

“The Lib Dems are the puppets”

Watching in the Wings >> M8-9



NOUSE



Autumn Term Week Nine
Tuesday 6 December 2011
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University outlines plans to plug funding gap of £4-£6m

ROBBOPHOTOS



The Heslington East campus was funded by a “free cash generation” but uncertain times bring many challenges

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is expecting to face an annual funding gap of £4-£6million soon after 2012/13 as departments are told to save space and contain costs.

The operating cash flow of the University is expected to fall by £7m to around £15.5m, leaving it £10m short of the required level.

To combat the gap, the University will use the “increase in the net contribution from additional fee income” as well as a programme of capital utilisation across the estate. Students, excluding overseas, will be charged £9,000 from October 2012, a threefold increase on the current level.

The strategy paper labels the last stage of University growth and borrowing as the “free cash generation” with debt soon to be “at around £150m”.

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, has warned the University against using the additional income from students’ fees to combat the funding gap.

“[We] will be urging the University to find other means to fill the funding gap. It is important that students don’t subsidise other areas of the university.”

The Finance Strategy, published at the start of November, also outlined the level of dependence the University has on fees from overseas students; up to 50 per cent of cash flow can be traced back to “the University’s continued ability to attract good quality students from abroad.”

The Strategy also states that the importance of fees from overseas students “will, however, continue to grow and will remain an important contributor to the University’s bottom line.”

However, UCAS figures this week showed that the number of overseas applicants to York has

fallen by 6.2 per cent from the same time last year.

Graham Gilbert, the University’s Director of Finance, spoke to *Nouse* about the Finance Strategy report and the funding gap that was addressed within it.

He stated that the University is in a “generally strong position” to close the gap, however emphasised that “there are always concerns about the market, particularly during periods of significant and rapid transition.”

Gilbert stressed the need to contain excessive costs in the report, stating: “There can be no justification for creating plans that contain no means of containing costs that have the potential to rise faster than the ability to recover them.”

The report outlines challenges the University is experiencing in the short term, but states that: “In the longer term the University expects its financial resources to strengthen as the new student funding regime embeds.”

Ellis added: “Last year the University committed to spending any additional income from fees on things that directly effect students and their time here at university.”

Ellis cited “lower student staff ratios, textbooks and course materials, improvements of campus and things that affect the student experience” as areas where the additional income should be directed.

Gilbert continued: “The University needs to improve its capital utilisation, and this is one of the ways to ensure that the University

can continue to afford to sustain growth and replace legacy assets after the current MTP [Mid-Term Plan] period. A 10 per cent improvement in space utilisation would improve the funding pressure by over £2m per annum and 30 per cent would eliminate it.”

Gilbert expanded: “The University is in a generally strong position to close the gap between current levels of resource generation and future need.”

But he sought to reassure students, by stating: “I am confident that we can cope with any likely problems and still hit the enhanced targets we shall be setting ourselves.”

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College election overshadowed by criticisms

A dispute has broken out between members of the Goodricke JCRC over the enforcement of campaigning bans during the election. Voting for the 2011/12 JCRC positions closed on Sunday and the results are announced tonight.

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University advises against letting agency

A LOCAL letting agency formally known as ‘F.L.A.T.S’ has recreated itself under the trading name ‘Student Housing Services’. The company has an “unscrupulous” reputation and has been criticised by current tenants and other letting agencies.

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Buildings in “urgent” need of attention

UNIVERSITY ESTATES and Management have indicated that the Physics and Biology buildings, acknowledged in a University Estates Strategy Review to be in “urgent need of attention”, will not be renovated until 2016 at the earliest..

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College Chair review

Nouse takes a look at the outgoing College Chairs and assesses whether they have succeeded in achieving what they set out to do 12 months ago. Promises were made to win the Rag Cup as well as making their JCRC more accountable - but did they achieve their ambitions?

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Ghurkas in York
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News

Postgraduate communities need addressing according to report

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

A RECENT study of postgraduate communities at York has highlighted problems with the way in which students and colleges are structured, prohibiting postgraduate students from mixing successfully.

The report also cites the increased internationalisation of campus as a contributing factor to the weakening communities.

It outlines that: "Opportunities to avoid encountering British culture have increased and integrating with a variety of students is no longer essential for international students."

83 per cent of students surveyed said that diversity affects their sense of community and students interviewed commented that "Wentworth does not encourage socialising" and that "too many international students damage community experience".

Karin Diaconu, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, commenting on the study and the implications it has for the way Postgraduates are organised and provided for, said: "The problem is in creating greater social interaction".

"The problem of international groups, for example, the Chinese in Wentworth, is diversity; however, this is something found in undergraduate areas as well."

"Once students come you need to engage with them from the start. We did a lot of this at the start of term with the Welcome Week, and at the Halloween party this year, 300 students attended and there was a real mix."

There are 2,927 international postgraduate students (including the EU) which accounts for 89 per cent of the population. The University's policy of guaranteeing international students on-campus accommodation was criticised, as 78 per cent of Wentworth's students come from Asia, causing little cul-



Inclusivity is one key part of the University Plan that needs to be addressed for postgraduate students at York

tural exchange.

The study stated that: "Many of the international students consulted reported feeling disappointed upon arrival in York when they discovered they would not be living among a variety of students."

Darren Webb, a postgraduate student, described the divide between Departments, saying: "I have had plenty of contact with other postgraduate students - sometimes, too much".

"As an international student, part of the Humanities Research Centre, the History Department, and the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, there are several social and academic options open to me. York's real shortfall is the division between Humanities, Sciences, and Professional Studies students."

The study suggested that the greatest opportunity for social interaction was in Departments because of the shared common inter-

est and quantity of time spent there by students.

Webb added: "This division was heightened by the Hes East and West split - a damn shame. As far as I can see, graduate students at York don't have much meaningful interdisciplinary contact."

Due to the nature of postgraduate study, many students will not need to travel around campus creating fewer opportunities for interaction in the community.

However the report highlighted the need for this to be reversed, stating that: "Accidental interaction, meeting and socialising with people in an unintentional manner, needs to be encouraged."

Jane Grenville, Pro Vice-Chancellor for students, acknowledged that there were problems with postgraduate communities at the moment and especially for the international cohort.

"It is an issue for Chinese students who have come here looking for a European experience. [But]

"It is an issue for Chinese students who have come here looking for a European experience"

Pro Vice-Chancellor
Jane Grenville

we are in negotiations for a new postgraduate student residence on Hull Road which would enable us to offer more room to more British, American and European students. We are hoping to have this ready in time for October 2012."

Diaconu continued: "Undergraduates are different because they are younger and have a STYC system to help them; 80 per cent of international students won't know about the collegiate system."

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University academics accept top award

Two University of York academics have been awarded the 'Publication of the Year Award' for their innovative publication *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*. Professors Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson, from the Department of Health Sciences, conclude that the study of economic inequality is a necessary precursor when tackling societal problems. The *Spirit Level* has had a substantial influence on the British political agenda since its publication in March 2009.

York professor studies Sex Pistol graffiti

Dr John Schofield, of the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, and independent researcher Dr Paul Graves-Brown, have carried out a detailed analysis of the intact Sex Pistols graffiti recently discovered on the walls of the flat the punk group rented in London in the mid-1970s. Studying the content and cultural significance of the graffiti, they conclude the graffiti may be of greater significance than the discovery of early Beatles recordings. They say the graffiti is "a direct and powerful representation of a radical and dramatic movement of rebellion."

iPhone application targets student safety

York students have been urged to stay safe with the new iPhone app 'Lookout Call'. Students provide regular spoken updates into their phones, describing their location and planned activity. They also input an estimation of the length of time their activity will last, this prompts a timed countdown. If a countdown expires, the protection system phones the student to prevent a false alarm being triggered. If the student fails to deactivate the alarm, the system enters into an alert mode which alerts the students nominated 'Responders,' who could be, for example, the students' friends and family.

Reporting by Laura Hughes

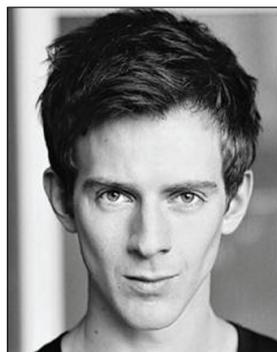


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Tuesday 6 December 2011
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Disputes continue in Goodricke JCRC elections as voting closed on Sunday

SPANAUT

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

GOODRICKE'S JCRC elections have been overshadowed by a dispute regarding the bans given out for illegal campaigning to election candidates.

The Returning Officer refutes the claims made by James Carney, candidate for Goodricke Vice-Chair for Democracy and Welfare, that they have shown bias during the election process.

They instead state in an open letter addressing the situation that: "With regard to specific campaigns you refer to. I feel it is important to inform you that both candidates received the same ban for the same offence".

This is referring to a ban given to fellow Goodricke Vice-Chair candidate Liam O'Shaughnessy, as well as several given to James Carney.

They added that, "At many points, I have consulted with YUSU staff and full-time officers to ensure my decisions are fair".

Carney alleges that the Returning Officer and current Chair of Goodricke have behaved in a manner which is "undemocratic and disgraceful".

However, in the publicly published open letter, available for any students to read, Goodricke's Returning Officer states that within the Goodricke constitution is the capacity for the Returning Officer to, "build upon the rules defined within the constitution".

According to the Returning Officer the rules they established were in line with those used by YUSU, and were distributed via email.

But current members of the JCRC, including Joshua Henning, current Goodricke Secretary, have suggested that there has been bias displayed by certain members of the committee.

The Goodricke constitution states the Returning Officer, "may not show any preference for any candidate", maintaining "fair, free, and unbiased conduct of the elections".

Should the Officer show any preference, the elections are declared to be invalid, and must therefore be entirely re-run.

Nacho Hernando, Goodricke JCRC Chair, when questioned about the committee dispute, also referred *Nouse* to the open letter. However, he did express his support for the Returning Officer, stating: "I believe they have done a brilliant job".

"There are an increasing number of people in Goodricke that would ask you to step down as Returning Officer"

Former VC for Democracy and Welfare
Peter Sharpe

But, Hernando stressed that, the responsibility did not lie with himself, as he added, "I am not in-



Students from Goodricke used the YUSU bar Courtyard to conduct their hustings after voting had opened

involved with the election process."

The elections have also been criticised for being disorganised. Voting for the election opened on 30th November, however, the Goodricke Hustings event were held only on 1st December, a date which was not confirmed publicly until two days before.

Carney claims that because of the "shockingly publicised" Hustings many candidates who would have run were discouraged from

doing so.

While Peter Sharpe, former Goodricke Vice-Chair for Democracy and Welfare, published a separate open letter, in which he condemned the actions of the Returning Officer.

He noted his concern that the ban was "heavy handed", and as a result noted the election could be viewed as "null and void".

He continued that "there are an increasing number of people in

Goodricke that would ask you to step down as Returning Officer".

Should this occur, the entire process would have to be re-run, a fact acknowledged by Sharpe in the conclusion of his open letter.

Voting for the 2011/12 Goodricke JCRC closed on Sunday night, 4th December; and the results are to be announced at Yates tonight.

LEADER >> Page 12

Application figures for overseas students fall

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

UCAS APPLICATION figures show that York is doing significantly better than the national average with only a 1.6 per cent fall in overall applicants from this time last year.

However applications from overseas students (excluding the EU) have dropped by over 6 per cent, excluding deferrals; and a large decrease in numbers would be financially problematic.

The figures for York show that last year 13,865 students had applied, while this year the figure was 225 less at 13,640.

The Student Recruitment and Admissions Office has suggested that it expects to have received only 55 - 60 per cent of total applications for this year at this time in the application cycle.

Current national figures show a 15 per cent decrease in applications to universities. While the application deadline is not until 15th January, these figures indicate that York is set to see little difference in overall figures - but could see a larger decrease in overseas students.



UK application figures to York have remained stable despite the introduction of the highest level of tuition fees

lished in November Graham Gilbert, Director of Finance, said: "In terms of dependence over £16m of future annual revenues and up to 50% of cashflow can be tied back to the University's continued ability to attract good quality students from abroad."

Tightening student visa restrictions, announced by the Coalition government, will also have an affect on the number of overseas

students applying to York and a large decrease would impact on the University's financial situation.

Jane Grenville, Pro Vice-Chancellor for students, commented on the reasons for York's overall stable application figures by suggesting that there are a group of universities that will see high application figures regardless of the level of fees they set. Instead it is because of their reputation or location in cities

with good nightlife.

"There are a group of five universities who are always at the top and then a group of ten, with York included in that, who move up and down behind them. Last time the fees were increased threefold there was a blip for a year and then everyone came back."

"The reputation of the university counts; Manchester, Newcastle and Leeds all have constantly high

application numbers because of the city and the clubs as well as the university."

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, emphasised the role the University's access agreement may have played in encouraging students to continue to apply to York, commenting: "I am pleased that the University is performing well above the national average."

"I think this reflects the access agreement which includes the abil-

"There are a group of five universities who are always at the top and then a group of ten, with York included in that"

Pro Vice-Chancellor
Jane Grenville

ity for students to choose how they receive their funding; fee waivers, bursaries or accommodation fees."

Grenville added that: "There may have been a decrease nationally because of the fees and the way the fees have been represented in the national press."

News

First-year students warned against contacting “unscrupulous” agency

NOBMOUSE

Laura Hughes
Neil Johnston

A LOCAL letting agency formally known as ‘F.L.A.T.S’ has recreated itself under the trading name ‘Student Housing Services’ amid concerns over its “unscrupulous” nature in the past.

The company has been recruiting students by posting adverts into letter boxes but it is not registered with ‘Companies House’. It also does not appear on last year’s University approved list of private sector properties.

The local letting agency, Access Properties, has warned students to avoid ‘Student Housing Services’ at all costs. They believe the change in name, which legally F.L.A.T.S is at liberty to do, is a response to its tarnished reputation. According to one landlord who used F.L.A.T.S last year, the company’s management was “unscrupulous”.

In conjunction, repairs and routine maintenance were not being carried out, obtaining paperwork “was a nightmare” and the “horror stories from [other] students were appalling” according to one resident.

Payments for property improvements have not been passed onto contractors and one company has had to pay large legal costs to receive their payment from F.L.A.T.S.

A current tenant of a property let by F.L.A.T.S told *Nouse* that, “the whole experience has just been one of incompetence; we have had to constantly ring [the letting agent] regarding things being wrong. If I could give advice to anyone it would be to stay clear, get housing through the University and make sure you do your research.”

The students of this particular let were not asked for a guarantor. This is not a legal requirement, but protects the landlord in the event of the student defaulting on his or her debt, as the guarantor would be held liable for the remainder of the



Student Housing Services, have been urging first year students to sign contracts with them as soon as possible by advertising in several colleges

rent.

These tenants have not received a copy of the property’s gas certificate, despite multiple requests. Under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, this is the landlord’s legal obligation; F.L.A.T.S itself is listed as the Landlord on these students’ tenancy agreement.

Robert MacMahon, from Access Properties York, revealed that

“The whole experience [with them] has just been one of incompetence”

A current tenant

he had, “come across an agency named F.L.A.T.S. in the past. Whilst I am sure they must have had some satisfied landlords and customers, I

have yet to meet them”.

On one occasion, Access Properties were asked by a student to help contact F.L.A.T.S regarding an urgent matter with a property they were living in, as they were unable to find any contact details, “which is an unusual practice for a genuine trading organisation”.

The agency ‘Student Housing Services’ provides an email address, but there is no telephone number or website information. The typed A4 advertising leaflet, was posted to Halifax, Goodricke and James colleges and immediately James College’s Administrator sent out an email to students strongly advising against responding to the leaflet, as it was “very badly written” and “very strange”.

The Vanbrugh College Administrator also sent out an email stating that Bob Hughes, YUSU Wel-

fare Officer, had said the company were “suspicious” and that “Student Housing Services is not a registered

“Whilst I am sure they must have some satisfied landlords and customers, I have yet to meet them”

Access Properties York
Robert MacMahon

company and students are recommended to be wary of contacting them”.

Hughes, also asked: “That all students stay calm and avoid signing for houses yet. There are a great number of houses in the private sector, and so any publicity that is trying to pressure students into signing now is putting undue stress on students unnecessarily, espe-

cially as the approved list of private sector properties comes out on February 3rd”.

The University has a contract checking service, and Hughes sought to “encourage students to use that before signing any contracts, as once they are signed, they are very difficult to get out of.”

A spokesperson for the University stated that they cannot stop students from going with specific companies because of “legal constraints”. However, they said that they “aim to provide enough information to students to enable them to make an informed choice when looking for somewhere to live”.

Nouse contacted Student Housing Services for a comment, but they did not respond.

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Retrospective: Letting agent scandals

8th December 2009

University of York students were thrown into confusion following the breakdown of the on-campus letting agency Yorkshire Residential Letting Agents (YRLA). Caught between a bitter legal battle amongst the directors and ex-staff of the company many YRLA tenants were forced to question the validity of their contracts and seek legal advice.

The agency was split down the middle into the two companies that exist today. Robert MacMahon and his wife now run Access Properties York and Adam Bennett and his wife run the Adam Bennett Properties company.



26th January 2010

The letting agency APYork was accused of racism and sexism following advertisements placed on their website. The company’s website featured houses with “no all male groups” specified in red under their descriptions. Further data exclusively given to *Nouse* listed properties to be let until the end of the academic year, showed notes stating “no Chinese”, “no all male groups”, and “no Chinese or similar”.

4th May 2010

The on-campus letting agency, Adam Bennett, was accused of advertising escort services from its office above Costcutter.

Bennett strongly denied the accusations despite *Nouse* finding that the mobile phone number of an escort service is the same number as that being advertised as ‘Browns of Heslington Removal Services’ in Bennett’s window.

Bennett said that he had been told that the author of the letter had “connections with another letting agency”, and that he believed it to be “mischief” which was created to harm his new business.

Code of Best Practice

Changes in the Code of Best Practice introduced for 2012-13

- New requirement to provide Carbon Monoxide Detectors in the property by 1st October 2012
- New complaints and appeals procedure

TO LET

Property Letting Agents
Property Consultants
Property Management
Student Housing



Student
Housing
Services

Student Housing Services

STUDENT HOUSES & FLATS TO LET

STUDENT HOUSES & FLATS TO LET FOR July 2012 to July 2013

Houses for **groups Of 7,6,5, and 4** in York. As you know, it is extremely difficult to find good housing close to the college.

To get 1st choice of the best properties, we will need you to reply by return, and let us know what size group you will be, so that we can organise viewing of houses for you. We had let about two thirds of all our student housing stock last year, **BEFORE** the Christmas break.

Please reply by email with your details to **studenthousingervices@yahoo.co.uk** and we will arrange for you to view some properties. We have property for all size of groups from houses for 4 up to 7 people maximum.

We look forward to hearing from you.

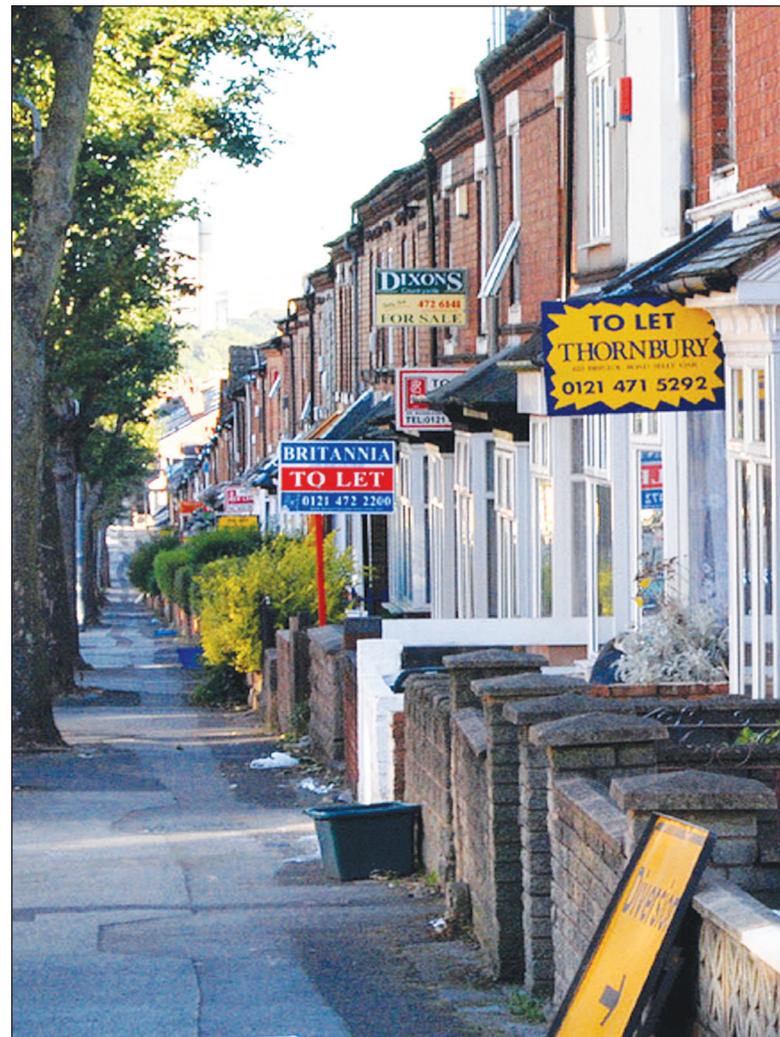
Student Housing Lettings

All we need is your name, which college you are at.

Also if you know your group size/have mobile contact number

studenthousingervices@yahoo.co.uk

REGISTER NOW



These leaflets were put into the letter boxes in James, Halifax and Goodricke colleges in recent weeks and emails have been sent round several colleges warning students about the company

Heslington Road and off-campus accommodation targeted by thieves

LUCY DIXON

Neil Johnston
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE HESLINGTON Road area has been affected by a series of burglaries in recent weeks. Second and third-year students living in rented accommodation have been affected by an increase in crime in Heslington and Fishergate.

In response to the rise in off-campus burglaries, University students have been warned by Chief Inspector Dave Hannan, York Safer Neighbourhood Command, to avoid leaving doors, windows and gates open as this can provide a clear opportunity for criminals.

Inspector Hannan commented: "Thieves are lazy and opportunistic. If you make life difficult for them they are much less likely to target your home and belongings". He reiterated the importance of hiding valuables and leaving a light on when you go out at night.

Most of the thefts have involved bicycles stolen from student accommodation. In one of the most serious incidents, two high value bikes, worth thousands each, were stolen from a locked shed in the Tang Hall area.

Although the student house targeted was secure, the thieves gained access two doors along through a wooden side gate, jumped over the fence and broke into the shed. They subsequently attempted to enter the house but

were unsuccessful. The student affected believes that they may have been followed and watched, as there was a very short time period for the burglars to strike.

One second-year student described how they had seen men testing whether bikes were properly locked up on campus during the early hours of the morning.

North Yorkshire Police have stepped up their efforts to prevent

"Security is a key concern, and there is currently a Safer Campus survey online

YUSU Welfare Officer
Bob Hughes

crime. Officers are carrying out high visibility patrols at night and letters have been sent out to warn students in the affected areas.

First year students in Halifax and Derwent Colleges have recently been affected by crime. Over the last month, youths have been spotted trying to steal bikes and have been successful on several occasions. At the start of the year, Vanbrugh JCRC's television was stolen.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, said safety on campus was a priority, "Security is a key concern, and there is currently a Safer Campus survey online about lighting and safety, mentioned on my YUSU blog".



Heslington Road and other student populated areas have become vulnerable to burglaries and thefts recently.

Hughes added the blog "will help inform a lot of our work regarding safety across the University, especially in finding out where the key areas are and what can be done to tackle any issues, whether through additional patrols or through more CCTV and lighting provision".

A spokesperson for the Univer-

sity reiterated the advice of North Yorkshire Police, saying: "Students should always leave their unattended property secure. In relation to cycles it is advisable to use good quality locks when securing them. There has been no rise in burglaries across campus recently. The number so far this term - four - is the same as for the corresponding pe-

riod in 2010".

Despite the recent increase in off campus burglaries, overall crime in the Heslington area has dropped by 50 per cent compared to this time last year, with theft down 64 per cent. Fishergate also experienced a drop in crime of 16 per cent, with theft down by four per cent.

News

Campaigners march again for better lighting around campus

Ellis Goldney Sidley
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS MARCHED for the 'Reclaim the Night' campaign last week, calling for better lighting around campus.

However, the University and the City of York council have issued contradictory statements concerning the council's role in tackling the problem.

Councillor David Levene vowed to create better lighting on campus. Levene informed the crowd that lighting had been a problem "for years and years" and that there had not "been any political input from the council". He pledged that this was something he was going to change now he was in power.

The University stated the Walmgate Stray is not their property and that: "The City of York Council considered lighting for the Stray, and rejected the idea as it is a natural wildlife area with a number of species of bats living on and around

"The City of York Council considered lighting for the Stray and rejected the idea"

University Spokesperson

it. Obviously anyone feeling unsafe using Walmgate Stray should use an alternative, well-lit route."

Another area that the protesters specifically claimed to be too



AGATHA TORRANCE

The University and Council are continuing their dispute over lighting

dark was the pathway between the Physics building and Derwent College.

The protest, organised by YUSU's welfare committee and the Women's Officers, Cat Wayland and Nell Beecham, saw a lively-spirited group walk around campus, from Market Square to The Courtyard.

The protest was the second of its kind this year, with a similar march held in February. It marked

the launch of the Safer Campus Survey and a joint operation of the Welfare and Women's committees. Beecham told *Nouse* they had "the support of senior management and councillor David Levene".

The crowd of approximately thirty people carried placards bearing messages such as "Let there be light!", as well as chanting "We want safety, we want light, come on let's reclaim the night".

People and Planet campaign for ethical university banking

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

THE PEOPLE and Planet society is appealing to the University to cut ties with HSBC bank, after it emerged the company is a major contributor of Canada's campaign to continue using tar sands fuel, against European penalties.

The University released a statement confirming HSBC held its "main account" but claimed it was "unaware of any recent discussions about changing bank."

Isobel Edwards, YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer and People & Planet society Treasurer, maintains the University was "approached on the idea of switching banks and were very prompt in response and positive."

However, she claims that when the University discovered why People and Planet wanted to speak to the University, "they then ignored further emails."

The society was then informed that the University had no plans to change its bankers. Edwards upholds that "the University doesn't really care about the moral implications of their banking practices."

The People and Planet's website states that the, "Alberta tar sands are the most destructive industrial project on the planet".

