



“ Being called ‘the face of Caribbean food in the UK’ isn’t everything. ”

We interview Levi Roots
>> M21



NOUSE



Spring Term Week Three
Tuesday 21 January 2014
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Revenge porn leaves York student feeling helpless

• Student petitions for change in revenge porn legislation

Rosie Shields
EDITOR

A YORK student has fallen victim to revenge porn.

‘Alex’, a pseudonym given by the student, told *Nouse* that following their breakup her boyfriend posted 21 naked photos of her on Facebook. “Because I was tagged in all the photos they appeared everywhere, over my wall and all my friends’ news feeds. I felt useless but tried to keep my head up and make a joke out of the situation, I think my sense of humour has saved me really.

“My closest friends have been beyond amazing but it has affected not only my family and friends but my confidence and trust in future relationships. It’s really up and down. I’ve considered changing my name and dropping out completely. I just can’t focus on my work, I’m having to switch to a part time course... and bury my name”.

Alex was able to act quickly and remove all the tags and report the photos which were taken down later that same day. At this point Alex described how she “thought it was over”. However the photos were then uploaded to the revenge porn website www.myex.com.

The site, whose motto reads

“get revenge”, features hundreds of intimate pictures and videos of both men and women. When uploading a photo the user is encouraged to include spiteful and damning comments. Those pictured on the site are often described in a derogatory manner such as ‘easy’ and ‘whores’. Alex’s description denounced her as a ‘slut’ and a ‘bitch’ who had cheated on her boyfriend. She described how this had made her feel ashamed, as if “through being associated with these actions I felt like a bad person”.

In total her pictures received around 24 comments, most of a derogatory and sexual nature, all of which have now been removed. Heather Robertson, a friend of Alex’s, notes how at the beginning these comments were “absolutely disgusting, at the minute it looks tame compared to what it was”. The pictures were also posted to five other websites, including porn websites. Moving from site to site the pictures amassed 30,000 views in just two days.

Alex also described how she received threats, saying “I was hunted down [as] people shared my Facebook link and tracked my [York] sports timetable, they knew where I was all the time. It included all of

my personal information, where I’m from, where I go on holidays, where I worked, my degree, my hobbies, absolutely everything they could think of.” She recalled a match in Sheffield which she believed people followed her to, making her feel self conscious and vulnerable.

The photos were also taken from the revenge porn website and made into a calendar, combined with pictures from Alex’s graduation and links to her Facebook account. Quotes were copied from Alex’s University Sports Club’s page, taking them out of context and posting them alongside the pictures.

Throughout her experience Alex described the overall support she received as “useless”. She explained how she was fobbed off by people who told her to “get on with it...there was no real advice on how to take down the images or stop people from stalking me.”

Alex also deemed North Yorkshire Police inadequate in their handling of the case. Feeling that the advice and support she had received was poor, Alex cancelled her sexual

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News



Reflections in the eye to solve crimes

Research led by a psychologist at the University of York, reveals that people can be identified by reflections in the eye. By zooming in on high resolution images of the eye Dr Jenkins and Christie Kerr, recovered the faces of bystanders. When people were asked to match the reflections to actual photos of the bystanders, the majority performed well. As well as demonstrating that humans are extremely good at recognising faces, it is also hoped that the research can be used to identify criminals who photograph their victims.

York vs Durham in new College Varsity tournament

A new college Varsity competition is to be held between the University of York and Durham. The tournament, held on Sunday 2nd march, will see York compete against Durham in eight different sports. For each sport two college teams will be selected to play from a qualifiers weekend in February. An opening and closing ceremony will also take place at the event in a style similar to the annual Roses tournament between York and Lancaster.

Happy Birthday to Vanbrugh!

Sir John Vanbrugh celebrates his 350th birthday this week. The English architect and dramatist born on 24th January 1664 is best known as the designer of Castle Howard just 10 miles north of York. When Vanbrugh College was founded in 1967, it was given his name due to his marriage to Henrietta Yarbrough of Heslington Hall, in 1719. He is now described by the college as an excellent role model for their students because of his sharp sense of humour and willingness to challenge accepted ideas.

Reporting by William Isted

>> Continued from front
harassment claim, fearing her ex's reaction.

It is almost impossible to prove who uploads the photos to websites such as myex.com, as there is no record of IP address,

“I felt useless but tried to keep my head up and make a joke out

Alex

email or contact details held for those who use the site.

Once uploaded, pictures are then easily circulated. In addition copyright laws mean if the pictures were taken by the ex partner, they 'own' the pictures. Websites currently have no legal incentive to remove the pictures unless they relate to child pornography. This means that many try and make a profit out of the system, charging around \$500 to remove the pictures which then may or may not

be removed.

A petition has been started by Heather Robertson, a law student at the University. She explained that the mistreatment of victims was often blamed on their "naivety". Heather started the change.org petition, entitled Ban Revenge Porn UK, after struggling to get the pictures removed from the site.

The petition, which has gained over 1,000 signatures at the time of writing, has been well received not only within York but across the UK. As Heather emphasises in her petition revenge porn is an "abuse of trust and public humiliation...that should be illegal...the abuse that follows, from users of revenge porn websites, adds to the distress of the victim.

"Sites that host these images have a large amount of internet traffic through them, meaning that a person's intimate photo can have tens of thousands of views in only a couple of days...Future employment, relationships, friendships and families are all affected by acts of re-

venge porn."

She argues that the UK should follow New Jersey, California, Australia and Israel in outlawing the uploading of such images.

Saskia Papadakis, YUSU Women's Officer, told Nouse "We wholeheartedly support the campaign to ban revenge porn, and the Women's Network has been active in encouraging people to sign the petition. Revenge porn is abusive and hugely destructive, and it is vital that victims are able to fight back against the individuals who post photos without permission, as well as sites that host this material. The university needs to support victims, as revenge porn can be damaging to a student's well-being and affect future job prospects and relationships".

Alex has achieved some success in removing the photos. However it has taken over seven weeks to get the pictures off myex.com and when Alex's name is Googled the pictures are among the first results. Heather explained that it is likely

that revenge porn has affected other students who are afraid of coming forward, not only in York but nationwide and argued that unified action needs to be taken.

George Offer, YUSU Welfare Officer, emphasised the importance of seeking help if you have been affected by 'revenge porn'.

"We all think revenge porn is absolutely horrific. If you or anyone you know has been affected the best places to contact for information on how to get content removed is YUSU's Advice and Support Centre and the University's Equality & Diversity office or the Police, and if it has affected you personally or academically you can always talk to your college welfare team"

The campaign is receiving support from the Woman's Committee at the University of York as well as the support of other universities including Sheffield, Edinburgh and Bournemouth.

If you wish to get involved with the campaign you can email Heather at hmr507@york.ac.uk.

Arts: Painting with crystal meth



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Front page photo:
Petroc Taylor

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Big D confirmed for 2014

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

AFTER SPECULATION over the future of the event, *Nouse* can exclusively reveal that Big D will take place this year.

Derwent's flagship event made a loss of £25,000 in 2013 and a loss of £17,000 the previous year. The organisers, Ents Vice Chairs, Patrick Amoroso and Andy Bostock, have pledged to "Re-brand the event to move forward" and to make it into a "more personal festival of music with more attention paid to the range of music on offer". They also spoke about collaborating with other student run York music nights, and "incorporating as much of the local music scene as possible".

Big D will be brought forward to the end of week 8 to accommodate for international students and for those who go home before term ends.

Addressing the worries over budget, the Ents Vice Chairs said "the new BigD committee that has formed this term reworked the budget in collaboration with YUSU to ensure targets are financially realistic for providing an excellent day and night".

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, told *Nouse*:

"We've been working closely with Derwent to help avoid another big deficit running event. I'm aware there are plans for 'Big D' to happen again, but it's highly likely to be a completely different animal. The brand itself desperately needs a new lease of life and we're looking forward to helping Derwent deliver a quality, sustainable and fun event."

One second year Derwent student was less thrilled at the renewal of Big D, commenting "I've never been to Big D and I have no intention of going. I'd rather they used the money to improve the standard of living here".



Revellers at the 2010 Big D. Headliners that year were bands Chase and Status and Audio Bullys

Vermin infestation in Eric Milner A block

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

DILAPIDATED VANBRUGH block Eric Milner A has succumbed to a vermin invasion, playing host to rats and silverfish.

Rats and other vermin have been found in the accommodation block, built in 1969, causing dining rooms and kitchens to be closed.

After a rat was spotted in the first floor dining room in early January all dining rooms, which are separate from the kitchens, have been locked and residents have been ordered to empty out all kitchen cupboards. As of yet residents are still unable to use their kitchens for cooking. According to one

resident "some traps have been laid outside and in a couple of kitchens". Residents of Eric Milner A, a catered block during the week, have been offered free weekend meals to compensate for the lack of kitchen amenities.

This is not the first time that Eric Milner A has faced such problems. The 2012-2013 residents were forced to face ants, rats and broken water pipes amongst other issues.

Henry Hank Perks, a current Eric A resident, told *Nouse* "rats shouldn't be able to get in in the first place, and then also the way we've been treated once they've gotten in."

"The way we've been told to pretty just get on with it has been

rather unfair. The attitude seems to be "That's Eric A for you, just get on with it!" whereas if the same problems were in Barbara Scott or Donald Barron there would be a much bigger deal made about it."

However, rats are not the only problem that these Vanbrites are facing. According to Perks, they have had "broken toilets and the first 2 and half weeks of last term we had no heating. People have had broken lights, broken windows, mould in their rooms, clogged drains, broken showers, silver fish in their sinks. We're all pretty shocked that Eric A is staying up for another 5 years."

A University spokesperson told *Nouse* "A rodent was discovered in a store room in Eric Milner White A block on 5 January. Environmental services contractors were called in and it was established that up to three kitchens may have been affected. We are monitoring the situation closely and keeping students informed via regular emails."

Michael Duncan, Vanbrugh Chair, said "The university needs to do more to improve Eric A. Whilst the college welfare team has done a great job dealing with the current issues in the past couple of weeks, a lot of these problems are not new. If these older accommodation blocks are going to remain in use for the foreseeable future, the great community spirit they foster is not going to be enough."

"It's important that the university invests in them to make them clean, modern and comfortable places to live, rather than only spending money when things go wrong."

"In the meantime, though, myself and the rest of the JCRC will be working closely with the residents of Eric A to support any action they

Silverfish: what are they?

The silverfish is a small wingless insect, brown-grey or bluish-silver in colour. The adults measure from 12-25mm. The name derives from the fish-like way in which they move. They like to live in moist areas and are usually found in basements, attics and bathtubs. They are not a risk to human health.

The insects are nocturnal and are known to eat household items such as glue, paper, clothing and even hair and dandruff. They have a complex mating ritual in which the male runs away and the female chases him. Silverfish live up to 8 years and can live for a year without eating.

OWEN SYMONS



One of the silverfish that was found in Eric Milner A by a thrilled resident



Rats were found in a first floor kitchen of the block on January 5th

MATTHEW AUBRY

News

Admissions spend over £150k on luxuries home and abroad

- Recruitment services accused of 'excessive' spending on trips to UAE, Thailand and Chile
- Staff have undertaken 48 trips abroad in the last year to try and recruit international students

Neil Johnston

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY recruitment and admissions are facing questions over "excessive and unaccounted spending" on trips abroad, and lavish perks at home, *Nouse* can exclusively reveal.

Staff have spent £150k on trips abroad to countries including Thailand, Chile and the United Arab Emirates, all marked down as recruitment drives.

However, statistics show that the majority of these trips failed to recruit any extra students the following year, and the University has failed to account for £95k of this spending. The remaining money was spent on flights and hotels.

The University have defended the spending, arguing that foreign students bring in more income in fees than is spent on recruitment.

However Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, has criticised the spending saying they should "consider reassessing their approach" and that "real caution" was necessary.

Last year staff undertook 48 trips abroad for the purposes of finding students.

Two thirds of the countries visited saw no extra students joining the University this year, while four saw a decline, and three of the countries visited sent no students to York altogether.

Overall there has been a minor increase in students from these countries but this is largely due to an increasing number of under-

graduates from China.

This comes on top of the £1million a year spent by the University on foreign recruitment agencies, many of whom go to the same destinations.

Despite two trips to Thailand, running up a bill of over £10,000 between three members of staff, no extra students joined the University from the country. University management failed to account for over £7,000 of this trip.

Other expenses included a £6,388 stopover in Oman, Dubai, and Kuwait; only £5,000 of which has not been accounted for.

The figures, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, have also revealed more lavish spending for admissions when at home.

Among £14,000 spent on credit cards by recruitment and admissions in 2013 purchases included £640 at York Cocoa House and £700 at the Olive Tree restaurant. Other charges included £400 on a luxury cab company and £245 in The Mumbai Lounge. A further £215 was spent at Melton's restaurant while £2000 was spent at the Apple Store, £200 spent at amazon.co.uk.

“Obviously our University isn't expected to take its international counterparts to KFC

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President

Taylor commented: "Increasing the University's reputation across all parts of the globe is obviously necessary - most people here agree with that. What most people would question though, given the current climate, is the excessive and unaccounted spending.

"It would be smart for the University to speak to our ISA, and international students generally, to see how they can make their worldwide tours more efficient and appealing to future international students and their families.

"Obviously our University isn't expected to take its international counterparts to KFC, but there should be a real caution given when it comes to lavish wining and dining - every pound wasted overseas could have gone towards bursaries and hardship funds here.

"We completely support their efforts to further internationalise our University but they may want to consider reassessing their approach. Our students would love to help

them do this constructively."

The University have defended their spending, saying: "There are seven staff in the international recruitment team who regularly travel overseas on behalf of the University to undertake recruitment and market development activity. In addition, staff in academic departments will sometimes join these visits

“We do not have a policy of confining staff to their bedrooms when they are off duty”

University of York Spokesperson

which typically include undertaking specific recruitment activities, discussions with agents, partnership development, government sponsorship liaison and other profile-raising activities."

They argued fee income more than paid for these trips, and blamed costs such as 'freighting and attendance', something which they did not explain, nor did they answer questions over spending at home. "In the recruitment season of 2012/13, we undertook a total of 36 visits to 31 markets. The average cost of each of these trips was £4,194. Total fee income from non-EU students in this financial year is £40.5 million. The £150k of international visits expenditure constitutes just 0.4 per cent of that figure."

They added: "These costs include fees for participation in recruitment fairs, freighting, publicity materials and, in some cases, local advertising. For instance, on a trip to Malaysia in March 2013,

the total cost of freighting and attendance at a recruitment fair was £4,344. Similarly, a trip to Canada in September 2012 included the costs of exhibition attendance, freighting and car hire (to undertake visits to schools) amounting to £3,800.

"International market development is often a medium to long-term activity. Return on investment in market development can take a number of years. However any successful business is continuously seeking to develop new markets and maintain profile. It would expose the University to risk to rely on a small number of markets which can be subject to fluctuations beyond our control."

Despite the assertion that development is a long-term process, the number of students from some countries has not increased in three years. "There is little time for leisure activities in the course of recruitment visits to other countries, even in the evenings or at weekends. Further, our international recruitment staff work closely with our alumni relations team and often have evening meetings or host receptions for alumni who are willing to assist in profile raising for the University and in supporting specific recruitment activities. We do not have a policy of confining staff to their bedrooms when they are off duty."



Staff from the University of York made two trips to Thailand in 2012/13

Credit Card Bill

- £245 in the Mumbai Lounge
- £400 on a luxury cab firm (middle right)
- £640 at York Cocoa House (top right)
- £700 at the Olive Tree
- £215 at Melton's Restaurant
- £424 at 23 St Mary's Guest House
- £2000 at the Apple Store
- £200 at Amazon
- £50 at John Lewis

York Samaritans to aid with college welfare

Tom Fennelly
NEWS REPORTER

THOMAS RON, the YUSU Disabled Students' Officer, has announced that the contact information for the York Samaritans will be rolled out on welfare posters in the coming weeks.

The move comes after Hannah Paterson, the NUS Disabled Students' Officer suggested that it would be a good idea for universities to make the charity's contact details available to students.

The Samaritans offer a 24-7 confidential telephone service for

ment that the University has, it is absolutely crucial that we allow students to have all necessary information and resources to ensure that they can talk to the right people and get the support they need.

"The University has excellent facilities, but the ones they have are short-staffed."

All eight of the University's colleges have agreed in principal to distribute the charity's details to students.

James and Vanbrugh will pass information on to students when they need it, whilst Goodricke, Alcuin, Wentworth and Halifax will be putting up Samaritans posters in the coming weeks.

Langwith will be putting the number on their wall posters. Elsewhere, Derwent College is yet to announce how they plan to publicise the charity.

Samaritans was established in 1952 and was the first 24 hour telephone helpline to be set up in the UK.

Other campus services include Nightline, a confidential student-run listening and information service and the University's Open Door service, for mental health, emotional and psychological issues.

Additionally, there are other services which provide help for those experiencing a range of issues at university, including academic support.



PETROC TAYLOR

Pride of Vanbrugh

Vanbrugh College have a new motto: *Habemus Nuntium*, the Latin for 'We Have A Flag'. The motto was decided on last term, under the previous JCRC. Pictured here is Curtis Hodgson, Vanbrugh Communications Vice Chair and official flag bearer, waving said flag. According

to Hodgson, the college are planning to have a new flag professionally made in the near future. Other college mottos include Alcuin's '*Panton nos postulo*', which in English means 'All we need', Goodricke's '*Setting the standard*' and Langwith's '*Vincit qui se*', meaning He who conquers himself.

YUSU letting agency plan approved

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

THE FEASIBILITY study for a YUSU owned letting agency has been given the go ahead by the University's Trustee board.

The study, which was developed after the referendum, was the result of several months' work reviewing different possible models for the letting agency. The model proposed will involve working with York St John Students Union.

An overwhelming majority of students were in favour of plans for the letting agency, with 1,086 students voting Yes in the October referendum and 117 voting No.

Megan Ollerhead, Chair of the York Student Socialist Society and leader of the Yes campaign, explained that the plans would include "a mandatory landlord accreditation scheme, and further campaigning regarding the potentially sky-rocketing on-campus rents."

A joint steering group has been established to turn the feasibility study into a final business plan. Plans will be finalised this academic year and the agency will be ready to let to students from January 2014.

The letting agency is designed to reduce letting costs for students



Houses to let on Nicolas Street, a popular area for students to rent houses

and to guarantee better quality accommodation, after the problems that numerous students have faced with York letting agencies including Sinclair and Adam Bennett.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, told *Nouse*: "It's a really exciting time as I firmly believe this will see us provide the best quality, fairest priced housing to our students

and have a positive influence on housing in York for many years to come. At last there will be a letting service that students can trust."

One second year Politics student responded to the approval, telling *Nouse*: "it's relevant to students in York as we're always looking for the most reliable agency. I don't want to get ripped off!"

4 out of 10 graduate positions reserved for previous interns

Nick Morritt
NEWS REPORTER

RESEARCH HAS found that a record number of jobs at Britain's top graduate employers are being reserved for graduates who have previously taken part in some form of internship or placement with the company.

The research, conducted by High Flyers Research on 100 companies, also predicts that graduate vacancies are set to rise to a 7 year high. Most companies have stated that four out of every ten new positions to be advertised for 2014 graduates will be reserved for those with previous experience through placements, resulting in any other leavers being unable to apply. This number rose to as much as 50 per cent of jobs at law firms and 75 per cent at City investment banks.

The survey stated: "Although the total number of graduate vacancies is set to increase sharply in 2014, recruiters have confirmed that 37 per cent of this year's entry-level positions will be filled by graduates who have already worked for their organisations – either through paid internships, vacation work or industrial placements – and therefore are not open to other students from the 'Class of 2014'."

These revelations coincide with news that the average graduate starting salary will remain stagnant at £29,000 for the fifth consecutive year. Members of government such as Nick Clegg have again warned that children of wealthy well-connected families such as chief executives should not be allowed to monopolise internship positions.

A University spokesperson refuted the research findings, saying: "The statistics quoted are based on evidence from only 100 graduate recruiters – the majority of which have well developed graduate programmes and extensive internship programmes."

"The conclusions will not necessarily apply across the graduate labour market as a whole." They also emphasised the University's support of internships and the investment of £2k in their internship service over the past two years.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, commented: "More vacancies available to young, talented graduates can only be a good thing."

"The accessibility of internships for those who can't afford to essentially work far away from home for (at best) very little needs addressing though. This really does affect the playing field when it comes to applying for the proper jobs."

News

Languages degrees in decline

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

UK UNIVERSITIES are shifting away from teaching modern European languages, according to recent figures.

The number of universities offering single or joint honours in languages has declined by 40 per cent since 1998, with the decrease becoming more dramatic in recent years. The majority of institutions cutting language courses are outside the Russell Group, meaning there is less choice available to students wanting to study German, Spanish, French or Italian.

The number of universities offering German degrees has halved, while there are 40 per cent fewer institutions at which to study French since 1998. Since 2007, the number of universities offering Spanish has decreased by over a third.

Of the Russell Group universities, only 12 offer single honours degrees in all four languages. York is not one of them, offering single languages only in conjunction with Linguistics or another course such as History or Philosophy. The data used in this study has been taken from an analysis of UCAS course listings for 1998, 2007 and the forthcoming 2014-15 entry.

The decline in languages courses has been linked to a drop in the number of students taking modern foreign languages at A-level. It has not been mandatory to take a language at GCSE since 2004, and so fewer students are carrying on with learning foreign languages at a higher level.

However, 2013 saw the highest number of language GCSEs since 2008, and degree courses which involving a language and another subject are thought to be holding steady.

At the University of York, only 35 students were admitted to languages courses in the 2010-11 academic year. This jumped sharply to 54 in 2011-12, and has held steady at 52 admissions for 2012-13. Figures for 2013-14 were not available.

Sources from universities across the country also claim that extra-curricular language modules and courses are increasing in popularity, though there are not comparative figures.

The University of York's Languages for All programme demonstrates this, with many classes having waiting lists.

One second year Languages student told *Nouse* "It's nice to see that York are bucking the trend. Languages are not only a great subject to study, they make you more employable and they allow you to travel with ease. Plus you can chat people up in French."

Senior staff triumph over student team 270 - 230 in York University Challenge

PETROC TAYLOR



The Senior Team beat York's 230 points with a massive 270 - a score to make even Paxman proud

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

IN THEIR first match as a competitive quiz team, the 2014 York University Challenge team have narrowly lost to a team of senior staff members, who won 270-230.

The student side was comprised of Adam Koper, Jack Alexander and Josef Crowther, and captained by Alisdair Middleton, the team who will soon be facing Paxman himself.

Their opponents were Mr Graham Gilbert, Director of Finance; Professor Deborah Smith OBE, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research; Professor John Robinson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for learning and teaching; and captained by Dr Jane Grenville, Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

The event was held in the Roger Kirk Centre and was recorded by an ITV camera crew, who are following the University Challenge team this year for a documentary.

Daniel Whitmore, YUSU Academic Officer, presided over the competition. Comprised of two, twenty-minute rounds, at half time, the students were winning.

However, things took a turn in the staff's favour in the second half. Ultimately, they triumphed to win 270-230.

"By rights, you should have won," Grenville told the student team afterwards. "I'm disappointed," Middleton admitted, despite having answered the most questions correctly out of all eight players.

YUSU receive complaints over UB1 bus

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

COMPLAINTS have been made about the UB1 bus after a timetable change left Halifax students with little time to get to lectures.

The UB1 is a free shuttle service, operated by Unibus, which runs between Halifax College, Campus

South, Heslington Hall, Science Park, Sport Village and Heslington East Hub.

According to complainants the previous timetable allowed them to catch the 9.17am bus to Heslington East

campus, where they would have three minutes to get to their lecture or seminar at 9.35am.

Now these students have to catch the bus 20 minutes earlier, effectively doubling the traveling

time.

Many UB1 users have now abandoned the service and are choosing to walk or to take the 44 bus.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, explained the issue and YUSU's intention to deal with it:

"When lectures changed to half past the hour on Heslington East, and on the hour on Heslington West, we received a number of complaints and suggestions last term regarding the UB1 timings which hadn't changed in accordance with this.

"We then met up with the UB1 providers and also University's timetabling team to see how we could better tailor the limited service around the needs of students and when their classes started.

"The new time table was intended to offer more time before they began, as many were cutting it fine last term... Again though, this change has raised other complaints from students.

"It's looking like these aren't just issues relating to 'change', so we might well have to change the timetable once more. We'll have a look into it, definitely."



Russell Group universities admit just 64 pupils on free school meals each

Jamie Summers
NEWS REPORTER

FIGURES RECENTLY released by David Willets, the Universities and Science minister, have revealed that Russell Group universities have an incredibly poor record for admitting students who received free school meals at the age of 15.

Willets provided the figures after being quizzed in the House of Commons on 7th January 2014 by Peter Aldous, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Waveney, in Suffolk. The information reveals that for the current 24 Russell Group institutions in the academic year 2009-10, there were 1580 students in Higher Education by age 19 who had previously received free school meals. Meanwhile, that number was slightly lower for 2010-11, at 1540. The figures quoted are the most recent ones currently available.

This means that on average, current Russell Group universities admitted just 64 students who had received free school meals each in 2009-10. Some of the lowest admission rates are found at the Oxbridge universities; Cambridge admitted 25 in each year, whilst Oxford admitted just 15 per year.

Figures for York were unavailable. According to a University spokesperson York does not receive information as to whether an applicant was in receipt of free school meals or not.

However 18.6 per cent of students come from a background category graded between 4-7 on the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification scale meaning that they are from lower income jobs or backgrounds.

Free school meals are often used as a barometer for measuring social deprivation. In order to qualify for the meals, a student's parent or carer must be in receipt of a low income benefit.

Despite these low admission figures, the Department of Education suggested in 2012 that up to 18 per cent of all children aged 4-15 and in state education were eligible and registered to receive free school meals.

However, the Russell Group argues that admissions should be measured in terms of students' academic abilities, rather than their social background. Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, told Times Higher Education: "Our universities want to give places to students with the qualifications, potential and determina-

tion to succeed, irrespective of their background. That's why we are pumping millions more into outreach programmes and bursaries."

And Piatt suggested that it was on the basis of qualifications that the figures can be explained: "The number one cause of under representation is that too few students from disadvantaged backgrounds achieve good enough grades in the right subjects. In 2009, only 232 students who had been on free school meals achieved 3As at A-level or the equivalent."

The Russell Group is a collection of 24 Higher Education institutions which lead pioneering research in the UK. It was first formed with 17 universities in 1994, and the University of York joined in 2012 alongside Durham, Exeter and Queen Mary, University of London.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, commented: "There are problems and factors throughout education and wider society as a whole.

"Also, getting students 'into' University is just one challenge - how they're supported throughout their time at University is equally significant. With students facing huge debts and with some truly horrific cuts to vital support funds, you have to question just how much the government cares for this."

