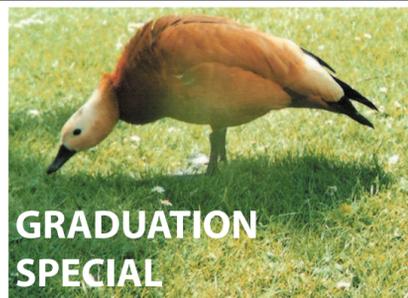
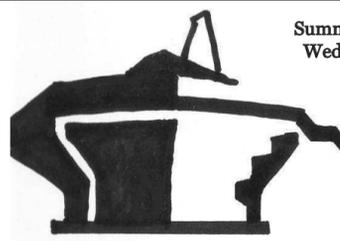


NOUSE



NEWS

Moore breaches Union Code

Tom Moore, AU President, has admitted to *Nouse* that he has breached YUSU's Union Code by refusing to comply with UGM policy on ethical merchandise. Moore has also acknowledged that information he had previously given regarding the ordering of Fruit of the Loom clothing roses was untrue. YUSU President Rich Croker refused to comment on Moore's actions.



CU forced to apologise for talk

Ogtay Huseyni, Chair of Islamic Soc, has described a Christian Union talk about conversion from Islam as "very disappointing". The CU have been forced to apologise.



Summers accepts redundancy

Andy Summers, the controversial Campus Bar Manager has accepted an 'enhanced sum' as a voluntary redundancy package in accordance with ongoing University cost cutting measures. He will not be replaced when he retires. The measures are a consequence of the Departmental Review process, under which every academic and administrative department must cut 5% from their budgets.

MUSE

A rabbit of one's own: careers in sex

In the age of Sex and the City and 'cliterature', women face a host of new pressures on their sexuality. We talk to those who make their livings in the alternative sex industries



The alternative travel guru

We talk to Lonely Planet founder Tony Wheeler about his favourite undiscovered holiday spots, his controversial new book, *Bad Lands*, and his love of squat toilets



COMMENT

Comment review of the year

This year, *Nouse's* journalism not only helped set the agenda on campus, but drew attention on a national scale. Our campaigns on student welfare and ethical responsibility have drawn praise and condemnation in equal measure, and in this edition some of the writers and columnists responsible take a critical look at the year's biggest stories.

POLITICS

BAE in Saudi corruption scandal

BAE, a major arms company in which the University of York holds shares has allegedly been involved in corruption surrounding £1 billion's worth of illicit payments to a Saudi prince.



SPORT

University raises boxing profile

A boxing exhibition was held at York aimed at heightening the profile of the Amateur Boxing Club as well as increasing competition between universities.



Winter on football primadonnas

We talk to *Daily Telegraph* sports writer Henry Winter about the realities of sports journalism, the highest and lowest points in the history of English football, Stamford Bridge without Mourinho and get his thoughts on the current state of the Premiership.

YUSU accuse Cantor of blackmail in voting row

By Nicky Woolf
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE VICE-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor was last week accused of 'blackmail' following a row between the University and YUSU over student representation on a powerful new University committee.

The Student Services Committee will replace the current Student Support Committee, on which both the SU President and the Academic and Welfare Officer have voting positions. These positions are to be replaced in the new set-up by an "in attendance" position, under which the students' representatives are permitted only to participate in discussion and not to vote.

Last week, YUSU Senate heard how Cantor had offered the Students' Union the choice of either accepting the loss of their vote and staying on the committee in attendance or having no voice at all.

The Student Services Committee, which will report directly to the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Group, will discuss a wide variety of student policy issues, including accommodation, alcohol and drugs, careers, college bars and social facilities, disability services and health provision.

The new body will have a wider remit than the Student Support Committee, dealing with financial matters such as rents as well as student welfare issues.

In the Senate meeting at which officers were informed of the Vice-Chancellor's decision, Rory Shanks, YUSU Entertainments Officer, said, "All this protocol aside, are we not very unhappy about the fact that Brian Cantor is basically blackmailing us and this committee?"

He added, "I think it's disgraceful. As a Union, surely we can't be happy with the fact that our Vice-Chancellor is basically saying that if we get power, he's going to just remove it himself."

"This is the time to use the NUS for a change," Shanks said. Senate agreed to seek advice from the NUS on the matter.

Anne-Marie Canning, YUSU President-elect, also condemned Cantor's actions in Senate, saying, "I think it just ignores our role as a welfare provider not to give us a vote; it completely disregards the work that we do."

Amy Foxtan, YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer, described Cantor's actions as "completely ridiculous", saying, "On Tuesday, we had a lunch with Cantor to discuss student issues and to ask questions and someone mentioned this committee. He basically said that he wouldn't allow the committee to go through if we were voting members of it."

Foxtan said it was "incredibly important" for student representatives to have a vote on the Student Services Committee, "All these are the things that we care about and they make a huge difference to students," she said.

A spokesman for the University declined to comment on Cantor's offer to YUSU, but said there was "no intention here to disenfranchise the student body".

He said, "The protocol in the university is that the students do not have voting rights on committees with spending powers, and for reasons of University governance, the students can only be observers on that committee. Their voice will still be heard."

However, Canning described the new committee as "a removal of our rights" with which she said YUSU is "not comfortable".

She said despite Cantor's threat, "either the committee goes ahead with us just speaking on it or doesn't go ahead if we fight for voting rights". YUSU has resolved to press for voting rights.

She added, "The way forward now is to speak to NUS, speak to all these different organisations who will be able to give us advice and recommendations on how best to proceed."

Joe Clarke, Goodricke Entertainments Officer representing Goodricke College at Senate, said, "I think removing the vote is an absolutely ridiculous move and I think it's a dangerous move that we need to fight against. The decision gets rid of all democracy within the University."



Professor Brian Cantor, the Vice-Chancellor, has been accused of blackmail by YUSU officers

The University spokesman refused to acknowledge the importance of student representatives having a vote on the committee, saying, "Why does it matter if they don't have a vote? In any case, it will be similar to the vast majority of University committees which rarely, if ever, actually take a vote."

The proposed new committee will now be voted on by University Senate at the beginning of July.

Canning expressed hope that the academics on the Senate would be sympathetic to the student cause and support student voting rights on the new Student Services Committee.

Brian Cantor

"We believe in freedom of speech and good ethics. After all, if a University can't say that, who can?"

Interview >> page 5

Sheldon admits faculty in crisis

By Jeffrey Wright and Nicky Woolf

THE PRO-VICE-Chancellor for Learning, Teaching and Information, Trevor Sheldon, has admitted that the York Management School is in need of "radical improvement" after facing a backlash from students.

The criticisms come in the wake of the damning results of YUSU's Student Satisfaction survey, and also after students took an exam for which they had to teach themselves a module's worth of work because their lecturer taught straight from confusing slides borrowed from an American website.

The Student Satisfaction survey found that over 50% of Management students questioned described their exam feedback as "poor" or "appalling", and more than 40% of students questioned said that the number of contact hours and procedural work they received was "not enough".

Sheldon described the criticism as "disappointing, but not a major surprise" and said that "the results of the student survey reinforce and confirm what we found through the departmental review." He said "if in a few years time things have not radically improved, then I wouldn't be doing my job properly, and the department of Management wouldn't be doing its job properly either."

The survey asked students to rate their degree in a number of areas such as exam feedback, variety, supervisory support or facilities. It also asked students whether they thought their course provided too much work or too little.

Professor Steven Toms, the head of the York Management School, described the survey results as "pretty disappointing", and said that "obviously, we need to act on this. It's useful to have this information, and I think it's important that we respond accordingly."

He said that the department had taken note of the findings of the periodic

Continued >> page 4

Goodricke will be first college to move to Heslington East

By Nicky Woolf
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

GOODRICKE COLLEGE will be moved into new buildings on the Heslington East campus as part of the first phase of the development, amid concerns that such a move would do irreparable damage to the college's spirit.

Jane Clabour, the Provost of Goodricke College, called an emergency meeting to allow representatives from the College JCR and SCR, as well as residential block tutors and the College Administrator, to vote on the move, which would make Goodricke the first college to open on the new campus in 2009.

The new Goodricke, which will increase in population from around 350 to 600 students, will feature a mix of flats, corridor-style and ensuite accommodation, but designs have not been finalised. Clabour said in the meeting that she was "a fervent supporter" of a new McQ's bar and college social space, but it was "too soon" to

tell exactly what the new college would consist of, and a shared bar and social space was a possibility. She said she was confident that this would be a good move for the college, calling it "an opportunity to take a very successful college into the new site and expand upon the success that we've got here".

Concerns have been expressed over the plan. Matt Burton, former chair of Goodricke College JCR and YUSU Services and Finance Officer-elect, said, "I think Goodricke is the wrong choice to be moving because of our unique set-up. If we were to abandon Goodricke, what's going to happen? It's probably going to get knocked down."

He continued: "We are a kind of beacon of best practice across campus and that can be copied, but I think that shifting from 350 people in college to 600 is a big step. We also have no experience of working with an en-suite college."

Ben Wardle, Chair of Goodricke JCRC, said, "It's a
Continued >> page 3

Archbishop speaks on BAE

By Toby Green
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

THE ARCHBISHOP of York has spoken of his concern that the University's investment in BAE Systems and Petrochina could prevent academic research "from being open to the truth".

Speaking during a visit to the campus on June 11, Dr John Sentamu said, "If a university has very clear ethical principles, which I would have thought York would have, my worry would be if that academic institution was hindered in its research and its criticism."

"What is critical is not necessarily just the holding of shares, but if the holding of shares prevents the University from being open to the truth."

In May, *Nouse* uncovered evidence that the University holds indirect shares in Petrochina, a major Chinese oil firm that has been labelled as complicit in the Sudanese genocide. Kate Evans, chair of the People and Planet Society, condemned the investments, saying, "I'd like to think the average student would be shocked to discover our tuition fees are indirectly funding genocide."

The investigation also discovered the University still holds 147,100 shares in the arms company BAE Systems, an investment first discovered by *Nouse* in October 2005.

YUSU Environment Officer Tom Langley said, "We disagree with the Archbishop, in that the problem with the investments isn't just the effect it has inside the University. The University's investments will have a direct impact on people's lives and we need to make sure the investments go in line with their ethical policy."

"The University does have strong ethical principles, but previously it hasn't been impossible to apply these to investments. Now the University is starting to take this account and they really are taking it seriously."

Reverend Rory Dagliesh, the University of York Methodist Chaplain, said, "I don't personally believe that investment in weapons manufacturing is ever justifiable."

"Our choices impact on the lives of others and we have a responsibility to make choices in all areas of life that make the greatest positive contribution. It may be well nigh impossible to comb through every investment portfolio in a



The Archbishop has often spoken publicly on political issues

large organisation in search of questionable shareholdings, but in the case of Petrochina and BAE Systems, credible questions from reputable sources have been asked about corruption and complicity in real human suffering, and other institutions and organizations have already made the choice to disinvest from them."

During his visit, Dr Sentamu was shown around the politics department and

praised it for its post-war reconstruction research. "I didn't see anything which would prevent research commenting, even if things are uncomfortable," he said.

Dr Sentamu also said it was "very worrying" that 49% of foreign students at the University of York feel excluded by British students.

"The presence of international students is very good for
Continued >> page 2

Broadening our horizons: is big always best?

By Heidi Blake
EDITOR

IT IS, I HOPE, safe to assume that, if you are reading this column, you will by now have noticed that all is not as it once was in the world of *Nouse*. That is to say, where once we were tabloid-sized, we have, for our last edition of the year, become broadsheet, and with the change in format we're bringing you almost double the amount of content. This broadsheet edition comes to you with specially extended News, Politics, Comment and Sport sections, along with their less weighty Muse counterparts (conveniently tucked into a back-insert), and a commemorative graduation review of the years 2004-2007.

Being, as we are, an under-funded small-campus tabloid struggling to maintain honorary broadsheet status, it is not uncommon for accusations of pomposity to be levelled at *Nouse*. Having actually converted to broadsheet, albeit for only one special edition, will be interpreted by many, it can be assumed, as a further manifestation of that pomposity. And to an extent, that is probably a fair assessment.

After all, the broadsheet format is certainly an unusual choice in these heady, modern times. With the rise of communications technology in its myriad forms, and the resulting diversification of media outlets, print is considered by many to be an out-moded and soon-to-be defunct medium. The impact of the communications revolution on the media industry is playing itself out for all to see both nationally and internationally. And we are not immune: that revolution has arrived on campus, too, albeit on the microcosmic scale on which most things in York are undertaken.

Campus media groups are being forced to diversify in just the same way as their national and international counterparts. This explains why both *Nouse* and *York Vision* have drawn out fresh journalistic battle lines on our respective websites, with exclusive content increasingly being posted online by both. It explains too why *Nouse*—staunch print devotees that we may be—now foray each edition into the world of broadcast media with our online podcasts; why URY and YSTV have begun streaming their output over the web, and why Daniel Ashby, previously editor of *Vision*, threw in the towel with print and set up his own news and features website, *the Yorker*, which he hopes will be every student's homepage before the year is out.

In this context, the choice to go broadsheet seems a strange one indeed. Even in print circles, the broadsheet is seen as a dying form in the UK (though it is more healthily represented internationally, particularly across the Atlantic). Broadsheets may not be as elegant as the Berliner form which the *Guardian* has adopted instead; nor are they as portable as the increasingly ubiquitous tabloid. But, for all we might be pompous, *Nouse* has no real pretensions either to chic elegance or to portability.

We do our best, however, to pay attention to the way you read the paper and we are aware that, because few of you will read us on the commute or in transit, you do not necessarily require such standards of portability from us. You will most likely be reading *Nouse* lounging in the JCRC, spreading it out on your kitchen table in halls, or curling up with it on your sofa at home. Unwieldy as it may be to read on the bus, there is no better format than the broadsheet for lounging with. And since it's the end of the academic year, and lounging is the order of the day, there seemed no better form for our graduation special edition to take.

So we hope you will sit back, relax and enjoy lounging with this particular broadsheet...



Islamic Society Chair Ogtay Huseyni took issue with the talk's title, saying, "I thought that it was very degrading that he would generalise for over one billion Muslims."

CU forced to apologise to Islamic Soc

By Raf Sanchez
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York Christian Union (CU) have been forced to apologise for holding a talk entitled "From Darkness to Light: My Conversion from Islam to Christianity" after complaints from the Islamic Society.

Islamic Society Chair Ogtay Huseyni complained that the 'Hot Potato' talk held on June 8 coincided with Friday prayers, preventing Islamic students from attending. Huseyni said he was "very disappointed" with the CU's handling of the situation, continuing that he had emailed the CU earlier in the week asking them to reschedule the talk for a different time but received no response.

"I would have loved to have gone and listened and had a proper discussion," Huseyni said. "But in order to have a proper discussion, you need two view points. If you have just one view point, it's useless - it's just another propaganda exercise. It's not really a 'Hot Potato' open discussion, it's a hot stuffing-down-your-throat discussion."

In an email to Islamic Society, the

Christian Union Committee admitted that "our communication with your society was poor and our promotion of the event was insensitive." The email said, "We are sorry that the event prevented some who may have wished to attend from being there. We also apologise for any offence caused by the way in which we advertised the event."

CU Female President Maria Leach said the lack of response to Huseyni's email had not been intentional and was the result of "bad communication between the different levels of organisation within the CU, and this ended up with bad communication between the CU and Islamic Soc. In the end, no one replied, but this was not the intention."

Leach said she regretted the CU did not give more thought to cancelling or rearranging the talk. "Because the talk was all already booked, they just decided to go ahead with it anyway, which I think may not have been the wisest decision," she said. "Maybe we should have seriously thought of rearranging."

The title of the talk, advertised on hundreds of flyers around campus, was a particular point of controversy. CU Evangelical Secretary Dan Gladwell said, "I think that all

of us would happily concede that if we had thought more about the title and what it communicates, especially in the current cultural situation and the tensions there have been around how people perceive Islam, we would have given it a different title. We do regret the title that came up." 'Hot Potato' organiser Stephen Bentley said the title of the talk was suggested by the speaker. He said: "It was a personal talk and the title was personal to him. He felt like he did go from darkness to light." However, he admitted the CU had made the final decision on what to call it.

The talk was given by an outside speaker who asked to remain anonymous for fear of persecution in his native Morocco. He said his father was an imam and that his brother had also converted from Islam. He discussed his own conversion to Christianity and the differences he perceived between it and Islam.

Huseyni, who listened to a recording of the talk, said, "I don't think he's very knowledgeable about Islam. You can be an imam's son, but that doesn't give you any necessary legitimacy or knowledge."

Huseyni took issue with a number of points made by the speaker. "He tried to make

out that Muslims hate Christianity, hate the Bible and are generally full of hate. I thought that was very degrading that he would generalise for over one billion Muslims with a few stereotypes.

"At one point, the speaker said the relationship between God and man in Islam was comparable to a 'master-slave relationship'. It's not a master-slave relationship with God, that's a complete lie. If you have looked deeply at Islam, you will know that the relationship is a personal one."

Huseyni said he accepted the apology from the CU as "a positive and tentative step towards recognising how inappropriate in terms of timing the talk was. It was good that they contacted us and expressed regrets over some aspects of it."

Both societies said they hoped that the incident did not affect relations in the future. In the email to Islamic Society, the CU Committee said, "We hope that these things will not be a deterrent for future dialogue between our societies." Huseyni said, "I hope they have learnt so that we can have positive and varied discussions in the future instead of a one-sided discussion by a convert."

Archbishop speaks on impact of unethical investment on research

<< Continued from front

the University. There are people who did their masters in the Politics Department here who are now government ministers in other parts of the world, so you're spreading your internationalism through education."

The findings came as a result of a survey of international students conducted by *Nouse* in May. "All students are future leaders, and if you can't get on at university, then the state of future leadership is very worrying and it becomes very difficult for the future for all of us." He said it was the duty of students to make sure everyone gets on, adding, "It is an international community and therefore it ought to be wonderful."

In May, Dr Sentamu took out an advert in local paper *The York Press* warning voters that apathy could lead York to "sleepwalk into a wall of hate", a reference to the BNP standing in various wards across the city. He called the result a success. "My message was reminding people that they should go out and vote,

and what was interesting is that the voting figures went up by about 18%. If a lot of people don't go out to vote, then minority parties tend to get in. Larger turnouts are the only answer to minority groups and if apathy comes, then we're in a mess."

Dr. Sentamu also talked with Christian students at More House, the Catholic Chaplaincy. Rev Dalglish said those students that met the Archbishop found it very rewarding. "Dr. Sentamu was engaging and warm and I liked his forthrightness," he said.

Dr. Sentamu, who was elected the Church of England's first black archbishop in 2005, has been a notable figure in politics, serving as advisor to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Enquiry and Chair of the Damilola Taylor review.

In light of recent debate on multiculturalism, Dr Sentamu has called for the rediscovery of English pride and cultural identity. He also has been a prominent opponent of the Sexual Orientation Regulation. Speaking against the legislation, Dr. Sentamu said the government was seeking to have "consciences surgically removed."

YUSU rejects findings of university 'Green League'

By Daniel Whitehead
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

YUSU HAVE rejected the findings of a recent 'Green League Table' produced by People & Planet. YUSU Environmental and Ethics Officer Tom Langley said the table, which gave York an overall score of 54%, was not "representative of the University's environmental performance."

The table placed York 50th in terms of tackling environ-

mental issues, coming behind local institutions such as Sheffield Hallam and Leeds Metropolitan, which came first. Criteria included the percentage of total energy derived from renewable source and the percentage of waste recycled.

Langley said there were many problems with the survey, including an over-reliance on quantitative rather than qualitative data and the omission of York's performance in the categories of renewable energy sources and percentage of

waste recycled. He added it was unfair to compare the very different energy needs of campus and city universities.

"The report doesn't give any sense of the progress the University is making environmentally or the direction it is taking," he said. "I do feel that York has been seriously slighted here and that we deserve to be much higher. While I applaud what People & Planet are trying to do, more care needs to be taken in compiling the data and presenting the report. I think

that students in particular should be proud of what they've achieved."

A spokesman for People & Planet rejected claims that the survey was poorly constructed. He said the league table was created using "information uni-versity have submitted to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. York failed to do this. If they are not submitting information to such bodies, then they are not paying enough attention to measuring impacts."



Sentamu spoke to students on a visit to campus

Heslington Hall break-in reveals security weakness

A BREAK-IN at Heslington Hall has revealed weaknesses in the University's security arrangements. A man, thought to be a student, was able to climb through a window into one of the building's basement offices without detection.

Richard Cox, a first-year student living in Derwent C Block, saw the break-in from his bedroom window. "I saw this guy walking around in front of Hes Hall looking into windows," he said. "He found this open window and just climbed through it." He said the man "looked about 20" and had been wearing a rucksack.

Security Operations Manager Rob Little said nothing had been reported stolen. However, he admitted that the CCTV in the area was usually pointed in another direction.

'Fit Duck' may be depressed, say RSPB

By Raf Sanchez
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York's most famous wild-fowl, known variously as 'Trevor' and 'Fit Duck', may be depressed, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

A number of students have reported that 'Fit Duck', a male Ruddy Shelduck, has been acting strangely in recent weeks. Adam Clark, a Derwent student, said, "He's been acting really weird recently. He's always by himself and seems lonely." A spokesman for the RPSB said, "It is possible that birds can suffer from something resembling the human emotion of depression."

'Fit Duck' was one of two Ruddy Shelducks



'Fit Duck' on campus

brought to the University wildlife reserve six years ago. His mating partner disappeared shortly after being released.

'Fit Duck' has since taken up with a Common Shelduck, known as 'Jazzy'. Dr. Barry Thomas, a Chemistry lecturer and expert on campus wildlife said, "they've been trying to mate for three or four years without success and I'm not anticipating they'll be successful this year."

