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Staff speak out over duty to spot possible terrorists

It comes after an email containing “mandatory” training in locating radicalisation was later retracted

Chris Owen
EDITOR

AN EMAIL SENT out to an undisclosed number of staff, later retracted by the University’s Human Resources Department, has prompted renewed concerns about the introduction of a legal responsibility to identify radicalisation, known as the Prevent Duty, among University faculty.

The email told staff that they had been “nominated by [their] Manager/Head of Department” to “complete an on-line tutorial detailing the Channel process”.

Channel is the element of the Prevent strategy that calls on local councils, educators and others to spot character traits that make an individual susceptible to radicalisation. The online tutorial is a series of slides displaying case studies that supposedly equips frontline staff with the skills “to intervene to steer vulnerable people away from being drawn into terrorist-related activities”.

Staff were told that completion of the Channel process for “identified” faculty members was “mandatory” and a “statutory requirement”.

However, a second email was sent out within 24 hours of the first, after a number of staff approached their managers or Heads of Department to ask why they had been identified as requiring training.

The second email told staff that they had received the first “in error”, as it had only been “in-

tended for a small group of staff previously identified by their line managers”. Staff were told in the second email that they were no longer required to complete the online training, and that the University is “still considering its institutional response to the Prevent Strategy”.

David Duncan, Registrar & Secretary, told *Nouse* that no one who received the email had actually been identified by their manager or Head of Department to complete the training. This comes as the University’s draft strategy for enacting Prevent on campus goes to the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee this week.

Miqdad Asaria, a Research Fellow in the Department of Health Economics, was one of the staff members who received the training email. He told *Nouse* that he asked a friend if they had also received the email, who told him she thought she had received it “because she was Irish”. Another staff member thought their work on homelessness outreach had resulted in them being nominated.

“Everybody was feeling guilty, and I think that says something about these kinds of schemes and what they do to the psychology of people,” said Asaria. “They make everybody feel criminalised and watched.”

Asaria understands that around 700 staff completed the mandatory training, which presents case studies of suspicious behaviour alongside faces of various ethnicities. “There’s lots of things which are concerning about this,”

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Art attack: Students scramble to save studio after Uni threatens its closure

64% doubt YUSU’s efforts on free speech

Chris Owen
EDITOR

A *NOUSE* STUDY into student opinions on free speech and censorship at York has found that 64 per cent of students either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement that YUSU “upholds free speech on campus very well”.

By comparison, the survey found that just over half of students disagree or strongly disagree that the University itself upholds free speech very well, reflecting a slightly more favourable stance towards its track record on free speech than YUSU’s.

When asked to respond to the statement “YUSU values free speech on campus very highly”, 56 per cent of students said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed. When asked to respond to the same statement of the University, 43 per cent responded negatively.

The news comes after York was downgraded from a ‘Green’ to ‘Amber’ university in *Spiked’s* University Free Speech Rankings. An ‘Amber’ university “chills free speech and free expression by issuing guidance with regard to appropriate speech and conduct”.

Spiked cites the cancellation of the University’s recognition of International Men’s Day in December 2015, as well as the University’s definition of harassment as including “offensive verbal or practical jokes”. The Guide also references YUSU’s zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment, which it says restricts “unwelcome or unwanted sexual innuendoes” to the detriment of free speech.

When asked if they agreed

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Est. 1964

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

On Friday, *Nouse* received a tweet which I picked up on my laptop. It was from Heidi Blake, the Investigations Editor at BuzzFeed and a former Senior Editor here at *Nouse*. It read, "We shamelessly copied this iconic splash at the student paper @york-nouse", and carried with it a 'whitewashed' *Independent* front cover about the Hutton Report. "Very sad to see the good Indie ship go down", the tweet continued.

Newspapers in the UK are a messy bunch. Many stand out for the wrong reasons - for abusing their position as conduits of openness, accountability and truth by sensationalising for profit, or power, or both. Some are the playthings of 'media moguls', while others are dogmatically dictated by historic political allegiances. Factor in the last 20 years of development in Twitter, clickbait and looming long lenses, and it becomes easy to see why people hate journalists. The defence of truth, openness and accountability have become, more than ever, the playthings of big business in 140 characters or less.

A handful of publications stand up to this trend, and *The Independent* holds its head the highest. The news that it will move, at the end of March, from the country's paper stands to set up camp online is not only devastating, but disturbing. It's a purely logical move, of course - like most papers, The Indy almost runs a loss on going to print, and its website is one of the most popular in the country - but the decision will surely herald

a domino effect, with the boldest and most isolated press falling first. Surely we can only wait for *The Guardian* to go next, so aptly described as "fearless and peerless" by Anna Wintour in Central Hall a few weeks ago.

The prospects of the online newspaper are surely bleak, without the clarity and containment of 80 daily pages to counteract the vapid, cyberspace sludge of the twitterised news platform. If quality journalism can translate beyond the comforting bounds of print margins, we may rest assured - if any paper might take the plunge and succeed, it's The Indy. But for now, it seems that standing so irrevocably against the tide has eventually worn it down.

In an age where universities - including our own - are trying to pull up the drawbridge on Freedom of Information requests, and lecturers are being called upon to pass on names of students behaving in "suspicious" ways, the need for independence as well as Independents is more pressing than ever. With ill-informed conjecture from various candidates for YUSU office over the last week about the need to have better checks and censoring rights on the lowly student-run papers, it's time to recognise the fact that freedom protects freedoms. May we keep ripping off the good ship here at *Nouse* for years to come.

Chris Owen

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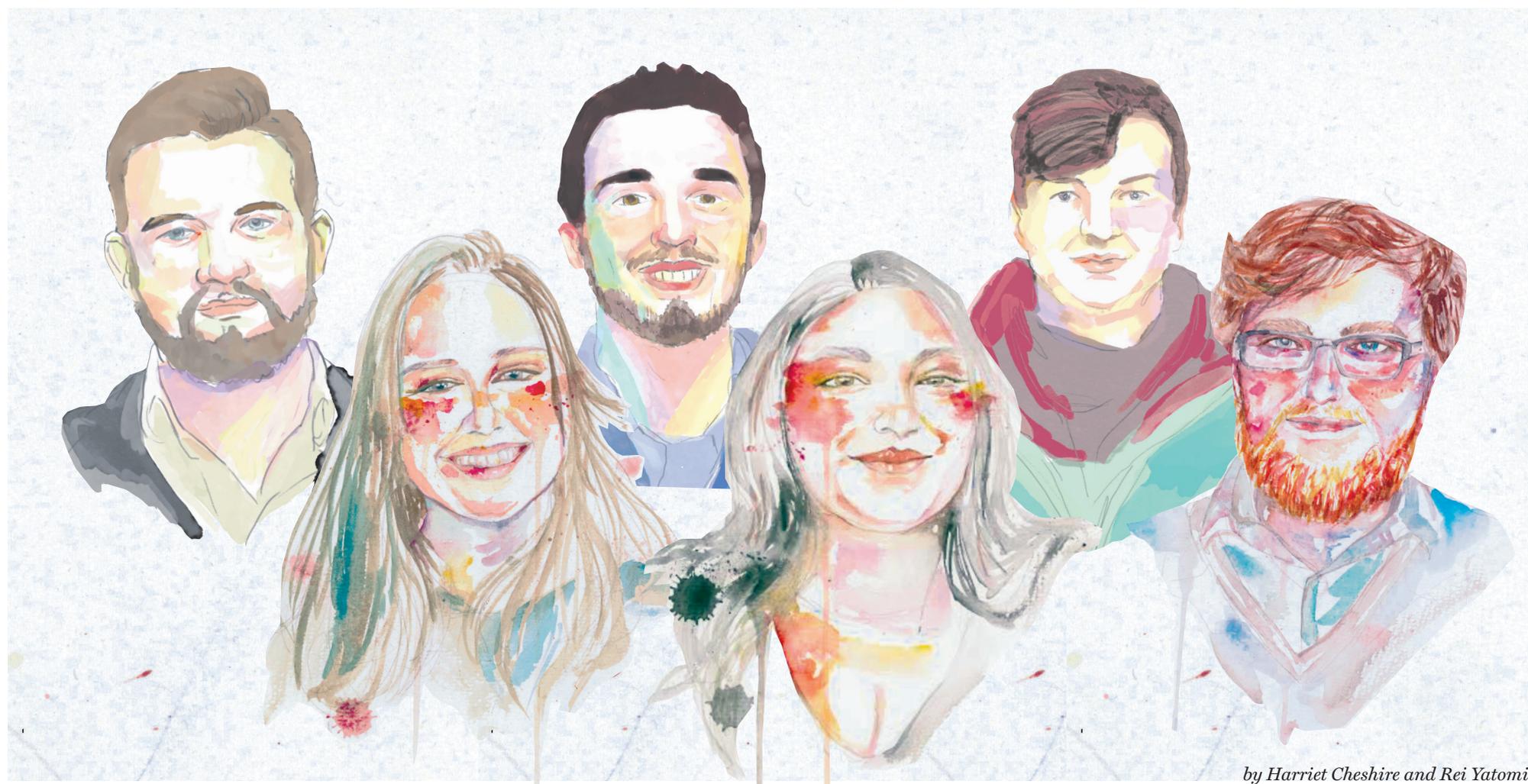
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by Harriet Cheshire and Rei Yatomi

Poll reveals race for YUSU President neck and neck

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

MILLIE BEACH AND Habib Nassar are tied frontrunners for YUSU President with 26.2 per cent of the student vote each, according to a poll conducted by *Nouse*.

In the survey published last weekend, students were asked their preferences for YUSU and York Sport Presidents; Activities, Academic, and Community and Wellbeing Officers. They were given the option to vote for all, some, or as few as one of the categories. The poll closed at midnight on Sun-

day, shortly after voting officially opened.

Students' priorities were made clear as most cast votes for YUSU President and Academic Officers, while York Sport President candidates were significantly less popular. Interestingly, the categories with the highest and lowest voting turnouts were also the closest in competition.

Not too far short of Beach and Nassar's lead, both Oliver Wilson and Ciarán Morrissey also proved relatively strong contenders for YUSU President, with 17.3 and 15.5 per cent of the vote respectively.

But while the major race proved to be extremely close, other candidates were revealed to be clear

favourites in their respective categories.

Students overwhelmingly favoured Tamaki Laycock for Academic Officer, with the frontrunner receiving 66.2 per cent of students' backing, leaving Thomas Ron and Lisseth Inza trailing behind with less than 35 per cent of the vote between them.

Alex Lusty came out on top for Activities Officer with 42.7 per cent of students favouring his policies, followed by Heather Kelly and Golfo Migos in close competition, with 20 per cent each.

Dom Smithies' performance was also convincing as he was revealed as the clear favourite for Community and Wellbeing Officer,

winning an impressive 61.5 per cent of the vote.

The results for York Sport President were a little less decisive, as Isaac Beevor took the lead with 38.2 per cent of students' backing, and Beth Cash and Stephen Bates chased with 28.7 and 23.5 per cent respectively.

As physical campaigning gets underway, it will be interesting to see how students' opinions may change leading up to this weekend's election. At the Full-Time Officers' Debate on Sunday, the five candidates present offered displays of varied fire and finesse, with an emphasis on policies falling away to promises.

Thomas Ron really capitalised

on his experience as Academic Officer, insisting students should reelect him to "finish the job", while the candidates for Activities debated the significance of 'Voluntourism'.

Roz Neyra insisted at the Community and Wellbeing Debate that she intended to "make resources stretch further", and the York Sport President hopefuls were keen to talk about inclusivity, with all agreeing that diversity was paramount to University sport.

Overall, candidates seemed reluctant to disagree or say anything too controversial. One question posed to the candidates for Academic Officer was even vetoed by the Chair, as it was deemed "inappropriate" for the Debate.

YUSU Finance system criticised by colleges and societies

Ben Rowden and Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR AND REPORTER

NOUSE HAS UNCOVERED failures within the YUSU Finance system. Comedy Soc experienced a three month delay in payment for the society's Edinburgh Fringe show last year. The society put a finance request into YUSU in February 2015, however this was not paid by early May and the venue had to sus-

pend the show pending payment. Former Secretary Stephen Harper told *Nouse* that the situation was only fixed after appeals to YUSU.

As well as not paying money, an anonymous York Tories member told *Nouse* that the association were placed in financial difficulty due to a YUSU administration error.

The association's finances were overestimated due to ticket sales for the society's ball. This led to YUSU slashing their grant. When the society corrected YUSU on their mistake, they did not increase the grant. One

member stated that "we made more money on the Jacob Rees-Mogg event than YUSU gave us".

Colleges have also faced difficulties; Vanbrugh College were at one point concerned about their apparent finances, only to learn that YUSU had money held up in other accounts. Simon Iwrin, Vanbrugh Chair, commented, "initially our committee believed that we would be dependent on the arrival of sponsorship in order to pay our sports fees. On closer inspection of our various accounts we discovered that

money from the college grant from November wasn't included.

YUSU Finance were extremely helpful having identified and agreed that the money had indeed been transferred to them from the college, they allowed us to operate as if the money was there, until it visibly showed up on our account."

YUSU President Ben Leatham stated that "YUSU have a Financial Service Level Agreement (SLA) for processing payments to Colleges, clubs and societies and this is monitored on a monthly basis. Over the

last three months 91 per cent of College payments have been processed and paid within the target level of three working days. Generally, when this service level hasn't been reached, it is because additional information or clarification is necessary to process payments. We are still aware there are areas that require improvement and that systems need modernising. A long term strategy is currently being developed that addresses these issues and we welcome any feedback students have."

Prevent training sent out “in error”

Chris Owen
EDITOR

>>> **Continued from front**

he told *Nouse*. “Certain people are being selected by their managers to do the training, which is obviously uncomfortable.”

“If you imagine you’re in a position of responsibility, like an academic, where you have to write references for people and make hiring decisions, and you’re told that certain types of people are bad news, it impacts your instincts towards those people,” he continued. “You’re not going to take any risks on their behalf; you’re not going to do them any favours because you’ll get yourself in trouble.”

“It’s not only that people are being taught to have these biases; it’s now our legal obligation – it’s illegal for us not to be racist. That’s what the Prevent programme is telling us. That it’s our statutory duty as academics, teachers and doctors to take part in this programme.”

Asaria said that Prevent is “something that the University doesn’t seem to have resisted very much”, and highlighted that students should be made aware that “if they’re certain types of students, they are being watched, and there is a legal obligation placed on staff to discriminate against them”.

Katy Sian, lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Prevent

specialist, shared Asaria’s concerns, and described Prevent as “embedded Islamophobia.”

“The ambiguity surrounding Prevent brands the entire Muslim population as potential extremists,” Sian said. “As such we have Muslim students who are actually terrified to speak in classrooms... We’ve got first-year, second-year and third-year students who are increasingly afraid to even present their views in seminar spaces.”

She stated that, “This is problematic because the role of universities in democratic societies are supposed to be places in which debate and dissent can take place. However, through Prevent we are witnessing both an attack on civil liberties and the undermining of academic freedom.”

“Our role as lecturers is to emphasise critical thinking – we’re not police informers. That goes beyond our job description. And I think through this we’re seeing the subversion of that pedagogic relationship between lecturers and students.”

Sian commented that the mandatory duty on staff to uphold the University’s ruling on how to implement Prevent “is where the real tension is coming” as “there may be consequences for staff who chose to follow the developing advice from the Universities and Colleges Union to potentially boycott Prevent.”

“The overall impression seems to be that universities are unsure of what’s actually going on,” Sian said. “There are no clear guidelines on



Channel: Tutorial frames scenarios in the context of different characters

how [Prevent] is being implemented, and this will inevitably lead to more confusion and chaos. It seems to be quite a mess right now.”

When *Nouse* asked David Duncan, Registrar & Secretary, about the extent of statutory obligation on staff to enact the Channel process, he commented: “We have already made a basic awareness-raising package available to all staff and students via the Learning Management System and the VLE (the same package is available to the public via the Internet).”

“However, to date completion of this has only been mandatory for 95 key members of staff. We will engage in further training and awareness raising once the Health, Safety & Welfare Committee has approved our formal policy and

procedure for the Prevent Statutory Duty. Our aim is to take a measured, proportionate response to the Duty, in full consultation with the campus trade unions and student representatives.”

Ben Leatham said: “It is evident from incidents at other institutions across the UK that the Prevent Duty has led to surveillance and racial profiling. This is completely unacceptable.”

“Here at York we are working closely with the University to ensure they are implementing the Prevent Duty in a measured way that enables and protects all students, regardless of demographic. We are also supporting counterparts nationally whose institutions are taking a much more targeted and interventionist approach.”

Union hosts porn talk

A TALK ON pornography and the demonisation of young men will be hosted by the York Union tonight, 16 February. Martin Daubney, the longest serving editor of lads’ mag *Loaded*, will be giving the talk. Since spending six months working with psychotherapists, anti-pornographers and some of the country’s most porn-dependent young men, Daubney has spoken about the “dark shadow” that pornography can cast over the lives of young people. He has also been publicly critical of the University of York’s decision not to mark International Men’s Day last year, and written to raise awareness of male rape victims and male suicide. After the talk there will also be a Q & A session with Daubney.

Carrier bag charges

YUSU SHOP WILL now be charging 5p for carrier bags. As a small business, the shop is not required to charge, but consultation with officers, societies, networks and colleges indicated overwhelming support for implementing such a change. The money raised from bag charges will go back into the Students’ Union. Tess Parker, Environment and Ethics Officer said: “Every simple, sustainable change makes a big impact; by starting the chain of getting students to think about their plastic use, and moving towards a plastic bag free campus, hopefully this will have a ripple like effect.”

Financial help at York

THE UNIVERSITY OF York has made an investment in Blackbullion, an online software package that is designed to provide students with financial advice. All students at the University are able to sign up for free online. According to research by the National Students Union, 77 per cent of graduates were worried or very worried about their financial debt. Research by another organisation found that 89 per cent of students felt more comfortable about their financial future after using Blackbullion, and 85 per cent said that they were more likely to make changes to their money management after using the service. Students can sign up at blackbullion.com.

Students call for RON

WITH YUSU elections underway, a protest campaign has been launched under the title ‘RON for YUSU’. The campaign aims to persuade voters to reject all candidates and to vote to re-open nominations (RON). ‘RON for YUSU’ outlines its aims as being to “expose the careerists, mock the policies, and cause chaos”. The campaign’s Facebook page, which has 38 likes, features a post from a similar RON campaign from the University of Cambridge, which commented: “I endorse this event or product”. Their social media pages also feature commentary on the elections, including a live-blog of the URY candidate interviews on Twitter.

Students dissatisfied with campus laundry



Students are dissatisfied with the cost and quality of the Circuit service

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU PRESIDENT Ben Leatham has been in talks with Circuit laundry to push for a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This would mean that there would be guarantees of standards, repairs and servicing.

Gaby Kendrick, Goodricke JCRC Chair, has told *Nouse*: “I brought the maintenance issues of the machines in Goodricke to YUSU and to my knowledge that has resulted in further investigation into the operations of Circuit laundry as a whole. I have found YUSU to be very helpful and attentive in my dealings with the situation.”

David Duncan, the University’s Registrar and Secretary, has however commented on the University’s understanding of the issue stating: “Overall, we think the service provided by Circuit (who supply 90 per cent of the HE sector) is satisfactory.”

There has been some recognition of issues with Circuit laundry

among students at the University. One student commented: “The washing takes sometimes double the amount of time stated on the machine and the cost of washing for the standard of service is overpriced.”

The University of York agreed an eight year contract with Circuit laundry in 2012. An SLA would provide a standardised level of service and an agreement between the University and Circuit laundry.

Leatham said: “The University has a long-term contractual agreement with Circuit laundry. This is concerning considering the large number of students who are dissatisfied with the laundry provision on campus. Unfortunately, due to the contract, there is no possibility of changing provider at this stage. Despite this, it has recently come to light that the University doesn’t have a Service Level Agreement with Circuit.”

“In my opinion this is unacceptable. Over the next few weeks I will be working with the University to produce an SLA that will commit Circuit to delivering a quality level of provision on campus.”

64% doubt YUSU's commitment to free speech

Chris Owen
EDITOR

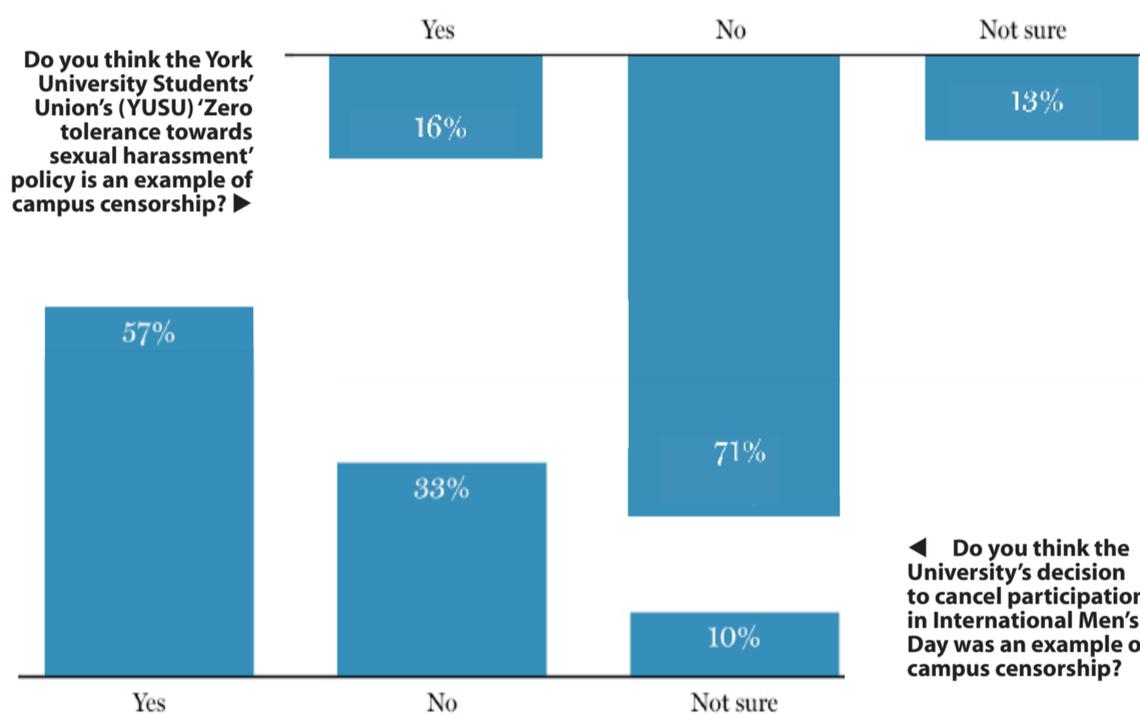
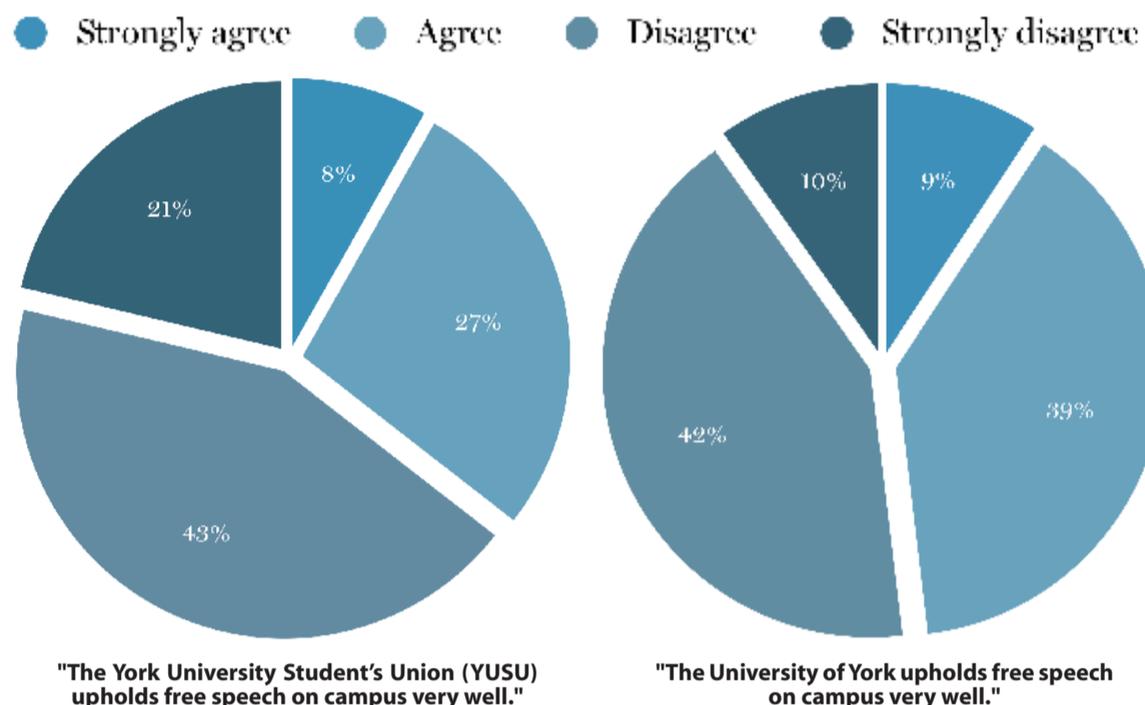
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that the University's cancellation of International Men's Day at York was an example of campus censorship, 57 per cent answered 'Yes', with 10 per cent saying they weren't sure. On the topic of the University's definition of harassment as including "offensive verbal or practical jokes", just 36 per cent of students felt that this represented an example of censorship.

215 responses were submitted to the survey in six days, which is the first of its kind to be conducted at York. Respondents – 98 per cent of whom agreed that free speech at a University was important or very important – were also asked to share their thoughts freely on the reasons for the answers provided.

On the point of YUSU's track record, some felt that the Union's duty of care interfered with its commitment to preserving free speech. One respondent said that YUSU's "code of conduct focuses too much on 'wellbeing' to the detriment of rigorous debate and speech", and another declared that "while it is crucial to strike a fair balance between minority rights and freedom of speech/expression, YUSU constantly favours the former at the expense of the latter".

Others questioned the political neutrality of YUSU and pointed to this as potentially interfering with its ability to make decisions regarding free speech-related issues like no-platforming of speakers; one student said that "YUSU does a commendable job of supporting free speech for left wing views." Another respondent declared YUSU's insistence that all content be proofed before it can be published in student media as "a blatant contravention of the principle of free expression".



However, another student stated that "free speech is not devalued by YUSU to the extent it is by the University".

Thoughts on the University's approach to censorship and free speech mainly centred around its cancellation of International Men's Day on campus. "The University has seemed easily persuaded at times to cancel events and speakers, rather than stand its ground for varied free speech," one respondent said. Another pointed out that, while the University's track record is "a bit of a mixed bag, they allowed the Pro-Life society to exist despite heavy opposition".

On the subject of harassment guidelines, one said that "the rules against sexual harassment are 100 per cent justifiable, but when you include rules against 'offensive verbal' communication, you completely suffocate free speech". Another student declared that "It's hard to draw a line on things branded as 'unwanted' and/or 'offensive,'" but that total acceptance of free speech was an equally "uncomfortable" prospect.

Of the survey findings, David Duncan, Registrar & Secretary, commented that "a commitment to upholding academic freedom and free speech more generally is integral to the University's values. While encouraging all members of the University community to treat each other with courtesy and respect, we will continue to foster an environment in which students and staff can express their views freely."

"Here at York we don't have a no-platforming policy," said YUSU President Ben Leatham. "It is not something students voted in favour of. The statistics shown are concerning though. Over my last five months as President I am committed to ensuring a standardised approach is established whereby the student papers are autonomous to write what they want within the law and any speaker is allowed to come and speak on campus provided no laws are broken."

University education more expensive for English students

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

SCIENCE STUDENTS get significantly more for their £9000 investment in tuition than those studying English, *Nouse* has learned.

Funding is unevenly distributed across departments, with the University typically covering equipment costs for semi-practical courses, such as Biology and Chemistry, but expecting that English students purchase their own primary texts.

Chemistry students receive, for free, a text book worth £50, a data book, nitrile lab gloves, goggles, a lab coat and a molecular model kit.

Biochemistry students are also

provided with two text books, safety glasses, a lab coat, and a molecular model kit.

According to a survey conducted by *Nouse*, English students, however, spend on average £110 per term on books, which amounts to almost £1000 over the course of their time at university.

When asked, Dan Bowen, second-year English and Related Literature student, told *Nouse*: "I think it's outrageous not because we have to pay for our books, because most English students do, but because science students get their books subsidised when their equipment and staff must already be exceeding the amount they put in."

However, Jenny Cao, also a second-year English student said: "It doesn't bother me so much as I as-

sume that our student maintenance loans are there to help to cover these costs.

"Obviously, everyone has different loans and grants but for me, it's only a small proportion out of what I have to spend on everything else. It would be different if I was a science student as equipment is much more expensive."

A number of English students also expressed concerns over the availability of key texts in the library.

The general consensus was that it would not be possible to go without purchasing at

least some books, because there are often only one or two copies of key texts available.

Buying second-hand texts is often impractical because of the delay in delivery, when students have a limited time to order and read in preparation for their modules.

For science students, however, circumstances are different.

Rosie Holland, a second-year Biology student, told *Nouse*: "It would be possible for me to complete my degree without paying for a single book, or

piece of equipment, bar my lab coat. Resources are almost always made available in the library or online."

When asked whether the University would consider offering bursaries to accommodate equipment costs that fluctuate from course to course, David Duncan, University Registrar, commented: "We have no plans to introduce bursaries for textbooks at this time. However, we do strive to make as much reading material as possible available via the library, either in hard copy or online."

"There may also be a case for standardising the distribution of bursaries and reviewing the incidental costs which students in different disciplines face. We will raise this with student representatives via the Student Life Committee."

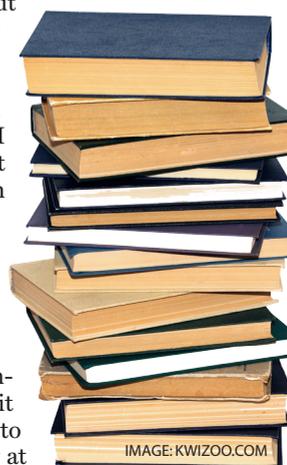


IMAGE: KWIZOO.COM

University ‘belittles’ students’ concerns over staff shortages

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

COURSE REPS have reported that they are dissatisfied with the University’s response to the recent petition requesting an improved student to staff ratio in the English Department, which saw over 350 students voice their concerns over the abnormally high ratio of roughly 20:1.

A cause of special concern was the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Saul Tendler’s apparent ‘belittling’ of the debate, when he implied that finding ‘holistic solutions’, rather than hiring more staff, was a likely possibility.

The petition called for the Department to hire three new members of staff by the start of the academic year 2017/18, and an ad-

ditional three by the year 2019/20 without any further increase in student numbers.

It also requested that the University make a legally binding promise that there will never again be an increase in student numbers without a proportional increase in staff numbers.

The Course Reps met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor, the University Planning Director and Dean of Arts and Humanities among others last Tuesday to clarify their concerns.

It was agreed at the meeting that the University senior management would write a report to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Koen Lamberts, on recommendations for a solution by the end of this term.

Thomas Ron, YUSU Academic Officer, who was also present, wrote a glowing report of events online, stating that he “had a very good meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor along with the excellent English Course Rep Team”.

He wrote: “It was a very intense and strong discussion regarding the student-staff ratio.”

“It was fantastic to see the English team’s excellent research and I hope that the University will follow the advice of the external examiners and move the SSR to around 15:1.”

However, the Course Reps have alleged they were unhappy with the senior management’s approach to the discussion.

The representatives were apparently dismissive of the Course Reps’ ideas, giving the impression that they were meeting only to say they had acknowledged concerns. The students felt there was very little gained from the discussion.

One third-year Course Rep, who wished to remain anonymous, told *Nouse*: “We made our intentions very clear; we want the emphasis to be on an investment in persons, so more staff are hired, rather than anybody is asked to work any harder, or for longer hours.”

“However, on attempting to communicate this to the Deputy Vice Chancellor we were repeatedly shut down and spoken over, and he insisted that the answer might lie in ‘holistic solutions.’”

The Course Reps behind the petition were granted one hour for the discussion, which they felt was insufficient time to address the issues in depth.

On requesting another meeting to further make their case for more staff, the students were told this would not be possible, due to limited availability on the senior management’s part.

Another third-year Course Rep, who also wished to remain anonymous, told *Nouse*: “Everything we said they twisted in their favour, and they consistently tried to avoid the main issue of the student to staff ratio.”

“We left feeling as though our concerns had not really been listened to. As a result, I am not particularly optimistic about the Deputy Vice Chancellor’s upcoming report.”

When asked for comment David Duncan, University Registrar, said Tendler took the Course Reps’ recommendations on board, and “is giving careful consideration to the points raised”. The report should be finalised and submitted to the Vice Chancellor by the end of term. As it stands, there are no further opportunities for discussion scheduled.

When asked for further comment in light of the students’ concerns, Thomas Ron said: “English reps and I met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor.

“I understand that many of them found the meeting frustrating. I [also] understand that the Deputy Vice Chancellor will be compiling some recommendations stemming from this meeting and I hope that these will address the staffing shortage by calling for more staff to come in, as that is clearly what is needed.”

Leatham’s ‘Student Noticeboard’

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

BEN LEATHAM has revealed initial plans for his ‘Student Noticeboard’ website.

The website will be a platform for sharing student related skills and services: “It is a hub of information that brings together everything you might need in one place. It covers skills, equipment, training, entertainment and enterprise,

as well as having a message board.”