TIMOTHY STRINGER



Race for tickets

The Plusnet Yorkshire marathon, which will take place this year on October 12th, has once again sold out. Seven thousand runners will be taking part this year, compared to six thousand last year. The first batch of tickets sold out in just five hours. Organisers then added a further 1000 places which sold out in 10 minutes. Around £2 million was raised for charity last year. The race will begin at the University.



WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR?

Nominations now open for the YUSU Elections 2014.

To nominate yourself and look at what other positions are available in your Student Union visit the YUSU website.

www.yusu.org/elections

Nominations close 12pm Friday Week 4

Voting Opens 9am Monday Week 8

#YUSUElections2014





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Students likely to fall ill in cold homes

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

MORE THAN half of students claim to fall ill due to cold student accommodation, according to a recent survey by Smith & Smith PR. Of the 394 students surveyed, 202 participants (51 per cent) said that a lack of heating contributed to health problems.

The survey of students across the country found that on average, 49 per cent of students avoided putting the heating on to save money. Fifty-three per cent worried about the cost of their heating bills, and two-thirds of respondents did not have financial help with their bills. Thirty-two per cent of those surveyed agreed with the statement "I can't afford other essentials and luxuries if I pay for heating."

While heating is normally included in university accommodation charges, only 16 per cent of survey takers lived in halls. Forty-six per cent had heating costs included in their rent, meaning fifty-four per cent of participants had to pay heating bills on top of their rent. Sixty-two per cent of respondents said their accommodation often or always felt cold in winter.

Besides monetary worries and illness, the survey also revealed other ways cold accommodation

impacts on student life. Fifty-four per cent of students said a cold room affected their studying, with thirty-four per cent expressing concerns over the quality of their work. Almost 10 per cent suspected a correlation between cold accommodation and poorer grades. On top of this, 32 per cent of students admitted missing lectures or classes at university due to being unwilling to leave the warmth of their bed. However, students were reticent to leave their homes despite the cold.

Lack of heating was also implied to have an effect on students mentally as well as physically. Just under a quarter of those surveyed – 24 per cent – agreed that feeling "depressed" was a side-effect of living in cold accommodation, and the lack of warmth negatively affected their mood. One-fifth of those surveyed also noted an increase in the amount of time they spent alone in their rooms.

The majority of students surveyed kept warm at night in winter by using extra blankets (38 per cent) or warm clothing (25 per cent), while a few people took a more novel approach. Fourteen participants prefer to "find someone to share my bed with".

As the figures give a sample from across the country as a whole, there is no data for York students specifically.

Drunk and disorderly in York city to face behaviour course

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

CITY OF York Council, in consultation with the University of York, are implementing a new system of dealing with those arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Instead of being charged, the offender will be able to attend a one day course, where they will be encouraged to reflect on their behaviour and self-image. The Alco-

hol Referral Project, recommended by a report to City of York Council's Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee, will be run by the charity Lifeline for a pilot period of 12 to 18 months. The University is to provide evaluation on the project.

Under the program, those arrested will be bailed for 14 days and then given the option to attend the course. Anyone who is alcohol dependent, has mental health issues or is a prolific offender will be ex-

cluded.

The report states: "Previous studies have shown that the impact of the course on participants lasts for about a year but they will receive text message alerts (written by themselves on the course) after this time to keep up motivation."

However, some are sceptical of the scheme. A York student who has previously been charged for being drunk and disorderly in public told *Nouse*: "Everyone knows that it is a stupid idea. It's a drunken mistake, not something that you soberly want or would do. How can a course help, especially given the amount of stuff we do at school in PSHE."

According to North Yorkshire police, there were over 1,500 arrests for the charge of "being drunk and disorderly in a public place" in York city centre from 2006-2012.

The report also states that the University may look to hold alcohol awareness campaigns of their own amid concerns about the number of drunk freshers who attended York Hospital's A&E department this year.

This comes after the news that the number of off-licences in York is set to be reduced following efforts by Safer York Partnership to cut down "anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol".



The Alcohol Referral Project will be run for a trial period of 12 to 18 months

YUSU election turnout and candidate numbers fall from 2012

William Isted
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STATISTICS published from the 2013 YUSU elections show a decrease in the percentage of students voting. Thirty-three point eight per cent of students at the University voted last year, down by three per cent on the year before. The number of candidates running for positions also dropped from 53 in 2012 to 38 in 2013.

The statistics also show a disproportionate number of home students voting in the elections, compared to postgraduates and overseas students.

Postgraduates make up a quarter of the student population, yet they represented less than 7 per cent of the total



number of students who voted in the elections last year.

Although 17.5 per cent of students at the University are from overseas, they represented less than 8 per cent of the students who voted.

Commenting on the underrep-



The current YUSU Sabb team who were voted in last year. 33.8 per cent of students voted in the 2013 election.

resentation of these groups, YUSU president Kallum Taylor said:

"The unfulfilled integration potential of overseas students coming to the UK, and an innocent ignorance of their needs and wants, is something which needs addressing.

"YUSU [also] needs to (and we want to) do more to understand the issues [postgraduates] face..."

Even though more postgraduates vote in YUSU elections than the GSA [Graduate Student Association] postgraduate union elections, we're still not happy with it. There's a clear, clear gap in representation and campaigning on behalf of postgraduates which needs filling. If the GSA won't do it, we have to."

Voting turnout also varied

across departments. Over 60 per cent of the History department voted compared with under 4 per cent of students studying health sciences.

Students in the Hull-York Medical School had the second lowest election turnout with only 12.2 per cent of medical students voting. The Politics department also came be-

low the University average with 31.9 per cent of Politics students voting, 13 per cent below the Mathematics and Biology departments.

When asked to comment on the low voter turnout in the medical department, third-year medical student, Victoria Watkins said: "The University don't do enough to make us feel part of the process. HYMS feels very separate to the University, and I don't think people feel the elections matter much to them."

The data also reveals the number of candidates running for the main committee positions decreased by 15 this year, despite there being double the number of candidates for YUSU president.

The majority of these candidates were studying arts degrees in their second year at university, and 80 per cent of them classified themselves as 'White British' when asked their ethnicity.

The number of ballots cast in elections has been increasing year on year since 2010 and the University of York still has one of the highest student election turnout rates in the country.

Taylor went on to say: "The turnout in YUSU spring-time elections are something for us to have a lot of reassurance in when compared to the vast majority of SUs in the UK - we're in the top 10, in fact.

"Furthermore, in the last three years turnout has increased by nearly 10,000... So we're getting there, one way or another."

News

University launches crowdfunding scheme to fund York student projects and societies

George Barrett
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY has launched a crowdfunding platform scheme designed to support student projects and societies.

YuStart was launched at Re-Freshers fair on campus on 17 January. York is the first UK University to launch its own crowdfunding platform.

It will give students the chance to start up their own societies and other innovative projects. YuStart is a simple concept allowing members of the University to raise money from multiple donors. Donors can give a small sum in return for a reward, such as a t-shirt or an invitation to attend an event.

It will enable the University to involve friends, family and alumni in funding innovative ideas and projects from clubs, societies, volunteering projects and departments, extending the fundraising reach of students and providing valuable information. The scheme will be a centralised online platform to showcase innovative student projects.

Over the last couple of months, YUSU have been working with the Alumni department, DARO. York



It's raining money, albeit chocolate money, outside the Student Centre

students have already been looking to crowd funding to enable their projects and by having an inhouse platform students will be able to get the benefit of direct alumni connections by working with DARO.

The scheme has been developed by the University's Development Office in partnership with YUSU and education specialist Hubbub.

"York students are already looking to crowd funding to enable their

projects," Susie Fothergill, Head of Development and Alumni Relations told *Nouse*: "By having an in-house platform we can give students direct access to an alumni audience and ensure that their projects have the backing of the University."

As well as access to specialist support from Hubbub, projects who fundraise through the platform, will benefit from the personal support of a new YuStart Ambassador. Working with Ono the team in the Development Office, Liza Parker, a PPE student, will give advice on website content and running effective social media campaigns.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, also spoke with *Nouse*:

"YUSU are really excited about the creation of the YuStart platform as it opens up the possibility of a whole new funding method for our students, he said.

"With such a wide range of opportunities and activities on offer at York, gaining enough funding can sometimes be quite difficult and so YuStart will be a new and creative way to help solve this problem.

"In addition, the platform will also enable current students to engage with alumni better than ever before and especially build stronger ties with our recent graduates."

University to adopt street angels scheme

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU ARE considering adopting a national scheme to help inebriated students after club nights. The scheme, called 'Street Angels', is set to involve teams of volunteers looking after students in town at night.

Though the plans are subject to change, the current idea is for teams of three to be in York city centre after YUSU-sponsored club nights.

According to the written proposal, the project's aims are to reduce the number of students in vulnerable situations at night, and alleviate pressure on the emergency services by providing a way to look after intoxicated students.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, described the benefits of the scheme, saying: "It would really help those students who are in that awkward gap of being too drunk for a taxi, but not in a bad enough state to merit using the emergency services."

However, he also said that the scheme is far from final. Taylor emphasised that YUSU were "still looking into it", but added that "it would be great if students could let us know if they'd be keen to be a part of this."

Listings

MUSIC

25th January- City and Colour - O2 Academy Leeds. 6pm. £28.12
27th January- Fear of Music - Fibbers. 11pm. £4
27th January- Del Amitri - O2 Academy Leeds. 7pm. £39.37
4th February- John Newman - O2 Academy Leeds. 7pm. Sold out.
6th February- Less than Jake and Reel Big Fish - O2 Academy Leeds. 7pm. £20.81
8th February- York Guildhall Orchestra - York Barbican. 7.30pm. £15-£22

STAGE

26th January- The Librarian - The Drama Barn. 7.30pm. £5
31st January- Essex Girls - The Drama Barn. 7.30pm. £5
1st February- A Winter's Tale - Poppleton Tithe Barn, Nether Poppleton. 7.30pm. £10

LECTURES

21st January- Quantum Mechanics in Imaginary Time - D/056. 7.30pm. Free
22nd January- The Unforbidden: Against Self-Criticism - Bowland Auditorium Berrick Saul Building. 5.15pm. Free
22nd January- The Third Stage: J. M. Coetzee's Australian Fiction - P/L/002. 6.30pm. Free
23rd January- Sexual Rights are Human Rights - D/L/047. 3. 30pm. Free
24th January- Violent Home Truths - Berrick Saul building. 6.30pm. Free
29th January- Can a slime mould compute? - Ron Cooke Hub. 6.30pm. Free.
30th January- How nationalism spreads - Bowland Auditorium, Berrick Saul Building. 6.30pm. Free

FILM

26th January- Holocaust memorial film day - City Screen Picturehouse York. 3pm. £7 student ticket
31st January- Thor: The Dark World - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. 7.30pm. £3
7th February- Gravity - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. 7.30pm. £3
10th February- The Counsellor - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. 7.30pm. £3

COMEDY

2nd February- Stewart Lee: Much A-Stew About Nothing - York Barbican. 8pm. £20

ARTS

25th January- Mozart's Don Giovanni - Grand Opera House York. 7.30pm. £23.90

DANCE

7th February- Brendan Cole: Licence to Thrill - York Barbican. 7.30pm. £29.50-£34.50

GENERAL INTEREST

22nd January- Come dine with yUSu - Glasshouse. 5pm. £6.50
25th January- Burns Night Ceilidh - York Theatre Royal. 7.30pm. £17
26th January- York's Affordable Vintage Fair - The Hospitium York Museum Gardens. 10.30am - 4.30 pm. £2
28th January- Fiona Parker's birthday party - Coney Street. 8pm. £21
29th January- Jodrell Bank trip - University of York Astronomoy Society. 11am - 7.30pm. £8-12.
31st January- YUSU Housing Fair - James Dining Hall and Your Space. 11am - 3pm.
1st February- York Does Vintage - Merchant Adventurer's Hall. 10.30am - 4.30pm. £1
7th February- Sexposé: The Second Coming - P/L/001. 7.30pm
7th February- An Evening with The Rt Hon David Jones MP, hosted by the York Tories. The Hilton Hotel, York. 7pm. £25-£35



Gravity
7th February 7.30pm
York Student Cinema
P/X/001 £3

‘Call It In’ campaign introduced

York may be one of the safest university cities in the country, but both on campus and further afield students are at risk. Will Isted and Rosie Shields investigate

The dangers of being spiked

Nouse spoke to a second year student who was spiked last term in Fibbers about his experience:

“While we where at Fibbers [sic] myself and a bunch of friends went to the bar and grabbed some drinks. Having had my drink I was going round making sure people where ok etc when I started to feel fairly strange. So I brought it up to my friends who expressed surprise that I was stone cold and I kind of realised something was wrong but I said it would be ok and just got watched for the remainder of the night.

“After moving people into the Duchess (this is where my memory goes pretty patchy) I started to feel

“...uncontrollabl shaking with a massively elevated heart rate”

rather ill and left to get some air and food with [a friend] but I’m told I started acting odd as soon as we entered the takeaway, I was then taken in a taxi to [a friend’s] house and was uncontrollably shaking with a massively elevated heart rate.

I was coughing up blood from coughing so much and ended up going to hospital where they told me I had been spiked by an amphetamine, they gave me an ECG and tests to check my heart was ok because we have a history of heart disease in the family.

“Its also worthy to note I have lived in and around York my entire life and only recently do I know people this has actually happened to”.

“TO INCREASE the student population’s willingness to report crime and suspicious activity, increase their knowledge of how to do so, and to increase their confidence in North Yorkshire police and campus security to improve dialogue between them.”

These are the main aims of a new campaign released earlier this week by YUSU, encouraging students to ‘Call It In’ if they are a victim of crime or need advice on how they can better protect themselves against it.

This comes after it is found that a large amount of crime on campus goes unreported, despite the fact that there has been a 22 percent increase in reported crime this year.

A football match held between the police and University students last week, is just one way in which the campaign hopes to improve the relationship between the two groups, so that students feel comfortable seeking advice from the police in an informal setting.

An appointment service, which allows students to arrange to see a community support officer for advice and support will be made available. Students can book the service by phoning the YUSU reception or by emailing Callitin@yusu.org.

It is not just personal security in town that is in focus here but on campus too. Although often thought of as a completely safe environment campus is a public area and students need to be aware of the potential dangers when walking around, particularly at night.

Another main part of the campaign is a series of reconstructions of actual crimes that have happened to students at the University of York including drink spiking, a burglary, a mugging and a sexual assault.

These videos, accompanied with commentaries by members of the YUSU team and campus community support officer Jon-Mark Buchanan, give steps students can take to prevent these crimes from happening to them.

These include carrying attack alarms, and drug testing kits which can be used to test for the three most common drugs used to spike drinks.

Personal safety equipment such as this is being distributed free to students and is another key part of the campaign.



ALL PICTURES: PETROC TAYLOR



Saturday saw members of North Yorkshire Police force take to 22 acres to battle it out in a charity match with York University’s very own UYAFC. The University side proved a force to be reckoned with, as they drove the match to a definitive 9-1. The game was held to raise awareness of the Call It In crime campaign. To read the full match report turn to page 31 of Sport in today’s Nouse.



Community support officer talks to Nouse

COMMUNITY support officer for the University campus Jon-Mark Buchanan, is one of the figure-heads of the ‘Call It In’ campaign, appearing in a series of videos advising students on how to better protect themselves against crime. Speaking to him after filming, he spoke about the campaign and what he hoped it would achieve.

He emphasised that the main goal of the campaign was to discover what crimes are happening on campus that students aren’t reporting to the police and how this can be changed.

Through improving the relationship between the police and students he hopes that the campaign will make it easier for students to report crimes to the police and will encourage students to meet with him informally to discuss their issues.

“If you are unsure or are worried about something, don’t be scared to ask the question. I won’t judge you, and everything you say to me will be treated in 100% confidence”

“You can talk to me informally and I will give you honest, genuine advice based on years of experience working against criminals. You can trust that all the advice I give, I give to benefit you and no one else.”

Comment



comment@nouse.co.uk
www.nouse.co.uk/comment

Block A's unwanted visitors

Zain Mahmood

Deputy Comment
Editor



Rats and silverfish have invaded university accommodation, making now the time to demolish the blocks

REBECCA DRAKE

Imagine most students' return to the joys of term time, especially after a productive Christmas break, will not have been as pleasant as waking up in a bed at home, going downstairs to a fresh, healthy breakfast. Inmates of Eric Milner Block A, however, seem to be worse off than most.

A back-to-university surprise for these students has been the appearance of rats and silverfish sharing the same accommodation, while contributing nothing to the rent.

For new undergraduates and other students paying a premium for the convenience to live on campus, or to enjoy a collegiate sense of community, it is simply unacceptable that they have to put up with such a disturbance.

It is unclear whether the villainous vermin are simply ignorant trespassers or intelligent enemies resorting to guerrilla warfare. Environmental service contractors have found evidence that three kitchens

may have been besmirched which has led the accommodation overlords to order the locking of all dining rooms.

There may have been a few suggestions that this was the intention of the rats and/or silverfish and that they may have collaborated with the objective of forcing the power players to make this move.

At this point in time I cannot confirm whether this is the unwanted visitors' first step to starve the students to death with a view at occupying the residence permanently, at which point the block could become a headquarters for the planning and execution of a potential plan to invade other areas of campus.

Taking matters into their own hands, students have allegedly resorted to merciless measures such as the laying of traps in tactical positions, for example near kitchen doors. However, with limited results there may be changes to the strate-

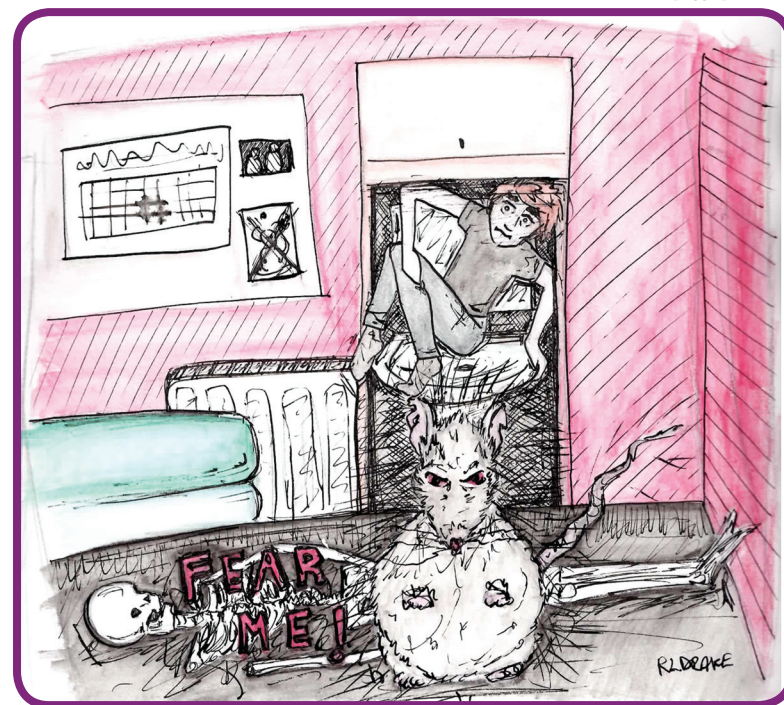
gies employed.

Thinking outside the box, with a less physical but more psychological approach, the use of anti-vermin propaganda may intimidate the intruders. Failing that, we could copy the tactics of the totalitarian state we seem to be evolving into and utilise surveillance technology to identify perpetrators.

However, it seems we are a long way off from developing facial recognition software for rats and silverfish. Employing sketch artists may prove to be a more fruitful pursuit.

Regardless, the situation persists. Weekend meals are not enough to compensate for what has happened and the university should seek to demolish the building, especially considering what the structure has endured in the past.

Currently, it remains as an unwelcome reminder of a battle being fought between at least three species which is yet to be won.



Gove, teach before you preach

Kate Mitchell



Gove needs to reconcile his journalist past with his educational present if he is to succeed

Michael Gove. The one name that will inspire rage within the core of every History student, professor and any citizen unwilling to let our young people grow up with a narcissistic, anglo-centric view of the past.

Unsurprisingly, the teaching community has reached its limit. According to a petition that has taken off on 38degrees.org, started by teacher Amy Neill, the only way to coax Gove out of his ignorance is to send him into a classroom for a term so that he can fully appreciate the job they do. The petition already

has over 100,000 signatures, with comments remarking on his lack of knowledge, his policies' damage to pupils' future, and the strain he is placing on hardworking teachers.

“The teaching community has reached its limit”

Teachers are certainly a highly under-appreciated stratum of society. The phrase “those who can do and those who can't teach” taunts hard-working teachers daily. Criti-

cism of teachers seems especially harsh considering that teachers have chosen to dedicate their lives to helping others, quite often the offspring of those levelling criticism at them.

This is unfair enough in itself, but to have the Secretary of State for Education seemingly fit into the category of those who misunderstand the teaching profession is downright absurd.

Before entering politics, Gove worked as a journalist. It seems bizarre that the system of our country allows someone with absolutely no

first-hand experience of such an important sector as education to be in direct control of it, even before looking at proof of his incompetence.

Moreover, teaching and journalism are, at their extremes, morally at odds to each other. The former involves a great degree of direct responsibility for the experiences and emotions of other human beings, whilst the latter is under absolutely no obligation to do the same, making Gove even less suitable for the job.

Giving him even the smallest amount of experience within this alternate world, therefore, can definitely do no harm.

“Gove is certainly not filling his role”

Spending a term within a classroom would also be an interesting test of Gove's character. If following such an appointment his policies took on a more empathetic and understanding ideology, it would show him to be capable of adaptation and that his failures were a result of ignorance as opposed to inherent ineptitude.

However surely it should not be the job of the teaching profession to force their representative to understand his representees. It should fall

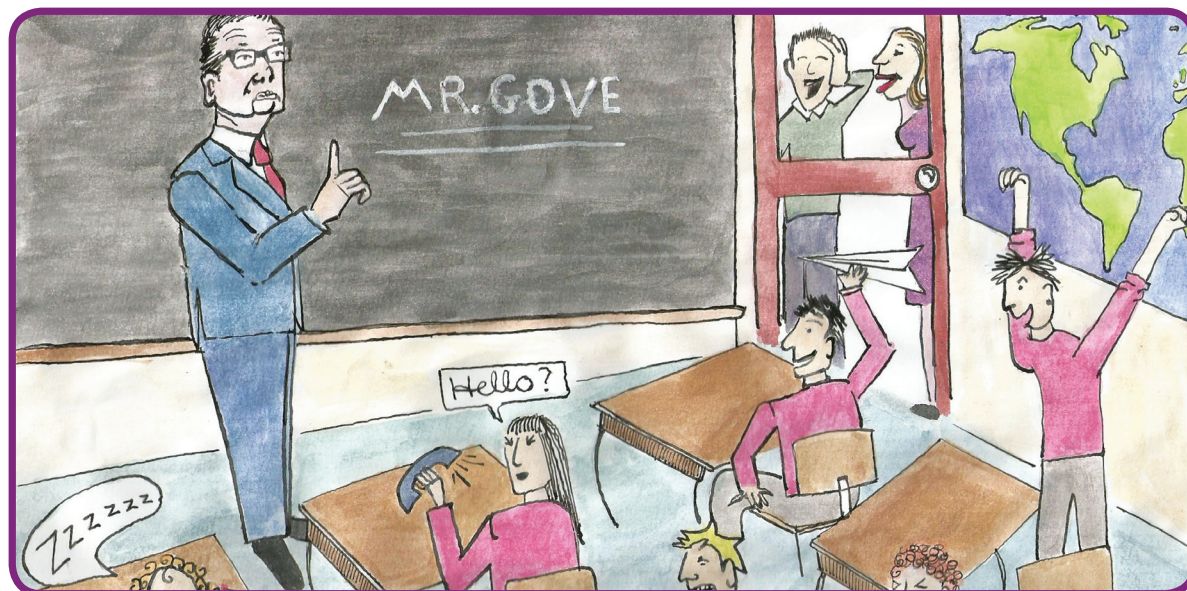
to him to take a pro-active stance and talk to teachers off his own back, to fill the gaps in his knowledge. If he does not automatically see this as a necessary step to take, perhaps all the necessary proof of his character is already staring us in the face.

Further to this, last year the Association of Teachers and Lecturers passed a motion of no-confidence in Gove, as did the National Union of Teachers. The NUT also called for him to resign, the first time they had expressed so little faith in a Secretary of State for Education. This is clearly important.

If democratic government is supposedly the rule by elected representatives of the people, then Gove is certainly not filling his role. Calls for his resignation, in this case, seem completely justified - if not necessary.

Therefore petitioning to give Gove a first-hand re-education is perhaps an excessively kind measure. The teaching community deserves a representative who, without having prompted to do so, will act in the best interests of them and their pupils. Surely maintaining the quality of education is important.

Although video evidence of Gove attempting to shape the minds of a class of rowdy thirteen year olds would undoubtedly give me some sliver of twisted satisfaction.



Comment



KATE MITCHELL

Pressurise the government to change revenge porn law

Ellie Rice

Comment Editor



Legal changes are the only real solution to revenge porn

There is no denying that it's an unwise, spiteful move to post intimate pictures of someone else for the world to see if they have not given their permission.

But the fact that there is little legislation to prevent it or to punish those who post the photos or those websites which host them is ludicrous. This practice creates victims just as traumatised as those of a crime, but is entirely legal. We must pressure the government to enact laws which will criminalise revenge porn.

The fact that this action will discredit someone's name for years to come yet there is no help available to delete such material is preposterous. It is also sad that society will judge the person in the picture, whether true or not people's per-

“there is no help available to delete such material”

sonal relationships and information are just that, personal. Whether someone has been unfaithful in a relationship or not is none of our business. Nor is what they do behind closed doors, of course, within reason. So why does this information get chucked around the web for

all to see?

There's no changing people's opinions about these victims without some serious action, which is exactly why a resolution to this issue lies in legislation, rather than simply trying to convince those who share the photos to play nice.

The current legal system, not only in Britain, but in most places around the world with regards to this issue, does seem to be flawed. In an age where information can spread worldwide instantly, international action is needed. It seems crazy that you have little ownership rights on a photo of yourself if your ex has taken it. Websites themselves also have no legal obligation to remove the photos because consensual naked photos themselves are legal, as long as they aren't child pornography.

This does make it very hard to legislate against actions of revenge porn. Facebook has various safeguards for your profile, including the personal approving of tagged pictures, something which is probably worth installing. However this is not enough.

These photos can often be presented alongside personal information, links to your facebook, twitter and phone number. Suddenly your life becomes defined by vulnerability and a helplessness to change the

situation. Victims have been stalked and harassed as a direct result of revenge porn, hardly a fair punishment for a messy breakup.

