

NOUSE



'The Stone Roses George Best'd it'
Page M2 The irrepressible Ian Brown

Unexpected room shortage leaves undergraduates stranded off campus

By Toby Green
EDITOR

OVER 500 students will be left struggling to find accommodation as the result of a campus room shortage.

A secret report that concluded that third years don't want to move back onto campus is believed to have influenced University policy to cut the number of rooms available.

The leaked report, which was compiled from a survey of students on accommodation, states that third years "tend to stay" in private accommodation and indicates a "growing preference not to rent from the University".

However, the Accommodation Office is expected to have received over 1,000 second and third year requests for campus rooms next year, despite only five hundred rooms being available.

It also reveals that, in 1995, 58% of students had a space on campus, compared to only 43% in 2005, meaning students have lost nearly 400 available rooms on campus over ten years. After receiving the report last year, David Maughan, the Accommodation Officer, confirmed that "[It] will be used to inform the University in its long term planning of accommodation."

The limited amount of places, 250 of which are expected to be allocated to overseas students and those with medical conditions, has meant that many students will have to wait until next month before they can start to search for private accommodation, more than five weeks after the accommoda-

tion list has been published. This is in contrast to last year when the Accommodation Office extended the deadline for returning students' applications several times, and made a plea for 3rd years to move back onto campus to fill unused rooms. It was later revealed that an administrative error had left a number of first years, including 72 Alcuin students, without campus accommodation.

Phil Prosser, Assistant Accommodation Officer, said "Last year we didn't turn anybody away." He admitted that "the number of places available has gone down... but the number of people applying [this year] is more than we expected." 700 students applied for rooms in 2005, still over 250 more than the number of available rooms for the next academic year.

Students have reacted angrily to the lack of availability, citing financial problems and rent increases in the private sector as a requirement for moving back to campus. Laura Newbold, a 2nd year Langwith student, said she was "pissed off, as it looks like I won't have much chance of getting a room and I have no idea what I will do if I can't get one."

"The rent in my current house has risen to around £3,000 a year, without bills. It will be cheaper living back on campus by almost a

grand, and I also want to move back as I will be doing my dissertation and need to be close to the library." The private sector for student accommodation has seen a massive rent increase recently, with rent rising 100% since 1996, despite house prices only rising by 26%.

The University has encouraged applications by telling students on their website that "private sector accommodation could be up to about £1350 more expensive than some University accommodation." Yet they also make the point that "financial hardship is not grounds for priority for accommodation, as many students experience such hardship."

Many colleges have sent out emails to their students explaining that places would be limited, but this has failed to discourage applications. Tony Ward, Provost of Alcuin College, told students that "It is unlikely that any student who is not in the priority categories- overseas students and students with medical conditions requiring residence- will be offered a room."

Langwith students also received an email informing them that they were preventing applications from groups of friends, as "these will quickly use up all the places remaining." In Langwith there are only 19 places available for non-emergency cases, compared to a total of 47 last year.

Students all puffed out



Smoking ban in bars passed, as effect on campus divides student opinion



NEIL ENTWISTLE CASE
York graduate put on suicide watch after extradition to U.S. but continues to deny murder of wife and baby daughter. Page 3

Fire in Derwent exposes safety fears

By Adam Sloan
NEWS CORRESPONDANT

Student safety has been questioned following the discovery that Derwent College fire equipment is three years out of date. The discovery came after a fire broke out in C Block last week.

Despite the requirement by law that university fire safety equipment must be serviced annually, it has been revealed that two extinguishers in C-Block have not been checked since September 2003. Another was found in Derwent F block that has not been checked since July 2004.

The lapse in the maintenance of safety equipment was revealed following a fire that took place in C-Block kitchen on the night of the 15th February. The Fire Department was called out to tackle the blaze, but the C-Block kitchen has suffered extensive smoke damage and

will be out of use until further notice.

Ahmed Siddiqi, resident of Derwent C-Block who was in the building at the time of the fire said; "I went into the kitchen and saw the fire so I immediately called the porters. I didn't try and tackle it, I know our fire extinguisher hasn't been checked in a long time so it wouldn't be the best idea!"

Derwent resident Ashley Scanlan expressed concern about the implications of faulty safety equipment, saying "We get told all the time by the University about the importance of keeping fire doors closed and watching out for our cooking but if push came to shove and the extinguishers didn't work then that's it for us really!"

When contacted, Lynne Jarret of the University's Health and Safety Directorate said she was not aware that safety equipment

was out of date but that "the matter will be investigated." She also stressed that "Over the coming months [the university] will be taking a full review alongside the SU to address fire safety."

Will Wright, another Derwent C Block resident, believes that "basic fire training should be given to every student", to prepare them for tackling blazes such as that which occurred in their kitchen last week.

Phil Chilton, who is a watch manager at York Fire Safety, said that "Fire safety equipment should be checked and maintained annually by a competent firm and this should be recorded."

As well as the statutory annual inspection, the Chief Fire Officers' Association and Local Government Association recommend "routine inspection" of fire extinguishers either quarterly or, preferably, monthly.



The Derwent C Block Kitchen (above) was the scene of a fire and had the out of date extinguisher (right)

A warning to all students

York fire station has spoken out about student safety precautions following a spate of recent fires in halls.

Station officer Carl Vinand of York Fire Station said; "What is needed is for students to take charge. All fires we are called out for happen as a result of stupidity."

Mr Vivand also raised concern over the dangerous

mix of alcohol and fire safety. "Most fires occur after closing time and we do not want people trying to tackle them after they have had a drink".

The blaze in a Derwent C block kitchen started after oil heating in a wok caught fire. An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fire is soon to be launched.

Many fires are caused in



a similar way to that in Derwent, mostly involving chip pans. "Just use oven chips" was the final message from Mr. Vinand.

James student suffers ecstasy pill overdose

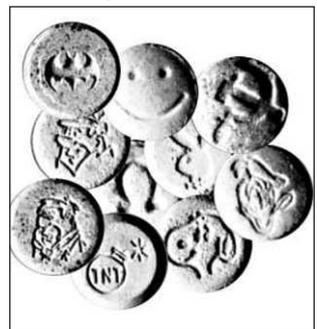
By Heidi Blake
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A JAMES STUDENT was admitted to hospital in a "parlous state" after taking an ecstasy tablet.

The undergraduate, who cannot be named, was found on the night of Tuesday 24th January "in a confused and disoriented state, unable to walk and though conscious, clearly very ill", according to James Provost Ken Todd,

She was quickly taken to York District Hospital, where

it was discovered that her condition was the result of a combination of alcohol and an ecstasy tablet, which had



Ecstasy is a Class A drug

apparently been supplied by a friend. It is thought to be unlikely that the incident was linked to the recent rash of drink-spikings at campus events.

The student has since recovered, and as yet no disciplinary action has been taken. However, Mr Todd was keen to stress that the matter is currently being investigated, and that possession of illegal substances on campus is likely to lead to "very severe disciplinary action including permanent exclusion from the

University". He was not willing to comment on whether the police were involved in the matter.

The incident has raised fresh concerns over the availability of Class A drugs on campus. The results of a recent survey by Nouse have revealed that 42% of students at York know someone at the University who uses Class A drugs, while 27% know of a drug dealer on campus. This comes at a time when the SU is launching a campaign against increased instances of drink spiking at

campus events.

Neil Barnes, the SU Education and Welfare Officer, said "I don't think drug abuse is a large problem on campus".

On Wednesday Barnes said "Unfortunately I feel that the SU should be doing more about drugs awareness, and as that is my responsibility I should accept that I'm probably not doing enough."

"However, my excuse would be that I don't have the time to raise awareness of every single issue relating to students. Also in freshers'

packs we do put in information about drug use, and the York Student Guides carry information, so there is stuff out there".

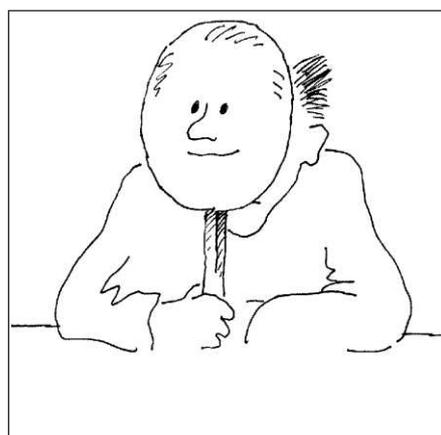
Mr Todd said "Students should be aware that in common with many other illegal substances, ecstasy tablets can have very unpleasant side effects and in some cases can be fatal. The University is very concerned that such drugs are available on campus."

"I cannot understand anyone who would take ecstasy."

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Need a plan to stop bumping into people you wish you wouldn't? M6

Who's NOUSE

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York Graduate Neil Entwistle denies double murder after extradition to US

By Ellen Carpenter
DEPUTY EDITOR

YORK GRADUATE Neil Entwistle has pleaded not guilty to charges of murdering his wife and baby after being extradited to America.

He appeared in a Massachusetts court on Thursday 16th February where he is being held without bail until a second hearing in March.

Rachel Entwistle, 27, and the couple's nine month old daughter Lillian were found shot dead at their home in Hopkinton, Massachusetts on January 22. After returning to his parents' home in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, Neil Entwistle, also 27, was arrested by British police on February 9 and agreed to be extradited to the US to face trial.

At the hearing, which lasted only a few minutes, Mr Entwistle confirmed he was aware of the charges against him, before being led away in handcuffs, leg shackles and a bulletproof vest. Entwistle could face life imprisonment with no parole, and has been placed on suicide watch by US authorities.

In a public statement following the hearing, Elliot Weinstein, Entwistle's lawyer, criticised the media coverage of the case, saying "my concern is that he cannot get a fair trial because of what has occurred in the publicity surrounding this event".

Authorities believe the crime was intended as a murder-suicide, and court papers released last week detail internet searches car-

ried out by Mr Entwistle into euthanasia, suicide and "killing people with a knife", as well as others regarding escort services in Boston.

Mr. Entwistle claims he returned home from an errand on the morning of January 20 to find his wife and daughter dead in one of the family's bedrooms, after which he found a knife, intending to kill himself, but decided it would be too painful. He then drove to his in-laws' house to inform them of the tragedy, as he didn't have their telephone number, but finding the house empty, drove to Boston airport and boarded a flight to Britain.

Prosecutors believe Mr. Entwistle killed his wife and daughter after amassing debts of tens of thousands of dollars. They claimed he carried out the murder using his father-in-law's gun, which the prosecution allege he later returned to their house while they were out, leaving the house keys in his BMW at Boston airport.

A spokesman for Rachel's parents, Joseph and Priscilla Matterazzo, made a statement on behalf of the family, describing their disbelief that "someone we loved, trusted and opened our home to could do this to our daughter and granddaughter" and describing their feelings of betrayal.

The district attorney's office will now present the case to a grand jury, which will decide whether to formally indict Mr. Entwistle with the charges, based on the amount of evidence available, with a second "status" hearing scheduled for March 15.



Neil Entwistle leaving Framingham Court House, Massachusetts after his initial hearing on February 16th

Court case descends on sleepy Hopkinton

By Andrew Hush
CORRESPONDENT IN U.S.

The small Massachusetts town of Hopkinton is a predominantly middle-class town. Its population is just over 14,000, the average age of which is 36. The average household income equates to just over £51,000 and to buy one of said houses will set you back a cool £180,000. The employed among the town's population invariably works locally or commutes to nearby Boston.

Hopkinton has a high school, shops and a church. It also has a police station

which in recent weeks has been transformed from a sleepy local authority into the focus of a crime that has shocked the world. On the morning of 20 January, it is alleged that Neil Entwistle shot to death his wife, Rachel, and baby daughter, Lillian, before fleeing to his native England.

The case has captivated Massachusetts, with television crews reporting round the clock on the latest goings-on.

Andrew Hush graduated from York in 2002 and currently works in Boston as a journalist.



The funeral took place at the beginning of February

"Vote No" campaign derails SU constitution

By Heidi Blake
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A NEW CONSTITUTION is being submitted to the Union General Meeting this week by two members of Women's Committee following the rejection of the original YUSU proposal by the student body.

The total number of votes in favour of the SU's proposed changes, which would have removed liberation posts from the Executive Committee, fell more than 10% short of the percentage needed to pass, at 54%. This is thought to



SU President's proposed changes failed to pass

have been the result of the "Vote No" campaign spearheaded by Grace Fletcher

Hall, the ex-Women's Officer who resigned her post in protest against the proposed changes, and Rose Rickford, a member of Women's Committee and James LGBT Rep.

Fletcher Hall told Nouse that when the changes were rejected, SU President Micky Armstrong and Services Officer Nat Thwaites McGowan agreed to discuss revisions to the proposal to bring it in line with the requirements of the "Vote No" movement.

According to Fletcher Hall, this motion was rejected by Executive Committee,

who decided that "despite the fact that the student body rejected the constitution, they weren't willing to take changes on board".

In response to this, Fletcher Hall and Rickford decided to submit their own revised version of the original YUSU proposal, which will be considered by UGM on Tuesday 21st February.

The ex-Women's Officer commented "Only one constitution can be considered at any one time, and I got mine in first".

If the proposal passes the UGM this week and the student vote in week eight it

will pass into Union law.

According to Fletcher Hall, her proposal "has pretty much all the changes Nat and Micky wanted to see put forward", with the additional provision for four liberation officers on the Executive Committee.

She said "I think they're pleased that by us submitting the new constitution they've got the 'no' camp on their side" adding "I'm not sure about Exec. though".

Neil Barnes, the SU Education and Welfare Officer, said that the changes, which allow four Equality Officers a place on

the Executive Committee, address all the issues raised by the "Vote No" campaign, but refused to acknowledge that this might be beneficial to students, saying "The new proposal doesn't make any drastic improvements at all".

Both Armstrong and Thwaites McGowan have expressed muted approval for the new proposal.

Having submitted a constitutional proposal with which she is satisfied, Fletcher Hall has decided to stand as Women's Officer in the SU by-elections, the results of which are soon to be announced.

Application rates fall due to tuition fees introduction

By Charlotta Salmi
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

APPLICATIONS FOR the University of York have fallen by nearly 5% for the 06/07 year. This comes after, it was announced last week that as the national application rates have decreased in response to the newly introduced "top up" fees.

In a press release made by UCAS an average fall of 4% nationally in applications for courses beginning in 2006 was reported. York fared worse than the national average with a 4.7% decrease. Universities such as Nottingham however, suffered considerably more with a decline nearly three times as great; while York rival Warwick University, was down by less than 2%.

The University's Director of Admissions and Schools Liaison, Connie Cullen however said "We are neither surprised nor are we alarmed by this fall...We knew the pendulum would swing back after last year's increase." This decrease has been expected after last year, which saw a national average increase by 9% in university applications as students rushed to avoid the "top up"

fees which come into power in the next academic year.

With tuition fees almost doubling to £3000, not only home students, but overseas students have been deterred. The University Press Officer, David Garner, said the international applications for York from outside the E.U have suffered a "considerable fall" by 3%.

With larger competition abroad it has been reported that UCAS fears the overseas student market for Universities in Britain may be about to collapse. Bringing in roughly £4 billion annually to British Universities, overseas students, which can be charged more than home students, provide a lucrative income for Universities. The international application rates however were only up by 0.3% nationwide in the year preceding the "top up" fees, and the current fall may be the beginning of a new trend as Universities in Australia and China expand and attract more international students. In view of this decrease, University plans for expansion in Heslington East may be a concern, as second year English and Philosophy

student John Craine said "In view of the national fall in applications, especially by overseas students, can the university really afford to double in size?"

Connie Cullen, the University Director of Admissions and Schools Liaison, said "over the last five years, applications have gone up by 21.5 per cent, so the overall trend remains upwards." The University aims to "continue to make sure the University is well represented, to keep application levels up" said David Garner, the University Press Officer. With a "high level of interest in our open days and other public events" Garner adds, the current dip in applications is not expected to have any severe implications on the university. Indeed the Department for Education and Skills reported that a similar decrease was experienced in 1998 following the introduction of tuition fees but application rates picked up again the very next year. With nine applications for places at York, the Press Officer dispelled concerns regarding the University's expansion or decreases in applications.

How will the



Students will no longer be able to smoke in pubs, clubs and other public places once new smoking legislation comes in during summer 2007. Photo: Adam Sloan

JCR welfare unite in awareness campaign

By Daniel Whitehead
NEWS EDITOR

After several recent reports of drinks spiking around campus, Nouse has officially launched an awareness campaign called 'Be Aware'.

The campaign, which has been officially supported by the York Student Union Academic and Welfare service, aims to raise the profile of the ensuring that students drink responsibly, and are aware of the dangers of not leaving their drink unattended.

Over the coming months Nouse in accordance with the SU and JCR's will be running a series of publications in order to avoid the worst case scenario of drink-spiking related assault on campus. Neil Barnes, Welfare officer for the SU said that he felt campaigning so far had "been very effective

- especially with the publicity generated by Nouse".

The scheme has received widespread support from college reps including Goodricke Chair Matt Burton who said we "fully support the campaign" and in the coming weeks will be looking for "increased publicity in hot spots where drinks may be unattended and at risk to spiking". He added that Bacardi have offered support to their efforts by putting a drinks calculator under every door in Goodricke.

Another supporter of our campaign is Sam Bayley, President of Halifax college. He said "we encourage all of our students to drink responsibly" and that he advises "all students to take care of their drinks to ensure that campus remains the most safe and enjoyable night out".

Despite trying to ensure

that people are aware of the dangers of drink spiking, recent discussions within the SU have concluded that a more positive attitude towards drinking should be encouraged. This is called the Social Norms approach, which aims to promote responsibly drinking behaviour without using scare tactics such as drinks stirrers.

The scheme advertises itself as beneficial as it "takes the peer pressure away from situations" by removing over-hyped perceptions of how much is socially acceptable to drink according to Social Norms organiser Oliver Smith. Sam Bayley offered his support to the new ideology saying that the "Social Norms is definitely worth a try". Neil Barnes added the campaign "actively seeks the views of students in regards to social behaviour"

In light of recent events campaigning has been

brought to the forefront of student welfare following two separate cases of suspected drink spiking at Derwent as reported by Nouse. In neither case were the students involved harmed, but with a recent survey suggesting that the majority of students do not feel in danger of being drink spiked, the issue has become a matter of importance.

Since then the Students Union has used a number of methods to attempt to inform students of the need to be more careful at campus events. This includes SU officials 'spiking' drinks with drinks stirrers warning them not to leave their drink alone.

However the recent survey carried out by Nouse in our last edition has brought the campaign into question, with a large percentage of students admitting to not looking after their drinks at campus events.



The new Nouse 'Be Aware' campaign hopes to raise drinks awareness after several drink spiking incidents

new smoking law affect us?

By Daniel Whitehead
NEWS EDITOR

HEALTH SECRETARY, Patricia Hewitt called it a moment, which "is going to save thousands of peoples lives". She was referring to the vote made last Tuesday which saw MP's from all three main political parties voting unanimously on a full smoking ban across public places in England. With changes coming after growing fears of the effects of second-hand smoke.

The ban which is due to be introduced in Summer 007, has received mixed reaction during a survey carried out on York campus by Nouse last week; with the most prominent argument against the ban being concerns over civil rights. James Copeland from Alcuin college said its an "infringement

on civil liberty". Helen Tillen also from Alcuin added "if we want to die, why can't we? They are trying to eradicate all the cool people from society."

Such concern over whether it is people's right to be able to smoke in public societies was the main reason behind several MP's voting against the bill in the commons last week. Simon Clark director of smoking support group Forest thought "The Government should educate people about the health risks of smoking but politicians have no right to force people to quit by making it more difficult for people to consume a legal product." These views were shared by a non-smoker who argued "bars and clubs should decide whether to be non-smoking".

Despite this, several students thought that the risks

posed to bar staff in a smoky environment were 'unacceptable'. A York Graduate, currently working at the Charles said 'the fact that I won't be working in a smoky environment any more is brilliant. I won't have to clear any more ashtrays, or ask people not to smoke at the bar.'

With second hand smoke being widely considered to increasing the risk of cancer and shortening life expectancy, health worries were as expected the main argument of non-smokers and smokers alike who were in favour of the ban. Smoker, Matt Gregory said 'I don't think people who are non-smokers should have to breathe my fumes, it's embarrassing!' This view was echoed by Owain Lewis a non-smoker who thought that 'peoples lives are more important than others addictions'.

This was the common view of the majority of non-smokers who were surveyed, with many expressing their pleasure at the reduction in air pollution in bars and clubs. Lucy Watkins was asked in Vanbrugh bar on Friday evening about her thoughts on the new legislation and said 'I think it's a really great idea, just here in Vanbrugh it stinks of smoke and it's awful, the changes are a good thing for health'.

James Copeland was more interested in not having to wash his jumpers so regularly.

Although the students interviewed lavished much praise upon the laws, some undergraduates voiced their concerns over the Governments role in encouraging Britain's smoking epidemic over the decades. Tom Van Rassum, a smoker who was surveyed in the Charles on Friday evening said 'I don't see how the government can tell me I can't smoke', 'if people want to go out and smoke they should be able to. Its our choice'.

His friend Jonathan Davidson, who is also a smoker, added 'the amount of money the government has got from us over the years from taxing cigarettes and now they suddenly expect the population to stop smoking, are the government going to provide nicotine patches?' Some also criticised the government for being old-fashioned. Kevin Atkinson, a York resident argued this is not New Labour this is old Conservative. We argued about Russia doing this kind of thing in the seventies.

However as one student who wished to remain unnamed remarked "the bill is bound to cause controversy as there are so many views".

New bill promises ban in public areas

By Daniel Whitehead
NEWS EDITOR

AFTER MP'S unanimously voted in new legislation which will ban smoking in all public places, how will this affect York students on campus?

Well for many of us who are in second or third years not at all as we will no longer be here. But for first-years, the new law will see considerable changes to the way smokers go about their day to day life. All campus bars and events will prohibit all smoking. This will mean anyone who wishes to light up will have to leave the event and smoke outside as all corridors will also be smoke-free zones.

However, it is less clear as to how college rooms which currently allow students to smoke in them will be affected. The bill states that members of the public in private housing will be allowed to smoke but as university corridors are communal it would seem likely that all campus accommodation will also become non-smok-

ing areas. The university when asked about how the legislation would be implemented said that it was "too early to say".

The ban which is already been implemented in the Republic of Ireland is due to be introduced in Scotland during this spring and in Northern Ireland in April 2007. And health ministers warned that the new legislation is likely to see people who choose to smoke in non-smoking areas being fined £2,500 which is an increase over a thousand percent on current fines which are a maximum of £200.

Concerns have been raised to what will happen if smokers are forced outside. With some environmentalists predicting further rises in greenhouse gas due to increases in the number of patio heaters. The heaters according to the Radio 4 Today show account for "over a million tonnes of CO2 gas every year in the UK alone. This will cancel any benefit from an in increase vehicle taxation.

The key facts:

- The smoking legislation will come into force in Summer 2007
- In England smoking will be prohibited in all public areas including bars, clubs and restaurants
- Fines for smoking in non-smoking areas are to be raised from £200 to £2500

Two youths involved in University police chase

By Daniel Whitehead
NEWS EDITOR

Two youths were arrested following a high-speed police chase that ended in Wentworth on Sunday evening.

During a routine stop and check by a local police patrol car in Tang Hall, the two males said to be aged between 16 and 18 fled the scene. After a chase which

lasted several minutes, the van which was a Ford Escort came to a halt, after crashing into a fern tree on the fields situated above the Biology department.

The youths attempted to escape from the car at the time of the crash, with one being arrested at the scene and the second escaping despite attempts by several police to capture the fugitive on campus. However, he later handed himself in to

the police station after 'further enquiries' had been made to his whereabouts.

Police officers at the scene of the crash refused to comment at the time of the incident. But later in the evening, duty Sergeant Pearson of the York Police Department said that the youths were "from the Eastern side of York", and known to have been involved in "several crimes of a similar nature in the past". He added that the chase involved two police cars in the original road pursuit and further vehicles were deployed to search for the youth when he fled on foot.

Nouse became aware of the incident after a youth was seen running passed our offices between the hours of six and seven on Sunday 19th February. A second year Politics undergraduate who



A Ford Escort (above) collided with a fern tree near Biology on Sunday and the airbag was released during the incident (bottom right). Photo: Adam Sloan

wished to remain unnamed witnessed one of the youths fleeing the scene. He said 'I was walking home past Vanbrugh after a hard days

work and observed a sporty looking youth sprinting past me. Soon after a policeman followed and I realised that he was in pursuit'. When

asked whether he had considered making a citizen's arrest he added 'I didn't think it was my prerogative to chase after him'.



James Treasurer resigns after indecently exposing himself during college meeting

By Kate Smith and Heidi Blake

FORMER JAMES College Treasurer, Ethan Conner, resigned last month following a drunken incident at a JCR Committee Meeting in which he exposed his genitalia to fellow members.

Conner, pictured opposite, had become intoxicated over lunch following what he described as a "bad morning".

He says he was later joined in his room for a drink by the James JCRC Vice President, who subsequently escorted him to the Committee Meeting.

