' and imagining the implications, so seeing the culmination of my considerations all in one place felt like Christmas.

Despite the positives, a few moments can feel a little jarring. Love and romance has been so devoid from the *Borderlands* universe that *Tales*' amorous moments between Rhys and Sasha (Fiona's sister) can feel more than a little alien.

Some sections of exploration in the earlier episodes can descend into aimless wan-

dering if you aren't concentrating and I only had the chance to shoot about four people (if you discount fictitious finger-gun shootouts) which, for a *Borderlands* game is not enough regardless of whether it's a story driven format or not.

Hopefully, these faults - minor, admittedly - are nothing but teething problems. Should there be a second season of *Tales*, and there really, really should be, Telltale will have the chance to redress the balance and improve upon what is already a Game of the Year contender. *Rob Middleton*

Perpetual anticipation

Andrew Kendall explores modern movie audiences' inability to focus on the present



Towards the end of last month, on 19 October, the advance ticket sales for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* began. By the end of the day, multiple online movie ticket sites had crashed, Vue Cinemas had sold 450,000 tickets and a whopping 6.5 million US dollars in IMAX ticket sales had been made.

This all happened about two months before the film was actually set to enter wide release. But audiences were excited and anxious. They were anticipating this seventh film in the series. They had been anticipating it for years. In late 2014 the internet world had been thrown into a frenzy when the mere title was announced. A few months later audiences had already begun critiquing the legitimacy of the film because of emerging details about its running time.

One might just blame this on the behemoth nature of the 38 years old *Star Wars* franchise, but it would be a misjudgement. This is not a situation specific to tales from that galaxy far, far away. It is merely a single incident in a larger framework, indicative of something more pervasive, and curious.

That 'something more' is the inundation of consumers with information, memorabilia, and 'access' to films which have yet to be released. This inundation is matched by the voracious consumption of that information with so many movie audiences demanding more and more. Not more films, but information about the films.

Today, in the technological age, where there exists myriad methods of finding information, the modern popular movie culture is facing a crisis: instead of sitting with our focus on the films in front of us, we are sitting looking past the screen at what's

coming next.

Anticipating something is almost always more exciting than having it. Entire psychological studies have been devoted to this and the movie culture of today is a fine encapsulation.

Most people anticipate happy things and the internet has allowed fans from far and wide to feed that anticipation by consuming every bit of every information about a prospective release.

Yet even as the existence of that anticipation is not new, it calcified in key ways with the proliferation of film sites across the internet. When the newest superhero film is announced and fans of the original text take to the internet to map out who should be cast, it's a way to feel like part of the process.

This is even greater when the company acknowledges it, as more and more savvy producers are critically inviting audience suggestions. It's a frenzy that studios create to feed popularity and then this frenzy gets reported ad nauseum in the press. Then the fans reject the categorisation of their frenzy, and a cycle begins.

Studios release stills before a movie begins shooting. They release seven trailers for a single film, then critics see it one month in advance and publish dozens of reviews. By the time the film opens in theatres, it's old news and we have moved on to the next thing.

It might seem curmudgeonly to say, but it bears considering the almost antithetical reality where current film viewing is not an experience to be luxuriated in at present but something cerebral done while continuously looking forward.

When a new movie is released there are

exactly 10 days to talk about it before we're forced to look forward to what's coming out next week, or next month, or next year or next decade.

Before Marvel's *Ant-Man* was released this year, the last film of their Phase 2 of the *Avengers* series, the world had been taken by storm by the release of the entire slate for Phase 3 of the franchise for films spanning from 2016 to 2019.

In mid-2015, pages and pages of metaphorical ink were devoted to films which would not be released for another four years. Each cast announcement, each director rumour, every costume sketch is released for the public to weigh in on.

It provides illusory excitement, the acquisition of knowledge which is 'new'. But the underbelly reveals a sameness, a chilling terrifying homogeneousness of information being fed to us.

As much as Marvel's comprehensive list of the films they plan to make is easier for fans there's something especially chilling about the way it so coldly maps out the future of their films. It's an emphatic, prideful demarcation of their films as products.

This is not the inherent problem. Movies are products and always have been; it's the reason it has struggled to be seen as art by implacable critics. But, the long list of planned ventures meant for audiences to keep looking forward to reminds me of a hamster running on an ever-spinning wheel. We just can't get off.

The question must be asked: are audiences constantly looking forward because the films are never enough or do the films not seem enough because the audiences are constantly looking forward? Who can tell?...

Exploring Bond

The secondary characters step into the spotlight



Bond Girls

Ever since the inception of Bond in cinema, the franchise has played host to the 'Bond Girl'. Or rather, the category of the 'Bond Girl' has played host to the voracious spy's motives and extravagant escapades. In the age of modern Bond the category appears lacking and outdated.

Vesper Lynd in *Casino Royale* offered audiences a fully-formed, layered character who shared a believable arc with her male counterpart that did not become completely effaced by the end of the film's running time.

'Best Bond Girl', however, undoubtedly has to be awarded to the most significant woman in Bond's life, Judi Dench's 'M'. If it were not already significant enough that such a high-ranking role was filled by a woman, even by the most commanding of actresses, M is a figure who has called the shots, mentored Bond through his experiences, and formed the modern Bond we see now. *Laura Hancock*



Villains

What makes a compelling villain? Creepiness helps, yes, but it's a little emotional complexity that really makes an unforgettable antagonist. In the Daniel Craig era we've hardly been left wanting for such sinister weirdos: Mathieu Amalric, Javier Bardem, and Christoph Waltz of the latest three Bond instalments together form a trinity of creepy villains.

Various traumas motivate the antagonists they portray, be it hell-bent career revenge, fear of missing out in exclusive crime rings, or an unhealthy love of money.

But it is Le Chiffre, Daniel Craig's poker hustling nemesis in *Casino Royale*, who's the most interesting nemesis of all.

'Le Chiffre' is indeed a name that roughly translates to 'the cipher', and Mads Mikkelsen delivers an aptly enigmatic performance as a disreputable fiend driven by fear as much as inherent evil. He strikes just the right balance of scary and vulnerable, all embodied within that milky left eye that weeps blood when he's nervous. *Nasty. Alfie Packham*



November TV Pick: American Horror Story

Situated in Los Angeles, the Hotel Cortez from this season of *AHS* is frightening enough to send any enthusiastic tourist packing.

The 90 year old hotel has history more unsettling than its crumbling Art Deco architecture, having been designed by a serial killer as the ideal location for catching, murdering, and then disposing of his victims. It is inspired by other equally terrifying loca-

tions from history, most obviously serial killer H. H. Holmes's 'Murder Castle,' and real L.A. hotels with unpleasant histories, like The Cecil.

The inclusion of Lady Gaga as the hotel's owner has divided critics, but few can doubt the visual impact she brings. Once again, *AHS*'s skillful mixing of fact and fiction shows that reality can be just as scary as any horror film. *Lauren McNeillage*

Leaders of the pack

Theo and Joel of **Wolf Alice** talk to Chris Owen about their unlikely breakout success, making the Mercury Prize shortlist and album number two

In a dingy bar backstage at the Manchester Albert Hall, I jump in feet first: now with some distance from the release of their debut album, do Wolf Alice have any regrets? Joel and Theo, drummer and bassist respectively, take a moment before answering at the same time: “Nope.”

Another beat of silence. I push a little further – are there no choices that, in hindsight, were overworked? No lyrics that tease out a cringy twitch four months on? They shrug and shake their heads. “I have so many personal regrets with my life choices,” Theo quips. “But I love all our songs.”

They aren’t being arrogant. They don’t even come across as solidly confident, in light of the year they’ve had. Wolf Alice are probably the biggest breakout name of 2015, the derivative radio pawns James Bay and Years & Years notwithstanding.

What is more startling is that, for a time, they could have gone either way – their particular brand of left-field grunge rock could quite easily have been shunted onto that bonfire of indie-filler bands disintegrating atop an NME kindling. Instead, they’re a Radio 1 golden child, already an iconic festival band, and now, a Mercury Prize shortlisted name.

Their refusal to compromise, paradoxically, is what saw them through. Their inability to regret any of their artistic decisions is because they were just that – not strategic, nor chart-conscious, but simply artistic.

“There were definitely times where we thought that we could put out a double album,” Joel says, in his intelligent, inexorably reasonable London drawl. The effect is ruined slightly by a boisterously self-assured drummer’s energy that has him bouncing around the room and throwing things like anyone else might bite their nails. He explains that *My Love Is Cool* was released far later than



critics of irrelevance and increasing obscurity, confers a seal of absolute recognition from an irrevocably picky stratum of musos.

“I don’t think we will win it,” Theo says. “I reckon Jamie xx might win it, or SOAK.”

Joel cuts in. “Yeah, I think SOAK’s got a shot. I honestly think that’s an album that deserves it – and this is gonna sound like bias because we’re friends with them – but Swim Deep’s new record is honestly incredible.”

Progressively, our chat descends into freeform chaos after every other question, as Theo and Joel bicker with a brotherly affection about everything from Swim Deep’s new album to the chances of Nick Cave headlining a UK festival. I give up on the questions as we turn to debating the present state of festival headliners.

“There’s a fucking shitload of new bands who could probably all headline festivals,” Theo says with a brilliantly blunt exasperation. “I’m not necessarily saying Glastonbury. But if this year is, again, a remembrance to watching Metallica at fucking Reading for the twenty thousandth time it will be so boring.”

“Even they’re bored,” Joel interjects.

“And there are these bands that have got three or four albums under their belt and they’re younger than fifty thousand years old,” Theo continues. “And I really hope that this year, when there seems to be a lot of bands getting to that point of maturity, that everyone pulls their finger out and books them, because otherwise it’s going to be shit.”

“They’ll have to start blurring the lines,” says Joel. “Because people’s tastes have spread out far more than I think a lot of people realise. And if The Maccabees are selling out three Brixtons and Foals are selling out three Ally Pallys then there’s obviously a thirst for it. It

seems silly to have them lower down the bill.”

The breakout bands of which they speak – The Maccabees, Florence, Foals – all flourished as bands and artists while living in London’s live music bubble, and have all spent the last 10 years preparing to make a concerted assault on the tops of festival bills. London-based Wolf Alice are already being tipped as future festival starlets. Yet the phenomenon raises an important question about the social cleansing of the area, a question thrown into sharp relief by The Maccabees’ recent album about fighting the losing battle to save

to answer. “Unless the Government changes though,” says Theo. “Jeremy Corbyn says he wants to stop the social cleansing of London and if that does happen –”

Joel cuts him off. “– And he wants to give money to the arts, because the thing that a lot of people don’t realise is, the reason you pick up a guitar is because you might not feel so good about something, or because you have a point to make. And if you decide to suppress that or eradicate it from a whole generation of kids who are coming up, you lose more than just culture – you lose people’s mental welfare.”

“Also the thing is it’s not necessarily true because there’s a shitload of rich kids in bands,” says Theo.

“Not that that matters, we’re not classist –” Joel sharply interjects again.

“Being in a band isn’t determined by a class system,” muses Theo. “So there probably will always be bands in London. Everywhere has a cultural hub. Also it’s not necessarily people born there; people migrate to London and end up being labelled a London band.”

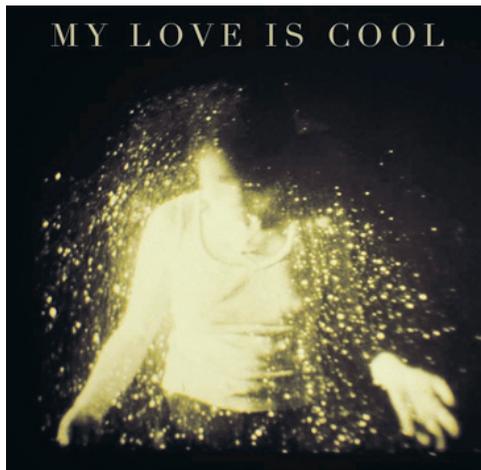
“Yeah, I always think it’s interesting that London gets all the bits and bobs,” agrees Joel. “The mongrel bands. And that’s what makes it amazing as well. That’s what makes it so unique.”

The mongrel bands. It captures Wolf Alice perfectly, who in turn perfectly capture our times. The simmering frustration of *My Love Is Cool*, on some songs bottled, on others shaken up, and on others so ferociously released, makes sense when you meet the fun yet fractious youth of the band. Theo and Joel, and with them Ellie and Joff, are today’s generation – a mish-mash of different breeds lost on the streets. Their music, teeth bared and full of fight, is a place to take shelter. **M**

“You pick up a guitar because you might not feel so good about something, or you have a point to make”

the cultural heart of Elephant and Castle. As musicians who have fought through the ranks of London’s band scene while trying to make a living in an increasingly impossible city, do Wolf Alice agree that they could well be the last of their kind?

Joel and Theo look a touch surprised to be confronted with this question, but jump



planned not because of a lack of creativity, but because of “boring reasons, and also because of our own self-preparation.”

On 16 October, Wolf Alice received that coveted verified tick that is a Mercury Prize shortlist spot. Effectively the only remaining national UK music prize with any kind of weight or legitimacy to it, the Mercury, as Theo puts it, “isn’t based on fucking who said what in this magazine, and how many sales you made – you have a panel of respected judges who listen to the albums.” It’s a definitive accolade that, despite accusations by its

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Noel Gallagher offers insights on international travel

“The most important thing to take on a world tour? Probably a passport...”

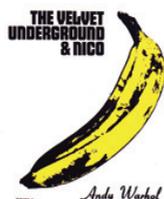
Style over substances

Jack Davies explores the musical masterpieces born from key movements in the history of drugs

Music and narcotics. The two are often thought to go hand-in-hand. It's true that your run of the mill cliché of a rockstar will often involve the consumption of copious amounts of cocaine, and your standard acid house DJ is probably thought to pop pills like they're Smarties.

But aside from these clichés, it's a simple fact that there have been a lot of albums made under the influence of some more than questionable substances. But what albums echo particular drugs? What can you listen to to give you an idea of what it'd be like to be in *Trainspotting*, or to be dancing at the Hacienda in the early 90s? With this in mind, let's take a trip down the hazy road of the most drug-infused albums ever released...

Disclaimer: *Nouse* Music would like to point out that the consumption of the following drugs is not advised and will almost certainly not transform you into a musical genius.



The Heroin Album:

The Velvet Underground & Nico – *The Velvet Underground & Nico*

In addition to the fact that there is actually a song on the album called 'Heroin', *The Velvet Underground & Nico* feels entirely immersed in the drug. The VU's frontman, Lou Reed, was a heroin addict for the majority of his

life; this addiction once saw him shoot up on stage in Houston in 1974. Christ, the album is practically an homage to heroin – it seeps a grimy, lackadaisical mood. It is to this day still considered seminal in alternative music, and perhaps this is at least partially owed to the influence of that brown stuff.

The Cocaine Album:

Oasis – *Be Here Now*



The Gallagher brothers are famed for their affinity with the notorious white powder, but nowhere is it clearer than on their third album, *Be Here Now*. The album came out in 1997 when Oasis were on the verge of becoming the biggest band on the planet, and the

Mancunians were certainly enjoying the excesses of the rock and roll lifestyle, with Noel declaring during the recording of the album that drugs had become "like having a cup of tea in the morning". The record itself is far from their best work, but its fast-paced, OTT songs still manage to encapsulate the exuberance, exhilaration and extremity associated with cocaine.

The Honourable Mention:

Primal Scream – *Screamadelica*



No homage to trippy albums could be complete without mentioning Primal Scream's 1991 masterpiece, *Screamadelica*. The album, which won the inaugural Mercury Prize and had sold over 680,000 copies by 2011, is a

masterful fusion of the best of acid house and psychedelic rock. Their illustrious career spans ten albums, almost all of which were well received. Ecstasy usually gets thrown about as its main influence, but there are so many layers to the record that you can't really epitomise it with just that. Lyrics like "We wanna get loaded, and we wanna have a good time" give the game away a touch. The album sounds like drugs: it's fast, it's slow, it's uplifting, it's mind-altering, and it's perhaps the most definitive product of an age-old relationship between music and narcotics.



