

# NOUSE



## Angels in America: Aids week special

### Student safety questioned after suspected campus drink spiking



## International students target of fraud

By Lauren Carter  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT



**Neil Barnes condemns racially-motivated fraud**

SEVERAL international students have been defrauded of substantial sums of money this term with up to £15,000 being taken in each incident by someone who is also thought to be a student at the University.

The students were told they would receive a scholarship or a discount on their tuition fees and living expenses if they handed over large amounts of cash, but this was not the case and they have since lost their money.

The University have confirmed two international students have been targeted this term, although there are

also reports of a third incident. Steve Page, the Manger of Student Support Services, has said that a police investigation is now underway.

Although there have been no arrests, the suspect

is thought to be another University student. Commenting on the most recent incident, Page confirmed: "The student who had the money stolen believed them to be a student. Whether or not they were, are a student, we don't know."

The University have since emailed all international students to alert them to the problem. "We are trying to provide what support we can for the students and we are, as you can see from the email, doing our best to alert all international students of the danger."

However, international officers on the JCRCs were unaware of the incidents and were therefore unable to run

an awareness campaign within their colleges. The Students' Union Education and Welfare Officer, Neil Barnes, commented: "This is obviously something that the University are dealing with, but the impact seems limited so far - only official University Notices have been produced. But I'm sure that there's work going on behind the scenes".

Nonetheless, Barnes has initiated a more active campaign within the SU. "Once the new racial equality officers have been confirmed, I want to get together with them and work out how we can make students more aware of how they could be defrauded."

Barnes has deemed the

recent incidents as racially-motivated. "If students are being targeted because they are not from this country and may not speak English as a first language then they are definitely being targeted on grounds of racism. We shouldn't shy away from calling this a racist incident, because it most certainly is."

He adds: "there is an element of vulnerability amongst overseas students, especially if our culture is quite alien to them. It takes time for a new student to get used to living in a new country, and so there may be a period where they may be vulnerable to incidents like these. Also communication in a second language will always lead to misunder-

standings."

However, the University are advising all students to be vigilant against fraud. Page advised: "I think any student needs to be aware that if people are offering any offer that involves you starting off by handing over some money, we would strongly suggest they treat it with significant suspicion."

"With respect to people paying for their tuition fees or University fees, they really should only do that to the University directly."

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**Links**  
**Contact Steve Page**  
e. student-support@york.ac.uk  
Tel. 01904 434140  
**University Welfare Services**  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/welfare>  
[www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk)

# Derwent fire in the early hours causes severe damage

By Heidi Blake  
NEWS DEPUTY

A FIRE BROKE out in Derwent during the early hours of Tuesday morning, causing "severe" damage to a kitchen in B Block.

The fire was discovered by a Derwent Porter, who "fought the fire bravely", at around 2am. The Fire Rescue Service, who arrived shortly afterwards and entered the building using protective breathing equipment, had completely extinguished the fire and ventilated the building within 20 minutes.

One member of University staff who cannot be named said that he suspected the fire had been

started either as an act of vandalism or when burning food from the cooking appliances, all of which were on when the fire was discovered, was thrown into the bin. He said that if the culprit did not come forward, the whole floor would be charged for the cost of repair.

However, the five resident users of the kitchen, who wished to remain anonymous, claim to have cooked together on the evening preceding the fire, turned all the kitchen appliances off and gone out as a group, not returning until after the fire had been dealt with.

Carol Nicholson, the Facilities Manager for Derwent, expressed relief



The Derwent B-Block Kitchen which was gutted after being severely damaged by fire on Tuesday morning

that the fire door had been closed when the fire broke out. She said "the fire door saved lives and saved the building" adding that, had it been left open, "half [the building] would have gone I'm sure".

However, an email sent on Wednesday by the provost Ron Weir to Derwent students warning them of the risk of fire stated that on a

routine tour of Derwent on Tuesday evening, the duty porter found 14 fire doors left open, some held back by fire extinguishers.

Steve Durrant, a first year B Block Resident, was not in his room at the time of the fire, but suggested that it was probably caused by "a cigarette or something like that".

A Fire Control Operator

from the North Yorkshire Fire Rescue Service said the fire had caused "severe fire damage to the plastic waste bin and its contents, severe smoke damage to the kitchen, and moderate smoke damage to the corridor, first floor stairs and second floor stairs". He said that the suspected cause of the fire was "50% smokers' materials; 50% unknown".

Nicholson was unwilling to reveal further information until she has completed an investigation and produced a full report on the cause of the fire. She said "I'm just interested in the facts" but was keen to stress the risk to life posed by fire, and asked that students be vigilant and ensure that fire doors are kept closed at all times.

# E-Voting fails to catch student imagination

BY Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

THE STUDENTS' UNION have suffered early problems with their new online voting concept, with eight of the first nine UGM proposals not reaching the quorum.

E-voting has been introduced on to the YUSU website for voting on Union General Meetings, to try to encourage students to vote on issues which effect the University. The need for such changes is due to poor attendance at UGM meetings. It has been suggested that this

is due to a lack of publicity and reluctance from many second and third year students who live off campus to travel back on to campus in the evenings to place their vote.

So far, since the scheme was launched at the beginning of the current term, only the budget proposal has been passed. Chris Wiggin, the Students' Union Communications Officer, is the man who has received the most criticism for this, with one anonymous student on the Ask YUSU website questioning whether "the

incompetent manner" in which he publicised the E-voting concept to the student community has been the reason for its failure.

However, Nat Thwaites-McGowan, the Student Union Services Officer has defended Wiggin's role in the scheme stating that "Chris did really well" and accused people of "looking for problems" for the sake of it rather than focussing on the positives.

Thwaites-McGowan was also keen to stress the successes of the E-voting scheme so far, saying he was

"very pleased" with the first term of the concept and that he hoped it would "lead to more people voting".

Micky Armstrong, the current president of the SU, was also keen to avoid criticism of the plans, when asked whether he was concerned that despite the fact that the new scheme now offers students much more time to vote, the quorates are still not being met. He stressed that the "budget was passed convincingly", though he also mentioned that "there are no plans to use the scheme in SU elections".

This seems to be a point of contention between Thwaites-McGowan and Armstrong, with the Services Officer keen on introducing E-voting in next year's elections. He admitted that "Micky is concerned" about furthering the scheme at present.

Members of the SU Executive Committee, in a recent meeting, also expressed such concerns as several SU representatives questioned whether online voting would reduce enthusiasm for elections and make the process less personal.

Other problems which were addressed at the meeting regard the security of the York computing network. Many first years have failed to change their original passwords, leading to a potential risk of hacking into accounts which could allow non-students to influence the results. The need to use campus networked computers or a complex web proxy to vote was also highlighted as a major problem due to the unwillingness of many second and third year students to travel on to campus to cast their vote.

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# Misdiagnosis of student for lung condition leads to renewed Health Centre worries

BY Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

REPORTED CASES of misdiagnosis by the University of York health centre has led to fresh concerns over the reliability of its treatment given to patients.

A student from the University suffered a collapsed lung in late November which the medical centre suggested was a pulled muscle.

The student, who does not wish to be named, visited the health centre after waking up in the morning suffering from severe chest pains. After consulting a doctor, who checked for serious lung conditions such as blood clots, she was diagnosed with a simple case of muscle strain.

However, as the pain worsened she was admitted into York's Accident and Emergency where they informed her that her pains were due to a Pneumothorax.

Other students have also claimed to have suffered similar problems in the past. Third year undergraduate, Greg Dickson, commented on how his friend (who has now left York) was "diagnosed with a common cold" by the health centre but it was then discovered that he had pneumonia. Another unnamed student told of a mix-up which involved arthritis drugs being prescribed by a doctor for severe

migraines.

These incidents have raised concerns within the student body about whether the health centre provides suitable medical care. Third year James student Derek Koon said that he "wouldn't feel comfortable after hearing many stories like that". Timmy Clayton added that such problems "do not fill you with confidence". However undergraduate James Bosson said "I think people are expecting doctors to be miracle workers. To get everything right is ridiculous".

Although the health centre initially checked for the potentially fatal Pulmonary embolism, which is a blood clot within the main veins that enter the lung, they failed to diagnose the Pneumothorax. This has similar symptoms including severe chest pains, breathing difficulties, flushed skin colour and rapid heartbeat.

Cases of Pneumothorax can be reduced by quitting smoking and reducing time spent changing between air pressures such as aviators and scuba divers.

The health centre, which is available to all students who are members of the university, has been surrounded in controversy recently with York Vision reporting earlier in the year on Stuart Rudd. Rudd suffered a ruptured spleen a fortnight after being diag-

nosed by the health centre with a viral infection.

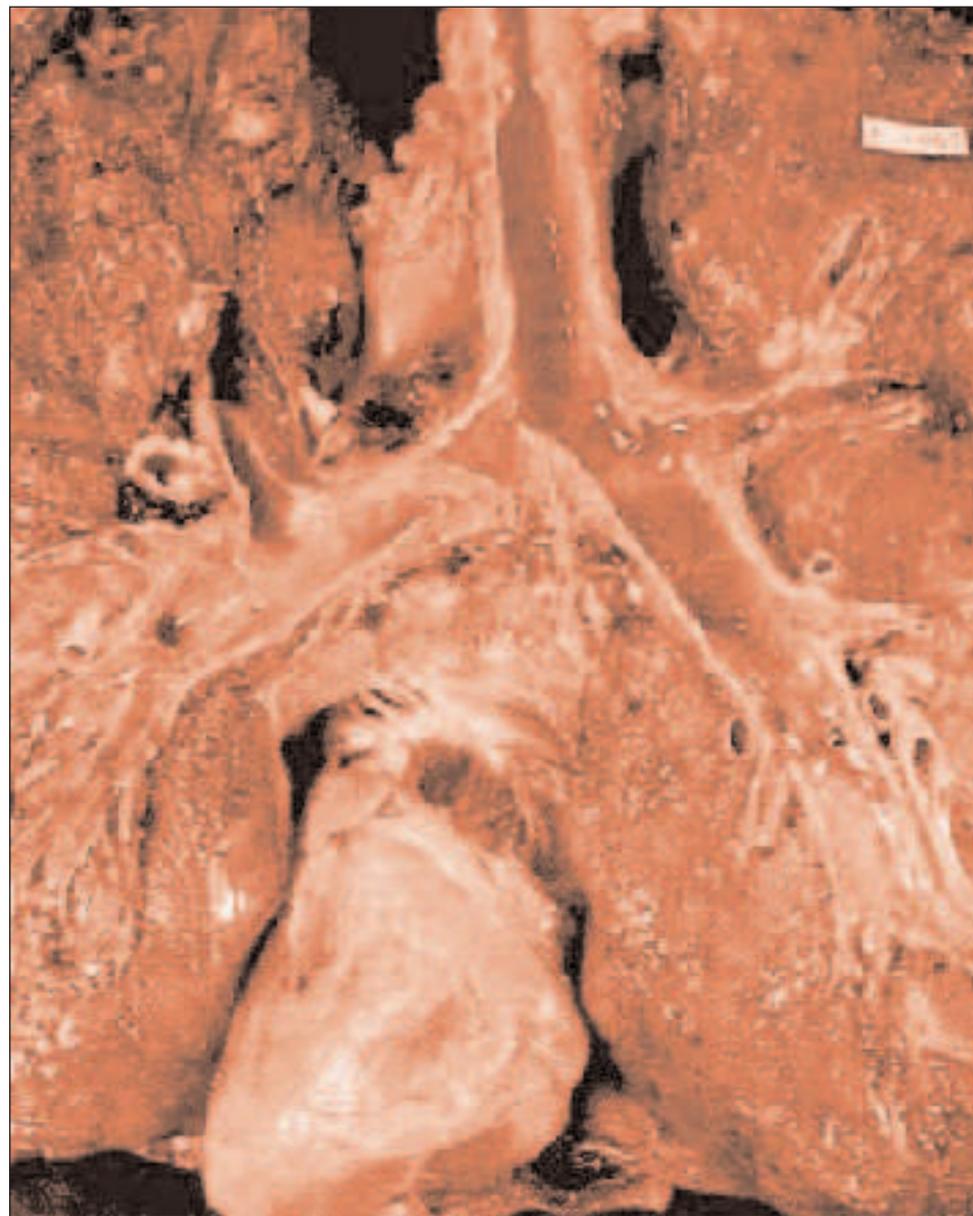
Stuart, a history student was admitted into Accident and Emergency after his heart stopped beating and required emergency resuscitation.

He eventually sued the centre for negligence after describing their attitude towards him and what happened as "arrogant".

When asked to comment on the incidents referred to in the article, the medical centre stated that they "did not wish to comment at this time" due to "patient confidentiality".

The Pneumothorax was of the primary spontaneous form. This unlike more common cases in which the lung collapses due to physical injury, can be totally unrelated and occur randomly in patients who do not suffer from any form of lung disease.

Normally, the outer surface of the lung sits next to the inner surface of the chest wall, with thin membranes covering both surfaces. A Pneumothorax occurs when air escapes from the lungs and sits in-between the two membranes, this causes the nearby lung to collapse. Although this condition is serious it is not life-threatening and patients generally recover in between 48 and 72 hours. It is unknown whether the patient has yet made a full recovery.



The non-lethal condition Pneumothorax was misdiagnosed by the health centre.

# Drink spiking fears at campus events

By Toby Green and  
Jamie Merrill

A STUDENT FELL victim to a suspected drink spiking at White D on 26th November.

Helen Lock, a Derwent history undergraduate, was told by hospital staff who treated her after the incident that "my recovery rate was characteristic of a substance being put in my drink."

Laura Wilson, who was Derwent Vice Chair at the time, was an eyewitness. She said "I just walked out of the event and saw some commotion and a girl who seemed out of it being attended to by Links. I asked Door Safe and they said a girl's drink had apparently been spiked."

The incident took place just a week after a high pro-

file campaign at a Platinum event in Vanbrugh to raise awareness of the issue of drink spiking on campus. Neil Barnes, the Students Union welfare officer, coordinated a team of volunteers putting stirrers with warning stickers on them to highlight the dangers of leaving drinks unattended.

Barnes said "I didn't want to scare people [and make them think] every time you walk into an event you will get your drink spiked. I don't think it's a massive problem on campus, but it does happen and people need to be aware of this."

Lock supports the move to raise awareness on the issue, "especially on campus because it's somewhere you feel safe when you're at an event."

David Jones, the recently appointed Derwent chair believes that drink spiking on campus is not as much of a problem as in town as there is "safety in numbers."

He also revealed that he became aware of the incident after it had happened and not on the night. "It's just shocking, I was surprised to hear it happened on campus as I have not heard of drinks spiking here before. Security is tricky when it comes to drink spiking, Doorsafe will probably be looking into more on the spot searches events."

The welfare rep for Derwent, revealed he was inspired by Barnes's stirrer campaign to push a similar promotion titled 'Mints in Drinks'. "The student union welfare campaign in

Vanbrugh was noted by all as a great success so we thought we would bring it to Derwent. We were aware of the White D incident, but this wasn't just a response to that. I believe that one in four women believe they have had a drink spiked."

Barnes agrees that campus events are generally safer than clubs in York: "The public out in town, without wanting to stereotype them, can occasionally contain unsavoury characters, whereas you would like to think that students are nicer to each other. My job is to raise awareness and in welfare committee we have discussed how to extend our campaigns into the clubs in town. We also have strict measures to ensure only students go to campus events."

## Are you looking after your drink?

- Know your own drink tolerance level.
- Think before you accept a drink from anyone.
- Don't leave your drink unattended.
- If there is something strange about your drink, throw it away.
- If you start to feel really drunk when you shouldn't, turn to a trusted friend.
- Consider very carefully whether you should leave with someone you've just met.
- Drink spiking can happen to men as well as women.
- Look out for your friends.

Advice can also be gained from [www.roofie.com](http://www.roofie.com), [www.dr-ugged.co.uk](http://www.dr-ugged.co.uk), [www.rapecrisis.co.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.co.uk), and [www.yusu.org/welfare](http://www.yusu.org/welfare)

# All change as colleges announce

## Meet you new Junior Common Room Chairs

By Heidi Blake  
NEWS DEPUTY

THIS YEAR'S NEWLY elected JCRC Chairs come to their positions in the new year with a fresh range of ideas and approaches.

Langwith Chair Lucy Wickham's unusual proposal was "not to promise anything", on the basis that if she included no policies in her manifesto, everything she did achieve would be "a bonus". However, having been elected she declared that supporting Langwith Bar and winning the College Sports League for the second year running would be two of her priorities.

Sam Bayley, the new President of the Halifax College Students' Association, plans to uphold James Flinders' legacy in continuing to be referred to as 'President' rather than 'Chair'. He also aims to "make Xtra the number one event on campus", and improve College performance in sports events, after a disappointing year for York's largest college.

The new Chair of Derwent College, David Jones, has vowed to campaign for the extension of Club D opening hours and

increase special offers in the bar.

Matt Buran, Goodricke Chair, said he wanted to improve events, get more people involved in College affairs and "bring back the sports cup to Goodricke". He also said that there was a possibility of B Block being redecorated. The incoming Chair of James, Anne-Marie Canning, said she wanted to "improve on last year's achievements" and raise the College's profile. James's successful RAG events were also a priority in her manifesto.

And this year's Alcuin Chair, Tom Stratton, who arguably has the most difficult year ahead, wanted to "re-brand Alcuin completely", hoping to show other students the "good side" of the College. But he could face an uphill struggle in keeping Alcuin's unpopular bar Bee Henry's open after recent reports have suggested the university are looking into closing it. He was also keen to stress that getting foreign students more involved in the college was very important. And he would achieve this by "increasing the number of non-alcoholic events in the college".



The JCR chairs were voted in during the week 8 and 9 elections. (From left to right): James Chair, Anne-Marie Canning; Halifax President, Sam Bayley; Langwith Chair, Lucy Wickham; Goodricke Chair, Matt Buran; Alcuin Chair, Tom Stratton and Derwent Chair, David Jones. The chairs begin their duties at the start of the new year.

# SU officers harrassed by anonymous students through 'Ask YUSU' website

By Heidi Blake  
NEWS DEPUTY

THE 'ASK YUSU' facility on the SU website is being used to harass SU Officials, the Union's Executive Committee heard last month.

Micky Armstrong, the SU President, told the committee that the some of the questions being asked were "ridiculous" and amounted to "personal harassment".

James Flinders, the outgoing president of the Halifax College Students' Association, was particularly aggrieved. He proposed that the anonymity of those harassing officers should not be protected, and that they should be barred from asking questions, but this motion was rejected by a majority vote.

Flinders has been subject to particularly high levels of criticism through the forum-style web facility. He was asked repeatedly by one anonymous student about

his decision to alter the constitution of Halifax College from a JCRC to a HCSA, and his own job title from "Chair" to "President". This move was described as an "ego trip" by the student, who argued that the real reason for the changes was "vanity".

Flinders was also asked "Why does no-one like Halifax College?" and "Do you like sausages?" which he took to be a 'covert reference to the fact that [he is] gay'.

He said that the treatment he had received through Ask YUSU had formed part of the reason for his deciding not to stand again as President of the HCSA, and described the questions he was asked as "stupid" and 'unhealthy'. He advised those asking them to "find a hobby, or get some help".

Chris Wiggin, the SU Communications Officer, was also subject to what he described as "inappropriate or irrelevant" questioning.

One student asked "Why does everyone hate you?" while another asked whether Wiggin was "allowed to run for LGBT officer". The Communications Officer described those asking such questions as "idiots", and said they "should be ashamed".

Chris came in for further criticism over his role in the new E-voting scheme which has yet to take off around campus. An anonymous student called his publicity efforts "pretty shocking".

The Racial Equality Officers, Robert Xu and Pierson Xie, were asked if they would be against the setting up of a student BNP society on campus, in which they replied with a unquestionable "yes". While Colin Hindson, the outgoing Chair of Goodricke, was asked "How many of your JCRC have you slept with?".

The Executive Committee rejected the motion to trace and bar

those asking such questions, on the grounds that many of the questions asked are confidential. Micky Armstrong, who has also been subjected to written abuse said that it was important to keep a balance between the welfare of Officers and their accountability to students.

However, Nat Thwaites-McGowan, the SU services officer, took a firmer stance; making it clear that Ask YUSU was set up to make students able to ask questions of Executive Officers, not to ask personal questions about individuals.

It was recommended by the Committee that Officers should ignore questions that are "irrelevant to their position" and report them to the Communications Officer for deletion. But with the questions still remaining on the board weeks after the first problems it may be only a matter of time before other students follow suit.



Flinders, the ex-Halifax Student Association President

# new JCRCs



Andreas Masoura shows off his team's banner in their bid to be elected ents reps

## Canvassing around Campus

BY Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

POLITICS STUDENT AND one of the new Goodricke Ents Representatives, Andreas Masura ran a Make Rubbish Events History campaign during the recent JCRC elections.

The campaign was a rip-off of this year's highly popu-

lar Make Poverty History wristbands which were used in conjunction with this summer's Live8 event, in an attempt to appeal to students who want improved college events

Andreas's was slightly more successful with his campaign though, as he got voted in on the basis of Goodricke students look for better events than the

recently held Rehab event which has been accused of being sexist. He will be joined in his vision by new chair Matt Buran, who picked up almost sixty RON's in the elections.

Other highlights of the elections occurred in Langwith where candidates were forced to eat Jelly Babies out of flour and then drink a pint of lager.

# Chemistry robberies spark security fears over key card doors

BY Toby Green  
EDITOR

SECURITY SERVICES ARE reported to be concerned that campus key cards may be in the possession of non-students after thefts in the Chemistry department.

Three students had personal possessions, including credit cards and phones, stolen from the department, which is only accessible through a locked key card door, on 5th December.

It is believed that a student actually let in the two males, described as in their early 20's with one wearing a tracksuit, believing them to be members of the department as they were brandishing a key card. It is not yet known whether the key card was able to open the door, or whether it was used as a dummy.

Ellie Hurst was one of the victims and her credit cards and handbag was stolen. Hurst, a postgraduate research student, said "It

only used to be us research students who had key cards for the Chemistry department, but now they have given them to 500 undergraduates.

"It's obviously a lot busier now and you don't know everyone so it's hard to be able to tell who's a student and who's not."

A student became suspicious and followed the two men into the office of Ellie Hurst, a postgraduate research student. When challenged, they left the department. A tutor followed behind and confronted them as they left the campus site, but they refused to stop. The culprits have yet to be caught.

This is not the first time the key card system has failed to deter criminals from theft of property on campus.

Last year more than £3,000 worth of goods were stolen from three adjacent blocks in James College. Sam Hanna, a first year English student, left his room with

music on and curtains closed while he spent the night away.

On returning to his ground floor room the next day he discovered that the window had been kicked in, and his laptop stolen.

A motorbike was stolen a week after that, from a James key card protected bike shed, in broad daylight. An examination of the scene revealed that the metal door had been cut through.

The owner of the bike, Tom Adam, saw it being driven away, but was powerless to chase after them. He said: "They were young teenagers around fifteen or sixteen. It all happened around lunchtime and I saw my bike driven off from my window.

These incidences have shown that the key card system suffers the same flaws as the code lock doors, still found on some college residences, as they can't prevent professional thieves exploiting the human card user.

# Students' fines fund key library resources

BY Charlotta Salmi  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY made almost £70,000 in fines from students, staff and borrowers last year, but despite promises from the Student Union Ed Campaigns Officers, the University still doesn't have a 24-hour library service.

According to Elizabeth Heaps, Head Librarian of J.B Morrell library, library fines raised £67,764 last year, and that as part of the library's earnings are "not linked to anything specific" but generally used as funds for library resources.

However, many students feel that the library's fine-earnings ought to increase its capacity to provide more services to accommodate for their needs, as John Craine, a second year English and Philosophy student said "I don't see why the library doesn't use the money to provide students with services they want".

Meeting such student demands, has indeed been a main concern for the Educational Campaigns offi-

cers Matt Cunningham and Michael Nicolaidis, who not only ran in the SU elections on a platform of extending the library times but state the campaign as part of "a long-standing policy of the YUSU", involving lobbying for further extensions through library Board meetings.

In recent surveys made by the J.B Morrell library, extended opening hours appeared as a priority for the majority of students.