The society has been supporting efforts to ensure that the Canadian tar sands are included in the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD). The FQD listed tar sands emissions as 23 per cent higher than those of conventional oil.

The society successfully con-

vinced YUSU to sever ties with RBS last year and switch to the Co-operative Bank; the company responsible for obtaining evidence sparking this latest controversy.

Between 2007 and 2009, HSBC has given over 600 million in loans and over 8 billion in corporate debt underwriting to tar sands activities.

Institutions can unknowingly invest in the tar sands industry through staff pensions invested in tar sands-related companies, such

"The University doesn't really care about the moral implications of their banking practices"

People & Planet Treasurer
Isobel Edwards

as Shell and BP. The University of Birmingham currently carries out research for tar sands drilling.

On 3rd October the European Commission published its proposals for the FQD, which included a default value for tar sands, listing their emissions as 23 per cent higher than those of conventional crude oil. The UK government is opposed to the FQD, despite maintaining itself to be "the greenest government ever."

People & Planet will be holding a tar sands-free week next term, full of awareness raising, protests and talks from prominent environmental figures.

COMMENT >> Page 13

Contractors leaving housing problems untouched

Stephanie Milsom
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS IN Halifax and Derwent continue to face problems with the standard of their accommodation as University contractors fail to deliver repairs on time.

While the floods in Derwent reported in the last edition of *Nouse* are still ongoing, Halifax are also experiencing continuing problems with plumbing and showers. Many students have been left questioning the value for money of their accommodation, and whether they are being properly looked after.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, revealed he was "worried at the length of time some of the repairs seem to be taking" adding that he, "will be pursuing this further with the staff who oversee the various areas of campus accommodation."

Students in Derwent and Halifax pay up to £138 and £118 respectively per week - some of the most expensive accommodation on campus. However, these colleges have been the most frequently affected by recurring problems this year. This has led to numerous accounts of broken showers, boilers, and heating, as well as frequent flood-

ing, in Derwent especially. In the last week alone, both colleges experienced flooding, causing extensive damage.

James Pemble, first-year Derwent D Block, was one of the worst hit, with many of his personal belongings getting damaged or broken as a result. According to James, the University "didn't seem interested and didn't offer compen-

"We're all convinced it couldn't possibly have taken that long to 'wait for a part'; it just feels like they don't care"

House C resident
Tom Williams

sation", leaving him feeling "very annoyed", given the price of his accommodation fees.

A first-year student from Vanbrugh, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed: "We're paying good money for this accommodation; I feel for the people who have had problems because it's so much hassle on top of normal university stress."

In Halifax, at least two houses' boilers have broken, causing not



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Students have been dissatisfied with the length of time repairs are taking

only extensive water damage, but also much anxiety for those affected.

Due to problems with broken heating and showers Younger

Court House D was left without a shower for over a month, while House C had no heating for the first three weeks of term.

One resident from House D

stated: "We kept telling the porters about our broken shower, but they just told us it hadn't been reported properly. Then they told us that a new shower tray had been ordered and would be with us "between two and three days". A week later we had nothing."

The students told Davedass Mootanah, the Halifax College President, and the Facilities Manager, but nothing was done for over five weeks.

The student added; "We're all convinced it couldn't possibly have taken that long to 'wait for a part'; it just feels like they don't care."

However, House C are still experiencing problems with their boiler, although the initial leak was fixed almost immediately.

Resident Tom Williams said: "Estates told us that the boiler hadn't been fitted properly" Williams stated that the hot water, heating, and electricity had been problematic since the flood.

"We reported it to the porters, but they didn't seem to care. Someone came round about an hour later and fixed it, thankfully; although the porters reported the matter straight away, they gave the impression that it wasn't important to them."

CLASP buildings in need of “urgent” renovation

Rose Troup Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

UNIVERSITY ESTATES and Management have indicated that the Physics and Biology buildings, acknowledged in a recent University Estates Strategy Review, to be in “urgent need of attention”, will not be renovated until 2016 at the earliest.

The University has defended its decision as part of a measured and co-ordinated system of expansion contingent upon “available capital.”

Elizabeth Heaps, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates and Services stated there were “other urgent considerations about departmental growth and academic need which needed to be factored into any priority setting.”

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, said: “The sciences are among York’s most successful departments; they recruit students of a very high standard as well as producing world-class research. If this is to be continued, then the university is going to have to update its current facilities”.

Heaps explained that the dates shown “may change according to annual reviews of priorities.”

The Physics department is currently ranked twenty-eighth in the country, according to the Guardian league tables, released in 2012. Biosciences, including the linked Hull



Over 40% of the University’s capital assets need to be refurbished or replaced in the immediate future

department, were ranked 3rd.

The Biosciences department have recently received a large amount of investment, including the building of the new departmental and technology facility building and the new Centre for Immunology and Infection (CII) building.

These constructions came to over £23 million and were completed in June 2010. However, the original Biology single-storey teaching facility has not been the recipient of any comparable invest-

ment. Heaps explained this was a result of the massive investment to other aspects of the department, as well as balancing the expenditure required for the expansion taking place on the Heslington East campus, and the renovation of Heslington West campus.

Many of the buildings under review on Heslington West are part of CLASP, the Consortium of Local Authorities Special Practice, a construction program conducted in the 1960s.

The program oversaw the creation of prefabricated structures primarily for educational purposes. The prefabricated buildings have many acknowledged problems.

The structures, which were built rapidly when the University was founded, are notoriously cold in winter and prone to over-heating in summer. The single-storey Biology block is one such example of CLASP.

A survey conducted by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Coun-

cil for England) in March 2008 concluded that this was a result of their “lightweight poorly insulated” structure.

The report also noted the projected capital expense of renovating these buildings, which it estimated to be at 80 per cent of the cost of creating an entirely new building. In addition, “the life expectancy of the refurbished buildings is 15 years.”

Estates and Management have continued on a program of refurbishment, rather than demolition and re-construction, to limit the disruption to students.

Furthermore, the maximum footprint for building on Heslington West has been reached, requiring expansion either upwards or elsewhere.

There have been extensive projects completed on Heslington West, including the refreshment of much of Derwent and Halifax colleges over the summer. However, expansion has required that the main investments are situated in Heslington East.

Osborn said that the re-development of the Heslington West campus was recognised as being “crucial for maintaining the standard of education offered by the university.”

Heaps has stated that the “the acquisition and development of Hes East that has provided the opportunity to do most of the rest.”



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Langwith College is beginning to take shape on Heslington East. It will be the second college to be situated on the campus expansion and is planned to be ready in time for the 2012/13 academic year.

University sees improvement in its employability rankings

Ross D’lima
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK HAS risen 24 places in the Sunday Times league table for employability this year, as both the University Senior Management and YUSU stress their increased focus on an area York has performed traditionally poorly in.

Graduate prospects, improved between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, as there was a decrease in the number of graduates deemed to be unemployed between.

This coincides with pleasing findings in regard to the university’s position as measured by the University’s Employment Performance Indicator (EPI). The EPI is published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and analyses the number of graduates working in relation to the total number of graduates as reported by the census. It also measures a University’s performance against a benchmark.

The publication shows that in 2009/10, York exceeded its benchmark by 0.4%, achieving a 91.9% EPI rating, with a set benchmark of 91.5%. This places York 10th amongst its key comparator group; ahead of Oxford (90.2%), Imperial (90.9%), and Durham (91.2%).

David Duncan, Academic Registrar, stressed how despite the positive results, York must continue to work to improve graduate



Graduate prospects have traditionally been York’s weakness in rankings

prospects. He noted the recently introduced employability module for first-year students, and increased opportunities for internships as ways the University is looking to improve students’ employability prospects.

Graham Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, expressed his delight at the findings, commenting: “I am pleased to see the University’s employability rankings have improved after its recent poor performance.”

Osborn went on to praise, “The review of the Careers Service and the introduction of the Employability Tutorial” which were introduced specifically to improve graduate prospects, adding: “I am glad to see that these efforts are making a difference.”

The report comes following York’s successful attempt to become involved with the NUS run National Student Skills Award, which is currently being piloted by 22 students’ unions across the country. The award aims to increase graduate prospects by providing students with recognition for extra-curricular activity, volunteering, and part-time work.

Osborn stated how he was “delighted to have got YUSU onto the pilot, as it was extremely competitive”. Osborn added further how “the award itself is badly needed,” noting how university awards, such as the York Award, whilst valuable, do not “have the national recognition that graduates need and deserve.”

News

Alcuin

Alcuin has had the highest number of students switching college this year. Ten students have asked to be relocated within the university, four of which were initially assigned to Alcuin College. One JCR Welfare Officer was keen to reiterate that Alcuin college life is just as fulfilling as those of the other colleges.

Derwent

Approval for the latest Freshers Fortnight is reported to have jumped to 90 per cent. Nearly all of Derwent's hosted events, such as 'Slag and Drag', sold out.

Goodricke

Goodricke College is to hold its annual Christmas Ball this Thursday at the Royal York Hotel. The results of the recent Goodricke JCRC elections were to be announced at this event, however, the recent controversy has resulted in the new JCRC being announced this evening.

Halifax

Halifax JCRC has announced they have made almost £8,000 in the course of last year, through sponsorship with local businesses and corporate sponsors.

James

Two PhDs were awarded last month to current and former members of the James College Team. Dr. Ioannis Korkontzelos was a college tutor at James for a number of years, as was Dr. Daniel Horsfall, who is now resident Dean at the college and a teaching fellow in the Department of Social Policy.

Langwith

Cem Turhan, the current Langwith JCRC Chair, announced the launch of a new college website, which will include updates from the Langwith officers, an online voting system, and an anonymous comment box, set for launch this week.

Vanbrugh

Vanbrugh College JCRC has announced they have increased sponsorship from £200 at the beginning of the year to over £10,000. Kallum Taylor, Vanbrugh Chair, explained how the money had been utilised through subsidising events and supporting Vanbrugh sport.

Wentworth

By-elections are currently being held for the GSA, after a number of positions failed to attract any candidates. The positions include; Welfare Officer, Events Rep, and Off-Campus Rep among others.

Reporting by Lizzie Lynch, Laura Hughes, Neil Johnston, and Rose Troup-Buchanan

Colleges bid for further funding

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

COLLEGES HAVE started bidding to receive a portion of the Vice-Chancellor Initiative Fund. Vanbrugh, Goodricke, and Halifax have all put forward ideas for using the money.

College JCRCs are able to request money for projects which will directly benefit their college and the student experience. The initiative is part of a University push to improve college services, and the University will be working closely with YUSU in order to achieve this objective.

There will be up to £30,000 of funding to be distributed to colleges from the start of next term as only around £10,000 has been bid for out of the Vice-Chancellor's Initiative Fund so far.

The money has been made available from the £80,000 the Vice-Chancellor allocated to help support events and projects announced earlier this year.

Jane Grenville, Pro Vice-Chancellor for students, has been placed in charge of distributing the funds. £40,000 has already been distributed, based on the number of students in each college.

David Efrid, Vanbrugh Provost, has put forward a motion to sound-proof The Garage, which is attached to the Provost's house.

This is a space where bands from the college can play and practise, however, at the moment time in the space is limited as they cannot perform whilst the Drama Barn are performing. Efrid has bid for £5,000 which and hopes "The Garage will help to foster inclusivity."



Halifax's event 'Faxifal' is one of the initiatives hoping to receive funding

Kallum Taylor, Vanbrugh College Chair, supports the Provosts bid. However, he did express the sentiment that the bid was separate and the Provost's project alone, rather than that of Vanbrugh College JCRC.

Goodricke College have bid for some outdoor gym equipment to be placed around Heslington East. While Davedass Mootanah, Halifax Chair, has forwarded a bid for the money to be put towards supporting 'Faxifal'.

'Faxifal' this year will coincide with Halifax's ten year anniversary. First run last year, there are plans to include carnival rides, vintage clothing stores, and a hog roast amongst others.

Mootanah said: "The event last

year was such a success – it was among one of the favourite events we put on."

As a result Mootanah wishes to expand the event to include all colleges, facilitated by a portion of Initiative Fund.

The amount he requested was originally £2,000, however, the JCRC has now re-entered into negotiations with Grenville to establish a new amount that the college will receive. The money would have to provide a benefit to the community also to be allocated.

Grenville is required to spend the remainder of the funding by the end of the financial year, so new college chairs will have a term to submit bids for projects to be considered.

Vanbrugh Paradise hosts 'Winter Wonderland'

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

VANBRUGH COLLEGE hosted the 'Winter Wonderland' RAG event over the weekend.

The event was the first festive event of its kind and Baxter Willis, YUSU Rag Officer, hopes it won't be the last.

Sponsors of the event included PWC and Santander, which Willis is confident will cover the cost of the event despite slow ticket sales.

The artificial ice rink cost a total of £4,700 and the University were forced to subsidise the cost af-

ter Willis revealed the initial company "bailed out at the last minute."

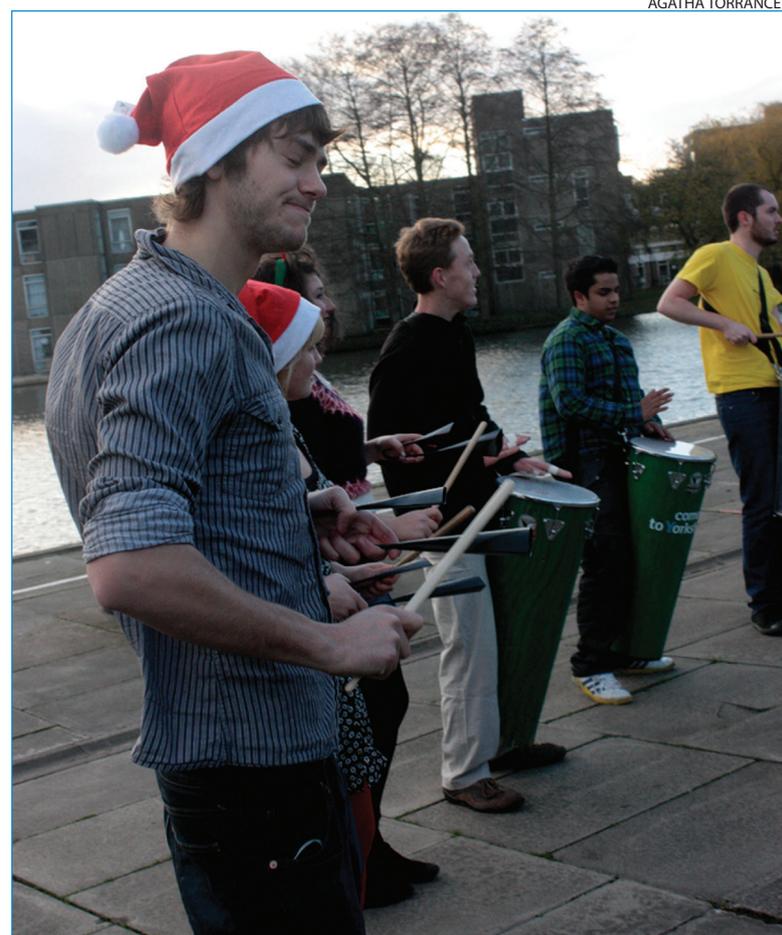
Next year Willis hopes YUSU will "push sponsorship further" to the extent that students will be able to skate free of charge, instead of the £6.50 hourly fee this year.

The company Cadbury's recorded an advert at the event, currently airing on youtube, and consequently University students have the opportunity to be nationally broadcast.

Despite being a "little disappointed" with ticket sales initially, Willis stressed the difficulties in pioneering an event of such a scale.



There were a wide selection of events and activities available to students during the RAG event 'Winter Wonderland', including a custom-built ice-rink



AGATHA TORRANCE

College Chair Review

Emma Bartlett



- Win the RAG cup 2011
- Upload the minutes of JCRC meetings
- Make the chair more directly accessible

As their year as College Chair draws to a close, **Rose Troup-Buchanan** examines how well the Chairs have done compared to the election promises they made

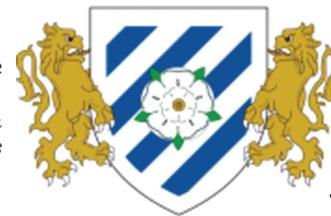


Nacho Hernando

- Extended cafeteria hub
- Bar and cash point on Hes East cafeteria hub
- Return of porters
- Sponsorship of teams
- Freshers' Guide
- Goodricke does Alicante



Hernando on porters:
"We have been able to find a third way in which we will look at training the security staff in the Nucleus to perform as many porter-tasks as they can"



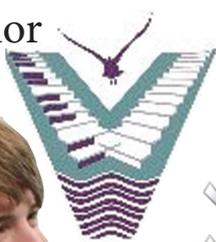
Davedass Mootanah

Mootanah on free bike scheme:
"The pool bikes haven't been promoted as successfully as I had wished they were."

- Improve kitchen facilities especially in St Lawrence Court
- Promoting a free bike rental scheme
- Enforcing installment of a new, not broken pool table in JJs
- Revamping HCSA website
- Block notice boards



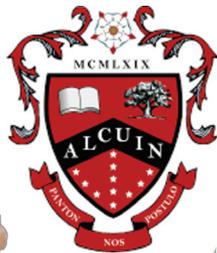
Kallum Taylor



Taylor on afternoon hours in V-Bar:
"The involved parties didn't get behind the plan enough and it pretty much became a private drinking club for Vanbrugh Football"

- More non-alcoholic events
- Refurbish V-bar
- Afternoon hours in V-Bar
- Bring back CU toasties
- Sky TV in Vanbrugh Common room
- Weekly surgery in V-Bar

Lizzie Bartholomew



Bartholomew on B.Henry's:
"This was due to huge restrictions from commercial services in regards to the bar, which I wasn't aware of when I was campaigning."

- More transparency between JCRC and college body; bi-termly meetings
- Establish B.Henrys as 'THE' live music venue on campus
- Stronger links with town
- National and International trips
- More inter-college events

Mootanah on free bike scheme:
"The pool bikes haven't been promoted as successfully as I had wished they were."

- Improve kitchen facilities especially in St Lawrence Court
- Promoting a free bike rental scheme
- Enforcing installment of a new, not broken pool table in JJs
- Revamping HCSA website
- Block notice boards



Cem Turhan



- Improved and enlarged welfare
- Better and more varied events
- Bar on Hes East
- XXXL branded events
- Online voting system for JCR decisions
- More sports provisions

Turhan on XXXL:
"XXXL was an idea for a brand, and as a committee we decided that it wasn't the right brand for Langwith, and instead focused our efforts on a wide variety of events"

Jenkins on fortnightly calenders:
"After talks with my ents and environment team, we decided that this was not the feasible route to take."



Matt Jenkins

- More accountable JCRC
- Better interaction between the JCRC and freshers
- Improve Eden Court integration with college
- Increase diversification of Derwent events
- Regular fortnight calenders for better event and volunteer awareness
- Introduction of Onity locks for a more



LANGWITH ALCUIN VANBRUGH JAMIES

GOODRICKE HAALIFAX DERWENT



Comment

Josh
Boswell



Tuition fees should not fund university finance black hole

University development projects must be reigned in to preserve liquidity, whilst student services should not suffer in any financial readjustment

The Finance Strategy, a spending review conducted by the University, has found that there will be an annual funding gap of £4-6 million after the academic year 2012, which the review proposes to be filled with increased contributions from student fee revenues, departmental cost-cutting and 'efficient use of space'.

The university is often described as a microcosm of society, and it seems this applies for its finances too. After a period of ten years or so of cheap credit and reckless expansion of the financial sector, with the manufacturing and technological sectors being left to rot, the bubble has burst. The emphatically promised but highly spurious 'efficiency savings' in the civil service have not materialised or sufficed, and so taxes of the average Brit are being used to furiously plug up the unstoppable fiscal haemorrhage into the porcelain bowl of national debt.

Whereas, in York, after a decade described in the report as the "free cash generation", with rapid growth in Heslington East whilst the Biology block was left to rot, a combination of 'efficient use of space' and the fees of the average student are being used as the financial costive.

This will not do. The University is set to receive a net profit from tuition fee rises, with the increase to £9000 per year not quite offset by government cuts, which should be used solely for student provisions. And by provisions, I don't mean subsidising YourShop pick'n'mix. I mean important and direct benefits to students, such as smaller seminar groups or more encouraging

and extensive YUSU grants. And a few more print credits wouldn't go amiss either.

The University should be funding its growth plans from business investment, government contributions, and non-student commercial events like conferences. Students' money should go to students' services. In the long term, the extensive development may provide a better campus for students, but with a 1.6 per cent drop in applications this year (6.2 per cent in higher fee-paying foreign students) and an uncertain financial climate, the strategy should be consolidation.

They need to sort out capital replacement first, such as renovations to the buildings classed by the University as in "urgent need of repair" before starting new building

works. It is no good creating new colleges and swanky extensions if basic utilities and central departments will require renovation and

"the University finances will be about as liquid as overcooked porridge"

replacement in the short term.

However, it seems their development strategy is to carry on spreading the campus eastwards until it hits China in an elaborate plan to increase lucrative foreign student applications, leaving be-

hind a trail of decaying buildings, short-changed students, and displaced ducks.

This may or may not be the case, but what is certain is that unless some £6m of funding is sourced from alternative areas, us students will be using our tripled loans to keep the University liquid.

We may be thankful that the University - unlike the country - is not in crisis and has a healthy long-term financial stability with serviceable debts and a strong grounding in capital funding. But in the short term, its growth strategy should be carefully managed to provide direct benefits for students and manageable projects that are funded fairly. As it stands, come 2013, the University finances will be about as liquid as overcooked porridge.

CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOUGH



Abi Wilson



We stick to our departments for a reason

The recent study of postgraduate communities claims that postgraduates are not socialising with each other and that they lack the support networks put in place for undergraduates. The report highlights some worrying trends in postgrad life at York, most significantly the lack of cultural mixing in Wentworth. This is something that needs to be tackled and offering home students University accommodation could go some way to achieving this, but I think the issues of socialisation may be rooted in the inherent nature of postgraduate study.

The review also draws attention to the absence of integration

between individual departments and, on a larger scale, the humanities and sciences. This is undoubtedly true and while it would be great to have a thorough mix of friends from all departments, as a postgrad student, I just don't have time.

Given the nature of a higher degree, we have to work harder and so have less time to socialise. Also, all postgrad home students and many others live in private accommodation and so lack the naturally larger social circle that comes from living in halls.

As the study rightly points out, this all leads to a reliance on socialising with those in your depart-

ment because it's easier - you see these people all the time, you have things in common with them and you can discuss and debate over

"the issues may be rooted in the inherent nature of postgrad study"

coffee or down the pub (work and play at the same time? A postgrad's dream!) So yes, more science-based friends might enrich my university

experience and intellect but, with the amount of time I would have to spend on consolidating these friendships, I'd never get any work done and, let's be honest, once you get to postgrad level the degree really is the main aim, fun and friendship is just a lovely added bonus.

I agree with many of the issues raised in the report, although perhaps not on their significance, however, I have to disagree with Karin Diaconu, GSA President, on the calls for postgrad support networks.

Of course they should be there (and in fact they are). But postgrads have all been through the university system before and so, I would sug-

gest, mostly have less need for the support networks that may be so important for undergrads living away from home and having the university experience for the first time.

The review highlights areas for improvement in the postgrad experience and we should certainly strive for a more integrated postgrad community, both culturally and between departments. But, for the hard-working postgrad, socialising seems to take the route of least resistance, which at the moment is through making friends mostly within departments. And I'm doubtful that any measures can be put in place to change this.

BRANDON CGER



Selling the climate change agenda

James Harle



The BBC was recently the subject of controversy, after their decision to omit the climate change episode of David Attenborough's latest series 'Frozen Planet' from the international release. The BBC claimed, in response to the comments of climate change activists, that it is standard practice when selling a series abroad to drop certain episodes to help it sell. Countries such as the US will therefore see the climate change episode as an 'optional extra' alongside a 'making of' documentary - conveniently avoiding awkward questions, some think the US, in particular, should be asking. But apathy towards climate change is, in light of the financial crisis, taking over.

Despite expressing a desire in 2010 to be the 'greenest government ever', the coalition recently relaxed plans for a new climate change strategy. The Kyoto agreement will have to stand alone until 2020; China and the US will, of course, not be among the signatories there.

Ministers have sparked angst over their admission that by that time, the average citizen will be paying £280 annually in 'Green Taxes'.

The impression given by the media is that financial security and green living are mutually exclusive, conveniently packaging both as 'crises'. You have to pick one, because you can't panic about two things at once. But panic doesn't solve problems. Logic tells us that environmental and economic concerns shouldn't have to be mutually exclusive.

We can't expect Cameron to be passionate about climate change if we, as a public, are not. His job is to represent our concerns - and if the public is not concerned about climate change, he won't be either. It is a disease of the media, spread to the public: the inability to sustain a reasonable level of concern for a long period of time. Ultimately, the media shapes the news to fit storylines for the sake of its readership; this is no problem in itself, but it means that a concern as universally important as climate change can become passé without ever having reached resolution.

The solution lies with the environmentalists; they need to turn climate change into the engaging, pressing problem that it was. It sounds crass; but why not sell it? If it's so important, then think of a new way to highlight concerns. Moralising is all very well but in today's society, everything is about entertainment value. Over-saturate your market and sales figures drop. It may not be an attractive feature of our society, but it doesn't look likely to change for a good few years - which is more than I can say for our climate.



Alex Slingsby

Letting go of the accommodation frenzy

Letting agencies should not be permitted to intimidate first-years into a state of frenzied house-hunting

Choosing your accommodation will never be one of the most carefree life choices you make. Just look at University accommodation and how stressful that was to choose and secure. The first year accommodation acts as a stepping stone between home and the 'real' world, and nobody is ready to be pushed off it yet.

Second year accommodation will only briefly have troubled the minds of first-years. However, as more and more posters, flyers, and agency letters sneak their way onto campus, the on-campus housing agency seems to be becoming the place to check out sometime in the not-too-distant future. The posters, promoting the thousands of student houses York has to offer, should be taken with a pinch of salt. Eight weeks in should we really be wasting time worrying about next years accommodation?

York is reputable for its large student population, with almost 30 per cent of the population between 16 and 34 years old. It's not surprising that letting agencies have cottoned on to the sheer amount of investment potential lurking in York's two universities, irrespective of the fact that we have been living away from home for less than nine weeks.