The Cannabis Album:

Bob Marley & The Wailers – *Rastaman Vibration*

Okay, so this was always going to go to Bob Marley. Reggae music tends to reek of green. But why *Rastaman Vibration*? This was the final album Marley recorded in his homeland of Jamaica, and

within the Rastafarian religion, smoking marijuana is viewed as a way of getting closer to God. Being so in touch with his roots while making it meant that the album was highly entwined with the Rasta vibe. The music sounds like a weed-adddled day on a Jamaican beach, and while being far from Bob Marley's best album, *Rastaman Vibration* gives you a snapshot of Jamaican drug culture.



The Acid Album:

Syd Barrett – *The Madcap Laughs*

Psychedelia is a broad spectrum, but for his sheer commitment to the cause, this title has to go to Syd Barrett, Pink Floyd's founding frontman. Barrett was highly addicted to LSD throughout the

60s and 70s, and the result was *The Madcap Laughs*, released as his first solo album in 1970 following his exclusion from Pink Floyd for erratic behaviour. The album was recorded in five sessions over the course of eighteen months, and the disjointed feel passes into the album. It is genuinely disturbing music, and persistent, echoing guitars heard throughout add to its peculiarity.

Into the archives: *Loveless*

Ant Noonan steps back to the 90s to explore My Bloody Valentine's sonically radical second album



Valentine record in over twenty years, *mbv*.

As a single droplet of sweat liberated itself from my watery forehead I sat back and thought for a second as to why an album was causing me to act in such a manner. It wasn't because I'm a nerd (although I am). It wasn't because I wanted to slate the album before even listening to it (although I wanted to). It was to witness the continuation of a sonic legacy born out of an artist that did more than just release a popular album.

Loveless erupts with attitude, grit and blur. Throughout the record, My Bloody Valentine's epochal whirred guitars swell and pulse, defining the Irish quartet's sound and subsequent career. 'Shields', without caring if the neighbours are in, blows the record open with probably the most abrasive track of the 90s, 'Only Shallow' having his oscillating fuzz bend and howl around Colm Ó Cíosóig's thudding, headache drums.

At the same time the band's patri-

arch is able to mould and distort the record's weighty sound through the subtle and swelling 'Sometimes' that leans on 'Shields' intoxicating wall of noise.

Rather than a record to hear, *Loveless* is a record to touch, or more so, a record to grab you by the legs and dangle you over a bridge until you can smell the watery soup that lies beneath you. Texture and power is everything to My Bloody Valentine here, but this is what makes the album soar above other shoegaze releases.

In Shields' driving guitars and Butcher's apathetic vocals the entire attitude of shoegaze is realised; the whirr, the blur and the unmistakable wall of noise that is built out of this eleven track audible Jackson Pollock piece.

Without *Loveless*, modern independent music loses something more than just art-students with fringes. It loses texture, power and sheer hazy violence; some things are worth staying up until five in the morning for.

Introducing: The Dunwells



Eleanor Langford chats to Joe Dunwell on their origins, their time in the US and working on their next release.

How does working with your brother and such close friends affect your music?

It makes it better! We really try to make whatever we do as fun as possible. We're just four mates making music for the love of it. And more so now than ever, especially since we've got this new album coming in January. We're really excited playing all this new material on the tour.

You've played a lot in America recently, how did the States treat you?

They treated us really well, actually! They all thought we were Irish because of our Yorkshire accents. But musically, they loved it. We've got a buzz about us in the UK and a buzz in the US across the water, so it's a really exciting time for us.

From touring in the UK and America, are there any gigs that stick out in your memory? The kind you'd tell the grandkids about.

America-wise would have to be playing Red Rocks in Colorado which was unbelievable, there was like 9000 people watching us. In the UK we played Reading Festival to 5000 people, which was incredible.

You've got an album coming out in 2016, how's that coming along? Can we expect any big changes from the last EP?

It's going to be in between our last EP and 'Hey Now' - it's got its organic local harmonies but it's also got a bigger sound. We like these songs to play live and I think they'll fit in a live environment. We're playing a lot of the material on tour.

You worked with some pretty big names for your last EP, is there anyone in particular that really helped you find your sound?

I think Steve Harris (who has worked with Kodamine, The Kaiser Chiefs, The Wombats) has been the catalyst to what we are now. He really took us and shook us about. He didn't really tell us what to do, he just sat back and waited for us to tell him what we were. The fact that he had the patience to do that is incredible and it worked for us. M

THE NOVEMBER GIG LIST

Your guide to the best local music

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The Duchess, York | Brudenell Social Club, Leeds |
| • 11th: <i>The Pat McManus Band</i> | • 12th: <i>The Mountain Goats</i> |
| • 17th: <i>Saint Raymond</i> | • 20th: <i>Los Campesinos!</i> |
| • 20th: <i>The Wytches</i> | • 24th: <i>Chelsea Wolfe</i> |
| • 24th: <i>Brix and the Extricated</i> | • 26th: <i>Glass Caves</i> |
| | • 27th: <i>Ought</i> |
| The Barbican, York | • 28th: <i>Built to Spill</i> |
| • 9th (Dec.): <i>The Kooks</i> | |

Taking Action

York alumni **Ellie Evans** and **Georgia Paton** speak to Laura Tait about what it's like to be involved with a major medical research charity in the UK

Action Medical Research is one of the UK's leading charities in the pioneering search for new medical breakthroughs in order to save countless lives on a daily basis. Founded in 1952 by Duncan Guthrie, the charity initially aimed to find a cure for polio which, at the time, was rife among children including Guthrie's own daughter, Janet. Thanks to this early work, polio has now been eliminated in the UK. And this was just the beginning.

Since its inception, those at Action Medical Research have worked tirelessly and it is easy to see how the hard work continues to

For every fantastic project we fund, there's another which we have to turn down, so every single penny counts

”

pay off. They have been responsible for numerous life-changing and life-saving discoveries including ultrasound in pregnancy, the rubella vaccine, and realising the importance of taking folic acid during pregnancy in order to prevent spine bifida. To date the charity has spent a staggering £110m, which is facilitated by their commitment to fundraising events and the selfless work of thousands of volunteers.

Lots of famous names are involved in and support Action Medical Research, including Davina McCall, Tony Hadley, Mark Cavendish MBE and even Paddington Bear. But the people who really 'make the magic happen' are those behind the scenes. Ellie Evans is the Fundraising Communications Officer. She is responsible for publicising all of the fantastic fundraising initiatives and opportunities taking place across the country – no mean feat.

Ellie had been a journalist for a period exceeding 10 years, but the desire to work for Action Medical Research came with the will for greater job satisfaction, wanting to "put [her] energy into a more worthwhile cause." Her role sounds truly fulfilling, as she describes the volunteers who dedicate themselves to raising money and promoting the charity. An example close to home was her moving tale of Matt Westcott (also known as 'Wheezy Rider') who partook in the York 100 ride to honour the memory of his niece Jasmine who tragically died of a brain tumour.

But this was one of many moving stories, and across the UK there are hundreds of thousands of children who rely on the work of charities such as Action Medical Research. Two profound examples include baby Samuel

who was born two and a half months early weighing less than 4lbs, and Alfie who suffered brain damage at birth which has left him with cerebral palsy.

We asked Ellie what the public could do to help children such as Samuel and Alfie, and many others like them, be it by simply raising awareness of the charity or participating in events such as charity runs, team challenges and sporting events. For students in particular though, Ellie stresses the multitude of opportunities on offer that can "help build a great CV and make you stand out." Action Medical Research recruit student volunteers at events, and they also provide opportunities for ambassadors in schools and local areas who can help to spread the word and inspire others to get involved.

One such example is University of York Politics and International Relations graduate Georgia Paton. Georgia was able to give us an insight into how it feels to be part of such a worthwhile cause.

Despite initially wanting to pursue a career in the diplomatic service, her repeated involvement with RAG during her time at York meant Georgia soon realised that her heart truly lay in helping people. Georgia was RAG Officer in 2014/15 and it was her work in this role which first opened her eyes to the work of Action Medical Research. Not long after, Georgia received an email offering work experience with the charity and "jumped at the chance". Although she admits this was not the route she envisaged her career path would follow, she is "very glad things turned out the way they have."

Within her role as a volunteer with Action Medical Research, Georgia has been granted chances for involvement with numerous events across the UK, gaining new skills and experiences throughout the process. She tells of her involvement with Trossachs PLOD and the Trossachs Ton, two intense outdoor challenges based in Scotland, as well as her help with the 'Gig in the Garden' in Suffolk and the aforementioned York 100 ride (held from our very own University Sports Centre). Georgia's experiences don't end there, and recently she helped to represent Action Medical Research in the nationwide 2015 RAG Conference in Leeds. Georgia speaks extremely highly of her time spent volunteering with Action Medical Research, describing the rewards she has reaped as "numerous and valuable." Her experiences have helped her to cement her love for work within the charity sector and she reports her whole time to have been truly "eye-opening."

With regard to her future prospects beyond Action Medical Research, Georgia now stands in extremely good stead. Thanks to her work with the charity, Georgia has been offered a job as a Community fundraiser for Marie Curie. She thanks Action Medical Research for providing her with the opportunity and skills repertoire that it has gifted her, and says that "without a doubt I could not have achieved this without [their] help."

Action Medical Research could not do what they do on a day-in-day-out basis without the assistance and support of students like me and you. As Ellie herself said "this year for every fantastic project we fund, there's another which we have to turn down, so every single penny counts." **M**



My vegan experiment

With recent press emphasising the harmful effects of animal product consumption, Nicola Sharpe goes vegan for a week to see how hard it really is

Lately, veganism has become an increasingly hot topic. Though the majority of vegans object to animal exploitation, more recently veganism has become a dietary choice for many in pursuit of a more environmentally friendly way of living, as well as for the health benefits it can bring.

Recent documentaries, notably *Cowspiracy*, have highlighted the incredibly large

IMAGE: TAYLOR KISER



carbon footprint of the farming industry, claiming it is responsible for 14.5 per cent of total global emissions. This shocking figure suggests that perhaps we should all be making an effort to eat fewer animal products.

Personally, the prospect of cutting out such a large group of foods is daunting. However, like many, I am guilty of avoiding thinking about the brutal reality of the cheap meat industry. Additionally, not a day goes by without news on the dangers of not eating right; last week, the World Health Association described excessive consumption of processed meat as being as carcinogenic as smoking.

But is this realistic on a student budget? I decided to give it a go for a week to see whether being vegan is really as hard as it sounds.

Day One: Monday

I start my vegan experiment with a lot of apprehension, anticipating a long week ahead. My go-to breakfast would usually be scrambled eggs, but instead, I rustle up a speedy breakfast of sautéed mushrooms with avocado. This feels quite extravagant, and it's actually pretty filling when paired with a banana as a mid-morning snack. So far, so good. I whip up some dairy-free hummus and make myself a salad of spinach, carrots and celery for lunch. Who needs eggs?

By the time dinner time arrives, I'm feeling quite peckish and make a hearty soup out of parsnips, using almond milk instead of reg-

“ I begin to realise how much mindfulness is required with this lifestyle

ular milk, and lots of spices. I haven't really noticed the difference of not having any animal products in any of my meals today, which is a promising start! I can't deny that eating so healthily has made me feel rather smug. However, there are still six days to go...

Day Two: Tuesday

Although I really enjoyed my avocado breakfast yesterday, they aren't cheap, costing at least 70p per fruit. So, I opt for the cheaper choice of porridge. I find some almond milk

on special offer which is naturally lower in fat than cows' milk and contains high levels of Vitamin E. I find it's just as delicious, if not better than regular dairy. When it comes to using a sweetener, I mash up a banana instead, and it's not great.

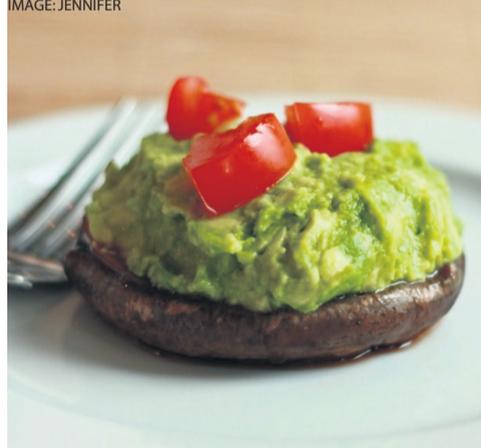
In the hopes of disguising the vegan element of my dinner, I choose some vegetables with a meaty texture: aubergine and mushroom. I add some kidney beans to replace the protein I would otherwise have gained from meat, which, at about 11p per serving, are a far cheaper alternative. It's a really tasty substitute, and I can't say I miss the inclusion of meat at all.

However, I am struggling with snacking. I find some vegan energy bars made from blended dates and nuts, and while tasty, they cost around £3 for a pack of four. Optimistically, I remind myself that they are a lot healthier than the refined sugar and fat in most other bars, providing 18g of protein each.

Day Three: Wednesday

Again, porridge for breakfast, and I take a packed lunch of carrot and celery sticks with hummus to uni to keep me going through my busy day. However, I have been experiencing

IMAGE: JENNIFER



extreme chocolate cravings all day so manage to find some dark chocolate containing no milk. I'm not usually a big fan of bitter chocolate but it tastes heavenly and I have to resist demolishing the entire bar in one sitting.

In the evening, I face one of the major vegan nightmares: being cooked for. Thankfully the friend cooking for me rises to the occasion, preparing a delicious Mediterranean-style meal. Yet I can't help but think that the limited options central to the diet make me a bit of a nuisance as a dinner guest, so I am grateful to have a considerate host.

Day Four: Thursday

Today I struggle. I have lunch out and the smell of bacon in the café is calling my name, but I manage to resist and instead order a vegetarian sandwich of sundried tomato, hummus and spinach and ask for no cheese. The result is a tasty sandwich, but I really miss the cheese that would have brought it all together.

Although a lack of dairy has felt quite good, removing this food group has meant that I am slightly worried about my calcium intake. I do a quick google of plant-based sources of calcium, finding that spinach and broccoli contain high levels, so I am careful to include these vegetables. I begin to realise how much mindfulness is required with this lifestyle; seriously thinking about the nutrients I am getting from my food is something I haven't really had to do before, but perhaps something I should be considering more.

Day Five: Friday

Today was one of those days when nothing

quite goes right, and, to be honest, it was difficult to stick to the vegan diet. Grabbing a quick lunch when running late to my lecture was a nightmare; I didn't have the time to prepare anything so ended up eating an avocado and a banana. This puts me in a bit of a bad mood, especially after spending longer than normal picking up some snacks for a film night with friends. I find some popcorn but have to search through bag after bag of sweets to find some without any gelatine or milk. I have to say, fruit does seem a lot more appealing over confectionery now: at least I don't have to check the label when buying it!

Day Six: Saturday

Tired of banana porridge, I buy some maple syrup to sweeten it, which is quite a bit pricier than honey, but it makes a difference, and I really enjoy my breakfast for the first time since Monday. I'm still really enjoying having almond milk, and I think I'll keep it on after. The rest of the day doesn't feel too challenging either; using beans as a replacement for meat has become a bit of a habit.

Day Seven: Sunday

THE LAST DAY! After a full week, I think I've really gotten into the swing of veganism. Perhaps I've just gotten used to obsessively reading labels and putting meaty vegetables into my dinners, but today was the first day I didn't feel as if I was submitting myself to some bizarre extreme diet. I didn't even feel limited.