These demands have been partially met by the new changes in opening times with up to a further 14 hours this term, only closing at midnight during week days, while open until 9 pm in the weekends.

Many students still feel the need for a library that provides access to study areas, resources and books around the clock, especially in view of the library earnings.

In response to the likelihood of a 24-hour library, the library Head of User Services and Administration, Wayne Connolly, said it is "not out of the question, but it is expensive". Logistically, achieving

the opening hour extensions this term required not only nine months of planning for the library, but will demand a further £20,000 from the library budget per year to sustain seven new part-time members of staff, necessary to fill the late hour slots.

Around the clock opening hours would not only require further staff increases but an extra £50,000 from the annual budget, making the total annual costs of hour extensions amount to £70,000.

Elizabeth Heap however says the £67,000 received from fines form a part of the library's "overall income", and as such are "more or less steady" year after year, though not used for specific

services, the sum goes towards "books and journals and electronic

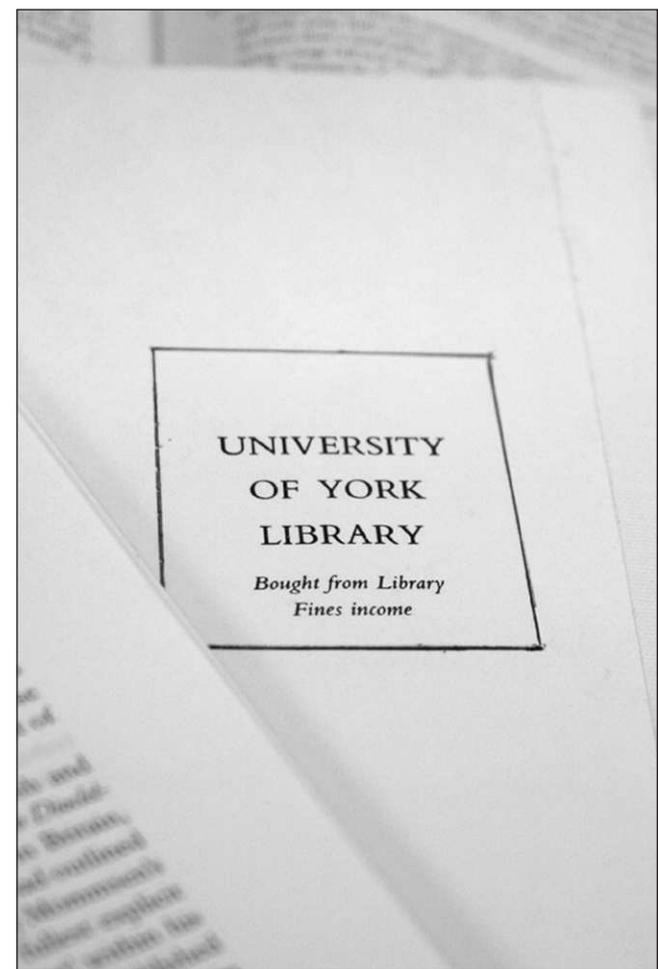
Information resources" rather than staff increases.

Questions of further extensions however, despite the costs, arise in view of the positive student response to the current opening hour extensions. This is reflected by the numbers of late-night library-goers: with above 40 students present in the library past 11 each week-night and up to 80 people past 7 pm in the weekends; Wayne Connolly felt that the library efforts put into the project had been worthwhile.

However, the long term student campaigns for a 24 hour library have still not been satisfied.

### The library debate at York

- The University library made £67,764 in fines last year from undergrads, postgrads and borrowers
- Opening hours have been extended to 12am every weekday excluding Fridays, when it is open until 9pm, and from 9am to 9pm on weekends
- The Ed Campaigns officers are still campaigning for a 24-hour library service, but haven't delivered



Library fines used to buy books. Photo: Georgi Mabee

# Arrest in Halifax burglary case

By Adam Sloan  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A SUSPECT HAS been arrested in connection with the robbery of three Halifax residents last week.

The crimes were committed in quick succession during Thursday and Friday in houses J, G and F of Lidley Court Halifax College.

The total value of the items stolen, which include a wallet containing £40 cash, a purse and mobile phone, was estimated at close to £300.

PC Chris Poole of Fulford Police confirmed that "a youth" had been arrested in connection with the robberies, but no further details were available about the individual concerned. The suspect is pending charge, and no court date has yet been set.

The robbery from house J is believed to have occurred between 1 and 2pm on Thursday 8th December, though the times of the other robberies are as yet unconfirmed.

Resident David Man-

sell, a first year Economics and Finance student, was the victim of the first robbery. He said "It all must have happened in the space of an hour, I came in, threw my wallet on my bed, left for an hour, came back and it was gone. Having thought I simply may have lost it, I searched for hours and when I still couldn't find it I reported it to the porters",

The porters then contacted the police, who interviewed the residents before beginning their investigation. All three victims were adamant that their bedroom doors had been locked prior to their departure, and police found no sign of forced entry in any of the rooms.

Other residents in the houses in question were present at the time of the robbery, but were unaware of the crimes being committed.

Resident John Prebble said: "what is surprising is the audacity of the thief, to do so many robberies in such quick succession". Since police have arrested their suspect no further thefts have been reported.

# York University Challenge team fall at first hurdle

By Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

YORK UNIVERSITY PUT up a brave performance, losing against stiff opposition in the form of Cambridge's Churchill college in a recently televised University Challenge broadcast.

The team made up of Olly Chadwick, Jenni Southern, David Hopkins and Peter Cabrera went out in the first round play-offs losing 170 points to 120 against Churchill college which Olly described as "crazy insane nerds".

However, despite going out of the competition the team can take heart from offering a much improved performance on last year in which Kat Richardson's group were humiliated, going down 200-85 against University College Oxford.

David Hopkins, a third-year PPE student was the star of the evening. When asked by Newsnight presen-

ter Jeremy Paxman "in the animal kingdom, the phylum pogonophora are so-named because they share what feature with human males?" he buzzed in with the answer "penis" which was met with roars of laughter from the crowd and fellow teammates alike when it was revealed the actual answer was beards.

Another humorous moment came after the show, when David witnessed Jeremy Paxman "kicking back with a Carlsberg in the Green Room".

Olly added that it was "nice to see a relaxed side" to a man who he thought was "quite stand-offish and scary".

Filming took place in the summer at Granada Studios in Manchester. The team was formed from over one hundred York students with everyone required to sit a small quiz-style exam and the top eight results going through to the next round.



The theft victim: David Mansell. Photo: Georgi Mabee

# Student Union offers subsidised Christmas dinner to employees

By Ellen Carpenter  
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE REVELATION THAT the Students' Union staff Christmas dinner is to be subsidized has ignited controversy as normal York students are made to pay for their Christmas balls.

YUSU will pay a large part of the £18.95 a head bill for Christmas dinner at the Judges Lodgings.

At least six salary-earning sabbatical members of the SU staff are attending the dinner, and the cost will amount to a minimum of £100, and any other paid SU staff are entitled to the subsidy.

This comes at a time when societies and JCRCs have suffered cuts to their finances in the wake of the announcement of the SU's £30,000 budget cut.

Other bodies suffering cuts include media societies, the Athletics

Union, RAG and Student Action.

Many of those affected will be questioning the legitimacy of the SU-funded Christmas celebrations.

Funding for the Christmas dinner is provided for by the YUSU budgets, under "central services", and is, according to Student Union Services Officer Nat Thwaites-McGowan, "part of the cost of maintaining our contingent of staff".

YUSU's website states that "any money we make through shops and events is used to fund societies, student development, or campaigns" and makes no mention of covering social expenses for its staff.

The cost of the meal potentially amounts to a sizeable chunk of most societies' annual budgets.

Thwaites-McGowan believes the subsidy to be a way of thanking the Student Union staff and said "I feel that the

Christmas Dinner subsidy represents excellent value for money as a way of thanking our staff for their hard work and dedication."

He added: "The dinner allows us to express our gratitude to our staff, in the limited manner that we can afford, without impacting on our service level."

While the SU have asked for a five pound contribution towards the cost of the dinner from its staff, students across campus have paid up to £30 for tickets to their colleges' Christmas events, with the SU offering no subsidies.

Christmas balls organised by the college JCRs are mainly funded by revenue from students' tickets, with prices bumped up to provide for a small profit for the JCRCs whose budgets have recently been reduced by the SU.

Society balls such as that of History Soc can cost anything up to £50.

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# Inauguration ceremony for first black Archbishop hijacked by BNP extremists

By Ben Toone  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS have overshadowed the appointment of the new Archbishop of York, Ugandan born Dr John Sentamu, by announcing plans to stand for York City Council.

The inauguration, at the end of last month, of the new archbishop broke conservative church tradition, featuring leopard skin clad dancers and a cruise into York to wave to members of his new diocese.

His appointment has been met with general enthusiasm for what has been branded an impossible task by some. It is hoped his open and liberal attitudes will help prevent the potential split over homosexuality in the Anglican church as well as calm racial tensions in nearby Bradford and Keighley.

This comes at a time when the British National Party, have recently declared their intentions to stand for council elections in the next 18 months. The party embarked on a leafletting campaign in the Haxby area, just North of York St John College. Standing on the grounds that the mainstream parties have failed the people.

The leaflets blamed the

mainstream parties for the July 7 attacks as well as condemning multi-culturalism, claiming: "The old parties worked together to turn our once all-white country into an overcrowded multicultural slum".

This ties in with other manifesto pledges including voluntary 'repatriation' of legal immigrants and maintaining racial groups by discouraging mixed race relationships.

Dr Sentamu has been met with racist abuse from British National Party supporters, who have sent hate mail and offensive emails to the archbishop. He is however assured that the people of York wouldn't allow the BNP to succeed on their own accord, urging them to reject the BNP at the ballot box. "It is legitimate for them to put up candidates." Mr Sentamu said "I don't want to silence anybody. I want to beat them at the ballot box. We need to reject their arguments through the ballot box".

He added that anyone in this country was entitled to express his or her own opinion, "Thank God for that". Spokesman of the York Diocese Martin Sheppard said "The Church will never welcome any organisation which brands people or criticises them on the basis of their ethnic origin."

Local BNP activists



Dr John Sentamu at his inauguration ceremony, appointed as Archbishop of York. Photo: York Evening Press

believe the leafletting and their likeliness to stand reflects their growing popularity in York as an alterna-

tive to the mainstream parties. Labour MP Council leader Steve Galloway disagreed: "They have nothing

to offer York", he said, "other than division and their own particular brand of bigotry." Unite Against Fascism

responded to the litter drop by sending their own material to homes targeted by the British National Party.

## Goodricke 'Rehab' posters force SU into tightening guidelines

By Heidi Blake  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A POSTER advertising Goodricke's Rehab club night has once again sparked controversy on campus, and resulted in the SU introducing penalties to enforce restrictions on publicity passed earlier this year.

The poster, which depicts a female nurse posing in a tight PVC uniform, "contains all the same imagery" as one used to publicise Rehab in January, which also engendered many complaints and precipitated the introduction of publicity regulations by the SU.

Criticism of the poster has arisen from a number of different parties, including nursing students. Complaints were made through the SU Communications

Officer, Women's Officers, Services Officer and Welfare Committee.

Grace Fletcher Hall, an SU Women's Officer, said that the poster was "tasteless, offensive [and] sexist" and had offended many people, particularly nurses who "have enough trouble contending with sexist stereotypes as it is". She was also concerned that the poster might make students feel that they were expected to dress provocatively when attending campus events.

The complaints were discussed at Communications Committee, where it was decided that penalties should be introduced for those who do not comply with the existing SU publicity regulations, which state that all publicity put out by the SU, societies and JCRCs

must be compatible with the SU Equal Opportunities policy. Goodricke voted in favour of the penalties.

Under the new changes, those found guilty by the Communications Committee of contravening publicity regulations will be fined the sum of £50, which will increase by £50 with every offence committed. Organisations found guilty of breaking the Equal Opportunities policy though advertising will first be warned and will then be allocated one less event by Events Committee in the following term.

Nat Thwaites-McGowan, the SU Services Officer, said "Regulations of this sort are very important and, in addition to the welfare implications, ensure that all groups putting on events are

playing by defined rules" while Grace Fletcher Hall said that she hoped the new penalties would be "an effective deterrent against further transgressions".

When asked what he thought of the poster, Micky Armstrong, the President of the Students' Union, said "it is very difficult for people to decide what is sexist or indecent as everybody has different views and standards", adding that he hopes campus publicity does not offend people "in this marketing driven world where sex sells".

Colin Hindson, the outgoing Chair of Goodricke JCRC, was in favour of the new penalties, and said that while "exciting" imagery was often used to advertise events like Rehab, he "could see how the poster could be considered sexist".



The Goodricke poster that forced changes to policy

## The Campus Soap Box

Nouse invites campus political groups to vent on an issue of their choice. This edition, Freesoc on overconsumption

By Leah Watt, Freesoc member

Call it a swap shop, a free-cycle, a bring-and-take stall, or a small, happy revolution of a Saturday lunchtime, but an event by Freesoc saw the redistribution of approximately twenty-five CDs, twelve items of clothing and many more books, magazines and bric a brac. Bizarrely, there was no taker for the book of make-up techniques (become a corpse, mummy or lime green alien).

The idea is that everyone brings their unwanted goods to the table and takes away items that other people have left. It's an alternative to our wasteful and environmentally unsound culture of disposability, an alternative also - should you be desirous of a new purple chenille jumper or Yo La Tengo album - to handing your money over to a corporation whose ethics you may disagree with. From sweatshops (Disney and Levi's) to alleged involvement in the murder of trade union leaders (Coca-Cola) to the bulldozing of Palestinian homes allegedly with people still in them (Caterpillar), the extraordinarily dubious behaviour of corporations is the rule and not the exception.

You might ask, why not donate unwanted items to charity shops and patronise their stores for that chenille jersey? It's a fair point: charity shops are just great, and the bring-and-take stall is never intended to replace them. It does however serve a broader purpose than just getting your hands on new stuff (and simultaneously a warm glow in your belly). It promotes the notion of free-cycling generally. Many cities, including York, have free-cycle schemes - an email list where unwanted items are announced, and

can be claimed (www.yorkrecycling.net) - and these schemes can cater for the recycling of a far greater range of stuff than charity shops, including furniture, tools, and computer parts. It's also the truly revolutionary idea of operating without the exchange of cash. People struggled to believe that Freesoc weren't offering them complementary plum coloured knitwear in an attempt to convert them to some freakish cult, or felt guilty, declaring they really couldn't take that book without giving us money (lots of stuff on the stall eventually went for free; our publicity was admittedly a bit crap and people hadn't also got much to swap, but that's also cool). It goes to show just how ingrained the idea of consumption is. The intention of the swap shop is to make people think how much of their day they spend paying for things, and how much the movement of money regulates our social relations. Consider Christmas, and the notion that love for your friends and family is somehow related to buying them iPods and eating twelve mince pies in one sitting.

At a recent debate on the role of private companies on campuses, one gentleman announced that those opposed to corporate influence were deluded - we thought we were citizens, but we were only consumers. He might be right about the pervasiveness of consumption, but it doesn't have to be like that. Join a free-cycle or a swap shop, self-organize, be environmentally and people-friendly, and become a citizen again. By swapping a Husker Dū album for a pack of biscuits, we made one guy's day.

Contact Freesoc:

socs442@york.ac.uk

# EU members implicated in US 'torture flights'

Bekki Field questions the legality of the alleged CIA practise of 'extraordinary rendition' in Europe



Human rights groups fear that Europe has become complicit in illegal detentions, such as in Cuba

Allegations have been mounting against the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) since it was revealed that there have been approximately 300 CIA-operated flights to Eastern Europe in the past three years. They have been labelled 'torture flights', secretly transferring terrorist suspects abroad in order to torture them. Many of the flights have stopped off in Western European countries, primarily Germany and the United Kingdom. These are the claims of New York based Human Rights Watch following their own investigation.

Evidence has been unearthed from records which shows that CIA aeroplanes were travelling from Poland and Romania; Szczytno-Szymany airport and Kogalniceanu military airfield respectively in 2003 and 2004. This has been denied by both countries, but the European Council is now investigating 31 suspect planes that landed in Europe in recent years from a list provided by Human Rights Watch. However, the human rights watchdog has limited powers. It is questionable how much pressure the chair of the investigation, Dick Marty, will be able to exert in order to obtain evidence.

Human Rights Watch's assertions are certainly supported by speeches given by the Bush administration, which cite arrests of several terrorist suspects who are now being held in secret locations. Furthermore, the seeming defence of the use of torture techniques against terrorist suspects by the administration is somewhat perturbing. Although it is unknown what happens at the clandestine locations, many fear the worst. 'It's a secret. No one knows what happens in the rendition process or in the gulag of secret CIA hellholes', says Michael Ratner, director of the Centre for Constitutional Rights.

On November 18th, ABC News quoted leading CIA officials who acknowledged that the CIA had approved six interrogation tech-

niques in March 2002 for use against detainees being held in Afghanistan. These included sleep deprivation, exposure to cold and, most starkly, 'waterboarding'. This is immersing or pouring water over a detainee's face until he thinks he is going to die. It is a technique banned in international and US law, as are many of the other techniques the CIA has endorsed. Liberty, a UK human rights group, is demanding that the government stop the planes from landing in the UK. Liberty's director, Shami Chakrabati said, "What can we say to those who perpetrate atrocities in London and around the world if we allow ourselves to become complicit in the cheapening of human life?"

The CIA's lack of cooperation and refusal to discuss the allegations is unsurprising if previous episodes are taken into account. In September 2004 it was revealed that the CIA may have held as many as 100 so-called ghost detainees in Iraq; their identities and locations

**"It's a secret. No one knows what happens in the rendition process or in the gulag of secret CIA hellholes"**

hidden. The exact number of undisclosed prisoners remains unknown. The iniquitous Abu Graib prison was highlighted as holding between 12 and 36 unregistered prisoners since the start of the Iraq war. During the affair, which was described by Arizona's Republican senator, John McCain, as 'a bad movie', there was much anger at the lack of CIA cooperation during an investigation by Pentagon officials. The agency did not produce the requested documents and refused to disclose whether they hid prisoners from international monitors.

The CIA insisted they were conducting their own review into the agency's detention and interrogation activities in Iraq, but has a history of denying Pentagon findings of gross misconduct. Earlier investigations

exposed the deaths of at least three Iraqis under CIA custody

With regards to the CIA flights, which are being referred to as 'extraordinary rendition', there have been demands from UK foreign secretary Jack Straw and other European officials for the US to respond to the torture allegations. Last week US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, denied that the US practiced torture and defended the practise of rendition as a legitimate tactic in the war on terror.

Rice, however, refused to deny the alleged existence of secret prisons in Eastern Europe and argued that the US adhered to international law.

The 2004 accusations about Iraqi 'ghost prisoners' also shed light on CIA-government links. Top ground commanders in Iraq oversaw the prisons where the detainees were supposedly held and both Deputy Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, and Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, were also implicated. As a case-in-point, at the request of the

then CIA Director George Tenet Rumsfeld approved the off-the-books detention of a prisoner at one of the US-run prisons in Iraq, Camp Cropper: a clear violation of international law.

If CIA denial of recent claims is buttressed by the Bush administration, it could prove difficult to conduct a fair, thorough investigation into events, as the US government is notoriously uncooperative to outside intervention and will provide the CIA with robust protection.

## Tide turns on Blair

Shaken Blair faces education bill defeat. Zak Taylor reports

Opposition from within his own party caused Tony Blair's first defeat as Prime Minister on the 9th of November. The House of Commons rejected his Terrorism Bill, which would allow the extension of the length of time terror suspects could legally be held without charge. It was the first time a government had been defeated since 1995.

The bill, proposed in response to the terror attacks in London over the summer, would have allowed suspects to be held for up to 90 days, rather than the current 14 day limit, without being charged.

The possibility of defeat was apparent to the government; Gordon Brown and Jack Straw were brought back from Israel and Moscow respectively in an attempt to increase the number of votes for the bill. Despite Labour's comfortable majority of 66, parliament rejected the proposal by 322 votes to 291. The 49 rebel Labour MPs who voted against the government were enough to cause embarrassment to Blair, who strongly supported the proposal. A compromise was reached, although not one supported by the government, which allowed suspects to be detained for 28 days, a substantial increase on the previous limit of 14 days.

In the aftermath of the vote, the Prime Minister criticised the result. He remained adamant that Parliament had made the "wrong decision", and claimed that the public would believe that they had acted in "a deeply irresponsible way." He also declared that he did not intend to resign, despite Michael Howard's call for him to do so. Even some Labour backbenchers joined opposition parties in calling for their leader to quit, further damaging his position in the party.

The defeat raises serious questions about how far Blair can take his educational reforms, which come before parliament next year. With a substantially reduced majority in parliament and the failure of the Terror Bill still recent, the threat of another rebellion by backbenchers is very credible, especially on a subject



Tony Blair maintains an optimistic outlook given his recent defeat

as controversial as this. The aim of the proposal is to give schools greater power over several areas currently administered by Local Education Authorities.

Blair believes that these plans, if implemented, will give more 'choice' to all parents, particularly helping working class families, allowing children from poorer backgrounds who are under-achieving in school to reach their full potential. David Cameron, the Conservative leader, suggested that the reforms do not do enough, and the Liberal Democrat leader, Charles Kennedy, claimed that Blair would do "a great disservice" to the education system by trying to force these plans through. Fears have been voiced from within the Labour Party that admission reforms will lead to an unfair selection policy. There are concerns that so-called 'trust schools' will create an education system in which the most talented pupils are in a small number of schools. It is also suggested

that local government's role in education would be diminished.

Tony Blair answered his critics by maintaining that admissions will be kept fair, as schools will still have to abide by the rules regarding the admission process in place at the moment. He argued that the current disparity between schools' attainment levels would not be widened.

It is becoming more difficult for Tony Blair in his final term. With a reduced majority (now 66) allowing backbenchers to exercise more power, shown by the successful rebellion against the Terror Bill, some say that his authority has diminished. If this is the case, one of the Prime Minister's toughest tests will come in convincing Parliament, in particular the sceptics in the Labour Party, to back his educational reforms. However, considering their controversial nature, it is looking increasingly likely that a second defeat might happen.

## Singapore executes Australian heroin trafficker

By Fredderic Kalinke

At the crack of dawn on Friday 2nd December, Singapore maintained its stringent penal code by executing convicted Australian drug trafficker, Nguyen Truong Van, after his arrest in 2002 at Changi airport for attempting to smuggle 396g of heroin into Australia via Singapore.

Over the past weeks, the Australian government and human rights groups have vociferously campaigned for it to be recognised that Nguyen's case had several powerful mitigating factors, namely that he carried no previous criminal convictions, and the fact he was trafficking

the drugs in a vain attempt to pay the A\$30,000 (£13,000) debt incurred by his twin brother, Khoa, a one-time heroin addict. However, at sunrise on Friday morning, Mr. Nguyen paid the price for his fraternal altruism as he was led to the gallows and executed.

The tenacious efforts of his legal team did have some successes though. Nguyen's lawyers successfully persuaded the authorities to relax their ban on bodily contact to allow Mr Nguyen's mother to briefly clasp her son's hand in their last embrace; a luxury considering this right was previously denied to prisoners in the lead up to their deaths.

Nguyen is just the latest to be

executed in Singapore's long tradition of capital punishment, where death is mandatory for drug traffickers.

**"Lawyers persuaded the authorities to relax their ban on bodily contact to allow Mr Nguyen's mother to briefly clasp her son's hand in their last embrace"**

ing, murder, treason and certain firearms offences.

Amnesty International claim that at least 420 people have been hanged since 1991 primarily for drug offences. With a population of 4.2 million,

these figures mean Singapore has the highest execution per capita rate in the world. It is one of only a handful of countries where some non murder cases still carry a death sentence.

The Singaporean authorities have been quick to defend their actions. Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament, explicitly summarised their position: "we have an obligation to protect the lives of those who could be ruined by the drugs Nguyen was carrying". It seems ironic and even contradictory that the death penalty is imposed to protect the sanctity of life in a state which fails to provide even the most basic civil liberties. The impinge-

ment of freedom of speech is ubiquitous; Jehovah's Witnesses continue to be imprisoned for their conscientious objection to military service, and homosexual acts remain a punishable offence.

