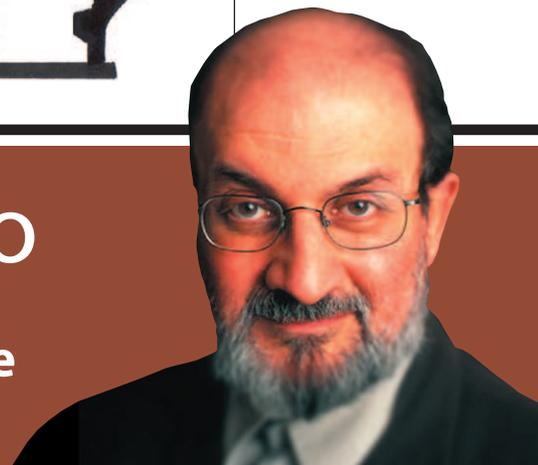


# NOUSE



'The Satanic Verses were meant to be funny' **Salman Rushdie** In Muse

## SU's year of financial crisis leads to slashed budgets for student services

- SU's income falls by £45,000 in just a year
- Cash cuts to AU, Welfare, societies and JCRs
- Membership rise could price SU out of NUS

By Simon Davis and Toby Green

SEVEN STUDENT UNION bodies are to face massive budget cuts after the finance committee was forced to make up a gaping deficit just shy of £30,000 in last year's budget proposal.

The Athletics Union has taken the biggest financial hit, with £7,000 being knocked off their annual allowance despite increasing the price of membership for students by 300 per cent. They also stand to lose up to £20,000 compared to last year, due to the Roses Ball being held in Lancaster.

However, it appears that societies are to suffer the most, with a decrease of £2,000 leaving 52 organisations competing for only £24,000. This signifies a cut of almost 10 per cent, which will harm many societies already in a precarious financial position.

Other cuts to the new budget include £2,000 from Welfare, £2,000 from the media budget, £1,000 from Student Action, £500 from RAG and £210 from the JCR budget. On top of this, around £4,000 was found to have been lost due to a "data inputting error" whilst the budget was being constructed.

Finance Committee, led by SU treasurers Daniel Pietkiewicz and Calvin Kwan, was forced to find

£30,000 after the SU net income plummeted to a loss of over £23,000 in the last academic year, nearly £45,000 less than the year before.

Pietkiewicz said that the cuts were "absolutely necessary" since the previous SU's budget relied on a £30,000 handout from the University, which was not forthcoming.

Micky Armstrong, the SU President, admitted that the budget "that got passed through the UGM last year [was based] on the proviso that we would find this extra £30,000 which we didn't. We were hoping the University would cover some of it." He said that the cuts simply had to be made as "we're still not happy planning to lose money. It's just stupid really."

The University have only been able to cover £11,000 of the deficit, which has left the treasurers in a position where cuts have to be made.

Despite stressing their status as a welfare union prioritising student interests, the SU have decided to press

on with the cuts to current expenditure irrespective of having tens of thousands of pounds in reserve funds.

Armstrong stressed that this was the right thing to do, and said: "if we keep dipping into our reserves with the money that we lost last year then the Union wouldn't last very long. It's unprofessional to just rely on your reserves."

Fears have also been raised that further cuts will have to be made if the NUS enforces its national clamp-down policy on enforcing full and accurate affiliation fees.

YUSU has been told by the NUS that, due to increasing student numbers, York should be paying £51,250, rather than its current £36,000. If this goes ahead, Armstrong was unable to confirm whether the University would help to cover the entire deficit.

The new budget now stands ready to be passed through a UGM, which breaks even. However, it will require a quorate body of students to ratify the revised and cut proposals for spending this year.



### TOXIC FOUNTAIN

University Engineers have shut off the lake's fountain amidst complaints and growing health and safety fears

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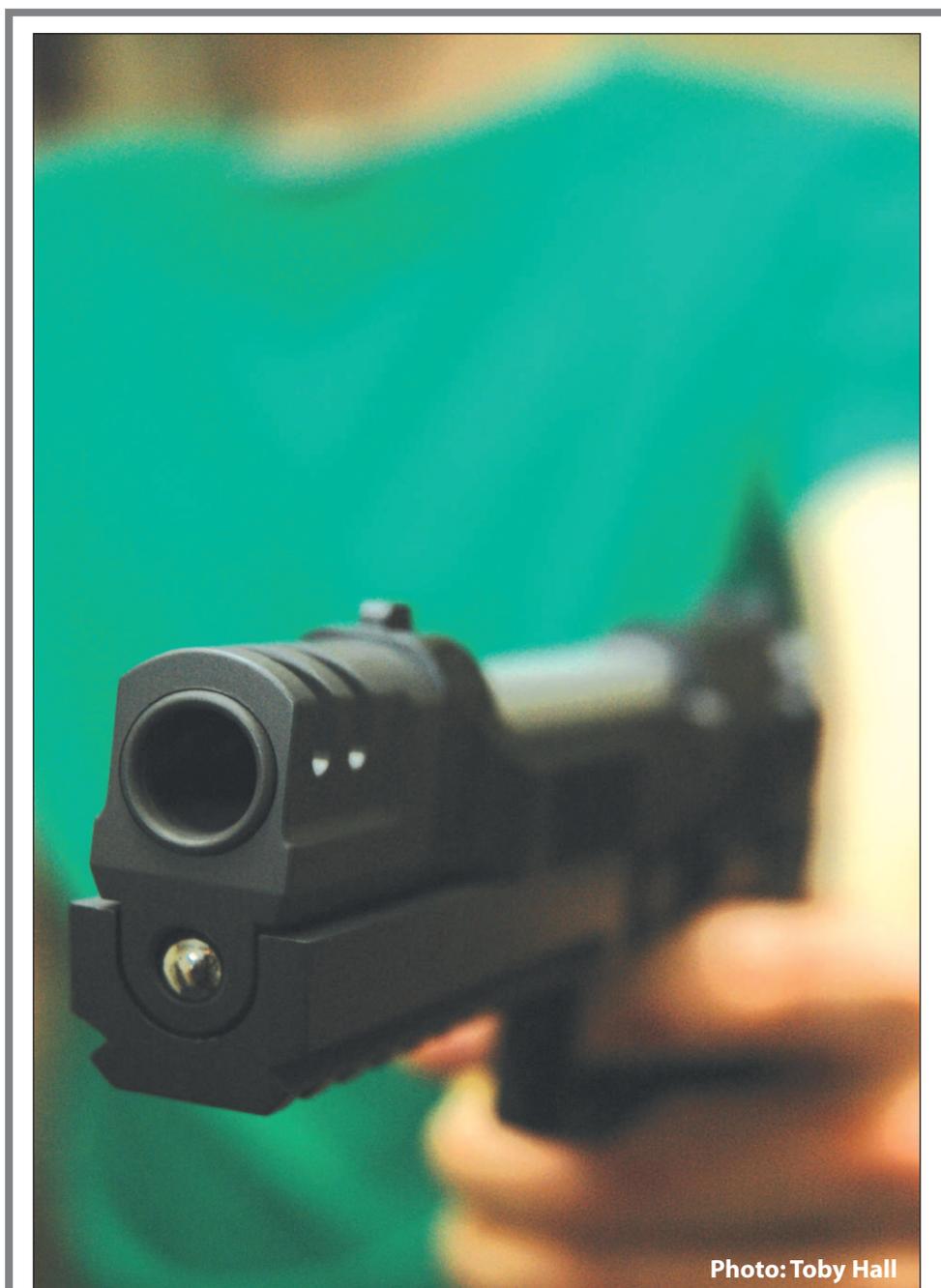


Photo: Toby Hall

## Student house in gun raid

A York student house was raided by police after residents feared they were brandishing lethal firearms **Page 5**

# Growing Poker Soc told not to gamble anymore by YUSU

BY **Becky Mitchell**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

CAMPUS POKER SOCIETY have suffered in the student union clamp down on university regulations for gambling, at a time when they have recruited record numbers to their ranks.

The gambling society have found that it can no longer host meetings on campus despite receiving funds from the Student Union to be set up as a legitimate society, provided that no money exchanged hands.

Due to university licensing laws, which stipulate that no poker can be played on campus regardless of whether or not money is involved, Vanbrugh college secretary has informed the society that it can no longer use Vanbrugh dining hall as the venue for its meetings.

Paul Colley, founder of Poker Soc, said: "YUSU gave us funds and told us we could play as long as no money changed hands but now the college secretaries are saying that it's illegal under all circumstances on licensed property- a law



**Poker Soc have no place to go on campus despite their rocketing membership**

you'd have expected YUSU to know about in advance.

"Now we're stuck in limbo. We were hoping to hold university-wide tournaments, but that can't happen now. There's not much point in poker soc existing".

The clampdown comes as a blow to the society which is benefiting from the recent

explosion of interest surrounding poker, mainly caused by the rise of internet gambling.

At the recent freshers fair, the society signed up an unprecedented number of new members eager to play.

Paul added: "We have loads of absolute beginners signed up wanting to learn so

we decided to run tutorial tables at our meetings. An unprecedented 80 people turned up to our first meeting in Vanbrugh dining hall and by all accounts it was a huge success.

"I'm suspicious that the uni's just nervous that we might be secretly gambling with real money".

# 'Please call home': Parents plea for missing student

BY **Nick Dingwell**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE SEARCH FOR Kwok-Leung Yeung, 20, continues with police focusing on the York, Cambridge and London areas. Kwok-Leung was last seen by his family going to bed at 11pm on 8th October and was later identified on CCTV boarding a train at Aylesbury, his home town, towards London.

Kwok-Leung had been studying Computer Science at York, but *Nouse* have been informed by sources in the Students' Union that he failed his second year exams. Sue Hardman, the Academic Registrar, wouldn't support these claims but did say that the university "had hoped he would return."

It would appear that his parents had not been told about his exam failure and as such expected him to arrive at the university where a room in Lindley Court, Halifax College was still reserved. Madeline McHugh, a concerned would-be housemate described events



**Vision break the news**

on her first day: "The porters asked several times if I had seen him. They were very persistent so it was clear at that stage it was serious."

Kwok-Leung's room has since been filled by a first-year student studying English and Education.

Neil Barnes, SU Welfare Officer, explained that he had helped police by contacting the chairs of societies he was known to be an active member in. However, he made it clear that they did not want to alarm students.

Anyone who has any information is urged to call Aylesbury Vale Police on 08458 505 505.

# Forced relocation of students threatens identity

BY **Toby Green**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

87 STUDENTS HAVE been forced by the University to move from Vanbrugh to Alcuin to make room for new offices.

The move, which is taking place over a three day period in exam week in January, is affecting all of Vanbrugh C Block and half of B block. Officially the

move was necessary because of leaking roofs, yet according to the Vanbrugh JCRC chair, Sarah Jones, the University is set to receive "nearly a million pounds in grant money" to refit and refurbish the buildings for staff offices.

Jones said that the displacement of so many Vanbrugh students was "unfortunate, but it's not going to affect the college".

However, members of the JCR have expressed their concerns over the move to *Nouse*, claiming that they had received 210 signatures on a petition against the forced move.

Although the students that move will remain affiliated to Vanbrugh, next year the Alcuin accommodation will be allocated to Alcuin students. Since Vanbrugh's planned new accommoda-

tion, Bleachfields, will not be ready for the start of next year the college will only receive 175 freshers in 2006, compared to 255 this year. Alongside this many will be living in off campus accommodation at Fairfax House and therefore only 80 students will actually live on campus.

George Hudson, a Bar Rep, said: "Vanbrugh is going to have to fight really

hard to have a college spirit at all.

"We don't want to stop people moving, but we want to give them the choice. If the students want to stay here, then we as a JCR have to fight for their right to stay."

However Jones said that this was not the priority: "the plans are not going to change, the most important thing is to make the move go smoothly. Most students

appear to want to go since they originally applied for en suite rooms anyway."

Hudson also called for some of the grant to be given to Vanbrugh: "The whole motive behind the move has been money, students haven't been considered for a second. The priority always seems to be for the people who are paid to be in the University rather than those who pay."

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*The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors, writers or advertisers*

# University lake fountain out of action until health and safety fears are tackled

**BY Ben Toone**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH FEARS HAVE resulted in the lake fountain being turned off due to the spray streaming onto passing staff and students. It will remain off until the problem has been resolved.

The off spray has swamped campus walkways on windy days for years, hitting those moving between physics and central hall. The University have received numerous complaints from locals and staff, leading to the present action taken by estate services.

The spraying of lake water is particularly problematic due to the state of the lake, which has had severe problems with smell and, in previous years, algal blooms of toxic cyanobacteria. Since the last major bloom in 1995 efforts have been made to control algae via introducing plants and hay bales. Students are strongly advised not to swim in the lake and to consult a doctor immediately if lake water is inhaled due to the risk of other waterborne infection such as Weil's disease.

University engineering maintains that it is due to annoyance to passers by rather than any inherent health risks. Len Brindley, the University Engineer, said: "During high winds, the spray from the ornamental fountain tends to drift across the building facades and pedestrian routes on the mid-section of the lake. In response to a number com-

plaints ... a decision to key-off the fountain has been taken"

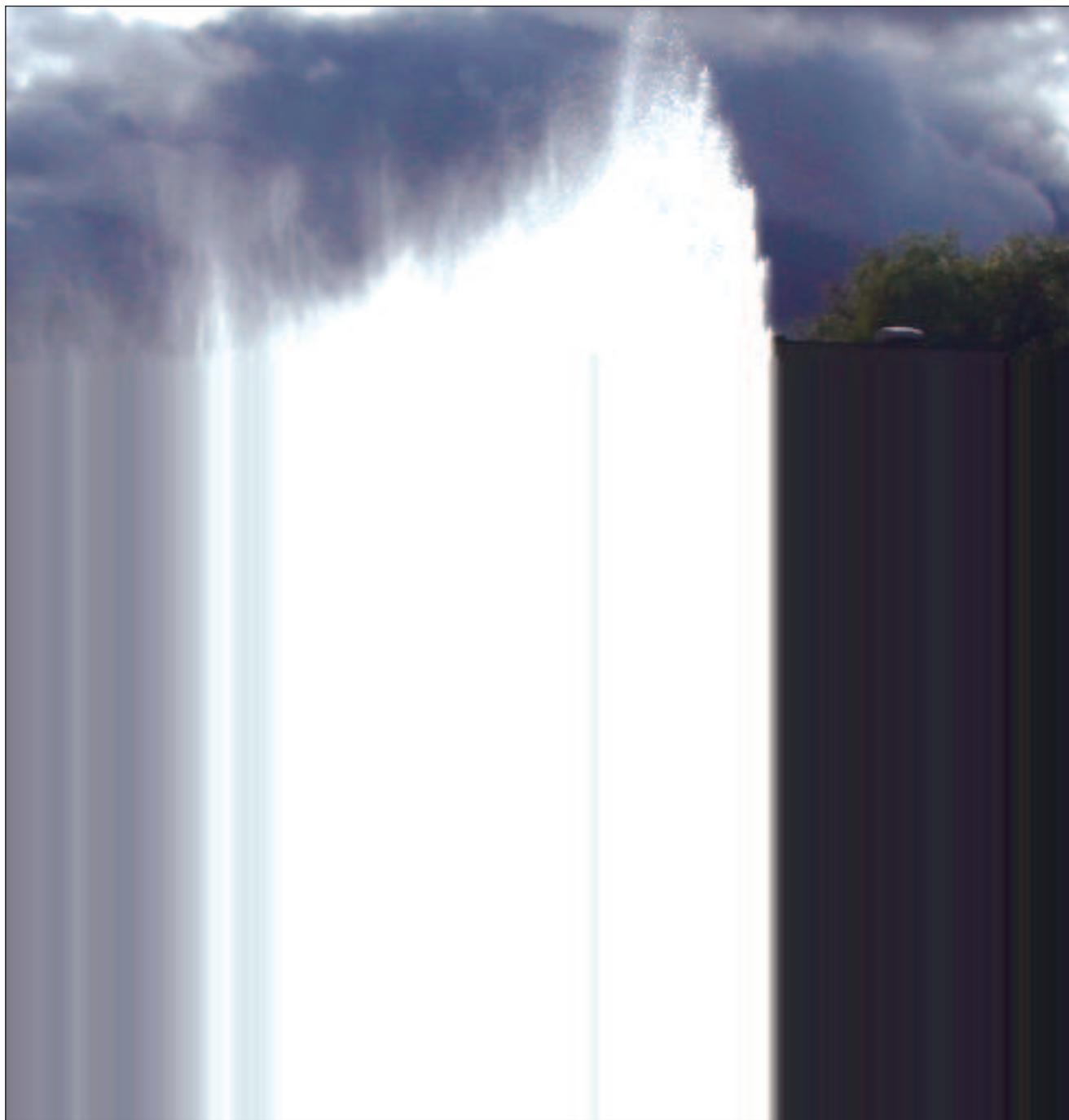
"Estate Services are investigating the options for changing the direction and formation of the existing fountain nozzles in order to contain the spray within the Lake surface and reduce the carry-over of the water aerosol onto the adjacent areas."

This will be the latest in a series of previous alterations to the fountain, with past engineering to lower the height of the jets.

Students' reaction is generally pleased with the switch off. "I think the spray was really annoying", said Ashley So, 3rd year economist, "but on the other hand could switching off the fountain have a negative impact on life in the lake".

Fourth year Biologist, Matilda Crumpton Taylor, agreed: "I'm not really aware of the biological consequences but it'd be nice not to have it spraying."

Once the largest lined man-made water body in Europe, the University is famous for its lake and its elaborate water feature. The lake has been the focus of campus folklore ever since its inception during the 1960's with stories abound of a hidden mini cooper and a mutant catfish amongst the most bizarre, as well as RAG's 'mock battle of Trafalgar' in 1974, in which RAG paid the costs to the university for the dredging and lake clean up due to the large amount of soot, oil and paint bombs involved.



The lake fountain as seen from Vanbrugh before it was shut off by engineering. Photo: Georgi Mabee

# Admin cut corners in student room cleaning

**BY Heidi Blake**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE BUSINESS SERVICES Consultation Committee (BSCC) has proposed to "drastically cut room cleaning" from once a week to once a term for non-en-suite rooms, while en-suite pods would be cleaned just once a month. Despite the proposed cuts, rents are set to rise next year by nine per cent for en-suite and five per cent for standard rooms.

While kitchens would continue to be cleaned as normal, the reductions would mean that non-en-suite bedrooms would not even be seen by cleaners for

ten weeks at a time.

The proposal, which has been pushed through to College Councils for discussion, has been met with fierce criticism from students and officials.

Micky Armstrong, the President of the Students' Union, said: "I think it's an absolute disgrace to make students clean their own rooms", while Fran Tarrant, the JCR Chair of Alcuin, said the proposal was "ludicrous" and had "come out of desperation with the cleaning problem". She added: "As far as I'm concerned, you can't increase rent and give less service provision".

Micky Armstrong felt

the cuts were unlikely to be accepted, vowing to "disagree with this at every consultative process it arises", while Colin Hindson, the Chair of Goodricke JCR, said the proposal had been "laughed out by any representative of any kind who heard of it".

The Director of Commercial Services, Jon Greenwood, said the BSCC "just wants to find out what the students want from their cleaners" and emphasised that there "has been no reduction in the cleaning budget at all", but one unofficial source revealed that the cuts and rent increases were aimed at recouping money

following an overspend in college budgets.

David Garner, the University Press Officer, said that the rent increases of up to £248 a year were intended to bring "rent levels into line with comparable institutions", insisting that prices would remain competitive. However, James Flinders, the current Chair of the Halifax College Students Association, said "This proposal is a cost-cutting measure and will not improve the accommodation of our students".

When students were asked for their opinions on the proposal, their responses were overwhelmingly nega-

tive. While a few said they would rather have their rooms cleaned less, a significant majority were opposed to the cuts and several said they would actually like their rooms cleaned more often.

When asked how he would cope with the cuts in cleaning, Mathew Lacey from Alcuin College said he would need to be provided with a bigger room "just to store all the rubbish", while Heidi Johnson, also from Alcuin, said "crap would pile up on my bed and I wouldn't be able to get in it", adding "I'd be a dirty scrubber".

One University cleaner, who did not wish to be named, said that the propos-

al was "not fair for students" and expressed concerns that it might lead to redundancies.

She said: "I wouldn't have a job if I didn't do this". She also suggested that the cuts might be the result of understaffing due to poor rates of pay.

Greenwood was keen to reassure cleaners that there were no plans to make redundancies, adding that there are currently 80 vacancies on the cleaning team.

The proposal is currently being discussed by College Councils and, if accepted, they would come into effect at the beginning of the next academic year.

# SU left to deal with history

THE SU PRESIDENT, Micky Armstrong, has revealed that "failed and unprofitable events" such as Refresh, last year's disastrous Spring term event, will not be put on this year in a bid to prevent the massive losses sustained by campus events recently.

Over the last year, bad events planning has cost the Student Union over £13,000, an increase in deficit of almost £12,000 from the year before. Refresh was the highest profile failure; Ikon and Diva barely filled up with main attraction, Big Brovaz, failing to up ticket sales.

The entertainment committee has already faced a hard start to the year, with the new figure head event, Revolver, failing to make a profit. The event, which takes place on a Monday night, changing location between Vanbrugh, Goodricke and Derwent college, is a bid to lure students away from the city centre, but has yet to break even. It was even shut early in Week 3 due to low attendance, and the Student Union has been forced to slash ticket prices from £4 to £2.50 in an effort

to attract more students.

College events have also been experiencing difficulties, with James College's Fresher's event, Envy, only selling half its allocation. Planet V and Halifax's Xtra have also not managed to fill to maximum capacity and Club D also failed to fill up in Week 4.

Despite the move to limit events that lose money, Armstrong has promised students that "due to our position as a Welfare rather than a Commercial Student Union, our events are designed for students to enjoy rather than to turn a profit."

Separately, YourShop, the student union shop, also recorded a loss of £4,000 over the last year despite previously making £24,000 in 2003/04. Dan Pietkiewicz, who is the Student Union treasurer alongside Calvin Kwan, said that this was partly due to "the cost of major renovations, which will prove profitable over the new few years." However Paul Langhorn, the Student Union accountant, also admitted that "staffing is a big issue", as wages increased by almost £20,000.



Unused wristbands are left in a heaped pile as students stay away from campus events. Photo: Georgi Mabee

## New terror laws could make 'extremist' academic research and discussion illegal

By John Prebble  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

YORK UNIVERSITY IS making representations to the Houses of Commons and Lords to raise objections to the government's Terrorism Bill.

The Association of University Teachers is lobbying MPs, warning that new legislation could not only curtail academic freedom, but criminalise working practices at universities across the country.

MPs last Wednesday received briefing documents from the AUT, supported by Universities UK and the Society of College, National and University Libraries (Sconul), outlining the possible impact the bill may have on free discussion, publication and the provision of primary study materials at universities.

Concerns are centred on clause 1 of the bill, which makes it an offence to indirectly encourage terrorism, without requiring proof of

intent. The AUT fears this could mean members unintentionally falling foul of the law through what are at present "entirely legitimate forms of academic enquiry".

Work on subjects of varying degrees of controversy could nevertheless be obstructed. The AUT document cites specific "sensitive" subjects, such as violence in the Middle East, the animal rights movement, and in recent history, the tactics of the African National Congress in Apartheid South Africa, though some have raised concerns over more distant historical events, such as the Gunpowder Plot.

Chemistry experiments involving noxious substances also risk legal infringement.

Those who work in such fields could potentially be accused of promoting terrorism, even if that were not their intent.

Librarians may be particularly affected by clause 2, concerning the storage and dissemination of primary sources that could be regarded as, at different times in

history, promulgating terrorism.

Elizabeth Heaps, York University Librarian, states: "We have concerns about freedom of speech, publications and a number of areas of teaching."

"The University of York Library & Archives has supported the University as well as the national libraries' bodies in seeking changes to the terrorism bill."

But Bill Rammell, the higher education minister, says: "The intention of this terrorism bill is not to stifle academic freedom and, in reality, I do not believe that it will."

Whilst most university representatives accept the first part of this statement, it is felt that the government has not considered the potential impact of the legislation on universities.

Drummond Bone, president of Universities UK, said: "Quite frankly, it could disproportionately affect us. That's why we are so worried."

More widely, there are

fears that the law could in fact increase tension and intolerance on campus.

Jonathan Whitehead, the head of parliamentary and public affairs at the AUT, said:

"Underlying much of our concern is a growing fear about the possible impact of the bill on community and race relations on campus through the creation of a culture of suspicion."

Specifically, he cites clause 6 of the bill, the 'training for terrorism' offense: "The definition is anyone who 'knows or suspects' that the training could be used for terrorist purposes. Lecturers will have to start having suspicions about their students."

The AUT is optimistic that its calls for amendments to protect academic freedom will be heard.

However, as Ruth Kelly, the education secretary told university heads in September, they are under a general obligation to play a full part in countering support for terrorism on campus.