Luckily, removing pictures from

“Women have been harassed as a direct result of revenge porn, hardly a fair punishment for a messy breakup”

sites like Facebook is easy enough and there are even companies such as changemyreputation.com that will have the images removed from other websites, for an extortionate price. There are even charities which offer advice and support.

But this doesn't do enough to stop the phenomenon. Once the Government starts to take the issue seriously and protect its people, then and only then will we see real change in attitudes. The law must lead by example.

In Australia, California and Israel there are laws which protect against revenge porn. The UK is lagging behind. Traditionalist views that blame the victim and a lack of awareness amongst the general population are reasons why progress on the matter has been slow. Furthermore, there are no

complaints from those hosting and posting the content; as mentioned a website is not responsible for content given by others unless it is child pornography. If the Government faces no pressure, they won't make any changes. This is why petitions are a good first step to tackling the problem on the ground.

While the matter is not illegal,

I would like to think that the police would take complaints about this behaviour seriously. The only real way this can be done at the moment is through the Protection from Harassment Act.

A change to the law to make revenge porn a serious crime would change the culture in wider society and enable the police force to act accordingly.

The idea of strangers masturbating over pictures of me is both scary and vile. The violation of trust would make me feel sick if I were even in such a position, and I can't begin to imagine the waves of dread and helplessness that washes over victims in these situations. We must support this cause because one day it could be any one of us in the situation, and how grateful we would be then if it was already illegal.

Pressurising the government and raising awareness of the issue are the first steps to eradicating revenge porn.

VIEWS FROM THE OUSE



Having spent half the holidays underwater, for many York students returning to the relatively dry Northeast was a breath of fresh air (unless of course you live on the banks of the River Ouse).

But as per every New Year, it takes a shot of January blues and a post-exam Willow frenzy before term really gets its pizzazz back.

And like every second term of the academic year, first-years drunkenly repeat their fresher mistakes of first term, second-years experience a mid-life crisis, and third-years have that growing, inescapable desperation which only serves as a prelude to the ball and chain of adult life. The end is nigh.

So it's nice to hear some good news once in a while. It makes a break from all the drugs, Brian Bantering and students blacking up because they're from Eton.

For one, our Grounds Maintenance manager, Gordon Eastham, was awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours. As much as the University's buildings are reminiscent of Communist prison cells, the environments of both campuses are incredibly well-kept, and it's easy to overlook the hard work that goes into maintaining our green spaces. Hes Hall is a beautiful place to be in summer; croquet next to the topiary garden anyone? The kingfisher would be proud, had he not died prematurely over the winter break from the cold.

Speaking of threats to kingfishers, the rats in Eric Milner made for some surprising guests. One minute you think all your accommodation fees are going towards heating, water and a roof to put over your head at night, next minute you find you've been had by a family of rodent squatters sitting in your cereal.

But first-years, don't fret: your housing experience next year can only be enhanced by York's long list of reputable landlords, who would never dare to scam you out of your money or treat you as a second-class citizen just because you're a student.

Anyway enough of housing and mid-year misery.

Do something cheerily different this term, like joining the Pokémon society or learning to play the harp with your toes or bungee-jumping out of a plane. Just put an end to any sophomore slumping, and live like the kingfisher: vigorous, free-spirited and susceptible to the cold.

Follow the debate:

Comment online at
nouse.co.uk/comment

or on Twitter

@nouseopinion

Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964

Revenge porn petition deserves your signature

Heather Robertson's petition to ban revenge porn is something that we should all support. The UK's antiquated legislation is embarrassing when compared to Australia, California and Israel, all of which have laws banning the act. It's incredibly difficult for a victim of revenge porn to come forward – a name is no sooner connected to the topic than Googled by hundreds or even thousands. This is why we all have the responsibility to campaign for the cause. Now that a student in York has been directly affected, we have no excuse to plead ignorant to the issue. Hopefully Heather's campaign will effect much-needed change. You can find the petition at <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/ban-revenge-porn-uk>

Vermin presence in Vanbrugh is unacceptable

We may not expect university accommodation to be perfect but we certainly wouldn't expect it to endanger our health. With the discovery of rats and silver fish college halls should be under scrutiny. The University has an obligation to look after student welfare and one of the most important aspects of this is surely providing them with a safe and comfortable environment to live in. University accommodation is basically a necessity for first year students who are likely to have very little knowledge about the area or who they could potentially move in with. With very little choice about where to live university accommodation is seen as an easy, safe option for students, yet it seems students are misplacing their trust. If rats were found in private accommodation it would not be tolerated it should be exactly the same in halls. Although the University has moved students who found rats, measures should be introduced to prevent future incidents and ensure quality.

Wealth shouldn't determine admissions success

The news that 1,540 students who received free school meals were accepted into all 24 Russell Group Universities combined in 2010-2011 highlights a fundamental problem in the British education system. Free school meals are often used as a barometer for social deprivation, as they act as a support mechanism. This shows that students from the poorest backgrounds are being frozen out from some of the country's best higher education systems, creating a potentially huge gulf in the opportunities available to young people today. Department of Education statistics for 2012 showed that 18 per cent of children are eligible for free school meals nowadays, which in itself highlights a social problem. That the Russell Group responded to the statistics by arguing that the poorest students often don't achieve the required grades speaks volumes about the problems in our education system today. This is a matter of huge importance that could impact on students' future lives for years to come – and it is one that should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

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What happens in Thailand, stays in Thailand

Victoria Chater-Lea



'Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents' misrepresents the travelling experience

BBC 3 has just released its latest instalment of 'Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents' and this time they have encountered their most adventurous destination yet: Thailand. The first episode follows two entirely different set of friends, who take on boozing, self-induced money difficulties, and confidence struggles away from home for the first time, and leaving a trail of horrified parents in their wake.

The first personality we meet is 'mummy's boy' Alex, 20, who apparently can't seem to do anything for himself, apart from drink himself into intoxication, and recklessly spend his earnings. This cocky Yorkshire born 'lad' takes the holiday as a boozy bender and attempts to pick up as many girls as he can. Not quite grasping the full cultural experience, he went to a pole dancing club in order to understand the concept of 'ping-pong' shows. On his first night, he flings away £500 into the knickers of Thai dancers.

This amount lasted me for an extravagant month, taking part in a ridiculous amount of audacious activities, and countless extraordinary nights. His clear lack of respect toward women is revealed in a bumpy Tuk-Tuk ride, jeering at Thai women. This clear sexism is not representative of travellers, and was rarely observed, unless you wanted to end up in hospital.

Alex-the-lad couldn't quite keep up with the infamous cocktail buckets and ends up chundering, passing and blacking out continu-

ously throughout the holiday. His apparent lack of common sense is not to be confused with the backpacker stereotype, who really need to be particularly careful with possessions, as one wrong move could land themselves without a debit

“ The BBC has misrepresented the travelling lifestyle, and shown youngsters to have a lack of decency ”

card for the duration of their trip as my travelling partner found out.

The other character the BBC follows is Joss, a 22-year old wannabe actor from Kent who is battling sexual confusion and crippling confidence problems, stemming from long-term bullying at school. His mother is hoping that Joss will develop self-belief from the travelling experience, which is relatively relatable when thrown out of your comfort zone.

As Joss finds out, travelling does make you do some pretty crazy stuff, and by the end of it, his confidence is boosted, and a new found sense of discovery has developed. Personally, I have found that since

travelling to Thailand, I've become a lot more confident in myself, and I'm not afraid to let loose. Interestingly, Joss was extremely accepting of lady boys, admiring their confidence in their life choices, showing openness not all Brits share.

The BBC has mis-represented the travelling lifestyle, and shown youngsters to have a lack of decency, establishing poorly informed stereotypes. Everyone we encountered behaved responsibly, considering the drinking pressures.

One thing this episode missed out on were the beach parties, which for us formed a large part of the nightlife, especially on other islands. Dorms formed an integral part of our trip, as you meet various personalities, and this has not been demonstrated either. At the end of the day, they are just out to have the adventure of their lives away from the smothering clutches of their parents. But this is not Magaluf, and some of them need to behave more respectfully. The programme didn't represent the travelling experience as I and many others know it. It isn't something to be taken lightly as there is so much to be gained from the experience.

However, they only went for one week, only experiencing a bucket-induced, boozy-mess, not long enough to fully experience the lifestyle and intricate culture of Thailand. For the cost they spent, they should have gone to Malia for a similar experience at a far cheaper price.

LUCY WEGERIF



Comment

Teach First scheme flawed

Charlotte
Hutchinson

Teach First scheme seems to follow an elitist agenda

We're all painfully familiar with the modern phenomena of the 'Gap Yah'. That strangely middle class inclination to send your offspring on a rite of passage to 'Africah' or 'Indiah' to 'really make a difference in the world'. Or more likely to regale their stories to the oh so willing ears of their new housemates come fresher's week.

In recent years we have left this stereotype to the realm of comedy; dismissing it as maybe helping, maybe hindering, but ultimately irrelevant.

However, the airing of the new fly on the wall documentary 'Tough Young Teachers' this week draws some uncomfortable parallels. Just maybe, this foreign outlet for the guilt of social privilege and the bright eyed, bushy tailed Oxbridge graduates, tripping off to see how the 'other half' live, aren't so very different after all.

Despite the absence of any official statistics concerning their intake Teach First are open about their policy to only recruit the country's 'Top' students.

Speaking to the first ever student from University of York to secure a place on the scheme, Laura O'Sullivan, made me even more convinced of their inherent elitism. Recounting her experience of the interview in London, Laura described how "at least two thirds of the people there were from Oxford or Cambridge. And there was absolutely nobody from a Metropolitan."

This singular focus on academic success may be appropriate for some professions, but I can't help but feel that a first in microbiology from Cambridge isn't going to be all that beneficial for teaching 11 year olds about the plant cycle.

Despite their claims to priori-

tise 'humility, respect, and empathy' above all else, a quick glance at their application criteria would ward off anyone without qualifications to rival Stephen Fry.

“A quick glance at their application criteria would ward off anyone without qualifications to rival Stephen Fry”

The whole Teach First program seems oblivious to the fact that intelligence does not always correlate with an ability to connect with children.

The elitist aspect of the recruitment process is concerning for another reason too. A look at the Teach First website reveals Goldman Sachs, PwC and Google to be among their sponsors; with all these companies offering exclusive employment opportunities to graduates of the Teach First programme.

With this in mind, the Teach First assessment program begins to look suspiciously like a filtering system for these multinational corporations.

Although it is undoubtedly not the case that every candidate is using Teach First for its connections, a worrying statistic reveals that only 54 per cent of graduates actually pursue a career in teaching after their obligatory two years. In much the same way as the 'Gappies' do their bit for the needy, and then move on with their 'real lives', are the Teach First candidates just

teaching first; before their real careers begin?

The impact of these short term teachers on our most children is difficult to measure. Reminiscing about my own school days, some of my most endearing memories are of my teachers. Several of whom were prominent figures in my life from the age of 11 to 18.

Now, a phrase which you couldn't watch 'Tough Young Teachers' without being so struck by its repetition as to consider using it as the basis of a drinking game, was the teachers' constant insistence that 'we're learning just as much as the children'. The reason my own teachers were able to command so much respect and affection was

because of their consistency. Both in the quality of their teaching and their involvement in my life.

Everyone remembers the feeling of abandonment upon discovering that a beloved teacher is moving school. Even with a stable and happy home life, young people form strong attachments.

Bearing this in mind, the flaws in Teach First's vision are glaring. Placing young, inexperienced teachers, likely to soon move on, in such an important position in the lives of our country's most vulnerable children.

What is the true purpose of this charity? To give disadvantaged children a chance; or ambitious graduates a stage?

KATE MITCHELL

Exam
hacks

Maria Fazio



Considering the fact that campus looked like a scene from The Walking Dead last week, with all the zoned out students groaning in desperate need of caffeine, it might be good to know for next time how to improve your revision.

Recent studies in John Hopkins University, Baltimore, have shown that an intake of caffeine (roughly the same amount as an espresso) following a revision session can improve memory and help retain information for up to 24 hours.

However, if like me you need a permanent coffee IV in order to prevent yourself from attacking innocent passers-by, this is not the method for you.

A friend of mine thought he had found his saviour in caffeine tablets, however after a long night of red bull and caffeine tablets he ended up chundering on the bus on the way to the exam and his already incoherent medic writing was exacerbated by the shakes that followed the bus incident.

Take regular social media breaks, really regular. According to studies by the Orca Team, "Micro-breaks - between 30 seconds to 5 minutes - improve mental acuity by an average of 13 per cent," and the longer the break the greater the improvement. This negative correlation between the amount of time spent revising and the rate of success initially seemed too good to be true, however now that I think about it, my flatmate spends her days watching Netflix.

Further to this wonderful discovery is the fact that those who spend some of their time surfing the web are an average nine per cent more productive than those who resist the urge to browse. And now for the icing on the cake: studies have shown that people are 10 per cent more efficient when they check social media regularly. It makes sense, you know, because checking your Twitter and finding out your frenemy is getting a #muchneededmanicure is exactly what you need to help improve your concentration levels.

And finally my personal favourite, have a write off day. Taking one day off to get it all out of your system and party yourself dry. Think the Butterfield diet plan but substitute the overindulgence of food with jae-ger bombs and tequila.

All of these methods trump the conventional Mozart effect, time-tabling and colour coordinating methods of revision that parents and teachers fail miserably at attempting to instil in us. But let me just point out, if for years we have been indoctrinated to believe that these conventional ways are the secret method, then why is it that we end up staring blankly at our books for hours and still end up pulling an all nighter?

This is a clear sign that conventional methods don't actually work and lead to last minute cramming.

Topical Tweets
from the Twittersphere@Louise_VJ
Lo

13 Jan

103 days until my Dissertation is due #nopressure

13 Jan

@sophie_gadd
Sophie Gadd

A picture says 1000 words so I will be submitting 10 selfies as my dissertation.

@Mosbornenine3
Alex Morden Osborne

16 Jan

@ogettings There's the dreaded Diss-word but that's banned. Totally banned.

16 Jan

@FraserFringe
Hannah Fraser

Essay feedback; "your entire structure was wrong but it was well informed" mixed messages but yolo I did well.

Comment

What would you do...

with an invisibility cloak?

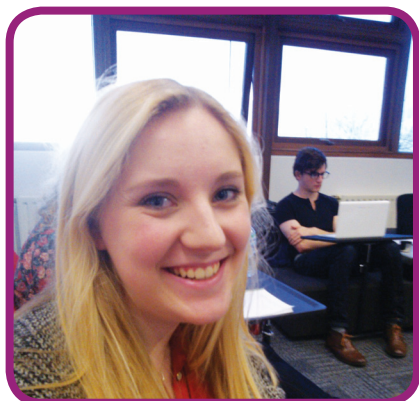
"I would get into Kuda for free on a Tuesday"

Jordan, second year
Medicine student



"I would listen in on a boys' sleepover"

Emily, second year
PPE student



"I would hide my lube from my mum"

Andy, third year
Archeology student



"I would act like a ghost and completely mess with my friends' minds"

Josephine, third year
Philosophy student



The modern freakshow

Niall
Whithead



Is reality TV turning into a freakshow?

A general rule of life is that someone, somewhere, is doing worse than you, and that can be comforting to know. I couldn't get Wi-Fi this morning, but somewhere a small child's starving at the side of a filthy, smog-clouded road, so he'll be yuk-

“Usually it's just “Who's Father To Your Baby? Me Or My Dad?””

king it up while I deal with the real problems, that jerk.

TV figured out the fun of looking down a while ago, and so every reality programme contains elements that could be construed as “freak-showy”, like a few flakes of fox in a sandwich. Usually it's just “Who's Father To Your Baby? Me Or My Dad?” on *Jeremy Kyle*, or deluded folks who think they can sing getting up on a stage, but it's Channel Four who are the masters of the art. This week they gave us *The Undateables*, followed by documentary *The Secret Lives of Dolls*.

The former's been on before, and the concept's exactly what you think it is: lovelorn singletons with interesting medical conditions go internet-dating with Channel 4, and we see the result. Meanwhile, *Dolls* looks at the phenomenon of “masking”, where men slip on anatomically correct woman skins made of rubber and walk around in them, like a PG-rated Buffalo Bill.

Of the two, it's *Dolls* that has the bigger lumps of fox to ha-cha-cha-chow down on. To assume your show can contain a 70-year-old man lovingly explaining how the hairs on his silicone vagina came from his own scalp as the camera pans down it in detail, and not attract an audience tuning in for ghoulish fascination is wilful naivety.

But OK, it calls itself an educational programme, and this is what maskers do in their lives: we must leave no vagina unturned. So what did we learn from all this? We did learn they exist, which most of the wider world hadn't before. What about “why do they do it?” Damned if I know - we learned the men weren't transgender or gay, and in fact sought to emulate and “own” the beautiful women they were unable to attract, but that's as far as that disconcerting train of thought went before it was back to drawers full of breasts and rectum installations. We were also repeatedly told that the dolls were harmless (true) and totally normal. That second point, of course, rings a little insincere when you've made a show about it.

(Of course, I was hoping for some sort of robotic masker with a camera hidden inside it to follow them around and get defecated on, but maybe BBC documentaries have spoiled me.)

Onto *The Undateables*, which could probably have its tittle swapped pretty seamlessly to CONTROVERSY STOP HERE (or disabled comedian Lee Ridley's suggestion - Would You Shag

A Crip?) First impressions looked slightly dubious: one of the participants had the kind of Tourette's that makes you swear at random intervals, because that's obligatory at this point, and we got knowingly bizarre footage in the intro of dwarves playing football. After that, however, focus shortly shifts over to the personalities and lives of the participants, rather than their illnesses. We see the problems they face due to their disabilities, but most of the emphasis falls on the near-universal experience of looking for love. By the end, we're willing them to succeed, and the programme manages to prove what

“We will leave no vagina unturned”

it set out to - after some obligatory rocky starts, all three of the first episode's disabled contestants seem to find promising relationships (at least after the first date).

Is either of these shows entirely exempt from the “freak-show” accusations? Well, no: both take real people and use their abnormality as a selling point. The difference is how the participants are portrayed, and in that respect *Undateables* comes off better than *Dolls*. And of course, through their intentional courting of the usual debate over “barrel-scraping”, both did a good job attracting attention and publicity for Channel Four from both gawpers on Twitter and moralizers in newspaper columns. Speaking of, see you next issue!

#minstergram

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

I love my city #cliffordstower #blue
#sky #york #january #beautiful #lucky

@ellierice93



Gorgeous sunday morning stroll
around a very frosty campus #frosty
#uniofyork

@becksutch

MUSE.

21.01.2014



Mormon women bare all

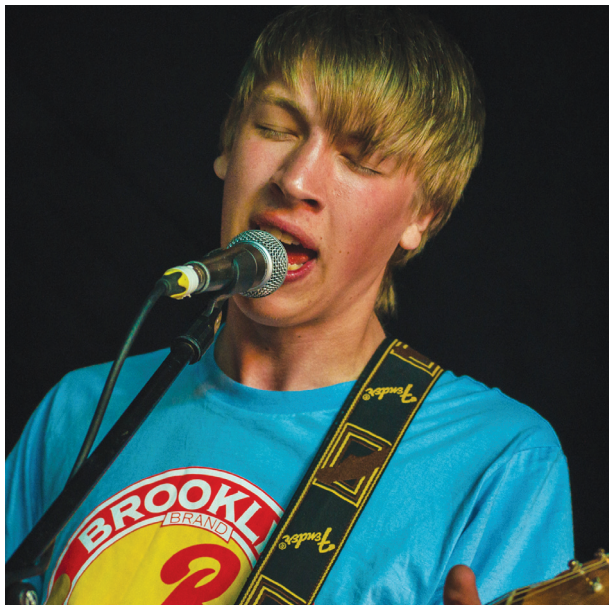
Katrina Anderson challenges modesty and the media

"Burlesque through a brown lens"

We interview Dawn Crandell, AKA AuroraBoobRealis

The man with a thousand faces

Drugs, prison and self portraits: meet Brian Lewis Saunders



M17. Eoin Loveless, the older half of **Drenge**, tells us about being the big brother



M12. The Shoot gets ethical with hand-made jewellery, dip dye, and unique embroidery



M19. Our review of Steve McQueen's Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominated **12 Years a Slave**

Arts.

M7. **Bryan Lewis Saunders** shares his experiences with drugs and his obsession with self portraits

M9. Veteran **James Toler** explains his mission to preserve military artwork

Music.

M16. The Music team ask what new sounds 2014 has to offer

Fashion.

M10. Sometimes fashion gets ugly: a look at the exploitation of animals by top highstreet brands

M11. Has Christmas shrunk your clothes budget? Make your own designs

Film.

M18. Film round up their best movies of 2013, from blockbusters to Oscar hopefuls

Food & Drink.

M20. As January brings the warmth of International Tea Month, we delve into the nation's favourite brew

M21. We interview **Levi Roots**, the creator of Reggae Reggae sauce

Image Credits.

Cover: Courtesy of Miss Aurora Boobrealis

M2 Top Left: Matt Horne

M3: Courtesy of Paul Sinha

The Freelancer

Poppy Bullard

He shuns the term "unemployable";
Prefers to think of himself as loyal
To, rather than befits a normal graduate,
Maintaining his status as full-time LADuate.

His days in the "office" are few and far between
(But that's neither shameful nor demean-ing)
because there's little worth in an MSc
If you don't spend your time getting M-essy.

There is far too little appreciation
For the conscientious advocates of inebriation.
For him, no necessity that graduation destroys
The rights to the hashtag "BoysBoysBoys".

So if you want to get something done,
Don't bother asking a busy person.
With nothing but favours to fill the void,
Just find the terminally unemployed.

No hobby too small; seemingly never bored,
A palace of free-time, over which he lords,
If only to conclusively demonstrate:
"Baby, I ain't unemployed. I'm a Freelance Graduate."



PHOTO CREDIT: THEREBELROBIN

“I’ve had terrible gigs. One ended in a mass brawl.”



Paul Sinha

Stand-up comedian and star of ITV’s *The Chase*

I’m a doctor, a quizzer and a stand-up comedian. My favourite is definitely comedian. I’m a former doctor and that is third on my list. Stand-up’s what I’ve always loved doing: it’s a dream. I realise that the way television runs I can’t be a professional quizzer forever, but hopefully I can be a stand-up comic forever.

The comedian I most admire is a bloke called Daniel Kitson. He doesn’t do telly, he does solo shows around the country and he is what’s known as a comedian’s comedian. He chose his own path and he’s brilliantly funny.

My inspiration comes from seeing someone who’s really, really good. When you see someone who’s really good you just go ‘work harder Paul, work harder, you want to be as good as this guy’. I don’t look at comedians and think I desperately want to be them but just that I desperately want to be as good as them.

I’ve had some terrible gigs. I think all comedians have. I’ve had ones where I’ve been threatened with violence, one that ended in a mass brawl, I mean I’ve been there and I’ve done it. It happens. You have to play on your toes and never assume that you’ve mastered what is actually quite a difficult job.

I’m best known for *The Chase* rather than stand-up comedy. It’s because of telly. Telly, telly telly. Telly trumps everything. We get about 3-3.5 million viewers for *The Chase* on ITV and that’s more than I get doing anything else, that’s the way it is.

I’m never tempted to let people win. Never. I’m desperate to win all the time, no matter how nice the contestants are. But there’s a weird paradox that we have; if we just keep winning and never lose people will be bored with watching us. We want to be seen to be good - that’s the quizzer’s ego.

Why do I know so much? Because I’m part of the competitive quizzing world and in addition to that I study. By studying I mean I sit in bed and go on Wikipedia and I look stuff up and try to learn lists of stuff. It’s important to keep up on things. TV programmes become well-known just like that and if you blink you miss it.

My study tip for students is that you’ve got to make things interesting in your head. Give yourself a reason to remember that fact. The most important thing is to give your brain a reason to know something. As a medical student a lot of it was simply words, so you’d end up using silly pneumonics to try to hold it all together.

I loved my university experience. I went to St George’s Hospital Medical School in Tooting, South West London, and actually it’s the same medical school that Harry Hill went to. I had an amazing, if slightly alcoholic time.

Coming up with new material is very hard. Especially when the comedies are about life stories and funny incidents - you don’t want to run out of those. It’s anecdotal comedy that I do and it’s about my life, but when you spend most of your life in bed reading Wikipedia, those unusual incidents don’t happen nearly as often.

I’m hugely looking forward to performing in York. I’ve performed in York loads of times and I’ve always really liked it. The venue’s fantastic and I’ve always enjoyed the crowds in York.

Paul Sinha’s tour, ‘Paul Sinha is a Stand-Up Comedian’, will be coming York’s City Screen Picturehouse on 26th January.

Editor’s note



Deputy Muse Editor George Wood mourns *Sherlock* and craves digestives

Post-exam, post-essay, post-*Sherlock*. In other words, back to normality. But normality itself is a strange concept, especially at university. Coming back from the holidays can be an interesting experience, especially if you start to consider “home” to be a substitute word for your life here at York.

See, for all the wild parties and wilder sex we’re meant to be having, our student lives do become domesticated. “Home” becomes disassociated from family, but normality is still something we find inherently appealing.

But as students we need to be careful of getting too excited about domestic life. There’s only so much you can tweet about from the Co-op reduced section. The elation I managed to summon at the prospect of buying bean bags for the house I’m living in next year probably needs to be restrained somewhat.

Still, it’s in human nature to be fascinated by the strange, the beautiful and creative. Burlesque dancers, naked Mormons and Afghan street art all feature in this issue of *Muse*. We debate on the artistry of vaginal knitting and interview a drug-inspired self-portrait artist.

Often fascination comes hand-in-hand with disgust, which becomes apparent in our critique of animal treatment in the fashion industry. Then there’s our interview with Levi Roots, which just makes me hungry.

But sometimes a slice of homeliness is just what we need. For me, this comes in the form of tea-soaked digestives (though I’ve long argued figuring out the optimal time to dunk a biscuit in tea is an art in itself). My housemates, on the other hand, can’t get enough of *The Chase*.

Personally, my hatred of game show quizzes prevents me from sharing their enjoyment (I say hatred, it’s more an intense frustration at the continual reminder I’m crap at general knowledge), yet Paul Sinha makes for a great Q&A - his appearances on *The Chase* are just additions to his past experience as a doctor and current stand-up career (see opposite).

Make sure to also check out our verdict on the stunning historical epic *12 Years A Slave*, and our interview with Eoin Loveless of Drenge.

As for me, I’m still mourning the loss of *Sherlock* on TV. It’s truly an affair to remember, whisking you away for two weeks and giving you the best time of your life, only to leave you again for what feels like forever. It’s been over a week since the last episode aired, and life just feels so ‘meh’ in comparison.