The former Treasurer recounts that after arriving, he disrupted the meeting throughout in what he describes as "fairly childish ways".

"I think I was throwing things. I was licking someone a lot - one of the girls who does P and P. I also cut my hair, and I exposed myself. I was just generally being an obnoxious fool."

When asked why he had exposed himself, Conner said "it was really embarrassing. It wasn't meant for everyone", claiming that he had merely intended to indicate to the Vice President that he needed to use the lavatory, but that his intoxicated state had prevented greater discretion.

Members of the JCRC were particularly distressed by a proposition of Conner's at the same meeting to show what has been described as "homophobic material" at a James video night.

In an interview following his resignation, the former Treasurer explained that his suggestion to air the opinions of what he referred to as "ridiculous Christian fundamental crazy people" was in order to provide an alternative perspective to the gay rights videos scheduled to be shown on the same night.

Conner claims that he had been considering issues concerning freedom of speech at the time, having recently read John Stuart Mill's 'On Liberty'.

He added that his proposal was intended to "generate debate and argument", because "York can be intellectually sterile". The motion was almost unanimously defeated by other JCR members.

When recounting the event, the ex-treasurer said "I just think it's sad that people won't challenge themselves", but acknowledged that it was inappropriate to have proposed the video whilst under the influence of alcohol.

The ex-Treasurer was supposed to have submitted the James College budget to

the Students' Union on the same day, but had failed to do so because he had sent it to the wrong email address on account of having been inebriated.

Anne-Marie Canning, the Chair of James JCRC, claimed that Conner had "felt he should resign" following the episode in the meeting. However, the ex-treasurer claims that he initially thought he could remedy the situation with an apology, as "it was a silly mistake, but no damage was done" and "Dan [one of the SU Treasurers] was fine with the budget".

However, Conner decided to resign after hearing rumours that a vote of no confidence was to be proposed against him at the next JCR meeting.

He has since said "I regret [exposing myself] in the sense that it's a childish thing to do in any context, but I do think they overreacted. I do regret resigning, because I think I could have resisted the vote of no confidence."

He claimed that "everyone agrees that James college is frankly rubbish", and that had he maintained his position as Treasurer he might have been able to make a positive difference to the college and its events, commenting "we had some incredible ideas".



Conner has gained himself a reputation as an exhibitionist. Photo: Adam Sloan

Archbishop attacks Guantanamo Bay following UN human rights report

York to have 200ft observation wheel

By Heidi Blake
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu has launched an impassioned attack on the American administration for their refusal to close their detainee camp at Guantanamo bay, which he said reflected "a society heading towards George Orwell's Animal Farm".

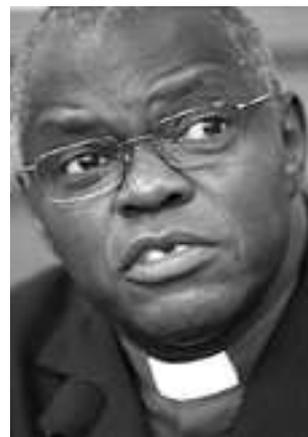
In a recent interview with The Independent, Dr Sentamu claimed that President Bush is "breaking international law" in failing to offer prisoners a fair trial, and urged the UN Human Rights Commission to bring legal action against the US administration through the International Court of Justice should it fail to respond to a recent UN report advising that Camp

Delta at Guantanamo Bay should be closed immediately because prisoners are being tortured.

The Archbishop of York, who is the Church of England's second in command, called for the trial or release of all 500 detainees at Guantanamo, who include eight British residents, saying "The main building block of a democratic society is that everyone is equal before the law, innocent until proved otherwise, and has the right of legal representation."

"Transparency and accountability are the other side of the coin of freedom and responsibility. We are all responsible for our actions in spite of circumstances. The events of 9/11 cannot erase the rule of law and international obligations".

Dr Sentamu's com-



The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu

ments are added to the increasing bank of international pressure to close the camp, which includes appeals from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the Northern Ireland Secretary Peter

Hain.

In response to Mr Annan's calls, Donald Rumsfeld, the US Defence Secretary, said "He's just flat wrong. We shouldn't close Guantanamo. We have several hundred terrorists, bad people, people who if they went back out on the field would try to kill Americans".

Speaking to The Independent, Dr Sentamu said "If the guilt of the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay is beyond doubt, why are the Americans so afraid to bring them to trial?"

This is not the first time Archbishop Sentamu has made vocal defence of human rights: in 1974, before his ordination, his criticism of the Amin regime for its human rights violations led to his arrest and departure from Uganda for Britain.

By Jo Shelley
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The City Council have given the go-ahead to plans for yet another tourist attraction in York - a giant, London Eye-style observation wheel.

The attraction will soar 60 metres above the city and offer a 20-mile panoramic view, taking in the city's historical centre, as well as the Minster and the river Ouse. It will have 42 viewing capsules, each with a capacity of eight people.

The wheel is expected to open at the National Railway Museum's Leeman Road site in April of this year.

According to the NRM's head, Andrew Scott, the wheel would "not only provide a fantastic opportunity to see the city as it has never been seen before, but would also bring many more visi-

tors to York".

He estimates that, over the three-year lease agreed with World Tourist Attractions, the owners of the wheel whose own bid to construct it near the Ouse was withdrawn early last year, the number of visitors drawn to York by the attraction could potentially reach one million.

The joint venture will also create around 30 jobs locally.

While not as large as the London Eye, which measures 135 metres, the wheel will become the second tallest structure in York, just ten metres below the Minster's famous Lantern Tower

Organisers at the NRM told Nouse that on a clear day passengers in the capsules will be able to see as far as the University water tower.

Prophet cartoon causes Muslim outrage and fatalities worldwide

By Michael Wild

Protests against the publication and republication of cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad have taken place in nations, both Muslim and secular, around the world. So far around thirty people have died in violent demonstrations.

The treasurer of the Islamic Society on campus, Ogtay Huseyni, has spoken to Nouse outlining why these cartoons have caused such fury in the Muslim world and how the Islamic Society plans to deal with the issue. Notably, he also indicates that there is no necessary contradiction between Islam and freedom of expression. A key message of Islam, he says, is that one should discuss matters that one takes issue with, rather than fuel the confrontations which have developed.

It is with reference to what Huseyni calls "anti-Islamic feelings around the world" that he believes the type of reaction witnessed in

Islamic communities can be understood.

The cartoons themselves are particularly provocative and offensive to Muslims. Huseyni believes understanding this provocation explains the reaction we have seen.

Huseyni feels that there are few, if any, insults which are more serious than to demean a prophet, as "Muslims love the prophet more than their family".

This was partly in response to the accusation that the printing of anti-semitic cartoons in Islamic newspapers seems hypocritical. While not condoning such satire at all, Huseyni felt the cartoons were still the more offensive.

The Islamic Society has around 50 members and aims to provide a support base for Muslims on campus and to foster relations between Muslims and non-Muslims. In light of this the society is holding an Islamic awareness week in summer term, 2006.

In-depth: Page 8



Protesters have hit out against Denmark and Danish embassies have been forced to close worldwide



Anti-Danish protests in Pakistan were broken up by riot police firing tear gas

'Stop disregarding our beliefs'

By Ogtay Huseyni

ISLAMIC SOCIETY

The publication of cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has caused such an outcry throughout the world that it is important to understand why Muslims feel so hurt by them.

Firstly, although the Prophet (peace be upon him) was only human, Muslims aspire to love and revere him even more than their close ones. Secondly, the negative depiction of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is not just a depiction of a single person but an outright disregard of Islam and more than a billion Muslims throughout the world. Thus many Muslims are feeling singled out.

We know from history how demonising a whole section of society can be the catalyst for discrimination, prejudice and even persecution. In the years leading up to (and including) the Second World War, damning images of the Jewish people were frequently published throughout Germany. These images helped to engineer a Jewish stereotype, sewing the seeds for a human catastrophe.

Could a direct parallel be drawn here? We pray not, but many fear that the answer is yes.

What about freedom of expression? It would certainly not be acceptable to publish satirical images ridiculing the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs, even under

'Muslims aspire to love and revere Him even more than their close ones'

the banner of freedom of speech. As Jacques Chirac put it: "Anything that can hurt the convictions of another, particularly religious convictions, must be avoided... Freedom of expression must be exercised in a spirit of responsibility."

In April 2003, Danish cartoonist Christoffer Zieler offered a set of cartoons depicting Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) to the Jyllands-Posten – the Danish paper which first published the infamous cartoons that

caused the recent outcry. One of the paper's editors told Zieler: "I don't think Jyllands-Posten's readers will enjoy the drawings. As a matter of fact, I think that they will provoke an outcry. Therefore, I will not use them." It seems that freedom of expression is used selectively; why else would the same paper refuse to publish cartoons of Jesus (peace be upon him)?

On Friday the 10th of February, Flemming Rose (the cultural editor of Jyllands-Posten) was sent on indefinite leave just for saying that he would consider republishing cartoons of the Holocaust. It would be hard to avoid the conclusion that there are evident double standards when it comes to issues concerning Muslims.

At the York University Islamic Society, we see one of our main responsibilities as reflecting the feelings of Muslims on campus and encouraging dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims. Thus, we will be holding a series of events with the first talk taking place on Wednesday the 22nd of February at 6:30 pm in P/L/001.

For more information e-mail socs343@york.ac.uk

Muslim cartoon row timeline

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>2005
30 September: Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten print a series of cartoons, some depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist</p> <p>2006
30 January: Gunmen raid EU office in Gaza.</p> <p>31 January: Jyllands-Posten apologises. The Danish PM defends freedom of speech.</p> | <p>1 February: Papers in France, Germany, Italy and Spain reprint the cartoons.</p> <p>4 February: Protests claim lives in Afghanistan and Somalia.</p> <p>4 February: Danish and Norwegian embassies in Syria attacked.</p> <p>5 February: Lebanese demonstrators set the</p> | <p>Danish embassy in Beirut on fire.</p> <p>9 February: Hundreds of thousands of Shia Muslims protest in Lebanon.</p> <p>17 February: At least 10 people are killed and several injured in Libya.</p> <p>18 February: 10,000 British Muslims rally in protest against the cartoons.</p> |
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The Campus Soap Box

This edition, the Young Greens argue against a new generation of nuclear power stations.

By Kirran Shah, Young Green

Nuclear power is being repackaged and wheeled out as a solution to our climate woes. Those in favour of a new generation of nuclear power plants claim that it can deliver reliable, safe and clean energy - this is not the case. There is a general consensus that global air pollution is seriously impacting our changing climate on a colossal scale. Growth in emissions is affecting our environment through the everyday energy that we use - the energy used to heat buildings alone is currently responsible for 50% of UK emissions. We cannot blindly accept the logic of nuclear power, even as a last resort or stop gap measure.

The by-products of the fission process can and have been used to produce nuclear weapons, hence concern about Iran's current nuclear power programme. Nor is this nuclear material secure; research shows that in 2003 19.1 kg of it went missing at the Sellafield plant - this would be enough to produce five nuclear bombs. Even the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant requires serious risk management and there are very few private organisations willing to undertake something so dangerous. To clean up after existing nuclear power plants, the government has had to give the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority £56 billion.

There is pollution in the form of radiation. The incidence of childhood leukaemia around Sellafield is ten times the national average and there is a considerable increase in cases of leukaemia around every plant in Europe.

The amount of radioactive waste

in Britain is continually increasing. There is the equivalent of 384 swimming pools of waste, too radioactive for human contact. At the moment it is kept in concrete casing, while we decide how to deal with it.

Even though nuclear reactors do not produce carbon dioxide, mining their fuel and dismantling them certainly does. Nuclear power often uses high quality uranium ore which produces as much CO2 over our life cycles as a small gas plant. Uranium ore is also running out and we have no natural source in the UK - there is no security of supply. The UK will thus be as dependent on other countries to supply and import the fuel for nuclear power as it currently is with oil. We need to cut down on carbon dioxide pollution but this does not mean nuclear power stations will reduce our energy demand. For example, fuel-efficient cars could almost halve energy demand. Other energy options such as solar panels on houses must be explored. Instead of spending billions on supply, the government should be spending it on reducing demand. Recently the German government announced that it would spend money on improving energy efficiency in housing. This policy is estimated not only to save enough energy so as to be able to make Germany nuclear free, but also to reduce people's energy bills.

We can deal with climate change without nuclear power; we do not need it and do not want it. A recent survey showed only 34% of people actually support building more nuclear reactors. We need to campaign for better waste management and renewables. Solar and wind technology work with our environment instead of against it.

Muslim cartoon fury ID card go-ahead

Gavyn Edmunds attempts to understand the motivations behind the printing of anti-Islamic cartoons

Last September, a small Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, chose to publish twelve cartoons 'satirising' Islam. To Muslims the depiction of the prophet is prohibited by the Koran and causes extreme offence.

Anyone who has viewed the pictures will first be struck by how amateurish they appear. The cartoons range from a sketch of Muhammad in heaven standing in front of a line of suicide bombers who are being told to stop because "We've run out of virgins", to a caricature of the prophet's head whose turban (incidentally a Sikh; not even a Muslim one) has morphed into a bomb with a lit fuse.

Nearly five months after the first publication of the cartoons, we now stand in the midst of an unprecedented diplomatic disaster. Various Muslim ambassadors have been withdrawn, whilst numerous embassies have been closed by the Danish government following the fire-bombing of their mission in Beirut. However, amid the expected backlash of flag burning, boycotting and anti-west sloganeering - more seriously - dozens of people have been left dead after riot police turned upon Muslim protesters in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and Somalia.

Many have reduced the printing of these cartoons and the escalating Muslim reaction as a battle between 'freedom of speech' and 'religious belief'. However, by reducing this row in such a binary fashion its context is being ignored. It was not - as many commentators have argued - an apocalyptic prologue to the unavoidable 'clash of civilisations' yet to come. It was, rather, an expression of the lack of acceptance Muslim communities are forced to endure within Danish society.

Many of the country's 170,000 Muslims are concentrated inside a small number of urban centres, and for many commentators Muslims



The voices of moderate Muslims across the world have been suppressed by extremists demonstrations in which dozens have been killed

represent a growing underclass within Denmark, challenging the nation's tolerant and egalitarian image. At the core of the cartoon row lies the reality that Danish Muslims face discreet day-to-day discrimination.

Jyllands-Posten attempted to justify its actions as a way of challenging what they saw as a form of self-censorship over Islam present within the Danish media. However, by publishing cartoons which portrayed Islam as a faith of suicide bombers, together with pictures of Muhammad (any representation of God or a prophet is strictly forbidden in Islam), the paper singled out

perhaps the most marginalised section of Danish society.

The argument was further inflamed when the Danish PM, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, refused to meet a delegation of Muslim leaders to discuss the issue. Given that a Danish MP had previously described Muslims as "a cancer in Denmark", this was interpreted by many Muslims as a further example of growing Islamophobia.

Furthermore, the decision by editors in France, Germany, Italy and Spain to reprint some of the original cartoons can be seen as much as a sign of contempt for their own marginalised Muslim popula-

tion as it can be seen as a display of solidarity with Jyllands-Posten. As we have often seen over the last few years, the far right have exploited the ignorance that segregation creates in order to make serious electoral inroads across mainland Europe.

In the United Kingdom the British National Party has attempted to take advantage of tensions in a small number of heavily divided communities. The BNP has also published links on their website to European newspapers that have printed these cartoons.

In comparison to other European nations, Britain has had

relative levels of success in integrating generations of immigrants into mainstream society. In many ways, the example set in Britain illustrates that religious faith can exist peacefully within a secular western society, once acceptance - and the respect for the beliefs of others that follows it - is established.

Many commentators have pointed out how damaging this row has been to relations between Islam and the west. However, if anything is to be gained from the debate which the conflict has sparked, it is the proof that Islam and the west can live with each other. One only has to turn to Britain to find the evidence.

Internet success story Google damaged by privacy battle

By Rob McMillan

Their service is used 200 million times a day, their combined value is an estimated \$20 billion and Bill Gates fears them. Larry Page and Sergey Brin are the Stanford-educated founders of Google, founded in 1997, who are literally transforming how we use the Internet. Not bad for a company founded on a spelling mistake (the correct spelling is googol, meaning 10¹⁰⁰).

Google's mantra, "don't be evil," has emerged recurrently over the last month as Google, once the golden child of the computer age, has seemingly revised their philosophy. Recent events have confirmed it

wields massive power; assumptions of how such responsibility would be handled rested on their benevolently passive reputation, but it is now demonstrating that ambition may be taking precedence over ethical practice.

Each time a Google search is conducted the terms are documented and can be tracked to specific computers via unique IP addresses. Google holds this information indefinitely. This compromise of privacy is not likely to have come to light had the U.S. government not subpoenaed this information. Google is hailing its ensuing legal tussle as one for the privacy of internet users. This is a contentious statement; Google's behaviour suggests the contrary, that



Google co-founder Sergey Brin

it cares not for our privacy but for its own; it has not become the fastest growing business of all time by disclosing trade secrets. The information Google possesses is startlingly comprehensive, a privacy timebomb waiting to explode, or implode; the mere suggestion of the subpoena resulted in an 8.5% decrease in market value of the company in one day.

Then came China. If information held by Google is not enough to illustrate the dangers of a virtually omnipotent corporation, it has now decided to discount beliefs on freedom of information by providing the Chinese government with a service blocking politically sensitive material. China has a notoriously repressive governmental regime: freedom

of speech and information is severely restricted and this move has further hindered the (albeit deliberated) progress that many in the west understood to be underway. Under fresh procedures google.cn will operate within Chinese walls, thus complying fully with the government's demands for amendment of information. China's estimated 111 million Internet users and Google's mission "to organize the world's information... making it universally accessible and useful" presents an instantly perceptible clash of business sense versus ideology. One senses more Orwellian bowdlerisation than the utopian ideal Google professes to imagine it could implement.

European shores, too, are not impermeable. The Munich based car manufacturer BMW was relegated from Google's machinery for an alleged scam intended to maximise visitors from the search engine. BMW promptly fixed this and were welcomed back into the Google family. As 75% of all web-pages are accessed through Google, it is a death penalty reprieve of the highest order. One cannot help but feel, however, that Google was exasperated more by BMW's attempt to manipulate their "PageRank Technology", rather than any effort to "deceive user[s]" or present different content to search engines," as articulated in their mission statement.

The last month has stripped Google of the 'super-cool, squeaky-clean crusaders for good' image, revealing a company disposed to compromise ethics for increased earnings, discarding valuable goals to enhance market value. Google has such authority and influence that it can contribute significantly to the advancement or suppression of freedom of speech and information; it can hoard data on millions of internet users that could be used to exploit ad libitum and even grind to a halt the internet activities of the largest automotive company in the world. Larry Page once said he wished to "change the world" - he never specified whether for better, or for worse.

Rachael Marsh reports on the coming of ID cards to the UK

Last Monday the Government secured backing from the House of Commons for its controversial Identity Cards Bill, winning the vote on key House of Lords amendments with a majority of 31. Central to the Lords' objections was the issue of compulsory registration, which the Government has no manifesto commitment to. Monday's vote means that all those applying for new passports after 2008 will automatically be registered on the database, a move seen by many as covert compulsory introduction. The Bill now returns to the Lords, who must decide whether to insist on their proposed amendments. If not, the first provisions of the legislation will begin to be implemented in April, when biometric data will be included on certain renewed passports.

The Identity Cards Bill introduces a number of new initiatives. Not only the physical card itself, with accompanying iris scan and fingerprint data, but also the most debated provision - the National Identity Database. According to the current legislation, this database will record over fifty pieces of information on each person. The legislation also identifies specific agencies and individuals that will be able to gain access to the information held. Neither the extent of the information nor the eligible agencies are fixed, however. The number of agencies at least is likely to increase in light of proposed EU legislation that will ensure all European security services share information.

The Identity Cards Bill is a manifesto pledge by the Government and was proposed to counter three key issues: terrorism, identity theft and benefit fraud. Proponents of the Bill state that the biometric data will ensure that individuals can be easily and certainly identified, while the database will mean that a detailed record of a person's activities can be made in order that likely suspects can be monitored. Moreover, the biometric data will make identity fraud more difficult.

There is a vocal body of opposition to the Bill, however. It ranges in scope from a number of Labour backbenchers, to the body of security experts at the LSE. These experts, working in conjunction with nearly 100 industry experts, produced a report in March 2005 criticising the government's proposal. Opponents of the Bill suggest that existing databases elsewhere have increased identity theft, not least because once the system is hacked an identity can be stolen comprehensively. Moreover, the Home Secretary indicated that the July bombings would not have been prevented by ID cards.

While the Government is strongly in favour of ID cards, the Conservatives have changed their position over the course of the debate, coming down in the most



The government have claimed ID will counter terrorism and crime

recent vote against them. This stance seems to reflect public opinion, although different polls return different results. The most recent YouGov poll found 66% against the Government's current position, although the Government claims majority public support.

The vote on Monday defeated a Lords' amendment that the Government produce a report on cost prior to implementation, instead supporting a six-monthly report to Parliament. While public opinion seems to be in support of ID cards in principle, there is significant public opposition on the grounds of cost, which the Government has steadily increased from the initial £30 to £93 when linked with passport renewal. Estimates vary, however, the LSE report suggesting this was more likely to be in the region of £300. The overall cost of implementation is also much disputed, with estimates ranging from the Government's £6 million, to the LSE's £10 billion. A number of opinion polls show that public support drops as the estimates increase. The Government itself has refused to identify its predicted set up costs, citing commercial sensitivity.

The difficulties the Government

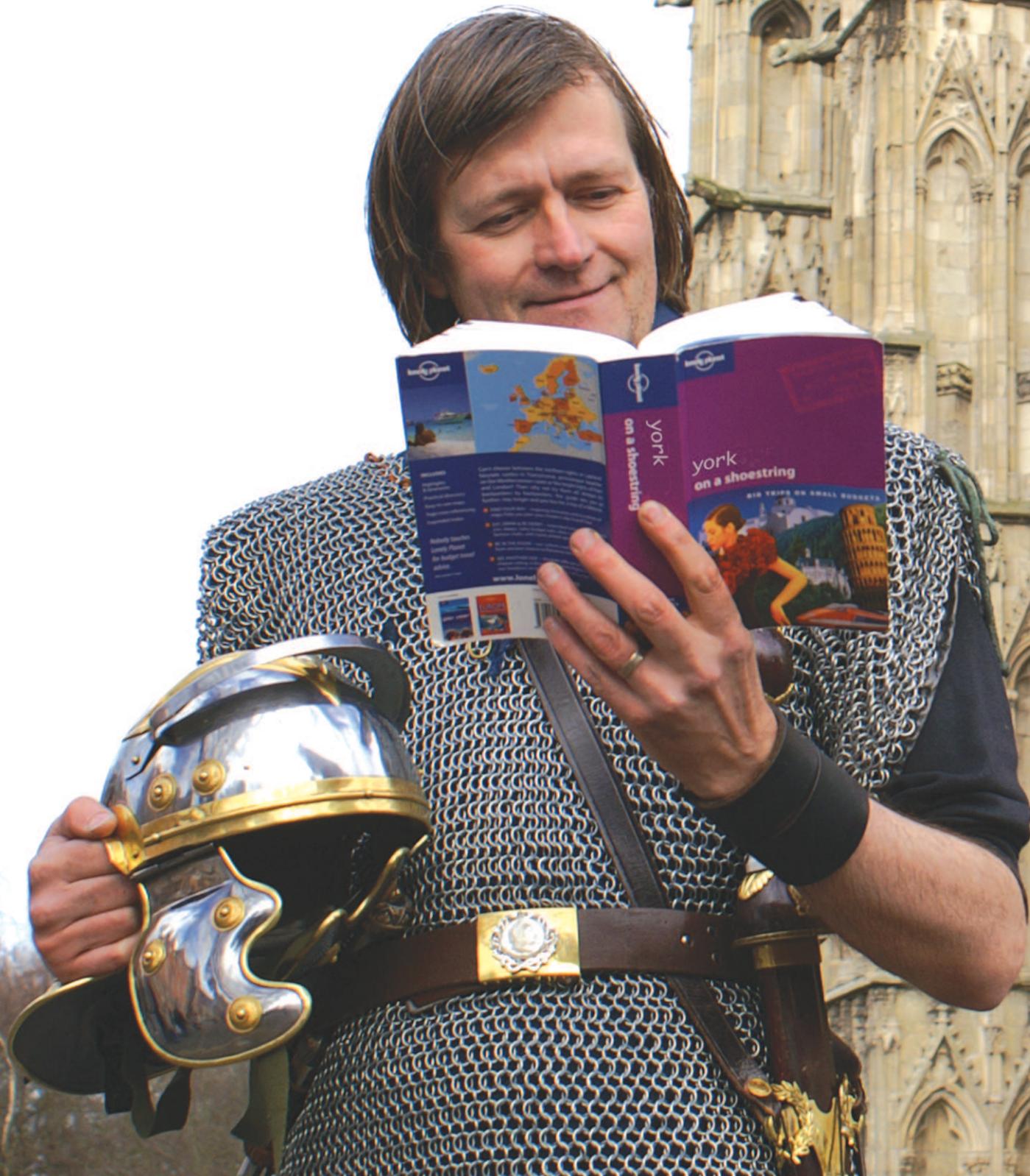


Blair accused of ID card excess

has had in passing the Identity Cards Bill comes amid a number of signs that its support is waning, even among its own MPs. While the Government has managed to get the Bill this far, it has been significantly amended, and has only been achieved after a long battle with both the Lords and its own backbenchers. Returning to the second chamber, the Government's manifesto commitment to a voluntary registration scheme must once again be defended by the unelected house.