The terror bill could also effect freedom of debate

# of debt and deficit



**YUSU Treasurers, Dan Pietkiewicz and Calvin Kwan stand firm on budget cuts**

## YUSU admit to 'fiddling figures' for NUS affiliation

YORK STUDENTS' UNION could be forced to leave the NUS after it was revealed they lied about the number of students at York University in order to keep their NUS affiliation fee at the previous year's level, £36,000.

The deception was discovered when the NUS decided to check student numbers submitted by student unions, upon which the fee is based, against those from the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

York was found to have

enough students to warrant a fee of £51,250, the maximum that can be taken from a Higher Education institution for membership. If the SU don't pay this they may be asked to leave the NUS.

Amidst fears that the SU might disaffiliate from

the NUS, the SU President, Mickey Armstrong explained that this was unlikely to happen because the funding comes directly from the University and does not affect the SU budget.

He said: "We've got nothing to gain from disaffiliation at all, and we've got everything to lose."

In the face of the new fee, the SU have put forward a hardship case, and are hoping that as they have no commercial income they will not be forced to pay the same amount as universities up to four times York's size.

However, finance committee minutes admit that "apparently for years YUSU has been fiddling the numbers of how many students they had", but Armstrong said in defence: "I think that over the years we've just resubmitted the same numbers, and the University has changed.

He continued: "It's something that every union does."

Joe Rukin, the NUS Treasurer, explained that policy has been passed to ensure that SUs are paying an accurate, affordable and fair fee.

## The SU financial crisis

### Commercial failures

- Events put on by the SU have made a loss of £13,000 in a year
- Revolver, a flagship YUSU event, is yet to make a profit. Ticket prices slashed.
- YourShop income drops by £28,000, to a deficit of £4,000. However SU President, Micky Armstrong, promises money spent on shop improvements will prove worthwhile.
- Total income of the JCR over 2004/05 is a loss of £23,031, a fall of nearly £45,000 in only a year.

### Budget cuts

- AU had £7,000 cut despite trebled fees
- Societies budget cut by £2,000 to £24,000
- Media budget cut by £2,000
- Welfare budget cut by £2,000
- RAG budget cut by £700
- JCRC budget cut by £200

### NUS membership fee

- NUS affiliation could rocket by £16,000 if a clamp down fee is enforced on YUSU

## Recycling overhaul for York University long overdue

By Justin Webber  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

RECYCLING FACILITIES on campus are to be overhauled under a new recycling contract agreed between the University and the City of York council.

The proposals include the introduction of cash payments to the university for waste it recycles.

In the next 15 years waste produced by the city is expected to increase by around 60,000 tonnes while government policy makes the landfill option increasingly uneconomic. Under current waste growth projections the potential landfill tax bill for the city is expected to top over £3 million within just six years.

In response to these concerns the new £1 million university contract will place a greater emphasis on identifying and minimising waste production on campus. The University will receive £5 from the council for every



**Jeraj, Derwent Eco Rep**

tonne of waste it recycles. The proposed changes have been cautiously welcomed by those responsible for the existing recycling provision on campus. Derwent ecology rep Samir Jeraj said, "If the changes promised under the new contract come into operation then recycling at York will be dramatically improved for the better".

At present much of the recycling on campus is down to voluntary eco reps which means that recycling is often under resourced.

## Student house targeted by armed police in gun raid

By John Prebble  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A YORK STUDENT house was raided by armed police following the reported sighting of someone with a handgun inside.

Police teams were called to the Mansfield House block of properties in Lowther Street at 9pm on Monday 24 October.

The flat was stormed and some of its student occupants bundled into three police vans, while the property was cordoned off and guarded by eight officers. Local residents were told to stay in their homes.

The police received a report from someone working locally, who thought they had seen a handgun through the front window. But the weapon was in fact a legal ball bearing gun.

Up to ten students, tenants and their friends, were on the premises when it was raided. Neighbours spoke of seeing the police enter with

guns and come out restraining a number of people. They were held in the police vans and questioned for up to an hour before their release without charge.

However the students' friends have contested witness and police statements, insisting that they are peaceful and would not have been seen brandishing a gun.

One friend, Ally Brown, 21, who himself witnessed the raid, said: "The police got it all wrong. I think somebody must have walked past and seen someone carrying something else.

"It's terrifying to see your friends arrested by armed police who just turn up at the door."

But Sergeant Jim Turney, in the York police control room, attempted to clarify the facts and to defend the police's procedures for dealing with reported sightings of armed activity.

"We found a BB gun, which is not a firearm.

"We had to treat the

incident as if we were dealing with a live firearm until we found out what had happened. People can be charged with threatening behaviour and causing harassment for having imitation firearms in public places. But this was on a private premises."

The incident was concluded without anyone being injured, or any charges being made. However imitation firearms present a regular challenge to police procedures and a substantial demand on their time.

A neighbour of the students, 55, said: "Three cops just marched straight in with guns and I saw them drag at least four from the flat."

He continued: "We were alerted because the dog barked and we opened the door to see what it was, but the policeman shouted: 'Get back inside!'"

This is not the first gun related incident that has been associated with the university in York recently.

In early November a

campus Costcutter employee caused a five hour armed siege outside his home after police received reports that he was drunk and inside a house bordering the University with a gun.

The man, David Jonathon Roustoby, who worked in the Market Square branch of the supermarket, had a previous conviction for offenses with a replica weapon, and was arrested on Windmill Lane.

That siege, it was alleged at the time, occurred because Roustoby had been showing his copy of James Bond's Walther PPK to his partner's 16-year-old son, stating he felt safer with it in the house. The siege only ended after Roustoby went outside following repeated requests from the police.

It is still the case that replica guns are widely available in the UK and are currently on sale in York. The debate over the legality of selling replica guns still rages on and is unlikely to be resolved for some time.

# E-voting set to change face of union policy

BY Simon Davis  
NEWS EDITOR

IN A RADICAL leap forwards for direct democracy, York students will now be able to have their say in what their Students' Union does from the comfort of their own computers.

In a move to tackle the crippling problem of inquorate meetings on campus, as of Monday November 15 any York student will be able to vote electronically on the motions discussed in the previous weeks Union General Meeting (UGM).

The UGM is the central decision making body for the SU, and it helps to set their agenda on campus. It allows members to propose, discuss and vote on motions that they wish the union to actively support.

The very first electronic UGM in York's forty year history has been greeted with a mixture of controversial motions, including the request for the SU to boycott both Nestle and Coca-Cola.

The ethical grounds for these boycotts were established during last weeks UGM discussion, as Nestle was accused of violations related to its control over the baby milk market and Coca-Cola's notoriously low wages and worker bullying tactics were discussed.

Justin Webber, from the People and Planet group on campus, also proposed a motion in support of a campaign for ethical investment, which was spearheaded by Nouse at the start of term.

He proposed that York should invest in an ethical investment policy, on the grounds of evidence revealed in Nouse that York had 115,000 direct shares and 1,354,663 indirect shares in the arms firm, BAE systems.

Alongside these ethical campaigns, the long-awaited drive for Halifax to get its very own 'non-alcoholic social space', i.e. a common room, has also now got the potential to get its feet off the ground thanks to the new voting mechanism.



Students watch eagerly as motions are hotly contested at the UGM last week. Photo: Georgi Mabee

James Flinders, Halifax College Chair, said: "For many of our students, a place serving alcohol just isn't an appropriate place to meet. We want our College to have a non-alcoholic social space, so that every Halifaxer can socialise in a place they feel comfortable."

Despite this enthusiasm, the move to electronic

voting has not been universally welcomed and concerns have been raised within the SU Executive Committee that students might not fully digest the debate surrounding each motion, now that they are able to simply click through the voting process.

However, Mickey Armstrong, SU President, remained positive and said:

"A lot of people were shocked that not many people turned out, but there was still constructive debate going on. It wasn't bogged down with the quoracy thing, or people who were there that didn't want to be.

The people that turned up wanted to be there. Up to fifty people cared about the motions enough to come and

make a stance, which was fantastic. And we'll just have to see now what happens with the online voting, as to whether the rest of the students can be bothered."

Any York student can vote online on these motions and help to change union policy by going to [www.yusu.org](http://www.yusu.org), and following the links from that page.

# Aliens and mantras: cults threaten UK campuses

BY Elliot Taylor  
DEPUTY EDITOR

FEARS THAT CAMPUSES across the country could be swamped by a swathe of cult recruiters have been highlighted by Sam Jordison's new book, *The Joy of Sects*. Certain factions have gained an infamy with their outlandish concepts. Examples are often found in the world of celebrity; Tom Cruise's televised rants about the controversial dogma of Scientology, and Madonna's financial input to the Kabala group are well documented in Heat Magazine.

A publication widely read (even if we won't admit to it) by students, do these satirical accounts of superstar oddities in fact pose more of a threat than we know? Students present an attractive target to any type of recruiter; young, impressionable and far from home, consultancy firms may have, if Jordison is to be believed, a new competitor in the run-

ning for fresh student minds. He said, "Cults on campus are always a worry - they might not seem to be there, but there's a chance that they are. Students are prime targets."

The campus recruitment drive for cults is becoming more successful. Jordison explains, "You wouldn't think it, but it's generally intelligent people who join cults, because they're people who are looking for answers". US website, [cultsoncampus.com](http://cultsoncampus.com), specifically warns new students about the wooing of susceptible freshers with the promise a surrogate family when the security of home suddenly disappears. The website instructs on how to recognise a cult, advising, 'Be wary of groups that demand too much loyalty, use deceptive recruiting practices, or ask you commit too much of your time.' They deride all outfits using religious jargon to rope in young members, highlighting the suspect nature of such group's

motives.

However, some groups vying for membership may not be threatening. The UFO enthralled Aetherius Society object to being classified as a cult. The society's spokesperson said they are "strongly opposed to the negative practices of such groups". Instead they're dedicated to world peace and enlightenment. Salvation, apparently, comes from chanting mantras on the country's highest peaks. Perhaps they're saving us all?

Not all such leftfield factions are equally benevolent. The vulnerable can be exploited for financial and commercial purposes. By seeming to offer the answers people are searching for, large sums of money are often pried from innocents as membership fees, followed up with pressure to maintain a standing donation. Members' money is drained away. With student loans for these parasitic organisations to sink their teeth into - campus is at risk.



Nouse pick up the Best Student Paper award. From left to right (bottom): Heloise Wood, Georgi Mabee, Kate Lawler, Harriet Bingley. (Top): Toby Green, Simon Davis, David Seymour, Toby Hall, Lauren Carter, Clive Crouch and James Doughty

## Nouse wins Daily Mirror/NUS Student Newspaper of the Year

- The Nouse team picked up the Mirror/NUS award from David Seymour, the Chief Political Editor of the Daily Mirror, last weekend.
- Nouse also came runner-up to Cardiff University's publication, *Gair Rhydd*, in the Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year Award, and were commended for "strong and original features".

# York's political societies speak out

James Best collects campus' political views

York students have a history of being politically active, and have been involved in national actions such as the march against the Iraq war and anti-fees rallies. We've spoken to these pro-active souls to find out more.

## Birmingham Race Riots

Anna Liddle and Catherine Upton, the chair and secretary of Unity, campus' anti-fascist society, seem unimpressed by the government's policies on race relations. "This government isn't particularly doing wonders for community cohesion. They're bringing in some very racist anti-terror laws at the moment. Their anti-racism laws aren't very successful" claims Anna Liddle. A view also held by Marian Fitzgerald a former senior researcher for the Home Office who claims Labour have chosen to bury mounting inter-ethnic tensions in inner cities. Catherine Upton made the point that "one of the problems is that the government tends to see making communities live in harmony as assimilation into white culture".

When asked about what the Labour Party intends to do about this problem Labour society member Matt Balding admitted that "there are a lot of tensions that are often fuelled by the media" He pointed to the need for "the media and the government to work together to try and address the issues".

Unity said, "There is a lot to be done socially", pointing to the need to get community leaders together. Anna Liddle was adamant that "it's not a hopeless situation and there is light at the end of the tunnel".

It should be pointed out how active and successful a group Unity are in improving relations. The group held a demonstration last week in Leeds against the BNP. Catherine claims "there were about a thousand anti-fascists and only 100 BNP members." Unity was also involved in getting a BNP demo in Keighley banned last Saturday.

## Tory Leadership Race

The Chair of the Liberal Democrat society, Graeme Cooke, said, "The political system doesn't offer any real policy choice; the Tories are just saying the same things as Blair". Unsurprisingly, Nick Reeves, Chairman of campus' Conservative society disagrees vehemently with this opinion, saying that "Tony Blair steals Conservative policies."

"Tony Blair is a Conservative leader" albeit "a Conservative leader of Labour party, which means he can't get much done." Reeves says things are going to change with new leadership. He explains that "trust has been lost in the Blairite government" and now we have the chance to "offer a credible alternative".

When Matt Balding from the Labour party was

questioned about this he agreed that "Cameron is very popular, even outside the Tory Party" and could provide effective opposition.

Nick Reeves concluded about the Tory Leadership race and the future of the Conservative Party with a bold prediction that in "the next 8 years or so; Cameron will win, there will be a cabinet of talents, Blair will probably go in a year or two's time. Brown will take over, labour will infight for about six months trying to take the party to the left which it ultimately will do. Following elections, Brown verses Cameron, it'll be a hung parliament. Then there will be an election about 6 months later and the conservatives will at last take power back."

With the fickle nature of politics, only time will tell.

## Smoking Ban Bill

The Tories see the proposed ban as an attack on civil liberties. Nick Reeves says "the Labour government sees us doing naughty things in our lives and just wants to go out and ban it to make sure we're all good little workers" it is just another "example of Labour not liking something and then trying to ban it outright".

Matt Balding believes this is unreasonable and that "as far as liberties go it's a difficult one because occasionally we have liberties that conflict, one being that people don't want to be in an atmosphere where there's



York students have a long history of protesting as above against top up fees

smoking". When asked if it was symptomatic of divisions in the Labour party he denied it outright saying "Other parties have splits over various issues. When you have a membership of several thousand people not everyone is always going to

agree, it's natural." He "wouldn't say that any disagreements within the party are detrimental to it."

Nick Reeves on the same issue believes, as do many other commentators, that it is a sign of a floundering government, saying "it's

the worst kept secret ever. Everybody can see that the labour party is imploding at the moment. Blair has become a very, very lame duck". He went further, predicting his downfall, "Blair will be pushed before he jumps."

# Rioting on the streets of Birmingham indicates failure of Government's policies on intergation

A man was killed and 35 others were hospitalised following the worst night of violence seen in Birmingham for 20 years. Cars were set ablaze and police in riot gear were attacked as the sound of gunfire echoed through the streets. The disorder involved members of the Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities.

A rumour, broadcast on a pirate radio station, of the rape of a fourteen year old Afro-Caribbean girl in a beauty shop in the Lozells area is said to have been the spark. Violence broke out after a public meeting and the shop was then attacked. The owner claims that the



Police faced attacks in Birmingham over several days

rumour was started by business rivals seeking to undermine him and harm his reputation. As of yet the girl at the centre of the rape allegation has not come forward. It is thought that she may be an illegal immigrant and is

afraid of the implications for her and her family were she to talk to the police.

Police report some 80 crimes were committed during the riots. One police officer was shot and injured and numerous stabbings were

reported. The man killed was 23 year old Isaiah Young-Sam, of Afro-Caribbean descent, who is said to have played no part in the riots. Three men have now been charged with his murder.

The night after the rioting, an 18 year old man was shot dead two kilometres from where the violence took place in what is suspected to be a related incident.

Is what we have witnessed in Birmingham a demonstration of Trevor Phillips' (the Commission for Racial Equality chair) claim that we are "sleepwalking our way into segregation"? The communities of Lozells and East Handsworth are predominantly people of

Asian and Afro-Caribbean descent. The two groups lead very segregated lives, going to different schools and not integrating nearly as much as one would expect, considering the densely populated nature of this area of the city.

Trevor Phillips also argued that the government simply isn't doing enough to combat segregation within communities. Plans have recently been announced to increase the number of faith based schools which could be seen as a move that will result in communities growing further apart. This area of Birmingham has problems of unemployment and social deprivation. As the manufacturing industries move out it

is becoming more and more difficult for the people who live there to find jobs. Escalating gang based violence is also making it increasingly difficult for community workers and others to get involved in what could be seen as the real backbone of the problem.

It is also worth pointing out that on the 27th October up to 70 black, white and asian women held a peace march in Lozells. The majority of people that live there do not want violence in their community, just happy lives for their families. Still, it is clear that more must be done to prevent further violence occurring.

By Adam Sloan

# Bush camp shaken

Jessica Levy unravels George Bush's domestic melt-down



Harriet Miers was rejected by both sides of the partisan divide

One year on from securing a much coveted second term in office, President George W. Bush is not having a good month. A poll printed on the eve of the first anniversary of his election victory showed a majority of Americans judge Mr. Bush's presidency to be a failure.

With the US death toll in Iraq passing the 2000 mark, and Mr. Bush's Supreme Court nominee forced to withdraw her candidacy amid a conservative revolt, the resignation of the Vice President's chief of staff and the indictment charges brought against him simply top the pile of problems currently facing the increasingly unpopular US president.

The indictment at the start of the month of Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, on five counts in relation to the leaking of a covert CIA agent's identity, has helped maintain the plummet of Mr. Bush's approval ratings. Gallup reported that at the start of November 55 per cent of Americans have lost confidence in the administration. Criticism over President Bush's relaxed response to the Hurricane Katrina emergency pushed his popular support below 40 per cent, 15 points lower than Bill Clinton's score at the height of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Mr. Bush stresses his White House "remains focused". Yet the increased Republican majorities on Capitol Hill and Mr. Bush's re-election seem all but forgotten in the current climate of scandal and mistrust.

The indictment of Mr. Libby, a

attack on the President's use of pre-war intelligence and motivations for war.

Furthermore, the case is important as, when the trial begins next February, Vice President Dick Cheney may be called to give evidence. The investigation gathered momentum this June when Matthew Cooper of *Time* magazine and *The New York Times'* Judith Miller were ordered to reveal the identity of their sources for stories they had written which named Ms. Plame. Ms. Miller, in honouring the journalistic code of not disclosing sources, served 85 days in prison before revealing she had spoken to Mr. Libby.

With the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist and the retirement of Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, President Bush is obligated to fill two of the nine Supreme Court positions. Being able to leave his mark on the make-up of the highest court in the land will have implications for years to come.

President Bush has not seized this opportunity without causing a ruckus. John Roberts' nomination would not have pleased liberal Americans, but by and large it passed quietly for the President. It was his nomination, however, of his personal legal counsel and old friend Harriet Miers to fill the seat left vacant by Ms. O'Connor that prompted astonished criticism from both within and without the President's party.

Some critics pointed out that it was absurd to instate a person with no judicial experience to the highest legal bench in the country. But some Republican dissenters revolted amid claims that Ms. Miers was not conservative enough. Forced to withdraw her nomination, Ms. Miers has since been replaced by Samuel Alito, a man with "more prior judicial experience than any Supreme Court nominee in more than 70 years", Bush argued last week.

The case is vitally important not

Gallup reported at the start of November that 55 per cent of Americans have lost faith in the administration

simply because such a leak is a federal offense but also in light of the implications of the allegation that Ms. Plame's name was revealed to veteran Washington correspondent Robert Novak because her diplomat husband was a critic of the Bush administration.

'Scooter' Libby's indictment is critical not only because he is the first sitting White House official charged with a criminal offense for 130 years. As an integral part of a central core of officials who drove the policy toward Iraq, this case has raised serious questions as to how the Bush administration sought to justify military action.

In an attempt to keep the chief executive's problems centre stage, the Democrats have launched an

Former Prime Minister Harold Wilson once observed that a week is a long time in politics. If we are to accept this as an unequivocal maxim then New Labour's tenure in government constitutes something of an aeon. Under Tony Blair's leadership Labour have achieved three consecutive general election victories, while Blair himself has defeated four Conservative leaders.

The era known as Blairism is characterised not so much by Labour victories, but by the Tories' failure to take advantage of the controversial actions committed by a succession of Labour governments.

Despite the erosion of Blair's popularity May's election saw the Conservatives, under Michael Howard's leadership, fall 158 seats short of Labour's total. The fact that many leading Conservatives celebrated the apparent 'progress' (a mere 33 seats) speaks volumes.

However, the current leadership battle between David Cameron and David Davis has led to a palpable change in the political climate. As the government stumbles from one crisis to the next (Blunkett's resignation, twenty-four hour licensing, the smoking ban), the Conservatives are in a position where, after eight years in the political wilderness, they can form a credible opposition.

Cameron's rise over the last few months firmly indicates the route Conservative MPs want their party to pursue. While Kenneth Clarke may have been the figure that leading Blairites feared most, his elimination in the first ballot suggests a clean break from the past is desired.

David Cameron may be the Conservative Party's answer to Tony Blair. Like the Prime Minister he enjoyed a comfortable upbringing. He is also a moderniser who intends to drag his party away from its traditional routes towards the centre-ground.

Cameron's liberal stance is best

Mr. Alito's experience does not quiet concerns that his social conservatism will tip the ideological balance of the Supreme Court. The ultimate fear of many Americans is that the landmark ruling in favour of abortion rights (*Roe v Wade*) could be overturned.

These problems amount to more than the usual second term doldrums. With his popularity and credibility falling away at a steady rate, Iraq ever looming in the shadows, and criminal charges brought against members of his staff, Mr. Bush should worry. But so too should all Americans and the rest of the world. The reckless and quite possibly illegal activities of the current administration should not be left unchecked.

A traditional conservative commented this week that the best thing about Bush is that he's only got three more years. A lot can happen in three years. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Bush will use them to restore his reputation.

# Tory leadership battle drags on

Matthew Wignall examines the ongoing Conservative leadership campaign and its possible results



David Cameron (above) lobbies for votes as the Conservative leadership race enters its final stage as his lead appears less formidable

demonstrated when he suggested that ecstasy should follow cannabis and be downgraded during his head-to-head with Davis on the BBC's *Question Time*. This is a man who certainly does not shy away from controversy. Neither is he adverse to entering the world of celebrity, appearing, along with Davis, at the National TV Awards, bringing back memories of Blair's presence at the 1996 Brit Awards.

He has also been accused of showing very little substance underneath his charismatic surface. He has continually refused to make any firm policy pledges as he does not want to "look ridiculous in five years time". If his critics are to be believed,

this is evidence that there is little beneath the polished veneer.

Davis couldn't be more different. Despite his working-class roots (he attended a grammar school in Tooting), his policies remain fixed firmly to the right. He is a confirmed Eurosceptic promising a referendum on Britain's position in Europe. Attacking Cameron's supposed lack of substance, declaring that people want "what you see is what you get politics", may prove to be the deciding factor in the outcome of the leadership race.

Rumour currently suggests that Blair will lead Labour until 2008. By this stage voters will have lived through eleven years of Blairism and

all the alleged spin that it is tarnished by. Much of the electorate may crave something new, and if Cameron were to become leader the Tories would perhaps be in danger of presenting another Blair.

Perhaps it would be in the Conservative Party's best interests to offer an alternative. As Davis himself says: "This is absolutely the worst time for the Conservative Party to imitate Tony Blair". While Thatcher called New Labour her greatest success it seems that Blair has had a similar effect on Cameron.

As both contenders enter the final stages of their campaigns either result is possible. Davis began as a clear favourite but a lacklustre

performance at the Party's annual conference in Blackpool saw him fall behind Cameron in the polls.

However, Davis' performance on *Question Time* (3rd November), if not turning the tide in his favour, has certainly helped him gain lost ground with many commentators observing that while neither candidate landed a "knock-out blow" they felt Davis won on "points".

Cameron may still be the favourite but the nature of this contest so far suggests that there will be many more twists, turns and surprises before the winner is announced on 6th December, which, as I am sure Harold Wilson would agree, is a long time off.

# Quake aid crisis strikes Pakistan

In a year when humanitarian disasters seem unending, the earthquake that hit southern Pakistan on Saturday 8th October stands out as an on-going crisis of alarming proportions. With over 73,000 people dead and an estimated 3.3 million left homeless, short-term relief for victims of the earthquake presents an unprecedented challenge for aid provision.

Despite the magnitude of the disaster, adequate donations and aid from rich western nations have not been forthcoming and both the Pakistani government and aid organisations such as Oxfam have called for greater contributions to avert a further humanitarian crisis as a result of the approaching winter.

The earthquake, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale, mostly affected Pakistani Kashmir, the region that has been at the centre of disputes between India and Pakistan since the countries' independence from Britain in 1947.

The capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, suffered considerable damage, but the most serious effects of the quake were felt in rural mountainous areas across both regions of Kashmir as well as the north-west frontier province of Pakistan. Many of the homes in these regions were constructed of unstable materials and immediate relief efforts were hampered by landslides, leading to a situation in which hundreds of villages were left demolished and without aid.

While many countries were quick to pledge money and offer direct aid as the scale of the disaster emerged, it was several days before people in affected areas received help, many sleeping in the open until the government and foreign agencies were able to coordinate their relief efforts, with 500,000 people in remote areas seeing no aid for several weeks after the initial quake. Worryingly, provisions for

the approaching winter are still in desperately short supply which will inevitably lead to more deaths.