Okay, perhaps I’m obsessed (the quicker I realise #Cumberbitchin’ isn’t going to trend, the better), and my treatment of those who don’t watch the show as second-class human beings probably isn’t very ethical. I really just need to get over *Sherlock*. Get back to normality.

Anyway, welcome back to Muse.

Did you miss me?

Interview by Georgie Andrews

Tom Witherow: Why you should bow down to the privately educated, please

Student newspaper opinions can have a range of forms, from the 'kind of okay' to the 'absolutely dire'. But sometimes you have to give someone the biscuit for reaching the crème-de-la-crème of living in a bubble of such miniscule dimensions that the woods become inexplicably lost amongst the trees of campus life.

One such example emerged this week at Bristol where Plum-in-throat student journalist Becca Atkinson made a bit of a boo-boo by writing down, in public, 'what she actually thinks'. Her thoughts are so amusing that they've even drawn outrage at a uni where there are more fucking red trousers than you can shake a hunting stick at.

This privately educated leader of the people wrote for *The Tab*, the long-standing student paper renowned for its accuracy and careful analysis, to vent her frustration at anti-posh prejudice.

It emerges through her careful analysis that those of you who think the Bullingdon Club's activities are a bit iffy are in fact as reprehensible as Hitler, those guys who neutered Alan Turing, and as it turned out last week, One Direction's Liam Payne. Naturally if you didn't go to public school and trot around the grounds on ponies then you haven't much hope of becoming a "leader".

These kinds of people have been learning how to be a "leader" since birth. But then if, as PM, you can't mount your steed and charge down the Euro-lefties what hope have you got?

"One-on-one attention" is also underlined as a feature of those who go on to lead.

One has to assume she didn't mean the kind of "attention" that some of Clegg, Blair and Johnson's school colleagues might have received, which really does put caning in a whole new light...

Moving on, we hear that classist Jim Crowsers really don't have that much to moan about, since Miss Atkinson's daddy pays their school fees too. They have been admonished and told to check their privilege.

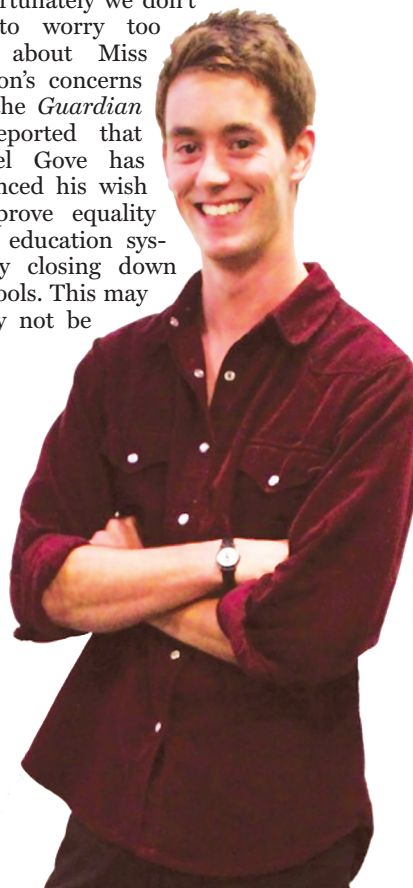
Having spoken to a number of psychologists and gastroenterologists, I can estimate that surgery to insert her head that far up her arse would have cost approximately £32,000 per year (full board, not including extras). Miss Atkinson was probably wise to refuse to disclose the actual value, although even without such a declaration one would have to question her ability to get a job (that is, unless she wants to be prime minister).

Private school kids aren't just great leaders though, they're also "cleverer" [sic, now corrected] than you. Sitting in front of an interviewer and burning a £50 note is a "stringent test" that most couldn't dream of passing, but apparently it's because you've already spent your money on Lamborghinis and holidays to Antigua. You might have a great tan and be able to go faster than the new Mini Miss Atkinson got for passing her GCSEs but you haven't got a private school education.

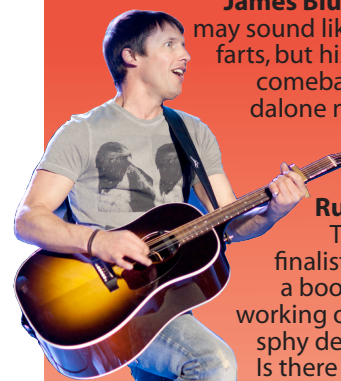
Miss Atkinson's article has also caused panic at the higher levels of government as she exclusively revealed that most of the great unwashed are "underhand" and "dishonest" for buying houses near good state

schools. It is also believed that the unemployed are secretly working, and that those claiming pensions are actually "not that old".

Fortunately we don't have to worry too much about Miss Atkinson's concerns since the *Guardian* has reported that Michael Gove has announced his wish to improve equality in the education system by closing down all schools. This may or may not be true.



GOING UP...



James Blunt. His songs may sound like anguished farts, but his Twitter troll comebacks are standalone masterpieces.

Ruby Tandoh. The bake-off finalist has landed a book deal while working on her Philosophy degree at UCL. Is there nothing the queen of soggy bottoms can't do?

The Vanbrugh Flag. The York college has its own official flag, its own official flag bearer and its own official Latin motto. We're pretty sure it says "We don't know why either."

Tea. Happy International Tea Month!

Lupita Nyong'o. Please will someone just give this woman an Oscar?



History of Student Life in 1000 Objects #4: the Student ID

"Look into my eyes, look into my eyes, the eyes, the eyes, not around the eyes, don't look around the eyes, look into my eyes. And you're under!"

...a broken chain of concentration. Seriously, why do examiners always ask to remove student's glasses in an exam - are you expecting me to be hiding a secret identity under these lenses?

Does the name on my student ID read 'Clark Kent'?

I'm not sure what's worse: that, or having to remove all the tissues from someone's Kleenex packet. If a student is drowning in a cesspool of mucus, it's a pretty good guess that the tissues they're sneezing their brains into won't contain any exam notes.

Then again, I'm pretty sure a splatter of snot would have improved my last exam paper...

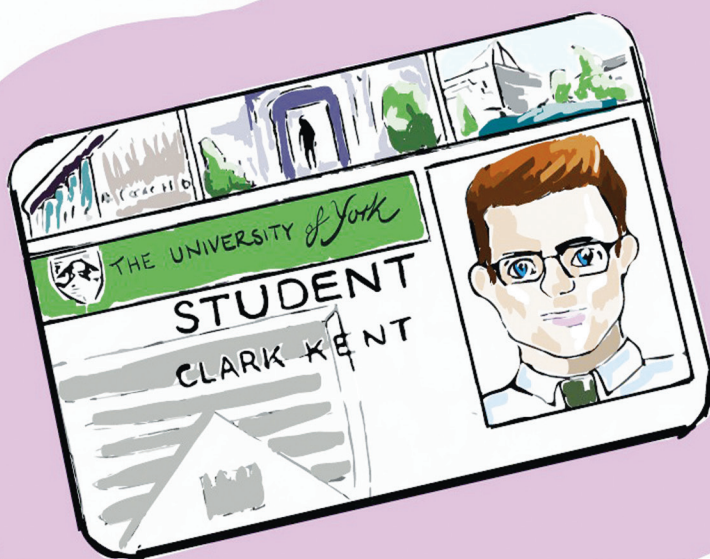
...God, they can't make me leave this university.

I refuse to let go of my York ID. My wallet wouldn't be the same without it:

"That mugshot. August 2012 - I remember it well. They didn't tell me I could smile in the photo. Oh those were the times!"

But we've had our fair share of rough patches. Your lack of an expiry date has led me into all sorts of awkward conversations. Sometimes I just want to shout, "Why can't you just be like all the other IDs? Would Warwick do this? What's wrong with you?"

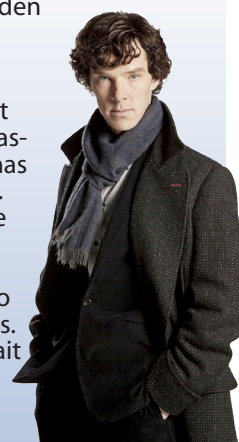
But then, I realise, I could just be a York student forever.



CARTOON BY KATE MITCHELL

Raw Sewage. No one wants to see a brown carpet at the Golden Globes.

Sherlock. The last episode was fantastic. A new series has been announced. But please, for the love of Watson, don't leave it another two years to make a new series. We really can't wait that long.



Everyone's grades. Whose idea was exams after Christmas anyway?



Big Brother. We are not watching you.

GOING DOWN



“Burlesque through a brown lens”

‘Brown Girls Burlesque’ is an all-women-of-colour burlesque troupe. Founder **AuroraBoobRealis** talks to Charlotte Wainwright about the empowerment, sensuality and joy that burlesque has given her

Meet AuroraBoobRealis, aka Dawn Crandell, co-founder of ‘Brown Girls Burlesque’, an all women of colour burlesque troupe that is dedicated to showcasing the empowerment women can feel through the performance of this art form. Based in New York City, BGB is a troupe that aims to provide more diversity within burlesque, describing itself as a group that is committed to presenting the unique view point of “burlesque through a brown lens”.

Burlesque is a type of performance that has its roots in satire, and involves elements of striptease throughout. Because of this, it is an art form that has faced much controversy, both praised and condemned for empowering and objectifying women. For Aurora and the women of BGB, however, burlesque is simply “a fun and sexy way to tell a story with your full body, a striptease that is also storytelling, humour, theatre, character, dance and performance art”.

Aurora first became a fan of burlesque during her time at college. Despite attending numerous shows, however, she was shocked to find that women of colour were not being represented. “I was a burlesque fan first. I was inspired by the women onstage of all shapes and sizes, expressing and owning their own sensuality and using their bodies to tell stories. But as a woman of colour I found my reflection lacking.”

In two years of seeing shows in NYC I saw only one brown body on stage. I wanted to know why; this was New York City, one of the most diverse cities on the planet! Was I going to the wrong venues? Did women of colour just not get booked as often? I knew they must exist in this art form, but where? Burlesque was something I wanted to do, but I didn’t want to be that one brown body on stage.”

It was this experience that prompted Aurora to create BGB. “I got the idea to create an all women of colour troupe. I was in graduate school at the time, though, so this idea promptly occupied the back of my mind for a few years, until my graduation party in February 2007, which I held at the Slipper Room, one of NYC’s main burlesque venues. I told one of my closest friends, Maya Haynes, and, being a Taurus and a go-getter, she immediately said “let’s do it”, and so BGB was born.”

Aurora studied at Sarah Lawrence, a liberal arts college based in New York, graduating with a B.A. that focused predominately on

Performing Arts. She also received an M.F.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College, which focused strongly on 20th Century Black Radical Artists, alongside the intersections of dance, poetry and theatre. Today she describes herself as an “interdisciplinary performing artist and educator”, creating work within numerous fields in the arts.

It is burlesque however, that remains Aurora’s true passion. “When Maya and I founded BGB, burlesque became another art form in my toolbox. Over the years, though, it has moved centre stage. It feels like I was always destined for burlesque. After one of BGB’s first shows, a close friend and fellow artist told me that, although he had always enjoyed my performances before, burlesque was my true calling, because I could fold in all of my other artistic disciplines into this art form, and create magic”.

She tells me that it is through burlesque that she is best able to explore important and often serious issues that both she herself and other women have faced within their lifetimes. “BGB is dedicated to creating our own reflections in an art form that, historically, has primarily used us as exotified objects, or often denied our very presence. For the past six years, through theatrical, neo-burlesque, and classical striptease, we have been storming centre-stage with our voices and stories, in over thirty self produced shows, that range from topical exposes of politics, culture and the complexities of brown women’s experiences in society, to celebrations of musical icons and so much more.”

It is for this reason that Aurora strongly believes that burlesque is a tool through which women can feel utterly empowered. “I feel empowered by the burlesque that I make and that of the others in BGB. I feel empowered watching many of our colleagues’ work. I feel empowered experiencing and creating burlesque, where the performers are telling our truths and sharing our own sensuality, defining ourselves completely. I feel empowered by burlesque that doesn’t simply cater to the heteronormative male gaze. I feel empowered by burlesque that says and communicates something to me. We have agency in the directing of our art and business, because we have made the decision to produce and promote our own events. I think some would expect burlesque performers to simply be hired for events and maybe not to have control of their work. But we of BGB are

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF MISS AURORABOOBREALIS



independent and innovative artists; powerful, creative, sassy and intelligent women.”

BGB performed its first show on the 12th October, 2007, at a small rock club in the Financial District of Manhattan. The initial response was something that Aurora had never anticipated. “An the doors were all hop- eighty peo- turn up. An half later, and fifty j a m m e d club, with turned away We were and realized were ready for what we ing to the

Since its but, BGB has expansively. After the success of their first show, BGB was invited to perform its own off-Broadway residency, where it successfully sold out the two hundred and twenty five seat theatre, for six shows. The dancers also performed at the New York Burlesque Festival, a four day event filled with performers from the US, UK, Japan, Australia and many more. “With every show we gain a wider audience. Depending on the size of the venue, BGB performs for audiences of seventy at a bar show, or audiences of two hundred and fifty at a main-stage show. We perform at venues around NYC and beyond. We are constantly receiving messages of support and thanks from people around the world that are excited we exist.”

For Aurora though, there is one performance in par-

“Miss AuroraBoobRealis is Dawn Crandell. The only difference is Aurora tends to wear a bit more glitter”

ticular that continues to stand out to her as her personal favourite. For both herself and the girls of BGB, the performances are about much more than a simple striptease, and this one is no exception. “I have a piece called ‘Death of the Myth of the Tragic Mulatto’, which is a very American piece dealing with the complexities of the constructions of race and the imagined “tragedy” of being born mixed. I strip out of layers of veils that start with black to dark brown and then to lighter browns, until it matches my complexion. Underneath I’m wearing a brown paper bag dress, which is in reference to the horrid brown paper bag tests of the early twentieth century in the U.S., which were indicative of internalized racism. After strip- ping out of the dress, the music shifts and I become free, with some incredible house music and movement, having shed the stereotype. I strive to make every time I go on stage magic.”

This “magic”, she explains, comes from



finding a strong connection with the audience. “There is a unique experience, I’ve found, to sharing and exploring your sensual nature on stage. Each dancer creates their own persona and name which draws from their personal experience, mythology, and a wide range of artistic influences. Through this you are connected to the audience and together you go on a journey. It is an incredible feeling. When you are in the moment and connecting with the audience, it is transcendent.”

As with any art form, though, there are moments when things can go wrong. “As a performer, any kind of performer, you have moments onstage where things don’t go right, a dropped glove, a stuck zipper, a missed cue; but you just have to move through it, because as clichéd as it is, the show must go on”.

Fortunately for Aurora, she has a strong support network to help her through any difficult or challenging periods, including those in which both herself and the other dancers in BGB, have been judged for their racy performances. “People judge. It’s a human trait, but I personally have a supportive family that is inspired by my burlesque career. My mom is a visual artist and sews, so she has made some of my best costumes. Last time BGB performed in Washington D.C. I stayed with my dad and step-mother, and they watched my toddler while I was performing, and then picked me up from the gig.”

For Aurora, her burlesque persona is now simply a part of her everyday life. “Miss AuroraBoobRealis is Dawn Crandell. The only difference is Aurora tends to wear a bit more glitter. I strive for holistic integration of my artist/performer self and my everyday person self. It’s not that I think of myself as always onstage, rather I strive to tell my truth on and offstage. And no-one is surprised that I’m a burlesque artist. If anything, when folks I’ve known when I was younger learn that I’m a burlesque artist, I see a look of understanding spread across their face, like ahhh, that makes total sense!”

Because of this, her inspiration for new routines comes from all facets of life. “Inspiration is all around. Sometimes it’s a song that I can’t get out of my head, other times it’s a response to something happening in the world of politics or pop culture, or a photograph or painting or some other art form. Often once we pick a theme for a show, then a concept will materialize. The trick is to always have your creative brain on, because inspiration can come at any moment.” She has many role models, including “Katherine Dunham, a Voodoo Priestess, activist, educator and dancer”, “Audrey Lorde, a black, lesbian, mother, warrior and poet”, and Tina Turner.

Today BGB also offers classes in burlesque, something which, Aurora explains, received an overwhelming reaction. “The response to our foundation course, ‘Peeling into Burlesque’, has been amazing”. A. Duskie Magdeline, an alumnus of the course, stated that she “got swagger for days! To be semi-nude and playful about it got me even more comfortable in my skin. Participating in the class boosted my self-confidence considerably”.

Aurora sees a positive future for BGB. “In the future I see BGB touring internationally, spreading our glitter around the world.” As for burlesque as a whole, the future seems a lot less certain, although, it must be said, none the less bright. “Burlesque is heading in a lot of different directions. Some performers and groups are traditional or have mainstream showbiz aspirations, others have a punk aesthetic. Our group is creating its own pathway and learning from the various traditions to create new audiences and contexts. As a burlesque performer I place myself and the work that BGB does in the art form of burlesque. There is a global community composed of numerous performers who all define burlesque differently. I personally don’t feel I’m a part of a “burlesque industry” though. I am an artist creating work out of the necessity to communicate truths with the world at large. I am interested in the process and beauty and function and the mess of life, seeing the edges, and breaking the fourth wall.”

What is certain, though, is that the burlesque scene has been transformed for good. “BGB began in 2007. Almost seven years later, I see that there are definitely more women of colour performing in this art form.

“I won’t give BGB sole credit for that, but I do think we have helped create more space for women of colour to take the stage.” The troupe has certainly achieved all it set out to do since its formation, and has ultimately, as Aurora states, managed to change the face of burlesque, “one bump n’ grind at a time”. M.

The man with a thousand faces

Amy Blumsom talks to **Bryan Lewis Saunders** about drugs, prison and self-portraits



Marijuana



CRYSTAL METH



XANAX



Ambien

PHOTOCREDIT: BRYAN LEWIS SAUNDERS

Bryan Lewis Saunders didn't always want to be an artist. "I wanted to be a comic book artist when I was 10 and my mother was very supportive but I got bored with it really quickly and decided to be a herpetologist instead. Then I never thought of being an artist again until I was in college in my mid twenties."

A near obsession with self-portraiture is what Bryan is best known for since 30th March 1995 he has drawn himself everyday, and hasn't missed a day since. "It has become physically impossible to not do them. Seriously. It is part of my hardware now. I can't fall asleep in the day time unless I have done one, I have done one in a drunken blackout without knowing it and I have done many of them under semi-conscious states."

Would he ever stop? No. "The only way I could stop was if I was in a coma, or a permanent vegetative state."

Bryan started his self-portraits for a number of reasons, "one was to teach myself to draw. Another reason was my belief that the act would make my life more interesting as if everyday would be a remix. And yet another reason was to purge myself of stress, anxiety, pain and suffering caused by everyday life."

Looking for experiences that might profoundly affect his self-perception, Bryan devised an experiment where everyday he would draw himself whilst under the influence of a different drug. It was this controversial series which first caught the attention of many.

He has drawn himself under the influence of everything from crystal meth to cough syrup. Usually getting the drugs for free from neighbours who offer after hearing about the project. As a consequence, Bryan has suffered mild brain damage. He is still conducting the series, but over greater lapses of time. "Like life it too is an ongoing project, I'm sure I will add to the series again one day." True to form, Bryan's latest conceptual piece: *Extreme Makeover: Fuck Mattress Edition*

hasn't fallen short of controversy. "The reactions to it online were quite revealing about different people's attitudes. Some of the comments were quite absurd!"

It was never intended to cause such a stir, as he explains "basically, I had a few dollars in my pocket and wanted to do something nice for someone. I don't make enough from art to buy someone in need a house, like the TV show *Extreme Makeover*, so I just did what I could afford. A friend of mine told me about the mattress and where it was and about the used condoms and dirty panties lying around it and I thought, 'Now that's something I can fix up nice.' So I enlisted some friends to help me."

To many, a discarded mattress accompanied by condoms

"I used to imagine myself dead and bloated surrounded by thousands of self-portraits that no-one would ever see"

and clean underwear is seen as devaluing sex. Asked if this is the case, Bryan replies, "No, I think it just temporarily made ugly and filthy a bit more beautiful and clean".

With repertoire like the drugs portrait series and *Extreme Makeover: Fuck Mattress Edition*, I asked Bryan if he feels the need to create something controversial in order to live up to the hype surrounding his work. "No. I don't ever feel the need to do anything controversial I just do what I want or what I feel I need to do for personal reasons in response to the world around me. Today people are so easily upset over nothing,

that is what is so shocking to me. It's 2013 and a pop singer can dance and behave like a 3 or 4 year old that has grown up watching MTV and people just lose their minds over it."

Interestingly, Bryan is somewhat reluctant to sell his most infamous works. "For the most part I won't sell bodies of work that involve self-portraiture simply because they all belong together. One giant body of work, my life, and I don't want to split and divide that up."

I'd sell the drug ones though because they are so present online they will never die and they are such a tiny aspect of my search for self that it would be nice to put them behind me for good."

Bryan lives in the John Sevier Centre, a housing project in Johnson City, Tennessee - a building which has seen its share of tragedy. "I did an album called 'Busting Open' once about people in my building dying and not being discovered for a while and their bodies bust open."

A great influence on Bryan's work was his youth. "I got into a lot of trouble with the law. I was small and got picked on. But then I became a bully myself and ended up in prison by the time I was 21. In prison I found that it was socially acceptable to just go off, lose your mind! So I would rant and rave at times. It was very cathartic."

Years later during a performance I had a flashback of prison and realised that I was rehearsing there and didn't even know it."

So, has life as an artist turned out as Bryan expected? "It's actually a bit better than I envisioned because I have such a wonderful gallery representing me. MIKA Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv. They work extremely hard and really know what they are doing when it comes to the business side of things. I used to always imagine myself dead and bloated surrounded by thousands of self-portraits that no-one would ever see. But I know now that that won't be the case at all. It's quite comforting." **M**

Ask the Editors: Vaginal Knitting

Self-proclaimed "craftivist" Casey Jenkins' performance, 'Casting Off My Womb', has provoked mixed reactions. But is it art?

YES

Amy Blumsom

It's unorthodox, but Casey Jenkins' performance is art. It is being used to convey a feminist message. A message that there's nothing inherently shocking or scary about the female body, and consequently about her decision to use her vagina to create art. The fear and repulsion surrounding female genitalia is unfounded, like Casey herself says; "nothing is going to run out and eat you."

By knitting with wool which has been inserted into her vagina, Casey is ingeniously contrasting the common perception of the terrifying vagina with the warm and cosy connotations that knitting carries.

Compared to Marni Kotak, who gave birth in an art gallery, what Casey is doing is small change. Thus, the outrage provoked by this latest display is perhaps more a reflection of the narrow mindedness which still prevails in the art world and wider society as a whole.

Casey's piece of knitting may not be particularly beautiful, especially considering the project has lasted 28 days (yep, even when she's menstruating), but she is still creating a piece of art. Some have been quick to label her work as mere attention seeking. That may be the case, but isn't the point of art to grab one's attention and make you think? Casey is using this piece of knitting to express her ideas and make a comment on society.

NO

Faith Whitehouse

I think we have to question why seeing genitalia on display in an art gallery would be aesthetically pleasing to the eye. 'Casting off my womb', does not follow the conventions of art of being beautiful or pleasing to look at. In fact, the piece makes people turn away in horror and disgust at her decision to portray her menstrual cycle on a piece of wool and make a conversation about female genitalia so public.

I understand to some extent her reasoning behind the piece, but I feel placing it in the public view is not the way forward. The piece to me does not inspire or make me admire art, instead it forces me to turn my head in repulsion.

I'm not against nudity in galleries, but showcasing genitalia in such a forceful manner is not art. This is because 'Casting off my womb' is not aesthetically pleasing in the way that art should be. I do not feel inspired to appreciate vaginas or impressed by her work. The only thing I am impressed by is her audacity to be so open about her genitals. Still, I feel disgusted by her knitting when she is on her menstrual cycle, allowing the public to witness such a personal act. I feel placing this in an art gallery undermines the art in the gallery and portrays the work as a 'joke' piece on the issue of contemporary art.

Thirty years of Animal Farm

Three decades after its publication, Zoe Thomson looks at what makes George Orwell's *Animal Farm* an enduring classic

George Orwell two of the greatest novels of the twentieth century: *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm*.

Animal Farm, originally titled 'Animal Farm: a Fairy Story' tells the story of a group of animals who, led by pigs Napoleon and Snowball, revolt against the human owner of their farm. They declare themselves free and rename the farm 'Animal Farm'.

However, Napoleon goes on to take control and as the years pass the pigs begin assuming human mannerisms, while the 'lesser' animals continue to work the fields and discover that some animals consider themselves more equal than others. Eventually, looking at the pigs and humans together, it becomes difficult to distinguish between the two.

Currently celebrating the 30th anniversary of its first illustrated publication in 1984, *Animal Farm* has been controversial since its completion. Due to its satirical depiction of the Russian Revolution and the use of pigs as the dominant animals at the farm, a number of publishing houses rejected *Animal Farm* over fears that it would disrupt the alliance between the UK, US and Soviet Union during the Second World War.

Nevertheless, today *Animal Farm* is considered one of the greatest books of the twentieth century, a classic with numerous editions, illustrated versions, and film, radio and theatre adaptations appearing over the years.

References abound in music and television, from *Doctor Who* to *Sex and the City*. The idea that all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others is an allegory



which still has great prevalence and provokes much debate today.

So, why has this controversial story remained at the heart of literature lovers? Orwell wrote in a simple, clear style that allows readers of all ages to understand and enjoy *Animal Farm*. While not the average fairy story, *Animal Farm* can still be appreciated and approached from any number of perspectives.

Rather than simply preaching to the reader, Orwell has created a story in which the animals are relatable and can be easily empathised with, while at the same time encouraging the reader to consider philosophical, moral and political questions. Each reader can take something different from the novella, whether this relates to the wider issues of communism, the Russian Revolution and the problem of power, or something smaller in their own lives.

Reading both with and without the knowledge that this is an allegorical depiction of the Revolution can produce two entirely different perceptions of the story, depending upon personal viewpoint. *Animal Farm* is both a deeply thought-provoking and enjoyable read. After all, everyone loves a fairy story.

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Amy Blumsom

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Art in a warzone



Amy Blumsom talks to veteran **James Toler** about the celebration of military graffiti and the expression of freedom



Veteran James Toler is proving to the world that art really is everywhere. It was when serving in Afghanistan as a helicopter pilot in 2002 that the 29-year-old first noticed the intense street art that decorated the army encampment. The former soldier is now trying to document the paintings of soldiers for future generations.

So, what was it that made James want to preserve this street art? "To me, art is the ultimate expression of freedom; art without military reference (the pictures of cartoons or almost nude ladies) made on government walls during a conflict or war, and made by the participants of the event is rare. Personal expression on government walls is illegal, like graffiti on the cement walls around the White House."