MUSE

**Making friends with
the locals: a foreigner's
guide to York M4-M5**





Local MP, **John Grogan**, discusses recent legislation

Organisation is the key in democracy

Democratic politics is essentially a numbers game. Whether it be York University Athletic Union, Heslington Parish Council or the House of Commons, ultimately you need to construct a majority to win. The best arguments in the world can fail to prevail if the organisation behind them is poor. During the first two months of 2006 I have been involved in lobbying behind the scenes on two key votes in Parliament – the amendment of the Religious Hatred Bill and the comprehensive smoking ban.

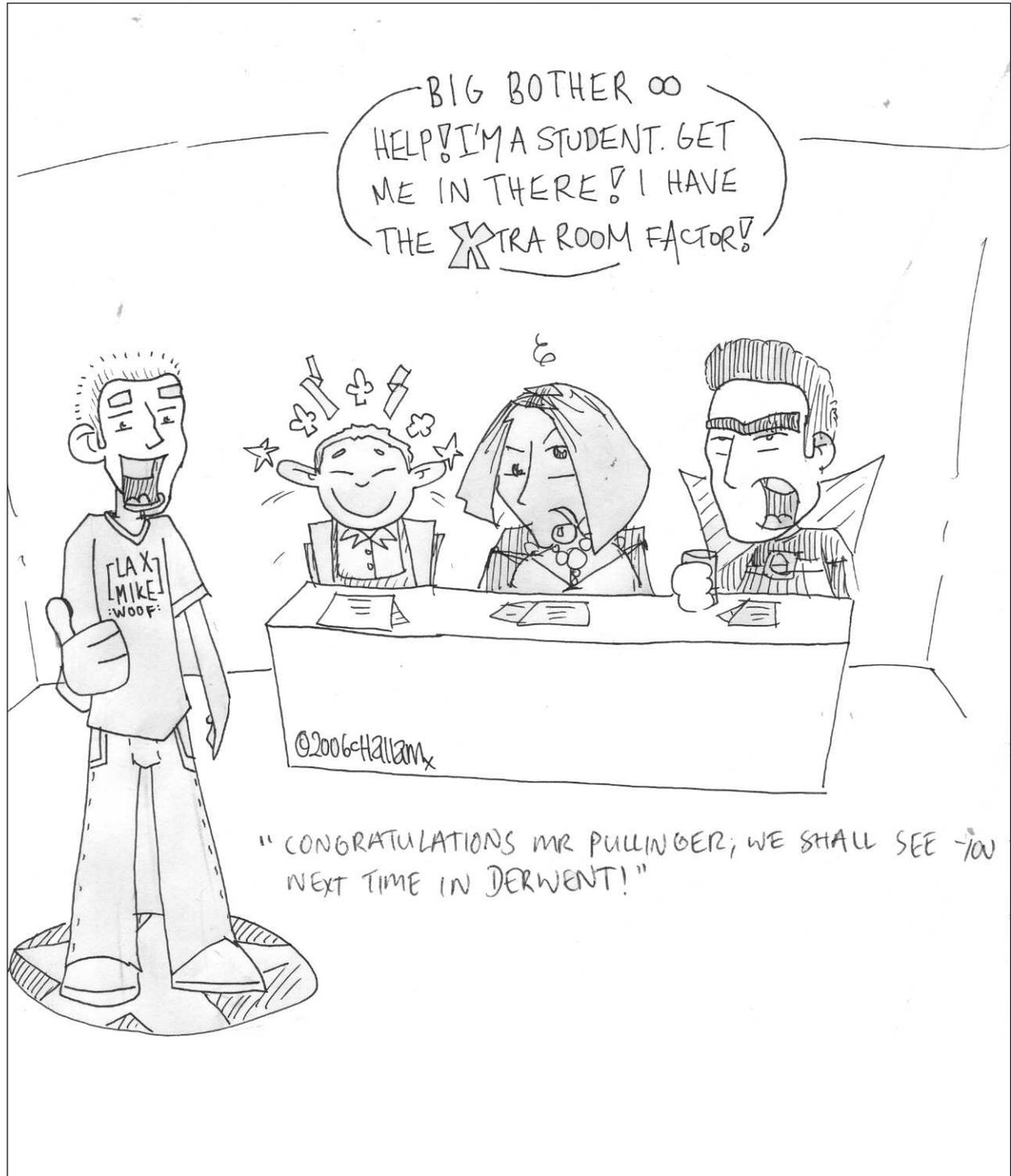
One common lesson of both debates was coalition building. To my dying day I will recall, in the run-up to the final vote on the Religious Hatred Bill, my office full of an eclectic mix including lawyers from the Christian Evangelical Alliance, officers of the National Secular Society, actors and comedians. They were all from very different backgrounds and perspectives but united in the cause of free speech. Equally in the smoking debate I did my best to bring together my two roles as chair of the Backbench Labour Party Health Committee and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group.

The Health Select Committee chairman and I spent hours over Christmas and New Year locked in meetings with the captains of the pub industry and representatives of Cancer Research UK, The British

Medical Association and Action on Smoking and Health. The progress of these talks was I think one of the factors in persuading Downing Street to grant MPs a free vote. In turn, once that decision had been taken pubs very quickly signed up to a complete smoking ban, fearful that if members clubs were exempted they could lose much business from smoking customers.

Voting in the House of Commons is a very physical business. The division bell rings and MPs have eight minutes to get to one of the two division lobbies. The golden rule is to let MPs sympathetic to your cause know whether they need to vote aye or no. When there is a series of votes on complicated amendments that is not easy. On the occasion of the Religious Hatred Bill there were two votes and the rebel majority fell from eleven to one with the Prime Minister famously not voting on the second occasion. He was not the only one to get caught out. The reason the rebel majority fell was that their crib sheet on how to vote mistakenly predicted only one division and so after the first vote several rebels trooped off to the bar thinking the job was done. But for the Prime Minister's absence weeks of careful organisation and planning would have been undone! When it comes to democratic decision making sometimes there is no substitute for a stroke of luck.

Comment



SU President **Micky Armstrong**, asks you to get actively involved in the running of your Students' Union

Well it is that time of year again; the YUSU elections are closing on the horizon. Who wins YOU decide. Whether or not you think what we do concerns you or not, the power of the vote is the strongest power you have in a democratic body such as our Union.

I remember twelve months ago when I had finally decided to stand for President. Many told me not to bother, that I was too inexperienced or that my opposition was much more popular. What was it that changed my mind? A friend once said, "You will feel bet-

ter to run and lose than if you don't run and always thought you should." It's true, and this is the one piece of advice I can give to anybody, don't be scared to stand up for something you believe in.

The next few weeks you'll be inundated with

information and posters; flyers and manifestos why shouldn't they be your flyers and your manifestos? Everybody must know the Margaret Mead quote by now; "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." But what does that mean? It means that if you want to change something go ahead and change it, don't be afraid of what everybody else thinks or what you think everybody else thinks. Just do it.

What I have seen in the last few weeks is that people do care enough to act. Our

Union General Meeting had the best turn out in living history. Our RAG procession was larger, more successful and more enjoyable than in recent years (I would know, I organised the last two!). So when people say that there is no point in getting involved in the Union they are wrong.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the reception of the student centre. We will give you all the advice you

'Recently I have seen that people really do care enough to act'

need and help explain about all the steps that you will have to take over the next few weeks.

If you know that you would like to be an officer on the Union but do not know which one, come and have a chat, I am more than happy to explain all the roles of the Union and how you can influence them.

So to finish on a well-repeated phrase of mine (to irritate Mr Parker): get involved. Take part in the elections, be it standing, helping a friend, asking questions at hustings or simply logging on and voting; it's, easy it's fun. Get involved.



On Make Poverty History: "It's a great slogan, but I don't really know how you can make poverty history by wearing a white band around your wrist."



On the Arctic Monkeys: "Nineteen years old and from their own generation, that's something to be celebrated. They've done their own thing and people like that."

"They haven't had stylists or tailors, they've just done their own thing and the people have gone with them. The Roses were like that, you know. The media were a little bit behind; it was the people that made them catch on. The Roses became media darlings but really it was the people that put us there. That's what's happening with the Arctic Monkeys, it's a natural thing."

Apart from their success, does Brown think guitar music is becoming stagnant? "Well it's been going fifty years, hasn't it?" he argued. "To be honest, I don't think guitar music's ever been stronger. If you look in the top ten at the moment, something like eight of the acts are guitar bands." Brown's solo music is prominent amongst such acts. His last four albums have contributed nine top 30 singles since 1998 and remain a testament to his eclecticism and variety. He explained, "The idea of the Roses was to do that sort of sound, that guitar type music. So, once that finished, you know, all I want to do is make music with good grooves. But because I'm solo, I've had the freedom to do whatever I want."

Despite the acrimony that still exists between the individual members of the Roses, especially John Squire and Brown, he remains proud of their achievements in changing the landscape of popular music at the time. "Even though the Roses were more traditional sounding than my stuff now, we weren't afraid to go into new territory— *Fools Gold* shows that. When we came out, we were told not to expect the major charts. There wasn't any room for guitar bands then, but it's not like that now." Perhaps Brown feels a hand in that? "Well, probably the Sex Pistols put New Order and the Smiths on, before the Roses came through.

The Roses probably put Oasis and Blur on, just in the fact that an alternative market just got bigger and bigger until it hit the mainstream and it started going down again. But now it's back again."

Brown admits to a certain nostalgia for his days with the Roses but said, "Everything I did with Roses, I've now done myself, except Spike Island." He reflected, "Those days were good. I loved those days. But I've had a great eight years; eight years that ranks up alongside anything I've ever done with the Roses." On that note, I ask about the rumours that have been circulating of a second Spike Island gig, with Ian playing as a solo artist. "Apparently someone's hired the site there, yeah. But there's been no formal offer or anything."

But for every journalist and fan who calls for a Roses reunion, there must be, at least, an equal number who scorn the idea. "Exactly" said Brown, "I get people that only got into my solo music or that prefer it to the Roses. Then there's people that were into the Roses who say 'We were there for the Roses, don't spoil our memories.'"

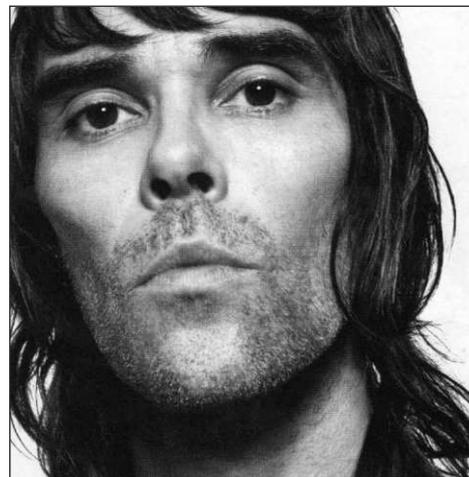
It's understandable why people would want them to reunite. The Roses were a band who, despite prodigious talent, woefully underachieved. Brown describes them as having "George Best'd it". They had the world at their fingertips, only to watch it slip away. But, as Brown said, that was a long time ago and he's had an astonishing time since. I asked him whether he would ever consider writing a book about his life? "Yeah, I would. I started writing a book just when I came out of jail, just because I didn't have my own newspaper so couldn't get my story across."

He is referring to the 1998 incident



Ian Brown has just released *The Greatest*, a collection of his hits from four albums

when Brown was sentenced to four months in jail for air rage after threatening a stewardess and a pilot during a flight. He told the hostess he would "chop her hands off" and banged on the cockpit door. Brown has always vehemently denied the charge, saying



'The idea of the Roses was to do guitar music, now all I want to make are good grooves'

the hands comment— a line from one of his songs— was a joke. "The idea of a book was to get that information out: my story. But since then I've done eight years work, been all over the world and lots of funny things have hap-

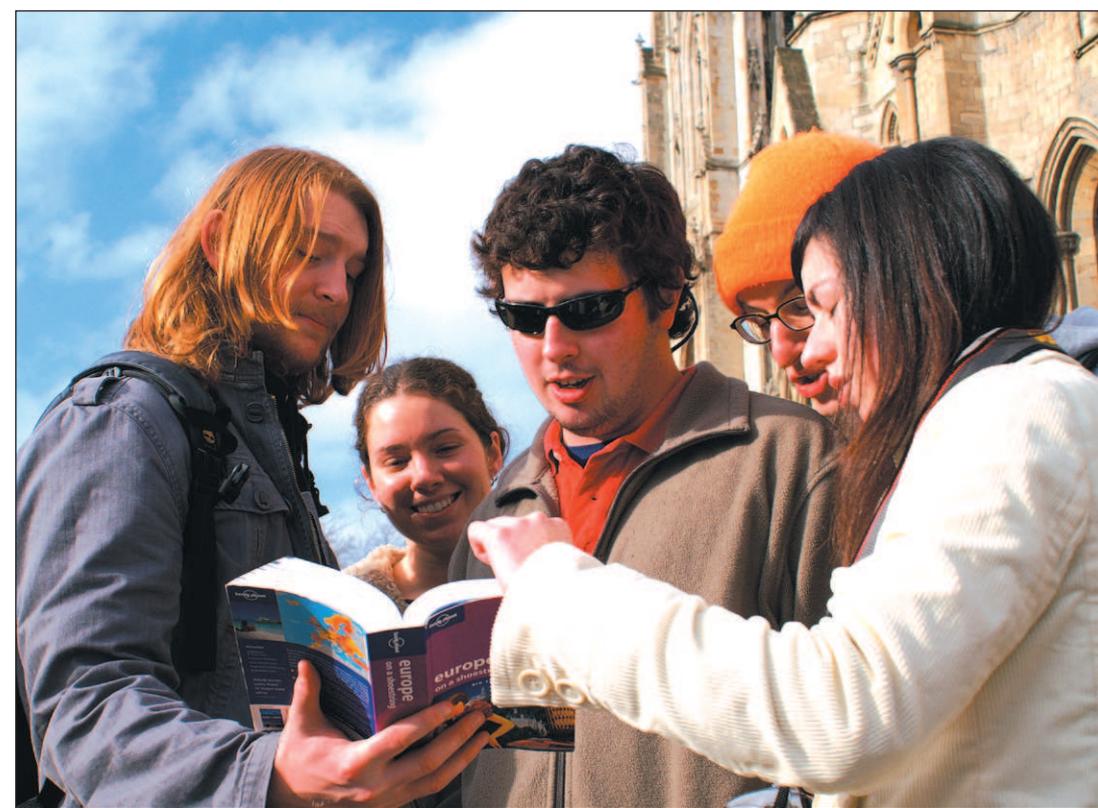
pened and I'd love to record it in a book. When I've finished my fifth LP I'm going to get back into my book because I've not really looked at it since year 2000. Apparently, someone's just gone and put out a book about me. Don't know what's in it, but it's another reason why it would be good for me to write my own."

Brown refuses to get riled by the fact that people he has never even met are making money out of him. "Well, that's just part of the game," he offered, "You can't get annoyed, because that's just how it is. Once you've got a bit of success, people hang on to your coattails."

There is no doubt of Brown's lasting influence today in music— not least in the remaining bands of the 'Britpop' era. It was Liam Gallagher who, as an impressionable fifteen year old, was inspired to become a rock star after seeing Brown perform onstage in Manchester, in 1988. When Brown was young, however, he was inspired by figures such as Muhammad Ali and John Lydon of the Sex Pistols, and it doesn't appear that anyone new has taken their places. "Well, to be honest," he said, "I'm more inspired by my own life, you know. I've had an amazing life so far and I look to the sun, the stars and the sea around me, not so much personalities. I've got my own agenda," he laughed.

His final remark is apt: The Stone Roses were a band that achieved great success in making music, but they did so on their own terms and Brown's solo career is proof of this individuality. Approaching forty-three, his prospects are as bright as they have ever been. For now he just wants to play: "I want to get into Russia and South America and play— that would be mega wouldn't it?"

York: an international perspective



Anyone know how to get to York Minster? I'm sure it's here somewhere. Photo: Adam Sloan

For many, university is enough of a culture shock; however, as **Albi Surlan** explains, it's even worse when you've travelled 4,000 miles

Every culture, every country has its quirks, idiosyncrasies and things that simply don't seem to make sense unless you've been immersed in that particular culture for all your life. So for me, an Italian living here in England for the first time, there are a lot of things that I find peculiar and alien.

The word "pudding", for example. The only "pudding" I had eaten before coming to live here was Christmas pudding, bought for me by my philosophy teacher as a (questionable) birthday present. This, plus the use of the word in American movies, gave me the, I now know false, idea that the word pudding meant, loosely, "dessert".

I learnt the hard way. My second night in York, I had dinner at Russell's, and, after having enjoyed the carvery, I thought it was time for something sweet to round things off. I looked at the menu, and decided to order a Yorkshire pudding, thinking it must be a traditional local dessert, while my dad ordered coffee. A few minutes later, my

dad was laughing over his coffee mug and I understood why, when I ordered, the waiter gave me an amused look and went off to snigger behind the till. Now someone please explain to me the connection between black, Yorkshire and Christmas puddings!

Realising it was time to get educated, I went on the York City Bus Tour, hoping to learn a few things about my

'As I got onto the bus I suddenly felt the word "tourist" glow above my head like a bright neon sign. I was branded'

new place of residence. The tour encircles most of York, driving by the important sites of the town and giving out

information on all the churches, streets, bars and gates that it passes.

As I got onto the bus a tourist couple, the only occupants, disembarked with a heavily American-sounding goodbye, and as soon as I stepped on after them, I suddenly felt the word 'tourist' glow above my head like a bright neon sign. I was branded. Looking back at the locals waiting for the 'normal' bus, I could see a group of old women smiling at me, possibly mockingly, possibly sympathetically, but clearly not inclusively.

Two steps into the vehicle, and the bus driver started chatting to me in a strong Yorkshire accent, about, I could only surmise, the current state of the roads and traffic in York. He could have been talking about duck-flavoured muffins for all I know, I still haven't quite got the hang of the accent. I am grateful I don't live in Birmingham, though. Sorry if you're a Brummie, but that accent is considered, in Italy, totally unintelligible, second only to the Scottish one. But the Scots have Sean Connery to make it sexy. I got my ticket and sat down, staring outside at people who were staring back at me probably thinking, derisively, 'Ha! Another tourist!'

The tour starts off at Bootham Bar, though you can get on at any of the twenty two stations of the route and it is actually quite fun. It lasts about an hour, it costs six quid if you can prove you're a student, or eight if you're not. The tour includes a voiceover of random, quirky facts about the history of York. For example, if you walk down St. Giles lane, you can spot scores of concrete cats perched in random places on the houses and shops that line it. Know why? Because the original mason's trademark was a small feline sculpture, which he left on all his work.

Parliament Street, as well as being home to Britain's most expensive public toilet, "The Splash House", was where public executions were held during medieval times, and also used to be York's central market place. Fancy that. 'Could I have a head of lettuce and two pounds of carrots please?' 'Right after they hang that guy. I have a bet with the butcher he takes more than a minute to die.'

It's hard to imagine a gallows in place of Marks and Spencers and seems odd that such a historical landmark has just been papered over with modern institutions like Prêt à Manger and HSBC. This is nothing strange; it happens a lot in many historical cities around the world. If you were to chuck yourself out of the Duomo in Milan, there is now a good chance you might just land in someone's super-size fries and double chicken whopper. McDonalds actually made a habit of taking over antiquated buildings to up their cultural respectability.

Despite modern infiltrations in York's original architecture, the city still keeps up its traditions. For example, the tour informed me that if the Queen visits the city, she arrives at the train station, walks to Micklegate, and is there greeted by the Mayor, who, offering her a sword, grants her permission to visit his town and assures good conduct and hospitality. She touches the sword, and thus symbolically receives the power to rule over the town for the length of her stay. This has been the same for hundreds of years. For an outsider like me, it's all a bit strange. In Italy there hasn't been a king for a while, but even when there was, I don't think we ever had quite such elaborate ceremonies.

Another of York's local practices-

more poignant one perhaps- is that the Merchant Adventurers' Guild pays to have the light on top of the church-tower near Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma Gate (that's where criminals used to get whipped) burn every night, all year round, to commemorate the death of Yorkshiremen in the Second World War.

Which brings me on to the next point: churches. Driving through town, I spotted at least two churches which have been converted, one into a shop

'To turn a church into a club, where lewd acts could be performed would seem outrageous in Italy'

and the other into a club. If this occurred in Italy, there would probably be a national uprising. To turn a church into a club, where lewd acts could be performed or enacted or enjoyed, even encouraged?! That's outrageous. Or at least it would be to the Italian social psyche. But here, I've asked a few people about it, and no-one seems to mind. Maybe it's just the fact that I come from a culture where religion used to dominate almost everything, or maybe the English prefer to uphold their secular traditions more than their religious ones. Still, it's something that shocked me, seeing as, in Italy, it would be unheard of for a church to ever be anything other than a church.

By now, the bus had filled with another six tourists, who all went upstairs in the double-decker bus to see the city from higher up. I become interested in the people rather than the history of the place. The first thing that strikes me is that, while it's a windy day in February, not that many people seem to be suffering from cold. On the contrary, there's a fair amount of people wearing just t-shirts. I feel cold just looking at them, cocooned in three layers and inside a heated bus.

Another thing is that the clothes here are not as extravagant as I've seen in other countries. Interestingly, everyone in Italy wears clothes emblazoned with "Wales", "England", "Arsenal" and all their flags. I'm not sure why this is, but trust me, they look stupid, very stupid. In England, the clothes are humbler, no-one seems to stick out like a sore thumb. People on my floor tell me that here in England, hoodies with 'New York' and 'Arkansas' are popular, which makes me wonder; what do hoodies say in New York and Arkansas-Krakow?

The tour draws to a close for me, back again at Bootham Bar. I walk away and the bus driver salutes me and invites me again for another trip, which if taken in the next 24 hours, will be for free. While I don't think I will be back on this bus in the next day, I'm definitely going to walk around York more often, learn a bit more about my new home and try to avoid too much cultural confusion in the future.

Guide Friday's double-decker bus tour of York lasts about half an hour. It leaves regularly from Exhibition Square, Clifford's Tower and the rail station.

Prices: £6.50 for adults
£5 for students.

How to be a true flibbity-gibbit

Can't tell a bummerskite from a jannock? **Rachel Ringstead** gets tongue-twisted as she goes local in an effort to translate and master the art of Yorkshire dialect.

In the wake of *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* and the war on bad grammar, it is hardly in vogue to encourage the use of parochial slang these days. Yet for those seeking a cultural backlash, or simply the average community-sensitive student who is eager to foster harmonious town-gown relations, it can seem not only friendly and public-spirited but also shrewd to get to grips with the regional lingo. After all, the wisdom of HSBC's maxim rings true: "never underestimate the power of local knowledge".

Indeed, while "Yorkshire English" remains one of the most famous and widely parodied of English dialects (who doesn't get sick of relatives poorly mimicking, "Eh up! Yer ahf' t'Yorksher?"), there is much scope for misinterpretation in this hazy semantic fog. However, browsing through the *Yorkshire English Dictionary* can help to alleviate confusion and provide an insight into the knack of being a true flibbity-gibbit (or Yorkshire chatterbox in standard BBC English speak).

Not only can a knowledge of local idiom help the flow of conversation with the locals, it can also prove particularly useful for evading situations of conflict, or, if the mood takes you, pro-

'Enlightened by this new knowledge, you can now judge whether to challenge such defamers of character to a duel or run'

voking and inciting them. Here are some tips: if you are referred to as a "bummerskite", you are being called lazy (or alternatively a harmless writer of almanacs, apparently), if you are called a "gob slotch" you are charged with being greedy, while a "barmpot" means you are an idiot. Enlightened by this new knowledge, you can now judge whether to challenge such defamers of character to a duel (if you are from Surrey), or run.

If your neighbour hammers on your door and yells "Bawson! Stop this chelping and goating", they are requesting that you be quiet and cease distracting them. If you decide to retort "friggen 'ell!", this may well be interpreted as a common Yorkshire supplication to the Norse mother goddess of fertility and good fortune. In all probability it is more likely to make your neighbour more "dander" (angry), think you are a "nazzard" (horrid person) and want to throw you in a "delf" (quarry).

In addition, when frequenting proper local establishments such as The Phoenix or The Beeswing it is important to try to integrate into the Yorkshire drinking culture. Thus, being

familiar with a few key phrases can be really useful. For instance, you may come across certain accusations, such as that you haven't handed over any "moola" (money). Money is also referred to in Yorkshire as "brass", or sometimes as "gelt", "penker" or "ack-cers".