Singapore's commitment to such a draconian penal code seems to highlight a key issue in international relations. Should an adherence to fundamental human rights be a condition for partaking in multilateral associations? One factor preventing Turkey from becoming a member of the European Union is its dire human rights record; an analogous situation given the symbiotic 2003 Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement, which totaled \$3.1 bil-

lion last year.

It seems, however, that a draconian penal code does not interfere with other countries' international relations. Nguyen's death coincides with the United States' execution of its 1000th inmate since its reinstatement of capital punishment in 1976.

It remains to be seen whether such questions about the importance of human rights on the entrance into and development of multilateral trade and decision making processes can be resolved. One thing, however, remains certain: Singapore's resolute commitment to punishing drug traffickers and any other groups which may disrupt its stability.



Nguyen's body was released promptly to his family

# MUSE

**The perfect student's campus - has your University lived up to its ideals? M10**



# A change of scene on campus

Founding father of the University, Sir Andrew Derbyshire, talks to **Lauren Carter** and **Simon Davis** about forty years of change and the ideals York has since forgotten

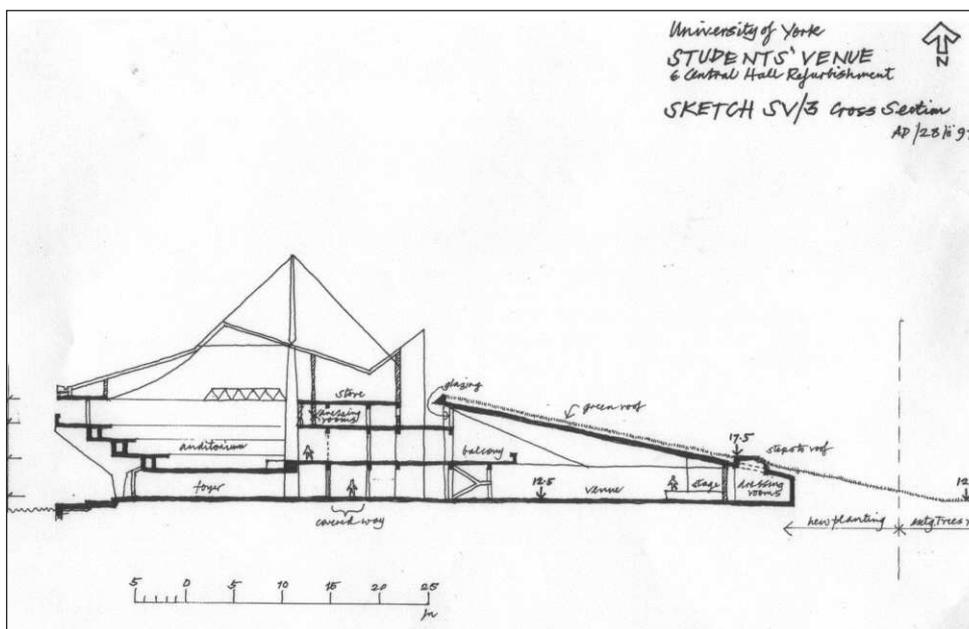
When Sir Andrew Derbyshire's forty-year relationship with the University came to an end five years ago, he vowed he would never come back. He had been one of the leading architects for the University since it was first established, and had continued to work on the development of campus throughout his career. However, during the 1990s the Vice Chancellor, Ron Cooke, called for fundamental changes and ultimately cost Sir Andrew his job. The University appeared to have a new vision for campus and it was this which kept Sir Andrew away from York until last month. He explains: "I couldn't bear to see what was happening. It was the way the ideals of the founders were not just being ignored but actively rejected that I found distressing."

On his return, Sir Andrew found the campus had undergone "an astonishing amount of development" and was barely recognisable from the York he had worked on for most of his life. Reflecting on the changes, he comments: "It just seems such a shame that the opportunity was missed to make York an exemplar of modern university architecture".

According to Sir Andrew, the ideals which the University had once been based upon were pioneering and made York stand out from other institutions. When the original plans were drawn in 1962, both designers and clients agreed that the campus should encourage a sense of community and this had significant implications for its architecture. One of the key features of York's campus was the collegiate system. As Sir Andrew explains, the founders wanted "a coherent social structure in which living, working and leisure activities could be pursued close to one another, and in which each individual would be able to find intermediate groupings with which he or she could identify with so as not to feel lost in the anonymous mass of the whole University."

As such, six colleges were formed with the intention of housing students as well as academic departments and leisure facilities. However, Sir Andrew was clear that he did not want the colleges to become imitations of one another. Instead, each one was to remain unique in its design and surrounding landscape and the founders even ensured that individual study bedrooms within the colleges were designed in different ways. Commenting on Derwent, Sir Andrew explains: "Every effort is made to give each room a different shape and window position".

The founders believed this attention to detail helped to make the York experience a memorable one. As Sir Andrew recalls: "We believed that we had to provide the University community with particular qualities of environment if the experience of belonging to it was to have the significance and value that it should." This explains the natural landscape surrounding the University, including the lake, trees and ducks, which added to its overall charm. Sir Andrew also mentions that students were allowed to rent boats on the lake, or even use it for windsurfing and rowing, and the Quiet Place was scattered with artwork for stu-



dents to enjoy, including a sculpture by Henry Moore.

Sir Andrew then returns to his description of the college system and explains that although it was ideal for developing small-scale communities, the founders still wanted to encourage contact between different parts of campus. However, as he points out: "The random contact which we sought would not take place unless we provided direct, sheltered, and safe pedestrian communication between the different buildings." This led to the covered walkway system; a mass of paths that linked all the colleges to one another and ensured students could visit anywhere on campus whatever the weather.

Sir Andrew also explains that he was keen to promote contact between students and academics of different disciplines and to "build bridges between the different cultures". Departments were therefore spread evenly across the campus – for example, the three major sciences were dispersed rather than creating one major science faculty.

The overall design of the campus was therefore intended to encourage the development of communities within the colleges, but not to such an extent that students were isolated from each other. The founders still valued the University community as a whole, evident in buildings such as the Library and Central Hall which brought everyone together. Sir Andrew comments: "We designed these as more conventional structures and allowed ourselves the liberty of an architectural style which expressed their functions in a more declamatory way. Thus the Library – perhaps symbolically the most significant building on the campus – is like a warehouse to store ideas and is simple but dignified to suit its elevated site. The Central Hall expresses externally the tiered seating of its auditorium with a suspended roof demonstrating the column free space of the interior."

Although Sir Andrew remains convinced that the campus he helped to design was a high point for York, he readily accepts that it was not perfect. However, he explains that the founders were keen to improve their

designs and did attempt to address various problems: "The first Chemistry professor complained that although we had given him a library and a lecture theatre, we had failed to provide a meeting place for discussion and refreshment. We remedied this in Physics with a double height exhibition space with a snackbar nearby."

Wentworth was also subject to criticism. Sir Andrew explains: "We couldn't afford a steel frame for the residential blocks and we had to clad the nucleus in timber." Nonetheless, he quickly adds "we could at least congratulate ourselves that every building had been put up on time and within the budget", a subtle reference to the recent accommodation crisis when Alcuin's extension blocks were not completed in time for the new freshers.

Later developments on campus followed the results of a student opinion survey in 1983. Sir Andrew recalls: "... although students liked the landscape, the convenience of living and working in the University and the Central Hall and Library, the rest of the buildings were described in response to an open question as 'bland, grey, dull, monotonous, modern, bleak and uninspiring – especially in the winter.'" Consequently, two new buildings were created using "a palette of warm colours and textures to brighten the place up."

"The first buildings to get the new treatment were the college extensions for Derwent and Langwith", Sir Andrew explains. "These applied other lessons which we had learnt from the student survey by grouping twelve to fifteen rooms around a three story staircase with a big kitchen-dining-meeting room at the bottom. We also made a start on James College using the same design principles."

However, despite the encouraging changes on campus, by 1993 the Vice Chancellor, Ron Cooke, called for a review of the entire campus design and Sir Andrew felt his position became untenable: "After over forty years of service I was dropped from the Estates and Buildings Committee and I was shown, as a fait accompli, propos-

als for a substantial building programme which I could neither endorse nor influence. So I said farewell with great regret."

When he returned last month, Sir Andrew was concerned by the changes he saw on campus: "I'm not attributing York's high academic ranking in teaching and research entirely to the way in which it was physically structured in the early years. But good design is not marginal. It can make the difference between a life that is comfortable, enjoyable and stimulating and one that is marred by a continual struggle against a hostile and depressing environment. My worry is that recent changes may threaten the success of the University if they are continued".

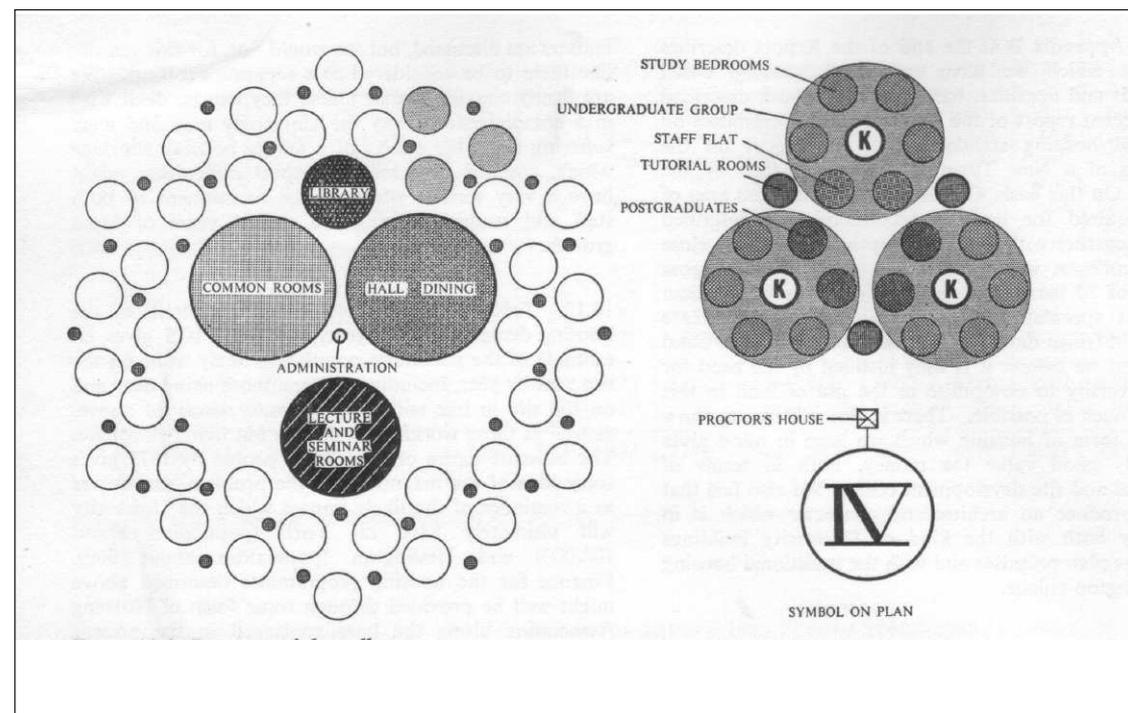
Sir Andrew found many problems in the new design and, with a heavy sigh, recalls: "The destruction of Alcuin College was a particular painful blow." The "late Alcuin" has since been replaced by a "sort of housing estate of halls of residence" and convinced Sir Andrew that the University has begun to reject the original ideals of the founders. He jokes: "Whereas I had seen elsewhere signs of erosion and a perhaps subconscious weakening of the college idea, this was murder."

Cracks have also appeared elsewhere. Sir Andrew explains: "Halifax Court is an example of the University's response in the hands of design and build contractors." As well as a decline in architectural quality, Halifax was built with a porter's lodge, a shop and a common room which "gave the Court a superficial resemblance to a college". According to Sir Andrew, failing to provide "the essential academic functions of tutorials, teaching and research space", made Halifax nothing more than a halls of residence.

Sir Andrew also notes that Goodricke has been "overwhelmed by a big sort of canteen which, like a cuckoo in the nest, puts the college dining hall completely in the shade". He asks if this was our answer to a central venue – "a place for a rave-up or a big meeting." Unfortunately, we have to explain that this big canteen – the Roger Kirk centre – is, in fact, prioritised for conference guests and York is still lacking a central venue. He explains: "Our solution to this was to build under the grassy hump on the landward side of the Central Hall. The section worked well with a gallery on the same level as the stage and the final result was relatively unobtrusive with a glass roof just as convenient for lounging in the sun as its natural predecessor." However, the University has rejected this proposal, and the idyllic image of the central venue that never was (see above) serves as a harsh reminder of what York could have been if the founding principles were still valued.

Sir Andrew also mocks the new Alcuin East Wing: "The vocabulary of different shades of grey indicates that the findings of the student survey and our attempts to use a warmer palette have been ignored ... Even the new plastic window frames are dark grey."

In addition to the recent developments, Sir Andrew expresses his surprise at the neglect of features from the original campus:



**Opposite: The central venue that never was. Above: Central Hall under construction. Far Left: Plans for a University college. Left: A Henry Moore sculpture in the Quiet Place**

"Although landscape maintenance still seems to be good the same can't be said for other elements of the built environment like the Goodricke-Vanbrugh Bridge over the lake which has now lost its glass. Is this a sign that the covered ways, like the colleges, will be allowed to succumb to advancing years for lack of conviction?"

Sir Andrew speculates that the recent changes on campus are a sign of things to come on the Heslington East site. Although he remains encouraged by the proposals he has seen so far, he reveals: "I am left with the impression that although the new plan is

based on the original aims of the University, its physical form will be fundamentally different." He feels the collegiate system will continue to be undermined, and campus will instead be divided into "clusters", with separate accommodation, academic and leisure buildings.

Whatever the future holds for York, Sir Andrew will not be a part of it and some may even consider this fortunate. At a recent lecture at the University, he was accused of being too idealistic in his original designs for the campus. The Library was designed with balconies on each floor so students

could read outside during the summer months. However, staff were quick to point out this just increases the possibility of thefts from the Library's archives. Similarly, Vanbrugh Paradise was designed with low-level lighting so the stars in the Heslington night sky could be visible to anyone wandering outside. However, welfare staff noted at the time this makes the open campus unsafe after dark. Unfortunately for Sir Andrew, he was not only subject to the whim of the Vice Chancellor, but also had to face new health and safety regulations.

The original campus was not without

its flaws and certain changes to its design were inevitable. Nonetheless, Sir Andrew and the other founding fathers remained loyal to the ideals the University was once based upon and, in his mind, this is what makes York memorable not only for the students on campus but for those designing it: "everybody involved can find the whole process rewarding and enjoyable, as it was in the first ten years of this University which remain for me the best years of my whole career. I can only wish the same for everybody involved in the next ten years of this unique place."

# How to keep your man warm and cosy this Christmas time

Wrapping up warm doesn't have to mean losing your edge. **Hannah Beesley** takes a look at the latest male trends to hit the high street in time for Christmas

Right: Black pinstripe suit jacket, £55  
Topman, Beige merino wool V-Neck, £35,  
Marks & Spencer.

Below Left: Brown gilet, £58, Gap, wool  
jumper, £30, Topman, Scarf, £15, from a  
selection at Monsoon Men.

Below Right: Stripecy jumper £25 Topman.

This winter sees the rise of five-year-old party chic. Obviously not the whole hog; no hiding under trestle tables and chucking sausage rolls at people. Craig Rushworth at River Island agrees: "All the stuff you remember from your childhood is definitely coming back around." The central idea is clear: if your Mum tried to make you wear it fifteen years ago, the chances are you should be wearing it now.

Now, before you start panicking with all-too-vivid images of scratchy, hand-made-by-your-gran style items, the idea is not literal. Unrecognizable knitted attempts at popular cartoon characters are not cool. Neither are red braces. Ever. However, classic items such as duffle coats, cable knit jumpers and cords are back with a vengeance. One obvious perk of wearing such items is that they are so practical. Warm, hard wearing and easy to find on the high street, this seems to be the perfect winter trend.

The autumn/winter shows offered 'kiddy cool' highlights with Calvin Klein

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'anything touchy-feely or snuggly is perfect this season'

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showing big fur-trimmed parka coats, and even dungarees - surely part of everyone's childhood at one time or another. However, exercise relative caution: dungarees may work on the catwalk, but may not blend in too happily on campus. John Galliano took the 'grumpy child in over-sized coat' look rather too literally with his giant tartan coats, the kind even on-trend York is not quite ready for. If designer style is a little beyond the remaining dregs of your loan, don't worry. The high street has caught on almost instantly to this season's leading trend. Topman is, as usual, the first place to go if you're looking for what's hot this winter. They continually offer good quality items which are definitely in vogue at affordable prices, as well as offering that essential student discount. Check out their stripy scarf (£12) and 'No Way Mum!' style chunky knitted cardigan (£45). They also have a fantastic beige cord duffel coat (£65), which epitomises this look.

Gucci has been more subtle, using traditional children's clothes fabrics such as corduroy and shearling in a stylish, polished collection. Due to the nature of fabrics such as cord, there is the hazard of buying into this trend and looking a: actually five, or b:





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## The scientific briefing with **Luke Boulter**

### Facing an uncertain future



As you amble down Micklegate at 3am with a cold take-away in one hand and the other hand pressed to your forehead trying to convince yourself that you know the way home, what is it that causes someone that you've only spoken to once in your life to yell across the street acknowledging you as a friend? Similarly, what is it that causes a loved one to run towards you as you step off the train?

I should like to suggest that, for me, it is my wit and gripping sense of style, but alas it would seem this is not the case! It's my face. Without doubt, our face is our most defining feature; each one is different and it is the part of us that is most on show. So what if one day this all changed? What if through some accident what you saw in the mirror was no longer the face that you had grown up with?

In the UK alone, it is suggested that 1 million people suffer a facial injury each year; of these injuries 125,000 are classed as serious. Most of these people fall into a similar age group to most undergraduate students. Conventional treatments obviously vary according to the condition, but in most situations the wound is covered up or closed, leaving scarring on the face. In the most severe cases, skin grafts are used in tandem with plastic surgery in an attempt to reconstruct the face. This, however, is often a lengthy and painful procedure with no guarantee of a successful outcome.

So what does this have to do with science? During the final week of November, a revolutionary procedure was performed: an operation on a 38-year-old woman whose lower face (nose, lips and chin) had been savagely mutilated in a dog attack. The plan in this case was to take a triangle of flesh from a recently-deceased donor (which contains nose, lips and chin) and attach it to the recipient. The surgery was performed at a hospital in Amiens, France, and the team was the first ever to carry out this type of procedure. Shortly after completion, a statement was released saying, "the transplant looks normal."

Face transplants have been theoretically possible for years, ever since microsurgical techniques, required to separate the tiny and delicate capillaries and nerves, were mastered. If nothing else, the operation could be classed as experimental. Surgeons had to weave together a highly complex network of blood vessels and nerves, as well as attaching muscle to bone, in order to prevent the graft moving away from the rest of the face. The patient does not look entirely like the donor or her old self, with bone from the recipient and soft tissue from the donor combining to give an intermediate appearance.

The procedure, however, has not yet been declared a success. It is still early days; the coming days and weeks remain crucial. The microscopic

remodelling will have to work as intended, with blood vessels supplying a healthy flow of nutrients to the tissues, and the nerves providing both movement and sensation.

The patient will be required to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of her life, which will increase her risk of developing some forms of cancer; there are personal decisions to be made. Also, there will always be the very real chance that the body rejects the graft, resulting in the tissues being slowly broken down. If the graft is lost, she might be worse off than she was before the surgery, aesthetically speaking at least.

Now you understand my opening statements, what would the long term psychological effects of this type of surgery be? What would it be like to look in the mirror and see what can best be described as a mask, or at least a partial one. Within just a few months of the injury, the woman was reportedly already on a waiting list for a donor face, well before conventional reconstruction procedures had been tried.

Critics of the French team also note that in most cases transplants are intended to save a life, and that, however much the patient suffered from being mauled, there was no indication that her life was in danger. This procedure should not, however, be moved into the realms of aesthetic surgery, as it is no mere nose-job or face-lift.

In terms of ethics, the question remains of whether it is any less deserving to improve the quality of a life than to save one. Invariably between black and white there is a scale featuring several shades of grey. I imagine that the woman in question will be pleased not to live a life where people stare or politely avert their eyes whenever she leaves the house to do her weekly shop. What's more, emotional detachment in the light of this decision is undoubtedly beneficial, but is a patient facing death without a new heart or kidney any more capable of this choice than someone confronting a life without a face?

With the ethical conundrum still up for debate, the continuation of these transplants relies solely on one thing: whether by this time next year the French patient can stand by the side of her surgical team and smile for the world's cameras and can make it comfortably into a supermarket.

If this happens, it is increasingly difficult to claim that these procedures, no-matter how sci-fi and outrageous, are not beneficial and that the French recipient and those similarly injured should not be given the chance to have their face back. For now, a clinic in Ohio has given the go-ahead for a team to conduct a face transplant, and there are similar projects in the pipeline at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

Only time will tell in this face-off (apologies) between nature and the surgeon's knife.

# The problem with the truth

Is lying still considered a terrible sin? **Suzi Farr** examines our attitudes on the dodgy moral topic that us of modern dishonesty

“No, your bum doesn’t look big in that”, “Of course I haven’t polished off your *Ben and Jerry’s!*”, “I was more an ‘environmental hygienist’ than a toilet attendant”.

Honesty is the best policy, of course it is; isn’t that what we’ve been taught all our lives? Yet it seems that steadfastly adhering to moral principles might be a hindrance to making it big - or just saving your neck.

Like most people, many students tell small lies for a whole host of reasons. Take the painful, “it isn’t you, it’s me” break-up scenario. Whether on the receiving end or not, it is clearly an avoidance of the truth, but probably a beneficial one. So, should evasion now feature as a life skill on the curriculum?

It seems that we now live in a world where we not only feel that we have to lie to get by, but where we also know that others are increasingly likely to yield to our demands due to an unwritten protocol. One needs only to monitor the refund counter of a department store, where almost every day someone will demand a refund, without a receipt, for an item that the store might not have stocked for some time. More often than not, depending on the persistence of the customer, the staff will pay up. After all, “the customer’s always right!”, and whilst young Jack might suspect that the customer is dishonest, it’s far easier for him not to be bothered by it.

Is there now just an expectation that people lie? Certainly no one can doubt that our society has evolved so that we now live in a world bubbling with professional dissemblers. Lawyers, advertisers, salesmen and that ever present breed of lovely “customer service reps” who will promise to ring you back and to sort out the error on your bill, but actually end up erasing all trace of the aforementioned conversation. On deciding to call again, you will inevitably be treated to frustrating mind games which will involve a degree of irritating jingle-jangle music, followed by the revelation that the problem is most definitely your fault. It is easier, and perhaps more economical, for your service rep to apportion blame, complicate matters, or stall communication, rather than fix the blasted wireless broadband connection or error on the gas bill.

Our growing cynicism about liars has produced strange results. The popular assumption that politicians are averse to the truth has made journalists super-keen to expose cover-ups, even to the point that they will fabricate them, whilst, when real lies are uncovered, they seem bizarrely nonplussed. For example, the tabloids showed great zeal in seeking to broadcast the self-serving media storm surrounding David Cameron in

his bid for the Tory leadership, even though the seriousness of the situation was ridiculously minimal. Yet, the grade A lie divulged by Stephen Byers, the former Transport Secretary, over Railtrack affairs generated much less indignation, perhaps because it was a more expected, accepted and a less interesting lie. Byers admitted that he had indeed been untruthful with MPs about the date when he had taken on the role of ‘fat controller’ and liquidated Railtrack. But, in this case, no one is bothering to investigate the strange phenomenon of a man’s loss of his ability to conceive time and space. The mind boggles.

We have a natural ability to identify different degrees of dishonesty. Real lies are what powerful people (not students) do: UN oil for food officials, Tony Blair and WMDs, and Jacques Chirac who infamously claimed £100 a day for food. We perceive these acts as somewhat more serious than coping off work for the day with a hangover, avoiding the TV licence reminders, or pepping up the CV because you think you might get away with it. Whilst these actions do still seem dishonest to a large section of the population, isn’t honesty becoming a bit old fashioned and a bit out of step with the type of go-getting society we now find ourselves living in today?