The improvement of communications and the creation of a platform for students to create petitions were key promises of Ben Leatham’s election campaign in 2015.

Leatham said: “One of the projects I have been working on since I took office is the creation of an On-line Student Noticeboard.

“It is so near to completion and I am SO excited for students to start using it. It has a variety of functions including being a space for students with skills (e.g. graphic

designers) to advertise themselves and students involved in entertainment (e.g. bands) to advertise themselves.

Many candidates in this year’s YUSU elections have campaigned on the basis of improving student communications, particularly in sport. An anonymous student said: “The concept of the website has potential, although its success depends upon student participation, which remains to be seen.”

The website, ‘The Student Noticeboard,’ will go live during weeks eight or nine of the spring term.

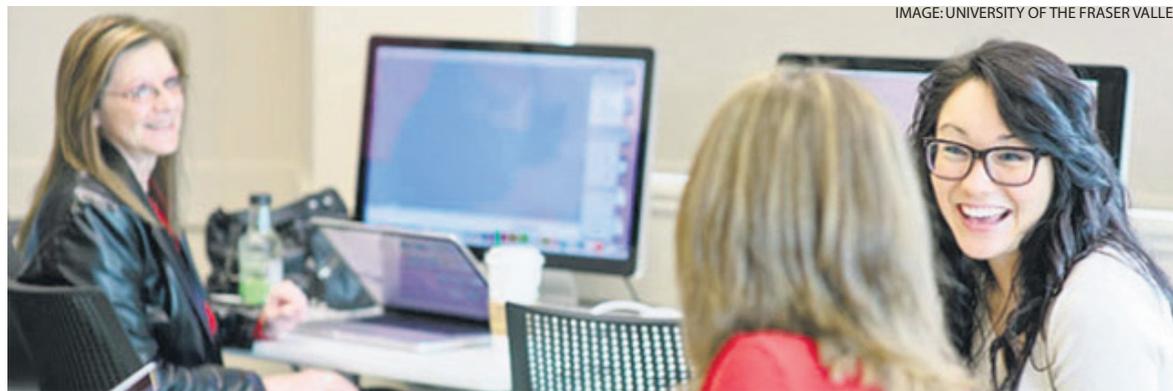


IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

The creation of a student website was one of Ben Leatham’s main election policies for YUSU President in 2015

University’s highest salaries have risen disproportionately

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE PROPORTION of the University of York’s staffing costs spent on higher paid employees has increased between 2011 and 2015.

Between this period, the percentage of the total staff costs spent on salaries for employees earning £100,000 - £159,999, if the higher end of the band is taken, has increased from 0.95 per cent to 3.11 per cent. The number of staff earning £100,000 - £109,999, increased from nine in 2011 to seventeen in 2015.

Two higher salary bands were reintroduced in 2013 and subsequently in 2014, placing the highest paid member of staff within the £140,000 - £149,999 and £150,000 - £159,999 categories respectively. This excludes the Vice-Chancellor Koen Lamberts who earned £229,167 in the financial year ending in July 2015, below the national average of just under £275,000 per year.

Defending this disproportionate increase in the cost of the highest paid members of staff, David Duncan, University of York Registrar and Secretary commented:

“Over time, the proportion of staff earning over £100k has inevitably crept up, and will continue to do so, due to overall wage inflation and market pressures.

“We are confident that our salary bill is not out of line with our competitors; salaries of senior academics and managers are benchmarked against other universities using data supplied annually by the Universities & Colleges Employers’ Association.”

According to The Times Higher

Education pay survey, for 2013/14, the University of York paid “other senior academic staff,” excluding professors, an average of £98,611, which is £19,422 above the average in England. An article published by *The Guardian* states that: “pay for university bosses has soared by 14 per cent over the last 5 years.”

Nouse conducted this investigation into staff salaries at the University of York based on the University’s publicly accessible yearly financial reports.



IMAGE: CARL SPENCER

Koen Lamberts was paid below the national average in 2015 of £272,432

Ron “determined” to get re-elected

Chris Owen
EDITOR

ACADEMIC OFFICER Thomas Ron has told *Nouse* of his determination to be re-elected to his position in the current YUSU Elections despite information of a Vote of No Confidence tabled against him becoming public knowledge.

“I am determined to pursue re-election,” he said. “I love working with students and the last six months have been a privilege. I believe positive change has been made during my term thus far and with the plans I have, I am certain I can continue to deliver more changes that improve students’ academic experience.

“One of the hardest parts of being Academic Officer has been

learning to engage with, understand and act on feedback and criticism from others. It’s also one of the most important parts of the job and one I take very seriously, regardless of the motivations for the criticism I have received.”

Though details of the terms of the Vote remain unclear and unconfirmed, the Policy Review Group issued a statement last week, outlining that, “due to the high degree of complexity involved in this case, the PRG agreed with YUSU to temporarily suspend the investigation in order to seek external expertise on the more delicate issues of the motion”.

“While the PRG is incredibly disappointed that it is unable to perform its accountability function in this case, we respect that the unique circumstances ultimately mean that the issue lies outside of our remit.”



The art studios in Wentworth are currently the only practical area for producing art in the University of York

SOC BOX

Sexposé returns

FETSOC, WOMCOM, and LGBTQ are collaborating to host Sexposé on 17 February for its fourth year running. The panel event will pit three teams against each other for “prizes you won’t want to show your grandma”, according to its Facebook page. Guests are warned to “expect more of the dirty-talking frankness of the last three Sexposé events”, and prepare for debates on Tinder and lad culture, the traditions of LGBTQ History Month, “the moral quandaries of sexing a dead pig”, and, of course, the “legendary” afterparty. Everyone is also invited to fill out this year’s Sexposé survey online, which is completely anonymous.

NurSoc debate

THE NURSING Society is hosting a debate on the proposed cuts to bursary funding for healthcare students. MP Rachael Maskell will be present, potentially alongside a Conservative MP and an RCN representative. The debate is due to be held on 16 February, and aims to “bring to light the concerns of future healthcare professionals and gain clarity over what is being proposed”. Tickets are free and available online.



New ‘Conversations’

AS PART OF Discover Islam Week, Islam Society are hosting ‘Conversations’, an event featuring three guest speakers, all of whom have converted to Islam. The event will take place on 17 February at 6.30pm in AEW/104, and will consist of a question and answer session, during which the speakers will share their experiences of converting. The Q&A will be followed by refreshments and conversation. Discover Islam Week will also feature sessions on misogyny (15 Feb), the definition of Islam (18 Feb), and the meaning of jihad (19 Feb), taking place at a variety of venues across the two campuses. The programme of events is supported by YuFund.

Promoting fairtrade

MARK DAWSON, Coordinator of Fairtrade Yorkshire, is due to speak at an event promoting the Fairtrade cause, challenging common perceptions and encouraging fairer trade in the local area. The event will be held on 18 February and hosted by YATS. Entry is free and there will be Fairtrade goods provided, with an optional small donation to help cover costs.

Campus art studio threatened

Niall Whitehead
NEWS REPORTER

WENTWORTH’S ART studios have been threatened with closure, which would lead to the loss of the connected Tutor In Art positions as well as the only space for making practical art on campus. Having previously been reliant on the University, the studios must find an alternative source of funding within 4-6 weeks if they are to remain open.

The decision to close the art studios, which have been a feature on campus for at least 10 years, has been influenced by a budgetary shortfall within the University’s coming financial year. Estimates suggest that closing the studios would save around £10,000 annually.

However, an online petition has already been developed in opposition to this measure. It argues that the £10,000 is “a pretty insignificant sum compared to the significance of what the studios lend to the balance of what the University campus has to offer”.

Kenza Auniere, creator of this petition, has argued that the stu-

dios provide “a holistic learning experience at university rather than one based on economy and yield”, and enable “interaction between students/campus life and the wider York community”.

Furthermore, she added that the studios have a positive impact on “health and wellbeing...particularly mental health”. Rose Miller, commenting on the petition, wrote that “my sister has completely turned her life around and recovered from her depression since starting to use the studios”.

Others have also argued that the money required to keep the studios open is negligible compared to other investments. Barbara Beer commented to add that “shutting it down cannot be the answer to bigger financial problems when the Uni is investing elsewhere (new buildings all around)”. Auniere also asserted the studios were a counterbalance to “the heavy emphasis on academia and sports on campus”.

Tutor in Art Freya Horsley argued that the studios have had a “positive impact...on such a wide cross-section of the University community”, since they were used by students, staff and alumni. She argued they were a place for “creativity, for meeting people, for re-

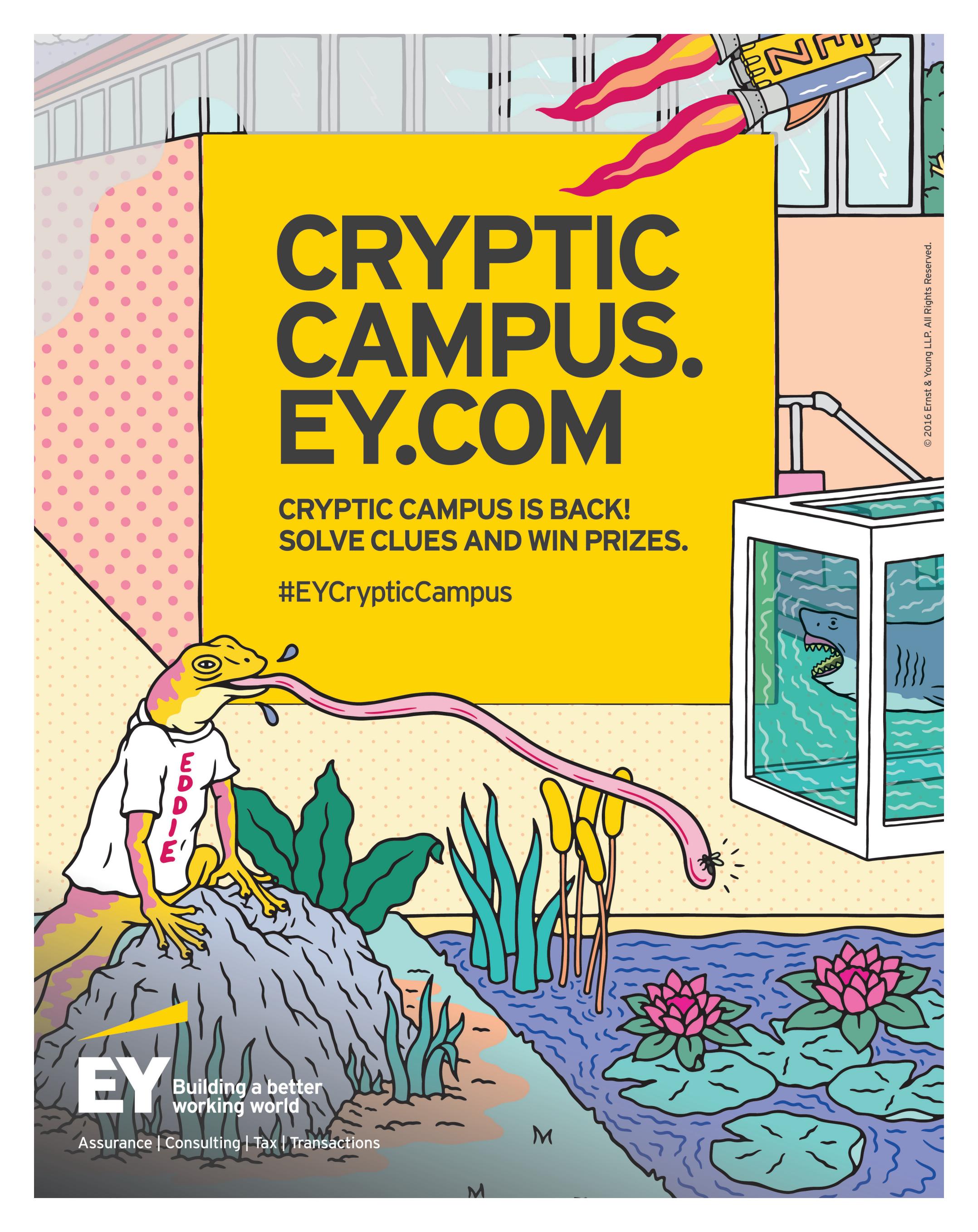
laxing, for learning new skills, for improving languages: the list goes on. It would be a grave mistake for the University to let this invaluable resource be wiped out for good.”

Talks are currently underway to decide the fate of the studios. The Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost met with student representatives from the Department of History of Art this week, in order to better understand their grievances and consider the best option.

David Duncan, Registrar and Secretary, commented “we are currently looking at the studios, but no decisions have been made as yet. We are keen to keep the studios open for students, but need to consider the level of investment in this area alongside other spending priorities.”

YUSU President Ben Leatham said: “The number of people who have signed the petition about the Wentworth Art Studios shows how important creative spaces on campus are.”

“I am currently in talks with students to find out how they use the space and with University staff to better understand their plans. I will be doing my utmost to ensure the University talks to students and considers all options before taking any action.”



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Cameron: "If you're a young black man, you're more likely to be in a prison cell than studying at a top university"

Race a factor in uni prospects, says PM

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

THE PRIME MINISTER David Cameron has claimed in an article for *The Sunday Times* that, "if you're a young black man, you're more likely to be in a prison cell than studying at a top university".

The comments were made in an attempt to show that, despite a drop in "blatant racism", in the Prime Minister's words, there are still "under the surface" layers of discrimination.

He went on to say that, "it's striking that in 2014, our top university, Oxford, accepted just 27 black men and women out of an intake of more than 2,500."

Whether the claims are true are still being debated. However, the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) stated that in 2013/14 some 2,655 black students from the UK were attending Russell Group universities. This compares to the

2,644 young black British men aged 18-25 in prison, the statistic provided by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Russell Group itself claimed that in 2013/14 there were 4,520 black British males at their universities, meaning that either statistic seems to prove the Prime Minister's wrong. Downing Street claimed that HESA were also the source of their figures and that they had interpreted the figure as 2,315. The wider debate, however, around ethnic background and wider university admissions is an ongoing and sensitive one. Despite more admissions to university, a number of students from certain backgrounds seem to go against this trend.

Young people from certain northern cities are, for example, less likely to attend university than their fellow students from London. According to statistics provided by the University, as of December 2015 some 3,615 students at York are members of the BME community. However, it is unknown how many of this group are young black males.

Oxford runs 'access event' for top school

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Oxford, one of the University of Oxford's 30 colleges, has been criticised for hosting Radley College, one of Britain's top independent schools, at an 'access event'.

The event was denounced by the college JCR, calling it "indefensible" and passing an emergency motion condemning it.

The prestigious Radley College is an independent boarding school for boys in Oxfordshire, with current fees set at £11,475 per term.

The college accepts boys from the age of 13 and encourages early registration that is permissible from birth. It is one of only four boys-only independent boarding schools in England.

The University of Oxford claims to be committed to outreach programmes, spending over £5.6 million on such projects and £7 million on financial support for "students from financially disadvantaged

backgrounds".

A University of Oxford spokesperson said: "Oxford University's colleges and central admissions teams undertake a range of what is broadly called 'outreach' activity, providing information and advice about our application and selection process, the overwhelming majority of which involves state schools.

"What we designate as 'widening access' work is work specifically targeting under-represented groups. We spend the vast majority of our time, energy and resources on this type of activity and do more than just about any university in the country to engage with state schools. However, like all universities, we also undertake a

certain amount of student recruitment activity that is designed to provide up-to-date information and advice about the admissions process to all students who might be able to make a competitive application to Oxford, whatever type of school they attend."



Students' campaign to remain in the EU gathers momentum

Ben Rowden & James Hall
NEWS EDITOR AND DEPUTY

A GROUP of student activists advocating the UK remaining in the EU are set to launch their campaign on 20 February.

The event will be held in London at the Institute of Education. NUS President Megan Dunn and Young European Movement President Susi Navara are both to speak, with training sessions provided by Britain Stronger in Europe, NUS and Universities UK.

The launch comes at a time when the debate around Britain's place in the European Union is heating up amid the prospect of a referendum in the next two years.

The group aim to promote Britain as a country with a future in the European Union and host a variety of events to do so. They see their main functions as education, correcting media 'anti-Europe bias' and to "inform companies about the benefits of Europe".

On 16 February the group will be attending a debate at Oxford Town Hall. Students on either side of the debate have a group to affiliate with. Students for Britain are the rival campaign group, advocat-

ing a fundamental change in the relationship between Britain and the European Union.

According to their own website, the group believes that the only way in which Britain can achieve fundamental reform with the European Union is to leave.

Statistics released by *The Telegraph* suggest that current national opinion is divided between



The number of British and German companies that would reduce or cut business with Britain should it leave the EU

49 per cent in favour of leaving the EU and 51 per cent for remaining within the EU, although there is doubt over the reliability of such polls after the failure of exit polls to predict a Conservative majority in the 2015 general election. David Cameron has promised to hold a referendum on Britain and the EU in 2017, although many believe that this will now be held in late 2016.

Conservative negotiations with European powers over Britain's current standing with the EU are still ongoing. Key points from the negotiations include: a recognition that sterling has an equal standing

to the Euro, the restriction of benefits to migrants, to limit closer ties with the EU, and the extension of the single market, while reducing regulation.

UKIP, the most prominent anti-EU political party, claims that after leaving the EU, renegotiation of trade deals would be a simple process given Britain's status as the fifth largest economy in the world. All three major political parties officially support the campaign to keep Britain within the EU, although there are divisions among Conservative MPs.

According to an article by *The Guardian*, almost one third of British and German companies claimed that they would either reduce their business operations in Britain or leave entirely, if Britain leaves the EU.

British turnout to the 2014 European parliament election was 35.6 per cent, compared to the 42.6 per cent European average. There are concerns that with such a low voter turnout, a large proportion of the British public aren't aware who represents them in the European parliament.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the campaigns, local groups, getting involved or supporting either of the groups should look to the respective websites.

The unfolding saga of Apple's 'Error 53'

Companies hiding in glass houses should avoid handing out bricks; Apple's exclusivity has led to chaos for uninformed customers



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

Martha Wright



Apple iPhone 6 and 6s users will have recently been advised to update their phones to the most recent operating system, but for some users this will have left their handsets permanently locked.

If they have had their Touch ID home button repaired by a third party (not including registered Apple resellers), after the iOS 9.2.1 update, 'Error 53' would appear. As a result, their phone would become 'bricked', rendering it a useless lump of metal and glass. This is permanent, with no fix, leaving the handset as effective for making calls and sending texts as a brick.

Apple is subsequently facing a lawsuit as a result of this incident due to the fact that customers received no prior warning. The Touch ID home button allows users to unlock their phone, as well as authenticating payments by using their fingerprint to confirm their identity. It has become central to the phone's security.

An Apple spokesperson has replied to allegations about the illegality of bricking the handsets without prior warning:

"We take customer security very seriously and Error 53 is the result of security checks designed to protect our customers. iOS checks that the Touch ID sensor in your iPhone or iPad correctly

matches your device's other components."

When your phone is repaired by Apple there is a 'pairing' between the Touch ID sensor and a 'secure enclave', and without this security malicious parties could have access to the secure enclave. Or so Apple says.

The technology giant are claiming that by getting the home button replaced by a third party,

“
The controversy lies in the exclusivity a consumer is forced to agree to

users may have breached security measures and that 'Error 53' was put in place for the benefit of customers as it is "necessary to protect your device".

But is the £236 expense for an Apple replacement home button justifiable for your security? Even worse for some, an Apple Store may be a long way from home, or may not even be in their country.

The controversy lies in the exclusivity that a consumer is forced to agree to when buying an iPhone.

Should the company be allowed to monopolise their phone repairs,

charging ridiculous prices, despite other companies likely doing an equally reliable, and more importantly, affordable, job?

The biggest annoyance, for many users, was the lack of warning. If told in advance that their phone would be 'bricked', it is more than likely that they would have gone to Apple for the repair.

But without knowing the consequences of getting the phone repaired by a third party, and believing the repair would do the same job, why should they choose to go with the cheaper option?

If other repairs truly do violate security measures, then what Apple have put in place is understandable. However, doing it without informing users that their phone will be bricked, and with no warning about the possibility of hostile parties accessing their information is unacceptable.

Worse still, some customers who have not had any parts in their phones replaced have also faced 'Error 53'. While Apple are asking these people to contact customer services, this might be a little difficult without a working phone...

Apple are constantly testing the water on how much they can get away with, trying to ensure that their customers are forced to rely exclusively on Apple. Despite the supposedly good intentions behind the current 'Error 53' saga, this is a very clear example of Apple's plans backfiring. This very public and potentially expensive mistake could turn even more users against the technology giant.

Donald Trump - more pantomime politics

The inanity of the GOP debates only serves to prove Trump's status as a professional wind-up merchant, not a serious politician

Anand Goyal



When it comes to the Republican presidential debates, there is always controversy; from Marco Rubio repeating the same 30 second speech 4 times in under five minutes to Donald Trump steamrolling almost every demographic that isn't white and male.

However, for the debate that took place in New Hampshire, controversy started before any of the candidates had spoken a word. This was due to Ben Carson and Donald Trump failing to appear when their

names were read out by the announcer.

Ben Carson, who seems to sleep even when he's awake, first stopped on his way onto the stage. Some analysts speculated this was him getting stage fright, perhaps a deer in the headlights moment, but I dismiss this. After watching the video a few times it is clear that, while he walks slowly towards the stage, he stops only when Ted Cruz's name is called. It appears he didn't hear his name being called over the cheers from the crowd.

The notion that he lost his bottle is contrived, considering he's taken part in multiple debates and speaks confidently to the crowd. If you want to question his commitment to his candidacy this isn't the way to do so. Perhaps instead you should point to the fact that Carson

went to Florida after the Iowa Caucus to get 'new clothes'.

However, I think a calculated decision was made when Trump didn't appear on stage. Instead choosing to stand next to Carson in the wings, hidden from view.

Trump is the alpha male figure in the Republican debates and this was just another way of showing it. Not wanting to be outdone by Carson, he stops beside him, holding his head high, making small talk as the other candidates meekly brush past. Jeb Bush shies away as he passes, which won't have done his (already weak) public image any favours.

Eventually, after the last curtain call, Carson did manage to take the stage. He was followed much later by Trump, who instead took two additional calls from the debate moderators before he decided to make

an entrance, yet again highlighting his unparalleled ability to find ways to assert himself as the dominant figure, and his predisposition to act like a child and seek attention.

It's clear that Trump wants to extend the amount of time that the spotlight is focused on him. It was odd to watch, almost

tense; would he walk on stage or boycott the debate like he did with the Fox News debate? He had no reason to do so, but this is Trump; little of what he says or does comes from principle, but simply a desire to win votes and entertain.

Because ultimately, that's what he is: an entertainer, and all entertainers need attention.

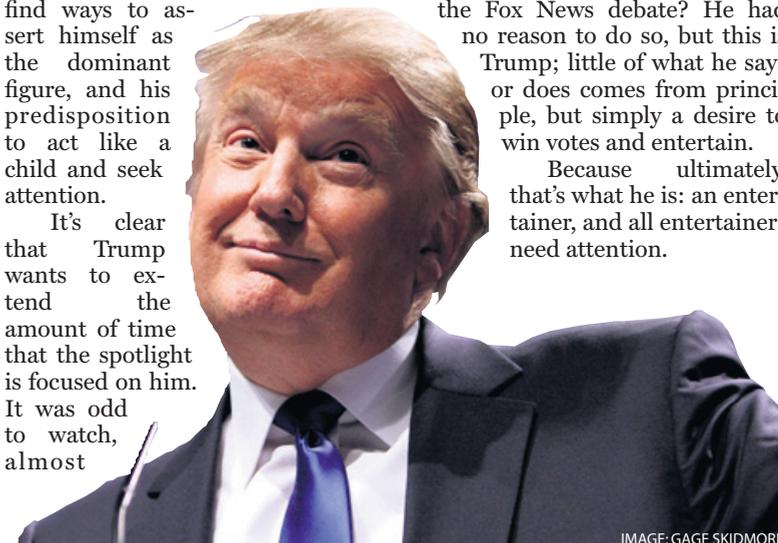


IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE



'See-Through Elections' by Maria Munir

More successful women deserve our recognition

Having Mary Somerville on Scottish banknotes indicates good progress

Julia Guy



Mary Somerville has been confirmed as the first woman other than a royal to appear on a Royal Bank of Scotland bank note.

Scotland held a vote to decide the new face of its £10 banknote. The Royal Bank of Scotland short-listed three people: scientist Mary Somerville, physicist James Clerk Maxwell and engineer Thomas Telford.

Women appearing on banknotes has been a hot topic in recent years. The decision to put Jane Austen on the English £10 banknote is one example. This followed a campaign led by journalist Caroline Criado-Perez in which she voiced her outrage and disappointment that Churchill was replacing female prison reformer Elizabeth Fry on the English £5 banknote. The campaign was met with vitriol on Twitter, including rape and death threats from those opposed to the addition of Austen.

Mary Somerville was a scientist in the 1800s who studied mathematics and astronomy and

was nominated to be the first joint female member of the Royal Astronomical Society. She played a monumental role in the discovery of Neptune, even though at the time female involvement in academia (particularly in the sciences and maths) was discouraged.

The competition has come at an appropriate time, with 11 February 2016 being marked as the first recognised International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Women make up only 12.8 per cent of the UK STEM workforce. Women entering the world of science and maths arguably have to work harder than their male counterparts to fight prejudice and gain recognition in these male dominated disciplines.

Women have been neglected in the world of work, especially in sectors such as mathematics, science and engineering. But more and more women have been championed for their involvement in these sectors, with organisations like WISE supporting women's representation in science. Another example is the recent L'Oréal -UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) scheme which awards women in the UK and Ireland for their outstanding work in the sciences.

Schemes like these recognise the disadvantaged position of women and work towards award-

ing women who are dismantling the traditional gender narratives of these academic disciplines, narratives like Nobel laureate Tim Hunt's. In 2015 he stated, "Let me tell you about my trouble with girls ... Three things happen when they are in the lab... You fall in love with them, they fall in love with you and when you criticise them, they cry."

However, we have to be wary; championing the work of women purely because they are women, can be problematic at times. Commending a woman for the specific reason that she is a woman belittles her work and achievements.

Selecting a woman on this basis just redefines her by her gender and reaffirms her subordination in society. Are we just selecting Somerville to represent diversity rather than to commend her for her discoveries and knowledge? There is a wider picture. It is not just about having more female faces on English and Scottish currency. Having Somerville on the note recognises women's rightful representation in sciences, influences more women to enter the world of science and challenges outdated notions of women's work and education.

She is an example of how much women can achieve in a society that continually deters their success. Women's work should be championed, just like anyone else's.

Banning a rape advocate is not true censorship

Views like Roosh V's have no place in society

Arabella Watkiss



The following is just one of Roosh V (Daryush Valizadeh)'s sexual encounters written in his 'Bang' Books: "In the middle of the night I got another boner, put on a condom, and jammed it back in while she was half-asleep. I came and passed out again with the condom still on my dick..."

The book's nothing more than the active advertising of rape, with passages describing sexual violence and the victimisation and rape of women.

The pro-rape and misogynistic views stem from Roosh V's belief that feminism has gone too far, and from repressed men who want a space to be masculine. Thus it has prompted the idea that a period of cultural hyper-masculine growth is necessary. Roosh V publishes various articles on his website "Return of Kings", the worst of which proposes that rape should be legalised on private property because, and I quote, "If rape becomes legal, a girl will not enter an impaired state of mind where she can't resist being dragged off to a bedroom with a man who she is unsure of." He claims this is a "satirical thought experiment", but it seems that his desire to legalise rape is not only serious but malicious.

Let us focus on the recent petitions calling for the banning of Roosh V from holding meetings around the world, and the fact that he cancelled meet-ups in cities around the UK because he couldn't "guarantee the safety" of men wanting to attend.

Many people have told me that despite his toxic and immoral

opinions, the notion of freedom of speech means we should hear his views and banning him from the country is therefore unacceptable. While I like to agree that freedom of speech is important, I prefer not to prioritise freedom of speech over the welfare of women (and men) both of whom would be at a greater risk of being raped after the circulation of Roosh V's

We remove from our society a place in which it is acceptable to spout pro-rape poison

thoughts. For a minority of men, Roosh V's views offer a space for those who feel their masculinity is under threat and they are being marginalised and ignored within a feminised society.

Personally, I don't believe that Roosh V should have the freedom of speech to spread such destructive messages. I ask you to think about this as an issue of race or religion; if there was advocacy of violence towards a specific racial or religious group, would we stand for that?

Additionally, there is a difference between freedom of speech and banning someone from the country. We are not robbing Roosh V of his freedom of thought and speech - he is easily accessible on the internet,

but we are removing his platform on which to preach these views. We are removing from our society a place for people to spout pro-rape poison. Freedom of speech is important to a point but we should not be granting a neo-masculine, misogynistic, rape artist a platform, no matter how much we believe in 'freedom of speech.'

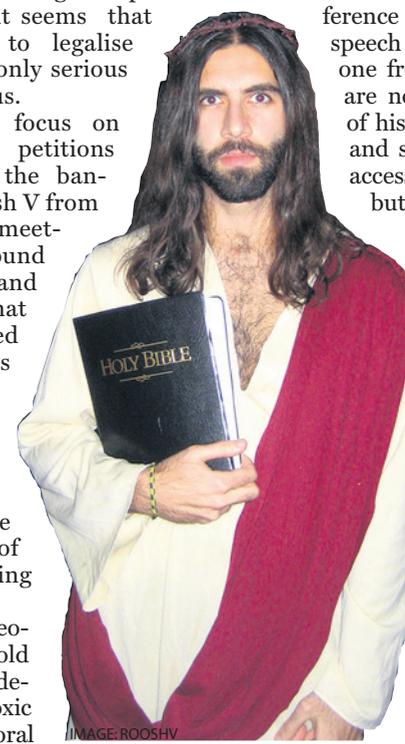


IMAGE: ROOSHV

EDITOR'S OPINION

May's reforms must be stopped

Ciarán Morrissey



From April, non-EU graduates in the UK will have to prove that they're earning £35,000 or more per year in order to stay in the country. The policy is nothing new - it was announced in February 2012, and was one of a raft of pseudo-hardline policies that the government announced to pander to UKIP-Tory swing voters. Yet despite the humiliation of Farage, the collapse of UKIP and the Lib Dems, and Labour's ouroborous-like infighting, the Tories see fit to implement the policy anyway.

So perhaps this isn't a vote-winner, it's a principled effort by a group of ideological conservatives to make the country a better place. If that's the case, then the situation becomes downright frightening.

Despite incessantly banging on about Bulgarians, Romanians (or whatever the EU punchbag du jour is) the aim of this policy is to make it harder for highly educated and highly skilled workers to stay in the country. Perhaps Theresa May genuinely believes the electorate will swallow this. It is difficult to overstate the magnitude of the stupidity here. This is the dishonest rhetoric of a party determined to be seen as tough on freedom of movement.

Why? Firstly, it's a policy only applied to graduates, and so it

does nothing to deal with low-or-unskilled immigration, which is both in far greater supply and has far more potential to cause displacement in the economy.

Secondly, it places an extortionate requirement on non-EU nationals to find themselves in very high-paying jobs (and high-paying jobs only) or hop on the plane home.

Thirdly, it will make us insular, isolated, and vindicate our reputation as a bunch of xenophobes. Look around either of York's campuses and you'll find a variety of students from all over the world. Many of them will return to their country of origin after they graduate, but many more will want to stay, to enter into the UK workforce, immigrate here, and become bona fide Brits. It is disgraceful that a Home Secretary desperate to be seen as tough, and to be seen doing something, anything, should deny them this opportunity in order to participate in a political pissing contest.

Not only is this policy beyond incoherent in what it hopes to achieve, it will unfairly privilege those from western, wealthy, white countries (i.e. the EU) over those from the wrong continent, with the wrong skin colour, or from the wrong section of the global economic ladder. Couple it with Prevent (and the inevitable racial profiling this will lead to), and we're heading back to the old internal Tory mantra of 'white face good, black face bad'.

In an increasingly globalised, diverse, multicultural, and connected world, shutting out international graduates from the UK workforce is both socially and economically criminal. It is deeply regressive, unpleasant, and must be challenged.



Being labelled amber hasn't spiked our speech freedoms

Why should we be downgraded for protecting students from harrasment?

Maria Munir



Nouse asked you how you felt about the University's downgrading from 'Green' to 'Amber' in Spiked's University Free Speech Rankings. You came back with echoes of disappointment at YUSU and the University in their commitment to the ambiguous value of free speech.

Why did Spiked cite our policy on harassment and the cancellation of International Men's Day for the downgrade?

98 per cent of respondents believed free speech at University was important or very important. It's protected under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 19 from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights further reminds us of "special duties and responsibilities" to ensure the "respect of the rights or reputations of others", with necessary restrictions for "the protec-

tion of ... public health or morals".

Our University has special duties. It's incomprehensible why anyone would view our University's harassment policy as limiting free speech. Yet, 36 per cent of students believed that the policy was an example of censorship, with a further 15 per cent remaining unsure.

Regarding International Men's Day, opinions are much stronger. 57 per cent of respondents believed the cancellation was an example of censorship. Only 10 per cent said they weren't sure. One person referenced the Pro-Life society existing despite heavy opposition, and another said that the University is "easily persuaded... to cancel events and speakers, rather than stand its ground for varied free speech".

So, does our University protect people or shut down debate? One student argued that "wellbeing" is disruptive to free speech. Another noted that the YUSU Media Charter interferes with student media, as it requires all content to be proofed by YUSU before being published. People hate being challenged on the grounds of wellbeing. Unfortunately, freedom of speech

does not guarantee that the way you are expressing your beliefs is truly freeing for all. Free debate respects other's welfare and right to life. If your manner of expression endangers people, rethink how to debate without infringing on people's ability to live.