The way wars are fought has changed dramatically over the years, but James believes that this is what has provided soldiers with the opportunity to express themselves through graffiti. "In the modern battlefield, the introduction of cement protection walls has given the tag artist a canvas to express themselves. A war that has lasted so long gave them time to make it. Thousands of people walked past the walls. Some tolerated it, while others appreciated the respite from their reality of being there. As with all great war art, the nose art on planes as an example, we will come to appreciate it more as time passes.

"We have the ability to save some of the walls now for generations to come, for all those that watched it play out on the internet and TV, for those that sacrificed, lost loved ones, or even for those that protested the occupation. All will see tangi-

ble evidence of the emotions, desires and dreams painted onto Protection Walls. The walls will be a monument for all we have lost, and reminders of what not to do."

The use of art within the military is not a recent development, there have always been people making it, but before it predominantly military centric such as logos for military units. "In 2010 I began to notice that street style art without a military association started to appear near public places in troop

"The walls will be a monument for all we have lost and remind us of what not to do"

occupied camps in Afghanistan, mostly because of the cement protection walls."

The majority of paintings are in Kandahar, but aren't limited to this area of the war zone, as James tells me; "My exposure was limited, I had seen some in Bagram Airbase also and I am told there are some in most camps now."

What's more, they aren't limited to just the American bases. "Today's military occupation is a coalition event, with group encampments segregated by protection walls. All camps had some form of art, the Germans and Australians had artwork. The Canadians always posted their Maple Leaf on things...And

Zerosix was painted in the coolest camp, the British Camp! It was the obscure risqué tags made in the American occupied areas that seemed to be purest forms to me."

Given the military's notorious discipline, it is a surprise that the soldier's artwork has lasted even this long. "I am no expert on military law, but I have found that according to article 108 of the Uniform Code Of Military Justice, destruction of government property is vague though can have serious repercussions; forfeiture of pay and jail time. The Tags were tolerated for a long time, as most had military reference, I hear that some are being painted over now."

A war zone isn't really where one would expect to find a paint shop, so, how did the soldiers get the materials? "In the early days it was paint used on Government products, so the colours were limited. After the forces were embedded, you could go to a self-help area and request paint for area projects. I guess that is how they got it."

James has received a mixed reaction to his project, "some hard liners think I will instigate more graffiti, while others applaud my action and encourage me to continue informing the public."

Some of the art itself has also proved controversial: "Having nude pictures in a country where women are required to wear Burkas is taboo, as are slogans that may be anti-war."

The big question, though, is which is "They are all good, though the young girl with a gun is my fave." **M**

The Devil Wears Dog

KATE MITCHELL

Italian luxury goods designer Trussardi grabbed the attention of the fashion scene this month when they released their menswear advertising campaign. Renowned for their superior quality and traditional elegance, and being the official supplier of English royalty. Ergo, one would expect to see the new menswear line on models with symmetrical features, chiselled jaw lines and perfectly groomed hair. Indeed, the models for the new line are just as extraordinarily stunning as one might expect. Notably, however, there is something a little different about these models: they all have four legs, and a tail.

For their S/S '14 line, Trussardi, which uses a greyhound as its logo, decided to replace the normal cast of handsome bearded men in crisp suits for near-comical images of greyhounds dressed in the brand's clothes. Presumably the model hiring bill for this campaign was considerably cheaper, although I expect there was much more food consumed on set than usual. Photographer William Wegman, who was commissioned to capture the shoot, said of his work "I dedicate this project to the greyhounds of Trussardi, mysteriously calm, wonderfully photogenic, and most of all, incredibly elegant."

Human beings have always been fascinated by animals. We have been intrigued by their physical structure, enraptured by their beauty and fascinated by their natural behaviours. We have worshipped them as gods, kept them as companions, stuck their heads on our walls and even made musical instruments from their tusks. Somewhere along the line, we also realised animals could be enslaved. Humans have exploited animals for centuries.

But why do we think it is perfectly acceptable to treat them in this way? Perhaps it is because we see them as lesser; as having less value or importance than us, a viewpoint that seems ingrained within human history. We are often all too quick to differentiate between "them" and "us", be it on the grounds of species, race, religion, class, or mental health.

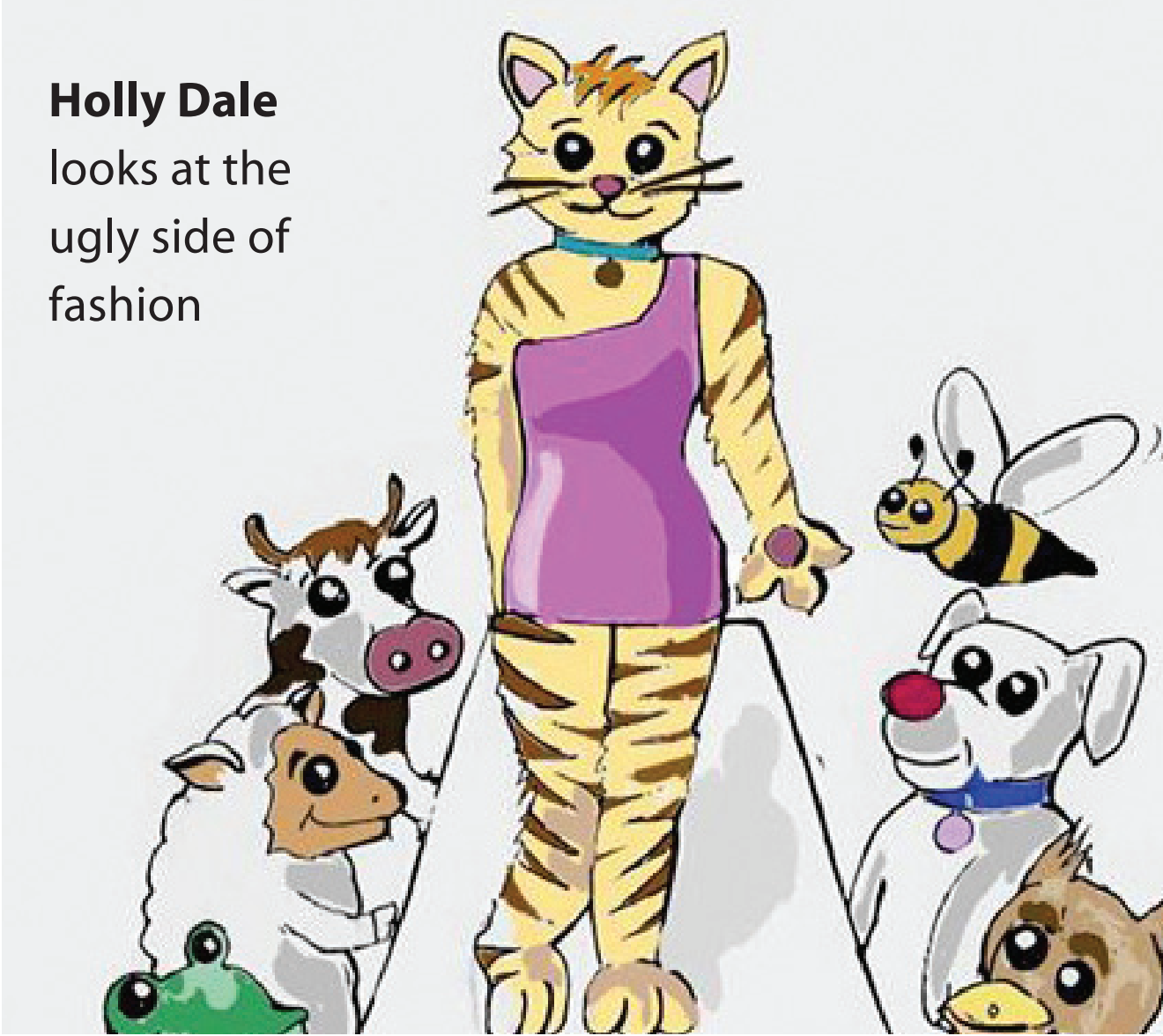
Notoriously, the fashion industry has had a highly questionable attitude in respect of the treatment of animals. Fur coats, leather bags, belts and shoes, and insect jewellery, are to name but a few examples.

I expect I seem like a stuck record, repeating the same old imperative "animals deserve to be treated better", as we all know the tune by now. One might even think this an issue that is largely in the past; no one with any ounce of self-respect wears fur, ivory or snakeskin anymore, and so we skim articles like this instead attributing them to self-righteous hippies who, frankly, need to go get a 'real job'. Then again, are we really as informed on such crucial issues as we would smugly have ourselves believe?

The recent angora scandal highlighted just how ignorant we still are. Major high-street brands such as Topshop, Zara and M&S have been selling materials that are sourced using shockingly horrific procedures for years, yet most of us are simply unaware or do not think of where our clothes actually originate from. Instead, we judge products by the 'packet' they come in rather than by the composite ingredients.

I myself am to be counted among the ignorant. It did not occur to me that purchasing clothing made out of the hair or by-products of animals (e.g. warm woollen socks, or a silk

Holly Dale looks at the ugly side of fashion



scarf) was just as cruel and thoughtless as wearing a fur scarf that still had a fox's feet attached. In the case of wool, for instance, I was under the naive impression that they simply got a regular 'cut and dry'.

Nevertheless, many of the animals used to create these items are also maimed and killed. Cashmere, made from the fine underbelly fur of goats, is produced by farms where the animals are dehorned and castrated, and have their ears notched without anaesthesia. Goats with "defects" in their coats are typically killed before the age of two. Industry experts expect farmers kill 50-80 per cent of young goats whose coats do not meet standards.

It is vital we do not let such cruelty continue. Highstreet

chains like Topshop continue to make a profit out of helpless animals' pain with their cruelty-regulated stock still being sold online. When *Nouse* checked their website this week, angora products such as their knitted cable card, (14 per cent angora) costing £48, were still available for purchase.

The capacity for suffering is a vital characteristic that gives any being the right to equal consideration. All animals, human or otherwise, have the capacity to suffer in the same way and to the same degree that humans do. To deny this simple truth for our own convenience is to act without moral consideration. It is time to wake up and realise that the industry has not progressed as far as we might trust, so we must search for cruelty-free products. Enough is enough.



Campus Style: What are you wearing?

Maddie Smith, 3rd year, studying English Literature

The one thing on my mind when I got dressed this morning was the weather. Yes it's freezing outside but I don't want to overheat in the library. I decided to layer basics and warm accessories that I can take off once inside. I always choose accessories with a bit of character, because at this time of year it's what people are going to see 90 per cent of the time!

Today I'm wearing a tartan tunic from River Island with a coat from Topshop. I love layering the different checked prints that are around this winter so I've added this double printed scarf from Zara. The chilly conditions called for my

Topshop fedora, and I'm never seen without my glasses from Purple Haze (*The vintage shop in town.*) I enjoy following trends but it's still really important for me to put my own stamp on an outfit. I found these vintage cat-eye glasses for just £10 but they have become part of my signature look. I had my prescription lenses put in at Ciliaryblue.co.uk and for a little bit of effort it means I have something completely one off. People often joke that I look like Dame Edna, or Indiana Jones in my fedora, but I like to take risks!

It's the unexpected items that make the difference between someone who just follows

trends and someone who's prepared to create their own style. That said I always make sure I buy clothes that are comfortable and practical.

I admire Alexa Chung's style because it isn't too pretentious or over the top; you can tell she is completely at ease in what she's wearing and I think that's why her style always looks so effortless. If people ask me my opinion on an outfit I always tell them that there is no point wearing it unless they are 100 happy themselves, any lack of confidence will show through.

Think you've got the style that outranks the rest on campus? Send your look to fashion@nouse.

DIY: New Year, New Tee

Robbie Hodges explains why it's better to rock your own home-made slogan



It's high time we binned the cliché "New year, new me" saying that has no doubt littered your newsfeed this past month. January is brimming with the potential for new experiences, new clothes and new mantras. Sorry YOLO, you're so fired. Whilst the disillusioned opt to abide by #eatclean, the motto of Peter Jensen's unashamedly vulgar "Spend, Spend, Spend" sweater is far less contrived and far more fashion.

As amusing as you may find Jensen's ironic riff on consumerism, bathing your £110 sweatshirt in tears following an unfortunate encounter with some unassuming Merlot would be anything but funny. In keeping with *Nouse* Fashion's ethical mantra, I suggest silk-screen printing your own for a fraction of the price. Whether witty, ironic, offensive or touching, ride the slogan tee trend and wear your heart on your sleeve. In tribute to Peter Jensen, the mildly repulsive slogan I printed, "Hot and Crusty", is not a floozy attempt at self-improve-

ment with the use by date February 1st; this year, more baked goods, fewer healthy hashtags. Resolutions aside, there is no need to restrict yourself to life-affirming mottos. Have people guessing at how you fund such an exclusive wardrobe by replicating your favourite designer classics for pennies.

Bring down the roof at the next PolSoc social in a replica of Katherine 'Slogan Queen' Hamnett's infamous "58 per cent Don't Want Pershing" tee, or make an impression like the 80's kids by donning a faux "Frankie Says Relax" top or a BOY London mock up. Alternatively, channel the Notting Hill set and slip into a raunchy House of Holland motto. Whatever your decision, assert your independence and start the year as sincerely and unapologetically as you mean to go on. Read more, drink less, attend lectures: all pathetic excuses for resolutions, not to mention lame t-shirt designs. Forget common decency, jump on that craft-wagon, do it yourself and give your credit card the January detox it's begging for...

MAKE YOUR OWN IN 7 STEPS

Materials: You'll need a large embroidery hoop, a sheet of organza (any meshed fabric will do), 1 sheet of tracing paper, a pair of scissors/craft knife (all of the aforementioned available at Boyes), fabric ink and a squeegee or long, plank-like instrument for spreading the ink (both can be found in Craft Heaven in Fossgate).

- 1 Start by stretching the mesh over the embroidery hoop (tightness is key to avoiding a lumpy print and a professional finish).
- 2 Simply trace your chosen design on to the tracing paper and cut using your pre-prepared scissors.
- 3 Aligning your chopped tracing paper atop a garment, ensure that the design is sitting exactly where you want it and place your embroidery hoop on the paper mesh-side down.

4 Pour the ink onto the top of the mesh screen. Pull the squeegee towards you to push the ink across the surface of the mesh and, in doing so, down onto the traced design beneath it.

5 Repeat this action of pushing the ink over the mesh approximately four times, ensuring that the entirety of the traced design has been covered.

6 Lift the embroidery hoop from the garment to reveal the printed design.

7 Leave to dry overnight and iron on the reverse side to fix.

Hot



Stylish booze: With everyone on the January health kick, why not introduce the concept to your beverages. Le fizz: Grey Goose vodka, elderflower liqueur, lime juice and soda water - virtually a health drink and cheaper than champagne.

Jennifer Lawrence: You just have to love that photo bomb attempt against Taylor Swift.

Red and blue: from Nike trainers, to Burberry jumpers and Topshop leather skirts, this is a sizzling colour combo

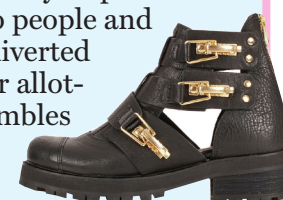


Rachel Thompson tells us what's hot and what's not in the world of campus fashion



The moods of people on juice diets: take a break, have a Kit Kat.

The condition of your cut out boots: The cycle path closure has led to people and bikes alike being diverted through Low Moor allotments, which resembles a swamp more than a path.



Wet faux fur: Everyone has jumped on the fur coat, gilet and snood bandwagon. But this look is no match for the British winter weather; after record breaking rain and floods, our fluff now resembles a wet dog slung over the shoulder. Nice.

Not

Ethics in Action



Delicate hand-made jewellery, uniquely crafted designs and stand-out branding... Ethics is a budding brand originating in York and set to take off.

*Fashion Editor & Visual director- Rachel Thompson
Creative concept - Holly Dale
Models - Thomas Boynton, Lily Seach, Miaomiao Yu
Photographer - Petroc Taylor*







Lily wears ganesh pendant on chain; £8, Elephant pendant on tan suede; £12, Hamsa choker; £6.50, Dip dye pink & blue paisley print shorts; £25, Cord bracelet; £5, Tommy Hilfiger denim jacket with feather embroidery; £60. Page 15 white blouse with teal paisley print; £25, Elephant & paisley shorts; £27.50.

Miaomia wears Dungarees; £22, Beaded moon charm bracelet; £6.50, Single strand turquoise moon bracelet; £3, chokers; £6.50. Page 12 Camouflage jacket with hamsa embroidery; £60, page 14 jacket with elephant detail; £60.

Thomas wears purple shirt with paisley fabric collar; £25, Ganesh pendant with blue glass; £10, Green shirt with corduroy fabric collar; £25. All courtesy of Sarah Gamble, brand Ethics. Location courtesy of Oxfam, York.

MUSIC.

Brotherly love

Alex Donaldson talks to Eoin Loveless, the older half of **Drenge**

As I waited for the call to connect, I had very few preconceptions about what Eoin Loveless, front man and oldest half of latest 'post-grunge' band, Drenge, would be like. Five minutes into their eponymous debut LP, you can tell the best way to describe them is angst, anger, and adrenaline. They mark a move away from the pop-rock of bands like Swim Deep and Peace, into a much darker and altogether more Danish punk sound. With that in mind, when I was greeted with an incredibly laid back, northern drawl, I couldn't help but smile. Especially when it turned out he

too was sat alone in a dingy room talking, except he was in hotel in deepest, darkest Holland, and I was in a freezing student house in York. As an elder brother myself, with a similar age gap, I enquired as to why on earth he would want to go on tour with his sibling, Rory and more crucially, how do they prevent it from descending into complete anarchy when making their music? "I think we've managed to rein it in, just the whole dysfunctional thing. At the end of the day, it is kind of a job. And if your job is to play music every night then you need to make sure you're tight, and you don't fall out over the smallest things, you just have to concentrate a n d

make sure there's no distractions."

To avoid pandemonium, the Drenge brothers "spend a lot of time not really talking to each other, and then whenever we do talk, it's to wind the other person up or just make them laugh as much as possible."

Eoin then offered an insight into the psychology of an upcoming band, "If your whole day is based around a forty-five minute gig, it means that gig has to be really good - for you - so it feels like you've done something with your day."

Even to the extent that "everything is concentrated on making sure the show is worthwhile - for you - not so much the people that are coming to see you, even though that's important. It does become a kind of selfish, self-gratifying thing."

The conversation moved away from the mild disregard for fan enjoyment, towards the history of the duo. "We've always played music with each other, from the age of 4 and 5."

As they got older they would come to pick up guitar and drums, "By 2010 we had enough songs to put together a set list, and we went out and did some shows in Sheffield. We pretty much played every bar that would let us."

Eoin then described how Drenge had experienced the epitome of the record contract dream: "We weren't looking for one, it was one of our last gigs, pretty much, and we were like, ah we'll just wind it up now and then this guy was like 'you guys are really good, you should document what you've done, and I'll pay for you to go to the studio.' It was weird, we just found ourselves with a manager." Having then emerged from the studio armed with four tracks, they began getting online attention in spring last year.

"We never went out to find a label, everything kind of just came our way," which seems the greatest compliment to their music an artist can receive. Since gaining renown over the past year, Drenge have hardly paused to breathe ("I'm rarely home").

Even so, in the last month they've been back in the studio, already working on new material. Eoin pointed out, "Bloodsports is almost four years old, I'm eager to write the next bunch of tracks." He implied that thanks to a change in their lifestyle, moving away from desolate Derbyshire, their new music might take a different direction.

"I'm not really an angry person. At the time it was the perfect outlet to being unemployed and down on my luck. It was the perfect way to write that sort of music, when you feel it, but now it's more like stemming where your song writing influences come from, what mind set you have to be in to write good music."

Although influenced by what Eoin described as "the people of Denmark, and the films that have come out, which are really harsh and angular and critical", and The White Stripes and Nirvana, "that music is really important to the way we started our band".

Eoin recognises that "it's not like now I listen to that music and find inspiration, because it's already been done," preferring Cash Mcall's chilled country nowadays.

As we delved into the comparison be-

tween gigging and recording, Eoin described how, "the studio's something, I've still got to get used to." The never-ending possibilities, having less appeal to Drenge, than live shows which offer, "a really honest representation of the band, whereas you can hide yourself up with studio trickery."

Drenge have managed to maintain the raw, distorted sound of their live shows on their record, mostly thanks to their own tenacity.

"When you make a record, you hand it into the label, and there'll be a long list of things they want changing, and we just try to ignore as much of that as possible." Although he seemed astutely aware of the commercial

"The BBC Sound of 2014 is such an internal, industrial jerk-off"

obligations they have, and owe to their label.

That night Eoin and his brother would be playing their first show of the new year, a showcase of new music alongside the likes of The Strypes, and other 'next-big-things'. Eoin seemed quietly confident in their expeditionary tour into America and Australia which will be happening over the next few months, "it's our first time outside of Europe...we're going to conquer three continents." Last year they toured extensively, supporting Peace.

"It was probably the most fun tour we did last year. It's great paying shows, not having the responsibility of headlining, and the crowds were absolutely mental." More to the point, "It's just good to make some friends, it can be a bit lonely sometimes." Despite being vastly different, musically, from Peace, Eoin clearly understood the current state of guitar music in the country, and the type of people who follow it: "I can understand why fans of Peace would like us." Hipsters.

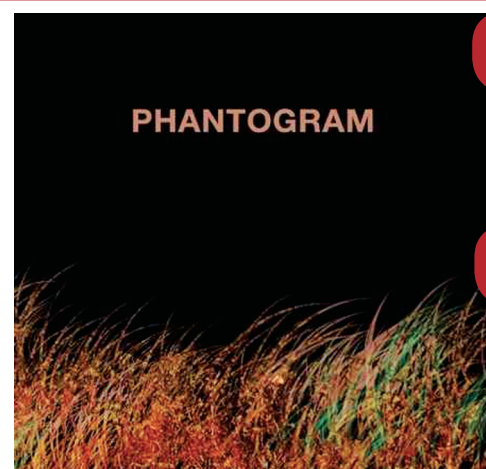
Finally, I probed him about the BBC Sound of 2014, "It's such an internal, industrial jerk-off. Something your label would love you to get, kind of a seal of approval, but it's a bit of a kiss of death." Drenge's brutal poeticism is probably only exhibited better on their closing album track, 'Fuckabout'.

Their album may have been released in August 2013, but it's this year which will see them become the face of UK rock, with a family name like Loveless, they were hardly going to be pop icons were they? **M**



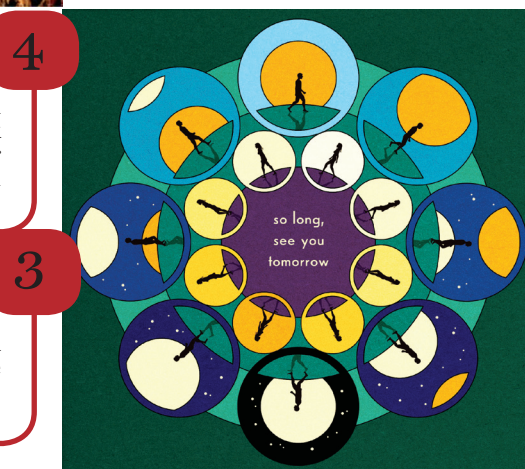
What will 2014 sound like?

Alex Osborne counts down the top albums which will be worth your money in 2014 and Alex Donaldson gives his comment on this year's 'The BBC Sound of' Poll



6 Phantogram: *Voices*
Years after their last release, 'Fall in Love,' combines Barthew's stunning vocals and their standard synth-heavy sound for a grungier, trippy feel.

5 Bombay Bicycle Club: *So Long See You Tomorrow*
Few groups in indie-dom have a repertoire like BBC. With new single 'Carry Me,' their trajectory is unique indeed.



4 Warpaint: *Warpaint*
Ticking all the boxes a girlband should and making Little Mix look like teenyboppers, Warpaint offer powerful riffs with powerful, ethereal vocals to match. Perfect.

3 St. Vincent: *St. Vincent*
Annie Clark's vocals are strange and beautiful. The new record should be a striking change of tone with the addition of an increased self-assertiveness.



2 Metronomy: *Love Letters*
Teaser, 'I'm Aquarius,' certainly piques interest. Combining atmospheric low-fi with floating, electropoppy vocals, this chilled-out sound is bound for success.

1 I Break Horses: *Chiaroscuro*
Words don't really do 'Denial' and 'Faith' justice. Providing trance-inducing, dreamy, assured electro with lashings of synth and great vocals to match. Listen.

If we take the BBC's word for it, 2014 is the year the band died. Haim might well have spent the past year prancing about in leather jackets since they won the Sound of 2013 this time last year, but sadly their 'days are gone'. Album title puns aside, the only band to feature in this year's long list was Royal Blood, who are only there because Arctic Monkeys drummer Matt Helders wore their t-shirt when they headlined Glastonbury. Despite the amount of noise they make there's only two members in RB. The top five shortlisted acts all come under that coma inducing title 'solo artist'.

The fact that the BBC has abandoned all hope for the nation's bands this year is not even the end of it. The main issue is that the list is painfully centred on electorinically produced music. Three of their number has only claimed their spots thanks to being featured artists. Firstly Sampha, who comes in at number 4, is literally the mouth of SBTRKT, his soulfully piecing vocals, so instantly recognisable that it begs the question why he's included in a list amongst new, unestablished, artists.

In contrast we have Ella Eyre - yet another baby raised on the perpetually, lactating bosom of the Brit School - whose impatient shouting on Rudimental's 'Waiting All Night' has landed her with the No.2 spot almost single handedly.