With everyone else on the make and that elusive job interview coming up, it’s becoming increasingly difficult, or perhaps naïve, to stick to the moral high-ground. Margaret Thatcher epitomised the view that, “you don’t tell deliberate lies but sometimes you have to be evasive”: a fascinating and widespread view, but one that is seriously corrosive and worrying.

Alas, some companies have now taken the decision to take on experts who can spot lies on students’ CVs in order to help curb the lying endemic. No wonder, when only this year it was also revealed that one in four students admitted to having taken material from the internet and then passed it off as their own. The action itself is alarming, but so too are the students’ brutal admissions of their dishonesty, with one in five not averse to admitting that they felt plagiarism was an acceptable practice. And what did the Plagiarism Advisory Committee do about it? They said that they were now very busy, “identifying examples of bad practice”. Nice excuse, but one which illustrates a reluctance to simply accept that the practice of plagiarism is wrong.

However, it can seem that many people are happy to excuse dishonesty. During a recent tête-à-tête à la café Barista with a fellow student, I listened conscientiously to



Poetic justice? Despite the moral downgrading of lying, dishonesty was Bill’s nemesis.

what was seemingly a tale of inexcusable deceit. My companion divulged that whilst working last New Year’s Eve in a late-night bar, he had significantly upped the bills of already inebriated punters and pocketed the difference. His excuse was to blame the victims; if people get so drunk that they don’t notice the add-on, then it’s expected that they will be subject to such dishonesty.

Furthermore, the revelation at a recent seminar that more than half the students expected to be present had come down with “flu” was a bit much to stomach. Yet it seemed that the tutor preferred to put a rosy tint on the lie and believe what he preferred to believe: that honesty prevailed. After all, to allow himself to realise the dishonesty would entail catching up with all those in question. Perhaps it illustrates that students no longer value honesty as they once did, but rather the preference is for an illusion or appearance of honesty. For a minority of students, the pre-

vailing view is that it’s smarter to “blag it” in a seminar than do the reading. To quote Henry Kissinger, “It’s not a matter of what is true that counts, but a matter of what is perceived to be true”.

Whilst political acts of corruption still invoke great indignation, some still endorse cheating, the terminal avoidance of lectures and the like as something that comes with the territory, so long as you get away with it. The fact that people more readily divulge their tales of dishonesty gives weight to the disturbing claim of moral downgrading. One American University found that at least one falsehood would be told in one-in-five ten-minute conversations. Apply the ten-minute conversation test to graduates and the proportion rises to one-in-three. If education endows a pupil with the ability to deceive convincingly, it might be the case that it will take a lot of hard graft to preserve the honest sentiments of the next generation.

## Caught red-handed: famous liars and their blatant fibs

### Michael Jackson

Apparently Michael has only had two nose jobs, ‘to help me breathe and sing better’, yet experts believe his face is near collapse.

### Bill Clinton

‘I did not have sexual relations with that woman’. Well, as long as the semantics are correct then the law can’t touch you, Bill.

### Paul Burrell

After the former butler graciously said that Diana’s story was not his to tell, the £300,000 pay off by the Daily Mirror seems to have eased his moral conscience slightly.

### Jeffrey Archer

Is there anything that this man didn’t lie about?

# What is a first really worth?

Are you really as clever as you think, or are our degree standards just being 'dumbed down'? **Joanne Grant** looks at growing accusations of grade inflation in our universities and questions the value of our degrees

It looks as if those halcyon days when education really meant something have well and truly passed. While GCSEs and A-Levels have received their fair share of bad publicity, the Honours Degree has, until now, remained relatively untouched and, therefore, untarnished. However, it now seems increasingly unlikely that things will remain this way. Already, proposals to replace the current system of classification (that is: thirds, lower seconds, upper seconds etc) with a new system that awards either a pass, distinction or fail, are under review at this very moment.

So, why the need for change? The thinking is that if the number of people graduating from university with a 'good' degree is increasing, then degrees themselves must be getting easier. Last year 28,300 first class degrees were awarded, an increase of 7,600 on 1999. An astonishing 86% of all graduates now expect an upper second or a first in their degree. Not even the fact that only 60% go on to fulfil that expectation has served to dampen the debate.

Unarguably, 2:1s have come to displace the 60% of 2:2s, or 'Desmonds' (Tutu), awarded in the 1980s. The notorious 'third' or the 'Vorderman' (of the Carol variety) as she is more commonly known, has almost become a thing of the past. Some point to this as evidence of the 'devaluation' of degrees. The Higher Education Standards Agency would disagree; "there is no particular evidence that the reduction in the number of third class honour degrees awarded reflects anything other than an improvement in the achievement of the student cohort."

Contrary to what some would have us believe, i.e. that degrees are getting easier, we are, it would seem, working harder. A senior

**'Student lifestyle as depicted by Rik Mayall and fellow layabouts in *The Young Ones* now no longer holds'**

marker at York echoes this sentiment; "I give as many 2:2s and thirds as are deserved. I haven't given many at York, but that is simply because York students work hard and are smart." Perhaps, then, the proliferation of firsts and relative absence of thirds at York also has something to do with the fact that it is a good university.

The 'dumbing down' of degrees debate comes at a time of increasingly negative coverage in the press. The 'joke' courses offered at various academic institutions around



Are students now going to the library to actually work? Photo: Toby Hall

Britain are a particular favourite with the tabloids. Some, admittedly, are just plain silly. Fancy getting that bit closer to David Beckham? Well now's your chance: by studying him at university. It does make you wonder what the reading list looks like; one assumes his numerous mundane autobiographies make up much of the content.

But History at York is hardly the same thing. There is, after all, an unmistakable correlation between grades at A-Level and subsequent achievement at degree level. It makes sense that those with As and Bs on entry (a requirement of the top universities) are the most likely to exit with upper seconds and firsts. And with competition for course places growing ever fiercer, it shouldn't come as a surprise that marks are on the increase.

The highly competitive graduate job market is the other thing that scares many an undergraduate into putting some serious hours in at the library. Since the demise of the grant system, students have come to face the reality of up to £20,000 of debt on graduation. One penniless Sociology student, Caera Mahoney, said, "I really can't justify the cost of university if I don't leave with a decent degree. I try to treat it like I would a 9 to 5 job." The situation can only become more acute with the recent introduction of top-up fees.

Student lifestyle as depicted by Rik Mayall and his fellow layabouts in *The Young Ones* simply no longer holds. We wash our hair now for a start. There was a time when 'going to university' evoked images of a three-year-long round of binge drinking followed by a hung-over slump in front of 'Neighbours'. There is of course still an element of that, but now the vast majority of us manage to squeeze some work in between all the hedonism.

However, there is an alternative theory to the one that claims we are all working harder, and that is the theory that we are all getting cleverer. The findings of the 'Flynn effect' show that the average IQ score increases by 3 points per decade. So either we are cheating the system and taking the same IQ test year upon year, therein getting to know the questions very well indeed, or we really are cleverer than our (grant-maintained) parents.

Whatever the reason, we are all doing alright, thanks very much. But if you do find yourself slogging your guts out to pass while other people appear to breeze through, don't be disheartened. "Even a 2:2, in the grand scheme of things, is a good degree and puts you ahead of the majority of the population", says one York academic. Take comfort in the thought then that whatever you're aiming for, be it indeed a 'Desmond', or a first, it will be worth it in the end.

## How to get a first - even if it is a pointless waste of time and effort

- 1) Forget your friends. If your initial reaction to that was "What friends?" then you are already halfway there.
- 2) Remember, forty hours is the minimum. And that doesn't include toilet breaks. Consider a drip?
- 3) If you have a significant other, and, frankly, you would be foolish if you did, allocate them time slots. Forty-five minutes face-to-face contact seems adequate, while you multitask.
- 4) Eat at your desk. Lunch is for failures.
- 5) You might think that falling down the stairs at Ziggy's after one too many lurid coloured shots is acceptable time off. Indeed, some people might even term it fun, but it's not going to get you a first now, is it? Or, if you find yourself in a similar situation every day, a degree at all.
- 6) Sleep is for average people, view the night time as a secret expanse of time in which to outshine normal honours students.

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# Rebecca Gower



## Makeovers: are they really the answer?

The other evening, I found myself in a surprisingly good mood: I didn't have much work to do, nobody had recently driven up my blood pressure by asking what I plan to do when I leave university, and my house had not yet sunk into its normal state of near-arctic coldness. Things, it seemed, were right with the world. With this cheering thought in mind, I went downstairs to make a cup of tea, and found my housemates watching *What Not To Wear*. Within moments, all of my optimism had evaporated away. There's nothing like Trinny and Susannah to kill positive feelings.

It could be that my aversion to *What Not To Wear* stems from the fact that I am pathetically shabby, and therefore just bitter that I'm not the one being shown the path to enlightenment. Indeed, my housemates (who all dress impeccably well, and can't work out how they ended up living with such a tramp) are increasingly desperate for me to apply to the programme. Truly, though, I think I'd rather lop off my own arm. For a start, there's no way that I want to be groped by two fortysomething women (however well-intentioned they may be, they've got no concept of personal space), and anyway, I don't know a single person who worships either of them as a fashion icon: they're just not that good at choosing clothes.

I think that the real reason that I couldn't bear to get the Trinny and Susannah treatment, though, is the rather sick nature of the selection process. It used to be that your friends and family would nominate you, which was fair enough. (Well, not fair enough if you're the poor sap suddenly discovering that your spouse/child/best friend has problems with the way you dress. But fairer than how it works now.) On the new, supposedly improved version, you nominate yourself, and then compete with the thousands of other applicants to be the saddest case there, in order to get chosen.

Isn't that just a bit wrong? All

of these people competing to seem as wretched as possible, just to get some free clothes and a hair cut? And they're not encouraged to feel better about themselves: they are fed the lines. Trinny will say something along the lines of, "I'm sensing that you feel depressed, that you think you're worthless in some way", to which the contestant will reply – preferably, with a slight catch in their voice, and the faint glistening of tears in their eyes – "Yes".

At which point Trinny will go off to confer with Susannah about whether this person is tragic enough to merit the gift of their sartorial wisdom. And the worst thing is, once they've selected their two victims and given them a makeover, they are painfully pleased with themselves: "I just feel like I've changed their lives, given them a new sense of purpose, improved their relationships with their loved ones, made them better people", and whatever else they want to come out with.

I can't cope with it, with such shameless and deluded self-congratulation. They think that by giving a person who has low self-esteem a new look, they have sorted everything out for them. It's just not true: treating a symptom does not equate to curing the original



Trinny and Susannah are the figureheads of a modern culture that demands self-improvement

problem. These people are depressed for a reason, and trussing them up in some ridiculous outfit may give them a temporary high, but that is as far as it goes.

I shouldn't get so annoyed about it, I suppose: it's just another part of the bizarre culture of self-improvement that is everywhere at the moment. You hate your nose/ears/whole body? Don't worry, we can get you a new one on a televised plastic surgery show. Or your boyfriend can win you breast implants, if you'd prefer. Maybe you think you're not eating properly? Never fear, the esteemed Dr. Gillian McKeith can help you out with that one (and no, it doesn't

matter that her methods have been widely discredited by experts in the medical profession). Or perhaps you're going somewhere hot for your holiday? Well, any magazine will supply you with a number of crash diets in order that you're looking at your emaciated best in a bikini (and some also supply helpful tips as to how to sit in such a way that you look thinner).

It feels that the world is becoming so sanitised that we're all being encouraged to look the same way, eat the same way, dress the same way; and yet nobody's really bothered about how happy you are, or how healthy your attitude towards yourself is. I'm not sug-

gesting that the answer is personality makeover programmes (to the best of my knowledge, that hasn't been done yet. Just imagine: you're nominated for it by your loved ones, who tell you everything they dislike about your character, and then 'experts' try to make you nicer.) I just think that we should stop believing that changing the way someone looks, by whatever means it may be, will make them any better-adjusted. At least that way, Trinny and Susannah might stop acting as if their programme was some kind of force for good, when really it's just an opportunity to bully a few people who loathe themselves.

## The joys of gyrating on a Saturday night

I was thrilled when I got this column: at last, a chance to ramble on at some length about whatever subject I choose, to anyone on campus actually bored enough to read it! It was like an early Christmas present. However, the euphoria quickly wore off, as I realised that really, I was making a terrible mistake. You see, I have no 'Significant Other' about whom I can be smug and mention at every available opportunity. And it's not as if I can take advantage of my single status to write some Carrie Bradshaw-esque spiel with 'quirky' observations about my own and my friends' love lives. Not only

would they undoubtedly shun me (besides, they're all either as single as I am or in boringly stable relationships), but I don't believe anyone's that interested. I'm certainly not. No, what's far more compelling at the moment than some student's romantic status is the human drama being played out every Saturday evening on *Strictly Come Dancing*. It's got everything you could possibly ask for in television entertainment: nostalgia (Bruce Forsyth's revival of old Generation Game catchphrases really tugs at the heartstrings), more flesh and sequins on show than anyone needs to see, embar-

rassment (I winced when Colin Jackson started gyrating around insanely a few weeks ago; not only did it look wrong, but it felt slightly inappropriate that it was on before the watershed), and people being given the opportunity to reinvent themselves in some way – Zoë Ball, who I assumed would be the clumsiest of all of them, is a stunningly good dancer. What's really brilliant about *Strictly Come Dancing*, though, is the fact that it has a heartthrob with near universal appeal: the lovely James Martin, formerly of *Ready Steady Cook* fame (not that I'd know, as I've never watched it). Forget

Shayne from *The X Factor*, recently championed by *Heat* magazine as "the sexiest contestant ever": he's got nothing on James. Here is a man who can cook, who somehow manages to radiate niceness, and who is comfortably rubbish at most of the dances. Unfortunately, he's rumoured to be going out with his dance partner, Camilla. Normally, a bit of romance is nice, but the woman looks about twelve, for heavens' sake. Ah well. By the time this edition is out, he'll probably have been kicked off the competition and a nation will have forgotten all about him: how quickly and cruelly the world moves on...

# The pleasures of York at Christmas

Christmas is meant to be a time for giving and sharing, but if you're feeling the pinch as well as the chill this winter, **Rowena Nicholls** reveals how to indulge in the festive season without selling your soul to Scrooge

It is that time of year again; the nights are drawing in, the lake has frozen over, strange men are starting to wonder around in red costumes with sacks, and your next-door neighbour keeps trying to sneakily corner you under the mistletoe. Yes, it is nearly Christmas, the joyous time of exchanging gifts with loved ones, singing carols, making snowmen and getting substantially drunk on mulled wine by the fireside.

However, for many students, the season of good will may not be so merry. Christmas can be a notoriously stressful time of the year, particularly as the mounting pressure to spend arrives at just the point when the remnants of your loan are disappearing. Yet, as the old adage goes: 'the best things in life are free'. There are many ingenious ideas that make it possible to have a merry Christmas on a budget in York this year without turning into Scrooge, or even worse, Tiny Tim.

Now that York has its Christmas decorations up, the city is probably one of the most festive places to shop in the country, and you can now do this 'til 8pm every Thursday evening. This is perfect for those too busy to reach town during the day, or alternatively those who are inclined to wander around in the snow, busily buying presents and pretending that are starring in a festive BBC period drama. Furthermore, if you fancy wrapping up warm and strutting around in some fancy footwear, from the 26th November and all through December there will be an ice skating rink near Clifford's Tower; perfect for showing off your sexy moves and acrobatic twists on those winter dates! It costs £6.50 if you have a student card and is a perfect excuse to pretend that yes, you are actually Torvill (or Deane) and everybody wants to be you, as you waltz around trying to impress. But if you fall over, remember to make your hands into fists...

For the more cultural amongst us, or those who prefer a slightly warmer arena, why not go to the Minster for some merry carol services. There is a carol service held on almost every evening throughout December, which can be a really unique and fantastic experience. The majority of Minster concerts are free but there are a few extra special services that cost. The Minster is also hosting the York Early Music Festival in December, which promises to showcase a whole range of musical talents. Early music may be a bit random, but why not? Embrace your inner craving to hear a Chaucer-esque lute. Contact the Minster on 01904 621756 for more information and make sure that you arrive early, as the queues can be really long.

Furthermore, the news that Darcy from Neighbours is coming to York has sent avid fans at the University into frenzy. Tickets for the show are quite expensive, priced between £10.15 - £14.50, but is it really possible to put a price on the opportunity to see such a tanned Adonis play the handsome Prince in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*? Here is the perfect opportunity to eat pick and mix until you



Christmas shoppers in York's busy centre

throw up, holler "he's behind you", or even use the event as a platform to launch a noisy camping about how Karl and Susan should get back together.

If so far nothing has grabbed you, or you are too unshakeably cool to go to a panto, then a trip to the York Dungeons may be in order. From 13th December, Satan instead of Santa (see what they did there?), will be available to hear you reel off your wish list for a new Playstation, the *Lost* box set and an inflatable sheep... At Satan's Grotto you will be greeted by roasting robins, impaled elves and, of course, Beezlebub himself. Only the brave and evil get to sit on his naughty knee.

There are few who have been into town when there hasn't been a market in Parliament Street, which is inevitably full of desperate vendors dousing incense over people in an effort to drug them into buying ethnic handbags. Throughout December, such markets will enjoy more of a festive tone and you can buy hand crafted gifts, or something odd like a German sausage or piece of furniture (if that's what takes your fancy!).

Evidently, the city can provide a range of special things to do before going home time arrives, but what does campus have to offer? As the weather descends increasingly into a mini ice-age, the thought of freezing in town may be too much for the fragile ones amongst us. Furthermore, impending darkness can cause the Sixties-style buildings on the campus to dampen Christmas spirits. If you are living on campus, it is important to get organised with a few party tricks to make your surroundings more colourful and festive.

Firstly, you will obviously need to put up decorations - but not before December 1st or else its bad luck. In order to make your room glisten on the cheap, add some tinsel and that old favourite, fake snow to your windows; a



The ice rink has already proved popular with both students and locals, providing a unique Christmas experience against a stunning backdrop. Photo: Georgi Mabee

**'At Satan's Grotto you will be greeted by roasting robins, impaled elves and the devil himself. Only the brave and evil get to sit on his naughty knee'**

brilliant way to wish universal cheer and declare your undying love for the fitty in the block opposite. Try popping down to Pound Land, which has reams and reams of cheap Christmas decorations all for a pound! So splash out and buy your porter a Santa hat to bring a bit of cheer to your college.

Unfortunately, garden centres don't really exist in close proximity to York City centre, so unless you are really dedicated and plan on heaving a four foot Swedish elm over your shoulder all the way back from B&Q, you may need to invest in a fake plastic or blow-up Christmas tree. However, you can occasionally buy trees from the grocery shop on Heslington Road, or failing that, the forested area surrounding the University over Fulford way may suffice, but be careful not to bump into anyone with your axe, as it may give the wrong impression...

Real mistletoe is also difficult to get hold of, so it might be a good idea to buy the tacky plastic variety, which can then become a permanent feature above your door. Clearly you would have to kiss everyone who comes into

your room, which may be a shock for your cleaner or landlord. But who knows, this could work to your advantage!

To save cooking an expensive Christmas dinner and probably causing the evacuation of your block or street, try settling for dining out on campus. Many of the colleges are offering reasonable Christmas lunches for under a fiver (depending on whether you can manage a pudding or not) with both traditional turkey and various vegetarian options. Clearly there will be a plethora of campus events encouraging drunken Christmas fun and frolics, but if you have completely run out of money by this point, why not cash in on all the free booze offered by under-subscribed societies who have been haplessly emailing you all year? The season is about giving and taking after all.

So it seems that being a poor student doesn't necessarily have to mean spending all of your loan to the point of having to hitchhike home, or else missing out on celebrations until you get spoiled by your family. Whatever you chose to get up to in York this Christmas, it promises to be a merry affair.

## Last minute Christmas crackers

Organise carol singing and go door to door. You may be able to charge more for leaving...

Get your friend (clearly not you) to dress up as Santa and walk around your college giving out chocolate for extra Christmas cheer.

Get down to the Early Learning Centre and make paper chains to decorate your room and corridor.

Arrange a fancy dress Christmas party (dress up as ghosts of Christmas past perhaps?) and make your own, stronger version of mulled wine.

Dress up as characters from the nativity play and re-enact it whilst you walk around campus. Charge people to watch you desecrate the biblical tale.

Neighbours' resident compulsive liar, Mark Raffety, discusses his new role.

## From Doctor Evil to Prince Charming

Mark Raffety is currently starring in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* at the Grand Opera House, York, 15th December to 8th January (Box Office: 08701 451163)

*How did you make the transition from doing a soap in Australia to pantomime in York?*

A bunch of people in Neighbours had done it over here, enjoyed it and recommended it to me. I think if you've got public exposure in England, then you get the call. It's a tradition really for soap stars to do it, and not just with the Aussie shows but also with stuff like *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*. This is actually my fourth panto now, and I love doing it.

*You were born in England though, weren't you?*

Yes, but I left when I was a baby. I was actually born in Portsmouth, way down south, which was very freaky, as that was where I did my first ever panto. Can you imagine it, I was walking down the same streets my parents pushed me in my buggy, yet this time dressed as a giant rat for the show! People were shouting 'Hi Darcy' at me instead of Mark, it was a very surreal experience.

*Do you have panto in Australia?*

No we don't, it's again very much a British thing. I can't think of any other country anywhere that does it, I mean can you imagine Panto in Germany? 'Zat's not funny! Zis is funny!' I mean come on, it just wouldn't work anywhere else, it's such a purely British experience.

*How did you get into acting?*

Well originally I was an illustrator, but my girlfriend at the time was sick of me getting constantly under her feet, so she told me to audition for this commerial. I scored it straight away, which was great, and it just followed on from there. So I guess I did it for the money first! But the love did follow afterwards, and I feel very lucky to do a job which has both love and money. Because it's impossible to do one without the other, really.

*So how did you land a part in Neighbours?*

I got into Neighbours because I didn't get a character I auditioned for. However the producers really liked my audition so they decided to write a part for me! Darcy's a really great character, and I love playing him. He has such a wide canvas, and therefore is a joy to play, as you just don't know what he's going to do next. One moment there's comedic scenes, then there's emotional ones and then there are scary ones. He's not your standard Neighbours character who doesn't vary very much.

*When you're in Neighbours, do you realise*



*its popularity in Britain, especially among students?*

Yes, well we're always aware of our ratings, and we know we're popular. It's light entertainment, but very successful light entertainment so I'm not knocking it. I mean, I love doing panto and that's the lightest of light! People need to be entertained, it's just that I prefer to watch documentaries and films in my free time, something a bit heavier.

*How are you finding York?*

It's a beautiful city. I walked past the Minster and that's a fantastic building you've got there. You're very lucky, having that sense of history which Australia just doesn't have. Our western history is only a couple of hundred years old, if you go any deeper then you go into Aboriginal history.

*Is the stereotype of an Aussie Christmas as all barbies on the beach really true?*

No, that's a myth, and people buy into that. Obviously it arrives in our summer, so if you live by a beach then you probably would have it there, but it was originally an advertising campaign by Paul Hogan! We have the huge marketing campaign around Christmas like you do here, but with a different slant of the Aussie way of doing things. You have real snow, we have fake stuff. We still wear a Santa Claus hat, but with bathers instead of a coat!

*Will there be a return for Darcy?*

Yes, but only if the story lines are right. He's such a great character; I don't want to come back for any old stories and ruin it. At the moment I have my directorial debut coming up doing a short educational film about mental health conditions, which is my chance to give something back.

**Mark Raffety was talking to Toby Green and Vicky Hallam.**



## Winter Warmers: Soup

Before coming to York I had been warned by Brits that it would be quite cold. Naturally, coming from Sweden, I scoffed at such warnings and decided not to pack a duvet, since I figured it wouldn't be cold enough for me to need one anyway. Needless to say, on my second day here, I bought the thickest duvet I could find, as well as gloves and a proper pullover - things I had also neglected to bring.

In this edition I am going to bring out the heavy artillery when it comes to dealing with cold weather: soup. Let's start out with some croutons, though.