Despite initial offerings from European countries, the United Nations was forced to issue an appeal for aid, culminating in a donor conference on October 26th. In real terms, to date only \$135 million has been received of the \$550 million the United Nations has called for. Much of the aid pledged has been assigned to long-term reconstruction projects, despite urgent pleas for immediate aid. Meanwhile the Himalayan winter threatens to cut off remote areas and increase the death toll catastrophically. In response the United Kingdom has pledged less than a tenth of the aid it gave to last year's tsunami victims.

With around 1.5 million British residents having links to those areas affected by the earthquake, the British government's response could have significant political repercussions. The British Muslim community has already expressed disappointment and anger at the amount of aid offered. The release of a video in which Al Qaida's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri calls on Muslims to offer all help possible to Pakistan illustrates the potential for the disaster and its aftermath to become highly politicised.

The October 8th earthquake, which ravaged large areas of Pakistan and parts of Indian territory, and left over three million people homeless, will prove a grave challenge to agencies involved in the relief effort. The inadequate aid offered by rich Western governments could have serious consequences, both humanitarian and political. With a harsh winter fast approaching and millions still without shelter and other essentials, the human cost of the Pakistan earthquake could prove more devastating than so far imagined.

By Ellen Capenter

# 'Compromise' smoking ban causes controversy

Viran Pandya investigates a cabinet rift and its far reaching consequences for issues of public health and direction of government policy



Jack MacDaddy's take on Labour's conflicting health policies

News of the proposed smoking ban outlined in the government's Health Bill, will no doubt affect the lives of both smokers and non-smokers alike. The ban has shown the problems facing an embattled Labour government and has damaged Tony Blair's authority.

The proposal specifies that smoking will be banned in all workplaces, including pubs and restaurants serving food, yet with the exemption of pubs and clubs that don't serve food. This qualification has resulted in the label, 'partial smoking ban', and it has attracted vociferous calls for a complete ban.

The Bill stipulates that all workplaces subject to the conditions of

the ban must implement smoking restrictions by 2007. Under the proposals, establishments which defy the ban would face a £50 fine. The ban will be reviewed after three years. The deal on a smoking ban, brokered by cabinet after weeks of wrangling, represents a return to Labour's original manifesto pledge: "The Health Bill will include a ban on smoking in enclosed workplaces and public places which will cover 99 per cent of the workforce".

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt argues that "this legislation is a huge step forward for public health and will help reduce deaths from cancer, heart disease and other smoking-related diseases. Not only will we be able to protect non-smokers and the

huge majority of pub workers from the harmful effects of smoke, it will also provide smokers with an environment where it's easier to give up".

The incomplete nature of the ban has drawn fire from anti-smoking campaigners. The Chairman of the British Medical Association believes the Government has "thrown away the opportunity of a lifetime to protect the public's health". The BMA has criticised the government for ignoring months of consultation advice and the "vast amount of conclusive evidence that second-hand smoke kills and what was needed was a total ban". Unions representing bar workers and waiters also publicly announced that they were unhappy with the com-

promise.

Industry and pro-smoking groups expressed relief that the government shied away from a blanket ban covering all bars and clubs in England. Simon Clark, director of the Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco was "disappointed in that this is a massive shift in terms of restrictions on smoking".

The Department of Health defended the proposals, saying ministers had tried to 'strike a balance' between freedom of choice and protecting non-smokers.

While placing restrictions on smoking, the government is also attempting to pass legislation for 24 hour drinking, with the logic that relaxing the 11pm deadline would

stagger bar closing times and result in less binge-drinking and alcohol-related violence. Blair's government does not seem to be able to decide between a liberal or nanny state.

The past fortnight has seen Tony Blair battling to restore his authority, which has been damaged by cabinet splits over the ban, the resignation of close ally David Blunkett, and a Commons revolt against anti-terror laws. The Prime Minister's focus has supposedly been on "big picture" issues, such as educational reform and the future direction of the European Union.

Simon Clarke told BBC news that Tony Blair is "considering his legacy and you don't make history by introducing compromises".

# MUSE



**Student gambling - betting  
your way out of debt M12**

# Arguing with the world

Ambitious, bloody-minded, but resolutely cheerful. **Lily Hall** talks with Salman Rushdie about his distinguished yet turbulent career as a novelist and tries to uncover the passion and outlook on life that has created his literary masterpieces

“Go for broke. Always try and do too much. Dispense with safety nets. Take a deep breath before you begin talking. Aim for the stars. Keep grinning. Be bloody minded. Argue with the world.”

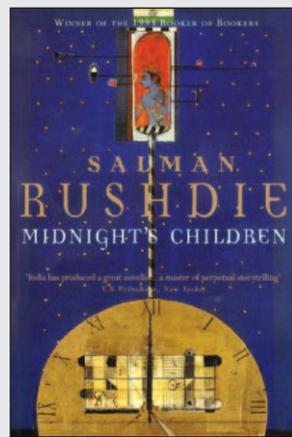
It is this attitude that has landed Bombay born author, Salman Rushdie, with, on one hand, a death sentence from an Iranian spiritual leader, and on the other, with several of the most prestigious literary awards available to writers today. And, as a natural corollary perhaps, a cameo role in *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Evidently, he is not a man who is prepared to blend in with the dull grey background of social convention (or literary convention for that matter), and, whatever your opinion of him, his latest release, *Shalimar the Clown*, hints that he will be gracing the bookshelves for a while to come.

Rushdie was educated at Rugby School and then read History at Kings College, Cambridge. He was heavily involved in the amateur dramatics society, Footlights, something which is evident in the theatricality of much of his work. After graduating he moved to Pakistan where he worked in television, before returning to England to begin work as a copywriter. This connection with both Pakistan and India, two nations in constant conflict, has shaped much of Rusdie's writing. His first novel, *Grimus*, was published in 1974.

Few people had heard of Rushdie before *Midnight's Children*, the second novel of his career, won the Booker Prize in 1981. Dubbed the 'Booker of Bookers', the book is set around the period of India's struggle for independence, and its hero is born at the stroke of midnight on August 14th, 1947 - the moment of the country's formal separation from Britain: "At the precise instant of India's arrival at independence, I tumbled into the crowds...thanks to the occult tyrannies of those blandly saluting clocks I had been mysteriously handcuffed to history chained to those of my country. For the next three decades there was to be no escape." His life has become a metaphor for the new nation; a subtle image that demonstrates the skill that put Rushdie in the literary elite so early on in his career. Rushdie, Tim Supple and Simon Reade later adapted this epic piece of magical realism into a three hour stage production, performed both here and across the Atlantic, firmly establishing Rushdie's position at the forefront of the British artistic world.

In *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie made a passionate plea for the novelist of today to slice open this relationship between individuals and the society in which they live, to lay bare the political and private spheres which are so inextricably intertwined in the modern world. At the heart of Rushdie's most

## The highlights of Rushdie's work



**Midnight's Children - Booker Prize winner**

### Midnight's Children

This won Rushdie the Booker Prize in 1981 and has since been dubbed the 'Booker of Bookers'. It is set in the years following partition in India.

### Satanic Verses

Ayatollah Khomeini famously issued a fatwa against Rushdie for this 'blasphemous' novel. It was inspired, in part, by the life of Muhammad.

### Shalimar the Clown

This is Rushdie's most recent work and is set in the tumultuous region of Kashmir. Dissection of terrorism in multicultural communities

recent novel, *Shalimar the Clown*, is the story of Kashmir, a place where these sorts of connections are of great importance. He explains, as if there's a bitter taste lingering in his mouth, that Kashir is a place "of great physical beauty but also a place where the closest thing to a harmonious culture was created and then destroyed."

The love story between Boonyi and Shalimar takes place against that background. Shalimar is a tightrope walker from a family of folk literature performers, actors, gymnasts and magicians, whose place in Kashmir as entertainers has been slowly eclipsed by modern forms of entertainment. "Kashmir", says Rushdie, "is caught between what one might call the rock of India and the hard place of Pakistan. These two countries have both been fighting over it with little concern for what the people of Kashmir themselves ever said they wanted. What they have said consistently over the past sixty years is 'would you both please fuck off!' and that's the option of course that nobody considers."

Having spent his childhood summers in this mountainous north-Indian state, Rushdie tells us "Kashmir was India's playground - it's where people went on holiday in the hot season to see such magic realist things as 'snow' and 'cold'. For me it was an enchanted childhood space." In *Shalimar the Clown*, it becomes a paradise lost to the modern world. This new novel is not alone in its Kashmiri setting. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, Rushdie's children's book, is a manifestation of his childhood fascination with the place. In this too, however, the sadness of a place so beautiful and yet so ravaged is

present. An example of the contrast of physical magnificance and political quagmire is the Dull Lake, a pun on the actual Lake Dal, whose name is so mismatched with its reality. It is a lake full of mystery and stories, landed with an inappropriate name by outside forces. A lot of the book is about regaining fascination and wonder at the world, not being strangled by bureaucracy.

In a re-engagement with the sentiments of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, Rushdie says thoughtfully, "I do think we live in an age beyond innocence. It is hard to have a wide-eyed view of the world as beautiful any more. These things that we thought were beautiful have in many senses been spoiled. And not just places, ideas too. It is very difficult therefore not to write about this moment in the history of the world as a tragedy."

Alongside this sense of tragedy, however, comedy is never far away in Rushdie's writing. Talking slightly indignantly about the violent responses he received to his fourth and arguably most controversial novel *Satanic Verses* (1988), he explained, "it's one of the things I think people forget to say about it...there is a very strong comic strain. It made me feel that comedy is what gets up people's noses further than anything else. Maybe if the book hadn't been so funny I'd have been all right." On the 14th February, 1989, Rushdie was put under sentence of death by the Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini - "an extreme form of literary criticism", remarked the novelist V.S Naipaul.

For ten years he lived in fear of his life an assassin lurked behind every car and

down every dark street. This dramatic experience had a great impact on Rushdie. He has become an ardent defender of the right to freedom of expression, speaking out against the shutting down of the Birmingham Rep's production of *Behzti* last year. He is also a voice of clarity in race relations, rejecting reductive political correctness and addressing the need for honest debate between communities. Finally, in 1999, the Iranian government announced it would not try to put the fatwa into effect.

Yet the threat has not disappeared entirely: at a recent lecture at UEA, the University still felt it necessary to provide Rushdie with several of their best beer belied but immensely cheerful security guards. When asked what they might do if an armed Muslim fundamentalist arrived on the scene, one replied with a laugh, "I'll run!"

So as Rushdie lets us in on one of his most prized literary devices, we begin to realise quite how deeply the events of the past two decades since *Satanic Verses* have cut: "There is always a moment in my novels when tragedy bursts out of the comedy as if the book is saying to you 'ok, it's not funny any more'. I hope what that does is to increase the shock of that moment." He continues, "If you've been living in a world full of horrible things but they're described as a comedy then that's palatable. If at a certain point the smile is wiped off your face then it becomes stark - I hope that that increases the shock."

Although Rushdie has been rewarded by the English literary establishment, he loathes to be categorised, to be put in a box, as certain critics seem to have been so intent on doing. The label 'commonwealth writer' is one to which he's particularly averse. In his opinion, the English language "ceased to be the sole possession of the English some time ago. Perhaps," he goads, "commonwealth literature was invented to delay the day when we rough beasts actually slouch into Bethlehem. In which case, it is time to admit that the centre cannot hold." It is a "false category", and prevents the rise of a new sort of English Literature, one that "has very little to do with the English themselves". Ambitious but bloody minded, argumentative but resolutely cheerful, you can't help but admire the man who is clearly very much a driving force behind this new sort of English Literature.

**Rushdie's iconoclastic novels have kept him at the forefront of the post-colonial debate in Britain**





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# The horrible side to York

**Lauren Carter** speaks to children's author Terry Deary about his new book and finds out all the details about his run-ins with the History department

**T**he *Horrible Histories* series is unlikely to be found in the JB Morrell. Terry Deary's work is more of an acquired taste and he readily admits: "proper' historians in universities despise my sort of popular approach." Nonetheless, outside of the academic environment and away from the watchful eyes of tutors, History students share a secret passion for these children's books. Most probably wouldn't have got through the GCSE years without them, and Deary's latest offering, *Horrible Histories of York*, will no doubt help with one or two dissertations.

Having already completed the *Horrible Histories* of London and Glasgow, Deary saw York as "a natural choice". He explains: "As a kid in Sunderland schools I used to be taken

to York and bored senseless with the dross my teachers fed me. I never realised quite how fascinating and gruesome the tales about York really are - if I'd been told some of them then the trips wouldn't have been so grim. This is my gift to today's children in the hope they don't have to suffer as I did."

The book crams in nearly two thousand years of York's history, from the Roman and Viking invasions to the War of the Roses, as well as noting infamous York residents such as Guy Fawkes and Dick Turpin. According to Deary, this is "History with the nasty bits left in" and York's past certainly provides some good material:

"If I have a favourite period I guess it's the Georgian era of Dick Turpin and lots of filth, cruelty, crime and misery." He quickly

adds: "Not that I enjoy filth, cruelty, crime and misery myself, but it makes good reading."

However, some of York's past is a bit too horrible, even for the *Horrible Histories*. Deary explains that his version of the goings-on in Bedlam school - which recalls how a Victorian school master massacred all his pupils and hid their bodies in cupboards - had to be toned down to avoid giving his younger readers a break-down before the age of ten.

Nonetheless, Deary was careful not to bring anything dull into the book, hence no mention of the University. When asked why it was left out, Deary pondered the question and swiftly replied: "The University probably isn't horrible at all. It is only the students that are horrible - judging from the one I've met anyway" (charming).

The University did, however, have some involvement in the book, much to the frustration of Deary: "The publishers use an 'expert' to check my text and I think they used a York specialist on this one. His comments showed an utter lack of understanding of what I am trying to do. They were nit-picking and banal and clearly I exposed some of his nasty little prejudices. Generally I avoid the establishment and their narrow views".

Still, despite the scorn Deary is subjected to from academics, his books practically invented the genre of popular History. The *Horrible Histories* series started to grace bookshelves in 1993, long before the 'lets-make-history-accessible' style of TV programmes. But Deary is quick to argue this point: "I am far too modest, unassuming and shy to ever make such a claim. I'm not trying to influence and invent genres. I simply want to a) entertain people, and b) change the world."

Although he couldn't say exactly how he'd change the world, Deary was more than happy to reveal his true opinion of the popular TV History that followed his work: "Sorry but television History is appalling. It is a bunch of posh, supercilious know-alls giving a lecture to the ignorant and unwashed peasants like me. Their authorial voice is 'I know something you don't - sit there and listen while I tell you these facts.' Yawn! Yawn! Yawn! I always hope my authorial voice is 'hey! You'll never guess what I found out about this...'"

It is this desire to entertain which Deary stresses throughout the interview. He continually reiterates that he is not an academic but a children's author and professional actor, and any educational value in his books is simply a by-product of what he's really trying to do: "My skill is in the re-telling, not the unearthing of stories".

In actual fact, Deary has a rather dim view of the educational system, and makes every effort in his books to have a dig at school teachers (much to the amusement of many of his younger readers). His views are apparently based on "personal and bitter experience." He explains, "I don't enjoy History because my teachers drained all enjoyment out of the subject. It was dictated notes one week then a test to see if we'd learned it the next. They killed History - maybe their ought to be capital punishment for that crime. Certainly they dealt out enough corporal punishment to me over the years."

The *Horrible Histories* certainly weren't designed to make teachers' jobs any easier, and one of Deary's main regrets is their growing popularity within the system: "My only sadness is that they are used in schools. I think schools are a waste of space and want to see my books banned from them."

However, he does try to hinder school projects in any way he possibly can - on his website he says that he won't help out with school-related work, on the grounds that it means he does all the work "while the teach-

ers put their fat feet on the desk."

It is this attitude which has made Deary such a hit with children (or, in my case, low-brow adults). From the outset, Deary recalls: "I wanted to write fresh, entertaining and funny stories that people could really enjoy". He was also inspired by the "drivel" he had to read as a child: "When I was a kid I read books by a dreadful woman called Enid Blyton. All her character were so posh I thought, 'I could never be like that! I could never write books about children like that because they are rich and go to private schools!' Hopefully the books I write can be read by anyone, no matter what sort of homes they have or what schools they go to."

## 'My only sadness is that my books are used in schools. I think schools are a waste of space and want to see my books banned from them'

Deary's formula seems to have worked, and the *Horrible Histories* have now been translated into thirty different languages and are consistently in the top ten children's bookseller charts in the UK. In March 2003, he even held all ten positions in the chart. *The Daily Telegraph* also recently reported that he outsold Enid Blyton four to one, which probably put a smile on his face.

But, whilst Deary claims to write for children, his real fan base seems to lie with students - especially in York. At his recent book-signing in town, groups of students were seen sneaking into the crowd of undertens and his appearance was a hotly discussed topic in History seminars the following week. Deary reflects on his iconic status with his usual wryness: "I've been told students, for many years now, have been fans. I've always said they are seriously sad people and a taste for my books just proves my point."

However, a quick flick through the *Horrible Histories of York* shows that Deary revels in his adult audience and to pigeon-hole him as a children's author just doesn't seem justified. Besides, how could a pre-pubescent possibly appreciate his numerous quips about American tourists?

Deary's now focusing his talents in television writing and performance and has advised that the *Horrible Histories of York* is going to be one of the last books in the series. Despite pressure from a certain York student to write a sequel, Deary declined on the basis that "there's not a lot more horrible to say about York" and also the revelation that he doesn't actually enjoy writing books: "I love writing two words. 'The' and 'End'. It's a great feeling to complete a book, to have a letter from a publisher accepting it and seeing it finally in print. But the work of writing it is hard."

Instead, he's now working on several TV programmes, including the *Twisted Tales* series which he dashed off to begin filming on shortly after the interview. He's promised that his new projects will continue to be just as charming as his books - loved by students, loathed by academics, and, most importantly, not one bit like Simon Schama.

■ *Terry Deary's latest book, the Horrible Histories of York, is now available in paperback from all good bookshops, priced £4.99, published by Schooltastic. Details can also be found at the official site [www.terry-deary.com](http://www.terry-deary.com) (well worth visiting, if only for the games.)*

## The scientific briefing with Luke Boulter

### The dark side of the Milky Way



The Milky Way is often depicted serenely floating through space, not causing bother and generally just rotating its solar systems contently. It is surprising then that at the epicentre of this placid giant is one of the most destructive and enigmatic forces in the known universe. Humanity has just got its closest glimpse at this massive executioner.

The Milky Way consists of approximately 3 billion stars and is so huge that it takes our sun approximately 200 million years to drift the entire orbit. It is surprising therefore that something which is seemingly so cumbersome and subdued can have the heart of a monster, the infamous black hole.

Black holes form when there is a massive distortion in space-time, making it 'bend'. Imagine a thin rubber sheet (known as the space-time continuum). If you place an orange in the centre of the sheet it would begin to sag in the middle, this is effectively what a star does. Now consider putting a melon in the centre. The sheet would be distorted further; this is what occurs in space with objects like white dwarfs or neutron stars, each increasing the distortion respectively.

Consider then something 2.6 million times denser than the sun, and squeeze all of that matter into a space potentially as small as 93 miles wide (considering our sun's mass is approximately 1.98892 x 10<sup>30</sup> Kg and measures at its equator 450,000 km wide). This hugely dense patch on space time causes not a slight distortion, but what is commonly considered to be a vast hole in very fabric of the space-time continuum.

The Black Hole as it became known in 1976 is so dense that nothing can escape it, not even light; any matter unlucky enough to venture near a black hole will be sucked in. In accordance to Einstein's theory of relativity this matter will be compressed to a point of infinite density, which occupies virtually no space, this point is known as singularity.

So why am I telling you this? Well this week scientists, using 10 radio telescopes in America got a glimpse of the super-massive black hole in the centre of our own galaxy Sagittarius A\* (pronounced Sagittarius A-star). The Sagittarius A\* black hole was shown to have the mass equivalent to four million suns and occupies a distance less than that from earth to our sun.

The vogue of Black Holes began in 1971 when the first experimental evidence was captured by the Uhuru satellite. Uhuru detected X-rays coming from a star orbiting a massively dense region, possibly a very dense neutron star which had collapsed and formed a mini-black hole.

After this discovery the hunt was on for the super-massive black holes, like Sagittarius A\*. This giant black hole really is a mystery, there is very little understanding how it formed and

why these black holes are found at the centre of galaxies. The most inspiring theory is that they were in fact here first, before our Milky Way and other galaxies formed. Black holes are essentially the seeds of the galaxy; they are so dense that all of the stars and their solar systems were drawn together to form what we see today.

So how do you observe a massive and very empty hole? What will Sagittarius A\* look like? Well, the truth of the matter is that nobody really knows. There are theories of what black holes should look like; the most popular concerns the event horizon. The black hole should have an aureole of shadow caused by matter and light being swallowed. Circulating this shadow would be a bright ring where any light that does make it past the black hole is deflected away by the super mass of the beast.

With increasingly high resolution telescopes, the black hole could soon be unmasked, which, according to Dr. Fred Low, Director of the US National Radio Astronomy Observatory, "would be final proof that a super-massive black hole is at the centre of our galaxy."

The ultimate dream is to be able to observe the black holes as we observe passing meteors or distant moons. Marcus Chown envisions a circle of shadow surrounded by a brilliant light, the light being super heated matter falling to its inevitable doom at the point of singularity. Who knows? perhaps the wormhole theory will hold true, offering an intergalactic highway from our universe to the next.

Well there you go, we can see black holes, but what honestly does this contribute to humanity? Is trawling the skies for these phenomena necessary, or is it just a galactic waste of time? Well, there are those that question if black holes really do occur and, despite his grand visions for what we would actually see, Chown admits: "The truth is we don't exactly know for sure that black holes exist".

Essentially though, this research boils down to the innate human interest to explore, and the need to know what caused our creation. Technology is offering the opportunity to probe the cosmos and show humanity the forces we could only theorise about in the past. With these new images, we can see in glorious technicolor the hub of the night sky.

Whether we are soon to be surfing the intergalactic highway or just contently gazing at a fuzzy photo, one thing that cannot be over estimated is the importance of the black hole. This is dependent, however, on whether we confirm black holes do indeed exist.

If in the coming months and years they are pictured, then we can spend time watching these destructive fiends. If, however, it comes to pass that they in fact don't occur, then be prepared for a scientific race to find the glue holding our galaxy together.

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Autumn style at bargain prices Muse pages 4-5



## Accommodation crisis forces Alcuin freshers off campus

**By Toby Green**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

NEW ALCUIN STUDENTS have been forced into temporary accommodation for the duration of freshers week after University building work has failed to meet its deadline.

The accommodation crisis has also left a number of students having to share a room due to an administration error that has led to Derwent and Goodricke Colleges.

72 first years have had to be temporarily housed in the National Science Learning Centre in Science Park, which normally acts as a hotel for conference guests, after building work on Alcuin blocks K and L failed to meet the deadline of the start of the new term.

Alcuin provost Tony Ward had promised freshers that "by the start of the academic year a number of the will be completed and ready for occupation. Yet it has also been revealed students have not yet been given a definite date when the construction will be complete and when they will be able to move into their permanent flats.

Alcuin JCR chair, Francesca Barnett, told Nouse that the temporary rooms are "nice and posher than L and K blocks". However despite this, a set of strict rules has meant new students will have to cope with limited facilities including no kitchen amenities of any sort.

Students have also been told to keep the temporary accommodation clean. Lizzie Brown, a first year, revealed: "We've been ordered to take extra special care of the rooms, or else we'll receive a special care of the week, which is supposedly the wildest week of your whole degree."

"The biggest shame is that over the week we won't get to know the people we'll be sharing a flat with. They've mixed everyone from blocks L and K so I've got to live with a lot of people I'll be living with for the year. Most of the people I meet today are unlikely to live close to me."

Students were left in the dark as many only became aware of the situation at the last minute, some receiving the letter only a few days before they were due to arrive. Another student, who didn't wish to be named, admitted it was "annoying we will have to move our stuff again in a week. I guess

I just won't be able to unpack."

The area around Alcuin will continue as a construction site for the rest of the term as two more blocks aren't scheduled to be completed until Christmas.

The University has also oversubscribed after, last term, the Accommodation Office made a plan for students to return and live on campus for their third years, which they had to apply several times.

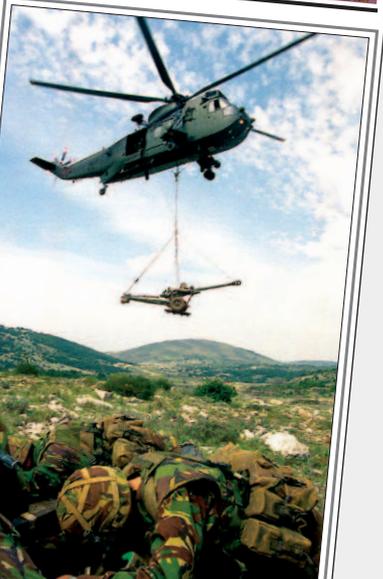
However this has backfired, leaving the University without enough rooms for students. David Maughan, the Accommodation Officer, was unavailable for comment on these findings.