The University made a mistake in its haphazard cancellation of IMD, but its refusal to host Milo Yiannopoulos was correct. Yiannopoulos and the Pro-Life society

Does our University protect people or shut down debate?

aren't the same. One intends to offend and harass, the other represents a view within YUSU society restrictions, and our harassment policy. If you believe free speech should allow for harassment, then I hope someone's there to speak for you if your safety is ever thrown into question.

Feminism must learn to challenge itself

In preventing debate to ensure the safety of minorities, is cyber-feminism acting as an obstacle to its own progression?

Lily Rawstone-Hannigan



Cuntry Living is a Facebook group, 'loosely affiliated' with the University of Oxford online feminist zine. Said zine is an impressive and self-aware feat, with multifarious discussions on society and feminist ideology packaged in Riot Grrrl graphics. The group on

the other hand epitomises the faux inclusive, hierarchised and pro-censorship movement that is widespread online.

The ethos of groups like these is to give marginalised voices a platform denied to them in society. This is a commendable and necessary idea for online liberation groups, but putting it into practice is problematic. When debates arise, members are removed on the grounds that they are silencing oppressed members. But how do admins judge who is 'more oppressed'? Do ad-

mins deem it progressive to silence some in favour of others?

When you venture into the cyber safe-space, the speech you are entitled to and its validity will be largely dependent on your oppression points. Your ethnicity and gender identity are likely to be assumed but be sure to declare mental illness(es), sexuality and molestation history at the check in desk for extra currency. This system is laughable at best, grossly offensive at worst. The overarching problem is that the platforms for debate and

'safety' are conflated. As it stands the two cannot successfully co-exist.

Motions that might exile you from this paradoxically exclusive feminist elite include suggesting that the sex industry owes to objectifying or subjugating women and questioning the limits or definition of cultural appropriation. Where the fourth wave excels is in acknowledging that there is not one category of women, trans* women, non-binary women, women of different races, religions etc. There cannot be one feminism. That forum admins

police speech from individuals from all backgrounds contradicts cyber-feminism's own terms.

Cuntry Living's Oxford roots imply its being comprised of people with access to hugely influential platforms. The idea of 'feminism' has survived in spite of its Westocentrism, transphobia and heteronormativity. In finally embracing what it has marginalised, feminism cannot lose its propensity to question. If feminism is to progress it must continue to challenge not just dominant ideology but its own.

Our club culture produces terrible toxic masculinity

The unspoken rules of 'chatting up conduct' are damagingly archaic

Luke Rix-Standing



In the midsts of first-year, I went out on a sports social and ended up in Salvo dancing with a girl I'd been flirting with for much of the evening. We moved away from the group and after a little dancing, I leaned in and kissed her, whereupon she was immediately dragged away by a friend. I was absolutely mortified: had I completely misjudged the situation? Did she have a boyfriend? Was the friend her only safe way out? Shaken, I headed out on the same social the following week only to be confronted by the same girl: "Thank God!" she exclaimed, "Sorry about last week, I thought I'd lost you!"

I don't frequent 'the prowls', but for those who do, the archetypal nightclub can be profoundly confusing. Men are generally expected to do the running; it can be extremely hard to judge the fine distinction between confident spontaneity and sordid sleaze. If you're too cautious, then nothing will happen. The fear of rejection will drain away, with some resolving to simply 'play the numbers'. We've all seen them: Salvo ground floor's horniest men who valiantly struggle on through snub after snub, living and dying by the law of large numbers. It's easy to call them 'perverts', but they're taking normal club behaviour and reproducing it on a larger scale.

For strangers to get together

at a club, the guy usually has to do something potentially inappropriate. The 'signals' are extremely easy to misinterpret, and through the drunken haze of one too many triples, it's still a percentage game.

The 'boy dances up to girl' construct is bad for everyone: it's intimidating for girls and confus-

So, overall, the 'boy dances up to girl' construct is bad for all

ing for guys, and puts a heavy premium on drunken, extroverted self-confidence. It's 'toxic masculinity' 101.

It plays into every traditionalist stereotype. Think Jane Austen: "Your beauty makes me forget myself!" declares our hero. It's good form for the man to excuse his poor social grace, but social rebellion is part of the expected performance. Eventually, after modest consideration with family members, the lady submits or declines.

It is in the supposed bastion of 'modern' liberated sexuality – the nightclub – that this narrative plays out week after week. Boy approaches girl, dances with/on her, substitute passion for drunken lust, family members for giggling friends, and after a brief interval she either accepts or rejects. The terminology has changed but the process itself is scarily similar; it is

perhaps when we strip away all the little civilisations of sober courtship that we display ourselves at our most unpleasantly traditional. It plays into centuries-old gender stereotypes: for men, confidence, control and no subtlety; for women, passivity, complexity, and looks. Like *Cosmopolitan*, it somehow manages to be sexist towards everyone. "The prowls", 'the hunt': all this stuff comes from the idea of a man and the ultimate goal of the prize, of him persuading, wooing or cajoling the woman into submission. She in turn is expected to be reactive, almost passive: it is in this rather odd twist that the sexually liberated woman is still expected to be 'ladylike'.

Obviously these are huge generalisations. Some women are as predatory as their most ferocious male counterparts, and things are slowly changing; the recent backlash against 'slut-shaming' has been a breath of fresh air. So lads, consider whether going 'out on the prowls' is actually daring and modern, or if you're just conforming to millennia of behaviour. Ladies should contemplate whether sedately awaiting your tequila-fuelled knight in armour is really the best path to a fulfilling night out.

These archaic structures of courtship reached their apogee in the 19th century, so it's suitably bizarre that it's in the nightclub that they're most strictly observed. So thanks Queen Vic for obnoxious clubbers, timorous clubbesses, and for Big Kev's outrageous lad pack. We are not amused. Time to move on.

EDITOR'S OPINION

Gaming and Islamophobia

Sam Lees



At the moment, the anti-Muslim, anti-refugee sentiment across Europe is only rising. With pitched battles between fascists and anti-fascists in Dover, and scaremongering on the part of David Cameron claiming that 'the Jungle' in Calais would come to the UK if we leave the EU, it feels like everyone is using refugees and Islam as a way to score political points.

Destructive Studios, a small game producer, has used Steam Greenlight to do just this. They have put together a game called *IS Defense*, where you play as a "NATO machine gunner" and must launch a "heroic defence" of "the Old Continent". The game's creators claim that it is their "personal veto against what is happening in the Middle East nowadays".

At first glance, as a simple game, it isn't that much worse than

the likes of *Call of Duty* where you're sent to heroically kill 'terrorists'. This game has a much darker sentiment, consciously and actively playing into the current anti-Muslim wave that has swept across the internet and through the tabloids. It is clear that the producers, knowing the power of controversy, are aiming for free publicity via popular hatred and racism.

You can see it in the comments on Steam, with user 'Doomandtheepain' saying "Remember Paris 11/13th you islamist shit of pig". Others suggested that extra content be added to the game involving sinking ships filled with refugees to ensure terrorists don't reach "the Western world".

While many would argue that the creators have the right to make the game, I would argue otherwise; if a game where you play as an Iraqi soldier defending against the American invasion were made, you'd immediately end up on anti-terror watch lists. Why should those inciting violence against Muslims through exploiting racist sentiment be immune to the consequences of their actions?

EDITOR'S OPINION

#OscarsSoWhite needs new focus

Luke Rix-Standing



First things first, America has a race problem. From police brutality in Detroit, neo-nazi rallies in Arkansas or Eminem and the 'n-word', we all know it's there. For anyone suggesting that racism in America is dead, I refer you to Donald Trump's polling statistics.

So what institutionally racist superstructure is on the menu? Job creation in minority areas? Perhaps we should look at the GOP, Fox News or the entire state of Utah? Wait...the Oscars?

There is racism in Hollywood, but I feel that the situation would benefit from some statistics. 13 per cent of Americans are African-American, while since 2014 African-Americans have had 14 per cent of roles. 3 out of 5 of the highest-grossing actors of all time are African-Americans, while they boast 30 per cent of the Best Actor winners in the 2000s. Contrast this with Latinos (17 per cent of the population, under 5 per cent of the roles, one 2000s nomination) and women (51 per cent of the population, 12 per cent of the protagonists

in 2014), and the focus on African-Americans becomes troubling.

Obviously statistics don't tell the full story, and when countless celebrities are all telling me there's a problem, then who am I to tell them that they're wrong. So who's to blame? The Academy?

Let's examine this critically. Will Smith in *Concussion* (an NFL movie that had no momentum pre-#OscarsSoWhite), Idris Elba in *Beasts of No Nation* (requiring no emotional range), Michael B. Jordan in *Creed* (a decent debut performance in what was effectively *Rocky VII*) and *Straight Outta Compton* (literally about its producers). Last year we had the almost criminal passing over of *Selma*, but this year the Academy made no such blunders. I feel bad for Leo – he's finally gonna win his Oscar and no one will care.

So yes, there's racism in America, there's racism in Hollywood, and there may be racism at the Academy Awards. But are African-Americans really the most under-represented group, and is it really the fault of the Oscars? Amplifying the grievances of just one minority and then foisting them on the Academy is a quick way of diluting what is clearly a serious grass-roots issue. Perhaps Spike Lee should shut up every once in a while.



IMAGE: KLUENS



Niall Whitehead
@NiallDoesYUSU

I think everyone here is a candidate or a student journalist, which might just be a metaphor for the whole process #YUSUElections

14 Feb 2016



Deborah Lam
@debthedaring

Most contentious issue of the night: the possibility of shutting the bar. #YUSUElections

14 Feb 2016



Huw
@Huwiverse

I finally got the live stream thing working for #YUSUElections, let procrastination from Semantics Formative Exam 2 Begin.

14 Feb 2016



Liam Dooley
@DailyDooley

Societies cards like sports cards for clubs? Wouldn't that effectively mean that every student could access it?

14 Feb 2016



Aaron and Isaac had some good policies but I wonder where the money is coming from for sports nutritionists and thrapists? Better get buying lottery tickets lads

16

A fresher is running for a full time officer...

9

Vote for me because my cousin did RAG!

28

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should MPs join junior doctors in sitting in parliament six days a week?

YES.

Robert Middleton



Before I begin, I should state that I am fully aware that the recent petition online calling for a six day week for MPs is clearly a jab at the policies of Jeremy Hunt regarding the working hours of junior doctors.

At the time of writing, the petition has amassed over 73,000 signatures. However, I am strongly considering signing it myself simply so I receive the begrudging response from parliament on the issue. And it would undoubtedly be hilarious to see how many MPs actually support considering the idea for a debate. I imagine the silence would be simply deafening.

The petition does make a good point, however. The Conservatives have made it very clear that they consider us to be "all in it together", so if that is indeed the case, should they not be considering revising their own working hours? They are expecting everyone else to work longer, and politicians are not hypocritical at all. Not one bit.

Furthermore, it has recently been announced that the number of MPs is to be cut from 650 to 600. "How is this linked?" I hear you cry. The loss of those 50 MPs is equivalent to the loss of 82,500 working hours by parliament per year. That means a lot of sitting down and jeering that will be disappearing into the dark, depthless void.

An extra day worked by the

current MPs would add 198,000 hours - assuming an average working day of 7.5 hours - and will more than make up for the deficit. Though perhaps we shouldn't tell them it's a deficit; things tend to get a little non-specific and shady when deficits are discussed by the government.

The extra 115,500 hours on top of that would ensure that the work is of the quality necessary for a good job. Everyone knows that the best way to ensure good work is to work for longer with fewer staff. If it's good enough for the NHS, it's good enough for our MPs, right?

This downsizing of the Commons is supposed to make the government fairer and more affordable. However, the appointment of over 200 new Lords, costing up to £300 per sitting each since 2010, suggests otherwise. If we really are to get value for money, MPs need to be working more to compensate for the inflated population of the House of Lords.

There's also the issue of prediction models suggesting that the Conservatives will gain 20 seats from the changes in constituency boundaries, but I am sure that is just a coincidence.

The reasons for MPs working Saturdays appear to be two-fold: to avoid being hypocrites and to ensure we get value for money from our government. I cannot see the government being moved to even consider thinking about the possibility of them working an extra day by these reasons. But why should they? Saturday isn't a working day. Not when your job doesn't concern saving lives, any-

NO.

Liam Mullally



The idea of MPs sitting in parliament on Saturdays doesn't take much scrutiny before it starts falling apart. Aside from the fact that another day of MPs legislating feels like it might do more harm than good, many of them use their Saturdays to hold surgeries and address the needs of their constituents. If anything, it might be advisable for some MPs to spend less time in Westminster, and more in their constituencies. The job of an MP is not just a nine to five stint in parliament; it will vary daily, and often infringe on their weekends anyway. I've called a lot of politicians a lot of things in the past, but the majority of them aren't lazy.

I also doubt that those behind the junior doctors' petition actually want to see parliament sit for six days instead of five. They're making a rhetorical point: just as it is clearly ridiculous to expect parliament to meet for another day, it is misleading to characterise the NHS as operating currently under a five day week. And, just as an additional day in parliament could only serve to harm constituents, a six day working week would only harm patients.

While my sympathies lie entirely with the junior doctors on the issue itself, the way in which the petition.parliament.uk petition was used is part of a worrying trend of misuse. However satisfying it might feel to force a parliamentary debate about a vote of no confidence for Jeremy Hunt for instance, the fact is that the petitions committee cannot

actually call a vote. In reality, all that occurred was a minor debate in the second chamber about staff working conditions in the NHS - there was never any genuine threat to Hunt's cabinet position, or to his policies. Other petitions from across the political spectrum, which have made it to debate, including "Block Donald J Trump from UK Entry" and "Stop All Immigrants and Close UK Borders until ISIS is Defeated", provoke a similar response. They're reactionary and unrealistic, serving as an easy outlet for public frustration. Often, and in this case in particular, the petition may as well read: "Jeremy Hunt is a prick".

Giving the middle finger to the Tory front bench, vicariously via petition or otherwise, feels good, but it doesn't achieve anything. The most dangerous thing about this petition, and others like it, is that it makes it easy to feel like you are contributing. It takes just a few minutes; you've signed, shown your disapproval for the government and you feel satisfied that you're doing something good. Except, in reality, nothing has changed. On Thursday, Hunt was still able to impose his new contract on junior doctors without their agreement. The petitions serve a double purpose for the government: they make it easier for them to not take parliamentary petitions seriously in general, and encourage a sedentary population who won't engage in more impactful forms of opposition.

For all its flaws, the petition.parliament.uk service is a valuable way of holding the government to account. However, when used as an outlet for frustration, not a genuine attempt to begin a parliamentary discussion, the petitions can work

#minstergram

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



@rosiegsm Yesterday's pre-concert rehearsal!
#York #university #universityofyork #bass #doublebass #bassist #music #musician #orchestra #beethoven #brahms #bruch ...



@uoy_grounds_and_gardens The Singing Stone #sculpture #sunshine #uniofyork #universityofyork #bluesky #uoy



@johannes.g97 Haven't posted any rowing related pictures in a while... #rowing #UYBC #UniversityOfYork #York #sport #NikonD5500 #Tokina1116 ...

Writers and illustrators wanted.

Ever wanted to make sense of your opinions and criticisms, uphold truths and hold powers to account? Do you have an enthusiasm for quality journalism? Have you always wanted to see your name in print? *Nouse* can help.

You don't need any experience to write for us. Just enthusiasm, a little commitment, and maybe a few ideas. You can dip in and out of writing as you please - there's no pressure to deliver on a quota or write for every edition. You can custom-make your experience as a writer for *Nouse* to your tastes. Want to write art reviews one week? You can. Fancy doing some news reporting the next? No problem.

Each section of our paper has a

Facebook group devoted to it - you can find them by searching Nouse Politics, Nouse Science etc. and requesting to join.

The editors of each section post ideas in their groups for writers to pick up on, or if you have an idea for an article you can message that editor yourself.

They'll be happy to answer any questions you may have to do with formatting or word length, and then you can get started.

It's very informal and very relaxed, and we encourage anyone and everyone to get involved - we're a paper for students, by students, and we can't have too many writers. We've got 150 pages a term to fill, and we want your help!

Anna
Sport

Jack
Muse

Chris
Editor

Holly
Sub-Editor

Ben
News



MUSE.



Life of the party

Bloc Party discuss their new sound

Editor's note



Muse Editor
Jack Richardson is
starting to get jittery

Ah, mid-term. That wonderful time when office hours start to fill up as everyone realises at the same time that they should really start getting a move on with revision and essay planning.

Spring term's iteration is always especially magical, however. If one cares to wander around the (increasingly packed) library, they can see on the faces of first-years the grim realisation that they no longer really count as 'freshers', on those of second-years that their degree is now half over, and on those of third-years that said degree might not materialise if they don't start getting a move on with dissertation planning.

If you, gentle reader, are one of the ones running about with their thinking caps on fire and want nothing more than to curl up and sob in a corner somewhere (or feel like you might be one of those people in the near future), then fear not. Bloc Party (M14) prove that reinvention is not only possible but positively necessary.

Perhaps your own could be affected by a trip to India (M4) or some volunteering next week (M18) to boost the CV which is really starting to feel important to those of us being stared down by Future Prospects. Maybe your future instead lies in theatrics, which is far from a dying industry here in York, as Arts (M7) have discovered. Your degree may die, but you shall live on and bloom like a beautiful flower or butterfly or any other simile that takes your fancy.

But it is possible that you've managed to avoid or at least quash the combined distractions of *Neko Atsune* (M12), painfully stylish TV shows (M8) and a rich and varied social life (the three are not necessarily mutually exclusive) and managed to reach this point with your work on track and your thinking cap resplendent in all its unburned glory. To you I can only recommend you take this supplement to read while waiting in line for yet another slightly pressured office hour where you can wow your tutor with some top-class Oscars trivia (M13) in the hopes of convincing them to let you stay long enough to discuss just one more essay idea.

Maybe once you're done with your expertly timetabled activities you can visit York's latest restaurant (M17) and celebrate your forthcoming success. That'll give the rest of us a chance to catch up.

Image Credits.

Cover: Bloc Party
Opposite, from top: Dan Butler,
Rob McConkey, Femi Oyeniran



“The young offenders challenged my perspective. I was able to see the human side”

Actor and filmmaker **Femi Oyeniran** talks to Muse about podcasts, democracy and working with young offenders

How did you get into acting and filmmaking?

I auditioned for *Kidulthood* when I was 17 - they had an open audition at my college. After that the casting director introduced me to an agent and I've been an actor ever since. I started filmmaking in 2008 - I graduated from my law degree and decided to go into acting full time so I took a gap year. I didn't get any work so I started writing and directing.

Tell me about your latest film, *Taking Stock*, and your character Sponge.

Taking Stock is about a down-and-out young lady, Kate (Kelly Brook), who loses her job, her boyfriend and her electricity/gas on the same day. She decides to rob the shop she works at on the closing day. However, she needs the help of my character Sponge to break the security system. Sponge is fun. For me, he represents young Britain - he lost his job in IT and has spent the past few months in and out of job interviews to no avail. He has the hots for one of the girls that works at Kate's shop so he is always there.

What have been your greatest challenges in your work as an actor and filmmaker?

My greatest challenge as an actor has been consistently staying motivated and believing in my ability to 'make' it to the level that I envision in my head. I want to star in great work consistently and it's hard when I'm not doing this or working towards it. I want to work on things that challenge the world around me and more importantly, work that stands the test of time. I find it challenging when I'm not doing this. I also find it chal-

lenging when other actors get roles or go for auditions that I have not been given opportunities to even know about.

As a filmmaker, my main challenges are the same as every other filmmaker: raising money to make films, ensuring my film is properly distributed and making my investors their money back. My other challenges are trying to make sure I pick the right films that say something new about the world or touch on new ideas as well as being commercial.

You also run a web-based panel called *Cut the Chat*, a current affairs online panel show for young people. What are its aims and outcomes?

Cut the Chat is a platform for discussion of trivial as well as serious issues. At the heart of it is a need to create a platform for the male voice. We now do podcasts, which I think are really fun. Podcasts are the future. Check it out on iTunes and Soundcloud. It's really funny - the panel consists of myself, Ace (BBC 1 extra DJ), Littleman (comedian) and Damon (celebrity barber).

Alongside film, you've worked with young offenders institutions. What are your motivations for this work?

I really like working with young people at any stage of life. I have been a workshop leader in schools, colleges and universities. When I got the opportunity to teach film to young offenders, I couldn't turn it down. The young people challenged my perspective in that I was able to see the human side of these so-called 'criminals.' They also produced some great films that were used within the prison

and showcased at events.

What drew you to working with young offenders specifically?

I was given the opportunity to work at a young offenders institution to do a Black History Month talk once. I was apprehensive but was surprised at the interest and enthusiasm of the prisoners I was working with. Later the staff member responsible for extra-curricular provisions asked me to join up with another filmmaker who was starting a weekly filmmaking workshop with the aim of training the prisoners to make films. I truly enjoyed working with the young people. That was what kept me doing it for the 18 months that we did.

You've given a TEDx Talk on democracy. Given last year's general election and upcoming Student Union elections at universities, why is it important that young people use their democratic voice?

People have died for the right to vote! I lived in Nigeria during a dictatorship; even though I was young, I remember people feeling stifled within the system. I think democracy, although sometimes flawed, is a system that we should be proud of, but it's only valid when it represents the people. If the people don't partake in democracy or our leaders have a limited mandate then they are not representative of the full scope of opinions and cannot truly claim to represent the people. The only way to influence society is to vote and hold our leaders to account.

Interview by Lucy Furneaux

Dancing in the heat

After her experience on the Study India Programme, Charlotte Mullis ventures to the heart of an ever-changing culture



IMAGE: INDOGENIUS

What's the first thing that comes into your mind when you think of India? Is it curry and the Taj Mahal? Is it elephants, monkeys and snake charmers? Or is it something more sinister, like misogyny and poverty? Throughout my month in India I encountered all of these, but my India - what I believe to be the real India - is so much more.

India to me is a country of over a billion voices combining to create one nation, where diversity is not only accepted, but celebrated. It is industry and economic growth, where

monasteries of the Himalayas, the peaceful back waters of Kerala. It is palaces, temples, mosques and fortresses, rainforests and rivers, mountains and monuments. It is a bright smile, an ocean of faces, a flurry of jet black hair. It is infinite, impossible, incredible, and extraordinary.

My journey to India began as a fluke, a random click on one of a hundred adverts we scroll past every day. Within minutes I found myself hurriedly filling out an application the day before the deadline for a programme I was unable to explain. The British Council-funded Cultural Immersion Generation UK Study India Programme (SIP) may not have a particularly succinct title, but it was an opportunity that I couldn't miss.

Within a few months I found myself in Delhi International Airport after a nine hour flight with no sleep and incredibly awful food, but it didn't matter. The first day of the programme was much like Freshers' Week, tentatively walking up to a group and trying to fit into the conversation.

After a couple of hours I'm sure the other 150 students were as sick as I was of answering, "What's your name?" "Where are you from?" "What university do you go to?" It quickly became apparent that not only was I one of the youngest participants, most of whom had already graduated, but I seemed to be the only person from York. Upon speaking to my peers, I discovered how lucky I was to have found that advert. For just the cost of a flight and visa I was embarking on this incredible experience.

Those who attended the southern universities, particularly London institutions and Oxbridge, all knew someone who had previously participated or had an ambassador come to their university to give a promotional

talk. I was therefore unsurprised that I did not meet another University of York student throughout the entire programme.

We were welcomed to Delhi in true Indian style. Having been divided into our teams, we were presented with colour-coded head-scarves or turbans, bindis and garlands of bright gold chrysanthemums and ushered into the street. Waiting for us were dancers and a full Indian steel band who accompanied us as we too danced down the road to the local Hindu Temple for a Havana ceremony in the style of an Indian wedding. Traffic stopped to let us pass, children ran to join in, and market salesmen stared in astonishment as a parade of 150 British students infiltrated the everyday morning routine in the outer suburbs of Delhi.

Staring is something you quickly learn to live with in India. When visiting world-famous religious sites, for the Indian tourists we were often a more interesting attraction than the monuments themselves. I lost count of the number of photographs that Indian women asked me to be in with their children because I was white and female.

Living in a multicultural society such as Britain it's easy to forget that some people may never have seen someone white outside of the media, especially in the rural areas which remain untouched by the tourist trail. It was a fascinating insight into cultural difference as we took a rickshaw through the streets of Old Delhi and saw a line of over a hundred men crouching in a queue along the side of the road, waiting to receive a single chapatti.

As we photographed this extraordinary sight, the men themselves were pointing, waving, and taking pictures of us. While being given a talk on the impact of the Brit-

ish Empire on India at Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque), several young Muslims also gathered to listen; they were eager to learn, either through what we were discussing or simply by watching us.

It was in observing these young men that I began to see the new India, bursting to life

“

The British Council wants to send 25,000 UK students to India by 2020

in the 21st century. In the Sikh Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, we sat inside the prayer hall and observed those who had come to worship, marvelling at the elaborate decoration and enjoying the music. There were many who you would consider traditional Sikhs, with beautiful veils, long white beards and regal turbans, but more fascinating were the young men. They came in groups wearing skinny jeans, fitted shirts, and temporary bandana-style head-scarves in vibrant colours and patterns. Here was the 'traditional' India coming together with an India of a different age to pray together. I realised that as India accelerates into the modern world, it will always remain grounded.

We met this new generation during our three days at Gargi College at the University

“ As India accelerates into the modern world it will always remain grounded

innovation and entrepreneurship is found at every corner. It is the flash of a shining crimson sari, the jingle of a woman's anklet combining with endless joyful music and beautiful spontaneous dancing. It is heat and spice and colour and flavour, an explosion of the mind, an assault on the senses. It is the burning of incense on funeral pyres, rose petals dancing on the breeze, women washing clothes in lakes brimming with lotus flowers. It is the parched plains of Rajasthan, the soaring skyscrapers of Mumbai, the humble

of Delhi. Gargi is a highly academic all-girls college, where students are incredibly driven and ambitious. Every girl I spoke to was studying a science and wanted to go to the

to talk to them and discover how they came to be in Delhi, or their reasons for travelling to Mumbai. Railways make travel within India possible for the masses. In third class you can get from one end of the country to the other for less than a pound. This opens up a multitude of opportunities for the 30 per cent of the 1.2 billion people living in India who are still classed as 'poor.'

Travel and traffic in Mumbai was something that we experienced first-hand on an early morning bike ride. We aimed to see the city as it awoke, cruising through the deserted streets at 5 am, absorbing the amazing view of India's commercial capital at dawn. It was a couple of hours later as we entered the markets of Mumbai that the problems began to arise: losing each other in the fish market, dodging rickshaws laden with half a dozen children on a school run, and avoiding cows in the roads.

We were very privileged to be taken on a tour around Dharavi, infamously the largest slum in Asia with one million people living in one square mile. The term 'slum' simply means government-owned land; consequently many Dharavi residents are being unfairly evicted in order for the government to develop the profitable real estate.

people in a 10m squared area, there is usually a gas stove, electricity, and a working fridge and television.

With 60 per cent of Mumbai's population living in slums Dharavi is an area with a comparatively thriving economy, comprising of over 20,000 small businesses; between them these produce an annual turn-over of close to one billion US dollars. These businesses employ 80 per cent of the residents, while the majority of others work as hotel workers, taxi drivers and police officers. Everyone has a job to do in order to make the community successful; without this work ethic, it would struggle to survive.

Through the SIP I have made friends for life, both from other British universities and the students that I met in Delhi. Had I been on the standard tourist trail I would have experienced just a fraction of what I was able to on the programme, and the British Council is investing millions of pounds into ensuring that you can have the same experience; they hope to send 25,000 UK students to India by 2020. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime; whatever you think of India right now, what it really has to offer is infinite, incredible and extraordinary.



IMAGE: INDOGENIUS

We were dancing in the street in 38 degrees and 80 per cent humidity

UK to complete a Masters and PhD before returning to India to pursue their careers. To them, a bachelor's degree means relatively little and their undergraduate comprises more of a sixth form experience. In this way Gargi College reminded me of my all-girls secondary school, with hand painted posters on the walls, girls dancing in the corridors, professors called teachers and timetabled lessons before returning to their family homes.

While the girls were similar to us, open and effervescent, their university life was very different. However they were all clearly incredibly proud to be a member of the college; they showcased it fantastically and were magnificent hosts.

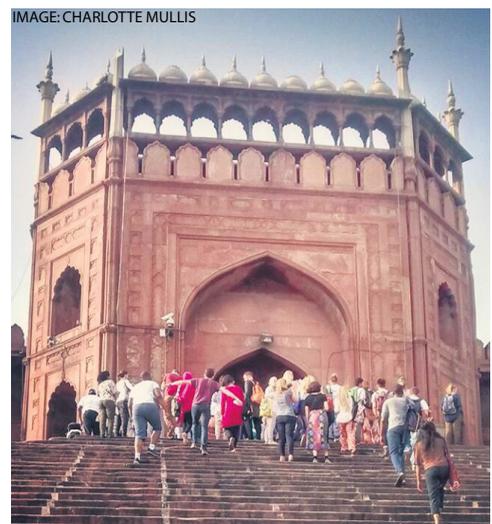
I quickly learned that dancing is part and parcel of being in India, and not something to shy away from. From our very first day when we were dancing in the street in 38 degree heat and 80 per cent humidity, we didn't seem to stop. We were pulled onto the stage at Gargi College, joined in with a dance PE lesson at a school visit, and spontaneous Bollywood moves ensued in competition with the coach next-door.

As ambassadors of the British Council in India we were invited to an event at the Delhi High Commission and traditional Indian dress was not optional. This culminated in some frantic sari shopping, blouse fitting, and draping, particularly for those of us who were chosen to perform our dance before the Council themselves - we had to drape, undrape and re-drape at the venue, which is no mean feat. No one felt uncomfortable or offended by our clothing or accused us of cultural appropriation; it was our symbolic cultural embrace of India.

The British Council event ended the first week of the programme, and with it our time in Delhi. In order to reach our second location, Mumbai, Indogenius organised for us to take the 17-hour sleeper train down to the west coast of India. Despite a two-and-a-half hour delay in the sweltering heat playing Uno, this was one of the most enjoyable and memorable parts of the trip.

A carriage comprised of about 10 open compartments, each of which slept eight on triple bunk beds. We took up the majority of three carriages but there were a small number of Indians dotted among us. It was fascinating

IMAGE: CHARLOTTE MULLIS



Here was the traditional India coming together with an India of a different age to pray together

A city within a city, Dharavi is one unending stretch of narrow, dirty lanes, open sewers and cramped huts. In a city where house rents are among the highest in the world, Dharavi provides a cheap option for those moving to Mumbai to earn their living. Rents here can be as low as 185 rupees (under £2) per month. Even in the smallest of rooms, housing 10

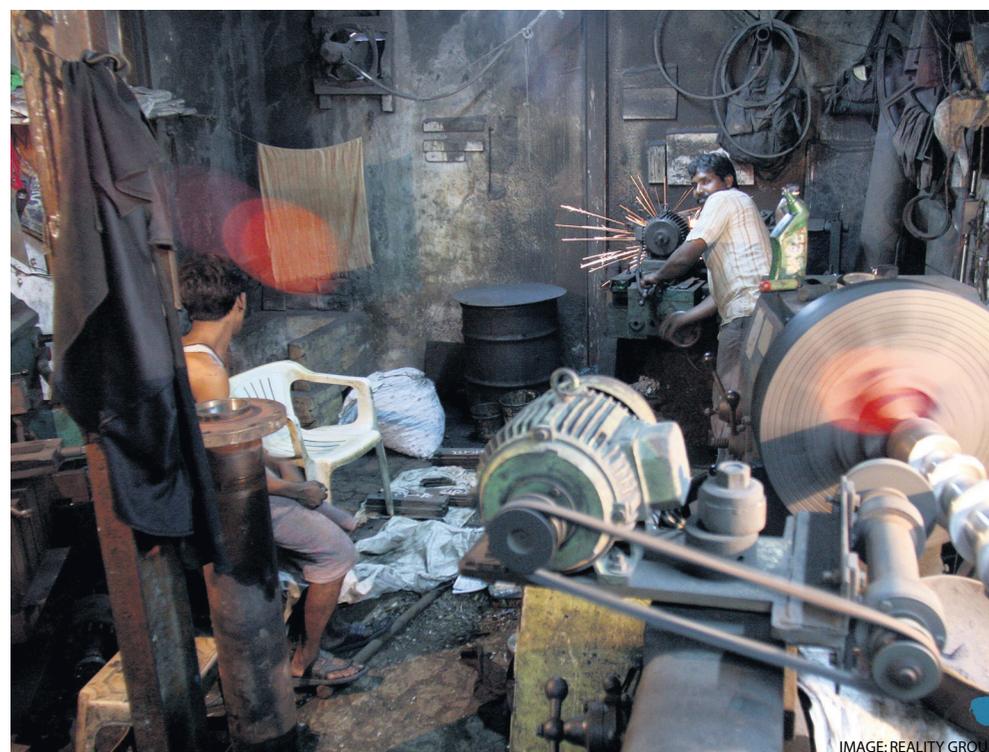


IMAGE: REALITY GROUP



IMAGE: EMMA WHITE

A long Wei to go

Munisha Lall discusses artist and activist Ai Weiwei's responses to the refugee crisis

The ongoing refugee crisis is appalling. The general rhetoric towards refugees by governments is dehumanising. The response from a number of European nations has been inadequate. Scaremongering is fraught and sympathy feels hideously lacking. We should be ashamed.