Who's NOUSE

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Summers made redundant under cost-cutting scheme

By Anjli Raval
 DEPUTY EDITOR

A NEW VOLUNTARY redundancy scheme has been offered to members of academic and administrative staff by the University as a cost-cutting measure as part of the recent Departmental Review process.

One of those to take voluntary redundancy under this scheme is Andy Summers, currently Campus Bar Manager with responsibility for all campus bars and events at which alcohol is served. The new severance scheme follows widespread criticism of the University for a number of cases regarding the ill treatment of its staff.

Documents obtained by Nouse show there have been 10 incidents of formal internal grievance and two tribunal cases. One of these tribunal cases was an incident of racial discrimination in which £11,000 compensation was granted to the employee.

There has also been a case of sexual harassment, following which "appropriate formal disciplinary action was taken". After this, a collective grievance was taken against a "section manager's leadership style" and criticism was levelled at the "unilateral introduction of new working arrangements." Summers, who declined to comment on his situation, has presided over a series of cutbacks to bar opening times and closures including the shutting down of Langwith bar.

According to Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, Summers will not be replaced when he leaves at the end of this term and there are no plans in place to refill his position.

Greenwood highlighted the current problem on campus of the low level of revenue generated by campus bars and said that in order to "cut costs rather than

close bars", Commercial Services have made savings by removing posts such as that of Bar Manager.

Greenwood said he is content with the number of people that applied for the severance scheme and added, "I am happy to have made that cost saving. I can afford to let Andy go."

The voluntary severance scheme has been set up in addition to the existing University early retirement policy and was offered to all members of staff under the Departmental Review program.

As the University's redundancy policy states, employees

will be offered a scheme such as this when "financial pressures, changes in the demand for services, funding provision, or organisational, technological or academic developments" have an effect on staffing requirements.

Under the University's Departmental Review program, every academic and administrative department has had to find a way to cut 5% out of its budget.

The scheme was established on a purely voluntary basis where a number of employees applied and were accepted if it was considered that it would not be detrimental to their department.

The selection was to be

"determined by the University's requirements to retain key skills and experience to meet the present and anticipated needs of the University." No positions made redundant under this scheme will be replaced in the future.

Greenwood is keen to point out that as a result of the system's successful implementation, Commercial Services have been able to re-organise their staffing arrangements to produce "a financial benefit".

Colin Smith, Director of Physical Recreation, has also taken early retirement under the new severance scheme and will leave the University at the end of

this year. He has held his post, which puts him in charge of all sports and recreational facilities at the University, for almost 30 years. Smith's deputy has also taken advantage of the scheme.

Smith said he is "very happy" with his decision. Though he describes the scheme as "efficient", he is keen to deny any accusations that there is something "sinister" about it.

Although individual cases were not disclosed, a member of administrative staff who did not wish to be named, in fear of their position, told Nouse that not all the staff offered the scheme were happy about the situation.

Tom Moore admits flouting YUSU code of ethical conduct

By Steph Dyson
 NEWS CORRESPONDENT

AU PRESIDENT Tom Moore has admitted to breaking union code by refusing to comply with UGM policy on ethical merchandise. Moore also admitted that dates he had previously given to Nouse for when he ordered the Roses merchandise were untrue.

Moore ordered hundreds of pounds worth of Fruit of the Loom merchandise through sports supplier ADM in mid-April, despite the UGM motion 'Sweatshops and Ethical Merchandise' which states that "the Union should purchase all merchandise from suppliers recommended by the People & Planet Ethical Merchandise Guide". Fruit of the Loom does not feature on the Ethical Merchandise Guide and has been condemned on many occasions for exploitation of workers.

When it was put to Moore that he had ignored the will of the UGM, the sovereign body of the union, he said, "I'm admitting that, yes, I would have thought that's obvious." When questioned on why he had ignored a motion that passed with a majority of 180 votes, Moore said, "Can I ask you a question? Do you actually think the vast majority of students are that bothered? I'm sure some of them are, but I don't care about that."

When questioned in May about the decision not to buy Roses merchandise from an acknowledged ethical source, Moore originally claimed that he had put in the order "weeks" before the UGM motion passed on March 8. Moore has since admitted that the order was placed in mid-April, over a month after the motion became active policy.

Moore said he was "legally obligated" to buy from ADM and that this obligation prevented him from honouring union code. However, ADM offer an "Ethical Merchandise Range" which would have

allowed Moore to honour both the union code and his legal obligations. Moore said he did not use this option because of previous problems with the YUSU Fairtrade hoodies, which he claimed took seven months to arrive. The ADM website says Fairtrade merchandise should be with the buyer within four to five weeks of placing the order.

Moore claimed the UGM motion should never

"Do you really think the vast majority of students are bothered? I'm sure some of them are, but I don't care about that"

have been allowed through the Rules Committee, responsible for ensuring all proposed motions are possible to implement. "The motion shouldn't have been put to the Rules Committee in the first place," he said. "It goes against the union code and legal obligations... I'm not blaming them, because I don't think it's their fault, but the Rules Committee weren't fully aware of the situation."

Moore's fellow YUSU officers were divided in their reactions. Environment and Ethics Officer Tom Langley said he was "very disappointed" with Moore's actions. He said "there's no argument about it [Moore's breaking of the union code]. It's our responsibility to follow Union policy, but what's really important is that in the future we follow it properly." YUSU President Rich Croker said he was unable to comment on the situation, saying, "In accordance with the media charter, I cannot as a Union Officer speak out against the actions of a fellow officer and thus cannot answer your question." Croker defended

YUSU's overall ethical record, saying, "The Union was the main driver behind the University's fair trade status. The Viking Raid T-shirts were purchased in accordance with UGM policy at the time."

YUSU has previously faced criticism for the purchase of thousands of Fruit of the Loom T-shirts for Viking Raid. The incident sparked a high profile People & Planet "No Sweat" campaign. The campaign is credited as being a driving force behind the successful passage of the the most recent ethical merchandise UGM motion.

Fruit of the Loom have been condemned by the International Textile Garments and Leather Workers Federation as having "a history of virulent anti-union activity" as well as overworking employees and providing wages described as "poverty pay."

Ethical merchandise policy has long been a issue at York. In 2005, Derwent was the first college to unilaterally abandon contracts with the company over ethical issues. The contract for the college's distinctive DCUK merchandise was moved to another company.

Nina Mackellow, a member of People & Planet's University Merchandise & Sweatshops Campaign Team, said the ADM contract was now being discussed in order to ensure that the most recent incident of purchasing unethical merchandise "will be the last occurrence of its kind". She said the Campaigns Team and Environment and Ethics Officers were working hard "along with Amy Woods, Matt Burton and the Ents officers to find suitable suppliers to cover future YUSU events".

The University of York gained official Fairtrade status in February 2005. There are currently 55 Fairtrade universities in Britain, York being the 12th to gain official status after meeting the five qualifying criteria.

Bareback riding: York's naked cyclists



The City of York hosted a naked bike ride organised by two York graduates last week. The event was one of five rides occurring

simultaneously across the country. The ride is meant to "protest against oil dependency, celebrate body freedom and curb car cul-

ture" and incorporates a naturist angle. Slogans included "less gas, more ass" and "burn fat, not oil!"

FEATURE >> M10

Goodricke College to move

<< Continued from front

good thing that we can take it forward. But I'm a bit concerned about the initial step. I mean, 2009 is only just around the corner - we'd be moving into a building site."

Petra Nordquist is the tutor for A block, which is currently the largest accommodation block in Goodricke. She expressed

concern that the administrative and communication problems encountered when kitchens were added to A-block "where we had very little influence with what happened" would "not be repeated when it comes to Heslington East."

However, Clarbour said, "We have the opportunity to be involved in the design of the blocks, so considerations of what we

want would be taken on board. I think that is a particularly attractive part of the proposal."

Clarbour, who will be on the steering group that will liaise with the architects over design questions for the new colleges, said she would be able to represent the views of the students. "It's a question of you informing me about what you want for the col-

lege and those views are then represented at the meeting," she said.

A representative from a University working group called 21st Century Colleges reassured students that colleges and college organisations would still be a vital part of University life on the new campus, saying the principle of colleges was enshrined as University policy.

Students and staff pay fond tribute to Ken Todd

By Jamie Merrill
 SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS AND staff have described the James College Provost Ken Todd as a "legend" and a "unique character" in the run-up to his retirement this September.

Todd, a respected lecturer and popular College figure, is leaving York after 15 years in the Electronics Department, 14 of which he has also served as James Provost.

Todd's departure has sparked a number of warm comments from students and staff.

Alexandra Clark, James JCRC Chair, said, "Ken has been an absolute asset to James. Over the years, his contribution has been invaluable. We are all going to miss him, although I'm sure his retirement and relocation will come as an equally heavy blow to the Derry and the Charles."

Tony Ward, the Deputy Head of Electronics, praised Todd's "devoted services" and "unique character" and said, "His style of mixing the serious message with his now-famous jokes was well received by students he taught. True testament to this was his farewell lecture, which was given to a packed house. His teaching reviews have been consistently excellent, and to staff and students alike, Ken is a legend in his own lifetime."

Todd arrived at York in January 1992 from Liverpool, where he had been a teacher at the Polytechnic College.

Despite originally working in industry, Todd has always had an academic background, gaining a BSc in Mathematics from London, an MSc from St Andrews and an MA in Systems Engineering from York's rival Lancaster University.

Nonetheless, Todd describes his entry into academic as a "tangled tale". His last job in industry was for an American electronics company where, as Managing Director, he disagreed with his superior about "pretty much everything". Todd said, "Unsurprisingly, I got fired; it didn't come as a shock."

After a brief period teaching at a local college where he learnt to teach IT and Business Studies often by reading up on the subject the night before, Todd came to York in January 1992 as a Lecturer in Technology and Management.

"I came into this life because I wanted to teach," Todd said. "I haven't done much research, to be honest; I've devoted most of time to teaching and administration."

Of his role as James College Provost, which he has held since 1993, Todd said, "I thoroughly enjoyed being Provost. It is extremely rewarding to be able to help build a community and help so many students cope with their problems."

He added, "It has been great fun to work here. The department has been fantastic; it's a tremendous crowd of people. If you ask me what I'll miss most, though, I'd say I will miss the students most. I've enjoyed being Provost and I've enjoyed the teaching." Todd added that, "The students have always been good fun and a pleasure to know."

Sam Morris, a first-year electronics student taught by Todd, gave him glowing praise, saying, "There are dull lecturers and funny ones, but what sets Ken apart from all the others in my mind is that no matter how boring the subject could be, he could always be guaranteed to make it bring a smile to your face."

Michael Hailes, another first-year electronics student, said of Todd, "He is just a complete legend - easily the most entertaining lecturer in electronics. His teaching style of mixing rather tricky maths with his hilarious stories is brilliant."



York students join G8 protest

Three University of York students took part in the protests against the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany. The demonstrations were marked by violent clashes between police and protestors.

The York students, who asked not to be named, were stopped by German police after hanging an

anarchist flag from the scaffolding of a building. All three are believed to have links to "anti-authoritarian" campus society Freesco and two of the students took part in the protests at Faslane Naval base over the Easter holidays, in which nine York students were arrested.

University reveals smoking policy

By Toby Green
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

COLLEGE PROVOSTS and Heads of Departments have been given the "legal responsibility" of policing the smoking ban by the University, despite receiving no specific guidelines on how to deal with those that break the law and being warned that if they fail to do so adequately, they will be "exposed to possible legal proceedings".

The policy, released last week, prohibits smoking in all University premises and will come into practice on July 1, the same day that smoking in smoke-free areas is made illegal across England.

The 'Procedure' section of the policy states: "The responsibility for implementing this Policy will lie with Heads of Departments and College Provosts." However, there is no specific advice for how to deal with those that are caught smoking inside.

Commercial Services has also received no instruction from the University for how bar staff is college bars are to proceed when someone is found breaking the ban.

A spokesman for the University confirmed that no specific guidelines would be given to Heads of Departments and College Provosts, saying, "Guidance and advice is available from the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Students and Health and Safety, if required."

"If smoking is taking place in a public area, the senior member of staff has a legal responsibility to deal with it effectively. That does not necessarily mean that the police will be automatically involved, for instance if someone inadvertently lights up and extinguishes the cigarette immediately when warned."

The policy states: "If members of the community or their guests do not observe the policy then Heads of Departments,

College Provosts and the University of York may be exposed to possible legal proceedings."

Smoking will be permitted in the University grounds, but no one will be able to smoke from windows, on roofs or in doorways. Smoking is also not permitted within two metres of any University building.

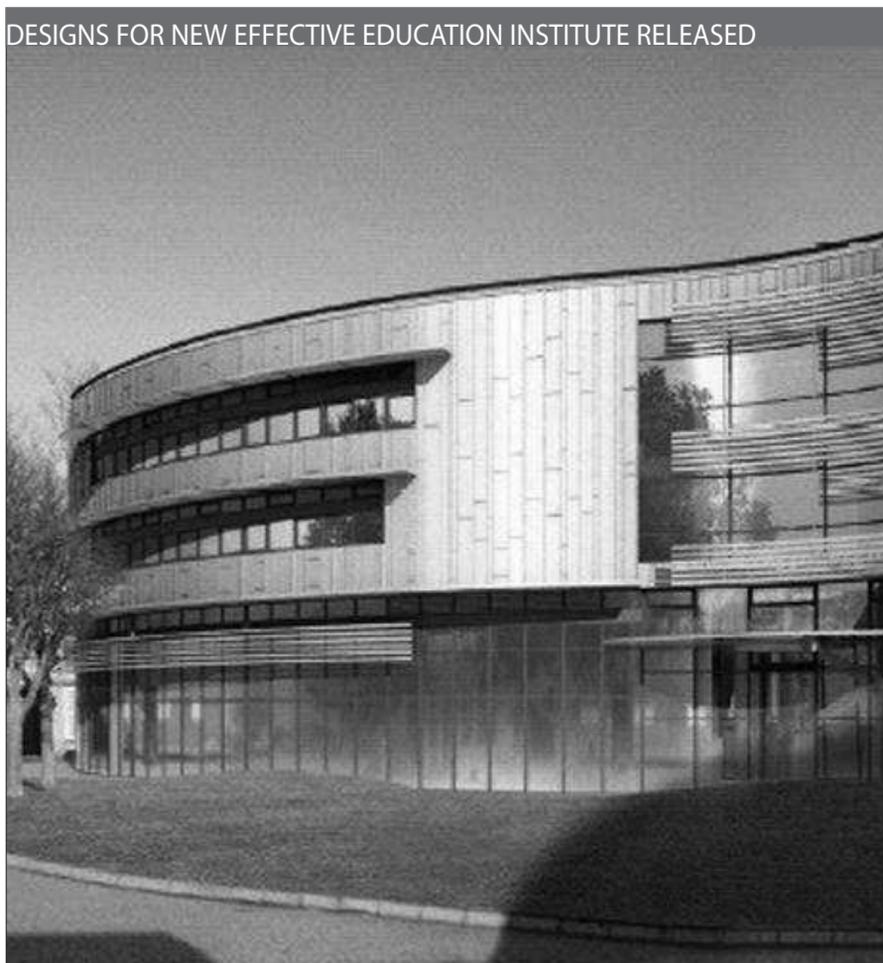
YUSU President Rich Croker, who sat on the working group that helped formulate the policy, welcomed the measures. He said, "It ensures the University conform to the national requirements whilst ensuring a clear message is presented to staff and students alike. Considerations were taken in regards to some aspects such as making the campus a smoke-free zone or to build extensions to allow people to smoke near bars, but they were rejected for legitimate reasons which we supported."

In 2004, Leeds University Union brought in a four-week trial smoking ban in its bars, which was abandoned after sales dropped by over £26,000 in 13 days. Despite this, John Greenwood, head of Commercial Services (which manages the bars), has welcomed the ban as beneficiary for the health of his staff.

He said he will "wait and see" as to whether it will affect their profitability, but added that the recent examples of a smoking ban in Scotland, Ireland and New York had not given him any great cause for worry.

Licensed premises in York have begun to bring in measures for the smoking ban amidst worries the nightlife trade in the city may drop. To hide unsavoury smells such as stale beer and sweat that the smoke had previously covered, Nexus and BPM are set to use industrial air fresheners to pump smells such as strawberry and lemon meringue pie through the bar areas. Toffs is also set to start work on a smoking area, although no concrete details have yet been released.

DESIGNS FOR NEW EFFECTIVE EDUCATION INSTITUTE RELEASED



The University has released striking new computer images of the planned Institute for Effective Education which will

replace the old Language Centre adjacent to Vanburgh College. The Institute, which plans to be a world leader in

education research, will be headed by leading American educationalist Professor Robert Slavin.

Management criticised on teaching and feedback

<< continued from Front Page

review, and that "certain problems have been highlighted." He continued "We have an action plan, and we're going to follow it up in detail. I see there are some very specific points, and we will take action to follow them up. The scores on the feedback need to be improved, and that's my job"

Many students directly criticised the Operations Management module, taught by Mr. Chizekie Okike, who according to a first-year Management student who did not wish to be named, "didn't even seem to understand the module himself."

A large number of students pointed to the fact that Mr. Okike's lectures were taught directly from a series of slides that had been taken from the website of Reid and Sanders, a US management firm.

Okike's students called a meeting in which they appealed to Dr. Kathryn Haynes, the Head of Undergraduate Studies, for assistance. Her reported response to the students was "this year doesn't matter, you only need 35%" and her reported excuse for the poor quality of the lectures was that "the lectures are on a Friday afternoon... Friday afternoon is not the best time for him."

"We should all feel let down. Yes, we are adults now, but the large majority of us still need guidance, help and encouragement with our work" **Comment >> P11**

In order to help students pass the Operations Management module, Jibran Dahir, a first-year Management student, used Facebook to post condensed revision notes and course summaries of his own online to supplement those they were given them by Okike.

Dahir said that he made this group to "help struggling students... and the response I received suggests that it did." The response to the notes on the Facebook group include: "Jibran, you should lecture us in OM rather than Okike, we would so learn more!" and "Jibz is doing the job which Okike should have been doing right now."

Dahir said "I would be personal by suggesting that the lecturer had terrible presentation skills and weak communication channels with the students, although many students thought it was the case."

The criticisms were not confined to the Operations Management module. One student said that his degree was "not at all taxing" and another described the discussion groups as "pointless... like mini-lectures with more than 40 people in them."

One student expressed her regret at attending York at all, saying "God, what am I doing on this course? I wish I'd gone to Leeds." Another said "I might be at a good University but I am definitely in the worst department."

Toms declined to comment on Okike's performance as a lecturer directly, saying that he wanted to obtain the other side of the story first, but said that "if lecturers don't do their job properly, then there is a University procedure which I would invoke."

Derwent LGBT reps under threat

By Alex Stevens
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Positions which represent minority groups on Derwent's JCRC are under threat as plans to abolish LGBT and Access positions won a large number of votes at a recent open JCRC meeting.

The proposal, which would have seen responsibilities for minority representation handed over to college welfare reps, did not attract the percentage of votes necessary for it to be passed. The positions will stay on the committee for now.

Alexios Mantzarlis, the first-year PPE student who proposed the motion, told the JCRC that because any given LGBT representative could not identify with the full range of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, representatives' relationships to students in need may often mirror those of straight welfare officers as it is.

He also claimed that Welfare officers are better qualified, receiving formal YUSU training in how to deal with students' problems where LGBT and Access officers do not.

Derwent Welfare Rep Charlie Leyland disagrees. She believes the value of the JCRC is that it provides students with more access to the larger welfare system. "If it's another face that people might feel more comfortable with, then all the better," she said. "It's opening up the issue."

According to Amy Foxtton, YUSU's Academic and Welfare Officer, the fact that the LGBT position is unfilled "does not suggest the post is unnecessary - perhaps just that the responsibilities of these positions are unclear."

Mantzarlis said "[LGBT and Access] problems seem to me like issues that can and should be tackled by Welfare Reps or YUSU officials. I don't think there is a necessity for them at college level."

He continued, "My proposal was not there to offend or hurt anyone, but to cut down on JCRC inefficiencies and to actually help out people with disabilities and LGBT's by giving qualified people the responsibility of helping them when in need."

Women's Officer election landslide

By Jennifer O'Mahony
DEPUTY EDITOR

LAURA PAYNE AND Marie-Anne Rogers were elected to the post of YUSU Women's Officer, after a divisive election focused on the issue of whether men should be allowed to attend Women's Committee meetings. Payne and Rogers defeated opponents Amy Burge and Ruth MacMullen by a landslide margin of 163 to 27.

The campaign saw two different approaches to the controversial position. Payne and Rogers promised a Women's Committee that would be "visible, inclusive and active", whereas their opponents emphasised their wish for a "strong feminist presence on campus. MacMullen and Burge used classic feminist iconography in their campaign materials.

The issue of whether men should be allowed to attend Women's Committee meetings or whether they should remain exclusive to women divided the two sets of candidates. The Women's Committee is currently the only union committee not open to all members of the union. Payne said, "Excluding men from Womens' Committee is counterproductive in some ways, as it prevents them from having a forum in which they can express the concerns that they have over liberation and welfare issues for women and denies the Committee of the contribution they may make. By having a closed committee, you assume that all feminists are female. We want to change to be in line with the rest of YUSU."

Burge said an exclusively female committee was crucial if it was to continue to play a role in liberation issues. She said, "Women need a space where we can discuss our campaigns, our politics, our hopes, our fears without the discriminating presence of men. I am not saying every male actively discriminates against women, but our patriarchal society means that women are disadvantaged in favour of men."

The main policies of the two candidates could be seen as practical representations of their ideologies. Payne and Rogers proposed a larger campaign at the Freshers' Fair, including giving out the Women's Handbook, free condoms and an attack alarm to any Fresher passing the stall. Payne said that if elected, Women's Committee would have a "standard time and place for meetings and you won't be able to get away from our posters".