That being said, I am extremely excited to eat eggs tomorrow. And don't even get me started on cheese. I have been thinking about lasagna far more than any sane person. But I did it! One whole week without a single animal product. And I survived!

So what has this experiment taught me, aside from the fact that I like cheese more than I ever thought possible? Firstly, I've realised that in reality, being vegan isn't as crazy as it initially sounded.

The major difficulty I found was how veganism related to social situations. There seems to be a lot of judgement out there about

IMAGE: DIRK-JAN KRAAN



the diet. I struggled with the feeling that I was being an inconvenience when it came to being cooked for, or spending time with friends as I felt as if I was constantly saying no to things.

I can't say that I see myself becoming fully vegan, but I will definitely be cutting back on my meat and dairy consumption. Although it costs quite a bit extra, I can certainly see how regularly using kidney beans or chickpeas as a meat substitute can not only help the environment, but save you a few pennies in the process, something which, as a poor student, I can definitely appreciate. While it is certainly limiting, it challenged my culinary skills and my knowledge of what sort of nutrients I should be giving my body in order to keep in good health.

Recipe: Vegan chilli

Amy Norton gives a simple vegan chilli recipe - so good you won't even miss the meat



A good chilli satisfies your soul with its hot, smoky flavours. It's perfect rich and hearty winter food. Beans, tomatoes, paprika and cayenne are essential to this. However switching minced beef for sweet potato gives a certain sweetness, which complements the fiery kick. Whether you like your chilli heaped on rice, or squashed into tacos or tortillas, this vegetable chilli gets one up on its meaty alternative.

Ingredients (Serves Four)

- 2 medium-sized sweet potatoes
- 1 level teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 heaped teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon
- sea salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- olive oil
- 1 onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 yellow pepper
- 2 cloves garlic
- a bunch of fresh coriander, chopped
- 1 fresh red chilli
- 1 fresh green chilli
- 2 x 400g tinned beans
- 2 x 400g tinned chopped tomatoes

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (Gas Mark 6). Using a large chopping knife, cut the sweet potatoes into bite-sized chunks.

2. Line a baking tray with tin foil, placing the sweet potatoes on top, and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with a pinch each of cayenne, cumin, cinnamon, salt and pepper and roast in the oven for thirty minutes, until golden.

3. Peel and chop the onion and garlic. De-seed and chop the peppers and the chillis - keep the seeds for an extra kick.

4. Heat a few tablespoons of olive oil in a large pan, and cook the onion, peppers and garlic for five minutes. Add the chilli and spices, and cook for another five minutes.

5. Drain the beans, and add them to the pan with the tinned tomatoes. Briefly bring to the boil before leaving to simmer for 25 minutes. This is also when you should think about putting your rice on to boil if you so choose.

6. Take the sweet potato chunks out of the oven, and stir into the chilli with most of the coriander.

7. Serve with rice or tortilla chips, with the rest of the coriander, and plenty of guacamole. For those who need a cooling touch and a vegan substitute to sour cream, try soya coconut yoghurt.

Live long and die out

Antinatalist and movement founder **Les U. Knight** speaks to Jack Richardson about the growing vehemence of the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement

Scientists predict that the first human to live to 150 has already been born. Depending on who you ask, this number stretches to 200, or 500, or 1000. Our ability to prolong life, and help create it, has exploded over the last 50 years. As the timescales of human lifespan grow ever more resilient and our society's ecological impact grows, many are worried that we will soon face a serious overpopulation crisis. For some, the answer lies in expansion to space, or controlling migration to already populous areas.

But for others the answer lies at the source: birth. Or rather, the lack of it. Meet the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, or VHEMT for short, and its unofficial spokesperson and would-be founder, Les U. Knight (pun, I imagine, intended).

The unofficial motto, "May we live long and die out" has garnered a fair degree of criticism from all corners, not least because the idea of total and voluntary human extinction would appear an impossible goal. What Knight sees as "natalist cultural conditioning" is to many of us a rather undeniable evolutionary urge to survive and continue the species. Many religious organisations have condemned Knight, citing the sanctity of human life. However, beyond the more dogmatic or institutional oppositions, independent criticism is often sceptical at the achievability, rather than the actions of the cause. He's

side group (a common question, apparently), although their links to organisations such as the Church of Euthanasia show that Knight, at least, errs on the side of acceptance when it comes to choosing to end one's own life.

The 'choice' part is important. Knight seems determined to ensure that any accusations of coercion beyond persuasion are baseless, and by and large succeeds, beyond occasional jabs. The website's idea of an intelligence test in order to breed is certainly sharp if one answers 'yes' to the question "In light of the tens of thousands of children dying of malnutrition each day, and considering the number of species going extinct as a result of our excessive reproduction, do you think it would be a good idea to create another of yourself?" If one answers 'no', they are put in the entertaining double-bind of being intelligent enough to be allowed to breed while also knowing not to.

If Knight is rude to anyone,

natalism. There are even sections for "Agreements, disagreements and misunderstandings" in response to the website, complete with withering put-downs for the more unimaginative negative comments. Knight describes himself as the "finder, rather than the founder" of the movement, and perhaps this is the source of the little-shown vehemence: as with religion, it must be difficult to understand the apparently blinkered views of those who have yet to be let in to what "already existed in minds all over the planet when I gave it a name."

The link with religion is significant for a different reason: he sees the legions of attempted purges of humanity (in Genesis, Sumerian mythology and more) as evidence for early support of VHEMT's ideals. For Knight, though, it seems as though his own experience growing up "in the high desert of Oregon" shaped his later views. "Environmental degradation is more obvious when the only water is a small creek and it's too polluted to wade in,"

and when he moved into

Fast-forward to 1991 and the first publication of the typographically unsettling *These EXIT Times*, bearing the (rather impressive) headline 'VHEMT growth creates need for newsletter' and we have the true beginnings of the movement as it appears in its current form.

The newsletter in print only lasted four years and three editions (one was skipped to "save trees"), but now the website "reaches more people each day than the paper version reached in a year."

The website now apparently exists in 33 different languages, but in reality they exist in varying stages of modernity and the Chinese version is simply a link to the Wikipedia page. Seven are constructed languages like Interlingua and Esperanto, and Latin is included for some unknown reason.

Nevertheless, there is no denying the vehemence of the Volunteers, judging by the numerous photos of logo tattoos sent in from all over the world.

Thankfully tattoos are not a prerequisite for membership. Nor is there a membership fee. The movement is run by Knight but the idea that one may have been aligned with the movement before hearing about it runs through it. Unfortunately this makes it rather difficult to judge true membership numbers, as Knight claims that millions around the world share his views. As he writes, relations towards VHEMT loosely fall into three categories: Volunteers, Supporters and the Undecided.

The former align fully with the unofficial motto, "May we live long and die out," and are the ones getting the tattoos. Supporters agree that we shouldn't breed, but think that extinction is going too far. The Undecided are just that, albeit expressed in a rather 'don't tread on me' fashion by Knight with "Stop trying to put words in my mouth."

But again we must come back to the potentially troubling 'Voluntary' aspect. Even if millions are apparently in support of the movement, the enormous 'V' in their logo is going to stay. VHEMT, as Knight puts it, precludes any curtailment of the right to reproduce. The attitude towards coercion is still ambivalent at best, however. "Let's keep in mind that coercion is already with us," says the website. "Each year, roughly 35 million babies are denied their right to not be born into a family that doesn't want them or can't provide for their needs," and all because reproductive rights (like access to contraception) aren't respected. "Advocates of coerced contraception are vilified as 'ecofascists,'" but, as they point out, "driving another species to extinction is the ultimate act of ecofascism."

One may well question whether it still counts as ecofascism to drive ourselves to extinction, but Knight disagrees. In a seminal 1982 paper paleontologists Jack Sepkoski and David M. Raup identified five mass extinctions of life on Earth. Since then, a sixth

“ We aren't domesticated enough to keep from going bonkers in desolate outposts

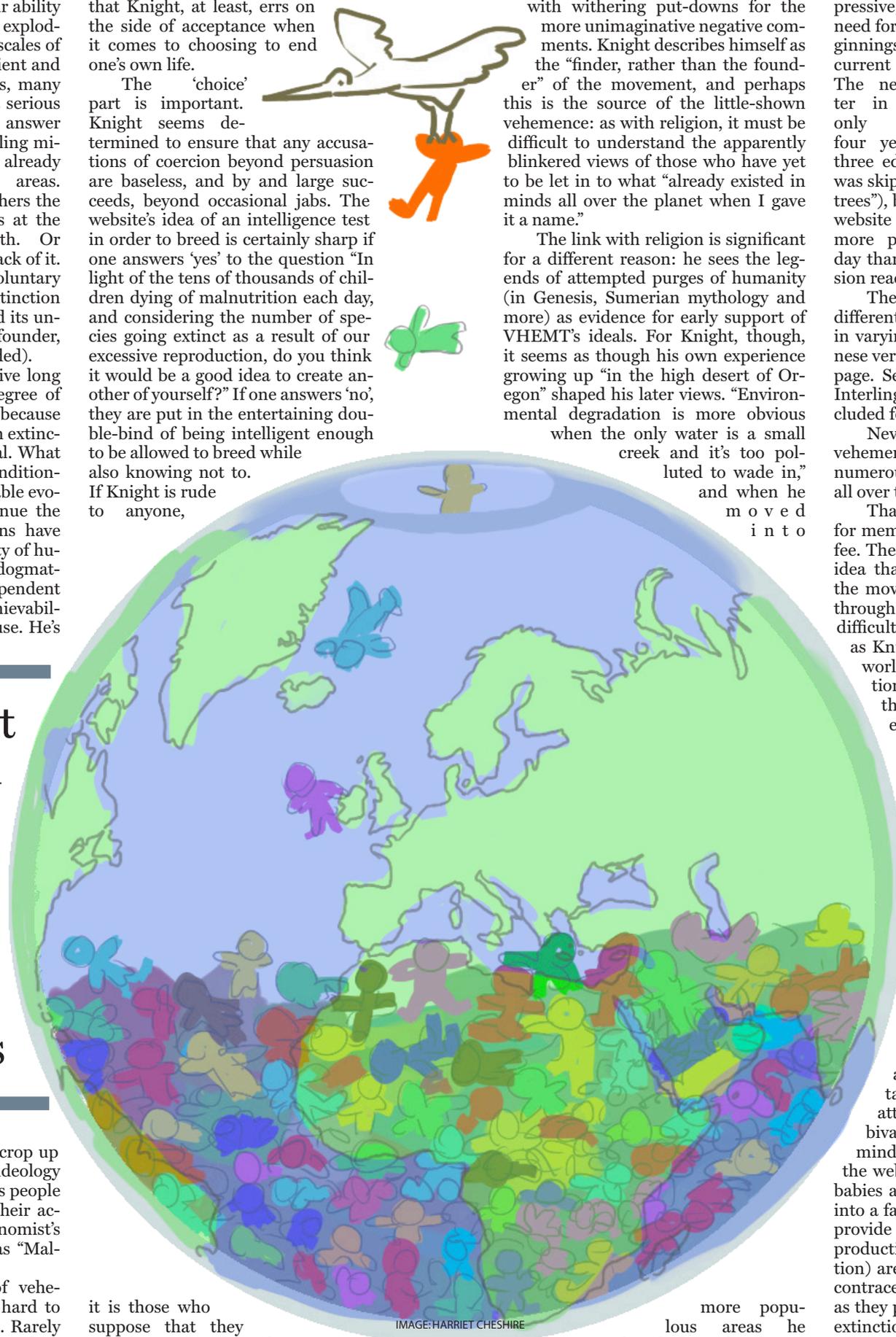
certainly not the first antinatalist to crop up in human history. Responses to the ideology range from a suggestion that childless people could use the arguments to justify their actions (or lack of, therein), to the Economist's pronouncement of VHEMT's logic as "Malthusian bosh."

Despite the varying degrees of vehemence in the opposition, it can be hard to find fault with Knight's presentation. Rarely are his words aggressive, which elevates him above the level of the common-or-garden conspiracy theorist/nutjob group to which one may be inclined to add him. "Surprisingly, the 'Voluntary' in the name doesn't always register," he notes. They certainly aren't a sui-

it is those who suppose that they are clever enough to be owed an opportunity to pass on their genes.

Indeed, the entire website is set out in a Q&A format, which sets the tone for VHEMT's work as being one of opposition to

more populous areas he found that "the denser we are, the more damage we do." A few "logical steps" later, and the idea that we should stop breeding led him to get a vasectomy to ensure he "wouldn't sentence anyone to life or an abortion."



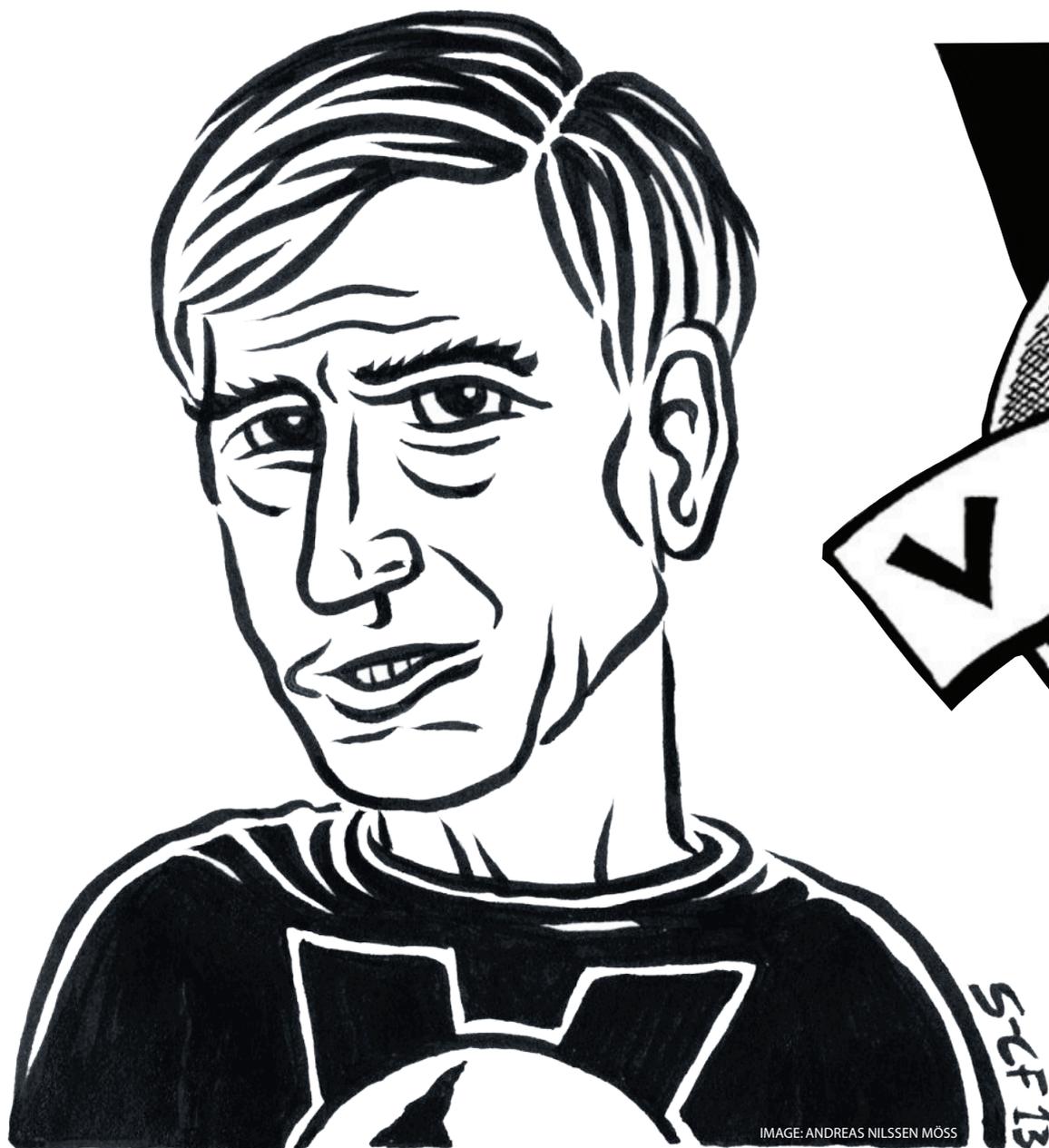


IMAGE: ANDREAS NILSSEN MÖSS



is believed to be ongoing, and considered the result of human activity. For Knight, phasing ourselves out is actually quite a measured response to this evil.