Our own prime minister's language towards refugees is unpleasant to say the least. Cameron not only fails to acknowledge a desolation that we are unlikely to ever come close to experiencing, by describing those fleeing their country as 'swarms', but he also has the audacity to dismiss those in Calais as 'a bunch of migrants' on Holocaust Memorial Day. Meanwhile, Denmark recently passed a law enabling it to seize valuables from refugees seeking asylum in the country. The law, which has been met with much-deserved anger, empowers authorities to confiscate valuables worth more than £1020. Although items of sentimental value are exempt (which in itself is a blurred marker of distinction), everything from laptops to watches can now be seized by law.

The justification, according to Danish government, is that these valuables will go towards covering the expenses of their upkeep. This kind of rhetoric undoubtedly has dangerous, divisive implications, and somehow, the law manifests itself as an attempt to deter refugees from seeking asylum in Denmark, as opposed to addressing the plight of those fleeing their home. Further to that, Switzerland and Germany recently passed similar policies, which has also been met with disappoint-

ment towards the lack of one basic necessity: a common humanity. The impetus of confiscating valuables from refugees comes from a very physicalised, and very ignorant assumption that money and safety are mutually exclusive. The policy, inevitably, leaves much soul-searching for these nations.

Ai Weiwei, Chinese artist and activist, shares this sentiment. He is the creative talent who has made his name through his clashes with Chinese authorities as well as through his art, and he is now using his public profile to raise awareness of the Syrian refugee crisis with a contentiousness that is admirable. The

“ It is the activists and creative thinkers who spring-board a response to the plight of refugees

dissident Weiwei has expressed his regret towards the Danish parliament for choosing “to be in the forefront of symbolic and inhuman politics”, and off the back of Denmark's dogma of submission, he closed his Copenhagen exhibition in a mark of retaliation.

In December last year, Weiwei visited a

camp at Lesbos and posed for pictures with the people there on his Instagram, in addition to setting up a studio on the Greek island which will produce projects about the refugee crisis under a number of thematic umbrellas. It is a crisis that has left an estimated 4.3 million Syrians displaced.

More recently, Ai Weiwei has relied on the galvanising capability of his art to marry the hideous reality of the refugee crisis with his shock-factor upon audiences, in recreating the image of drowned Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi who horrifically washed onto a beach near Bodrum, Turkey, after his family's boat capsized as they attempted the perilous journey that unremittably takes place every single day. Weiwei wants to spearhead debates about why the general trajectory of response to war-torn Syria is rooted in self-importance, by curating art that is anything but self-important.

It is the activists and creative thinkers who spring-board a response to the plight of refugees, and here it is at its most transmittable, most harrowing, and most thought-provoking.

Those fleeing their country

are not necessarily poor, and Ai Weiwei is reminding us of that fact in quite stark terms. The people that are now displaced were the teachers, doctors and artisans that have witnessed their country turn to political turmoil and become an uninhabitable warzone.

These people are fleeing fundamentally for their safety, something which seems to be misunderstood. We are best judged by the compassion we show, and Ai Weiwei acknowledges that. An adequate response to the refugee crisis by our governments is long overdue, but art can certainly build these bridges in the meantime.

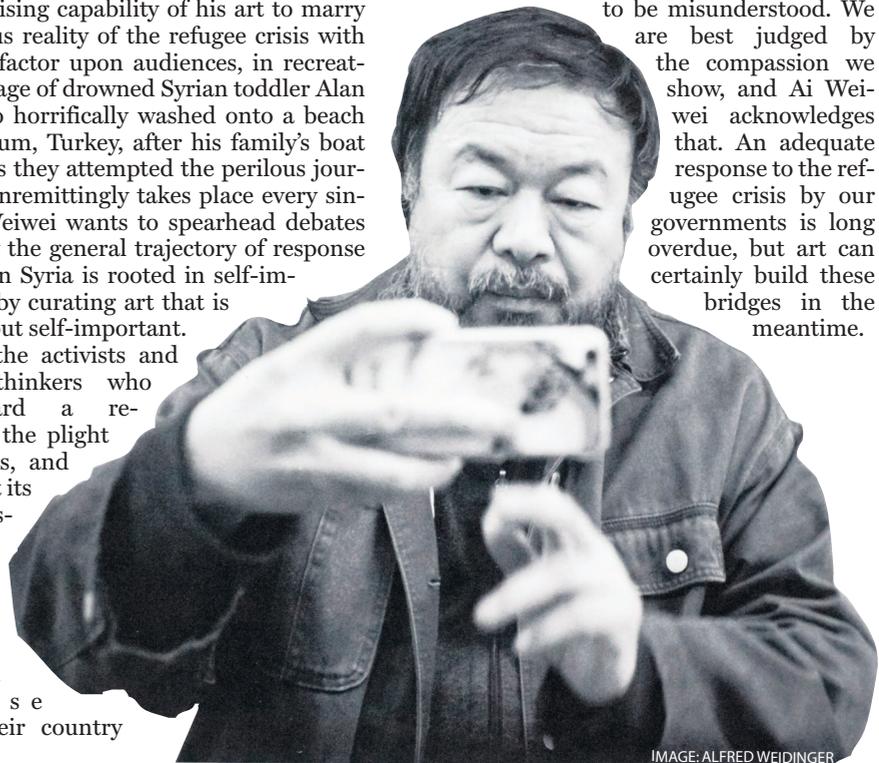


IMAGE: ALFRED WEIDINGER

Cutting corners

In light of the V&A's recent decision to hire all staff under their private wing, Holly Woolnough discusses the government cuts to arts funding

When York Art Gallery reopened in 2015, the introduction of an entry charge was not met positively. A staff member recalls one occasion when they were told that the price increase prevented a visitor and their children from exploring their heritage and another when a York resident's card was thrown at them in anger. For some people, the cost is simply too much.

Sadly, up and down the country similar actions are limiting the availability of culture and the arts to the general public. Earlier this month, the V&A announced plans to privatise all staff contracts, signalling a move away from the public sphere that makes the arts more accessible. On the same day, it was announced that the Royal Photography Society's collection, currently housed in Bradford, would be moved to the V&A. This move highlights the evident southern-centrism, and means that even if you have the money to enjoy culture, you might simply not live in the right place. Apparently the right place is London.

The root cause of these changes is the Conservative budget, which aims to cut spending by £37bn by 2020, which includes limiting the UK's access to culture.

Culture is an essential part of modern society. It enhances people's lives, educates the uninformed and creates a more diverse and en-

gaged population. In the UK we are privileged enough to have access to a wide range of cultural events and spaces, including but not limited to theatres, galleries, music venues and museums. What use are these when they are locked behind barriers that are only opened by those with enough money to gain access?

The beauty of the arts is that you don't have to have anything in order to appreciate them. Anyone can enjoy and engage with

“ Culture educates the uninformed and creates a more diverse and engaged population

culture, regardless of education or any other social factor, and it brings together all sectors of society. Budget cuts stop this engagement and put in place a prerequisite for enjoyment of the arts: money.

What once could, and should, be enjoyed by all is slowly being converted into yet another elitist establishment, open only to those privileged enough to gain access. Budget cuts ultimately divide people, mainly into those who have and those who have not. For those

who have not, culture used to be a form of enjoyment regardless of income or social status. Now that too is being taken away.

Lack of access to culture doesn't just stop people appreciating it; it hinders people's creative ambitions. With an education system that is increasingly focused on subjects that have more stable job prospects, such as those in the sciences, little emphasis is put on the possibility of creative pursuits. When coupled with depleted access to the arts, many young people who have immense creative potential will simply never be exposed to the possibilities of what they are capable of. Exposure to the arts inspires people, yet privatisation reduces the potential for this.

It is easy to dismiss culture and the arts as frivolous and something that should not be prioritised at a time when savings need to be made. However, culture genuinely improves people's quality of life. It can be a welcome distraction from the struggles of the modern world, or it can engage with political issues and offer a way for just about anyone to express their emotions in their chosen form. Above all, the arts make people happy. Whether it's seeing your favourite play performed live or being exposed to an artist who makes you feel things you didn't know were possible, culture inspires, educates and enhances people's lives. It is a crime if that is taken away from anyone.

ARTS FUNDING CUTS EXPLAINED

Perhaps unexpectedly, the government have actually promised to increase funding to Arts Council England and museums between 2015 and 2020, with an expected rise of between 1 and 2 per cent. However, arts funding, particularly regional arts funding, is still suffering as a result of other governmental cuts.

Local Councils, who face a 6.7 per cent funding cut between 2015 and 2020, are responsible for the upkeep of many smaller museums, galleries and theatres. This is the reason that, for instance, York Art Gallery began charging the public for entry when it reopened last year because Council funding to the York Museum's Trust had been cut. As general funding is cut, arts and culture all too often bear the brunt of cost reductions so as to leave other services like policing or healthcare (relatively) untouched.

As well as the £500,000 reduction in funding to the York Museum's Trust, 2015 saw a £50,000 reduction to library funding from the council.

The problem is explicitly regional. Last year the Museums Association's survey reported that one in five regional museums had experienced at least partial closure. At the same time, one in ten regional museums expect to have to follow in York Art Gallery's stead and introduce entrance fees.

One foot in the grave

The crew of experimental production *A Matter of Life and Death* talk to Ella Barker about York's independent and underground theatre



Sam Hill is a man exempt from *The Mousetrap's* enduring popularity. “[It’s] been going for like 70 years... Why?!” he asks sardonically. Entering its 64th year, Agatha Christie’s murder mystery play is in fact making the rounds with its diamond anniversary tour, visiting York later this year. Yet Hill makes a valid point. “We need new stuff”, he argues emphatically.

Golfo Migos and Joseph Willis seem to agree; the latter lambasts regional theatre for forever relying on what sells. “Like you’ve always got to do a panto to make your money. But then once you’ve made that money, you’ve got to be able to take risks.” Whether it is their subject matter or the experience of putting on a play itself, a willingness to gamble is a trait you cannot deny of Hill and his enigmatic crew.

We meet on a dreary Thursday afternoon to discuss *A Matter of Life and Death*. Written by Fred Rosen, Hill is directing the play, with Migos producing and Willis heading up marketing. Crowded round a table-for-two at the back of a fashionable coffee shop on Fossgate, our surroundings seem appropriate for the kind of upcoming independent theatre they’re keen to promote – not to mention Hill’s canny choice of location in Orillo Studios. A kooky venue situated off Heslington Road, it is the home of Orillo Productions, an enviable York born company that specialises in making eclectic and engaging films. Hill’s own contacts there and Orillo’s glowing reviews by fellow theatre company The Antigone Collective espoused it as their location of choice. “It’s a great venue – we need to import the seating but other than that...” Hill trails off.

Venturing beyond the confines of campus seems key to this production. Looking to bridge the gap between York’s permanent and part-time residents, Willis broaches a lack of “coalescence”: “students...stay in the student area, locals stay in the local area... And it’s kind of helpful [having] these really small brilliant little spaces like Orillo and The Fleeting Arms, you get both the mixture of the audiences and they get to both interact.” Hill quips in, “York’s got a massive theatre community, which could come very close to the student community if people work for it.”

A yearning to escape the hackneyed mainstream appeal is partly down to the

burgeoning number of students, thinks Willis. Many have stuck around in the area to try their hands at multiple theatrical endeavours. From the domineering ‘big venues’ of three years ago when Willis and co. arrived to the myriad options of today. Not Cricket Productions recently put on a promenade performance of *A Christmas Carol*, while ex-student Alex Wright of The Flanagan Collective headed up an immersive production of *The Great Gatsby* at The Fleeting Arms throughout December, whereby the audience was free to roam and watch what they wanted. It all comes back to Willis’ remarks on the lack of theatrical risks nowadays. With *Gatsby* “that’s something that I don’t think York Royal or the Barbican would do”, he says.

But that’s not something that Hill’s crew are afraid of. This intrepid company is characterised by its tenacity and self-sufficiency. Hill insists that “we literally started on nothing, as in we had nothing” – not even a script. *A Matter of Life and Death* were successful in securing sponsorship from DramaSoc, but even that is part of the “campaign and process” notes Migos: a process that involved locating a venue and its seating, and raising the money for all of their production costs. “We could have not got that and had to do another load of fundraising.” It’s humbling to see

Hill slightly surprised and genuinely proud of what his company has achieved, even before the play opens: “We’ve gone from nothing to having a show and I couldn’t have done that without any of these guys.”

Indeed, this process of “nothing to everything” is what makes them distinct and why Hill urges people to come and see their show. Discussing the success of British theatre company Punchdrunk and their “core vision” in pioneering the use of immersive theatre, Migos is encouraged that they were “at our stage at one point”.

If the company’s hard graft is anything to go by, the play will be a resounding success. Still, all are quick to acknowledge the northern community spirit so visibly palpable during the flooding over the festive period. Free from both the University’s ‘official boundaries’ but also their ‘safety net’, Willis voices a concern that “everyone’s going to shut their door on you. The nice thing about York”, he says, is that “there are so many different places willing to help and promote”, citing how efficient Fulprint (a local printing company) were in producing the play’s posters. Hill seems similarly indebted to the generosity of Heslington Church in lending the show 17 pews for the audience to sit on, and somewhat relieved that they’ve raised enough money to hire a van to transport them all.

On the subject of church pews, Hill jokingly assures me that the fact they were free wasn’t his only motivation for hiring them. As its title suggests, the play confronts our impending mortality, taking place as a conversation between two friends. Paul is Death and has the job of telling Simon that he’s going to die and helping him to prepare for it. Hill is keen to liberate the subject of death from what he sees as society’s “tropic and categorised” approach by reorientating this difficult issue as both strangely familiar but also oddly mundane. This is where his unconventional choice of seating comes in. Orillo Studios is a converted chapel, he tells me, and by mimicking the backdrop for a funeral through the use of pews, Hill can “marry the two major themes and settings of the play” together.

Adjusting how their audience

think about death goes hand-in-hand with altering who comes to see their production. Migos is astute on how far our coping mechanisms towards terminal illness have come in recent years: “Nowadays, it’s more ‘let’s see how we can cope with this’ and see different ways, and making it out in the open. I’m

The Mousetrap's been going for like 70 years. It's time for something new

a firm believer that this play will help that kind of thing.” In this sense, as Hill tells me, friendship is vital to the dynamics of their performance. Paul and Simon are “also just two friends who like to drink beer and chat about girls and stuff like that. It’s nice, it’s a lovely play.”

Bridging both these gaps in perception and attendance reiterate why “these really small brilliant little spaces” are so important to the city’s underground arts scene. “It seems to be that venues are popping up all over,” says Migos – enthused by a new black box styled space opening above the Crescent in town, and exactly why she perceives York to be ever more desirable and “feasible” than London. If this is a sure sign of things to come, then the city is in for a theatrical smorgasbord throughout 2016. M

A Matter of Life and Death is on at the Orillo Studios between 18 and 19 February. Tickets can be purchased through www.yusu.org.



IMAGE: LIAM MULLALLY

Facial awareness

Munisha Lall discusses the implications of treating makeup as an art form



Makeup is intrinsic to some and eschewed by others. It can be a tool for accentuating the beauty of a person's natural features, for aesthetic experimentalism and artistic expression, and as an extension of one's personality. It's an ever evolving medium that can minimalise or galvanise, it can be performance art or a façade, and used to reflect a person's own persona or to create an entirely new one. At what point, then, does makeup become regulated and gendered?

The general trajectory of cosmetics in recent decades has been one that has seen a myriad of incarnations, from boyish uniformity, modest conservatism, an era of choice, and everything in between. There is some unsettling perversity, however, about the ways in which cosmetics are actively targeted towards, modelled by, and created with a certain demographic in mind. Surely cosmetics as a faculty ought to also read between the lines, and have the capacity to rouse a more diverse audience. With this in mind, what possibilities does the war-paint landscape offer us if we view diversification as a requisite?

Starting with makeup as an art form, the avant-garde auteur and general lovechild of neo-R&B experimentalism FKA Twigs is not only one of music's most alluring artists of the moment, she is also a visually spectacular personality that is restyling the otherwise standardised use of makeup. Twigs has fashioned a persona that, rather than complying with commonplace imaginations of beauty, redesigns it entirely. The prominent rouge

lips, doll eyes and impeccably tamed hair whips that Twigs often sports are distinctive, and this guise of quasi-street style is a caricature that she seizes and manipulates in a way which poses the human face as an art form, erased of ulterior implications.

When looking at makeup as non-binary, as with all artistic endeavours, fair representation and the erasure of a streamlined aesthetic is crucial. Earlier last year, Make Up Forever made waves with the launch of their new cosmetic campaign fronted by Andreja Peji. As one of the first openly transgender models to successfully land a makeup campaign, her visibility goes at least some way to promote cosmetics as accessible rather than selective.

In a similar vein, experimental makeup for men (something which seems to flit between high fashion and a general taboo) was well and truly adopted at London Collections Men AW16 exhibition, with Burberry embracing a Ziggy Stardust inspired look featuring star shaped glitter beads around the mens' eyes reminiscent of shining teardrops. Androgyny is more prevalent on catwalks than ever.

Meanwhile, Charles Jeffrey entrusted MAC to create a gender-fluid, urban-meets-punk bricolage of colour. Makeup is, then, the unlikely vehicle through which an individual can create and construct a persona. Like all forms of self-expression, cosmetics should therefore continue to be inclusive and accessible, without the restrictions associated with gender or social decorum.



Best dressed TV characters

India Mackenzie celebrates TV's most stylish and fashionable on-screen appearances

Chuck Bass

Have you ever considered coordinating your bowtie with your socks? If yes, think Chuck Bass, if no, then you should probably rethink. One of the most crushed on characters of all time, Chuck's style is one-of-a-kind. Throughout *Gossip Girl* we see it oscillate between the loud colours and bright prints of his intolerable rich kid persona and the well-tailored suits and preppy pastels of a respectful and distinguished young man. A bright shirt, chinos, boat shoes and a patterned scarf all combine to create Chuck's signature style.



Joan Holloway

The many characters of 1960s-set *Mad Men* have inspired countless trends throughout the past nine years, and we see the ripple effects everywhere, from Zara, to Prada and Louis Vuitton. The most iconic of them all is Joan Holloway, with signature pencil necklace always in tow. Joan's look is all about the classic 60s silhouette so think curve-hugging midi skirts, tight sweaters, dresses cinched right in the middle and pointy-toed high heels which are an essential element of her seductive office attire.



Rayanne Graff

Rayanne's style in *My So Called Life* is like marmite, but it's perfect for her. The major key to her look is layering: plaid shirts, patchwork tees, mini dresses and jeans. She is always completely out there with her outfits, putting as many clashing prints together as possible, and always combining them with that wonderful pair of grape earrings and an assortment of unique baseball caps. The main style lessons to be learnt from Rayanne are that you can never accessorise too much and that layering is always the key.



Harvey Specter

Described as "equal parts swagger and smarts", it's hard not to want to channel Harvey Specter, the star of legal drama *Suits*. He is a conservative dresser, yet the cuts and understated designs of his ensembles mean that he is always noticed and admired. His suits are impeccably tailored and his colour combinations are traditional yet still manage to make a statement. A wise friend once told me that an important man wears a three-piece suit with a wide-peak lapel and few are as important as Mr Specter.

The Northern Youth fashion show: In pictures

IMAGES: ROB MCCONKEY



Capturing the highlights of one of the largest and most exciting events on campus this year, take a look back and re-live the most memorable moments from the night which celebrated some of the best artistic talents in fashion across the north of England and Scotland. The show was a collaboration of talent; four upcoming northern-based designers showcased their 'wares', exhibiting outfits on a diverse group of models. The collections revealed a myriad of colours, materials and patterns that when combined created something truly unique. The objective of the fashion show was to raise money and awareness in aid of refugees in need and in the local community, donating the proceeds to the Xavier Project and Refugee Action York. In total, £30,000 was raised from ticket sales, donations and an auction.

All the speakers that night were excellent, the most notable being the Editor in Chief of US *Vogue*, Anna Wintour. Her speech imparted knowledge and experiences from her own successful career, and touched on her inspirations, the media, and the importance of having a wide skill-set in today's society. This was followed by a special Q&A session with Katharine Viner, the Editor in Chief of *The Guardian* News and Media, where Anna delighted everyone with her witty and humorous rejoinders to some of the questions from the spectators.

The clothes themselves were drawn from the gritty, earthy, multicultural themes that personify the north. A spectrum of muted, dimmed colours and vivid and intense patterns. From huge shapeless blankets draped over models to frayed edges. The unfitted structures of polo necks, kimonos and fringed dresses distorted the archetypal urban/sportswear layering of clothes often seen in cities. The backdrop to this parade of unique designs was an unrecognisable Central Hall, bursting with lights, colour and sounds, and an audience of people from across the city; the turn out for the night was overwhelming. The accompaniment to this impressive spectacle was soft, folk style music from the young, upcoming singer Billie Marten.

Grace Howarth



YORK STYLE ICON

Words: Eddie Kaziro
Images: Victoria Roffey

NAME Eddie Kaziro

YEAR First Year

COURSE BA History/Politics

SOCIETIES Triathlon, Central Hall Music Society

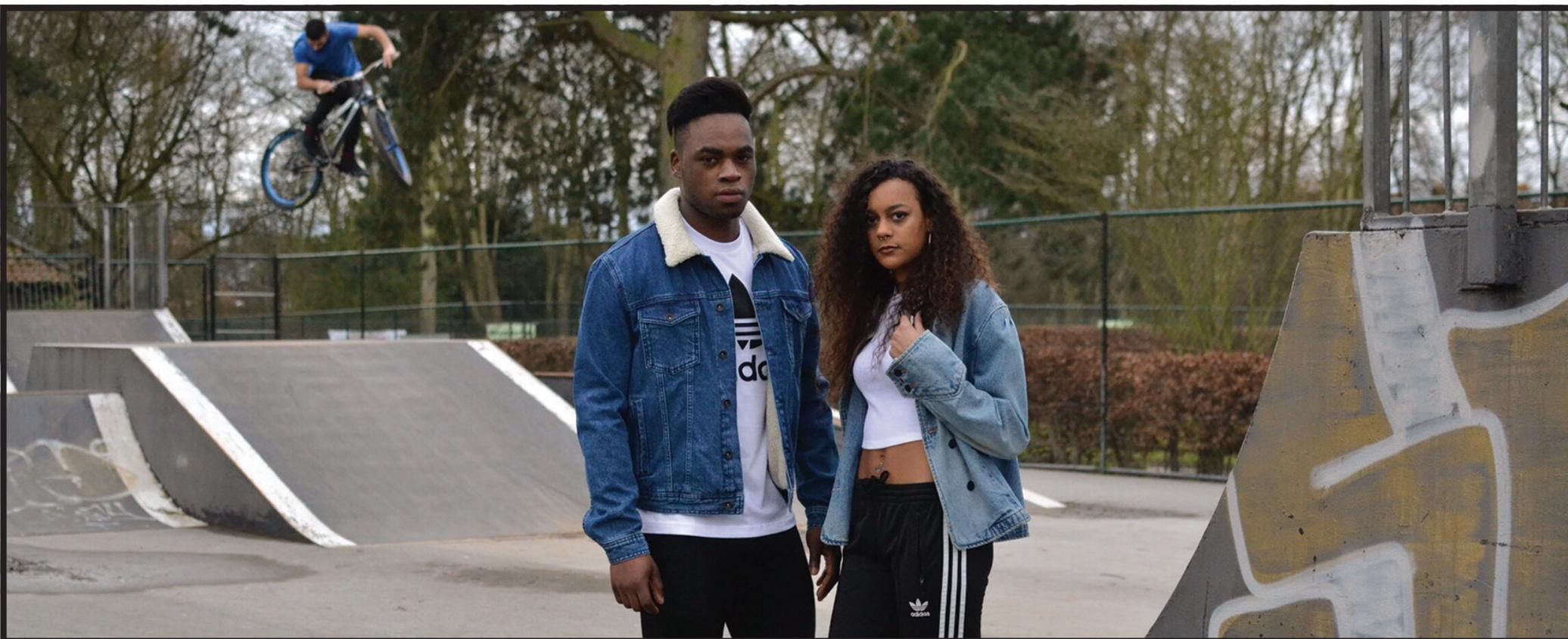
I AM WEARING a turtleneck from Kooples, jacket from Topman LTD, the jeans are also Topman and the shoes are Cheaney.

MY FAVOURITE ITEM would be a camel suede bomber jacket. I bought my jacket at the vintage fashion fair at James College during my first term at York, so reiterating

it to you all is a bit of coincidence. I love the colour and the material. Whenever I wear it someone always compliments it. Definitely one of my best buys.

MY FASHION ICON is 60s Mod culture. At the risk of sounding like a kale eating, middle class leftie, the 60s liberal movement promoted a sense of individualism, a key concept of fashion. 60s Mod culture is sleek, tailored and intrinsic to British fashion and a style that has been constantly recycled since.

THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN YORK is that York is distinctive. There is the familiarity of living in a town. The fashion options in York are as varied as living in a big city but you have a community feel similar to that of a village, so you still get amazing fashion and nice people.





TheUrbanWearEdit

Fashion Editor: Grace Howarth, Photographer: Deborah Lam,
Models: If E Anyi & Martha Moutsipai, Makeup & Hair: Beth Larkin,
If E & Martha wear clothes from Topshop & Urban Outfitters.





Game Review: *Neko Atsume*



Platform: iOS, Android,
Release date: 12 January

Ah, cats. I've been told they're great, whether you want a cuddly friend to stroke, a test subject to stick in a box with poison gas to make a point about parallel universes, or just something close to hand that can eat you after you die. Trouble is, I'm a student, and I don't really trust myself with my own life, let alone the life of a small furry creature adjacent to mine.

So to fill that cat-shaped hole in my cat-loving heart, and also because it was free, I

downloaded *Neko Atsume* at the start of this week. I did so with a protective layer of sneering irony – ha ha, look at this game where you spend real money on identical imaginary cats! But then, much like Taylor Swift and wearing hipster t-shirts, it turned out that I actually liked it for real.

The game gives you a garden, with a space to put some food down and then six spaces for toys. Cats are lured in with food, and if they like your garden enough they'll leave you little presents (of in-game currency, rather than a dismembered mouse or a dump in the flowerbed) which you can then use to fill your gar-

den with toys. Should you fail to entertain or feed your cats to a sufficiently high standard, they'll just saunter off to someone else's garden, since the bond of love means nothing in comparison to a slightly larger food bowl. So in that respect, it's a perfect cat simulator.

Interaction with your cats is limited: mostly, you just watch them do their thing from a distance. For a personal touch, you can rename them! Although these aren't technically your cats, so maybe you're then playing as that old woman smelling faintly of mothballs snipping the collars off struggling felines before dragging them in behind the door, which is a bit of a step down from the Master Chief. It's also worth noting that none of the cats really interact with each other, either.

So what do you do? Well, if a cat likes you enough it will eventually bring you a Memento, such as a bell or a note or a squeaky toy, which you can then collect and store. One "win condition" is to collect all of those – the other is to attract all the cats and then photograph them, like the world's most mundane game of *Pokemon Snap*.

Not that there's much to take photos of. Most of the cats are the same sprite recoloured, with about two animations for interacting with the various objects you leave out. There are, however, special cats you can get: one's called St. Purrtrick, who looks exactly like you think he does.

Another one is called Tubbs, and it basically strolls in, refuses to interact with any of the other cats, jams its head in the food bowl

and inhales and then leaves. I relate to this cat on a spiritual level. But my favourite is still Chairman Meow, complete with army helmet. Maybe they can patch in something where he knocks the food bowl over and instigates a famine.

And yet, despite the fact that I've been hammering my "NO FUN ALLOWED" sign into the ground for the entirety of this review, I'm still checking it daily. I can't look away.

One reason is simply the appeal of cute cats, heightened by the game's adorable 2D art-style. Another is that you can accumulate currency quickly enough to buy a new toy every day, giving you something new to come back for.

And importantly for an app where you can pay for currency – usually the digital equivalent of a big pit where you can throw game developers your money – you can buy everything with the currency that cats give you for free. It just takes longer, but it never slows gameplay to a complete standstill.

So I actually sort of recommend *Neko Atsume*, if only as something to absent-mindedly check on inbetween boring little chores like waiting for something or working on your vital essay. It seems to be getting popular on campus, so get it now, and you too can become one of 'Those People' who stands around in the back of parties showing off imaginary cats on their phone. Join us. JOIN US.

Niall Whitehead



Tennis for Two

Adam Koper investigates the uncelebrated origins of gaming

Gaming is often presented as an exciting and youthful medium, throwing up thrilling and intriguing new ways of achieving electronic escapism. For years it was treated with a mixture of curiosity and trepidation by the wider media – it's only in the last few years that gaming has been considered as an integral component of popular culture.

While the gaming industry has only really come of age in the last few decades, the way in which the media treats gaming generally belies its origins way back in the technological developments of the 1950s.

The origins of gaming lie in that thrilling era of computing pioneers working on house-sized computers. While the question of what constitutes the first ever video game remains contested, *Tennis for Two* seems to be a strong candidate. Developed by the American physicist William Higinbotham in 1958, *Tennis for Two* provided players with a simulation of a tennis match.

The game was played on an analogue computer, with an oscilloscope for the display. The visuals consisted of only three elements: a long horizontal line representing the tennis court, a shorter vertical line representing the net, and a small moving dot that was supposed to be the tennis ball.

This wasn't the first time a computer

had been used to play a game – the Nimrod computer was built in 1951 to play the strategy game Nim. However, this had been in order to demonstrate the computer's processing power, while *Tennis for Two* had been specifically built to be played for fun. As well as this, the Nimrod's display was far more basic, consisting of a set of lights that would turn on and off, as opposed to Higinbotham's game which could display moving objects smoothly.

The game grew out of Higinbotham's worry that the science community were failing to demonstrate the relevance of their work to wider society. It was also born out of

his curious nature, with the original concept coming from the instruction booklet that accompanied his analogue computer.

The booklet explained how to use the computer to plot the trajectory of bouncing objects. It was then that Higinbotham had his groundbreaking idea: "Hell, this would make a good game."

The game was built in three weeks, in time to be presented at a science exhibition at the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

It was a big hit, especially among high school students who attended the exhibition – a forerunner of the place gaming would come to inhabit in the lives of teenagers and young peo-

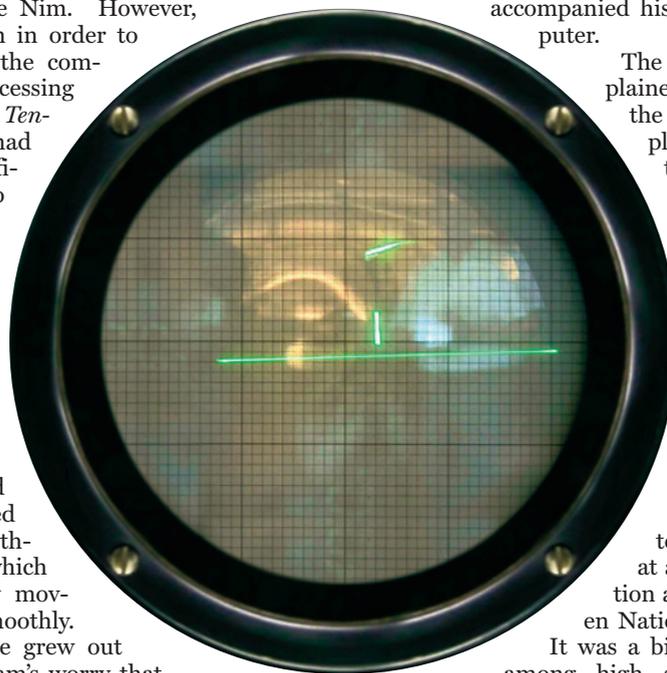
ple worldwide, it seems.

Surprisingly enough, earlier in his career Higinbotham had worked on the electronics side of the Manhattan Project. He soon regretted his involvement, and promised to only use his computing powers for good in future.

A short while after the end of the Second World War, the Federation of American Scientists was founded, its objective being to prevent nuclear war, with Higinbotham acting as the organisation's first chairman. Perhaps Higinbotham's desire to use science to amuse others was indeed born out of some guilt from his part in developing the first nuclear weapon. Whether or not you count *Tennis for Two* as the original video game, it certainly had more of an impact than any of its rivals.

The game's influence can be seen in later pioneering games, most notably *Pong*. The computing journalist David Ahl went as far as to describe Higinbotham as "The Grandfather of Video Games." At a time when technological advancements were being used to outdo Soviet efforts, *Tennis for Two* demonstrated that new technology could be used for entertainment's purposes. It brought people together, and set in place the idea that computers could be used for fun.

Ultimately, it seems as if Higinbotham's neat idea was an important step towards gaming as we know it today.



You still talking to me?

Adam Kelly looks at Scorsese's seminal *Taxi Driver* on its 40th anniversary



Forty years after it appeared on cinema screens *Taxi Driver* still ranks as one of the greatest films of cinema. Brutal and brilliant in its depiction of 1970s New York, the film has become an era-defining piece of work, for its director and for its lead actor. To look back at it over these four decades, is to realise that *Taxi Driver* still offers much to 21st century society, both as a comment on its time period and as a character study. The definitive 1976 film offers as much to audiences today as it did to audiences back then.

Three years after his first hit *Mean Streets*, Martin Scorsese reunited with young Robert DeNiro fresh off his Oscar win for *The Godfather II*. The task this time was to make a film about an isolated, socially inept man who turns to vigilantism in response to a city crawling with crime. Scorsese was returning to themes he had explored earlier in *Mean Streets* and themes he would explore throughout his career: masculinity in crisis, violence in the streets and Catholic inspired guilt and redemption. *Mean Streets*, for all of its positives, still feels like a film from a novice heavily inspired by French New Wave. *Taxi Driver*, however, was the signal of Scorsese coming-of-age. And what a film he made.