Students sharing a double room also have to face charges, paying £45.94 a week to share a room in contrast to £20.88 to have their own. As a consequence the University look set to make an extra £200k a term for every room that will be shared.

David Garner, the University Press Officer, argued that this extra charge was for "services" yet declined to go into greater detail.

He said: "Many students find sharing a positive experience as they get on well with their room-mate."

We should be able to move students who are experiencing serious problems as a result of sharing a room fairly quickly, once rooms start becoming vacant."

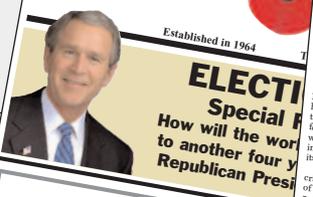


York abandons ethical policy to invest in global arms trade  
Investigation: page 2

## ELECTION Special

How will the world vote to another four years of Republican Presidency

Established in 1964



## York Tutors US children

**By Sam Fujitt**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

A UNIVERSITY lecturer has been convicted of possessing almost 2,500 images of child pornography. Keith Burton, a tutor in the Department of Physics, pleaded guilty to downloading of naked 10-year old boys, as Harrogate Magistrates' Court.

The tutor, who has taught mathematics to undergraduate students in the department, admitted 16 copies of making an indecent photograph of a child and one of possession of indecent photographs of children.

Alison Whiteley, prosecuting, said that Burton was arrested and his computer equipment seized when he was in his home in June as part of Operation Sifted, an investigation into child pornography last year which focused on two specific websites, SunshineBoys.com and Tumbly.com.

Burton admitted in interview to accessing the former site. He was traced through the details of his credit card, which he used to subscribe to numerous websites for images of nude boys, the majority of whom were 15 or 16, the court heard.

Ms Whiteley said the police crime unit had found 2,445 indecent images of children on Burton's computer. The pictures were classified on a scale of 1-5, used in cases such as these to rate the content of pornographic images. 1,869 of the images had been at the lowest level with a further 824 at level two, 31 at level three and 21 at level four. No images were classified at level five the highest possible rating.

Burton's solicitor, Clive Farnon, argued that considering the lack of commercial and distributional elements in Burton's activities, a magistrate's sentence would be sufficient for a man described as a "compliant" character. Custodial sentences passed by Crown Court for sentencing months.

However, prosecutor Alison Whiteley contended that Burton should be sentenced by a judge instead of a magistrate. He was bailed to appear at York Crown Court for sentencing this week.

A spokesperson for Keith Burton told Nouse that he was unavailable for comment. The University would not confirm whether Burton, who also helps

## KIDNAP IN I

York graduate talks exclusively about his ordeal in Baghdad

Established in 1964



## Union off free press

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Full story pages 4 and 5

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# A balancing act

**Rachel Ringstead and Becky Mitchell** look into the reality of celebrity health fads and ask if we really can cheat our way to good health these days

It seems that as well as becoming a fat nation, Britain is paradoxically the land of 'well-being' crazes. From the hype detoxing, to Atkins, the GI diet and Yoga, the media is full of popular, alternative health concepts that promise to instantly transform the way that we look and feel, in exchange for only a minimum investment of time and effort. So is a quick-fix approach to health *really* healthy? Do unorthodox, trend diets and fashionable exercise regimes genuinely work, and can we truly count on them to deliver long-term results?

The popularity of 'conditioning' and 'toning' forms of exercise such as Yoga has been growing steadily over past decades. Indeed, the Welsh rugby team now incorporates Yoga into their fitness regime, which is probably a sight for sore eyes. In the UK an estimated 1.5 million people practice this ancient art form, a trend which is reflected on campus as the university's newly ratified Yoga Society has over eighty members, while Yoga classes at local, private gyms like *Next Generation* are always packed with young people. Yoga Soc practices Hatha Yoga, yet there are many other derivative forms, from Ashtanga (or "Power Yoga") for the really hardcore, to normal Yoga where you do a bit of everything and hurt and wobble to varying degrees.

Furthermore, in recent years Yoga and its close relation Pilates have ascended to the bright heights of celebrity vogue. We are regularly bombarded with images of stars like Sophie Anderton locked in limb-twisting manoeuvres in Hyde Park, along with irritatingly gushy and profound statements from figures like Meg Ryan who claim that Yoga puts her "in the right place of witness", whatever that means.

Unfortunately, the much publicised devotion of those in the public eye who chant the Yoga mantra has resulted in the perpetuation of a Yoga myth which is particularly seductive to students; that you can keep fit and healthy by simply doing a bit of stretching and flexing, rather than actually breaking a sweat. In reality, the true cause behind the fitness and super-svelte physiques of the rich and famous is usually less glamorous (often involving military-style personal trainers and secret nip and tucks at Harley Street clinics). Madonna, for instance, also runs and cycles to maintain her fitness, while, more worryingly, Geri Halliwell later confessed that it was anorexia, rather than the infamous abdominal plank position, that made her the terrifying size six that she became.

Fundamentally, although such exercise regimes are fantastic ways of promoting flexibility and balance, as well as toning muscle tissue and providing less tangible spiritual benefits like self-discipline, concentration and relaxation, Yoga does not burn the crucial calories. Experts are keen to stress that it

should not be used in isolation, but in parallel with cardiovascular exercise. Indeed, the university's Yoga Society makes clear that the art form is primarily an aid to relaxation, an opportunity to "take an hour away from all the stresses of essays, exams and assignments". One avid student fan, Laura Dennis, who practices Yoga says, "I find it strengthens the mind, as well as lengthening muscles. I think it is good to get away and set yourself different goals".

Unfortunately, it seems that the secret to all-round, long-term fitness is a return to the conventional, traditional slog of aerobic exercises (for at least twenty minutes, three times a week). Clearly the thought of being tied to a treadmill, puffing your guts out for thirty minutes isn't the most appealing way to spend an evening. However, cycling, team sports, swimming, walking and dancing are all good options, as is virtually anything that raises the heart rate over 70 beats per minute, rather than relaxing you to the point of slumber. The intention here is not to be super thin, but to boost long-term health; aerobic exercise strengthens the heart, lungs and muscles, keeps stamina, metabolic rates and energy levels high, while high-impact workouts can help prevent osteoporosis in women later in life.

Furthermore, the same concept seems to be true of novelty diets. Many contemporary diets focus on losing weight quickly, rather than ensuring that food does what it should - fuel the body and provide nutrition. Although the 'low carb' Atkins diet phenomenon has produced sensational results for many people, the results are often unsustainable, and can leave the body worryingly deficient in antioxidants, fibre and vitamins, all of which are important weapons against illness and disease.

Alternatively, the GI diet, which markets itself more as an eating plan than a quick-fix seems to have a better philosophy behind it, aiming to prevent fluctuations in blood sugar levels, through the consumption of slow-release energy foods like granary bread and brown rice, which have a low glycaemic index. However, the intention of this diet is clearly to prevent cravings for high sugar foods, rather than staying healthy. In addition, the GI diet does seem somewhat puritan in its



Photo: Georgi Mabee

## Are we being flexible with the truth? Health fads won't get you miracle results

outlook: the majority of recommended foods being so life-draining and dull - based around nuts and seeds - that you would probably waste away from boredom.

Again it seems to be that, as with exercise, the secret to a good diet is to observe established best practices and ensure a balanced variety of food groups, particularly fruit and vegetables, rather than being tempted by cheats and shortcuts. However, the good news is that in this case there do seem to be some new trends that are worthwhile. The smoothie, the fashionable Australian import, is an excellent way of getting lots of fibre and vitamins and minerals all in one go - and they taste lovely too.

Furthermore, for the rather more daring, good health apparently can apparently be bought in shot form these days too. For virtually the same price as a tequila slammer, you can purchase a wheatgrass shot from *The Juice Bar* on the Shambles, which has the equivalent nutritional value as a kilo of fruit and vegetables. Third year Economics student Stewart McEwan swears by these little babies: "I try to have one at least once or twice a week, I find that they really work in boosting your immune system. Although they are definitely an acquired taste, it's really worth it - they keep me looking beautiful".

However, a word of warning - wheatgrass shots can be quite a shock to the system for those who are not used to high nutritional levels. One York student who understandably wishes to remain nameless had to rush home in a hurry after sampling a wheatgrass shot, as they can have something of a laxative effect on those with rather delicate systems. Claudia Schiffer probably never told the paparazzi that little fact when they asked how she stays so trim and glowing.

■ If you want to try something a bit different but avoid the fad exercise cults, contact the Yoga Society on socs585@york.ac.uk

### Website exclusive: student health

For more articles on health and general well-being, check out the Nouse website for a range of exclusives, including:

- Breasts: How do you treat yours?
- A guide to sexual health

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# The new beautiful people

**Rebecca Gower and Rachel Ringstead** explore growing feeling for the more unconventional objects of desire and explain why sexual fantasies are moving on

It's autumn, and therefore the start of the winter fashion season, apparently. Black is back again, and 'the look' is all about sharp tailoring, or something to that effect. However, the more discerning among you may have realised that the real craze of the moment is not that of skinny jeans; no, this year, it's the unlikely sex symbol.

A phenomenon that has been gaining momentum over time, it was pioneered by the original trend-setter herself, Kate Moss (why else would she have kissed Har Mar Superstar, a man who looks distressingly like a toad?). Once she had sparked it off, it was bound to be huge, and now, all of a sudden, it's exploded everywhere.

Take Martin Freeman: you'd be hard-pressed to describe him as good looking in any conventional sense of the term. Nevertheless, thanks to his role as the lovelorn Tim in *The Office*, he's become an idol. Clearly, as a nation, we're tiring of sanitised pin ups, and now crave people who are more ordinary, accessible and 'real'.

## The powerful politician

Tony Blair: Laugh all you like, sneer at his politics by all means, but Tony's apparently quite a hit with the ladies, as shown in May, when he fought off a range of younger, prettier and better toned men to be crowned *Heat* magazine's Torso of the Week (a high honour indeed). And, to be fair to him, he beats most other world leaders hands down.

Anne Widdecombe: apparently 10 per cent of respondents to a 2001 electoral survey rated Widdy the hotty as "the sexiest person in the election campaign".

Boris Johnson: those blonde locks, that sheepish smile, the ridiculous voice - what's not to love? So deep is Boris' popular appeal that an appreciation society was even started in his honour in the heart of the Tory belt, Durham University.

Margaret Thatcher: she wasn't called the 'iron woman' for nothing. Forget the furore over poll tax, the *Wall Street Journal* recently claimed that in the eighties a third of all British males had at least one erotic dream featuring Mrs. Thatcher.

## The funny one

Eddie Izzard: it would seem that if someone can make you laugh, you can forgive them almost anything, including a penchant for makeup and cross-dressing. Frankly, Eddie was the real heart throb of *Ocean's Twelve*.

Dawn French: although she is technically obese, it is not just David Houghton who fancies Dawn. Clearly the gigantic breasts go in her favour, but according to Ollie Chadwick from Goodrick, it also due "to her nice eyes, deep throated laugh and the way that she just doesn't care".

## The arrogant maverick

Jeremy Clarkson: his *Top Gear* co-star Richard Hammond has been getting all the attention of late, but Jeremy has his admirers too. Jeremy is someone who divides opinion sharply (one website describes him as a "smug, tight-trousered, lardy-arsed oaf"), but there's something rather appealing about a



**Check out that pair of spades: Is Charlie making men go weak at the knees?**

man who has no interest whatsoever in conforming to notions of political correctness.

Anne Robinson: once crowned TV's Rudest Women, Anne is a far cry from the ladylike ideal, yet apparently there is just something about her caustic school ma'am attitude that men just can't get enough of.

## The big-eared cutie

Gary Lineker: his ears are virtually jug-like but there must be something more to Gary than his post-match-analysis. Since he began promoting *Walkers*, the eighties football hunk has helped the company sell an extra 1.4bn bags of crisps. As one anonymous History student testifies, "you can imagine Gary being the type of man you could settle down later in life - with a ford focus. He's

seems trustworthy, but has a very 'come to bed' look in his eyes".

Martin Clunes: he was hardly an Adonis to begin with, yet it seems that with age Martin's ears and stomach have become much bigger. But his cuddliness is comforting and only makes us like him more.

## The geeky one

Carol Vordeman: Carol will always be remembered for making Maths sexy - who hasn't wondered what lurks beneath those twin-sets at some point when she plays with her letters? Yet unfortunately Carol will also always be remembered for doing a Linda Barker and trying to cash in on her appeal by releasing a tacky fitness DVD and appearing in *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Andrew Marr: A man recently described as having "the perfect face for radio", it would be plainly inaccurate to call Andrew handsome; still, in his time as political editor of the BBC he managed to amass a sizeable female following. (Rebecca just doesn't find the news the same without him).

## The TV personality

Lorraine Kelly and Fern Britten: perhaps it is the convenience of their day time TV slots but these homely, big-bosomed, maternal figures can get some male students surprisingly animated. This may be due to a fixation with *The Graduate*, or simply because it is possible to envisage chatting to them in *Asda* in a way that you couldn't with Angelina Jolie.

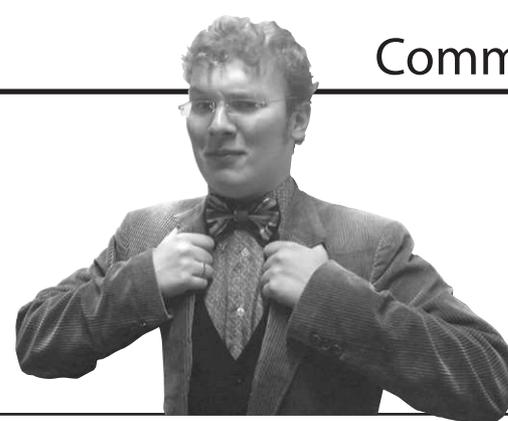
Charlie Dimmock: this infamous bra-less wonder may not occupy herself with the most demure and glamorous of tasks, but with *Hello* christening her the "pre-Raphaelite angel of gardening programmes" and her accolade in 2000 as Red Head of the Year, Charlie's 'get stuck in attitude' and liberal approach to underwear has captured the fantasies of many. Jordan eat your heart out.

The nation has spoken and it seems that the attraction-game is perhaps a bit more complex and curious than we have been led to believe. Although it is unlikely that Andrew Marr will ever gain cult status as a mainstream sex symbol, it is reassuring to know that the forces of lust are occasionally drawn to the underdog, as well as the classically gorgeous. As well as a good laugh, it can give the most ordinary of us hope.

## The runners up: other unconventional pin-ups

- Charles Kennedy: is it the accent, the healthy crop of ginger hair or the earnest self-belief? Who knows
- Jessica Rabbit: ok, she may be rather sexy but she's still a cartoon.
- Paul Merton: who doesn't love his flights of surrealism on *Have I Got News For You?*
- Simon Cowell: just plain wrong
- Alistair Campbell: no, genuinely, there are women in the world who actually find him attractive. It must be a power thing - or a lack of it
- Delia Smith: they do say that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach
- Barbara Windsor: it seems beauty comes with age as Barb's still topping magazine polls in her 60s.

# Noel Davies



## All the fun of the family - and its values

If there are two words in the English language that terrify me, they are 'family values.' This is down to the number of utterly bizarre statements that I have heard being said by people associated with, or in support of 'family values.' What precisely these 'values' are, is a subject entirely up for debate. What they promote is, most of the time, defined by what they oppose.

Before I push that argument too far, however, I think it is worth remembering that defining what you're not is the basis of defining ultimately what you are. I was listening to a radio debate in which a supporter of multiculturalism argued that the British needed to develop a positive notion of identity, as opposed to the negative one of defining it against others. Whatever your views on multiculturalism, and Lord knows its not a subject I think about when not arsing about on wikipedia or reading about how the early modern French liked to kill each other, the woman's fundamental point was, in short; a bit silly. How do you define yourself? You're British because you're not French, German or Estonian. You're from the North because you're not from the South. How we define ourselves is fundamentally linked to how we define others.

Anyway, back to family values. We can't ignore them simply because an element of their description is based upon what they oppose. That said, what exactly does it stand for? Answer, the family. Fair enough, it's exactly what it says on the tin, though the question still stands of what the family needs protecting from. I'm not aware of any political party or movement that seeks to destroy the family unit and/or possibly consume the first born of their enemies, but you never know, somewhere on the internet there probably is. I suppose the real answer, as a supporter would see it, would be from the insidious effects of society. The pressures of modern life destroy the family and eliminates the best environment for the production of kiddies. Divorce rates

seem to grow year on year, and this is an area of which I have experience. Needless to say, Mr. Davies Senior and Mrs. Davies are no longer in a state of matrimonial union; so maybe family values do have a point, and the current state of affairs is, well, poo.

The problem as I see it is that having torn down the old conventions we seem to be having difficulties creating new ones. Once upon a time, if you kissed a girl, that either meant you were married, going to get married or were going to be forced to get married. Now this is not the case at all. Here, I think, is where the dangers of family values can creep in. In our listless world, it can be tempting to simply turn the clock back to a nostalgic past. I mean, there were no single mothers in the past, or homosexuals, so their removal should right the problem.

It's this extremely mad wing that interests me most, for they say some very odd things. The main one in my mind was an interesting discussion I heard between a Labour MP and an author on family values. A group of Labour MPs had petitioned the then Home Secretary David Blunkett, oh how the tables turn, to pardon the suffragettes for the crimes they committed in getting women the vote. Nothing particularly controversial here, especially if you're a woman, which the author was. However, she argued that they were all upper-class aristocrats who didn't want the servants to get the vote and the MP was left rather



**Ah, life was so much simpler in the olden days. But are family values just a bit too nostalgic?**

bemused that a woman should argue against the people who campaigned for her to vote. The closing comment, however, was the real pearl of wisdom. "Yes", she said as the announcer prepared to move on, "women have the vote, and look at the state of Britain today!"

Were this a radio programme itself, I would allow a few moments of silence in order for that comment to sink in. I, myself, am not convinced that the divorce levels are due to women having the choice to vote every few years. Should this right be taken away, such a world would be one where

women had to remain in the home and have their lives dictated by men. The sort of world, if memory serves, created by the Taliban.

The answer, as I see it, is not to revert to the world of our great-grandparents but instead to attempt to adopt new solutions to the problems that we face. If that involves some of the old conventions then it only goes to prove that we were fools to tear them down in the first place. The new conventions, however, have to accept that the family unit as we know it might not be the only way of bringing up kiddies. What I'm trying to say,

with my traditional twenty words to say something that could be expressed with three, is that we have to accept the position of both homosexuals and of 'singles'. I'll not say single mothers, because I think both genders should have the same rights. We do need to strengthen the family, and to reduce the pressures that cause so many to collapse under the strain, but we also need to strengthen other types of relationships. I'll not propose a new set of conventions, I can barely write a column let alone a new framework, but I am sure we do need to think of some, and soon.

## Political students: know your place

Hello friends. I've decided, as part of my gift to *Nouse* readers, to provide some kindly patrician advice. I know I said in the above column that I can't produce rules for society in general, but I think after three years here in York I can help you young freshers by listing the do's and don'ts of student life. This edition's rule of etiquette for a genial and educationally conducive time at university: Never insert politics

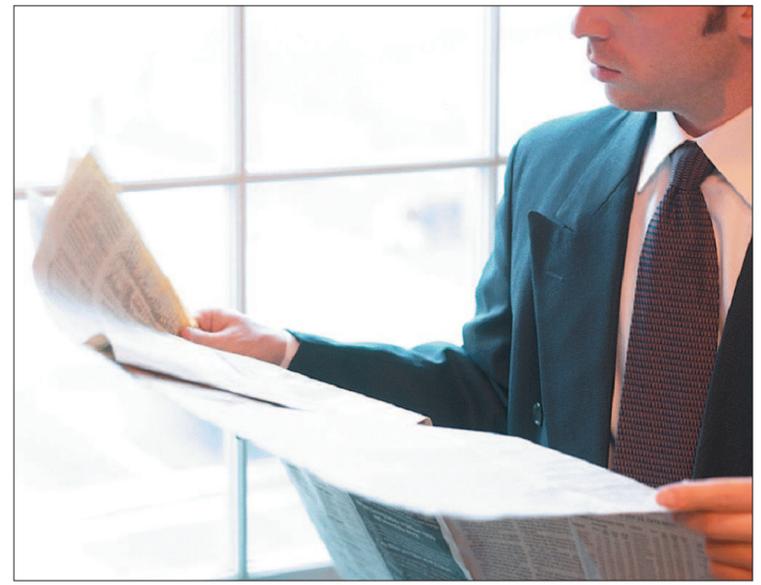
into an otherwise ordinary conversation. The old adage, never talk about religion, politics or football (unless it is in someone's kitchen at two in the morning after being thrown out of Toffs) is still relevant. Let's take an ordinary example of what to do and what to avoid in a typical conversation. Housemate A talks to Housemate B about stealing milk. Housemate C is making toast. C is politically

active, knows his/her rights, attends rallies, subscribes to the Red Star Tribune Daily and has a picture of George Galloway on their wall. People know all this because C never shuts up about it. There is, however, a time and a place for these views so lets not deny them to him/her. This is not that place. So when Housemate B says "I hate it when people steal stuff without asking and get away

with it" the correct response is "yes, so do I". The incorrect response is to say "Yes, which is just like how China illegally occupied Tibet and does so with the tacit consent of the capitalist world." Similarly incorrect are any references to the Middle East crisis. Don't worry, there will be times for politics, just not in conversations involving toast, milk or other consumables. Take heed young freshers...

# Getting more bang for your buck

Does gambling really deserve its bad reputation? **Becky Mitchell** looks at both sides of the coin in this growing phenomenon



## Gambling in suits: stocks and shares

To some, stocks and shares evoke images of yuppies in flash striped suits barking into a mobile phone. To others, it will signal a way of life; the road to their first weighty pay cheque, but to most of us, stocks and shares will mean very little indeed, if anything at all.

But it doesn't need to be this way. The stock market can actually not only become a fun, new form of legal gambling but, if properly understood, could be the ticket to picking up a hefty financial reward in the process. The success of City Society, which was recently set up for students who want to work in the city, reflects the interest of students in the financial market. Forget the National Lottery, scratch cards and poker, it's stocks and shares which are the real gamble.

Those unfamiliar with the stock market could be put off, deeming it too risky, deciding instead to place their hard earned cash into the security of the bank or building society. But this isn't investing, it's merely saving. To make your money, you have to be prepared to risk it. However, if you do your homework properly and work out the odds, the

risks involved could be greatly diminished and, you'll stand a far better chance of winning.

The stock market is the major driving force of the British economy, with some 2,300 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. At its most simplistic, the price of a share will rise if there are more buyers than sellers. Also, as a business grows, its profits will increase its share price. Corporate profits are the major determinant of a share's value, and wise-minded investors always look to the future market, rather than to profits of the past.

James Solomon, a third year History student who wants to work in banking, believes the main reason students are not more involved in the stock market is simply because most don't have the spare money to invest:

"Most students are on a really tight budget, and even if they do know about investing and researching the market, which I doubt most do, they simply can't spare the money to do it".

However, the idea that you have to be a millionaire to invest in the stock market is just a myth. In reality, you can spend as much or as little as you like, even if you want to invest as little as a pound.

So why not just give it go? Who knows, you might even find you're quite good and become a billionaire before you're thirty. Besides, what else is your student loan for?

Poker, blackjack, roulette, you name it, gambling has made a pretty impressive comeback. Forget the bright lights of distant Las Vegas; with the rise of the Internet, gambling has now moved into the closer confines of the home and more worryingly into the bedrooms of a growing number of students. Today it seems that gambling is separating itself from the rather mundane National Lottery, and into the somewhat more glamorous, yet more risky, arenas of poker and the virtual casino.

Over the last few years, there has been a massive boom in Internet gambling, often with thousands of people across the world playing at any one time. While ten years ago, poker was a game only a talented few could play, restricted to seedy, underground, smoky bars, the Internet has made gambling accessible and now anyone and everyone can become involved, thus increasing the risk to those susceptible to loss and addiction.

Recently concerns have been voiced over the growing number of students in the North-East of England who regularly use gambling as a way to pay off their debts. Surveys suggest that the majority of people in the UK gamble at one time or another in their lives, yet the group most vulnerable to developing a gambling problem is 16-24 year old males, with four per cent of those who have gambled in the last year developing a problem. It seems students with time on their hands and a student loan in the bank have become the target audience of websites such as the well known, [www.poker.com](http://www.poker.com).

The interest in gambling has reawakened a general interest in games like poker, which is traditionally seen as a game of skill rather than luck. In fact, York University even boasts a Poker Soc, who recently signed up a staggering number of new members at Freshers Fair. However, due to university regulations, the society cannot play with 'real' money and instead use chips but no cash.

Paul Colley, who founded the society with two friends, says: "The Internet is obviously crucial. It's encouraged gambling in a massive way and revolutionised the way that poker's played".