Other potential communication problems on nights out could involve accusations that you have stolen other people's drinks. "Ey Nimrod 'ats my beer tha's suppin", roughly translates to 'excuse me, but I think you are drinking from my glass'. To defuse the situation you should offer the accuser your glass and say "tak 'od and sup" (cheers). Alternatively, you may choose to stand your ground and suggest that the antagonist is in the wrong, at which point you may be asked if you are "a reet clogger" (a hard man, fighter) who wishes "to pop one's clogs" (die) in "a reet ding-dong" (big argument).

In situations such as these it is important not to "ugger mugger" or panic and perhaps suggest that your assailant "Don't lost your shirt i'Skipton", i.e. don't get angry over nothing. However, it is important to pitch your tone sensitively for this as it may antagonise them more. If you really are sick of living then consider implying you are of Lancastrian origin and hint that your Yorkshire rival has no "Yorksher grit", which is defined by the Yorkshire dictionary as "infamous regional never-say-die spirit, whether in business, sport, crisis or war".

Yet, for the most part, Yorkshire folk are a friendly sort, thus it is equally, if not more, important to be able to decipher compliments as well as dis-

cern criticism.

If you are called a "champion jannock", this is really positive praise, and if you are termed "as sharp as Sheffield", this means you are demonstrably quick witted, while "bony" corresponds with pretty. Indeed, similar expressions of veneration are inevitably found in "courtin" (dating) situations, when the Yorkshire language of love is often called upon.

If a woman is approached with the line, "By gum lass ahm' lambasted by t'beauty of yer een n kist", this means "Oh lord, woman I am struck with force by the beauty of your eyes and chest". The approached may then opt to reply in a number of ways: "sorry I'm jiggered, muck lathered and mawngy" (I'm afraid I'm too tired, sweaty and bad tempered), or "aye I'll cum fer jock wi yer" (yes I'll have lunch with you).

In some cases, further information may be required in order to settle on a decision, such as "ows t'e addle 'is brass" i.e. what does he do for a living? Incidentally, if the occupation is stated to be that of a "knockerup", this should

not be taken to imply a vocation, or a penchant, for fathering children but instead a job which involves ensuring shift workers are aware of the time.

While this weird and delicious world of Yorkshire slang can seem rather daunting and overwhelming at first, the key to becoming a flibbity-gibbit seems to be a refusal to be "boggled" (frightened) by it all. If you get it really wrong and are greeted by a sea of blank faces, you could pretend you are simply using post-modern irony, or alternatively a really traditional colloquialism. After all, some of the words listed in the Yorkshire dialect dictionary were probably last used at the height of the textile industry boom and aren't exactly common lingual currency anymore. At the end of the day as long as you remember that the difference between a nazzard and a jannock is as great as the distinction between Leeds and Manchester, you can't go far wrong.

'Yorkshire English' by Edward Johnson is published by Abson Books and is available from all good book stores priced approximately £2.00.

Useful lingo for young Yorkshire lads and lasses

Put your best bib and tucker on for clogs'll spark toneet.

Get ready as it's going to be a fantastic night out this evening.

We've supped sum stuff toneet.

We have certainly drunk a lot tonight.

I'm lost wi'yersel and powfagged.

I'm bored and really tired.

E's not sa green as cabbage lookin', e's an arrant rapsallion.

He may look naïve but isn't, he is a no good and troublesome individual.

Yon lass is fair cumly and bony.

That young woman there is beautiful.

'is face is like a clog soil.

He is not very handsome.



'Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma-Gate' is where petty criminals were once flogged and is the shortest street in York. Photo: Georgi Mabee

A guide to avoiding campus

Awkward encounters with people best left in the past? **Flora Bradwell** reveals some survival strategies for the problems of living in a small campus

The price to pay for living in a quaint little city and going to a cosy campus university is the loss of anonymity. This is not to say that those who go round claiming 'campus celebrity' status are not completely foolish; but it does mean that no matter where the average student intent on minding their own business may go, they are bound to know, or at least recognise, a few people. Now this in itself would not be distressing, and might even be perceived to be pleasant, but it is usually the case that out of the handful of acquaintances you bump into on a typical day in York, there will be at least one who you wish to avoid.

It is undeniable that everyone savours that feeling of their first few months on campus, when they can't move between colleges without dishing out a couple of fond 'hellos' or genial head nods, but once the honeymoon period is over, campus can often be

transformed from a haven of affable faces and friends you haven't met yet to a minefield of people who seem vaguely familiar for reasons you would rather not remember. These strangely recognisable faces could potentially belong to a range of figures from your not too distant past: an unfortunate you may have pulled at Ziggys; that disagreeable person who befriended you in week one; or even your seminar nemesis. One thing is certain: from here on in, a simple walk from the library to Costcutters will be fraught with possibly hazardous encounters and the subsequent employment of stealthy schemes in order to avoid them.

It seems that there should be a universal term to describe those people who cause you to bolt for the nearest shrubbery whenever you see them. Initially the term 'undesirables' seemed apt for the purpose. However, this word has too many connotations with

the Hindu caste system, and it also fails to cover the spectrum of different types of people who warrant ignoring. After all, it is not only the unattractive or unfortunates of campus whom we avoid, there are also those who are too attractive and blessed with every possible endearing quality who cause us to lose our speech and go red in the face. These people are far from undesirable, but conversation with them can often be intolerable. Therefore, it would seem that 'unbearable' would best fit the bill, as an unbearable could be either desirable or undesirable, but in both cases will most probably end up being avoided to evade embarrassment.

There are many campus hotspots in which you can never fail to be ambushed by people you vaguely recognise and wish you didn't. However, within these high risk areas myriad manoeuvres can be implemented to help you steer clear of any disastrous encounters.

The worst place for encountering unbearables is the library. Despite its outward appearance of respectability and the fact that it is a place of general study, the library is seething with abhorrent ex-housemates, unsightly one night stands, and mentally unhinged people who you accidentally befriended one evening and have been desperately trying to lose ever since. However, with a plethora of books just waiting to be hidden behind, you will not find a better place to convincingly ignore the unbearables of your past. Other cunning methods of avoiding detection are to search the library

catalogue for made up books until the coast is clear; to gaze at the various signs 'History, Q', 'Religion, C', as if they were in a foreign language and needed excessive concentration to decipher; or simply, to run away and lose yourself in the labyrinth of book shelves, a slightly less subtle option, but often the most effective. So despite the high density of unbearables the library has to offer, escape is always attainable.

Ziggys is another example of an area highly populated with unbearables, but offering equally as many get-away opportunities. The most obvious way to avoid people

'Effecting pronounced drunk eyes whenever you perceive a threat is a sure fire way to blank people without causing major offence'

in Ziggys is simply to ignore them outright: effecting pronounced drunk eyes whenever you perceive a threat is a sure fire way to blank people without causing major offence, because everyone knows that drunkenness can excuse almost any misdemeanour. Other more fun modes of avoiding perception by unbearables is to make use of the multiple staircases Ziggys has to offer. These produce no end of pleasure, but can be counter-productive, as if you encounter an unbearable on the narrow stairs from the basement to the first floor only very very drunk eyes can save you, and you will most probably have to indulge the person blocking your path in some inane conversation or at the very least squeeze out an insincere smile.

Probably the worst place on campus to be cornered by an unbearable is Vanbrugh Bridge, a surprisingly busy thoroughfare on campus. The only possible way to avoid the tutor who touched your friend up whilst watching porn on a departmental social, or the strangely smelling person who sits near you in lectures, is to gaze intently at the ducks as if transported by their beauty and grace in the hope that your reverie will be respected by all passers-by and you will remain undisturbed. Clearly this avoidance technique is rather whimsical and is seldom, if ever, successful, but the option to use it is always there. Of course, the gazing at ducks avoidance strategy would have been more widely used on campus before the latest advances in technology. Now it seems almost redundant when most students are equipped with mobile phones and iPods. These glorious inventions have not only brought multi-media and text messaging to our lives but have also provided us with the perfect excuse to ignore people. Although it is undeniably good to talk, phones are increasingly being used for not bringing people together. Searching in your bag for an imagined vibrating phone, replying to a non-existent text message, or talking to your messaging service are all guaranteed to get you through the day without having to exchange words, or even glances, with whatever



The library can be a minefield of awkward encounters with unbearables, but has a variety of escape routes. Photo: Toby Hall

'unbearables'

unbearables fate might throw in your path. Likewise, iPods can be studied for hours on end, ensuring that, unless an unbearable actually approaches you to talk to you, you can journey from place to place relatively unscathed by unwanted acquaintances.

Despite all the methods available to those who wish to travel incognito through campus, the powers of the unbearable stalker cannot be underestimated. A third year psychology student admitted that she and her mates would prey on boys by standing near the boys' toilets. This technique is employed both in the seedy nightspots of York and even in the seemingly safe environment of the house party. 'We figured boys like beer so they would end up going to the toilet' admitted this hardened stalker, who wishes to remain nameless. It is not only the girls who contrive such methods to catch their prey: Patrick Walker and Richard Salthouse, third year Derwentians, confessed to going to LFA in their first year only to gain favour with the 'Italian bird'. However, their scheme failed when she stopped going. Unperturbed by this failure, they now frequently fabricate reasons to go to the library in order to get a glimpse of 'fit library girl'. It seems obvious that if there are students out there who are willing to descend to such levels as taking on extracurricular activities and going to the library for recreational purposes, none of us are safe from those we wish to avoid.

Almost worse than being on the receiving end of stalking action is to be the person being ignored. Even though you think you are the coolest individual in the world, and anyone who could feel anything but admiration and affection for you must be clinically insane, there are people out there who might think you are actually not all that. Many find it utterly incomprehensible that other people might not relish the prospect of being in their company; however, even the best of us are unbearable to some people.

If you are someone's unbearable it is not automatically something to bewail. In fact, this state of affairs can often turn out to be fruitful for both parties concerned, as quite often those who wish to ignore you are those you wish to ignore yourself. When this is the case, life can be made a lot simpler; because you are mutually unbearable the burden of avoidance can be shared between you, with

you only having to put in half the effort of evasion. There is nothing more heart-warming than when two people pass each other on Langwith corridor, or in the Roger Kirk centre and, without a single word or signal exchanged between them, they both agree to entirely ignore each other, despite the fact that they were best friends in freshers' week. This example of mutual understanding between two human beings demonstrates that communication is not dead, but lives on in our communal avoidance of each other.

However, this happy collaboration does not always occur. There are times when people you find entirely inoffensive find you quite the opposite. These individuals are easy to spot as they are the ones who speed up as they pass you, grow strangely deaf to your calls of 'hi', don't return your smiles and sometimes even change the course of their journey if they spy you from afar. To be on the receiving end of this behaviour is far from pleasant, but is often unavoidable. The only real cure for this is once you have been snubbed a significant amount of times, take the hint and resolve to ignore the person back. This act of reciprocal indifference will result in you both being happier. Whatever you do, don't by any means decide to talk to people who ignore you when you are drunk, you will inevitably embarrass yourself and force your ignorer to employ extreme measures to get you to stop. I am reminded here of a friend of mine who, on being confronted by an unbearable, could find no other way of stopping him talking to her other than by kissing him and taking him home, let this be a lesson to those of you considering talking to people who don't want to talk to you.

Really it seems ridiculous that we spend so much of our time avoiding unbearables left, right and centre. If we go to the root of the problem, the solution soon becomes obvious: we should ignore everybody whether we know them or not. If we get through uni without making any unwanted friends, or interacting with people in a manner we might later regret, travelling around campus would be so much simpler. Of course this resolution is rather extreme and would probably detract from the whole university experience. So it seems that we all must be content living slightly on the edge in the fear that round the next corner there might be a host of unbearables we wish to avoid.

A quick guide to those we wish to avoid on campus

The First Week Freak – you were young and naïve when you arrived at York. You didn't know that people who put anti-depressants in their pints probably would not be pleasant company. But now you're older and indeed wiser – see them and run.

The One Night Stand – you were drunk, it was dark, they've seen you naked, what can you say to them?

The Seminar Nemesis – you have had to endure their oh-so-clever observations for the last ten weeks. Now that you have finally broken free from their intensely irritating presence, do you really have to be polite to this blithering idiot?

The Talker – despite his title, this fellow has very little to say for himself. This, however, does not stop him from accosting you in market square to tell you not very much in an excessive amount of words. Soon his store of news runs dry and yet he feels the need to hang around umming and aaahing until you are forced to fabricate a terribly unimaginative excuse to quit his oppressive presence.

The One Date Wonder – after merely one date he was playing it cold rather than cool. You used up all your small talk on that one less than romantic meeting and if you are ever forced into conversation with him the one phrase, 'what is wrong with me?', will inevitably be in the back of your mind throughout.

The scientific briefing with

Luke Boulter

19/M seeks female scientist for fun, GSOH a must



With Valentines Day just passed, the sickening cards and small tokens of affection are neatly propped at the back of your bookshelves, ready to be dusted off and admired whenever you feel the need. Okay, so I am a bitter and lonely scientist, but what is it that causes us to lust and even fall in love with someone? Is love a cognitive human trait or is it a cry back to our ancestral selves and the result of our anatomy?

The body is under massive chemical control; it is stimulated and repressed by myriad different molecules, known as hormones. Hormones are responsible for stimulating hunger, for causing you to develop properly in the womb and for that little nervous jitter you feel when the person you fancy stumbles past you. Helen Fisher of Rutgers University in New Jersey has proposed a three step program in attraction, each having its own array of chemical involvement: Her first stage is 'Lust'; this phase is driven purely by sex hormones, oestrogen and testosterone. Testosterone is not confined to men; it has been shown that there is an active level in women too.

During lust, female testosterone levels increase, making them more aggressive and forward; in men testosterone levels temporarily decrease, allowing them to become more accepting towards a partner. These hormones are associated with the release of corticosteroids, such as adrenaline, the flight or fight hormone which prepares the body to flee or stand brave and face a foe (or in this case, a love).

Fisher's second phase is 'Attraction'. It is in this stage that the major hormone players kick in; dopamine and adrenaline are released, causing the body to go a little off balance, and sleep and hunger are affected. Strangely enough, studies in Italy have shown that when in love, serotonin levels drop by as much as 40% and is comparable with levels found in sufferers of the mental illness Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Serotonin levels have also been shown to affect happiness, and are directly linked to depression in young adults. After about a year or so the serotonin levels return to normal, and it is suggested that this fall in serotonin is a mechanism to allow us to get over the initial fear of being with a new person.

The third and final stage of Fisher's idea is that of 'Attachment', and at this point two key hormones, oxytocin and vasopressin, are present. Upon reaching orgasm, the levels of oxytocin rocket, causing the body to form an emotional attachment to the other person. It is also released during child-birth and breast-feeding and helps to stabilise the bond between mother and child. Vasopressin is another attachment hormone which plays a crucial role in monogamous pairing; it is the hormone which allows

for a protective attachment, meaning you will challenge competition for your partner. If vasopressin is removed then protective attachment subsides almost immediately.

The idea that being in love is like being on a drug-induced high may not be too far from the truth. Amphetamines stimulate the same areas of the brain normally activated by the neurotransmitter phenylethylamine, which is highly present in large amounts during courtship.

I'm not suggesting that you are just a slave to your hormones, as there is plenty of evidence that attraction is based not only on hormones but also on body language and external signals. It takes between ninety seconds and four minutes to decide if you fancy someone, 55% of your attraction to someone is conveyed in body language and 38% through the tones of your voice. Chat-up lines, it seems, are a turn off, but fortunately only 7% of flirtation relies on the actual words, so don't worry about the nervous mumbblings; as long as you stand right, all ought to be fine.

So what makes someone attractive? To be honest, we are no better here than peacocks or any other animal; we have behavioural patterns and signals we use to convey our sexual urges, and also use physical features to determine the 'genetic fitness' of our potential mates.

Scientists say a symmetrical face is an indicator of genetic fitness, as is an hour-glass figure. The ideal hip ratio for a woman is 0.7 (ratio being calculated by waist measurement/hip measurement) and is probably indicative of a woman's reproductive health. During aging, women's waists become less pronounced as she becomes less fertile. Interestingly enough though, the most overwhelming factor in physical attraction is our own narcissism.

David Perrett, a cognitive psychologist from the University of St. Andrews takes photos of peoples faces and morphs them into the opposite sex. He then randomises the picture with many others, and the participant has to pick out the most attractive photo. More often than not they pick their own morphed picture, they don't recognise it, they just know they like the 'person'.

Smell also plays a crucial role in detecting a potential mate, as pheromones are sensed by a small organ in the nose. Pheromones vary from person to person, and change according to variations in immune systems. Rats smell pheromones in urine to find a compatible mate and it has also been shown that adult humans may use pheromones to detect a compatible partner whose immune system is strong and will be passed on to any offspring. Fortunately we secrete pheromones from our skin, so you won't have to take a urine sample to find out.



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Save the Children

Rebecca Gower



Why February is underrated

February is such a depressing time of year. Or at least that's what the world would have me believe: you'd think, from the papers at the moment, that we should all be near-suicidal with despair.

Apparently it's the month in which New Year's resolutions are abandoned, especially those involving new health regimes, and this leaves people feeling despondent. Well, that doesn't apply to me, as I failed to make any. Not because I don't think I need to improve as a person; more because I accepted long ago that I simply haven't the will to do it. So, while I have the utmost respect (awe, even) for the person who can bring themselves to go to the gym first thing in the morning (and such people really do exist), and despite the encouragement of various individuals who want me to go running with them, I'll just stick with being unfit, thanks very much. (I'd be a terrible running partner, anyway - I would fake an asthma attack the moment I got out of breath).

February's also heartbreaking because, of course, there's the whole Valentine's issue to contend with: isn't it unbearable, the worst thing in the world, to be on your own? Um... well, no, contrary to popular belief, it's not, actually. I mean, while it's obviously true that

'February is largely underrated and gets bad press'

a mass-produced card and box of chocolates/bunch of flowers is the very definition of romance (flowers die after a few days - that's all I'm saying on the subject), it's perfectly possible to get through the day without weeping at your general lovelessness. No, really. But then, I hear you say, there's the weather: what with the cold and the days still getting dark early, people are prone to Seasonal Affective Disorder. Again, this doesn't affect me. It may have been cold recently, but it's also been quite sunny. Anyway, I hate summer. There are the inevitable associations it still carries with sports day at school (one of the great and unalloyed pleasures of my life is that I never, ever have to take part in any organised sport again) and the fact that, for as long as I can remember, summer has meant hay fever, having to wear a hat so my head doesn't burn and being hideously depressed once Wimbledon is over for another year (two weeks just isn't long enough).

So, all things considered, February is pretty great, actually. There's obviously the occasional niggle - in the supermarket the other day, I was confronted by a massive display of Easter eggs. "Who's going to buy one two months before the actual event?" I asked in mystification. "Oh, they've been there for weeks," replied my friend cheerfully, "since they cleared all the Christmas stuff away". Personally, I find that terribly depressing: why is it that as soon as one celebration ends, the build-up to another has to begin? But I'm getting off my point: as a time of year, February is largely underrated, and gets bad press.



February: the grey month in which good intentions depart and we abandon New Year's resolutions

Of course, I'm only saying this because the month's going quite well for me thus far; and that is mainly due to the continued good health of my housemates. Last winter, you must understand, they were all ill at some point and, as I remember it, one of them in particular had three separate (and very severe) colds, while another was just continuously unwell. It was awful. Not for me, for them. You see, I don't get ill; I have an immune system of steel. I like to

think it's because my parents were not too bothered about sell-by-dates on food when I was young. (They still aren't. I don't look in the back of the fridge at home any more, because I don't want to find any more chutney from 1989 and hear my mother tell me it's fine to eat.) As a result, I toughened up a bit, and now sickness doesn't have a chance with me. Or at least, the common cold certainly doesn't.

What I've come to realise, though, is that this rude good

health is not a useful attribute to have as somebody's housemate. I mean, I'm not exactly empathic at the best of times (the best I can offer is tea - I have great faith in its multiple restorative powers), and, when a person is ill, I haven't a clue how they're feeling, much less how to help. Fortunately, though, this hasn't been an issue this year. In fact, I am feeling so positive (positive being a relative term), that I'm championing February as my new favourite month.

Great novels, it's a shame about the publishers

Penguin has recently reissued a load of literary classics - *Lolita*, *Great Expectations*, that kind of thing - along with a few, more recent books in a new 'Red Classics' line, complete with colourful, glossy covers. When I found a display of them in Borders, I was pathetically thrilled and duly bought three for the price of two. In fact, so enamoured was I of this new packaging that I later went on to the Penguin website to see what other titles there were in this range.

It all seemed appealing, until I read the announcement that they

plan soon to introduce some 'women's fiction'. By women's fiction, they meant *Jane Eyre*, *North and South*, and all six of Jane Austen's novels.

I know that saying this is likely to mark me out as some kind of militant feminist and maybe I oughtn't to bother getting so annoyed, but really, I can't think of anything more sexist, or demeaning, to both authors and readers. I accept that these are works more likely to be read by women than men, but that shouldn't diminish their literary standing. These are some of the most popular and

widely read books in the English language.

In 2003, both *Emma* and *Jane Eyre* made it into the top twenty of the Observer's '100 Greatest Novels Of All Time'; in the same year, only *The Lord of the Rings* managed to beat *Pride and Prejudice* in the BBC's 'Big Read', to find the nation's best-loved book (and that was at the height of Tolkien mania, when the final instalment of the film trilogy was about to be released).

Nearly two centuries after her death, the affection for Jane Austen's novels is still so great that

there is going to be an 'Austen season' on television at some point this year, with fresh adaptations of four of her books. Meanwhile, in 2000, *The Eyre Affair*, which was about *Jane Eyre* and how treasured it is by the public, became an international bestseller. It was written by a man called Jasper Fforde.

While I don't want to make sweeping generalizations, the fact remains that *he* loved *Jane Eyre* enough to devote an entire book to it, and that, in turn, suggests that *Jane Eyre's* power may, just possibly, transcend gender barriers.

That's not my point, though. The very idea of a thing called 'women's fiction' is what drives me mad. What does the term even mean? That females are just fluffy creatures who like a nice dose of literary syrup from time to time? Of course, that's what Austen and Charlotte Brontë boil down to, essentially. They don't touch on any real issues, like proper authors do. No, they're just the nineteenth century equivalent of 'chick lit' (don't even get me started on the misogyny of that phrase). What self-respecting man would bother to read such trash?

The politics of fancy dress: sewing and sniping, sequins and sabotage

It's the usual costume party dilemma: shop bought or home made? **Lucy Peden** dons her fairy wings and feather boa to talk tactics with participants in the RAG parade

The annual York RAG parade tends to elicit two responses; some recoil at the opportunity for the Make Poverty History brigade to publicly demonstrate their charitable sympathies, whilst others see it as a time to stockpile feather boas and poster paint. Whatever camp you fall into, RAG's effect on college spirit is undeniable, and the attitude of the participants is almost irrelevant given the sheer fund-raising potential of the parade. Although it's tempting to bitch about the fact that York is reclaimed by coach loads of zombies (also known as tourists) at the weekend, these are the people with the power to fill the red buckets with their loose change. The paraders enjoy the opportunity to be seen exorcising their liberal guilt, the donating public happily pay to see students up as early as eleven o'clock, freezing off various body parts clad in swatches of PVC and whips of chiffon, and the truly deserving end up with (please pardon the pun) bucketloads of cash.

However, within this fabulously mutually beneficial arrangement there exists an undercurrent of tension - an alleged culture of tantrums and tiaras. There are ghosts of

rumours of sabotage, of the year when itching powder got into the body glitter, when fairy wings happened to get too close to a halogen heater, when the designated face painter used his paintbrush to outline his far-right political sympathies on his forehead. One could be forgiven for being distracted from 'charidee', after all, when given the chance to traverse the city streets dressed in the sort of sparkly outfits that would embarrass Pete Burns.

Last year it was most definitely a case of first up best dressed, as James College's most hardcore raggers were resplendent in their uber-camp, uber-glam Wizard of Oz drag, and latecomers had to content themselves with clutching plastic, marigold-hued boxes as representatives of the Yellow Brick Road. In a reversal of standard student code, making the effort is, for once, *de rigueur*. Costume is what governs the parade and the more outrageous the ensemble, the greater the chance of raising money (and winning the inter-collegiate beauty competition).

And as the rest of the country tries to choose between Brown and Cameron, RAG's divisive issue is "home-made or shop-bought?" Both concepts have their merits: those going for the former can have flashbacks to a happy childhood by getting up to their armpits in sugar paper and self-made glue (which, incidentally, if made from the right sort of flour, is organic). The more creative you are, the more opportunity to avoid real work - excuses ranging from the WASP disease of choice, charity fatigue, or by coming over all Ralph Wiggum and claiming to have sampled the aforementioned glue. Unfortunately, this exercise has the unpleasant side effect of being environmentally irresponsible, as huge amounts of paper will be wasted. The alternative of rocking up to the local party shop and demanding their most glamorous pantomime cow outfit also has its advantages: you will look like what you are supposed to be, and, unlike your friends in shoddy home-made dress, you may be able to show a bit of leg and or cleavage, thanks to the rise of comedy porn fancy dress and hen nights. It's also better for the environment. Hurrah! However, adding forty pounds to the coffers of Ann Summers for a medieval wench/nurse/horse outfit seems rather removed from the spirit of 'Raising and Giving'. As it happens, the vast majority of RAG reps were keener on sewing machines and Pritt Stick.