### Garlic and Oregano Croutons (Serves 4)

1 garlic clove  
25 g butter  
1 teaspoon of oregano  
2 slices of bread

1. Set the oven to 150 degrees.
2. Put the butter in a cup or a small bowl, and microwave for 10 seconds. Use a garlic press if you have one. If not, chop the garlic finely and add it to the cup along with the oregano. Mix. To peel garlic quickly and easily, give each clove a good smash with the flat of your knife before peeling.
3. Butter the bread and put it butter side down in an oven pan. Butter the other side as well. No one likes soggy croutons; so don't go too heavy on the butter!
4. Put the pan in the oven and give the bread about 5 minutes on each side, or however long it takes to give it a bit of colour.
5. Take the pan out and wait. Let the bread cool down to room temperature, then chop it into cubes, and leave the cubes out for at least an hour. It's a good idea to put the cubes in a strainer and shake off the worst of the crumbs.
6. Serve whenever you please. The croutons will stay good for at least a week if you put them in a bowl with no lid and store at room temperature.

### Mushroom Soup (Serves 2)

1 onion  
2 garlic cloves  
200 g mushrooms (6-8 normal-sized ones)  
250 ml half cream  
250 ml milk  
1 cube vegetable stock  
1 teaspoon of thyme  
Pepper  
Soy sauce  
Butter

1. Chop the garlic finely.
2. Get the worst dirt off the mushrooms with a brush, a sponge or, failing all else, your hands. Don't rinse them, as they will absorb the water. Slice thinly.
3. Time for the onion. The fastest way to peel it is to first chop off the very tip of it, and then slice the entire onion in half. You should now be able to peel off the brown layers fairly easily. Cut each half once down the middle, and then slice thinly.
4. Put a bit of butter in a pot and turn it up to medium heat. Wait until the butter has stopped sizzling, and add garlic, onion and mushrooms. Stir frequently. The mushrooms will absorb the butter fairly quickly, but as long as you have a non-stick pot this isn't really a problem.
5. Once the mushrooms have started to darken a bit in colour, add the half cream, the vegetable stock, and thyme. Turn the heat down slightly. Use the empty cream container to measure up the same amount of milk and pour that in as well.
6. Let it boil for about ten minutes. While you do this, add just a few drops of soy sauce. You're going for a light brown colour, so you should need no more than three or four drops. It's very, very easy to go overboard with the soy sauce.
7. Taste the soup. The stock and the soy sauce are both quite salty, so avoid that reflexive grasp for the saltshaker. Serve with croutons sprinkled on top.

By Johan Carlin.

# Student drama: The Guardian Angel of AIDS Awareness?

A student production with relevance beyond the Drama Barn? **Nan Langfeldt-Flory** looks at how *Angels in America*, in conjunction with Student Stop Aids Society, has reawakened awareness of HIV / AIDS on campus.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of December was World AIDS Day - an opportunity to regenerate awareness of a condition which is a potential threat to us all. Here in York, Martha Paren, Chair of the University branch of the Student Stop AIDS Society, organised a week of events aimed at putting the issue of AIDS back into the spotlight. In recent years the issue has taken a back seat to seemingly more pressing concerns. This week's activities included an interactive mural to which people could add their thoughts and feelings about the AIDS crisis, collection tins (one of which was carried by a large bear for novelty's sake), sponsored absailing off Central Hall and, to bring the week to a close, Full Stop, in collaboration with the Afro-Caribbean Society and James College. Full Stop took place in Vanbrugh College and featured live samba music. The money raised on the night, along with the proceeds of the other activities, is going to The AIDS Support Organisation in Uganda, Student Partnership Worldwide and, closer to home, North Yorkshire AIDS Action.

This local focus is an important addition to the list. If you go by the statistics, the UK population has developed a dangerous tendency to see HIV and AIDS as illnesses which only affect other people. In the same way that people go to Live 8 and then think they've done their bit for world poverty, people in Britain (where good medical practice and the wide availability of condoms mean that nearly everyone should avoid infection) are becoming complacent. The initial uproar that arrived with AIDS in the late 1980s has died down and the British no longer see themselves as being particularly at risk. HIV is seen as a foreign problem.

The significant increase in HIV infection in the Third World, particularly in Africa, is terrifying. The escalation is due to several factors: poverty means there is more chance of transmission in medical procedures; there a weaker educational infrastructure to inform the population about prevention; and contraception is less widely available. The fact that infection rates in the UK have also been constantly on the rise since 1999, however, demonstrates a worryingly blasé attitude. The fear in the late eighties and early nineties, when the epi-

demical began, has been forgotten. Educational campaigns, although helping to break down prejudice against victims, have failed to keep people vigilant against infection. The statistics speak for themselves: in 2004 there were 7,275 new diagnoses of HIV compared to 3,851 in 2000. From 1992 until 1994, the number of new infections decreased, but since 1994 the number of infections has been on the rise. There are now an estimated 74,977 people with HIV or AIDS in the UK.

In the arts, there has been a similar drop in interest in the crisis. Thematic preoccupation with the AIDS epidemic was common in many circles in the eighties and early nineties. This was particularly prevalent in contemporary gay American theatre, where performances were used to raise money and awareness for the cause and/or to remember victims. The homosexual community in the US was the first to really feel the brunt of the epidemic and their creative output was the first to study the impact of infection. Several short, experimental works were developed, and in 1984 a group of theatre practitioners in San Francisco set up a company called A.I.D.S. (Artists Involved with Death and Survival). These early creative attempts to face the AIDS crisis paved the way for addressing AIDS on the mainstream stage. This happened in 1985 with Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* and William Hoffman's *As Is*, both of which played in New York. The plays were met with an enthusiastic response, with *As Is* winning the Drama Desk Award for outstanding new play and being nominated for three Tony Awards. They did, however, attract a lot of critical attention due to the novelty of their subject matter, since they were very clearly categorised as 'AIDS plays'.

Then, in the early 1990s, Tony Kushner's work, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, arrived on the scene. As the title suggests, this is not a play which allows the AIDS epidemic to be seen as purely the concern of a minority of victims and their communities, and out of which uninvolved audiences can get a cathartic kick. The play studies mainstream American culture and shows how AIDS is an established part of the new national equation, as



Ever wondered what it's like behind the scenes of the Drama Barn? Andy Hunter helps Katy Kelly put on her wings in the makeshift dressing room. [photo Toby Hall]

prevalent as religion, politics, drug addiction and love. In one of the play's key lines, Louis, a gay character, rejects the idea that tolerance of the homosexual community is acceptable. Tolerance is passive hatred, he argues; a fact which becomes clear when you find yourself in trouble, as being tolerated doesn't mean anyone is going to help you out. This is what Kushner fights against in his play; he wants an assimilation of AIDS so that it becomes everyone's problem.

Kushner's piece is made up of two plays, *Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*. Put together, they form an epic production that can take up to seven hours to perform. Sam Hanna, a second year English student, decided to take on the challenge and revived the play this term as a part of Martha Paren's week of action, and thereby bring back theatrical engagement with the condition and its effects. After weeks of preparation, it was performed in the Drama Barn on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of week eight. In spite of the high ambition of the project and the many hurdles encountered along the way, Hanna and his eleven member cast pulled off the biggest and most unusual show of the term, moving away from the trend for terse three or four handers and taking the chance to really experiment with the Barn's possibil-

ities.

I spoke to Hanna and some of his cast in the days before the show's opening night about the process of putting on such a large-scale show in the barn (which, as even its most ardent supporters must admit, is at best a humble venue). The barn has no back-stage area, but rather a sort of side stage which also serves as one of its fire exits, hence stringent health and safety rules about how much scenery can be stored there. There is only one entrance to the stage, unless the actors go outside after the audience has arrived and come through the front entrance. Apart from its simple lighting rig, there is no technology to speak of, not even a curtain. Nevertheless, York is purportedly home to the most prolific Drama Society in the country, staging more productions a year than any other University.

Hanna took advantage of the opportunity this presents to theatre-interested students when deciding to stage *Angels in America*. His reasons for choosing to put on this play in particular were convincing. Firstly, he said, he loved the play for its eloquent and beautiful writing, secondly he enjoyed the challenge it presented and wanted to test the limits of student theatre. He also cited the lack of gay theatre at the

University and the small number of plays with large casts as motivators (Hanna created space for two additional parts to increase the number of people involved). The collaboration with Student Stop Aids was a 'happy accident'.

The process began with auditions where sixty-five people vied for 11 parts. A varied company was created, including five first year students and an exchange student from America. The cast testified that, in rehearsal, Hanna took a laid back and collaborative attitude. Far from being a dictatorial director, scenes were workshoped by small groups of actors and were followed by feedback from the rest of the cast. Katy Kelly, who played the Angel (amongst other small roles) explained how this style of working led to interesting and enlarging debate amongst the cast and crew. A long period of intense rehearsal with a close-knit group of people meant that no one was uncomfortable in the open and frank discussions which arose. The diversity of the people involved came in handy with the two Americans, Havilah Gianne, playing Belize and Mr. Lies, and Diedre Yee, the make-up artist, training the cast to perform with American accents.

Ben Anderson, a Drama Barn veteran, played Joe. He said that this was the first production he'd been involved with where he wanted to read around the play and find out about its theatrical context. He said 'It's not been just about acting, about being on stage, it's also been about learning about a great play and all the issues it brings up. So much of what's on in the Drama Barn is 'done'; this is difficult, different'. Difficult seems to be an appropriate adjective; the show encountered some trouble in getting health and safety clearance: it had to abandon some of its

more radical set plans and was asked to cut Joe's nude scene (although why seeing Ben Anderson in the buff poses a health risk to anyone was beyond us all). Surely abseiling off Central Hall has more potential for fatalities, unless Anderson is secretly a Gorgon beneath those very trendy clothes of his?

For those involved, the experience clearly spread beyond simply learning lines and blocking scenes, and this will be extended to a wider audience in week ten when a representative from North Yorkshire AIDS Action will be coming in to give a talk to students. Sam Hanna will also be there to share his experiences of directing the play, as will Martha Paren.

Paren spent her gap year working in Uganda and can provide illumination on the other side of the AIDS issue: the extremely high infection rate in Africa. In the West, anti retro-viral drugs mean that HIV and AIDS patients can potentially live with a good quality of life for many years. In Africa however, profit-hungry drugs companies prevent access to life saving drugs. Given that over 40 million people are living with AIDS or HIV, the connection between AIDS and art is as important as ever, ensuring that it remains within the cultural arena. If we can encourage discourse, then work to reverse the growing trend of infection will hopefully begin to take effect. The Stop AIDS Society slogan is 'The world is watching', in reference to their vow to hold world leaders to the G8 pledge to work towards universal AIDS treatment by 2010. In a world with an increasingly short attention span, perhaps the best way to ensure the validity of that slogan is to give us something to watch, something to make sure we don't lose our focus.

#### HIV and AIDS information and support agencies in York:

To find out more about HIV and AIDS in York: [www.northyorkshireaidsaction.org](http://www.northyorkshireaidsaction.org).

To get a confidential and free HIV test, contact Monkgate Health Centre GUM Dept, 31 Monkgate, YO31 7WA, on (01904) 725417 to make an appointment

If you are concerned that you may have been exposed to the virus, or are worried about your sexual health, contact:

Young Person's Sexual Health Advisor (01904) 725444 (ask for Ginni)

Yorkshire MESMAC, (for homosexual males) The Workshop, Marygate Lane, YO30 7BJ, (01904) 620400.

# A drinking revolution?

Everyone is talking about the new licensing laws, but have they really made a difference? **Flora Bradwell** and **Vicky Hallam** launch themselves into the seedy underworld of late night drinking

The new late licensing laws seemed to many to be the dawn of a new era. They would transform York and the rest of England into a continental paradise where drinkers would imbibe responsibly throughout the evening and into the morning, basking in the warm glow that only steady drinking can produce, and renouncing all their binge drinking ways.

Sadly, however, on the eve of this poten-

**'The first weekend was the calm before the storm'**

tially momentous occasion, nothing really seems to have changed. Kate Harris, a third year English student, went out on the town to mark what she thought would be a life-changing event. Although the experience of staying in the Punchbowl in Micklegate until 1am was a novel one, her hopes for all night long partying were dashed when Toffs closed at two thirty instead of the much anticipated four a.m.

It wasn't just the revellers who missed out; many clubs and bars in town closed early or made losses due to the new late night culture in York not kicking off with the predicted bang. Harkers is rumoured to have only

taken £20 in the extra hour it was open, which does not even cover the staff overtime. Katie Elliotte, barmaid at The Maltings, confirmed that many bars and pubs won't even use their late licenses on most nights, as it is too expensive to do so. There are also many pubs that failed to get late licenses or did not even apply for them. Benjamin Anderson, barman at The Charles XII, explained that there were around eighty-five complaints from Heslington locals about the pub attempting to apply for a later licence. Benjamin himself grumpily stated that he was "pleased they didn't get one, because it would mean I would have to work later".

The sense of anticlimax surrounding the changes in licensing seem to have saturated campus. Adam Harrington, a Langwith first year, described his fears: "I don't think it will make much difference, but I do have a feeling it will make my nights out more expensive, as I will be inclined to drink for longer". Chemistry first year, Peter Rayner, agreed, saying, "I don't think it will have much effect in a small tourist city like York". The student population seem to be united in their disillusionment with this drinking revolution. However, Garry Sellers, bouncer about town, is not so convinced by the apparent serenity of our quaint York streets: "the fact is that the first weekend of late licensing was the calm before the storm. Local people avoided town like the plague because they knew what was coming."

Although this seems like an extreme

view, there has been a worrying development among the student population. All of us know somebody who has attempted all day drinking sessions to mark the change in licensing laws; even the computer scientists are at it. Daniel Whitehead, a second year computer scientist, boasted: "a bunch of my compsci mates went out drinking for seventeen long hours the other night, they were battered. They did the time warp down Coney street, they're mental". This worrying incident could set a precedent for future timewarp trends on the streets of York. The Home Office are heralding the new laws as a way of eradicating 'yobbish behaviour'. However, these public displays of drunkenness and musical abandon seem to suggest otherwise.

The idea of York becoming a den of iniquity and sin due to later drinking is far less terrifying than the point raised by Peter Rayner: "I am more concerned about the takeaways not being open when I eventually leave the club. Will I be able to get a pizza at four a.m.?" This is a serious issue and one that was happily anticipated by York's takeaways themselves.

Several have successfully applied for late licences, including the legendary York's Yummy Chicken on Pavement, possibly the best takeaway in town, which has been made even better by the fact that discerning late night party beasts can sate themselves on filthy greasy meat there until four a.m. This innovative adjustment to the opening hours

of takeaways will not only insure that later nights out will not be tainted by dull hunger on the walk home, but will also allow students who have chosen to enjoy recreational activities at home the chance to purchase late night snacks if the need arises. This culinary step forward is marred, however, by the fact that Ali G's pizza, the proud sponsor of Derwent bar quiz, is the only pizzeria to have failed to achieve a later license. Obviously this is a lamentable spanner in the works and there is currently a petition circulating campus calling for this discrepancy to be addressed.

At the end of the day it seems that most students welcome the change in licensing laws. The ability to drink later does enhance student life, as now on a Friday you can watch all the great telly and have a night out, which is certainly a bonus. And despite the horrifying prospect of computer scientists musically taking to the streets, Garry Sellers, the prophet of doom, admitted that it would most likely be the "stag and hen nights and chavs" that caused the most problems for bouncers and bar staff alike. Unless any of you are planning on getting married or drinking White Lightning outside Costcutter, then you won't be tarred with the "yobbish behaviour" brush. Embrace the new drinking revolution, you might like it.

## Late Night Licenced Take Aways

Golden Dragon, 3 King Street.  
Monday to Saturday 2300 - 0300  
Sunday 2300 - 0200

Salt and Vinegar, 13B Bridge Street.  
Monday to Thursday 2300 - 0030  
Friday to Saturday 2300 - 0230  
Sunday 2300 - 0100

Micklegate Takeaway, 36 Micklegate.  
Monday to Saturday 2300 - 0300  
Sunday 2300 - 0100

Golden Grill, 10 King Street.  
Monday to Thursday 2300 - 0300  
Friday to Saturday 2300 - 0330  
Sunday 2300 - 0200

Efe's, 26 Heslington Road.  
Monday to Saturday 2300 - 0300  
Sunday 2300 - 0100

Marmaris Grill, 3 Lawrence Street.  
Monday to Sunday 2300 - 0300

York Yummy Chicken, 28 Pavement.  
Monday to Sunday 2300 - 0400

Zaf's Tandoori Takeaway, 33 Heslington Road.  
Monday to Sunday 2300 - 0300



The new drinking laws theoretically revolutionise opening hours, yet bars and clubs are reluctant to implement them fully

# Food and Drink Reviews



Certificate 18  
Gillygate

Reviewed by  
Ben Toone

★★★★

Once York's only gay pub, the ex-Bay Horse, underwent a drastic transformation to become York's "premier rock pub" four years ago. Located half way down Gillygate (54 Gillygate) and within 3 minute's walk of King's Manor, the pub is the only one in York dedicated to the alternative rock scene.

Suitably adorned with posters of punk, grunge and metal heroes on both walls and ceiling and with black painted furnishings and bar, Certificate 18 (or Cert. 18 as known by regulars) tries to hide its old pub roots. It offers the mainline pints, including Guinness, and house spirits, making it no better than the average pub in York.

However it is in its events that Cert. 18 really excels, offering an extra venue for the alternative fraternity to complement the generally more indie/rock-orientated Fibbers

and Junction, as well as a perfect excuse to avoid Ziggy's on a Wednesday. With a band every weekend and dj nights and bands during the week, Cert. 18 aims to please, catering for the punk, hardcore/emo and goth fan in us all. Some nights are free, usually with more local bands or with regular club nights.

Cert. 18's previous problem of not opening as late as the clubs should be rectified with later licensing hours, but that still doesn't escape the fact that the place feels like it has been designed as the Addams Family's local, just not as scary. It is hard to see how this beats Fibbers' new Saturday club night in this sense, though the lure of free table football (yes free!) is quite an attractive feature. Cert. 18 is also open during the day, where you can eat your standard pub fare.

It is certainly not the place for a quiet drink by any means, with MTV2 and the like on during the day and with deafening speakers come evening (not altogether unexpected in a rock bar). Overall, Cert. 18 isn't a bad pub, with the variety of events, club nights (and free footie!) putting it a class above the average old-man orientated pub scene that York is renowned for.



## Which toddy?

Despite the fact that the older generation of gruff Yorkshiremen take sheer delight in describing the current weather conditions in York as 'fresh', the increasing number of earmuffed and mittened students on campus is a testament to the icy winds and persistent rain that have been dogging the university's usually bright and (not overly) breezy hillocks lately. Really, the only valid way of seeking solace from the unrelenting seasonal affliction of the outdoors is in a good old-fashioned hot toddy to warm your cockles and your icy hearts.

### Starbucks' Eggnog Latte, £3.09

Described as a 'rich and creamy holiday classic' on Starbucks' website, this sickly concoction is enough to make even a hardened chocoholic with a very sweet tooth heave. One's urge to gag is further increased when the enormity of the price for this sacherine offering is realised. I do not know if anyone would be brave or stupid enough to shell out for a large one of these babies, but I sincerely pity the fool who does. Starbucks have overdone it on the rich and creamy and after tasting this offering, I'm in thorough need of a holiday.

### Lendel Cellars' Cheeky Vimto, £4.60

Usually containing two shots of port and a few lashings of WKD blue, many people have disputed the Cheeky Vimto's actual likeness to Vimto. However, I feel that Purple Ronnie would be very proud of this concoction. You would also be wrong in confusing it with Ribena; such an error will ruin the whole experience. We do feel this price is ridiculously expensive (despite its ability to get most people extremely drunk) and suggest that a much easier solution is to buy some lovely TKW from Tesco and a bottle of port to make your own... Be warned that whilst in a moment of randomness you may be inclined to add alcohol to your average Vimto cordial, alas it is not the same. Not only will it induce calpol-related memories, but also its effects won't even come close to those of the notoriously 'Cheeky' Vimto.

### Plonkers' Mulled Wine, £2.95

When the weather outside is frightful, and you are feeling full of sing-song festive glee, get down to Plonkers for some Mulled Wine; only then can you really take in the spirit of Christmas. This spiced winter warmer is not only alcoholic but is also the perfect concoction to dispel any chills and shivers that might afflict you in sober moments. Served in the same measure as a small wine glass, this classic hot toddy definitely hits the spot.

Toto's  
Fawcett Street

Reviewed by  
Alex  
Olorenshaw

★★★★



All but the most unobservant of this year's freshers will be aware of Toto's. It's the pretty restaurant with the green trim on the corner of Fawcett Street. You'll have passed it on your way in to town many a time, and, if you are lucky, you'll have stopped off to get a bite to eat. Although the location is hardly the most glamorous in York, the result is a very reasonably priced, authentic, friendly and atmospheric place to eat.

Of particular note is the happy hour offer between five and seven on weekday evenings, when pizza and pasta cost under a fiver. It's a fantastic bargain, leaving enough change in your pocket to knock back a bottle of wine for around fifteen quid, or to indulge in one of Toto's famous desserts; all £3.50 and all delectable. For those with more money to burn, the specials board plays host to an ever-changing combination of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes.

Whether you're looking for a quiet romantic meal downstairs, where the smells from the open-plan kitchen waft enticingly around you, or you require more space upstairs for a larger gathering, Toto's won't disappoint. So next time you're wandering past, resist the urge to get trashed in the Postern, and satisfy your taste buds instead.

Fresher's Cafe  
J.B Morrell Library

Reviewed by  
Ayla Ozkan

★★



Tucked snugly under the J.B. Morrell library and overlooking the rolling hill lies the small haven of Fresher's Café. There's something oddly alluring about Fresher's. Perhaps it's the painfully uncomfortable chairs, relentless icy wind coming through the windows that must remain open on pain of death, or the endless variety of food available: baguettes or jacket potatoes, and for those lucky vegetarians, cheese or egg!

While the service remains of the highest quality, it gets a bit complicated if you ask for a jacket potato before 11.30am. However, if you ask nicely, they'll even put it on a plastic plate rather than one of those polystyrene bowls that inadvertently end up being mistaken for a particularly chewy potato skin on the end of your matching plastic fork.

This winning element not only benefits you, but crucially assists in the ongoing campaign to reduce unnecessary waste in the world, which is why Fresher's is so cutting edge in terms of its priorities. It knows that in life, what's most important is cheese, egg, jacket potatoes and the environment. The next time you hear the joyful sound of lunch ringing out through the ventilation system in J. B. Morrell's audio visual room, don't just listen, go sample and enjoy.

Akash Tandoori  
North Street

Reviewed by  
N.Luke Abraham

★★



As a 'curryoholic', I always enjoy trying a new curry house, but that enjoyment is also mixed with trepidation - will the curry be nice? Could I have got a better one from my usual "dealer"? I had heard good things about the Akash and decided to give it a try. One instant plus was that it didn't have the standard Indian restaurant music tape stuck on a loop that most places in York seem to use.

The waiters were all very attentive (possibly a little too attentive - we averaged one each) and served our rice for us, helped us off/on with our coats and even realised that I was holding snooker cue under my arm and not a flute. However, the important part of the meal is the food. The main meals were about £6-£8, but add on rice and naans, and you're down an extra fiver. Poppadoms are another quid, but the real killer was the bottle of Cobra at over £4!

I opted for the Chicken Tikka Dansak (I'm a big fan of lentils) with mushroom rice and a peshwari naan and, while the food was nice and of a very reasonable quantity, the total cost just didn't seem worth it; I prefer having change from a twenty. For a lesser price there are much better places, and while nothing was terrible, nothing was that good either.

# Music Reviews



## Singles list

### James Blunt - *Goodbye My Lover*

This third single from the ridiculously successful *Back to Bedlam* album is a far less typical or commercially pleasing affair. More understated than previous releases from the record, its touching words are moulded around an aching raw partnership between bare piano melody and Blunt's distinctive vocals. Don't expect this one to top the charts though - practically everyone in the country already owns this album, and the song is certainly not as accessible as 'last dance of the school disco' favourite, *You're Beautiful*.