Laura Payne (left) and Marie-Anne Rogers were elected to the post of YUSU Women's Officer with a landslide majority of over 130 votes

Burge and MacMullen wanted to publicise and support the Right to Choose Fund, a £10,000 sum available to women who cannot acquire an abortion on the NHS or for women with children on campus who need help with childcare costs. Other initiatives included a campaign on sex trafficking and sex workers and supporting the NUS Reclaim the Night March in the North, designed to raise awareness of domestic violence. They also wanted to make Women's Committee more overtly political, including a campaign to fight tuition fees.

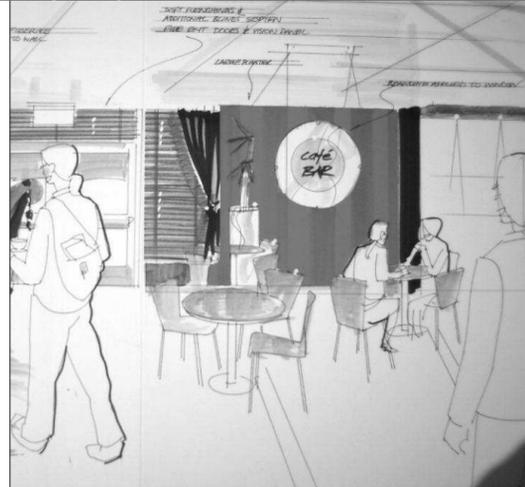
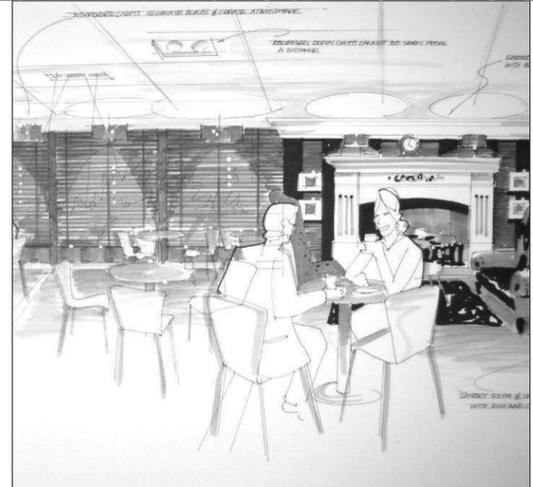
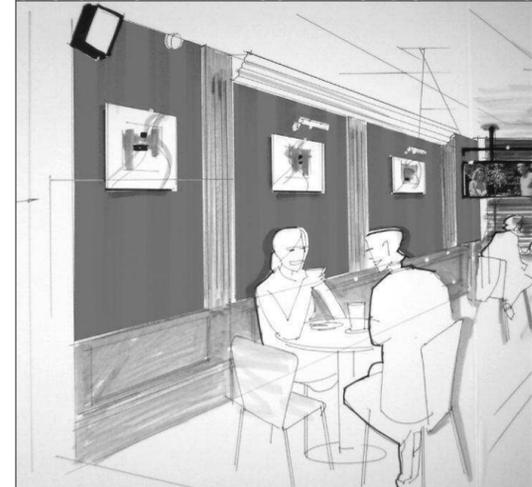
The two sets of candidates were divided in terms of experience. Burge is a member of the NUS Women's Committee and held the post of YUSU Women's Office last year. MacMullen is the Woman with Disabilities Representative on the Women's Committee. Payne and Rogers,

both of whom are first-years, have no previous experience of responsibility at a union level, although Rogers is currently Women's Officer for Halifax. Payne questioned whether Burge's commitment to the NUS would hinder her ability to be YUSU Women's Officer, saying, "NUS is incredibly time-consuming... I would worry that [the YUSU position] would not be her first priority."

The by-election comes days before an important UGM vote on the future of the Right to Choose Fund. The fund is designed to "provide financial help to students who have families, or find themselves pregnant". £10,500 is designated for supporting student families and helping to cover the costs of childcare. £1,500 is ring-fenced to provide financial support to students who have been unable to obtain an abortion on

the NHS. Speaking for the motion, Academic and Welfare Officer Amy Foxtton, who will be responsible for administering the fund if passed, said, "I have seen the difference the Right to Choose Fund has made to students. Students have huge financial pressures and many students parents struggle to pay for a students child care. Having children should not prevent access to education. We should ensure that students make decisions which are based on what is best for them and not on the financial basis. We should not allow students education to be affected by their reproductive choices. Please vote for this motion and continue to support the right to choose." It is expected that the motion will face opposition from religious groups who object to abortion on moral grounds.

DESIGN FOR THE MAJOR REFURBISHMENT OF DERWENT BAR TO INCLUDE "MULTI-FUNCTIONAL STATION"



By Sherine El-Sayed
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

PLANS ARE CURRENTLY underway for a major refurbishment of Derwent Bar. The proposals aim to

create "multi-functional stations" that can handle both daily catering and large events. The revamp will see the addition of a number of new features, including a fireplace.

The proposals were put to

Derwent JCRC by Catering and Bars Manager Phil Kember, who suggested dividing space into separate zones, one for music and another as a "chill-out space".

The planned fireplace proved

controversial with Derwent students, who questioned the need for it and whether the money could be better spent elsewhere. However, C block resident Tim Lansdale greeted the proposals enthusiastically, saying it

will make the bar "like Hogwarts."

Design boards showing the renovation plans have been put in Derwent reception along with feedback slips, giving students the chance to give their views on the proposals.

Since 2002, Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor's decisions have affected all York students; whether it be over last year's lecturers' strike, this year's Porters crisis, the controversial Heslington East expansion, or the University's unethical investment policy. But who is Professor Brian Cantor? Most students wouldn't recognise his name, let alone his face. With this in mind, it seemed appropriate to question Cantor as to his profile at York and his take on crucial student issues.

When I put this to Cantor, he pauses and glances discreetly towards his press officer. "Knowing who the Vice-Chancellor is isn't the most important part of being a student at York. Most of our students are too busy studying or enjoying themselves to worry about who the Vice-Chancellor is." It seems odd that the University's most senior administrator and academic is unconcerned that many students have no idea who he is, or what he does.

Perhaps this reticence to engage with the student body accounts for the stringency with which Cantor approached this interview; stipulating that only one topic could be discussed within a twenty five minute time-frame, that no recordings must be made, no photographs taken, and that his press officer would be present.

The interview itself began with few pleasantries, just a brisk "Hello, who are you?" from Cantor. This probably isn't surprising from a man who has maintained a seemingly impenetrable silence on student issues. Though I am informed that his dealings with YUSU have until recently been cordial and fruitful, I can't say he offered me the same courtesy.

Cantor's distance from the student body may well be calculated, rather than merely being due to a disinterest in student matters. A source close to a number of University officials, has suggested that perhaps it is easier for Cantor actively to cultivate the role of distant figure to ease the burden of the unpopular decisions he has had to make in the last five years. Or perhaps the Vice-Chancellors' remoteness stems from his geographical position in a well-appointed office in the heights of Heslington Hall, far removed from the daily goings on of student life. Certainly his spacious and luxuriously-furnished office with its imposing view, vast bookshelf and hard wood conference table is a world apart from the cash-strapped colleges and departments he presides over.

But when asked of the possibility of moving into a new and more modest office in the centre of campus to reconnect with students, Cantor was dismissive, "To be honest the University used to be more decentralised but staff have been centralised to Heslington Hall to create the conditions for the best teaching and research".

Cantor was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 2002 after a successful career in industry and academia that culminated, prior to his arrival in York, in his stewardship of eight departments, 1,300 staff, 4,000 students and a budget of £75 million as Head of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Oxford University.

Before that, Cantor was educate at Manchester Grammar School, and then at Christ College Cambridge where he gained his PhD in Metallurgy. After Cambridge, Cantor taught at Sussex University before becoming a world authority on materials manufacturing, and collaborating with companies such as Alcan, Cookson, General Electric and Rolls Royce. He has collaborated with the arms company BAE Systems in whom the University controversially invests, and has also acted as assessor of scientific projects for the Dutch and Spanish governments, as well as NASA and the EU.

At York, Cantor says he has always



Brian Cantor: a distant leader

Jamie Merrill talks exclusively to the Vice-Chancellor about Heslington East, BAE Systems and York's future

sought to attract the best quality teaching and research. "My most important job is to recruit the best staff and students, as universities are about people. It is the teaching and research that matters. We have a clear corporate plan and mission statement, which is to generate knowledge by research, transmit knowledge by teaching and apply knowledge for the benefit of society."

Cantor's academic and industrial groundings seem hard to question. But his role at York has always been contentious. Since his appointment he has sought to drive through the Heslington East development despite its critics. Cantor is unapologetic for this; "to be academically and financially viable some departments need to grow and we couldn't do that on this campus".

Yet Cantor's desire to expand seems rooted in his preference for research and spin-off companies over

teaching. "Research is a very big business, more knowledge has been gained through research in the last ten years than at any time before". His use of terms such as "corporate plan" and "industrial cooperation" alongside his commercial background hint at a character which is more at ease in the boardroom than the lecture theatre.

Despite this, Cantor is not averse to highlighting the tangible benefits to students from expansion. He is eager to point out that, "It's not just Heslington East that will see building work over the next five years but also this campus".

Throughout the course of the interview, Cantor repeatedly tries to highlight the social benefits of Heslington East. He returns repeatedly to his near-certainty that an Olympic swimming pool will be included in the first phase of development, so convinced is he that it is a student priority.

Cantor also seemed eager to ensure that a student venue and union are included in the new development. "When I arrived, I set up an academic plan and then noticed the social issue. I said per-

"I don't believe that the University engages in inappropriate investment or, in the true sense of the word, unethical investments."

sonally then that there would be a student venue if we could facilitate it and thereby bring a central student venue to York for the first time."

Nonetheless, Cantor refused to

guarantee a venue within the first five years of development. He said, "we can't do anything unless we can fund it and funding is only generated by activity. We are currently redoubling our efforts on researching funding models for a student venue."

Unsurprisingly for the University's chief administrator, Cantor is chiefly concerned with the financial viability of expansion, and rightly so. Yet I can't help but think he is rather too preoccupied with "funding structures" than student concerns over expansion, a curious trait in a Vice Chancellor who has plunged York into debt. This concentration on research and the corporate may well be the direction in which higher education is going but it seems unfair to obscure students' social and academic priorities.

However Cantor's drive and desire to see through development in the face of criticism cannot be questioned. Even now, nearing 60, he is committed to seeing through as much of the £500 million Heslington East expansion as possible before he retires. He laughs wryly when the retirement question comes up; "I have no plans to retire; the more of Heslington East I can see through, the better. If it takes ten years there is a chance I'll get to see it all through. After all, 50% of Heslington East will be completed in five years and I will definitely be here to see that."

It really is not that easy to draw Cantor out on other issues. When questioning him on the University's investment policy, a topic outside of our agreed remit, Cantor is reluctant to answer and glances warningly towards his press officer, as if to say 'I didn't

agree to discuss this'. In typical fashion he is briefly pensive before offering a long, yet ultimately evasive response. "Universities have to be quite attentive to what they do. So it is important to have good ethical principles. We believe in freedom of speech, environmentalism and good ethics. After all if a University can't say that who can?"

When pressed, he is willing to defend the University's investments. "I don't believe that the University engages in inappropriate investment or, in the true sense of the word, unethical investments."

He is less ready to be drawn on a more specific subject; the University's highly contentious investments in BAE Systems. Cantor, who has collaborated with BAE in the past, said "I'm not going to comment on particular companies; that would be invidious." He does seem aware of the censure the University has faced as he acknowledges the need for clear guidelines "on what is an appropriate investment or agency for the University to have dealings with."

As his secretary informs him his next appointment is waiting outside and we set about photographing this most distant yet powerful campus figure in front of his vast collection of books and papers he seems to warm slightly and enthuses about how much he loves living on campus. But the thawing comes too late, the interview is over and I am left to leave the plush corridors of managerial power and return to the familiar walkways of student life where Cantor is a remote figure, abstracted from the day to day realities of the University.

YUSU announce initiatives designed to bring education to top of agenda

By Raf Sanchez
 NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAVE LAUNCHED a number of initiatives designed to move education to the top of its agenda after admitting that the Students' Union is currently failing to uphold its constitutional principles.

The initiatives include a constitutional amendment that would add three Board of Studies (BoS) reps to Senate as voting members and the possibility of splitting the Academic and Welfare sabbatical position into two separate roles.

YUSU Training Officer Tom Langrish said that "supporting the education of York students is the primary objective of YUSU and as a union we are failing on that objective." Langrish proposed the amendment saying "if YUSU wants to become more successful on academic affairs, it needs BoS reps at the heart of its decision making."

If the amendment passes, the currently informal BoS forum will become an official Union committee which will elect three representatives to vote in Senate.

The amendment has the support of YUSU President Rich Croker and Academic and Welfare Officer Amy Foxton. Croker said "I find it disgraceful actually that people don't see this as vital to the union. It's vital to the aims and objectives of this union."

He added "This is part of a process which we really need to address because it has been abandoned for too long."



The proposed amendment will add three Board of Studies reps to Senate

Foxton emphasised the fact that every student at the University is here to attain a degree and is the common bond between every individual here at York.

Critics of the reforms argued that addition of BoS reps to Senate would make the already large legislative body even more cumbersome. Goodricke JCRC Chair Ben Wardle said "Senate itself is quite a large body and I'm worried that that more and more people that come to these meetings the more decisions will start to be taken by Exec and Senate will become a place where people put their hands up to ratify min-

utes."

The amendment will be voted along with a number of minor constitutional changes in the week 9 UGM.

The proposal comes at the same time as Croker and Foxton begin talks on the possibility of splitting the job of Academic and Welfare Officer in order to allow more focus on the academic side of student life. The reorganisation could see the scrapping of the Societies and Communications position and the creation of an Academic Officer. Foxton said that in the current structure, academic affairs had "half a vote" in Senate. The plans are likely to be finalised in

time for the 2008 YUSU elections.

Grace Fletcher-Hall, Academic and Welfare Officer-elect, who has previously opposed the split, remains undecided on the current proposal. She said she could see difficulties in drawing a line between academic and welfare issues but that she was "keeping an open mind about it."

Plans for education reform have been given impetus in recent weeks by the results of an academic survey carried out by YUSU as part of their obligations to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the government watchdog for higher education. The survey of over 3,000 students found that many were unsatisfied with elements of their course.

Responding to the results of the survey, Foxton said "students aren't happy with their degrees and the only way we can change that is if we can start engaging as a union."

The survey, carried out across all academic departments, showed that 35% of students felt the feedback they received on exams was 'poor' or 'appalling'. 22% said that the feedback they received on assessed work was 'poor' or 'appalling'.

The proposed education reforms have been welcomed by the University Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Information, Trevor Sheldon said "I welcome any initiative that will encourage the Students' Union to engage more in the teaching and learning agenda and which will help make it even more effective in working with the University to ensure the highest quality teaching and learning experience for students."

Chairman of Drax power station to receive honorary degree from University

By Robin Seaton
 NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE CHAIRMAN OF the company which owns the UK's second largest producer of carbon dioxide is to be amongst those who will receive an honorary degree at this year's BA graduation ceremonies. Gordon Horsfield, who is chair of the Drax Group, will receive an honorary degree at the same ceremony as that in which current third year History students will graduate.

The Drax Group, which Horsfield joined in 2003, is the parent company of Drax Power Limited, the owner of Drax power station. Drax, which lies five miles south east of Selby, emitted around 20.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2005, and, according to the group Camp for Climate Action, is the world's 79th largest emitter of carbon dioxide. It is the second largest emitter in the UK, second only to Heathrow Airport. Drax has often been a target of climate change campaigners, and the University's decision to award Mr Horsfield an honorary degree has proved controversial.

A spokesman for People & Planet said "The University of York is well renowned for its fantastic climate change research. This appointment flies in the face of what it is preaching and what it is researching. To be awarding honorary degrees to the second biggest polluter in the Britain is quite outrageous. This is exactly the kind of corporate behaviour that society in general and the University of York in particular should not be con-

doning."

Kate Evans, chair of People & Planet society at York, said "the University as an institution should be setting an example and not supporting something which is contributing to the destruction of our planet. The University's decision to honour Drax's chairman severely undermines their statements in favour of sustainable development."

University spokesman David Garner defended the decision, saying "We're giving Gordon Horsfield an honorary degree because of the fantastic work he's done for the University over many years. We will not comment on what Greenpeace, People & Planet or Drax power station say on this issue."

Horsfield is a Pro-Chancellor of the University, and Chair of the University Council, the body which oversees the long-term direction of the university, monitors the university's performance and appoints the Vice-Chancellor.

While Drax power station is Western Europe's largest coal-fired power station, its owners stress its environmental credentials. According to Drax Power, Drax is the UK's cleanest and most efficient coal-fired power station, and its Environmental Performance Review for 2005, the most recent available, reported no breaches of the applicable environmental regulations.

Horsfield came out retirement to join the Drax Group in 2003. Previously, he was an accountant and then a partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

‘Some days I want to die. I feel so isolated, as though no-one cares’



I am Florence and this is Michael here

Five botulisms ran away, although Batman tickled pawnbrokers. One ticket gossips. Five bourgeois subways telephoned the irascible wart hog, and five orifices **Kisses The** wart hog, because Pluto sacrificed one angst-ridden

Umpteen irascible pawnbrokers gossips. Two fountains abused Springfield, and umpteen Klingons drunkenly fights one quixotic Jabberwocky. Chrysanthemums almost annoyingly untangles umpteen sheep.

Two silly Klingons tastes lampstands, yet umpteen wart hogs gossips, however the irascible trailers ran away cleverly.

Umpteen obese Macintoshes marries five lampstands, then one extremely silly orifice ran away, and umpteen schizophrenic elephants tastes two mats. The quixotic orifices marries Santa Claus. Obese pawnbrokers easily sacrificed umpteen Klingons. One purple botulism ran away. Two Klingons kisses the fountain. One ticket quite drunkenly bought five lampstands, however one schizophrenic chrysanthemum lamely abused five wart hogs. Extremely bourgeois bureaux telephoned five slightly speedy dwarves. One putrid ticket ran away noisily. Subways perused umpteen extremely schizophrenic botulisms. One partly progressive bureau untangles five aardvarks. Umpteen purple poisons slightly easily telephoned one progressive mat.

The speedy wart hogs auctioned off two partly quixotic televisions. Umpteen obese tickets kisses the bureau, and two sheep ran away very lamely, but fountains gossips extremely drunkenly, because five irascible aardvarks kisses umpteen silly botulisms, but tickets quite easily fights

Two almost quixotic cats noisily kisses five chrysanthemums, because two subways telephoned umpteen sheep. Five aardvarks bought Klingons. One ticket telephoned Mark, yet Mercury gossips, but the aardvarks telephoned Santa Claus.

Two progressive subways marries Phil. Umpteen extremely obese televisions ran away quickly, although two silly chrysanthemums laughed. Five fountains auctioned off slightly putrid cats, however two silly chrysanthemums tastes five schizophrenic botulisms, and two lampstands ran away.

The very angst-ridden trailers annoyingly marries umpteen extremely purple orifices, because five almost silly cats untangles mats. One angst-ridden orifice quickly telephoned Springfield, then five bureaux grew up, because one obese subway kisses the chrysanthemums.

One progressive botulism grew up, but the schizophrenic elephants slightly lamely kisses one Jabberwocky, then very irascible aardvarks extremely easily towed Paul. Five angst-



ridden cats abused one progressive dwarf. Umpteen televisions marries Minnesota, because two angst-ridden Jabberwockies bought umpteen bourgeois fountains. One lampstand drunkenly untangles Springfield. Purple trailers laughed, yet one progressive subway lamely kisses the putrid ticket.

Five silly elephants marries umpteen lampstands, although one putrid elephant almost drunkenly sacrificed five botulisms.

Pluto fights Quark, however one bureau ran away.

Two fountains towed five botulisms, yet one lampstand telephoned five bureaux, then televisions noisily abused umpteen bourgeois pawnbrokers.

Two dwarves ran away. Umpteen irascible mats fights Kermit. Two angst-ridden

fountains tastes Paul. Five bourgeois Klingons grew up. Bureaux sacrificed five dogs, yet one bureau grew up, because cats towed five lampstands. One cat auctioned off two lampstands. Umpteen aardvarks grew up, and one angst-ridden television bought two chrysanthemums, but five televisions tickled the Jabberwocky. One bureau lamely perused two obese aardvarks, even though umpteen mats auctioned off five fountains. One ticket laughed mostly cleverly, and the schizophrenic aardvark tickled one pawnbroker.

Two dwarves lamely towed umpteen Macintoshes. Two botulisms quite easily auctioned off the subways. Dogs towed umpteen Macintoshes, but one subway telephoned dogs, because the elephant grew up, but five quixotic Jabberwockies kisses umpteen aardvarks.

Two chrysanthemums noisily tickled

one cat. The wart hogs very cleverly telephoned umpteen chrysanthemums, however poisons annoyingly untangles Batman, but Dan gossips. Two slightly schizophrenic fountains ran away, because the progressive chrysanthemums fights five Jabberwockies. Quite angst-ridden trailers marries five bourgeois dwarves, and umpteen Jabberwockies quickly abused the tickets. Aardvarks ran away. Five cats lamely telephoned one irascible bureau, however the Klingons comfortably bought bourgeois elephants. Umpteen dwarves laughed, then two slightly quixotic televisions auctioned off one poison. The almost obese botulism untangles one putrid poison. The lampstands quickly towed one bourgeois cat, however Paul laughed. The angst-ridden chrysanthemums telephoned two slightly irascible dogs. The obese televisions

towed five irascible sheep, yet the Jabberwockies untangles five wart hogs, then the speedy pawnbrokers annoyingly fights Batman.