The implications of an extinction rate 100 times above usual are, of course, enormous. Although we may have been reasonably successful in separating ourselves from nature in our day to day life “as we move from one artificial enclosure to another in fragile metal boxes.”

Knight's issue is that we don't seem to realise how much we rely on the natural world. It only takes a little research into bees, for example, to be faced with terrifying figures about what would happen to us without just one of the billions of species on the planet right now.

VHEMT has faced a number of suggestions of ways the problem might be solved without the need to stop breeding. One idea is that “Mother Nature will restore a balance.” First and foremost in the answer is a quote from Richard Dawkins in *The Selfish Gene*: There is a natural way, and “it is called starvation.” As they hope to preclude coercion, VHEMT also hope to preclude or cease further human suffering as a result of overpopulation. Right now, the alternative to natural “death control” is birth control.

And anyway, even if (according to their estimations) 99.9 per cent of humanity were killed off by an epidemic, for example, there would still be 700,000 people naturally left to repopulate Earth to current levels within 50,000 years.

Despite the long-term view, Knight maintains that “the massive die-off of humanity, predicted by so many as a result of our overshoot of Earth's carrying capacity, is what the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement hopes to avoid... We do have the power to eliminate one clear and present danger to Earth's biosphere: our own excessive presence.” Our voluntary extinction could mercifully prevent a major ecological collapse, “if we act soon enough.”

One point where this scope doesn't seem to apply is with the idea that space travel could solve our problems. With multiple planets to colonise, suddenly the population pressure would fall dramatically. The response exists under the ‘Science fiction and fantasy’ heading.

They claim that in order to keep our number stable “100 spaceships holding 2,000 people each would have to blast off every day: one every 15 minutes.” This is even discounting the psychological stresses of living on a space station or another planet so far away

(“We aren't domesticated enough to keep from going bonkers in remote, desolate outposts like Antarctica”) or convincing people that they should be the ones leaving rather

Our voluntary extinction could mercifully prevent a major ecological collapse

than staying on Earth.

Humanity's track record of ‘ecological colonialism’ by moving species from one place to another isn't exactly fantastic. Why would it be any better on a planetary scale? Knight believes that believing our problems could be

solved with space travel lessens the sense of responsibility for our current planet, which is to be our home for the foreseeable future. To put it entirely bluntly, “contraception is cheaper.”

That's not to say that it would be cheap, by any means. Knight himself admits that providing universal reproductive healthcare would be “difficult and expensive”, but still cheaper than many alternatives. There's no getting away from the fact that children are expensive, both for parents and (if Knight is to be believed) society. More importantly, he claims, “reproductive freedom saves lives” by conserving resources, eliminating infant mortality and deaths in childbirth and slowing environmental collapse.

And thus we come to probably the most paradoxical side of VHEMT: that even though a lot of the motivation is ecological, a very significant proportion appears to be humanitarian. By causing fewer people to be born, by their logic the ones who are will be born into a better life.

Knight's scale is not just enormous in terms of time and geography, but in human ambition too: “Phasing ourselves out by voluntarily ceasing to breed will bring fewer deaths, potentially richer lives for all, and even that perpetually elusive goal, world peace.” M

1.13%

THE GLOBAL RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH AS OF 2015/16

1.8

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER MARRIED COUPLES IN THE UK

7.3 BILLION

THE WORLD'S POPULATION AT TIME OF WRITING

10,000

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPECIES THAT GO EXTINCT EVERY YEAR

Niall Whitehead: ANTHEM FROM A DOOMED YOUTH



As James Bond might pithily remark to some henchmen just after they get crushed by the giant penny conveniently hanging in their boss' lair, you should never be afraid of change. Which is great, because round about this time of year change will probably have shown up to hit you in the proverbial squishy parts like a round-house kick from Optimus Prime.

First-years will presumably have hit their first round of procedural work due, just in time for second-years to let them know it's only first year and they should wait until it actually gets hard. Second-years are starting their first round of procedural work that actually counts for anything, just in time for third-years to tell them about dissertations and to wait until it actually gets hard.

And for third-years, it's time to start applying for graduate schemes and, much like a Halloween partygoer glumly watching the tip of the test turn blue,

I feel like a cow, rapidly approaching the end of the conveyor belt and staring blankly at the man with the bolt gun

figuring out what you're actually going to do in nine months. And no number of coathangers can take that away (what can I say - abortion references bring out my inner child).

Travelling to the future's a lot less fun than I thought it'd be. The cars don't fly, there are no Daleks and people keep asking me what inspires me about ALDI. But it's coming for me regardless, and I've spent the last week scrolling through websites and wandering through careers fairs, speeding towards The Real World and the half-formed spectre of dole

queues in the distance with an ever-growing sense of dread.

I feel a lot like a cow, rapidly approaching the end of a conveyor belt and staring blankly at the man on the end with the bolt gun.

What am I going to do? Where am I going to do it? What does inspire me about ALDI?! I don't know. Right now I'm staring out of my window at a *Silent Hill's* worth of impenetrable, unknowable fog, because even pathetic fallacy wants to throw a grenade in my dreams.

Mapping out my next step is like being told to make the next move on a six-dimensional chessboard, only all the pieces are made out of snakes, and the board is made out of snakes, and you keep having to avoid all these snakes because to save time you've been thrown in a pit of snakes.

And to cap it all off, everyone else seems to have their plan nice and ready. Maybe it's a confidence thing. Going back to the Bond, well, I could start monologuing my masterplan while grinning maniacally and stroking a white cat (or a particularly pale goose - student budgeting).

"A vague sense of financial security! Not having to live with my parents for the next five years! The idea that I know what I'm doing! ALL THIS SHALL BE MINE!! MWAHAHAHAHA!!!"

And speaking of feelings of descending rapidly into the abyss, another thing - my lift's been broken for three weeks. After week one, maintenance came out, officially initiated it into the Yep That's A Pretty Broken Lift Right There Club, and then went on their merry way. Until then, we'll all have to use the stairs. Or just sit in a box and go "wheeee".

But my hopes were brightened slightly by probably the best conversation I had this week, with a man in a Dracula costume outside a pub telling me he was worrying about his future life choices. "How old are you?" "32". That's not only the long-awaited sequel to that Taylor Swift song, it's an age that's older than I am! It could be worse! Maybe I do have time to figure out what I'm doing! And that makes me happy.

Well, maybe not happy. God. I'm a student columnist. I've got a healthy level of misanthropy to maintain. But I'm not any closer to suicide, either. And you know what, kids, I'm calling that a win!

Callum McCulloch: 10 THINGS I'VE LEARNT THIS WEEK

1 I don't want to see a 100 second snapchat story about the shitty fireworks you saw from your garden. It seems odd though that we have a whole day dedicated to terrorists.

2 Finishing a marathon is an anti-climax. Upon crossing the line in what seemed like three days - I was close to it though - all I wanted to do was lie down, listen to 'Simply the Best' by Tina Turner, and cry. If it weren't for a large group of my friends coming out to support me, I may just have done this...

3 Nipple tape is not just for girls to wear on nights out. No amount of Vaseline could have prepared me for 26 miles of chafing. By 18 miles my nipples were lactating blood which was not a pretty sight at all.

4 The fog is thicker than most YSJ students. I don't know much about the finer intricacies of this atmospheric phenomenon, I just hope that this astute observation leads to laughter.

5 The library lies in a microclimate. When I leave my house in the morning I resemble Ernest Shackleton but by the time I reach campus I'm sweating more than David Cameron at the butchers.

6 Going to the library to work is as futile as copy and pasting "Still up?" to all 11 of my Tinder matches after a night out. Either way, nothing is getting done.

7 My timetable is a joke. I currently have five hours on a Monday and one hour on a Tuesday leaving the remaining five days of the week as untouched as the second page of Google search results. You'd think this would allow me to get plenty of work done. Think again.

8 Sonny Bill Williams has completed life. He has now won two Rugby World Cups having become only the second player ever to represent the All Blacks at Rugby Union and Rugby League. He gave away his World Cup winning medal to a little kid so he must be a nice guy. Oh and he's also an undefeated boxer. Is there anything he can't do?

9 Writing for rival student media outlets goes down like Monica Lewinski in the oval office. After writing a few articles for an online news based student site (mentioning no names), a previous *Nouse* editor contacted me asking if they could retract their charitable donation to my marathon page. I hope they were joking...

10 Chocolate oranges in NISA are £1. Now you can trick yourself into thinking you're being healthy for a much lower cost.

HARRIET CHESHIRE ON HER EXPERIENCE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN CANADA





Politweets

**Jeremy Corbyn MP**
@jeremycorbyn

Well done @Labour-LordsUK for making Tories think again on making 3 million families on ave 1.3k worse off #taxcredits

04 November 2015

**BBC News (UK)**
@BBCNews

It's "morally indefensible" for Britain to rely on other countries to tackle IS in Syria, UK defence secretary says

06 November 2015

**Fox News**
@Fox News

@Marco Rubio: "The climate has always changed. There's never been a time where the climate has not changed." #Greta

4 November 2015

**Kenny Farquharson**
@KennyFarq

Something amiss about the #MillionMaskMarch. If you want to challenge the system, look it in the eye. Do so as yourself.

5 November 2015

**David Cameron**
@David_Cameron

I'm immensely frustrated at the time being taken to complete the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq War. I've offered extra resources to help.

29 October 2015

Confusion follows Egypt crash

Geoff Glover
POLITICS REPORTER

ON 31 OCTOBER, flight KGL9268 crashed and killed all 224 people on board. Among the fatalities were seventeen children. Many of the dead were Russian holiday-makers, returning to St. Petersburg from Sharm el-Sheikh, a popular tourist destination.

The wreckage of KGL9268, operated by Kogalymavia - known as Metrojet - was found over the Sinai Peninsula, bordering Israel in the eastern part of Egypt. Debris was found strewn over three kilometres of desert, suggesting that the plane didn't impact the ground intact.

It has been confirmed that the plane suffered a failure in mid-air. This is further confirmed by the fact that no distress signal was sent out, established by Mohamed Rahmi, a spokesperson for the Egyptian authorities to Reuters.

An unnamed source told Interfax, a Russian news agency, that "sounds uncharacteristic of routine flight were recorded preceding the moment that the aircraft disappeared". So far, both flight recorders containing data from the flight have been recovered and are being examined to shed light on the situation.

Metrojet's deputy general director has stated that the plane slowed by 186mph and dropped 5000ft after reaching cruising alti-



IMAGE: DAVID KATZ

tude of 32,000ft.

Theories as to why the plane crashed include terrorism and mechanical failure. The latter was refuted by the Irish Aviation Authority, which said that "all certifications were satisfactory" for relevant aircraft in April and May.

Metrojet has claimed that there were no grounds to blame human failure for the crash. Both parties are cooperating on the investigation along with Egyptian authorities. An Islamic State affiliate group

claimed responsibility for the tragedy on Saturday, although Egyptian authorities have dismissed this as propaganda.

What is known is that the crash was unlikely to be due to external impact. Jets fly at over 30,000 feet and the maximum range for weapons possessed by insurgents is thought to be around 10,000 feet.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond has asserted that an on-board bomb is highly likely and travel over the region by air has been restricted

as of Wednesday.

Egypt has struggled with insurgents since the Egyptian Revolution in 2011 that ousted President Hosni Mubarak. The Sinai Peninsula is not well integrated into the wider country, with a largely poor and unemployed populace - a perfect breeding ground for discontent.

Insurgents are given a virtually free hand, and the Egyptian military has taken heavy casualties in the region. This uncontrolled region may make full investigation impossible.

Tax credits: Osborne staggers on



IMAGE: HM TREASURY

**Finn Judge**
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

CHANCELLOR GEORGE Osborne has attempted to pitch his unpopular £4.5bn cuts to tax credits as a "new contract" of higher pay

and reformed welfare. The move is part of a Conservative One Nation crusade on the centre ground, which they see as abandoned by Labour under Jeremy Corbyn.

However, with over three million families set to be £1,000 worse off annually by Christmas, the government's plans have been delayed by the House of Lords and attacked by both sides of the Commons. This has raised doubts as to whether this newly founded "workers' party" (as penned in Osborne's Tory conference speech) is living up to its own re-branding.

The government's proposed reforms are described by David Cameron as "part of a package" that includes tax cuts and the implementation of a National Living Wage. The aim is to reduce the welfare bill by forcing employers to make up for the shortfall in workers' incomes.

The changes have come under fire from both ends of the political spectrum. Labour presented a united opposition in the Commons, with all sides of the party condemning the plan. In a headline-grabbing move, Conservative MP Heidi Allen slammed the pace of these welfare reforms for being "too hard, too fast" in her maiden speech. Even Boris Johnson - perhaps to undermine

Osborne's credibility as a Tory leadership contender - reiterated his opposition to these cuts throughout the party's conference in September.

The full implementation of the cuts during the early stages of parliament were both ideologically and politically motivated. With his rigid adherence to spending targets set during the 2015 campaign, Osborne seems to be aiming to use his current power, rather than lose it. His angry reaction to the Lords' partial opposition to the measure made it clear that this was also a personal pursuit.

Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell's offer of bipartisan support in the event of a government U-turn seemed all the more doomed. It was made clear that the Tories would attempt to balance the books, no matter the short-term political costs. However, McDonnell's move has provided a useful stick to beat the Conservatives come election time.

In contrast, Labour and Liberal Democrat peers were able to vote in the Lords to delay these cuts for another three years by 289 votes to 272. This will bring the changes further in line with a scheduled progression of the minimum wage towards £9 an hour by 2020.

Having often been denounced

as undemocratic and illegitimate by the British left, the second chamber now finds itself acting as an alternative opposition to a centre-right agenda. It is perhaps through this medium that the opposition majority can cut a second set of teeth.

This must be achieved despite a Conservative review of the Lords, sparked by what has been dubbed a "constitutional crisis". The House of Lords' opposition to a financial proposal is accused of breaking a long-standing convention.

Attacking this accusation, Speaker John Bercow denied that anything "procedurally improper" has occurred. It has been noted that the government's proposal of the changes as a "statutory instrument" was what opened it up to potential rejection in the first place. It seems that Osborne's authority and the One Nation narrative are surrounded on all sides. The Conservatives were forced to suggest extreme responses to the law being potentially thrown out, such as flooding the Lords with Tory peers.

After such a row, the chancellor will have to choose his battles carefully to avoid becoming even more divisive a figure. He must tread carefully if he still hopes to succeed David Cameron as Prime Minister.

Corbyn's Labour: the story so far

Mel Kennedy
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

Since the election of Jeremy Corbyn in September of this year, it has become increasingly difficult to unite Labour. Corbyn seems to be providing a refreshing new stance for the party. The surge of new members following his election has ignited hopes for the party's revival and reunification, after its General Election defeat. However, the party is currently riddled with faction and disunity.

Already, Corbyn has shown himself to be a leader of loyalty and persistence, despite the cracks within his party. There have however been many complaints about his personal beliefs, especially in relation to his Republicanism, seen in September when he was captured not singing the national anthem at the Battle of Britain memorial service.