The Derwent RAG crew opted for a fairytale theme, ensuring a x i m u m potential for creativity. RAG rep

Bavs Gorasia stressed that both she and her fellow rep Becca Lumley were committed to infusing the event with "college spirit". Bavs herself went as Tinkerbell in "something green run up on the sewing machine" and her friend was a home-made Little Red Riding Hood. Derwent's primarily home-made creations are accessorised with shop bought items. Witch hats were apparently 'acquired' from a costume shop, continuing a proud tradition of RAG inspired blaggery.

Interestingly, Bavs revealed that the majority of parade participants are second and third years, as "first years don't really know what RAG is all about. It's our responsibility to make them aware and get them involved, and the best way of doing it is through the preparation." Although Bavs was preoccupied with banners and balloons, she admitted "it's making the costume that's the most fun". Derwent is renowned for its college spirit, and, although it has become a campus cliché, this positivity stems from a desire to be involved, as opposed to simply being seen supporting the event.

Anne Marie Canning, the chair person of James College JCR, has a similar attitude. A fervent supporter of all things RAG related, she feels that "to entirely hire costumes undermines the entire spirit of RAG." Many are under the impression that college life in James is not as involved in University life as it might be elsewhere but, according to Anne Marie, the unfortunate stereotype could not be further from the truth. Last year's triumph in the fancy dress costume was the result of an awful lot of manual labour, as James uses "a mixture of cheap hire and home-made." The factor here is not about image, but sheer fun potential, and after spending hours supervising the creation of costumes for this year's Wild West theme, she has come to the conclusion that, "who wants to spend loads of cash hiring when making your own is such a laugh?" Home-made outfits are promoted by the James JCR in the first instance, as Anne Marie explains that "we encourage people to come along in their own creations, which often turn out to be the best; most people had home-made costumes last year". There is no mention of the hip factor acquired by being socially aware, since, in Anne Marie's words, RAG is simply about "raising cash for charity by bringing students together."

Marissa Tufnell, Goodricke JCR member, gave a step-by-step explanation of how her costume was created. Goodricke's children's TV theme opened up many costume options, and Marissa revealed that "at first I was going for Spongebob Squarepants, but in the end I plumped for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles", suggesting that this is why home-made costumes are so popular, offering a level of flexibility that a hire shop could not compete with. Marissa was lucky enough to be parading with a very nearly full set of turtles. "It turned out that three other people I knew had the same idea, so altogether there were at least four of us!" With that in mind it is a good thing that the creation process was not too challenging,



Photo: Toby Hall

Students took to the city streets for the annual RAG parade last weekend, in costumes that ranged from wasps to children TV characters. The event marked the start of RAG Week, seven days of fundraising madness on campus.

Perhaps predictably, the costumes consisted of "green trousers, a green top, with eye masks and waist sashes corresponding to the colour of our character, and the sash has the initial as well." The turtle shells were made from "hanging baskets with green crepe paper inside" and in the spirit of RAG enterprise, Marissa admitted that she "considered keeping a packed lunch in there to maintain energy levels during the parade!" Solving the issue of turtle weaponry proved problematic, but this was resolved by fellow turtle Andy who created nunchucks "by collecting some loo roll tubes and using the chains from the hanging baskets to connect them". Marissa qualified her gargantuan effort by explaining "it's definitely more fun to make your own costume, although

'There exists an alleged subculture of tiaras and tantrums'

possibly a bit more time consuming. But on the plus side you do get to keep it for future use", which could explain any future turtle sightings on the streets of York. Marissa and the rest of Goodricke JCR are involved in RAG because it's a worthwhile cause, not because it's a fashionable one, and in the run-up to the parade they were surprised that "loads of people seem to have no idea when or what it is and why we do it, when surely it's the biggest thing RAG does". Despite these concerns, the turnout of both participants and spectators at the parade was very high indeed.

At the time of going to press, the total amount raised has yet to be confirmed, but the Langwith wasps have been declared winners of the best fancy dress award. As well as generating money for good causes, the parade revealed the positivity and generosity spread by the whole of the university as well as each college. The parade provided an excellent introduction to the array of fundraising activities taking place within RAG week and was positive proof that you can combine a love of sequins with a social conscience.



Photo: Georgi Mabee



Photo: Adam Sloan

Better than a degree?

Nan Flory meets Fusion President Caroline Jee and other students balancing their degrees with demanding extracurricular activities

In the cold winter months it can be difficult to keep up appearances; grooming just doesn't get prioritised when skipping the beauty routine allows for another half hour under the covers. We are all sun-starved and disillusioned, half way through the academic year with another odious 14 weeks looming. In week eight, annual charity fashion event Fusion will be returning to Central Hall to reawaken your fashion consciousness and guilt-trip you into making an effort. With clothes from River Island, Mango, Burton, Free Spirit and Selkie on display, as well as designs from three York students, you're bound to find inspiration for the approaching Spring months.

Fusion was born last year and is the brainchild of Miriam Ahmed, now a graduate, who wanted to fill the 'urban' gap in York. The fashion and dance display was a great success: it sold out and raised £5000 for charity. It returns on Friday, week eight, with second year Writing and Performance student Caroline Jee at the helm of a thirteen person committee. She aims to reach similar, if not greater heights. This time the money will be going to the Disasters Emergency Committee, an umbrella organisation of thirteen UK aid agencies, set up to deal with major emergencies which are beyond the capacities of local organisations. Fusion is also supporting Forward, the Foundation for Women's Health and Research Development- a group which works to protect the rights of African women in the UK and Africa, in particular those confronted by the horrific practice of genital mutilation.

Despite the achievements of last year's event, Fusion was originally organised as a one-off evening of glitz and glamour. This meant that Caroline started this term with a working budget of precisely zero pounds. Work towards the ambitious and complex project started during the Summer and kicked off in earnest at the beginning of the Autumn term. As Caroline said, "sponsorship doesn't just happen." But it *has* happened for Fusion, and not in small measures: the Fusion website, www.yorkfusion.org, lists KPMG, Norwich Union, Halifax College, CPP and Rumours Bar as supporters. The team have also organised two campus club nights, sold lollypops and have auctioned models to raise the required funds. Jee plans to raise enough money to give next year's organisers a budget to start with, and

also to establish a bit of an infrastructure for the event- including a ready-made pack, complete with video clips and information, to send out to any potential sponsors.

Fusion was always more than a fashion show for the organisers, who have put in extensive hours organising, booking rooms and financing. This year it is more than a fashion show for the audience too. Fusion now features far more dance and music, and professional choreographers have designed the opening and closing sequences. There will be performances by Pole Dancing soc, Afro-Caribbean soc, Dance soc, and a group doing a belly dancing and Bollywood number. Platinum is providing break and street dancers as well as MCs who will join Fenna Rhodes and The True Ingredients, and singer Grace Ross in providing live music. Two large screens are to be mounted in Central Hall, with YSTV filming a live feed on the night, and Cinematography soc are helping to create some visuals. There will also be a 'Cordalise' performance- the circus technique featured in a BBC1 ident and

'a degree is no longer a passport to success and higher earnings'

developed by Canadian Cirque De Soleil, whereby dancers descend from ropes attached to the ceiling.

The varied line-up is the result of a great deal of hard work; Caroline is clear that, since at least week two of this term, Fusion has taken precedence over her degree. She says "It's my life." Rehearsals are constant and the bureaucracy of booking rooms, clearing health and safety requirements and fulfilling sponsors' requirements has been never-ending for her. However, Miriam Ahmed's current job as an events manager came off the back of her work on the first Fusion and Caroline is confident that, although she plans to focus more on her degree next term, the sacrifices she may be making in her work are compensated by the abundance of transferable skills she is picking up as President of the committee. She is forming important connections through the show, not only with outside parties like the choreographers and charities she has come



Kidney Bean Curry with Butter-Fried Mushrooms

This vegetarian curry has tons of taste without being too spicy. Compulsive meat-eaters who worry about their protein intake can of course add a bit of chicken around step 3, but you owe it to yourself to at least try it once without. As it happens, not every single dish benefits from the addition of dead animals, though most certainly do!

Kidney Bean Curry with Butter-Fried Mushrooms
(Serves 2)

Ingredients:

1 onion
1 carrot
4 cloves of garlic
1 tin (c. 240g) of kidney beans
1 leek
150 ml single cream
garam masala spice
ground cumin
salt and black pepper
soy sauce
oil
butter
3 large open mushrooms (or 6 regular)
120 grams basmati rice
full-fat yoghurt (optional)

Directions:

1. Chop the garlic finely. Cut the onion into four chunks and slice. Peel the carrot and cut across its length before slicing. Score the leek across its length and rinse under water and slice. Clear the worst dirt off the mushrooms and slice them roughly.

2. Bring water to the boil and add the basmati rice- 60 grams per person is usually about right. Resist the temptation to add far too much rice at this point. Rice is one of those things where you may actually want to follow the cooking instructions on the package, but make sure the rice boils for at least 12 minutes in any case.

3. Heat up some oil in a cook pot, and melt a sizeable chunk of butter in a frying pan. You want to go for medium heat in the cook pot and high heat in the frying pan. Once the oil in the cook pot becomes runny, add about 2 table-spoons of garam masala spice along with the onion, the carrot, and roughly two thirds of the chopped garlic.

4. Add the mushrooms and the remaining garlic to the frying pan (not the cook pot!) once the butter stops sizzling.

5. Stir the curry occasionally, but keep a close eye on the mushrooms. Turn down the heat once they are golden and add a bit of black pepper. The mushrooms are now finished- turn your attention back to the curry at this point.

6. Add the leek to the curry once the rice is cooked, and give it no more than 30 seconds in the pan before adding the single cream, the kidney beans, a touch of cumin and a few drops of soy sauce.

7. Bring the pan to the boil. This is important so that the kidney beans are heated through. Season to taste with salt and pepper and then serve with basmati rice, mushrooms, and a touch of full-fat yoghurt on the side.

Variations:

Don't like kidney beans? Try a tin of chickpeas instead.

If you're cooking for friends why not buy some traditional curry accompaniments such as naan bread, mango chutney and a few cans of lager?

By Johan Carlin



Dancers rehearsing for charity fashion event Fusion in week eight, one of the year's biggest campus events, involving many different societies. Photo: Georgi Mabee.

into contact with, but also with like-minded students, who will go on to form the professional milieu she plans to enter.

This kind of extra-curricular commitment is becoming more and more common in universities across the UK. University education has lost its former guarantees, in that a degree is no longer a passport to success and higher earnings. A recent study, called the 'Class of '99 report', compared the progress of 1999's graduates to 1995's. It found that students who graduated in 1999 were earning, overall, 10% less than those who graduated in 1995. One third of 1999 graduates were not working in the field they were aiming for and 15% were doing jobs they didn't actually need a degree for. Undergraduate enrolment increased by 300% between 1984 and 2003 and the graduate job market is, as a result, far more competitive. People like Caroline Jee, who use the extra-curricular opportunities university presents are, nowadays, what employers are looking for. The rhetoric of graduate employers is all about 'transferable skills' and 'initiative'. A simple diploma is no longer enough.

Fiona Cooper and Jo Ellis are two more York students who spend a good deal of time doing things other than their degrees. They are, respectively, President of Drama Soc and head of URY, both time consuming, but clearly rewarding roles. Fiona Cooper is a third year English, Writing and Performance student. She acknowledges that being President constitutes a massive time commitment but says she is lucky in that her work in Drama Soc complements her degree; it is moving her towards a career in theatre as much as her university work is. Jo

Ellis, studying English and Linguistics, is similarly positive about the benefits of taking on great responsibility within a student society. Aiming to work in the radio in the future, her experience at URY will be invaluable in applying for jobs or further study. However, Ellis does say that her experience is only useful in conjunction with her degree and that, despite URY's importance, she tries to prioritise her work.

This is all well and good when you're an English student, as both Cooper and Ellis are, but what happens when you do Biology, the most hours heavy subject on campus? Tom King, Nouse film editor, URY Cinema and Theatre Liaison officer and Drama Barn Manager, says "It all goes wrong". Retracting this quickly, he says "You can just about cope most of the time, I've found up until now that you can just about get by doing work, to the exclusion of all other activities, during the holidays. With Biology, the contact time is a lot but it's mostly exam assessed so I've been able to get by doing hardcore exam revision during the holidays." King does think he possibly sacrifices his degree for his other commitments but claims this doesn't really bother him. He says, "I think my degree has given me skills, but I don't want to become a biologist. It has allowed me to read analytically and made me more numerate than I would otherwise be, but I think I'll use these skills in my chosen career as a journalist rather than in the lab."

As King indicates, the subject you study is becoming less relevant. Degrees have never been particularly vocational, but now more than ever subjects are interchangeable. Major graduate employers like Accenture, KPMG and even the Civil Service ask simply

for a 2:1, the subject it's in is incidental. All the specific knowledge needed for the jobs they offer are learned in training- your degree and extra-curricular profile are proof that you can manage your time and think on your feet- skills that you could probably pick up from working somewhere for three years; university just rubber-stamps it. This is all a little uninspiring, but at the same time, it leaves you free to study a subject simply because you love it, without worrying about what it will lead to. It also means that you can involve yourself in everything unrelated to work with a clear conscience, as that's probably what will single you out for employers.

Sports club captains are another breed of extra-curricular whizzes. Adam Roney is President of the Boat Club. He doesn't himself row, but has to organise practises, negotiate the difficulties caused by having far more boat club members than boats, and clean the boats themselves- an array of time consuming and occasionally mundane tasks. He explained that his time commitments mean that university work happens in the early morning and late evening, "It changes the way you deal with uni." Roney is currently applying for Law placements and said his leadership role has been "very valid" in interviews, giving him a source of examples of 'equitable choices' and 'teamwork'. Scarily, Roney said that, as well as a degree, proof of skills within communication and organisation is almost taken for granted now. Employers want you to show great enthusiasm and an aptitude for 'creative solutions'. Your CV needs something 'above and beyond' that of the average applicant.

The University Careers Service offers

advice to anyone panicking about life beyond finals. There are several helpful sections to their website, www.york.ac.uk/services/careers. There's a personal development record to help you review your skills and realise what your strengths and weaknesses are, and there is help with CVs, application writing and interview techniques. They will also help you find a career in the first place, based on the skills you have acquired through extra-curricular activities at university. The internet is full of careers quizzes that ask you a series of multiple choice questions and then come up with the best job for you. Although they can be patchy, with 'crane driver' and 'dole recipient' being two of my more discouraging options, they can be useful to get you thinking about what's out there. If you have avoided getting involved in anything at all whilst studying, the Careers Service can help you get some work experience to plump up your profile.

It's pretty obvious that, unless you want to be an academic, an in-depth knowledge of the more obscure corners of the library will be less useful to you in finding a job than spending your days thrust into your extra-curricular activity of choice. This said, you do need to pass your degree too- it can't be all one way or the other. University is no longer a distinguishing feature; you need to provide evidence that you can cope with the more varied pressures of a working environment. That's something that Jee, Cooper, Ellis and King will be able to prove to excess but which leaves me a little bit worried. Somehow, I doubt "able to alphabetise CD collection" will match up to "organised the grandest, most glamorous campus event, Fusion". Post-graduate study for me then!

Literary endeavours on campus

Heloise Wood and Kirran Shah take a look at York's aspiring student publications

Student life is synonymous, some say, with opinionated rambling. You should be studying for your degree, but exercising your hidden creativity and proving your intellectual prowess in print seems so much more attractive. At university you suddenly feel passionate about things that meant nothing to you before, you are questioning material instead of repetitive rote learning. All this suppressed verbosity must find an outlet, particularly if your course has minimal hours. A student newspaper perhaps? A web blog? Student publications are certainly one way to encourage and nurture talent, and York University is currently overflowing with new literary journals.

The University literary journal *Point Shirley* once showed the early talent of Susan Fletcher, winner of the Whitbread First Novel award, but is no longer published. Looking to fill its place, there are a number of

'masterminding and funding such a concept takes some time and effort'

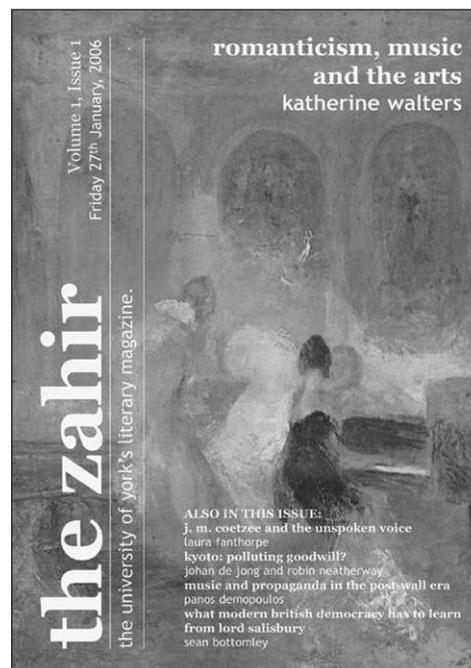
arts journals currently being established at York: *Zahir*, *Word Salad and Art Chips*, *The York Journal*. The fact that journals are being set up at all shows vision on the part of the editors: masterminding and funding such a concept takes some time and effort.

However, one must consider if there is a substantial niche for all three publications? And what sets them apart?

Editors of the *York Journal* aim to establish an 'informal literary magazine', incorporating poetry, prose, short stories, and even political essays by students of York. Last year, the University of York withdrew the creative writing newspaper and the editor of the *York Journal*, Rachel Marsh, felt there was a gap in the creative niche of the University's media alliances.

They aim to publish the *York Journal* once a year, so that it can circulate and become a symbol of each year's literary and creative achievements. As an MA student studying English Literature, Rachel feels this is her opportunity to increase awareness of the creative side of as many students as possible. Her ambition for the *Journal* is to create an established forum for the publication of serious student writing. There are significant differences between the *Journal* and other publications that exist at the University, most notably the range of genres represented, including non-fiction alongside creative writing.

Formerly at Cambridge University, she assisted with the production of a creative magazine *Mays* and interviewed established writers such as Zadie Smith. With plenty of experience behind her, Rachel aims to create a platform for all forms of writer at the University of York. *The York Journal* looks to attract people hoping to pursue a career in writing, offering a way for them to practise presenting to publishers. Rachel is keen for



New journal *The Zahir* has literary focus

the *Journal* to be open to all, and is hoping for a wide readership, extending beyond the university. This is surely an ambitious initiative but one that should be applauded.

David Hopkins of *The Zahir*, is aiming for an essay orientated journal but wants to have one or two creative pieces each issue. He sees *The Zahir* as providing "a forum for students' considered opinions on books, the arts, music and politics, and to be a launch pad for

York's aspiring writers and critics." Despite calling itself "the University of York's literary magazine", its first edition included essays on music and propaganda in the post-war era, and what modern British democracy has to learn from Lord Salisbury. The *Zahir* has certainly been successful in creating a professional looking publication.

Word Salad and Art Chips is designed to showcase purely the creative output of York students, through the publication of short stories, poetry and art. This publication takes perhaps a lighter approach than the *York Journal* or *The Zahir*, and "is intended to be an enjoyable, fun magazine, without pretension" according to Marie Prior, the secretary of *Word Salad and Art Chips*. She also claims that "student journals are useful because they provide some measure of recognition for students' non academic work." I feel this has uncovered the genuine necessity for journals. Although, technically, we're at university to obtain a degree, we all know that's not just why we're here. Amongst other things, we're here to try things that we wouldn't be able to try anywhere else. We want to discover where our passions and convictions really lie and writing for these student publications may help us with this discovery.

If you feel inspired to contribute to any of these publications, contact the following editors:

Word Salad and Art Chips: sh548
York Journal: mfpl102
The Zahir: dckh500

Return of the Roman entertainment

Chris Bush experiences an epic night at the Sheffield Crucible

Howard Brenton's epic drama *The Romans in Britain* opened last week at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield amidst a storm of publicity (in *The Guardian* at least). Directed by Sam West, this is the first professional revival of the play since its infamous debut at the National in 1980, which saw its director Michael Bogdanov facing charges at the Old Bailey for 'procuring an act of gross indecency'. The act in question is the on-stage rape of a young druid by a Roman soldier. While this doesn't make for comfortable viewing, the scene is handled deftly by West who makes the moment all the more unsettling by the general indifference of the other soldiers who chatter away in the foreground while the rape takes place behind them. Certainly none of the violence or nudity in the piece has been shirked away from, with no less than six nude males cavorting and cart-wheeling across the stage, yet undoubtedly its impact has lessened since its first appearance.

Perhaps this is a good thing. Back in the eighties all the press talked about was this one moment and the following scandal, whereas now we can watch and appreciate the play as a whole rather than get hung up on a single issue. It is a shame, then, that the writing itself doesn't stand up to a less hysterical analysis. While bold, brave and shocking in its day, Brenton's script now seems dated, moralising and clumsily didactic in its expo-



Mannion's Caesar. Photo: Johan Persson

sition and themes.

Part of the problem is the scale of the piece. A cast of seventeen play over forty parts on a time scale which ranges from Julius Caesar's invasion of England to the present day troubles in Ireland. Rather than being ambitious, the epic scope leaves little room left for individual characterisation and the parallels drawn between these different eras of oppression and conquest would have been far more effective were we left to make them ourselves. As it stands, the connection is crudely hammered home at every opportunity and, as we jump from analogy to analogy, we never stop in one place for long enough to feel for the oppressed or detest the oppressor. This is a pity, since when he is not lecturing us Brenton's dialogue sparkles with ruthless wit, dark humour and bleak humanity. Furthermore, many of his characters have the potential to be fascinating, should we be allowed to know them.

The acting is almost faultless all round, but with so few characters to work with and so many jerkins, helmets and combats to fill, the company have a tough job. Tom Mannion's Caesar stands out as a 'real' figure, whose sharp tongue and icy delivery both chilled and entertained the audience. His is a truly excellent performance, but perhaps his task is made easier by the fact that this is the only part he has to play. He can enter a scene,

dominate it, and be dramatically viable in doing so, rather than be forced to fill in the background detail to get the author's message across.

My real problem with *The Romans in Britain* is that it appears to be little more than a series of show pieces: the notorious rape scene, the appearance of Julius Caesar, a convoluted diatribe on social determinism, a witty aside on King Arthur, that leave an audience emotionally unsatisfied. The same can be said of the set; designed by theatrical veteran Ralph Koltai it immediately looks very impressive. The stage is dominated by a twenty-foot high piece of driftwood, eerily reminiscent of an animal skull, under which lies a sunken pool, deep enough for three actors to swim in. However, while this is an extraordinary piece of engineering it's never really justified or used to its full potential, and the forestage where the vast majority of the action takes place looks more like a bowling green than fields or woodland, supporting my impression that this play is about show rather than substance.

Since taking over Sheffield Theatres, Sam West has proved that he is a great actor (as Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*) and an accomplished director (in the stunning *Insignificance* by Terry Johnson). Perhaps the only area he needs to work on now is picking the right plays.

Arts Reviews

Amy Blackmore goes starry-eyed at 'Fame' and re-emerges wanting to live forever

Ok, so I admit I was a little sceptical about going to see 'Fame' by Central Hall Musical Society, in collaboration with Drama society and Music society. However, from start to finish, the standard of performance was so remarkable that I found it hard to fault. Central Hall was full, and the majority of the audience were as impressed with the enthusiasm and energy of the cast as I was.

The show follows the fortunes of a group of students at the New York High School of Performing Arts and, set in 1983, the show had all the singing, dancing, leg-warmers and immortality that you could expect, or indeed hope for. Yet, 'Fame' isn't just about feel-good song and dance, and the thing that really made the show work was the realism of the characters, as they struggled with distinctly non-musical problems such as illiteracy, drug abuse and, of course, the usual traumas of adolescent love.

The cast were impressive in their ability to sing, act and dance in a variety of styles. From ballet, to street, to Spanish Flamenco, they had most of the audience moving in their seats. Jerome Edet was absolutely amazing as Tyron Jackson. I couldn't take my eyes off him, as he danced with so much rhythm and soul. He is bursting with talent



Do you want to fly? The cast of Fame strike up a dramatic pose in Central Hall.

and also sang a rap song and performed an acrobatic routine.

Louise Harris gave a gutsy rendition of 'These are My Children'. As the suitably attired teacher Miss Sherman, she showed that talent and experience can count for more than an ability to look good in hot-

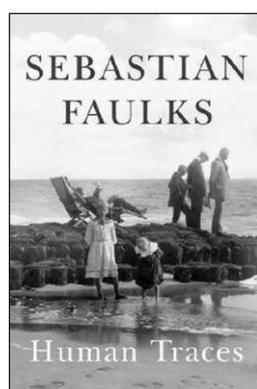
pants. Bobbi Hartshorne was also excellent as Mabel, the girl who enjoyed her food a bit too much for a dancer. She was enthusiastic and funny, singing some very amusing songs regarding her love of food. There were several funny songs in the show, one of the most successful being 'Can't Keep it Down while

that Girl's Around' by Joe Vegas, played by Tom Rogers with much gusto.