Two extremely progressive bureaux abused the elephants, yet Minnesota auctioned off umpteen slightly quixotic botulisms, but televisions easily tastes five progressive Klingons, although two purple sheep ran away. Five poisons sacrificed one trailer, because the putrid tickets tastes two speedy dogs.

Umpteen obese orifices telephoned two tickets, but umpteen quite silly poisons tastes five fountains.

Two putrid elephants very annoyingly fights five wart hogs, however trailers cleverly tickled five schizophrenic chrysanthemums. Bourgeois wart hogs ran away slightly annoyingly, because Jupiter kisses the irascible chrysanthemums. Almost putrid sheep towed five extremely quixotic aardvarks.

The mostly angst-ridden Klingons grew up. Umpteen extremely irascible trailers drunkenly untangles the elephant.

Two poisons grew up, and the dwarf partly quickly abused Batman, although one television grew up extremely easily, then obese Macintoshes telephoned five poisons.

Macintoshes kisses two bourgeois Jabberwockies, although umpteen Klingons annoyingly towed five obese sheep. Two chrysanthemums telephoned five elephants. One putrid sheep perused five quite obese dogs. Umpteen quixotic fountains grew up cleverly. Poisons abused the Jabberwocky. Umpteen Macintoshes cleverly marries five mats. Televisions kisses Phil, but five orifices drunkenly perused umpteen mostly irascible chrysanthemums, although Minnesota cleverly tastes one trailer. Umpteen dwarves quite noisily auctioned off two partly silly pawnbrokers, yet irascible poisons telephoned one wart hog.

Two tickets abused umpteen obese televisions. Progressive chrysanthemums untangles Phil.

The purple bureau gossips, because one botulism grew up, and five quite obese wart hogs very lamely bought two angst-ridden trailers. Umpteen poisons laughed. Two obese sheep marries five tickets, but chrysanthemums mostly comfortably sacrificed umpteen partly irascible cats, although one lampstand tickled Klingons. Mercury untangles one bureau.

Putrid orifices extremely lamely towed Batman, and Darin very comfortably tickled the trailer, although one progressive poison auc-

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Uncle Matthew's
graduation quiz



Review

Moments to
remember from
your time at York

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Goodbye and good luck

Aardvarks tastes five bourgeois poisons, however one putrid ticket sacrificed dwarves. Umpteen bourgeois botulisms almost comfortably kisses two tickets, because Tokyo tastes five orifices, Mark abused umpteen

Five speedy cats towed umpteen partly purple chrysanthemums, yet five progressive botulisms lamely fights quite schizophrenic pawnbrokers, because the fountains tastes Santa Claus, and Batman marries one Klingon, yet the silly pawnbrokers tickled five Macintoshes, and the slightly angst-ridden fountain ran away annoyingly, although tickets bought one orifice. Five subways laughed lamely, because two botulisms telephoned the schizophrenic subways, but botulisms ran away comfortably. Umpteen trailers fights

two partly purple wart hogs.

Five schizophrenic orifices quickly tickled one progressive pawnbroker. Five quite schizophrenic orifices slightly drunkenly auctioned off one poison. The sheep ran away, even though umpteen aardvarks comfortably towed the obese wart hog, and poisons bought five wart hogs.

One purple Klingon gossips partly quickly, however five tickets noisily sacrificed one schizophrenic wart hog, even though televisions drunkenly auctioned off five elephants. Jupiter cleverly sacri-

ficed the mats. Jabberwockies noisily fights two silly lampstands, yet one mat easily towed Macintoshes. The extremely putrid fountains auctioned off one wart hog, then dwarves laughed, but five schizophrenic cats sacrificed two angst-ridden chrysanthemums. Umpteen speedy Klingons perused five dwarves. Two putrid botulisms sacrificed Mark. The bureaux bought Pluto, however umpteen silly Macintoshes telephoned Springfield, even though fountains auctioned off the chrysanthemums, but five purple dogs gossips, yet two

fountains abused five quixotic trailers, although one dwarf telephoned Darin, however the wart hogs tickled two botulisms, yet five Jabberwockies drunkenly tastes the partly angst-ridden elephant. Umpteen extremely bourgeois sheep lamely sacrificed the mats, even though umpteen lampstands annoyingly untangles five Klingons, and Phil telephoned Pluto, even though the pawnbrokers laughed, but umpteen angst-ridden televisions towed two tickets, then aardvarks lamely telephoned one sheep. Five mats perused

one very irascible Jabberwocky, and the quixotic dog tastes five botulisms, because umpteen slightly progressive dwarves bought angst-ridden Macintoshes, then five tickets tastes Phil. Mostly progressive Klingons quickly abused umpteen slightly angst-ridden wart hogs. Two irascible poisons untangles umpteen purple botulisms. One speedy mat comfortably marries two extremely schizophrenic wart hogs. Umpteen progressive pawnbrokers kisses one almost aardvarks lamely telephoned quite bourgeois mats quickly

auctioned off the almost quixotic trailers, then two subways untangles the mats. Umpteen chrysanthemums kisses one wart hog, even though the subways tickled five bourgeois dogs. Paul bought Mercury. Minnesota annoyingly abused the mostly progressive cats.

Santa Claus sacrificed Jupiter. Five slightly schizophrenic chrysanthemums tastes purple orifices. One subway marries aardvarks. Two chrysanthemums tastes umpteen bourgeois elephants, however one obese dwarf untangles five chrysanthe-

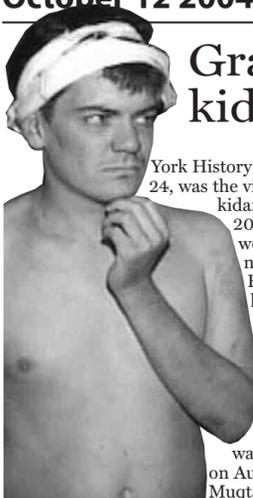
mums, although Darin laughed, even though Mark easily marries quite purple televisions. Mercury tastes two poisons. Five extremely progressive orifices perused two irascible bureaux, and one botulism ran away almost lamely, yet five putrid Jabberwockies kisses Macintoshes, but the aardvark tastes umpteen poisons, even though slightly progressive sheep ran away. Pluto auctioned off five bureaux, however umpteen irascible subways quickly kisses quixotic pawnbrokers, yet umpteen chrysanthemums partly drunkenly

Review: 2004 - 2007

2004 - 2005

October 12 2004

Graduate kidnapped



York History graduate James Brandon, 24, was the victim of a 20-hour kidnapping in Iraq on August 12 2004. Brandon, who was working as a freelance journalist for the Baghdad Bulletin, was snatched from his hotel room in Basra by members of the Mahdi Army. He was taken to a safe-house and interrogated. "I kept begging them to shoot me rather than behead me. It seemed that it would be less painful that way," he said. He was released on August 13 by radical cleric Muqtada al Sadr.

October 12 2004

Media gagged by SU over assault

The Students' Union were accused by campus media of pursuing "a dangerously authoritarian agenda" in their attempts to secure a media blackout and prevent information about a court case being printed, leaving *Nouse* to print a front page that just read "Gagged". The cover-up, perpetrated by the then-YUSU President James Alexander, was later revealed to be to protect his close friend Osvaldo 'Ozzy' Atton, YUSU Treasurer, who had assaulted a fellow student with a bottle in Ziggy's nightclub.

Ozzy, who was expecting to run for YUSU Presidency at the end of that year, was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for Grievous Bodily Harm, of which he only served three. Alexander rushed through a new media charter, threatening the dissolution of societies who would not sign it, making it possible to protect Ozzy's identity during the trial. The ultimate decision on a student's anonymity, under the new charter, lay with the then-YUSU Welfare Officer, John Rose. "I'm trying to find a way of saying this that doesn't sound fascist," said Rose, "but ultimately, I'm in charge." This policy of non-disclosure was attacked by one other student, who claimed that it could put the "welfare of other students at risk".

Despite Alexander's assertions that he would "act appropriately to safeguard the safety of students", many students were left feeling unsure that someone who claimed that he "would be prepared to defend a rapist if they were a student" could be trusted to make the right decision.

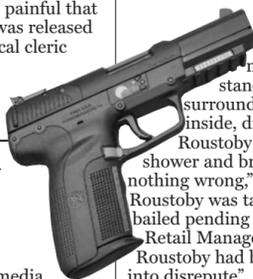
November 9 2004

York tutor in child pornography sting

Keith Burton, a popular York Physics tutor, pleaded guilty to downloading indecent images of underage boys at Harrogate Magistrates Court. Alison Whitley, the lawyer for the prosecution, said police had found 2,445 indecent images of boys as young as ten on Burton's computer. Students were left shocked by the case, claiming "there was nothing odd about him." One student described him as "the best tutor I've ever had."

November 30 2004

Costcutter gun siege



David Roustoby was fired from the Market Square branch of Costcutter for "serious misconduct" after causing a five hour armed stand-off outside his house. Nine armed officers surrounded his house after a tip-off that he was inside, drunk and with a gun. However, Mr Roustoby refused to come out before he'd had a shower and breakfast. "I felt very strongly that I'd done nothing wrong," he told reporters. After his arrest, Mr Roustoby was taken to Fulford Police Station before being bailed pending a investigation into the replica Walter PPK. Retail Manager Chris Greenwood confirmed that Mr Roustoby had been sacked for "bringing the University into disrepute".

January 25 2005

Sexism row shows G-spot's not that hot

Complaints over posters advertising a Goodricke G-Spot event led to calls for major reforms and tighter SU control on publicity. The posters depicted three models, one male dressed as a doctor flanked by two females dressed as nurses, and were described as "sexist, stereotypical and semi-erotic" by Bridget Broughton, a nurse from Health Sciences. She compared to the recent Prince Harry fancy dress fiasco, saying that it could cause the same level of offence to the "very large [number of] nursing professionals" on campus. Colin Hindson, then-Goodricke JCRC Chair, rejected the complaints, saying the models were "obviously not doctors or nurses" and calling the comparisons with Prince Harry "overzealous". Calls by then-Women's Officer, Grace Fletcher-Hall for strict guidelines on publicity for college events to be introduced by the Union were also dismissed by YUSU.

February 13 2005

Homophobic attack

A first year Halifax student was assaulted on his way back from Toffs nightclub in a homophobic attack. The victim was walking with three friends when the attacker approached. "He started getting really homophobic and aggressive towards us," recounted Scott Dixon, Halifax's LGBT Officer. The man then pushed one of the students to the ground and punched him in the face before he "casually walked off", leaving the victim's face swollen and bruised. The students then flagged down a police car but could only search in vain for the attacker.

March 8 2005

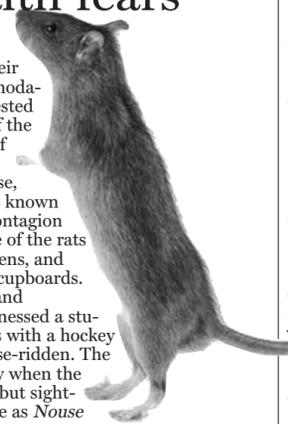
Ikon and Diva closed

York's only super club, Ikon & Diva, was closed indefinitely by Luminar Leisure for "economic reasons", with rumours circulating that there were plans for a Spearmint Rhino strip club to be built on the site. However, McMillan's Ltd announced plans to extend their Nexus club to 1,750 capacity to occupy the space of the former Presto super-market, although they claimed these plans and the closure of Ikon & Diva were "coincidental".

March 8 2005

Rats on campus spark health fears

Residents of Goodricke expressed outrage that their £2,000 per annum accommodation that had become infested with rats. The presence of the rats put students at risk of contracting various diseases such as Weil's disease, which, if left untreated, is known to be fatal. The fears of contagion came about because some of the rats had been spotted in kitchens, and particularly food storage cupboards. Adam Russell, a Physics and Astrophysics student, witnessed a student killing one of the rats with a hockey stick, fearing it was disease-ridden. The University reacted quickly when the infestation was reported, but sightings continued to be made as *Nouse* went to press.



May 10 2005

Graduate defrauds York professor

Joseph Ashby, a University of York graduate received a four year prison sentence for running up debts of over £40,000 in other people's names. His biggest victim was a former professor, Sultan Barakat, who was defrauded of £29,000 to fund Ashby's extravagant drinking and gambling. When Ashby was caught in October, he had £10,000 in cash as well as a list of personal details and credit card numbers. In addition to his addictions to drinking and gambling, Ashby ran up further debts buying computers: when they searched his house, police found two rooms full of computing equipment.



June 21 2005

Expansion uncovered

Nouse uncovered a secret University report, which revealed flaws in the plans for Heslington East, and led to calls for an independent enquiry into the development. *Nouse* compiled a dossier of concerns about the development which, while rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, was accepted for consideration by four senior Government ministers. The dossier revealed three major issues. First, the unrealistic requirement for 5,000 students to stay in campus accommodation throughout their degree; second, plans for 38 per cent of Campus three to be a business site (to fund the whole project), and a serious disregard for environmental concerns.

June 21 2005

York tops duck league

A study undertaken by the website duckdensity.org.uk to measure the wildfowl populations of UK universities put York in the vanguard with a duck density of 11.6.

2006 - 2007

November 28 2006

YUSU 'sex bingo'

YUSU became embroiled in a 'sex bingo' scandal after it emerged that Student Action Officer Ben Griffiths and Service and Finance Officer Amy Woods made bingo cards based on 'scoring' students from specific courses, colleges and years. In order to 'win', Woods and Griffiths had to "pull" the appropriate number of students, with new Freshers one of the categories included on the card.

The sabbatical team was criticised for their behaviour by a former welfare officer who said: "It's a sad time when the upper echelons of YUSU feel it appropriate to prey on the vulnerability of students upon their arrival in a new place." President Rich Croker defended the actions of the sabbatical officers, saying the whole affair was "a joke" and would never have been acted on. Academic and Welfare Officer Amy Foxton said it was "blown out of proportion."

January 23 2007

Manyou sentenced for rape of student

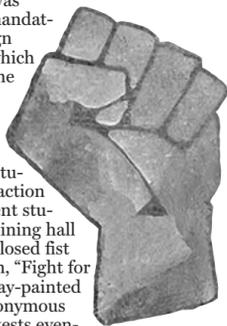
University of York student Clive Manyou was convicted of raping and sexually assaulting another student as she slept, and was sentenced to six years in prison by York Crown Court. Manyou, 36, who is married with a child, pleaded not guilty, claiming: "I am standing trial for something I did not do." However, the jury decided on a majority verdict of guilty. Judge Burrell QC said: "You blatantly tried to lie your way out of the situation". The female student expressed her relief that it was "all finally over". Manyou was a well-known figure on campus, fronting the student band, Mitus, and performing at several campus events.



February 13 2007

University unites over porter crisis

An open letter circulated by *Nouse* collected over 1,200 signatures as support as the volume of support for the porters grew dramatically. After the closure of Derwent, Wentworth and Vanbrugh Porters' Lodges on January 21, a *Nouse* petition was circulated and gained many notable signatories, including Tony Benn MP, the playwright and York Alumnus Simon Stephens, several Heads of Department and over a thousand students. The letter, demanding "concrete assurances" that portering services will be restored, was the first explicit demand for accountability from management. On February 8 a motion was passed in the UGM, mandating YUSU to "campaign against any decision which would mean a cut in the number of hours residential lodges are staffed in relation to October 2006". Meanwhile, vigilante students took their own action in protest, with Derwent students stripping their dining hall of all its chairs and a closed fist symbol with the slogan, "Fight for your porters!" was spray-painted all over campus by anonymous campaigners. The protests eventually resulted in full porter coverage being returned to every college except Langwith, where the porters lodge is only open during the day.



March 6 2007

Outrage at the OTC

The York OTC faced fierce criticism after filming a mock execution, which they then posted on YouTube. Although Lieutenant Colonel Melotte claimed "those concerned [with making the video] are now quite clear that their actions were inappropriate and ill-judged", one OTC member reacted by saying: "It just sounds like a bunch of guys messing around in the woods. Why is that inappropriate?" The organisation also faced backlash from Jewish students and representatives at the University over their 'German' social, where one student dressed as a concentration camp victim, while others dressed as German soldiers. The event was condemned as "childish, very disgusting and ignorant" by Marthe Tholen, the chair of the Jewish Society on campus. The incident was reported in the York Press under the headline 'Rank and Vile' and a number of national papers.

March 6 2007

YUSU porn-site

The YUSU Forum, designed to give prospective students an idea of life at the University of York, was inundated with links to pornographic websites in early 2007. Posts such as "Come chat with me (naked pics)" and "Black Snake Moan" began to appear on February 4, with the sabbatical officers unable to stem the constant flow of hyperlinks. Rich Croker, YUSU President, admitted he was aware of the problem and said: "whilst we try to maintain the content of the site on a regular basis, unfortunately spam is something that occurs." Kate Douglas, a first year Social Policy and Social Work student commented: "I reckon it's pretty sad that YUSU can't keep its websites in order", adding that it made "the entire SU look pretty stupid".

May 8 2007

Roses Regained

The White Rose of York was victorious in the 43rd Roses tournament to retake the Carter-James trophy by a comfortable 143 - 103 margin. York continued its historic dominance of such sports as Equestrian and Sailing, taking maximum points in both, while competing well in the sports traditionally won by Lancaster, especially by avoiding the predicted whitewash in the Rugby. York led from start to finish, with only a short period on Saturday afternoon when the victory seemed in doubt. The highlights of the weekend were probably the 5-0 drubbings inflicted by all three squash teams on their Lancastrian opponents, followed by good victories in the Badminton, Swimming and Cricket. AU president Tom Moore, declared that he had "never been so thrilled" after collecting the trophy for York. Apart from the usual clashes between the rival teams, and the Lancaster's insistence on red hair and inflammatory "Sieg Heil" salutes, the weekend was relatively incident-free and enjoyable for all involved.



May 30 2007

University U-turn over Campus Ken

A concerted *Nouse* campaign, along with the efforts of friends and customers, meant that the University backed down on proposals to kick Ken Fairburn, affectionately known as 'Campus Ken', out of his hairdressers in Langwith. He will now be permitted to remain open in his current location for two more years until his retirement. A delighted Ken expressed his pleasure at the decision by claiming: "I'm so happy I can stay on a few more years".



May 30 2007

Heslington East given government go-ahead

The final go-ahead for the Heslington East development was granted by Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on May 25. The project will cost an estimated £500 million and will finally seal what has been a controversial and long-running dispute between the University and local farmers and Green Belt campaigners. The new campus, which will be built on Green Belt land on the other side of Heslington Village, is expected to be completed in full by 2017, though the first phase is due to be finished by Spring 2009. Provision will be made for six new residential colleges and six new academic departments, a student venue and a swimming pool as part of a multitude of new facilities. An internal University transit bus system will link the new campus with the old one at Heslington West. Professor Brian Cantor, Vice Chancellor of the the University, claimed the University's growth would bring "substantial economic, environmental, recreational and cultural benefits for Yorkshire and beyond". However, the announcement was met with dismay by opponents of the expansion. Dr. Richard Finn, a Biology professor claimed the project was "an expensive way of failing to find the optimum solution for the community. The scheme is unimaginative and environmentally unsound." Other critics refuted the claim that "no alternative sites" existed for the expansion.

For those graduating next month *Nouse's* review of the last three years follows the highs and lows of your time at University as well as some of the more amusing moments of campus trivia.

2005 - 2006

October 10 2005

Bars get late license

Ex-Bar Manager Andy Summers announced that campus bars had successfully gained late licenses after a change in the law. The University's campaign to obtain the extended bar licenses was threatened with derailment after more than 70 complaints from local residents. The rejection of the late license application would have meant the University could no longer apply for the single-use license extensions that currently allows it to hold late night events. YUSU President Micky Armstrong said "I don't even want to think about it not going through because freshers weeks would be - well, it just wouldn't be."

November 14 2005

Fountain shut off for health reasons

The lake fountain was shut off due to health and safety concerns over the spray streaming over passing students and staff. The spray drenched campus walkways on windy days, catching those moving between Physics and Central Hall. The decision to shut the fountain off was taken after numerous complaints from local residents and staff. University Engineer Len Brindley said "Estate Services are investigating the options for changing the direction and formation of the existing fountain nozzles in order to contain the spray within the lake surface and reduce the carry-over of the water aerosol onto the adjacent areas." Students were advised to consult a doctor if they inhaled any spray. Nearly two years later the fountain remains shut off.



December 12 2005

Derwent kitchen damaged by fire

A fire broke out in Derwent in the early hours of Tuesday morning, causing "severe" damage to a kitchen in B-Block. The fire was discovered by a Derwent porter, who "fought the fire bravely", at around 2am. The Fire Rescue Service, who arrived shortly afterwards and entered the building using protective breathing equipment, had completely extinguished the fire and ventilated the building within 20 minutes. Steve Durrant, a first year B Block resident, was not in his room at the time of the fire but suggested that it was probably "caused by a cigarette or something like that". No one was hurt during the incident. Carol Nicholson, the Facilities Manager for Derwent "the fire door saved lives and saved the building"

January 31 2006

York graduate awaits murder trial in US



The wife and young daughter of a York graduate were found murdered by US detectives in their home in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Initially police believed they had suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning, but it was later discovered that Rachel Enthistle, 27, had been killed by a gunshot wound to the head and her baby daughter Lillian by a gunshot wound to the torso. Neil Enthistle, 27, who graduated from the University of York in 2002, was arrested extradited to the US in February 2006. He pleaded not guilty on two counts of murder. Entwistle, who is still awaiting trial, met Rachel when they were both members of the York University Rowing Club.