The circumstances of the creation of *Taxi Driver* are themselves incredible. The writer Paul Schrader supposedly kept his inspiration up by keeping a loaded gun next to him on the desk while he wrote. Many of the seedier scenes were themselves inspired by Schrader's own life, when he was going through a lonely and depressed period. Robert De Niro got himself a cab driver's licence and spent weeks driving a New York cab to get a feel for the part of Travis Bickle.

Like a dream, Scorsese weaves in film noir inspired neon imagery. For the cinematography alone this film should be appreciated but every part of it is masterful. Scorsese builds on this dreamlike state further through his classic use of narration and subjective, personal experiences of our anti-hero main character. We feel his insomnia too. In one scene Travis stares into a cup of water for so long that the conversation jumps ahead around him. Much of the film feels like the diary of a madman in the making. The music by Bernard Herrmann with its repeating saxophone solo layers the film with a sense of longing and loss. The act-

ing from all quarters is superb, particularly solidifying De Niro as one of his generation's best, and launching Jodie Foster as more than just another child star. This film is a perfect concoction. The fact that *Taxi Driver* lost the Best Picture Oscar to *Rocky* might seem one of the greatest crimes the Academy has ever committed. Yet, perhaps, it is more understandable when you compare the feel good, life-affirming nature of *Rocky* against the depressing social realism of *Taxi Driver*. (You might call it a last laugh that on the AFI list of greatest films, *Taxi Driver* appears at 52, above *Rocky* which appears at 57.)

Scorsese examines and condemns, somewhat ironically, media and press obsession with violence and vigilantes. There is a thin

Taxi Driver has lost none of its power to shock or entertain 40 years later

line, Scorsese says, between heroes and villains in this world and Travis walks that tight-rope. New York itself, Scorsese's hometown, which is painted with such love in most of his films, is here presented as the 'open sewer' that Travis despises. There is an argument to be made that Scorsese is simply drawing us into Travis' own view of things but his presentation of New York was not out of touch with the times. The city had almost declared bankruptcy the year before *Taxi Driver* came out and there was a sense that America's largest city had hit rock bottom.

The aftermath of Vietnam and the general pessimism of the 1970s are clearly seen and heard in the film. Yet the grime covered, gritty, dirty New York that Scorsese captures so well is gone now. Regeneration and drops in crime in the 80s and 90s have made that

New York disappear. So for a film so of its time what can *Taxi Driver* offer us today?

Perhaps the reason the film remains so compelling is that beyond all the social implications, it is one of the best, (if not the best), character studies ever put to film. A Vietnam veteran, Travis is a depressed, socially broken loner with little education and few social or cultural interests. He moulds the character of Betsy, played brilliantly by Cybil Shepherd, into a literal angel among the sinners of the rest of New York. Travis becomes like a dark or fallen angel, standing off against the rest of the world, his reality becoming increasingly unstable. Is he really a Vietnam veteran? If he is never able to sleep where do Travis' dreams and reality begin and end?

In a scene Travis tells Peter Boyle's Wizard of his fears and dark fantasies. It's a cry for help but Wizard dismisses Travis in a similar way to how we imagine he's been dismissed all of his life, telling him not to worry. As we see him go down the rabbit hole we sympathise with a man that scares us. Yet the most terrifying and enchanting part of the character is that there really were Traveses out there. There are Traveses today and there probably always will be.

With his immortal, incidentally improvised, line, "You talkin' to me?"; Robert De Niro sums up the character of Travis perfectly. Nobody is talking to him; he's talking but nobody is listening. Desperate and alone, it becomes clearer why Travis descends into the mad world that he does. All we can do is sit and watch and as the film ends we are never sure whether we are still in that dreamlike state or not. That is what the film offers us today, an incredible look at a life. We are only with the character for a few weeks but we learn all we need to.

Taxi Driver has lost none of its power to shock or entertain years later. Its comments on media obsession and violence still spark debate. Even more so, they remain relevant and pertinent to us in this new century. Most importantly, however, we are still gripped by the story of Travis Bickle and his dark, lonely world that Scorsese plunges us into.

Class of 2015 Oscar trivia

13 Roger Deakins (*Sicario*) and Thomas Newman (*Bridge of Spies*) are both celebrating their 13th nomination, Deakins for Cinematography and Newman for Original Score. Neither have won.

3 This year sees three double nominees in a single category. Costume designer Sandy Powell earned double nominations for *Carol* and *Cinderella*, Andy Nelson is nominated for sound mixing *Bridge of Spies* and *The Force Awakens*. Producer Steve Golin is nominated for work on *Spotlight* and *The Revenant*. Powell and Nelson have won multiple times before.

7 Kate Winslet and Cate Blanchett (cited for *Steve Jobs* and *Carol* respectively) both earned their seventh nomination this year. They remain five nominations off from meeting the record of Oscars favourite Kate (Ms Katharine Hepburn), who has 12.

4 Jennifer Lawrence, at 25, just became the actor to earn 4 nominations in the quickest time. This record was previously held by another Jennifer - Jennifer Jones - who earned four nominations by twenty-seven in 1947.

1 Sylvester Stallone (nominated for *Creed*), Charlotte Rampling (*45 Years*) and Jennifer Lawrence (*Joy*) are the only performers who are the sole nomination for their respective films.

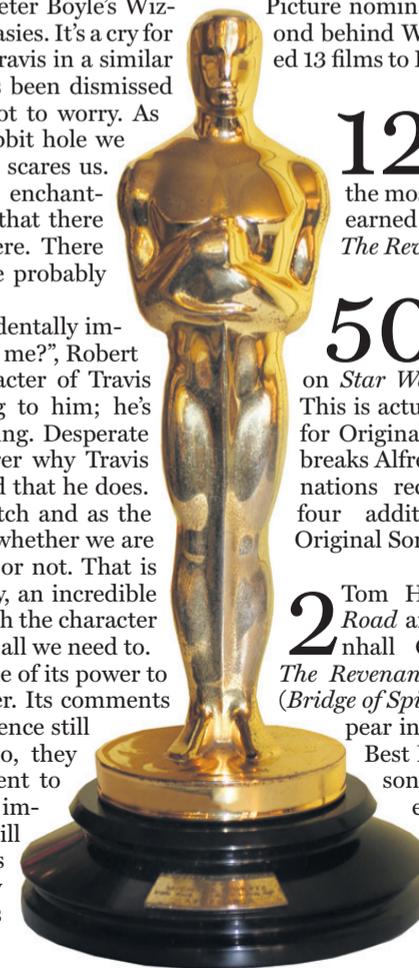
2 Stallone, meanwhile, breaks the record for the longest gap between nominations for a performer nominated twice for playing the same role. He was first nominated for playing *Rocky* in 1976. This record was previously held by Paul Newman who was nominated in 1961 for playing Fast Eddie in *The Hustler* and then won in 1986 for *The Color of Money*.

11 With *Bridge of Spies* earning a Picture nomination, Steven Spielberg has now directed 11 films to a Best Picture nomination. This puts him second behind William Wyler who directed 13 films to Best Picture nominations.

12 For the second time in a row Alejandro Iñárritu directed the film to earn the most nominations (*Birdman* earned nine in 2014, and now *The Revenant* has twelve).

50 John Williams celebrates his 50th nomination for his work on *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. This is actually his 44th nomination for Original Score and with that he breaks Alfred E. Newman's 43 nominations records. (Williams earned four additional nominations for Original Song.) He has won five.

2 Tom Hardy (*Mad Max: Fury Road* and *The Revenant*), Dommonhall Gleeson (*Brooklyn* and *The Revenant*) and Billy Magnussen (*Bridge of Spies* and *The Big Short*) appear in two films nominated for Best Picture. Ultimately, Gleeson tops them all by having each of his 2015 films earning nominations - the other two being *The Force Awakens* and *Ex Machina*.



New sound on the Bloc

Bloc Party speak to Jack Davies about faith, Glastonbury and sonic evolution

Bloc Party are a band that have, at times, seemed somewhat inaccessible to the wider pool of music fans out there. If I asked some of my less musically-aware friends to name a Bloc Party song, I'm sure they'd be hard-pushed to pluck something other than 'Banquet' or 'Helicopter' out of the air, two of the band's biggest hits from their 2005 debut, *Silent Alarm*.

But scratch beneath the surface and you'll find that the band Liam Gallagher once dubbed as being "something off of *University Challenge*" have a committed following and have been enjoying a plethora of successes in the Indie scene since their breakthrough over a decade ago.

The last 10 years have seen all of the band's previous albums reach the top 10 on the UK Albums Chart. They've achieved nine top twenty singles on the UK Singles Chart. They even headlined Glastonbury Festival's 'Other Stage' in 2009. How have they managed to maintain their prominence?

"There's always demand for change and experimentation to stay...relevant" muses lead guitarist Russell Lissack, backstage ahead of their Leeds show as part of the 2016 NME Awards Tour (which they happen to be headlining), proof enough that their transformations as a band have allowed them to extend their success over the years.

Lissack is well-versed in the art of change: he and frontman Kele Okereke have seen a number of line-up changes in the London band's 16-year history, which has recently

“**There's always demand for change and experimentation to stay relevant**”

seen the addition of bassist Justin Harris, from US band Menomena, and drummer Louise Bartle, who Okereke and Lissack discovered on YouTube and who they say "blew them away".

Such transitions can often be problematic, especially regarding a band with such a sizeable back-catalogue as Bloc Party's. "I've found it quite enjoyable so far" says Harris of his recent addition to the band, only for Lissack to cut in and exclaim "you told me it was traumatic!"

"There's a lot of pressure to ensure you learn the back-catalogue properly and do the songs justice" resumes Harris, "but yeah, while I may have said traumatic, what I really meant was...enjoyable."

They laugh, and their camaraderie is evident. Perhaps this explains then why the band's performances on the tour so far have been met widely with positive reviews from music critics: they're enjoying themselves.

Of course, for a band to tour, it usually requires new music. Not everyone can be like The Rolling Stones and live off the same, admittedly unparalleled back-catalogue for decades. And, fitting to the rule, Bloc Party released their fifth studio album, *Hymns*, in January. The album itself contains an incred-

ible amount of religious imagery. Aside from the evidently religious overtone in the title, the tracks themselves have an obvious motif of faith: 'Only He Can Heal Me', 'Into the Earth', 'Virtue'. I wonder whether these links to religion were prompted by anything.

"It's more from Kele's perspective" says Lissack. "The religious imagery is mainly in the lyrical content." But Kele is keen to emphasise that the album is not linked to his own faith.

"I'm not a Christian. I grew up in a religious house so I'm aware of the imagery." It seems the religious element is to a large degree born out of an experimentation with evangelical art, and importantly, its absence from modern popular culture. Kele notes that "music originated in a religious place", and that his lyrics' religious content is spawned from a desire to explore how he would go about producing art that "has a spiritual dimension" sacred to him.

The album comes after an unofficial hiatus of a couple of years, which Lissack believes has allowed the band to refresh their sound. "During the time off, we had the chance to investigate new equipment and things that we hadn't had the opportunity to use before."

The result is a much more electronic sound than fans of their earlier material may be used to. Kele very much approves, previously stating that what Lissack is doing with the guitar is "blowing [his] mind" and that he is impressed at how Lissack has been able to use the guitar as "an instrument of white noise".

Elsewhere, there's talk of David Bowie (Russell: "we want to follow the David Bowie model"), the band's enjoyment of touring Japan for the unique culture, and the possibility of even more new material (Justin: "we've been writing stuff in sound checks but what the masterplan of that is has yet to be determined").

In regards to live performance, the band have enjoyed playing the new songs, but I ask their feelings about sharing the limelight on the NME tour. "It's a mix of fans who've come to see the different bands on the tour (Dreng, Rat Boy and Bugzy Malone), so it's not exactly a conventional Bloc Party show," says Russell. "But it's kind of like a tiny festival travelling around."

And on that topic: festival season. Lissack tells me "plans are still being made", and he is only allowed to tell me that the band will be playing Benicàssim in Spain, but that other things are in the pipeline.

Bloc Party have throughout their career been unafraid to question things that they see as unwelcome or not quite right in the music business, an attitude they're unlikely to drop. Lissack waxes lyrical about the stagnation of festival line-ups. He notes that festival bills now are "the same as ones from ten years ago".

I ask which artists he would like to see headlining the likes of Glastonbury, but he asserts "It's not really for me to say", before pausing in thought. "But, if Michael Eavis wanted to get The Smiths back together, then I wouldn't complain..."

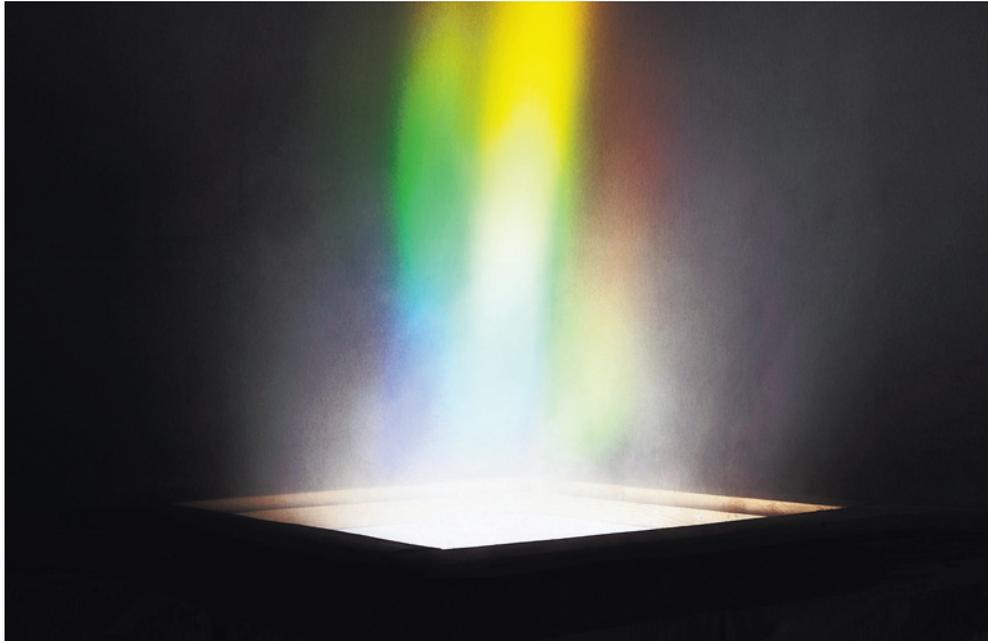
Interesting that he should choose The Smiths, a band that evolved throughout their career, and who Bloc Party confess to admiring. Change. Transition. Evolution. Something that Bloc Party have done over the last decade, and are striving to continue to this day.

"We want that to be our ethos" concludes Lissack. "That will always be our approach to music." **M**

IMAGE: BLOC PARTY



“**WE WANT TO FOLLOW**”



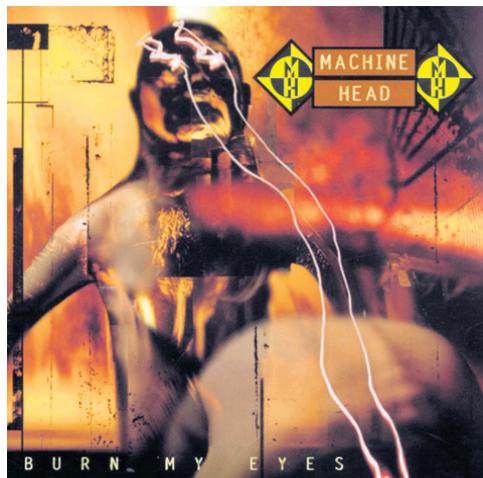
“**THE DAVID BOWIE MODEL**”

IMAGE: LIVEPICT



Into the archives: Machine Head - *Burn My Eyes*

Ben Phillips uncovers one of the most influential and widely imitated thrash metal albums of the 1990s



question, but it remained in the CD rack for a while.

Upon realising that the album had turned 20 in 2014, I devoted my extra 7 years of aural maturity to giving it another listen, and I heard in it the basis of so much of the current metal mainstream that it took an entirely new place in my mental musical timeline. I even went as far as to treat myself to a vinyl copy for my birthday.

The magic of this album (like *Appetite for Destruction* or *Peace Sells...But Who's Buying?*) stems from one of those times where a band's line up, later to prove unworkable, gels superlatively for just long enough to produce something cohesive and timeless. Robb Flynn (since 2013 the only remaining founding member) showcases from the opening track, 'Davidian' (a live staple to this day) how he can rally the listener around his vocals, howling a mixture of political commentary and youthful aggression while also providing the bulk of the rhythmic guitar work.

The riffs, courtesy of Flynn and Logan Mader, are the cornerstone of the band's sound and the success of these songs. They walk the line perfectly between melody, groove and brutality. There is guitar work here to rival the best of Metallica's or Iron Maiden's, but there is also a darker, more personal sensibility typical of the 90s and arguably more sophistication in the songwriting than most of the Bay

Area's early 80s efforts.

Drummer Chris Kontos (who was to leave the band before their second album) and bassist Adam Duce provide a driving rhythm section that mixes the speed and power of thrash rhythm with the groove and dynamic interplay of Black Sabbath. This line up really was a perfect storm.

It is also a diverse album, despite its unity of sound and message. 'A Thousand Lies' and 'Old' showcase some more melody and punk-

'Real Eyes, Realize, Real Lies' is, unusually, for this kind of music, a compelling soundscape, containing chaotic samples of dialogue relating to the 1992 Los Angeles Riots laid over a positively filthy groove.

A mention must also go to the production, for so many debut albums are robbed of their longevity by dated studio work, the legacy of non-existent recording budgets. Courtesy of Colin Richardson, whose palmarès reads like a who's-who of modern metal, *Burn My Eyes* sounds just enough like it was recorded in a lockup, and just enough like it was mastered in a proper studio.

The drums have a little bit of Pantera about them without succumbing to that "clicky" aesthetic, while being clear and sharp enough to cut through the incredibly thick and low-register guitars. Said guitars were laid down with what still proves to be one of the heaviest tones ever and as they were tuned so low along with Duce's rich and articulate bass, the listener is presented with a rhythmic unit that carries considerable punch.

It's staggering how a few concerted listens can fundamentally change how you hear an album. *Burn My Eyes* used to be to my ears the unpolished genesis of the thrash band that produced 'Aesthetics of Hate' and were hailed by many as Metallica's successors. Now it is my go-to album for crushing grooves and social dissatisfaction.

Howling political commentary and youthful aggression



oriented elements, while 'The Rage to Overcome' and 'Block' are sonic assaults of the most powerful kind. 'Death Church' and 'A Nation On Fire' hark back to 80s thrash a little more, encompassing clean introductions, a little gothic aesthetic and, in the case of the latter, a double-time outro worthy of Slayer.

My first experience of Machine Head's *Burn My Eyes* came with the Collector's Edition of their 2007 barn-stormer, *The Blackening*: a bonus DVD with some music videos and bits and bobs. Crucially, that DVD also contained video of four songs from the band's *Burn My Eyes* 10th Anniversary gig.

Four songs, none of which the band had touched for at least five of those years, performed in a drunken state, but with more vitality than was present on the entirety of *The Blackening* itself. I got hold of the album in

Coldplay - *A Head Full Of Dreams*



James Baker

It isn't obvious whether this album will be the band's last, but nevertheless they have called upon a number of big names including Beyoncé, Noel Gallagher, and even a sample of President Barack Obama singing 'Amazing Grace'. Each collaboration offers a different musical style as the band have tried hard to make this album stand out, even if some of the slower songs offer little to the album.

Coldplay have experimented with many different genres over the years, but funk and disco is not something they've previously explored in great depth. These genres feature prominently in 'Adventure of a Lifetime', an uplifting disco-rock number that instantly draws you in with vocal samples and funky riffs. We also see similar elements in the album's title track, but with a quicker pace and greater guitar presence representing a step forward in their sound.

'Hymn for the Weekend' sees the band experimenting with R&B, the smooth vocals of Beyoncé Knowles working exceptionally well. 'Army of One', a touching and upbeat song, also takes inspiration from this genre. However the hidden track, 'X Marks the Spot' is somewhat lacking. Instrumentally, this song doesn't feel like a Coldplay song, and seems to be trying too hard. The lyrics are weak, failing to inspire or conjure up the emotion that



other songs do.

While we hear many new and exciting ideas on this album, other songs see Coldplay sticking to their norm. Fast-paced track, 'Birds' bears resemblance to the likes of Mylo Xylo-to's 'Hurts Like Heaven' while 'Everglow', 'Fun' and 'Amazing Day' are somewhat derivative of their early ballads, and drift by without leaving a strong impression.

With this album Coldplay have proven that they are willing to step outside of their comfort zone. However, there are some parts of the album where they try too hard and, as good as these songs are, we've heard this sort of thing before. Nonetheless, if *A Head Full of Dreams* does end up being their swansong, there are a number of songs that Coldplay fans will remember fondly for many years to come.

Bury Tomorrow - *Earthbound*



Ellie Langford

Bury Tomorrow have been on a trajectory towards bigger and better things ever since they formed a decade ago, and their latest album *Earthbound* marks a new high. Its predecessor *Runes* was a strong success, but left a lot of promises that their fourth studio album was required to meet.

The record opens promisingly with the soaring and heavy 'The Eternal' with its follow-up 'Last Light' taking on the same tone but with a less-boisterous and rockier feel. Already, vocalist Jason Cameron has proved his capacity for uplifting intensity, while Daniel Winter-Bates has delivered on his gratingly gratifying screams. Album namesake 'Earthbound' is a pivotal track, marking a new level of maturity and mastery of the metalcore genre in every respect.

The energy of *Earthbound* is well structured, progressing smoothly from uplifting passion to heavy anger. This passion reaches anthem-esque heights in 'The Burden' and 'Fear No Evil', two songs written to destroy the lungs of all present with their deeply powerful lyrics. Things take a darker turn with 'Cemetery' and 'Restless & Cold', both tracks coming down hard with layers of steady anger. As we progress towards 'Memories' we reach a moment of penetrating contemplation in this album, a mean feat of song writing. There



are, however, in 'Cemetery' and other similar songs the well-trodden sounds of the metalcore genre.

While the album's earlier tracks show strength and innovation, its middle stage has a sense of disappointing familiarity. Things swerve slightly back on course with '301' and 'Memories', the latter offering 'Earthbound' strong competition for this album's strongest track. As we leave *Earthbound*, however, we again hear those familiar metalcore sounds made more awkward by a rushed outro in the form of 'Bloodline'.

With this album, Bury Tomorrow have secured their path to even greater success with strong production and deep emotional understanding. Its only shortcoming lies in its lack of innovation, a minor stain on an otherwise incredible album.

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Kanye West following his Wiz Khalifa twitter beef

"I'm happy that I now know that KK means weed...please excuse the confusion... now back to #WAVES".

Viva la Latvia

York student **Banuta Kalns-Timans** talks to Munisha Lall about her unexpected journey to Latvia for the 25th anniversary of their independence

On 21 August 1991, the small Baltic state of Latvia gained full independence from a brutal Soviet regime after a failed coup. Although a vital triumph, the fallout was, and continues to be, an appalling reminder of Latvia's turbulent history behind the Soviet Union's iron curtain, and the astonishing sacrifice on the part of the men and women that struggled for autonomy.

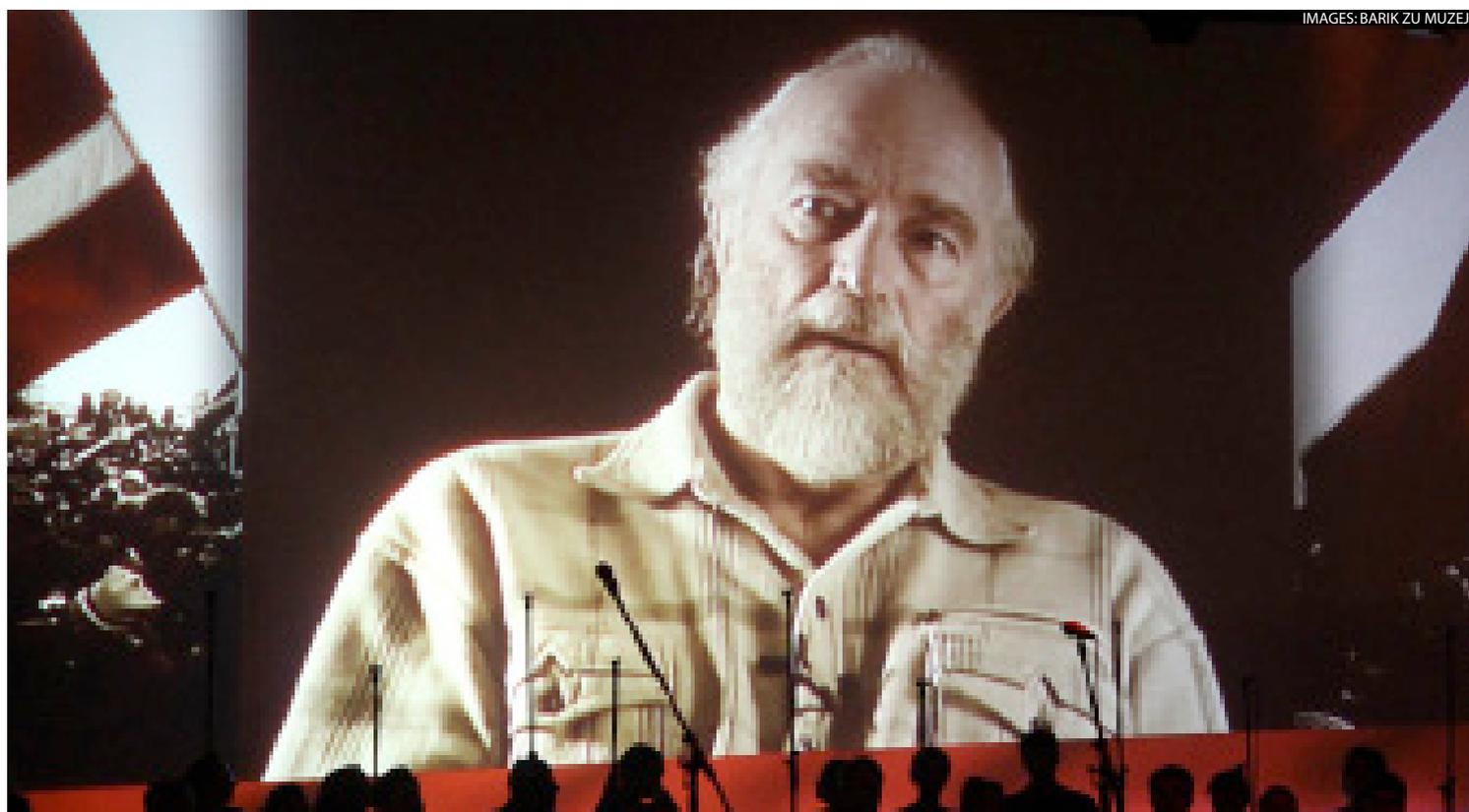
The road to independence was an inherently arduous period of transition, and as with many nation states that seek liberation, the unsettling reality was a cataclysmic loss of life.

It was after an incitement of unrest by the Soviet forces towards the end of 1990, the systematic bombing of Latvia, and an attempt to overthrow the elected parliament, that a third of Latvia's population gathered in Riga with a mission to build barricades and protest against the impeding political tumult. This was, for the people of Latvia, the ultimate mark of camaraderie, at a time when the press was heavily censored and freedom of expression was stagnating.

Nearly 25 years after the liberation of Latvia, however, the events that lead to independence culminated in a unique experience for Banuta Kalns-Timans, marking a crossroads in which the past and present intersected in one unforgettable evening. As a result of an astonishingly rare piece of footage recorded by Banuta's mother and restored by Banuta herself, the pair were invited to a national concert entitled 'Freedom at Bulevard' last month, and were given the opportunity to shed vital light on the construction of the barricades in Riga while meeting a sizable number of Latvia's interior ministry in the process.

The concert, held at Riga's Kipsala International Exposition Centre, welcomed participants of the barricades and their families to an evening of commemoration and reflection. Banuta recalls the last-minute decision to attend the concert: "It was the first time anything I had edited was potentially going to be shown to such a large audience, so I thought it would be an incredible experience for me to see that happen. I suppose that's how I ended up a little over a week later on a plane on the way to snow-ridden Latvia.

"I hadn't expected much and wasn't even sure if the footage would be shown at the concert, so when I entered the hall and found that we were to be seated with the Minister of Defence at the time of the barricades and a



IMAGES: BARIK ZU MUZEJS

Princeton University Professor who specialises in this particular area of Soviet history, I was fairly surprised to say the least."

Live music, speeches and video recordings were dispersed throughout an evening that aimed to reflect on how freedom is perceived today, how future generations may seek to continue this legacy, and how the commemoration of past bravery is imperative. Banuta recalls how "seeing around 800 people watching something I had created was incredible, but what was even more so was being able to see my mother's bravery and work be rewarded and appreciated.

"She had risked her life and had almost been shot to capture this moment in the hopes that documenting it would help in gaining Latvia's independence. What my mother had done reflected in my mind the sacrifices, that she, my father and everyone else who took part in the barricades had made in January 1991 and what they had been willing to do in order for their nation to be free again."

Reflecting on the barricades of Riga, Ba-

nuta discusses how the event was one marked by unbridled unity: "People would open their homes to anyone who needed to rest and the radio would announce throughout the day the places where people could go to get free food and tea. Rudimentary barricades were constructed from whatever people could find. Metal rods, bricks and lorries were lined up in front of buildings of significance, and people were ready to slash the tyres of their own vehicles so that the Soviet forces couldn't hotwire them."

In a similar vein to many Baltic nations searching for autonomy during the fall of the Soviet Union's formidable command, Banuta acknowledges that the social, political and economic struggles of days-gone-by are equally pertinent today, and are merely manifested in differing ways. "The wounds inflicted to the Latvian populace by the Soviet regime run too deeply to not still have an effect even now."

One need only cast an eye on the recent conflict in Ukraine to comprehend the continuing fragility in the region, in line with Latvia's political past. "Russia had proved itself to still be a dangerous and enigmatic force. In spite of Latvia joining the EU, and more recently NATO, the strength of a still relatively new country is not as definite as one would wish."

Empire, imperialism, subjugation. These are complex faculties that have long-term, far-reaching implications. They affect present and future relations between nations. They complicate advancement, reconciliation and social progression. They have the capacity to deter generations from operating in agreement and mutual understanding, even with events such as 'Freedom at Bulevard' seeking commemoration over tension.

In this light, Banuta points to how oligarchs still play a prominent part in Latvian politics, coupled with intrinsic financial difficulties and the fact that many Latvians today search for work within the European Union. "While other nations made vast social strides over the latter half of the last century, ranging

from liberal politics to equal rights for under-represented communities, in Latvia the main focus was gaining domestic freedom.

"Personally I consider this to be one of the principal reasons as to why social issues regarding women's rights, for instance, are not as addressed in Latvia as they are in Britain (as well as the fact that Latvia had been occupied by an often brutal regime). The

“ She had risked her life and had almost been shot to capture this moment

grassroots movements needed for this sort of progress were occupied, justifiably, with regaining independence."

Returning to her night at 'Freedom at Bulevard', Banuta meditates on the passion and pride among her esteemed guests: "The fact that we, as a country, are able to host an event to commemorate the individuals that took part in Riga's barricades 25 years on speaks volumes of how Latvia's previous generation did indeed succeed in their search for independence. Despite today's tumult in Eastern Europe, Latvia remains a free state, and it is a nation that has prospered in many respects.

"The people I spoke to in Riga have few doubts that Latvia wouldn't stand together again in the face of brutality similar to that of the Soviet Union, and having our footage dedicated to this cause was an honour and a privilege." M



Good Skosh!

Sophie Crump speaks to Neil Bentinck about his new restaurant venture Skosh which hopes to bring casual dining and quality local ingredients to York city centre

A new restaurant is coming to 98 Micklegate this Spring. Aiming to use small, environmentally friendly and sustainable farms and producers, Skosh is an attempt to move away from factory produced food and products. The team at Skosh have chosen to promote the opening with a series of pop-ups which will take place in York throughout March. One pop-up held at the Pig & Pastry on Bishy Road will showcase a tasting menu, with dishes including roast hake with cauliflower, parmesan and hazelnuts, and a caper-truffle dressing. The team at Skosh are focused on bringing a memorable dining experience and show a clear respect for the food they serve, ideas which hopefully appear to be gaining ground in the independent food scene. We spoke to Neil Bentinck, the chef-patron of Skosh about his inspirations and the journey that brought him to start up Skosh.

Where did the name and the idea to set up Skosh come from?

My idea for Skosh was simply to create a space in which I would like to eat myself, a relaxed and contemporary environment in which to enjoy interesting food and drink at a price point that represented good value for money. As for the name, I was writing my business plan a couple of years ago and saw skosh in my dictionary app! It just worked in so many ways and ultimately, the meaning of skosh being 'a small amount or a little', it literally represents the style of food which will be served in the restaurant.

Was there a business model which inspired you in this venture?

I didn't have a business model as such but I've certainly been inspired by different cultures and cuisines. California has a really interesting dining scene, especially San Francisco, so fresh and modern. But really, I don't think I'm offering anything ground-breaking, just

something personal and a bit different. The street food of countries such as Thailand, India and Japan is inspiration enough and they have been creating tasty, affordable food in that respect for quite some time.

What made you choose York?

It could only ever be York! It's my home city and such an interesting, vibrant yet historical place. I've lived here since I was three years old, now thirty-four (minus a few stints abroad), my family still live here and it's where I shall bring up my young family...my little boy Henry has just turned one!