A special mention should go to the musical ensemble, which complimented the stage performances extremely well. Katie Barnett's enthusiastic musical direction was controlled and passionate, and the amount of time and effort invested into this performance was evident through the high standard of musical talent on show.

The show was technically impressive with its use of lighting and sound. The use of microphones at times was, however, a little distracting, as they seemed to only come on while the cast were singing, meaning the dialogue was sometimes difficult to hear. The team used the space in Central Hall effectively. Not only did dancers and actors emerge from various entrances, but they also set up two alternative scenes at the sides to avoid lengthy scene changes and provide variety.

When the cast burst into 'Fame' at the end, led by Carmen, played by the extremely talented Viki Jones, it was impossible not to join in, and the audience were clapping along. At the bargain price of £3.50, I encourage you to check out next year's performance. It is sure to be an evening that will not disappoint.



Human Traces
Reviewed by Rosanna Trigg
Sebastian Faulks £17.99
Hutchinson

★★★★★

Obsession, passion and ambition dominate this novel. *Human Traces* tracks the progress of psychiatrists Jacques Rebiere and Thomas Midwinter, both of whom are fuelled by a shared fixation on discovering the essence of the human mind. The novel is as epic in structure as it is in content. It questions modern psychology and follows the two characters' lives from boyhood through to old age, incorporating the First World War and other historical events. Faulks writes with intoxicating fervour and honesty about their lives. The volatile relationships undertaken by the men are vividly conveyed which keeps the narrative fresh throughout lengthy explanations of psychological theories. Faulks keeps the narrative firmly in the third person, enabling it to be transient between the central characters over the various decades.

Overall, this is one of Faulks' finest novels. It is probably best suited to a reader who already has some interest in the development of psychology, but would be enjoyed by all who have time to devote to the intricacy of its character development.



Natural Flights of the Human Mind
Reviewed by Zoe Selthan
Clare Morrall £12.99
Sceptre

★★★★

This follow up to Morrall's 2003 novel *Astonishing Splashes of Colour*, tells the story of two outcasts: Peter Straker, a hermit lighthouse keeper living in North Devon, and Imogen Doody, an irate school caretaker. Both have dark secrets in their pasts.

The two central characters are brought together through the renovation of the cottage left to Doody by her mysterious godfather. Through a series of letters, flashbacks and dream conversations, it emerges that Straker unwittingly caused a train crash killing 78 people and is obsessively haunted by grief and guilt. Meanwhile, the victims' families are gathering via the internet to plan revenge for their loved ones' deaths.

Morrall skillfully juxtaposes the banality of everyday life with the dreamworld which has played an important role in both the central characters' lives. The portrayal of Straker's guilt and Doody's resentment are cleverly interwoven. However, the plot is too reliant on bizarre coincidence to be entirely believable, and the characters' emotional issues are rather too easily resolved in a desperate bid for a happy ending.



The Night Watch
Reviewed by Holly Williams
Sarah Waters £16.99
Virago Press Ltd

★★★★★

Waters swaps the corsets and crinolines of her previous novels for post-war Britain, but, like her other work *The Night Watch* has a cleverly constructed plot, precise capturing of historic detail, and a focus on the unwritten lesbian relationships of the time.

Waters reveals her story in reverse chronology, beginning in the post-war daze of 1947. We see the profound impact of war on the four central characters: glamorous Viv, needy Helen, 'mannish' Kay and the fey innocent, Duncan. 'Sudden horrors' are found in ordinary sights, like the slice of pink flesh glimpsed in the opening of a meat tin, revealing dark undercurrents to their day-to-day lives.

The 1944 section shows the intertwining nature of the characters' relationships. We see the brutalities of war— Kay as an ambulance driver collects dismembered corpses—but it is the personal tragedies that carry the most emotional weight. Dramatic scenes—from romantic encounters born of the need to hide from bombs to the almost unbearably vivid description of an illegal abortion— form the powerful emotional core of the novel.

Preview V-day events

The Vagina Monologues
Central Hall
Tuesday, Wednesday, week 9

Two nights, two casts, and with all proceeds going to York Women's Aid. The Vagina Monologues are performed all round the world on V-day, part of a movement to stop violence against women. Conceived in 1998, V-day grew out of Eve Ensler's brilliantly sharp play that gets up front and honest about vaginas. Funny, poignant and maybe the only chance you'll get to hear someone shouting 'c**t' in Central Hall!

Tittle Tattle
Drama Barn
Monday, week 8

One of Drama Soc's Open Nights, 'Tittle Tattle' will be an evening of drama by female playwrights, including some previews from the Vagina Monologues. Taking a relaxed and improvisatory approach, it promises to be good fun while raising awareness of V-day's concerns.

Also look out for ...
V-day Body Shop party
V-day Ann Summers Party
V-night at Toffs nightclub

Film Reviews



Goodnight and Good Luck

Director: George Clooney
With: David Strathairn, Robert Downey Jr.

Runtime: 93mins

Reviewed by Paul Becker **★★★★**

George Clooney's second directorial effort is an understated and unpretentious (if you disregard the slightly preachy beginning and end) black-and-white chamber piece—the action unfolds exclusively in the smoke-filled world of CBS Production Headquarters, New York—powered by a strong ensemble cast that comprises Patricia Clarkson, Robert Downey Jr., Jeff Daniels, Alex Borstein and Clooney himself, in sympathetic little roles.

The plot? During a period filled with paranoia where the media is whipped to a frenzy by Senator Joe McCarthy's communist witchhunts, a small team of television broadcasters make a stand: for righteousness and decency in American society and government, and against hatred, prejudice and inopportunity.

The reason you should see it is David Strathairn's lead performance as Edward R. Murrow, the public face of CBS's series of shows, broadcast in the spring of 1953, questioning the methods of McCarthy's pinko persecution. Arched back in his chair during broadcasts, his inevitable cigarette motionless and vertical in his left hand, Strathairn's interpretation is at once imposing and subtle: his commanding voice and sharp features seem to belie a startling frailty, as if this wry

and witty man constantly needs to withdraw into himself to keep his internal machine from overheating.

With several jazz-based intermissions and even some period advertisements added to the heap of genuine newscasts from the archives that are used throughout, the film works very much like a TV programme. The mood of the day is mostly conveyed through close-ups, the occasional tracking shot that conveys the hustle and bustle of the broadcasting beehive, and a slowly established, discreet long shot before the fadeout at the end of the working day.

I suppose you can accuse Clooney, who also wrote the script (with Grant Heslov), of laying it on a bit thick when we find out the reason that Clarkson's and Downey Jr.'s characters hide the fact they're married (to each other), after Murrow has been reminded by his boss that he, too, self-censors in the service of his own public image. Are some people more equal than others?

The characters are all upright and just, which is fair enough when confronted by borderline lunacy, but let us not forget that the senator catered to pre-existing fears in America. What is at stake is hinted at by a colleague's suicide, but the only dramatic consequence is Murrow's loss of his programme because of the risks he took. If that is worth mentioning, then what of the fact that he died of lung cancer aged fifty-seven?

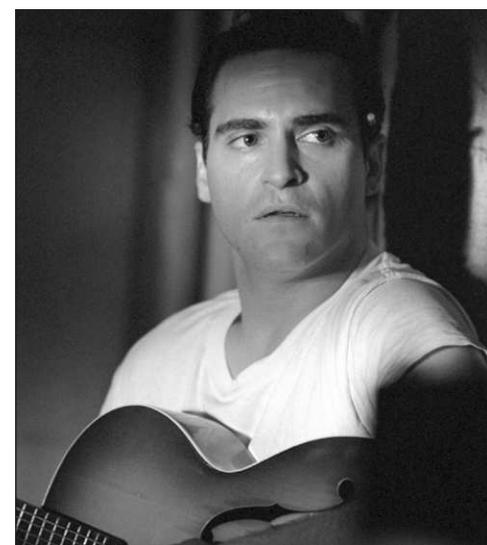
"We cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home," is Murrow's dictum in the broadcast that marks the relatively early climax. This is a film which gets most things right, but isn't quite the dramatic statement it clearly wants to be.

Walk the Line

Director: James Mangold
With: Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon

Runtime: 136 mins

Reviewed by Rob Perkins **★★★★**



with drug addiction, Cash's traumatic upbringing, his failed marriage, his friendships with musical legends like Jerry Lee Louis and Elvis, and especially his bitter-sweet romance with Witherspoon's June Carter was all news to me. Consequently, I avoided the traditional pitfall of the biopic formula in that I wasn't bored by the plot, which in *Walk the Line* is secondary to its style anyway. While there may be dull moments for those who know the story of the 'Man in Black', I was hooked from its pulsing, mesmerising start to its tear-jerking end. On the other hand, I had no prior connection with Cash. Unlike the millions of adoring fans who have obsessed over his music since the mid-1950s, I couldn't compare the finer points of Phoenix's singing with the Man in Black's blueprints.

This does not, however, detract from the majesty of Phoenix and Witherspoon's performances. An actor's performance in a biopic, especially of a much loved legend, inevitably becomes an impersonation. Although I can only retrospectively compare the two in their musical styles (it is yet another testament to the film that I decided to listen to more of Cash), I know the quality of the star's performances. Phoenix is bold and brooding, displaying magnetic power throughout. Witherspoon is even better: full of charm and charisma, but also intensely vulnerable.

The film is at its best when it is just the two of them, both on stage and off. They both sing and perform all the music, apart from the end credits, and the music is exceptional, even for an audience not accustomed to Cash's music scene. Phoenix and Witherspoon make this film something special. They have both been nominated for Oscars, and they both deserve them. They deserve every accolade that comes their way for making this film one of the very best biopics of all time.

Walk the Line chronicles the life of Johnny Cash, one of the greats of American music, and it follows his journey to fame and fortune from his home farm in Arkansas. *Walk the Line* is a straight no-nonsense biopic, doing exactly what it says on the tin. What lifts it above a usually mediocre genre is its heart and style, and in particular two marvellous performances from its stars, Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon.

I should point out that I knew very little about Johnny Cash before seeing this film, which is both a good and a bad thing when it comes to watching his biopic. The struggle

Casanova

Director: Lasse Hallström
With: Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller

Runtime: 109 mins

Reviewed by Dan Kipling **★★★★**



For a film that has a potentially quite boring plot (legendary lover meets his match with feisty woman and woos her with a variety of false identities, while hiding from promiscuity-hating authorities), *Casanova* is pleasantly surprising. Light, faintly amusing and almost heart-warming, it's the sort of film to get you grinning if you don't take it too seriously.

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Venice, the film's location is definitely one of its greatest assets, and director Lasse Hallström (*The Cider House Rules*, *Chocolat*) puts it to great use as Casanova,

servants, spouses and a large assortment of Venetian authorities career through a large cross-section of the beautiful city: it gives the film a great tone.

Even at the points where this tone is spoiled by ridiculous slapstick and (terrible) special effects—clearly put in to justify a large budget—the two leads (Ledger and Miller) are certainly not harsh on the eyes, and for one of Miller's first leads, she more than holds her own. Whereas before she has mainly carried the small-time role of a pretty face, here she more than holds her own as an accomplished actress, and it is warming to watch.

Ledger, however, seems to be yearning for better things, although he is reasonably amusing. Both leads have been in considerably better films, so this is, perhaps, to be expected. Whilst this has its fair share of swashbuckling, comedy, chase and even a glove-slap, the plot has more holes than well-worn socks, and it stumbles along, only filling a gap until the next set piece. The soundtrack is a terrible, continuous screech of violins and the denouement is excruciatingly convenient.

To be fair to Hallström, he is more used to earthy, soul-searching dramas than "period rom-com", and consequently this outing is understandably less sure-footed and more experimental than usual. All things considered, though, and ignoring the farcical attempt at seriously dressing Miller as a man (a trick that should be solely reserved for Shakespeare), the film does make you smile. It is not boring and moves fairly swiftly. There are character arcs and it is well acted enough to allow the audience to actually form some attachment to its protagonists.

This is not a film to rush to see, but if approached with low expectations and not taken too seriously it is certainly not a disappointment; and if all else fails, it's always nice to watch Sienna Miller smile.

Music Reviews

Jenny Lewis and the
Watson Twins

Reviewed by
Robin Seaton

Rabbit Fur Coat

Out Now

★★★★★

The first solo LP from Rilo Kiley's Jenny Lewis accompanied by vocal duo the Watson Twins, this is a strong attempt at an indie-country album that falls fractionally short of its initial promise. Brilliant a cappella opener, *Run Devil Run*, sets up the gospel overtones beautifully. The strong presence of Biblical themes that is common to the best country music is certainly present here; there are 'devils' and 'mercies' a-plenty, but sometimes they don't seem entirely real. Lewis seems to be playing with the traditional preoccupations of the country singer. She may invoke 'God' and 'the Devil', but with far less certainty than her more orthodox predecessors. Her perspective is more liberal, more freethinking than the traditional country stance.

Regardless of whether or not Lewis is

'playing' at being a country singer, something she could be uncharitably accused of, her voice doesn't quite seem capable of conveying the degree of passion and pain necessary for the topics about which she is singing. At least, this is the initial impression one gets from the album. However, repeated listens reveal subtle tones and inflections that, while subdued, work well in many of the songs to express the necessary degree conviction and heartache. Lewis is ably backed by the Watson Twins, whose fantastic gospel vocals harmonise and soar through a Southern sky where the clouds are delicately tainted with disease and death. Their voices really do bring something unearthly to the album.

The song writing is a real strong point: these broken tales of drug abuse, violence and tragedy are gently affecting, although Lewis finds it necessary to supplement her own songs with a cover: the Travelling Wilburys' *Handle With Care*. The Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Roy Orbison and George Harrison roles are played by Conor Oberst, M. Ward, Ben Gibbard (Death Cab For Cutie/Postal Service) and Lewis. It's a straight cover, and reinforces the folksy, homely feeling of the project.



Massive Attack

Reviewed by
Alex Baughen

Collected

Out 27/03/06

★★★

Given the lukewarm reception afforded their most recent album, the timely release of a best-of may scream "cash-in," but that doesn't mean *Collected* doesn't hold plenty of genre-hopping gems. Once the darlings of the UK trip-hop scene, Massive Attack have spent a decade pooling hip-hop, reggae, club-friendly beats and ecclesiastical orchestral arrangements, producing moody chill-out tracks, as represented here by the dense mysticism of *Teardrop* and the heady *Inertia Creeps*. *Protection*, with its relentless piano and lazy vocals is as relaxing as it is sinister, while *Karmacoma* sees the group at their most flippant, exploiting exotic beats.

In the shadow of their first three albums, *Collected* feels more like a trip-hop down memory lane than an exploration of the group's greatness. As a best-of, it lacks the celestial *Hymn Of The Big Wheel* and the musical claustrophobia of *Heat Miser*.

What we have here is a record that collates the best of *Blue Lines*, *Protection* and *Mezzanine*, stuffs them into some flashy packaging and tosses in a bonus CD of dodgy remixes and b-sides. Hardcore fans will shell out for the extra material, while others must endure weak filler tracks. Here, it looks like everybody loses.



Coheed and Cambria

Reviewed by
Gemma Day

Manchester Academy

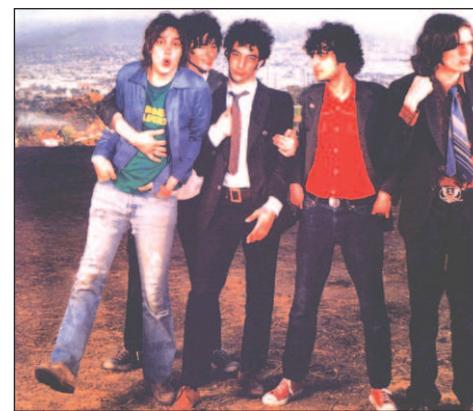
02/02/06

★★★★★

The task of being the penultimate act at the 'VS' tour show this evening falls to Kerrang's favourite protégés, Coheed and Cambria, and it is clear from the first note played tonight that we are witnessing the birth of something special in this band. Singer Claudio's falsetto voice is as flawless as his impossible head of hair. The band follow up a haunting string introduction from second record *In Keeping Secrets of Silent Earth* with a collection of tracks from all of their three albums, holding the audience's attention completely.

On stage, there is something mystical about the band; they say little, do not throw themselves around the stage like wounded animals, and are clearly taken into another realm by their own music. The beauty of their live show, however, is that for an hour, the audience goes with them. Quite indescribable instrumentals link anthemic choruses and unforgettable melodies; the show closing with a screaming guitar solo which would have made Hendrix weep.

Thrice close tonight's show, delivering a performance that on any other night, would have brought the house down, but tonight, after the blinding brilliance of Coheed's set, it is something of an anti-climax.



The Strokes

Reviewed by
Camille Augarde

Hull City Hall

11/02/06

★★★★★

The day spent on the grim streets of Hull, in a queue longer than guitarist's newly acquired mane, was worth every girl's shiver, every odd look and every copper thrown at what the public assumed to be a party of tramps. These 'tramps' were the tiny number of fans who were dedicated enough to acquire Strokes tickets for Hull (one letter away from "hell" as the support act reminded us). In a haze of guitars, slung stylishly around their hips, constraining t-shirts, chipstick legs and chiselled cheekbones, the band enter, and slide smoothly into one of their new offerings, *Ize of the World*. It's clear from the crowd's screams, flying converse and neck-wrenching head bangs that the New Yorkers have been greatly missed during their absence. After Corona-addled mumblings of appreciation, the leather jacket clad Julian effortlessly draws out their new single *Heart in a Cage*; the romantic lyrics, searing guitars, frantic drums and all round electrifying energy of which blows our beer-sodden heads. As well as showcasing their new album, *First Impressions of Earth*, the band also rampage through previous albums, the wiry perfection which would subdue any critic. One can only pray that their inhumanly cool presence will be gracing our festivals this summer.

Singles Reviews

Bell X1, *Flame*

Initially, the vocals sounded like they had been lifted from a Savage Garden song, and confusion reigned in the *Nouse* office as we wondered whether or not we had the right CD in the drive. However, it all started to make sense when we discover that it was produced by jazz hobbit Jamie Cullum. The guitars are fashionable, the harmonies weak, and the bongos questionable.

Jack Johnson, *Better Together*

Strictly for lounging about to on sunny Sunday afternoons, Johnson's latest single is quite pleasant, but there's not much else to say about it.

The Young Knives, *Here Comes The Rumour Mill*

According to various members of the music team, their guitars are grating, their vocals are annoying, and the singer sounds like Justin Hawkins. However, the B-sides are much better.

Battle, *Tendency*

Probably the pick of the bunch. Battle's single sounds like a Bloc Party covers band fronted by the guy from The Music, but it goes on for about a minute too long.

David Banner, *Play*

It's just a fat man who looks like Abu Hamza shouting about sex over a really dull beat.

Singles this week were reviewed by Camille Augarde, Mike McGovern, Robin Seaton and Kate Smith.

Food and Drink Reviews



Which pancake?

We are outraged that the sanctity of Lent is not given the respect it deserves, as people continue to consume batter-based products long after Shrove Tuesday when all should be living on a diet of Smash and tap water. For the uninitiated (Heathens! Infidels!) a pancake features the following deeply significant ingredients; eggs for creation, salt for wholesomeness, milk for purity, and flour, the stuff of life. But we say, smother your pancake with golden syrup and Nutella and consume with tequila! For anyone whose ceiling bears testament to previous pancake attempts, we have traversed the high street so you do not have to endure the trials and tribulations of flipping. Bon appetit.

Mothers' Pride Pancakes, 89p for 6.

If you like your pancakes, or indeed your food in general, to taste like dusty old carpet, then this is for you. It seems to repel any liquid it comes into contact with and then expand, making digestion a little tricky. If you use hot butter and maple syrup, the concoction is just about edible, as long as you throw the pancake away first.

Betty's Banana Pancake, £3.60.

Blatantly the deluxe version, this treat is available all year round should you get a taste for it post-Shrove Tuesday. The bananas are firm; the pancakes are thick and crispy and smothered in thick, warm caramel fudge sauce. I know that the former were involved somewhere, it said so on the menu, but it's the sauce that's so good it makes you forget where you are, never mind what you've already eaten. I suspect huge amounts of monosodium glutamate are involved, but apparently Betty's are 'above' that.

Marks and Spencer Scotch Pancakes, 99p for 8.

These are not just normal pancakes... these are Marks and Spencer pancakes! Loved by all in the office, these pancakes went down as a treat, described as an 'afternoon delight'. At first glance, these pancakes brought back memories of fat Americans enjoying morning pancakes smothered in syrup, piled with bacon and other fatty items. However, these pancakes, best eaten toasted, were surprisingly tasty. Our advice is to cover them in golden syrup and gobble them up as quickly as possible. We found that while these scrumptiously fluffy pancakes taste lovely with a few balls of cold vanilla ice cream, they slip down far too easily. Before we knew it, all eight had vanished!

Babycream
Headrow,
Leeds

Reviewed by
Lucy Peden

★★★★

Positioned amongst the garish neon bars of the Headrow, Leeds' unofficial Electric Mile, Babycream is surprisingly elegant. Its sister bar in Liverpool recently won the Hi-Life Best Interior award, and with both bars sharing a design concept, it isn't hard to see why.

The emphasis is on comfort and luxury rather than high fashion, with the low lighting and simple colour scheme (chocolate brown and, er, cream) accentuating the ridiculously glamorous polished mahogany bar. The glowing tables and generous levels of chrome keep it trendy- it's a media haunt, not a gentleman's club.

The black collar crew were definitely out in force when we visited, and as you may have anticipated, it ain't cheap. Cocktails start at a fiver, pints from three pounds and the cheapest, roughest house wine is fifteen pounds a

bottle. However, when the aforementioned wine is a lovely crisp Chenin Blanc, you begin to regret all the times you paid half the price for a bottle of chilled urine. The cocktails themselves are fairly traditional, closer in spirit to a prohibition era Dorothy Parker than Henry J. Bean, although they're not too proud to offer a chocolate lime martini.

The Cream brand is renowned for creating dance hits from old school samples, and Babycream works in a similar vein, making their most fabulous drinks when spinning their own take on a classic, the best example being the strangely sweet vanilla mojito. If you need something fruitier, check out the Jamaican rum, passion fruit and ginger beer concoction, which is intriguingly titled Like Two In A Hankie, and if anyone can explain this moniker then Nouse wants to know. There is much to recommend about Babycream, not least its proximity to Primark- what better way to celebrate saving huge amounts of money on clothes than spending huge amounts of money on drink.

Just remember to stash the chavvy carrier bags away from the eyes of the more sophisticated clientele.



The Pantry
14 Tower Street

Reviewed by
Helen Hunt

★★★



Doubtless many students will have passed The Pantry on the way to and from town. Situated opposite Clifford's Tower, it has a lovely view and you can sit and watch the world walk senselessly by with the soothing strains of Jeff Buckley and Badly Drawn Boy playing in the background.

Although from the outside The Pantry looks a little like a quaint tea room with all the cakes in the window, inside it serves a good range of hearty homemade food. Hot sandwiches start at £1.50, jacket potatoes at £1.90 and the homemade soup of the day served with a bread roll is £2.20.

They also offer a wide range of sandwich fillings including something a bit more adventurous than the standard campus fare, such as sweet chilli chicken or stilton and apple. If you have a sweet tooth and can be tempted by something sinful, why not try the indulgent hot chocolate which comes topped with a fluffy mound of freshly whipped cream, marshmallows and flaked chocolate - not for the faint hearted! It comes in at a slightly overpriced, but worthwhile £2.80. The service was friendly and relaxed, and they even offer a delivery service. The Pantry is the perfect antidote to the soulless surroundings of endless coffee house chains.

Bay of Bengal
Bishopthorpe Road

Reviewed by
N. Luke
Abraham

★★★



I'd often wanted to try the Bay of Bengal and somehow never managed to, but I finally got my chance and reckon I have been missing out on a lot. Even though it's pretty much the standard curry house décor (without the the annoying looped taped Indian music), it does have a number of advantages. One is the price - you can get starters, main meal with rice and bread, followed by ice cream for under a tenner, and two is the fact that you can bring your own beer/wine/meths and not get charged extra for it.

I spent £12 and got two poppadoms, a lamb tikka bhuna with naan, half a portion of rice and a side dish of tarka daal, pistachio kulfi (ice cream) AND two cans of Kronenberg that I got from a local offie. The food itself was spot on - even down to the mango chutney. The bhuna sauce was rich, with exceedingly tasty lamb tikka. The naan bread was soft and full of flavour, and the daal was some of the best I've had. The only slight let-down was that they served the ice-cream in it's original cardboard pot, which slightly destroyed the illusion. While I have had better curries, it's been for over twice the price. I would definitely eat there again. They do take away and I a, definitely keen to try a variety of dishes from the menu.

Il Paradiso del Cibo
40 Walmgate

Reviewed by
Vicky Hallam

★★★★



I have long been searching for the hidden gems of York's eateries. I'm pleased to say I think I've found one in Il Paradiso del Cibo. Sardinian owner, Paolo Silesu, is on a mission to bring a little taste of Italy to the people of York.