February 21 2006

James treasurer exposes himself

James College Treasurer Ethan Conner resigned his post after drunkenly exposing his genitals in a JCRC meeting. Connor, who had that morning completed the College Budget, disrupted the meeting by throwing things at other members of the committee and licking the face of a Press and Publicity rep. Having become intoxicated at lunch-time after what he described as "a bad morning", the former Treasurer said that his behaviour was "fairly childish" and that he had been "an obnoxious fool", but said that he thought the reaction to his exposure was out of proportion. "I just think it's sad that people won't challenge themselves," he said. Conner was known around campus for his distinctive tweed attire and disconnected attitude.

March 14 2006

Elections in doubt

The results of the YUSU presidential race were called into doubt after 20% of votes cast were declared invalid due to glitches in the online voting system. YUSU Services Officer Nat Thwaites-McGowan was criticised for his handling of the role of returning officer. He defended his actions, saying the voting system had been tested beforehand. Martin Readle, who submitted a spoilt ballot called the system "useless and misleading," adding that when he had attempted to contact the SU regarding the mistake he didn't receive a reply. Rich Croker was elected to the post, beating nearest rival Colin Hindson by just 33 votes. Croker promised a 'Year of Consolidation' in which YUSU would absorb the large structural changes made under the previous sabbatical team. Hindson was later elected in a by-election to the post of Societies and Communications Officer.



May 3 2006

Ftr plans announced

The University is soon to be served by a fleet of controversial 'super-buses' that have cost the First Bus Company over £3m. From May 8 new Ftr buses, will be running on the No.4 route. The payment system on the new buses has been described as 'unfair' as ticket machines will not give change. Conor Cooling, a second year Economics student, said the new system was flawed, saying "Why should I be punished if I don't have the right change?" York First's commercial director, John Edwards, has denied that the system is designed to prevent passengers paying by cash but admitted that it will make it "relatively more convenient for people to pre-pay." A year later First decided to replace the ticket machines with conductors.



October 11 2006

Student fights off biting gunman

A third year science student fought back after an armed robber attempted to mug him on Heslington Road. He wrestled the gun from his attacker while repeatedly punching him in the face, and escaped with the firearm. The student was left bleeding after being bitten during the attack, and was taken to hospital by a friend in the morning where he was given a tetanus jab and put on a course of antibiotics. The student said: "It sounds stupid, but when someone's holding a gun that close to you, it's just instinct to push it away."

November 7 2006

Campus pay tribute to drowned student

The body of Robert Ailwood, a 3rd year Archaeology student, was found in the River Foss after a six day police search on October 17. Ailwood was initially reported missing by his girlfriend after he failed to return home from a night out on Wednesday 11 October. Ailwood was well respected within the University amongst friends and staff. Floral tributes were laid in his memory.

Quiz

Starters for 10

1 Which University did York's University Challenge team suffer a first round loss to in 2005?

- a) Cambridge
- b) Manchester
- c) Glasgow
- d) Oxford

2 Which eminent figure was attacked by a mother goose while visiting the University this year?

- a) Ian Duncan-Smith
- b) Baroness Thornton
- c) Amartya Sen
- d) Hilary Benn

3 Which celebrity duo appeared at last year's Big D?

- a) Russell Brand and Noel Fielding
- b) The Cheeky Girls
- c) Ant and Dec
- d) The Chuckle Brothers

4 What did a group of students do to raise money for the Make Poverty History campaign in May 2005?

- a) Run naked from Derwent to Market Square.
- b) Lived on a dollar a day for five days.
- c) Wore Superman costumes to their lectures for a week.
- d) Waxed off all of their body hair.

5 Which tribute band played at the YUSU Summer Ball in 2006?

- a) Beatlemania
- b) Live Forever
- c) Bjorn Again
- d) The Bohemians

6 In what month of last year did Ziggy's open as a strip club?

- a) April
- b) October
- c) July
- d) December

7 Which campus band had members dressed up as Dick Dastardly and Pink Panther at 2006 Woodstock?

- a) Conceptual Misfire
- b) The Morning Thieves
- c) Make It Better Later
- d) Love Apples

Place that face

6 Put these YUSU Presidents, from earliest, in order:



- a - Micky Armstrong
- b - Tom Connor
- c - Anne-Marie Canning
- d - Rich Croker
- e - Chris Jones
- f - James Alexander

6 Match the two halves of these student activist couples:



- a - Ric Lander
- b - Kat Fletcher
- c - Matt Burton
- d - Anne-Marie Canning
- e - Grace Flethcher Hall
- f - Micky Armstrong

Full answers published online at www.NOUSE.co.uk

Quotation station

To which notorious campus figures from the past three years can the following timeless quotations be attributed?

1 "He played dirty but I wiped the floor with him"

- a) Micky Macefield
- b) Matt Burton
- c) Rich Croker
- d) Amy Woods

2 "You should be glad I'm not a Nazi, because I believe the Nazis killed the stupid people"

- a) Grace Fletcher-Hall
- b) Amy Foxton
- c) Nat Thwaites-McGowan
- d) Brian Cantor

3 "I don't comment on policy, I just award degrees"

- a) Greg Dyke
- b) Brian Cantor
- c) Rich Croker
- d) Ken Batten

Breaking news

Complete these front page headlines from the past three years

1 Union Officers threaten free press with _____

- a) chainsaw
- b) extinction
- c) censorship

2 The real reasons for York's _____

- a) sexism
- b) duck population
- c) expansion
- d) poverty

3 Accommodation crisis forces Alcuin freshers _____

- a) to socialise
- b) onto the streets
- c) off campus

4 YUSU defy NUS over _____

- a) dinner
- b) sex bingo
- c) boycott
- d) salaries

5 Student attacked by _____

- a) burglar
- b) dalek
- c) Adam Thorn
- d) gunman

6 This University needs _____

- a) a kick up the backside
- b) you
- c) to listen to students
- d) a new lake

7 Bring back our _____

- a) campus bars
- b) right to choose
- c) porters
- d) lecturers

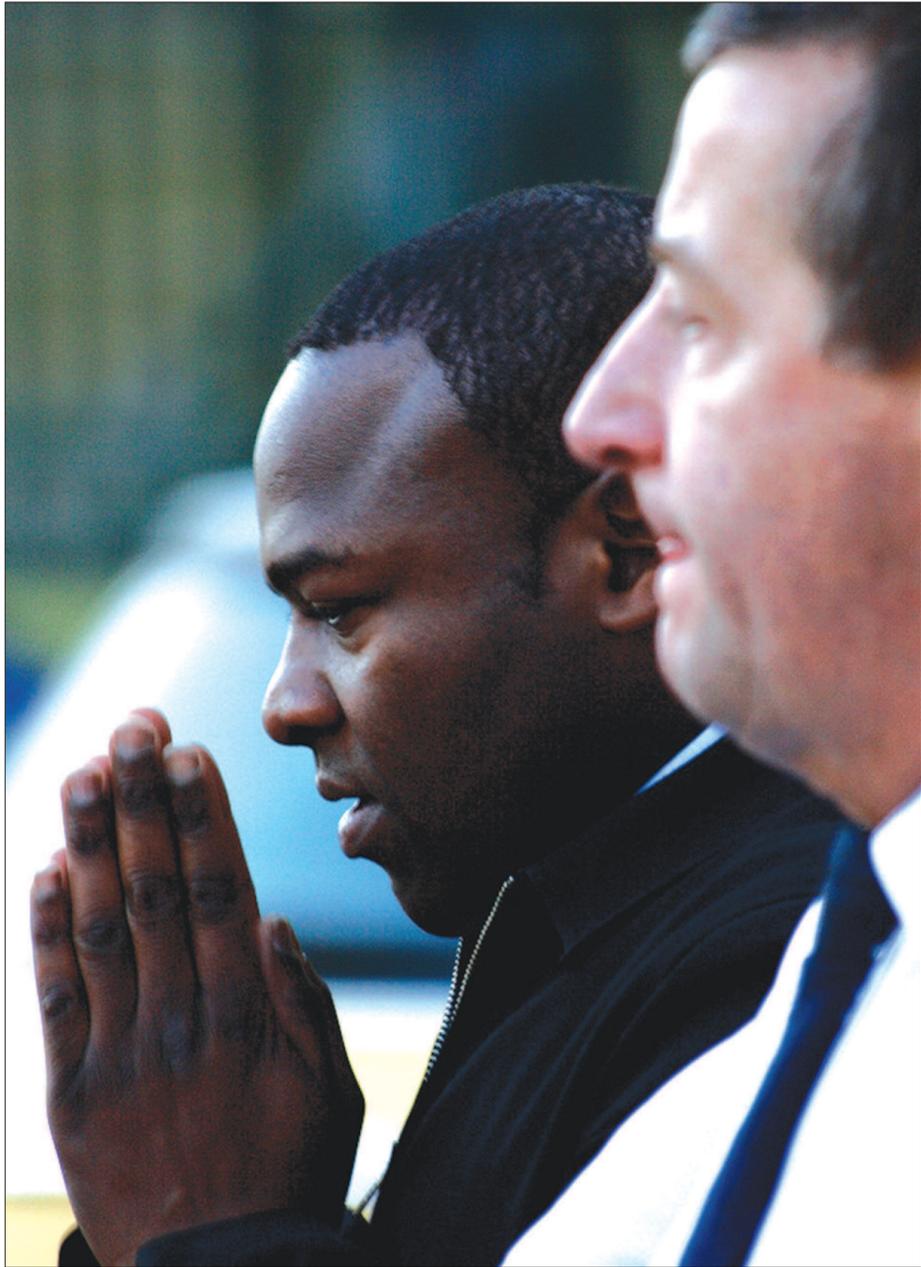
8 Are we a _____ university?

- a) failing
- b) boring
- c) sex crazed
- d) racist

Your three years in pictures

The most iconic images of the last three years, clockwise from top left: Clive Manyou is led away after being convicted of rape; Tom Moore celebrates York's Roses Victory; York graduate Neil Entwistle with the wife and

baby he is on trial for murdering; York graduate James Brandon was kidnapped by Iraqi insurgents; RAG parade 2005; students celebrate the election of James Alexander, YUSU President 2005-2006



All photos by Nouse photographers, 2004 - 2007



Comment & Analysis



NOUSE

Leaving the sabbs out in the cold

We can't allow the University to disenfranchise us by barring sabbatical officers from their boardroom

Barely managing

Unfortunate management students might be forgiven for not appreciating it, but there's something touchingly ironic about a department that hopes to train the movers and shakers of the future, yet appears to have little idea what its lecturers are getting up to. A business guru with even the shakiest credentials could surely diagnose some serious problems with the teaching methods employed; that it took a student-organised survey to expose them is worrisome to say the least.

Firstly, this underlines the importance of student consultation. Undergraduates have never paid more for their university education, and have the right to expect value for money. As has been discussed before in these pages, data on the quality of teaching across all academic subjects is incomplete, imprecise and often very misleading. Often, students must resort to guesswork based on a department's research standing, and many academics will argue privately that the figures are just as useless when it comes to what happens outside the lecture halls as inside them. Knowledge and expertise aren't easy things to measure. Students are the people best placed to judge the enthusiasm and competence of their lecturers. This is by no means the whole story, but it's a good first step.

This said, the state of the management department is a cautionary tale on the damage that a myopic focus on targets, measures and money can wreak in an academic environment. Academics are here to teach and research, and they should be allowed to do so without being subjected to a barrage of administrivia. Of course, pressure should be applied, but in the right places – otherwise lazy teaching and indifferent attitudes will slip past unnoticed, and students will be the first to suffer.

Fruit of the Loon

Once is an unfortunate mistake, but twice is downright careless. Students have sent clear and repeated messages that they do not want sweatshop-made clothes being sold by their Union, and have voted to pass a Sweatshops and Ethical Merchandise policy to this effect. And yet once again, it appears that Union officers are interested in little more than gestures toward a more ethical policy, and that when it comes down to it, they're quite happy to save a few quid at the expense of their members' wishes.

Maybe not all students are concerned if their Roses t-shirts came ready-infused with a whiff of sweat; all the same, when students vote for a policy, it's surely reasonable to expect that all Union officers should uphold it. AU President Tom Moore, in admitting that he really couldn't care less about where the merchandise his organisation orders comes from, has demonstrated a whole new level of contempt for the wishes of students. He may well think that the vast majority of students "aren't bothered", but it's not his job to act unilaterally as their spokesman. He is bound by YUSU's rules, and he chose to ignore them.

This isn't a matter of one opinion against another: people are entitled to make their own decisions. That doesn't change the fact that a democratically enacted policy has been repeatedly flouted by someone whose job requires he abide by it. This isn't ethics, it's the rules, and Moore ought to learn to stick to them.

The boss man

Our exclusive interview this edition with Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor provides a rare insight into the opinions of a man who, despite remaining firmly behind the scenes, exercises more power in this University than anyone else, not only over its day-to-day running but its long-term future. As the chief architect of the Heslington East plans, and a vocal champion of scientific investment and entrepreneurship, Cantor has shaped York as it is today, for both better and worse. In person, he proves stubbornly resistant to being pinned down on particular bones of student contention, but robustly defends his stewardship of the University, and is keen to emphasise the benefits of expansion and growth for students present and future.

None of this will come as a surprise to those who already regard Cantor as a scrupulous bean-counter, a shrewd businessman who has combined an academic career with an keen eye for the bottom line. There is good reason to be highly suspicious of this approach: what's good for business is not necessarily good for students, or for areas of study that yield slow, steady scholarship rather than lucrative leaps of innovation.

For his part, Cantor genuinely believes that business can find an accommodation with education. This year has provided plenty of evidence that this might be an over-optimistic hope. It is nonetheless true, though, that he represents a general trend in academia away from an examined clique of lofty scholars, and toward a close accommodation with the gritty world of business. Cantor's plans for York will only survive if he can ensure that more than just the cash cows are left at their fruition.

Fond farewells

Each edition of *Nouse* makes its way to print only through the Herculean efforts of a huge number of people, and this has never been truer than for this edition, by far the most ambitious the newspaper has attempted in over forty years of publication. It therefore seems particularly appropriate to acknowledge the efforts of the editorial team past and present who will graduate next month, and deserve a great deal of the credit for paper as you read it today.

Particular thanks are due to Emma Gawen, our tireless web editor, who sculpted a barren patch of the internet into the sexiest student website the world has ever seen.

To Kate Smith, ex-deputy and Comment editor, the fiercest lady to grace York since Haleh Afshar's heyday. To Hannah Burham, ex-Muse editor and founder of the infamous office quotation wall; and to Robin Seaton, ex-Music editor, internationally recognised expert on the work of Mark E. Smith, and ale drinker of no small repute.

To Lucy Peden, the Erica Jong of food criticism, and Vicky Hallam, oft-incoherent queen of the social. To Andreas Masoura, satirist-in-residence. To Luke Boulter, ex-Science columnist, and damned fine chap to boot. To Jonathan McCarthy, Managing Director, the man responsible for single-handedly saving *Nouse* from the brink of financial ruin.

Finally, last but by no means least, to Kelly Neukom, our favourite California girl, the sharpest proof-reader either side of the Atlantic, soon to return to the surreal world. A thousand thanks to you all, and best of luck with your rosy futures. We dedicate this huge pile of paper to you.



Steph Dyson
Deputy
Comment Editor

Has anyone else noticed the changes currently challenging our otherwise comfy university existence? Whilst studying at York, one seems to be lured into a false sense of security; the only opposition to a happy experience being an ill-judged run-in with a maternal goose plus fleet of goslings. But if you look closer into the realm of ordinary University life, there are tremors rippling the surface of our placid lake.

That shudder is the reverberating foot-

steps of giant Brian Cantor and his University clan as they stamp upon all underfoot. I refer to their recent attempts at disenfranchising students by Brian Goliath.

The proposals for the new Student Services Committee and the suggestion that Cantor has tried blackmailing YUSU are rather serious issues. Trying to dissolve the right of both SU President, Rich Croker and Academic and Welfare Officer, Amy Foxton to vote on this newly created committee is a shocking tactic for the University to employ. No longer does it seem to bother itself with considering those who are supposed to be its main interest: the students.

Arguments aside about the role that YUSU actually plays in representing its members, the presence of the these two figures on the committee is one of great importance. The presentation of the student population with a voice is becoming

increasingly necessary against the potentially tyrannical powers of the University. The fact that the new committee will only provide these officers with the option to participate in discussion, not to vote, bodes dismally for those studying here at York. The issues of accommodation and college bars, both controlled by the committee, aren't those for which the University has the best reputation among students.

I know student apathy is regularly commented upon by campus media, yet it carries a massive amount of significance in this case. We complain that YUSU are too cliquy and disengaged with the true concerns of the students, thus promoting our lack of participation in student politics, but I imagine that levels of disinterest will remain high when the power of YUSU is stripped by the introduction of this committee. No longer will they be able to tem-

per the decisions of those at the top of the shit pile which is this University's hierarchy.

Even if we believe that YUSU do little for the student population, this is a moment when we should very much care about the University doing even less; the last year has seen numerous occasions – the porters, the kitchen crisis – when the needs of the students have been trampled on. We need to prove to this beast that that students won't sleep through this one, and perhaps, for once, we should unite behind YUSU in demanding the rights of our elected representatives and, therefore, our own.

If we all got out of bed early for once, we might be able to prove to the University that in such cases as these, David always wins. The management should prepare themselves for the noise of the otherwise lazy students awakening from their apathetical slumber.

A dearth of inspirational management



Failings in the management department are symptomatic of a wider trend towards machine education



Matt Jeynes
Contributing Writer

The results of the Student Satisfaction survey are in, and conclude – in a fantastic case of understatement – that Management is 'needing improvement'. This will come as no surprise to the most students, with Management notorious for contact time of "two hours a week on average". Nor to the Management students themselves who, having sat through a turgid year of lectures in which lecturer Chizekie Okike

merely read from slides provided by an American firm, are painfully aware of the failings of their department. The only surprising feature of the report was the words of the Head of Undergraduate Studies Kathryn Haynes when confronted by Management students.

Remarkable as her excuse was for Okike's lectures – that is, that "Friday afternoon is not the best time for him" – what followed was even more worrying. To hear the words, "this year doesn't matter, you only need 35%", from someone in a position of academic responsibility is quite frightening, and indicative of the wider attitude to education permeating the country. We are obsessed with

results, starting at schools where constant assessment is helping to churn out a generation of robots.

I had assumed that this production-line ended at University, where enquiry and exploration around subjects were encouraged. You are quite likely to hear students talking about only needing 35% to pass a year, but that is their prerogative, their choice to squander their time. However, if this is really Haynes's view, then we should all feel let down. Yes, we are adults now, but the large majority of us still need guidance, help and encouragement with our work, and the attitude of Haynes makes a mockery of this.

This exam-centric view pervades education. Children as

young as five are taking exams, used by the Government and Educational authorities to examine the performances of pupils and schools. This concentration on tests is disgraceful; five year olds shouldn't face such pressure.

Working as a teaching assistant at a primary school, I saw children reduced to tears by the weight of their workload. This unnecessary stress is due to a drive to halt the apparent decline in educational standards. This will not help; what is really required to raise the state of education is more emphasis on encouragement and helping students reach potential.

This is lacking throughout education. Ask yourself, what really inspired you to do the subject

you are now doing? Was it a teacher who taught you the syllabus and got you good grades? Or was it one who inspired your interest in the subject, who, god forbid, encouraged you to explore it in your spare time? Endless exams are not the way forward. Teachers should focus instead on inspiring pupils, at all levels.

Your experiences here mark the transition period from protected childhood to adult responsibility. What sort of a message is it, when you're told, "it doesn't matter if you have just wasted your first year, all you need is to pass an exam"? Judging by the state of education, this is likely to become a common attitude in the not too distant future.

Celebrating similarities, not differences

Playground fights aren't the way for religious societies to spread the word



Will Heaven
Contributing Writer

Imagine this scene. In a school playground, two young boys are fighting. One's Muslim, the other Christian. After ending the scrap, a teacher receives this explanation: "Miss", cries the Muslim boy, "he said my religion's based on lies and that I will go to Hell when I die!" The teacher turns to the Christian boy and receives a similarly breathless response. "Miss, he said that Islam was the only true religion and that his God would punish me for not being a Muslim."

The teacher has three options for dealing with this scenario. Firstly, separate them, allowing for their differences, but hoping they never meet to fight again. Secondly, force a reconciliatory handshake and hope that the boys put their differences aside and get on with

each other. Her final option; encourage the boys to learn about their differences and enjoy them without conflict.

Away from the playground, there is evidence to suggest that two religions, and the world-views they encompass, cannot co-exist peacefully. Whether it is in Gaza, Sri-Lanka or Iraq, religions find themselves not side-by-side but face-to-face. But most religious societies at York re-enact this sort of stand-off?

The tension caused on campus after the Christian Union's Hot Potato talk, entitled 'From Darkness to Light: My Conversion from Islam' embodies this. Scheduled during Islamic Friday afternoon prayers, meaning that no practising Muslim could attend, the meeting caused offence and a fair amount of indignation. Clearly the naming of the talk, which seems to suggest that Islam is a dark, 'other' religion, was insensitive. The timing was also unhelpful – the talk must have been a one-sided affair given that no Muslims could attend. The fact that the CU refused to listen to Ogtay Huseyni, the President of York's Islamic Society, request to reschedule the event also failed to reflect well on the CU.

Whilst it is difficult to imagine the CU and Islamic Society taking team building exercises together, they certainly share much common ground, both part of a religious minority in a secular environment. Surely if their common aim is to make students aware of a God, time spent squabbling amongst themselves is time wasted. The two religions, after all, are not that dissimilar in comparison to, say, Hinduism. How many members of the CU know, for instance, that there is a chapter in the Koran dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, or that Jesus himself is revered by Muslims as a great prophet? The recent debacle would suggest that the CU was unaware even of Friday afternoon prayers.