A former York student, who has recently graduated and has first hand experience of gambling websites, says:

"The Internet has caused a colossal explosion in games like poker and blackjack. It's really clever because you can start by playing with 'play money' so you don't lose anything and then once you're good you can start playing with real money, which is when it starts to get more serious, as you can then lose. The other day I was really bored and found myself opening an account on the National Lottery website and depositing £10. I lost £7!"

Clearly Poker (as well as other forms of gambling) does have a reputation as a vice, and whilst a quick flutter once in a while can be fun, the potential for it to become habitual and transform into an addiction is huge.

Indeed, the rise of gambling has become such a problem for some students that there are now a multitude of websites specifically dealing with those students addicted to gambling. The website Merlin Helps Students ([www.merlinhelpsstudents.com](http://www.merlinhelpsstudents.com)) is just one of these, which now has to add gambling onto the list of potential student problems alongside the usual areas of drugs, eating disorders and contraception.



Above: turn your student loan into chips, you might just double your money. Top left: live it up with the grannies at your local Mecca bingo hall

Gamblers Anonymous now feature one 19 year old student, 'Rick', who lost £200 in 24 hours.

He says, "Even if I run out of cash, I'll just go straight to the cash machine. I got myself in a lot of debt last year (nearly £2000 on top of my student loan). I didn't gamble at all over the 4 month summer period, but since coming back to University I've started again."

"I joined an online poker site last year, and just gambled 'play' money, but last time

was the first time I've played with 'real' money. In the last 24 hours I've lost £200. I started with £5, but I couldn't stop".

Another 21 year old student featured on 'Share your story' at Gamblers Anonymous, has lost his entire student loan, a staggering £1000 pounds, on internet gambling sites, leading to his parents disowning him. His story and others like them reflect the new, potentially highly dangerous gambling problem, which the Internet has unleashed.

Yet it doesn't necessarily have to be a purely negative phenomenon. Recently, poker has enjoyed rising popularity among students as an alternative way to while away the evenings. As Richie Jefferson, a former York student, says: "It's really sociable. You get a group together, bring along a few beers and play poker. Then everyone chips in a fiver and it works out cheaper than a night out!"

"Then there's always the chance that you might win, and if there's ten of you playing that's £50. If you lose then you only lose £5 so it's a fun, cheap and sociable way to spend an

evening with your mates".

Paul Colley, founder of Poker Soc, believes the attraction of poker is multi-dimensional. He says: "It's the chance to win a lot of cash with a massive adrenaline rush and a lot of suspense involved in the process. At the moment it's just cool to play poker. Everyone wants to organise poker nights at the moment. Because it's gambling, it does have an undeserved reputation, but you hear stories of big losses on the horses or any other sort of betting, not just with poker."

Given the relatively new rise of this phenomenon it is difficult to tell how many students actually gamble regularly and, more importantly, how much they stand to lose.

"It's hard to give exact figures, but there's definitely a poker fad happening in a big way at the moment. I think if you raided the Halifax college kitchens on a weekday night you'd find a startling number of poker games underway!"

Despite the importance of the internet, Paul believes that it cannot replicate the

atmosphere created by face to face games.

"I think part of the attraction of our society to poker is that you can actually play against real people and see their faces. On the net you can't read a player as effectively and there's a general consensus that poker's cool but Internet poker's pretty geeky."

In fact, gambling has proved rather a successful venture for some students who happen to strike it lucky. One student who wishes to remain nameless, won a staggering £500 through internet gambling.

He says: "I didn't even have to put any money down. I was offered a free entry ticket onto a poker website and took it up and won £20. They then offered me free entry into a tournament and I won again which warranted me another free entry, where I won again...In total I won £500 without even spending a penny. It was fantastic! I used it to pay off part of my loan."

Yet whilst some can stop when the going is good, many can't. As many who have been addicted to gambling in the past will testify, it



## The grandparents guide to gambling

### Bingo

Bingo has enjoyed somewhat of a makeover of late. Whilst previously it was more synonymous with your grandma than Saturday night TV, *Mecca Bingo* has revolutionised all this. Dig out those patent white heels and your trusty biro and get ready to scream euphorically when the caller shouts "88, two fat ladies". But seriously, you can stand to win £20,000 at Bingo, which is definitely worth loosing your dignity for.

### The bookies

Traditionally the bookies invoke images of dirty old men in anoraks, engrossed in the *Racing Post*, and listening to a crackly wireless. But after the success of *Royal Ascot* in York, we all seem a bit more open minded about betting on the horses, the dogs, or the possibility of Chico winning the *X Factor*. As your Grandfather will tell you, it's all about working the odds and never risking more than a fiver.

is the continual drive to win again to get the addictive buzz that keeps people playing, despite the fear that they could lose it all.

Paul says: "I know a few people who've had big wins, but invariably they feed it all back in and get back to broke. And that's because it's fun, it's just another pastime that you've got to spend money on if you want to pursue. If you look at it like that and stay pretty sensible with your money, you can't go wrong, but of course the temptations are always there!"

So whilst gambling can be harmless fun, it's always up to the player to decide to call it a day and walk away, hopefully with their winnings in tact rather than nursing a hefty blow to the wallet. A wise old friend once said, "only bet what you can afford to lose" and if you can't afford to lose anything, then it's probably a safer bet and just as fun to risk it with 'play' money.

■ If you are interested in joining Poker Society contact Paul Colley on [pci144@york.ac.uk](mailto:pci144@york.ac.uk)

Having a flutter: just remember it might be the same rules, but the money's real

# Cooking up a storm on a



Get ready for your grand debut onto the dinner party scene. Remember to impress guests with a ridiculous amount of cutlery, even if you don't know how to use it

Stuck in a 'pasta and sauce' rut? For those who dropped Home Economics in year nine in favour of something a little more career friendly, the hour is nigh to flex your culinary muscles in the mad, bad world of the student kitchen. Forget ready meals, **Rachel Ringstead** has a few tips for the undomesticated

Apparently there is a high probability that as a student you may suffer from 'mageirocophobia'. Although this sounds worryingly like a new strain of hepatitis, it is actually a more benign and curable condition - a crippling fear of cookery.

Such a problem is particularly endemic among Freshers, who are often as inclined to slave over a hot stove, as they are to turn up to lectures. However, if by mid term the kebab man knows you intimately as 'Tony - extra-sauce', it's evidently time to tackle the issue and get your apron on - however soul destroying this might seem.

In truth, the notion that cooking is difficult is a cruel, expedient myth manufactured annually by Delia Smith and Waterstones to make money at Christmas. Even if finances won't stretch to bulk buying M&S microwave meals each week, student cookery need not be a 'no frills' nightmare. Admittedly fillet mignon is likely to be off

the menu, but contrary to the lore of countless masochistic student cookbooks you don't have to live frugally on steamed chick-peas, unless you ardently desire to make a profound, political statement.

The key to spending less money on food in the long run is to invest in essential staples. Alongside storing failsafe, student classics like rice, pasta, tuna, baked beans etc., ensure a good supply of pizzazz-inducing wonders like: lemon juice, tomato purée, herbs and spices, wine vinegar, soy sauce, honey and flavoured oils. For instance, try buying jars of garlic, ginger and chillies that last for ages in the fridge (the English Provender Company do a fantastic 'very lazy' range).

Furthermore, to give yourself a fighting chance it makes sense to be well-equipped. Clearly buying the Le Cruset range is a bit keen, but it's worth picking up more than just a corkscrew when you go shopping in the kitchenware aisle. A couple of strong

# Baby Belling

## Knowing how to avoid a kitchen nightmare

- Only steal food from people you don't like, or who really, really like you
- Keep raw meat and other items that can drip on the bottom fridge shelf
- Only reheat things once and ensure they are piping hot all the way through (be especially careful with rice)
- Always cover things in the fridge so that the smell doesn't diffuse
- Do your own washing up. After time your nice housemate who said she didn't mind in week one, will tell B Block what an arse you are to live with
- Don't put hot things in the fridge or freezer, as it raises the temperature
- Nobody likes a Monica Gellar germ warrior attitude but it doesn't hurt to change tea towels regularly and spritz a bit of flash here and there – salmonella is not glamorous

pan, a good non-stick wok, as well as a chopping board, colander and some sharp knives will be welcome props for culinary triumph.

Admittedly lack of space is a more challenging obstacle to overcome. Those with kitchens that are equivalent in square feet to a James student's en-suite, will undoubtedly find rustling something up a bit more difficult than their cat swinging counterparts from Alcuin (incidentally, it does not help matters when such people visit and exclaim, "Golly! How do you live like this?").

Indeed over the years many a kitchen virgin from the leafy suburbs has been found staring lost and awe-struck at the sight of a baby belling. Admittedly these instruments do have all the hallmarks of science fiction, but provided that you organise yourself well and go for recipes based around a hob, it is possible to cope, with the added image boost of looking like a martyr.

As for mastering the art of cooking itself you don't need the talents of Gary Rhodes, or even the breasts of Nigella Lawson to be successful. The real ingredients for success are confidence, reckless abandon and most crucially, good taste.

Finding a few key dishes that can be easily adapted is a good starting point. If you lack knowledgeable relatives to bestow pearls of culinary wisdom, insist that they buy you a simple cookbook; *Jamies Dinners* by Mr. Oliver is rather helpful (although ignore any pretentious instructions to import olive oil from Sardinia, infused with truffles - who cares?).

However knowing how to make a basic white sauce (or a 'roux' as Mrs Beaton calls it) is basic tradecraft for any novice on the stairway to gastronomic bliss. Simply melt a knob of butter in a pan over a low heat and add a tablespoon of plain flour, stirring until the mixture becomes dry and grainy. Remove this from the heat and gradually add 90ml of milk, return to a slightly higher heat stirring consistently until the sauce boils and thickens (double the quantities if you are cooking for more people, or are rather hungry, or large).

From this base you can experiment with the art of alchemy; try adding cheese and chopped peppers and pour over cauliflower and broccoli, or combine with vegetables, tuna and pasta, and bake in the oven (consider grilling with Parmesan and flaked chilli sprinkled on top). By adding parsley you can make a great accompaniment for fish dishes, or add mushrooms and onion to make a

creamy meat sauce. Alternatively you could toss in some cheese, chopped ham and mushrooms to make a rather divine, poor man's carbonara.

A cheap can of chopped tomatoes can easily be spiced up too; gently heat with a dash of olive oil, tomato purée, a slug of red wine vinegar and some onion, garlic and herbs (add spices if you are feeling dangerous). This sauce can be used as a base for vegetable lasagne, bolognese, chilli con

## You don't need the talents of Gary Rhodes or even the breasts of Nigella Lawson to be successful

carne, sausage casserole, or can be served with chicken or fish. You can also play around with accompaniments for instance, try pouring chilli over baked potato or nachos.

Stir fries are also quick and tasty and a fantastic way of ensuring that you get enough vitamins to ward off pandemics of bird flu. The secret behind a fabulous stir fry is to get a well-oiled pan as hot as possible before adding chopped meat with onions, garlic, ginger, chillies etc. Let this sizzle away with your favourite vegetables (finely chopped), before lowering the heat to add seasoning. Prepared sauces aren't often too expensive, but if you are super organised you could marinade your meat in advance. Soy sauce, sesame oil, cornflour, lemon juice and honey work well, or beer can be used as a marinade for red meat (if you can bear to part with it).

Many people find judging quantities the difficult part of cooking. Making a big vat of chilli or curry can be a good solution as you can freeze the leftovers for a busy, hungry day.

However, seasoned students will testify that if you can knock up something delicious in an instant, you won't be cooking for one for long. Ultimately the most important thing about cookery is to experiment with foods that you love. As long as you don't try to be too clever at the outset and check that your ingredients are fresh, washed and hot all the way through, you probably won't die. Bon Appetite.



## All in good taste

Cooking is the ultimate way to reconnect with reality after spending your day wrestling with abstract concepts in the library. Shut off your brain, work with your hands and forget all about deadlines for a while.

Welcome to the first edition of my recipe page. The goal here is to compete with the ubiquitous Iceland frozen dinner. The recipes here all cost more or less the same per serving, and the servings will be considerably bigger too, because I happen to rather like eating. This would typically cause you to end up in a disagreement with your trouser buttons, unless the food you stuff your face with is actually healthy. Fortunately, this is the kind of food that you don't have to feel guilty about eating. Need I mention that it also tastes better than any frozen dinner?

Here's a simple recipe that you can use to deceive your friends into thinking that you are a considerably better cook than you actually may be. Combine olives, rosemary and lemon with a complete absence of tomatoes, and you have a pasta sauce that is quite unusual. Give it a go if you entertain even the slightest suspicion that there may be more to pasta than Bolognese and Carbonara.

### Mediterranean pasta

Cooking time: 40 minutes

Ingredients (Serves 2 big eaters):

- 1 onion
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 250 ml half cream
- 1 tin of tuna steak in brine
- 100 g green olives (de-seeded, preferably stuffed with lemon or pepper)
- 2 tablespoons of dried rosemary
- 1 lemon
- 250 g pasta
- olive oil

1. Start out by chopping onions and garlic finely. Heat up some olive oil in a pan. Medium heat is the goal here: when the oil becomes a bit runny it's warm enough, if it starts smoking it's too hot.
2. Add onion and garlic, and stir once

every minute. You're not looking to brown anything. Amaze your friends with your multi-tasking skills as you open the tuna between stirs. Don't drain it though; we'll use the brine.

3. When the onion is getting a little soft, add the cream and tuna.

4. Turn the heat down a bit: the sauce should be simmering, not boiling. Thanks to the lower heat you should only have to stir occasionally from this point on.

5. Add the rosemary immediately after adjusting the heat. Massage your lemon a bit before slicing it in half and pressing half of it – the fondling will make the juices come out a bit more easily. In case you're wondering what to do with the remaining half lemon, try slicing it up and use it to garnish your beverage. You'll look very sophisticated unless it's lager.

6. Fill another pan with water and crank up the heat. Drain and slice those olives while you wait for the water to boil, but don't put them in the sauce just yet.

7. When the water starts boiling, add salt until the boiling starts sounding different. Weird, but it works. Also add a bit of olive oil, to prevent foaming, before you put in the pasta.

8. Pasta manufacturers seem to believe that people prefer wheat porridge to pasta. Keep this in mind when you read the suggested boiling time. "Al dente" means "for teeth" in Italian, and this is what you want to go for here. The pasta should not be crunchy, but it should have texture. If the cooking instruction says 10 minutes, taste the pasta after 7 minutes. More often than not, it's done.

9. As the pasta boils, add a bit of salt and pepper to the sauce, and do that one special thing that separates the chef from your average lunch-lady: taste the sauce. All is not lost even if it's too spicy or salty at this point, simply add more cream. Keep in mind though that you'll be adding a pile of quite mild pasta to the sauce, so the sauce on its own can be a bit spicier than you might think.

10. When your pasta is drained, mix it in with the sauce and the sliced olives. Serve immediately.

By Johan Carlin

# Conserving the freedom to offend

**Nan Flory** talks to Richard Thomas about his controversial opera, coming to York's Grand Opera House this coming February

Even in its infancy, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, the controversial show by Richard Thomas and Stuart Lee, faced adversity. When he spoke to me from his London office, Thomas, who wrote the opera's score and collaborated with Lee on the libretto, told me that most people greeted his ambition to make a stage show out of America's most infamous daytime TV programme with: "That's a rubbish idea". Thomas, however, was not deterred. He had fallen in love with his idea; he said "I just wanted to do it and I didn't really care...it was quite liberating". His insistence on unlocking the potential for quality theatre in The Jerry Springer Show certainly paid off.

The opera was conceived in 2001 in the Battersea Arts Centre, where it consisted of Thomas performing a few songs behind a piano, with two cases of lager as companions. He invited ideas, suggestions and amusing comments from the audience; good ones rewarded with a Fosters, bad ones with a can of Asda Own Brand. Not a massively fruitful technique, he maintains, but thankfully he and Stuart Lee came up with enough ideas off their own to pack out a 750 seat venue throughout the 2002 Edinburgh Fringe. From there, the opera moved to the National for a four month run, and then to the West End, first at the Lyttleton and then the Cambridge Theatres. In January of this year, a televised version was broadcast on BBC 2, garnering a record 1.7 million viewers and nearly 50,000 complaints.

47,000 of these were sent into the BBC before the broadcast even took place and Thomas was clearly appreciative of the Beeb's programming directors' refusals to back down. "The BBC were really good", he said. "There were all these complaints and there were death threats towards their executives, but they still said, 'no, it goes out'" Most of the complaints came from hardline Christian groups, as they believed the show to be blasphemous and offensive to their beliefs, something Thomas rejects. He said, "It's their right in this country to say what they like, to call a thing which they haven't even the

respect to watch a filthy piece of blasphemy, it's my right to say to those people: 'you are borderline barking'". He backs this up by pointing out that the mainstream religious press gave the opera glowing reviews, on a par with the approving noises made by critics all over the world. He said that in his experience, "A lot of religious people find the show morally uplifting", and certainly Mark Thompson, director general of the BBC, whose decision it was to air the show, is himself a practising Christian.

There is no denying, however, that the feelings of outrage the opera has provoked in certain communities are genuine. Christian Voice, a hardline, conservative group opposed to abortion and homosexuality, instigated much of the public protest. They have a section of their website devoted to explaining their grievances with the show, calling it a "mockery" and "deliberate[ly] insult[ing]". However, they also have an article posted objecting to the recent Racial and Religious Hatred Bill as an infringement on our rights to free speech. They never really justify the dichotomous view that Thomas' voice should be suppressed for causing offense whilst theirs, (which, with their claims that hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans is punishment for the gay communities Mardi Gras celebrations, provokes equal consternation) deserves to be preserved.

The issue of rights and responsibilities in freedom of expression is highly contentious and frequently discussed. Religious debate has become precarious territory for artists; the murder of Dutch film-maker, Theo van Gogh, by radical Islamist, Mohammed Bouyeri, an example of how dangerous it can be. The Birmingham Rep was forced to cancel its production of *Behzti* in December last year when members of the Sikh community staged violent protests, something which set a disturbing precedent. Cancelling the show sent out the message that threats and brutality work; something which the survival of *Jerry Springer: The Opera* will hopefully begin to reverse.



Willis Morgan appears in a double role as a nappy fetishist and Jesus in the opera

## Coming up in the Barn: A preview of the Drama Society's new programme

### Week Six: *Olympia*

"When all your laws are lost, chaos reigns, of this be sure: The Chorus shall remain"

Athens, 399 BC. The Golden Age of Greek theatre grinds to a halt. A Chorus runs out of tales to tell. A Philosopher prepares to make his last stand. One man runs out of biscuits. Where will the next story come from?

*Olympia*, A new play by Chris Bush, is a fast-paced, genre-hopping play, combining modern comedy with traditional Greek elements and genuine philosophical debate in a lively and engaging way. See it on the 18th, 19th and 20th of November.

### Week Seven: *Omerta*

*Omerta* is a new play written and directed by Nick Payne. Steve and Helen meet in an airport waiting lounge and their relationship

begins to grow. But in what way? Find out in the performances of *Omerta* on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of week seven (25th-27th November) in the Drama Barn.

### Week Eight: *Hedda Gabler*

Arguably Ibsen's most famous play, *Hedda Gabler*, was highly controversial, provoking great criticism when it was first performed in England in 1891; presenting the audience with a picture of society which was uncomfortably real. A landmark in realist drama, the play focuses on the newly married Hedda Gabler, who, having returned from her honeymoon, finds herself stuck in a marriage devoid of any excitement. A highly intelligent and passionate woman, she weaves an intricate web of manipulation over those around her, ultimately ending in tragedy.

*Hedda Gabler* is on Friday-Sunday of

Week 9. With a hugely talented cast, including Becky Baxter in the title role, this promises to provide an highly exciting evening of theatre.

### Week Nine: *Angels in America*

*Angels in America* is an endlessly controversial, two-part, Pulitzer winning play about AIDS, homosexuality and the death of American liberalism. This vast, miraculous play matches brutal dialogue with breathtaking stagecraft to produce what *The New York Times* called "the finest play of our time". Presented in conjunction with the Student Stop Aids campaign, experience it up close and personal in week eight, part one on Thursday and Saturday and part two on Friday and Sunday. Be aware that the production contains nudity and scenes of a sexual nature; not for the easily offended.

# Arts Reviews

**Heloise Wood** reports on the premiere of James Harvey's dark, new play, *Kalopsia*



Panda Cox as Laurel and Lewis Charlesworth as Manny heat up the Drama Barn

**K**alopsia's programme provided a definition of the title: "A state in which things appear more beautiful than they really are". This formed the premise of James Harvey's new play, questioning the truth of human relationships. Issues of aesthetics pervaded the play, the drama barn transformed into an artist's studio with Jack Vettriano paintings and magnificent wire sculptures.

Protagonists Laurel (Panda Cox) and Mannie (Lewis Charlesworth) played a couple whose passionate relationship went awry,

ending with Mannie running off without so much as a goodbye. The first scene was a sexually charged and slickly choreographed dance between the pair, in turn predatory and tentative. They were like animals, feeling their way around each other, retracing the tracks of their former relationship. The physicality of the play was powerful and the actors were perfectly synchronised and physically attuned to each other.

The concept that tied the play together, from the dialogue to the stage design, was of style versus substance. Laurel's sculptures of

meshed wire and electrical cable were both beautiful and threatening, created out of such coldly industrial materials. The use of a screened off area at the side of the stage was ingenious as it echoed the superficiality of the characters: they were ultimately puppets driven by carnal instinct, desperate to intellectualise and beautify this fact. Scratch the surface, we were told, and the beautiful mask slips to reveal many ugly things.

The entire play had a caged and claustrophobic feel; the artwork served as an extended metaphor for the trap in which the characters found themselves. Mannie only condemns the art as 'ugly' when he is an exhausted and emasculated version of his former self. This was reiterated in the choice of Jack Vettriano artwork: denounced by the art world as aesthetically empty and lacking in beauty, Vettriano still manages to be one of the most commercially popular artists in Britain today. The particular painting used in the production, showing a couple dancing in a barren landscape, provided a perfect mirror for the isolation of the couple.

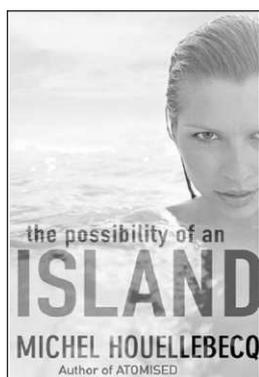
The play suggested the irrelevant nature of much human interaction. It grates on Laurel that Mannie constantly tells her how beautiful she is, she finds it repetitive and insubstantial. He tries to win her back by buying her a dress, charming her, but she can't accept his emphatic behaviour.

Ultimately, Mannie wants the safety of their relationship back; all his talk is a form of manipulation. He exoticises Laurel, something she uncomfortably made both him, and the audience, face up to in the ugly sex that their meeting culminates with.

Fran Trewin as Janice provided the much needed comic relief. Her portrayal of the nosy yet good hearted neighbour was extremely well executed, over the top but superbly so as her manically sunny disposition had an emotional depth which hinted at something altogether grittier.

Charlesworth imbued the mysterious Mannie with charm, keeping the audience ambivalent about where to place their sympathy. Similarly, Panda Cox gave a moving performance as the woman spurned and both might have excelled had the dialogue not been quite so unrelenting: the script was an amalgamation of inspired writing and occasional clichés. Ultimately, the slick direction and stylish production belied slightly underdeveloped characters.

Sophie Larsman and Becky Baxtor's production was a feat of consummate design, attention to detail and slick choreography. It was a bleak exploration of the hollow nature of human relationships, the framework of beautiful talk we build up to disguise the fact that, in the end, all we want is fulfillment of essentially animal desires.



*The Possibility of an Island*

Michel Houellebecq

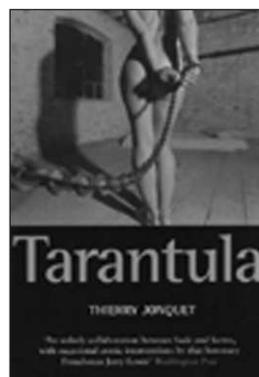
Reviewed by  
Ben Poole  
£12.99  
Weidenfeld &  
Nicolson

★★★★

Anyone who read *Atomised* will remember that Houellebecq is a man ill at ease with Western society, as opposed to the intellectual left as to consumerism. *Possibility of an Island*, thematically similar in another quirky format, alternatively follows the life of a narcissistic comedian, and those of his cloned sons 2000 years later, living isolated, emotionless lives in a bleak, post-human future.

This book has distinctively Continental dark humour but may offend the prurient with its cold and even misogynistic eroticism. The father is, for example, constantly seeking to 'penetrate' as many women as possible. The language, on the whole, is as unaffected as even the more supposedly human characters, but in a compelling and adroit manner that is carefully crafted so as to never become annoying or un-readable.

Anyone who can overlook the precarious technical details of the future, cloned world, will find a thought-provoking, sad, and at times very funny book that doesn't, perhaps, touch upon life, the universe and everything as much as its author would like, but remains a compelling fusion of grand modern sci-fi and bitter yet subtle observation.