### Coldplay - *Talk*

Mr Paltrow and his backing band appear to have hopped into a time portal and ended up in the 80's for this drab, synth filled offering, in which there is about as much emotion as your standard episode of *Neighbours* (accentuated due to the unfortunate decision to release this as the follow-up to the exceptional anthem *Fix You*). Not unlistenable, but instantly forgettable. You get the impression that *Talk* is destined to be relegated to the track listing of a least one 'Drive Time Classics' album in the months ahead. Come on boys, you can do better

### Sigur Rós - *Hoppipolla*

It is no wonder that Sigur Rós are relatively little known in the UK, where Icelandic music begins, and indeed ends, with Bjork's *It's Oh So Quiet*. However, rest assured that the band's critically acclaimed new album *Takk* should settle a few scores, especially this, the second single from the record. A whirlpool of Nordic post-rock bliss, *Hoppipolla* combines a full orchestral sound with a memorable piano riff and haunting, childlike vocals which pull on heartstrings you never knew you had. Blunt take note - THIS is how to do it.

### Nizlopi - *The JCB Song*

When a song is labelled a favourite for Christmas number one, I don't expect to like it, nor do I even expect to find it mildly amusing. This, however, I find offensive to any unsuspecting person who may have turned on the radio at the wrong time, or, unsuspecting, bought it for an insistent younger relative. Torture for the ears, and very possibly the worst record ever made.

### Crazy Frog - *Jingle Bells*

I take it back.

*Singles this week were reviewed by Music Editor Gemma Day*

The Strokes  
First Impressions of Earth

Reviewed by  
Toby Green

02/01/06

★★★★

The return of The Strokes could not come at a better time. The backlash against 'NME indie' has begun and art rock has become as banal as its name promises.

It makes a nice change then to go back to how it all started: the angular guitars and thriftstore fashion sense that now seem ubiquitous were popularised by the emergence of *Is This It* in 2001.

*First Impressions of Earth* is perhaps the band's first real attempt at a departure from the original template. The key change is that The Strokes have lost their strict tightness, which is a mixed blessing. Let's not go over the top here, this is no *The Second Coming*. However, it is a whopping 55 minutes, containing three more tracks than their two previous efforts. The result is dreaded filler, a word never before associated with this band.

*Fear of Sleep* is crying out for a watertight chorus but ends up wallowing, whilst *Killing Lies* never takes off as it promises.

However, the relaxed style is worth it purely for Julian Casablancas' singing. Always a wannabe Tony Bennett in tight jeans, he has developed into a full-on lounge singer. *Ask Me Anything* is essentially a solo track, with Casablancas crooning in a lazy drawl over an organ riff with minimal percussion and guitar. It is a radical departure and also a huge risk by the band, but is pulled off and provides a perfect middle mark for the album.

The remainder of the album is an extension of the development made on *Room on Fire*. When Casablancas steps back from the forefront, Nikolai Fraiture's bass proves the driving force behind many of the songs, especially the first single, *Juicebox*, which rattles along at a frenetic pace. Nick Valensi and Albert Hammond Jr's guitar playing has once again come on leaps and bounds, their flourishes framing the vocals and spiralling around the rhythm section.

Overall the new additions more than make up for what's been left out. On this form, we won't begrudge them for Bloc Party.



Kate Bush  
*Aerial*

Reviewed by  
Dante Smith

Out Now

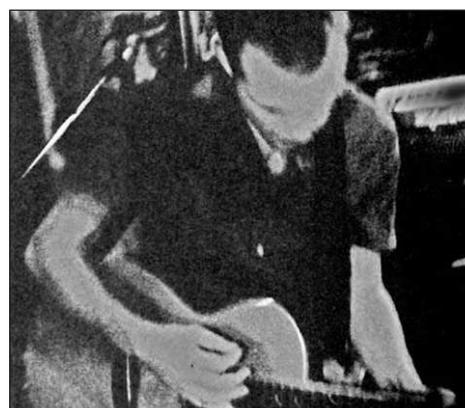
★★★★

After a hiatus of nearly twelve years, Kate Bush is back with a new double album and, considering the broadsheet hype surrounding *Aerial*, you'd think she had re-invented the wheel.

However, for all the vision and scope that this release features, you can't help but feel slightly disappointed. The production is bold and ambitious, but threatens to drown several otherwise excellent songs; the listener is ultimately bombarded by an array of lengthy, similar tracks that wander around without really going anywhere.

There is still much to enjoy amongst *Aerial*'s sixteen songs; lead single *King of the Mountain* is a strong opener, whilst the likes of *Pi* and *Mrs Bartolozzi* display a streak of hushed beauty, containing the kind of off-beat lyrics that only Kate Bush could ever get away with. For all this, *Aerial* comes very close to crossing the line between whimsical magic and slightly misjudged mawkishness on a number of occasions; at times you can't help but feel that the likes of Bjork create soundscapes very similar to Kate Bush but in a much more compelling fashion.

Overall though, *Aerial* is an interesting album, albeit one that seems to be trying a little too hard.



The Crimea (Live)  
*Fibbers*

Reviewed by  
Robin Seaton

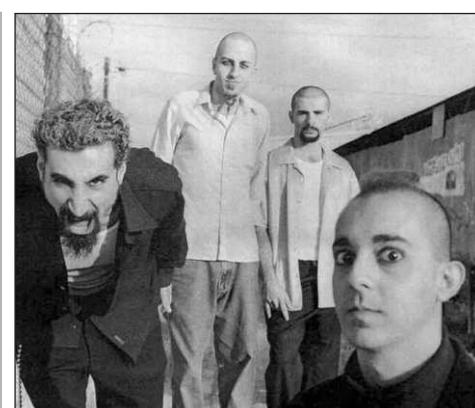
★★★★★

You might remember the sublime *Lottery Winners on Acid*, originally released around eighteen months ago now, which has become the Crimea's most popular song. It was certainly popular with John Peel, who called it one of his favourites of the past few years.

Tonight it formed the pinnacle of one of the best gigs I've seen this year, as singer Davey MacManus stood in the middle of the crowd in some kind of shamanic trance, covered in bubbles from a hidden bubble machine.

The Crimea's short set was the most gripping performance I'd witnessed in ages - beautifully damaged indie pop seems to have a hallucinogenic effect on MacManus, who careered about the stage like a dangerously drunken marionette. In between assaulting the drum kit (and himself), he found time to deliver a breathtakingly intense performance which held the Fibber's crowd utterly spellbound.

New tracks from the aptly titled *Tragedy Rocks LP* were well received, especially *Gazillions of Violins*, which showed that The Crimea still have the touch when it comes to mixing soaring harmonies with frenzied yelping in a way that is apt to break the heart of any listener.



System of a Down  
*Hypnotize*

Reviewed by  
Gemma Day

Out Now

★★

For those among us who like their music hard, fast, nonconfirmist and unforgiving, *Hypnotize* could well be the album for you. Once again, the band manages to seamlessly mix political statement with ear splitting guitar, and often bizarre arrangements - with the explosive consequences which have now become their trademark (see album highlight *Visions of Obscenity*).

This may, however, also be the problem with the album: it is almost predictably unpredictable. Adjacent songs such as the title track, *Kill Rock and Roll* and *Stealing Society* tend to merge together in a plethora of guitar distortion and hollering, which, guys, it wouldn't hurt to break up once in a while.

I am sure that, despite its somewhat stagnant feel, *Hypnotize* will strike all the right chords with the large and loyal fanbase that the group has accumulated over the past few years.

However, if you are not a hardened fan of SOAD, I certainly would not recommend this album. The band's eponymous debut and their second effort, *Mezmerize*, are easier on the ear, and give a far better representation of just what this group can do with a 12 track L.P.

# Film Reviews



*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Director: Andrew Adamson  
With: Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes

Runtime: 140 mins

Reviewed by  
Tom King

★★★★★

I have to admit I wasn't really looking forward to this big-screen outing of one of my childhood favourites. Having been slightly mystified by the success of a certain hobbit, I was afraid that *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* would turn out to just be *LOTR*-lite, an easy opportunity to foist another hundredweight of filthy orcs upon us. It's nice when a film surpasses your expectations.

*LWW* isn't just another sword and sorcery epic. Yes, there are huge battles and mythical creatures, but by constantly keeping the focus on the Pevensie children, allowing us to see Narnia through their eyes, Adamson ensures that the bizarre creatures and places never become humdrum. While *LOTR* suffered from taking itself too seriously, in *LWW* whenever things start to get a little overblown, they are swiftly punctured by a self-aware aside ("We're not heroes, we're from Finchley!") Neither is too much made of the Christian analogies of the books. For a film promoted by the Church of England (Manchester Cathedral recently held an Aslan Worship ceremony - I'm not lying...) there is surprisingly little evangelism. Adamson has managed to capture the charm and magic of the books and successfully present it on a huge scale.

In this he is greatly aided by some excellent casting. The four children are played by unknown young British actors who are refreshingly talented. Special mention must go to Georgie Henley who, despite being the youngest of the four, is very much the centre of the story, but who deals with the position marvellously. They are supported by an excellent cast of stalwarts, both in voice (Ray Winstone, Dawn French and Liam Neeson) and in person (the chilling Tilda Swinton as the White Witch). Without doubt, however, this film's major triumph lies in the fact that these performances are not overshadowed by the phenomenal makeup and SFX on show. Lions, tigers and bears (oh my...) but also centaurs, minotaurs, fauns and unicorns are on show and, unusually in this age of CGI, mostly done by the use of animatronics and prosthetics.

There are also a few points in this film that jar, though. The talking animals can sometimes be slightly too caricatured and, while in general the CGI is effective, it falls flat in its most important task. Aslan is one of the most important parts of this film (along with the Witch and the Wardrobe), but in making him look so true to life, the designers have made him rather unemotive and one-dimensional. This isn't a major problem as all he has to do is stand around looking noble, but it does make it rather difficult to empathise with him.

But these are simply problems which arise with all big movies and none of them spoil the story in the slightest. This is a perfect Christmas blockbuster with even a cameo from the man himself, Father Christmas. A must-see.

## Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Director: Mike Newell  
With: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson

Runtime: 157 mins

Reviewed by  
Rob Perkins

★★★

more going on in the increasingly dark and dangerous world of Hogwarts than mere teen angst, notably the Triwizard Tournament (a series of horrific challenges which risk the competitors' lives). Harry has been entered, but neither he nor anyone else can explain how or why. Oh, and the 'Dark Lord' Voldemort is returning to full power, and still wants Harry dead.

If this sounds like an awful lot of plot for one film, it is. Newell has overseen a lot of editing, and big chunks of the book are missing. Purists and geeks will send complaints, but it's a necessity. While the book includes all manner of additional meanderings, the film would be two and a half weeks long if it were to attempt to do justice to everyone's favourite trivialities. As I am defending the film now, I should really turn my attention to the main target of criticism: the kids. It isn't easy to impress when on screen with British cinema's greatest actors, but they are much better than in previous films.

Myriad new characters are introduced, each played by one of British acting's leading lights, with David Tennant and Brendan Gleeson as the brilliantly insane Mad Eye Moody. Particular praise must go to Ralph Fiennes who is as sinister and truly evil as I had always hoped Lord Voldemort would be on screen (especially when you consider the target audience). He's certainly more frightening than the Mister Potato-Head in *The Philosopher's Stone*.

At the end of the day, there's nothing particularly wrong with *HP4*. It reduces its awesome cast to cameos and the narrative jumps as it tries to negotiate the vast scale of the book. Personally, I would have preferred more of the dark fantasy and less of the angst. However, *HP4* has a bigger and more demanding audience than almost any other film series, and concessions have to be made to capture the bigger picture. And this is as big a picture as they come.



Many Harry Potter fans consider *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* to be the best book of the series so far. Therefore, despite the disappointing earlier films, an inordinate amount of hype has surrounded *HP4*. However, this feverish anticipation places an unenviable burden on Mike Newell, the latest director, to adapt the massive original tome to achieve universal satisfaction. It's a daunting and wholly unrealistic task.

*HP4* sees Harry begin his fourth year at Hogwarts and develop his first crush, while all those around him fall into the usual pitfalls of adolescence. Naturally, there's far

## Doom

Director: Andrzej Bartkowiak  
With: Karl Urban, Dwayne Johnson

Runtime: 100 min

Reviewed by  
Dan Kipling

★



*Doom* is exactly what we have come to expect from films derived from computer games: lots of guns, monsters and gloop. Here, there is that in abundance, but that is about it (and there isn't even that much gloop!).

Ruthlessly pillaging the formula that made *Alien* great, (lots of moving shadows and dark, metallic corridors) this film takes all the elements of a good gore-fest and makes them boring and predictable. The characters are dull and one-dimensional, the one-liners stink of cheese ("Say my name, baby" - to a gun!), the soundtrack is uninspired, and the plot has more holes in it than

the story in a standard shoot-'em-up computer game.

To be fair to director Andrzej Bartkowiak (director of *Romeo Must Die*), there is a smattering of tension here and there, as the stereotype American Badass Marine guys split up and roam the dark corridors, but it's a proven formula and it goes on far too long. A welcome break, then, comes near the end in what is a refreshingly innovative and original piece of filming. We watch the action in first person perspective through the eyes of Karl Urban (Reaper), and it is a fast-paced and different way to enjoy a chainsaw rampage. Then it's safe to go back to sleep and avoid the "grand finale" of a wrestling match between two people (and not a monster in sight).

The problem is that the two main things people love about the game are the hellspawn and the gunslinging shoot-everything-in-sight. In *Doom*, the gunslinging is there, but it is relatively understated for a film sold on its reputation as a monster mash; and there is very little hellspawn - mainly just the same zombies they used in *28 Days Later*, *Shaun of the Dead* and *Resident Evil*, all of which are, in their own ways, significantly better films. All of the actors still need to make a top quality film after their big budget breakthroughs, and *Doom* is not it (given that none of them are in the only part worth watching).

Given that the film is built on a computer game where shooting is the main objective, you don't go into *Doom* expecting much more than a glorious gun-fest. Even here, though, the film falls short. There are good things to be found, but you have to look hard. If you liked *Resident Evil*, maybe go and see *Doom*. If you like watching someone playing computer games, maybe go and watch *Doom*. If you like wrestling, then maybe watch the last few minutes of *Doom*. Otherwise, go to Ziggys instead.

# Arts Reviews

Kirran Shah & Amy Blackmore went to see York's new gallery, The ArtSpace.



**Ails Denholm and Greg McGee in their new shop and gallery, The ArtSpace.**

The ArtSpace opened three weeks ago, opposite Clifford's Tower. Owners Greg McGee and Ails Denholm wished to create a space dedicated to Yorkshire art in all its forms. A small independent gallery, they hope it will help people reconsider the stereotype of art as an elitist activity.

It has been established locally in an attempt to give Yorkshire artists the opportunity to display their work and gain some exposure. The use of exclusively Yorkshire

artists is intended to help local practitioners become more established within the artistic community. This fills a hole in York, which has a great range of aspiring artists who deserve to be recognised for their individuality. Despite York being a such small city, it houses a wide and varied art scene. The ArtSpace also aims to be accessible, to 'break down barriers' such as the 'pomposity' regularly associated with art galleries.

On visiting The Artspace, the stark

white walls and simple lighting highlight the countless interesting items on display. There is handmade jewellery, ceramics and unusual bags to command your attention. Carla Ballantine's work particularly stands out. She imports vintage cigar boxes and transforms them into bags. Great if you're looking for something different for Christmas.

The minimalist decoration allows for great diversity in the art, which is displayed strategically around the two-roomed gallery. There is a diverse mixture, ranging from abstract expressionism to urban landscapes. The thoughtful arrangement creates a blend of colours and ensures that nothing looks out of place.

David Baumforth's seascapes portray an uncommon blend of the abstract with a natural landscape in blazing blue adventurous strokes. Of his work, Baumforth said, "My pictures are not necessarily pretty; they are the truth." Blue Wilson expands on this trend for hybridism with a techno-impressionist urban landscape. Jim Stafford focuses on graphic design and personal illustrations. You can view his Warholesque work at [www.bran-man.com](http://www.bran-man.com).

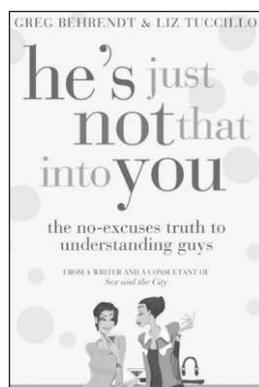
McGee describes his criteria for selecting work: "I want [it] to be edgy, I've realised that darker, even paranoid paintings actually sell better." He wants to show that York is more than tea-rooms and the Minster and is

supported in his ambition by artistic collective Return Of The Artists (ROTA). This group was established by Milladdio, another local artist. McGee has been encouraged by ROTA to incorporate a wide range of artistic styles in his displays, including mixtures of textural and abstract techniques.

The gallery is also running workshops which include a Christmas Card Craft Workshop and a Saturday Sketchbook Club. McGee likes to see these workshops as creative therapy sessions with a chilled out atmosphere. The workshops are not just for students; he wants to encourage retired people and young professionals to work together as a community. However, you don't have to be working in physical media to be represented in the gallery; McGee also sells local bands' CDs, who receive all of the revenue.

McGee's main aim in founding the ArtSpace is to encourage the local community to come together to express themselves artistically in a range of materials. People of all abilities are welcome to take part as well as to appreciate. He states, "I want to give all artists a chance". This include students - just drop in to chat to McGee or Denholm.

In the same vein, the prices for workshops are fairly low in an attempt to attract a wide range of people and, if you are looking for 'unique, quirky Christmas gifts', students get 10% off!



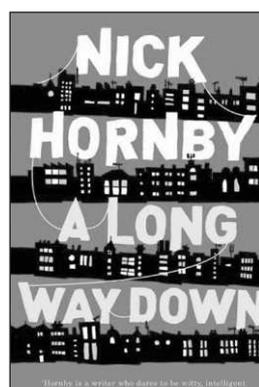
**Reviewed by Amy Blackmore**  
*He's Just Not That Into You*  
 Greg Behrendt & Liz Tuccillo  
 £6.99  
 Harper Element

★★

'He's just not that into you' – six words no girl likes to hear. *Sex In The City* writers Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo take a brutal approach; they think it's time females yearning after disinterested men learn to recognise and acknowledge the signs given off by a guy who isn't actually that interested.

This self-help style book tackles specific behaviour that sends the average female into confusion. Using original letters from women seeking advice, Behrendt and Tuccillo explain a guy is just not that into you if he's doing one of the following: not calling you, breaking up with you, or exercising a tendency to disappear on you. It is a tool to help females tell the difference between what men say and what they actually mean.

If you can ignore the sickly American cheese and the sweeping generalisations they make about men, the book does put forward a persuasive argument that women are better off without men who can't offer a straight answer. Each dilemma is tackled convincingly from both the male and female perspective, but it's not the type of book you could curl up with in front of the fire over Christmas. One thing is for sure, ladies: if a guy wants to be with you, he'll let you know.



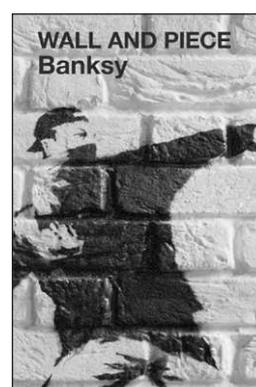
**Reviewed by Ben Pool**  
*A Long Way Down*  
 Nick Hornby  
 £17.99  
 Viking

★★★★

This paperback edition of Hornby's latest has been seasonally released in a Christmas edition, no doubt in consideration of the novel's gently life-affirming aspirations. Sadly for fans of his novels, this barely approaches the poignant heights of *Fever Pitch* or *High Fidelity*, as it is what could only be described as a poor cousin of the film, *It's a Wonderful Life* (albeit with a smidgen more gritty London-based realism, and a marginally less triumphant ending).

The multiple narratives of four suicidal depressives come together in a contrived scenario. They meet at 'Toppers' House' on New Year's Eve, replete with stereotypical characters and lazy plotting. Although readable and at times funny (in the Hornby-esque sense of being quirky and well-observed, rather than outright hilarious), the characters rarely command sympathy and the scenarios range between the incessantly dull and the ridiculously unlikely.

Hornby is at his best when reflecting upon contemporary society and in describing the musical tastes of his characters. However, the book feels like a forced extension of a novella or play, based around an interesting concept but ultimately failing to convince.



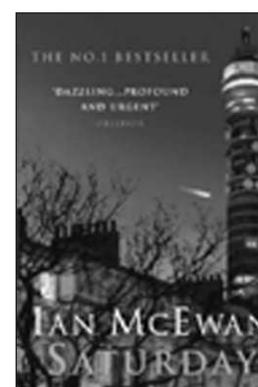
**Reviewed by Rachael Marsh**  
*Wall and Piece*  
 Banksy  
 £20.00  
 Century

★★★★★

Banksy is something of household name these days, which is quite impressive considering he has made a career out of creating work that will only last as long as it takes the council officials to get someone on the scene with some industrial strength cleaner. So *Wall and Piece* is something of a historical document. Banksy's first full length book, it brings together a wide range of his work including many recognisable images, as well as some of his more recent creations, such as the guerrilla exhibits he made in four of New York's most well-established galleries and his work on the West Bank barrier.

Banksy also includes words of wisdom about politics, recapturing public spaces and resisting the invasive forces of advertising. He is playful, astute and wilfully cheeky in his choice of targets. His work is definitely thought-provoking, challenging broad brush dismissals of graffiti as worthless vandalism. It also demands that we think again about what public places should look like and what they should be used for.

Opinions on Banksy tend to be sharply divided. I would suggest that it is worth taking some time to consider what the man has to say, not just his images.



**Reviewed by Adam Chidell**  
*Saturday*  
 Ian McEwan  
 £7.99  
 Vintage

★★★★★

Producing a follow up to *Atonement*, hailed as one of the greatest pieces of contemporary fiction, cannot have been an easy task. *Saturday* is a very different story, one which takes note of today's changed political climate and is, therefore, perhaps McEwan's most genuinely contemporary book.

The story follows twenty-four hours in the life of neurosurgeon, Henry Perowne, whose comfortable existence is unsettled over the course of the day. The novel considers the intricacies of city life and explores the malaise of Perowne's personal encounters in the context of global developments, notably the Iraq war and terrorism.

*Saturday* manages to present conflicting perspectives and never becomes simplistically partisan. The novel contains humour as well as intense sadness; Perowne's visit to his ailing mother encapsulates this quality in a beautifully written passage.

Beauty in literature is scrutinised as poetry's redemptive power is explored in an implausible scene towards the novel's end. Yet we forgive McEwan this somewhat improbable moment because *Saturday* itself manages to show us the importance of fiction at a time when reality is often more shocking.

# The last word

Olly Chadwick offers scurrilous words to amuse and confuse. Listen with your eyes.

## I shall be King.

Regular readers of this column, if there are any, will have to come to appreciate my curmudgeonly nature, and general dislike of my fellow man. You will be as shocked then as I was to discover that I attended the Goodricke JCRC election hustings a few weeks ago. My shock grew when I discovered that I was rather enjoying the experience. There was politics, there was heckling and, at one point, I sensed a duel in the offing, though this, sadly, never materialised.

It made me long for a return to the first year, that I might be part of this vibrant campus community, and filled me with a zeal for the cut and thrust of politics. I didn't vote of course, it gets dark awfully quickly at this time of year, but the thought was there.

It occurs to me that there are few times in life, unless you are the child of a millionaire, a politician, or, ideally, both, when you have such a good chance to stand for election and win.

You may, in your dotage, become treasurer of the bridge club, but I doubt there's quite the same rush of adrenalin. I've missed the JCRC elections, but the Union elections are just around the corner. Who's with me? Please ensure all campaign donations are placed in a brown



**This is all of the sexy nurse that we were allowed to show.**

paper envelope, in my hand, in Derwent car park.

**"Spank me matron, I've been sexist"**

It's a rare thing for us third years to traverse the vast distances onto campus for an event, but that's exactly what happened a couple of Fridays ago, when I attended 'Rehab' in Goodricke. Promised a night of girls dressed in nurses' outfits and dancing in a dining

hall, we were not disappointed.

However, this merry bop was apparently not as innocent as it first appeared to us. The event's posters depicted a picture of a young lady purporting to be a nurse (I, for one, always doubted her medical credentials, but that's another matter). Crucially, this was a nurse so slutty that for a while her very profession was a mystery (at first I assumed she was a slut full-time). It has been suggested that the evening was an affront to womankind and, so it is claimed, a vile slander against the noble profession of nursing.