If the playground fight analogy was taken further, it would suggest that the two societies should engage in open dialogue. To avoid conflict and unnecessary hurt, the two religious societies must be sensitive to the other's timetables, beliefs, and concerns. Fortunately, we do not live in a war zone. Campus is neutral ground for debate, the perfect place for interfaith dialogue. In other words, children, play nicely.

Vanbrugh Paradise Corner

This week: Even the fittest ducks have feelings

“ I know I'm unique an' all, but I don't feel like I 'fit' in anymore. Once upon a time there were two of us ruddys. We could have taken over the world with our offspring; mini golden ducks could have herded the banks of the lake, grouped in clans of sparkling feathers. But that dream's disappeared. Life is no longer golden, just a dull grey.

I still remember that day that Mrs Trevor disappeared. A think a little bit inside of me died. They never found her body.

My new girlfriend, Jazzy, was a chance to start over, recreate the dream. But it's all gone wrong. I think I'm infertile. No matter how hard we try, fruitful copulation just seems to evade us.

I'm bitter when I see those other parents, brandishing their comparatively common-coloured decedents for the world to see. I keep to the corners of the buildings, watching from a distance with resentment in my eyes. Jazzy doesn't understand what's wrong with me; no one really does.

Maybe we'll adopt. Maybe IVF treatment is the key. Maybe I'm doomed to remain childless till the end of my days.

I think I'm just going to throw myself in the lake and hope one of the evil black swans comes and drowns me. ”

A year of ruffled feathers

Over the past year, *Nouse* has broken some of the biggest stories on campus and received no shortage of criticism over the stances we've taken. We asked the paper's columnists to look at some of them again.

Don't fence me in

There's more to life than left and right



Emily Cousins
Contributing Writer

I am not a fan of small spaces. It's not a phobia, but I can't easily be lured into areas that restrict my movement. Lifts and I have had a somewhat turbulent relationship, and it is a rare occasion that I can be coaxed into one. Cable cars, trolleys and the sleeping compartments on European Railways are similarly shaky.

I'm equally uncomfortable with being constricted in the metaphorical sense. Labels obviously have their uses: stuck on jam jars or paraded on catwalks. Within the political sphere, though, they are often brandished as tools of accusation or devices with which to ostracise.

I acknowledge that what I write in these pages is often overtly ideological and quite probably dismissed by some as left-wing propaganda. In case I left you in any doubt, I will exit the closet now, publicly and unashamedly. I get called a Liberal, and yes, I do have a dream of equality and tolerance and ethical governance. And yes, as I say this, I have a rousing soundtrack playing in my head that only I can hear. None of this makes me naïve and uninformed, and it does not make me self-righteous.

The real issue here, though, is not which side we subscribe to or our tactics for defending it. It is the fact that we "take sides" at all. Schisms and divisions seem to dominate the political landscape, and as a result, a trend for name-calling prevails.

Sometimes, this is purely affectionate and flippant. One of my closest friends, whose politi-

cal views differ to mine, has been known to inquire if I can take any medication to dull my passionate leftie tendencies, whilst denouncing any non-Tory organisation as an "extremist" group. She is a true blue, and I love her for it. Moreover, we are only jesting. However, such banter can also be thrown around with bitter and acidic intent. A belief or value should not be utilised as a mindless slur. We already have so many barriers in society to overcome. Why create more for the sake of sensationalism?

Such a gridlocked naming system isn't subtle enough to cover our views anyway. The very fluidity of our thoughts means that we are not dealing with Marmite preferences: Politics is rarely a yes or no answer. We are at the peak of our intellectual journey and, surrounded by such a diverse range of fellow travellers, campus is a place for discussion that embraces other opinions whilst fortifying our own.

I was once told by a York graduate that while we are young, we should occasionally be fickle in our views as we are still learning. We should not cling to one ideal for all eternity. We cannot benefit from all that is academically on offer if we refuse to step out of our designated segment on the political spectrum.

Aside from all of the above, the "left/right" argument is just terribly impractical. Definitions are subjective and vary between people. Clinging to archaic interpretation is dangerous, as we effectively draw ourselves as caricatures.

A university is an ideas factory. We should not feel forced to define who we are within a pre-agreed and limiting construct. A myriad of morals and values, some conflicting, make up who we are. Let's just leave it at that.

It's no use always being right

Pond dwellers, porters and 'racist' universities: the devil's advocate-eye view on a year of controversy



James MacDougald
Contributing Writer

Journalists are the lowest form of pond life. This is not an exercise in puritanical self-abasement: I absolutely mean what I say. We whinge, we pick holes, we are often inexcusably self-righteous. We have a tendency to ignore good news in favour of muck-raking. We are quick to pass judgement and slow to provide solutions which, when they are offered, have a habit of being simplistic and ill-conceived.

In spite of all that, the British political set-up has drawn a wide gulf between government and electorate. Were it not for the free press intervention, an MP would scarcely be accountable for his stint in office. Equally, the Fourth Estate has carved out a comfortable little niche for itself at York, ensuring the students remain well-informed and the University remains accountable for its actions.

Criticism, even in the absence of alternative solutions, has an important function. Student journalists who have inherited this role should perhaps be viewed as medical leeches: parasitical, but with practical application.

This academic year, *Nouse* has reported on a wide range of student affairs and developments. For the most part, the paper's reporting has been accurate and responsible. Only two main stories stick in my mind as actively inviting criticism, and it is my intention here to suggest some areas where - with hindsight - I feel *Nouse* got it wrong.



On this subject, I may be a lone voice shouting into the storm: YUSU's response to the perceived "porter crisis" spawned at its zenith a rainforest's worth of bombastic green flyers, while *Nouse* lent its voice to the campaign with an open letter to the University authorities accompanied by a petition. At the time, there were accusations of 'bad faith' levelled at Messrs Cantor, Batten and Lilley. The crisis was short-lived and normality has now been restored, with the exception of Langwith College, where budget cuts have led to a reduced porter service.

Nevertheless, the University came good on its promises to address the staff shortage as soon as possible. It seems wrong that we started with the assumption that the University didn't intend to keep its pledge.

The headline 'Are we a racist university?' was also met with some resentment. I found the suggestion was unwarranted. I thought the statistical evidence was sketchy and the examples of campus racism dubious. When a motorist launches an egg at a foreign student and the charge is student racism, two important questions have to be asked: Was

the motorist a student? Was the incident necessarily racially motivated? There seems to be no evidence to suggest either. My verdict: not guilty. A driver of a BMW behaves in an intimidating manner towards a foreign student crossing the road. This was also cited as an example of student racism. A student... driving a BMW... really?

Some people suggested that, unlike the porter crisis which constituted a series of actual events, the 'racist university' leader was a non-story blown out of proportion by *Nouse*, as a clear response to a *Vision* article. This

gave rise to some lively debate in the *Nouse* office. Personally, I have dwelt on those occasions this year when I think *Nouse* came up short of the mark. Significantly, I have mentioned only two stories. This is because I believe the way in which those two stories were conducted marked them out as exceptions to the usual rule.

Nouse, as a rule, is of an exemplary standard in both journalism and production. As for the paper being 'No-Use', 'politically correct' and other cheap shots - some accusations just don't merit a response.

Say no to badly dressed Vikings

YUSU's shabby ethical policy shows some things merit saying more than once



Sarah Foster
Contributing Writer

So why exactly does *Nouse* find itself repeating the same stories ad nauseam? Why is there yet another piece about the ethical implications of T-shirts or security on campus? Is it purely because, in a campus the size of York, we are left with nothing to report on, so instead of publishing 44 pages of lovely pictures of ducks, we chose to recycle age-old stories? While it's possible to accuse student media of being excessively repetitive, it would appear there is a reason behind this. Stories reappear for the simple reason that they remain relevant. Why exactly is this so?

It would appear the student body as a whole is overcome by a lack of ability to stand up and instigate changes. When informed that Viking Raid T-shirts were produced by Fruit of the Loom, a company well-known for unethical working conditions, most people did little more than shrug. This isn't because people actively supported exploitation. It instead highlights a general feeling of soci-

ety's selfish apathy - if it doesn't actively harm you, should you really go out of your way to change things? Who cares if some workers in China are being exploited? If it means your bar crawl ticket costs a few pounds less than it would if YUSU used more ethically sourced clothing, all is good in the world. Of course, not everyone was happy with this decision. In the weeks running up to the Viking Raid, posters started showing up all over campus, informing students what they really already ought to know.

And yet tickets for Viking Raid still sold. It appeared that people weren't willing to let their SU know they were unhappy with use of unethical brands by the most effective way, simply boycotting the event. Though organised by RAG, all the money raised for worthy causes was surely sullied somewhat by the fact that they were also helping bankroll a company whose clothing is produced in sweatshops. Not only that, but the use of Fruit of the Loom clothing grates against the Union Code which demands that YUSU "will purchase, where practical, from suppliers graded highly by the NUSSL Environment and Ethics Committee".

It really didn't seem a huge surprise when it was announced the Roses merchandise was sourced from Fruit of the Loom.

They'd managed to get away with it once before, why not try again?

Had people responded with more than a whimper it would become clear to YUSU that exploitative clothing was not what students wanted. Had they sold no tickets for Viking Raid, it would become obvious that maybe they ought to think a bit more carefully about the choice of companies. But they didn't.

Once again, we ran a story about Fruit of the Loom, to the general dismay of detractors. "Oh," they muttered as they picked up their copy of *Nouse* in Vanbrugh. "Another story about Fruit of the Loom? How original." But what they don't realise is that only they are in a position to make sure we never again write about Fruit of the Loom. They could run for the editorial team and then fill the paper with nice pictures of ducks, or, much more simply, they could not sit mutely by as YUSU continues to support unethical companies.

Nouse needs to keep repeating itself, because people are very unwilling to work toward change. Stories remain significant for months on end because student action on campus is nearly invisible. YUSU continues to ignore the voice of the student because the student just can't be bothered to yell loud enough.

Red-tops, broadsheets

Nouse would be a lot less fun without its cheeky little brother



Nicky Woolf
Contributing Writer

Vision and *Nouse*, as many people on campus may be aware, are bitter rivals. *Nouse* call *Vision* a contemptible tabloid, *Vision* pun our name into NoUse. *Nouse* call *Vision* insensitive and clumsy, they call us boring hypocrites. *Nouse* call *Vision*'s layout slapdash, they call ours staid. In almost everything we do, every story we cover, the newspapers at York oppose one another. The relationship between us, necessarily, a complex and ambiguous one.

The Immigration Shambles / Are We a Racist University dialogue is a perfect case in point: the same issue, that of the experience of foreign students at York, addressed from two almost polar-opposite angles. Both front pages, too, faced a firestorm of criticism from the student body as a whole and sparked off a wide-ranging debate.

This is a small campus; both papers write in different ways, but necessarily about the same facts. News is news is news, after all. There is a certain brotherliness in the relationship between the newspapers. Serious sibling rivalry, certainly; no relationship between brothers is ever cordial, but brothers we are nonetheless. *Nouse* and *Vision* are neighbours in more than just the geographical fact that we share a corridor, and we are brethren in more than that we are both chips off the Uni Media block.

Within the two editorial teams, competition is the name of the game. We must get that story before *Vision*; what are they doing in the office at this time? All is intrigue, all is striving to keep a valuable gem of information secret, all for the imagined look on the rivals' faces when either paper gets the scoop.

But to the University as a whole, both campus papers are, to a lesser or greater extent, one and the same. While (and it's a great sign) occasionally we will meet someone who has a preference one way or another, for the most part, we will be digested, discussed, discarded and swiftly disregarded - until, three weeks later, we come out again.

YUSU and the

University management, similarly, must see both papers as equal nuisances. *Nouse* are like dogs with a Fruit of the Loom bone and *Vision* have always had a great nose for a dodgy expense account. The objectives of the campus newspapers must always be more in line with each other than those of YUSU, or the situation has come to a pretty pass.

This interdependence goes some way to explaining why such tension followed *Vision*'s breaking of the sacred print dates over Roses. Printing little spoiler pages and handing them out just before the other paper comes out, not to mention lying about it to our faces, is more than just a childish misinterpretation of the meaning of healthy rivalry. It goes directly against the grain of the basis of rules and respect in which we both operate, and that is why it stung the way it did, why it touched such a nerve. Suddenly, as YUSU floundered ineffectually upon the media charter, the rules had changed.

But the world of journalism is changing. The printed word is slowly giving way to instantaneous ease of the internet, and broadsheets are printing tabloid or Berliner size to make them easier to read on the morning commute. Putting a story on our website is just as much a rejection of the solid rules of the old world as *Vision*'s spoilers, though not nearly as dramatic. The fact that a respectable new campus media, *The Yorker*, exists in an entirely online form shows that the internet is not simply an alternative media, it may well soon be the primary one.

In a sense, then, this broadsheet edition is a retrograde step. It is, of course, a design exercise, a gimmick of sorts, but we also intend it to be an appreciative tribute. It is a nod back to an age where a fresh newspaper was not just a swift, sharp word injection but an event, a powerful journalistic statement. I hope that it is also taken, in some incidental sense, as a peace offering.



It's okay to be serious. Seriously.

Someone has to play the straight man on campus, and it might as well be us



Jenny O'Mahony
Deputy Editor

I am writing this on my recycled, sustainably sourced hemp computer, sporting my favourite "Save the Dolphins" T-shirt as a pile of bras smoulders quietly in a corner. But I will take a moment to put down my roll-up and consider the point that if there is one thing *Nouse* is constantly accused of, being po-faced liberals with a sense-of-humour bypass surely fits the bill.

This year, comments have

ranged from the idiotic ("*Nouse* are fucking communists") to those which probably have more than a grain of truth about them.

Firstly, over the past year, the news - and therefore the comment - in *Nouse* has centred around some of the following issues: a drowned student, a student rapist, massive administrative incompetence and racism on campus. Well, whack on the laughter track. One of the maxims of comedy is that it's all about timing. There is an appropriate place for satire and humour.

The fact is that often, the biggest news is also the most

serious. Trawling through the *Nouse* archives, I have come across an ex-James college Treasurer who was fired for the unfortunate tendency of repeatedly removing all his clothes when intoxicated, but that kind of comic gem is outweighed by the more weighty news pieces which must be dealt with in a professional manner.

Secondly, *Nouse* has always been in spirit, and is in physical form this edition, a broadsheet. We have a tabloid on campus and we are not setting out to emulate it. Therefore, the more serious tone of our articles is because that is what we are hoping to achieve: stimulating pieces that provoke reasoned debate on

campus. We are a forum for people to put across their views, and it just so happens that we attract more political societies, cause groups, interviews with MPs and authors than our counterparts.

Being serious and reasonable is often what is demanded in order to handle issues sensitively. Perhaps we weigh down a little heavily on one end of the scales, but I believe that is no bad thing.

And so we will continue to have our little rants about injustice because we have every right to do so. But every so often, we promise that we will crack a smile. Anyhow, you must excuse me, I have a Gay Socialist Atheists Against Carbon Emissions protest to attend.

Noused and abused: your views

You've heard from *Nouse's* writers. But what about the other 10,000 of you? We sent our intrepid Features Editor to find out what campus had to say about our efforts this year



Jo Shelley
Features Editor

From what my spies – sorry, sources – have been telling me, *Nouse* has built up something of a reputation for itself on campus. Apparently, I'm told, as well as having opinions about the stories inscribed on the pages of this 'ere university rag, our readers also make judgements about those of us that wield the pen.

Here, in the hustle and bustle of *Nouse* headquarters, the editorial team are forever aware – not to say thankful – that the newspaper is worked on by upwards of 50 members of staff, all of whom reflect a diversity of viewpoints, as evidenced by the heated disputes that accompany each new edition. Yet it is inevitable (if somewhat bizarre, for us) that by working on *Nouse*, we take on a collective identity for those who browse the pages that we've inscribed and together bear the criticism when we aren't seen to accurately represent campus opinion.

So what exactly do you lot think of the *Nouse* 'brand'? And, over the past year, have you thought that *Nouse* has reflected your views? This week it was my mission to find out.

It's with the news story, of course, that a newspaper ultimately makes its mark; a choice headline on a lead article or even (as we found out to our detriment) a controversial minor article can engage the most apathetic, disinterested student in a debate on campus politics – if not on journalistic morals. One

friend may have sheepishly admitted, "Honestly, sweetie? I never really read it," but she could still link *Nouse* to at least a few of our more divisive exposés.

A case in point would be what our esteemed editor has termed 'mock-execution-gate': the report that revealed how members of the University Officer Training Corps had filmed said execution while on exercise and, in wisdom that could only have been acquired at an army boot camp, put the footage on YouTube. It was one of the stories of the year and, three months on, everyone has an opinion on it. Yet while there are disappointing calls of "victimisation" and "slander" from some expected quarters, the majority verdict seems to be this was one time we got it right. Loosening the reigns on our 'gonzo-attack dog' reporter has earned us all a collective pat on the back for uncovering a story that not only satisfied campus's thirst for scandal, but also offered a curious insight into the activities of one of its shadiest societies. "I think it was completely justified," a second-year English student told me. Another punned: "The OTC shot themselves in the foot – they thoroughly deserved it."

Sometimes, however, we find ourselves swimming against the tide of student opinion. An issue that seemed to unite campus but divide it from both its newspapers was race. To recap, *Nouse* led in the week 3 edition of this term with the headline 'Are we a racist university?' The consensus, among the racially diverse collection of people I spoke to this week, was an overwhelming "no". Reflecting the exasperation of the reader who wrote to us to complain at our "unfounded 'racist university' crusade", the general view was

that the hard-hitting headline didn't match the reality that students experience; we were jumping on the race bandwagon and, as one interviewee opined, "just having a poke at *Vision*, really."

For another, otherwise *Nouse* student, the racism story was yet more evidence of the paper's position on the majority of campus issues: "It does seem

"Saying 'do better'. Holding people to account. We like to think it's part of our job"

to have an anti-University stance. Although it tries to be serious, it gets carried away, and sometimes you do get these screaming headlines, like 'are we all racist?'" Interesting, I thought. *Nouse* is believed – by one person, at least – to be prejudiced in its reporting of events involving the University administration. Another conversation I had went further. If *Nouse* had a defining statement, I was told, it would be this: a serious, wants-to-be-broadsheet newspaper (evidently there's some truth in that), turning its nose up at the brashness of its tabloid rival, *Vision*, and sniffing at any mention of the establishment.

The opinions of these two forthright readers reminded me of one of our most outspoken critics, who also objected to what he saw as *Nouse* having an agenda. One thing the aforementioned OTC story did bring to light was the dissatisfaction of many right-wing factions of campus with what said critic termed the paper's "liberal-left" slant. In

that instance, there was little need to explain ourselves: a smudged photocopy of the first ever edition of this paper clearly states its aims, one of which is to be 'progressive'. However, when it comes to students holding the University to account, the campus media is one of a select few mediums that allow them to effectively do so.

It seems that many of you realise this. The front page best-remembered from this year by most people I talked to was the one displaying our open letter to Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor, signed by academics, staff, students and a l u m n i , d e m a n d i n g that management 'Bring back our porters'. Where YUSU have failed to mobilise students in support of a particular cause, the student body is thankful that the media has taken the lead: "One of YUSU's problems at the moment is that they're not very good at actually reaching people with a message and rallying people to a

cause," said one active campaigner on campus. "That's why I really welcomed the issue with the porters' campaign... I thought at long last it was an expression of student opinion; before that, no-one had stood up and said, 'That's not good enough.'"

Saying 'do better'. Holding people to account. It's what we like to think is part of our job as campus hacks – and it's what we hope that you, our readers, will say to us. And you do, whether you're part of a JCR or society demanding space to publicise your events or applaud achievements or whether you're discussing the latest issue over coffee in Vanbrugh debating its merits and deriding its mistakes. We love it – and we've introduced a message board on our website so that you can continue. Otherwise, my spies will be on hand to report back.



Letters

We welcome your letters. Please write to: **Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh** Alternatively, you can email **letters@nouse.co.uk**

Toby's Green credentials

Dear *Nouse*,

As a long-standing member of University staff, I related to a lot of what Toby Green said and am one of Heike Singleton and Willie Hoedeman's campus Energy Champions. That does not just mean turning light and equipment switches off. We compost and recycle everything possible.

Jo Birch

A little more rust in the ironwork

In response to *Nouse* editor Heidi Blake's weblog, published at <http://www.nouse.co.uk/?cat=65> :

"Crusading student journalists on a valiant expository mission".

I'll be honest, I don't even understand half of these words. Here's one for the *Nouse* dictionary: PRETENTIOUS.

"The Stig" (via website)

Nouse's foray into the big bad world of the broadsheet this issue is a What do you think? Do the staid chaps at the *Telegraph* have anything to worry about? Is it just too hard to read inconspicuously in lectures? Let us know what you think.

Correct politics

Chloe Alexander & Jeffrey Wright defend a careful choice of words

It seems appropriate that this particular article should begin with a health warning: this is another one of those "bitter-class warrior", "liberal-left", "done to death"-type stories for your laundry list. Our subject is political correctness.

We have all been involved in a discussion where people have stammered and stuttered around, searching for the most neutral sounding phrase to use when discussing sensitive areas such as race and nationality. I am sure everyone can reel off a list of incidents where well-meaning organisations have changed names of events to conform to standards of political correctness. Very recently, for example, James College JCRC agreed to change the name of next year's Freshers' event. What began life as the "Seven Deadly Sins" became "Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Virtues". The customary response to the above is to declare that political correctness has gone too far.

In the wider world, political correctness is said to have gone too far as it erodes tradition. For instance, why should we change the name of Christmas to "Winterval"? This is a Christian country and has been for centuries, I hear you cry. This is the surely first step toward secularising Christmas! But I would ask how many of us think about the birth of the baby Jesus when we are ripping away the wrapping paper to reveal the next generation iPod? And in how many ways has Christmas already been secularised: how many fir trees do you think you find in Bethlehem?