Lastly our Number 1, the artist who shall come to define our year (or the last two months or so more likely), is Sam Smith. Having sold his soul successfully to both Disclosure and Naughty Boy, he's living proof that if enough drunken clubbers know your voice, it doesn't matter how sweaty your quiff is, you can still make it big. Hav-

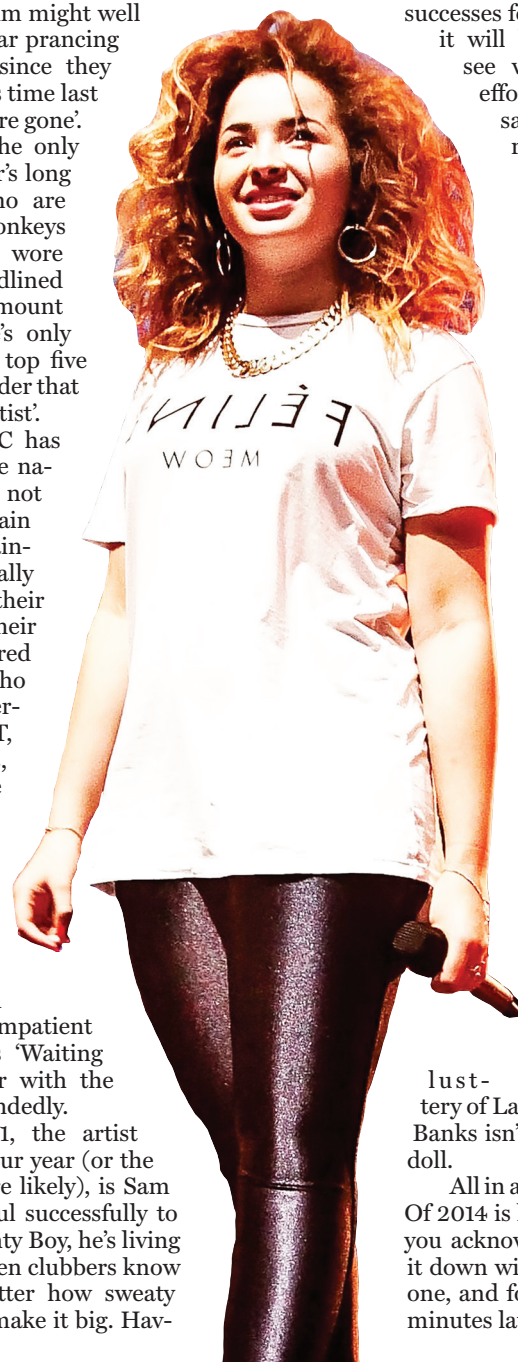
ing already experienced chart successes for his voice alone, it will be interesting to see whether his solo efforts can create the same level of ignorant hysteria.

George Ezra brings up the rear at number five, with his, not-quite-catchy-enough Jake Bugg impression.

However, Banks, with her dark, vulnerable sound, clearly influenced by The Weeknd and Totally Enormous Extinct Dinosaurs, is probably the only person on the list we can get truly excited about. Her debut EP is already out, and should have assured she won the poll, let alone come forth. She has the effortless charm of Lorde, alongside the

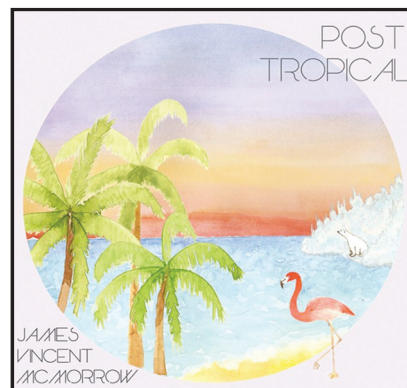
lust-ful, alto, mystery of Lana del Rey, except Banks isn't a melted plastic doll.

All in all The BBC Sound Of 2014 is like a vomit burp: you acknowledge it, swallow it down without telling anyone, and forget about it five minutes later.



Album Review: Post Tropical - James Vincent McMorrow

Kate Mitchell



Post Tropical is a distinct deviation from the folksy, Mumford-esque vibes of *Early in the Morning* have given way to a soft RnB feel that is reminiscent of James Blake, and all that remains to connect the two are his soothing, dulcet tones.

Without discrediting acoustic guitar dominated indie folk, the absence of prominent instruments directs all focus to his stunning falsetto. Lead single 'Cavalier' particular highlights the Irishman's talents. He shows off his impressive range whilst creating a nostalgic picture of a lost love. 'Glacier' is another stand out track, with his voice pouring particularly

gloriously a classic hip hop beat, resulting in a triumph of sublime intensity. 'Gold' is equally uplifting, as it confidently builds up to a highly motivating conclusion.

At points one feels almost within a dream, with the delicately twinkling intro to 'The Lakes' feeling particularly otherworldly. Occasionally it goes too far and the album becomes too chilled-out to fully grasp attention, but on the whole it remains fully-rooted on the right side of the line. Maybe this album won't be the banging beat of every house party, but it'll be a more than adequate soundtrack to my mornings. Lyrically, McMorrow remains just as poet-

ic. He tells of a ringing bell that "chimes through this shimmering shell" in 'Red Dust' and reminds us that his songwriting abilities equal his vocal talents. Equally of note is that he had no other musicians with him to aid him with the recording of this album. Laid down in a remote part of Texas, the ten songs are entirely a work of his own art.

Maybe it's the album's ability to soothe a hangover that's particularly attractive right now, but this album is one that definitely deserves to be paid attention to. In straying from the expected path, James Vincent McMorrow has found his home.

REVERB.

Yannis Philippakis,
Foals frontman and Spotify Fan

"... It's like going to a restaurant when the chef and all the waiting staff have worked their asses off, and you leave coppers as a tip, and you don't even pay the bill."



History unchained

12 Years a Slave

Alfie Packham

★★★★★★

It's been twelve months since *Django Unchained*, the messy western that reshaped US history into a double-barrelled shotgun, loaded it with ignorance, and obtusely blasted the head off any truth about pre-Civil War slavery. That's at least the re-evaluation of Quentin Tarantino's movie that comes of watching *12 Years a Slave*, a momentous historical drama poised between the personal strife of a free man sold to slavery and the untitled stories of a million others. All have been immortalised by Steve McQueen's unflinching lens.

The film's subject hits the screen with urgency and relevance. Chiwetel Ejiofor plays Solomon Northrup, a well-to-do violinist contented with a life familiar to us; he shops, dresses well, and he goes to dinner a respected citizen.

Flashes forward to a sugar cane plantation interpose the idyll, where the polite address of "sir" is replaced by "nigger" and a numbing hypocrisy wafts from the tip of a hat set against the crack of a whip. The N-word meanwhile gnaws long after it leaves an overseer's lips, yet even this is not so profound an insult as Northrup's new slave name "Platt"; a shackle more degrading than any made of iron.

It's safe to say we'll be seeing a lot more of Ejiofor following his big and well-deserved break as Northrup. Every inch of his face becomes an expressive tool, where glistening eyes or a trembling lip will say more than any number of spoken lines could. Ejiofor was initially hesitant about taking the role, and it's obvious that McQueen wanted him for his humble and stoic air; just the leading man to modestly allow glances over his head at the bigger, horrific picture. The balancing act between Northrup's exceptional story and its historical backdrop feels enduringly faithful, even definitive.

The steady pacing of the episodic dozen-year journey provides stage space for an outstanding supporting cast. First are Northrup's owners, each representing a different facet of slavery's evil. Ford (Benedict Cumberbatch) offers a rare friendly face, yet crushingly proves to be little more than an ineffectual coward. To "save" him from murder by mewling overseer

Tibeats (Paul Dano), Northrup is sold on to Edwin Epps, played by a bulging-eyed Michael Fassbender. As the infamous "nigger breaker", Fassbender spits rabid cruelty from a snarling visage of hatred, haunting scenes with his twisted biblical recitals. The justification for his sadism? "That's scripture."

Real revelations are found on the other end of Epps' lashings. Lupita Nyong'o's stunning debut as field slave Patsey is simply taken as reality, a living extension of the authentic production design. Patsey is the girl left behind, consigned not to twelve years, but a lifetime of misery. McQueen may speak the unspeakable through Northrup, but Nyong'o reminds us that most slaves had it inconceivably worse.

Individual achievements owe much to those of the technical departments. Hans Zimmer helms the score, but not even this eminent composer's melodies can muffle the sharply rendered rattling of chains, a creaking noose, or the vocal chorus of "Roll, Jordan, Roll". The rumbling elegy sounds from somewhere deep within Ejiofor, in a spine-chilling eruption of pure soul.

Producer Brad Pitt's late messiah-like appearance as a noble carpenter brings the film's only off-note; after two hours of relentless torture he arrives on set like a Hollywood star on work experience.

Then again, Pitt coats McQueen's bitter pill with a smidge of sugar that an Oscar board would want to swallow.

But we're far away from a gooey final payoff or rousing theme tune. The director's last film was *Shame*, and despite a leap in subject matter from sex addiction to slavery, the end of *12 Years* presents us with just this.

McQueen is resolute in his scrutiny of the atrocities that modern life was founded upon. He opens his film with a misleading claim, that it is "based on a true story" - misleading because it tells hundreds of thousands more. As for Solomon Northrup, his story isn't told, it is raised through the ceiling and declared. Like the welts on Northrup's back, *12 Years a Slave* will leave lingering marks on both the mind and on the future of cinema.



American Hustle

Beth Jakubowski

★★★★★

David O'Russell's latest cinematic offering since the triumphant *Silver Linings Playbook* is a morally ambiguous take on the ABSCAM scandal of the 1960s. Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) is a conman who preys on the overly rich and desperate, and together with the love of his life, Sydney Prosser (wonderfully portrayed by Amy Adams) they embark on a loan scam scheme. But after years of living a lifestyle of luxury and deceit, they are caught by F.B.I agent Richard DiMaso (Bradley Cooper) and forced to take part in an operation to trap the 'corrupt' New Jersey Mayor Carmine Polito (Jeremy Renner) in order to earn their freedom.

Bale's turn as the conflicted and overweight Irving is a triumph and despite his character carrying on a long-term affair and neglecting his chaotic and depressed wife Roselyn (Jennifer Lawrence) he somehow captures the audience's sympathies.

O'Russell is a director who likes to stick with the same actors, and the stars

of *Silver Linings Playbook* are on fine form once again. Cooper has proved that his dramatic turn in *Silver Linings* wasn't a fluke and his take on the slightly mentally unhinged and fixated Agent DiMaso is as concerning as it is amusing. But the real star of this film is Jennifer Lawrence's Roselyn; she provides much of the film's comic relief as she stumbles about in an alcoholic stupor, expertly manipulating her cheating husband and young son.

However, the character driven storyline of *American Hustle* has its flaws and the morally ambiguous ending leaves the audience with a sense of dissatisfaction. While the individual performances stand out, the film itself lacks a sense of achievement towards the end. There is no ultimate pay off for those involved in the hustle, and it ends up falling flat.

While I am in no doubt that the wonderfully conflicted characters that drive *American Hustle* will score it an Oscar nomination, it lacks the emotional punch of other contenders.



Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom

Rosemary Collins

★★★★

Nelson Mandela's death last month unleashed a public tide of mourning for the memory and celebration of the life of the man who endured decades of imprisonment under South Africa's brutal apartheid regime and emerged to lead his country into democracy. *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, a film based on his autobiography of the same name, is under extra scrutiny for being released so soon after his death.

The film shows Mandela's beginnings as a lawyer in Johannesburg, his growing involvement in the anti-apartheid movement, his eventual imprisonment, and the struggle for him, his family and his people to resist the state during his imprisonment. Idris Elba is terrific at conveying these layers of experience, whether it is Mandela's charisma in speaking to a crowd, or his silent near-despair as he takes in the prison cell where he expects to spend the rest of his life. The film also avoids becoming a hagiography by depicting Mandela's troubled first marriage and his support for violence when peaceful protest failed. The film further explores the role of violence in the anti-apartheid struggle through the character of Mande-

la's second wife Winnie (Naomie Harris), who embraces it after being harassed by police while he is in prison.

However, half a century of complex political, social and personal change is impossible to cover fully in a two-hour film, and the plot whisks too quickly from one event to the next. It struggles with the dilemma common to almost all biopics - to be fair to the subject, it is required to give a truthful account of their life, but the need to stick to the facts leads to a lack of emotional depth and creative filmmaking. The cinematography is effective but conventional and there are some very obvious music choices, such as 'Fight the Power' over a news montage of township riots.

However, several wordless sequences are memorably put together. I was particularly struck by two scenes - one showing a protest where an exhilarated Mandela and his comrades board a whites-only train, and another showing the brutal Sharpeville massacre in which 69 people were killed. They embody *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* - it's hard not to enjoy because it tells such a remarkable and inspiring story, but there's nothing particularly interesting about how the film tells it.

2013: A Review

We pick our best films of last year. How many have you seen?

Frozen Michael Brennan

Frozen is a modern classic. A sincere fairytale for the post-cynicism generation. By sidelining the overdone romantics of the genre, it leaves room to explore a rarer story of the estrangement between two sisters, brilliantly reinventing Disney tropes by shifting perspective. Supported by a witty, stirring soundtrack that pivots around the instantly-iconic 'Let it Go', I'd be surprised if there was a single movie in 2013 as simply joyous as *Frozen*.



Django Unchained Francesca Donovan

2013 started with a literal bang in the release of Quentin Tarantino's much-awaited *Django Unchained*. Foxx, DiCaprio and Tarantino veteran Christoph Waltz deliver captivating, believable performances throughout. Not one to shy away from controversy, Tarantino tackles the sensitive narrative subject – slavery in America's deep South – with his usual graphic flair and finesse, culminating in a gripping combination of disturbingly violent displays and heart-

Only God Forgives Christoph Macdowall

Having divided audiences last year, *Only God Forgives* is an extreme film in many ways – extremely violent, extremely stylised, with an extremely quiet Gosling. However, it's also a beautiful, haunting and totally unconventional presentation of violence, redemption and one man's self-imposed hell. Thanks to the strength of Refn as a director and strong performances from the cast, this is a film that will get under your skin and stay there.



Thor: The Dark World Gemma Horton

Alan Taylor's *Thor: The Dark World* may not be the best from the *Avengers* movie selection, but it was still an enjoyable film. Thor managed to catch up with Jane, while her sidekick Darcy provided plenty of laughs and down-to-earth humour. There was hammer-throwing, scientific explanations with plot holes and chaos on Earth: perfect for a superhero film. Chris Hemsworth easily grew into the role of Thor, but it was Tom Hiddleston's Loki which stole the show for me, giving the character layers of emotion, while retaining his sharp wit.



Star Trek: Into Darkness Katy Sandalls

Into Darkness has stunning visuals, a second-to-none cast and a dark but emotive storyline. J.J. Abrams has again managed to create a story which could please Trekkies as well as a larger cinema going audience, while Benedict Cumberbatch's moving portrayal of Kahn proved a satisfying addition to the franchise.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire Anwen Baker

The *Hunger Games: Catching Fire* certainly lives up to the hype generated by the first film. Katniss Everdeen, played by the fantastically talented Jennifer Lawrence, is forced back into the brutal world of the Hunger Games and made to fight for her life once more. With a greater focus on the simmering rebellion at hand, this chapter in the Hunger Games concentrates on the overarching themes of the trilogy. Sharp, rich and hugely compelling, *Catching Fire* is definitely my film of 2013.



Captain Phillips James Lovatt

No director today does tension like Paul Greengrass. His frenetic hand-held camerawork fixes you to your seat and stops your heart. Couple this with compelling performances from Tom Hanks and a debut from Barkhad Abdi, and you have a film that is unquestionably going to flourish at this year's Oscars.



Gravity Niall Whitehead

The premise is simple – a woman is stranded in space. It's cold outside, there's no kind of atmosphere and she's all alone (more or less). It's how it's done that sells it: long, sweeping shots across eternal voids and the Earth's surface, near-constant tension, convincing performances from both of its cast and an atmosphere that flits seamlessly between claustrophobic and agoraphobic like a girl picking an outfit on a club night. It's not a movie I'd get on DVD, but in 3D on a big screen it actually managed to make me feel a bit sick. In a good way.

Prisoners Alfie Packham

The parents of two missing girls hunt for their daughters' kidnapper in one of 2013's overlooked gems. Ethical conundrum, buttock-clenching suspense, a landmark performance from Jake Gyllenhaal, and yet more suspense ensues.



Beat January with vitali-tea

Erin Rodgers



PHOTO CREDIT: GRACE MARSH

The January blues are upon us. As health kick regimes and detoxes of all varieties are forced down our throats on a daily basis, all we want to do is hibernate under the duvet until it's warm enough to leave the house, without fearing hypothermia and an overwhelming sense of depression.

Chin up! For there is one thing that we can turn to in order to help us through this struggle, one thing whose warm embrace never fails to take away those wintry blues and sooth our stresses without costing us a bomb and several hours of penance at the gym: a good old cuppa cha. January is international tea

month, and whether you're a fan of the classic English Breakfast or an advocate of some variation on a super duper, very berry, zingy zen infused concoction, a hot brew has been proven to put you in a cheerier mood. Dr Simon Moore, psychology lecturer at London Metropolitan University, comments on the effects of tactile contact with a hot drink: "it's basic conditioning - warm sensations are nicer than cold sensations and if you feel something nice you transpose it on to something else."

Scientists suggest that tea can help with weight loss, protect against UV rays, keep the body hydrated (despite the caffeine) and, as it's full of antioxidants, can help protect

against numerous diseases, including many cancers.

Many of us looking for a health kick enjoy a cup or two of green or white tea, which have long been used as part of detoxes and diets, owing to their ability to boost the metabolism. However, many medical studies have shown that to feel the real benefits of these teas, we ought to be drinking up to ten cups a day.

As a nation, Britain drinks 60.2 billion cups of tea a year, so hop on board, and put the kettle on, love. For those of us stubbornly refusing to surrender the calories this January, here's a recipe for some delicious cupcakes to accompany your brew of choice ...

Earl Grey cupcakes with lemon buttercream

Ingredients:

- Cakes:**
500ml whole milk
6 Earl Grey teabags
225g butter
400g sugar
4 Eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
375g plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp Salt
- Icing:**
110g butter
500g icing sugar
6 tablespoons Earl Grey infused milk (see technique)
1 tsp lemon extract (or 1 tsp of lemon juice)

Method:

1. Heat the milk in a pan until steaming and bubbles have formed.
2. Then add the teabags, cover with a tightly fitting lid and leave to cool completely. Squeeze the teabags and measure 250ml and 3 tablespoons of the infused milk to use in the cakes, put the rest aside for the icing.
3. Beat together the butter and sugar, then add the eggs one at a time, followed by the vanilla essence.
4. Add the remaining ingredients to the cake mixture, alternating between the remaining dry ingredients and the infused milk, until smooth.
5. Fill 24 cupcake cases 2/3 full with the mixture, and bake in a preheated oven for 20 minutes at 190°C.
6. To make the icing, whisk together all the ingredients until light and fluffy, top or pipe the cupcakes with the icing once they are completely cool. Enjoy!

If you're feeling experimental, why not try swapping the Earl Grey tea with another black tea of your choice, such as a Chai blend, Ceylon or an English Breakfast? See photo for decoration ideas...

PHOTO CREDIT: EMYAN

Raw food anyone?

'Eating raw' is on the rise, but only eating food below 40°C is not to everybody's taste. We asked two York students whether or not they were in favour of this radical diet...

Yes, please!

Amber Harcourt: Eating raw forces us to eat healthier foods, such as fruits, grains and vegetables that naturally contain high levels of enzymes and vitamins. Cooking food often drastically reduces the benefits of these foods. Those who eat raw experience much greater levels of energy and a more uplifting, cheerful state of mind - goodbye mood swings! Better sleep, stronger powers of concentration and a reduction in supermarket costs are among the benefits. Also, just think of the time saved from slaving over a hot oven! Eating raw isn't a diet for the faint hearted, and by no means am I suggesting we all renounce meat, dairy and processed foods for the rest of our lives. Simply put, 'eating raw' is a great way to use as a detox or to partially adopt for a brief period. Practitioners state that eating more raw foods produces visible health benefits, even if you don't follow the rules religiously. So why not try a healthy, natural start to the new year?

No, thanks.

Holly Knight: I struggle to see the negatives of cooking food over 40°C. The raw food diet is based on a misconception that cooking destroys nutrients. Some vitamins are lost through cooking, most notably vitamin C and some B vitamins but there are many other vitamins present in food that, rather than being destroyed, are actually released in the cooking process. Fibres release nutrients through heating food that wouldn't be released in raw food. Cooking vegetables is more beneficial to the body, especially for students who stay out all night and need all the nutrients they can get! For me, a diet consisting of mainly raw foods is not healthy or sustainable for students. This kind of diet entails fewer calories, fewer nutrients and too much reliance on a single food group when students should aim to incorporate as many as possible to try and prevent 'fresher's flu' from becoming a regular occurrence!

Back to my Roots

Reggae Reggae Sauce creator **Levi Roots** shares his success story with Grace Marsh

My life before Dragon's Den was certainly colourful! I grew up in Jamaica and came to the UK when I was 12. I couldn't read or write and had never worn shoes! I was a real country boy and it was a bit of a shock when I arrived in Brixton. I got involved with music as a teenager, after discovering Bob Marley. My music career fizzled out and I found myself working in a plumber's yard. One day I decided I wanted a better life for me and my family and took the sauce business on full time – I was selling it in my spare time and it was a great success.

My grandma is my main influence. I grew up in Jamaica with my grandparents. My parents moved to the UK when I was very small and sent for my older brothers and sisters one by one over the years. Eventually it was just me left and I really treasure the time I had alone with my grandparents. They would sing and cook all day and it really influenced me. They taught me everything I knew about cooking, the fruits and vegetables in the garden and they blended it all with music. It was a lovely childhood.

Notting Hill Carnival was where it all started. I attended the carnival for the music originally and I eventually started making the sauce to go with the BBQ chicken that was cooked there. Everyone has their own special sauce and they are so proud of it! It can get quite competitive! My sauce was always really popular and I made big vats of it at home in my tiny kitchen with my kids. The sauce was inspired by my grandmother. I used the herbs and spices and cooking techniques that she taught me as a small boy. It was a tribute to her really.

My version of British food is always dubbed up Jamaican style! Whether it's taking the classic Fish & Chips and putting my spin on it, maybe adding some pimento (allspice) to the batter, or serving it with lime mayonnaise instead of tartar sauce. And I always eat it with reggae reggae sauce – it's a match made in heaven!

Bob Marley was a good friend. If I saw him again I would have to cook up Jamaica's national dish – Ackee & Salt Fish. We hung out while he was in exile in the UK so he wouldn't have been able to eat a lot of ackee and salt fish. I would have cooked up a taste of home for him.

My new music album in Jamaica isn't a step away from food by any means. My motto is putting music

in your food, so the two go hand in hand. I've been focusing on the food for 6 years now, building the brand to the stage that it's currently at. Now I feel it's time to focus on the music and incorporate that into the brand a bit more.

ASDA's new jerk chicken in a tin is a compliment. It's not a product line that we had ever considered, but before Dragon's Den, there was no jerk chicken in stores, there were no hot sauces on the shelves. Now when you go into a supermarket there are whole aisles dedicated to exotic herbs and spices. I really believe that the Levi Roots brand has had a big hand in creating the demand for new and exciting products from the Caribbean.

Being called 'the face of Caribbean food in the UK' isn't everything. We have opened a Pandora's Box of excitement and intrigue surrounding Caribbean food. There is still so much of the cuisine to share with the UK consumers. We are only 6 years old as a company and have a long way to go. We're on the right track and it's been a fantastic journey so far.

Launching my products in Jamaica was an amazing time for me. Taking my success back to Jamaica really made me realise just what I had achieved. Last month, we launched the range at Devon House, a National Heritage site in Jamaica which is so iconic. There is a range of products now available including sauces, wrap kits and merchandise. The launch was a very proud moment in my life!

It's hugely important for me to give back what I can to the community. I didn't have a role model to aspire to when I was growing up and I think it's so important for young people to have someone to look up to. If I can motivate just one or two young people and help them achieve something fantastic with their lives, then I can die a happy man.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVI ROOTS

Try my Roasted Roots Soup – this is fabulicious for so many reasons! It's cheap to make, it fills you up and it tastes fantastic. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

2 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
2 carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
3 tomatoes, halved
2 red peppers, deseeded
2 red onions, quartered
3 tbsp olive oil
4cm fresh root ginger, peeled and finely chopped
½ tsp smoked paprika
1 tsp ground cumin
400ml can coconut milk
1 bay leaf
Salt and black pepper
Fresh coriander leaves, to garnish
Crusty white bread, to serve



1. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Toss the vegetables in the oil and roast in a roasting tin for 40 minutes, until cooked, stirring halfway through. Remove from the oven and when cool, peel the skin from the peppers and tomatoes. Chop the peppers.
2. Now you have two choices. I like the soup to be chunky so I chop up the roasted roots, put them in a saucepan with the remaining ingredients and 800ml water and stir. Or put the vegetables in a blender or food processor with all the other ingredients except the bay leaf and whizz up to give a smoother soup. Then put this in a pan with 800ml water and the bay leaf and give it a good stir.
3 Season with salt. Bring to the boil, stirring, then reduce the heat to a simmer for 20 minutes to let the flavours settle down together.
4. Serve with a sprinkling of smoked paprika and black pepper on top. Garnish with coriander. Serve with crusty white bread.

Levi's top 5 student essentials

1. **Reggae Reggae Sauce!** It goes with everything!
2. **Pimento (allspice)** – very versatile as it can be used in sweet and savoury dishes.
3. **Sweet potatoes** – so good for you, really colourful, and easy to use.
4. **Scotch bonnet peppers** – they add a fabulicious fruity heat to any dish.
5. **Essential herbs and spices** to bring some Caribbean fun to any dish including garlic, thyme, ginger, black pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon and bay leaves.

Mormon women bare all

Photographer **Katrina Anderson** talks to Georgie Andrews about her new project challenging modesty, Mormonism and the media



ALL PHOTOS CREDIT TO KATRINA ANDERSON

“Your body is beautiful just as it is”. These are the wise words of photographer Katrina Anderson. Based in Salt Lake City, Utah, Katrina is a talented photographer, unabashed feminist and a Mormon. Her latest project is a brave one: Mormon Women Bare. As a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she has grown up surrounded by particular views about modesty and the female body. Her project is a collection of nude photographs of ordinary Mormon women displaying their bodies, imperfections and all, as a stand against the strict rules of Mormonism. With this project she hopes to “protest against the modesty rhetoric of the church and culture”.

Mormons belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Saints (LDS) which was founded in America in the 19th Century and has some 13.5 million members worldwide. Surprisingly, since most Britons seem relatively ignorant on the subject, it has been in the UK since 1837 and has over 190,000 British members. Mormonism is a sect of Christianity and was founded by Joseph Smith who claimed to have been called by God to restore the church that Christ had established on the earth, but which had been lost after the deaths of the original apostles.

Mormons originally encouraged polygamy but rejected this in the late 1800s, attempting to fit better into traditional American society. The strict rules of the church remain, however, with rigid codes relating to diet, work, and family life as

well as modesty and the correct way for women to behave. Recently there has also been controversy and protest over women being prohibited from the priesthood. It seems that the LDS church can be a difficult place for women, as Katrina explains.

Speaking to Katrina, I was blown away by her remarkable insight and enthusiasm. Her project is powerful: celebrating the female body that so many Mormon women feel ashamed of. Her photos are beautiful and tasteful, each portraying a woman embracing and accepting her body.

As a lifelong member of the church, Katrina has experienced firsthand the conflicting pressures Mormon women face to conform. “The stereotypical ‘ideal’ Mormon woman is educated but doesn’t work outside the home. She is fit and at-

tractive. She dresses stylishly but modestly. She is married in the temple and has children. She enjoys being home with her children and making a home. She attends church every week, where she has a calling (an assigned “job” such as teaching Sunday school or playing the piano) and serves without complaint.” Mormon women face vast, and often incompatible, expectations. On her website, Katrina describes how women must: “both attract and protect against male desire”. She also admits to feeling as if she did not own her own body: “as an adult woman it belonged to my husband, to my children, and ultimately, to my God more than it did to me.” The idea of the project is to celebrate the human body and allow women to reclaim their bodies and take control.