I think it is absolutely ludicrous that companies are already promoting student houses. They are not renting because they have good quality houses; they are renting out of greed. The amount of paper we have been sent in the past few weeks is quite frankly intimidating, unnecessary, and practi-

cally single-handedly destroying the rainforests. These posters and letters are purely an egotistical self-indulgent competition between the housing companies that will inevitably become more aggressive as we make our way into the second term. It's like a group of toddlers fighting over a shiny new toy - an issue they need to sort out between themselves. And it's the first years, who have only just settled in to their first accommodation away from home, who suffer. Imagine what would happen if we were sent

"We should focus on living and enjoying the accommodation that we have already paid for"

a letter telling us that we actually needed to start looking for accommodation next year. All hell would break loose.

Unfortunately, this is exactly what happened to students in James, Goodricke, and Halifax when they were sent a letter telling students to start looking for a house 'BEFORE the Christmas break'. The thought of not having a house next year if you hadn't sorted out your accommodation by Christmas must have sent some of them into a frenzy. The problem is that students are at their most vulnerable during the first term as information from

YUSU and the University is scarce and some housing companies can take advantage of that.

The companies who are advertising themselves around this time of year are bound to set their prices higher - because there is little competition. They start advertising early so that we still remember their name when it gets to February and we actually need to start looking. Students are not pre-warned about the companies like this one who intimidate first years into a state of submission.

This is why I feel the need to constantly remind myself that choosing a house is a big deal, and should not be rushed into like it's going out of fashion - because it's definitely not. Above all, we need to decide who we want to spend the next few years living with.

We should focus on living and enjoying the accommodation that we have already paid for first, before we write the deposit cheque for next year's home. There is absolutely no way that York will run out of its 2,400 student houses before Christmas. We couldn't even move into the accommodation early if we wanted to because, believe it or not, there are still people living there. So maybe, now is the time to just sit down at the table in the flat most first-years pay over £100 per week to live in, and drink the Morrison's value tea that you bought because you can't afford Yorkshire Tea. Forget about the dream house that you spotted online with a huge garden and private parking; we can all cross that bridge when we get to it. I'll race you.

Follow the debate:
Comment online at
nouse.co.uk/comment

MUSE.

06/12/11

“Dignifying Dysmorphia”

Polly Borland
explains her tastes

A Beautiful, Invisible Truth

What is it like to live with Asperger's?

Ghurkas in York

How the soldier's adapt to fish &
chips, and Jonny English



Muse.



M4



M16



M21

Features.

M4. How do the Ghurkas that serve in York adapt to life here?
Tom Witherow investigates.

M6. Polly Borland is a photographer with a difference. **Mia de Graaf** finds why.

M8. David Miliband came to York, and **Martin Spurr** found out his game plan.

M10. Asperger's is a part of you, not a problem, says **Bella Foxwell**.

Fashion.

M14. Designer Kathleen Kye talks about digits, and we shoot the 'Weasley's' in their Christmas jumpers.

Arts.

M16. Royal tour artist, Daphne Todd talks to **Sophie Walker**. Plus, Durham's Lumiere festival.

Music.

M18. Electric Six talk about being the Gay Bar band. And a special cat playlist.

Film.

M20. James Northcote talks about his role in the new *Wuthering Heights* film. Also, we recommend what to watch this Christmas.

Food & Drink.

M21. **Hana Teraie-Wood** does The Experiment- this month it's Panettone. And we give you tips for Christmas.

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Weasley photoshoot: Agatha Torrence



Never Say Never

Mia de Graaf

Perhaps B-Rack was just too unambitious with 'Yes, We Can'. Truth be told, 'yes we can' is a motivational message, but unfortunately it hasn't come to fruit in every way he said it would. It worked well enough, and maybe he'll try to sail on that in next year's elections. However, it has the potential to be so much more. Pretty much everyone has guffawed at the thought of Justin Bieber being king of the world. But one thing 2011 has shown us, in his own words: 'Never say never'.

A week ago today Justin Bieber was named the most searched human being of 2011 on Bing search engine, usurping last year's Kim Kardashian. The Bieb takes his pride of place at spot number uno on our web surfing hit list, and the title as the only male in the top ten.

Some say astonishing, I say foreseeable, but this shuffle means that B-Rack [Obama] has fallen from No. 5 to No. 49 in one fell swoop. Justin is apparently the most trended name on Twitter ever, the most viewed on

YouTube ever, and the most 'elfed' person on elf.com. Ever. He has his own fragrance ('Someday' - the advert of which depicts a girl about 6 years his senior yearning for the 17-year-old), probably a clothing line, and I wouldn't be surprised by some kind of food brand I the near future. Never Say Never.

"Who is this guy?" some remarkably still oblivious people ask; "what makes him so popular?" I thought I had this in a nutshell - and I do stand partly by this claim. If you haven't seen the latest *Twilight* film, there's quite a disturbing, and fundamentally illegal plot twist in which Jacob, "the sexy one" (my own words...), falls in love with Bella's baby - it was that, more than the graphic sex scenes, that had me wincing uncomfortably into my pick'n'mix. I couldn't work out exactly from whence this idea stemmed - to romanticise paedophilia - but my best guess is that they're trying to get at what Bieber has done so well: be a sex god for children. It's a peculiar trend that has been both accepted and celebrated - despite the fact that his Movem-

ber efforts were, well, brave, and he is widely acknowledged as looking like a lesbian (see lesbianwholooklikejustinbieber.tumblr.com. It's gold).

As well as having seen the countless 'vlogs' of toddlers requesting his hand in marriage, or even to "sleep next to him and have lots and fun *wink*", I have born first-hand witness to his hold over the recently-born-woman with my own flesh and blood. At the pantomime last year with my four-year-old niece on my lap, we were awaiting Hammersmith's finest Christmas cheer, which involved listening to chart music - the pre-drinking equivalent for the very underage. A new song starts. As if competing for her life on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* music round, this doe-eyed girl hears the opening two notes, and with glee exclaims 'Justin Bieber!' before launching into a rendition of his 'baby' song. Astounded that much of this was even in her vocabulary range was my first hurdle, followed swiftly by the grave realisation that she too had been hit by Usher's cupid arrow.

What more could he do? Entice older people? Surely not?

Never say never - perfectly demonstrated by Mariah Yeater - the 20-year-old who claimed to have mothered his child. The story was flawed from the off, as my mother contested at this girl's claim that he didn't use a condom because 'he really wanted to feel it': "as if Bieber was a virgin." Yes Mum, that's the spirit. After an excruciating television interview, in which the channel comically interspersed footage with his song "baby, baby, baby ohhh...", the naïve woman has since backed down (apparently due to death threats, and a counter-suit from Bieber's "people" - as explained to me, genuinely, by a 50-year-old American male Belieber on the 44 bus in York. Never say never).

In a nutshell, this end to the year, that many conspiracy theorists claimed would never come, has taught us one valuable thing that no one - not Obama, not the Queen, not the Bible - has ever truly delivered so forcefully and miraculously: Never Say Never.

Quirks: Famous Brothers

The Miliband brothers had a public political conflict.
Do these brothers get on?



Chuckle Brothers:
Great childhood dentist



Warner Bros:
No hierarchy here



Princes William and Harry:
Crush on the sister-in-law?



Jonas Brothers:
Performing pouts



Wright Brothers
Plane-building japes

Thinking inside the box Camilla Apcar



Joey Essex coming to York was to be the highlight of my TV loving 2k11. And the chance to play some sort of game with him on stage? The excitement! I could show off all my useless knowledge about the Essex clan in a nice quiz, I innocently believed. But no. Instead, a lap dance competition performed on Joey's friend (because the Reem-meister had no idea about it and refused...what a gentleman) made me want to melt away amongst the swarm of girls all desperate to whip their tops off for five minutes of quality time with Joey.

The five American leaders – a President plus Standards, Social, Philanthropy and Entertainment Chairs – of Channel Four's Sorority Girls would have been horrified at the whole competition, because amongst their favourite terms and acronyms is 'inappropriate'. And they take being appropriate to the extreme.

If I were a pledge (a wannabe sorority Sister who goes through hazing while decked out in pearls, pink monogrammed pyjamas and cashmere knits), I'd like to think that the five leaders would initially find me to be the epitome of appropriate. In clubs, I only ever have one drink in my hand: you really can't do the Smack That or Saturday Night Fever disco dances to full effect if you've got two things to hold.

I don't wear above-the-knee skirts without tights: the North is unbearably cold for eight months of the year and I'm not a fan of pneumonia. I don't wear false eyelashes: my one experience with them left me looking like an even more dishevelled version of Katie Price. All examples of totally 'appropriate', albeit middle-aged, logic.

But upon discovering my philanthropy efforts, I sense things would start to go downhill. Would helping to organise a Calendar Girls style calendar be considered an inappropriate fundraiser? Having more than one bit of flesh on show at a time constitutes

being Sorostitute according to Dominique, the Standards Chair. My role in co-ordinating the pages must have made me a SoroPimp. I'm dubious the Sisters would approve.

It gets worse. Any aspiring Sisters who have been promised that a night out won't be 'a late one', should never make well-intentioned plans for the next day that involve going to the British Library to do dissertation research. By 2.30am, if you've already stopped drinking, it's time to face that won't be getting home much before five. Being awake past midnight? In-app-rop-riate.

Last week, I had resigned myself to this fact. Having been up since 7.30 the previous morning and with T-minus 7 hours until I had to be in the company of a pile of musty books, my desperation led me to perhaps the cardinal sin of appropriateness. Dare I relive my PLC (Poor Life Choice)...in my plight towards academia, I sprawled across the corner of a table for a power nap in the restaurant-cum-bar.

Trying to snooze while Rolling in the Deep and Fight For This Love are blasting out of the stereo system proved difficult. Even harder when you're awakened by the stench of breaded brie. Not to mention the establishment's bouncer peering down to ask if you're 'alright'. A bleary-eyed murmur of "I'm just so sleepy" definitely doesn't give the best first impression. So inappropriate.

Evidently, however hard I try I'm clearly never going to be appropriate enough. They've all got double standards anyway. Hannah the Entertainment Chair is eternally caked in a foundation far from Natural Beige, and I definitely spied Philanthropy Chair Arianna in a body-con pencil skirt with a slit right up the thigh. What a Slooter Cahooter.

And aside from the First Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, what kind of a club had a ferret as a mascot? Sistas, you've been weighed and measured and have been found lacking. Your definition



Christmas by numbers

10 million turkeys are consumed by the British public at Christmas. That's a lot of dry bird, considering no one likes it.

40 percent of Christmas dinners are cooked by men. Domestic inferiority complexes aren't exactly finished

22 percent of people file for divorce on the 8th January. The pressure Christmas

puts on relationships has a pretty quick turn around.

53 percent increase in alcohol consumption in December. Just *such* a merry time.

600,000 people spend Christmas alone. They're either old, or 'Bridget Jones', and will watch Creature Comforts.



The Ghurkas in York

Tom Witherow meets Nepalese soldiers in Fulford to find out how their families are finding life in the UK.

Above: Gurkhas celebrate the Hindu festival of Dashain in Afghanistan

“I joined in 1996, my wife only came with me in 2006. It was a hard time.” Gurkhas have served in the British armed forces for almost 200 years, but are the sacrifices these soldiers make off the battlefield going unnoticed? What drives them to leave their culture, and often their families, behind to fight for a foreign nation?

Gurkhas are renowned as some of the fiercest and bravest fighters in the world – one former Indian Chief of Staff even said that “if a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or a Gurkha”. Hundreds of thousands have fought for Britain, twenty-six earning our highest honour, the Victoria Cross.

Gurkha rights hit the headlines two years ago, when Joanna Lumley led a successful campaign to have the right to habitation in Britain extended to those who retired before 1997. A flood of retirees have since left their homes in the foothills of the Himalayas and settled in Britain. Alongside the presence of Nepalese army families, this creates a significant welfare issue. A cultural canyon stands between the rural Nepalese

life of the Gorkhali region and British army life in York. Integration into their new workplace and community is key to creating an effective military unit, as well as allowing soldiers to have a fulfilling life.

Suchant is a Gurkha in 246 Signal Squadron who lives with his wife and two children. “We have a much better life here, it’s better for both of us.” Suchant has served in the British army for eleven years and has lived in Fulford for nine of them. As we speak his wife and children sit obediently behind him. He says something in Nepali – she disappears and returns with two steaming mugs of tea. This alongside the large formal family portraits, the large green statues and the ornate curtains hint at the country they call home. The tension is broken by Suchant’s explanation as to why he joined the army: “Because of the money. One pound is now over a hundred and twenty rupees, that’s big money.” Nor does he pause to consider where he might like to retire: “Once my children have grown up and been educated, there is no point in me being here. I will

But are Gurkhas selling their cultural heritage in order to live the relative high life that the UK offers? He doesn't think so. "We join the army because, obviously, we are allowed to live in the UK, but once we're here we eat Nepalese food, practice Hinduism and teach our children about Nepalese festivals." Sabin is Suchant's next-door neighbour and a fellow 'Sig,' he has two young girls. "I find that sometimes it's hard to keep the traditions going. Sometimes she [his eldest daughter] doesn't want to know, and does whatever the British children are doing. But we have a completely different culture... I'd really like my daughters to understand both cultures, but it's difficult."

Both families are fully involved in both the army and the broader Nepalese community. "My eldest son goes to a local football club, and is a yellow belt in Taekwondo," Suchant announces proudly, "We [246 squadron] play football and basketball inside the barracks." One would consider language a barrier to engaging in popular culture, little did I expect a detailed description of the latest Johnny English film from Suchant's younger son.

Tony Gould, a military historian who has written extensively about the Gurkhas has suggested that lower wages (these have now been brought to parity) and the presence of British Majors as commanding officers (COs) serve to create tension inside the barracks. Suchant doesn't think it's any different to other squadrons. "There are British guys in our squadron, with them we're really quite friendly and lots of British soldiers want to be in our squadron for operations... We invited them to our Dashain celebrations, they even wore Nepalese traditional dress." One would often associate comradeship with the army, but the Gurkhas' unique situation means that this isn't inevitable. Although the celebration of their sacred festival may be a small point, it represents the wider success that the Nepalese have enjoyed in joining local communities.

Dashain is the most-anticipated and widely celebrated festival in Nepal. "In Nepal, all the family come home and gather for fifteen days. We kill goats and cows to guard against demons, and our grandfathers bless us with red paint on our forehead... Here? We had a celebration in our gymnasium." This may have seemed a watered-down affair to newer recruits, but the Dashain celebrations in York promote the same sense of community that you would find in the rural communities of the Nepalese foothills. But now the community being embraced is multicultural.

Legislation passed in 2006 gave soldiers' immediate families the right to habitation for the period of their service. The new law created a fantastic opportunity for families and soldiers, but also a new set of issues relating to integration. Sabin is pleased that his children can benefit from British state education: "[In Nepal] education is not very systematic. Here, they learn English and schooling is better. The only problem is they don't learn to read or write in their own language." Nepali is the only language allowed at home. Their children's assimilation into British, and more broadly Western, culture is a major concern. Suchant feels "they will always think of themselves as Nepalese," but perhaps it is Sabin who is more realistic: "We have to change with the times; we have to keep our mind open. I would love for my children to go back to Nepal and live there but



"I would love for my children to go back to Nepal and live there, but they'll have a different mentality. It's going to be a big change."



Above and top: Sabin and Suchant are both members of 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron

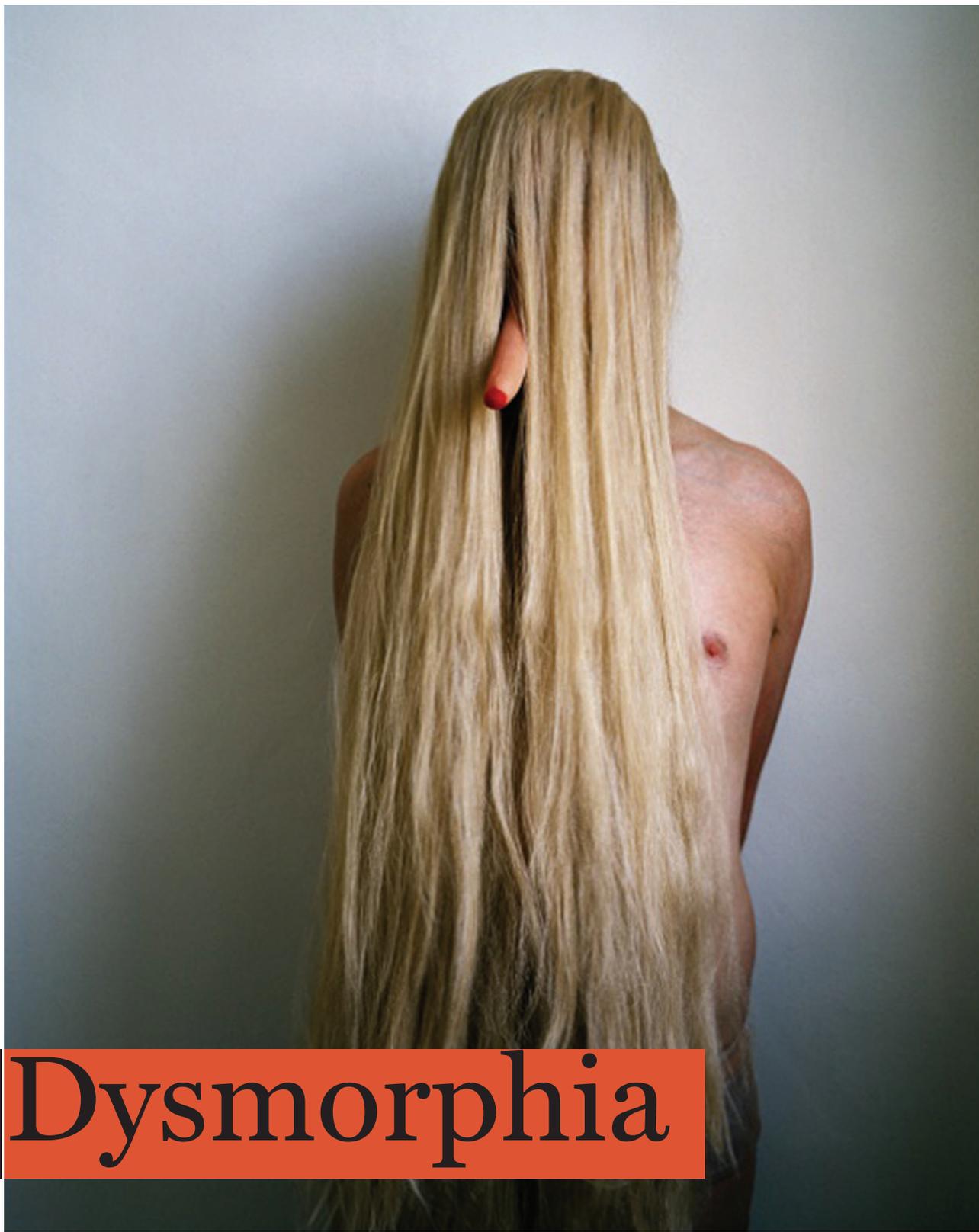
they will be educated here and so will have a different mentality." Both men appreciate that their children may wish to stay in the UK after they complete their education – a potential worry for soldiers returning to Nepal. Sabin is assertive as to where he stands: "without a national health service you have to look after them [elderly family members]... but when I am old I have lots of relatives who can look after me!"

Cuts and redundancies in the Ministry of Defense (MOD) have received widespread criticism. However, no one feels the effects more acutely than the Gurkhas. Many soldiers are edgy about their job security, and Suchant is no exception: "Last year there were twenty, twenty-one redundancies... Yes I worry, if I am not in continuous service for more than five years I don't get my pension... I just have to worry for five years." Sabin is remarkably objective in his opinion of the redundancies. "Sooner or later we have to, because the British government has to save money. We have to understand the economic climate. If they send me home I wouldn't have any hard feelings – they're cutting everywhere, not just in the MOD."

However the Gorkhali choose to portray their situation, the implications of being made redundant are significant. Sabin talks of his family's tradition of serving in the army, saying that most of his caste would seek either an education or a position in the British, or Indian, armies. Redundancy means returning home, it means finding an alternative income, it means re-locating your family and your children's education. Without under-playing the stresses placed upon British soldiers forced to return to 'Civvy Street', one can begin to see why there is a case to be made against Gurkha job losses.

The soldiers' polite manner is striking. It is as though these men feel the weight of 200 years of tradition on their shoulders. Suchant stressed the financial benefits of serving in the British army, whereas Sabin claims an entirely different reason for signing up: "With the British, we have really quite a long history... my forefathers, they served in the British or Indian armies. It's just normal. This caste, they will try and join the British or Indian army before they join the Nepalese army. It's just the way." Perhaps it is the respect to be gained from the image of bravery and courage that encourages young recruits. Captain Marsh, the Chief Welfare Officer, play a central role once recruits arrive in the UK. He is clear on why young Nepalese men choose to go through the gruelling training required to join Gurkha squadrons: "Back in Nepal they are treated like kings." This stands in contrast to academic thought. Sociologists, such as Ananda Shrestha, tend to emphasise the affront to national dignity that comes from serving as 'mercenaries' – however, the experiences of those at Imphal Barracks appear to show little evidence for this.

Some would say that the employment of Gurkhas is a hangover from a redundant colonial past. However, there are strong arguments as to why these soldiers should be embraced as part of the army and wider British culture. Both the sacrifices they make to serve another nation and the cultural diversity that they bring to any area to which they are posted make the Gurkhas deserving of every parliamentary victory they may achieve. And anyone who says Gorkhali soldiers are not part of our community haven't heard Sabin recount his last visit to the local chip-



Dignified Dysmorphia

Polly Borland photographs adults as transvestite babies, and Berlusconi.
Mia de Graaf finds out who the woman behind it all is.

“It’s a long time that the camera has been bringing us news about zanies and pariahs, their miseries and their quirks. Showing the banality of the non-normal. Making voyeurs of us all...But this is particularly gifted, authoritative, intelligent work. Borland’s pictures seem very knowing, compassionate; and too close, too familiar, to suggest common or mere curiosity.” In her essay on Polly Borland’s photography series, *The Babies*, which documented various groups of adults with a fetish for dressing, acting and living as babies, Susan Sontag pinpoints the delicacy and sensitivity in portraying such outlandish and daring topics that has landed Borland her highly esteemed reputation in the art world today.

I catch Polly Borland just before she jumps on a plane from England back to Los Angeles after a fleeting visit. Nonetheless, there’s something calm and lulling that draws you into feeling

like she has all the time in the world to discuss transvestite adult-babies, the Queen, and other such facets of her long and colourful career as a photographer. Borland - a mini, red-bobbed woman, with a whopping pair of thick-rimmed glasses, has a distinctively compelling accent, described by one Australian as “Borland-talk” that you can’t help but engage with.

Leaving Australia in 1989 with film director husband, John Hillcoat (*The Road*), her move, though potentially an illogical one at first, has certainly paid off. Of course, it necessitated a few years of door-knocking to rebuild her thriving career as a portrait photographer, and segway into art photography. Borland recounts this era very systematically: “It took three years. My first job was with *Tatler*, and my second was with *Elle* magazine and my third was with *Harpers & Queen*. I worked with Jessamy Calkin; we teamed up - she was writing and I was doing photos. My real break

came when I got in with *the Independent Sunday Magazine* and *Saturday Magazine*. Mainly I did portraits for them but I also did reportages - I did ballroom dancing before *Strictly Come Dancing*; I did nudists, I went and visited all the nudist camps... I just loved it.”

With firmness in her tone, Borland is more than accustomed to dealing with a challenging audience, and is confident in standing her ground: “You’ve got to know when you believe enough in something to make a stand and in terms of artistic criticism you’ve just got to have a lot of self belief”.

“One thing I did was when there was the show at the National Portrait Gallery here - I had to do a show titled Australia. The Australian government wanted to turn it into a PR event for the then-Australian Prime Minister, John Howard. I basically boycotted the event - they thought I was going to turn up and I didn’t - and instead I got my assistant to distribute press releases about

why I wouldn’t meet John Howard, who basically refused to apologise to the aboriginal people for the genocide that had occurred throughout history. I got a lot of flack for that but I also got quite a few pats on the back.”

The way she puts it, it’s as if she took up the camera by accident: “I did Art History in Australia, I couldn’t really draw but I loved it so my art teacher said, let’s set up a dark room and you can take photos. That really helped start it off. So, I was about 17 when I started to take my first serious pictures and haven’t stopped from there”. Indeed, once things got rolling in the UK she was almost unstoppable, and soon her portraiture had captured the attention of everyone, from celebrities to politicians worldwide, including the likes of Kylie Minogue (a fellow Aussie expat), David Miliband, Gordon Brown, and long time, Melbourne-bred friend, and collaborator, Nick Cave. “I think photography, if you’re in a sort of position, is



“It reminds me- dare I say it- of syphilis”



ABOVE: PHOTO © MARK VESSEY REPRODUCED WITH KIND PERMISSION. LEFT AND OPPOSITE: PHOTO © POLLY BORLAND REPRODUCED WITH KIND PERMISSION

like a passport into other people's lives, you get a little feel and it's really great to meet people that way to take their portrait, you know you get to know a little bit about them.” She ganders comfortably through a few star-studded memories, with a kind of arresting detail and matter-of-fact tone:

“I've photographed Berlusconi. He was like photographing the Mafia, he was pretty hardcore. He did the job, but you could tell there were sort of a lot of things going on that weren't particularly that pleasant, I suppose you could say. But he was really nice - no, not really nice, but he was another incredible experience. I actually love doing the politicians because I'm really interested in power and how power corrupts.”

“Of course,” she adds, “the most significant highlight would have been the Queen, which came much later.”

In 2002 Borland was selected as one of 11 photographers from Britain and the Commonwealth to profile Queen Elizabeth for the 50th anniversary of her coronation. Given a five-minute slot, “a reckie around Buckingham Palace” to pick a room, a choice of outfits, and the option of corgis (which she very reluctantly turned down), Borland's end result - a striking, close up, almost claustrophobic gold glitter and royal blue portrait - is today iconic. The gold was not necessarily planned from the off - “that was a visual device that was actually a solution to a problem, and in a way that's what creativity is - it's creative solutions to logistical visual problems. I was probably one of the few people that had asked the question: ‘if need be can I bring my own backdrop in?’” And just as well, as she received news that her room of choice was unavailable (“instead they offered me the most boring room I'd seen that day - the room where she signs all her documents”). “I had done Peter Mandelson with a shiny background. It'd been a way to make a standard portrait of a famous person into something more iconic and interesting - and also the juxtaposition between a supposedly sort of straight public figure and add a bit of razzmatazz to it. I was interested in the juxtaposition of what would happen if you put a sort of straight person or a dignitary in front of something that was not conventional or that had kind of showman-like connotations to it. I think it was Peter Lilley actually I'd done in front of a disco curtain - he was the first politician I did. So, I was interested in sort of subverting what I was photographing.”