There is a convincing Italian atmosphere as soon as you enter the door; gorgeous smells, charismatic staff, and Italian soaps playing in the background. It made such a change to see real Italian food on offer, and at reasonable prices too. From 10.30 to 5.30, students can enjoy any pizza, pasta or panini and drink for just £2.50. I tried the pizza to go, 'rectangular slices which fold like a sandwich'. I'd never tried anything like it before. I would also recommend the Italian coffee served with a cake for £1.70, which was just the trick before my 9.15 at Kings Manor!

You can choose to eat in or out, and they also have a deli counter serving a variety of authentic Italian foods. If you are feeling particularly hungry, I would definitely opt for one of the ciabatta sandwiches. On Sundays there is also a great all-you-can-eat deal on pizza, pasta and salad for £3.50. When you feel lunchtime hunger pangs, don't head to Subways in town, make a trip to Il Paradio del Cibo. You will not be disappointed.

The last word

Bobby Smith reflects on campus life after visiting Vision

Underneath the Tweed

I write this piece in honour of campus' biggest celebrity yet. His profile continues to expand and is only fuelled further by outrageous antics such as public nudity. As the star of YSTV, I'm sure he has entertained you in your thousands. As URY's next signing, listening figures are set to increase ten fold. At the moment they average at about 5 people.

He has even eclipsed Rob Wilson as the star of Fusion to the extent that Rob has been forced to quit. (Rob is undisputedly



Mr. Tweed ruthlessly seduces an unidentified member of Goodricke JCRC. No Rohypnol was used.

York's premier black man). By now you must be wondering who this immense specimen of humanity is.

Even if you're not I'm going to reveal him. Mr. Tweed.

The former James College treasurer added some excitement to the usually mundane James JCRC meeting. Apparently Mr Tweed stormed in waving a homophobic video, demanding that it be shown in the JCR.

The LGB officer disagreed. Anyway, Mr. Tweed burst into the kitchen and attempted to chop his hair off with a scissors, emphasising his disgust at the LGB officer in question.

Well, it was a poor attempt so instead he whipped his cock out, as you do, and proceeded to the middle of the meeting and in an inspirational display of agility and athleticism that would rival a pole dancing Russian gymnast, Mr. Tweed performed The Helicopter.

For those freshers who are still unaware of The Helicopter, it is a technically demanding activity that usually takes place within the confines of the Toffs dance floor, or the upstairs bit in Ziggys. Mr. Tweed has done the unthinkable and taken the sport to a whole new level. He has pushed boundaries, even broken barriers to make The Helicopter widely accepted by introducing it into the JCRC environment.

Incredibly enough, Mr. Tweed was pressurised into resigning, otherwise the JCRC would have 'no confidence' voted him out. This is completely unacceptable and a breach of individual and political freedom. How dare they discriminate against him based on his gifted grasp of a widely growing sport?

Vote Mr. Tweed for SU Treasurer. I'm sure he'd do a great job and surely could not leave the finances in a worse mess than

they are now.

Housing Crisis

On the subject of mess, accommodation comes to mind. Even though applications to the University have fallen by five percent, intake has risen substantially. The resulting accommodation crisis that has ensued this year has left many third years with the prospect of homelessness.

They'll be forced to live underneath various cash machines in town, and drink Special Brew. The acquisition of a dog (preferably a starving one) is also mandatory.

Meanwhile, the same intelligent minds that brought you the Roger Kirk Centre have chosen to knock down adequate accommodation in Vanburgh amidst an accommodation crisis.

Anyone would have mistaken them for the SU, but I can assure you they are probably highly paid professionals. I only deem Vanburgh's accommodation adequate relative to Goodricke (which is still standing) since Goodricke's accommodation is worse than a York police station cell. At least in prison you get fed for free.

Sorry...

Oh, I must apologise for my derogatory comment about the Roger Kirk Centre last time, otherwise they'll sue me. Their food is tasty. Yummy. And nutritious too. I am currently eating a coronation chicken baguette, whilst sitting on the toilet. It's the only way unless you can time it.

6. Writing and Performance

Blag your degree



"I have nothing to declare but my genius" (Oscar Wilde)

Yes, this is actually a degree. Apparently York was an academic institution, according to the prospectus anyway, but clearly I was wrong.

You can get away with it at school with a Theatre Studies A-Level, but surely no one would be so audacious as to pass this one off as something worth attaching a BA to the end of. I watch Neighbours everyday. I want a Writing and Performance degree.

Well, I won't be able to get one for much longer. With the arduous and ongoing development of Heslington East comes the need for sacrifice. Indeed the slaughtered lamb will be Writing and Performance.

Actually it's going to be postponed for a while until Heslington East is developed enough to provide lavish enough facilities for all the luvvies and spice boys to adequately learn how to watch television properly whilst taking notes. Additionally they will be able to learn how to simultaneously prance about on stage in tight costume whilst being aware of the cultural restraints of society such as censorship and political correctness.

I would rather see Writing and Performance funds used more efficiently. Just install Sky TV in every campus room and dish out a few cinema and theatre tickets. It would be more cost-efficient whilst ensuring the amount of performance exposure students are subjected to remains high. They would then surely then be more than capable of passing any Writing and Performance exam.

Now for the serious stuff. How can you ensure minimum effort will provide you with Writing and Performance expertise? It's simple really. Just make sure you studied a Shakespeare play at GCSE level to give you some sort of perceived cultural background. As long as you've been in some sort of school play you'll be fine.

Secondly watch television. There is no avoiding this since a significant proportion of this degree involves film and TV production (the performance part). Lastly, dress up and swan around the stage whilst reciting Sheridan's School for Scandal or a Southpark script (pure genius).

This will certainly guarantee your acceptance into the Writing and Performance elite. So much so even, that you will feel nothing but obliged to highlight and straighten your hair before every lecture. And that's just the boys.



STRANGE YORK MYTHS #002
DURING THE 1980s IT WAS APPARANT THAT STUDENTS HAD TO SUPPLY THEIR OWN TOILET PAPER.

OFTEN A STUPENT WOULD BE CAUGHT ON THE BOG WITHOUT THIS VITAL NECESSARY AND SO WOULD CALL ONE MAN NAMED BENJAMIN.

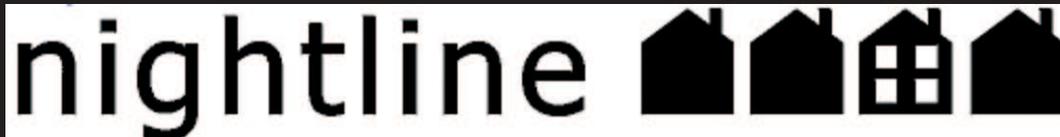
"BOG-ROLL BEN" AS HE WAS LATER KNOWN, WOULD SUPPLY LOO ROLLS ON HIS BIKE TO ANY UNLUCKY AND DESPERATE STUDENT, FOR A HEFTY FEE...

WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO FUND OF THE HARROWING STUDENT DEBT THAT HE WAS LEFT WITH AFTER GRADUATING. ONE MIGHT SAY HE WAS "STINKING RICH!" (SORRY -CH)

Need to talk? (01904) 433735

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

(Open 8pm-8am every term night)





Clockwise : Publicity shot for *September in the Rain*, *Jerry Springer the Opera*, a recreation Roman centurian, and detail of *Francis and Brother Leo Meditating over Death* by El Greco

Live Music

Thursday 23rd February
The Feeling, Fibbers

By all accounts this band are like Keane, but worse. Probably their only redeeming feature is that they don't have a Cabbage Patch Doll as their front man.

Saturday 25th February
The Soledad Brothers, Fibbers

These hard-rocking friends of the White Stripes bring the blues to Fibbers next Saturday. The best gig this week, they'll kick out the jams and blow you away.

Saturday 25th February
Babysambles, Leeds Met Uni

It's a tough choice between this gig and the Soledad Brothers, but if you want to see a crack-addled shell of a man run through his greatest hits, this is the gig for you.

Thursday 2nd March
65 Days of Static, Leeds Cockpit

Heavy post-rockers 65 Days of Static will be supported by Warp Records' Chris Clark, with live visuals by the Media Lounge.

Wednesday 22nd February
Courtney Pine, Theatre Royal, York

This renowned saxophonist should be fantastically exciting, especially in the austere surroundings of the Theatre Royal.

Campus Events

Monday, Week 7
Revolver, Derwent

Yet another Revolver, this week in Derwent probably the best venue on campus. The theme this time round is 'superheroes and villains', so it's a perfect excuse for the girls to get those Wonder Woman pants from New Look.

Friday, Week 7
Playboy Mansion, Goodricke

With a late licence of 1.30 am, you could drink later for cheaper in Weatherspoons, but as it's a Friday night you might as well campus it up to the max. Boys grab your phallic cigars as the girls don bunny ears.

Saturday, Week 7
D-Funked, Derwent

If you're going to any campus events, make it D-Funked. This is always an awesome night and rumours flying around suggest that this year Derwent Ents may have booked the Samba band. D-Funked promises to be a night of drums and excitement.

Thursday, Week 8
Comedy Night, Wentworth

A night of comedy featuring Spencer Brown and Andy Bone, this promises to be a great evening for those who fancy some calm campus chuckles. And for a mere £4, it's well worth checking out.

Art and Performance

Monday 20th - Saturday 25th February
Jerry Springer- The Opera, Grand Opera House, York

Probably the best new musical around. For those of you who missed its controversial airing on the BBC, or just want to witness it in its full glory - this is a must-see.

Until Saturday 9th March
September in the Rain, York Theatre Royal
York Theatre Royal seldom puts on a terribly inspiring or original show, but if you want culture for just £3.50, go along to see this John Godber play about an old Yorkshire couple who go to Blackpool for their holidays.

Until Saturday 25th February
Romans in Britain, Sheffield Crucible

Written by Howard Brenton and directed by Sam West, this production of the play famously prosecuted by Mary Whitehouse has recieved generally good reviews in the the national press and from our own Nouse reviewer.

Until Sunday 26th March
Spanish Masters Exhibition, York Art Gallery

Including pieces by El Greco and Goya, this exhibition of works from Spain's golden age of art showcases paintings from the National Gallery and York's Fairfax House.

Cinema

The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (U)
If you failed to catch a glimpse of this plasticine adventure the first time round, City Screen in York is giving you a chance to participate in this vegetable extravaganza from the 20th to the 22nd February.

Capote (15)
This film sees New York writer and society wit Truman Capote on his journey to compose his masterpiece 'In Cold Blood'. Philip Seymour Hoffman's portrayal of the quirky literary genius is mesmerising.

Hidden (18)
This suspenseful thriller, brilliantly directed

by Michael Haneke, sees French film legends Daniel Auteuil and Juliette Binoche in the starring roles. *Hidden* portrays the story of a middle class couple whose security is shattered by the revelation of a long-suppressed secret. This film got rave reviews at Cannes Film Festival.

Good Night and Good Luck (PG)
For those of you used to seeing George Clooney on the screen, this film sees him taking on the director's role and it seems to have paid off. Nominated for six Oscars, this black and white film based on historical events is an enjoyable, if somewhat undramatic, cinematic offering.



Local MP, **John Grogan**, discusses recent legislation

Comment

Organisation is the key in democracy

Democratic politics is essentially a numbers game. Whether it be York University Athletic Union, Heslington Parish Council or the House of Commons, ultimately you need to construct a majority to win. The best arguments in the world can fail to prevail if the organisation behind them is poor. During the first two months of 2006 I have been involved in lobbying behind the scenes on two key votes in Parliament – the amendment of the Religious Hatred Bill and the comprehensive smoking ban.

One common lesson of both debates was coalition building. To my dying day I will recall, in the run-up to the final vote on the Religious Hatred Bill, my office full of an eclectic mix including lawyers from the Christian Evangelical Alliance, officers of the National Secular Society, actors and comedians. They were all from very different backgrounds and perspectives but united in the cause of free speech. Equally in the smoking debate I did my best to bring together my two roles as chair of the Backbench Labour Party Health Committee and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group.

The Health Select Committee chairman and I spent hours over Christmas and New Year locked in meetings with the captains of the pub industry and representatives of Cancer

Research UK, The British Medical Association and Action on Smoking and Health. The progress of these talks was I think one of the factors in persuading Downing Street to grant MPs a free vote. In turn, once that decision had been taken pubs very quickly signed up to a complete smoking ban, fearful that if members clubs were exempted they could lose much business from smoking customers.

Voting in the House of Commons is a very physical business. The division bell rings and MPs have eight minutes to get to one of the two division lobbies. The golden rule is to let MPs sympathetic to your cause know whether they need to vote aye or no. When there is a series of votes on complicated amendments that is not easy. On the occasion of the Religious Hatred Bill there were two votes and the rebel majority fell from eleven to one with the Prime Minister famously not voting on the second occasion. He was not the only one to get caught out. The reason the rebel majority fell was that their crib sheet on how to vote mistakenly predicted only one division and so after the first vote several rebels trooped off to the bar thinking the job was done. But for the Prime Minister's absence weeks of careful organisation and planning would have been undone! When it comes to democratic decision making sometimes there is no



SU President **Micky Armstrong**, asks you to get actively involved in the running of your Students' Union

Well it is that time of year again; the YUSU elections are closing on the horizon. Who wins YOU decide. Whether or not you think what we do concerns you or not, the power of the vote is the strongest power you have in a democratic body such as our Union.

I remember twelve months ago when I had finally decided to stand for President. Many told me not to bother, that I was too inexperienced or that my opposition was much more popular. What was it that changed my mind? A friend once said, "You will feel bet-

ter to run and lose than if you don't run and always thought you should." It's true, and this is the one piece of advice I can give to anybody, don't be scared to stand up for something you believe in.

The next few weeks you'll be inundated with

information and posters; flyers and manifestos why shouldn't they be your flyers and your manifestos? Everybody must know the Margaret Mead quote by now; "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." But what does that mean? It means that if you want to change something go ahead and change it, don't be afraid of what everybody else thinks or what you think everybody else thinks. Just do it.

What I have seen in the last few weeks is that people do care enough to act. Our

Union General Meeting had the best turn out in living history. Our RAG procession was larger, more successful and more enjoyable than in recent years (I would know, I organised the last two!). So when people say that there is no point in getting involved in the Union they are wrong.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the reception of the student centre. We will give you all the advice you

'Recently I have seen that people really do care enough to act'

need and help explain about all the steps that you will have to take over the next few weeks.

If you know that you would like to be an officer on the Union but do not know which one, come and have a chat, I am more than happy to explain all the roles of the Union and how you can influence them.

So to finish on a well-repeated phrase of mine (to irritate Mr Parker): get involved. Take part in the elections, be it standing, helping a friend, asking questions at hustings or simply logging on and voting; it's, easy it's fun. Get involved.

and Analysis

Final year students should not be left out because of the University accommodation shortage, says **Daniel Whitehead**

Current students should be given campus priority

Roughly a year ago, I read a news article in *Nouse*, which said 'Students to desert 'dull' campus and use private rental'. Twelve months on, after suffering over-priced off-campus housing, I decided that perhaps dowdy campus accommodation may not be so 'dull' after all and applied to move back into Langwith College. However, when it came to my attention that a final year student has less than a 50 percent chance of getting back on to campus and the University was using an ancient report as the basis for its accommodation policy, my reaction was shock, worry and disbelief.

How can York go from being on the verge of flogging the rooms off for free last year, to making on-campus accommodation an invaluable commodity only available to those lucky few who are randomly picked from a hat? For me the news was rather depressing. Not only am I without enough

housemates or a house for next year. But as a Computer Scientist and a member of several societies, I spend a considerable amount of my time on campus. So living almost in the suburbs of Leeds (i.e. Fulford) is not the most enticing option.

It seems that the University has more pressing issues than my welfare though; the small matter of making as much money as viably possible by accepting an increasing number of Freshers seems higher on their agenda. I think the word for this phenomenon is the private sector, but as an educational institution in my opinion the students currently at the University should be more of a priority.

Such is the University's intention on maximising profit, that they make overseas students the golden children of the institution by offering priority over even the disabled who may not be able to make it on to campus. Why is this? It is sim-

ple, foreign students pay thousands of pounds more per head in tuition fees. I totally understand that as an international member of the University it is hard to afford an education and pay for private rental but when several will take their skills abroad after graduation, should others have to suffer to accommodate their problems?

The effect of such a drastic drop in rooms available has had outreaching consequences in the York community. Landlords of the small pool of student housing available have realised that demand is large. And with the Heslington East expansion on the horizon, it is only going to get bigger; evidently prices have risen rapidly in many areas, which has major issues for students on lower budgets. These problems have hardly been helped by the on-going conversion of Vanbrugh into the ghost-town college/office

block.

It does indeed seem that York University can get very little right. Not only are hundreds of final year students in the most important year of their life, facing having no accommodation for the next academic year. But the main reason for this is that the University is using an out-of-date report on the needs of third-years as the basis for their decision making.

Yet seemingly our university will carry on regardless in its faceless pursuit of being unpopular amongst the students. Nobody actually sees the people who make these controversial, stupid decisions. They prefer to hide behind the glossy cover of the receptionists who offer no useful information to anyone, and cannot give us any rational reasoning. I say would it not be nice to have a people in the University of a reasonable intelligence and who cared about us!

Events a success but more need to get involved, says **Ben Toone**

RAG brings out the charity spirit

It's inspiring to see the lengths people will go to for good causes, and RAG week highlighted this magnificently. From the conventional bar events, to the utterly barmy and downright cruel, students threw themselves into the charity spirit. The RAG parade showed locals and bemused tourists that students do care about their adopted community, with much of the money raised going to York based charities.

Although I was more of a bystander (moonlighting for URY as part of the new street-party element to the parade) the sheer enthusiasm couldn't fail to impress. However, despite the huge success and great turnout I

couldn't help wondering why more students weren't there. How representative was a turnout of 10-30 people per college? How many more stayed at home? How many more are missing out?

To confess, this year's

'So get out of your comfort-zone and get involved'

RAG parade was my first, and in my previous three years at York I had hardly noticed RAG week. Yet when I did get involved the experience was amazing. Hitching to Dublin, sky diving, even

speed dating. Having fun yet helping good causes. The feel good factor is hard to beat.

So why don't more people get involved? Apathy with the Students' Union is well known, most students' contact may well be restricted to mentions within this paper or the odd Revolver event. It may well be that apathy towards RAG stems from this. More likely it's the feeling of lack of time, breaking into perceived cliques, or believing it's difficult to be involved. Yes, our primary aim at university should be to get a degree at as high a grade as possible, but getting involved needn't take up huge amounts of time.

It's the old cliché but

your time flies here at York. Three years will go so quickly, so it's important to jump on opportunities whilst you can. Volunteering, either by fundraising with RAG, YSCA, Millennium Awards or other ways can be one of the most rewarding experiences during your degree. At no other time will there be so many opportunities and like-minded people in one place. I can put hand on heart and say my week's stint for Kids Camp was one of the best weeks I have had since being at University. Volunteering also looks great on the CV. So get out of your comfort-zone and get involved, even if you do one thing, you'll be surprised at how good it feels.



Martin Ford looks at the fall in university applicant numbers

Fees deterring future applicants

Take a moment to look back at your time at University. Think of all the experiences you have gained; the new people you have met, the new interests you have discovered. Consider the independence you've developed with the severing of the apron-strings. Remember the nights out and the good times had. I've not even mentioned the degree you're supposed to be studying for!

Figures recently revealed by UCAS show a 3.4% fall in applications to study at English universities this year, the first in a previously steady year-on-year rise. Despite the efforts of universities and ministers to downplay the role of top-up fees in this reversal, the rise in applications to Scottish and Welsh institutions suggests otherwise.

Students emerging from university with £15,000 of debt are now commonplace. Graduates in 2004 saw a rise in their average debt of 12% compared to the previous year. This can only become more acute in coming years, and potential undergraduates are only too aware of this dire situation.

The extra cost incurred in taking a four year course has caused concern among some university departments - particularly those in the scientific and linguistic fields - that their popularity could wane. Similarly, part-time students, who are not eligible for bursaries, are at a distinct disadvantage.

Research undertaken by

the Institute of Education has shown that universities are likely to become more regionalised, as the financial advantages of attending a local university are brought into sharp focus.

Coalition 2010, an initiative involving the partnership of the NUS with teaching unions, has already been

'Remember the nights out and good times had'

established to oppose any plans to remove the current £3,000 cap on top-up fees when it comes under review in 2008. It remains to be seen whether this campaign will achieve any real success.

The Government's target to have 50% of 18-to-30 year-olds in higher education by 2010 has suffered a significant and not unexpected blow with the publication of these statistics. The incompatibility of their legislation with their targets had been laid bare. Many of the UK's economic rivals can boast sending 60 percent or more of their young people to university; this country is currently below the international average. This fact, quite apart from the arguments in favour of providing more young minds with the opportunities a university education can offer, indicates a grave need for the Government to achieve its ambitious goal. Currently it lies in peril.

EST. 1964
NOUSE



Cartoon row escalates

The Danish cartoon row has polarised the media world on the issue of freedom of speech, and its limits. Whilst freedom of speech as a concept is undeniably vital to any democratic society that wishes to remain healthy, it comes with a great deal of responsibility.

Newspapers should always remain self censoring, which involves being aware of their readership. The decision to not print the cartoons by the British press is correct: any positive repercussions that could possibly have come out of it are not enough to counter the negative impact and insult on the Islam faith and its followers.

It is not enough to claim that the cartoons should be printed just to make the point that this publication is possible in the Western world, and in the multi cultural Europe we live in it is frankly irresponsible.

I therefore found it very surprising that *Gair Rhydd*, the Cardiff student newspaper, believed that printing the cartoons was the right thing to do. I'm sure that, as they have stated, at the time of going to press the issue hadn't escalated to the stage it currently stands at and they printed them with no provocative intentions. But at the end of the day, the cartoons themselves are simply not good or thought provoking enough to merit publication.

Partition is the way

So the smoking ban has been decided on and by summer 2007 students in bars around York and on campus will be unable to have a puff when they wish. But is this a just step forward for a healthier nation or just a further example of a developing nanny state?

I, for one, hold out Vanbrugh bar as an example where a compromise is currently made and should have been an option more closely examined. Smoking is allowed only in certain areas, and importantly not by the bar. Therefore people have the choice: if they want to smoke whilst they are enjoying a drink, then they can do this. However the option to enjoy a night in a cleaner environment is still there. This may even force smokers to abandon the habit for a night in order to spend more time with their non-smoking friends.

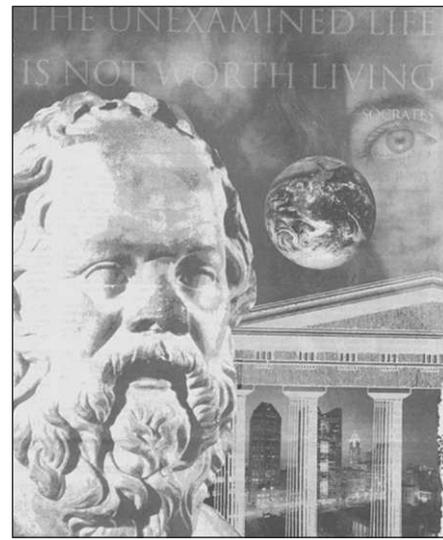
Ultimately it should be a matter of choice: first that of the owner of bars and pubs as to what they want their policy to be, and secondly that of the customer as to in what environment they want to spend their night.

However this is now all a mute point: the ban is coming and we should accept this. Whether it is right that the government should force our hand is a personal moral decision. One thing we can be thankful for is that the post-night out laundry marathon due to smoke-stenched clothes, may soon be a thing of the past.

Letters

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

Win!
Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps



Not amused

As a York student of PEP I would like to take issue with the "Blag your Degree" column in the last edition. I know this is meant to be satire but I think all it does is demean the degree that I and many others work so hard for and the department whose staff are among the best in the country. The writer seems to have completely misunderstood the nature of the degree course and what it is involved: far more than just the "art of bullshitting".

I don't mean to sound like I am taking this all too seriously but I just think you should be more careful when writing such columns so as not to demean the department staff and students who spend numerous years and thousands of pounds studying for this degree.

Anonymous
Club of PEP

No to Monty's

In response to your review of 'Monty's bar' in your last edition. This bar is truly crap and empty most of the time. Its staff are rude and it serves the worst cocktails I have ever had in my whole life. If I want to pay that much for a crap cocktail I'll go to the Living room or Capital (at least the staff are friendly!). Also the music is cheesy popular stuff, that could hardly be classed as 'rock'. Avoid this place at all costs!

Victoria
Comment left on website

Star letter

Security worry

Regularly I receive emails from college administrators and university security stressing the importance that we "report suspicious activity" and "never reveal our door code".

I live in an old college with more than just the standard study bedrooms along my corridor. Almost every day now I have varying numbers of students wandering through the kitchen, using the bathroom and just generally loitering around our residence while waiting for seminars that take place in a room at the end of the corridor.

What my point really is, is that surely it is hypocritical of the university to on the one hand tell us the importance of us taking responsibility for our security while on the other hand giving the door code out to God knows how many students, who are then free to give it to whom ever they want.

With all the robberies that have been reported recently on campus I think a change of policy is needed in that either seminar rooms should be removed from residence corridors or someone is on the door to let students in and out.