Now, I've never understood the sex appeal of nurses. It is a peculiarity of English perversion that we consider maternal, vom-mopping, health professionals to be objects of excitement. Do we view cleaning ladies in a similar way? Dinner ladies? Perhaps I missed a meeting.

Is all this sexist or degrading to nurses though? I think not. Just as a naughty fireman night wouldn't be. Such an evening would surely fail though, for ladies delight not in ogling nakedness, they prefer to be read poetry by moonlight, or, at a pinch, candle light (fluorescent bulbs are a no-no).

If there is a failing here, it is not of ents reps, but of human nature. Those dirty men with their lustful eyes and love of uniform. Sex sells and, given the amount of money campus events lose, we should probably be hiring strippers and installing crack in the vending machines.

Bring on the crack.

## Number 08, Sociology

# Blag your degree



**These people are all sociologists.**

Created by positivist thinker Auguste Comte in the early 19th century, Sociology is an attempt to understand society, its stratifications and its effect on the individual. Its subsequent revelations, such as that people who spend forty years breathing in asbestos dust tend to have shorter life expectancies, and that those in high-income jobs tend to have high incomes, highlight the success of Sociology in fulfilling Comte's vision.

The first golden rule for Sociology students is that you can prove absolutely everything. How do we know that the Conservative Party is prejudiced against women, ethnic minorities and the disabled? Because they've never had a female Bangladeshi Siamese twin as leader. At least the Labour government had that blind bloke.

The second golden rule is that you can disprove absolutely everything. How do we know that the Conservative Party is not prejudiced against women, ethnic minorities and the disabled? Because they say so, that's why; William Hague wore a baseball cap, he must be in touch with contemporary society. Besides, that David Cameron has such a nice smile.

These two rules may lead some of you to question the point of Sociology. Well unfortunately there isn't one. Its existence is futile. A Sociologist could spend a lifetime researching the way in which Brummies are marginalised by society only to have some acne-ridden sixteen-year old contradict every word as he scrapes a pass at GCSE.

But do not despair. The fact that you can affirm, or indeed refute, any statement with highly selective examples from the outside world means that you can guide the most outrageous, or alternatively the most blatantly, brain-haemorrhagingly obvious, hypothesis through to a successful conclusion. Any demands for you to quantify your findings can be satisfied by subjecting the two people who happen to be using your kitchen that day to multiple choice questions that offer the interviewee no chance whatsoever of allowing their own opinion to influence their answers. Simply multiply their responses by 2,000 and you have your essay and, in time, your degree.

Incidentally, the 4,000 people questioned agreed with me about this, so don't bother writing in.

Matthew Wignall.

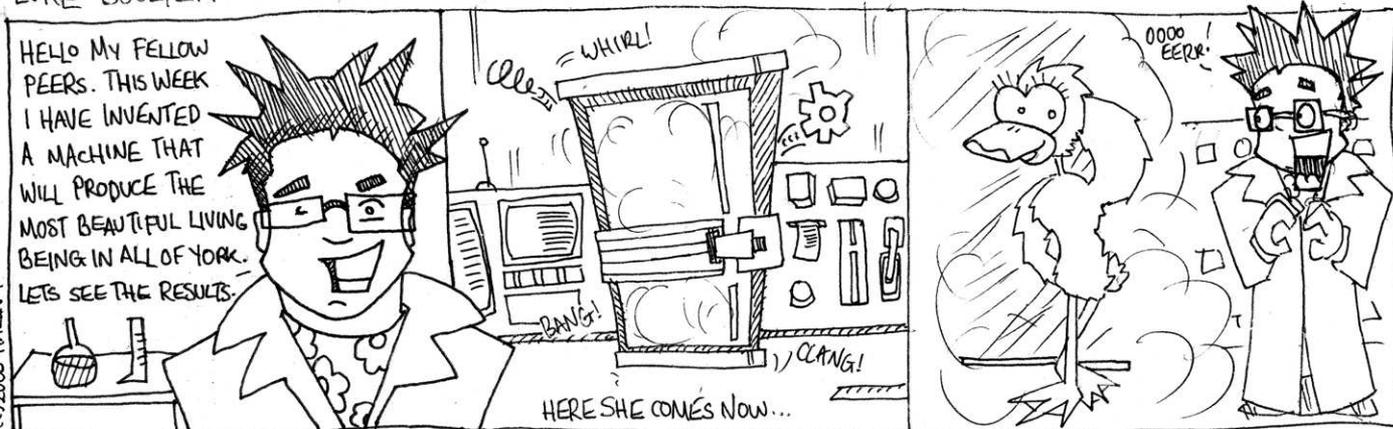
If you would like to write these words on this page, e-mail: [olly@nouse.ac.uk](mailto:olly@nouse.ac.uk)

UNOFFICIAL

THE SCIENTIFIC BRIEFING WITH LUKE BOULTER

HELLO MY FELLOW PEERS. THIS WEEK I HAVE INVENTED A MACHINE THAT WILL PRODUCE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LIVING BEING IN ALL OF YORK. LETS SEE THE RESULTS.

©2005 HALLAM



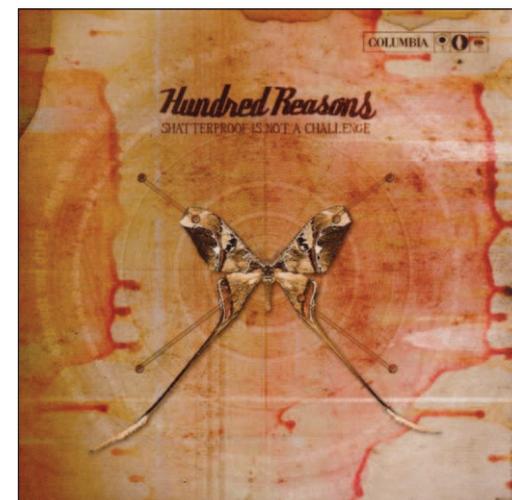
**Need to talk? (01904) 433735**

Drop in to the Nightline flat (in Goodricke D Block) or call us. Our two trained anonymous volunteers provide a confidential information and listening service.

**(Open 8pm-8am every term night)**

**nightline**





Clockwise from top left: Foo fighters in a sombre mood; penguin parent and child brave the Antarctic wastes; Hundred Reasons will play a sold-out gig at Fibbers; steamy heroics in Steamboy; York delves into its festive past at the Castle Museum; Monkey Madness as King Kong hits the big screen.

## Live Music

**Tuesday 13th December**  
**Misty's Big Adventure, Fibbers, York.**  
 Weird, very weird. Wacked out indie space jazz complete with children's toy instruments, trumpets, a jester and a children's toy piano for 'A Dog Like You'. Definitely an experience.

**Wednesday 14th December**  
**Foo Fighters, Manchester MEN arena, Manchester.**  
 Dave Grohl and co. play new songs from their latest album and classics from their extensive catalogue on their UK arena tour. Catch them at Manchester before they jet back to the States.

**Saturday 17th December**  
**Hundred Reasons, Fibbers, York.**  
 Emo rockers Hundred Reasons make a long awaited reappearance before the release of their third album. York moshers are in for a well-deserved end of term treat. Tickets will have to be bought on eBay, as this one sold out months ago.

**Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd December**  
**Rick Witter and the Dukes, Fibbers, York.**  
 Ex-Shed Seven frontman takes his new band for two live dates at the legendary Fibbers venue. Set to be an entertaining early Christmas present if you're still hanging around when your friends have gone home.

## Campus Events

**Tuesday Week 10**  
**Wentworth Xmas Party, Kasbah, 7pm**  
 One for the postgrads. Dress up smartly for a sit down service with turkey, a free glass of wine, table magician and a SPECIAL SURPRISE SANTA... (though maybe now not so much of a surprise). As you'd expect, there's a good old funky disco afterwards.

**Wednesday, Week 10**  
**Alcuin Event, Alcuin**  
 One of the last events of term. Late licence (till 1.30am) frolics up t'hill and behind the realms of Economics and Chemistry at Henry J's. Hopefully it will boost the bar's flagging profits.

**Thursday Week 10**  
**Goodricke does Vanbrugh!**  
 Quick to cash-in on Vanbrugh's swanky new look, cell block C and the like cross the lake to party hard. Expect Christmas-related drunkenness of gargantuan proportions, only matched by Noddy 'It's Christmas' Holder's platform shoes.

**Sunday December 18th**  
**Halifax Quiz, JJ's, 8.30pm**  
 Ok, so term's officially finished, but if you're still around, check out JJ's regular pub quiz. There's more chance of winning now the smart alecs have gone home for Christmas. Flex that muscle in your head before the Christmas doze and New Year haze set in.

## Art and Performance

**Thursday 15th December- Thursday 2nd February**  
**The Lad Aladdin, York Theatre Royal**  
 The traditional festive panto comes to York, breaking with tradition and going for laughs this year with at least two new gags per show (apparently). Still the cross-dressing remains.

**Now until Jan 1st**  
**Christmas Past, York Castle Museum**  
 A trip down memory lane with Christmas items and photographs from York's historic past. Get a York Citizen's card to get in free or flash your NUS for a discount (though in my opinion free is always better!).

**Thursday 15th- January 8th**  
**Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, York Opera house**  
 As if one panto in York wasn't enough! It does, however, star one of the Nolan sisters (of 'I'm in the Mood for Dancing' fame). However, I'm not quite sure how that's a selling point. Darcy from neighbours will be making in appearance too if that's your bag.

**December 18th**  
**Other Side Comedy Club, York City Screen Basement Bar, 7.30pm**  
 Festive comedy compered by Dan Atkinson. Same kind of thing as campus comedy events, just in town.

## Cinema

**Doom (15)**  
 The classic videogame gore-fest and father of shoot-em ups in cinematic form with The Rock as the lead. Expect bloody sci-fi action from him as the martian demon fighter.

**Steamboy (TBC)**  
 A Japanese retro science-fiction anime set in Victorian England. Prodigy Ray Steam receives a powerful energy source, which he must use to save London and his family from the forces of evil.

**The Chronicles of Narnia (TBC)**  
 Long-awaited C. S. Lewis classic brought to the big screen. Four evacuee children in

wartime Britain find themselves in an enchanted land after entering a forgotten wardrobe.

**The March of the Penguins (TBC)**  
 An avian love story and a surprise smash hit in the US. The film chronicles the heart-warming tale of penguins' quest to find a mate and survive the harsh extremes of their Antarctic habitat.

**King Kong (12)**  
 Remake of the cult classic (usual guy meets girl story, but replace 'guy' with 'ape') directed by Peter Jackson. It should stay true to the original, but with a more realistic Kong.

# Comment

Local MP, **John Grogan**, considers smoking legislation

## Too much fuss over ban on smoking

To ban or not to ban smoking is one of the most contentious issues currently facing Parliament – and it is one on which over the years I have changed my mind. Smoking is one of these issues on which opinion polls record a very low level of “Don’t Knows” – pretty much everybody has got a definite point of view one way or the other.

Now the Government is proposing a classic compromise. Smoking will be banned in public places in England, except for a small number of exceptions. As far as licensed premises such as pubs and restaurants are concerned, smoking will only be allowed where food is not being served.

Members’ Clubs such as Working Men’s Clubs would also be exempt. Sometimes in politics compromise can lead to old enmities being put aside and a new beginning, as in Northern Ireland. On other occasions however, compromise can lead simply to muddle and confusion, and I fear that the smoking proposals from the Government are a half way house that will end up pleasing nobody.

Firstly, what constitutes food? Will smoking be allowed where sandwiches or crisps are being consumed? What about a pub which sells food at lunchtimes but not in the evenings? The truth is that

there will be a perverse incentive for some pubs to stop serving food altogether, which can hardly be a good thing when it comes to the campaign to cut down on binge drinking.

Secondly, if the primary concern is the health and safety of staff and protecting them from passive smoking, the suggestion that nobody should be allowed to smoke within one metre of the bar offers little comfort. Equally, it is hard to see why all members’ clubs should have the right to vote to put their staff at greater risk by continuing to allow smoking. If the Government’s proposals go through, some pubs may even find themselves under competitive pressure to convert into clubs or risk losing customers. New York, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden have all either banned smoking or are on the way to doing so.

The key votes on smoking will come in the New Year when amendments will be discussed. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are offering their MPs a free vote and I hope the Labour whips are as generous, as I intend to vote in favour of a complete ban. I realise that not everyone will thank me for it and there is the ever-present danger of a nanny state, but nevertheless I think it would be one of those issues that in ten years time if a ban is



SU President **Micky Armstrong**, has some Christmas reflections, thoughts for the future and wishes happy holidays for all

“So here it is: Merry Christmas. Everybody’s having fun. Look to the future now it’s only just begun”. You know the song; annoyingly festive and merrily catchy. But it does have a point.

Christmas time is a good time to reflect on the year, its highs and lows, and also to plan for the year

ahead. First years will go home for their first holiday, and, in my experience, last about a week before they itch to return to their dirty kitchens, late nights and snakebite and black-fuelled ‘heart-to-hearts’.

I have been reflecting. As always the Union has had

its ups and downs; thankfully, however, I believe that the ups have outweighed the downs. We are settling in to the “Alexander Constitution” and all the changes that occurred from it. Online voting is becoming a successful way of shaping the Union’s democracy.

Elsewhere, our clubs and societies are blooming; our political parties draw in high profile speakers and had a major part to play in this year’s General Election. There are obvious successes with awards being won for both of our newspaper teams in national competitions, whilst URY have won themselves the accolade of best student radio and with that 2 hours of air-play on Radio 1.

I don’t have enough space in the paper to list all the successes of the Union, but it is important that for once we don’t focus on the smaller negatives – after all it is Christmas.

So sit back, enjoy your

eggnog, watch *White Christmas*, *It’s a Wonderful Life* and *Love Actually*, get your thick jumper and your socks from your family, eat drink and be merry and congratulate yourself on all the good things that you did this year. For one day think only of the positives.

This will put you in great stead to start planning for next year; how can we repeat these successes?

You will see the emergence towards the end of **Eat, drink, be merry and for one day be sure to think of the positives**

term of the “Hey Micky!” postcards produced during Freshers week. These are not an egotistical way to get my face around campus but an opportunity for you to contact me. I’d like to hear your problems, what you would like the Union to do...anything really: successes, failures, ideas, complaints. Just write them down and I look forward to hearing from you.

To all the students of this University, those taking part in Christmas festivities and those not, I hope you all have a truly happy holiday period. I’ll see you in the New Year.

# and Analysis

The 'Ask YUSU' service should not be allowed to get hijacked by those seeking to harass, bully and intimidate, says **Adam Sloan**

## University must combat 'ask YUSU' harassment

The boundaries between the political and the personal are notoriously difficult to define. Personal attacks are seen in the politics of Westminster and we are seeing them now in the context of our own Students' Union. While a forum should be provided for students to hold Union officers to account, this must not be allowed to degrade into abuse and harassment.

'Ask YUSU' was an initiative set up for the purpose of providing a means for every student on campus to have an easy and effective way of posing questions to their elected representatives. By publishing both the questions and answers on the Union website, all students are able to have equal access. This, it was thought, would make it easier for the student body to keep check on the actions of Union officers.

In this sense the forums have been largely successful. Officers now appear to be far more accessible than they

have previously been and many legitimate queries have been answered. In recent weeks however, the focus seems to have moved from questioning policies to personally attacking certain officers of the Union.

The University's code of practice is very clear on what amounts to harassment, specifically stating "derisory remarks, verbal abuse, insults and threats".

Aspects of this have clearly been seen present in some of the 'questions' asked to SU officers through the forum. Statements from the simply idiotic to downright offensive are being permitted to be aired in public when grievances of a personal nature should clearly only be brought up in private, and through the proper channels.

On top of this, the ridiculous nature of many of the questions posed is serving simply to undermine the service and the Students Union as a whole. If officers are forced to be subjected to

bullying and intimidation, then it will only have a detrimental effect on their work. This is the same in any kind of organisation, public or private, or for any member of the university, staff or student.

Reading through the forum, I believe that many students would also be put off posing their own questions to the officers, because of what is taking place. Were it your first time on the forum and you browsed onto a question such as the ones asking certain officers about their sexuality, you would be forgiven for thinking that the forum serves no useful purpose at all.

So, what is the best way to combat all this? Clearly the service needs to be more heavily moderated, but a question lingers over whose duty it should be to determine which questions are and are not appropriate to be aired. There would be concerns that if this were up to the officers themselves then certain legitimate, but

difficult, questions may go unanswered.

If a "question" is sent to an officer, or anyone else connected with the University for that matter, which falls within the guidelines of what is classified as harassment, then appropriate measures should be taken through official channels to resolve it. If this means tracing the person responsible and taking appropriate disciplinary action then this is what should be done.

No member of this university should have to put up with personal abuse or harassment, and I would support any means of combating it.

A proposal to trace the perpetrators of the current bombard of abuse was rejected by the SU, but it appears to me that this is wholly necessary. The University and the SU need to demonstrate that bullying, harassment and intimidation will, under no circumstances, be tolerated.



Reform of election process is needed, says **Dan Whitehead**

## JCRC hustings fail to impress

University politics has always been a contentious subject. No more so than at this time of year when the small villages making up our little town hold their community elections; where the popular, drunken and outspoken run for positions that they anticipate will mould the lives of the village peasants. I am, of course, referring to the JCRC elections.

As someone with little knowledge of the way college politics works, I decided to dedicate 5 days to attending countless hustings and election results across campus. My experiences varied from life-threatening boredom to wolf-whistles and semi-intoxicated chanting. Derwent and Langwith share the award for holding the most pointless hustings of the week, as one spectator commented following the Derwent Ents Reps' speech 'when the crowd told them to get naked it was a low point in democracy'.

Despite some stunts pulled and promises made, my general feeling was that if students want to ensure the most suitable people are accountable for the running of their college then holding hustings in crowded bars is not a suitable means. The common excuse of saying 'well it's tradition' is hardly a viable argument. Such places are associated with socialising, drinking games and throwing up rather than sensible political discussion.

It would seem that making an informed choice as to

who would be best for a particular position is near to impossible in many colleges where the elections simply act as a popularity contest in which the Freshers who have got off with the most people, and participated in the most acts of stupidity will receive the accolades of being responsible for the future of the college. It hardly seems

'When the crowd told them to get naked it was a low point in democracy'

right, does it? If Tony Blair were the most pissed-up party leader, would you vote for him in a General Election? I think not.

Furthermore, from witnessing a Langwith election process which began on Monday morning with prospective candidates handing in their applications for positions, and ending with the close of voting just two days later it seems that "rushed" may be an understatement.

Alcuin College can be praised however for having a very respectable election system. This consists of a ten-day process from the beginning of hustings to the election winners being announced.

I'm not trying to suggest radical changes to our college election system here. I simply feel that if some elections received a little more planning and thought then we could take them as seriously as the JCRC take themselves.

Poster should not be taken out of context, says **Viran Pandya**

## Sexist stereotype not selling Rehab

In our society, it doesn't take very long to find an example of sex being used to sell products. Just one example is a TV advert for a shampoo that regularly features on prime-time, where a woman washes her hair and makes explicitly orgasmic noises. While the activity of washing hair doesn't have any direct sexual connotations, it is still the angle that is being used. Sex sells.

We find this reflected within our university. On most walls and notice boards, in halls and common rooms, adverts for campus events are found using sexual imagery in order to attract students.

One particular poster,

for the Goodricke event, Rehab, has used the image of a sexy woman in a PVC nurse outfit. For Goodricke college members, the poster was not just stuck on walls, but also posted under doors, so there was essentially no escape.

Not only is the advertisement seedy and sexist, but it has also offended students of the Hull York Medical School (HYMS).

The student nurses have complained that they have to deal with a sexist stereotype as it is, without further stimulus from campus event posters.

The Goodricke posters are clearly sexist. The majority of the time, they only ever use semi-clad women, and

rarely men.

I sympathise with the HYMS' complaints; yet, I have to ask how seriously people really take the stereotypes. Hopefully, people have enough sense to take things in their contexts. If someone had never been to a hospital and seen a real nurse, I would hope that even so they would realise that nurses don't wear short, tight PVC suits, and 6 inch stiletto heels. The 'sexy nurse' is really a party gimmick, just as there are 'Tarts and Vicars' parties. Offensive - yes. Do people take them seriously? I sincerely hope not.

Goodricke has been particularly guilty of using sexy images of women on almost every one of this term's event

posters. From the Halloween posters, which used images of sexy witches straddling their broomstick, to the Goodricke 'Playboy Mansion' parties, the advertisement executives must ask themselves if it's really worth it. Campus events this term have notoriously undersold and people are simply not attending; perhaps people are bored of this common advertising ploy being used over and over again.

The fact remains, however: sex sells. But one would hope that the JCR event publicists would come up with more ingenious ways of attracting attention to their parties.

EST. 1964  
NOUSE



## Criminals take advantage

It would seem that international students are getting the short-straw. Not only do they live potentially thousands of miles from their family, pay up to three times the amount as British students and work harder than most of us would ever dream of, they are also taken advantage of by racist, mindless fraudsters. Such crooks have no place in the society we live in, but should remind all of us that we cannot take for granted our own safety and welfare even when placed in the supposed safe campus bubble which we all live in. This has been highlighted even more in recent weeks by thefts in Halifax college and the Chemistry department, further more the terrible case of drink spiking which occurred at White D. With such criminal acts taking place within the small neighbourhood of York University all of us need to be more watchful especially during the Festive season when crime is at its highest. As for fraudsters; it is essential that students are not complacent about giving out personal details to strangers around campus or online where the impersonality and seemingly innocent nature of an emailed questionnaire can actually have disastrous consequences to the bank balance. Everyone needs to become more aware of the threats which are posed by even small cities such as York.

## Derwent fire spreads fear

The recent fire in a Derwent B Block kitchen has highlighted the danger which students face when being careless with potential fire hazards. As revealed by the University's Facility manager many lives would have been lost if it wasn't for the fire door being closed at the time. Yet when entering most campus accomodation you find damaged fire extinguishers and chairs propping open potentially life-saving fire doors and students being totally oblivious or maybe just complacent about the health risks involved. Off campus the conditions can be worse, with no fire doors in most rented accomodation, smoke alarms which are unmaintained and old fire extinguishing equipment, the potential for fire in the hands of a careless, un-qualified cook can be quite substantial. So without sounding too condescending, we are careless people in general and accidents happen. So lets ensure when they do they are maintained like the fire in Derwent before lives and personal property are lost.

# Letters

Please send your comments and complaints by email to letters@nouse.co.uk or by post to Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

**Win!**  
Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps



## Hypocrisy

I just want to make a point about the general hypocrisy exhibited by students at the University. Trying to ban Coca-Cola/Nestle is completely ridiculous. Every company, and individual for that matter, has their dark side. If all activists are living some ideal existence as hemp wearing hippies not harming the planet I'd be surprised. Also, your campaign against arms trade investment is frankly pathetic. Anyone with a bank account (co-operative bank excluded) will be supporting mainstream players who won't give two thoughts to investing in such themselves. Though I guess most students will ignore this to get their free MP3 player.