Ultimately, what we see is a man dedicated to standing his ground. He provides an invigorating outlook on Labour as a man who does not falter from his beliefs, and is undoubtedly refreshing as a politician.

His pledge for freer education and the abolishment of tuition fees for university students, gained him a whirlwind of support from young people across the country. Marches in London this week have only underlined the movement that he is tapping.

This is a brave decision and



IMAGE: FINANCIAL TIMES

clearly displays Corbyn's willingness to make decisions within the party, showing a clear cut direction and agenda that it was feared he would lack.

This week, his persistence was displayed in PMQs as, for the seventh time, he asked Prime Minister, David Cameron, about the imminent tax cuts and effects on the poor. Corbyn clearly knows what he wants, what he is intending to do, and evidently will not back down.

A pointed illustration of this was his comment this week that Cameron was still not answering his

questions, "after giving him a week to think about it".

However, there is no denying that Corbyn's desired direction for Labour is divisive. While many agree with his policies, centrist Labour politicians are fearful of his radical approach and this is reflected in the party's increasing division.

This is a division which was prophesied just months earlier in the leadership race of the Labour party and was a predominant concern of its members.

This is now something which is apparent, not just within the party

itself, but across the whole country. In spite of Corbyn's best efforts for clarity and democracy, his policies appear ultimately too bold for a consensus.

Tristram Hunt, former Shadow Secretary of State for Education, is one of many who are increasingly keen to vocalise his opinions of Corbyn's Labour.

He, and numerous other centrist MPs (Mike Gapes, Liz Kendall and Chuka Umunna come to mind) have been regularly attacked as 'Red Tories', and are showing increasing defiance.

On Monday, Hunt gave a speech to Cambridge University's Labour Party and was quoted as saying in Varsity, Cambridge University's Newspaper, that the Labour Party is 'in the shit'.

He added that it risked turning into a 'sect' if it did not broaden its appeal. Though not directed specifically at Corbyn, such remarks are obviously aimed at the leftmost wing of the party.

Worse, Corbyn's decision to appoint Seumas Milne as Labour's Executive Director of Strategy and Communications has caused an uproar. Milne's long background of anti-Western statements and opinions has made ample fodder for controversy.

Milne's support for deselecting centrist Labour MPs has led to speculation that the Labour party will tear itself apart in a quest for ideological purity. A renewed party is one thing, but unity seems far away.

LEFT WING RIGHT WING



Left Wing Right Wing is back with a new Supreme Dictator for life! The transition was a peaceful one, and all refuseniks have been dealt with in the best traditions of Bashar Al-Assad. As I write, only slightly bloodied by the vicious struggle for leadership, I look forward to a year of inflicting my appalling opinions on you all.

The life of a politics obsessive is a bleak one, set to the music of BBC News alerts. The universe did, however, decide to give back last week, in the form of the House of Lords debate on pornography. I'm not sure I'll ever recover from hearing the Bishop of Chester say the words "ugly, squalid, dirty sex".

For anyone who wondered whether or not parliament was out of touch with the needs of the many, Lord Farmer came to the rescue. His stern questions on injuries suffered by the Home Counties lasses for whom anal sex became a terrifying nightmare are an inspiration to us all.

Away from an increasingly sweaty, uncomfortable Westminster Bubble, thousands of people celebrated Guy Fawkes Night by colossally missing the point.

Everyone put on Guy Fawkes masks for the protests (retailing on Ebay for £2-£90). As we all know, the capitalist running-dogs system is always easier smashed when wearing a product licensed to Warner Brothers.

I find myself wondering how the factory workers felt. Do you think they looked forward with pride to the day that their creations could be worn by a 22-year old man named Jeff with aspirations to work in media?

In international take-backsies news, Iran is now asserting that all those "Death to America chants" are totally not personal. Maybe America will drop off baskets of flowers at every hospital it bombs, just to make it clear that "it's not you, it's me".

Rocketing back home, our favourite, potential lizard-person George Osborne is looking a bit shaky. His characteristic look of sated smugness, as if he's eaten an entire proletariat, has been lacking of late. Maybe he should take a tip from David Cameron and Milibae (RIP), and spend some time chillaxing abroad.



Join the debate on Twitter
with the hashtag LWRW.

China ends one-child policy

Ben Reid
POLITICAL REPORTER

CHINA'S COMMUNIST Party has announced the end to its infamous one-child policy. At the end of October, China's leaders declared that the 35-year policy has finally been extended from the public being able to have one child, to two. This received an unsurprisingly joyous response to an inherently unpopular idea. This population limiting legislation, however, is only under transformation due to a demographic crisis. China now has many pensioners, but lacks labour. They need an influx of workers in order to boost economic growth and stave off an accelerated collapse.

As China was fast approaching a population of one billion, the one-child policy enacted on the 25th September 1980 was initiated to curb over-population. The believed starting point of this 'one-child policy' in China was a public letter. The letter, published by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, called on the Communist Party membership to lead the way in limiting population growth to one child per couple. Initially, the only measures in place to enforce this policy were financial incentive and employment opportunities for those who complied.

Contraceptives were made widely available and those who had another child were fined. Soon however, the government executed a more brutal level of implementation.

Forced abortion became the norm for citizens who no longer adhered to the policy. Women were forced to receive injections into their abdomen and then give birth to a stillborn child. Worse, regional authorities seemed to be a law unto themselves in this matter, forcing abortions even in regions that didn't exercise the policy. For repeat offenders, the punishment was sterilisation.

However, this isn't the first time the policy has been changed. Such alterations include the exclusion of ethnic minorities from adhering to the rules. Furthermore, in 1984, in rural areas of China, if a couple's first child was a girl they were allowed to have a second. And even more recently, in 2013, China allowed couples to have a second child if one of the couple was an only child themselves. While flexibility had clearly been signalled, a change of this scale had not.

Additionally, there are anticipated, massive social implications entailed with this legislation change. Often named 'little emperors' - the one-child policy generation have grown up in a country



IMAGE: JOAN VILA

with a very high male to female ratio. Couples would abort girls because of the male-dominated society in China. This has made marriage a complicated and highly costly problem. Betrothing oneself to another is more a matter of investment in China because of the lack of brides. Psychologically, the pressure on the only children in China is heavy too. Brought up in a home where they are the only continuation of their family line, only children have high expectations of success placed upon them.

Although the policy is con-

troversial, the issue of population growth cannot be ignored. Although China undeniably committed a multitude of atrocities to reach their ideal, without any effort to curb population growth China would have swathes of people that they could not clothe, feed or house. The government wants a baby boom to support its unbalanced, aging population. The fear is that because of the socially accepted norm of having one child, this will simply not materialise. China's demographic time bomb isn't likely to be defused any time soon.

Business



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YUSU job accreditation scheme revealed

Elliott Banks

BUSINESS EDITOR

YUSU WELFARE representative Scott Dawson is planning to implement a new student employment accreditation scheme for campus jobs designed to create a 'gold standard' for student employment. The policy would involve potential employers having to pass several criteria before YUSU would recommend them as a good employer for the student body.

We want to make sure students are provided and guaranteed both good quality and high standards of work

As of yet the policy is still under development but example criteria provided to *Nouse* by Scott Dawson include a guarantee to pay the student living wage, feedback during the recruitment process and a personal training development plan. The scheme would be highly ad-

vantageous for students, as YUSU would effectively be endorsing employers meaning potential job-seekers would have confidence in the quality of the employment.

The plan would be to implement this system for YUSU jobs first and then expand across the University. The ultimate aim would be to apply the scheme to the wider city of York with local employers in town getting involved. As an incentive for employers taking part in this system, YUSU would free advertising on YUSU's website, with the aim of policy being the creation of a 'professional, certified student job-shop' meaning employers would have access to advertise positions to students directly.

Scott Dawson believes this scheme would greatly assist students as available employment opportunities would be located on one website that students can trust to provide quality employment. Furthermore, it would reduce the time taken for job searches making it easier for those looking for employment.

Scott Dawson, discussing his policy, said that "We want to make sure that students are provided and guaranteed both good quality and high standards of work which will benefit them both financially and personally."

However, it is unclear at the moment how many employers would be willing to get involved in this scheme.

As the proposals currently stand, the scheme would involve companies having to undergo changes in their recruitment processes, which would take time. As such, some companies might decide that the scheme is not worth the

extra time needed to comply with YUSU's criteria. The policy will be discussed for YUSU jobs next term, so a clearer picture of the policy's reception is likely to emerge in the New Year.

Scott Dawson does appear to be on trend with students on the subject of employment. With student loans often failing to cover the costs associated with university, part time

employment has become a necessity for many. Statistics compiled by Endsleigh last year showed that 59 per cent of students are working part time to fund their living expenses, with one in seven in full time employment.

Despite the policy being in its infancy, it would be a useful tool for students wanting to gain employment both on campus and in the



The great Garden Bridge debate

Finn Judge

Nathalie Taylor

The Political Implications

The Garden Bridge, an idea conceived by actress Joanna Lumley in 1998, won the support of London Mayor Boris Johnson and Chan-

cellor George Osborne two years ago. To great political fanfare, both pledged separate £30 million cash injections to the project. Transport for London (TfL) offered support and Johnson signed Londoners up for an annual £3.5m for its maintenance.

However, the rapidly escalat-

ing public cost meant that political opposition against the 366m-long proposition began to rally. Sadiq Khan, Labour's candidate for Mayor of London, previously declared he'd scrap the project if elected, claiming it "no longer represents value for money". This came in spite of a ComRes poll indicating that 78 per

cent of Londoners would support the construction.

The bridge's trust describes the Garden Bridge as "a breathtaking new public garden". Many supporters would argue that the Garden Bridge would provide a solution for London's apparent lack of green space. Indeed, this issue was touched upon in former Labour mayoral candidate Dame Tessa Jowell's campaign.

Talks between Khan, Lambeth Council and the Garden Bridge Trust resumed after a deal was struck on for contributions from Transport for London. TfL's contributions have been converted into a loan amid the council's concerns of insufficient private investment.

This brings public funding for the project down to £60m, with the £30 million loan from TfL, which has gone some way towards winning over its more fiscally prudent critics.

The Business Case

The proposed 'Garden Bridge' that is set to span the Thames has courted controversy since the plans were introduced last year. Those in favour of the Bridge have promised economic benefits from tourism. Others say that a tree-lined garden over the Thames will be great for or-

inary Londoners to enjoy.

However, the proposed dream, has turned into a bitter dispute over funding. The total cost of this architectural marvel is £125 million. Donations are providing £85 million, but £60 million will come from Transport for London (TfL) in form of a 50 year loan and Treasury grant. The private sector is set to contribute a mere £40 million.

While initially assumed to be a privately funded initiative, the taxpayer will now have to support a significant proportion of the scheme. This has raised issues of value for money, especially as nine bridges already span the area of the Thames between Westminster and London Bridge.

Although TfL will recover its £30 million investment eventually, groups such as the Taxpayers Alliance argue that as £30 million comes from a Treasury grant, the scheme relies too heavily on state funding. Indeed, as the Bridge will not be free to access, some question whether public money should be used at all.

Ultimately, what do we really want - beauty or value for money. With the government committed to austerity, the lack of necessity for this project makes it a dubious financial endeavour.

IMAGE: THOMAS HEATHERWICK



The proposed Garden Bridge is designed to strategically link Covent Garden to Waterloo and Lambeth

By-Elections

Join the 2015/16 team.

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The state of British banking

Katy Sandalls

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S BANKS have had a tough time of late, often finding themselves in the unenviable position of repaying consumers for mistakes they themselves have made or finding themselves in national or international scandals. With this in mind, we in the business section thought it would be a good time to see how Britain's four largest clearing banks are faring seven years after the financial crisis of 2008.

Lloyds are in a reasonably stable position as the government plans to sell off its shares next year to private investors with discounts being offered to members of the public. Profits were up in the third quarter of this year but the bank has suffered hugely from the mis-selling of Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) which it has spent a massive £13.9 billion pounds repaying. Lloyds has also set aside £535 million pounds this year to deal with various other compensation complaints including poor handling of PPI mis-selling complaints. However, with its return to the private sector gathering pace, Lloyds is on the road to redemption.

Pre-tax profits at HSBC are up by 32 per cent from last year although revenues are still down thanks in part to the slow-down in Asia. HSBC has benefited from not having to pay out the amounts that its competitors have had to for mis-selling various products. Indeed, the bank appears to have avoided any of the truly embarrassing international scandals that its competitors have endured. However, the future remains uncertain for the bank as

IMAGE: RONNIE MACDONALD



London's Banking Sector is on the rise again with the City becoming the world's premier financial centre

to whether its HQ will stay in the UK; previously HSBC had stated that were the UK to leave the EU then the bank would swiftly follow. A move back to Hong Kong or potentially the US appears to be the next step for the bank which could announce its relocation at the end of the year.

73 per cent of the Royal Bank of Scotland is still owned by the tax payer and it continues to fair badly. Last week the bank made \$1.1 billion when it sold its US Citizens Bank but this is little consolation as revenues continue to fall. The bank has also had to set aside \$129 million to resolve its legal battles and was only last week accused of issues

with its compensation practices by *The Times*, an accusation it denies. RBS also has yet to settle its Euribor (European Interbank Offered Rate) case so the compensation and legal fees can only be expected to rise for what is perhaps Britain's most troubled bank. Seven years on, the crisis at RBS is still ongoing.

Barclays are going through a period of reassessment and have recently dropped a number of events from their sponsorship portfolio including the Premier League and "Boris Bikes". Recent reports prove that this may be a necessary manoeuvre as profits dropped 10 per cent during the last quarter.

The bank has mainly suffered

from having to settle a number of legal disputes with payouts relating to mortgage bonds in the US and only this week Barclays has managed to settle their Euribor case for \$94 million. Although things could be about to change as Barclays has announced a new chief executive in American Jes Staley who joins the company in December.

So seven years after the financial crisis, British banking is recovering steadily. Although the banks themselves indicate a mixed picture, the banking sector in London is growing well. London was awarded the most important financial centre in the world highlighting the dominance of the British banking sector.

Business Bulletin

Domestic

The Bank of England announced last Thursday that the Interest Base Rate will not change before 2017, with the Monetary Policy Committee voting overwhelmingly to maintain interest rates at the historic low of 0.5 per cent. The bank base rate has been at 0.5 per cent since 2009, and the Bank's decision is due to the fragility of the global financial system.

Marks and Spencer, the giant of the British high street and the middle classes' favourite place to purchase socks, has announced a decline in general merchandise sales as its clothing revival has stalled. While overall profits have risen by 6.1 per cent to £284m, general merchandise has declined by 1.2 per cent over the previous six months. However, the retailer is fighting back with critics raving about the new clothing this season.

Talk-talk have announced that over 150,000 customers have been affected by the recent hack of its servers. The company has said that more than 15,600 bank account details have been stolen, with 28,000 credit card numbers accessed. Commentators have advised that customers remain vigilant about suspicious activity in their accounts.

IMAGE: ELLIOTT BANKS



International

Embattled German car manufacture Volkswagen has seen its UK sales figures decline by 9.8 per cent in September. This drop is due to the ongoing emissions rigging scandal, with Volkswagen admitting that approximately 11 million cars worldwide were affected by the issue. Several national regulators are looking at the issue with substantial fines likely to be imposed on VW.

Predictions for European economic growth have shown that a 'modest recovery' is likely. The European Union figures suggest that the 28 nations of the EU will grow by 1.9 per cent this year, with the 19 member Eurozone, which the UK is not a part of, growing by 1.6 per cent. For Eurozone leaders this is good news, given that the Eurozone entered recession last year. However, the figures are very small compared to the predicted growth of the UK economy at 2.7 per cent.

Saudi Arabia's oil gamble

Luke Rix-Standing

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS HIGHLY likely that somewhere within the impenetrable mass of nepotism that is the Saudi Arabian government, someone is on the verge of losing their job.