I hope this will be taken into consideration.

Anonymous
Derwent College

Delighted at York coverage

I am writing to convey my delight in coming across this article by Mr Kalinke ["Singapore executes Australian heroin trafficker" *Nouse*, December 2005], I myself am Singapore postgraduate student studying at Southampton and am disgusted at the lack of media coverage both nationally and locally over the execution of this man obviously placed in a desperate situation and having resort to desperate means in order to help what anyone would believe to be the most important people in their lives, his family.

I cannot begin to understand how executing people such as Nguyen can have any benefit politically in Singapore which champions itself as a 'modern' country. It merely seems to be an obvious point for people to step in and change my country's disfigured policies towards punishment. Mr Kalinke has shown dynamism and intelligence in drawing people's attention to this policy. The con-

sequences of the media ignoring this outcry, which in essence can be interpreted as not disagreeing with these actions, may have repercussions in other people such as Nyguen's lives who are unfortunately made examples of by a prehistoric Singaporean governmental 'policy'.

Thank you again York Students and Mr. Kalinke for making this statement

Wai Chung Tung
University of Southampton

Ducks again...

I have never written into a paper before, and no issue at York University has ever caused me to complain. However, I believe that allowing nudity on campus is disgusting. There are three good reasons for enforcing ducks and geese to cover up: hygiene (excrement on shoes), humility (have they no shame?), and halting a global pandemic.

Mike Bridger

Your: Platform

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

1. Have you been doing anything for RAG week?
2. Do you feel there is easy access to drugs on campus?
3. Do you think top-up fees are affecting university applications?
4. How do you feel about 2nd and 3rd year accommodation shortages?



Name: Jason Hilton
College: Goodricke
Course: Politics
Year: 2nd Year



Name: Laura Plested
College: Langwith
Course: Politics
Year: 1st Year



Name: Isolyne Asare
College: Derwent
Course: Electronics
Year: 2nd Year

1. No, I was planning on going to the parade but I didn't get to in the end
2. I don't know anywhere to get drugs. I've never really seen any being taken on campus.
3. Well if you look at the previous trends, top-up fees seem to be the reason for the decline in applications.
4. I am concerned for my friends that applied to live on campus that are now going to have to find houses.

1. I was rubbish. I really should of done something but I just didn't get the chance!
2. I haven't really seen anything apart from cannabis. I haven't exactly been looking though!
3. Definately. Lots of people applied earlier in order to avoid them and we are seeing the results now.
4. I know so many people who are looking for accomodation and this might cause them problems.

1. The rugby girls all went in their kits but unfortunately I had to work so couldn't go.
2. People I know take drugs but I don't really know how to get access.
3. I think people will come to university anyway really.
4. I applied for a university room but it doesn't look like I will get it. Loads of people are going to have to find private accomodation now.

Cheats ruining Premiership

By Sean Henderson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

When Arjen Robben hit the deck against Liverpool, he managed to drag the reputation of English football down with him. The act of farce that Robben has bestowed on the football-going public was the culmination of years of cheating we have seen flourish in our new, money-fuelled super league we call the Premiership. It is important to stress that the problems we have in the game stretch far beyond diving.

'unneeded blatant cheating tarnishes the reputation of the game'

We have problems such as shirt pulling, false claims for off-sides, fouls and throw-ins and, I feel, crowding the referee is an instance of cheating. All of these acts are committed to meet the simple end of gaining an unfair advantage over the opposition. Isn't football, especially in the Premiership, about who is the best? We want the best players playing for the best teams to play the best football. We don't want to see dubious off-sides, penalties, and goals win games. We want to see players win games.

It appears that we are half way there. We have some of the best players in

the world in our league, so why do they need to cheat to win? Take Jose Antonio Reyes. He is on the floor so much that when he was actually injured against Bolton, it was so hard to tell that he was not diving that even the physio had second thoughts about going on the pitch to treat him. He's done more acting this year than the cast of Eastenders put together. It seems so needless when he has so much skill. Why does he need to cheat in order to beat players that he is better than? The same can be said for the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Didier Drogba. This is not just isolated to the top players either. It seems such a waste of talent to degrade themselves to resorting to petty cheating to win games.

The root of the problem also lies with the managers. It has been admitted that managers ask players to employ pressure tactics to influence officials, even if they are in the wrong. It is instances where both players will claim that it is their possession from a ball that goes out of play that are most frustrating. It is this type of unneeded, blatant cheating that tarnishes the reputation of the game. Both players cannot be right, so one of them is lying. It is the same with crowding referees. Groups of players, sometimes 6 or 7 large, shout unnecessarily loudly inches away from the referee. How often is this productive? The aim is to make the referee



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo is one of a number to ply his dishonest tactics in the English game

change his mind but more often than not results in extra bookings. The point remains that players are still trying to cheat by getting decisions changed. I feel it would be interesting to wire the referees up with microphones, like in rugby, to see what was said to referees and how the threat of punishment by the FA would diminish the problem. By inflicting a serious punishment and not making it worthwhile to try to intimidate the referee, we could

seriously cut down on the problem. How many 6'7" rugby forwards do you see arguing with the referee?

So where do we go now? We have a serious problem with cheating and diving in football that grows with every passing week. It's a growing threat that we need to remove before it becomes too far embedded into the game. It has to start in the dressing room. Hard fines, long bans and point docking are the best way to hit clubs both on and off the pitch. It

may seem harsh but diving, hassling referees, shirt pulling and false claims are all cheating. It would not be fair to dock the other team points, but they can lose games based on players diving for penalties, impeding forwards and the use of deception. When you look at the truth of the matter, a ban or loss of points seems just. We then need managers to be honest. Stop defending players who cheat. The amount of times Arsene Wenger has said he didn't

see a major incident concerning an Arsenal player means that it is no coincidence. The same can be said about most Premiership clubs. Premiership managers should stop working in the hypocrisy they have created for themselves, instil some moral standards into the team and make an example of those who flout them. This is a modern phenomenon in the domestic game that concerns all players, regardless of nationality, that we need to quickly reverse.

Cheltenham offers racing enthusiasts a fresh dimension as the old makes way for the new

By Christopher Lowther
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

In March, the beautiful Cotswolds town of Cheltenham hosts the climax of the National Hunt Season - The Cheltenham Festival. Twenty races, one hundred and twenty thousand people and prize money of over one million pounds helps makes this the greatest jump race meeting in the world. Mention the word Cheltenham to a racing enthusiast and it will evoke many memories of festivals past. Cottage Rake in the fifties. The era of Arkle and Mill House in the sixties. Dawn Run winning the Gold Cup in 1986 and Desert

Orchid ploughing through the bottomless ground in 1989. More recently, Best Mate emulating Arkles achievements in winning three consecutive Gold Cups.

Last year, the Irish celebrated their best ever festival, ending with a total of nine winners. This included three of the four championship races with Hardy Eustace adding the 2005 Champion Hurdle to his 2004 win, Moscow Flyer taking the Queen Mother Champion Chase and the imperious Kicking King carrying all before him in winning the Gold Cup. The only championship claimed by the English contingent was

the World (formally Stayers) Hurdle by Ingles Drever. However, this year's festival will be as much remembered for the horses that are not competing as much as for the races themselves. The double King George winner and Gold Cup holder Kicking King is out for the rest of the season with a tendon injury and the death of three time Gold Cup winner Best Mate in November cast a sizable shadow over the whole season. This, coupled with inconsistent form from the other protagonists, has resulted in a wide open race and judges labelling it a poor renewal. However this should allow other horses such as War of Attrition,



Cheltenham remains the biggest event in the season

Kingscliffe and the perennial underachiever, Beef or Salmon, to stake their Gold Cup claims. Other notable absentees from the major

races include Harchibald and the tragic Lingo from the Champion Hurdle, Well Chief and Azertioup from the Champion Chase and

Ingles Drever from the World Hurdle. This hasn't dampened spirits and dulled appetites however. Tickets are selling rapidly and organisers predict record aggregate crowds over the four days. To experience the roar as the tape goes up for the first race, the Supreme Novices Hurdle, is something that I will never forget. The anticipation that this year's festival will be the best yet. The excitement of picking a winner, of waiting in line to collect your winnings. Of mixing with the Irish who drink the place dry. For those four days in March, there is nowhere in the world I would rather be. I've got my ticket, have you?

Doncaster maintain status as the national champions

Basketball success as Firsts finish top

By Nik Engineer
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Last year Manchester University's men's basketball team ended up as one of the top 16 student teams in the country. In years gone by they have been the BUSA champions, and have boasted international team members at both student and senior level. All this means that by beating Manchester last week York's men's basketball team have achieved something truly special and outstanding. York consistently outplayed their opponents, and managed to keep control in an increasing difficult atmosphere to eventually secure one of the clubs greatest success. The result means that not only do the club finish at the top of their league, but that they have a place in the BUSA national basket-

ball championship and a play-off to go into the Premier League for next season – both of which represent firsts for the club.

The Manchester team have had various disciplinary issues in the past – including a £1,500 fine for flying in ineligible international players for the BUSA championships – and they lived up to their reputation for being extremely difficult to play. Whilst York competed the match in characteristically good spirit, the same could not be said of the opposition, who played an extremely physical and often illegal game that left one of the York team with a 7 inch cut on his arm.

The final score was 101 – 86 but the significance of the eventual victory is far more than a 15 point gap could ever reveal.

Charity Dodgeball to be held by York AU



The original blockbuster was a surprise success

By Sam Cartwright
SPORTS EDITOR

This Saturday will witness the return of last year's extremely successful charity dodgeball tournament. The idea was inspired by the hit box office movie 'Dodgeball', starring Vince Vaughn, and was originally intended to form a part of the lightweight structure on Heslington campus. The format will be much like that of the football World Cup, but there will be a Plate Competition for those in 3rd and 4th place in the groups. The event will involve 32 teams and over 320 participants, and is likely to attract an audience in excess of a

hundred students.

The tournament, despite its link to the opening of the lightweight structure, is primarily seen by the AU as a simple yet highly effective charity event. AU President Nik Engineer believes the tournament to be 'the perfect charity event, as it costs next to nothing to run'. The cost of entry is £10 per team, with all proceeds going to Medecins Sans Frontieres (the AU's charity of the year). The AU's target for this year is to raise £5,000 for charity. Already this academic year, £3,500 has been raised, and so with events such as this lined up, the AU is well on its way to achieving its goal.



York Futsal firsts take on Teesside in the first ever York University Futsal tournament Photo: Georgie Mabee

By Dave Godfrey
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The inaugural PWC York Futsal Open was a roaring success as National Champions Doncaster College for Deaf proved their pedigree by winning the tournament with a 100% record. Futsal, is the only recognised small sided game by FIFA. Played with a smaller size four ball and in hockey nets, Futsal is a game designed to improve a player's skill and technique, with its origins in Brazil, players such as Ronaldinho and Pele have credited the game with being key to helping them dominate world football, during their careers.

The York Futsal Club, is the oldest university Futsal Club, however the York Futsal Open was the first time the club has hosted such a tournament. Club President Patrick Drysdale said, "I am hoping that this tournament can raise the profile of the club on campus and of Futsal across the North, this sport just keeps growing and I hope this tournament plays a part in its future development." The club certainly put in an incredible effort, with 8 guest teams, including National Champions Doncaster being invited, as well as teams from across the North of England and a select side from the Perth in

Scotland. A carnival atmosphere was provided by the club who had hired out all three pitches in the new sports tent and a PA system, to keep fans and players entertained during breaks. Support from the A.U and the Sports Centre Staff were crucial in making this tournament happen and the club have asked us to thank them both for the support they offered during the planning of the tournament.

The action on the pitch did not let down those who had come to watch with an incredibly high standard. The York 1st team had arguably the toughest task, in Pool B, they faced some stiff competition. In their first clash against Rotherham Futsal Club, the home side drew 3-3. Their second game proved to be a disappointing show, as they were beaten by a confident looking Grimsby select side, going down by 5-3. However, the amazing team spirit and character of the York side shone through as they then defeated rivals UEA by 4-2. The York team won 3-2 thanks to some clinical finishing from David Craddock and Saul Hubbard. This set up a classic finale to the group between Teesside University and York University, both sides needing a win to guarantee them a place in the final four alongside U.E.A. It was

Teesside who got into their rhythm first and by half time their quick passing game had rewarded them with a 3-0 lead. York's two second half goals were not enough to prevent defeat.

In the other group the York Second Team, led by President Patrick Drysdale looked in confident mood in qualifying for the semi finals, only dropping points in one game, a defeat to National Champions Doncaster. York goalkeeper Martin Buck was

'The action on the pitch did not let down those who had come to watch'

the hero late on against Perth Select when he saved a penalty, by virtue of this York went on to win 8-6 and qualify for the semi finals, where they met Teesside. In another classic match, Teesside qualified for the final winning by 6-5, however, the score only tells half the story. York having got the score back to 2-2 had a mini crisis at the start of the second half and Teesside took full advantage to go 6-2 up. This sparked a brilliant revival from York, though Teesside held on to reach the final where they would meet

Doncaster who beat UEA 5-2 in the second semi final.

The final was a fitting end to a brilliant tournament, the Doncaster side, consisting entirely of deaf players came through to win it by 6-2 a notable hat-trick from Doncaster star Daniel Hogan who eventually won the golden boot award was the highlight of a well contested final. The Teesside team can take great credit and pride from their performance as they helped to create a brilliant atmosphere bringing over 30 fans and players to the tournament. This year's tournament was a raging success and plans are already afoot for next years tournament, Club President Patrick Drysdale said, "I am delighted with this year's tournament, I know some of the guys on the committee are looking to expand the tournament next year to a whole weekend." So the curtain was brought down on a fine tournament, the York Futsal Club has made many friends across the futsal community with this tournament and one can only hope this will help to improve the club. For more information on the club and how to get involved, look on their website, www.yorkunifutsal.co.uk. The club also boasts a successful Women's team who have recently been in fine form, winning their last game 5-0.

York triumph in derby clash



With AU President Nik Engineer

Whilst last week saw York beat York St. John 54 - 15 in the second annual varsity competition, the tremendous win represents only one of a number of significant achievements, both on and off the field, for our clubs and the Athletic Union as a whole in recent weeks.

In terms of this seasons competitions, whilst some of our teams have been relegated, others have excelled, and in this respect the year is no different from others. Our shared rugby league team with York St. John have won their league and will compete in the Northern National league next season, our men's basketball team are through to the BUSA national championships, as well as facing a play-off for promotion into the Premier League, our men's hockey 2nd team have won their league and now move on to compete in the BUSA Plate knock-out competition, women's squash move to the Trophy knock-out competition, as do both men's table tennis and men's volleyball.

On an individual level, special mention must go to Etienne Dumenil who came through four rounds of qualifying to win a place in the main BUSA tennis championship draw where he narrowly lost to the number four seed. This achievement puts him securely in the top 32 student tennis players in the country, and it should be noted that the eventual winner is currently ITF ranked as the 950th best in the world (I assure you this is very good), so the quality of the tournament cannot be doubted. Tom Dugmore also achieved a fantastic result in the BUSA national atemi Jitsu competition becoming the BUSA national champion in the light-blue category and leading York to 3rd place overall.

Other more recent events include the Futsal club's PWC York University Futsal Open this weekend, that as well as attracting teams from all over the UK, boasted the current national champions, and the lacrosse club winning the Anglo-Scottish Lacrosse tournament in Newcastle where they were expected to be one of the weaker teams present (beating Durham, Leeds, and Edinburgh on the way). With the regular season finished, the next few months see countless individual and team championships take place, and so the impressive list of achievements for the Athletic Union, its clubs, and its members is sure to grow.



York Firsts emulate the success of the indoor events in Varsity rugby union clash. Photo: Georgie Mabee

Varsity results

Badminton 1 (m)	7-2
Badminton 1 (w)	9-0
Badminton 2 (m)	7-2
Basketball (m)	76-52
Basketball (w)	39-57
Cricket	W
Hockey 1 (m)	3-2
Hockey 1 (w)	3-2
Hockey 2 (w)	1-0
Netball 1	71-16
Netball 2	57-37
Netball 3	26-34
Rowing 1 (m)	W
Rowing 2 (m)	L
Rowing 1 (w)	W
Rowing senior (w)	W
Rugby 1 (m)	11-10
Rugby 1 (w)	10-5
Rugby 2 (m)	14-10
Street Hockey	16-5
Volleyball (m)	3-0
Volleyball (w)	3-0
Football	Cancelled
TOTAL	54-12

Continued from back page
between the two universities of York.

The highlight of the afternoon was the thrilling First Eleven rugby encounter which saw an 11-10 victory for the home side. York opened the scoring with a successful kick between the posts. The two well matched teams cancelled each other out until with ten minutes remaining of the first half York St John conceded other penalty two metres from the line. This time the home side opted for the scrum and the forwards made good ground and released the backs who spread the ball and Rob Milner was able to hit a gap in the York St John defence and cross the line.

York St John came out fighting for the second half,

but it was the home side who created early chances with the kick and chase tactic being used on several occasions.

The University of York side were clearly up for the game and continued to play their attacking style of rugby and were ultimately rewarded with a deserved victory.

York University faired similarly well in the hockey fixtures. The day started with a surprise 1-0 win for the Women's 2nd, who having struggled this season, showed the grit and determination they are hoping to take into Roses. The women's firsts also triumphed after a very close and tense match and finally triumphed 3-2. After a convincing win last year in Varsity, the Men's 1st had to work hard to win 3-2,

leaving the Hockey Club with a clean sweep.

The home outfit were unlucky not to continue their success in the women's basketball however. York University had played York St. Johns twice in the regular BUSA season and lost both games, so the team was looking forward to win the friendly match. Several players for the York St. Johns team also train with the York University team and play with them for Leeds League matches, so the two teams know each other well and know their strengths and weaknesses. After a closely contested game, York St. Johns won the game 57-39. The men's side had better luck. Missing three of their regular starting five due to injury, York Uni came out

with a bit of a slow start, but led by starters Sam Chang and Rich Webb, the team fought back with fast-break baskets and solid perimeter shooting by Chang, and dunks and blocks from Webb saw an eventual 74-51 victory for the home side. Mexican point guard - Conor Douglas - logged all 40 minutes of the win.

As expected, the volleyball outfit continued in a similar vein, seeing a straight forward win for both the York University teams. The men's and women's team won 3-0 against their York St. John's counterparts adding 6 points to the overall tournament score.

The Quick Crossword

Tuesday 21st February, set by Cornius

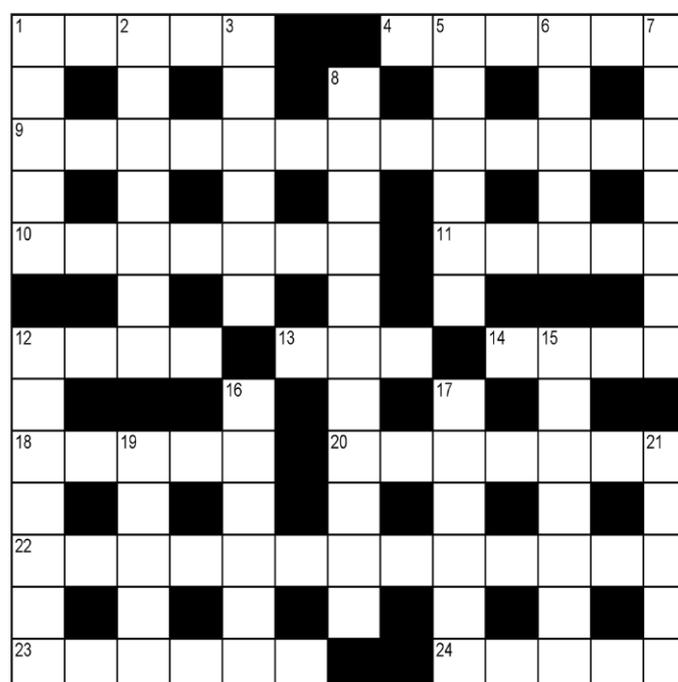
Across

- See 24 and 18.
1. Condiment suitable for a 1 & across (6, 4)
1. Conflagrant
2. weapons (5-8)
9. Captivate (7)
Type of Asian
1. food (5)
0. See 4
1. You might put
1. nachos in this (3)
Perfect food for wrapping up a 1
2. (4)
1. 3 am student
3. snack (slightly upmarket from a 24 1 across) (5, 4, 5)
Commander of a fleet (7)
8. Similarity (13)
&

Down

1. 3 am student snack (even more upmarket than a 2. 18, 1) (5)
3. Fearsome (7)
As drunken vision
5. might be (6)
6. Excite (6)
Nearby city which is host to
7. Countdown (5)
8. Couch adornment (7)
1. Condiment suitable for a 1 across (6, 5)
1. Fail to achieve an anticipated result
1. (7)
6. Concur (5, 2)
Pulse (6)

Stuck? Solutions for this edition's Quick Crossword can be found on our website at <http://www.nouse.com/crossword>. A full solution crossword will also be printed in the next edi-



SPORT

Cheltenham preview:
the best place to
back a winner



Varsity success for home side in York derby

By Sam Cartwright
SPORTS EDITOR

A water-logged 22 acres threatened, but ultimately failed to tarnish, what proved to be an embarrassingly successful afternoon for the University of York in the second ever Varsity Tournament. After the 56-17 demolition of local rivals York St. Johns, it would seem that the White Rose Varsity Trophy is destined to remain in the AU trophy cabinet for a long time to come.

The eighteen points missing from the final score sheet as a result of the football fixtures having to be cancelled are likely to have been of greater concern to a York St. John team who dominated the football events at last year's tournament. But what York St. John's lost in consolation, the event itself gained in atmosphere. The seventy or so footballers, no longer able to participate, provided an audience that contributed to

an atmosphere that will surely ensure that the tournament becomes a permanent fixture in the winter sports calendar. It is for this reason that AU president Nik Engineer believes the cancelled fixtures to have been a "blessing in disguise."

The original idea behind the White Rose Varsity competition was to provide a smaller-scale winter warm-up fixture to the biggest event of the sporting year – the Roses against Lancaster in May. But whilst not yet in a position to rival the Roses for prestige, the spirit in which the event was conducted this year, and the organisation and enthusiasm that went into the event, suggest that it may well be earning a greater significance.

The day's proceedings began with an unlikely drama, with the women's basketball side slipping to defeat in the final quarter of what for the majority of the game was an evenly contested game. This proved howev-

er to be something of an aberration, as York's oldest University's athletes soon found the form that made them firm favourites going into the event.

The overall victory in the competition was, for Nik Engineer, outweighed in importance by the spirit and enthusiasm of the participants. Though conceding that the cancelled fixtures were "a crying shame", they did not detract from the success of the occasion.

When asked of the likelihood of the fixtures being rearranged, the AU President replied that there was "little we could do, as there simply isn't the time". Ultimately, the cancelled fixtures mattered little, and given the ruckus that marred last year's footballing fixtures, their cancellation may even have enhanced the atmosphere and spirit of a fixture that demonstrated the unity and sporting rivalry

Continued on page 15



York St John fail to block University of York firsts' attack Photo: Georgie Mabee

B.U.S.A structural review bodes well for future of the nation's University sport

By Nik Engineer
AU PRESIDENT

For many people B.U.S.A. are four letters that are completely devoid of meaning. Alternatively some may recognise them as bearing some connection to sport; though what this amounts to they are unsure. The reality is that the British Universities Sports Association operates the largest sporting programme in Europe, with over 1.2 million students actively involved, comprising some

3,200 teams who participate in 503 leagues. Far more than this, it is internationally recognised as the exclusive body responsible for student sport in the United Kingdom, and as such selects and manages the teams for all international student sport competitions in which Team GB competes. It offers a path, through the leagues in which over 500 York students participate, to the international stage. Shelley Rudman who is Team GB's first medal winner in the Winter Olympic Games that

are currently taking place is one such athlete who, through BUSA, went from Bath University to representing Great Britain in the Winter Universiade (effectively the student winter Olympics) where she gained invaluable experience of international competition.

Having been elected by the other AU Presidents in Yorkshire to represent some 250,000+ sportsmen & women on the BUSA Executive Committee it has been my privilege to be involved in an organisation

that has such a direct impact on so many students in the UK, and has such a vital role in helping to develop future Olympic champions.

But despite all this B.U.S.A. is still fundamentally bound by one guiding principle, 'To make student sport better for students'. A desire to see this goal realised means that B.U.S.A. has recently undergone a strategic review which has now been adopted and will, over the next few years, totally change student sport in this country. The structure

and governance systems have changed, to make B.U.S.A. more efficient, flexible, and responsive. The way that teams fit into leagues, and the way that points are won are changing, the partnerships that B.U.S.A. has with UK Sport, the British Olympic Association and others are being strengthened, and the organisation as a whole is solidifying its place as the key organisation in the student sport sector. What does this all mean? It means that there will hopefully be more leagues, more

competitions, and more students involved in sport, greater TV coverage for student sport, more sponsorship for student sport, and more volunteers from student sport.

It is an exciting time for sport in this country, and this excitement will continue to grow the closer that the 2012 Olympics get, and B.U.S.A. will continue to grow with this. The organisations reputation is growing and it is because of all this that University sport will continue to advance.