For Borland, the image was a success - although a second backdrop (a deep blue Marimekko screen print fabric, with large blue flowers) was not quite to the Queen's liking:

“She saw the gold backdrop first and I had the floral one behind, because it was literally five minutes so I had to have everything set up ready to go - two cameras, two lights, two backdrops, and it just meant she had to stand in one place and once I'd finished the gold we had to move one of the cameras, move on off the lights, move the gold around. When she saw the floral one she went ‘OOHH’ - like that.” Wheeling through the story animatedly with a detectable smile in her voice, she teeters on a laugh. “Later it didn't actually get officially approved. A year later *the Sunday Times Magazine* ran a story on the unofficial portraits of the Queen and she allowed that portrait to be used and it was on the cover.”

It hints at the comical side to her work, she smirks, “the bobble man” in Smudge “reminds me - dare I say it - of syphilis”.

And so Borland reached a summit,

so to speak, of the portrait world.

“Now I hardly ever do portraits unless it's someone I know or a friend, like Nick Cave, you know, people I know. My main area of interest is my own personal work which I now exhibit and the reason for that is because you've got the freedom to be more creative - the sky's the limit, so my art work is definitely more interesting and, in a sense, more important to me now.”

“The portraiture was great but I kind of got to a point where I thought ‘well how many famous people can you meet?’ It becomes after a while a little bit soulless as well, because you are getting an idea of someone sort of like an inkling of what they're like and who they really are but I like more depth and I like relationships to be not so, kind of, wham bam thank you mam, which is really what a portrait is: you go in, you have an hour at the most if you're lucky - or a day, half a day - and I just think relationships developed over time are just more satisfying, interesting and have more depth, which is really what happens in my personal work, you know it's an ongoing, to a certain extent, collaborative process.”

In a forward for *Smudge* - Borland's latest, and, in her own words “probably some of the most difficult, challenging work I've done - people found it disturbing, they're not pretty pictures” - one of the book's three subjects, Nick Cave, says: “I am struck by Polly's deep love for her subjects and the dignity that exists in their dysmorphia. Because her pictures are never voyeuristic, never observational and never merely shocking. Rather, Polly seems to me to be shooting into a distorted mirror and simply bringing back heartbreaking refracted images of herself”

Indeed, Bunny was the product of years of photographing Gwendoline Christie - having been struck by her towering physique, seeing her around and about in Brighton - and although *The Babies* documented a much bigger group of people, Borland is keen to stress that: “I did actually kind of identify with them. I think they understood that I understood them. They said it was all about motherhood and because my mother died when I was quite young I sort of understood that so there was kind of a rapport there anyway”.

Now, having relocated to Los Angeles, for husband, Hillcoat's work, Borland's next working relationship will have to be taking the form of something rather less animate: a doll.

“I've decided, because I don't know that many people in America, I'm going to handmade a kind of weird doll and do all the things to it that I would have done if I knew someone really well and could take photos of them. I'm going to sort of dress it up, maybe a bit like how the smudge people are dressed up, and use mirrors and things like that. It enables me to do it in my own home - because here I don't have a studio - so it kind of makes everything a lot more miniature and, yeah, it's a logistic solution to a kind of problem of relocating and not knowing anyone in.”

She repeats again an ethos that seems to have carried Borland's multi-national career: “Photography gives you a passport to the world. My choice probably would not be Los Angeles but in actual fact my spiritual centre is within me. I think your home is where your loved ones are, and really my home is with John and Louis [her son]. I can create my work wherever I am.”

Reeling out memories and images of the 60s storybook that's inspired her doll venture, Borland seems to already be creating her next little world. **M**

Watching in the Wings

Family politics has forced David Miliband to reconsider his career. **Martin Spurr** finds out why it's not the end.



“I hate being in opposition, you can only talk - you can't really do anything”

Politics is often a very cut and dry affair when it comes to the people who participate in it. Issues and ideas are spun into a confusing web of rhetoric and style, but reputations can rise and fall within a moment. For David Miliband that moment was 15 months ago when Ed, his brother and political rival, won the Labour leadership election.

Never mind the three years spent as Foreign Secretary, nor his various roles at the heart of the Blair government; the brotherly contest stuck because of its symbolism. David's actions for the foreseeable future are defined in many people's minds by the outcome of the leadership contest - an outcome which left David as the loser.

However when I met with David before his talk, alongside other student media outlets, the man before me had seemed to come to terms with what had happened. Although there was considerably more enthusiasm for speaking about foreign affairs, there was an acceptance that questions about his relationship with Ed, and the comparisons and differences between them, were a part of his political life and not something he could merely sweep aside.

On being asked whether in the next few years he saw his role as a thinker, a

creator of ideas, or as a frontline politician, he said: “I am going to try and do what's best to support the party to win the election and win the confidence of the people. I think that's hopefully partly about ideas. I'm doing a commission on youth unemployment at the moment. I founded a leadership academy for community organisers, training 10,000 across the country. I am also keeping up my interest in foreign policy. I did some teaching in Stanford in America.”

But sensitive to the subject we are skirting around, he feels the need to openly address his absence from the front bench in the House of Commons. “I think I made the right decision not to go into the Shadow Cabinet, if that's what you are asking, because I think that would have reinforced the soap opera.”

Politics as a whole is often seen as a soap opera, one that you would do best to escape from. But Miliband spoke, and stood as a man who didn't appear to intend to escape just yet. Of course, it is only too easy to be deceived by the political rhetoric of a politician on a comeback, but within the realms of false propositioning, authenticity is surprisingly transparent. Miliband delivered his various responses at York with a sense of vision and focus, not just

on short-term policy and politics but with a grander perspective - the desire to change the world was still apparent.

“The truth is, when people say how are you doing? I sort of say, well I hate being in opposition and that's because you can only talk - you can't really do anything.”

Perhaps the easiest way for Miliband to go after losing out on the Labour leadership would have been to recline to the edges of politics, slowing preparing to leave completely and take up a role in a global organisation or lecture in America. But instead Miliband is visiting 20 universities across the country - fading into the distant background does not seem on the agenda.

His mannerism and tone of voice hark back to Tony Blair; and although his greeting felt like he was asserting dominance in the conversation before I had even begun to speak, there seems to be more substance to him as a politician than many of his contemporaries. Perhaps the art of spin is so embedded within him it has become indistinguishable from his real beliefs; but just maybe this is what Labour, or politics in general, is missing at the moment. There is a growing discourse that says Miliband would, and still could, do a better job than his brother; and that is

hard to dispute when you see him talk forcefully about global issues. Statesman-like almost.

But Miliband wouldn't be drawn on explaining anything he would have done differently to Ed. “I think that he is standing up to David Cameron, but he is doing it in his own way and he is not trying to copy Cameron or Blair or anyone else which I think is the right thing to do.”

He seems to accept the position he now finds himself in. “I am not going to speculate. It's better not to get into a hypothetical situation. So I'm supportive of the leadership of the party and accept what happened, and I'm not going to create any sort of alternative. We are different people with different approaches, but he won the job so it is up to him to do it.”

This pragmatic view on family relations seems to highlight his approach to politics. By facing questions rather than side-stepping them, this should surely make his position stronger. The first rule of any political scandal is to admit to it; take one large hit of condemnation and then hopefully it will die away. Miliband seems to be taking this approach to his own problems, hoping that by answering these awkward questions face-on they will soon cease to be asked.

However while Ed remains Labour's leader and while feeling is more of indifference rather than warmth towards him, questions will always be asked because David was the alternative. But politics changes fast and Miliband's conclusion that today's politics is as unpredictable as ever, leaves the door open for him to return.

"I think we are in a very open period of politics, I think anything could happen at the next election, and obviously the Labour party has to put itself in a position, in terms of ideas, and in terms of organisation, that scales the mountain which was presented by our big defeat at the last general election."

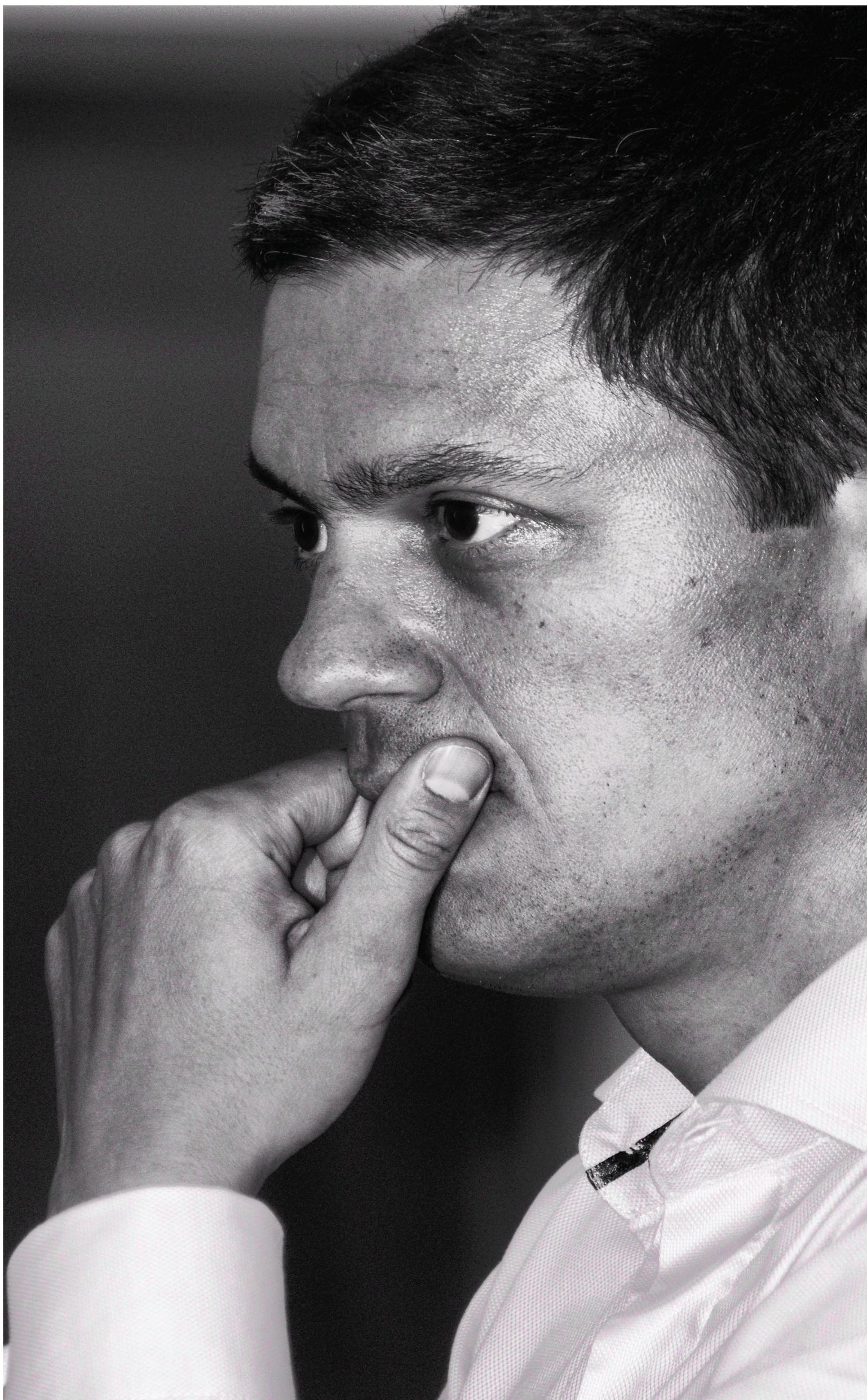
He muses later about the qualities of leadership, claiming that passion is more important than vision: "If you haven't got passion you are not going to be able to motivate or engage anyone and your vision will be desiccated if it isn't backed up by passion". It was clear that Miliband himself still had the passion; why else would he go on a tour around twenty universities? But has he got the drive and capability to overcome the hurdles that have presented themselves in his way over the last few years? Listening to him talk leaves little room for doubt.

His sound bites are as good as anyone's: "Lib Dems present themselves as partners, I think they are the puppets," and his jovial comment about it being ironic that he has set up a leadership academy shows the path he is trying to head down. But it seems, this sense of humour and outside perspective on parties and situations has arisen and been clarified from not being part of the cabinet. And it is precisely this 'view of the underdog' that is now playing to his strength; he can see what's going on, what needs to be done, because he isn't at the eye of the storm.

It is a position that, in any job, can facilitate for a window of opportunity. It is not inconceivable to see David take the leadership away from Ed after a general election in 2015; the fact that "anything could happen" perhaps is why Miliband is still in the game - waiting for his opportunity to arise again.

More likely is a return to frontline politics and the Shadow Cabinet at some point over the next few years. This is something he hopes can be realised again in his career. "I hope Labour's back in government again and I hope that I'm still old enough, or young enough, to benefit from it. You don't know what the future holds, but of course I want Labour to be back in government, being in government is an enormous privilege and it is sort of what politics is about." That sense of frustration permeates his words again - he is a man of action and openly acknowledges the restrictions to a politician whose party is not in power.

As Matthew Festenstein, the Head of Politics at York, brought the public talk to a close, he praised students and staff for their "awkward questions"; and out of the corner of my eye, I saw Miliband mouth to his interviewer "they weren't that awkward". Maybe his intellectual powers and political skills were not tested to their full amount then, but it seems that he will get the chance to fully utilise them once again if the current fluctuating world of politics paints out a path for his return. "It often takes a Tory government for people to remember what they miss out on with a Labour one." The unpredictable nature of politics that has forced him to reconsider where his career is going, may also be the catalyst in starting his climb back to the top. M





A beautiful, invisible truth

It affects more people than we realise and seems to go hand in hand with intellectual brilliance. **Bella Foxwell** discovers what life is like living with Asperger's

What have Einstein, Bill Gates and Michael Jackson got in common? Apart from being super-talented, your first thought might be that they all seem slightly strange, bizarre even.

What if I told you that they are all thought to be Aspergic? It might help explain a few things such as Jackson's inappropriate behaviour towards children and Gates' single-minded focus on technical minutiae. Asperger's syndrome is one of the disorders on the autistic spectrum. It is a milder and higher functioning form of the condition that afflicted Raymond Babbitt, the

character played by Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man*. It is still largely unheard of because the 'symptoms' so to speak, are so easily likened to mere eccentricities. However, as a psychological condition it is, for most sufferers, a daily struggle.

On Friday 18th November, a boy featured on *Children In Need* expressing his gratitude for a charity that had helped him develop skills to deal with his Asperger's in his day-to-day life. I'm sure most people were baffled as to what was wrong with him at first glance. It's an invisible disability. Something that is strange and a little scary because you cannot define it by a wheelchair, a hear

ing aid or an obvious physical difference. It's all in the mind.

Lili Wilson is beautiful, intelligent and witty. "Meet her for half an hour and you will be charmed by a young girl who appears 25, not 16" explain her family. "Meet her for any longer than that and she shuts down, retreating into the parallel but safe world of television. Her intellect is that of a woman beyond her years but the emotional part of her brain is on par with a 12 year old. This chasm between wisdom and maturity is baffling and renders her paralysed with rage a great deal of the time. It just doesn't make sense that someone so clever is unable to tell her left from right or make sense of the most basic social cues."

For years, her family thought she was just a difficult, bratty madam. "We thought her clumsiness was exaggerated, her hatred of going into a shopping centre full of people was a symptom of being a drama queen, and that her difficulty in getting a nice group of friends at school was simply bad luck. We had no idea that it was all part and parcel of Asperger's, and that's because it's so difficult to diagnose in girls."

Aspergic or not, girls will put on a disguise in order to seem normal. Any differences they feel they have to others are covered up, and most girls face bullying and have major mood swings, particularly once they hit puberty. So with that in mind, how do you distinguish between your average teenage girl and one with Asperger's? With great difficulty, is how. "Lili was ferried between numerous so-called specialists, councillors and psychiatrists for two years before she underwent a psychometric test, which determines how the mind works. This revealed Asperger's," explains her sister, Claire.

It's relative anonymity – it was only made a standard diagnosis in 1992 – and the fact that many cases are so mild, make it extremely hard to pick up on. When the Wilsons finally did receive a diagnosis, their lives were turned upside down. It gave them an answer, at least, for behaviour they just couldn't understand, but it also thrust upon Lili a label she didn't want to have.

One father of an autistic child, Jonathan Shestack, describes what happened to his son, Dov, as "watching our sweet, beautiful boy disappear in front of our eyes". At two, Dov's first words - Mum, Dad, flower, park - abruptly retreated into silence. Over the next six months, Dov ceased to recognise his own name and the faces of his parents. At age 9, after the most effective interventions available, Dov can now speak 20 words.

Of course, "Lili's Asperger's is not as severe as this form of Autism and she does have the ability to live a very successful life if she finds her niche" says Claire. What is similar is the change in Lili from pre-puberty to today, because of being in an environment – school – where everyone feels insecure, and anyone that appears different is voted off the island.

Robyn Steward, a woman with Asperger's, who mentors others with the condition and offers support and advice to families, said to me, "imagine driving round a tricky car park with both of your wing mirrors cracked". Such an image allows for the tiniest appreciation of what it's like for someone with Asperger's. This handicap in picking up social signals whilst trying to navigate the trials and tribulations of school life explain why Lili was constantly bullied. "She was targeted because of her weight, but also for her strange tastes,

which had a whole lot to do with sharks and not a lot to do with make up or boys", says Claire. "Asperger's doesn't allow for the recognition of many subtle social cues like sarcasm or seething anger, and this meant that vulnerable Lili would get lured in by false pretences and vicious pranks, not ever once realising people's true intentions."

The problem was that this wouldn't be like what bullying would be for you or I. It takes on a whole new and sinister meaning when you are desperately trying to make sense of the emotions and actions of others, even though they are completely concepts. Whereas most

people would act instinctively to certain types of situations or behaviours, someone with Asperger's has to act cognitively, which means that every piece of information received has to be processed and thought through before acting upon.

Susan Albinson, here at the University of York, says of secondary school "I still get nightmares about those 5 years sometimes... I had no real friends to speak of and was permanently just beyond my limits. I'm not sure that the school even noticed that anything was seriously wrong until I had a massive screaming meltdown two thirds of the

way through Year Ten".

As somebody who has experienced Asperger's first hand, Lili's sister Claire explained that the hardest part of the condition is not all the odd quirks such as hypersensitivity – Lili cannot for the life of her wear any woollen clothing and can hear a clock ticking in the next room – but it's the apparent lack of sensitivity. "For me, I get nothing back in terms of love and affection," says Claire.

Emma, 20, from Manchester University reiterated this point. "I suck royally at expressing empathy. You tell me something awful, and I feel for you. I feel really intensely, as a matter of fact. I want to hug you and make you feel better. But... I can't. It's not inhibition, it's not psychological damage. I just can't."

What's remarkable, though, is that Emma and Susan even made it to university because most Aspergics won't. Routine is vital, and allows those with the condition to flourish. The sporadic and barely-there contact hours of many university degrees and the focus on personal time-management are a nightmare for 'Aspies'. If one in 100 people have the condition, as recent research has shown, then there are around 150 students at University of York who may or may not know they have it.

Those anonymous people should be applauded and supported. Every student at this university should be aware of Asperger's, because that housemate that you live with, that you think is just plain weird, may be struggling to cope.

Many mimic behaviour they see on television, or interactions other people make, and try to use this to fit in. Susan explained to me that she "had to learn social skills out of books and by painful trial and error. My ability in that area is rather limited and social occasions such as the Christmas Formal would test them to, or even possibly beyond, my limit. And if I get pushed far enough beyond my limit, 'meltdown' does not do justice to what happens."

Even for people who don't have Asperger's, the Christmas Formal isn't everyone's idea of fun, but for those who do, they certainly have a far harder time of it. They may make Einstein look average, but socially, life is harder than any quantum physics equation.

The best thing about meeting Susan was that she described her Asperger's as the 'keystone of my personality'. "Asperger's Syndrome influences every aspect of my psychological life, and if it was outright cured, I would not be me - you'd just have a more-or-less empty shell. That's why the 'cure autism/Asperger's' folk really get up my nose - ameliorate the more seriously debilitating aspects of the more severe expressions of the condition, I can understand. Outright cure? No thanks. We 'spectrum folk' cannot change - and I for one, do not want to."

Both the families, and individuals themselves have shown that if you are aware of conditions such as Asperger's then you can deal with most types of people and make society a healthier place by keeping an open mind. Mental health doesn't conform. It can't be neatly tied up but treating everybody equally and not taking people at face value can allow you to embrace the invisible, beautiful truth.

As a fantastic article on the Wired website stated: "For all we know, the first tools on earth might have been developed by a loner sitting at the back of the cave, chipping at thousands of rocks to find the one that made the sharpest spear, while the neurotypicals (Aspergic term for the rest of us) chattered away in the firelight". M

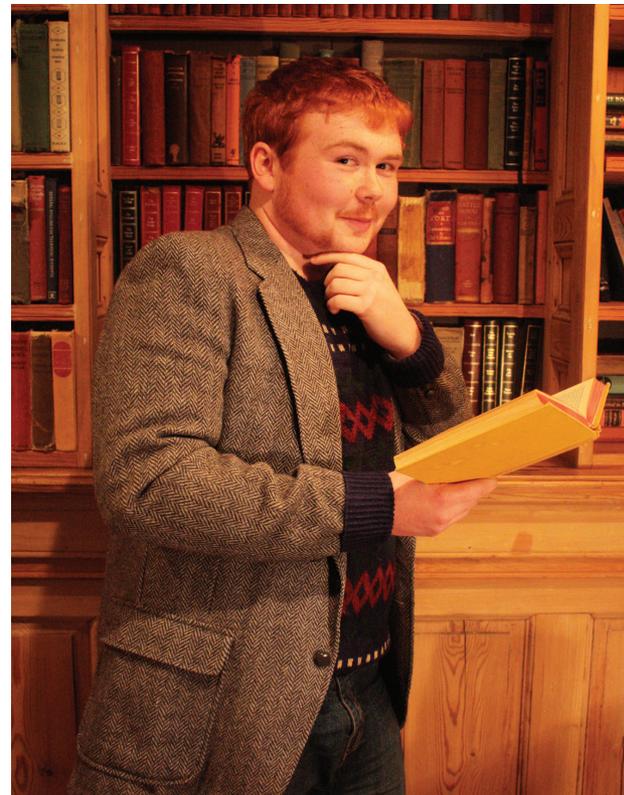
"You cannot define
it by a wheelchair,
a hearing aid or an
obvious physical
difference.

It's all in the mind."





***Got your Weasley
Christmas Jumper?***



Fashion.

Fashion Out of Hand

Andrew Adenmosun talks to flourishing designer Kathleen Kye.

On the star that certainly caught our eye at London Fashion Week was Kathleen Kye. Kye, whose fans include Kate Moss and Jamie Hince, is also one of the latest of Vauxhall Fashion Scout's "Ones to Watch" designers. She gave us an insight on her collaboration with Adidas, her influence by Professor Louise Wilson OBE and her race to the top.

Q. You studied at Central Saint Martins, which has produced some amazing talent. Who would you say was/were the key designer(s) that influenced you?

A. It was a big honour that I could study at such a prestigious college. Although I respect all the upperclassmen, the biggest person who inspired me was Professor Louise Wilson OBE. She taught me almost everything that I have to know in fashion design.

Q. You have used finger and hand gesture shapes in your designs, where did this design silhouette come from?

A. I was always very curious about the human body, shapes, and how it works. Usually, garments are another layer that is added to the human body. But I wanted to take something that is already there in human form and make it into another layer.

Q. I read that you are now focusing on your t-shirt line in Korea. After studying in London would you say that your designing has now been influenced by the diversity you were surrounded by?

A. Actually, the basic wear line is a collaboration with the graphic artist, Keenkee. It's just another project that I am doing at the moment. Currently, I am making some pieces for All Right Reserved, Hong Kong, regarding Adidas x Jeremy Scott and another season in London Fashion Week. Also, I am sponsored by Seoul Fashion Center in



Korea. I can say that I am heavily influenced by London, the city's style, its diversity and funkiness.

Q. What do you like and dislike about the London look?

A. London has a diverse look that doesn't necessarily care about trend, which I appreciate. However, the increase of high street fashion brands kind of messes up the city's style.

Q. What is the design ethos behind your work?

A. Kye's design ethos is to represent fun-loving new menswear shapes that

distinguish from the conventional patterns. All men possess a fantasy about being "macho" although this is being depressed at the moment in the name of a civilised society. Kye's concept in menswear designing is to represent inherent manliness with some elements of fun in it. Fashion designing is in the thick of commercial interests, but wouldn't it represent a cultural endeavour also?

Q. Describe your look in three words.

A. Fun, rude, edgy.

Q. What would you say was another main highlight in your career so far?

A. I am currently working on a project with Adidas Hong Kong. I am sponsored by Seoul Fashion Center. Also, I will have a showcase in London next season sponsored by the Korean Culture Center. And I am a part-time TV show presenter on a fashion channel in Korea. Oh, and I am currently working as a stylist for world famous band, 2NE1.

Q. If you had to relate music to your designs, what genre of music would you choose?

A. Urban hip-hop music.

Q. There seems to be a sense of aggression in your designs and prints, is there a meaning behind this?

A. I like fashion that has a strong statement. The theme for SS12 was militarism. To show the conflict in it, I made a gun shape out of skulls and bones.

Q. Would you say that you are trying to appeal to a broad audience?

A. I am trying to make a statement as a designer rather than making something that everybody would like to wear. However, as I am starting a women's wear line next season, I will try to incorporate both statement and wear-ability.

"All men possess a fantasy about being macho"

Men's Trends

Andrew Adenmosun
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR



Shearling, otherwise known to non-fashionistas as sheep-skin, will definitely keep you looking hot this cold season. The soft and heavy textures make sure that you are ready to battle with any blizzard that approaches whilst also looking strikingly stylish. Whether it is the latest Burberry Prorsum mid-calf men's shearling boots at £495 or Zara's double sided asymmetric shearling jacket at £79.99 (zara.com or in stores), make sure that this hot trend is visible in your winter wardrobes.