Asking Katrina the main purpose of this project, she replied: “as an act of protest. Mormons have gotten away from the true meaning of modesty. I think that modesty standards as they relate to clothing are completely subjective and that dictating one standard for everyone becomes problematic and even harmful.” According to Katrina, for Mormon women there are high expectations to fit certain criteria which have led to great contention. “I had noticed a trend in the last 5 to 10 years of increasingly heightened rhetoric and practice surrounding modesty and it really bothered me. I wanted to do something new and creatively challenging.”

The problems these modesty rules have created are quite shocking. The last few years have seen a number of injustices which gave Katrina her motivation for the project; to challenge this oppression and help women around the world struggling with these issues. “In the spring/summer of 2012, there were several stories, one right after the other, about modesty culture in the LDS church. These ranged from a BYU-Idaho student who couldn’t take a test in ‘skinny jeans’, to young girls being shamed for not wearing sleeves, to the church’s magazine, the Ensign, altering a Carl Bloch painting to make the angels more ‘modest.’”

It is these strict codes of modesty within the church that have caused Katrina to become discontent and frustrated. She spent her whole life in the church yet no longer attends regularly. “I grew up loving the church and being Mormon. I hardly missed a Sunday for the first 28 years of my life. I reached a point a couple years ago where the gender inequalities in the church became too much for me. It became too painful to attend.” However, her love for the church remains and she hopes that she can “be an influence for good”.

Katrina found that there were many other women similarly disillusioned by the church. “I posted in several Mormon Facebook groups describing the project and asked for models. Within a few days, I had about 30 women volunteer. As the project has gotten more attention, more women have volunteered.” Katrina’s hope was to get as much diversity as possible amongst the volunteers, however, she is disappointed by the lack of women of colour and women over fifty who have volunteered. Many have also changed their minds, an understandable decision, considering the intimacy of the project.

When Katrina speaks of her volunteers, she does so with appreciation and pride. She explains how “together, we aim to show that bodies are beautiful, sacred, flawed and powerful, earthly and divine”. The women, Katrina included, appear real, vulnerable and brave; they have participated to give themselves and others confidence – they have shown courage that should be praised.

Katrina also posts her subjects’ stories on her website, alongside their photos. They describe the pressures they have experienced

and their own battles with self-image. Some remain firm believers while others have completely lost their faith; each of them has a unique and empowering story. Between them they have expressed once feeling “fear”, “self-conscious”, “ashamed”, and “imprisoned”. Now, having come to accept themselves and their bodies as their own, they are: “beautiful”, “free” and “powerful”.

“I want to show women as they are - with their scars, stretch marks, tan lines, wrinkles, sagging skin”

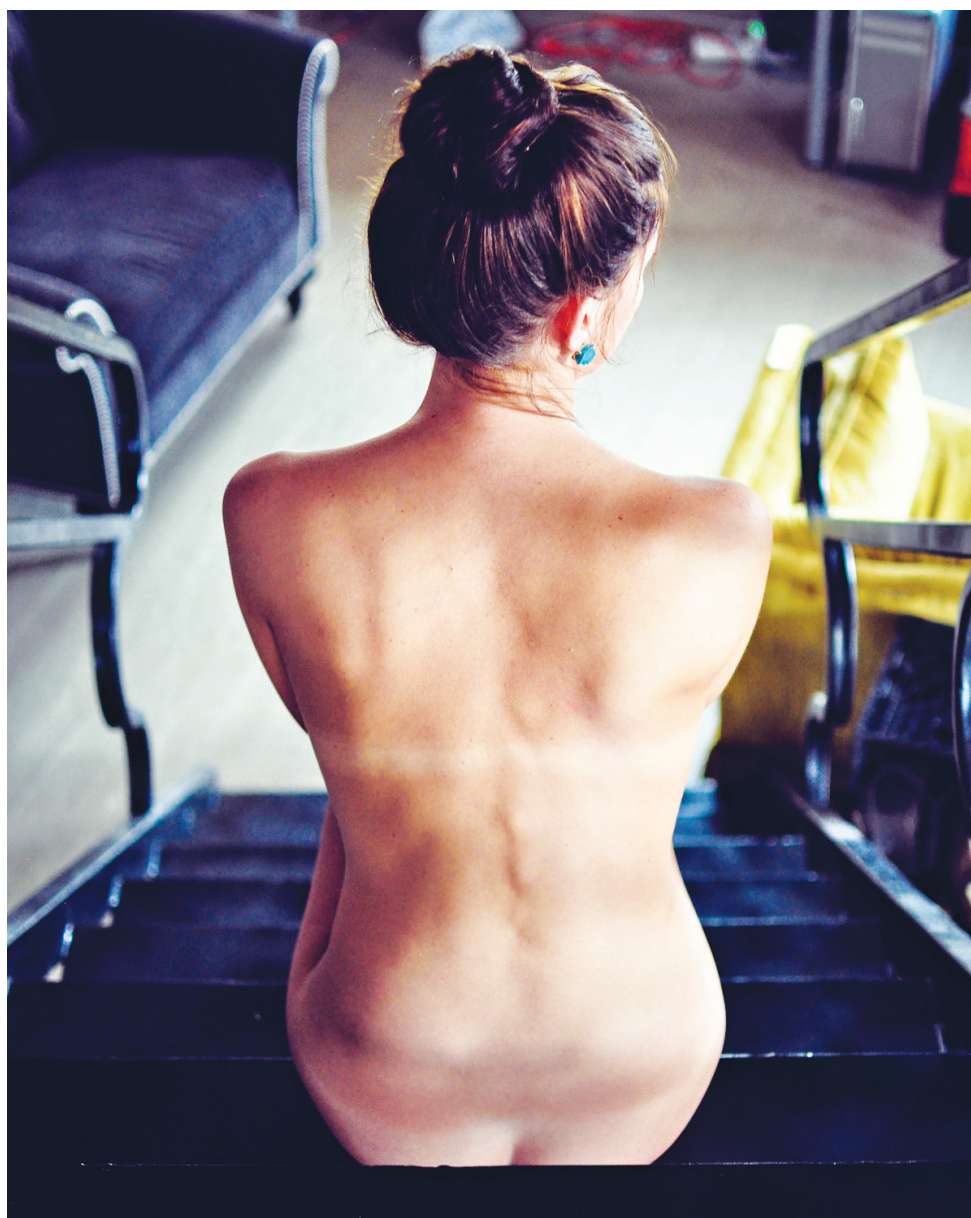
Although the project is primarily about Mormon women, their values and pressures, Katrina’s aim goes deeper. The project is an act against the media and beauty industries, challenging the conventional view of beauty. “In the LDS Church we are taught that our bodies are created in the image of God, and I believe that should be celebrated and honoured. Most media images of women are unrealistic. They are ‘ideal’ bodies that have been airbrushed and photoshopped to appear ‘perfect’. Most women will never look like that and yet we hold ourselves to this unrealistic standard of beauty. I want women to see that most of us do not look like that and yet are still beautiful. I want women to see these images and have more compassion for themselves. I want to show women as they are - with their scars, stretch marks, tan lines, wrinkles, sagging skin, or ‘flawless’ skin as the case may be. I want to show that women’s bodies can be seen nude in a non-sexual way--that we can see a naked body and not objectify and sexualize that body, but just accept it as it is.”

When asked what advice she had for young women struggling with body pressures, Katrina’s words were inspirational. “You are ok. Just as you are now. You are so much more than a body. You are not defined by your dress size or your bra size or whether you fit the ideal touted by fashion magazines. Surround yourself with people who help you realise that. Who love you as you are. Remember no one has the right to shame you or tell you what to do with your body.”

This is not Katrina’s first unusual project. Her main photographic interests are women’s issues, birth and breastfeeding and she is currently working on another project involving photos of women breastfeeding in an attempt to normalise the act and consequently encourage more women to do it. Her work focuses on breaking taboos in a way that others are not willing to.

Considering the nature of the project, there has been overwhelming positivity. Women have thanked Katrina for the reassurance and courage her project has given them. “The vast majority of what people say to me directly, either in person or via email has been positive. In online discussion forums and article comments, people have been less supportive, but I don’t read those”. With over 2.5 million views on the project’s website, Katrina has certainly got people’s attention, for better or worse. Fortunately, Katrina has concentrated on the praise she has received which has encouraged greater ambitions for the project, as she hopes to take it further by turning it into a book and creating live exhibitions. Having seen the power her project has had, I wish her every luck and success with it.

One last piece of wisdom: “Your body is yours. Claim it. Celebrate it.” **M**



My shit week so far

Thomas Fennelly

I've lived my life with the saddening feeling that I'm surrounded by wankers. And that was proved to be otherwise completely accurate by Pornhub earlier this month. Research by one of the world's leading porn sites revealed that my humble home town of Ware (yes, I've heard all the jokes; "Where are you from?" "Ware" "Yes, where?" etc.) watched porn more than any other town in the UK, beating off the surrounding Hertfordshire towns by at least thirty seconds (double entendre fully intended).

On average, the people of Ware spent ten minutes and thirty-seven seconds on a porn site, with around seven different page visits. Champions. I think that it's suffice to say, ladies, that men from Ware just last longer. You know where to find me. Well, probably in a rural commuter town looking at tits, apparently.

Strangely, with this news being the talk of the town, my mum was quick to point the blame at her husband, stating that "the figure would probably half he [my father] left the town". That's something that I'll never be able to un-hear and I have to take that with me to my grave. It's a strange title to be given to a town that isn't known for anything. The only thing the town is known for is its Great Bed, currently residing in the V&A Museum, that could famously hold nearly ten people.

This is very ironic for a town that apparently struggles to fill its own beds with other people. Anyway, I think the wankers of Ware have a lot to thank Google Chrome's "incognito" window for; an invention of such magnitude that can only be likened to the invention of the wheel. Meanwhile, we'll be ignoring the fact that Ware-folk are incredibly lonely and that there is nothing else to do.

I was actually quite concerned about what else I'd put in my column this week as I hoped that my 'alright' start to 2014 would continue. Sadly, God (or whatever deity that decided to smite me this week) had other ideas. From the offset on Monday, I'd already managed to block the toilet. Then, after returning home from a terrible lecture, my luck began to improve as my housemate informed me that he'd managed to unblock the toilet. How he removed the block-



age remains a mystery and he said that it was best for me 'not to ask'. Nevertheless, I went to sit in my beloved desk chair and attempt to fill this column. Two loud cracks and a hysterical housemate later, I was lying on the floor with the sudden realisation that I owed IG Property a new chair as

"The wankers of Ware have a lot to thank Google Chrome's 'incognito' window for"

pieces of shattered furniture and broken dignity lay around my dishevelled figure on my (rather solid) laminate floor. In fact, my head was only inches away from the corner of

the nearest piece of flat pack furniture, which could have made the whole furore the most embarrassing overweight-student-Ikea-related death in history (because there are so many memorable ones of those).

It was, however, a blissful reminder that the chair couldn't take my weight and that 'something should probably be done about it', which is also the laissez-faire thought that I've been running through my head for the past few years. However, a recent story in the Daily Mail (that well-known beacon of middle-class hope) shined a light on the situation that made me feel like the luckiest chubby student alive (just).

A former student recently admitted that the fat around her neck became so severe that it closed off her wind pipe whenever she lied down. She almost became the first person in history to have "cause of death: strangled by own fat" written on her death certificate. So maybe my little chair episode was the plastic-bending epiphany that I've been waiting for.

Also, if anyone wants any wheels for a desk chair, I've got a few lying spare...





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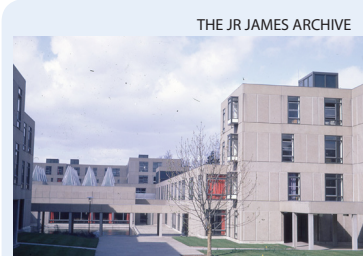


www.nouse.co.uk/politics

STUDENT HACK

Taylor calls for 'bolder' NUS following President's re-election this year

Josiah Mortimer
POLITICAL REPORTER



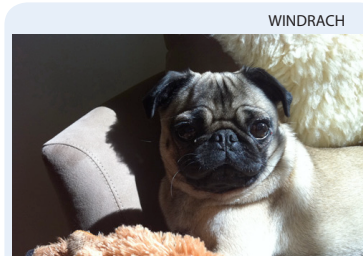
THE JR JAMES ARCHIVE

The University of York has been ranked 8th cheapest university in England by Ukash, making it the cheapest top university in the North. The survey took into account not only tuition fees but gym membership, rent, insurance, food and alcohol.



UK PARLIAMENT

The House of Lords has set up a committee to investigate whether the government's new immigration policy is deterring international students from applying to UK universities. This comes after fears that the UK would miss out on top students.



WINDRACH

Glasgow Caledonian University hosted a 'Hug a Pug' day last week. This meant bringing in Hank the Pug to help students cope with exam stress. The University of Leicester even went one step further and ordered in a whole petting zoo to soothe their students.

Kallum Taylor has called for the NUS to be 'much bolder', while giving a hesitant backing to incumbent NUS President Toni Pearce's re-election campaign.

Pearce told *Nouse* that her plan to run for re-election was "probably the worst kept secret in the student movement". She said she was "keen that elections don't take over all work, which is a real problem in the NUS."

Kallum Taylor discussed the upcoming April NUS conference, which will see representatives from over 600 Further and Higher Education campuses come together to decide who will lead the union over the next year, with us.

Student unions and candidates across the country are already preparing for the national Liverpool gathering, with five presidential candidates having already thrown their hats in the ring. As it stands, there are two left-wing candidates, Aaron Kiely and Daniel Lemberger-Cooper, UKIP candidate Jack Duffin, joke runner 'Beyoncé Knowles' and incumbent Toni Pearce vying for the leadership.

Taylor told *Nouse* it has been a "tough year for the NUS", referring to the sparsely-attended 'Educate, Employ, Empower' protest in London in 2013. He said that while he didn't expect any big 'wins' this year, he thought Pearce had done well



NOUSE

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, has called for change within the NUS to start winning key debates for FE

"rebuilding the NUS' credibility in the eyes of individual Students' Unions", adding: "We're in a good place to move forward and start winning the key debates and battles for FE and HE students, notably the funding mess which we're now in regarding fees and lower-income student support."

Taylor said that while "noth-

ing has gone wrong this year, [that] won't be enough to get through next year. The political journey looks a hell of a lot steeper than last year, [meaning] students, Students' Unions and the NUS will have to be credible, yes, but also much bolder. I hope Toni presents a manifesto that presents this approach."

He also challenged the NUS'

political allegiances: "Labour's current dilly-dallying shouldn't be given leniency simply because the current set up is an absolute train wreck."

Referring to Pearce, Taylor said "People underestimate her at their peril - and she should use this to her advantage with a powerhouse manifesto to take us into 2015."

Balls and Clegg: Tweet nothings?

David Scullion
POLITICAL REPORTER

Ed Balls. The tweeting of those two small words by Nick Clegg this month has widely been seen as rapprochement between the two parties. Ed Balls, always the sticking point for Lib Dem ministers when considering coalition, has made encouraging noises towards the Lib Dem leader: "I agree with Nick," he tweeted back. But as the election draws near, could a Lib-Lab coalition become a reality?

At a glance, it seems that it could. The two parties are ideologically similar, and Alastair Campbell, now working on Labour's 2015 campaign, has admitted a coalition with the Lib Dems will probably happen. So what's preventing this seemingly natural partnership?

Well, for one, the rhetoric certainly isn't helping. Deputy Labour leader Harriet Harman constantly attacks Clegg as a Tory, and last month Clegg told Labour that neither the Lib Dems nor the Conserv-



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Could encouraging tweets show Labour and the Lib Dems getting on?

atives would have "broken the British economy in the first place".

In presenting a united government, Clegg has barely distinguished his party as different from the Conservatives. The parliamen-

tary system will not help Lib-Lab's prospects either.

Even if Labour managed to secure the most votes, the Conservatives could still get the first chance to form a government in 2015. This

will leave the Lib Dems in a tricky situation.

Do they drive back to their ministerial offices and once more take up the mantle of government, or do they opt for agonising negotiations with still-smarting Labour ministers?

It's a tough call. There are plenty of Lib Dem ministers who would much prefer to join Labour, but it's hard to see how they might move from one party to the other without some major ramifications, including the resignation of Nick Clegg.

The Lib Dem leader has to walk a fine line until the next election. If he publicly attacks his coalition partners he will look unscrupulous, ready to say anything to maintain power.

Poll ratings for Labour have declined as the economic recovery has continued. If that trend continues, Clegg and Cameron will soon be back in the rose garden of Downing Street, whispering sweet nothings as the cameras look on.

Demonstration in favour of ETA prisoners

Sergio Marin Zapata
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The Basque Country has suffered a lot throughout the last decades. Euskadi ta Askatasuna (Basque Country and Freedom) is a well-known terrorist organisation who originally fought for Basque freedom in a Francoism context and carried on committing attacks until recently.

After having broken as many as four ceasefires it announced a fifth one in 2010 and made it definitive in 2011.

They have already manifested their will to disband and dissolve. Having created an atmosphere of terror, hatred and rage, attitudes towards ETA have not been particularly friendly.

To avoid new recruitments and the creation of new terrorist cells in prisons, imprisoned ETA members were dispersed to different prisons throughout all of Spain and France. They are usually kept in separate wings to common prisoners and treated worse.

Spain received with outrage the annulment of the Parot doctrine by the ECHR, which saw many ex-ETA members put in the streets long before their sentences were fully served.

Nevertheless, and perhaps trying to keep in line with the group's recent conciliatory tones, the 63 prisoners met in the Basque town of Durango to state their support for Basque self-determination.

They also emphasised their commitment to peace, as well as

demanding the right of imprisoned ex-etarras (members of ETA) to reintegrate into society. It is the view of many that Basque prisoners should be in Basque prisons, rather than scattered around in prisons hundreds of miles away from their homeland.

This is why the organisation Tantz Tanta called for a demonstration in Bilbao to ask for the return of Basque prisoners to Euskadi.

They called it 'the sea of Bilbao' after their motto 'Tantz tanta itsasoa gara' ('Drop by drop we are the sea'). This was followed by a ruling made by Spain's National Court

“ETA has created an atmosphere of terror, hatred and rage”

Justice Velasco, in which he disallowed it.

Trying to be conciliatory once again, the organisation cancelled all events for the day, saying it did not wish to be political and express their satisfaction in the achievement of their aims for the campaign.

The nationalist parties called for a silence in response to being forbidden to express their opinion. Over 100,000 marched through Bilbao with hardly any police presence and no incidents at all, bearing



Over 100,000 people marched through Bilbao carrying slogans such as "Human rights, agreement, peace"

ing slogans such as 'Euskal presoak etxera' ('Basque prisoners to [their] home[land]') and 'Giza eskubideak, konponbidea, bakea' ('Human rights, agreement, peace'), as well as drawings of drops, alluding to the organisation Tantz Tanta.

No representatives of the government attended the march even though their party, the Basque Na-

tionalist Party (EAJ-PNV), was among the organisers. No ban was defied: while there were some shouts within the demonstration, it was a silent march in which no manifesto or communiqués were read, as has been the norm in similar demonstrations.

It seems that even the radical factions of the abertzale movement

are committed to peace and agreement (presumably with the Spanish government). There is hope for the Basque region yet.

However, whether the Spanish government will be willing to sit down and discuss the 'repatriation' of ex-ETA members in Spanish jails to Basque prisons is a different matter altogether.

Sisi for President: what would it mean?

Adela Alexandra Iacobov
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The referendum on the long-debated Egyptian draft constitution took place on January 14-15, and army chief Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, the general who ousted Mohamed Morsi after mass protests last July, declared that he will consider a strong yes vote in the constitutional referendum as a mandate to run for office.

All the evidence seemed to point to such an outcome, as the entire country seemed to be adorned with campaign posters supporting the yes vote. Funded by aid from rich Gulf States, teams have been sent to clean all the post-revolutionary signs in the capital in order to paint the picture of progress and stability, of things finally going on the right track. Over the country, people have shown their support through posters and banners, all encouraging the positive vote for the draft constitution.

However, taking into consideration that some were arrested for posting messages against the vote and that even foreign media teams hired to portray the progress of Egypt towards stability were arrested, it is difficult to say where the true reasons for the support lay.



Al-Sisi has declared that he will consider a strong yes vote in the referendum as a mandate to run for office

The fact that many supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was recently declared a terrorist organisation, have been arrested or killed, does not help prove the legitimacy

of the regime.

The inaccuracy and lack of reliable polls makes it difficult to estimate the outcome of a presidential election. A Zogby poll showed that

Sisi and Morsi had almost even support, despite the fact that 71 percent of people supported the army. The intentional ambiguity surrounding Sisi's candidature has also made it

difficult for others to plan a campaign and not many are willing to run against him at this moment in time.

He is expected to win from the first round, and many consider him the only person able to unite Egyptians through a difficult period. Surely, censorship and denial of the freedom of speech is not a brilliant start, and it does raise red flags on what a military regime could entail. As the tension and imminent conflict in the area is not likely to be extinguished anytime soon, a firm hand is necessary to maintain peace.

In fact, after the turmoil and instability following Mubarak's overthrowing, a strong leader might be exactly what Egypt needs in its current political and economic context, and Sisi has the public support for overthrowing Morsi. As he says himself: "If I run for the presidency it must be by the request of the people and with a mandate from my army. When Egyptians say something, we obey and I will never turn my back on Egypt."

The request or support of the people cannot accurately be measured in this situation, but the effects of army chief Abdel Fatah al-Sisi's regime will be seen on Egypt's route towards stability.

Politics

The future of UK energy is unclear

Gemma Horton
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Last week, the government announced that those councils who choose to back fracking in their area would receive all of the business tax revenue generated, instead of the usual 50 per cent. The decision came soon after French oil giant Total announced that an investment of up to £30m in two gas exploration projects in Lincolnshire.

Fracking is a controversial method to extract shale gas from rocks using extremely high pressures. The technique was developed in Texas in the 1990s, but in recent

“Fracking could become a major source of low carbon energy production for the UK”

years, new technologies have made the extraction easier. North America already uses the technique commercially, and David Cameron has said that its use in the UK could be highly beneficial to the energy market.

While fracking could become a major source of low carbon energy production for the UK, it has been argued by pressure groups like Greenpeace that the method is dangerous, and leaves scars on the landscape. Rural communities have also expressed concern that it could cause environmental issues such as the destruction of wildlife habitats, noise and carbon pollution from the large machinery involved, as well as an increased risk of seismic activity and earth tremors. Over recent years, an increase in tremors has been recorded in Texas, where the technique was pioneered.

While on a visit to one of the sites in Lincolnshire, Mr Cameron said that the tax incentives could raise £2-3m a year for those councils that “get on board”, add-



Fracking could be the answer to the UK's rising energy costs even potentially leading to self-sufficiency

ing that any given well could raise up to £10m of revenue for the surrounding local communities over its lifetime. He also predicted that the shale gas industry could support up to 74,000 jobs, as well as providing cheaper energy for the future.

But is this simply a tactic to buy the support of councils? Greenpeace certainly seems to think so, branding the tax incentives as bribery. It certainly seems as though it is an attempt on the part of the government to buy support. And Cameron can't expect the environmental concerns of campaigners to be forgotten just because of the financial benefits.

And there are concerns that are perhaps more pressing than the destruction of the rural landscape. Fears have been voiced about the potential contamination of the millions of gallons of water involved in fracking, and the potential impact on the health of local communities.

France, Bulgaria and multiple regions around the U.S. have already put a stop to fracking amid growing public opposition.

So the question has to be: Does the economic benefit outweigh the environmental impacts?

Fracking is expected to allow the U.S. to become energy self-sufficient before long, becoming a net energy exporter by 2020.

Commenting on the economic

“But what happens when all our sources of shale gas have been exhausted?”

impact fracking is already having, Cameron said: “This change is doing so much good and bringing so much benefit. I want us to benefit

from it here as well”

Economically, the UK might become more prosperous long-term, and certainly stands to benefit from a greater level of self-sufficiency, which would bring better energy security, and could help ease the dramatic rise in energy prices the UK has experienced throughout the last decade. In the current economic climate, amid the ever-increasing cost of living, this can only be considered a good thing.

But what happens when all our sources of shale gas have been exhausted? Should we concentrate on wind, solar or tidal energy instead?

With suitable safety and sustainability precautions, fracking could well deliver huge and prolonged benefits to the UK economy. But it is of vital importance that Mr Cameron does not simply focus on the economic benefit, and that he amply takes into account the possible ramifications of ignoring the

@Number10gov
David Cameron
UK Prime Minister

Israel has today lost an important leader. #Sharon

11 Jan

@davidschneider
David Schneider,
Actor and Writer

Tories unimpressed by Labour plan for new banks as they've already created 500 new banks themselves. Yes they're all food banks but still...

17 Jan

@RebeccaKCooney
Rebecca Cooney,
Journalist

Putin tells gays to “leave children in peace”. Maybe in return he should stop wrestling bears. They find it vaguely erotic & very confusing.

17 Jan

@GuidoFawkes
Guido Fawkes,
Author of
Order-Order blog

90% of the top dole claiming constituencies represented by the Labour Party. Time to change their name?

15 Jan

@WajahatAli
Wajahat Ali,
Writer and
Al Jazeera Host

“Hey, at least we're better than China, eh?”
- #NSAspeech

17 Jan

UNIVERSITY of York

University of York study needs YOUR stories

We are inviting women who have experienced a termination of pregnancy to take part in a research interview.

The study will help gain an understanding of the issues important to women.

Interviews are strictly confidential and women will not be identified.

Women can choose to be interviewed by phone or by meeting the researcher in person.

Can you help?

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the women who have already taken part in the research.

The project is still looking for women who have experienced a termination in the second trimester of pregnancy (about 12 weeks onwards), to take part in the research. Very little is known about these women's experiences and it is important that they are included in the study.

Anybody aged 18 or over, who has had a termination in England, can take part.

For further details, please visit the study website
www.york.ac.uk/satsu/timing-termination

Alternatively, you can contact the researcher directly by emailing Sian at sian.beynon-jones@york.ac.uk or phoning on 01904 323064.

Many thanks.

Ariel Sharon: Mensch or Murderer?

Ahmad Aboushagor assess how history should judge Ariel Sharon evaluating two opposing views

JIM WALLACE (SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE)

The name Ariel Sharon typically evokes one of two reactions, depending on the audience: utter revulsion or devoted adoration. The spectres of the Sabra and Shatila massacres, as well as the policies enacted against the Palestinian people throughout his reign, hang heavy over his image in the eyes of his Arab neighbours.