*Tarantula*

Thierry Jonquet

Reviewed by  
Nan Flory

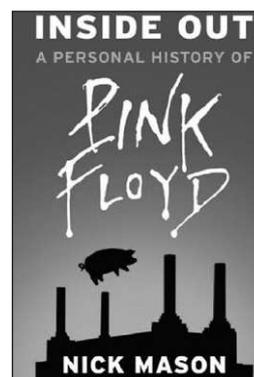
£7.99  
Serpent's Tail

★★★

This bizarre thriller from French author, Thierry Jonquet, translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith, introduces us to the delight that is twisted plastic surgeon, Richard Lafargue. Lafargue hideously abuses his wife, Eve, keeping her locked in the basement and whoring her out to strangers, something Jonquet uses to jam as much sado-masochistic sex as possible into this slim volume.

Essentially glorified airport smut, the novel follows Lafargue's search for the men who hideously raped his young daughter, sending her mad. The twist, without giving too much away, is that he has in fact already caught one of the purportors and is steadily exacting his revenge, whilst the second, Alex Barny, finds his own way into Lafargue's web (hence the arachnid title).

Originally published in 1995 as *Mygale*, this is bland, sensationalist fare. Jonquet's writing is often clunky and his use of juxtaposing voices is rather pretentious and unnatural. A good trashy read and guilt free too as it abuses its Europeaness, hiding its vulgarity under highbrow references to Sade so you never feel too debauched.



*Inside Out: A personal History of Pink Floyd*

Nick Mason

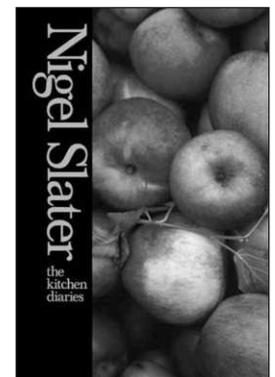
Reviewed by  
Ben Poole

£9.99  
Phoenix

★★★★★

As the only member of Pink Floyd present from their psychedelic noodler beginnings through to their recent high point at Live 8, drummer Nick Mason is well qualified to write the *Personal History of Pink Floyd*. This new paperback version doesn't disappoint; Floyd's original sound set ups are comprehensively described, perhaps to the point of tedium for non-musicians. Mason's unique anecdotes add an exclusive personal touch, although, you won't find details of the internal conflicts that hampered the band. Nor does Mason's style ever really portray the excitement which the band must surely have felt during their meteoric rise.

Mason is surprisingly modest both about his own abilities as well as those of other band members, but his self-deprecation is always witty and slightly tongue-in-cheek, rather than naïvely over-humble. Despite some of the jargonistic studio vocabulary, the story rips along nicely, and the edition still includes much of the stunning photography from the coffee-table edition. As with most autobiographical accounts however, the non-obsessed fan, unlike myself, may lose interest.



*The Kitchen Diaries*

Nigel Slater

Reviewed by  
Nan Flory

£25.00  
Fourth Estate

★★★★★

I unashamedly adore Nigel Slater, dutifully saving his lovely recipes from his Observer column and firmly following his adage, established in his earlier book, *Appetite*, that a recipe is merely a guide - cooking is all about inventive improvisation. Now, when I haven't been shopping for weeks and have only frozen peas and lentils to live off, but want to cook lasagne, I'm no longer afraid to 'do a Nigel' and experiment.

My own kitchen diaries aside, Slater's new book is another highly original feat of cookery writing, combing beautiful prose with heart-warming food. Slater guides us through the trials and tribulations of a year in his kitchen, sharing his most successful culinary ventures. The book is divided up into monthly sections, highlighting the importance of using seasonal ingredients. The photography is mouth-watering and is all taken in Slater's own kitchen, of food he genuinely made and then ate.

In a profession at times eclipsed by the marketing monster that is Jamie Oliver, Slater is a down to earth voice, bringing us natural, wholesome and uncomplicated food. I love him.

# Music Reviews



Alanis Morissette  
*The Collection*  
 Reviewed by Camille Augarde  
 Out 14/10/05

★★

If past greatest hits albums (yes, *The Collection* is just a mature, slightly more original and 'arty' way of calling it that) are anything to go by, then this may be dear old Alanis' last offering to her fan base of organic juice bar goers and psychic excavators. Think 'The Best of' for the Corrs, Savage Garden, Enya and, erm, Steps for proof. All of these gems are unarguably best left in the '90s, and 'The Collection' makes you wonder if the same will soon be said of Morissette.

Alongside peculiar track choices, which one can only assume to be the singer/songwriter's personal favourites, such as the hilarious *Let's do it, Let's Fall in Love*, which cries out for Andrew Lloyd Webber-style jazz hands to accompany the excitable trombones, are formally released singles such as *Hand in My Pocket*, *You Oughta Know* and

*Ironic*. Incidentally, the lyrics to this are still not remotely ironic ("An old man, turned 98, won the lottery, and died the next day"). The 18 track album covers the full spectrum of Alanis' decade long career. In doing so, we see that sadly, the guts, kinkiness and growlings about giving head in cinemas of her early hits are no more.

As well as satisfying her already humungous fan base with these well established hits, Alanis also seems to want to expand it. One can only guess it is the hearts of discotheques worldwide she aims to capture as she works her (synth-soaked and somewhat unconvincing) groove in a cover of Seal's *Crazy*. Meanwhile, *Uninvited* taps into a more Middle Eastern vibe. Sadly however, the bizarre whirrings and bell chinkings are too deeply concerning to be mind-elevating.

Time has replaced this brash, perverse '90s feminism with self-indulgent confessional poetry (*Hands Clean*) and non-fascinating analyses of her past relationships (*Uninvited*). If however, you are an unconditional Alanis fan who is in need of a nostalgic sing-along to the best and worst that the Canadian has to offer, then *The Collection* is for you.



## Singles list

In a month when the Arctic Monkeys have made their just transition from download guerrillas to indie superstars; when Madonna has nicked an Abba sample in order to return to the sort of dazzling form not seen since her Danceteria days; when all screaming Sheffield stunners the Neon Plastix have a record out and could do with some well deserved recognition, I have to review an Enya CD. I kid you not, Mr. Music Editor in his infinite wisdom has decided I cannot be trusted to rifle through the enormous pile of promos in the office and has thoughtfully selected the discs I am allowed to listen to. Well, I will leave it at this: Enya has a single out.

### Fort Minor - *Believe Me*

As the sleeve is made of recycled NIN artwork, I was expecting a Reznor-esque rant on self-mutilation and Grecian 2000. However, the funky bump 'n' grid intro promises so much, and then - gahhhhhhhh! It's Blazing Squad!

The 'Minor' is a blatant reference to the fact they are not allowed to buy solvents without adult supervision, and after hearing the rap, which is best described as traumatic, I am seeking counselling. Place your bets now, it will be Christmas Number One.

### The Foo Fighters - *Resolve*

This is barely worth looking at as anyone half interested will have already worn out their copy of *In Your Honour*. It's definitely a grower and has power ballad potential, but is sorely lacking in the energy charged shenanigans the Fools do best, and so probably won't bother the chart too much.

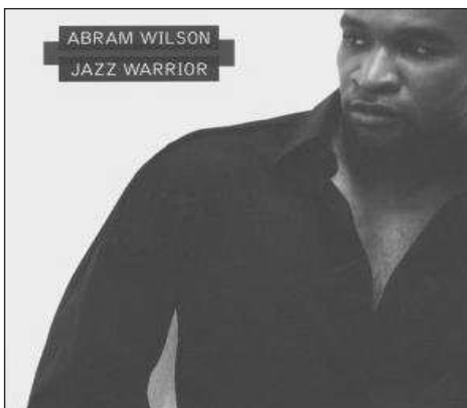
### Goldfrapp - *Number 1*

Once again, Mr. Editor, The album was release quite a while ago!

However, I will let him off as I have a bit of a crush on Alison Goldfrapp (and if I keep criticising him he will find a way to silence me. It's like a bloody Stalinist purge). Anyway, the physical attributes of Ms. Goldfrapp are worth mentioning because unlike the majority of current pouty popstrels, she looks and sounds like a burlesque sex kitten. It's refreshing to have someone just a tad different from most of the bimbos we see gracing *Top of The Pops* these days.

The single lacks the familiar 'frapp groove but slides along smoothly against some filthy base in a pleasing, new wave way.

*Singles this week were reviewed by Clara Bow, as she 'forgot' to email the music team and instead reviewed everything herself.*



Abram Wilson  
*Jazz Warrior*  
 Reviewed by Laurence Newman  
 Out Now

★★★

So, *Nouse* is too indie is it? Well, welcome to jazz club. At this point I should apologise and say that the only thing I know about jazz is what I heard from my first year house mate 'Jazz Tim' and the odd Miles Davis Song, but this ignorance didn't stop me from enjoying *Jazz Warrior*. While playing it in the office, Abram Wilson got the *Nouse* team toe-tapping to his laid back blend of music that makes Jamie Cullum look about as talented as Son of Dork and the Cheeky Girls.

Abram Wilson looks more like an R&B artist than a jazz musician, and so it is probably appropriate that flashes of contemporary urban music find their way into his songs in ways that complement each other, for example *Dark One* and *Groove So Heavy*.

*Jazz Warrior* is, however, mostly an instrumental album, but loses nothing from being without vocals. *Monk* is a song that really stands out for me; it is a little more upbeat than the others and has a nice piano section towards the middle, and throughout the album Wilson lives up to his reputation as a talented and gifted musician.

Although I usually only listen to guitar bands, *Jazz Warrior* has been a bit of a eye opener for me. Maybe there is more to music than just three chords and the truth?



El Presidente  
*El Presidente*  
 Reviewed by Robin Seaton  
 Out Now

★★

This is the first album by Glasgow's answer to the Scissor Sisters, El Presidente, the proud owners of a shiny new contract with Sony BMG. Their music is also of the shiny, danceable variety, but its tales of lost love completely fail to engage emotionally with the listener.

The band appear to have spent far more time on their appearance than on recording the album, with the result that while the sharply dressed front man Dante Grizzi may have the shiniest shoes in rock, his whining mid Atlantic vocals are just plain irritating. And he is singing some incredibly platitudinous and banal lyrics. There are a few catchy songs on the album, and many of the best bits occur when Grizzi's miserable lyrical talent deserts him and he either shuts up, or when he sings "la la la la", as on album highlight *Old Times*.

According to Grizzi, "the only rule (in making this album) was that there were no rules", which is unfortunate since artistry is famed for its tendency to triumph over adversity. A bit more adversity (or perhaps different production) could have saved this album from becoming the somewhat dull and overproduced collection of songs that it really is.



The Mask and the Mouse  
*Danger Doom*  
 Reviewed by Paul Colley  
 Out Now

★★★★

Platinum lovers take notice! Danger Mouse (the part-time Gorillaz DJ famous for combining Jay-Z's Black album with the Beatles' White album) has collaborated with MF Doom (a lesser-known but equally innovative MC) to create an underground hip-hop album of a light-hearted nature but with the quality to be taken seriously.

Its light-heartedness stems from the album's whimsical incorporation of the characters from Cartoon Network's late-night animation Adult Swim. Any ignorance of the show's comic sound bites does not detract from the overall enjoyment; far from it in fact. Together with Danger Mouse's head-nodding beats and MF Doom's witty lyrical flourishes, the carton cameos simply add to the funky weirdness that gives the album its charm.

Danger Mouse uses synthesised strings, brassy fanfares, vibraphones, cavernous drum loops and jerky time signatures, to provide even more punch and flair than Demon Days. Meanwhile, Doom takes the opportunity to demonstrate clever wordplay amongst some capricious lyrics. So overall, definitely worth a listen. Let's face it, any album that has a rap about Rocky's fight with Apollo Creed must command our respect.

# Film Reviews



## *The Brothers Grimm*

**Director:** Terry Gilliam  
**With:** Matt Damon, Heath Ledger

**Runtime:** 118 min

**Reviewed by**  
Paul Becker

★★★★

The brothers in question, Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm, are said to have travelled the greatest part of 18th century Germany collecting fairy tales off ordinary folk and then publishing them, first giving public recognition to Germanic folklore. In Terry Gilliam's new film, Jake (bespectacled bookworm) and Will (ladies' man) also roam the country, skillfully instigating supernatural hoaxes, then getting the people to pay them to exorcise their respective sheds, houses and whatnot. It's a man's life, full of beer and casual conquests, until the French occupational forces coerce them into dealing with what begins to look like a genuine terror from beyond the grave. So, the brothers resolve their differences (apparently they had some) and learn valuable lessons about life and love in the process.

Sound a little forced, disjointed perhaps? Alas, the signals are set from the very beginning where a tragicomic scene from the brothers' childhood is followed by a genuinely awe-inspiring title sequence. The film wants to be a horror comedy but the halves don't fit: as a horror film it lacks a genuine sense of dread and it aims for grins yet merely raises smirks. I found myself comparing it to *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Sleepy Hollow*, both more accomplished fairy tales,

comedies and horror films than *The Brothers Grimm* is, and the conclusion is simple: this film needs Johnny Depp.

Heath Ledger as Jake seems to be attempting a vocal Alan Partridge impression that serves him well for comic purposes, but his beard wouldn't let me see if this was acting or just a day at the fair for him. Matt Damon plays Will. Jonathan Pryce is the arch-fiend, a French general who almost foils our heroes' triumph. The portrayal is so disgusting that it surprises me to see the French abstain from crying racism. The characters are cardboard cutouts who each have a handful of funny moments (in the beginning), but then talk of magic beans and other entirely insignificant things (in general and dramatic terms) leave the actors with nothing to do.

There are some beautiful and frightening visual quotations in the beginning: Little Red Riding Hood being chased through a sunless forest full of overarching branches and sloping walls of riverbeds, but they belong in a different film. They aren't sustained by the rest of the film and in the grand finale, full of cannon fire and sword fights, nothing brings them back to mind. The screen writer forgets that to frighten an audience one must engross them, not feed them formulaic plot devices from any old Hollywood rom-com and explain away every mystery that appears.

It is saddening to see the keen eye of Terry Gilliam, who gave us the glorious comedy *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (and so much more), betrayed by a man called Ehren Kruger. *The Brothers Grimm* is different, but sadly there's no happily-ever-after to be had.

## *Elizabethtown*

**Director:** Cameron Crowe  
**With:** Orlando Bloom, Kirsten Dunst

**Runtime:** 123 min

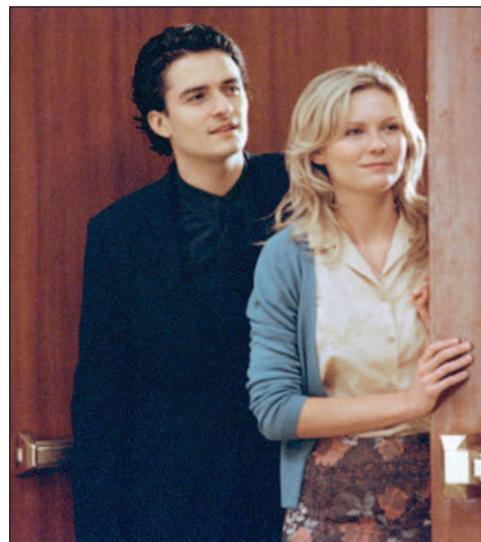
**Reviewed by**  
Dan Kipling

★★★★

is the characters of the film that make it so engrossing. As with *Almost Famous* and *Jerry Maguire*, Crowe's characters are the film's greatest asset. From the complicated but unavoidably human Drew, to the intriguing and eccentric foibles of the people of Elizabethtown (where Drew journeys to meet his deceased father's relatives), there is a rich and colourful spread of the amusing, the charming and downright bizarre.

For a film carried largely by its characters (the sets are very basic and the story is very simple), it is engaging throughout, although there is a definite lag in the plot halfway through, as we are bombarded with sentimentality. It soon picks up though, in a hugely warming and amusing scene involving a stage and Susan Sarandon. Warming, though, is the best way to describe this film. Amidst what is essentially a tragic plot line in an industry that of late has dabbled in apocalyptic darkness (see *Star Wars* or *War of the Worlds*), Crowe creates a reassuringly moving film that explores the delicate subject of death, loneliness, rejection and survival with light and hope.

Whilst it is necessary to forgive a certain amount of slush, this is easily done because of the film's portrayal of real people, their feelings, and its subtle humour; gone are the excessively dark undertones of *Vanilla Sky* and *Almost Famous* that could so easily have prevailed throughout. Sentimentality is an unavoidable part of family and love when touched by grief, and it is this reality that grants *Elizabethtown* its freedom from sickly romcom. The film concludes with an original and brilliantly idiosyncratic tour of America, from Kentucky to Oregon, and an intelligent summary of the human condition that puts the sentimental tosh of the likes of *Love Actually* to shame. Funny, intelligent, original and talented, this film has something for everyone, warming the heart and generously filling a gap. Worth the trek to Vue.



Cameron Crowe is well known for his quirky, sleek, delicate and effortlessly humorous films, and *Elizabethtown* does not disappoint. This moving, sentimental but light and streamlined human drama falls well within the mould of what we have come to expect from Crowe, but is also one of the first films that both Orlando Bloom and Kirsten Dunst have had to sell on their own acting ability, without the help of a more established actor or wigs and set pieces.

Bloom excels as the hapless Drew, and Kirsten Dunst is unavoidably charming and irresistible. The two succeed entirely, and it

## *Night Watch*

**Director:** Timur Bekmabetov  
**With:** Konstantin Khabensky

**Runtime:** 114 min

**Reviewed by**  
Rose Baker

★★★★



As a film that has been raved about by the likes of Quentin Tarantino and managed to beat *Return of the King* at the box office in Russia last summer, *Night Watch* certainly has had a lot to live up to on its Western release, and let's just say it didn't disappoint.

The film is the first part of a trilogy depicting the constant struggle between the forces of good and evil. Set in Moscow, it revolves around the Night Watch and Day Watch, two undercover agencies battling to maintain the truce called between the two forces a thousand years before. Both of these factions are in constant fear of an ancient

prophecy, saying a 'Great One' will come and make a choice between light and dark, obliterating the carefully constructed balance that that has been maintained for so long.

So far, so standard but although it may seem to fit the Hollywood conventions of a sci-fi flick, Bekmabetov takes *Night Watch* somewhere new and fresh. It isn't just a gore fest of raging vampires but a psychological battle of manipulation between the two sides, who have by all accounts reached stale-mate a long time ago.

It provides all the entertainment you could want; people morphing into animals, gore of titanic proportions, beautifully choreographed vampire fights and a spectacular shot that follows a bolt falling from an aeroplane 30,000 feet up into a coffee mug in a first-floor kitchen. At certain points it is absolutely terrifying, with even the subtitles feeling unsettling as the screams of the victims fill up the screen and the words of the vampires drip blood-red: an extra dimension through which to portray the horror of unfolding events.

At times the CGI effects are a little too visible (doubtless the result of being produced on desktop computers as opposed to the hugely powerful industry standard), giving the film a video game feel. The narrative, although engaging is more than a little confusing, falling into chaos by the final third of the film and although it must be remembered that this is part of a trilogy there seems to be one too many loose ends by the time the credits roll. However, this film benefits a great deal from the underdog effect, competing with the big studios despite a shoestring budget and allowing us to forgive it many of its sins.

Not for the faint hearted, but if you want action, gore, horror and a confusing plot, *Night Watch* is the film for you. Heralded by *Total Film* as "this year's *Donnie Darko*" it is a must-see for any serious cinema goer.

# Food and Drink Reviews



## Which treat?

Trick or treat? We know what you want. The thinking persons option will always be a treat, and where better to get a quality treat than York - the city of tea shops and dreams.

### Banana & Walnut Cake - Vanbrugh, £1.02

For those who don't like bananas in cake form, this is not the cake for you. However for those who do, this moist, if slightly stodgy, offering will send you to cake heaven. Despite your natural student inclination to accept the free cream, don't; the cake is far better without this 'fresh from a can' topping. The icing is a dream, but once eaten it's presence will disturbingly linger in your mouth for longer than you ever thought possible. The somewhat bizarre flaws aside this cake will satisfy all your sugar needs - it's Bananaramatastic.

### Cookie - Derwent, 39p

Once released from its plastic wrap shell the cookie smells good, great in fact, amidst the lesser vegetarian dishes that can be found in the disappointing 'doodles' vegetarian eaterie in Derwent Bar. The cookie's aroma unleashes a feeling of warmth radiating from the depths of your soul. At 39p we couldn't decide whether this glorified biscuit was a bargain or not. Essentially satisfying, it fulfills your need for a treat on the go and could be successfully hidden at seminars relatively effortlessly.

### Apple Danish - Costcutter, 99p

If your idea of a treat is an overpriced slightly cinnamon-flavoured piece of cardboard, then Costcutter's apple danish is the snack for you. Dry and tasteless this abomination of the pastry world is an offence to consumers. At best costcutter is expensive and at worst it charges students nearly a pound for something that resembles a squashed, anaemic poo and tastes worse than the packaging it comes on. We are not amused.

### Chocolate Paradise - Langwith, 77p

A stodgy sense of paradise came to mind when we first ate this miniscule piece of cake. The fudge and chocolate topping certainly sticks to the back of your teeth, as well as the majority of the packaging. This supposed chocolate paradise was still slightly warm, proving that it stayed true to its 'homemade' claim. We enjoyed the fact that this had actually been produced by the fair hands of the Langwith catering staff, as it avoided the processed and nondescript taste of the abominable Costcutter efforts.

Caesars  
Goodramgate

Reviewed by  
N.Luke Abraham

★★

We had a 9pm Saturday night booking and were forced to wait twenty minutes for our table. However, the management gave everybody a free drink and when we did sit down three complimentary garlic breads were also provided as an apology for the delay.

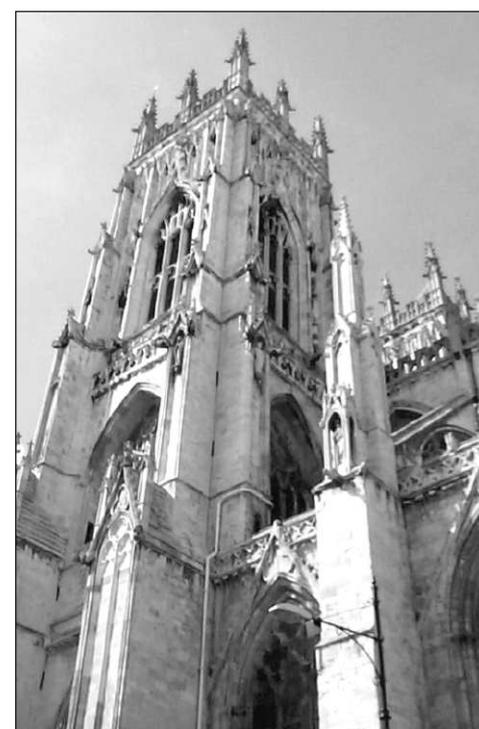
Despite the disappointing start, I have to say I couldn't help but be taken in as the whole room buzzes with energy which, with the open kitchen and predominantly Italian staff, makes for a vibrant Mediterranean feel. The interior is decorated in an imitation marble homage to the architecture of classical Rome and the vast window also gives beautiful views of York Minster and St. William's College, perfect for a romantic first date.

The menu itself is extensive, offering over 60 main course dishes, with a large

range of pizza, pasta and meat dishes to choose from. I opted for the fillet of beef wrapped in bacon and served with a red wine and mushroom sauce. The only disappointment was the fact that the portion of vegetables was a bit small when split between three of us. The beef was cooked to perfection, complimented by the bacon flavour. The sauce was rich, but did not dominate over the other flavours.

There was nothing that leaped out at me from the sweet menu, and in the end I decided to opt for an espresso, which ended the meal very nicely. At £14 my main meal was one of the most expensive on the menu (the pizza and pasta dishes were cheaper), and with wine, coffee and tip, my total expenditure was £20; I felt this was very reasonable.

We were also given two plates of chocolates with our bill. The waiters were very friendly and the quality of service provided made it an enjoyable dining experience. I would certainly eat there again, but I would recommend aiming to dine before 7.30p.m in order to guarantee a swift service. However, for the less socially adventurous, they even do takeaways!



Dusk  
New Street

Reviewed by  
Ben Toone

★★★★



For most people the mention of the bar 'Dusk' brings confused and startled expressions, more so with the brief 'its on New Street' description. Only with the mention of "opposite Ha Ha bar" do people get a slight inkling of its existence. Just off Coney Street, it is located ideally en-route between Evil Eye (Stonegate) and Bar 38 and Orgasmic (near City Screen).

As an independent bar, Dusk avoids the clone feel of the chain bars and, although lively, the bar's music isn't loud enough to be overbearing and muffle conversation. Staff are friendly and prices are similar to most bars, admittedly with pints a little on the pricey side; good news for the more discerning, with great deals on cocktails (2 for 1) during the week, as well as the irresistible offer of a bottle of wine for just £6.