You stress the importance of local and sustainable farming in your produce, why do you feel that this is so important nowadays?

I wouldn't say stress as such, it just comes rather naturally now; local and sustainable produce will be a matter of cause for the restaurant. It is, from a commercial point of view, certainly more difficult to achieve consistency but that is a minor challenge to face when the reward is that the flavour of the produce is superior. The importance of these trader routes is to support these guys who work so passionately to create great tasting ingredients.

What inspired the cuisine of Skosh?

I've taken a lot of inspiration from travelling all over the world. My late father was born and raised in India and was an avid gastronome. His love of food from all over the world, especially India, has played such an important part of my make up as a chef.

How did you go about sourcing local produce for the restaurant?

Having worked in the hospitality industry for over 16 years, and the majority of which in the York area, I've been fortunate enough to have built up some fantastic relationships with trusted local suppliers already, some of which I've used for many years now, and others I even went to school with! However, that

being said, we have been looking at new, more exclusive provisions for Skosh. Local organic vegetable, dairy and meat suppliers, and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust approved fisheries to name a few exciting prospects!

What do you feel Skosh is bringing that's new to the York dining scene?

Skosh will provide a new and interesting concept to York, which I am incredibly excited about. Serving the dishes in the form of snacks and small plates immediately creates a grazing style which allows the diner to experience several different dishes. My food certainly has an international influence which creates an eclectic mix of refined cooking. Another important part of Skosh is the commissions placed with local ceramicists, craftspeople and artists to create the table ware of the restaurant. I am of course biased, but I think the Skosh experience is very intriguing!

What do you see in the future for Skosh?

I will constantly strive for a busy restaurant with happy customers and happy staff; this will never change. Consistent and thoughtful work with local suppliers and farmers to support and promote their produce locally and within the industry is always a priority. I would ultimately look to expand the brand although Skosh would stay true to itself and its format, but of course I have other ideas. Realistically though, I would always be conscious of 'spreading myself too thinly'. I hope to make a viable success of Skosh for a few years to come and then see what happens! M

Tickets for the pop-ups are available through www.skoshyork.co.uk and Skosh are currently recruiting for staff with a passion for superb ingredients and good teamwork skills. Email info@skoshyork.co.uk to apply.



IMAGES: SKOSH

Waste not want not...

Shane Jordan, author of *Food Waste Philosophy*, advises students on how to avoid throwing away food while saving money

It is estimated that students spend £30-£40 pounds a week on food, and much of this food is unintentionally wasted. According to WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme) we throw away 7 million tonnes of food and drink from our homes every year in the UK, and more than half of this we could have eaten. The two main reasons we throw away food are cooking too much, or not using the food in time. Being aware of how to shop effectively, and cook efficiently can save students money and waste. Here are some top tips for students to save money and keep their food wastage as low as possible.

Rotate food in your cupboards and fridge: Put all the new food at the back of the fridge and cupboards and bring last week's previous items to the front. This avoids mouldy food that you've forgotten about lurking in the back of cupboards.

Use leftovers: Think about whether you could use food before throwing it away. Last night's pasta becomes today's lunch, or that bit of cheese and some eggs will make a delicious omelette. Freezing food is also smart and you'll find that freezer bags, food clips and Tupperware are very handy to have.

Write a shopping list: Draw up a weekly meal plan incorporating ingredients you already have. Avoid being swayed by impulse purchases and simply buy what you need and know you will use.

Buy meat from the butchers: Butchers sometimes do cheap deals, and the produce is fresh. Find a local butcher and they should be happy to give you some advice on eating well on a tight budget.

Buy frozen: Frozen fruit and vegetables are underrated. Frozen products are not only cheaper but mean you don't have to worry about using them up before they wilt. Bread, the most wasted household food, is also worth freezing in slices.

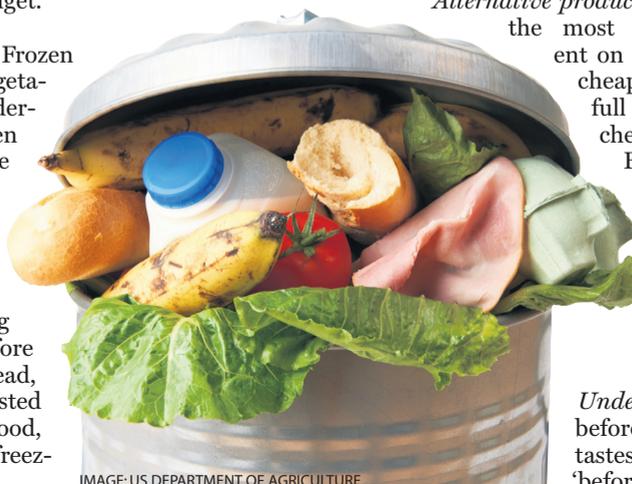


IMAGE: US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Buy cheap brands: Most cheaper brands taste exactly the same as more expensive ones. Try a supermarket own brand product and see for yourself.

Shop in local stores: Many local Asian corner shops can have cheap staple food items such as noodles, rice and pasta. Spices in particular are worth buying here.

Alternative products: Meat is typically the most expensive ingredient on a shopping list and cheap meat is pumped full of unpleasant chemicals and water. Beans, lentils and peas are packed with protein, very cheap and ideal for bulking out soups, curries or delicious in their own right.

Understand Labels: 'Best before' means the food tastes or looks at its best 'before' the date shown.

The exception is eggs, which shouldn't be eaten after this date because salmonella could start to multiply. 'Display until' and 'sell by' is for staff members and is used so they know when to take a product off the shelf, while 'Use by' means use the product by the date indicated which is an important health warning.

Grow your own herbs: Use a garden or windowsill to grow your own herbs; fresh ones tend to be extortionate and fresh herbs can bring the most basic ingredients to life.

Cook as a group: This is a cheaper way of eating, but having similar tastes and an agreed group budget works best. You could even run your own version of *Come Dine With Me* once a week with your roommates or other students near you.

Take home leftovers: If you're eating out but you haven't finished your food then many restaurants are willing to let you take leftovers home in a doggy bag if you ask, providing you with a tasty dinner the next day.

Food Waste Philosophy is available at the Silverwood online book store, Amazon and other online bookstores.

Where there's a will...

Ahead of Student Volunteering Week, Lucy Furneaux explores the double benefit of youth volunteering and social action



At the end of February the University of York will be one of many institutions across the country participating in Student Volunteering Week (SVW). YUSU Volunteering Officers and student volunteers alike will come together to celebrate and advertise the multitude of volunteering opportunities available to York students, in the hope of engaging more young people in these important projects.

As a devoted volunteer myself, having worked with various organisations and charities since the age of 13, I'm acutely aware of the impact that local volunteering can have both on the community and the volunteers themselves. However, as students we're often strapped for cash as it is, so is there really anything to be gained from working for free? Can our efforts really make a difference, or will anything we do just be a drop in the ocean?

These are the misconceptions that Student Volunteering Week, which will run from the 22nd-28th February, hopes to dispel. Student Volunteering Week is a partnership between Student Hubs, the National Union of Students and the Student Volunteering Network, who according to their website believe that "all students should have access to volunteering and social action opportunities" because "students are often at the forefront of promoting different social issues and interests". Student Volunteering Week aims to publicise these

opportunities at universities and engage students in university- and community-based volunteering and social action projects.

Last year 86 colleges and universities hosted Student Volunteering Week events, and as 2016 is the 15th anniversary of the project that number is due to increase to over 100 institutions, with over 10,000 students expected to participate in more than 500 events across the UK. Here at York, the provisional timetable promises taster sessions with various long-term projects, including a whole day devoted to a Help Day with the RSPCA. There will also be networking events such as a Volunteer-Talk, and more social opportunities too, including Monday's pub quiz, a College Bake-Off and the end-of-week celebration at Courtyard.

YUSU's Volunteering Officers will also be running Good Deeds Week alongside Student Volunteering Week, encouraging students to commit a random act of kindness and email in photographic evidence for the chance to win a prize. This might initially seem like a gimmick, but volunteers know better than anyone that even the tiniest bit of effort on your part can make a genuinely positive difference to somebody's day - and yours too. For Ashleigh Cork, a Volunteering Officer for Langwith College, "the feeling you get from knowing you're making a difference, even if it's only a little bit, really is the best part of

volunteering".

The list of volunteering opportunities at the University is practically endless. Colleges all run their own volunteering programmes and opportunities which include both one-off and long-term projects, and YUSU also have separate placements to get involved with, all of which students can participate in alongside their studies. Ashleigh told me about Craft-ermoons, a children's crafts activity session at the Tang Hall Community Centre. Langwith students attend and run these sessions on a regular basis, getting to know the children, supporting them in their creative development, and in doing so playing a part in the wider York community outside the University.

Outside of college there are a huge number of projects and opportunities available from YUSU, from school workshops on literacy and creative writing, drama, and sex and relationships education, to turning free green spaces into edible gardens with fruit and vegetables available for anyone to pick, to providing company for the elderly at the weekly Tea and Coffee Club which has been running for over 20 years. Some YUSU projects have won awards for their innovation and community-based impact, and anyone can get involved. "Volunteering Officers," according to Olivia, "will always want more volunteers!"

Any volunteer will testify that the experience benefits them just as much as it does the people they work with. Ashleigh explains that it's "a great opportunity to gain some life experience and skills", and the majority of employers will take a candidate with volunteering experience over one without - demonstrating

that you're willing to give up your own free time to work for free will always stand out on your CV. What's more, Olivia stresses just how much fun volunteering is when you find the right placement; for her, it's an opportunity to "forget about the work I've got to do and just chill for a bit!"

The value of youth volunteering and social action has gained much more recognition in recent years, leading to a push to engage young people not only in schools and univer-

“ Over 10,000 students are expected to participate in more than 500 events nationally

sities but from charities, too. Charlotte Hill, Chief Executive of charity Step Up To Serve, defines social action as "young people taking practical action in the service of others to create positive change in their community". It has become a part of many 16-year-olds' lives through the National Citizen Service scheme, part of which includes teams undertaking a

social action project in their communities. Many charities now work in a collaborative and cooperative way with their young volunteers by recruiting young Ambassadors and Trustees on their governing boards as well as

Build skills, improve networks, meet people from different walks of life, and improve the community

making use of representative focus groups to ensure that the youth voice is heard and taken seriously by senior management.

Furthermore, in the past decade more organisations have emerged to foster young volunteers and social activists themselves. vInspired is the nation's leading youth volunteering charity, helping young people to find new opportunities through their online volunteering marketplace and supporting them in funding their own community-based social action projects.

Richard Paynter, Director of Programmes at vInspired, is passionate that social action and volunteering is a "win-win" in that "charities and communities benefit from your support, and you get to build your confidence, try new things, and get some great skills and experience that could help you in your future career".

vInspired works closely with young volunteers to ensure that they get the most out of the experience, focusing on individual personal development as well as the wider impact of the volunteering itself. From Richard's perspective, social action volunteering has a positive impact on the young person's present as well as their future. "It's important for everyone to feel that they have a part to play in tackling the issues that are important for our society," he explains.

Today, when many young people don't feel that they have a voice in their community, the act of volunteering and making a difference shows the young person that they can make an impact on the world they live in. This naturally builds self-esteem and confidence as the volunteer feels valued - and rightly so, emphasises Richard, as "young people in particular bring great new ideas and energy that can make a big impact".

This "double benefit" as Charlotte calls it is a mission statement that's at the heart of many of these volunteering organisations. Step Up To Serve's main focus is their #iwill campaign, launched in 2013 by the charity's patron HRH The Prince of Wales, which aims to "make youth social action the norm by 2020". The focus of the campaign are #iwill pledges of social action, which can be taken by businesses, charities, organisations, city and county councils and individuals alike. For students, pledging support to the campaign and participating in social action are easy ways to help reach the ultimate goal of ensuring that over 60 per cent of young people aged 10-20 are participating in social action volunteering. "By developing this habit young," Charlotte explains, "they will continue to play an active part in the community for the rest of their lives." Taken a step further, the hope is that such socially active young people will themselves bring up socially engaged children to continue such work in the future.

Charlotte wants to ensure that "the young

person is developing themselves as well as helping others". Step Up To Serve "wants to ensure that young people are seen as part of the solution, not part of the problem, and students have a great role to play in that". She emphasises that as well as making you more appealing to potential employers, participating in these opportunities has been linked to improved educational attainment, health, and well-being, "because they're fun, you're meeting new people and you're helping others".

For students then, it's a prime opportunity to not only better structure their time and gain life experience, but "to build their skills, improve their networks, meet people from different walks of life, and also really improve the community they live in".

It can be easy, notes Charlotte, to forget or dismiss the real, tangible difference that can be made through community-based volunteering, whether it's "through a structured volunteering opportunity, by running a campaign to save a local service or just seeing something in their neighbourhood they want to improve and taking action". Many organisations which run placements abroad require payment or fundraising to participate and this can make these opportunities exclusive to those without the time, money or confidence to begin with, but local volunteering is an option for everyone.

What's more, staying local allows you to create a change which leaves a legacy. When it comes to making a real long-term difference, the key has to be sustainability - and by keeping your volunteering work close to home, you can ensure that you're making changes which can continue even after you yourself move on from that project.

During my time social action campaigning in my community during my gap year, I helped to partner schools with local food-banks to enable regular food drives, educated students about the realities of food poverty in Britain and played a part in creating a county-wide network of schools committed to better supporting young carers in their education. My campaigns only lasted eight weeks, but their effects on my community back home continue today. Real change is created this way: by considering your volunteering role as bigger than yourself.

All of this demonstrates how volunteering at university can be both significantly impactful on your local community and positively formative for you personally. It's definitely worth doing some research to find a volunteering opportunity that might suit you, whether that's a one-off project, a regular placement or a social issue that you're desperate to campaign about. If you can't find something to suit you, or you think that there's a gap in what's available waiting to be filled, the University's Student Opportunities Coordinator for Volunteering can support you in setting up a new project.

Alternatively, if you have an idea for a campaign, charities such as Step Up To Serve, vInspired and others are equipped to help you in these endeavours through mentoring, training and even grants to fund your project.

Ultimately, Student Volunteering Week will be the perfect place to start for those hoping to engage with volunteering and social action during their time at university.

If you're a volunteer already, join in the conversation online using the hashtag #iwill. Because during the week to showcase your volunteering experiences and motivations. You could even consider making an #iwill pledge to try and involve one friend - and if you need just one reason to convince them to try it out, just turn to Charlotte's own simple motivation: "Volunteering and social action make you happier." You can do good and feel good doing it - what's not to love?

Student Volunteering Week will run from 22-26 February.



IMAGE: VINSPIRED

#iwill

YORK SVW: WEEK 8

Monday

Project Taster Sessions
Pub Quiz

Tuesday

Project Taster Sessions
Careers Talk

Wednesday

Volunteering Fair

Thursday

RSPCA Help Day

Friday

College Bake-off
Volunteering Celebration @ Courtyard

Niall Whitehead: ANTHEM FROM A DOOMED YOUTH



What've I been up to this week, huh? I'm glad you asked, imaginary construct! I tried reading Jane Austen, which is the literary equivalent of reading a 5000-word essay on the history of rice sketched out in steadily drying paint.

I went to a job interview where I was the only guy who turned up, and briefly considered applying for diversity grounds while wearing my whitest and male-est face. Having finished that up, I then walked down the street in my suit and had 30 whole seconds of feeling like an adult, before walking past the comics store and seriously con-

“ **At a job interview I briefly considered applying for diversity grounds while wearing my whitest and male-est face**

sidering buying Captain America's shield. So that was fun while it lasted.

I went to see Sweet Charity from CHMS, which was great - it was set in the 1930s, and like the actual 1930s, it was all black and white and sparkly and glamorous, but then it ended with massive depression. And, oh yeah, Valentine's Day happened.

Now, my physical appearance falls somewhere between 'that bit in Animal Farm where the pigs walk on their back legs' and 'Jabba the Hutt from an illegal Chinese version of Star Wars made on a budget of about 20p' (I'm going to stop there - I like to keep at least a little bit of distance between my witty column and my suicide note). So you won't be too shocked to hear that most of my Val-

entine's Days - including this one - have abided by a strict isolationist policy.

Maybe this'll change someday: even Shrek got married at the end of the movie, and all that. Hell, there's Donald Trump erotic fiction out there, and he's pretty much the villain from a movie where the hero is a talking dog. But at the time of writing, I'm not quite sure what to do when it hits.

I briefly tried Tinder - that hybrid of Twitter and natural selection - but it ended up the equivalent of trying to play poker with a two, three jokers and a shiny Blue-Eyes White Dragon. Rom-coms are out: they're ready-salted plasters for an open wound. Existential horror with Hugh Grant.

So I might spend the 14th watching Deadpool. Partly because Deadpool's great, and partly because Ryan Reynolds can't tell me to go away. He has to stay on the screen. Near my face.

Speaking of unhealthy attachments to celebrities, this was also the week that David Tennant came to campus so that he could get some filming done! When the news hit, he was immediately stalked by a thousand fangirls and Doctor Who nerds, thus proving that David Tennant's superpower to attract legions of devoted followers in Jessica Jones is actually a scaled-down version of what he can do in real life.

I don't know what he did after filming was done, although rumour has it he was last seen heading to that petrol station with the Daleks on it, rolling up his sleeves and declaring he was going to "sort that shit out". If you want to ask him, I hear he's next coming back two months ago.

Something else I've also been doing is recruiting people for The Times Graduate Survey, since as a student interested in journalism I decided to get a head-start on selling my soul to Rupert Murdoch. Putting the "social" in "social pariah", I've been sat in the library for hours on end, trying to see how much data I can get in exchange for a free cupcake. Turns out it's less than you think. Yeah, I know you had low expectations. It's less than you think.

And then Lent hit. An extended period of giving up. Which, honestly, could be the epitaph to my whole degree, so I might as well end it there.

LAMENTATIONS

In which Deborah Lam frets about the future

1 High Medieval literature is extraordinarily depressing. A man desperately calling his King's army (the equivalent of fellow chav gang members of the time) literally blows his brains out when he huffs and puffs on a war horn. I don't even have to make any sexual jokes for you.

2 When you reach your final year at university, people want to know things about you that you may not even know about yourself: what you want to do after you graduate, what you'd like to accomplish in the future, why you deserve the job/internship/spot on the postgraduate course/place on Earth. Let the existential crises begin. All prospective employers and postgraduate admissions officers must be awful at speed dating.

3 Non-EU graduates now have to earn £35,000 a year to remain in the UK within five years of graduating so students like yours truly would either have to graduate, go to Syria, try to re-enter the country on the grounds of possessing a university degree or convince a UK citizen to marry us. I don't fancy my chances at any of those. I bet Theresa May was a mean girl in school who told people, "You can't sit with us."

4 As it is now obligatory that any lament list must contain something about Trump, let's take a second to think about the fact that he has actually won the New Hampshire primary and though we might be enjoying a brew in the UK laughing at Americans on telly, a nutter the same colour as a melted orange skittle is this close from being the leader of the free world.

5 In not-at-all-similar election news, we can look forward to a cardboard covered campus, election speeches interrupting lectures that are way too chirpy at 9am and mildly dramatic YUSU election debates.

6 Valentine's Day and Easter means that retailers have two new reasons to justify overcharging for chocolate. Sympathising greatly with the girl in my seminar who wisely said that she has "given up giving up chocolate for Lent", I feel that this injustice is deplorable.

7 The weather is as indecisive as your significant other when deciding what to eat. And is as cruel as your ex. Even campus waterfowl don't know if it's time to come back yet, so they've settled on returning but throwing a fit every time there's a chill in the wind. To which the only rational response is to tell the geese and ducks to man up.

HARRIET CHESHIRE ON HER EXPERIENCE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN CANADA



Donald Trump the Democrat?

Luke Rix-Standing
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IT'S FAIR TO say that everyone has an opinion on Donald Trump: the Republican billionaire with a self-financed campaign, who has thrown the GOP primaries into disarray. The internet is rife with entertaining labels: "short-fingered vulgarian", "the kind of person who goes to the superbowl and thinks the people in the huddle are talking about him", "Gollum" (Rand Paul), and by an enamoured few, "messiah". If all publicity really is good publicity, then Trump has the best PR men on the planet.

But there's been a theory circulating for a while now that 'The Donald' is not everything he seems. Could he be a mole for the Democrats? In each debate he seems to be stretching his cover to breaking point, only to discover new depths of depravity in public opinion.

First it was the great anti-Mexican wall ("well someone's doing all the raping"), then the infamous Muslim ban ("I don't see the Swedish bombing the World Trade Center") and now it's "advanced interrogation techniques" ("I'll bring back a hell of a lot worse than waterboarding"). This flies in the face of Republican party goals which had aimed to appeal to a "more ethnically diverse nation". Trump's very existence is a middle finger to Republican strategists.

The 'Democrat mole' idea is perhaps at its most believable when watching dear old Donald getting endorsed by everyone's favourite moose-hunter, Sarah Palin. It's a pretty bizarre scene: Palin stands at the front of the stage twirling a finger and spouting popu- list gibberish

that even her most ardent fans would struggle to translate. "He's from the private sector...can I get a hallelujah!" she testifies, as Donald strains every sinew to keep his smile-cum-grimace in place. If this were Trump the Democrat then he would just have played his masterstroke: the GOP's most notorious idiot ranting and raving in prose that would look disjointed on reddit, while the so-called establishment scrambles to distance itself from its own ex-VP nominee. Republican columnists cry into their *National Reviews*, Jeb Bush pleads with his audience to clap, and Trump's enigmatic smile remains.

Furthermore, even though Trump has set himself apart stylistically, some of his politics reflects wonderfully badly on the rest of the Republican field. Policies that in previous Trump-less elections might have been seen as normal Republican views are internationally associated with Donald's own special brand of political extremism. Perhaps it is better the devil you know; better still if he comes with inherent unelectability.

Overall, it doesn't really matter whether Trump is a mole or not. Conservative commentator George Will has made perhaps the most telling contribution to the now-global Trump debate: "if Trump were a Democrat mole" he asks, "how would his behaviour be any different?" Trump therefore emerges as an excellent choice for any left-leaning, liberally-minded citizen. The more of America's twisted underbelly he exposes, the more soul-searching it will have to do. Make America great again. Vote Trump, v o t e D e m o - crat.



IMAGE: HARRIET CHESHIRE

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA/HILLARYFORIOWA



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE



Hillary Clinton was beaten in the New Hampshire primary by Bernie Sanders despite narrowly winning in Iowa

Under pressure: Sanders and Clinton neck and neck

Geoffrey Glover
POLITICAL REPORTER

WITH THE IOWA and New Hampshire primaries behind us, we can now say that the Presidential race is properly underway. It has thus far proven itself to be an insurrection against the establishment.

Far from being Hillary Clinton's coronation, the contest has proven to be one of the most interesting in recent memory. The Republican side has fielded the likes of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio as the three main candidates jockeying for the nomination. On the left, the race is being fought between Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a 74-year-old self-described socialist, and Hillary Clinton, former First Lady, Senator and Presidential candidate in 2008.

Leading the polls since July, the Republican favourite - much to the chagrin of many - Donald Trump, multi-billionaire and reality TV star has regained lost ground in New Hampshire, handily winning the primary with 35.3 per cent of the vote after an initial scare in Iowa where he came second to Texas Senator Ted Cruz who won 27.6 per cent of the vote. This is a relief for the Trump camp.

A self-styled "winner", second place in Iowa seemed hardly befitting. However, his divisive politics (building a wall along the Mexican border to stem illegal immigration for example), straight talking, and disregard for political correctness has regardless fielded an impressive amount of support from mainly

working class, white American families. In New Hampshire, they tended to be against the political elite, weary of globalisation, and those who held fears regarding immigration. This plays to Trump's advantage; many see him as incorruptible because he's too rich to be bought off and his populism has stoked the fire of political insurrection against the establishment. New Hampshire was an unqualified success.

Trailing behind, Ted Cruz, winner of the Iowa caucuses, Marco Rubio, whom many expected the Republican establishment to fall behind, and third place in New Hampshire, John Kasich. However, Rubio has seen a significant setback in New Hampshire. His failure to counter Governor Christie's debate and creating an image of a robot after repeating lines from his speech, is reflected in his fifth place in the New Hampshire primary.

In the Democrat corner, the contest being fought between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders has proven to be full of surprises.

In a race that was expected to be won handily by Clinton, Sanders has mustered an incredible turnout, the caucus in Iowa yielding 49.6 per cent of the votes to Sanders, compared to 49.9 per cent voting for Clinton. In a statement, Sanders told the press that the Iowa caucus was "basically a draw". Some counties resorted to flipping a coin to decide the winner, a rarely used method to decide between ties, showing just how close the Democrat race was. Iowa brings back bad memories for Clinton; it's where Barack Obama beat her in 2008 and proceeded to run away with the race.

However, the New Hampshire

primary was a victory for Sanders, with a majority of 60.4 per cent compared to Clinton's 38 per cent. Her loss stung, with *The New York Times* saying that it "amounted to a painful rejection" of her moderate politics in a moderate state.

Sanders, with his liberal agenda of raising taxes and regulating Wall Street, drawing from wide ranging grass-roots supporters, is running on a platform that rejects the status quo, with policies tackling wealth inequality and political corruption. In a race dominated by outsiders, this should come as less of a surprise than it does.

Clinton, who has ties to Wall Street and the pharmaceutical industry, failed to counter arguments saying that she was a symbol of corporate and elite politics which Sanders has styled himself to be the antithesis to. Furthermore, Clinton is seen as untrustworthy by voters due to her long political career that has been marred by a host of scandals, most recently, her discussion of classified security matters in an unsecure email conversation.

This resonates in the Sanders camp. Although he drew his victory from a wide socio-economic spectrum, the young disproportionately support him, Clinton even being edged out among women because of this. The only Democrat voters in majority support of Clinton were the over 65s. Regardless of the primaries, the race is only just getting started in earnest. With both sides being rocked by outsiders, the race to the nomination is sure to be fought tooth and nail between radicals from outside the traditional political system and the establishment candidates.

Both life and death prove cheap in Egypt

Mel Kennedy
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

ON 3 FEBRUARY, the worst fears of the family and friends of missing student Giulio Regeni were confirmed with the discovery of his tortured body on the side of a road in Cairo. His is yet another life claimed on Egyptian soil under suspicious circumstances.

Regeni, a 28 year old University of Cambridge PhD student from Italy, disappeared on 25 January, coinciding with the fifth anniversary of the 2011 Arab Spring Revolution.

Regeni was last believed to be meeting a friend but vanished among an unforeseen security crackdown in Cairo due to this anniversary. His disappearance sparked an international outcry, and his body was not discovered until nine days later.

Egyptian police dismissed his death as "a road accident". Regeni was found naked from the waist down with the tops of his ears cut off. Italian foreign minister Angelino Alfano stated that Regeni suffered "inhuman, animal-like violence". Although the cause of death, according to autopsy results reported by Ansa news agency, was a fracture of a vertebra in his neck from what is believed to be a violent

blow, this was not the only suffering that Regeni endured during his disappearance.

Italian doctors who carried out the post-mortem believe him to have been heavily beaten due to his many broken bones. Marks thought to be cigarette burns were found on his body, along with small stab wounds consistent with that of an ice pick. The body had also had a fingernail and toenail torn off.

Suspicious have been raised that responsibility for Regeni's torture and murder lies with Egyptian security forces. Regeni, using a pseudonym due to concerns for his own safety, was writing about Egyptian Labour Unions and rights

for the Italian Communist Paper, Il Manifesto.

This is a current, sensitive issue in Egypt and coincides with the state's increasing intolerance of any political opposition or confrontation. Egypt's death count keeps increasing. Regeni is not the first foreign national to have died suspiciously on Egyptian soil. A recent example was the eight Mexican tourists killed by helicopter gunships from the Egyptian armed forces when travelling across the Western Desert in September 2015.

It is also clearly not only foreign nationals who die in strange circumstances. A report published in December by Egypt's commission

for Rights and Freedoms, counts that between August and November of last year, 340 people were forcibly disappeared by security forces, a lot of these being victims of torture. That's three people each day.

As Egypt's death toll keeps growing, all we can do is wonder when this inhumane madness and violence will end. How many more people will have to endure this torture? How many more people will die on Egyptian land just because they disagree with its government's politics? It is horrifying but true to say that Giulio Regeni is but one death among many, who are distinguished by nationality, but not suffering.

Multiculturalism failed in Britain?

Felix Forbes
POLITICS EDITOR

THE YORK UNION, continuing with their unofficial policy of topics to irritate the British left, held a panel debate this week on whether "Multiculturalism has failed Britain". The speakers were Trevor Phillips OBE and Daniel Goodheart, arguing for the motion, with sociologist Tariq Modood and *Guardian* columnist Zoe Williams against.

Phillips, introduced with a particularly fulsome welcome, clearly decided that in the interests of fairness all of the panel ought to be greeted with the same round of applause that he received, mildly startling panel Chair Harry Scoffin.

The debate felt at times like the two sides were talking of different things. Those against the motion praised Britain's diversity and what they thought multiculturalism did for the country (better test scores for ethnically integrated classrooms being one of many cited examples). Those for the motion attacked the system of population management that they called separatist multiculturalism. To them, this was a

peculiarly British strategy of leaving immigrant communities to their own devices and hoping that they fancied integrating.

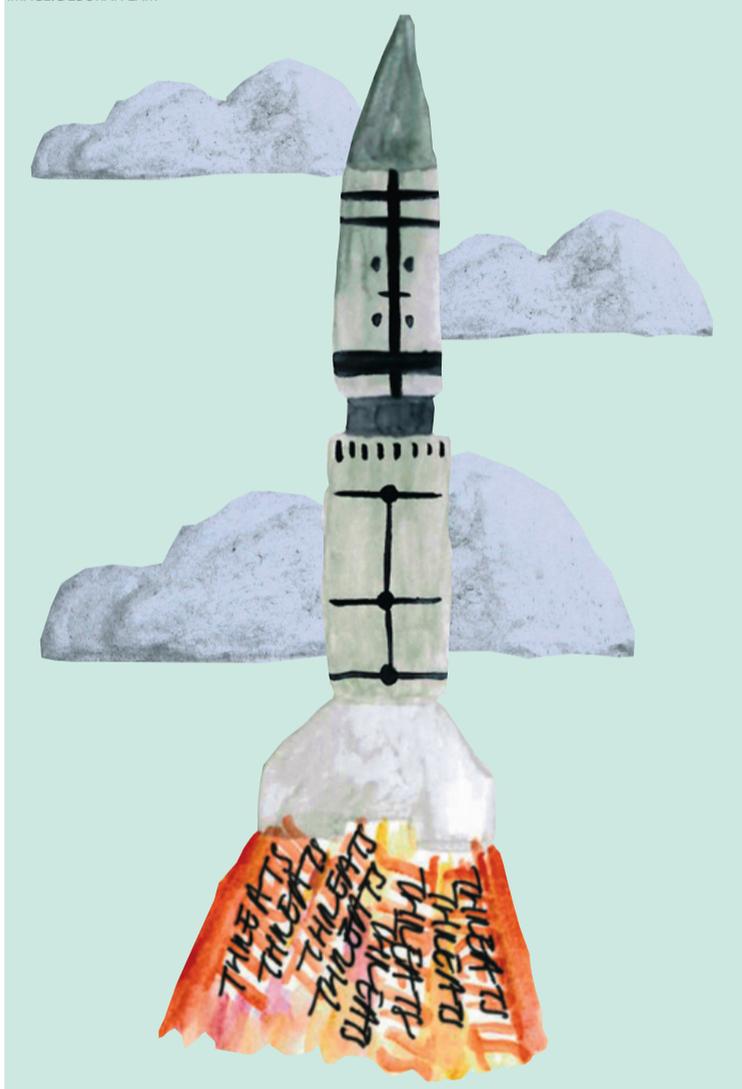
Phillips, who in 2004 attacked Labour's multiculturalist approach, had previously warned that Britain was "sleepwalking towards segregation". When asked by *Nouse* if he still believed this, he stated that he thought that the sleepwalking had only stopped "because we're there".

A question from the floor on migrants and "sacrificing British or Christian values" to appease new arrivals was met with short shrift.

The strongest argument made by those against the motion was that differing cultures under the aegis of Britain and British culture allowed ethnic minorities to remember their heritage and thrive at the same time.

Zoe Williams' arguments that problems were ultimately rooted in economics was less persuasive in the face of examples such as Female Genital Mutilation or forced marriage. While the number of attendees in favour of multiculturalism barely dropped, over half of those abstaining on the motion voted for it afterwards - victory and vindication under the Union's voting rules, for Phillips and Goodheart.

IMAGE: DEBORAH LAM



N. Korea's 7 Feb satellite launch attracted international condemnation, considered an attempt to enhance the state's ballistic missile capabilities. The rocket's range is 6,300 miles, which could reach the USA.

English classes to beat terror

Julia Guy
POLITICAL REPORTER

DAVID CAMERON is launching a new £20 million scheme that enables non-English speaking Muslim women who live in the UK to learn English. The launch is set to help counter terrorism, in order to aid integration and minimise isolation between communities in the UK. Earlier this month, Cameron discussed the challenges of the growing problem of terrorist activity in the UK. He closed his speech by saying "at stake is not just our lives but our way of life".

Whitehall wants to address the oppression Muslim women face, allowing them to learn English as a way for them to gain independence. Critics respond that not all Muslim women are oppressed and say that teaching English doesn't tackle the roots of oppression. Cameron is accused of assuming that Islam and Britishness can't be compatible. How are these 'disintegrated' Muslims expected to integrate into a community that constantly sees them as suspicious and unworthy?