**Stuart Hardy**  
Derwent College

## Star letter Political socs talk rubbish

Having read the section entitled "York's political societies speak out", there are a few points I would like to comment on. Firstly, in reference to the "Birmingham Race Riots", Anna Liddle and Catherine Upton of the Unity Anti-Fascist society provided no explanation for exactly why government anti-terror laws are "racist". The R-word should not be thrown around without good reason. I was also annoyed at Catherine Upton's statement that "Unity were involved in getting a BNP demo in Keighley banned last Saturday". We live in a democracy, surely as an anti-fascist society they must be interested in safeguarding the rights of free speech and free protest. Just to point out, I am not remotely sympathetic to the BNP or their policies. Moving on, the chair of the Liberal Democrat society talked of how "the political system doesn't offer any real choice". I might suggest that perhaps

people simply aren't interested in the ridiculous choices put forward by the Lib Dems, rather than all aspects of the political system. Just for balance, Nick Reeves, the campus Conservative Society Chairman, pointed out that "Tony Blair is a Conservative leader". I ask then why the Conservatives have spent the best part of the last decade complaining about him then?! With regards to the column about the smoking ban, Matt Balding comments that "we have liberties that conflict, one being that people don't want to be in an atmosphere where there's smoking". Why should the government tell someone who owns a pub that they're not allowed to have people smoking on their property? Don't go to the pub if you don't want to stand in a smoky atmosphere, I am sure you won't be missed. For the record, I do not support any particular political party nor do I smoke. **Greg Tibbs**  
Vanbrugh College

## SU criticisms not warranted

People should really get off the Student Union's back for a while. It seems as though everywhere I look I am reading people attacking them from left, right and centre. Like it or not, they are there to do a job and I am sure they and everyone else would much appreciate it if a little bit of support was shown for them every now and then. With regards to the budget cuts, maybe if there were less ridiculous societies around (naming none in particular) then there would be more money avail-

able in the budget for those that actually serve a useful purpose. The cut in the JCR budget could possibly be made up easily if they were to cancel their Sky TV subscriptions which, to me, seem a wholly unnecessary amenity. My worry is not how much money has to be cut from the central SU budget but how much of the money available is wasted by the organisations that are subsidised by it. I believe that the SU does a good job looking after the interests of York students under difficult circumstances and thus deserves our respect. **Will Andrews**  
Halifax College

## Sympathetic

As a former Nouse stalwart I feel I must publicly pass on my sympathies to Vision for not winning best paper at this year's Guardian or Mirror student media awards. It must have come as quite a shock to learn that after all these years they are now York's "number two" paper. Having said that, I've been wiping my ass on it for years. Whilst there's no shame in coming second, there certainly is in not being placed at all. Maybe if they ask nicely Rob Harris will come back and restore them to their glory days of hysterical scaremongering and trumped-up law suits. Joking aside, the real winner here is journalism... whoops, no I mean the real winner is Nouse. Yes, Nouse.

**Rob Taylor**  
York University 2001-2004

# Your: Platform

Enough of what our writers and editors have to say, we sent reporters to find out what York students think of today's issues

1. Should sexual imagery be used in campus publicity?
2. Should 'Ask YUSU' harassment be tolerated?
3. How did you decide who to vote for in the JCRC elections?
4. Would you pay cash to someone promising a fees discount?



**Name:** James Roberts  
**College:** Vanbrugh  
**Course:** Health Sciences  
**Year:** 3rd Year



**Name:** Maria Humphry  
**College:** Halifax  
**Course:** Sociology  
**Year:** 1st Year



**Name:** Keerthi Kollimada  
**College:** Langwith  
**Course:** P.P.E  
**Year:** 3rd Year

1. There shouldn't be a problem provided that the imagery used is not too gratuitous. If it doesn't offend anyone then it is fine.
2. People should put across concerns decently. There are proper channels for those with personal grievances.
3. I abstained as I feel not enough was done to promote those standing to people living off campus.
4. Probably not. I would check the credentials of someone before handing anything over.

1. I don't see why it is necessarily needed but it should be ok as long as it doesn't cause personal offence.
2. The forum should be moderated. It is a good idea but should not be left open to abuse.
3. Based on the candidates believability. Some people put forward simply ridiculous policies.
4. No way at all. The only people I would trust with regards to tuition fees would be people that I knew were officially connected to the university.

1. The problem is with the balance of freedom of speech and public offence. If there is a number of complaints it probably shouldn't be run.
2. The whole point is to provide an open forum. Unfortunately that means putting up with the bad bits.
3. Living away from the main college I feel detached from the politics. More of an effort should be made by the JCR.
4. Common sense needs to prevail. People should follow the advice given to them.

# Is Beckham still fit for captaincy?



Steven Gerrard's performances as Liverpool club captain make him a contender

## Sean Henderson scrutinises David Beckham's suitability as England Captain for the World Cup

WE HAVE JUST over 6 months until we start our World Cup campaign in Germany. We have a captain with one of the worst disciplinary records of any England international and we have the captains of the European and domestic champions sitting idle whilst a player who is not even captain of his own club takes the helm. Is there enough justification to retain Beckham as captain given all of this?

It may seem from the abrupt introduction that I feel that Beckham is not fit to wear an England shirt, let alone be our captain. This is not true. I feel that Beckham is an excellent player and has grown into an excellent captain over the last 5 years. But I feel it is time to put the position under scrutiny. We have some of the best players in the world holding captaincies with their respective clubs who are seriously pushing the position of England captain. We also have seen a slow decline in the temperament of Beckham on both the club and international scene. Beckham has been sent off 3 times for Real Madrid this season and has become the first England player to be sent off twice for his country after his dismissal against Austria earlier in the year. Surely we should be questioning the conduct of the captain and the suitability of his behaviour. We have, and still have, a world-class player as captain. But do we have a world-class

captain anymore?

The first candidate must surely be John Terry. He's just turned 25. In his very first year as captain, he led his club Chelsea to the Premiership, Carling Cup and a semi-final place in the Champions League. Terry is a player who is consistently solid at the back, capable of digging deep to win games and has an ideal temperament. This is something that has appeared elusive to Beckham of late. The centre back role is a strong captain's position on the pitch, central enough to command the team and far enough back to help get stuck in. He also has the ability to score goals when they are needed. A cool head and simple, solid play may be just what we need to guide us to glory in Germany.

Let us not forget the reigning European Champions captain and European footballer of the Year runner-up Steven Gerrard. Gerrard, who is also Captain of his club, has more international experience than Terry. An established and experienced international, winning the first of his 39 caps in May 2000, Gerrard has already played in two World Cups and has scored 6 goals for his country. Gerrard's captaincy of Liverpool has seen him grow as a player into one of the leading players in the world. His role as captain has seen him turn around Liverpool as a team, culminating in the performance in the

European Cup final against AC Milan last year. Being a central midfielder, I see in Gerrard what I saw in Beckham four years ago - a cool head on capable shoulders, leadership qualities beyond his years and the ability to make something out of nothing.

The English game requires a captain who can turn games, govern games, and win games. Beckham had this power, but his unpredictability on the pitch means that he is now unreliable. Both Gerrard and Terry

**'the adolescent of France '98 is back, kicking and screaming as before'**

share this gift - who is better is another debate. The diverse nature and durability of a team with such talent requires a captain who is a nucleus, but able to adapt. People doubted Beckham had these traits in 1998 when he kicked Diego Simeone. A fine display as Captain for 4 years may have proved them wrong for a while, but it seems that the adolescent that we saw in France '98 is back, kicking and screaming as before. Changing the captain before a World Cup is a chance, but so is playing a volatile captain with fiery young players such as Wayne Rooney. For me, it's time for change. Steven, John, your country needs you!

# An alternative take on BBC sport award runners and riders

By Ed Humphreys  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE HEATING is on, mince pies are in the oven and Gary Lineker is firing out jokes to bemused sport stars. It can mean only one thing; BBC Sports Personality of the Year is upon us.

With the BBC results already in, what better way to review the sporting year than to compile Nouse's very own shorter version of the awards with no satellite-delayed interviews and flirting towards Sue Barker.

Sports Personality of the Year - Andrew Flintoff, by a distance. His 24 wickets and

402 runs in the Ashes series tell only part of the story. He was the 'turn to' man with ball and the game-changer with the bat. In Pakistan, Flintoff poured everything into his bowling and took a career best haul of eight wickets in the first test. As a crouched Brett Lee said to

**'his 24 wickets and 402 runs in the Ashes series tell only part of the story'**

Freddie at the end of the remarkable Edgbaston test, 'you're an incredible athlete,

mate'. He is also a national treasure.

Nouse thought long and hard over second place, but Michael Vaughan just leg-glances away the other contenders including Frank Lampard and Ricky Hatton. He demonstrated the art of captaincy brilliantly throughout the summer and made Ricky Ponting look like a confused, currant-eyed novice in the summer.

Coach of the Year - As much as Jose Mourinho has brightened the Premiership it is a lap-topped Zimbabwean that should claim this award. Duncan Fletcher has masterminded

the recovery of English cricket since 1999 with the pinnacle thus far being in the summer. A question remains, though. What does he watch on the laptop throughout the days play?

Team of the Year - Liverpool won the European Cup for the first time in 21 years. Chelsea won the league for the first time in 50 years. All very commendable but the England cricket team beat Australia in a Test series for the first time in 18 years. They may have stuttered in the sub continent but the Ashes defined the summer. For so long, England's cricketers



were the butt of the nation's sporting jokes (even when they were beating everyone but Australia). One summer has changed this. It is a buzz phrase amongst the England team that everyone at some stage 'puts their hand up' and makes a major contribution. It is these contributions that should be recognised with a team award.

Congratulations to all the winners. Unfortunately, Peter Crouch did not pick up any awards despite some heavy internet voting. It would take a last minute winner in the World Cup final for the lanky Liverpool striker with 'a good touch for a big man' to perhaps stand a chance of picking up a Nouse gong next year.

# McGuire sets Derwent ablaze

By Christopher Lowther  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

I'M SITTING IN the corner of Derwent bar only fourteen hours after 'Revolver'. Pirates are not my thing and 'donating' a substantial amount to the quiz machine all added up to a very poor night. I have to forget about all that now, I'm about to interview presently, the fourth best snooker player in the world, Stephen 'on fire' Maguire.

For two weeks in December, the snooker extravaganza that is the UK Championship hits town. It is regarded as the second most prestigious title to win after the Embassy. Not many people had heard of Stephen Maguire prior to last year's tournament. However, the way he cruised through his matches and the manner in which he handled the pressure of the event had a number of shrewd judges predicting him for even greater things. Looking around, the audience is quite sparse. When Ronnie O'Sullivan visited in 2002, the place was full to bursting point. I'm hoping the size of the crowd won't affect Maguire's mood.

Born in 1981 in Milton, Glasgow, it was clear from an early age that Maguire wanted to be a snooker player. "I was always down the snooker clubs when I should have been at school, I just couldn't keep away. I just wanted to play snooker." At the age of 14, He left school. A Courageous decision? "Not really," He says, "I was just following my dream. My family were so supportive and I know a lot of people say this but I really couldn't

have done this without them." After his UK Championship win, he paid particular tribute to his grandparents. "They knocked down a wall in their flat just so we could get a snooker table in there. How could I not say thanks?"

Maguire turned professional at the age of 17 and I ask whether he feels like He missed out on anything by dedicating his early years to snooker. "No because I was doing what I wanted to do. I'm not an academic person but I would have liked to go to University to experience the 'craic'. However, turning pro was a very difficult decision, but I owed it to myself to see if I was any good. Nowadays, everybody turns pro about that age. Times are a lot different now." I decide to bring up the controversial issue that is dogging snooker, the issue of the number of tournaments played and the consequent issue of prize money. "We used to play eight tournaments a year and now there's only five. That's not going to help the boys, there's not a chance to get real match practice in. Also, if you cut down the amount of tournaments you cut down the amount of prize money. The older players take the piss out of us younger ones saying, "You should have been around ten years ago, loads of money back then. You missed out big time." I ask what he really thinks about the situation, "If you printed that, I'd get into real trouble." He says with a cheeky grin. Would he then like to go and play pool in America like O' Sullivan? "Most definitely, I'd want to do that before I finish play-



Stephen Maguire is closely watched by David Cahill, the only student to beat him at pool Photo: Georgi Mabee

ing. Once I'm financially secure I'll go over there."

After their first round match in last years UK Championship, O'Sullivan declared that Maguire could 'rule the game for the next ten years.' "I was genuinely surprised at how easy the whole tournament was last year. Everything was coming so naturally, it was a great feeling to have. It felt like all the effort hadn't been wast-

ed." However, this season has been a disappointment. Maguire finished bottom of the Premier League and was beaten in the first round of the Grand Prix in Preston. "I can't point at anything in my game that needs urgent attention. There is such strength in depth at the top of the game that you need to be on top form for every match. Ten years ago you got easier matches. Not any

more."

Has winning the UK Championship changed him in any way? "No," He says in a quiet voice, "I'm happy with who I am, and I've got my family to keep me on the ground. I'm just the same bloke I was five, ten years ago." Even though I've only known him for around ten minutes, you can tell he's genuine. There seems to be no ego with Maguire. He's

answered my questions thoughtfully and without a hint of arrogance. He reinforces this opinion when he plays the exhibition games against the students. A smile never leaves his face and even when he suffers a shock defeat he accepts it sportingly and warmly. A great reaction from an unpretentious individual who deserves all the success that will inevitably come his way.

## Is it safe to follow your gambling heart in light of the World Cup draw?

By Chris Donaldson

IN THE WAKE of the 2006 World Cup Draw, and given the nation's penchant for the bookies, it seems appropriate to take a look at what Friday's draw results might mean for prospective World Cup gamblers. This column will not concern itself with blindly tipping favourites and then declaring that 'we are sticking our neck out' like so many others. We are looking for value bets. They won't always win but in the long run we will be ahead. This hopefully will be a betting article with a bit of nouse.

With the World Cup

only six months away, we thought it would be a good idea to explore the ante-post markets to see what value (if any) is available for the savvy punter. There seems to be little point in lumping on any of the market leaders at this stage, unless you have a really strong opinion or bottomless funds. Post the World Cup draw, What is the point of tying up your money on the favourites when it's likely that they will still be available at roughly the same prices later on.

England is a unique case however. As a nation we gamble millions on sports involving the national side.

The amount of patriotic money forces the price down as bookies lay off some of their liabilities. This destroys any notion of value. At the moment England are second favourites at 7-1. Do they really have a 12.5% of winning the World Cup? The price will struggle to get into double figures now as the 7-1 will collapse as momentum gathers. This does make it a fantastic back and lay bet. Other sides that look good value include Ukraine at 80-1 and Ghana at 250-1 (both Betfair). I would argue however that patriotic betting next year may also be safe betting!

### World Cup Betting Odds

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Brazil    | 100-30 (Lad.) |
| Argentina | 7-1 (Lad.)    |
| England   | 7-1 (Hills)   |
| Germany   | 7-1 (Betfair) |
| Holland   | 10-1 (Lad.)   |
| Italy     | 10-1 (Hills)  |
| Spain     | 12-1 (Lad.)   |
| France    | 14-1 (Lad.)   |
| Czech     | 25-1 (Hills)  |

## Tigers trump Teeside

Continued from back page

minor comeback through a comical try. The York players all stopped to take a breather, believing that the referee had given a knock on. Meanwhile, Teesside played to the whistle and the centre picked the ball up and walked 20 metres unopposed to touchdown under the posts.

The move of the game came midway through the second period as the Tigers' backs were able to make good use of their impressive handling skills. The ball was effortlessly spread across the entire back row and the scrambling away defence were hopeless in preventing the left winger from making a courageous dive over the

line in the corner.

Teesside never gave up and got two consolation tries due to sloppy Tigers defence but were clearly too far behind on the score sheet to have any realistic chance of getting something out of the game.

Club captain Ian Watkinson was happy with his side's performance. "I'm pleased to have bounced back so well after last week, we will aim to go unbeaten now for the rest of the season. The team are progressing well and I am confident of topping this division." If they can continue to show the same athletic prowess and savvy in their forthcoming fixtures, there should be no reason for the York Tigers not to live up to these words.



**AU  
Edge**

With AU President  
Nik Engineer

Since this is my last column before Christmas, I thought it a good time to look back over my first term as AU president. Despite the massive disappointment of not having all the new facilities finished, and the various difficulties that have arisen because of the delays, the term has been a good one for the Athletic Union. We started as ever with the AU Mart, which this year posed a greater logistical challenge than ever before, with less space available and more stalls required. Despite these problems, and an entirely new membership system to work with the event still managed to be a success, with many of clubs attracting record numbers of new members. Sticking with the events, the AU hosted the first ever club dance-off which raised £172 for the charity of the year, and more importantly, generated a fantastic atmosphere. We also agreed to host World Snooker to help promote the UK Snooker Championships which are currently taking place at the Barbican. Despite the last minute nature of the event, we still managed to raise money for the charity of the year, and World Snooker were extremely happy with the event overall.

We have also been busy behind the scenes working hard to improve efficiency and communication within the AU. We have recently created and distributed the first ever AU Presidents Newsletter for club presidents, and planned a bi-weekly newsletter for all members next year. We have written and passed a new constitution, designed and implemented a new website, revised the sports centre timetable for the coming year, produced a revised budget for the coming year, redesigned the sports centre car park in preparation for coming developments, held club officer training, produced a plan for the year, and much more.

All the good work that has taken place so far is down to the AU Executive committee and the AU staff, and so I thank them for their commitment and dedication over the last 10 weeks in making the autumn term such a great start to the year.

Merry Christmas York.

# Poor luck costs York in double Leeds loss

By Luke Chiverton  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THERE HAS BEEN very little to smile about this term for the York Men's Football 1sts, and two defeats to Leeds Metropolitan within a week has piled on the misery for the White Rose as a disappointing terms draws to a close.

The Leeds Metropolitan thirds were the first to visit as York slumped to a 3-1 home defeat. The hosts had made a promising start too after Mark Redding glanced home a header from a Matt Martin corner on the left hand side. But Leeds Met quickly equalised, converting a low free-kick across the box to Ben MacPherson's left, and they went on to take the lead just before the break with a simple tap-in after a cross from the left.

Ten minutes into the second half York found themselves further behind with more than a hint of bad luck. After an impressive run down the left, a visiting striker crossed from the by-line and Aaron

Burke's attempted clearance sliced of his boot, looping over MacPherson and clipping the underside of the bar before going in.

York found themselves facing opposition from Leeds Metropolitan again a week later, this time against their second team which currently top the BUSA table ahead of their own thirds who had previously beaten York.

It was a much improved performance from York, although they found themselves quickly behind as keeper MacPherson unconvincingly come out to claim a chipped ball into the box, which was then headed over him into an empty net. York got themselves back into the game before an atrocious refereeing decision made their job even harder. Ben Matthews, later voted man of the match, put in excellent sliding tackled and came away with the ball only to see the referee award a penalty to the surprise of the crowd.

York replied with a well-deserved strike about 5 minutes later as Henry Smith cut inside and found



Redding recorded his tenth goal this term at Leeds Met Photo: Georgi Mabee

Pardeep Singh, who then shifted the ball over once more to Martin who took a touch and drilled home from twelve yards. Leeds Met responded well though, and restored their two goal advantage with an easy tap in to make it 3-1.

As a scintillating first half reached its climax, York pulled themselves

back into the game once more just before half-time. Redding received the ball about thirty yards from goal, beat one defender before shifting outside of another and unleashing a low twenty-yard strike which went in off the post to give him his tenth goal for York this season.

York pushed Leeds

Met all the way in a closely fought second-half, but the home side sealed the win with a quarter of an hour left on the clock after a well worked move down the left. It finished 4-2 leaving York still looking for their first win in BUSA, and despite being marred by a bad refereeing decision the match contained some positives.

# Goodricke showing early promise

By Luke Chiverton  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THIS TIME LAST year it was Langwith that had blown away all other competition to lead college sport by a comfortable margin, and despite being pushed all the way they managed to stay on top all year. This year their dominance has failed to return and instead Goodricke have built on the incredible momentum they picked up in the spring and summer terms last year to put themselves securely in pole position. They lead by considerably less than Langwith did at Christmas in 2004 but nonetheless look like very strong candidates to main-

tain their form and go on to take the college sport title in the same way that Langwith were able to.

For Dan Whitlam, who helped to engineer Goodricke's impressive run last year which brought them to within 14.5 points of Langwith having suffered a disastrous start, the success this term has been down to "consistency across the board, having finished in the top 3 of virtually every sport."

Whitlam also highlighted the efforts of the Goodricke badminton and pool teams who cruised easily to unbeaten victories in their respective leagues; the badminton team losing only 6 of the 60 individual

games they played all term.

But clearly the emphasis is on the ground work that was put in earlier this year which saw Goodricke recover from a poor winter term which had them languishing in fifth. In 2005 alone Goodricke have really been the force in college sport, and they have looked much more like the college that dominated college sport between 1997 and 2002. Could these glory days be returning?

New sports rep Nik Ljubicic thinks so, "if we can keep this momentum going in the leagues and improve our performances in the one day tournaments, I believe that we should be very hard to catch."

## College sport at a glance

- 1. Goodricke..... 70.5 pts
- 2. Derwent..... 64.5 pts
- 3. Vanbrugh..... 58.5 pts
- 4. Halifax..... 58 pts
- 5. Langwith..... 51 pts
- 6. James..... 46.5 pts
- 7. Alcuin..... 41 pts

Success in the one-day tournaments is the classic cliché cited by any college sport rep, and Goodricke have had some good results in them this term, finishing second behind Langwith in tag-rugby just a few weeks

ago. They will need some more results of this kind in the tough one-day events coming up over the course of the next couple of terms if they are to really stake a claim for the college sport crown.

# SPORT



Steven McGuire takes time out before the British International to talk to Nouse  
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## Tigers triumph over Teesside in top of table rugby clash

York Tigers 42-20 Teesside

By Thomas Simpson  
SPORTS CORRESPONDANT

THIS SEASON the York Tigers Rugby League Club has been one of York's most successful teams, representing both York University and York St Johns. They were unbeaten in all competitions until last week when they lost narrowly away at Northumbria. Re-invigorated however, the Tigers got back to their winning ways at home to Teesside this week, keeping their title challenge alive with a landslide 42-20 win.

York took the game to their opposition from the kick off and started with two consecutive sets of six tackles, resulting in a try only two minutes in. Ten minutes later and Teesside's reckless handling led to a scrum for York twenty meters out. From there the Tigers piled on the pressure patiently and were able to cross for a second.

York made it 16-0 shortly after as Teesside tried to slow the game down.

From the resulting penalty the Tigers implemented a training pitch move

spreading the ball one way then switching direction, spreading the ball wide for a try in the corner. Against the run of play



Photo: Georgi Mabee

Teesside scored their first points of the afternoon when a quick break from the Teesside centre took play to the 5 metre line and a missed pass fooled the Tigers line and Teesside crossed for a simple run in.

The home defence was able to comfortably deal with the infrequent Teesside attacks and successfully forced them to make poorly positioned kicks from the 5th tackle on several occasions, and proved to be quick work

for the Tigers' wingers.

The Tigers scored twice more, wrapping the game up just before half time thanks to a perfectly timed pass by York scrum half Rob Llewellyn. It split the Teesside defence apart and

created an easy run in for the inside centre, taking the score at the break to 32-4.

York started the second half the way they finished the first. Five minutes in they scored a 60 metre try. Slick handling and a well executed

inside pass released York's backs who passed intelligently and the outside centre ran clear from the despairing Teesside defenders.

Complacency began to creep in and Teesside had a

*Continued on page 14*

## Apathy threatens survival of the Athletics Club

By Sam Cartwright  
SPORTS EDITOR

THE ATHLETICS Club is struggling for its survival as reluctance from First and Second Year members to take on the commitments required by the club has resulted in a number of committee positions remaining unfilled.

The response from this and last year's 'fresher's fair' had promised much, with

membership virtually doubling since the club's founding in 2004 to over one hundred members. Despite this, elections for positions as important as those of 'President', 'Vice-President', 'Team Captain' and 'Treasurer' have had to be delayed due to a lack of interest from members.

The problem is exacerbated by the club's policy of ensuring that no President stands for more than one

year and that no committee members come from their final year. The current committee are predominantly Second Year students, and as such are permitted to hold their positions for this year. However, if the problem arises again next year, current President Jonathan Lingham stresses the club will simply "cease to exist. Some of these Freshers just don't understand that if positions aren't filled, the club will have to

close."

Lingham accounts much of the problem to the nature of the sport. Training sessions take place every day, but due to the fact that athletics comprises so many different individual events, members "rarely train together", and so seldom get the chance to meet. To Lingham, this has resulted in a "lack of atmosphere within the club."

Apathy from students

however, is a problem that is in no way unique to the Athletics Club. Clubs both sporting and non-sporting are regularly kept running by as few as two or three committee

members. Furthermore, it seems to be a problem with no obvious solution. The Athletics Union (AU), whilst far from ambivalent to the issue, cannot force people to take on responsibilities. As Lingham makes clear, "there is little

they can do". Attempts have been made to make the posts on the club committees more appealing by organising events and circulating correspondence, but the route of the problem lies not with the desirability of the positions. It is instead the prerogative and responsibility of the members themselves to keep their clubs, alive. Let us therefore hope that these responsibilities are realised before it is too late.