On the might say that this was a bit off-topic for Christmas, however, fear no more chaps - the classic tailcoat has been revived this winter. With all the Christmas balls and work parties fast approaching why not exceed the mark with a slick 1950's style tailcoat. This will not only ensure that you are the most dapper fellow at the party, it will also guarantee that you have a Christmas full of compliments. There is nothing worse than a poorly tailored tailcoat so for an extensive range of quality made and shockingly affordable tailcoats have a glimpse at www.savvyrow.co.uk with prices starting from as low as £64.



Twined and corduroy abbreviated as "Tworduroy" are fast becoming the "it" fabric to be seen in this winter season. Long gone are the days when this was seen as solely for golden oldies, now the look can be regarded as the classic understated overstatement. The subtle and comfortable material along with the warm colours they come in makes "Tworduroy" a combination that is uniquely brilliant for the chilly season. For inspiration, see Topman's latest range of corduroy chinos starting at £36 (www.topman.com or in stores).



Beauty

Top 3 Xmas beauty treats

Christmas is the perfect excuse to ask for indulgent gifts you could never justify splurging



your student loan on.

Number one on the stocking filler wish list is Biba's lip gloss cocktail ring (£15 House of Fraser). It not only looks great with its gold and black art deco design, suitably matched to any festive outfit, but also has the bonus feature of a built in shimmery pink lip gloss to ensure a perfect pout throughout the night in case you are found wandering near the mistletoe.

Favourite beauty store, Sephora, has teamed up with the iconic Karl Lagerfeld, for an exclusive Christmas collaboration. The collection comprises of beautiful eyeshadows in the shape of Lagerfeld and glittering nail varnishes, both of which are luxuriously packaged in gold and black boxes complete with Karl Lagerfeld's signature. The Karleidoscope fragrance, suitably named after the man himself, also promises to be a must-have stocking filler.

Featuring at number three on the wish list are Deborah Lippmann nail varnishes. It will be a challenge to not find a shade you absolutely love. The celebrity manicurist, has produced a variety of glitter nail varnishes. There is "Boom Boom Pow", "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" and the "Dark Side of the Moon" amongst the named goodies, enjoy!

Campus Style Icon

Muse searches campus for style icons and their inspiration



Ben Cross, first year English student

How would you describe your look?

I'd describe myself as a matured, nightmarish, sado-masochistic Peter Pan. My look is dark, mysterious and aggressive. It challenges norms and transgresses them, by adopting women's clothing (skinny jeans) and adapting different styles. I've taken indie and mixed it with gothic and rock influences.

Who are your major influences in terms of fashion?

Howard Marks for his open shirts, Russell Brand, Jim Morrison, Noel Fielding's surrealism and Johnny Depp's accessorising and layering.

Would you agree that music influences your dress sense? If so, which music genre would you say influences yours?

Definitely I believe that music is not only for the ears, but it is also a culture. If I had to choose a music genre that has influenced my look I would say rock, then perhaps some old school hip-hop because of its edginess and jewellery.

Andrew Adenmosun
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Christmas Must Haves



Whether you're going away for the weekend, or simply have a lot to carry, sometimes a satchel or handbag just isn't big enough. Introducing the holdall. Roomier than a normal bag, yet not as big as a suitcase, it offers space without looking stupidly oversized. This holdall from River Island is practical and on trend, the reinforced straps ensure it won't break, and available in a trendy Navajo pattern or the subtle studs and black leather, this look is set to stay for seasons to come. *Serena Rudge*

Christmas parties always present the need for a new dazzling dress, resulting in a shoe dilemma. But Larin has created a number of amazing designs for the festive party season, ranging from flats to heels and platforms. Yet, the best bit is the detachable ornaments on the end of the shoe which makes these shoes truly unique and at the top of your wish list. Choose from bows, jewelled clasps, or patent twirls and adapt your shoes to your outfits. *Helena Davies*



"There is a transformation that takes place when you wear a SpiritHood. This experience is un-definable, and completely unique to you . . ." and we couldn't agree more! They're the warmest of winter warmers: a hat, scarf and gloves combo in a variety of furry animal styles, with a pro-wildlife message at the label's core. LA's faux fur, animal inspired Spirit Hoods have already gained a huge following from the coolest of fashion packs, both Jessie J and Ke\$ha have been spotted in them. As you put on a hood, you supposedly adopt that animal's characteristics and its spirit, and as you purchase your furry disguise you also donate 10% of the sales price to protecting the endangered species that Spirit Hoods base their creations on. Win win. *Rachel McIver*

I would have expected, but could this be due to the nature of some of the items on sale? When one looks at how the selected designers have gone about choosing their 'sum up' object, I wonder if they have got it on the mark.

For starters, most of the big fashion names involved have not gone for anything clothing related. There is a lighter from Versace and a David Bowie record from Frida Giannini amongst the bunch. But what about the clothes? This is a fashion based auction after all with a trend hungry audience wanting to get a piece of the trendy pie.

Chanel's genius, Karl Lagerfeld put forward a small grouping of items, which make up his signature look. Lagerfeld's tie, featuring two delicate gold pins (a camera and paint palette), and a white collar, both of which the designer has presented on a velvet Chanel hanger are most yummy. The iconic designer has also used Tippex to write "that's all I did" on the tie, explained in his quote: "You see that's all I did in the last 20 years...Chanel

and myself. A camera for all the photos I took. A palette for all the sketchbooks I made." Not only is the item wearable, but many, including myself, would treat it as a form of art installation to be worshiped rather than worn. But, either way, Lagerfeld has made a perfect selection given the brief.

Compare this to the bizarre item presented by that of London based set designer and illustrator, Gard Card, who has worked with a long list of talents including Stella McCartney, Hermes and Comme des Garçons.

Card included in the collection the not so pretty sculpture of a man who is suffocating. Although he has recently made the transition into the world of art, I cannot help but think an illustration or a more conventionally attractive piece might have raised a higher bid. He said, "...masking tape and me go back a long way. In fact, the first thing I ever made



for Dazed [Dazed and Confused magazine] was with the stuff, so it seemed appropriate to return to the material for the [Magazine's] anniversary. What could be more fitting for a time capsule than a suffocating man gasping for air for eternity?" It is all very arty and conceptual, but who wants to bid for Card's grizzly offerings when you could buy a Swarovski crystal encrusted lighter courtesy of Donatella Versace?

The original question is not easily answered. Items that sum my life up over 20 years consist of a diet coke can, Reebok Classics and hair rollers. So who am I to question the likes of Gary Card. But it is an interesting money making stunt, that despite not raising a huge amount, still makes the fashion brain itch.



To buy or not to buy?

Paris Bennett
FASHION EDITOR

If you had to choose one object that represented you over your lifetime, what would it be? Tough one. But this is the question that designers including: Karl Lagerfeld, Sarah Burton and Tabitha Simmons have been faced with. Over the past two decades (so basically my entire life) which item sums you up without the need to utter a single word?

The idea behind this fashion item selection is all in the name of charity. 34 pieces of swish designer memorabilia were, last week, gathered to create a 'time capsule' in which they were eventually auctioned, with all money going to Oxfam. The event brought in £4825.72, which is not as much money as

Arts.

Daphne Todd- A Woman's Work

The portrait artist has painted her mother's corpse, and Prince Charles, but she tells **Sophie Walker** why she is never satisfied.

Daphne Todd was the first female president of the Royal Society of portrait painters from 1994 to 2000, and she won the BP Portrait Award in 2010 for a controversial portrait of her 100 year-old mother's corpse. But this is a humble lady.

She has just returned from South Africa and Tanzania as the Chief Tour Artist for the Prince of Wales and the Royal Duchess, which she says was really rather an "extraordinary experience".

Daphne's portraits are renowned for their honesty, which is a product of her insistence on painting from real life, rather than from photographs. I ask how, on the Royal tour, where the couple would go to up to 7 venues a day, was conducive to her style of observation. But she says, "I couldn't work in a way which was appropriate to recording greeting line ups with locals singing and dancing, and then there were walkabouts, because I need a lot of time. There was no expectation that I could, but it was a question of simply recording my experience, indeed I'd never been to Africa before."

"The tour security was amazing, but I was a little scared when I was painting in Soweto. I couldn't dawdle, whereas when my daughter was small I used to forget to pick her up sometimes because I was so engrossed!" She is clearly consumed in her work, even when she was grieving,

"I wanted to demonstrate what you can do as a human being, in the time given, so the portraits are like British studies. You're constrained by real life anyway, so it was exciting rather than frustrating. At the end, when I showed the Prince and Duchess, what I had done, they seemed very pleased.

Although Daphne was proud of the portraits on the tour, I ask her whether she always meets her expectations. "Very rarely, but that's the point - to always be unimpressed really, otherwise why would you do it?" Her humility is surprising considering how much of her work has been validated by such prestigious awards over the years, including being awarded an OBE in 2003 for services to the arts.

There is a little wise scepticism regarding the extent to which the awards validate her work though.

"I've been around long enough to know what jury's want - they tend to look for something unusual. There is a lot of luck in it. Not getting into a

certain competition doesn't mean your work isn't any good, it depends on the panel, and whether or not they had a nice lunch."

"I have been pleased with what I have won though, because when I was at the Slade back in the day, we were told that women can't do it; there are no great women artists. Winning a little prize is silly but it proves to you that you can do it, as a woman", she says quietly triumphant.

As the first female president of the Royal society, it's poignant and it saddens me, that a woman who has made such an extraordinary contribution to art, feels her legacy is undermined



that has defined the success of the People's Portraits, a project funded by the artists themselves to paint working people. "It was our way of saying, 'look, these are the people of the backbone of the society. It went down terribly well, it wasn't just portraits of people at the top of the ladder.'" However, the collection's permanent home now is at Girton College, Cambridge. Maybe Liverpool would have been slightly more appropriate.

Daphne's advocacy of traditional teaching characterises the mark she left not only on the society, but on the Heatherly School as well.

"I'm a natural conservative. I wanted to help stop it going the way of the other art colleges, now it's all conceptual art, and very few places actually teach drawing and painting. It's mad in my view - Britain had an international reputation for our fine art, we had the very first national portrait gallery, and it's the ridiculous the way things have changed.

Is it a cultural thing?
"It's gone beyond that. We now have a set of teachers in art colleges who just don't have those skills so it's gone through a whole generation. The right critical comments about painting are not critically made anymore. Galleries and Tate and the Turner prizes have brought in non-traditional painters, and it just hasn't stopped."

But Daphne is not against progress altogether, indeed, portraiture doesn't have to be old fashioned and formal. There are some painters that are straddling the divide between the generations but, "people who commission portraits are generally conservative themselves, and they don't want to be painted bright pink, they want a likeness!"

Our generation is one desperate to make an instant YouTube hit, rather than long-term impact. Fame has become such an important part of getting on in life. Daphne laughs, "it's a particularly male thing to be extreme and to make your mark."

I end by asking Daphne if she has anything that she wants to leave her mark on, anticipating no radical answer. I was wrong. "I feel like I'd like an entirely different style of painting, but it's a bit like travelling, you think you'll leave yourself behind and actually you take yourself with you."

No doubt wherever she goes next, if she takes herself, that won't be such a bad thing.

merely because of her sex. She admits to "still having a huge amount of self-doubt". But, her achievements ought to dissolve any doubt. At the society, Daphne was responsible for some inspired, progressive moves.

"I looked outwards rather than inwards. I realised we should help other people rather than get them to help us, as poor struggling artists. I instigated a connection with the Changing Faces charity that's gone on since my time in office; they even have their own prize because it prospered so well. The good you do always comes back to you."

It was this sort of attitude, of making portraiture accessible to the masses

Editor's Picks.

8-10 December,
Blackbox Theatre, 19.30
The Trial Stephen Berkoff

Pop along to the Blackbox Theatre if you are keen to witness the emotional terror our protagonist Joseph K experiences following his arrest for crimes he is not guilty of. Berkoff will transport you into a world where justice is negotiable...

28th October 2011- 21 January 2012,
The Young Vic, 19.30
Hamlet Michael Sheen

The Young Vic hosts the long awaited production of Hamlet, having been described as "unbearably moving;" Sheen's interpretation is something not to be missed this Christmas.

Mary O'Connor
ARTS EDITOR

Christmas Read

Huckleberry Finn

In celebration of this month being Twain's 176th birthday.

Set in 1830s Missouri, *Huckleberry Finn* tells the story of 'Huck', a boy with an abusive father, and a slave boy called Jim. In a wonderful odyssey, this strange pair travels down the Mississippi River meeting treachery, death and stealth.

Jo Rendall

Lumiere: Chaos of opposites?

Celia Scruby investigates the role of creativity Vs. science within public art installation.



When considering the myriad ways in which Art and science can influence or be reflected by one's beliefs, one may turn to Installation art. With the increased refinement of technology, artists have been able to use more experimental media, and as a consequence the turn of the century has seen a trend of deeply interactive art; with installations using digital, video, film, sound and sculpture. Lux Scientia, a trans-European project recently focused in on the obvious presence of science and technology in Installation art. The project commissioned three artists: Simeon Nelson, Dominik Lejman and Leonardo Meigas to create an artwork exploring or explaining a scientific principle, to be exhibited at Lumiere, the four day Light festival which took place in Durham from the 17th-20th November.

There is an intrinsic tie between art and belief: you only need to look at the captivating stained glass and stonework of York Minster to acknowledge this as fact. Dominik Lejman's installation "60 second Cathedral" inverts the common perception of religious buildings; as the artist himself highlights: "we are used to thinking about the Cathedral as a permanent set of architecture and also a set of certain values". His work instead plays on the idea of impermanence. In his installation, we see the image of 32 sky divers who coalesce for 60 seconds at a starting height of 6000 kilometres to form the shape of the vault in Durham Cathedral. Lejman's installation isolates the vault's motifs from their original religious setting, yet still retains their fundamental connotations. He says this action allows us to reconsider the "many situations we tend to

regard as the permanent, as, in fact very ephemeral;" an interpretation he is only able to convey through a prism of scientific understanding.

The elements come together in the unifying action of Creation which Simeon Nelson conveys in his installation entitled 'Plenum'. The caption for his piece reads: 'If you could witness the creation of the universe, what might it be like?' Nelson explains that in his work he is attempting to amalgamate "lots of different strands, a mythic way of seeing the world, a metaphysical way of seeing the world and a scientific way of seeing the world". 'Plenum' is a projection of sequence: it begins as a miniscule dot, intimating the beginning of the universe, and then proceeds to expand quite explosively into a grid. The perfect grid of points resemble stars, but then slowly burst into chaos. Nelson explained this as "greater and greater degrees of chaos but at the same time beauty and freedom". His idea of forging a Creation myth founded on science is achieved through his use of music and projection: when one image is represented visually, another is simultaneously constructed sonically. This beautiful interpretation of creation as a natural phenomenon, a scientific process and religious notion seamlessly embrace the collaboration of art, science and belief.

Leonardo Meigas, an Estonian artist explicitly links this triumvirate in his installation called 'The Hartman Grid'. His piece was inspired by the German oncologist Dr Ernest Hartmann, who believed humans who spent a lot of time at the point where the Earth's electromagnetic plates intersect may be more likely to develop certain diseases. Meigas' grid is made

up of a network of luminous flumes which symbolise these lines of natural radiation. As the colours within these pipes flow vertically and horizontally, they represent how these channels of energy intersect to form a grid in the first place. What is controversial about Meigas' piece however is that many are not sure these grids of natural radiation even exist. But, it is clear that Meigas' belief in their existence is resolute, as he told me of the recent loss of his brother-in-law to cancer, making him determined to raise "awareness for this scientific theory through artistic means, [which] will save thousands of people's lives". Did he see himself as an artist or scientist? Not unsurprisingly, he gave me a rather proverbial response, saying that he was "trying to visualise this phenomenon as an artist. Simultaneously, the piece is also a declaration to science".

His answer particularly resonated with me as it elucidated the multifaceted nature of the installations; and not just those at the Lumiere Festival, but also on a much grander scale. Following on from this, I began to consider the absolutist nature of my own question: why did I think Meigas had to be either a scientist or artist? The polarisation of Art and science is underpinned by many social structures. Our universities categorise courses as either Arts or Sciences, and most people make the distinction between an artistic or scientific mindset. This leaves us with the enduring question: will the increasing popularity of Installation Art begin to dissolve our black and white approach to Art and Science, or is this division too deeply routed in society to deconstruct?

Russia:
Is Art "the opium of the people"?

Mary
O'Connor
Arts Editor



One are the dark days when art deemed 'offensive' to society was subsequently banned. Or so we thought. In fact, the looming spectre of censorship haunts us once more, in the wake of the passing of the anti-homosexuality bill in St Petersburg at the beginning of November; casting ominous conjectures as to the fate of the rich artistic landscape of Russia and other countries, if the blight of "political correctness" continues to be persuasive. Marx warned that religion must be erased as an "illusory happiness of the people." Art, however, does not fall under such a negative light: contrary to the perverse ideas of the Russian government, it should not be stifled as merely "propaganda". Regrettably however, the banning of "inappropriate" art and media internationally has increased.

Art - be it literature, visual or performing, is liberating both for the artist and the receiver, enabling the assertion of a sense of self by way of the creative process. As Ian McLachlan, the co-creator of the upcoming pamphlet *Confronting the Danger of Art* comments, art can be something of an escapist endeavour: "...it can be the role of the artist to offer us an alternative perspective...and in so doing, to free us to think or be something else." As human beings we all have our unique way of perceiving the world: art in all its forms gives us this freedom to explore ourselves and the universe as individuals, and thus we can come to affect our own self-expression in terms specific to us, through art. Modern artists, Tracey Emin and Daphne Todd, are no strangers to this: both women deal with traumatic issues (feminine depression and grief after the loss of a parent) within their respective artworks but somehow reach clarity by using art as a means of catharsis.

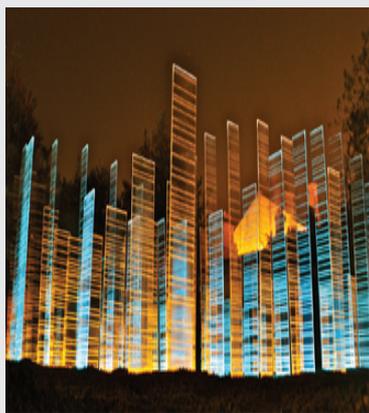
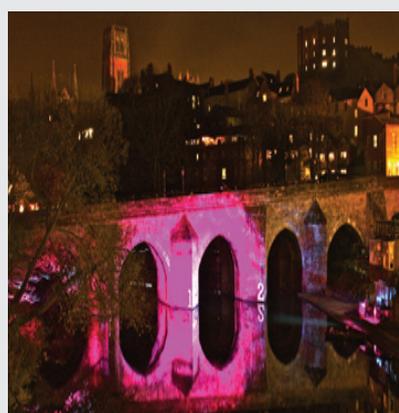
Additionally, the Arts are invaluable as an educative tool especially for those who remain ignorant of their exploitation. Indeed, the history itself illustrates Art's positive educative effects, most especially seen through the French Revolution. In 1789, the clergyman Abbe Sieyes published a pamphlet entitled, "What is the Third Estate?" attacking the unjust structures of the Ancien Regime; aimed at politicising the ignorant lower classes to claim

their own rights against the over-privileged upper classes. One does wonder what France might be like today if a revolution had not occurred. We have art to thank in part for that. In recent years, as political correctness has become almost hysterical, more artists being banned by governments anxious to prevent its messages subverting conventional thought. Most surprisingly, even Britain, as a westernised and democratic nation is guilty of this. In 2008, the now poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy's poem, *Education for Leisure* was removed from the GCSE English syllabus because its content promoted 'knife-culture and violence' to the outrage of teachers, students and other poets alike.

Similarly, quite recently there have been incidents of the censoring of art and media, most notably in Russia. On 26th November, an interactive installation piece entitled "The Stars Speak" by homosexual artist, Vasily Klenov was ejected from an exhibition hall after Klenov refused to remove from the piece, terms insulting the Prime Minister Putin that a visitor had typed in. Equally, just this week, Italian clothes company Benetton were forced to retract an advert featuring the current Pope Benedict XVI kissing an Egyptian Imam. The frequency of such bans is a worrying signal that individual creative license is on the rocks, and the proposed absolute ban of public homosexual expression or "propaganda" would be another nail in the coffin of artistic initiative.

Art will never cease to encapsulate the human condition and experience in society. Phil Cooper, also co-creator of "Confronting the Danger of Art" commented further on the Arts' relevance to British society today: "the world is in a real state of flux at the moment...and it's in these times that people need artistic expression". Censorship needs to be overcome and resisted now. In the case of the Russian Anti-Homosexuality bill, we must not let any more talented art be extinguished by a perceivably corrupt, homophobic government merely wishing to quench what they perceive as "deviance." I would encourage you all to sign the LGBT international petition to obstruct this legislation, if art means or has ever meant anything in your life.

Durham's Lumiere in pictures



Music.

Electric Six: The Gay Bar Band

Dick by name and by nature? Dick Valentine talks to **Alex Swadling** about being Rock 'n' Roll.

After introducing myself to Dick Valentine, Electric Six's frontman, there is a lengthy silence. So lengthy that I suddenly desperately want to slam the phone down and email his manager saying it was all just a joke. No one was supposed to get hurt. I giggle nervously. His Detroitian drawl finally reaches my ears. "Oh sorry, I'm uh, getting inundated with all kinds of uh, UK press at the moment." This is a bit uncomfortable.

Dick Valentine, or as his mother calls him, Tyler Spencer (which is actually quite a cool name – like a boxing champion, or a slightly intimidating but an essentially friendly dog) is charmingly carefree and blunt. Like Dick, the rest of the band brandish equally fitting stage names – The Colonel, Johnny Na\$hinal, Smorgasbord, Tait Nucleus? and Percussion World. Ironically, Dick seems to care little for personas and while I admire his bluntness, it also makes me want to apologise for calling. Instead, I decide to ask about the latest album, which was released this October.

"It's very user friendly, you know, it lets you in and won't let you go until the final note."

As for the majority of the UK, Electric Six will forever remain the "Gay Bar" band. "I'd never been to the UK when I wrote 'Gay Bar'. I just thought it was a funny one-and-a-half minute song with a repetitive riff," Dick informs me. "I don't think that I ever would try to write a hit. I'm not that person. Generally, anyone I've ever met who says 'oh this is gonna be a hit' are assholes, so I try not to be like them." Trying to veer away from the unexpected success of "Gay Bar" and "Danger! High Voltage," I decide to educate myself pre-interview with a militant listening of their seven albums since *Fire* (2003). However, I found that the latest offering *Heartbeats and Brainwaves*, with its slightly intergalactic ambience and daring (if not slightly random) layering and intersecting of different genres, took a little longer to engage with. Valentine cuts me off. "Well that could just be your opinion." Awkwardness levels peaking... "I just know once I started listening I couldn't stop. I continued listening over and over again. I didn't feed the cats, they died, my wife left me. I was just sitting in the chair listening over and over again".

Ah. This is the kind of Electric Six frontman I wanted – irreverent, insincere and cheeky. However little or much respect you have for Electric Six, there is little mystery and pretension around their style—pleasurably silly, dance inducing alt rock—and with eight studio albums in the space of nine years, it's no mystery that they work hard either. After their 2003 moment in the lime-



"Constantly improving, constantly evolving. We're becoming deities"

Above:
Electric Six

light, three members left the band, leaving only two original members. "Every line-up change has generally been to improve the band", Dick insists.

So you're actively improving yourselves? "Constantly improving, constantly evolving. We're becoming deities."

Despite Dick's joking, their dedication and perseverance in spite of these obstacles (including being dropped from their American label on the eve of the release of second album *Señor Smoke* and pissing off Queen drummer, Roger Taylor, with the video for their cover of "Radio Ga Ga") is commendable. Marvelling at this ostensibly effortless musical endurance, I question their creative ease. "I vomit songs?" Why did I ask that? "Oh! Oh no, we have six people in the band, everyone contributes their own y'know? It's actually easy when you're motivated to keep doing it, when you're desperate not to go back to the factory," Dick clarifies, luckily catching my inarticulate drift. "It's just rock n roll music – it's not the hardest thing. We always approach it like that. I think a lot of bands get into trouble thinking rock 'n' roll music means more than it does."

Art for art's sake! It means what it

says! As Dick points out – "the songs don't necessarily need to make sense, just add up and get where it needs to go. It doesn't have to mean anything; it doesn't have to have a point."

There's no issue in offering fans some auditory escapism from the difficult issues that often figure lyrically in music (like sourcing a shag now you're single or reiterating the weighty responsibilities of a Friday). Still, if this kind of dismissal is just blasé arrogance on his behalf then really, why do they bother? Pushing it, I decide to underline the slightly ridiculous vein of Electric Six's mainstream success. I ask Dick how he feels knowing that the most career-defining and iconic image of the band's success is of him donning a chin strap, top hat and bulging in spandex panties: The 'Gaybraham' Lincoln.

"It feels okay" Dick responds nonchalantly. "I don't really care how I'm being iconised"—not entirely sure if the insincerity was detected or if his humour is especially arid—"maybe that's what people think the band is about but if you're home and in your kitchen like I am now, and the sun is coming through your window, you know that none of that really matters." This is surreal. "That you are who you are, and as long as you keep putting one foot in front of the other, nobody is gonna take that away from you".

After this strikingly sincere comment, I'm left feeling confused. It's difficult to determine what exactly is arrogance

or parody with Electric Six. It's probably this tension that has given them the cult following they have, also being aided greatly by their constant touring and infamous high-energy live shows.

"We are a rock 'n' roll band that plays rock 'n' roll songs, and we are very good at mingling after the show and making new friends. If you have a financial problem or you need advice, we can give you money or some advice," Dick says earnestly. "We have a new song, 'It Gets Hot,' that comes across really well live," he continues. "Really gets you wet with anticipation".

But are you equally, uh... wet, with the idea of constantly ploughing on like this?

"That's the best term I can think of, ploughing on. For no other reason we can't help but to plough on. To rub some dirt in its face," Dick states. "It's our factory. I was institutionalised – this has been a substitute."

Self-deprecating, sarcastic and contradictory – that's what the Electric Six frontman is. I have spent the past thirty odd minutes feeling reasonably uncomfortable and disappointed that I didn't warm to what I assumed to be a friendly and quirky band, but then again Electric Six aren't ever logical. In fact, they're just doing what they like to do – ploughing on. Like Dick says – "It just needs to go somewhere, it doesn't need to go to a logical place[...] it just needs to go somewhere".