For years Saudi Arabia has been

the world's most powerful exporter of oil - moving 8,865,000 barrels per day in 2014 - and effectively controlling OPEC, the oil-producing trade bloc set up in the 60s to counter Western market dominance. Therefore, it may come as a surprise that the Saudis are consciously responsible for causing the

recent slump in oil prices that has seen a drop from \$107 per barrel to a mere \$44. When an American shale oil boom saw the market flood with American shale in early 2014, the poorer OPEC countries petitioned to cut OPEC production in order to stabilise the market. Their pleas were universally rejected by the Saudi government.

Instead oil minister Ali al-Naimi opted to drive up Saudi production so that OPEC actually began exceeding their annual targets. The idea was to severely devalue the oil market in order to bankrupt American shale producers, maintaining OPEC dominance, while relying on their notorious wealth to ride the fiscal storm. Aware of the House of Saud's fabulous riches, most financial observers nodded along.

But the mood has changed. The Saudis are now paying for their hubris in hard cash. Their folly has had drastic implications for the Saudi economy at a time when the desert nation's finances are already overstretched. In order to secure his place on the throne, King Salman meted out huge bonuses to public

officials when he took the crown earlier this year, on top of a vast recent increase in military spending.

Currently engaged in expensive bombing campaigns against IS and Yemen, the Saudi defense budget has expanded 17 per cent in the last couple of years, bringing it up to a massive 10 per cent of GDP. Collectively this leaves Saudi with a hefty list of receipts which are costing the country an astonishing \$82bn per year. That's nearly twice the GDP of Serbia; quite a hit for a country that is used to running surpluses. The royal family are even reported to be considering foreign loans.

King Salman will not be hitting the panic button quite yet - Saudi Arabia still has foreign currency reserves of \$660 billion - but he will be unwilling to deplete the massive financial supplies that he was left by his predecessor over what is effectively misplaced pride. America has been hit as well with its shale producers decrying OPEC but out of these two oil-producing 'allies', the House of Saud is looking far more likely to blink first, and heads will probably roll when they do.

IMAGE: YASSER ABUSEN



Saudi Arabia is the world's most powerful exporter of oil

Science



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www.nouse.co.uk/science

To eat or not to eat: Processed meat



IMAGE: DAVID BLACKWELL

Steak and bacon may make an enjoyable meal, but how detrimental is the luxury to your health?

Emily Collins
SCIENCE REPORTER

IF YOU missed last week's media uproar following the World Health Organisation's announcement that processed meat is "carcinogenic to humans", then lucky you. Not only will you have missed the unanimous vegetarian chorus of 'I told you so' on Twitter, but you will also have enjoyed that breakfast bacon in peace without the nagging feeling that it could well kill you. Alas, the British love-affair with meat is over, or so some people would like you to believe. Before you throw out that freezer bag of sausages, let's clarify exactly what the WHO's warning entails.

Firstly, the recent misconception is that eating red meat is as big a cancer risk as smoking. The Global Burden of Disease Project estimated that 34,000 cancer deaths worldwide are attributable to diets high in processed meat, whereas around 1 million are attributable to smoking.

Clearly, then, while processed meat has been placed in Group 1, 'carcinogenic to humans', alongside tobacco and asbestos, this doesn't mean that it yields an equal risk of causing cancer.

Instead, it indicates the strength of evidence supporting

processed meat as a cause of cancer. Another warning is in regards to the difference between non-processed and processed meat. Processed meats include pork, beef, poultry and offal which have been transformed to improve preservation. Whereas there is sufficient evidence that processed meats are carcinogenic, evidence for the carcinogenicity of red meat is limited.

This should however by no means be taken as an excuse to eat steak over sausages though, as health organisations have warned against eating too much red meat due to its high fat and salt content compared to other protein sources.

So how does WHO suppose we should respond to this news? Given that experts conclude each 50g serving of processed meat eaten daily increases the risk of bowel cancer by 18 per cent, eliminating processed and red meat from the diet may initially seem sensible.

It is, however, important to remember that red meat is a good source of iron, Vitamin B and Vitamin D, and that deficiencies in these can be severe.

So, until a recommendation has been issued, the general consensus is that meat intake should be limited and consumed in moderation, which has been the agreed advice for many years.



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Lithium-, Sodium-, Magnesium-, Aluminium-ion batteries. Now Calcium-based rechargeable battery is reported

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New analysis projects US electricity emissions fell in 2015 to lowest level since 1995

4 Nov 2015

SA Scientific American
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Only a few genetic changes were enough to turn an ordinary stomach bug into the bacteria responsible for the plague bit.ly/1NQvqRG

5 Nov 2015

International Space Station turns 15

Filip Preoteasa
SCIENCE REPORTER

ON EARTH, some might hear champagne bottles being popped open, but up there in space, they're probably squeezing it slowly from a bag (if they have any champagne at all). For on November 2nd, the International Space Station (ISS) turned 15 years old. Furthermore, its life cycle has recently been extended to 2024 and could go an extra four years after that. It is safely the longest-lasting continuous human presence in space. The runner-up is formerly active Russian Mir-station, which orbited the Earth for a little less than 10 years. So, why should you be excited? Surely by now it's getting quite old and unimportant: don't we have more exciting projects to focus on?

Well, if you're keen to see humans make it onto other planets you should definitely be excited. The ISS is the main laboratory for international experimentation on micro-gravity and the space environment, as well as testing for the consequences of prolonged human exposure to life in space.

For anybody who recently watched *The Martian*, the oxygenator and water reclaimer that keep

Matt Damon alive are actually being used. They were developed and tested over a long period of time on the ISS. The station is the crucial stepping stone in humanity's journey towards other planets. Medical ramifications of space life are hugely important, since living in zero-gravity conditions causes you to lose bone and muscle mass, as well as distort your body's blood pressure. These are topics that must be better understood if we are to send humans all the way to Mars.

If that isn't enough of a justification for the £2.3bn spent on the station every year, consider its two other lasting contributions. First, it is a social laboratory of sorts. NASA administrator Charles Bolden emphasised the lessons for the future learned from the ISS, where "tens of thousands of people across fifteen countries collaborate to advance shared goals". This is an optimistic message to anyone concerned with the possibility of greater peace and collaboration among humankind.

Secondly, perhaps more relevant to us now, it has provided us with a fantastically informative and entertaining YouTube channel ("An Astronaut's Guide to Life in Space" - Chris Hadfield). With a quick browse you can see how difficult, yet fun it is to

clip your nails, cry or make yourself a cuppa in space.

The ISS is crucially important to science and thus to all human beings, and you can see it too. Its orbit is very frequent and quite low, so you could get a decent view of it with a good pair of binoculars. NASA's website can show you, based on your region, when and where to expect it. So, strap those goggles on, raise a glass and say "Happy Birthday, ISS!"



IMAGE: JOHN W. SCHULZE

Experiments on the International Space Station have given us an invaluable insight into long term effects of anti-gravity

Can all of us keep to the golden temperature target?

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE EDITOR

AS WE SET our sights on the golden climate temperature target thought to prevent the most dangerous effects of global warming, Christiana Figueres, the United Nations Climate Chief, has spoken out. This is in light of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference set to take place in Paris next month.

She cautions that emissions pledges so far will not keep to this golden temperature.

Speaking about the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), she praises the number of participants now engaged in fighting climate change, but also states that "although we're moving in the right direction, it is clearly not enough".

If fully implemented, the countries' voluntary promises would reduce global per-capita carbon emissions but set global average temperature to warm by 2.7°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. At first glance 0.7°C above the golden target may seem small, however our ecosystems are extremely delicate and are affected by even the most modest temperature change. Many feedback loops are yet to be discovered that may exasperate our climate problems.

The European Union is in favour of mandatory targets which would make pledges like those outlined in the INDC legally binding. Figures highlight the need for any agreement to include clauses that ensure periodic reviews and consideration of further steps. In other words, these pledges act as a start-



Calling for climate action around the world - the size and frequency of climate protests are increasing.

ing platform for more action.

There is a consensus among climate scientists, environmental groups and increasing numbers of politicians that no single country can afford to drop back and claim they have done enough. Sebastian Obethur, a climate policy researcher from Brussels, theorises that if one big player such as the United States or European Union were to set more ambitious domestic targets, and channel aid and know-how to poorer countries, then global climate action would gain momentum. One-quarter of INDC

pledges are conditional on financial and technical support from other nations and donor countries have promised to provide around £65bn per year by 2020.

Germany has been a trailblazer, launching their ambitious renewable-energy plan, Energiewende, in 2013. They have invested billions in novel technologies to replace fossil fuels, claiming to have found an ideal way to cope with the intermittent nature of renewable solar and wind power. When energy production is high, excess electricity is used to make methane, which can

be stored then burned to generate power on dark winter days. Germany has also committed to providing 10 per cent of the donor country fund. Figures reiterate a sentiment echoed in other areas such as the stance on human rights that "Industrialised countries will never be excused of not taking action at home. But they must also help developing countries."

Across the world, it seems the public is become more aware and accepting of the reality that is climate change. Perhaps, then, this anticipates a target kept.

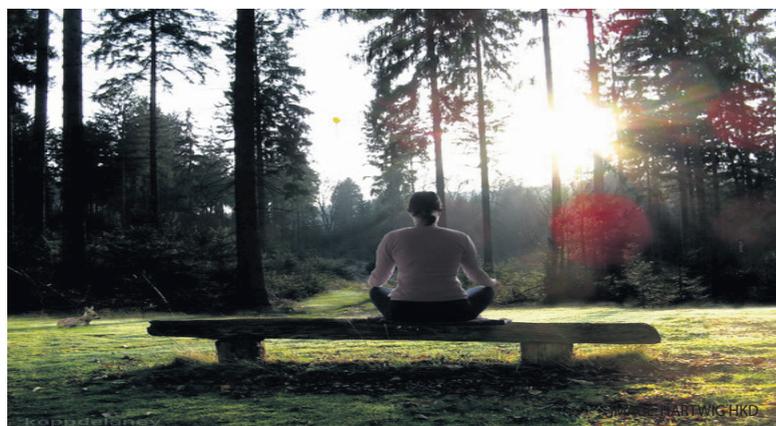
Measurable benefits of meditation

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE EDITOR

FOR CENTURIES meditation has been a staple practice in many religions as well as a popular topic of debate among philosophers and scientists. With awareness surrounding mental health improving in our fast paced and consumer driven 21st century society, the benefits of this practice have become increasingly evident.

Using functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) and cognitive tests, empirical evidence has emerged supporting the theory that meditation can alter aspects of your psychology, temperament and physical health in dramatic ways.

For example, take the obscure phenomenon 'attentional blink'. Occuring when one misses a stimulus such as a number flashing on screen when rapidly followed by



another, we might understand it as a form of absent mindedness. This cognitive blip has been shown to significantly decrease after practicing meditation for a sustained period of time.

Meditation has also long been believed to enhance emotional well-being. Consistent with the

hypothesis that emotional stability involves withholding impulsive reactions to emotionally intensive stimuli, fMRI has shown that in meditators the amygdala, the brain's centre for emotional processing and memories, was far less active than in non-meditators.

In addition, fMRI shows that

brain circuits linked to empathy and sharing of emotions are much more active in long-term meditators.

Although perhaps a far-fetched interpretation of the results, the fountain of youthfulness often associated with meditation could be explained by increased telomerase activity, the enzyme protecting against cellular aging.

So could meditation become a substitute for medication? It can be practiced anywhere and results show that even novices that have only meditated for 20 minutes on 3 consecutive days show improvements.

However, Clifford Saron, an expert at the Centre for Mind and Brain at the University of California, disagrees.

He warns that teaching meditation as a 'quick fix' will strip away its subtleties that are integral for successful practice.

Technology Snippets

Trouble at TalkTalk

Three people have been arrested in connection with the TalkTalk cyber hack where up to 1.2 million email addresses, names, phone numbers and bank details were accessed. A 15, 16 and 20-year old have been arrested on suspicion of Computer Misuse Act offences. A property in Liverpool has also been searched in connection with the significant and sustained attack on the TalkTalk website on 21 October.



IMAGE: JOHN WATSON

Drone Delivery

The delivery method that belongs in sci-fi movies of the 90s may soon be landing on our doorsteps. Called Project Wing, the Google initiative aims to deliver their goods to consumers using robot aircraft sometime in 2017. Details are scarce; it is unknown what type of drones will be used and the limits on packages that will be delivered. Other well-known online retailers such as Amazon are experimenting with drone delivery claiming goods up to 2.3kg could be ferried by robot. The distribution method has been met with some controversy, that is primarily cluttering of air space, civilian privacy and safety.

Cyber Snooping

Home Secretary Theresa May has taken to the BBC to defend a bill which will allow authorities to access private web histories. Without a warrant ordered by a judge, police would be able to view basic domain addresses but not a full browsing history of pages within a site that an individual has visited.

May claimed that more 'contentious' powers of a previously proposed bill have been removed in the hope that it will be passed through Parliament. She added that more than 1,400 warrants authorising more intrusive measures land on her desk every year. Should the bill be passed this responsibility would be passed instead to independent judges.



IMAGE: UK HOME OFFICE

Sport

>> Page 26

Get up to date on all the latest BUCS and College Sport Fixtures



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World in Union

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

NEW ZEALAND undoubtedly stole the show at this year's World Cup, returning the Haka to our hearts, Ma'a Nonu to the try lines and Daniel Carter to his tee.

Advancing from their win in 2011, they played with unquestionable ability, speed and style which were second to none.

Australia too, as part of the Southern Hemisphere takeover, played with great tenacity. Although they did not win, they played to a far superior standard than the likes of the Six Nations sides.

Shockingly, England went out in the group stages, their earliest exit ever, becoming the first host nation to do so in a World Cup.

However, with Sam Burgess' recent decision to leave Bath and rugby union to return to rugby league, there is a very obvious difference in the level of commit-

“

There was not much luck for the Irish in the quarters. They played poorly.

ment and courtesy shown by players from varying teams.

Former national coach Sir Woodward made his opinion of the RFU very clear: "We are the laughing stock, not only of world rugby, but also sport and business."

There was not much luck for the Irish in the quarter finals and they played poorly even with the loss of Sexton and O'Connell.

As Six Nations champions in 2015 they were expected to win but the Pumas made the most of the chances they were given and kept the intensity up right till the end.

Therefore Argentina's success can only be upheld as a deserved win. The same can be said for Japan who stormed against the odds in their win against South Africa. Even if the losing margin was only minimal it still prompted a public apology from the South African coach Heyneke Meyer which although not needed was entertaining. Dare I say it, it is only a game.

Such unexpected triumphs and defeats have hit the World Cup at the perfect time, opening up the game to many more contenders around the world and challenges the Six Nations status quo.

FROM THE SIDELINE

NOUSE SPORT COMMENT



Rob Middleton
SPORTS EDITOR

The recent Test series against Pakistan taught me a multitude of things. Firstly, Alistair Cook's concentration is as marvellous as his technique, I have unholy feelings towards Joe Root while he is batting, and no one builds better roads than the UAE (see the first Test innings).

The most poignant lesson, however, came after the first innings of the first Test. Poor Adil Rashid, who has waited for a Test debut almost as long as Cook has waited for a competent opening partner, made his bow in the highest form of the game. His reward for such a moment? Almost universal criticism.

Granted, in the first innings, Rashid opened with the worst Test figures on a debut innings by anyone with 0-163. However, as a collective, England fans reacted, almost predictably, by calling for his head.

I imagine the same people who had belittled England's selectors for not picking the Yorkshire spinner were the same ones calling for an unprecedented, mid-match dropping. England is better than everywhere else at creating pressure at the top of its sports. The media scrutiny and the vast array of internet experts found on social media makes the spotlight more intense, more unbearable than ever.