The best thing about the bar is the function room upstairs, which can be booked for free, and is ideal for get togethers in town. The only negative point is that it doesn't feel as flash as other bars; but this is outweighed by its small size and the display of the work of local York Artists talent (which, although up for sale, would take your student loan to buy!). If you've got a bit of extra cash to spend on your night out, give Dusk a go.

Gert & Henry's  
JubberGate

Reviewed by  
Felicity Bendicks

★★★★



Gert & Henry's is a family owned restaurant situated in the heart of York in a charming Tudor building. For great location in the centre of town, you'd expect the usual crap: pizza or pasta overcooked in a microwave served to you by students who obviously can't be bothered in a distressing chain restaurant.

However, Gert & Henry's offers a delightful surprise. Prepare yourself for home made food, which has never seen a microwave, in a warm, old-fashioned atmosphere, serving great Italian, Seafood and English food at a very reasonable price. I had the salmon wrapped in parma ham in a cream and watercress sauce, served with beautifully cooked fresh veg, whereas my mum had a traditional roast beef dinner. Both had a magic touch of looking pretty but also being very filling, two things you don't generally expect together at a restaurant. I can only fault them on the lack of sherry in the home made trifle. The service was prompt, provided by the most charming Chinese waiters I have ever come across, who you just have to leave a generous tip for, since they genuinely brighten up your day! All in all, Gert & Henry's is a surprising concoction of good food, service and atmosphere at decent prices, considering its prime location.

Tuscany  
Coney Street

Reviewed by  
Rebecca Brain

★★★★



During your time at Uni, your main 'night out' concerns will consist of where you can go for the cheapest alcohol, which joint has the best dance floor, and which DJ in town is playing the best tunes. Now and again, however, the occasion may arise when you need to find a nice restaurant to wine and dine in.

This is where Tuscany comes in. With its dim-lighting and romantic atmosphere it is more the place to take a visiting loved one, than visiting parents; but whatever the size of the party, getting a table should not be a problem, as once inside you realise the place is much bigger than it looks. In traditional Italian style, the kitchen is on display, and the service was fast, polite and efficient; everything wonderful so far. However, what is really important is what you're there for in the first place: the food.

While my garlic bread starter lacked ambition, the main course- spinach and ricotta cannelloni- more than made up for it. Being vegetarian, it was great to see a range of choice, although admittedly not as wide as some. The prices were reasonable and the wine drinkable, so all in all if it is ambience with great company you are after, rather than the best Italian food you will ever taste in your life, Tuscany is the place to head.

# The last word

**Olly Chadwick** has opinions. Lots. Here are just a few

## This is where we do the gloating

Whoever said that *Nouse* was no use? After years of campus insignificance, *Nouse* has finally proved itself in the media awards and we're holding onto our plaque like it's the last puppy in the pet shop. It's all we can do to stop taking it down and polishing it every five minutes.

Meanwhile, campus rivals *Vision* are holding on to their glory days with similar desperation, declaring on their front page Student Newspaper of the Year 2002-2004. An obituary on the front page? Now that's innovative journalism.

As the older and more responsible of York's printed media siblings, we will obviously be magnanimous in our victory. Starting now.

## No riddance for bad rubbish

News reaches me that the University intends to stop cleaning rooms. Undoubtedly for some, the withdrawal of this surrogate mother service will be a bitter blow. I understand many enjoy weekly, tearful bonding sessions with their cleaner. I for one, did not. She woke me up, and refused to Hoover as my floor was a mess. Victory is sweet.



December in York: an artists' impression

## Winter in York: it's bloody cold

For freshers who have never experienced winters in York before, and for second years who have only just emerged from the cocoon of halls heating, be warned: York gets cold. Narnia cold. You know that bit in *The Day After Tomorrow*? Like that, but colder.

You can understand then my reaction when I read reports suggesting that this could be Britain's coldest winter for forty years. The Met Office sought to reassure me it'll probably only be the coldest for the last decade or so. That didn't help much. Summer has already started to fade, and I no longer have the luxury of swanning around in my

flip flops. It's time for action.

My plan is to hibernate in my duvet between December and February, phoning-in for my seminars and living off tubes of Primula Cheese spread. As I see it, it's the only way. Call me a southern nancy-boy if you like, but come the new year, I won't let be letting any of you hypothermic wrecks into my palace of warmth.

## I call it an EGM

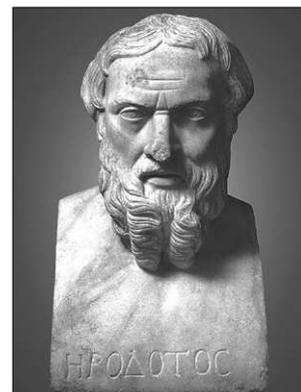
Truly the future is here. No there hasn't been any development on the flying car issue, but the first Electronic UGM is just around the corner. Finally there's the opportunity to vote on all those things that you believed in passionately, but couldn't be bothered to walk on to campus to express an interest in.

Perhaps this will spark a groundswell of democracy that will remould the university into a utopia of learning. Perhaps not. All the same it can only be a good thing. That is after my own personal dictatorship. A coup of the Student Union perhaps. Totalitarian rule at last. The potential the electronic era brings! I shall have to be cunning in my campaign of corruption against the democratic process: the apathetic, armchair voter is easily swayed.

So what are we voting on in our first opportunity to change the fate of the campus through our computer screens? Proposals to ban 'unethical' companies Nestle and Coca-Cola from campus. Now I like human rights as much as the next man, but I also like Kit-Kats. Tricky stuff this democracy.

## Number 07, History

# Blag your degree



Herodotus - the ultimate blagger

Despite covering the entirety of human events, History is actually among the easiest of subjects to blag. Here are the basics:

History was invented by the Greek philosopher Herodotus, who was the first to realise that things weren't what they used to be. He decided to write down some of these things that had happened in what he called 'the past' and titled these works *The Histories*, which goes some way to showing why he wouldn't have been much good as a novelist.

Essentially History is politics, but in the past (or archaeology in the future, no-one's quite sure). This means that it's necessary to wear your opinions on your sleeve, or perhaps slightly lower down, in the form of one of those trendy-yet-radical 'Make Poverty History' wristbands. If you prefer, a Young Conservatives armband will do; many historians taking the course do so as to more accurately re-enact Wellington's Iberian campaign and spend more time playing Risk. Though differing opinions are inevitable, if declared loudly enough, all are valid. In these instances remember the fundamental rule of History: there are no right or wrong answers, just stupid and clever ones.

Inevitably you will find yourself treated by non-historians as a historical encyclopedia. You must be firm in response to such discourtesies and patiently explain that History is an extremely broad field and that yours is a very specialised knowledge. You cannot thus be expected to know the details of such historical trivialities as the Magna Carta or The Second World War.

In the event of some written work being set, suitable essay titles should be along the lines of: "Opium dens in the nineteenth century and what they said about society" or "Fashion through the ages and what it says about society". Saying things about society is always a winner.

With all that time on your hands it's prone for historians to get a tad worrisome. Don't! As proper historian A.J.P. Taylor said: "The only lesson of history is that there are no lessons of history." This is why you find yourself with so few contact hours. so just make it up, and enjoy yourself.

By Olly Chadwick and Jo Grant

■ Any hilarious tidbits you consider worthy of The Last Word? Or perhaps you'd like to write for it? Either way, give me a shout at: [olly@nouse.co.uk](mailto:olly@nouse.co.uk)



"LOOK MAN! WE FINALLY GOT SOME NEW POOL CUES!"



Clockwise from top left: Alice, off in her own little wonderland; Faithless pre-champagne are very serious; Harry and Ron get dressed up for the release of their new film and yet remain so very, very unattractive; Rachel Weisz and Ralph Fiennes look amorous; and Antony, from Antony and the Johnsons, looks, well, androgynous?

## Live Music

**Wednesday 23rd November**  
**Antony and the Johnsons, Grand Opera House, York.**

York and Wolverhampton are the two lucky (if somewhat surprising) choices for the UK leg of Antony and the Johnsons' European tour. Antony's haunting, androgynous voice left the audience at the Mercury Prize astounded and earned the group rapturous applause when they were announced as the winners. Beg, borrow or steal tickets.

**Tuesday 22nd November**  
**Elbow, LMUSU, Leeds**

Boring live? You didn't hear it here!

**Friday 25th November**  
**Franz Ferdinand, Hull Arena**  
**(and Saturday 26th, MEN Arena)**

Franz Ferdinand are on tour to promote their second album, 'You Could Have It So Much Better.' Inspired, or more of the same? Opinion is divided.

**Friday 25th November**  
**Faithless, MEN Arena, Manchester**

Faithless live have an extraordinary energy and well-known tracks take on an unexpected character. It could be the excitement of playing to adoring fans, but more likely it's down to Bliss and Jazz's champagne-related pre-show rituals. Say no more...

## Campus Events

**Thursday, Week 6**  
**RAG Karaoke, JJ's, 8.30pm**

Most seasoned karaoke-goers don't need any encouragement to make fools of themselves, but if you're timid and need an excuse to get drunk, stand on a table and sing 'I Will Survive', 'I Got You Babe' or 'I Will Always Love You' (and, let's face it, most of us would need an excuse) this is it - it's all for charity!

**Monday, Week 7**  
**Revolver, Goodricke**

£4 entry is a tad on the expensive side for a weekly event, in my opinion. Perhaps it has something to do with the SU's exclusive, and ever-expanding, guest list? (Just a thought).

**Thursday, Week 7**  
**Xtra Live, JJ's, 8.30pm**

Not new and not original, but it is familiar.

**Thursday, Week 8**  
**Comedy, Wentworth**

Comedy nights, run by YUSU and The Other Side Comedy Club, are put on three times a term, boast big names and, invariably, sell out. Tickets £4.

**Friday, Week 8**  
**Full Stop, James, Vanbrugh**

Details forthcoming. I'm beginning to suspect James have adopted Vanbrugh's plush new surroundings as their own!

## Art and Performance

**Tuesday 15th - Saturday 19th November**  
**Hamlet, York Theatre Royal**

An English Touring Theatre production, starring Ed Stoppard as Hamlet and ex-EastEnders actress Anita Dobson as Gertrude. ETT is often praised for clarity and style.

**Saturday 26th November**  
**Carmen, Grand Opera House, York**

Dance, passion and bull-fighting. (Does this remind anyone else of a night at Ziggy's?) Ellen Kent Opera International, the Romale Gypsy Dance Troupe and Chisinau National Opera join forces to perform Bizet's masterpiece.

**Monday 28th November-Saturday 4th February, 2006**  
**Alice in Wonderland, W. Yorks. Playhouse, Leeds**

Alice in Wonderland: the musical. A family favourite and maybe a good festive alternative for those who can't quite bring themselves to see panto! Music by Carl Davis.

**Until Saturday 3rd December**  
**Jerusalem, W. Yorks. Playhouse, Leeds**

A dark musical comedy, by poet Simon Armitage. An arrogant, house bound ex-fireman, who broadcasts for the local radio station from his bedside, struggles to keep his wife and his livelihood.

## Cinema

**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (12A)**  
 Dragons, broomsticks and gawky teenagers a-plenty! Harry and friends battle against Voldemort and the odd bludger.

**The Brothers Grimm (12A)**  
 Two con-artist brothers pretend to save German villages from a host of mythical creatures by conducting fake exorcisms. They collect fairytales as they go.

**Elizabethtown (12A)**  
 Woebeggotten Drew Baylor (Orlando Bloom) is fired, dumped and loses his father all at once. However his luck changes on the flight home to his family smallholding when he

meets attractive flight attendant Kirsten Dunst.

**Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang (15)**  
 Robert Downey Jr is a petty thief undercover as an actor. Just as he thinks he has everyone under his thumb, he is thrown into the middle of a real-life murder mystery.

**The Constant Gardener (15)**  
 A drama-thriller starring Rachel Weisz as a political activist found murdered in Kenya. Her partner flees the scene and her ex-husband (Ralph Fiennes), desperate for justice, will stop at nothing in his hunt for her killer.



## Local MP, John Grogan, recalls high political drama

# Failed terrorism law was excessive

Half an hour before the crucial House of Commons vote on the Government's Terrorism Bill last Wednesday I found myself standing outside Parliament holding a pair of giant out-sized fake teeth and a tooth-brush. The photo shoot, with other local MPs to promote the bid for a joint Hull-York Universities Dental School, was a somewhat incongruous start to an afternoon of high political drama which culminated in the first defeat for the Government since taking office in 1997.

The most contentious part of the Terrorism Bill, the proposal to extend the detention period of terrorist suspects without charge from the current 14 days to 90 days, had caused much unease amongst Labour backbenchers, myself included. There are few more important issues ever facing a Member of Parliament than ensuring the security of the citizens of this country. I therefore listened very carefully to the arguments put forward to justify this extension both by the Police and the Prime Minister. But in the end while I supported a doubling of the current 14 day limit to 28 days, I did not think a convincing case has been made to extend the limit to 90 days or three months.

During the past two years the current legislation has led to only 11 people being detained without charge for the maximum 14 days – all of which have then

subsequently been charged with an offence. From this evidence it does not appear that the Police have been so restricted in their work that they have been unable to put a case together. It is also interesting to note that in Spain and Australia, two countries that are vehement in fighting terrorism, the limit for holding suspects without charge is less than the 14 day limit currently in place in the UK.

There is a constant balance to be struck between maintaining security against terrorism and protecting the civil liberties which are so deeply entrenched in this country. In my mind 90 days detention without charge was excessive and not in keeping with the long established principles of Habeas Corpus and British justice which assume innocence until proven guilty and that the innocent are not imprisoned without charge for longer than is necessary.

Members of Parliament on all sides of the House of Commons shared a similar view and in the end the Government was defeated by a clear margin of 31 votes. I will not be joining those voices calling for the Prime Minister to resign in the aftermath of this defeat. I do hope though that this whole episode will impress upon Tony Blair the need to adopt a consensual approach to policy making involving both cabinet colleagues and backbenchers much more than has previously been the case.

# Comment



## SU President Micky Armstrong, laments the passing of years of clubbing, but finds plenty to do on campus without drinking

Sitting at the YUSU comedy night last night I finally got rid of any last semblance of a Ziggy's head that I had. For those of you who know me well you will know that I am a great fan of my Wednesday nights in Ziggy's; the warmth, the cheese, the warmth (again). However

on the flip-side I have never been the largest fan of Thursday mornings; although to be fair now I have to be in the office early so my Wednesday nights have died down/(matured)!

Now that I don't have the time, money or energy to spend my every night bounc-

ing from event to club and back to event, it makes me realise how many non-alcoholic opportunities there are to have fun.

Last night, for instance, there was the comedy night. Yes, admittedly, I was stewarding the event and not allowed to drink anyway, but

I saw many people nursing cokes, lemonades and J20s. The opportunity was there for you to drink, but many didn't.

I got thinking (as I tend to do in the days leading up to my column) of what else was going on for those who didn't want to match the stereotype and end up vomiting down the stairs of the Gallery. There was quite a lot, the Afro-Caribbean Society had a food and video night in Langwith, something which, if I had not been stewarding comedy I would have paid a visit to try out some of their cooking. There was the ever-present York Student Cinema,

another fantastic example of something entertaining to do that does not cause damage to your liver.

I suppose it's a bit hypocritical for me to tell you all not to go out clubbing for three years but to think of other things to do instead; but I'm going to anyway. Why? Because I wish some-

Now I don't have the time, money or energy to bounce to clubs, I realise how many non-alcoholic opportunities there are to have fun

body drilled it in to me in my first year; that way my bank balance would look a lot nicer and I wouldn't have what can only be described as a big fat beer gut.

So there are things that you can do which don't involve getting steaming drunk; and they're entertaining. Remember, if you do have a lot of free time on your hands, you can spend some time in the library or doing that essay that's due in for Monday.

Don't always be stereotypes, getting drunk having random sex and failing your degree, but if you do, remember that the Student's Union is always here to help.

# and Analysis

Universities are fertile for cultivation and York could do with more. **James Bamford** considers where membership could be leading

## Campus cults colourful but need consideration

Many might consider us all as already belonging to one thriving cult – of students, identifiable by all the activities and interests it strives to include – and to regulate.

Cults are associated with both cliquey membership and widespread materialisation. But it is in this balance of the few and the many, seen in varying levels of cult-dom, that lie some of its more concerning elements.

York has a distinct lack of cults. We pride ourselves on well-organised membership of familiar societies. But there is some quite cultish society activity – nocturnal self-incarceration for the sake of a newspaper has even been observed.

To the outsider (politicians in particular), our being wide-eyed and interested – or impressionable, prompts the nervous observation that universities are fertile ground for a whole manner of cult-growth.

Yet it seems the cult of York is forged only in our indistinctiveness. At least we may be more immune to infiltration by cult-representatives, if not banks enticing us with ten thousand popcorn makers. Cults, though are formed through internal and external identification.

For members, cults in fact allow like-minded individuals to enjoy their devotion communally. A cult's marginalised status binds its followers together in common cause – whether its possessive protection, or more vociferous defence.

Yet members' dilemma is in spreading the message, but thereby compromising their partisan hold on the cult and its future direction.

Take TV shows. Their cult status, and the number of their avid followers, often paradoxically increases if axed by the big bad broadcasting company, and again if saved by fans' campaigning. Television is increasing-

ly appropriating the cult into the mainstream for commercial, if not artistic purposes. In tv phenomenon *Lost*, these influences add an enigmatic quality to otherwise straightforward clichés.

*Lost* revealingly launches fans' conspiracy theories as to where it's leading. This sense of a controlling but elusive authority pushes the boundaries of fiction and production, as viewers implicitly recognise that it's the fiendish writers and executives that are really behind it all.

Sinister goings-on are not confined to an imaginary island. Cults have a power to bind people together; it is a dubious quality, and a consuming power, that does not necessarily lie with the members who uphold it. More authoritarian forces can be at work. Cults 'surrounding' dictators are often allied to nationalist movements, though uniting the people only under the auto-

cratic rule they are used to maintain. Separate to and yet spread throughout society, the cult functions to similarly position its privileged and powerful leader.

### Sinister goes on not confined to the *Lost* island

An influential group of uni cults recognises cultural and political trends outside its boundaries. Though this is not to diminish the often harmless peculiarities of individual cults. Maybe York needs a few more. Societies should shun their status and indulge in the possible luxuries that await in the arena of the cult. Albeit funding may not come so easily from the Student Union, but then not much in the way of cash is flowing at the moment. I implore societies to seize the moment, go underground and liven up campus.



**John Prebble** comments on the e-voting phenomenon

## No interest in internet politics

Avoid computer rooms when you should be working. Full of scurrying students when you just can't be bothered. It seems a university campus (would you believe?) throws work, or otherwise guilt, at you from every direction.

But take a closer look at those computer screens and you'll be relieved to see a multiplex of emails, flashy websites and games like space-pinball-spider-invaders-solitaire.

That's more like it. Using the internet for what it's for – whiling away those hours that could be spent doing something infinitely more productive. You cannot help but lose yourself in a virtual world, which is even, and only, structured by distraction to endless, useless wonder-sites (although Charlotte Church Sings the Communist Manifesto animation might be informative).

So it's easy to understand that the SU is as hooked on the net (it's so hi-tech I mix my fishing metaphors) as the rest of us. In fact it's a bit jealous of our web love and wants to get in on the action, giving us the opportunity (oh, thanks so much) to vote online for union motions (I vote they sway harmoniously during UGMs).

Spoilsports. Don't they know that the internet is a haven of idleness and doesn't want to be taken over by anything 'important?' Well, actually they do, as revealed

by their misguided belief that doing it online will sex up the voting process, and themselves. In pasting their scandalous solicitations onto the grimy window of the world, the SU recognises their work is at home with the electronically ephemeral. It is all a bit Big

**Jealous of our web love, the SU wants to get in on the action, giving us the ability to vote online for Union motions**

Brother, that model of democratic involvement in issues of national importance.

Yes, the SU needs to develop the appeal of its online fun-and-games. Why stop at Charles Clarke's level of desperate yes-no-choice emailing? True democracy allows us a platform for fuller expression of our strong opinions, like the scrolling text messages at the bottom of *Celebrity Love Island* (though democracy should never get in the way of bottoms). Why not extend this to burning SU issues. Cynic, you may shout, but I fear the measures will appear token in comparison to the apparent campus apathy.

If you have comments to add, why not make them known to the SU, or even contribute your eloquence to this section of *Nouse*? Are you bovvered, though?

Free speech must not be curtailed by terror bill, says **Adam Sloan**

## Controversy and study not crimes

How far we have really come in the 'war on terror' when librarians are now brought to the forefront of political controversy? A helpful librarian could now be breaking the law as a result of a clause in the government's new Terrorism Bill, concerning the dissemination of terrorist materials.

More widely and more worrying is the clear threat that the bill poses to academic freedom. The Association of University Teachers is concerned that the clause making "incitement" to commit terrorist acts a criminal offence could lead to unknown breaches of the law by academics, teachers and students alike. You'd better watch out what you say in seminars, as intent is not a

precursor to prosecution as the bill stands.

Remember, this extends the terror laws that saw Walter Wolfgang detained for shouting 'nonsense' during the last Labour party conference. If used to justify the detention of OAP war veterans, then the worst can only be feared when applied to students and academics.

New guidelines issued by Universities UK dealing with intolerance and hate crimes on campus, reaffirms: "the principle of academic freedom is central to the work of Higher Education Institutions." It is a cornerstone of our democracy which could now be severely restricted.

The AUT warns that a "culture of suspicion" could

be created on campus, as teachers have to watch out what they teach and to whom. This is a ridiculous and discriminatory expectation of lecturers, whose responsibility is to teach, not to 'screen' those walking in and out of the lecture theatre. It could result in important topics being 'left off the agenda,' which would only have a detrimental effect on student learning.

Speaking with various students of the politics and history departments, many seem worried that their tutors may indeed be forced to "shy away" from certain issues as a result of the new law. This could include even historical study of, for example, Ireland or resistance in Apartheid South Africa, as

they are shelved simplistically as 'terrorist tactics,' without scope for re-evaluation.

Moreover, student years are a time for activism. Universities have traditionally been at the forefront of political interrogation. This bill could cast a grave shadow over this, criminalising the expression of support for those who oppose oppressive political regimes.

The bill requires substantial amendments to protect our legitimate work. The AUT is lobbying for proof of 'intent' or 'recklessness' to be required for prosecution. The bill is unacceptably broad and lends an incredibly wide berth for subjective interpretation. Law should always be clear to those whom it governs.

EST. 1964  
NOUSE



## Balancing the books

The SU's financial concerns are something which will be shared by all students and societies, and, although the current officers seem to have been stuck in this dismal situation by their predecessors, it is tempting to say that they are still exacerbating their predicament.

In attempting to circumvent NUS fees in the past, it has meant losing out financially in the long term, something which the current SU is now paying for (quite literally). Threatened with disaffiliation, SU president Micky Armstrong acknowledges there is "everything to lose" from this outcome. Leaving student number figures unchanged year in year out is still, despite claims to the contrary, a way of "fiddling" figures and a conscious effort to mislead the NUS. Alleging it to be a prevalent Union practice, is simply a feeble excuse for poor financial management.

Nonetheless, whilst this year's team remain blameless for the financial crisis, a little bit of common sense wouldn't go amiss. Before the beginning of term the SU offices had a complete refurbishment, including new computers, furniture, carpets and even a fridge. Whilst we don't want them to be running their affairs from cardboard boxes at the edge of the lake, perhaps little luxuries should be put on hold until the books balance once again. After all, it's the students who will lose out in the long run.

## And the winner is...

It has been one of the most turbulent years in the paper's history, but *Nouse* has finally made a name for itself in the world of student hacks (and it's only taken 40 years...)

Considering it was only a term ago that an awkward git tried to get us deratified, the taste of victory is rather sweet. Of course, none of this would have been possible without such a talented team of writers, editors, photographers, web designers, cartoonists and everyone else who's worked on the paper and helped us to get where we are now.

Next year's editorial team, whoever they may be, will no doubt take the paper to even greater heights and perhaps even find a decent news story on campus. So for all those who are yearning to be the next big thing in student hackdom, don't forget to come along to our elections this week. Most positions do not require any previous experience and it's a great way to meet new people and do some CV building at the same time.

For further details about this year's AGM, visit our website at [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk).

# Letters

Please send your comments and complaints by email to [letters@nouse.co.uk](mailto:letters@nouse.co.uk) or by post to Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Win!  
Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps



### Star letter

## Refined rugby

I would just like to say well done to the rugby club on their excellent behaviour on initiation night. I am a barman at the Deramore Arms and felt the coverage in *Vision* just did not do the club justice.

Luckily perhaps, I did not work on last year's initiation night. So all I can say is in the vast majority of the time the rugby players behaved brilliantly and deserves congratulation. There were more like 60 members of the club present in the Deramore Arms and they spent almost £800, yet there was not one incident all night. In fact most of the second and third years stayed sober to keep the freshers likewise to avoid any trouble.

Ok, I just don't understand why they have the bizarre desire to get

naked, chant stupid songs, and make new players drink an obscene amount of alcohol but that's rugby players I suppose. What is clear is that they have cleaned up their act.