REVERB.

"We were dubstep before dubstep. We were all about the bass."

Korn, renowned innovators of dubstep, discussing their latest collaboration with SkilleX.

Starting Over

Business or pleasure? Alex Edgerton muses on reforming.

With the recent news that Black Sabbath have decided to dust down their matching crucifixes and hit the road again, it now seems likely that any disbanded group could suddenly pull the rug from under their fans by announcing a reformation. This comes not long after the overwhelmingly surprising reform of the Stone Roses, with all the band members performing some of the biggest volte-faces in music history (Mani once famously saying that the band would only reform when Man City won the Champions League). After these announcements, it wouldn't be ridiculous to think that maybe Morrissey and Johnny Marr could patch things up after nearly 25 years of resentment and make the fantasy of a Smiths 30th Anniversary Tour a reality. In fact, so frequently are bands reforming these days that even after the sad break-up of R.E.M. a few months ago, many people saw it as a given that they'd be getting back together in a few years for a globe-trotting reunion tour.

It's not hard to see why these bands, or any other broken up ones, would reform, especially considering the lucrative financial incentives from a world tour. Black Sabbath are set to make over £100 million from their 2012 reunion tour, while the Stone Roses are reportedly making £10 million just from their three Heaton Park gigs in July with an additional £1 million for every one of their many festival appearances in the summer. More astonishingly, ten years ago ABBA were reportedly offered \$1 billion for a 100-date tour. Bands are often open about their fiscal motivations for getting back together - John Lydon admitted that he only reformed The Sex Pistols so he could afford to do the same for PiL, while Bob Nastanovich revealed one of the main reasons that Pavement extended their gloriously ramshackle reunion tour was to pay off his gambling debts. Thank God for that man's crippling addiction.



Recently reformed Black Sabbath.

However, it would take a real cynic to agree with Shaun Ryder's assertion that the only reason bands ever reform is 'for the money'. It doesn't take a massive stretch of the imagination to suggest that maybe these groups are reforming for the reasons that they began in the first place: the joy of playing music together. Blink 182 were encouraged towards reconciliation in 2009 after Travis Barker's tragic plane crash, along with the sudden death of long-time producer and friend, Jeremy Finn. Similarly, Blur's incredible Hyde Park shows and Glastonbury appearance seemed definitely to be more the result of two old friends (in this case, Graham Coxon and Damon Albarn) finally burying the hatchet than it was a bitter pursuit of a quick pay check (and the same can perhaps be said of the Stone Roses reunion).

Although there's still the question of what these reunions have done for the legacy of said bands. The criticism often lobbed against reformed bands is that their performances, both on record and on stage, sully the group's reputation or

a fan's memory of them since their comebacks are rarely going to match what they did in their prime. Eric Avery even left Jane's Addiction in early 2010 because he disagreed with the band's decision to head back into the studio to make a new album (the first as a full band since 1991's phenomenal *Ritual de lo Habitual*), and in a way he has good reason to. Since it's virtually impossible for a band to fully recreate what they did five, ten, maybe twenty years ago, any music they make now is going to be different. Call me romantic, but the music we have from bands that will never reform (usually through a member's death) hold a certain significance and value, since we know that this is all that we will ever have from them. There's a fascinatingly conflicted sense of wonder and anger that we'll never be able to see the Velvet Underground, Nirvana, N.W.A., Pantera or the Beatles (to name just a few of many) in their original form again, and one that should be preserved. However, having said that, I've still got my fingers crossed for that Smith's reunion.

Local Spotlight.

A quick peruse of the songs available on home grown York-based Miaow Miaow's Myspace shows a band with enough musical diversity in four songs to cover several bands' entire discographies, and their bio does not exactly help clear things up: their genre is listed as "tropical"- they state their influences as Foals, Ratatat and Metronomy and they have done a cover (and quite a good one I should add) of Daniel Bedingfield's "Gotta get Thru this". A few more listens in, and what sticks are the math-rock riffs of Antidotes-era. Foals, a love of French language and not taking their music too seriously. And no harm the latter does, with every song bringing both witty charm and bucket loads of ener-

gy to the table. Half-way through "Reverse the Charges, Breathe Harder," I believe I may have accidentally put on some middle-class grime, with an appropriately dirty bassline amid some fairly hilarious lyrics, whilst "LADVENTURIN" feels somewhere between an Of Montreal pop meltdown and The Klaxons' apocalyptic urgency.

Luckily Miaow Miaow's chief noise maker, Pete Wise, simplifies things for me: "We're four young men from York seeking to enliven a rather sleepy and melancholy UK music scene with our unique strain of mathy electro-indie. Our interests include toy synthesisers, writing filthy lyrics and generally making merry." Intrigued? Confused? Either way, Miaow Miaow are releasing

a new single at the Dutchess on the



Sincere.

Reviews.

Artist: James Blake
Date: 27th November
Venue: Leeds SU
Review: Rory Foster



What he lacks in stage presence James Blake tries to make up for in bass. That was the impression I got in the middle of a vibrating Leeds crowd whilst trying to decide whether this was a good gig or not. As a big fan of both the man's work before and after his self-titled album released earlier this year, it saddens me to say I'm not sure it was.

There were moments of greatness. Gig and album opener "Unluck" warms up both the crowd and his two-piece band with its bizarre time signature and soulful vocals. "I Never Learnt to Share" is equally impressive; the marriage of choral and synth cascades reproducing the album's powerful buildup. But what lets him down the most is the transition between his bass-heavy instrumentals and intricate pop & soul tracks. The audience appears similarly split; half



love, the other half CMYK - a recreation of the club tune that first got people interested in the twenty-something Goldsmith graduate. Whilst the latter does impress (despite most of it being played by the drummer tapping the right samples) the former feels hugely drawn out to appease the crowd. The same goes for a lot of the more popular songs, for the obvious reason that Blake doesn't actually have that many songs that work for a 'live' band. In the end we got a taste of both spheres of Blake's music, but with neither really fitting comfortably within the 90 minute space he has to fill. It's always the same problem. James Blake's persona is part bass DJ, part singer-songwriter. He's trying to please both, but

Artist: Joker
Date: 15th November
Venue: The Dutchess, York
Review: Joni Roome



The Bristolian prince of dubstep left his doubters silenced with an electric show supported by Royce Rolls. Hailing from Manchester where bass music has a healthy scene, I was keen to see what York had to offer and as luck would have it Joker was my first taste north of the Pennines.

The punters seemed slow to arrive with the support acts not dragging many to the dancefloor, but as the time approached midnight and birthday boy Royce Rolls took to the decks, the 400 capacity venue started to fill and the night truly got started. After a blistering set from Royce, Joker took to the stage with a huge reaction from the now larger crowd. The next ninety minutes was a showcase of the reason Joker has been so acclaimed over the past few years - dropping



classics like "Tron," "My Trance Girl" and "Purple City" as well as newer tracks from album *The Vision* he put together a crowd-pleasing show notably playing a totally instrumental set. Even after his time was up he took to the stage to spin some more tunes in an impromptu encore/ full on stage party with the supporting DJ's, MC and a random guy in a Brazil football shirt. The night ended with a bottle of Jack Daniels being passed from the DJ through the crowd epitomising the friendly nature of the scene. It was disappointing to see such a big name producer fail to sell out a small venue but the quality of the set made up for this and served to make the night one which will live long in the memory.

Nouse Playlist.

Power Alex Swadling

Finding ourselves up in the dizzying heights of the Nouse editorial team, we're in need of a timely tyrannical soundtrack to power our new reign.

"Raw Power" - The Stooges

Some 70s rock when Iggy's face was less terrifying.

"Go Your Own Way" - Fleetwood Mac

Except you can't, because I'm in charge.

"I Want to Conquer the World" - Bad Religion

And I will, although Greg Graffin seems to have better intentions.

"Hidden Dictator" - Kreator

Or not so hidden, thrash metallers Kreator have caught the drift.

"I Can't Control Myself" - The Horrors

Definitely the frustrated soundtrack of our future.

Film.

Reviews.

Wuthering Heights

Lulu Smyth talks to actor James Northcote about his portrayal of Edgar Linton in the new film *Wuthering Heights*.

When we think of *Wuthering Heights*, several images often spring to mind: a bitterly passionate, articulate Heathcliff; dark, intense romance; the Gothic and the supernatural; Kate Bush flailing about in a chiffon nightie. It's no surprise, then, that Andrea Arnold's brutal adaptation has caused so much controversy. Going against the conventions of the 'period drama', she has cast a black actor as Heathcliff, ignored the character of Lockwood, used a handheld camera, and heavily edited the famous dialogue. While in Bronte's version, Heathcliff says: "I vociferated curses enough to annihilate any fiend in Christendom", in this interpretation he grunts: "F--- you all, c---s".

Despite the upset this might have caused, there's a definite sense that the film is loyal to the book. As one critic has pointed out, by ignoring the frothy Olivier-esque layers and connotations, Arnold "pushes the story all the way back to its original 1847 incarnation". It's important to remember that *Wuthering Heights* is not a love-story, but a disturbing tale in which nature is the main character. It's this rough and intense atmosphere which also pervades the new film.

However, although 'rough and intense', Arnold's interpretation is not traditionally 'gothic' in the same way that the novel is. In the book, Cathy's ghost is alluded to as early as chapter one, and the supernatural becomes increasingly prominent as the story progresses. In Arnold's film, this is replaced by a more physical strangeness – for example, we see Cathy, as a child, licking blood off a wound on Heathcliff's back. James Northcote, who plays Edgar



"We were told by Andrea that she'd prefer for us not to read *Wuthering Heights*"

Linton, mentioned this when speaking exclusively to Nouse: "Although I can't speak for Andrea, I think the film is so physical that the only experiences of the supernatural that there are shown as normal things that happen, rather than extraordinary or magical. They're just physical experiences, as much as eating or drinking or dying." This may explain why the film leaves us with such a disturbed feeling – in the world of Cathy and Heathcliff

(which is literally cut off from civilisation), horrific, primal acts like these are considered to be normative.

When discussing this dirty, primordial world that Heathcliff and Cathy privately inhabit, Northcote brings up the portrayal of setting and class in the film, and how it differs from other interpretations: "Often the Earnshaws are shown as quite well-to-do, even though the Lintons are much richer, but I think it's more effective if you

get a sense for the difficult way of life that these people are living," he says. "When my dad (who's from Yorkshire) saw the film, he said it's the first time he's really seen the poverty, hardship and strength of the people who lived in those circumstances [in an adaptation], and he thought that kind of dirtiness was a lot more accurate."

It's perhaps because of this need for actual, rather than literary, accuracy that the cast were actually directed not to read the book. "We were told by Andrea that she'd prefer for us not to read *Wuthering Heights* if we hadn't already. I think she didn't want us to get any preconceived ideas of the characters we were playing," Northcote explains. "She discouraged us from trying to construct a different person that we'd then step into. For her, it was more important that we were just as natural as possible. In fact, I think Andrea chose people because she believed they were like the characters she wanted in the film. I remember her saying to me that she had picked me partly because Edgar can come across quite badly in the book – as someone who is fairly patriarchal and set in the ways of the time. She said she needed someone so 'nice' that that wouldn't happen!" He later adds: "c– we could only see our own scenes a few days before, which was pretty exciting for me as an actor."

It might seem strange for anyone who hasn't seen the film for the director to turn away from the original text, but Arnold's creation is so raw and fresh that the distance makes sense. She has reminded us of the dirtiness and brutality that is woven into the original 1847 narrative, and presented us with a film that is

Film: *Moneyball*
Director: Bennett Miller
Starring: Brad Pitt
Runtime: 133 mins
Review: James Tyas



Moneyball might seem to be a hard-sell for British audiences due to its subject matter. Despite being a US national pastime, the UK remain impervious to the charms of baseball. Thankfully for us, *MONEYBALL* features very little actual baseball: interest doesn't stem from what happens on the pitch but what happens off it. Brad Pitt is Billy Beane, general manager of the cash-strapped and ailing Oakland A's. Seeing several of his key players being pilfered by teams with deeper pockets, Beane becomes disillusioned with his inability to afford players to replace them and decides a sea change is essential. During a failed negotiation with another team he happens upon Peter Brand, a young statistics

boffin, played by Jonah Hill, who gives a wonderfully understated performance.

Beane and Brand set about piecing together a team of misfits and has-beens whose collective ability is greater than the sum of its parts. If Beane can pull this experiment off he will revolutionise the sport.

Writing duo Steven Zaillian and Aaron Sorkin (of *West Wing* and *The Social Network* fame) go about it with brio producing a script full of wit and subtlety encapsulated in an electrifying scene in which Beane and Brand frantically bluff their way through a deal across three different clubs on three phone lines. On paper this sounds dull, but on screen it sings.

Bennett Miller directs efficiently allowing the film breathing space to let the performances and script shine. Subtlety is the key in *Moneyball*, on the surface an unappealing film about sport statistics, but with a human heart making it the best sport film since *The Damned United*.

The Rum Diary - ★★

Arthur Christmas - ★★★★★

See full reviews online at nouse.co.uk/muse/film

Film: *My Week With Marilyn*
Director: Simon Curtis
Starring: Michelle Williams
Runtime: 99 mins
Review: Hannah Wills



Simon Curtis' *My Week with Marilyn* endeavours to document the intense production week of Sir Lawrence Olivier's 1957 hit *The Prince and the Showgirl*. Based on his true account of his experience as the 3rd assistant director, we follow the young Colin Clark's entrance into the frantic world of filmmaking. Fresh-faced Eddie Raymonde takes on the role of Clark with an innocent charm that predictably catches the attention of Monroe (Michelle Williams). They fall into a tensely short-lived love affair after Marilyn adopts him as her confidant, revealing the insecure woman behind the

world's biggest star.

We are transported to Pine-wood Studios where we begin to meet the glorious array of supporting cast (with the exception of Dominic Cooper and his frequently diminishing American accent); bringing together the likes of Judi Dench as Sybil Thorndike, Zoe Wanamaker as Monroe's protective acting coach, Emma Watson as the wardrobe mistress and Kenneth Branagh's superb performance as Olivier, adding a 'prima donna' theatricality that encompasses much of the film's humour. In terms of dramatisation, I was impressed with how the film does not attempt to overly glam up and sensationalise the concept of Monroe romantically involving herself with a younger man whilst popping pills and excessively drinking. This is partially down to the typically British cast and setting, but primarily down to Williams' splendid job of im-

DVD BAROMETER

Ones we want this Christmas



Ones to go Straight to Charity

Film Editor, Elle Hoppe picks what we'll be watching this Christmas

Bridget Jones. Why? Because mothers' are still trying to set us up at Turkey Curry Buffets.

Love Actually. Why? We're yet to have an emotional greeting at Heathrow. Here's to hoping.

Elf. Why? This Christmas we're sticking to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup.

The Grinch. Why? Because we can't wait to gorge on Who-Pudding and rare Who-Roast Beast

It's a Wonderful Life. Why? George is the only man who would lasso the moon for a gal. Chivalry is dead.

Food & Drink.

The Experiment- Panettone

Panettone is the most elegant take on the Christmas sweet. It isn't a cake but a bread which literally translates as 'little big bread'. Originating from Milan, it is the national Christmas cake of Italy. A myth exists that a Milanese baker, called Toni, created the Panettone when baking for a rich family. It became a Christmas tradition due to baker, Angelo Motta, who between the wars lucratively advertised the Panettone through platforms such as the Giro D'Italia, where the winning cyclist of each stage was awarded a giant Panettone. Alongside the German Stollen and the chocolate Yule Log, this is a bread which is setting a new trend for something 'else' on Christmas day. In comparison to the brandy fed British cake, it's quicker, lighter and less of a hassle.

No UK celebrity chef has shown us how to make it. Even ITV's Italian import Gino D'Acampo has left the way unmarked, and so naturally the calibre of recipes available to us is low with variations amongst them being high. Responses on the internet suggest that the bread is notoriously difficult to get right, and so an element of excitement comes from testing your abilities and sheer luck with the yeast and your kneading technique.

This recipe is based on Shehezerade Goldsmith's mini Panettone recipe. You can add rum, fresh fruit zest, dried cranberries, and vanilla extract, but the basic recipe is a good place to start. The great thing about a Panettone is its stout nature; you can really play with it and experiment with the flavours that dot your bread.

I've swapped the recipe's little moulds for a cooking pot because the fun of making a Panettone comes from its sheer size. It is a centre piece to slice or grab.

A bucket is great to achieve a dome-like shape for Christmas, and a deep cake tin will give the look of a traditional Milanese Panettone. This recipe should serve 12.



*Ingredients: 500g white bread flour
½ tsp salt
2x 7g sachets of easy to use yeast
120ml lukewarm milk
2 medium eggs
2 medium egg yolks
160g butter softened
85g caster sugar
115g chopped mixed peel
75g raisins*

A bucket with just over 2 litre capacity/ deep cake tin



1) Sift the flour into a mixing bowl, add the salt and make a well in the centre.

2) In another bowl, whisk together the yeast, milk and whole eggs. Pour this into the well, fold in a little of the surrounding flour to make a batter. Leave to rest for 30 minutes.

3) Add the egg yolks, butter and sugar and mix them and the rest of the flour into the batter with a fork. Then bind everything together into a ball with your hands.

4) Knead the dough for 5 minutes (to knead, press and stretch the dough away from you, then lift the edges into the middle, give it a quarter turn and repeat). Leave to rest in a warm place for 1½-2 hours or until doubled in size. Scatter over the peel and raisins and gently knead these in.

5) Grease and line your chosen tin with greaseproof paper and pour the mixture in. Avoid leaving dried fruit exposed on the surface of the bread as this may burn during cooking and turn bitter. Set aside, covered with a dry tea towel, and rest for 1 hour. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/350F/gas 4.

6) Brush the top of the bread with melted butter and bake for around an hour, give or take. When it starts to brown on top, cover with tin foil to avoid burning.

What to do with left overs:
Panettone and marmalade bread and butter pudding

Panettone trifle

Toast with butter or jam

Dip in with a glass of milk

Petit Fours

Rookie Wins

Oven cook cocktail sausages for 2/3 of the cooking time, then take them out of the oven.

In a bowl, mix 2 tablespoons of honey with 2 tablespoons of whole grain mustard.

Put the sausages in the bowl and mix. Put them back in the oven and cook for the remaining 1/3 of the cooking time. Serve at the Christmas table as a nibble or a trimming. Also nice in summer on a rocket and lemon juice salad.



Lost in the supermarket

Christmas trimmings call for copious amounts of fresh vegetables. The quality of fruit and veg at Country Fresh beats the supermarkets hands down.



Rookie Errors

A Mocha is an espresso shot combined with hot milk and cocoa powder. V-Bar's defacto definition digresses by replacing cocoa powder with at least two shots of hazelnut syrup. Too sweet and wrong.



For those with nothing

Tis' the season of Christmas formals, but if you've lost all your money, why not attend Derwent's Alternative Christmas Formal. It starts with a 'Chicken and Bacon Supreme' and ends with a McFlurry. Dress remains 'strictly formal'.

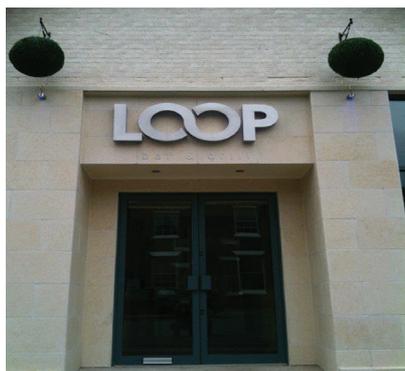


The Review. The Loop Bar & Grill

Ajoke becomes obvious on arrival: this place isn't in the loop. You'll find it just outside the city walls hanging onto the edge of the ring road. And so we enter the outworn trope of the suburban trying on the urbane. The website situates the restaurant 'close to the Barbican centre' whilst the eye places it by a charity store, why so? Why pretend?

At some point during the last century, straight forward British food got a makeover. Pubs were given the 'gastro' prefix, and restaurant chains whose carte-du-jour rose and fell around The Steak were shifted into the category of a 'Grill'. Whether this is a case of shining an incurably bad section of the national palette or whether it is a PR spin on what really is good British food is as debateable as entering these places.

The Loop fits remarkably well into this category, bearing a self-consciously hip and ambiguous name which screams for 'updated eat' as its byline. This runs through the food, with chips stacked like Jenga blocks next to an 80s revival of the 'Surf 'n' Turf' classic. The steak is cooked perfectly and the prawns are full of flavour. For the bothered, there is a lot



Address: 2
Fawcett Street
Price Range:
£25-40



of meat and a distinct lack of salad, and the steak is served with a fairly nondescript garlic butter sauce. Nevertheless, this was the unrivalled winner of the evening, introducing the usual scenario of showstoppers shrinking the burgers and the pies to space-filling flotsam on the menu. It is a repetition of the usual grill downfall.

The Mixed Platter starter is tasty but doesn't depart far enough from the infamous Slug & Lettuce platter. Ribs, chicken wings and onion rings merge with the usual beige-battered party nibbles. There is nothing fresh, conceptually or truly in the choice of starters.



Desserts are also your stock characters: chocolate fudge sundaes, cheesecake, sticky toffee pudding etc. This is the malaise of the middling restaurant, where paying a little more doesn't always add to the experience.

I entered **The Loop** under celebratory circumstances and the good dozen of us had a great time anyway. Parents included meant champagne and free-flowing wine, so we filled the place with an injection of humour that the interior lacks. The space is lofty but hollow, the modern décor feels fussy and sterile and the bar sits unnaturally by the eating area. The floor space ambiguously floats between the concept of 'Bar' and 'Grill'.

From quick thinker to fast mover

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The Final Say.

The Christmas Tradition

Hannah Ellis-Peterson



Christmas traditions; we all have them. In Holland they all black up and throw coins at prostitutes. The Austrians run through the streets in devil masks, unnecessarily hitting people with sticks. In Venezuela, everyone rollerblades to Early Morning Mass, whilst exclaiming "Jesus is born" (incidentally, my favourite tradition ever).

In my family, come Christmas afternoon, we mark this most holy of occasions by the playing, and subsequent throwing, of board games. What always starts out as a tender familial bonding moment over a game of Operation never fails to turn into a scene from a particularly wrought episode of Father Ted, only with fewer priests and more Whiskey. Ever been bludgeoned with the egg-timer from Articulate? Or been hit in the eye with a Pictionary pencil (admittedly that time it was me doing the throwing)? The Uno incident of Christmas 2006 still remains a taboo topic at such gatherings. Yes, family-inflicted pain, gluttonous suffering, and in the case of the Dutch, mildly inexcusable racism, is what Christmas is all about.

Yet maybe thanks to TV brainwashing finally convincing us Christmas is nothing more than Stacy Soloman force-feeding you Iceland's finest festive chocolate donut deep fried prawn turkey gammon platter, our tradition-induced euphoria has been taking something of a skewed turn. Take a recent incident at the York St Nicholas Grotto, where, after being made to wait for those valuable moments on Santa's lap, tempers seemingly turned sour.

"One man verbally threatened the lady who is dressed as a Christmas tree" recounted the grotto organiser (I quote verbatim). "Another of the elves was so upset that she has resigned. It was a complete nightmare."

What kind of human being verbally abuses an elf? The social questions raised by the incident, quite apart from why parents are continually willing to place their



children on the laps of old, bearded men, are boundless.

And the absurdity of the whole festive fandango doesn't end there. The Daily Mail hasn't stopped waxing lyrical about a distraught 6 year old who a supermarket Santa arbitrarily dismissed to his 'naughty list' (I would argue an occupational hazard of visiting a grotto in Morrisons). To make matters worse, this year's "Christmas chart hijack" is attempting to pit Nirvana, arguably the least festive band ever, against the perma-tanned TOWIE collective and the annual X-Factor armada. Can you imagine what Kurt Cobain would say if he could see 'Smells like Teen Spirit' become Christmas number one? He'd probably commit suicide all over again.

I'm not religious. Not even close. My house once got struck by lightning on Easter Sunday, which should tell you all you need to know about my pious inclinations. But when people start going Clarkson on Santa's little helpers to the tunes of 90s grunge rock, you can't help but feel the spirit of the season needs a saccharine boost. So thank the Lord, we have Katie Price's seasonal new novel 'Santa Baby'. Snobbish sarcasm aside, Jordon's tale of Angel, baby Honey and newly discovered half sister Tiffany (the promotional video is a must-see, mainly for her original, and sparse, interpretation on the traditional Santa outfit) is a reminder of the glorious abandonment of good taste that has become the global Christmas tradition. Christmas spirit is essentially the product of our repressed penchant for Mariah Carey, Noel Edmonds and all things inflatable being allowed to roam free for this one sacred month. And damn is it fun.

I'm not quite suggesting do as the Japanese do and have your traditional Christmas meal in KFC, but use this window of tackiness to be bold in your festive decisions. Dig out your complete works of Cliff Richard. Read erotic fiction on the train. Don those PVC dungarees with pride; it's

Strictly Confidential



Last Word

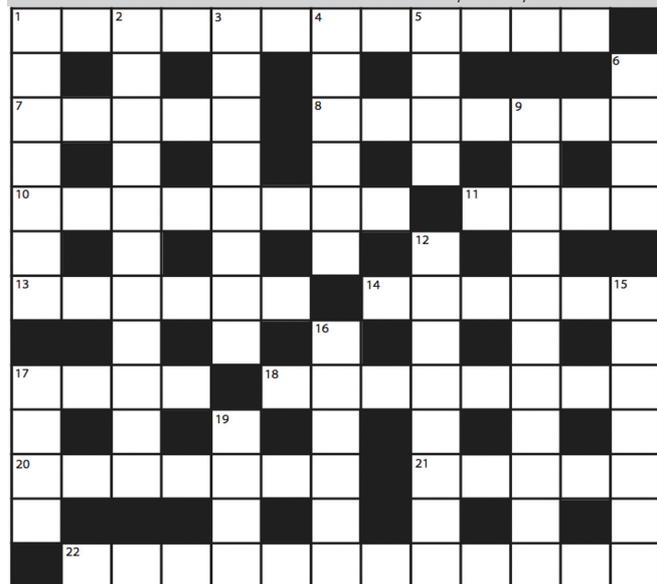
Each man kills the thing he loves,
the coward kills it with a kiss

Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde died 111 years ago this December. His tomb is being rededicated, with a craze of kissing it to pay homage to the above.