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

LEFT WING RIGHT WING welcomes you to this mid-term edition of *Nouse*, clutching its bottle of gin and wheezing with the strain of it all.

Campus will be covered with horrible cardboard by the time that you read this, reflecting the desires

of many to put their politics training wheels on and get a head-start on the sweaty, swearsy backstabbing.

Speaking of sweaty, everyone's least-favourite sought-on-sex-crimes figure, Julian Assange, reminded everyone that he's still in the Ecuadorian embassy's cupboard. Assange has been hailing a power-

less UN body's decision that he is being arbitrarily detained due to the Met standing outside his door and waiting for him to get bored. The world's sarcastic response seems to have slightly put him off. Bless his disingenuous heart.

Our own dearly beloved swivel-eyed lunatics have been making themselves popular on the subject of the EU. Emotional arguments about which way zombie Thatcher would vote confirms the weird and slightly erotic hold that the Iron Lady still has on senior Tories. There seems

to be a distinct lack of imagination here though - why not Churchill? Or Henry V? Our proud nation has a lengthy heritage of brutalising the continent, and choosing one of our less blood-spilling leaders only shows how boring the whole referendum is going to be.

In further heartening proof of British ineptitude, we were recently regaled with the story of British jihadis joining Islamic State

despite being gay. Prior to metaphorically inserting their steak-sauce-adorned heads into the lion's mouth, they also arsed about on the hills of Cardiff like a budget Four Lions tribute. One of them, even less blessed with intellect than the others, couldn't remember any jihadi nasheeds (religious songs), so hummed the theme to Rocky instead. None of the above has been made up.



Business of electing: Which Activities Officer manifesto is on the money?

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS EDITOR

WITH THE STUDENT Activities Officer responsible for financing societies and organising University wide events, we at *Nouse* Business thought it would be good to question the candidates on their manifestos. A questionnaire was sent to each of the candidates containing a wide range of questions relating to the role of activities officer. Their answers provided the basis for the report below unless otherwise stated. The responses are generated from these answers.



Alex Lusty

On working with societies, Alex responded by stating that he would use the YUSU societies committee fully to hear the concerns of societies and students. He also proposed a system of “bespoke sponsorship” for societies, in which they can work with organisations with the aim of pairing societies and volunteering groups with appropriate sponsors and partners. This would mean that each society will be able to generate their own money to fund their needs outside of YUSU. This proposal is designed to increase societies’ autonomy.

On the issue of YUSU involvement, Alex’s response is clear that “the last thing YUSU needs is more bureaucracy!” arguing that YUSU is better for societies when it is in the background. Again he has suggested that more autonomy for societies is preferable over YUSU interference.

Alex has some innovative ideas to encourage University wide participation in events including society workshops for international students to help show them the benefits that being part of a society can bring. Furthermore, he stated that he wants to expand refreshers week, “to give societies a second opportunity to show what they can offer once freshers have settled in to life at York”. On financing his proposals, Alex responded that his proposals have been designed to be done

at minimum cost. Furthermore, he proposed to introduce a societies card that could save students money in town.



Dominic Elhert

Based on the responses provided by Dominic, his central point when working with societies is to be as approachable as possible. Dominic stated that he is “very keen on talking to societies to understand their needs” and aims to provide a tailored approach.

He believes that this tailored approach will help societies with their issues. On YUSU, Dom responded that YUSU is seen as “more of a hindrance to societies” and that dealing with the “outdated bureaucracy of YUSU would be a fantastic start”. Realistically, he has conceded that some bureaucracy is inevitable but believes that the current system needs reform.

Dom concluded the YUSU question with “the current system doesn’t feel fit for purpose, and needs to become more efficient and easier to work with”. Dom’s ideas relating to University wide activities seem sensible, telling *Nouse* that one of his key policies is to offer more YUSU Rag events as well as encouraging a voluntary collaboration between RAG, societies, and colleges to raise more money for charity. Dom does concede that ticket pricing could increase but “any profit made will go back into RAG and for future events”.



Heather Kelly

Heather’s approach to societies

is to offer a more one-to-one approach by talking to society chairs as well as tackling broader issues that societies face. She has also suggested that forums could be made to help societies collaborate more and avoid event clashes. Heather has some innovative ideas on YUSU’s relationship with societies, suggesting online tutorials to help with issues such as Event Management Forms (EMF) and room bookings which could help as it would be a “much quicker and easier way for people to get the answers they need”.

Furthermore, Heather points out that online tutorials and crash courses will assist in committee handover and training. Heather’s response to University wide events was to call for them to be organised a term in advance as this will aid the promoting of events. Again, Heather calls for more collaboration and possibly tailored emails based on students’ specific interests alerting them to upcoming events as well as a calendar containing all upcoming events. In relation to finance, Heather would like to make it easier for societies to get sponsorship to help fund their endeavours.

In summarising her campaign Heather told *Nouse*: “I want to make sure York students have the best student experience possible, through a revival of RAG, better promotion of volunteering, and better support for societies, all to give students more opportunities to get involved and make university an unforgettable experience. #BeCleverVoteHeather.”



Lucas North

Lucas plans to be approachable to society committees, both online and in person. They hope that committee members will feel able to come and talk to Lucas to discuss ideas and what help they need. On YUSU, Lucas has expressed a desire to streamline the re-ratification process and expand the application window for societies. They have also come up with a useful idea of an online space for prospective new societies to find members and fill committee positions, which would make it easier for prospective societies to

get ratified by YUSU.

Lucas has also suggested an increased autonomy for societies by including a small monetary ‘float’ so that students aren’t forced to pay for things and then wait to be reimbursed. Lucas wants to promote a sense of community spirit to help promote University wide events, so that people feel involved. They have suggested a ‘once a month dress up day’ to help foster a sense of involvement with YUSU among students. On financing their plans, Lucas hopes to run events with minimal costs to students, possibly by “freeing up funds from elsewhere to cover additional costs”.

Although this sounds good in practice, YUSU have been using whatever money available to finance already existing commitments such as using the college fee to finance college sport, as *Nouse* reported in last edition.



Golfo Migos

Based on Golfo’s responses, she plans to be a ‘problem solver’ for societies by offering each society help on an individual level. She has gone on to say that she would like to make societies more aware of the processes behind YUSU’s thinking so that societies can have a better understanding of how YUSU operates. Golfo’s plans for YUSU are slightly ambiguous saying that on the one hand, she favours increased autonomy for societies but that “at all times a society should be accountable to YUSU, that is the way this University is run, to ensure fair and equal treatment for all”.

Golfo states that her central issue is that “YUSU need to trust societies more” by providing societies insight on how YUSU operates and improving transparency. On University wide events, Golfo has suggested that societies could play a greater role.

She suggests that the “YUSU events that are extrapolations of pre-existing societies, just in a larger remit, are the most successful,” and that by using existing society events, YUSU could create more popular events. As societies are in charge of generating most of the activities

on campus, Golfo’s proposals make considerable sense. On financing, Golfo has expressed a strong desire to make sure that students are not being “charged too much to enjoy their time at University”.



Charlie Watkins

“Communication is key” in Charlie’s plans for working with the University’s range of societies. He is proposing weekly drop in sessions as well as appointments and meeting with societies. On YUSU, Charlie has gone against the grain and has conceded that YUSU needs to be “fairly bureaucratic to ensure the best decisions are made for the University we know and love”.

However, he does qualify this by proposing a Communication, Promotion, Inclusion, Inclusive strategy of working with societies, by helping to promote their activities and get them to work together, as well as making societies inclusive for all. One of Charlie’s key policies is improving the YUSU app with an up-to-date events calendar to alert people to upcoming events.

On University wide events, he wants more promotion through social media to encourage people to attend events. Charlie’s financial plans are clear stating that with his policies it is “about weighing out the benefits and rewards of said cost and determining professionally if it is worth it, which it should be”. This does suggest that costs could rise but only if absolutely necessary based on a cost-benefit approach.

Editor’s Note

All of the candidates call for greater dialogue between YUSU and societies, with most candidates saying YUSU is too overbearing on societies. On University wide events, the candidates had a variety of unique suggestions on new types of events with no candidate calling for a continuation of the status quo. On financing their proposals, candidates responded well but details were scarce.

Deutsche Bank's long fall from grace

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS EDITOR

THE GERMAN BANKING giant Deutsche Bank has faced a turbulent time since the start of the year. The bank, which is one of Germany's largest, escaped the financial crisis of 2008 relatively unscathed but questions over its financial position have been raised. The share price has declined by 30 per cent in the first 6 weeks of this year, with the share price reaching a 30 year low last week.

Moreover, the bank has been embroiled in several scandals and its profitability has declined. Deutsche Bank has had to pay a large number of fines last year including one for fixing the Libor (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) which totalled a record-breaking £1.7 billion. The bank paid €6.8 billion in fines last year with analysts Morgan Stanley predicting that Deutsche Bank will have a further €3.9 billion in fines and litigation costs to pay this year alone. Last week, the bank announced its first full year loss since the financial crisis, leading to further steep falls in the bank's share price.

This has left investors fighting to sell off shares in Deutsche Bank despite the English CEO John Cryan, a City veteran who was made the boss last year to restructure

IMAGE: EPIZENTRUM



Deutsche Bank's imposing headquarters based in Frankfurt, Germany

the bank, declaring that "Deutsche Bank remains absolutely rock-solid, given our strong capital and risk position." However, with analysts comparing the situation at Deutsche Bank to that of Barclay's, Mr Cryan

has an uphill battle to reassure the market that Deutsche Bank is financially stable.

Unfortunately for Mr Cryan, investors remain skeptical with the share price continuing to fall despite

plans to make 15,000 staff redundant and restructuring the investment and retail arms of Deutsche Bank. Last Wednesday, the bank enacted an emergency bond buy-back to try and shore up the share price but rumours that the retail arm PostBank needs to be devalued by a third of its value hasn't helped the situation.

This is a far cry from eight years ago when Deutsche Bank was considered a safe haven for investors hoping to protect themselves from the crash. Indeed, despite being Germany's largest bank, unlike many of its competitors in Europe, the bank did not receive a bailout. So far, Angela Merkel's government has remained quiet and unconcerned, with the finance minister saying he is not worried. However, the German media have been less mute.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* ran a front page editorial which asked "How solid is a bank that has shed a third of its shareholder value in a month, and half of it over the course of a year?" Indeed, the same newspaper pointed out that it is now the customers of Deutsche Bank who need to ask questions.

However, given the size and importance of Deutsche Bank, it needs to stabilise the situation. Having lost nearly 30 per cent of its value, for the sake of the German and European financial system the bank needs to resolve this rapidly.

BAD BUSINESS

DEUTSCHE BANK'S perceived fall from grace delighted the ranks of Greek Twitter this week, with many Greeks raising a glass of Ouzo to the struggling German superbank. Given Deutsche Bank's firm attitude towards the Greek government, the schadenfreude of the Greek public was strong. One Greek Twitter user called Stefanos proclaimed the thoughts of many Greeks with "Our thoughts are with the bank in these difficult times #JeSuisDeutscheBank". Very witty indeed.

This section's favourite oil sheikhdom Saudi Arabia heard last week that all the oil in the Gulf wasn't going to save them from the analysts slapping down their oil glut policy. It turns out that oversupplying the market is unsustainable, shock horror, and that the Saudis will continue to lose money. So, Saudi Arabia, your move.

Osborne's deficit plans have been derailed by the IFS, telling Georgie boy that taxes must rise. Difficult for a man who said no income tax, National Insurance or VAT rises for five years. Something tells me that a pledge made in the heat of an election campaign has truly come back to haunt him. I like to think it's the ghosts of taxes past, present and future keeping him into the early hours.

Commodities are in downward spiral

Laura Henrique
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE SLOWDOWN in emerging markets like China, Brazil and India has led a number of companies to expand too quickly in recent years. As a result, they are now having to battle to stay afloat. The price of commodities has been decreasing since 2011. However, as with everything, there are winners and losers. The mining industry has seen the top 40 companies experience £300 billion wiped off of their market value in 2015, which affected oil producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia who rely heavily on exports. However, consumers and businesses in Britain have reaped the benefits from cheaper energy prices as oil has seen a drop from over \$100 a barrel to below \$30 a barrel.

Oil plays a central role in driving down the costs of other commodities and has affected the

mining industry. Although China was viewed as the world's largest consumer of commodities in 2008, during the time that their economy has proceeded to stabilise, it has become less focused on investment in manufacturing and as a result, so too has their demand for large quantities of metal, coal and oil.

Establishments who rely on the commodities sector have taken the hardest blow as they have been left with no choice but to restructure in order to survive the current climate. Anglo American - one of the largest mining companies in the world - has had to cut 85,000 jobs, a reduction of almost two thirds of its workforce.

In an attempt to combat the commodities crunch, oil companies have resorted to slashing production. The United States oil production, for instance, is down by 444,000 barrels per day in an effort to increase the price of oil by restricting supply. The odds seem to be stacked against them as the market continues to look very weak in the immediate future.

Osborne's deficit plans deemed unachievable without tax rises

Laura Henrique
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

GEORGE OSBORNE'S ambitious target to reduce the deficit may have been set a bit prematurely. Despite intending to turn an £80bn budget deficit - the total by which government expenditure exceeds its revenue - into an absolute surplus of £10.1bn by the end of the decade, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research has reported that this may not be achievable.

Historically, the odds are against him seeing as the UK has only run a surplus six times within the last six decades and this figure is unlikely to change if the present growth and spending rates remain unmoved. This ambitious target may lead to a more stringent fiscal policy which could, in turn, force spending cuts or tax rises.

Moreover, should Osborne successfully reach the March 2019 Budget with his plans unscathed,

history suggests that these implementations would still be required. However, this may prove to be an issue, seeing as David Cameron and Osborne assured the public, as part of their election campaign, that national insurance, VAT or income tax would not be raised.

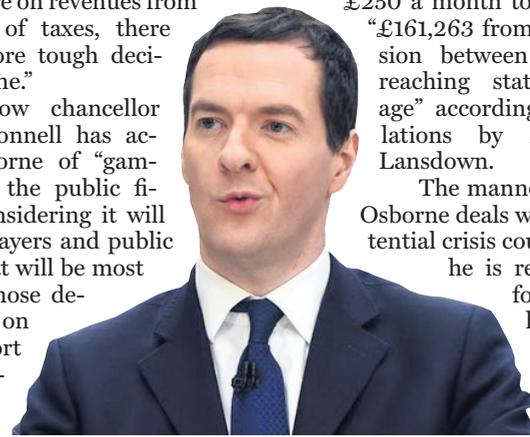
Paul Johnson, the IFS director commented: "With public spending reaching historically low levels relative to national income, promises on tax cuts to keep and pay for, and pressure on revenues from a number of taxes, there may be more tough decisions to come."

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell has accused Osborne of "gambling with the public finances" considering it will be the taxpayers and public services that will be most affected. Those depending on child support may be particularly touched

as it has been reported by an independent think-tank that a total of 1.5 million households could be at risk of losing a large portion or the entirety of their child benefit, as a result of their pay rising above £50,000.

The retirement funds of young professionals may also be at risk as it's been reported that the new potential "flat rate" of tax relief system could cause a 25-year-old higher-rate taxpayer who saves £250 a month to lose up to "£161,263 from their pension between now and reaching state pension age" according to calculations by Hargreaves Lansdown.

The manner in which Osborne deals with this potential crisis could be what he is remembered for as he now has a number of key decisions left to make.



Disease is going viral: How do we stop it?

Joe Lloyd
SCIENCE CONTRIBUTOR

THE ZIKA VIRUS is threatening an estimated 4 million people over 23 countries in the Americas. The virus has generated an extremely high level of concern and for good reason. Currently, there are no available vaccines or treatments for the virus. The virus also lacks rapid diagnostic tests. The explosive spread of the Zika virus is alarming, prompting the World Health Organisation to convene for emergency talks. But this isn't for the first time in recent years.

It was only in 2013 that Ebola broke out in West Africa, and 2015 that the case was closed on the MERS outbreak in Korea. Not to mention the ongoing battle with HIV across the world. Why are we fundamentally incapable of effectively treating them? The answer lies in how a virus reproduces and quickly evolves. Unlike bacteria, a virus is essentially an inanimate, lifeless form that is able to hijack the body's cells and systems. They use host DNA and protein replication mechanisms to multiply, making it difficult to target the virus without also attacking the normal

cells. So, as the Zika virus rampages through the Americas and threatens many other countries, does that mean that we should panic?

Luckily not. With the onset of another viral epidemic inevitably comes the whirring of more cogs in the global research machine.

As with the Ebola outbreak, scientists have got to work and the search for drugs and vaccines continues. Our own immune systems are also remarkably effective at repelling foreign bodies like the virus. Every day we are exposed to billions of viruses that our bodies effectively battle against. Indeed the symptoms of most infections are often a result of the body fighting back rather than harm caused by the virus itself.

Vaccines and drugs for Zika are estimated to take years to develop and may not even eradicate the disease, as other viruses such as influenza and HIV demonstrate. Influenza requires a new vaccine annually to cover newly evolved strains, while HIV's unique method of replication allows it to repeatedly evade our efforts to contain it.

When a disease can't be cured, the next step is to prevent it. Scientists have come up with an unconventional method involving an ecological approach.

The suggestion is to release



IMAGE: FRANKIELEON

Mosquitos are the insect vectors that spread the Zika virus; warm temperatures increase the population

mosquitos in the hope of reducing the population of *A. aegypti*, the mosquito species responsible for the spread of the Zika virus. Specifically, the intention is to release males with a mutated genome that causes any offspring to die before they can reproduce, therefore causing a reduction in population by up to 95 per cent in some trials. Fewer mosquitos, fewer infections, in theory.

However, genetic alteration dies out with the first generation

of offspring and though this does placate any fears of modifications spreading throughout nature, it means that GM mosquitos must be released continuously to reduce the population.

Alternatively, *A. aegypti* can be infected with Wolbachia, a bacteria that reduces the lifespan of a mosquito so that it cannot transfer a disease between humans, but still lives to reproduce, transmitting bacteria to offspring.

Initially conceptualised to

combat dengue fever, also transmitted by the *A. aegypti* mosquito, this method shows promise reducing populations in a trial by 65 per cent. Following this, the population of Wolbachia-infected mosquitos shrank, seeming to be more susceptible to insecticides.

Both methods have their flaws and don't necessarily mean the end for Zika. And as the level of risk rises to one of alarming proportions, the need for a solution is becoming urgent.

Cloning as a conservation method



The endangered Ethiopian wolf population could be rejuvenated by cloning

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE EDITOR

IN SOUTH KOREA, the scientist Woosuk Hwang is working on cloning endangered canine species. In the private lab Sooam Biotech, close to 500 new canine clones are created every day.

The lab was opened shortly

after Hwang was uncovered as a fraud and sentenced to two years in prison, which he didn't serve.

Branded a national hero in 2005 after unveiling the first cloned dog and claiming to have created human stem cell lines that could be used to study diseased cells, a year later Hwang fell from grace. Seoul National University discovered that the stem cell lines were faked and a national bioethics committee

found that he had forced some lab members to donate their eggs for research. Surprisingly, he still has some supporters who funded his new lab.

Mark Zastrow from the *New Scientist* visited this "incredibly eerie" lab recalling the animal clones' identical coats and mannerisms. Using somatic cell nuclear transfer, the DNA in an adult cell's nucleus is transferred to an egg with its nucleus removed to produce an animal identical to its parent. Many will recall this method as being responsible for creating Dolly the Sheep.

Currently, the lab charges bereaved dog owners around £7000 per new born identical pup. Research director Yeonwoo Jeong claims that cloning endangered species is the "most meaningful way [this technology can] contribute to society".

Many species of wolf and wild dog are closely related to domesticated species, therefore scientists believe that once DNA is obtained, the cloning process should be relatively simple.

First they want to repopulate the Ethiopian wolf packs, with fewer than 500 individuals remaining in alpine meadows. The lab has already agreed to collaborate with a university in central Ethiopia which

hopes to provide clones of pups for repopulation efforts within a year of obtaining governmental permission to collect tissue samples.

However, many researchers are concerned that cloning will not actually help to conserve endangered species. Some even feel that this could hurt existing conservation efforts.

A large population of clones will have little genetic diversity which could result in devastating birth defects for offspring. A lack of genetic variation would also risk a whole population being knocked out by a single disease.

Most importantly, there is an urgent need to address the real problems causing species endangerment. Simply putting more animals back into the same conditions in which they are dying will solve nothing.

Claudio Sillero, founder of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme at the University of Oxford, worries that politicians who are presented with what looks like a quick fix solution will choose this option over more comprehensive, long-term programmes.

This could potentially threaten the whole structure of an endangered community, which would have the opposite effect to intent.



nature @nature
Belief in moralistic, punitive gods may have facilitated the expansion of human societies
11 Feb 2016

WIRED Science @WIREDScience
The US already has the technology to keep Zika out of the blood supply. It just has to use it
11 Feb 2016

New Scientist @newscientist
Great white shark's diet includes the biggest fish of all: whale shark ow.ly/YfZx1
12 Feb 2016

Scientific American @sciam
NASA will decide the fate of its troubled Mars lander next month. bit.ly/1SKNfqG
12 Feb 2016

A potential ninth planet stuns scientists at NASA

Sharon Vafapisheh
SCIENCE CONTRIBUTOR

MANY OF US will remember a time when our solar system contained nine planets. Alas, now it consists of the widely accepted eight, after Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006.

Perhaps even more tragically, all of the important mnemonics we had been taught to remember for ordering the planets became invalid in one fell swoop.

Those of us who are still sore about the loss of Pluto as a planet can rejoice in the fact that there may be a ninth planet after all!

Researchers from the California Institute of Technology, also known as

Caltech, have suggested that there may be a planet far beyond Pluto, 5,000 times its mass and 10 times the size of Earth.

This theory is based on findings that the six most distant objects that are present in the Kuiper Belt, which have orbits beyond Neptune, behave strangely. All planets that orbit the sun, like the Earth, were thought to be aligned on the same plane. It was then found that the orbits of these distant objects line-up in one direction, and importantly that they are deflected from the plane of the solar system.

The researchers used mathematical models and computer simulations to show that this anomaly can be explained by the presence of a large planet further away, because they take an obscure, highly elongated orbit. A large planet's gravitational force would skew the orbit of smaller objects.

This hypothetical planet has been

nicknamed 'Planet Nine' or 'Planet X' and its possible existence has caused excitement around the world.

However, while this news is exciting, 'Planet X' hasn't actually been discovered yet.

In a video released by NASA, the Director of Planetary Science Jim Green commented on the theory, saying that "it is not, however, the detection of a new planet. It's too early to say with certainty that there is a so-called 'Planet X' out there," warning that there could be other explanations.

However, astronomers have suggested that if this hypothetical planet is real, large telescopes such as the Subaru Telescope should be able to spot it.

If this is the case, could we be expecting observational proof of the existence of a ninth planet in the coming months?

Gravitational waves detected

Jessica Pound
SCIENCE EDITOR

A HUGE development in physics has been made this week as gravitational waves have been detected almost exactly 100 years after Einstein hypothesised their existence. It is a breakthrough for understanding how the Universe works and provides new avenues for studying it.

Gravitational waves are central to Einstein's general theory of relativity for how mass shapes the Universe. He suggested that shock waves radiate outwards when cataclysmic events happen such as stars exploding and black holes colliding.

Imagine billions of light years ago, these very waves detected on

were produced by two black holes colliding. They have been travelling through the Universe ever since. As a consequence, they have a tiny amplitude when they reach Earth. For years, this tiny impact, smaller than that of an atom, has been searched for by scientists all hoping to prove that they do exist, in a collaboration of over 300 people. Central to their search is the highly sensitive equipment that is necessary to detect the miniscule impact.

The waves detected satisfy Einstein's equations of general relativity exactly. Astronomers are convinced that they have detected two dead stars colliding to form a black hole.

Their detection could revolutionise how we think about the Universe. They used lasers to detect the collision, which were fired down a tunnel just under the Earth's surface in many parts of the world, relying on the previously purely hypothesised and extremely rare likelihood that a gravitational wave should hit earth. Should a gravitational wave pass, lasers would be knocked out of position, resulting in a signal.

The gravitational waves can be translated into sound waves: a form of energy conversion. We are therefore able to effectively 'hear' the universe.

This is potentially the start of an amazing journey that could lead us to the precise moment of The Big Bang.

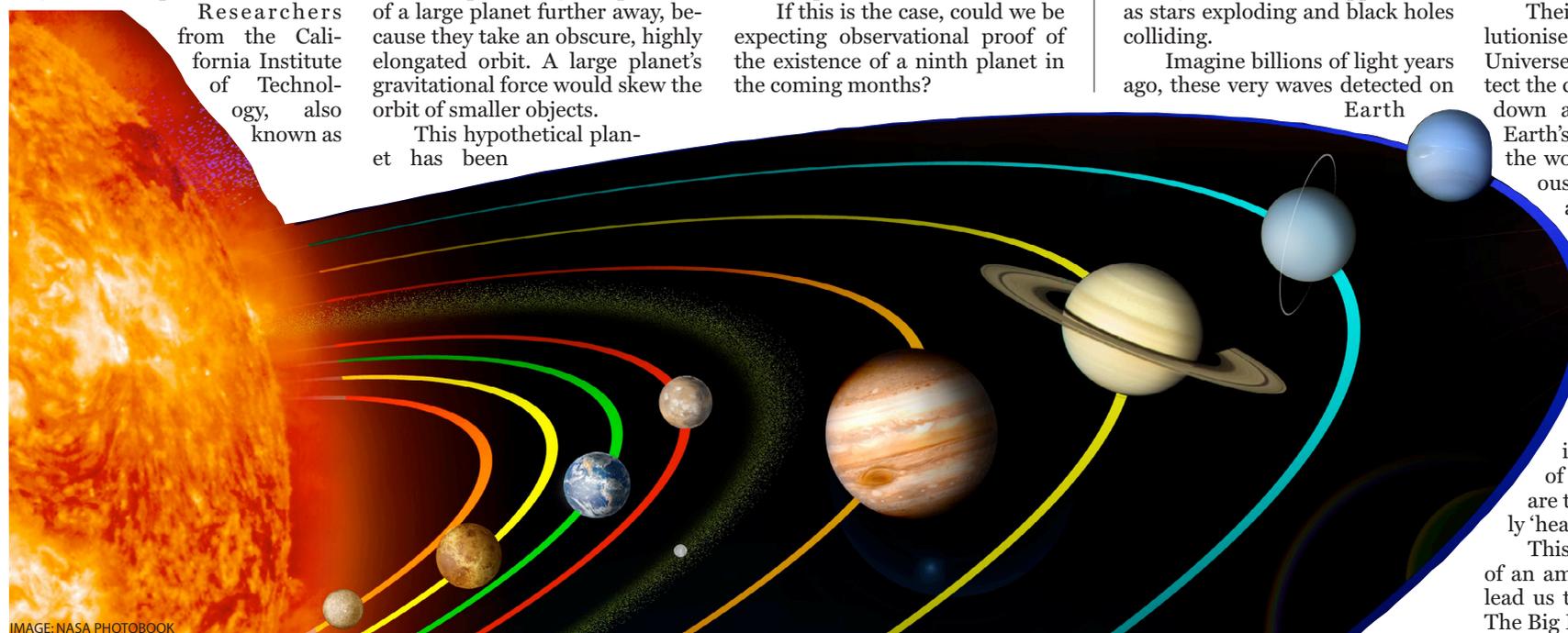


IMAGE: NASA PHOTOBOOK

The current eight planet model of the solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

SCIENCE SNIPPETS

Marine 'socks' identified

More than 60 years after its first sighting, the mystery of the 'sock of the deep' has been solved. Resembling a purple sock lying on the seabed of the Pacific ocean, the organism has been assigned the genus *Xenoturbella*. Two other species have since been found, appropriately named *Xenoturbella monstrosa* and *Xenoturbella churro* based on their appearances. The organism has no eyes, brain or gut and is thought to be at the very bottom of the evolutionary tree. It was previously thought to be a mollusc based on its genome sequence, but the mollusc component was in fact digested by the organism. How and where exactly, however, is still in debate.



IMAGE: KRIS WILLIAMS

Why the long face?

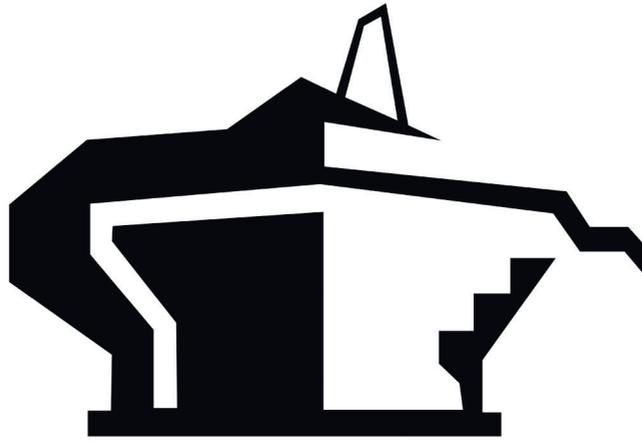
A study from the University of Sussex has shown that domesticated horses can read human emotions. Very few animals have shown to have this level of social comprehension. When shown photos of angry men, the horses experienced a faster heart rate, signalling a stressed or anxious response. They looked at the photos with their left eye much more than their right. This increased stimulation of the right side of the brain, which is wired to respond to negative stimuli. Dogs are the only other animal that have shown to display such responses to human emotions. Horses were used in this study as they can also produce different facial expressions.



IMAGE: NOFRILLS

The way we speak

More txt speak is creeping into our lexicon. English is likely to be the language of choice for international discourse, as it dominates international relations, business and science. But with technology constantly altering our way of communicating, the English language is now enriched with emoticons, txt speak and online jargon. As English grammar gets simpler and less linguistically 'correct', there will always be those who consider it spoilt. However, these linguistic trends are spreading, because they are expressive and useful. So, the English language could become dominated by our online jargon and txt talk.



the *YORK* UNION

coming up...

**MARTIN DAUBNEY: PORNOGRAPHY AND
THE DEMONISATION OF YOUNG MEN**

Tuesday 16th February

**THIS HOUSE BELIEVES FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION IS UNDER THREAT AT BRITISH
UNIVERSITIES**

Tuesday 23rd February

SIR ANTHONY SELDON

Wednesday 2nd March

The not-so-Super Bowl: Why we Brits don't get it

Will we ever fully embrace the spectacle of American Football?

Jack Davies
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

7 FEBRUARY 2016 saw the staging of the hotly-anticipated Super Bowl 50, marking the climax of the National Football League's (NFL) 2015 season (it doesn't make sense to me that the championship game is held the year after, either).

For those of you who are interested in your American Football, the Denver Broncos triumphed by 24-points-to-10 over the Carolina Panthers to award their veteran quarterback Peyton Manning his second Super Bowl championship.

But why should we in the UK be arsed about an event contested solely by American teams 5,000 miles from home?

The sport of American Football has enjoyed a surge in popularity in

Britain in recent years.

In fairness, this was recognised by the NFL who began in 2007 to host a yearly game at Wembley Stadium in London to allow British fans of the sport to catch a game.

The initiative proved popular, with the number of annual games rising to two in 2013, and then three in 2014.

This popularity has continued; the BBC now regularly broadcasts an NFL show featuring highlights of games across the USA during the season.

But the fact remains that the sport is, for the most part, incredibly inaccessible to any fans based outside of the USA. Even in America, there are just 32 teams comprising the NFL, to be shared by 50 states.

It's comparable to there being just one conventional football team in the whole of the UK; that's a hell of a lot of travelling to watch a match. And that's not to mention that the sport can be boiled down to an often-boring, stop-start, peculiar Rugby-hybrid, too.

A great deal of its attraction lies in the

the run-up, and the star-studded halftime-shows (although the less said about this latest installment the better).

The fact is, the entire event is very much an American thing, something for the entirety of the USA to sit down and glue their eyes to for four hours on a Sunday night in the middle of winter. Aside from the occasional Wembley match, there is no real involvement by any nations other than the US in the NFL.