In fact they cleaned up their act so much they stayed on late and cleaned up all the mess they made. So much so the pub was in better shape after they left than before they arrived.

Also it's worth mentioning that Nik Engineer did a great job by bringing down lollies for them to suck on as they left. It did keep them quiet. Lets hope it kept the Heslington residents happy.

Evidently the letter from the rugby club about *Vision's* attendance shows *Vision* were not properly informed. That's shown by the number of factual mistakes in their articles. Lets hope they are fairer in future.

**Deramore Barman**  
Derwent College



## Noxious fumes

In the epic moral battle of the cigarette, smokers assert their fundamental right to enjoy the release of a fag and a pint in their local, whilst I have to wash everything I'm wearing when I get home.

I wonder then (and I've been holding this in so far) if smokers would respect my right, following this logic, to enjoy a beer, whilst farting profusely. In fact, the only difference is that faecal odour dissipates fairly quickly, without requiring industrial quantities of air freshener.

So, as they enjoy combustion so much, next time a smoker lights up in the pub, feel entitled to let rip. In their face.

**Alex Gow**  
Halifax College

## Nightline's role on campus

In response to the last edition of *Nouse*, (interview with Nick Woodward-Smith, founder of York Nightline) we'd like to give a more balanced view of what Nightline currently provides students.

We don't offer 'a 24 hour party' but we're open every night whether you want to discuss a problem or simply drop in for a chat.

The only people who will ever know you used our service are the two Nightliners on duty. Even if you bump into them around campus, our 100% confidentiality policy means they will never acknowledge or speak to you.

No problem is too big or too small, if something's worrying you then we'll listen. We're a completely independent group of trained student volunteers, not run by the SU, the CU or any other society.

You can phone us on 01904 433735 or visit us in Goodricke D block, every night of term time from 8pm to 8am. We also provide information on everything from welfare issues to bus timetables to the local area, as well as free condoms and pregnancy tests.

If you have any more questions you can email Andy, our public face, at [nightline@york.ac.uk](mailto:nightline@york.ac.uk) or come to our Open Flat on Weds Week 6 from 1-3pm.

**Andy Evans**  
York Nightline  
Wentworth College

## Clarification

In the next edition of *Nouse* I hope that you will correct the statement in your article ("Is this the University you applied for?") that "tutors, deans and provosts ... are only ever contactable during office hours".

It is untrue and it would be particularly unfortunate if the statement deterred a student who needed help at other times from seeking it.

**Dr. R.B. Weir**  
Vanbrugh College

*Nouse contacted administration staff in all colleges before printing this statement and were advised that this was the case. However, we apologise if this is actually incorrect. Ed.*

# 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 terror bill be able to curb academic freedom?
2. Will students be more likely to vote using SU website?
3. What do you think of cuts in room cleaning regularity?
4. Who or what do should be the object of a new uni cult?



**Name:** Nick Payne  
**College:** Derwent  
**Course:** History  
**Year:** 1st Year



**Name:** Sabrina Jantuah  
**College:** Vanbrugh  
**Course:** Politics and Social Policy  
**Year:** 3rd Year



**Name:** Harriet Bingley  
**College:** Halifax  
**Course:** History and Politics  
**Year:** 3rd Year

1. Freedom of speech is a fundamental democratic right. It is not criminal to write or speak controversially, but it is criminal to restrict such liberties.

2. Yes, student interest and the number of votes cast will increase the more ways there are to do so.

3. I like the cleaners. It would be a shame if they were around less than they are now.

4. The cult of duck, although we practically have one already.

1. It's really loosely put together and so could have serious repercussions for universities.

2. No. Voting is not really popular amongst students, and for that matter, neither is the SU website.

3. Students will have to clean their rooms then (or they might not), but I don't know what you have to do to get hold of a vacuum cleaner around here.

4. I think baking. It's could be a comforting communal activity. Cakes, biscuits, muffins, scones...

1. It is broad but that makes me hope that it will not in fact be much applicable to academic practices. But conversely I do fear the bill will affect certain groups under increased suspicion.

2. No. The website is less than glamorous.

3. The rooms will be so dirty it will make it much harder for the cleaners to do their jobs.

4. Central Hall should be the focus of ritual sunset gatherings, with students flocking from far and wide.

# England look to build on a superb summer of Ashes success in Pakistan

By Ed Humphreys  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS THE evening of Tuesday 13th September. After 24 hours of drinking, a famous sportsman is applying some permanent marker on the face of his even more famous unconscious teammate. Another player is seeking out a busty, blonde model. A group of high-profile footballers?. Not out. It's the victorious England cricket team with the players in question being Stephen Harmison, Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen. Cricket was the new football, remember?

Fast forward a few weeks and time zones. Pranks, pints and plaudits have been replaced by heat, homesickness and hard work. The England cricket team are in the place 'to send the mother-in-law' according to Ian Botham, he was referring to Pakistan.

Yet as England's arguably most important winter of cricket in years begins, the school playground, so often a barometer of popular culture, reveals crickets way out. Slide tackles have substituted the slider and stumps are now being used as goal posts again. The cricket craze has cooled but so has the weather. The cold is not conducive to spin. However there are two further factors beyond the weather which suggest that cricket has had its brief bat with the general public.

Firstly, summer cricket, like winter tours are on Sky Sports. Next summer cricket will be competing with the football World Cup for the public consciousness. Sky is not the platform for cricket to do this. The new fringe fans will be lost.

Secondly, there is never likely to be a series like Ashes 2005 again. It had everything except an Ashley Giles' wrong'un. Last summer England won all seven test matches at home, yet it made nothing like the impact of this summer. This summer, two series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan (again) will struggle to bowl cricket back on to the front pages.

England take on Pakistan with cricket barely featuring in the red-tops in the run up to the First Test. The sport pages are more concerned with Beckham's history with Argentina than what England's 36-year-old spinner Shaun Udal has in store for Inzamam-Ul-Huq and co.

In the lead up to the three match series England have suffered the traditional smattering of upset stomachs that accompany a sub-continent tour. More significantly, they are without their captain Michael Vaughan who has suffered a recurrence of an old knee injury. In his place returns Ian Bell, who in the nets last week got bowled by the devilish medium pace of Peter Gregory, the team doctor.



## Should we be sympathising with footballers using illegal substances?

Rob McMillan discusses the use of drugs by football players

A cup of tea was once the cornerstone of any self-respecting football manager's half-time communiqué (even if only to be repulsed wall-bound in Brain Cloughesque discontent). In the game of today the classically English thirst-quencher, and more importantly the caffeine contained within, is one of numerous banned substances that must be shunned if the team is to escape ever familiar prospect doping dishonour.

Abel Xavier, the Middlesborough defender, is the latest of an ever escalating list of sportsmen to fall

victim to accusations of drugs. He joins the likes of Maradona, Adrian Mutu and Jaap Stam on the register of soccer doping scandals. The concept of drugs in sport is elderly, but football players are now firmly at the vanguard of interest on the subject.

UEFA presently aim to test every player at least twice a season. It is disturbing how a game at the forefront of media attention and with such stringent measures in place, can be continually caught up in such a damaging and detrimental social issue. What is per-

haps more worrying, is that in a recent survey of the Football League, only 10% of players questioned claimed to have received an educational program on drug use; 74% expressed uncertainty over banned substances and four fifths claimed poor awareness over anabolic substances.

No longer can we simply reel-off colossal wages and expect footballers to be saints; they aren't

I wonder how many young boys (to use a stereotype) possessed posters of Mutu, the disgraced Chelsea footballer, on their wall. How many still own Manchester United or England shirts with Ferdinand (the centre-half who "forgot" to take his drug test) printed proudly on the reverse. That these men are role models is not a new concept, nor is the suggestion that they are not fit to be so. But even the most sceptical among us, childhood fantasies aside, must confess that performing with such demands is a daunting



Drug Abuse? Abel Xavier

prospect.

No longer can we simply reel-off colossal wages and expect footballers to be saints; they aren't, and they are open to mammoth strain and temptation. Far from sanctifying them, their affluence and fast-paced lifestyle make them ideal targets for recreational and performance enhancing synthetics.

We could equate the use

of drugs in football, to the cocaine epidemic that is apparently gripping staggering levels of prosperous, fast-paced city workers. If we are to continue this analogy, then surely it is a wonder more soccer players are not captured with hoary snouts. It is certain that every time a doping scandal breaks anywhere in the football community, the media will gleefully report on it, the same cannot be said for many other industries.

I believe it only fair that we consider the circumstances and situations of these young professionals, as with any individual with such an affliction. Maybe it is time we consider that being subjected to passionate hourly scrutiny, the idolatry of juvenile and mature alike and being prosperous at 20 is, at least for some, explanation for such behaviour not a stimulus against it.

# Brave York put on good show

By Andy Collins  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IN FRONT OF a small crowd and in fine weather, York were unfortunate to lose 18-27 at home to a competitive Newcastle side. It was an evenly balanced match and defeat came following an impressive display of attacking rugby from the visitors.

York went into the match in good form, their confidence high with five wins in their past seven matches. They made their intentions clear early on, with Liam Cunnah, the York fly half, converting a penalty in the tenth minute. They held sway over the game, maintaining domination in possession; however, York failed to break down the resilient and well-organised Newcastle defence and were duly punished when Newcastle scored a fine breakaway try.

A penalty, converted by Cunnah, briefly brought York within six points of Newcastle. However, matters soon got worse when the Newcastle winger impressively broke through two tackles before setting up his team-mate to score under the posts.

York battled on and, demonstrating the strength of their side, continued to sustain possession. Missed tackles soon began to prove costly, however, and overshadowed York's strengths. Newcastle's incisive and sharp attack caused big problems for the home defence and, after half an hour, Newcastle were awarded a penalty try, which was consequently converted, widening the gap between the teams to 6-19.



In an exciting encounter York were unlucky to be defeated by a Newcastle team that looked impressive in attack Photo: Ian Martindale

Just before half time however, York's fortunes changed, with the forwards and backs working together well, to good effect. A strong drive eventually led to star player Liam Cunnah scoring in the corner.

The home team went into half time 11-19 behind, a score line which did not, perhaps, reflect the balance of the match. Early in the second half, Cunnah, the scorer of all of York's points, charged down a clearance

and ran the length of the Newcastle half to score a superb individual effort.

With the match finely balanced, York mounted the pressure on the Newcastle defence. Much of the second half was spent with Newcastle pinned in their own half but, despite their efforts, York could not convert possession and territorial advantage into points and, with eight minutes remaining, Newcastle scored the decisive try. Trailing by six

points, York desperately went in search of the required converted try, though a penalty for Newcastle in the dying moments sealed victory.

York can take many positives from the fixture. James Solomon, the York University Rugby Club Press and Publicity representative, pointed out, "We're playing probably the best and most free flowing rugby we've played for years. Barry Pierce, the coach, is making

a big difference. Everyone is playing great rugby at the moment and training phenomenally hard so it looks good for the future". The team is enjoying an influx of enthusiastic and talented freshers and has high hopes for the future.

York remain third in the BUSA Northern Conference 2B league. They face the Sunderland first XV next week, in a chance to regain their winning streak and mount a promotion bid.

BUSA Northern Conference Men's 2B			
Current Standings:			
	pld	pts	
1. Northumbria 2nds	4	12	
2. Newcastle 2nds	3	12	
3. York St John 1sts	4	6	
<b>4. York 1sts</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	
5. Sunderland 1sts	4	3	
6. Teeside 1sts	3	-3	

Past Results:  
York 13-24 St John 1sts  
Northumbria 2nds 45-0 York  
York 43-7 Teeside 1sts

## Mens Football unlucky

*Continued from back page*  
the home side, and only the combination of a dubious offside call, some unfortunate deflections and the lack of a clinical final ball delayed evidence of York's second-half dominance. It was entirely against the run of play therefore when Durham found the net from 20 yards in the 58th minute.

Not deterred however, York's dominance continued, and a number of attempts on goal followed. York were tackling high up the pitch, and some great link-up play between Matt Martin and Mark Redding proved to be very productive. The 71st minute witnessed a prime

example of this, when only a fully stretched diving save from the Durham keeper prevented a superb strike from finding the net.

Two minutes later York finally found their second. A scrappy but deserved shot from Ryan Heaps was the form in which it came. Whilst this was the end of the scoring, York's attacking onslaught continued. It was indicative of the second half as a whole that the final touch of the ball was an effort from Martin again for a York side desperately seeking an equaliser in the dying minutes.

Firsts Captain Ben MacPherson was 'proud the

lads didn't give up' but 'disappointed not to have won'. He was none the less encouraged by the performance, and considered it a great improvement on last year's BUSA League performances which saw York winless and with only a single point and were subsequently relegated.

'Luck' is what the captain suggested was missing, and this seems a fair assessment. This is perhaps the final factor that York will have to rely on if they are to have any chance of seeing their dominance of matches translate into points in a BUSA competition which has held few highlights over the past year or so.

## Women's Hockey adapting to new higher league comfortably

WOMEN'S HOCKEY at York has gone from strength to strength in the past few years with talented freshers enriching an already successful squad. This season has been no exception, with record numbers turning up to training on a regular basis and improving their fitness and skill. As a result, both 1st and 2nd XI's have looked very good in recent matches.

The 1st XI are realising that playing in a higher league does not necessarily mean playing a higher standard of hockey and they have already had impressive victories in the Yorkshire League.

Solid defensive performances from the likes of Lindsey Walker has allowed the midfield to be creative and deft touches from Ruth Laybourn have left the opposition deflated. Impressive week-end performances have started to influence mid-week performance too with the team recently notching up their first victory over rivals York St John in the BUSA league.

With only BUSA to focus on, the 2nd XI are progressing well. Their positioning and teamwork improves with every game and new faces are taught a

trick or two by captain Sophie Overment and defensive stalwart Chloe Dolphin. The team can only improve if this confident style of leadership is maintained.

The women's indoor team are also looking to make a confident start to their first outing in the Premier Division. Hosted in Bradford, this league gives the opportunity to play against some of the county's best players in a fast-paced and exciting game. With so much potential in all of our teams this season, and so much to play for, it promises to be a great year for York Women's Hockey club.



**AU  
Edge**

**With AU President  
Nik Engineer**

Despite having been a student at York for three years, been a member of seven different sports clubs, having played every college sport there is, and read what must be about thirty issues of the campus papers, it never ceases to amaze me how negative some people can be.

Take the tent as the most recent example of this. We are in the most fortunate position that any year of students has been in for decades with regards to sports facilities. At three times the size of the main hall, and hosting a basketball court, three netball courts, three volleyball courts, three futsal courts, three indoor hockey courts, three tennis courts, three indoor football pitches and eight badminton courts, the tent is going to finally provide members of the AU and the University the sports facilities they deserve.

Right from the start of the project, before I was President, I said that this was going to be a hard year, that the AU was going to have to suffer a little to gain a lot. Whilst I am under no illusion that this has certainly been the case so far, it astounds me to hear of people bitterly complaining about the current developments, and lamenting the situation we have been in for the last fifteen odd years.

The sad truth of my job, and so much of the work that I do and am involved in, is that it is work to make the lives of future members of the Athletic Union easier and better, and whilst it is certainly unfortunate that some have to make sacrifices in the short term, it is genuinely the case that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

People often forget the bigger picture. It is this simple cliché that explains so much of the difficulties that myself and the other sabbatical officers face on a daily basis.

The truth is that everything we do, every 15 hour day we work, every meeting we chair, every paper we write, and every presentation we give, is underwritten by one single motivation – our insatiable desire to make things better for students.

We can't do everything for everyone at once, and there are inevitably those who lose out this time round so that others can win, but eventually everyone will gain some advantage, we just have to be patient.



# City suffer cup exit as promising form falters

**By Ben Masters**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

A DIFFICULT two-week period for York City, including a defeat to promotion rivals Accrington Stanley and an exit from the FA Cup, culminated on Saturday with a disappointing 1-0 defeat to perennial Conference strugglers Burton Albion on Saturday. During the re-arranged fixture, Nigel Clough's outfit scored late to condemn City to a third defeat in as many weeks, and saw York drop down to fifth, with top of the table Exeter City extending their lead to five points.

It was a positive first two months of the season for York, the highlight being a 4-2 win over Exeter which fuelled hopes of automatic promotion, but now the season looks in danger of petering out into a battle to maintain a place in the top five and thus a chance of promotion in the play-offs. Part of the problem would appear to be the loss in form of star striker who has become increasingly marked out of games with opponents aware of his

dangerous pace. This was certainly the case during York's FA Cup 1st round loss to Grays Athletic, where the Essex side showed their greater level of physical presence and midfield skill in a comfortable, if slightly flattering, 3-0 victory.

That a side promoted to the Conference only last season and with such a meagre number of supporters should have made such an excellent start to the league season as well as finding themselves in the second round of the FA Cup is remarkable enough and partly based on an Abramovich-esque chairman. In current teenage midfielder Gary Hooper and recently sold players Freddy Eastwood and Mitchell Cole, they have helped develop three players who in five years time could conceivably be playing in the Premiership.

City's current off-the-pitch problems weren't helped by last Tuesday's torrential rain that waterlogged the Kit-Kat Crescent playing surface. This caused the postponement of the Burton Albion fixture which, while by no means

resulting in a harmful fixture pile-up, meant that the Minstermen missed out on the opportunity of live Sky Sports coverage and subsequently a crucial financial windfall. The club is said to have lost out on not only a £5,000 cheque from Sky but also a considerable sum from unavoidable match-day expenses owing to the

postponement of the match only ninety minutes before kick-off. The club had hoped that a large attendance on Saturday would partly offset this loss, but an attendance of 2, 441 was over a thousand fewer than the previous week's FA Cup tie.

Forthcoming matches don't suggest York's recent

run of poor form will easily come to an end. However with news this week that City are moving ever closer to agreeing to move to a new purpose-built stadium behind York Station - albeit not until at least 2013 - it would appear that at least the club is in a far healthier state financially than at this time last year.

## The Quick Crossword

Monday 14th November, set by Cornius

This week's crossword is especially for all the new students at York. We know freshers week has been and gone, but we're not renowned for meeting deadlines...

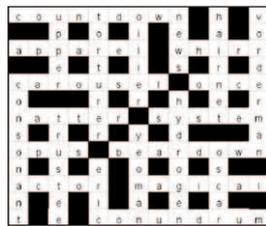
**Down**

1. Biblical father (6)
2. Graven image (4)
3. Precipitation (8)
4. Stomach-worthy (6)
7. Ready – how beer is served in pubs (2, 3)
8. Just (4)
11. Frilly – sly tales (anag.) (8)
14. Go beyond the limit (6)
15. Requirements (5)
16. Sea creatures - beams (4)
17. Most sound of mind (6)
19. Amble – you might eat on this on the go (4)

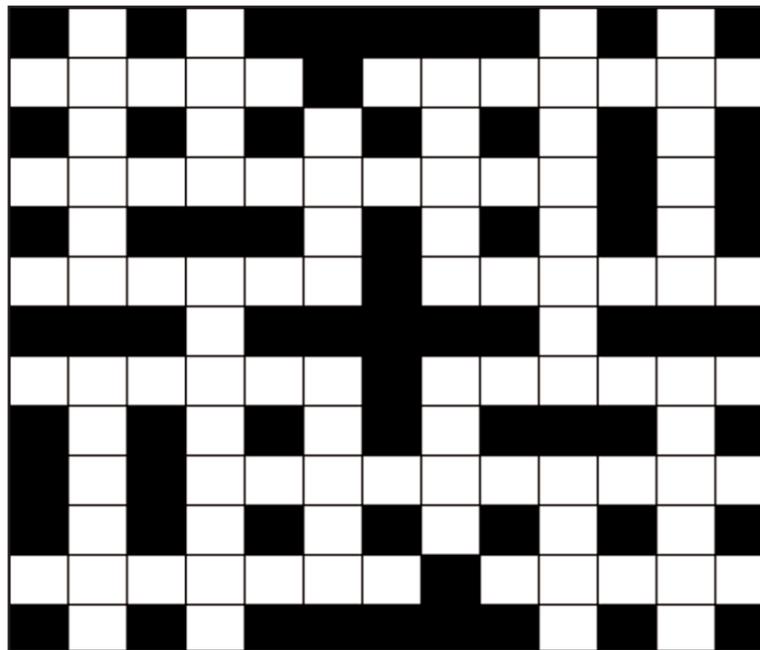
**Across**

5. Welcome (5)
6. Into (7)
9. York University Campus (10)
10. Found in Yorkshire (6)
12. I Hope (6)
13. Yule (for example) (6)
16. Enjoy (6)
18. The whole (10)
20. Experience (7)
21. Here (5)

**Solutions for 10th October**



Stuck? Solutions for this edition's Quick Crossword can be found on our website at <http://www.nouse.com/crossword> at the start of Week 7 (Monday, 21st October). A full solution crossword will also be printed in the next edition



# SPORT

Mens Rugby Union club  
enjoying a good start to  
season despite home loss

Page 14



## Dominant York baffled by home defeat as BUSA drought goes on

By Sam Cartwright  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK MENS Firsts must wonder what they have to do in order to break their BUSA duck. Despite some excellent form in other competitions York are still looking for their first points this season. The 3-2 home defeat at the hands was their fourth in a row and yet the performance surely warranted at the very least a share of the points.

If ever there were a correct term to use the cliché "a game of two halves", this was it. Even the most biased York supporter would surely accept that the 3-1 score-line going into the break was a fair reflection of Durham Seconds' early dominance. Come the end of the game however, the home side were justifiably feeling more than a little hard done by at the eventual 3-2 full time score.

Durham started the livelier of the two teams, and this greater sense of urgency explains their 12th minute opener, a scrappy header in the six yard box resulting

BUSA Northern Conference Men's 3B

Current Standings:

	pld	pts
1. Leeds Metro 2nds	3	7
2. Trinity & Saints	3	7
3. Durham 2nds	4	6
4. Leeds Metro 3rds	3	5
5. Huddersfield 1sts	3	3
6. York 1sts	4	0

Past Results:

York 1sts 0-4 Trinity & Saints  
York 1sts 2-4 Leeds Metro 2nds  
Durham 2nds 3-2 York 1sts

from a deflected shot across the area.

Durham's second followed soon after, and this was nothing short of sublime. A perfectly weighted through-ball from the Durham right winger cut open a helpless York defence. Despite keeper and Captain Ben MacPherson's brave attempt to close the ball down, the Durham no.10 was quick to meet it, and from the edge of the area, he lifted the ball over MacPherson, with enough

spin to bring it round the right post and into the top corner.

Strangely however, this proved to be the catalyst that York needed, and prompted a good spell down the left wing that produced a number of chances, and eventually culminated in a goal that York badly needed. A good run down the left produced an opportunity on the edge of the area. The resulting shot was saved, as was its follow up. Mark Redding however made no mistake in making sure his first time strike, and York's third effort in as many seconds found the target.

A rejuvenated York side from here on in seemed to find another gear, and it was not for want of opportunities but for want of shots that prevented another goal before the break. This momentum carried into the second half, and for the first fifteen minutes Durham seemed incapable of getting the ball out of their own half. Chance after chance fell to

*Continued on page 14*



Photo: Georgi Mabee

## York athletes compete in the Big Apple

By Luke Chiverton  
SPORTS EDITOR

THE ING NEW York City Marathon is one of the world's premier urban marathon events drawing a combined spectatorship of over 260 million people worldwide, and crossing the finish line in Central Park last Sunday amongst the 37,597 people that took part were four athletes who had travelled hundreds of miles from the substantially older

city of York for an unforgettable experience.

Representing the University of York Athletics Club; Mark Henderson, Jonathan Lingham, Adam Griffiths and Paul Roberts all undertook the hugely challenging course in a bid to raise money for Yorkshire Cancer Research. The fund-raising has been a massive success and the four runners expect to have raised in the region of £4000.

The trip was made pos-

sible by the University Alumni Fund which helped to pay for travel costs to New York so that nearly all the money raised could go straight to the intended charity.

Running in humid temperatures of up to 20 degrees Celsius and through many of the diverse ethnic and cultural areas of New York, such as Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan, Lingham described it as "one of the best and worst experi-

ences of my life! The enthusiasm and support shown by the crowds was amazing, it all really helped us. We were really surprised by how much support we got, we were not exactly with the elite pack, a lot of people had gone before us but people still cheered us on."

Henderson was the top finisher of the four with a time of 4 hours and 3 minutes, while Lingham finished in 4 hours 58 minutes; Griffiths in 5 hours 4 min-

utes; and Roberts in 5 hours and 37 minutes. Considering the hot conditions which undoubtedly slowed them down these were all hugely respectable times.

The winning time in the men's race was the 2:09:30 put in by Kenya's world-record holding Paul Tergat who beat defending champion Hendrick Ramaala of South Africa by just a single second in one of the closest New York Marathons for years, with Ramaala falling

across the line. In the women's race the finish was also relatively close with Jelena Prokopcuka of Latvia pipping Kenya's Susan Chepkemei by just fourteen seconds.

The trip was a massive success and culminated in a dinner event organised by Alumni which saw the four meet up with previous York graduates now living in New York, some amongst the very first to graduate in the early 1960's.