The Nouse Crossword

Answers available on www.nouse.co.uk/muse/columns



Across

1. Deficient in courage (12)
7. A room's furnishing (5)
8. North American bandit (animal) (7)
10. Highly pleasing to taste/smell senses (8)
11. Ancient Egyptian goddess (4)
13. Actor turned President (6)
14. The centre vein of a leaf (6)
17. Daintily attractive (4)
18. Three wheeled vehicle (8)
20. ___ Home, goose film (3,4)
21. Popeye's girlfriend (5)
22. Stingy (12)

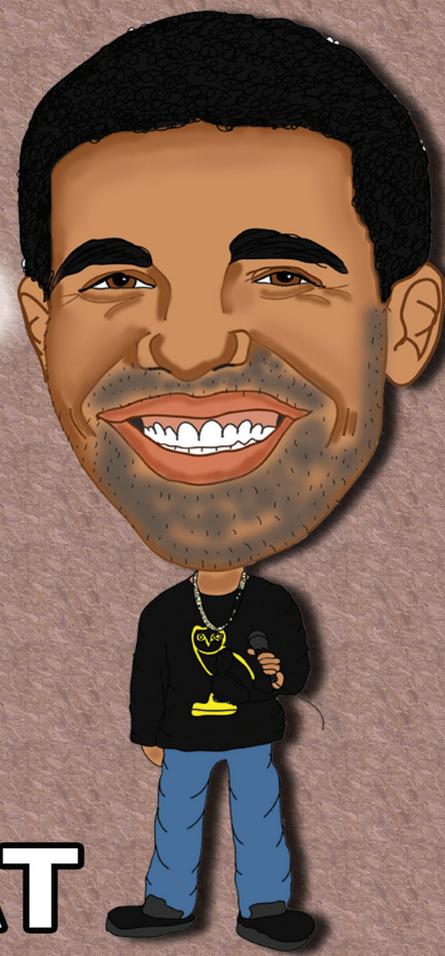
Down

1. ___ On The Roof, musical (7)
2. Ceaselessly (11)
3. An airport building (8)
4. A scolding (6)
5. Great accompaniment to curry (4)
6. Films about an insect colony (4)
9. Something in the way (11)
12. Reveal (8)
15. Alcohol manufacturing house (7)
16. Unwoven fabric (6)
17. Coffee house (4)
19. Movement in water (4)

The Nouse Sudoku

Answers available on www.nouse.co.uk/muse/columns

	9							7
	5	4		7	3	9		
8	3	1	9					6
				7	5			
4			1					3
		5	4					
7				8	1	3		2
		8	6	3		7	9	
5								6



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Comment

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Est. 1964

Education is not purely academic

When students start university and break free from the constraints of adolescence, it is only natural they want to take full accountability of their lives and finances. Letting agencies hold students' money and their trust, and consequently have massive power. They can hold thousands of pounds and yet remain exempt from regulation. The majority of students are utterly unaware of the complexities of tenancy agreements and legislation.

This week's revelation that a letting company is taking advantage of vulnerable first year students is a harsh reality check, and a reminder that the majority of students are only nineteen when suddenly forced to take on such levels of responsibility. The University can bridge the gap between naivety and predatory businesses. Students should take full advantage of the services available. The information and knowledge is ready and waiting, but so are the companies, acutely aware of students' reluctance to ask parents and university staff for advice. Knowledge is foremost if students are to end the exploitation of their innocence.

Financing the future

While the University is not responsible for external environmental factors, it is responsible for students at York and their experience here. In these uncertain times the University must ensure that students' fees are not used to manage the debt service cost, but reinvested back into the student experience.

The "free cash generation" embarked on an ambitious legacy of capital investment, however, as that era comes to a close it must be remembered that investment in students is just as vital as expanding the University. Although the Heslington East expansion allows the University to recruit in greater numbers, servicing the payments of that expansion should not fall on students' fees if the economic environment fluctuates. It was clear in the report that the University is confident in its long-term financial health, but it should not shore up the funding void in the short-term. §

If applications from overseas students continue to fall, currently 6 per cent down on this time last year, the University will have to combat this decrease in fee payments. The balance between expanding the campus quickly and ensuring present students do not get a raw deal is a hard one to tread, but prospective students should not help plug a funding gap created by the legacy of an intensive capital building programme.

Productivity over publicity

The students who we have elected as our representatives for individual college JCRCs have a responsibility beyond that of managing the college. They are, for better or worse, among the most prominent members of any college. As a result, their behaviour and actions are integral to the image that colleges project to the rest of campus. Elected members of any committee must ensure that they conduct themselves in the highest esteem; this applies to both parties in the current JCRC dispute.

Many college chairs perform an essentially thankless task quietly and without self-publicity. However, these chairs are often eclipsed by those who seek to turn the office and its associated power into an extension of their own personal influence. It is these individuals who are more interested in their personal legacy, than that of the college and the students they will leave behind.

In terms of the public argument that has engulfed the Goodricke JCRC, maintaining members' trust in those that represent them should be of upmost importance.

Nouse apologises for the factual inaccuracies in the "STYC" piece of the Week 4 edition of this term. The student, who we said was male and fell over and broke their ankle at Goodricke's 'Baptism of Fire', was actually female and they tore their knee ligament on the way to a welcome talk.

NOUSE

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There is something rotten in the state of capitalism



Adam Seldon

Capitalism is in crisis. This is the proclamation of one of the banners at the St. Paul's protest. What this means, or what the protesters stand for, no one is quite sure. The protesters' demands are incoherent and often inconsistent. But their disillusionment with the current state of capitalism is entirely justified. The political elite have been unwilling to act upon the expressed concerns of the majority. So a motley group of ramshackle protesters have taken up the mantle, acknowledging the reality that 'there is something rotten in the state'.

St. Paul's, captured in an iconic photograph of World War Two, emerges alone and proud from the dust cloud created by Luftwaffe bombs, is now being humbled by nonconformists that have been ostracised by modern day society.

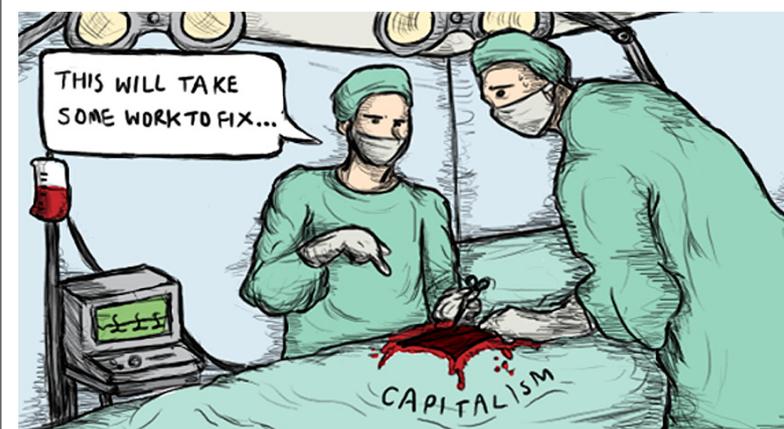
Whilst capitalism has been a force for good in the past, it has become inherently unfair for two reasons. Firstly, evidence demonstrates unequivocally that capitalism massively benefits the economic elite, reinforcing class division. In the UK, between 1999 and 2009, the money earned by the richest tenth rose by 37 per cent, whilst the money made by the poorest tenth fell by 12 per cent. Such trends are echoed in most other capitalist economies throughout the world. Wealth inequalities on this scale show that it is failing the average person. Arch-

bishop Rowan Williams lucidly exposes the second unfairness in capitalism as it stands: "There is still a powerful sense around - fair or not - of a whole society paying for the errors and irresponsibility of bankers". The taxpayer was obliged to bail out the banks in the financial crisis of 2008-09. One might expect that the necessary response to this would be increased regulation and accountability. Evidently not. Regulation is meagre and major investments banks have in fact grown in size.

Neither I, nor the St. Paul protesters have the solutions. I'm a lowly 19 year old whose understanding of economics is based almost solely on the book *The Undercover Economist*. But the protesters and I do not require a PhD in Economics to know that something is rotten. We

know that there is a systemic crisis that demands a systemic reformation. The current financial system is fundamentally undemocratic. The economy disproportionately serves the will of the elite and the average person is powerless to change anything.

A poverty of ambition has paralysed our world leaders. But the greatest leaders in history are those that have been bold enough to challenge the norm, not because it is easy, but because it is right. They need to come together in order to thrash out a uniform systemic change to the banking system. There is not only a crisis in capitalism. There is also a crisis in the political process. History rewards leaders who dare to do what is necessary, however daunting the task and trying the journey.



Clare Third



My Tram Experience: engage before it is too late

The recent internet explosion surrounding the upload of the YouTube clip "My Tram Experience" on the 27th November has sparked heated, and in places abusive, debate on the internet worldwide. Considering racism is a 'hot button' topic in the UK, British emphasis on political correctness, and the (stereotypical) image of the polite chap in a bowler hat, I found reading some of the comments on this video harrowing. In places, their content made for more shocking viewing than the video itself.

In the video, a woman on a London tram complains loudly about ethnic minorities in Britain, claiming that "my Britain is f*** all now". She challenges fellow passengers, saying "you ain't British, you're black [...] go back to where you come from". Unfortunately, the public expression of racist views is not an alien concept to many British people. The high public profile of the British National Party (BNP), a party which calls the presence of ethnic minorities in Britain an "immigration invasion of our country", means that the British public have been exposed to freely expressed opinion of this nature before.

But the number of comments on the video posted by individuals

echoing the views vocalised by the woman in the clip is staggering.

In June 2009, leader of the BNP Nick Griffin was elected to the European Parliament, amid shock and fury from anti-fascist protesters and other candidates. Could it be possible that an ominous age of more outspoken racism is approaching Britain? The evidence suggests that it is possible.

"Is it time to address provision of education in racial awareness more actively?"

However, two days after the video had been posted, the woman in the video named as Emma West was charged with a racially aggravated public order offence. If the law can be taken as a representation of the views of a country, this suggests that by the standards of the British community, outspoken and abusive racism is not tolerated. 57,566 'dislikes' versus 16, 579 'likes' on the clip is also a reassuring indication that the majority still deem racism in Britain to be unac-

ceptable. Although this still leaves 16, 579 people who are not afraid to openly express their intolerance of other races.

I find it comforting that the British courts will not tolerate this kind of behaviour but those of us who are horrified by these attitudes need to heed the warning that there are many people who share Emma West's views.

When racist and provocative views are being expressed over the Internet, on public transport and even within the country's politics, is it time to address provision of education in racial awareness more actively? If a significant minority of people hold bigoted views which are offensive to the majority, there is a danger that the debate could turn nasty, as evidenced by the fact that Emma West had to be held in custody for her own protection.

Those of us who want to see a peaceful society must work to ensure that racial tolerance is the norm from school to workplace to London tube. We need to understand how the views of people like Emma West have been formed and ensure that such attitudes are challenged at their root. If we fail to engage then the mental division in attitudes could become physical.



Anna Carling

Canadian tar-sands imports are a backward step

Britain should develop sustainable energy sources rather than undermine progress on tackling climate

The British government has been secretly supporting Canadian plans to “find a solution” around EU targets to combat climate change. Canada wish to export their tar-sands to America, Europe, or whoever the highest bidder is. All this in order to gain as much wealth as possible, regardless of the ecological cost. This, I would expect from a nation with a reputation for ruthless economics and rapid industrialisation, but Canada? Really? The only sticky deposit I expected them to be flogging was maple syrup.

Canada is undermining efforts of world summits to combat climate change. But why is Britain supporting Canada on this clearly misjudged attempt to target fuel shortages?

By association with these tar-sands Britain is also working against global efforts to save the planet. When George W. Bush bid adieu to the G8 summit with “Goodbye from the world’s biggest polluter” Gordon Brown, amongst other word leaders, looked on with horror while Bush punched the air grinning.

So why is our government, which in the past scorned world leaders who failed to acknowledge the severity of our planet’s situation, now associated with

fuels that will increase carbon emissions? Well, up until recently Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have been the main suppliers of oil to the western world and the chance to take British business back to the West is possibly a reason for these ‘secret’ negotiations. Britain is willing to ‘think globally’ to a point, and that point ends in the Middle East.

“Britain is willing to ‘think globally’ to a point, and that point ends in the Middle East”

The EU legislation, in question, concerns cutting carbon emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. The reason this poses a problem for Canadian oil-sands is that they are likely to work against this target as carbon emissions from Canada’s tar-sands emit 22 per cent more greenhouse gases than conventional fuels. The British government has been exposed through the Freedom

of Information Act as having held meetings with Canada regarding the tar-sands and how to hinder EU legislation aims to cut carbon emissions, as this will make the Canadian fuel unsuitable for the green Europe the EU are striving for.

Directgov highlights the rising temperatures, sea levels and temperatures, increased extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes and famines, spread of disease and the impact to animals and plants of climate change. How can the British government even entertain the idea of introducing an even dirtier fossil fuel whilst educating the public on the dangers of climate change?

This process is far from the cheap solution either, with the financial cost of excreting the oil being estimated at £47 billion over the next 10 years, meaning global governments’ and businesses would do better investing in renewable energy resources. We need to power the earth for more than the next couple of generations and to do this investments need to go into finding sustainable sources. Renewable energy sources - not dirtier fossil fuels - are needed as the long-term solution to fuel shortages and Cameron needs to wake up and smell the manure on



Jonathan Frost

Journalism’s bad name

The Leveson Inquiry portrays a false image of journalism.

Journalism bashing is at the height of fashion. Charlotte Church, J. K. Rowling, and Steve Coogan have all given statements deriding the actions of over-zealous and underground journalism in the ongoing Leveson Inquiry.

Church spoke about being offered money for a performance or “favour-

“It’s good journalism that bought this saga to light in the first place.”

able coverage” from News International (who then ran a story in The Sun days before her sixteenth birthday about the dying seconds of her virginity), and Rowling talked about how one journalist attempted to contact her by slipping a note into her five year old daughter’s school bag. Each further statement brought before the Inquiry feels like nails in a coffin, as journalism’s image is reduced to shreds.

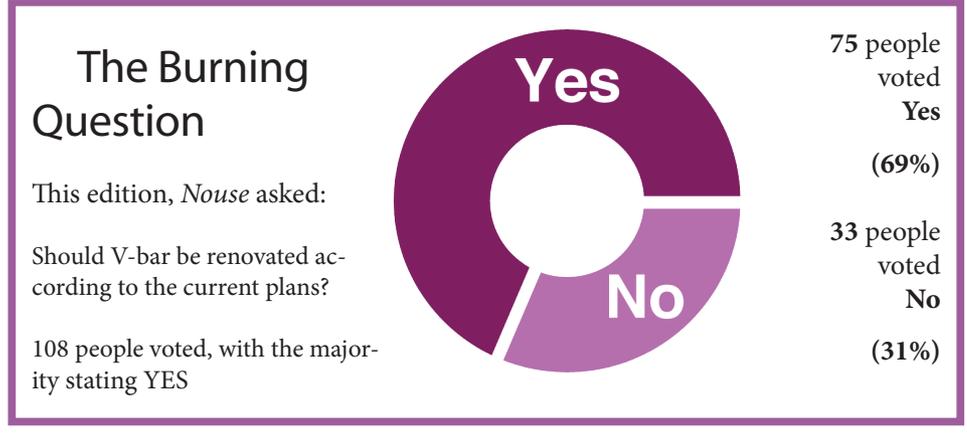
There’s a journalism stereotype starting to circulate too, in the concerning form of Paul McMullan. McMullan, ex-News Editor, is the horrendous poster boy for this campaign against the bad journalism: the person that everyone loves to hate. The problem is that he is the exception, not the rule, and we shouldn’t be so quick to turn the results of the Inquiry back upon the wider work of journalists.

McMullan leapt at the chance for coverage when the phone hacking scandal first broke. He was, and remains, insistent on driving the resulting stereotype to excess and driving journalism’s image deeper into the quagmire. He became the icon for gratuitous tabloid journalism, and now the whole journalism industry has been marked with him; stained. The Leveson Inquiry seems to lack balance too, despite The Guardian’s Nick Davies, who initially broke the phone hacking scandal, being called to give a statement last week.

The emerging stereotype is one that we shouldn’t lightly accept, regardless of what the likes of Hugh Grant say. It’s good journalism that bought this saga to light in the first place. We’ve also seen stories unveiled through valiant journalism that fiction couldn’t invent; Wikileaks and the MPs’ expenses scandal to name but a couple from recent years.

The Leveson Inquiry is right to act as it does, but we the public shouldn’t lose focus of the purpose journalism serves; the benefits that a free press bring to our society.

Perhaps journalists were wrong to intrude in some cases. But if some aren’t prepared to look into the dark recesses of our society, too many important issues can be easily hidden from the public eye. And, after all, if it wasn’t for journalism, you wouldn’t be able to read headlines like “My lover and I had it off while my fiancée’s corpse rotted in the next room” in next week’s glossy Closer magazine. It’d just be government propaganda, and then where would we be?



Comment Bites: taken from the *Nouse* website

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- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Crucifying the Crucifix</p> <p>Sean Anderson:</p> <p>“But we should also realise that the symbols themselves are not the most important thing being eroded. The message itself is being eroded. Faith and living in Christ is what counts (the symbols and sacraments will achieve nothing if practised without faith) and militant atheism is more and more prevalent.”</p> | <p>Adopting Equality</p> <p>Open, Undecided, Sceptic:</p> <p>“Does having the two people in your life (your parents), who are going to have some of the biggest influences in your life, being of the same sex, make you less aware and knowledgeable of the other sex, or even heterosexual relationships? Maybe it doesn’t, as here suggested, but I’m not convinced.”</p> | <p>Youth Unemployment</p> <p>DM:</p> <p>“What we’re experiencing isn’t an epidemic of laziness, it’s what is effectively a recession, or even a depression if you believe some economists, meaning businesses don’t want to hire – and if they do, they want people to have lots of experience.”</p> | <p>LGBT Officer resigns</p> <p>Part Time sublime:</p> <p>“I don’t feel supported either as a part time office, the sabbs got hoodies for themselves but not for us. We’re volunteers. They get paid. But that James Croydon sure is dishy.”</p> | <p>Women’s Officer Motion</p> <p>Scott:</p> <p>“Whilst we should acknowledge that women are the primary victims of gender, we should not use this as an excuse to close off a potential support network for the male gender. Democracy and individual liberty should not be placed at odds with one another.”</p> |
|--|---|---|--|--|



www.nouse.co.uk/politics

Politics

World News

GAGE SKIDMORE



US: Newt Gingrich leapt into a 21 per cent lead in the race for the Republican nomination, as President Obama received a boost from a 0.4 per cent fall in the unemployment rate.



Egypt: After thousands of protesters clashed with police in Tahir Square, Egyptians voted in the country's first free elections in six decades.



Germany: Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, called for greater 'European integration' as the Eurozone moved towards fiscal union.



DR Congo: 14 protesters were shot by troops loyal to President Kabila as the country awaited the result of the Presidential elections.

German students embroiled in university funding confusion

VORALBERG ONLINE

Viola Meyerweissflog
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE DISTRIBUTION of power in Germany is such that university funding is the responsibility of states, not of the government. As a result of different political preferences; and a dispersion of political power, any attempt to change the system can be difficult. Consequently, just two years after being introduced in most states, tuition fees are being scrapped so that they remain in just three of Germany's sixteen states.

Like the UK, the number of students entering the system each year is not only at an all time high but growing - 200,000 students have enrolled at universities in the past three years.

This is a result of three things: a change in the school leaving age leading to two academic years entering the system at the same time; the suspension of compulsory military service; and the uncertainty in tuition fee costs.

The lack of continuity between states has left universities unable to cope with the boom in demand. The University of Bamberg was so oversubscribed that only those students lucky enough to have been selected by a random ballot were allowed to attend lectures.

Students are often forced to sit on the floor and on stairs in lecture rooms. In one case, at the University of Technology, Dortmund, a lecture had to be delayed while the



Overcrowded lectures have frustrated students who have displayed their displeasure at many universities

professor asked those students who were sitting on the floor and steps to leave. The students refused and the lecture was cancelled. The outraged students subsequently protested and stormed the Vice-Chancellor's office.

The massive wave of new students has also affected student accommodation. Unlike first-year York students, German students

are expected to find private accommodation on their own before arriving. Due to the already flooded private sector letting market, many students find themselves living in appalling conditions. In Jena, central Germany, some students have been forced to live in caravans.

In the protest against the accommodation situation, students at the University of Frankfurt occu-

pled vacated properties, refusing to leave until being forced out by police who arrested 73 students.

University funding is a necessity. Both German and British students are feeling the effects of a squeeze on funds. The future financing of both higher education systems is very uncertain and both will dominate policy debates for years to come.

York students occupy Vanbrugh

Josiah Mortimer

STUDENTS FROM the University of York occupied the grass area of Le Page Court, Vanbrugh, on 23rd November in opposition to the rise in tuition fees and cuts to the education funding.

Around a dozen students pitched up tents in a bid to pressure University management to condemn the government's Higher Education White Paper, and what they see as a marketisation of higher education. The occupation was organised by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts as part of a national 'Day of Action'. Students from Essex, Birmingham and several other universities across the country staged similar actions on the day.

Graham Martin, University of York Students Against Cuts movement, said the demonstration aimed to "raise the debate" about the tripling of tuition fees. The short occupation drew the attention of the senior management,



The Vanbrugh occupation at York echoed the global 'Occupy' movement with one source describing Jane Granville, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for students, as "broadly supportive of the campaign."

A document presented by the protesters to management, stated that the Higher Education White Paper "drastically alters the relationships between Universities, the

government, students and big business."

The protesters drew inspiration from the global Occupy movement, which has seen public and private space occupied in over 900 cities across the world in recent months, including the ground in front of St. Paul's Cathedral. Though numbers

were small, organisers estimate that around 500 leaflets were distributed and a relatively broad base of support was generated for the 24-hour demonstration. Graham Martin labelled the occupation "a success."

The protesters have suggested holding another protest indoors in early December, hoping to draw in more numbers. One organiser suggested the next occupation will be in James College, though the exact location is yet unclear.

With the tripling of tuition fees and youth unemployment now well over a million, many are asking why there is not more student action on campus.

However, the public sector strike on 30th November did see a large contingent of students take part in a 2,000 strong march to York Minster. Though perhaps not a sign of a radical student revolt, the wave of occupations spreading from Exeter to Edinburgh sends a clear message to the government: there is much more to come from the 99 per cent.

Autumn statement shows Chancellor charting the wrong course

Alex Osborne
POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

It was the day that George Osborne had long dreaded. With a global economic slowdown putting paid to hopes of economic recovery, delivering the Autumn Statement was never going to be easy.

Announcing a £112 billion increase in borrowing over the next four years, along with a 1 per cent cap on public sector pay rises, and a revised growth forecast slipping from 2.5 per cent to 0.7 per cent for 2012, Britain was hardly going to react with jubilation. Labour declared the Conservatives' economic strategy "in tatters", while The Adam Smith Institute, a right-wing think tank, deemed the plan to underwrite 95 per cent mortgages "immoral".

Osborne has admitted that if the Eurozone crisis continues, avoiding a recession "may prove hard". In a bid to do so he was yesterday forced to commit to over £6bn in capital spending and had to scrap a planned 3 pence January rise in fuel tax.

He also had to put plans to increase elements of child tax credit on ice, and brought forward the rise in the state pension age from 2034 to 2026.

Countries such as Italy, Spain, and Portugal have implemented similarly austere tactics. Similarities between British and Italian austerity measures are particularly striking. Both governments have cut family tax benefits and tackled public sector pay.

The fact that the EU this month predicted growth of just 0.7 per cent for Spain in 2012, with Italy's economy flat-lining and Portugal's contracting by 3 per cent, calls into question the advisability of such measures. Clearly considerable cuts to government spending are not cultivating growth in today's anaemic economic environment.



Anaemic growth has forced the Chancellor of the Exchequer to downgrade his expansion forecast for next year

Britain's austerity may well be a case of too much, too soon. A more expansionary fiscal policy – in other words, an increase in government

"Britain's austerity may well be a case of too much, too soon"

spending – could well benefit the UK.

The Chancellor has taken steps in the right direction in this respect. £1bn is to be invested in a

new 'youth contract' offering over 400,000 young people subsidised six-month work placements, as one way of combatting the level of youth unemployment which hit over one million last month.

An extra £1.2bn is to be invested in English schools generally, with money to go towards more places and free schools. Additionally, £5bn will be invested in infrastructure in a bid to improve and expand the nation's rail network.

As well as increasing public spending, the UK could learn from ways other developed countries have sought to boost growth. Earlier in the year, the Icelandic government invested in 'Inspired by Iceland', a campaign to boost tourism

which won a top prize at the Euro Effies Gala in Brussels.

Similarly, Ireland's finance minister cut VAT in the tourism industry in 2010 and saw a 10 per cent rise in tourism shortly after. Poland have seen growth of over 4 per cent through successfully encouraging direct investment.

Osborne's Autumn Statement, though often too drastic in its austerity, shows some signs of initiative. Blame cannot be thrust on to the Chancellor for a European economic crisis, but he is responsible for enforcing austerity. He, and Britain, would be best served if he paired careful austerity with a greater commitment to Keynesian spending principles.

Tweets of the Week

"I'm not going to condemn public servants who feel they're in an impossible position. It is the Gov't failure that has led to today's #strike"

Ed Miliband,
Labour Party Leader

"Alas, lads, if the crisis is Labour's fault why did the Greenspan US Fed and Bush White House, not to mention ECB, all get into same mess."

Michael White,
Assistant Ed., Guardian

"Mr Market is all over the place. He's buying shares, is less suicidal about debts of Ital & Sp govts, but won't lend to banks. Needs therapy."

Robert Peston,
BBC Business Editor

"am considering turning #bbcqt into a drinking game to cheer myself up. a shot for every time Ken Clarke disagrees with govt policy maybe."

Gaby Hinsliff,
Journalist

"...so I suspect that some folk like being outraged by Jezza [Clarkson]. My bold notion is to ignore him. Which I will do for the rest of my life."

David Aaronovitch,
Times Columnist

"British Embassy being evacuated in Tehran according to local sources. Sad, even diabolical development: final breach of a unique relationship."