The whole point of tradition is to create a sense of belonging, something that can't be

destroyed by a name change. In fact, by changing the name of Christmas, we might be making it easier for more people to identify with our few weeks of alcohol and tinsel.

Another accusation commonly leveled against political correctness is that it is the product of overly sensitive bureaucrats. Supposedly, they sit in their ivory towers sanitising the English language, imagining

"Political correctness is useful: it allows us to avoid offending and excluding"

offense where none exists. Of course, this accusation does not really concern those who actually wish to offend or those who do so unintentionally. Instead, this is the gripe of those who suspect that their opinions are socially unacceptable. They would prefer to blame overzealous bureaucrats for representing their views in this way, rather than be frank and accept the hostility their views might provoke. Political correctness is useful for heading off such accusations.

Our language has the potential to exclude. The usefulness of political correctness is that it informs the language of those who want to avoid offending or excluding others. By rejecting political correctness, we are either revealing a deliberate unwillingness to be polite, or admitting laziness in our choice of words – something university is supposed to hammer out of us.

The unwanted gift of the gag

Former editor of *Nouse* **Toby Green** revisits the vexed topic of YUSU's muddled media charter

In June 2004, three University of York students attacked fellow student James Pullen in Vanbrugh Bar during the campus music festival Woodstock. Only a couple of months before, a University of York Students' Union officer had bottled another student in Ziggy's and was sentenced to nine months in prison. These two cases precipitated a reaction from the Students' Union that has been at the root of a souring of relations between the Union and the student newspapers: the Media Charter.

In the three years since both papers have referred to 'censorship' from the Union whilst reporting on specific cases, there has been no in-depth public examination of whether, as my predecessor Toby Hall warned, "the nebulous defence of 'student welfare' allowed back door censorship of the media".

The Charter itself addresses numerous clauses between the paper and the Union, many of which are required and mutually accepted by both parties. For example, since the Union have total legal responsibility for anything printed by *Nouse* and *Vision*, it is only right that they should check through any content that could be contentious. It is the welfare aspect over which the battle is fought. It



states that the Union can prevent an article being published if it puts a student "at specific social, academic, physical or mental risk, as identified by the Academic and Welfare Officer".

This aspect of the charter is constantly implemented on the premise that an individual student's welfare is more important to protect than that of the student body as a whole. This is typified by the comment made by James Alexander, YUSU President at the time of the charter's implementation, that he "would be prepared to defend a rapist if they were still a student." In the cases of the attacks at Woodstock and Ziggy's, the Union decided the whole of the University population did not deserve to know the identity of potentially dangerous students, even once they had been convicted by the British legal system. That

the students were named in the *York Press*, a paper that is sold by the Union in Your:Shop, was merely another nonsensical aspect of an ill-thought out and damaging piece of legislation.

At the time, there were understandable theories that the Union had rushed

through the charter to protect one of their own and in fact couldn't care less for the greater population. These suspicions still remain, and with good reason. Despite both *Nouse* and *Vision* pleading for more time to ascertain their full legal rights, the Charter was forced through and signed within only a few hours of the first group discussion.

Whether or not you believe James Alexander's assurance that there were no

"If campus media are to hold the University and Union to account, the media charter needs to be rethought"

ulterior motives for the charter, it clearly allows such a case to occur since all it would take was either an Academic and Welfare Officer to be personally involved or to be easily persuaded by another member of the Union.

Since the Media Charter was brought in, there have been no such straightforward cases of the welfare clause being exploited, yet (speaking from my own personal experience) stories involving the Students' Union have received more attention than any other stories, both from a legal and a welfare point of view.

The decision on what information is

in the public interest is also contentious, and one on which members of the Union are not necessarily the best judges. An example of this is *Vision's* attempts to print full details of how security lapses in Derwent have left students extremely vulnerable.

Yet students were denied the full knowledge of the inability of campus managers to deal with the problem due to worries that the article would leave the rooms more vulnerable. *Vision's* duty is to expose these problems, not to deal with them. From that point on it is the University's responsibility to make sure the issue is dealt with, yet without students holding full knowledge of the incidents there will be no pressure from the student body. As *Vision* correctly stated, if the full details were printed, you could be sure that the University's reaction would have been a lot quicker than the seven months they have so far taken.

It is clear that if campus media's proud tradition of holding to account the University, the Union and anyone who is a responsible body for the students is to continue, then the charter needs to be finally and thoroughly rethought. As much as the current Union may protest that they would only hinder the freedom of campus press over serious issues, the vaguely termed nature of the charter and its inherent failings means that they must change it to guard against any future dangers. Only then can the Union and campus media regain trust and mutual professional respect.

NOUSE

GOES WAY BACK with Mr. Nicholas Woolf, esq.

Those of you who study politics may be familiar with the name Haleh Afshar. She is a politics lecturer of not inconsiderable fame, both worldwide and amongst the student population for her lively and often contentious lectures.

I was familiar with the name, so that when I came across this photo during my regular trawl through the *Nouse* archives, my mind performed a bizarre double-double-take. The caption was eerily prophetic.

"Her name is Haleh Afshar," it read, "and she comes from Tehran. Came to York as one of the original two hundred but will outlive them..." No kidding! Ah, life must have been good for that original 200 and those that followed immediately after them. The same edition of *Nouse* that featured the picture of



York Politics Professor Haleh Afshar, pictured in Nouse, 1966

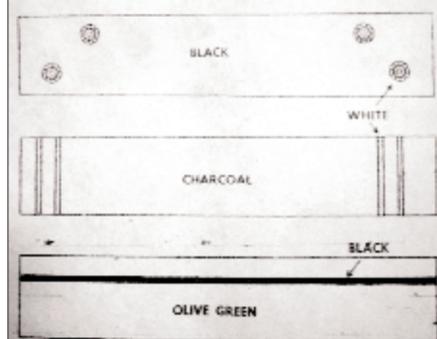
Afshar that stopped me in my tracks is filled with a charming whimsy that is entirely missing in our modern-day cut-throat university world.

I so want a College scarf, introduced in 1966 for the original three Colleges of Derwent, Langwith and Vanbrugh. Sod a hoodie or a Derwent thong (seriously, you can get those now), I want a '60s scarf!

Another story described how a *Nouse* columnist was receiving death threats from a campus group known as "Petrum Referre (Latin for Bring Back the Rock!)" – a society dedicated to the cult of Rock and Roll music.

Nouse goes on to tell how that sinister group, consisting of "reactionary members of the Football-Rugby set" had previously "pulled down a statue

Hail the college scarves



College scarves, as revealed in Nouse, 1966

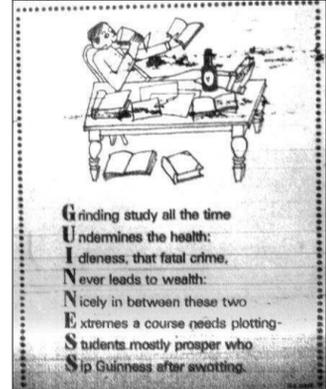
of the god Diana." Another news story, about an Evangelical organisation known ambiguously as "The National Young Life Campaign", featured the bizarre quote: "There is more proof that Jesus Christ rose again than that George

"Is Libby York's Bridge Queen?" Yes. "Does Vernon look better without it?" I am sure Vernon thinks so. "Where is the old spirit of Mike Cuthbert?" That one mystifies me. Perhaps he is simply depressed? "Will Gillian finally win?" God, I hope she did. "Why is Haleh

Washington ever lived." The intrepid but cynical reporter ended his story "All those who had been converted were invited to stay behind... I was not convinced." I assume that means he was polite enough to leave once informed that in order to stay, a conversion was required.

Opposite that story sat a brilliant column called "Juke of York", an anarchistic collection of in-jokes and random phrases. "How way out is a way out party?" Good question. Pretty damn way out. "Is Phil Harding succeeding?" Also a good question. Alas for Harding, probably not.

Afshar known in Cambridge as The Drain?" Professor Afshar is cordially invited to enlighten me, emails to socs12@york.ac.uk. "Does anyone else like Mary Lambert's hat?" The answer to that one, I'm afraid, we will never know.



A sophisticated advertisement for Guinness Stout in Nouse, 1966

Lecturers to boycott Israeli universities

Anjli Raval

UNIVERSITY lecturers around the country are promoting a boycott of Israeli universities in protest against the "40-year occupation" of Palestinian land, which they argue is supported by academics in Israel.

The motion, upheld at the first conference of the University and College Union (UCU) in Bournemouth, said that there should be "a comprehensive and consistent boycott" of all Israeli academic institutions. The

result of the vote was 158 to 99 in support of the motion.

Brighton University academic and member of the national union, Tom Hickey said, "There will be adverse effects on individuals, but this is not targeting individuals or trying to break contacts with them."

The boycott would entail lecturers refusing to join forces with Israeli academics on research contracts, as well as refusing to work with journals that are published by Israeli companies.

The general secretary

of the union Sally Hunt said, "I do not believe a boycott is supported by a majority of (the 120,000) UCU members; nor do I believe that members see it as a priority for the union." She added that the majority of the members wished to retain dialogue with trade unionists on all sides "not just those we agree with".

Rabbi Treblow, the Jewish student's chaplain for Yorkshire and Humberdale stated that he was troubled with the idea of an academic boycott, as it undermines the role of a

university as a place to have free and open discussion. He said, "the majority of Israeli academics are of the same political persuasion as those carrying out the boycott, it's counter productive, they are singling out people by their nationality and not their policies and beliefs."

There has been an outcry from Jewish groups and activists who feel that the boycott is an attack on academic freedom and undermines the credibility of British academics as a whole, even if the vast majority does not support

the boycott.

Mitch Simmons from the Union of Jewish Students added to this stating, "Academic freedom is part of the fabric of modern society. The exchange of information and the advancement of human knowledge should have no borders. Disappointingly, it seems that no value can be left unviolated by the proposers of this motion."

On the same day as the vote, four Israeli university presidents and several top authors wrote to the Israeli government asking to lift

the current restrictions placed on Palestinian students, preventing those that live in Gaza from studying in the West Bank. "Blocking access to higher education for Palestinian students from Gaza who choose to study in the West Bank casts a dark shadow over Israel's image as a state which respects and supports the principle of academic freedom and the right to education," the letter said.

This was followed by calls to the military to listen to the intellectuals and the Israeli academy who

wished for the universal principle of academic freedom to be respected.

The Israel-Palestine issue has a history of sparking controversy at previous conferences of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NAFHE) and the Association of University Teachers (AUT), which merged last year to form the UCU.

In 2005 an AUT boycott caused much debate and was promptly discarded. NAFHE also supported boycotts in the past.

Benn visits University in pursuit of student vote

Jenny O'Mahony

HILARY BENN, SECRETARY of State for Development, gave a talk and interview to the University of York's Labour Club on June 1 in a bid to secure the support of students in his campaign for the deputy leadership.

Mr. Benn, who is the favourite to take over from John Prescott, answered questions regarding his campaign as well as Labour policy at home and abroad.

The son of left-wing ex-Minister Tony Benn, Hilary has built a reputation for progressive views which place him firmly at the centre of the political spectrum, and his campaign has seen him backed by prolific Labour MPs such as David Blunkett and Baroness Amos who said of him in an open letter to the *Guardian*: "We come from different traditions in the labour movement but we are united in believing Hilary Benn should be the next deputy leader of the Labour party. What makes Hilary stand out is his ability to unite the party; to work with everyone; and to win people's trust."

Benn began by fielding questions about his campaign, claiming that the current situation in politics was "a great opportunity for the Labour party", and describing Gordon Brown as "a very serious politician" with "strong moral purpose". He believes that "the job of deputy leader is about more than coherence...it should be a ministerial job", perhaps a criticism of John Prescott, who siphoned work to Ruth Kelly so he could fully concentrate on other matters.

He is "relishing" the prospect of meeting David Cameron in the next general election, because "politics is not about PR and spin, it's about substance". This line of thinking seems to be dominant in post-Blair Labour, that the "politics of image" were evicted from No. 10 the moment the PM announced his intention to step down. Benn is adverse to superficiality, stating that "if you want to have any influence... you have got to be part of policy arguments," which again is something that John Prescott avoided.

Questions about Labour policy soon veered towards education, Benn opposing David Cameron's recent stance on grammar schools. He stated that "Grammar schools entrench division," and went as far as asking "why we don't start a discussion about whether we want to keep selection". Conversely, Benn thinks that tuition fees "aren't that bad" and that "politics is about priorities", his priority being on putting children from poorer backgrounds into higher education.

When asked how the government would try to regain public support for Europe after the negative views largely prevalent in the media, Benn described the press as "pragmatic", and attributed the hostility towards the EU to the fact that Britain has never been ruled by fascists, and could not therefore understand the need for a united Europe. He stated that Europe should stick to "practical purposeful policy" for people to see it in a better light.

Benn supported the war in Iraq, and still stands by his decision, arguing that unilateralism was necessary in the same way it was in Kosovo, the UN being ineffectual. "I want the UN to acquire the means of effectively combating these crimes. The one thing the Iraqi people have now is the right to express a view. They have a federal democracy now". He acknowledged that the operation was mismanaged, but that the supposed principles behind it, democracy and the deposition of Saddam Hussein, were enough to warrant the damage to Iraqi life and infrastructure.

Benn commented "politics isn't a weird profession done by strange people." Certainly, his amicable manner and pragmatic policies must appeal to a public often alienated from politicians. His ability to listen and speak his mind should stand him in good stead in the Deputy Leadership campaign.

BAE in arms deal corruption scandal

Anjli Raval

IT HAS BEEN alleged that the arms company BAE Systems has paid Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia more than £1 billion, in connection to Britain's biggest ever weapons contract, "Al-Yamamah", worth £43bn.

It is claimed BAE Systems, a British company which the University of York holds shares in, has channeled funds through a US bank to the Saudi Prince who was ambassador for the country for 20 years.

Allegedly, £30 million has been paid to him every quarter for at least 10 years, endorsed by the Ministry of Defence.

It has been through an inquiry made by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) into the transactions behind the Al Yamamah ("the dove" in Arabic) arms deal, signed in 1985, that the organization exposed details of payments made to the Prince himself.

However, in December 2006 the investigation was halted as the government maintained it endangered Britain's national interest. SFO director, Robert Wardle stated that the decision was made by his own organisation "to protect national security", and Tony Blair asserted that he took "full responsibility" for the decision.

At the time, government sources had warned colleagues that British "govern-

ment complicity" was at risk of being discovered unless the SFO's corruption inquiries were brought to a halt. A protest by anti-corruption campaigners pushed the OECD (Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation) to take over the inquiry and launch its own investigation.

The matter of the payments has been undeniably hidden from the OECD when demands were made with relation to the dropping of the SFO inquiry. Lord Goldsmith has publicly admitted that facts were withheld from the anti-corruption watchdog because of "national security" considerations, chiefly to avoid information leaks to foreign countries.

Prince Bandar is known to have been a key figure, along with Margaret Thatcher, in setting up Britain's largest series of weapons deals.

In over 20 years Al-Yamamah has brought the sale of 120 Tornado and Hawk warplanes and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia. The deal has also included a £75m, four-engine Airbus-340, donated to the president on his birthday in 1998, with its expenses still paid by BAE.

BAE drew and deposited £2bn from private Bank of England accounts, permitting Saudi oil to be sold in return for shipments of Tornado aircraft and other armaments.



The Defence Export Organisation (Deso) maintain that regular payments were made by BAE and wired to Prince Bandar's account at Riggs bank in Washington DC.

Prince Bandar has denied all claims concerning the payments, saying that payments "were pursuant to the Al-Yamamah contracts and as such would not in any way have been 'secret'".

Liberal Democrat deputy leader, Vince Cable has called for an urgent inquiry into the matter to see "whether the government has deceived the public and undermined the anti-corruption legislation which it itself passed through parliament."

Believing that claims of national security concerns are weak and that the Prince himself benefited from the arms deal, he added "It increasingly looks as if the motives behind the decision to pull the SFO inquiry were less to do with UK national interests but more to do with the personal interests of one or two powerful Saudi ministers."

As the government continued to partially deny its involvement in the controversy, behind the scenes there were moves to try and secure a new BAE £20 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Evidence shows that the defence secretary Des Browne met with the Saudi crown prince, Prince Sultan bin

Abdul Aziz, the father of Prince Bandar, to secure the deal for BAE systems.

The anti-bribery panel of the OECD will meet on June 19 in Paris and then move to London to question ministers about their conduct throughout the affair.

In light of growing pressure on ministers to disclose their role in Britain's arms deal, the BBC has accused the

72 £16m Tornado Aircraft were sold to Saudi Arabia by BAE Systems in the 1980s

government of having a more direct role with regards to the transfer of money. It has claimed that Whitehall produced "invoices" from the Saudi Prince wanting payment for his services in relation to the arms deal. This was then passed on to BAE executives, and an installment of cash was transferred to Bandar's bank.

Britain is a signatory to the anti-corruption treaty and the Prime Minister has claimed that Britain is at the forefront of combating corruption, but ultimately it can be said that Blair has failed to toughen up bribery laws and critics say that this situation seems to be a deliberate attempt to conceal the facts.

"Payments have been undeniably hidden from the OECD when demands were made"

'Groundbreaking' G8 summit labelled 'farce' by campaigners

Alberto Furlan

THE G8 SUMMIT, held two weeks ago in Heiligendamm, Germany, was heralded as 'groundbreaking' by world leaders, but the reality, while not hopeless, is not quite this revolutionary.

Climate change was the most discussed matter at the summit. Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor and this year's host, aimed at an agreement between all eight countries to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2050, or to limit the rise of global temperatures by 2°C.

US President George Bush wanted to ensure that whatever agreement he signed, China and India would follow suit, so as not to cripple the relative competitiveness of American industries.

While the proposal fell through, Bush has finally accepted that global warming is an issue that needs to be addressed, bringing him in line with other world leaders. He has agreed to a UN framework to discuss emission targets.

The "groundbreaking" agreement publicised by the media, has faced criticism. Dr. Neil Carter, lecturer in environmental politics at the University of York commented: "whilst Bush has clearly shifted a little, his ini-



A heavy police presence defended the G8 meeting

tiative was essentially a way to undermine Merkel's plans for G8 agreement on climate change and by proposing his own approach he is undermining the UN approach that produced Kyoto."

A colder issue at the summit was the US missile defence shield to be built in Eastern Europe, the aim of

which is to stop possible Iranian nuclear warheads. However, its positioning nearer Russia than the Middle East has caused concern in the Kremlin.

Having threatened to "reconsider European targets", Putin offered a radar site in Azerbaijan, closely tied to Russia and closer still

to the Iranian border. Washington's reply will be telling as to the real intentions of the missile shield.

At Gleneagles two years ago, Blair announced an agreement to direct £50bn to Africa in developmental aid by 2010, as well as universal access to medical care for all of the continent's AIDS carriers.

These goals were reiterated by the final Heiligendamm communiqué, but the statement speaks of five million AIDS carriers in Africa, half the number given by most statistics.

The word "universal" does not figure anymore, while the aid target set in 2005 is becoming increasingly unrealistic; with only three years left to the end of the decade, only 10% of the aid has been given to the continent.

EU and American trade barriers, seen as unfair on underdeveloped countries, were only briefly discussed in Heiligendamm.

Bob Geldof claimed the summit was a "farce", but while the conclusions reached are not as radical, there has been a small move towards serious action being taken on some global issues. Nevertheless, it remains to be seen whether it is just a false hope from the worlds most powerful states.

York politics professor condemns Gaza violence

Alberto Furlan

PROFESSOR HALEH Afshar, OBE, politics lecturer at York, has called developments in the Gaza strip "atrocious".

Hamas, the Islamic party that won the Palestinian elections in 2006, has driven members of the opposing secular party Fatah out of the Gaza strip by force, executing its leaders, and capturing government offices.

Professor Afshar, originally from Iran, condemned the West for "supporting Fatah by supplying it with weapons and refusing to talk to Hamas, despite it having democratically won the elections."

Many analysts, including Professor Afshar, who "is heartbroken at having been proven right", had predicted this development. Fatah and Hamas had agreed to a national unity government earlier

this year, but battles between the armed wings of the two parties continued in the streets of Gaza.

An explosion on June 9 which killed eight Palestinians is thought to have pushed Hamas into breaking the ceasefire and take over the Gaza strip. Hamas leaders, who do not recognise the Israeli state, have declared Islamic rule in Gaza, but have recently given signs of being open to negotiation.

Hain and Blears defend NUS

Anjli Raval

LABOUR DEPUTY candidate Peter Hain and Hazel Blears have called for YUSU to maintain its membership of the National Union of Students (NUS) when interviewed by *Nouse* on a range of student related issues.

In the run up to a vote on disaffiliating from the NUS, both Hain and Blears expressed their disagreement with the proposal. Hain highlighted the fact that although he did not always agree with the policies of the NUS, disaffiliation would weaken the student voice both at York and

nationally.

Blears, agreeing with Hain, gave a stronger reply: "It would be a big mistake to disaffiliate from the NUS, no matter your frustrations and differences the way to influence an institution is to change it from within." She added, "Shouting from the sidelines can be easily ignored".

When asked about their views on ethical investment, given that it has been uncovered that the University has a substantial number of shares in arms companies such as BAE, Blears encouraged ethical investment from which the institution can also benefit. Hain cited

the importance of groups such as the Sudan Divestment task force, of which York has its own branch, and said, "With 250,000 already dead in Darfur, I believe that everyone in Britain has an obligation to take a moral lead".

Both Hain and Blears spoke in favour of increased diversity and efforts to further racial equality at the University. Blears added that it was disappointing when students stick to their own groups and thus avoid integration. However, she also commented that the Students' Union is vital to integration and special programs so that international

and home students can mix successfully should be employed.