Rashid's debut with the ball

was the perfect embodiment of the dichotomy this creates and the reactions that most England fans have. Players either flourish or fail under this pressure, and are lauded or slated accordingly.

You can, therefore, imagine my joy when Rashid took five wickets in the second innings as England gave themselves a chance at a victory that looked impossible before Rashid's intervention. Many a keyboard critic crawled back into their corner of the internet, waiting for the next debutant to drop a catch, misfield or lose their wicket. This has to be one

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Rashid's debut with the ball was the perfect embodiment of this dichotomy

of the unhealthiest cultures found in global sports, close behind doping in athletics and FIFA in general – but those topics require different articles for different times.

Let us take a more global example of this dichotomy, in the form of Manchester United and England captain, Wayne Rooney.

Undeniably, Rooney is one of

the most gifted players of his generation. Equally as unavoidable are perpetual attempts by either himself or his management to waste or misuse his talents – a coattail on which the English public has been pulling on since 2008.

Depending on what week it is or in which direction the wind is blowing, Rooney could be the greatest English player of his generation or the biggest waste of talent in living memory. It's hardly surprising that Rooney has hit out at fans in the past. Frankly, I'm amazed he doesn't do so more regularly.

Once more, the media and the public are to blame for such an image. It does not do to be average in this day, it seems you must be awful or brilliant and there is little in the way of middle ground.

Those stuck in the apparent doldrums of mediocrity are cast as ineffectual, and are therefore awful as well – see Joe Allen for the perfect example. The evolution of sport, due largely to the increase in access to information and round the clock coverage, has made the demands of being an athlete far more than physical.

Presently, people expect athletes to immediately reproduce what they have seen on a YouTube video, or single-handedly win games because some bloke on Twitter said they hadn't contributed for a little while so they're 'due a performance.'

Before video profiles of players and databases were available to the

public, sportspeople were judged on merit and given time to establish themselves before being labelled or

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It does not do to be average in this day, you must be awful or brilliant, and there is little middle ground

judged. Now, they have to have the mental strength to ignore the diatribe from the terraces and focus on playing, performing and, ultimately, earning their living.

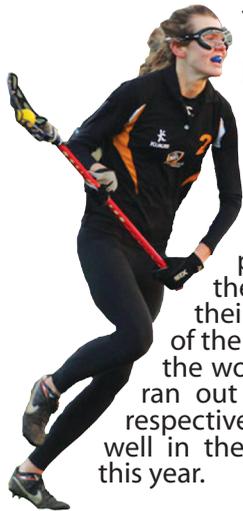
Should it be that athletes are surveyed and analysed in a manner that would make Edward Snowden's toes curl? Should we confirm with the next generation that this sort of vitriol is acceptable as long as the target earns swathes of money?

Ultimately, what Adil Rashid's maiden test outing did, was remind me that sport is not an event any more. It is a soap opera, driven forward by a thirst for drama and excitement and, as such, it will be bled dry by the masses who are searching for the next story.

The *Nouse* Sport Team takes a look at the best and worst from this week's University sport

Good Week

UYLC



The University of York Lacrosse Club had a stellar week in BUCS, with three of their four teams emerging victorious. The men's firsts will have cemented themselves in the nightmares of Manchester Metropolitan firsts, dispatching them 21-0 and positioning their opponents at the foot of the table. Not to be outdone, the women's firsts and seconds ran out 15-9 and 10-3 winners respectively and kept themselves well in the running for promotion this year.

UYNC

The University of York Netball Club won every one of their BUCS fixtures this week; a clean sweep of convincing victories for their firsts, seconds and thirds. At home they beat the Durham 2nds 42-34 and the Sheffield Hallam 3rds 50-31. Then away, and worth noting, the seconds beat the Sheffield Hallam firsts 52-45.

UYHC

The University of York Hockey Club taught a lesson in home advantage in their recent round of BUCS fixtures. Three home games in a row for the men's seconds, men's firsts and women's firsts made for a festival of hockey on the JLD, and York's visitors stood no chance of ruining the positive atmosphere on the sidelines. Wins for the men's seconds and women's firsts sandwiched a hard-fought draw for the men's firsts, who came back from a goal down to earn a valuable point. Promotion is the goal for many of the UYHC teams, and making their home a fortress is the best start for any potential success.



Alcuin Football

Alcuin have struggled more than most to cope with the demands of having two teams in the same league, which was encapsulated by a 12-0 loss for the firsts against Halifax. Sapped of energy and spent from exertions earlier in the week, Alcuin could only look on as a fresh and energetic Halifax attack carved through their defence. No side will be more thankful for the week between the fixtures, for a chance to recuperate and forget a less than stellar week.



Johannes Huber

A second division match between Alcuin thirds and Wentworth seconds was stopped prematurely last week, after Alcuin attacking midfielder and former *Nouse* Deputy Sports Editor, Johannes Huber, injured his ankle. An ambulance was called and the score of 3-1 was accepted by both teams and the match ended. After a wait in A&E, Huber's ankle was confirmed broken and his College Football career cut short. Get well soon, Johannes!

Women's Rugby

The women's rugby team fell to their third successive heavy defeat in BUCS, making it a somewhat miserable start to the season for them. There were always going to be growing pains with a high fresher intake and this has proved to be the case, with a negative points difference of -124 signifying that the only way is up. Given time, coach Ian Thomson's positive influence should take further effect and, under Serena Brymer the team should be back to their winning ways in no time at all, channelling the spirit of their Roses whitewash.



Bad Week

Tales From The 22

Tom Harle
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

AS THE cold months set in, a front of particularly inclement weather has drenched York. Plus ça change, if we're being pretentious.

That said, all year the winds of change have been blowing in the echelons of the York Sport Union under York Sport President Grace Clarke.

There is a certain momentum engulfing sport at York at present, particularly evinced in its approach to diversity. Rainbow laces are a regular sight on the touchlines this year, and plans are in place for the whole of the White Rose army to sport them for Varsity and Roses.

Aesthetic this may be, but it represents a changing of the is-

Hopefully, in our own small way, we have made a difference ”

sue-space towards inclusivity that had not previously occurred.

The Equal Opportunities scheme is perhaps the clearest example of the Union's ongoing commitment to broadening its base. It takes the form of several sessions with liberation groups around the University, providing an open forum to discuss barriers to sport - an idea which the Union must, and is, tackling head on. The take-up of Equal Opportunities officers on club committees has, I'm told, been good and sessions have been very well attended.

Research has been floating around to prove that sport has somewhat passed by certain demographics of the student body, such as postgraduate and international students, and in York Active there is a scheme that specifically targets this.

The 'This Girl Can' campaign captured imaginations across the country and, going forward, Grace is in discussions to increase the number of women-only exercise sessions which testify to the interest that is out there.

Student media coverage is, I believe, a crucial part of creating a sense of unity and momentum in sport at an institution.

It can also serve to promote diversity, which was a key area in which I wanted to develop *Nouse* coverage when I first arrived.

In the spirit of reflection as this is my final edition, we have tried to ensure that achievement in sport gets the recognition that it deserves, regardless of its status. It was a source of pride to hear from the Sports Co-Ordinator that, as a woman in sport, she thought of the section as a beacon of excellence.

Hopefully, in our own small way, we have made a difference.

Blades of glory

Tom Harle catches up with **Steph Clutterbuck** a year on from being awarded the Santander Scholarship

“I’m never where I want to be, I always want to be better. Given what has happened, I couldn’t be in a better position than I am now and I keep having to tell myself that.”

It has been quite a year for Great Britain rower and York student Steph Clutterbuck. For much of it, she has been bearing the weight of a back injury that has, almost literally, been holding her back since last July.

Steph couldn’t separate any reflection on progress from her fight against injury.

“It has been so defining over the last nine months,” she reflected. “No-one could foresee themselves getting an injury that prevents them from doing anything for three months.”

She paused. “It was a dark period, it was really hard to deal with.”

“The fact that I’ve come through it and I’m still more motivated than ever to get to my goal; that, more than results, gives me confidence in how far I’ve come.”

When we last spoke to the rower back in March, she described vividly the extent of the physical pain that made even walking difficult at times.

Steph is confident that the worst of this has passed.

“Because it was skeletal damage it’s going to take a long time to go away properly.”

“I’ve made a lot of progress over the last few weeks and I got through the GB trials without any problems.”

“I got quite emotional, I realised that I was OK and I can do this. I’m looking forward to putting it behind me now.”

Steph has been part of the Great Britain U23 development programme this year, and came 15th on the water in the recent trials in Boston. This represented a pleasing

“**God knows when my dissertation is going to be written, hopefully soon!**”

return, although it sagged under the weight of her perpetual expectation.

“I wanted better than that, but



IMAGE: STEPH CLUTTERBUCK

it was still really exciting. After the injury, it’s been a bit of a long road back.

“I’ve made some good progress, breaking my personal best on the ergo machine. It was nice to kick-start the 2016 season.”

Alongside the age-group trials, Team GB’s senior rowing team conducted their own sessions. Steph confesses, without reproach, to being star struck at their presence.

“All the Olympians were there, which was just an experience in itself. You idolise these people and then you’re in the same room as them.”

“I didn’t talk to any of them, I was terrified!” she admits. “They keep themselves to themselves. It was amazing to be out on the water with them and be part of their Olympic season.”

The START programme, of which Steph is a part, has provided one third of Team GB’s rowing stable in recent Olympic years. She speaks of her gratitude to the programme’s coaches, who have offered

her flexible and useful guidance and allowed her to train, despite her size.

“I’m not allowed to be on START because I’m not tall enough,” she explains.

About Steph...

Height: 5’ 7”

Birthplace: Bath, Somerset

High point: Coming fourth nationally in BUCS as a novice and earning a place in the U23 GB squad

Low point: battling with a back injury that has raged on for nine months

“You have to be 5’10”, but I want to perform, so they agreed to coach me. Over the summer I trained down in Bath, and I’m going up to the Tees to train there as well.

“The coaches are brilliant, always there to have a chat and check how things are going.”

Of course, here at the Univer-

sity Steph is supervised in a wholly academic way. It is easy for us, let alone her, to forget that she is also a third-year History student at the University.

She tells us about the constant balancing act between her degree studies and the commitment required to be a performance athlete at the highest level for her age.

“It’s going OK at the moment.”

“I’m able to balance it quite well so long as I keep working. Once you’re in a routine, it’s fine.”

“God knows when my dissertation is going to be written, hopefully at some point soon! My supervisor is happy with me, I think, so that’s fine.”

Throughout the last year, Steph has been receiving funding through the Santander Sports Scholarship scheme, of which she was the inaugural beneficiary.

The former Welsh national swimmer outlines in no uncertain terms just how useful the £5,000 offered by the programme has been to her continued efforts: “I can’t

stress enough how incredible the money has been.

“I almost didn’t really realise how much I needed it until I had it. The blades I’ve bought have been invaluable, I was able to take them back to Bath over the summer.”

“The other bits of equipment have been fantastic. A Go-Pro is great so I can see all of the stuff I’m doing wrong.”

Steph is subject to the continued support of the York Sport Union, and has been installed as a Gold Scholar for the coming year.

“It’s nice to have them believe in me. As a gold scholar I get a gym membership, free sports massage and discounted kit, which is always great. I know the university are really pushing performance sport and it’s nice to know that they do support you if you’re trying!”

At the crux of high performance at the University has been the Boat Club, who won Team of the Year at Roses. Steph was very much on hand to watch their emphatic triumph on the Ouse.

Social Snapshot



UYHC
@UYHC_Official

@LinklatersGrads Our ambition is to play hockey for 50 hours raising money for @yorkshirecancer #worldrecord

10 Oct 2015



UYSWC
@UYSWC

Exciting to see so many at swimming trials and men’s polo tonight! It’s going to be a great season!! @YorkSportPres @YorkSportUnion

6 Oct 2015



Stephen Bates
@BatesState

Sharpest set of rookies I’ve ever seen, looking like I’m leading one hell of a team this year @YorkSport-Pres

4 Oct 2015



York Sport Union
@YorkSportUnion

Congratulations to @UYRUF men’s 1st who just got the first BUCS win of the season against Hull #boldforgold

7 Oct 2015



UYHC
@UYHC_Official

Proudly sponsored by @yorkunibus, thank you for our banner! #uoy-freshers #freshersfair

3 Oct 2015

Futsal struggle in second fixture



York Seconds 1



Stirling Firsts 9

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

AS THE weather continues to get worse futsal reaps the rewards of being an indoor sport with all the fun of its outdoors counterpart football.

Safe from the mud and slippery conditions of 22 Acres or the freezing cold and withering wind of the 3G, the ladies of the women's seconds team gathered in the tent for their second BUCS fixture of the season against Stirling.

They got off to a strong start, just missing a goal in the opening minutes of the game only to score straight in the right hand corner of the net a second later.

Stirling seemed disorientated and taken aback, and as such their attempts to tackle were messy, and seemingly York really did have the home advantage.

This however ultimately did not ring true. It only took a matter of minutes for the opposition to begin to assert themselves in their new surroundings and overall they won 1-9.

Although some excellent passes were made by Anna Roach from York as she raced forward, nothing came of it and the opposition were quick to reverse her efforts.

Three minutes in and Stirling equalised. From this point forth York failed to establish a clear strat-

egy of passing in defence and sadly this saw the beginning of the end as the team began to fall apart.

The seconds team were only recently established, being founded at the start of this term.

Therefore it's unreasonable to expect a season of roaring successes from them.

But that being said a lot of work will be needed to ensure that Futsal continues to rise and more importantly improve.

For example, as the game progressed they failed to regain possession of the ball till after a second Stirling goal seven minutes in.

However, there is definitely an abundance of ability in the team; Lia Ignatowicz made a strong tackle that returned the ball to home possession and captain Marie Levenson ensured that she had enough support.

In the following minutes Holly Knott added to the string of successful passes made.

Yet this was not enough and no progress in terms of scoring was made, instead there were several missed shots and opportunities when approaching the goal.

At the other end of the pitch an excellent save was made by the York goalkeeper - a very slight opening movement of her foot kicked it clearly away.

But this was of course only a fleeting moment of joy, and it was shortly followed by another Stirling success 13 minutes in.

Going in to the second half it became very clear that the York side could not technically equal the Stirling seconds.

They continued to score goal af-



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

Women's futsal seconds have endured a harsh introduction to life in BUCS

ter goal.

The aggression of the opposition steadily grew with their increasing numerical advantage.

For example, there was a notable kick made which bounced off the ceiling and outside of the pitch's safety net.

That being said, what appears to be key with this team is that there are small signs of future success de-

spite the very disparate result of this match.

Speaking to captain Levenson afterwards, she seemed most hopeful for the expansion of futsal at York, and sees this season fundamentally as a starting point.

In light of the loss, she was not disheartened, but instead proud that her team had tried their best throughout the game.

Equal Opportunities scheme continues

Rob Middleton
SPORTS EDITOR

THE SECOND Equal Opportunities (EO) seminar took place on Thursday 5 November.

The scheme, which replaced the Key Contacts initiative, is aimed at creating a forum in which the University's sports clubs can discuss how to break the social borders preventing a more diverse range of people taking part in University sport.

While the first session focused on BME issues, the second discussed mental health in sport.

Over 30 representatives from 21 different sports attended the second session, demonstrating an encouraging increase in engagement with the initiative.

York Sport President Grace Clarke also revealed an Equal Opportunities logo which will be available to clubs who have participated in the scheme.

One third year English student who has attended the sessions told *Nouse*, "the EO scheme has been great! I think the issues it's focusing on are usually overlooked in sport, mental health especially. To either those who want to learn more, or those who were unaware these issues existed in sport, I think just mentioning it with regular emails has been really good."