Jon Snow,
Channel 4 News anchor

"I'm always kinda impressed seeing Danny Alexander in the lion's den, and fighting. Not many Lib Dems would face Paxo on a night like tonight"

Fraser Nelson,
Editor, The Spectator



25% think the economy would be doing better if Labour had won the last election, 37% think it would be doing worse.

YouGov/The Sun, Dec 1



69% think young people today are less motivated than previous generations in seeking work; just 5% think they are more motivated.

YouGov/Sunday Times, Nov 19



69% think the government should slow the pace of its spending cuts to boost growth.

ComRes/Independent, Nov 29



By 51% to 39% the public think priority should be given to giving jobs to British workers, even if there are more qualified foreign workers.

YouGov/Sunday Times, Nov 19



Just 33% think the way the government is cutting the deficit is fair.

ComRes/ITV News, Nov 27



52% think we are not only not winning the war in Afghanistan, but that victory is impossible.

YouGov/The Sun, Nov 28

Political reporting in a modern world

Following her recent appointment as Newsnight's political editor, Allegra Stratton speaks to **Harry Lambert** about politics and a journalist's place within it

In a recent piece for The Times the columnist Daniel Finkelstein recounted a story of the time he watched a particularly riveting Prime Minister's Questions and eagerly asked a friend if he had seen it. "Of course not," the friend replied, "I'm working." This reality encouraged *Nouse* to this week catch up with Allegra Stratton, one of the most informed columnists in Westminster, and Newsnight's new Political Editor, to get a picture of how each leader has fared over the past year.

Stratton offers an intriguing take on the current state of the parties. Cameron, she argues, has had "a pretty good year". She cites the way he has handled the Coalition, both in terms of making it last as long as it has ("a lot of people didn't think it would") and in managing to nevertheless convince his backbenchers he is one of them.

When asked how, specifically, the Prime Minister has impressed her most since being elected, Stratton somewhat unexpectedly points to his heartfelt apology in response to the Bloody Sunday inquiry. "The way he did that still stands out in my mind...[that] will probably be something that in years to come we'll say that was a big moment for Cameron, because...he caught the moment."

Stratton's observations on how the coalition has changed the Liberal Democrats are some of her most illuminating. She detects a change in Nick Clegg after his "terrible beginning" over tuition fees. "He felt so rotten about renegeing on

a promise, as he should. And now actually I think that he's much more sanguine about it being something that he thinks students will realise over the full course of time was actually not a bad deal."

With regard to the party as a whole she thinks "they are [now] much more careful about doing, dare I say it, the politically right thing to do rather than the necessarily policy right thing to do."

As for the man seeking to depose the Coalition, Stratton argues Ed Miliband's analysis – that there is a squeezed middle and such a thing of the promise of Britain – has actually "driven the agenda", but "you are not really seeing the dividends".

The problem is he is "really struggling" to turn that into any-

"He [Clegg] felt so rotten about renegeing on a promise, as he should"

thing more than "a good essay". The fact that he is "struggling to personally connect with people", is something Stratton finds remarkable. "When you meet him individually... [you realise it] is not a problem he has."

Stratton acknowledges Miliband has the problem all opposi-



Allegra Stratton took over as Newsnight's new political editor recently

tion leaders face – how do you offer an alternative without committing to specific policies? "The prerogative of opposition is to spend a couple of years licking your wounds and thinking of new ideas", but by not announcing policies it is hard to offer an alternative.

Looking ahead to her new role as Newsnight's political editor, Stratton is "looking forward to merging the two things I've done on and off for the past ten years. The thing about political journalism is when you do it well, and I'm not sure I do do it well yet but I want to

try, is you boil something down you don't iron out complexity – but the hope is you turn that complexity into quite clear sentences." It is about "shrinking but not over-simplifying."

Such talk of succinctly presenting things encourages me to ask what effect she thinks Twitter will have on the role of the political reporter. Will the ability of citizens to break news on their mobiles through social media make political journalism increasingly about commentary rather than reporting?

"I think it looks like it's more about commentary now, but I don't think that's true and I don't think it will come to pass." She says that reporting tells you "what's actually going on in Westminster, and what the actual debates and rows are." It's "much more substantially relevant to people's lives, and I think people do look for that when they pick up the newspaper."

"What Twitter and social media changes is who are compelling authors. You have people who tweet a lot, or blog a lot, who have an authentic voice, [but] I don't think it undercuts the classic lobby team."

Whether one is interested in reporting or commentary, Stratton advises they "read every piece of history and politics they can get their hands on. If you understand political theory and recent history it does make you a better journalist, because all these themes do come up. The periods in my life when I read a lot, I still rely on now."

This attack has irrevocably ruined relations



THE LAST WORD
Sam Shepherd

Over the past week, the United Kingdom's already frosty relationship with Iran soured beyond the point of no return, resulting in the expulsion of Iranian diplomats from Britain.

This follows the withdrawal of their British counterparts, after a prolonged attack on the British embassy in Tehran in response to sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear programme.

To Iran, Britain holds a special place among its, now large, collection of villains. The UK is seen as the mastermind behind the overthrow of previous Iranian governments, and conservative hardliners believe that Britain has it in its blood the desire to choose who runs Iran.

Nevertheless, Britain and Iran have, over the years, managed to maintain diplomatic relations on a courteous level. Indeed, among

ordinary Iranians, there is at least some affection for the British people, with an increasing amount of Iranians moving to the UK to study and work.

Iran can be seen to be insulated from the rest of the world, and that has, to some extent, been to the benefit of attempts to keep relations with them on an even keel. During President Mohammad Khatami's administration diplomatic ties were reasonably sound. Yet since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad assumed power, these ties have become increasingly strained.

And now, it seems, the bridge between the two countries has finally collapsed in the wake of British pressure over Iran's nuclear plans and the attacks on the British Embassy last week. Despite an apology from the Iranian Foreign Ministry for the attacks, there was nothing of the sort to come out of Tehran itself.

The speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Ali Ardashir Larijani, proclaimed that the attacks were Britain's fault for attempting to



Relations with Iran decline further

dominate it over the years. Mr Larijani speaks for a great many people in Iran, so his words are somewhat concerning.

Whilst Britain no longer regards itself a superpower on the same level as in the early part of the twentieth century, Iranians have long believed that Britain has been a major force behind its great political shifts: the appointment of Reza Pahlavi as Shah in 1925, his

replacement with his son in 1941 and the revolution in 1979.

Indeed, conservatives have long held the view that Britain has held undue influence in the landscape of Iranian politics. Many are convinced that Britain has held

"Britain holds a special place among Iran's collection of villains"

back the development of Iran to meet its own political ends.

All this feeds back into political infighting in Tehran. The attack seems certain to have been carried out by conservatives, and their aim was to discredit President Ahmadinejad, who they see as being too pro-West.

Their hope is to force the Presi-

dent into a corner so that he makes concessions to the conservative wing of the Iranian population.

Indeed, President Ahmadinejad seems to be one of the main losers here. Whilst his links with the West are far from warm, he has maintained ties successfully over his tenure. He is, however, a very skilled politician who will find some way to deal with this situation. Whether or not he aims the blame squarely at Britain is something that remains to be seen.

On the British front William Hague, Foreign Secretary, has set out his stall by expelling all Iranian diplomats. Realistically, Iran has given him little choice. Mr Hague is an experienced world player, and he will need all his nous and precision to negotiate this tough period.

The situation is grave, and one has to wonder whether this is really a skirmish that Britain needs to prolong. Some have suggested this will lead to a conflict, with parallels to Iraq. That is something the government will certainly want to avoid.

Football: University versus College

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

I have been covering sport here at York for eight weeks now, the last five as Sports Editor, and I have very quickly realised that this job is more strenuous than most would predict. Even in the quietest of weeks there is still a huge amount of sport to be covered, and of course we can never manage it all.

More often than not I feel as if I'm a full-time Sports Editor for Nouse and study for a degree in my spare time – and that's after five weeks in the job. This colossal workload, then, begs the question: 'why do we do it?'

Many have asked me why I choose to stand on the freezing cold fields of 22 Acres for hours on end. Or why I decided to get up at 6am on consecutive Sunday mornings so that I could catch a train here to witness the latest instalment of college football, rather than sit at home and enjoy a bit of Goals on Sunday.

Or why I spend many a night trawling through articles on lacrosse, water polo and others that our dedicated reporters choose to write, when I could be out on the town.

The reason we do this is the same reason why so many of you play sport here (whether you realise it or not) – because it connects us with what we truly love about sport.

“Sport is really about passion, pride and unity - qualities that are so often lost in the maze of the professional game”

When we stand on the touchline, notepad and pen clasped in our frostbitten hands, we are reminded of why we are drawn to sport in the first place – not for the glitz and glamour but for the heart and soul.

Because sport really is about passion, pride and unity – qualities that are so often lost in the maze of the professional game, but exemplified superbly in every match here.

That is what makes covering sport so enjoyable and worth every bout of hypothermia and pair of mud-splattered jeans. How often do we hear fans or pundits deriding the overpaid prima donnas that represent the best of modern sportsmen?

But here, the competitors play sport for the love of it – they paid no money to do it and they are under no obligation to turn up at all.

And yet they do. And so do we, because, ultimately, we just want to watch some sport (high quality or not) and write about it.

This job, too, is not an obligation; it's a choice – one that I am extremely glad I made, despite the late nights and early mornings. Yes, it's a tough, unforgiving and intense job – but would we really have it any other way?



Goodricke's Joe Mann against Langwith having decided to fully focus all of his attention on college football

“the laid back, inclusive atmosphere, whatever the standard,” that made College football great.

This view is supported by Derwent fresher Sam Earle, who's played for both the University and his respective College this season.

After an impressive debut for the University first team, in which he scored, he decided to concentrate on only playing for his college, for this year at least.

He admitted that the University standard was higher but that “enjoyment was definitely a factor” in making his decision.

He added, “College football is casual, but still taken seriously and is a good standard of football – the best of both worlds.”

Others, however, have enjoyed

the challenge of University football and the added intensity and professionalism it brings.

First year Ollie Harrison has made seven appearances for the University team at left-back, whilst also appearing four times for his College.

Harrison's main attraction was that “it's a higher level of football. Just the professionalism of it all. Being in the university firsts has a level of prestige not found in College football.”

Also stating that with university football you are genuinely “improving as a player.”

Perhaps then it is more a question of priorities than individual ability and not a question of University versus College.

Maybe the University team should use the college set-up to scout and recruit players who may not have been comfortable or confident enough to try out for the team themselves.

At the end of the day though, this decision rests with the individual players and what they want.

If they're after a good standard of football, taken seriously but without too much pressure, then College Football certainly fits the bill.

But if one wants to challenge oneself further, at a higher standard, with a more professional emphasis on training and improving as a player then University Football provides it in abundance.

York chalks up for UK Snooker Championship

Andrew Derlien
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK IS set to take centre-stage in the world of snooker over the next fortnight, with the UK Championship returning to the city after a five year absence.

Having taken place in Telford every year since 2007, the second most prestigious tournament on the sport's calendar is once again to be held at the York Barbican, a major coup for the city.

Gillian Cruddas, Chief Executive of Visit York, could not hide her delight when the city was awarded the event earlier in the year, stating: “we are absolutely thrilled the tournament will be returning to the fabulous new Barbican Centre. Sports tourism is an area we are keen to develop in York and this now gives us the opportunity to do just that”.

Cruddas' initial excitement at the news is sure to be realised this month, with media attention and



Snooker star Judd Trump is set to light up the Barbican this week

an influx of fans certain to provide a boost to the city's hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions.

World champion John Higgins will be hoping to retain the title he won in a dramatic battle with veteran Mark Williams last year, and this week held a special event at York's 'Cueball Club', in support of the Paul Hunter Snooker Foundation.

The Scot, 36, summed up the positive mood amongst the players on returning to York, praising the city's atmosphere: “The Barbican has always been one of my favourite venues, and I'm sure many of the other players would agree.

“There's a great general feel about the city and the fans are fantastic here. I'm just really looking forward to getting started and

hopefully putting in some good performances”.

Three-time UK Champion, Higgins is set to enter into the tournament as one of the favourites to add to his trophy collection.

Snooker's younger stars are at the top of their game however, and will be seen as a threat by the likes of Higgins, Williams, and four-time winner Ronnie O'Sullivan.

Just as he did so superbly on route to the World Championship final in April, Judd Trump is set to bewilder fans at the Barbican with his trademark attacking style of play and bold long-pot attempts.

The 22-year-old will enter the tournament as one of the favourites for victory, as will fellow youngsters Ding Junhui and Mark Selby, currently ranked as world number one.

Whoever claims the trophy and £100,000 prize money, the event is sure to provide a treat for local fans in the run up to Christmas, and put York firmly back on the map of UK sport.

Sport

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



James and Derwent battle in Sunday's college football title decider

Continued from back page

With only five minutes left to play, James looked to have found an equaliser, when Treasure dived over the ball allowing Davies straight through on goal. But a stunning last-ditch tackle from Joe Boughtflower prevented a certain goal, allowing Derwent to regroup and see out the rest of the game for the victory which sees them top the winter league table for the second successive year. Derwent captain Boughtflower was understandably delighted with his team at the final whistle.

"It has been a very good term for us and everyone has been brilliant and worked so hard. It was a game for champions and we really stood up." James skipper Rich Baxter didn't dwell on this season and looked forward to a good campaign in the spring. "Obviously we are disappointed but I felt over the course of the game we deserved to get at least a point. But I would just like to stress the effort and commitment of all the players throughout the entire season. Hopefully we can come back after Christmas and win it next time."

Nouse's College Football Team of the Term

JONATHAN FROST



Vanbrugh thrash Langwith to grab second

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Vanbrugh's demolished Langwith on Sunday with an emphatic win

Nouse Sports Team

A SEVERELY depleted Langwith side were punished by a ruthless Vanbrugh on Sunday, eventually losing 9-1. Vanbrugh's Tom Parish scored four, with Ben Stanier bagging a brace and Elliot Rous-Ross and Rory Sharkey scoring a goal apiece. The other goalscorer for Vanbrugh was goalkeeper and captain James Wilson, who tucked away a penalty towards the end of the first half to make it 5-1. With fifteen minutes of the match gone Vanbrugh had already

raced into a 3-0 lead, with Langwith only able to field three of the eleven players who played in last week's memorable victory against Halifax. They did show their fighting spirit though, with debutant James MacDonald giving the Vanbrugh defence plenty to think about and Paul Ong scoring a deserved goal. The match was over as a contest so quickly that Vanbrugh could have easily relaxed and become complacent. However, they were determined to secure second place in the winter college league with an im-

pressive win. The performances of Stanier and Parish tore Langwith apart and the final score could have been anything had Vanbrugh not been hindered by some erratic finishing. Overall, Langwith will be happy with their winter league performance but will bemoan the lack of depth in their squad, while Vanbrugh will be ecstatic with finishing second, ahead of James, on goal difference after a shaky start to their season. Halifax were indebted to goalkeeper Jonny Sim as they grabbed a narrow 2-1 victory over Wentworth. After taking an early lead courtesy of a Muklu Cukorova own goal, Halifax were quickly on the back foot as Samik Datta tormented their defence with a series of mazy runs. But it was Sim who kept last year's College Cup winners in front, saving from Datta and Dom Green, whilst Conor Meckin could have doubled the lead before half-time only put his header wide. Into the second half, and Sim had to be at his best again to keep out the Wentworth attack, as he produced a string of magnificent saves to somehow deny Wayne Paes and Tom Redhead. And soon after, it was 2-0 as Hamish Denham prodded the ball past Jon Cook in the Wentworth goal from close range, but, with Denham limping off injured, Halifax were soon down to ten men. Paes took full advantage to give Wentworth the goal they deserved, turning on the edge of the box and firing left-footed into the bottom

corner. Both sides continued to press for another goal, the best chance falling to Halifax's Craig Dean, but it ended 2-1, giving Halifax a third win of the campaign and meaning the plucky Wentworth side finished the season bottom of the table and without a win. After an erratic run of form, Goodricke secured a positive end to the term's college football action with victory over Alcuin. The men in green survived a brief Alcuin fight back to carve out a deserved 3-1 win. Goodricke found their rhythm early on. After Jon Sharpe's wonderful long-range effort struck the crossbar, the Goodricke striker forced a good save from Damian Pickard, allowing the perfectly placed Joe Mann to follow up with the rebound however, and coolly strike home the opener. Alcuin regrouped to create some good chances before the interval, with Will Taylor's superb

free kick forcing a fine save from Tom Neill. Goodricke doubled their lead early in the second half though, Matt Sutherland's clever overhead kick finding Christian Hammer, who capped off his fine performance by smashing home for 2-0. A short period of attacking pressure from Alcuin followed, as Jacob Scholz and Josh Allen both went close but were denied, with Scholz rolling a shot onto the post before Leonidas Kanonis forced another save from Neill. Mann swung the momentum back towards his side with his second however, calmly lobbing Pickard as Alcuin's defence appealed for offside. This effectively secured Goodricke's win, although there was still time for Scholz to fire in Alcuin's consolation goal. Reporting by Luke Gardener, Dan Holland and Andrew Derlien

Teams	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Derwent	7	6	0	1	+18	18
Vanbrugh	7	4	2	1	+12	14
James	7	4	2	1	+3	14
Halifax	7	3	1	3	+1	10
Goodricke	7	2	2	3	-7	8
Alcuin	7	1	2	4	-6	5
Langwith	7	1	2	4	-16	5
Wentworth	7	0	3	4	-8	3

Badminton hopes hit by YUSU coach errors

**Dan Holland
Celia Scruby**

YORK'S MEN'S badminton teams have been left frustrated with a series of transport errors that have led to them forfeiting a number of games.

Three of the four matches they have been due to travel to by coach, involving both the men's firsts and seconds, had to be forfeited after the teams arrived late.

The errors now mean that both teams, as well as the men's thirds, could be in danger of relegation.

Blonnie Walsh, Badminton Press and Publicity rep commented that: "It's an embarrassment to both the team and the University as a whole, especially as these circumstances could have easily been avoided."

The first instance was during week two, when the seconds team arrived late for their match with Huddersfield due to another club who were sharing the coach turning up late, meaning the final two games of the tie had to be abandoned, with York losing 5-3 in a match they were set to win.

A formal complaint was lodged, but on 16th November the firsts team arrived an hour and forty minutes late for their match at Northumbria because of problems picking up other teams and finding the venue. As a result, the



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

The men's badminton teams are all facing relegation after having to forfeit three of their away matches so far

match went down as an 8-0 defeat for York.

On the same day, the seconds were also due to play Northumbria thirds at a separate venue, but were also forced to forfeit their match against the side bottom of their league.

In that division, both York's seconds and thirds are now faced with the threat of relegation after Northumbria collected some much-needed points, whilst the firsts are also in danger of dropping out of the BUCS Northern Conference 1A.

Men's firsts captain Baillie Wat-

erson commented on the events, saying, "This situation may have serious consequences for all three men's teams which are now fighting to avoid relegation, through no fault of their own".

He added that: "Teams should only go down if they are the worst and only go up if they are the best", rather than due to disorganisation of YUSU buses.

After a series of meetings, the badminton club were given the option of "opting out" of shared coach travel, though Badminton Treasurer John Sinclair said this would cause "significant financial dam-

age to the club" as they would be left with the cost of full coaches or trains.

YUSU are now looking into the possibility of using hire cars, alongside the enforcement of a series of stringent new rules regarding coach travel, to prevent drivers from turning back to pick up other teams after the designated departure time, and to ensure that proper checks are taken as to the likely duration of the journey and the location of the venue.

Stephen Hallett, Badminton Team President, has been told that YUSU "will be implementing a new

rule where coaches leave 10 minutes after the deadline as an absolute maximum" and that these slip ups will "never happen again."

Despite these mistakes, Waterson says that the club are now happy to continue using the coach service, "provided the new rules are enforced and YUSU can guarantee the situation will not happen again".

Sam Asfahani said: "We have taken these problems extremely seriously."

However, it seems that problems with coaches are not merely confined to York's Badminton team.

Lauren Hunter, a second year lacrosse player stated that, "YUSU never leave enough time for the teams to get to their matches".

She explained that "Lacrosse have travelled to matches with two other sports teams on the bus, meaning the bus has to drop off in three different places and sometimes this has delayed our arrival by almost an hour".

Sam Unsworth, the University's Hockey president also weighed in on the situation. "The principal issue highlights for me how chronically underfunded sport is at York". He added that: "If clubs could afford to send teams on an individual basis, the vast majority of these problems would be alleviated".

Derwent storm past Alcuin in college rugby

AGATHA TORRANCE

Will Light and Jonathan Frost

DERWENT MADE it five wins out of five with a clinical 49-0 annihilation of Alcuin, securing their position at the top of the league table.

Despite gutsy resistance from Alcuin, Derwent rarely looked troubled as their disciplined and pacy play recorded try after try.

Right from the start, Derwent immediately put their opponents under the cosh, but Alcuin's defence remained resolute, forcing numerous five-metre scrums.

But the resistance was soon breached, as Derwent captain Tolga Nekar ripped the ball from Alcuin hands, diving across the line to give his side a deserved lead.

After a successful conversion, Derwent scored a superb second try when some textbook passing gave centre, Dominic Munns, space to run. He carved through the Alcuin line and despite being tackled, was able to pass to the on-rushing Hugo Marino, who slid over.

Derwent's well-organised defence stifled any possession that Alcuin enjoyed, and it was little surprise that Derwent soon added a third before the end of the half. The ball found Jamie Criswell in space on the wing, who powered away to the line unopposed.

The second half brought more Derwent dominance, with Phil Hammick scoring a typical winger's try, zipping over the line after a 30 yard dash.

Hammick soon got his second and Derwent's fifth, latching onto a well-judged grubber kick, racking up more points despite heavy Alcuin pressure.

After a Phil Hammick penalty, Dominic Munns scored his second after some excellent play from Derwent's backs.

The next try was courtesy of the forwards with a strong scrum leading to Alex Cochrane-Dyet being able to collect from the flank and power over for the try.

And Derwent completed the rout with their eighth try when Phil Hammick, completing a second half hat-trick, scored after a rapid counter attack.

Derwent's skipper Tolga Nekar was delighted with his side's sensational season: "The boys have done themselves and Derwent proud. I can't express how happy and proud I am of them."

Elsewhere, Halifax secured an emphatic 58-26 win over Goodricke, thanks to an utterly dominant first half display.

Halifax started much better and immediately placed Goodricke under enormous pressure that they were unprepared for.

Rucking over well, Jack Stanley secured the first try within minutes, going on to coolly take the conversion himself.

Goodricke were taken aback by the fast start and failed to make their tackles count and conceded an early penalty.

Again scored by Halifax stal-



Derwent remained top of the college rugby table after they recorded five successive victories this term

wart Stanley, the penalty put Halifax ten points up.

Halifax continued their dominance; exploiting Goodricke's weaker forwards, and when Goodricke did have possession they failed to provide adequate support to the man in possession.

A line-out near the Goodricke try-line saw the ball arc into the waiting arms of Stanley, who offloaded to Alex Cook, allowing him to put his side 15-0 up.

But there were signs of Goodricke potential as the half went on with Nick Abbatt impressing and proving that the Halifax

backs could be broken.

However, any moments of resistance were short lived, with further Halifax tries powered home by Charlie Allsop, Tom Giles and Jake Baldwin; the latter thanks to a brilliant assist from Alex Hann.

Stanley wasted no time in converting all but one of the tries as Halifax raced into an unassailable 36-0 lead just before the break.

But Goodricke finally had something to celebrate when Jamie Kelly stormed round the outside of the Halifax back-line and score.

Kelly continued the spirited Goodricke fight-back early in the

second-half racking up two more tries and the resulting conversions.

Halifax's original dominance crumbled, but they still managed to run home tries through Giles, Allsop, and Stanley, securing a deserved hat-trick. Affairs were not one sided though, with Harry Clementson coming on to score a try, closing the gap to 51-24.

But Alex Cook drove the final nail into the Goodricke coffin, with the game finishing 58-26.

Ben Cook, the Halifax Captain, said: "It was much better than our last game. We had a great first half, but they made us pay in the second."

University versus College Football

Alex d'Albertanson examines why some footballers choose only to play at college level

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College sport roundup

Reports on all of this week's college football and rugby action inside

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SPORT

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



AGATHA TORRANCE



Derwent claimed the college football winter league with a 2-1 win over James, while they also continued their great form in college rugby, by thrashing Alcuin 49-0 to record their fifth straight win >> P18-19

Jubilation for Derwent as they clinch the college football winter league title

Jack Bradshaw
SPORTS EDITOR

DERWENT COLLEGE were crowned winter league champions after recording a 2-1 victory over James on Sunday despite being put under enormous pressure for much of the second half.

A first-half brace from David Kirk proved enough for the league leaders to overcome second placed James in the title decider.

The win was Derwent's sixth from seven games and represented a recovery after their 1-0 defeat at the hands of Vanbrugh the previ-

ous week. Impressive striker Kirk poked home inside the first two minutes to give Derwent the perfect start.

Both sides created chances in an even first-half and James were nearly back on level terms when a great run and cross from Freddie Ferrao almost led to James Offord turning home.

Before Ferrao and Offord were both denied after a dangerous Angus O'Brien cross during a great spell of James pressure.

Instead; Kirk doubled Derwent's lead, his fourth goal of the season, with an expertly taken fin-

ish after terrific pressure from Tom Brandreth forced a defensive mix-up.

But moments later, James Davies had a great chance to grab a goal back; but the midfielder couldn't keep his header down.

And just after the break O'Brien had another golden opportunity to drag James back into the game, but was denied by Seb Treasure.

Just before the hour mark came the move of the match when great build up from Derwent culminated in an exquisite flick and volley from Mike Whitall, who was

only denied a debut goal by Toby Owen's fingertips.

And Derwent had two more chances to put the result beyond any doubt but Jacob Tapper saw his shot blocked and Xander Brinkworth was inches away from turning in Kirk's well-placed cross.

However, they were punished soon after when Davies finished well in the area to give James a sniff with just under twenty minutes remaining.

James poured men forward in a desperate attempt for an equaliser and it nearly came when Ferrao broke through, only to have

his shot brilliantly palmed away by Treasure.

Nick St George then fired a header just over the bar, before a scramble from a corner nearly led to Tapper inadvertently turning into his own net as James began to take control of the game.

As they committed more and more men forward, James became stretched at the back and Jake Farrell nearly punished them as he broke from the half-way line, but couldn't find the finish to match his run.

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6.12.11

Nouse is printed by Yorkshire Web Printers of 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS.
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