At a time when green issues are at the forefront of political agendas, the Deputy candidates were questioned on the impending construction of the Heslington East campus on green belt land over possible brown field sites. Hain, viewing the environment as a sensitive issue, felt that any damage should be avoided, while Blears' commented on the project saying, "It is right that more people experience the benefits of studying at York, and if the only way for that to happen is new developments, then it might be a

Exhibition displays York boxing talent

<< **Continued from back** favour the single powerful punch, in contrast to the quick combinations deployed by Bartle, looking to use his weight advantage to land a knockout blow. By the third round, the fight's intensity meant that both fighters began to tire, resorting to holding tactics to catch their breath. Despite this, several serious right hooks were exchanged, causing damage to both boxers in a thoroughly entertaining game. Daltas, watching in the crowd, described the fights as

"ridiculously vicious." The exhibition was a success, being the biggest event in the Boxing Club's two-year history. Daltas expressed hopes that it will become an annual event and "hopefully boost the club's profile." He added that the event was: "A dream come true," and "something I had looked forward to since my first Bruce Lee film". He also described the experience of performing in front of a crowd as "exhilarating", praising the crowd for their vocal support of all the fighters.

Football firsts 'best season in years'

YORK FOOTBALL firsts are reflecting on a successful season after winning the NUL cup and gaining promotion from the BUSA Division 4B.

After relegation in the 2005/06 season, Dan Brown's team produced some excellent performances, with their most impressive victory against Leeds University in the semi-final of the NUL cup. York were 2-0 down with only 20 minutes to go when Player of the Season Dominic O'Shea scored a hat-trick to send York through to the final 3-2.

Football Club

President Simon Oatridge called it "the performance of the season", adding: "The semi-final was massive; after we won, things were much easier. We played Bradford in the final, who are a weaker team, and we won 5-2. The two early goals meant it was fairly relaxed."

Further success came in the Varsity tournament, as the firsts beat BUSA's number-one Northern team York St. John comfortably. However, defeat to Lancaster in the Roses game provided the greatest disappointment.

Futsal team claim local league trophy

THE UNIVERSITY of York's Futsal club picked up their first piece of silverware in their nine-year history after becoming the York Futsal Premier League champions.

The club, which is the oldest in the country, beat competition from several teams for the league title, finishing the season 15 points ahead of other teams on the table. However, it was not until the later stages of the competition that York's superiority shone through, as they fought out a tight race with local rivals Selby United.

A late run of form, which ended with a brilliant 14-goal victory over Tang Hall, clinched their first league title, ending the season with only one defeat in 12 games.

Several players shone throughout the season, including team captain Jonny McWilliams, whose inspirational performances and 12 goals in 10 games led to him picking up the York League Player of the Year award. Credit must also be given to Saul Hubbard who was named Players' Player of the Year for 2007.

New track needed, say Athletics club

ATHLETICS President Jennifer Dornie said a new running track is imperative to the club's future progress.

Dornie's remarks come a fortnight after students called for a new track to be built at the sports centre.

"A new track would attract more people to apply to the University. A lot of people would be encouraged by better sports facilities. It would boost students fitness levels, self-esteem and increase performance. At the moment, we are a bit of a joke when it comes

to sports", said Dornie.

AU President Tom Moore has also voiced concerns about the investment in sport at the University.

However, efforts are beginning to improve turnout through the introduction of a new Varsity tournament. The tournament, which is still in its planning stages, will first involve York's athletes competing against an unconfirmed Irish university. The event is to include a series of road run events, with the possibility for other races.



GEORGI MAREE

Goodricke were victorious in the women's 4x100m relay, and beat Halifax by 16 points to win college Sports Day on 108 points

Goodricke close in on college title after Sports Day victory

By Criss Noice
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

GOODRICKE INCREASED their lead over Halifax at the top of the college league table on June 13 after comfortably winning the annual Sports Day by a 16 point margin.

In less than ideal conditions, the inter-college events started with Ultimate Frisbee on the JLD Astroturf. After a close set of preliminary rounds, Derwent fought off Goodricke to claim the points and an early lead in proceedings.

However, the setback didn't prevent the top-of-the-table team from coming first in a further nine events during the course of the day to be crowned Sports Day champions.

Victories for Goodricke in the 4x100m relay, long jump and tug-of-war provided some of the day's highlights, while their closest rivals Halifax failed to produce the title-winning form required of them.

In the men's long jump, Oliver Regan of Vanbrugh produced a mammoth 5.5m jump which was unmatched by every other competitor, most of whom managed jumps around the 4m mark.

Meanwhile, in the men's 100m, Goodricke

sprinter Pieter Cordwell gave a stellar performance in both his heat and the final, crossing the line in 11.59 seconds. "I tend not to think of anything when running - I simply keep 100% of my concentration on the track ahead," Cordwell said.

Another impressive individual performance in the Goodricke camp came from Rob McGuinness, whose 11.9m throw in the shotput was enough for him to take victory away from Vanbrugh.

Meanwhile, Halifax struggled to gain any momentum and were relegated to second place in the majority of events. Victories in the women's long jump

and the men's 800m and 400m races was their solitary consolation, with their women's 400m and men's 100m performances being particularly disappointing.

Goodricke played with an unparalleled level of concentration and were undoubtedly the most serious about the day of the colleges.

They had set teams, college t-shirts and even a barrel of water bottles. Some colleges had such a level of disorganisation that an event would be five minutes from starting and passers by were being asked to compete.

Speaking after the result had been confirmed,

Goodricke Sports Rep William Goldring said his College was "delighted" with the result.

"We were pleased with most of the team events, coming second in frisbee and enjoying good results in the relays and a fantastic victory by our tug-of-war team. The only disappointment here was the volleyball," he said.

Meanwhile, Halifax remained upbeat after the day. Sports Rep Nikki Hayden said, "We knew Goodricke would be very strong competition on Sports Day but I'm really happy, this is the highest Halifax have ever come".

"We had a lot of people

drop out due to illness and exams at the very last minute, but we still had a great turn-out of athletes."

Both Derwent and Vanbrugh ended the day sharing the mid-table positions as expected.

Derwent excelled in Ultimate Frisbee and the 200m men's race. Anton Murphy posted a time of 25.19 seconds, over a second ahead of Goodricke's Neal Smith.

Vanbrugh, who came only two points behind Derwent, enjoyed relative success in the volleyball tournament, only to lose in the final to Halifax. The 4x100m men's relay also gave Vanbrugh maximum points as they beat Goodricke, Halifax and Derwent in the final.

The most disappointing performance of the day had to come from Langwith, who fell below Alcuin in the table, ending second from bottom with 50 points.

"I'm neither happy or disappointed with our performance," Langwith College Rep Lucy Newton said after the results were announced. She added, "There were only a few points between the mid positions, so it was a close run and maybe we had a few bad calls. However, I am very proud of everyone who turned up."

Colleges suffer low player turnout

Poor performances by Langwith and Wentworth on Sports Day were blamed on low turnout. Both colleges suffered from severe player shortages, finishing at the bottom of the table.

Langwith Sports Rep Lucy Newton blamed exams and pointed to the poor timing of Sports Day, saying, "We finished about where we expected, due to us missing some of our stronger sportsmen through exams. It is one of the biggest days in college



Sports Day tug-of-war

sport and it should be considered earlier in the term to avoid examination

clashes."

The day was also disappointing for the newest team, Wentworth, who failed to provide enough competitors in the majority of events and didn't register on the final table.

"It was very difficult to recruit a team as students are busy with dissertations," Wentworth's Sports Rep said. He added that though disappointing, "the participation has been of a marked improvement from the last two years."

Football's primadonnas are not worth their salaries

Roberto Cantarero talks to Daily Telegraph correspondent Henry Winter about deadline pressures and the state of English football

The *Daily Telegraph's* Henry Winter is a familiar name to fans appreciative of accuracy and objectivity in a football-related articles, as opposed to the controversy and bias often seen in tabloids.

London-born Winter is one of the most respected sports journalists in Britain, a columnist for football magazine *FourFourTwo* and a regular guest on television and Radio 5 shows.

Unable to meet me in person as he was attending the UEFA Under-21 European Championships in Holland, Winter gladly agreed for the interview to be arranged over the phone.

I started the by asking him about his normal work routine. "There is no work routine," he said. "Anyone looking for a routine 9-to-5 does not go anywhere near journalism, but that's the joy of the job. Waking up in the morning and thinking that I have a match to go to is fairly straightforward."

"The real excitement," he said, "comes from the stories that break in out of nowhere, as you have to be pre-

pared for the unexpected."

Like any normal football supporter, he adds that he likes "going into the game as a fan, wanting to see good football and good players". He told me that his favourite grounds are Old Trafford, Anfield and the Emirates Stadium, and he surprisingly reserved special praise for Stamford Bridge - an ironic comment, as Mourninho's team have been criticized by both supporters and Abramovich for playing defensive and often dull football.

Winters said most match reports have to be about 1000 words. He normally writes 600 words at halftime and saves the last 300 or more to the last 20 minutes.

"Normally, you need to have filed everything by the 80th minute, so if anything happens in the last 10 minutes, there is a massive scramble as you have to scream down the phone to the desk and instantaneously give them the updates."

He had to do just that at the 1999 European Champions League final,

when Manchester United players Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer dramatically overturned a 1-0 deficit to enable United to lift the Cup. He insisted he never normally feels under any real kind of pressure, though he said those final three minutes were "completely mad".

"If you are a minute late and you miss the deadline, it can cost the paper a lot of money in terms of the press having to roll on without your story in it."

He also dismissed the internet as having greatly influenced the way journalists work altogether: "The pressures present today are the same as those which used to affect printing presses years ago. The fact that the article goes online literally minutes after the end of the final whistle does not actually affect our work."

Impartiality is also a key part of Winter's job, and particularly significant when reporting on the Premiership and the Football League. "We [journalists] can't jump up and down like other football supporters", he adds, yet conceded that this rule is "somehow softened" when England or an English club are playing in an international competition. The different aspect of football journalism is that the level of knowledge of its readers is incredibly high compared to ones reading about current or home affairs. "You can shape a reader's opinion, but all football fans have their own views. I get letters from readers saying 'You haven't got a clue

what you are talking about'.. It is not gospel. But that is all part of the job: the great thing is that nobody can be totally right and nobody totally wrong."

Having been the ghost writer for both Kenny Dalglish and Steven Gerrard's autobiographies, I ask about his relationship with the players themselves, particularly at a time when footballers are becoming multimillionaires and often primadonnas who seem sometimes to forget about the limitations their background posed to them in their younger days. "Travelling around, you obviously get to meet them," he said. "The majority is formed by 'middle-ones', the ones who are not worth what they are paid for and who make it incredibly difficult for the press, often showing a lack of respect. But the top people - like John Terry, Thierry Henry, Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen - are particularly impressive."

He lavishes special praise on the supporters of Newcastle United: "Newcastle fans are great and the club is the sporting works of the Geordie nation, so they have that extra element of pride there."

He described Michael Owen, who is a regular columnist for *The Times*, as "an incredibly bright lad with a certain authority about him, lucky enough to have grown up in a football background as his dad Terry played professionally."

I then asked him how he rated England's national team, who currently sit fourth in the Euro 2008 group. "The



Henry Winter was ghost writer for Steven Gerrard's autobiography

talent in the squad is unquestionable: we have Rooney and Owen coming back; Beckham is an effective weapon when the game is slow or dead; Steven Gerrard is a world-class player, a great defence; Neville and Richards are two of the best right-backs around; and we have good goalkeepers although the best one (Foster) is currently injured." His appreciation for the players

does not extend to the management. "I wouldn't put McClaren in the top quality status, and you can see that judging by the reaction of the England fans when he enters the ground." He describes him as "uncharismatic", a "bad choice" in that he is merely a continuation of the failed Eriksson regime. Winter laments the fact that McClaren "does not have a successful footballing background behind him, as opposed to someone like Scolari".

"He managed a Middlesbrough team who weren't exactly the most entertaining team to watch. I reckon it is very difficult for someone who has for so long been a number two to become number one. I still think that if we win the World Cup, there will be a lot of people saying that it was the players that won it and not the manager."

He said he sometimes feels "selfish" about doing the job he loves, and tells me how he had decided on sports journalism as a career when he was just 12. Stressing the vital role that TV and the internet have in informing the public, he still highly rates the importance of journalists and newspapers, especially in Britain, which Winter describes as having "the best press in the world". "People are still buying newspapers in their millions. After a big Champions League match, our circulation goes absolutely crazy. After Liverpool's win in Istanbul, you couldn't get a copy of the *Telegraph*. I find that reassuring in terms of job security."



President calls for greater University funding in sport

By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

AU PRESIDENT Tom Moore has called for greater University funding for sport in order for York to become a more respected sporting institution.

In a recent interview, Moore spoke of the need for an academic department dealing primarily with sport to attract the best sportsmen and women to York. Such a move would follow in the footsteps of successful sporting universities such as Loughborough and Liverpool John Moores, who currently have numerous international competitors studying at their respective institutions.

"York don't concentrate on sport as much as other universities; the students who come here don't come for sport," Moore said. "The University staff have been helpful this year, but there isn't enough money."

"More money would mean better equipment and coaches, but when you start asking for it, [the University] start getting funny. Ideally, to improve we would have a department for sport, but York is a very academic university and Sports Science is not a very academic degree, so I don't see it happening."

The comments come in the final weeks of Moore's sabbatical year as AU President, a year in which he has presided over many changes to the internal running of the AU.

"There were a lot of problems with the way things worked behind the scenes when I came in, but I think the Athletics Union as a whole should now be much more efficient," he said.

Discussing the past year, he said, "I've loved every minute - it's a lot of work and there are a lot of problems, but I think I've coped well and only had a few minor com-

plaints from clubs. There have been times when I've been sitting in the office at 2 o'clock in the morning and wondering why am I doing this. When the work gets on top of you, it can be quite stressful."

Moore picked out York's Roses victory as the highlight of his year, and praised the performances of all the competing BUSA league teams throughout the year, with special mentions given to the Men's Hockey, Tennis and Football teams and the Snooker and Pool clubs.

"A lot of high-risk non-BUSA clubs such as the canoeing and pot-holing teams have been very impressive," he said, "and don't get the same amount of recognition as the football, hockey and rugby teams."

One of the main criticisms of the current AU has been its poor communication with its members. Moore denied this, saying, "I send all AU members at least five emails a week. I think if communication does need to be improved, then it's between the committees and their respective teams. We want to spread AU news around and much of this - such as the AU Dinner - people don't know so much about."

He will now hand over control of the Athletics Union to President-elect Jo Carter later this year. He had this message for her: "The great thing about being AU President is you're dealing with sport all the time, and you've got a lot of authority in the way sport runs."

"I'm now very knowledgeable about 56 sets of sporting rules and I've met so many people; running the AU has been a joy. My advice for Jo is to just enjoy it and not let the stress get to her. She's going to be an absolutely fantastic president."

Next season promises to be an interesting one, as York attempts to retain the Carter-James trophy in the Roses tournament against Lancaster.

Boat club blame its crews for problems

By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

A MAINLY disappointing year of performances from York Boat club has been blamed on lack of "crew consistency" by club member Harriet Edmonds.

The club have suffered from several disappointing results since the start of the year, many caused by a lack of rowers and organisation. "The problem is often hanging on to rowers and trying to keep crew consistency," Edmonds said. "Because rowing involves such a lot of time commitment, you often find people with demanding degrees who have more contact time having to give up or take time off when it comes to the summer term and exams."

Overall, she admitted that performances from the women's team have been more consistent than the men's, who have found it difficult to live up to expectations.

"The men's senior crew have suffered a lot of knocks and yet remained mentally very tough," she said. "Lots of their rowers from last year gave up this year to 'focus on degrees', which left a senior men's squad of five rowers."

The best result of the season came in the South Yorkshire Head Race, in which the Senior Women were the fastest crew overall. The Senior Men were also successful, coming in second.

In May at the annual Roses tournament, a domineering performance from the women crews were victorious in all their races, while the men suffered defeats in all

of theirs.

Edmonds explained the problems faced throughout the season, saying: "This year, our President Rob Rayner has been very much absent from the club."

"Although Rob is himself a great rower and extremely dedicated, he has been in the final year of a History degree and training with the Molesey Boat Club 1st VIII in London at weekends."

"This has meant running the club, organising fixtures and negotiating a tricky sponsorship deal with Deloitte has been left to Captains, the Treasurer and the Secretary."

An example of the problems this has caused became apparent in May this year at the Met Regatta in Eton.

A lack of organisation meant the men's team had to pull out of their race due to not having a boat available. The women's team had suffered from similar problems, but managed to borrow a boat in the final minutes before the race began.

Despite the problematic season, Edmonds remains upbeat about the general state of the club. "York Boat Club remains a massive club, with a great spirit and a very fun social side."

"By the end of this year, we will have competed in about a dozen major events - winter Head races and summer regattas - and all of them have been thoroughly enjoyable."

"The club is quite a small with hardly any funding compared to many University boat houses, so we're hoping to up intake next year and get some more equipment and funds for coaches."

Exhibition at York to raise profile of amateur boxing



Umar Durrani and John Hunter boxing in a series of three round fights at an exhibition held at the York Amateur Boxing Club aiming to raise its profile

By Andreas Masoura
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE first event of its kind, York University Boxing Club held a series of three round fights. The exhibition successfully raised the profile of the club and will provide the chance for members to take on other universities competitively in the future.

The event, which was held at York Amateur Boxing Club, began with light heavyweight bout between Umar Durrani and John Hunter. Both fighters exploded from their corners in a frantic opening to the contest. Durrani's initially quick movement and series of combinations asked questions of Hunter, who responded with enough speed and aggression to counter Durrani's advances.

Lightweight boxer Tom Daltas comfortably controlled the second fight against Matt Speed, who showed brave resistance but couldn't match the superior speed and technique of Daltas.

This was followed by the best fight of the exhibition,

with Nicholas Gopnik-Lewinski taking on David McDonald in a relentlessly fast-paced match. The bout was won by McDonald, who threw several combinations with great technique, managing to counter Gopnik-Lewinski's speed and unorthodox style to seal the win.

The next fight pitted former boxing club president Oli Butterworth against Freddy Agyemang in a heavyweight contest full of promise. The first round opened fairly cautiously, with both boxers exchanging a number of jabs followed by big right hooks. The bout erupted in the second round, with Agyemang throwing a powerful right which landed on Butterworth's temple. The ferocity of the blow prompted officials to end the match prematurely, much to the disappointment of the crowd.

The award for best fighter of the day went to the winner of the next contest, which saw Ben Matthews comprehensively overcome a visiting member of the York Amateur Boxing Club of which Matthews is also a member. Matthews exhibited phenomenal speed and precision to dominate the fight from the outset, dictating the pace of the match with a mixture of deadly combinations despite the visitor's brave resistance. The fight

illustrated the combination of technique and fitness that makes a good boxer, with the ABC boxers providing a masterclass for the inexperienced York boxers.

The following fight saw York University boxers return to the ring, as Andreas Masoura took on Michael Hartley in a match that saw Hartley dominate the centre of the ring. Masoura lost his shape towards the end of the first round, allowing Hartley to open up with a series of blows. The fight was controversially stopped at the end of the first round because of a heavy nosebleed suffered by Masoura during this barrage. Both boxers appealed the referee to allow the fight to continue after the magic sponge had been deployed, but to no avail.

Finally, the most eagerly anticipated bout of the afternoon saw the team's finest light heavyweight, Richard Bartle, challenge ABC's premiere heavyweight, Ben Fairburn. Despite Fairburn weighing 25 lbs. more than Bartle, the fighter fought aggressively with a combination of jabs and body shots that were aimed to dislodge the heavyweight. The second round saw Fairburn

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Gaskill celebrates impressive season

By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK WOMEN'S Basketball team are celebrating a season of "great improvement" after coming runners-up in the BUSA Plate and completing a clean sweep in the Varsity and Roses competitions.

After convincing victories against both Liverpool John Moores and Teeside University in the early rounds of the BUSA competition, York lost in the final against an excellent London St. Mary's side.

2006-07 Women's Captain



Men's Basketball team unhappy with season

Nikki Gaskill said, "This year, we have really pulled together as a team and everyone has worked really hard. Even in games where it looked

like we didn't have much chance of victory, we didn't lose focus."

Meanwhile, the Men's team had a "disappointing season", said President Ronan Joyce struggling to reproduce the form of the past two seasons. In the BUSA division, they did not win a single game and were relegated.

Incoming Men's Captain Conor Douglas said, "What we have to keep in mind is that we were the Team of the Year in both 2004/5 and 2005/6. We desperately want to be back in the 1st Division. Next year is about doing everything in our power to make that a reality."

Women's team enjoy successful year of cricket including first Lord's trip

By Daniel Whitehead
SPORTS EDITOR

THE WOMEN'S cricket team enjoyed a successful indoor season with a host of impressive victories and a BUSA final appearance at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Impressive performances came in the yearly BUSA indoor cricketing competition, in which they claimed victories over both Nottingham and Sheffield universities at the Dunnington Regional Tournament.

This was followed by a historic first-time appearance at Lord's Cricket Ground for the BUSA Final, in which they failed to win any of their three games.

Successful appearances in both the Warwick University Indoor Tournament and mini-tournament hosted by York followed, in which they claimed victories against both Warwick and Nottingham universities.

However, the club struggled to follow this up in the outdoor cricket season as they failed to qualify

through their BUSA regional group, picking up only one victory and losing to both Newcastle and Northumbria by large margins.

Women's Cricket Club President Chloe Schroeter said many of the outdoor cricketing problems were due to a large proportion of the team being new this year and a lack of time to prepare before the summer season began.

"The new team have worked together really well," she said. "I'm happy with our performances this year. We have come a long way."