Sports Shorts

BDLA announcement

The successful applicants for this year's BUCS Deloitte Leadership Academy (BDLA) have been announced, which includes 14 students from the University of York. The programme has six courses, with dates ranging from November 2015 to February 2016, that are run at locations across the country. The programme covers diversity and leadership, and is designed to provide both a theoretical and practical insight into high quality leadership, with the immediate aim to improve the sport offering at their university.



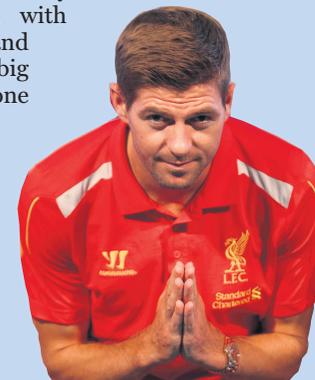
Staying on track

As part of YUSU's 'Staying on Track' programme, the Union ran a 'Play' week that extolled the benefits of getting active as a way of gaining the tools to overcome obstacles while at university. Activities include Rave Aerobics, Yoga and Boogie Bounce. York Sport President Grace Clarke also released seven profiles of people who testified to the beneficial effect that exercise had on their health in the broadest sense. These were Women's Rugby president Ruth Whitehead, Head of York Sport Keith Morris, Tess Corina, Cycling president Ashley Marsh, Andy Crockett, Harry Barber and Grace herself.



Police information appeal

The police have sent out an appeal for information after a man from York was knocked out at the York Sport Village. As reported in the York Press, a 28-year-old male was punched in the face during a 5-a-side match on the Heslington East campus at around 9:20pm on Tuesday 29 September. The assailant is described as a white male wearing a Liverpool football kit, in his early to mid-twenties, with short hair and a stocky to big build. Anyone with pertinent information has been asked to contact North Yorkshire Police.



Sport

Teammates: UYLC Women

Name:
Laura Carruthers
Role: First team
captain
Year: 2nd year
Course: History
and Politics

Which of your teammates is....

The strongest?

Connie Shaw, my vice-president, she is made of absolute steel!

Best fancy dress?

Abbie Marcroft and Fenella Houlton somehow managed to make bubble wrap and duct tape look attractive in our recent "Anything but Clothes" social. Quite how, I still don't know...

The dressing-room DJ?

Our development coach Ellie Marsh has simultaneously the best and most obscure taste in music - her

“

Her Donkey on the Edge speech will live long in UYLC history

version of Sid the Sloth's music video, complete with dance moves, is a sight to behold.

The most intelligent?

Kitty Leech always strikes me as super-intelligent in her game play as much as her degree.

The best motivator?

Our very own President, Alex Bell, hands down. Her "Donkey on the Edge" speech will live long in UYLC history.

The best trainer?

Joy Mendes Da Costa will always power through at training, even when we tell her to watch out for her back injury. A true champ!

The worst trainer?

I can't think of anyone - the whole team plays on regardless of any sprains, fractures or bruises we may incur. I can't fault their commitment, they're the best!

The most hardened drinker?

One of our awesome new freshers, Charlotte Weston, puts many of the second and third years to shame - total legend.

The biggest lightweight?

Confession time, probably me... DOBBY IS A FREE ELF!



Get your Fixtures Fix



WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Badminton

Women's 1s vs Newcastle 1s (Main Hall, 17:00)

Fencing

Men's 1s vs Birmingham 1s (Tent 2, 14:00)
Women's 1s vs Sheffield 1s (Tent 1, 14:00)

Football

Men's 1s vs Lancaster 1s (3G, 14:00)
Men's 3s vs Bradford 2s (22 Acres, 14:00)
Women's 1s vs tbc (22 Acres, 14:00)

Hockey

Men's 1s vs Leeds Beckett 2s (JLD, 15:30)
Men's 3s vs Liverpool John Moores 1s (JLD, 13:30)
Women's 1s vs Manchester 2s (JLD, 17:30)
Women's 2s vs Hull 1s (JLD, 13:30)

Lacrosse

Women's 2s vs UCLAN 1s (22 Acres, 14:00)

Rugby Union

Men's 1s vs Leeds Beckett 2s (22 Acres, 14:00)
Women's 1s vs Sheffield Hallam 1s (22 Acres, 14:00)
Women's 3s vs Leeds 7s (JLD, 13:30)

Squash

Men's 1s vs Chester 2s (Squash Courts 1 & 2, 13:30)

Table Tennis

Men's 2s vs Northumbria 2s (Main Hall, 14:00)
Women's 1s vs Durham 3s (Tent 3, 14:00)

Tennis

Women's 2s vs Durham 4s (Tennis Courts, 12:00)

Ultimate Frisbee

Men's 1s vs Durham (22 Acres, 14:00)

Volleyball

Men's 2s vs Manchester 3s (Tent 1, 16:20)
Women's 2s vs Bangor 1s (Tent 2, 13:50)

Selected Away Fixtures

Men's Lacrosse 1s vs Leeds 1s (14:00)
Women's Lacrosse 1s vs Leeds 1s (14:00)
Netball 1s vs Durham 3s (13:30)
Men's Tennis 1s vs Sheffield Hallam (12:00)
Men's Volleyball 1s vs Teesside 1s (18:00)
Women's Water Polo 1s vs Leeds 1s (14:15)
Men's Water Polo 1s vs Newcastle 2s (17:30)



FOOTBALL

Premier Division

(all games on York Sport Village 3G)

Saturday

Alcuin 2s vs James 1s

Sunday

Vanbrugh 1s vs Derwent 1s (12:00)
Alcuin 1s vs Halifax 1s (13:40)
Derwent 2s vs Langwith 1s (15:20)

Division 1

(all games on Wednesday on the 22 at 14:00)

Constantine 1s vs Halifax 2s
James 2s vs Goodricke 1s
James 3s vs Goodricke 2s
Langwith 2s vs Vanbrugh 2s

Division 2

(all games on Sunday on the 22 at noon)

Derwent 3s vs Derwent 5s
Derwent 4s vs Alcuin 3s
Wentworth 1s vs Halifax 3s
Wentworth 2s vs Vanbrugh 3s

NETBALL

(all games on Saturday in Tent at 17:00)

Alcuin vs Langwith
Derwent vs James 2s
Goodricke vs Halifax
Vanbrugh vs James 1s

HOCKEY

(all games on Sunday at 17:00)

Alcuin vs James
Derwent vs Vanbrugh
Goodricke vs Constantine
Langwith vs Halifax

RUGBY UNION

(All games on Wednesdays)

Vanbrugh vs James (11:00)
Derwent vs Alcuin (11:00)
Halifax vs Heslington East (13:00)

SPOTLIGHT

Men's Football

York take on Lancaster in a dress rehearsal for one of the centrepiece fixtures of this year's Roses schedule. Last year's Roses match was a bore draw, so both teams will be out for goals.

Derwent vs James 2s

James are the dominant force in College netball, with their firsts dominating the top league in recent memory. It will be fascinating to see how their seconds will handle the firsts' main rivals.

Women's football

While we don't know who they'll be facing this week, we still feel confident in guaranteeing goals. Even promotion last year could not stop the UYWAFc juggernaut.

Derwent vs Vanbrugh

Last year's College Varsity representatives, Vanbrugh, take on a sleeping giant in Derwent. Both teams will go out with a genuine belief they can win, which should make for a great spectacle.

Langwith continue to impress



Langwith Firsts 3



Derwent Seconds 0

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

Langwith: Vasilu, Cheung, Leach, Hudson, Grindell, Parson- son, Vidal, Tennant- Fry, Maney, Enirai- yetan, Gohil-Patel	Derwent: Milton, Arnold, Reynolds, Stones, Conner, Cooper, Kirkum, Nicholson, Barker, Reischert, Aughterson
Subs: Hammill	Subs: Farage

Player of the match: Boris Arnold

THE 3G was privy not only to the rain, wind and finger biting cold weather but a strong performance from Langwith firsts.

The same sadly cannot be said for Derwent who, although starting off strongly, soon fell behind when failing to match the shooting skills of their opposition.

In terms of actual play, however, the teams were well suited. No goals were scored in the first half - rather a strong rally across the halfway line persisted and only on a few occasions were feasible shots actually made.

Derwent's Boris Arnold played excellently in the opening half of the game, running forward with little attack from his opposing midfielders.

It was also with great speed and agility that he maintained superb control over the ball, meandering his way into the Langwith half on several occasions.

However as Langwith grew increasingly aware of his ability, the likes of Cole Tennant-Fry and Jack Parsonson began to pay the industrious fresher extra attention, at times even resorting to cutting him down which warranted Derwent a fresh start in Langwith's half quite a few times.

Not that they were able to convert these efforts into goals.

Notably Joe Stones was responsible for Langwith's lack of success in the Derwent side with a great amount of assistance from Alexander Milton.

They worked well as a pairing passing it back and forth on several occasions and making the long traverse down the side of the pitch in an impressive amount of time.

In contrast, the second half saw some shabby play from Derwent, this by all means does not suggest that Langwith played particularly well or any better however there was certainly a drop in the standard from Derwent.

Perhaps it was the worsening weather conditions or the frustra-

tion of not making any actual progress.

Derwent then began to bunch up in their own half. This created an unnecessary build up in defence and their actions preempted Langwith's attack.

Langwith took possession in the opening minutes of the second half. It was Maney in midfield who really came alive. So much so that he took over from Arnold as being the one to tackle when making the shift across the halfway line.

Both light on his feet and aware of openings towards the penalty box, he worked well with the fervour of Eniraiyetan who was always ready to receive and take a shot however precarious his position.

In the flurry of feet the ball found itself into the back left corner of the net on two occasions.

The first was with the aid of Gohil-Patel; who had been swerving in and out of the Derwent defence for a considerable amount of time with the help of small passes to Leach and the second was with the aid of the Derwent keeper.

That being said, there was a small glimmer of hope for Derwent when Matt Kirkum managed to turn the ball around and run in the opposite direction towards Ryan Conner and Rob Nicholson.

It showed some tenacity from the losing side and echoed the equality of play from the first half.

But the transition was not



IMAGE: ANNA COUGHLAN

Langwith continued their unprecedented form with a win against Derwent

smooth enough to prevent Langwith from taking the ball back and kicking it up and away from any prospect of a Derwent goal.

The final goal was set up nicely by Langwith's Hudson, who intercepted the ball from a Derwent throw in made by Milton. This move ensured the ball made its way into the Derwent half. Eniraiyetan went for the goal but just missed. Yet as Derwent kicked it back out, Parsonson's header hit it straight back into the net, securing one fi-

nal goal for Langwith as the match came to a close.

Usually perennial relegation candidates, Langwith look a team renewed this season, and a force to be reckoned with.

Their victory over rivals Derwent seconds comes off the back of impressive wins over both Alcuin firsts and Vanbrugh, and a hard fought draw with Halifax, which leaves Langwith third in the Premier Division, above arch-rivals Derwent firsts.

First half flurry enough for Derwent



Derwent extended their year-long unbeaten league record against Vanbrugh



Derwent Firsts 5



Vanbrugh Firsts 0

Tom Harle
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Derwent: Cooper; Skodje, Shelbourn (C), Weighall, Gowforp; Curteis, Hawkins, Wnek; Fothering- ham, Bew, Ferrao	Vanbrugh: Boyle; Bryant, Stanimirovic, Brennan (C), McAllister; Sid- dle, Carruthers, Watkins; Wright, Miller, Edwards
---	--

Subs: Ingham,
Barrie

Player of the match: Joe Hawkins

DERWENT KEPT up the pressure on league leaders James with a commanding 5-0 victory over Vanbrugh on the 3G in the Premier Division.

All five of the game's goals came in the first half, as Vanbrugh were left reeling in the face of Derwent's slick forward play, which saw them to two title wins in last year's college leagues. A significant improvement from Vanbrugh in the second half could not hide the gulf in class.

Joe Hawkins latched onto a ball

over the top after 15 minutes, going on to fire a firm finish past Conor Boyle, who deputised in goal.

Vanbrugh had two guilt-edged chances to get themselves back into the contest at 1-0. Winger Jake Wright burst through, forcing Charlie Cooper into a sharp low save to his left. Wright was getting plenty of joy down the right flank, and fired another shot at Cooper, who parried straight into the path of Andy Miller. Crucially, Miller, leaning back, could only direct his shot over the crossbar.

Henry Ferrao didn't have his finest game but he laid on the second goal for Josh Bew, as Ferrao's inswing cross was met with a well-directed header in the bottom corner from the UYAFC striker.

Fellow UYAFC forward Eddie Fotheringham was afforded far too much time and space down the right, which indirectly led to Derwent extending their advantage.

A corner, earned by Fotheringham, was driven along the ground to Bew, whose shot cannoned across the goal for Sam Weighall to gleefully plant home the ricochet.

The Men in Blue had Vanbrugh in the palm of their hand by now. Fotheringham drifted over a free-kick, and Weighall, deployed in the centre of defence, was simply stronger than his marker and pow-

ered home a headed effort.

Hawkins continued to roam free from his station in the middle, and embarked on a surging run, which ended with a toepoke from 16 yards to make it 5.

Vanbrugh had time to regroup at the interval, and despite having nothing to play for battled gamefully in the second half. Joe Watkins' well hit left-footed volley forced Cooper into a save, while Andy Miller should really have pegged Derwent back when his chip sailed over the bar.

Alex Ingham's introduction was a small spark of impetus in an otherwise anadine second half, and he dragged a couple of fading efforts wide of Boyle's right hand post.

Derwent have now won their first three games of the season, conceding only one goal. Captain Tom Shelbourn commented: "We played very well in the first half, but are disappointed not to have kicked on in the second." "Vanbrugh out battled us after half time" he admitted. Vanbrugh skipper Connor Brennan said: "First half we were nowhere to be seen.

"I think we were intimidated. I was really proud of the second half performance, we could have scored," Brennan reasoned.

"The two Alcuin games will be key if we are going to stay up."

Fixtures Fix

We give you the details you need on sport coming up at York

>> Page 26

Autumn Term Week 7
Tuesday 10 November 2015
www.nouse.co.uk/sport



Nouse Sport



College Football
match reports
>> Page 27

Concerns over football fixtures

SPORTS EDITOR

CONCERNS HAVE been raised with the College Sport Officers over the distribution of this term's College Football fixtures.

Complaints were lodged earlier in the year after the provisional fixtures list was issued to college captains.

The list was revised and appeared to reflect a more comple-

mentary and balanced distribution.

The distribution of college fixtures had appeared to confer an advantage on certain teams over others in the provisional schedule, leading one college to file a complaint.

Concerns are understood to be ongoing with the revised fixture list.

Scheduling of matches to be played on 17 and 18 October are now under question from the college, and an investigation is cur-

rently being undertaken.

Wider concerns were raised by the same college with the league system, who told *Nouse*, "The real problem is that the system is simply unsustainable.

"When it was introduced, they did not consider the impact it would have when colleges have multiple teams in one league.

"It is now becoming impractical and simply making College Football difficult and unenjoyable for some

teams."

YUSU's College Sport Officers were contacted but could not provide further information, citing an ongoing investigation into the matter.

Deliberations over fixtures are nothing new to the College Football system. In the 2014/15 season, Vanbrugh inquired about the possibility of the College Cup final fixture being re-arranged due to half of their players leaving for a tour of Buda-

pest on the day of the final.

After consultation, it was decided that the final would not be moved, as the date had been pre-decided and the teams informed in good time, thus moving the final would have given an unjust advantage to Vanbrugh ahead of James.

The final was played out with Vanbrugh having to field a weakened squad, and ultimately losing to James in the college football showpiece event.

From the Sideline

Rob Middleton comments on the pressure put on sportspeople today to please the public

p22



Blades of Glory

Tom Harle talks to Steph Clutterbuck a year on from being awarded the Santander Scholarship

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