Where our version of Football has the likes of the European Champions League and the World Cup, and Rugby the likes of the

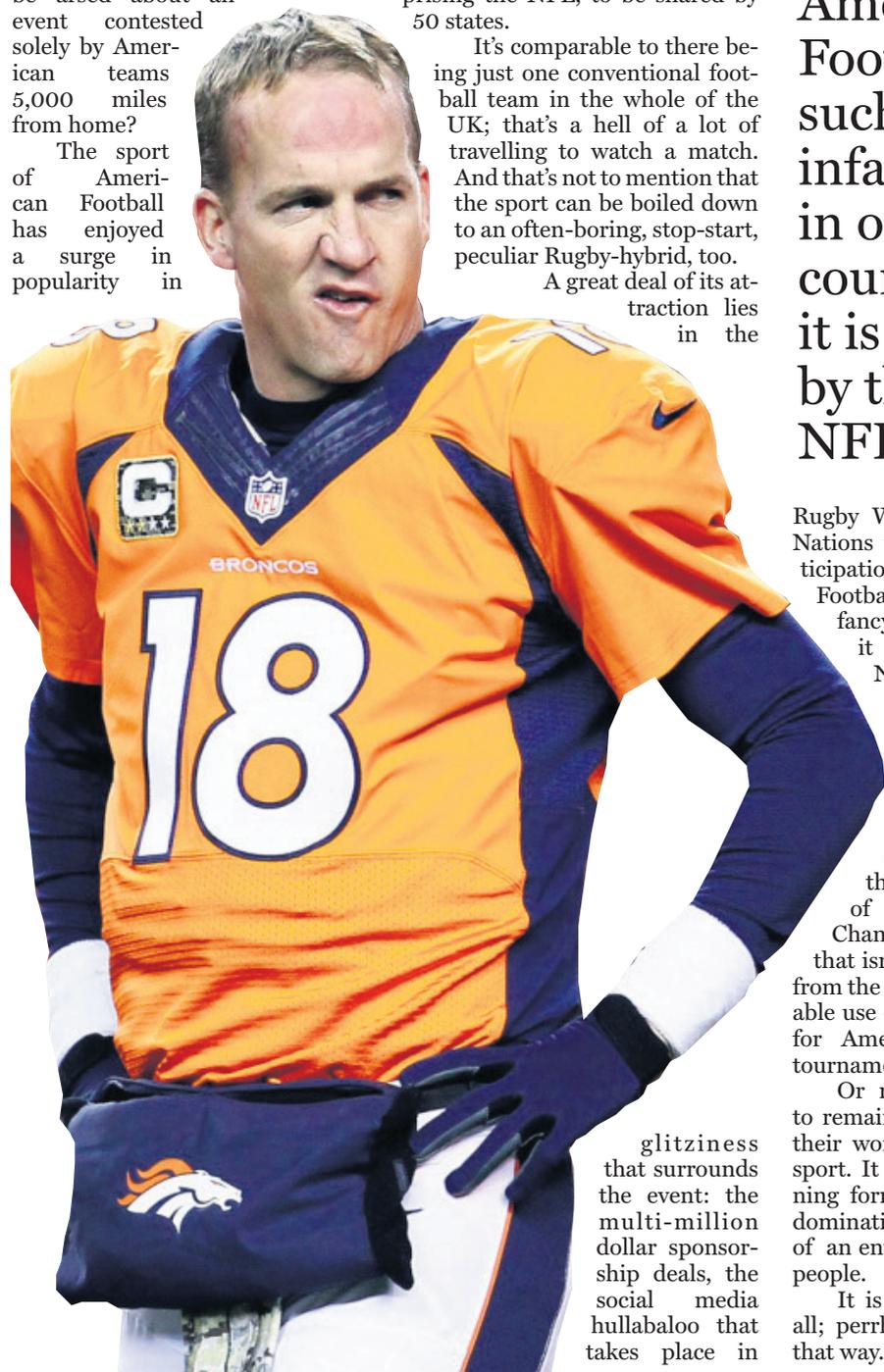
“
American Football is in such a stage of infancy in other countries that it is eclipsed by the glossy NFL

Rugby World Cup and the Six Nations to encourage global participation in the sports, American Football is in such a stage of infancy in other countries that it is eclipsed by the glossy NFL.

It could potentially be argued that this is simply an unfortunate coincidence, and that the NFL would welcome competition in other countries to give themselves the chance of dubbing a team “World Champions” in a competition that isn't just comprised of sides from the USA alone (see the laughable use of the term ‘World Series’ for America's premier Baseball tournament).

Or maybe they want things to remain as they are, continuing their worldwide monopoly of the sport. It is, after all, a prize winning formula that has led to the domination of the sporting psyche of an entire nation of 320 million people.

It is American Football after all; perhaps it's destined to stay that way.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR



As the Six Nations rolls back around, so does afternoon drinking in D-bar and Wilkinson and O'Driscoll on the big screen.

Making its debut on ITV, head coach for England Eddie Jones has also got off to a good start considering the embarrassment that was the World Cup.

After beating Scotland 15-9 in Edinburgh, he has promoted Youngs, Lawes and Vunipola after their stepping up at Murrayfield.

He asserted confidently that “We want to go out there and smack Italy. I said to the boys already that's our aim: to go out there and give them a good hiding.” This seems to have paid off.

As they really did “smack Italy” with a result of 9-40, could this be England's year?

It certainly isn't Ireland's year as they drew with Italy and lost to France, both games being painfully close.

It will be interesting to see how the Six Nations pans out especially as they all played so poorly

ly in the World Cup - could it be that this has become an event for us to reassure ourselves that we can play rugby? But only against other sub-standard European teams.

Other results of note are those closer to home, like the current elections for the new York Sports President.

Clarke's colourful reign is still not over however, with all the biggest sporting events yet to come: Varsity, the Colours Ball and of course Roses. Her enthusiasm will be hard to beat and it will be interesting to see whether her focus on equal opportunities continues.

Whoever does step into her rainbow-laced shoes will undeniably be faced with a lot; the sporting community here at York is an incredibly large one and equally one rife with opinion.

This year has already seen a continually growing list of concerns with college sport on a weekly basis. It will be interesting to see how this is presently tackled but more importantly handled in the long term.

Perhaps they will follow the likes of Eddie Jones and assert their predetermined success over the matter, or listen to our very own Dr. Hodgson and his lecture on leadership - we will not know till the next academic year.

For now, sport is brimming with a multitude of events, so enjoy, as the sun slowly raises it head again.

TEAMMATES

60 seconds with Octopush's Freya Phillips

Name: Freya Phillips

The most intelligent?

Role: Vice President of Octopush
Year: 2

Not gonna lie, that's definitely me. I did very well in my A levels, so...

Course: English and Related Literature

The best motivator?

The practical joker?

Duncan. That's why he's our captain.

Tom, because he once tricked Duncan by dressing as a woman.

The best trainer?

The strongest?

Grace probably, not that one can really train at octopush...

That's Richard, probably.

A gym rat?

The worst trainer?

No one, we don't go to the gym, we play Octopush.

Definitely Shellby, but to be fair she doesn't need to because she's already amazing at octopush.

The dressing-room DJ?

The most hardened drinker?

I don't actually know what this means, does it mean someone who sings? Because no one sings, sorry...

That's a tough one... it would probably have to be Matt.

The longest in the shower?

Probably me...



Hodgson's steps to success

Roy Hodgson returns to York to receive his honorary degree and give a lecture on leadership



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

IN HIS RECENT lecture on leadership, newly crowned Dr. Hodgson identified 10 key areas for the budding luminary.

Opening with a brief self-introduction, he set the scene for success with his description of the conception of these fundamental ideas of leadership as being "out in the sun on a deckchair in Dubai".

Not only does this set our poor student hearts aflutter, but it hints at his 40 years of coaching success. Thus he petitions us as a "group of students" joining society as an "elite member" to use our brain power to "good effect".

Hodgson was keen to stress the varying qualities of leaders from across his field, highlighting that there is no prototype of personality that makes for a good leader, and that with the right set of skills just about anyone could be successful in their own industry.

He talked of the bubbly character of Robson in comparison to the quiet manner of Sexton, yet remaining insistent on each of them being notable leaders in football.

"Leadership, put simply, is a combination of energy and a display of guidance," he mused. He went on to say that there are two questions to ask yourself that can help with leadership: "What do you want from people? How do you want them to feel?"

In light of this, these aspects of leadership are applicable to any individual on their quest to the top, no matter their area of expertise.

Hodgson looked back to his days at Bristol City, where he was losing every week, and losing players.

One specific anecdote discusses how he would go to bed on Friday knowing they would lose and wake up again on Sunday to know he would read about it.

them clips of group positions and creates a clear line of expectation.

The difference being that second time round the players can talk back. The only thing that needs to be autocratic therefore is team selection.

3 Be consistent in your approach

Yet even in times such as those, you should remain, claimed Hodgson, as logical as possible.

"Take mood swings out of the equation" as he bluntly points out, and the "world keeps moving".

In university terms, the deadline doesn't get any further for every bad day you have, and so the football manager claims we should stick to principles and philosophies that facilitate a consistent approach.

1 Create a good environment

First and foremost he was clear to establish that "discipline is formed rather than imposed", especially in the ever evolving sphere of money in football.

According to common knowledge of football salaries, footballers should have no problem with fines, therefore how does one enforce rules upon them?

Using the analogy of a film, Hodgson alluded to the fact that everyone knows the actors but they don't always know the director, and the same can be said for football. Players feel unbelievably comfortable and wanted.

Therefore to create a good environment you need everyone "to buy into a common goal". Respect therefore becomes ever present and there is a strong balance between work and play with an emphasis on consideration, gratitude, humility and kindness.

2 Maintain a sense of perspective

Hodgson continued by asking at what point kindness becomes pejorative. "Everything is on a scale between life and death", he muses. "You can't use perspective all the time."

So you have to ask yourself what the worse scenario might be and "is that really the worse thing?"

4 Be prepared to explain decisions

Communication, therefore, is key, in all circumstances. Hodgson fondly spoke of his wife's laughing response to this point but the argument still stands. The power that players have compared to managers in particular resulted in the unceremonious dropping of Mourinho, therefore especially in football but equally applicable elsewhere, as a leader you need to be prepared to explain decisions. That's not to say that these decisions all have to come from you. Hodgson spoke of the great range of people present in the club.

5 Share the decision making

He also pointed out the flaws of the format in which he delivered his speech. As in lectures, the speaker simply addresses the audience, there is no feedback, they do not hear complaints and then they leave thinking all are in agreement. As far as improving lectures at UOY, perhaps academics could take a page out of Hodgson's book on leadership.

He explained how he reminds the team of what they're doing principally, then he moves on to show

6 Value of preparation

There are a wealth of quotes in reference to the value of preparation, be it "by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail" or Bobby Knight's assertion that "the key is not the will to win... everybody has that. It is the will to prepare to win that is important."

All highlight Hodgson's point on the importance of thinking through every possible scenario.

Something which stood out to me during the talk was the eloquence with which Hodgson described that "Each game has its own story, own life and own history" so he is unwilling to select anyone who doesn't feel comfortable or doesn't know what he needs to do.

7 Importance of humanity

Being in the public eye, a topic which came up a lot during the talk, results in a level of popularity - be it good or bad. As is the nature of popular sport.

Hodgson made reference however to the press' treatment of Ramsay and the extent to which he was vilified and battered - so much so that after the World Cup he refused point blank to speak to them and simply walked off.

Therefore on a personal level he seemed grateful and surprised by how pleasant and encouraging people are to him, and saw it as an important thing to acknowledge.

8 Acceptance of failures

Obviously when mistakes are made, reporters are likely to respond accordingly.

Hodgson simply stated however that "you cannot share failures, only successes". His infamous stint at Liverpool between 2010 and 2011, while far from being described as a failure, was not the crowning jewel in his illustrious career, yet the now England manager stresses that

he learned from this difficult time.

"To refuse to accept failure is to hold at arms' length one of life's virtues," he said - and left it at that, showing his acceptance of it.

Many leading figures talk of the benefits of failure - JK Rowling delivered a speech to graduating students at Harvard about how her success would have been nothing without her failures. If two of the UK's most inspiring talents attest to this, maybe we should listen.

9 Don't get complacent

From mistakes, as with any aberration, a lesson can be learned. To avoid complacency therefore you should not get stuck in your own ways and never believe you know it all.

Roy spoke of the student lifestyle and livelihood, and how, while at once inviting and inspiring all manners of passions and ideas, it can also be a place of complacency, where one's old hobbies and obsessions wither away without nurturing.

Complacency, he said, was a far more contagious quality than failure, and holding it at bay is often half the struggle.

Hodgson also believes that avoiding complacency allows you to be a good student, while maintaining a passion and desire for knowledge that lifts you above the crowd to a position of leadership.

10 Be a good student

It isn't the shiniest pearl of wisdom that he offered, but it rings with his emphasis of self-maximisation, and a refusal to be less than your best.

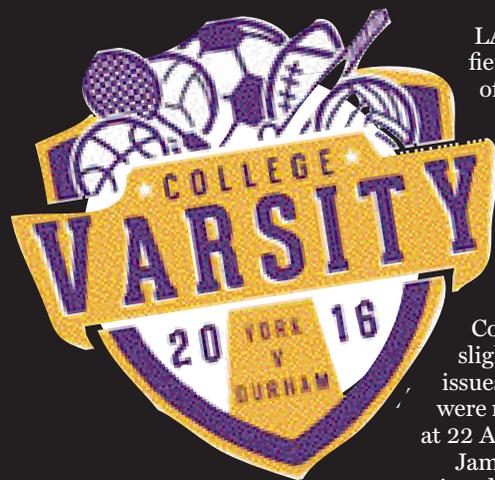
This ultimately gives you a greater advantage as continuing to learn also leads to a more open mind.

Hodgson affectionately expressed his jealousy of us as a student body working towards getting our degree, affirming his interest in education and the importance it has in creating strong leaders.

As a leader himself, he's second to none. He is simultaneously about as everyday and inspiring as you could get.

And as an honorary doctor, he's proved that success, personal passions and a thirst for knowledge can really all be amalgamated and achieved - Dr Roy: the new triple threat.

College Varsity 2016: A preview



LAST WEEKEND'S qualifiers heralded the approach of 2016's York-based College Varsity on 28 February.

The semi-finals on Saturday determined who would be playing and on Sunday, York's very own First and Second teams distinguished themselves even further. College Rugby suffered a slight setback (p. 27) but these issues put aside, other sports were more than happy to play on at 22 Acres.

James' Mixed Lacrosse traipsed through the mud to vic-

tory and Halifax's men's Football scored highly, coming first in the football.

Both colleges also found success in badminton, tennis and netball. Langwith remained hot on Halifax's heels, making it through on the badminton court and football pitch, and it will be interesting to see who comes out on top out of the two.

Over in more comfortable indoor settings, Derwent charged ahead in basketball and darts, promising a thrilling end to College Varsity.

This standard of sport suggests an exciting year for York and

perhaps a step towards success as hopefully there will be many victories and, even if not, an enjoyable experience for all.

York have a considerable difference to make up since losing last year by 24 points, and by 10 in 2014; we can only hope that this isn't a downward trend and that York colleges will benefit from a home advantage.

Grace Clarke, York Sport President, was more than happy to declare that "All colleges are on board with rainbow laces". As previously reported this is part of the ongoing focus on the Equal Opportunities Scheme in sport, for which

Clarke is asking all participants to wear the laces to symbolise 'kicking homophobia out of sport' at the event. Clarke was also keen to mention an upcoming video under the same premise.

Tickets for Varsity are now available, and packs are available from the YUSU website, which include a college Varsity t-shirt, drawstring bag, entry into Revs' After Party plus many more goodies. Considering it is only two weeks away, York should be swelling with excitement for Durham's arrival, donning black and yellow and full of support for all prospective players.

Basketball

"We've been playing very well recently. Our freshers have played a big part in our success. Our team chemistry has allowed us to win the Varsity qualifiers. Derwent has always had a strong basketball team and I don't think it is going away any time soon. We are confident we will beat Durham."

- Omar Koshin, Derwent Basketball.



College basketball has long been one of campus' popular sporting activities. 2015's Roses drew huge crowds, and College Varsity looks set to continue the precedent. With Derwent Basketball boasting some of campus' highest scoring six-footers, expect lay-ups aplenty between them and Vanbrugh next Sunday.

Badminton

"I'm feeling a lot more relieved than I was last week! Although I'm sure the nerves will begin to reappear as Varsity approaches. The rotation policy we use for College Badminton meant that the qualifier was in fact the first time that the team was at completely full strength, and such a good result was certainly encouraging going into Varsity itself. That being said, the change in format between normal college matches and the Varsity fixture does add an element of doubt, but I have confidence in the team to pull through! We won the college league last term so the team is more than capable of getting a result in a fortnight's time."

- Luke Quigly, Halifax Badminton.

Halifax Badminton expand the roster of talent at the college's command, and will be looking to get some crucial points from Durham's St. Mary's side. Meanwhile, Langwith will be defending the B match against St. Cuthbert's in the afternoon of Varsity in the Main Hall.

Lacrosse

"We're feeling very excited to take on Durham in Varsity. We're a strong team this year full of new freshers with some good skills and oldies with expertise. It's going to be an aggressive but tense match and we would love as much support as possible!"

- Beth Reynolds, Halifax Lacrosse.

Beth can count on that score, with swathes of Halifax supporters likely to be in attendance to support one of the University's most represented colleges. York's fearsome Lacrosse output will be in full force to win some points, with Uni and College level players rallying together to take the fight to Durham.



Netball

"Derwent's Netball Firsts were on form last Saturday in the semi-finals Varsity match against Alcuin - popping in lots of goals and the flow down court was causing the crowd to go wild - to quote Fred Weld "it was majestic play". However the dismal match against James in the final the next day set us back a bit. With Varsity fast approaching we are flattening out those errors and feeling hopeful for a win. The full original team will be back together and the white and blue will be playing their hardest.



It will be a tough game but a cracker and everyone should come and support, Derwent or otherwise! Personally I am very excited and hope we play as we did in the semi-finals and do not have a repeat of the finals of qualifiers." - Charlotte Beckett, Derwent Netball.

Football

"We qualified for Varsity very well, coming back from losing positions in both the semi-final and the final against tough opposition, so we're feeling confident going into the Varsity match. Our league form is also very positive at the moment, the rest of our matches - including beating the favourites for the league title in our first match. We've got a talented squad and we're ready for whatever will be thrown at us in the big game." - Halifax College Football spokesperson.

Halifax certainly qualified for Varsity in style, with a dramatic shoot-out against Langwith that saw them sink their first three penalties. Their keeper went on to save all three of Langwith's first spot kicks, seeing them through with flair. It's all to play for, with Langwith defending the B match on 22 Acres at 10:30am.



"So, first of all, we are absolutely thrilled to be going to Varsity as the University of York's number one College Hockey team. We have been to Varsity the past two years but only as the second seed, so I'm incredibly proud of the Goodricke team for our achievement. We have had a huge turnover of players this year and after a nervous start we have started to gel superbly as a team. We train weekly, improving our skill set and encouraging a positive team spirit.

As a team we simply love to attack, we have a number of hugely talented players and it's great to see them developing and scoring lots of goals! We will continue to work hard over the coming weeks and look forward to the challenge of playing Durham." - Marcus Taylor, Goodricke Hockey.



Tennis A: 10:00 @ Tennis Dome
Halifax v Collingwood

W. Football A: 10:00 @ JLD
Alcuin v Grey

Basketball A: 12:00 @ Main Hall
Derwent v Ustinov

Netball A: 15:00 @ Tent 2
James v Grey

Badminton A: 15:30 @ Main Hall
Halifax v St. Mary's

Volleyball A: 17:00 @ Tent 3
Wentworth v St. Johns

Darts A: 18:00 @ RKC
Derwent v University

Tennis B: 10:00 @ Tennis Dome
Langwith v St Mary's

W. Football B: 10:00 @ JLD
Vanbrugh v Josephine B.

Football B: 10:30 @ 22 Acres
Langwith v Stephenson R.

Squash B: 11:30 @ Squash Courts
Alcuin v St. Chad's

M. Rugby B: 11:30 @ 22 Acres
TBC

Volleyball B: 15:00 @ Tent 3
James v Van Mildert

Netball B: 15:00 @ Tent 1
Derwent v Collingwood

Darts B: 18:00 @ RKC
Vanbrugh v Trevelyan

UYNC for the BSF

THE UNIVERSITY OF York Netball Club raised an impressive £1040 for The British Skin Foundation at their fundraiser last January in honour of team member Tanya Hill's mother. Hill elaborates that "the president of UYNC Jess Boakye came to me in the summer asking if we could raise money in honour of my mum. Of course, I happily said yes. It's great to know that we are raising money for skin cancer research to help others in the future." Hill's mother sadly passed away from a metastatic melanoma almost three years ago.

York Sport President

THE ELECTIONS FOR the new York Sport President are well under way. Grace Glarke was keen to highlight that "the York sport president videos the guys have been doing are FAB!!!" The candidates are Stephen Bates, Isaac Beevor, Beth Cash and Aaron Dougherty. It was originally very close between Beth Cash and Isaac Beevor. Perhaps, as Clarke mentioned, because of their entertaining videos, be it "This is my campaign song" to "Hello it's Beev". As it stands however Beevor is in the lead with 39.1 per cent and Cash now slightly trailing with 27.8 per cent. Aaron Dougherty stands at the lowest with 9.6 per cent. This of course still has the power to change dramatically over the week as results don't come out till the 21st. Prepare yourselves for a cardboard overload.

Colours Ball

THE COLOURS BALL nominations close this Tuesday, and will be followed by a shortlist on Friday. To nominate an individual, club or team for an award you need only fill out a form. Full and half colours are also being awarded to third-year students only. Anyone can nominate themselves or others for Colours. For the first time ever, you can also upload a video to nominate your fellow sports person or why you should be a nominee. Tickets for the event are also still available from YUSU hosted by The York Sport Union. It is the biggest event of the sporting calendar and a beautiful evening to celebrate the sporting success and achievement of the York Sport Union.

Octopush: Nationals

The University of York will be hosting 12 different universities from around the country to participate in the annual student competition in Leeds on 27 February for Octopush. Best described as something similar to underwater hockey, there will be 20 teams participating overall. It is a great opportunity for the club, as well as an honour, as the club continues to grow and succeed at York. Last year the team came fourth in the tournament and they continue to improve.

Halifax 1s thrash Derwent 2s



IMAGE: ROB MCCONKEY

Halifax Firsts run to the goal line as Derwent's defence fail to stop them in their tracks. The Firsts were the dominant side, and won an easy victory



Halifax Firsts 9



Derwent Seconds 1

Halifax:

Goldthorpe, Birtles, Marsh, Chateauneuf, Girzada, Heath, Tester, Johnson, Bore, Hall, Waring
Subs: Howarth, Chadli

Derwent:

Cooper, Milton, Tooth, Barker, Reynolds, Conner, Keam, Bull, Bowles, Revill, Hawkins
Subs: Chanu-morwa

Player of the Match: Omar Chadli

George Nanidis

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

HALIFAX LOOKED COMFORTABLE as nine goals sailed past a vastly inferior Derwent side who were unable to properly settle into the game. A complete lack of presence in the Derwent midfield allowed space for Halifax to play high up the pitch, keeping up the pressure on Tooth and Barker.

Derwent managed to put up a good fight for a large part of the game, but they were unable to turn

the possession they so frequently had into chances for the goals that really count, only managing one in the whole ninety minutes of game play.

The tone of the game was decided as early as in the first minute as Halifax stormed through a sleeping Derwent defence, slotting one straight past the keeper and into the back of the net.

This was quickly followed by a second, showing the ruthless nature of Heath and Waring as they would link up numerous times to stretch the flat and immobile Derwent back four.

For most of the first half, Derwent struggled against an energetic and dynamic performance from Rune Bore. But against this they managed to hold on, with Reynolds working hard on the left to stop the continuous and carefully measured pressure by Matt Birtles down the wing.

Derwent showed their lack of concentration as Waring was allowed far too much space in the box during the corner, putting serious strain on the keeping abilities of Cooper.

The Derwent side were denied an offensive free kick as the referee missed a blatant foul near the edge of the Halifax box. This led to a temporary halting of the game as he faced criticism from players on both sides.

The referee eventually opted for a drop ball, putting an end to one of Derwent's only sessions of attacking play in the first half. Unfortunately, as this could have become a turning point for them and an opportunity to lessen the difference between the two disparate teams.

This marked a decline in momentum for the Derwent side as Halifax saw off the last few minutes of the first half with two fine goals from Heath and Waring, the long stride of Waring proving especially difficult for the Derwent defence to deal with.

Trailing by four goals, the Derwent side managed to pick up their spirits for the second half, and as heads started to come up so did a few more opportunities. However, these were too few and far between, with Chateauneuf protecting the defence and not allowing Bull to play with any confidence or assertiveness.

The highlight of Derwent's game was a superb goal by Milton who took the ball down the right wing, and instead of crossing into the box, decided to send one sailing into the top left corner of the goal, catching the Halifax keeper Goldthorpe totally and completely off guard.

Despite this brief moment of hope, Halifax quickly started to show their dominance, shutting

down offensive moves, with Tester and Bore pushing back up the pitch and creating chances that Waring was all too happy to run on to and make the most of.

One particular Halifax offensive led to a fast pass across the box, which was unluckily put into the net by Reynolds, who when sliding in and attempting to block the pass from reaching its intended recipient, put the ball directly into his own goal.

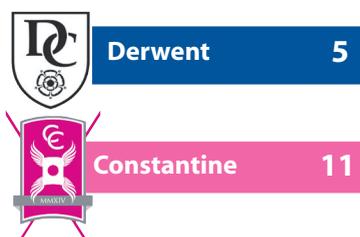
Yet another abominable display of play from the Derwent Seconds, not that at this point much more could be done.

The game was rounded off when substitute, Chadli, stormed down the left side on two occasions, beating his man, and finishing across the Derwent goalkeeper Cooper who was left vulnerable by his defence.

Speaking after the game, Derwent captain Ryan Conner told *Nouse* that "the team was bad defensively, and Halifax took full advantage of this in the final third", adding that, "we were down on players though, especially in the midfield".

The Halifax captain Elliot Tester was in agreement, remarking that they were "sullied at the back, but they scored a great goal and put on a reasonable performance". He simply described his own team as "clinical".

Constantine crushes Derwent



Derwent: Doswell, Wan, Cheung, Garcia, Campbell, Elliott, Maju

Constantine: Dack, Jones, Kittipol, Cooper, Kirkum, Nicholson, Barker

Player of the Match: Phil Jones

narrow defeat to Langwith, Derwent were hoping to bounce back only for Constantine to peg them back further.

Their skill was demonstrated straight off the bat by winning both their singles games 21-19 and 21-18, in both cases fighting from behind at the half way point to return victorious.

A plethora of errors plagued both Derwent singles players and had no response to Constantine's consistent cross-court play – a worthy and effective tactic against Derwent's smash-centric badminton style.

The men's doubles proved a more even affair, with each college taking two points each before Constantine taking the women's doubles in a similar vein to the singles – 21-18.

However, in any game, the majority of the points are won and lost in the make-or-break mixed doubles games.

Despite their hard work beforehand, Constantine were immediately down by three points, forcibly having to forfeit the points due to the absence of a third ladies player.

At this stage, the point haul was five a piece, including the forfeit points, meaning it was any-



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

Derwent struggled against the strong strokes of confident Constantine

one's game to win, or lose. A closely fought contesting few minutes made for a gripping series of exchanges.

Nevertheless, the mild setback proved nothing more than a slight hindrance in Constantine's dominance, with their mixed pairs taking a total of six out of six points from their games, leaving Derwent trailing.

Throughout their matches, they expressed a fine display of placement, often exposing Derwent for their poor movement and covering ability.

The result adds to a well deserved and dominant win for Constantine, who brilliantly rose to the occasion. It sees them carving out a name as a college with a true proclivity for the sport.

22 acres a danger

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

AT LAST WEEKEND'S college qualifiers the safety and system of college and University rugby was brought into question by a serious injury at 22 Acres.

James player Alex Bowen broke his leg on pitch 1 in the opening semi-final against Halifax on Sunday, breaking his fibular and tibular as well as snapping two ligaments. The incident brought to light growing concerns of the standard of the pitches as well as the lack of priority given to college sports in comparison with that of the University teams.

The condition of the pitches also affected Women's Touch Rugby who were able, interestingly, to play at 22 Acres the day before on the Saturday despite it being worse weather.

Consequently there was a smaller turnout and games were shortened but eventually it was reported by Hema Trivedi of University Rugby "that the tournament would be reorganised at another date with better, more playable conditions".

It is further questionable therefore why a pitch inspection was not done earlier by University grounds staff considering that similar concerns had already been raised the day before. Instead, qualifiers were allowed to continue and it wasn't until it was too late and after a player was seriously injured that any weight was given to consideration of the matter.

Arguably, it wasn't until college sport threatened to interfere with University Rugby's pitch 1, as the game was forced off pitch 2 to finish on pitch 1, that the concern gained any real attention.

Nouse spoke to Bowen and he expressed his frustration as to why the game hadn't been called off as the University "won't own up to the injury being partially their fault due to the pitch".

Further to this Bowen was also left to wait for "nearly two hours on the muddy path until the ambulance arrived".

This is because not only did the Sports Centre fail to have the "adequate equipment to take care of an injured player" but neither did Campus security - both failing to even have a stretcher.

This incident adds serious doubt to the way college sport is organised and the safety of 22 Acres, and the ability of the sport staff at York to provide the relevant care needed for various sporting injuries.

It will be interesting to see if this will have any affect on Varsity proceedings.

Vanbrugh flounder in final minutes



Halifax: Zhang, lansbergen, Del Brenna, Haziq, Custodio, Sethi

Vanbrugh: Ellis, Sum, Zamora, Tan, Tsoi, Sobowale

Player of the Match: Alvin Tsoi

play style, with the higher calibre players taking up the roles of facilitators.

The first points came from an easy fast-break layup for Halifax, courtesy of the initial misunderstanding.

Vanbrugh's Alvin Tsoi responded with a hard line drive straight to the basket which resulted in an easy layup.

Tsoi continued his scoring with a coast-to-coast layup and an easy putback. Vanbrugh's Francis Sobowale followed him onto the score sheet with an impressive layup around the defenders, although, due to some intense on ball defence from Halifax, he would later mishandle, ultimately causing a turnover.

Halifax was slowly but surely bolstering their offence, and despite some air balls, they continued to accumulate points, thanks to Gabriele Del Brenna and his tenacious rebounding, which gifted him some easy putbacks. Sobowale closes out the half by attempting a flashy euro step which narrowly missed, leaving the score at 13-12 for Halifax.

The second half began rather abruptly with the referee suddenly handing the ball to Vanbrugh and yelling "Go!" Vanbrugh's Dante Ellis had an open lane, but unfortu-

nately blew the layup, leading to a fast break for Halifax, and the first points of the half.

More fast breaks were exchanged in a succession of quick back and forth turnovers. Pace of play was extended, and teams began to tire in places.

Vanbrugh's Tsoi came up with a steal, and charged towards the basket. This promising break however, culminated in Tsoi bouncing the ball off of his own foot.

Halifax maintained their lead by upping the pace of their game. Any miss by Vanbrugh was met with a long outlet pass to a breaking Halifax player.

Halifax showed a new, strong side to their offence, with superior ball movement, but their shooting paled in comparison. This was epitomised by a flat-footed Muttombo-esque block by Vanbrugh's Tsoi.

Sobowale started to heat up with an impressive euro-step and a double-clutch layup, but his streak was controlled by some strong full court defence.

As the final minute commenced, the play intensified. Vanbrugh's increased pressure resulted in a fast break layup, making it 30-26 to Halifax.

After the make, another opportunity quickly arose for Van-



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

brugh, but an unfortunate travel nullified the basket. With some adept ball movement, Halifax managed to score, and see out the remaining seconds with some active defence, finishing the game at 32-28 to Halifax.

Philippe Maju
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE DERWENT kept up the pressure in a fixture that promised a tight fight for points on paper, Constantine asserted their complete dominance over Derwent, 11-5, to force them closer to the mid-table.

Only a single place had separated these two prior, and after a

Ethan Abraham
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE GAME COMMENCED with confusion. Halifax had won the tip-off, and immediately surged towards what turned out in the end to be their own basket. Fortunately for them, their shot attempt missed, and after the laughter subsided, the game truly began.

The half started in a tepid fashion, and was rife with errors. Both teams adopted a very casual

Not-so-Super Bowl

Jack Davies questions why Brits should bother with this faraway sport P.23



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Here's Varsity

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Tuesday 16 February 2016



Lacrosse meets dodgeball in York's VX

Jack Brown
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY OF YORK VX club is still one of the newest clubs on campus. Only founded in 2013, it has since been ratified and is now heading into its second recognised year. Considering its obscurity, it has come on in leaps and bounds.

Speaking to Miro Plueckbaum, he explained VX as a mix between lacrosse and dodgeball. There are two formats of the game, V10 and V2, V10 being based as a team sport on a bigger court with five players for each side. There is a greater emphasis on working together, like any team sport, to isolate individuals

and score points.

V2, however, is only between two people and is considerably more fast paced and consequently more static.

Plueckbaum described the sport as being an excellent way to relieve stress, be it because of 'annoying flatmates' or any other university 'tensions'. The 2nd year student at the Fresher's Fair was clear to establish that once he begun the sport he needed no more incentive.

Treasurer Melissa McKeon also gushed with pride over the club's growth, expressing her aims to make it into a college sport. Over the last year, UOY VX Club and Falkirk Cannons have been building on their friendship. A positive outcome of this has been the CannonRose Trophy. This event takes place bi-

annually, which allows both clubs to pit their players against each other in a friendly competition.

Both formats of the sport, V10 (Team) and V2 (Singles), are played throughout the day. Points are awarded for victory in each format. This is a great event and opportunity for UOY VX Club, with the Falkirk Cannons being the most prestigious club in Scotland.

13 February saw UOY host the CannonRose Trophy for the first time after already having been up to Scotland this year, this time with the view of getting the UOY name on there for the first time too. The day started at 10am with the starting format being V10.

With some of York's players having no experience with the format, Cannons had the advantage

from the get go. The previous encounter saw UOY win the first three quarters of V10 but it was evident that the Cannons had something to prove this time around. The first quarter saw Falkirk Cannons take the lead by 41 points but they didn't slow the pace down.

They came out at half time 81 points in the lead. York had a deep talk at half time and settled into the game coming out to win the 3rd quarter but were still behind by 56 points. Although it was too late by that point, York began to show their colours, but it was not enough to bring back the deficit from the first half. The game ended Falkirk Cannons 294 - 223 University of York.

After the V10 game, the two clubs mixed the teams and played friendly games to build each other's

skills and experience in the format. Overall it was a great morning for York having come so close against the top club in Scotland.

The afternoon was nearly all black and gold, with York starting strong in the V2. Many of the York players were winning for the first time. Unfortunately the experience and stamina of Falkirk overcame York and ended with Falkirk taking the most points in V2.

At the end of the day, Falkirk won the CannonRose Trophy for the second time with an overall competition score 27-19. A good day all round and one that shows a great improvement in York from the last meeting between the two clubs. With more determination to win, York are aiming to get their name on the trophy in November.