In contrast, the years he devoted to the service of Israel, beginning as an idealistic youth militant and rising to the premiership of his nation, glow in the eyes of many Israelis. Ultimately, if he were to be judged according to his principles, it would be at least fair to say that he held steadfastly to them, as well as his belief in the right of the Jewish state of Israel to exist and protect itself, throughout his career. But who was Ariel Sharon? And how should history judge him?

“Tell the international community that this is not a democracy”

Sharon embodied the Israeli expansionist creed to the core, fighting in every one of the five wars the nation fought in the decades after its inception in 1948. Once he had taken up the office of defence minister, a natural extension of this was the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, aimed at expelling the Palestinian Liberation Organisation

(PLO) from the country.

But shortly after the PLO withdrew from Lebanon, Lebanese Christian militia were sent into the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila, on the strength of claims by military intelligence that the camps contained a large concentration of Palestinian militia. As many as 3,500 civilians died in the massacre that ensued. Sharon maintained that he had no prior knowledge of the massacre, but was later forced to resign his position.

Later on, his own people poured scorn on him when he sought to create a legacy of peace, embarking on a course of unilateral withdrawal and eventual disengagement from Gaza, dispelling many hard-line settlers along the way.

But there was also the Sharon of Unit 101, the secret special forces group designed to carry out extra-judicial attacks on enemy targets in the West Bank. The unit became notorious for its involvement in the Qibya raid of 1953, a massacre which drove the U.S. State Department to affirm publicly that previous violations of the 1949 Armistice Agreement had led it to suspend economic aid to Israel.

He became known as “The Butcher” to the Palestinians who suffered at the hands of groups bankrolled by his department, and was a driving force behind the continuation of Israeli settlement expansion. He was part of an Israeli government that continually defied international condemnation of the dispossession of the Palestinians of their land, most notably with a refusal to return to the borders that



Ariel Sharon has become known as “The Butcher” to the Palestinians who suffered indirectly from his department

existed before the Six Day War in 1967, let alone those drawn up in 1948.

His tactics with regards to the building of settlement walls, and the withdrawal from Gaza, could be considered calculated moves, designed to further entrench Israeli land grabs that have perpetuated

instability and turmoil in the region. As such, his commitment to peace could be questioned.

A mensch is defined in Yiddish as an individual of “integrity and honour”. As a soldier of Israel, Sharon is well deserving of such accolades, and will no doubt be remembered by the Israeli people for his

commitment to the Jewish state. The world surrounding him outside Israel, however, paid a heavy price for his gaining that integrity and honour, and there are none who bore the cost so much as the Palestinian peoples, still without a peaceful state of their own in which to live.

Trojan horse or a golden opportunity?

THE LAST WORD
Yvonne Efstathiou



So here we go: a country with multiple problems is at the fore of the European Union news, only this time for a different reason. On New Year's Day, Greece was handed the presidential baton for the EU.

During the six months that Greece will be in office, it aims at tackling youth unemployment, increasing the availability of credit to small and medium-sized businesses, promoting social cohesion, economic governance in the Eurozone, protecting joint borders and trying to prevent a repeat of the recent financial crisis.

Indeed Greece takes over at a critical moment. There is major internal opposition to the EU, with people questioning its ability to pursue an effective economic policy that will facilitate recovery, prosperity and employment. “The Eu-

ropean Union is the main mechanism for the imposition of austerity and extreme measures against the working majority in most European countries. The European Union is responsible for the acute humanitarian and social crisis in Greece”. In these few, yet eminent words, an anti-EU protestor epitomises a view that is shared by a great number of Greeks.

Greece since 2010, when it first signed its bail-out program has experienced 57.9% youth unemployment, 27.8% official unemployment, a rise in homeless people, numerous cuts in benefits and

“A Spartan presidency with Athenian values”

increases in taxes. It has even come close to selling its islands.

As Antonis Samaras, Greece's Prime Minister, Antonis Samaras mentioned at the European



Prime Minister Antonis Samaras set Greek priorities for its time in office

Parliament, “many things have been said in this room- positive and negative- about this period”.

However, during its time in office, Greece has called to chair hundreds of formal and informal meetings, provided a lead for negotiations and hosted thirteen ministerial councils.

Above all though, it has to fulfil its aims for its European counter-

parts and its people.

One could say that this is a great chance for Greece to prove what it can do and even re-negotiate its deal on its advantage. But is this really an option?

Despite the fact that it has been argued that the Greek Presidency will isolate the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, this claim seems groundless ... Greece

has signed its bailout program and is bound to swallow the ‘medicine’. Even though Greek politicians denounce the measures before every vote, they are always passed and, as such, more and more reforms are imposed as dictats.

It is up to the rest of Europe to chance mentality and decide to alter the program.

As Evángelos Venizelos, deputy Prime Minister and Head of PASOK socialist party, has promised the EU Presidency will consist of hard work and austerity: ‘A Spartan presidency with Athenian values’.

Therefore, the EU Presidency does not really allow much optimism from Greece's part and it is not actually an opportunity.

However, it could be a chance for Greece to show what it stands for and make her voice heard regarding the problems the South is dealing with.

Let's hope that despite the crucial moments that the European Union is facing, it will achieve its goals and prove all the stereotypes wrong.

Business



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Business In Brief

Coinye West

A virtual currency named after Kanye West has disappeared after legal action. The founders of Coinye were issued with a cease and desist demand from the rapper.



Banking Fines

JP Morgan has been fined a further \$2 billion for its role in the Madoff Ponzi scheme, taking total fines for the year to \$22.2bn.

Trade in China

China's total trade grew by 7.6 per cent to \$4.16tn, compared to the USA's \$3.5tn in the first 11 months of 2013.



Interest rates held

Interest rates have kept at 0.5 per cent, for the 58th consecutive month. Inflation fell to the government's target of 2 per cent.

Retail results

Retail sales rose 5.1 per cent on December 2012 and 3 per cent on November 2013. However, high street footfall was down as shoppers move online.

The real cost of housing

Deputy Editor **Edward Rollett** examines the state of housing in York and asks if a student letting agency is needed.

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



The New Year heralds the start of the housing season. Freshers who have known each other for three months will now commit themselves to a further 18 months of blissful co-habitation. Just what is housing like in York though, and can YUSU actually achieve anything of note with its proposed lettings agency?

A recent survey for accommodationforstudents.com found that the average UK student rent is now £79.42, forced higher by increasing rents in the South - especially in London where even the cheapest rooms can cost over £100. Rent in the North is cheaper, with Leeds averaging at £74 and Sheffield £69.

It will come as no surprise that York is more expensive than other local institutions, with an average weekly rent of £77.96 for the 476 properties listed on the Adam Bennett and Sinclair property websites, although this is still significantly cheaper than the £87 average in Kent and £90 in Bournemouth.

The availability of private accommodation in York, predictably, has no definitive answer. The university guidance is that there is a good supply in the city, and that students should wait until February to search for a property. On the other hand, letting agencies are known for convincing students that there is a shortage and all the good houses will go quickly.

Student satisfaction for off-campus accommodation does appear to show that the majority of the housing stock is good. Over 90 per cent of York's student housing was

considered to be average or better, with over 70 per cent rated as good or excellent.

After last term's poorly turned-out referenda the lack of debate over the issues has been criticised, with Kallum Taylor, the YUSU President, calling it "embarrassing". Therefore - with 'To Let' boards springing up across the city - it is time to properly consider what YUSU can hope to achieve with its proposal to develop its own lettings agency. The details of how the agency will work are sketchy at the minute but the hopes are it will improve quality and help keep rents low.

The existence of the current University-approved housing list shows that some efforts are being made by the university to do this. However the limited success of this

list indicates that students are not engaging with what the university already offers.

The YUSU Housing Survey reported that, of the 84.7 per cent of students who had heard of the approved list, only 42.6 per cent actually used it. Even then the list often failed to meet the requirements of students, with several commenting that even through using the list their accommodation was poor quality or their landlords were inadequate.

The ability of the agency to compete with the major letting agencies in York could also be called into doubt. If the YUSU agency expects landlords to lower rents and improve standards in order to list with them, it is flawed in their not having an incentive to actually do so, yet without the support of land-

lords the agency will fail. The YUSU report found that students chose their house because they liked the property and that the letting agent used was inconsequential. If YUSU cannot offer an incentive which benefits the landlords they will struggle to attract any properties.

All this suggests that a Union-run lettings agency may have a limited impact. Housing in York is of a high quality and not overly expensive. Taylor's hopes that the situation can be further improved appear optimistic given that currently less than half of all students interact with the help available, and even if more were willing to do so it would require the support of landlords as well.

YUSU needs to ask itself if this project is really worth it.

Marking boycott

Alastair Ellerington
BUSINESS EDITOR

The University and Colleges Union (UCU) is reported to be considering a "marking boycott" if "no breakthrough" is reached following a series of strikes planned for the coming month.

Nouse reported earlier this week that University staff intend to hold three strikes in January and February as part of nationwide protests.

These strikes will cause disruption to seminars and lectures, but a further boycott of marking work could lead students to not receive the grades they need to graduate next term.

Research by THE magazine on Russell Group Universities found that the average wage rise for vice-chancellors was £22,000, representing an 8.1 per cent wage rise. York's annual report for 2013 reveals that, though the rise in the vice-chancellor's salary last year was much less marked - at less than

£5000 - the salary of £231,016 is still not far off the average for the Russell Group universities surveyed of £293,000.

The vice-chancellor of the University of Hull received a total package of £321,000; at Leeds the annual salary rose to £318,000.

Vince Cable has since appealed for "some degree of restraint" with regards to vice-chancellors' salaries, but even this coincides with the UCU appealing to him to overhaul relevant remuneration committees.

All these figures irreparably diminish the ability of vice-chancellors to criticise the protests or justify their wage cap as they now may face justifiable accusations of hypocrisy.

Consequently, the University staff gain grounds for protest, and students will continue to face the cost of it, even if they could rightly argue that they have already paid their fair dues to the cost of wage rises in the otherwise unaccounted for rise in tuition fees.

It seems students are actually paying the full cost of these strikes.



ROGER BLACKWELL

Blue sky thinking for Amazon

Ashley Hibben argues that drones could become common place in the commercial market



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

What's in a name? Drone aircraft, or 'Unmanned Aerial Systems' (UAS) have developed infamous ignominy for their name in their short history, yet in the commercial world a name can mean everything in turning an idea into a business success.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is one of a growing band of investors taking a large gamble that the public perception of drones can be changed over the next five years. The technology that has become infamous as a means for projecting military power could soon be delivering packages to your doorstep within 30 minutes of ordering.

The use of drone technology is not a new development. Anyone who has enjoyed the sweeping panoramas of the action during the recent Ashes Series in Australia or unwrapped a remote-controlled

helicopter that can be flown from a smartphone app for Christmas, will be using technology developed by a growing army of enthusiasts for drone technology. In Germany, doner kebabs are already delivered via the 'Dönercopter', while California has the 'Burrito Bomber'.

Three police forces in the UK already use UAS for surveillance at large events; they were an integral part of security for the 2012 London Olympics. Recent bushfires in Australia's Blue Mountains were mapped using drones, and one journalist used the 'Occuicopter' to provide live coverage inside the camp of Occupy Wall Street in 2011.

Bezos may have pulled off the ultimate publicity stunt with such an early announcement of Amazon's intentions to use drones, but it is likely that within the next decade his vision for the commercial ex-

pansion of the UAS market will be realised. With research firm Teal

“ The [drone] market could be worth £55bn within the next ten years ”

estimating that the market could be worth £55bn within the next ten years.

The commercial use of UAS is currently banned under US and EU law, although it is allowed in Australia. The US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) recently announced the provisional granting of test licences to locations in six states.

On Wednesday the US Senate Committee of Commerce, Science & Transportation reported that the US was being overlapped by other countries as the illegality of commercial drone use is inhibiting the development of a commercial drone sector, despite the six test sites. Regulation designed to bring the US into line with European countries where commercial drone use has been legalised has so far still not got off the ground.

However, the FAA also expressed concern that the already congested airspace of the United States would be rendered unsafe by the widespread use of commercial drones. The potential for accidental damage and injury in crowded residential areas is also considered too great a risk with the technology currently available.

Only time will tell if Jeff Bezos'

vision of commercially viable UAS networks will win out over those concerned with the more sinister potential for greater privacy invasion. Where business and law enforcement see a cheap and efficient way to carry out their tasks, many see a technology associated with an unlimited capability to curtail personal freedoms.

Robotics firm Parrot, an early developer of UAS for private use, offers evidence for how much the technology needs to develop before it becomes commercially viable; a hacker recently demonstrated the use of a commercially available Parrot drone to hijack and hunt other Parrot drones with relative ease.

Despite this, it would take a brave person to bet against Mr Bezos, a man who has already proven his ability to revolutionise the commercial market in so many ways.

Festive profits suggest highstreet change

James Harrison
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Christmas period, a time of year vital to all retail chains in the country, has come and gone once more. It has produced a mixed set of results, with some retail chains emerging as obvious winners, and others forced to announce humiliating defeats. Among the collection of winners includes the high street names of Argos, Dixons, Primark and Thornton's.

Argos, who reported a 3.8 per cent increase in like-for-like sales, benefitted from the demand for iPads and cookery items, as well as growth in mobile commerce and its internet sales, which now represent nearly half of total Argos sales.

Marks and Spencer has the

unwanted distinction of being the most obvious loser over the period, suffering a tenth quarterly drop in clothes and homes sales. While the chain did well on food, its struggling fashion department produced a poor result overall.

The poor performance of M&S comes after Debenhams boss Michael Sharp said that the high street was a "sea of red" in December, with fashion retailers forced to cut prices and run promotions.

Tesco, Morrison's and Sainsbury's are also high profile losers from the Christmas period, squeezed by a shift in shopping habits as customers desert to budget rivals, and away from the large out-of-town supermarkets. It is the second year in a row Tesco has seen festive

takings fall. Less food and drink was bought this Christmas than the year before, industry experts say, with many shoppers forced to tighten their belts.

This Christmas has also highlighted the rapidly expanding gap in success between the online market and the high street, with more and more shoppers buying online.

While many supermarkets struggled this Christmas, the online grocery delivery firm Ocado experienced a massive 21 per cent growth in gross sales in the six weeks to early January.

These trends could highlight things to come. With the expansion of internet shopping and changing consumer habits, our highstreet's future is in the balance.



KEITH LAVERACK



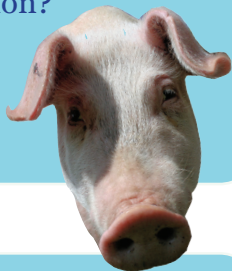
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Science

Lab Notes

January exam stress sees students turn to Modafinil and other such 'study drugs' for an artificial brain boost.

Large scale production of cloned pigs has commenced in China. Could this be the start of a new era for genetic modification?



Human gut microbes such as Salmonella typhimurium can mutate and turn virulent in space. Let's hope our astronauts have some buckets to hand!

Tigerfish have been filmed jumping and snatching swallows from the skies. And you thought the cycle to Aldi took effort...

New animal tracking app 'WildMe' turns Wild Book data into Facebook pages. Keeping up to date with whale, shark and polar bear movements has never been

Cup of black brings it back

Lydia Donaldson
SCIENCE REPORTER

As we return from the lazy Christmassy days of curling up in front of a log fire into the melee of university deadlines, parties and 9ams, it is no wonder we find our-



DOROTHYYU

selves stocking up on Starbucks and boxes of Pro Plus to carry us through. Happily, researchers from the University of California and the Johns Hopkins University have come along to tell

us that this is not necessarily a bad thing, and could in fact help improve long-term memory.

At both universities, caffeine was administered to 160 adults who normally consume only minimal amounts of caffeine. Subjects were asked to perform simple cognitive tests such as image recognition.

These tests were run twice, with the participants taking caffeine hits either before or after completing the tests. Taking the pill after the test showed that caffeine did indeed improve consolidation of memories when shown images again at a later date, as it wasn't present in their bodies during the initial learning process.

Interestingly, taking the pill before the exam had exactly the same effects as afterwards and those administered with the placebo pill showed markedly

reduced recall by comparison, which suggests that caffeine really does have a positive effect on consolidation of newly learned information. This lead Michael Yassa of the UOC to conclude that caffeine must improve long term memory by strengthening consolidation of recent memories. "This doesn't mean people should only drink coffee after they've studied, and not before," says Yassa. "I think you would get the boost regardless."

Both studies were in agreement as to the optimum amount of caffeine needed to help you power through that last-minute revision session: 200mg will give a maximum boost to the grey matter, without the jitters and headaches typical after too many jagerbombs. To give you a rough idea, this is the equivalent of two espressos or a quadruple shot of



YUM9ME

coffee in a latte. Any less than this, though, and the effects aren't nearly as pronounced: "Thus," Daniel Borota of JHU concludes, "we conclude that a dose of at least 200mg is required to observe the enhancing effect of caffeine on consolidation of memory."

Bear in mind that not only do two espressos add up to a hefty £4 at Bison Coffee Shop, but they also increase the risk of heart

problems and disrupted sleeping patterns. Nonetheless, in moderation caffeine is another useful ingredient to add to the arsenal of equipment to help us get through our degrees.

Perhaps once the mechanism of memory consolidation by caffeine is better understood we can manipulate this drug further to our advantage, and no longer need to dread the occasional all-nighter.

The modafinil rush

Sam Wainwright
SCIENCE REPORTER

It has come to light that a greater number of York students than expected are taking cognitive enhancement drugs ("nootropics"), including Modafinil, Ritalin and Adderall.

In the UK, Modafinil is not listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act, is not especially tightly controlled, and is available by prescription. It is legally obtainable from online pharmacies by simply filling out a form. It is a new drug, so we don't know much about its long term effects, but the short term side effects are fairly well documented. Most notably the possibility of development of hypersensitivity reactions and neuropsychiatric disorders. On the other hand, Modafinil has a much lower addictive potential than Ritalin or Adderall.

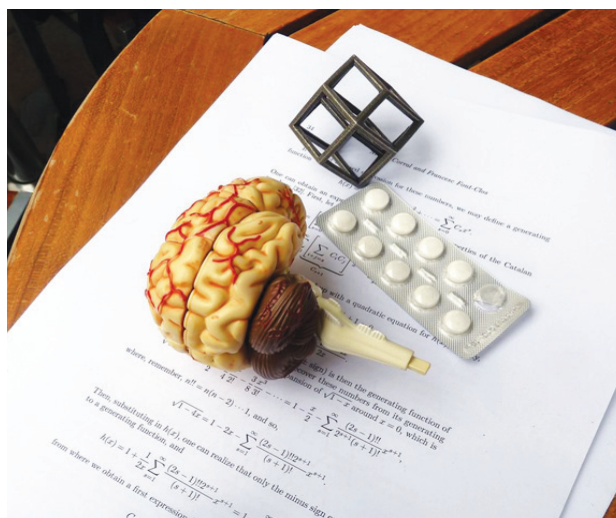
A recent study reported on the ability of a mood-stabilising drug called Valproate to increase brain plasticity in adults. As a brain develops into adulthood it loses its plasticity, which is why babies and children can learn skills quickly and adults find it much harder. The

study found people who took Valproate were significantly better at identifying the pitch of sounds, after 2 weeks of training, compared to those who took a placebo. Valproate can improve the learning of language as opposed to cognitive enhancers which increase concentration.

A fat-burning drug called DNP has been in the news recently, as the families of people who died after taking it are campaigning for it to be classified as class-C, criminalising both possession and supply. DNP was a popular and effective weight-loss drug in the 1930s but was quickly

deemed too toxic for human consumption. In spite of over 60 DNP-related deaths, the product remains on sale illegally over the Internet.

Modafinil and other nootropics, through various different biological pathways, provide your body with what it needs to improve. DNP does the equivalent for weight-loss. At that level, they are no different from protein shakes, inhalers, vitamin supplementation or even food. In an age where drugs are taken to enhance everything from exercise to brain power, be prepared to do so for the rest of your life.



ARENAMONTANOUS

Campus Bird Fact No. 1

Ever glanced up at the geese flying from Hes East to Hes West and wondered why they travel in 'V' formation? Well... it's finally been revealed that these clever birds are actually flying in the optimal position to gain lift from the bird in front.

The Waldrappteam in Australia trained flocks of bald ibises to migrate behind a microlight, allowing them to fit data loggers to the critically endangered species and discover that the birds time their wingbeats to give an aerodynamic advantage.

Blurred Lines: The Science of Sex

Emily Collins explores the mystery surrounding the questions you've always wanted to ask...



CROWCOMBE AL

For most students, watching 1,000 hours of sex over the course of their education might indicate a severe porn addiction. Yet for Virginia Johnson, a student at Washington University in 1965, this is exactly what her training in medical research entailed.

The pioneering gynaecologist Dr William Masters and his assistant – recently depicted in Channel 4's *Masters of Sex* – weren't content with analysing self-reports of past experiences, instead using live footage of everything from self-masturbation to sex between same-gender couples. They tested blood flow and electrical activity in the brain, as well as inventing a camera which could be inserted into the woman's vagina. By the end of the twelve year project they had analysed the sexual arousal patterns of over 694 men and women and outlined how humans achieve sexual orgasms in the 1966 bestseller 'Human Sexual Response'.

Despite their extensive research, Masters and Johnson only gave us a glimpse of 'sexology' and even now, many questions related to sex are unanswered. In 2011, 1 in 4 women in the US were estimated to have had trouble climaxing and between 53 and 65 percent of women are said to have faked orgasms during sexual intercourse. But why is this the case? Are female orgasms really that dissimilar to those of men? And (without sounding like a bore) what is

the point of them anyway?

MRI and PET scans have shown that brain activity in men and women during sexual activity is surprisingly similar. Barry Komisaruk at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, used PET scans to show that over 30 areas of the brain are stimulated during orgasm, including those for memory, reward and pain. Pleasure-promoting dopamine and oxytocin, a hormone which mediates bonding, are released in both men and women.

There are only two key differences between the sexes: 1. the lateral orbitofrontal cortex (which promotes self-evaluation) is switched off in women and 2. the amygdala activity, which controls aggressive instincts,

“ Watching 1,000 hours of sex over the course of their education might indicate a severe porn addiction ”

is slowed down in men.

Move away from the mechanics though and the differences become more obvious. For example, women take approximately 8 to 15 minutes longer to reach climax than men and when they do, it can last up to twenty seconds longer. Unfortunately for men –and

any impatient girlfriends out there – they enter a refractory period post-ejaculation so that, unlike women, they can't experience multiple orgasms. The main difference between orgasms in men and women though, as mentioned earlier, is the ease with which they are achieved.

From an evolutionary perspective it's easy to see why men more readily orgasm. The speed and consistency with which men can ejaculate increases their chances of passing on their genes to the next generation, and the pleasure which accompanies it gives them an incentive to do so. Women, on the other hand, don't need to orgasm in order to pass on their genes and therefore, there is no driving factor for faster and more consistent orgasms. In fact, there is still some confusion about why women orgasm at all.

One explanation is that orgasms help to bond females to a partner and allow them to evaluate mates by revealing who could excite them towards ecstasy. Considering that the regularity of female orgasm increases from 64% to 79% in intercourse with dedicated sexual partners, this is quite feasible. The second theory was that orgasms are purely a by-product of the foetus and that the hooded glands, like male nipples, was under no evolutionary pressure to disappear.

Another mystery sexologists have tackled with over the years is that of the elusive G-spot. First identified by Ernst Grafenberg

in 1950s, this pleasure zone's existence has been a matter of debate ever since. In 2010, a study in the *Journal of Sexual Medicine* took 1800 women, all pairs of identical and non-identical twins, and asked whether they had a G-spot. As they possessed the same genes, both identical twins were expected to give the same answer. When this pattern did not emerge, researchers concluded that there was 'no proof' of such an organ.

This research was marked as 'flawed' by sexologist Beverly Whipple who pointed out that the study excluded experiences of lesbian or bisexual women and failed to consider the effects of having different partners with different love-making techniques. It's more likely though, that any increased chances of orgasm in lesbian couples is due to the integration of clitoral stimulation, something which, in previous studies, has been rated as giving more satisfying orgasms than those given through vaginal stimulation.

More recently, Ostrzenski claimed that he had found the G-spot in the cadaver of an 83-year-old woman. However, other researchers in this area, including Kilchevsky who has dedicated 60 years to the discovery of the G-spot, were quick to fault his findings, reminding us that Ostrzenski 'did no testing on the actual organ, and had no background information on the patient before her death'. It seems then, that the G-spot remains as elusive as ever.



Beavers

Habitat decline has led to human confrontations in which their incredibly strong teeth are being used as weapons. In one case, a man bled to death after a beaver bite severed an artery in his leg.

The Cone Snail

These snails have a hypodermic-like tooth that extends from their mouth and paralyzes their prey, bottom dwelling fish. Some of the larger species stings have been documented as being fatal to humans.

The Slow Loris

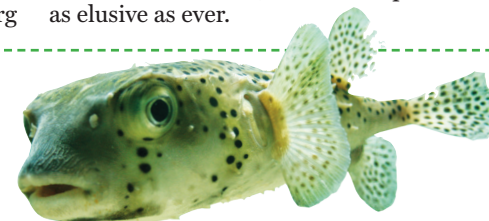
These adorable primates may look cute but they have a secret weapon: a toxin-secreting gland that, when mixed with their saliva, produces a compound that can cause symptoms similar to an allergic reaction.

Cows

Cows may look docile but on average, one person is trampled to death by cows each year in the UK. They stampede when the herd feels threatened, particularly when a calf and its mother are separated.

Puffer Fish

One of the most poisonous vertebrates on the planet. Many of their organs and their skin contain a deadly toxin called tetrodotoxin which can be fatal if humans eat them incorrectly cooked.



5 Animals you didn't know were dangerous

Sport

>> Pages 29-30

Match reports from this weekend's college sport action



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PARK LIFE

Beth Jakubowski
DEPUTY EDITOR

There is nothing worse than when your team loses. Nothing can quite compare with that feeling of disappointed resentment as you glare at the scoreboard in the corner of your TV before promptly changing channel to avoid the post-match dissection of how utterly useless your team was. I will now take you through the five stages of grief that accompany all sports fans when dealing with the decimation of their much beloved team.

Denial. This usually occurs in the final few minutes of the match with your team helplessly in arrears and there is little to no chance of them clawing their way back into the game (except of course if you're a Man United fan, then you've always got the 97th minute of added time despite the fact there were only supposed to be three minutes). So you cling onto the last shreds of hope and steadfastly deny that your team will lose. They will.

“Crying over a game makes you look mental”

Anger. The initial aftermath of the final whistle usually culminates in an aggravated social media rant. If ranting isn't your thing then you're probably the fan who passive aggressively posts ironic and sarcastic tweets that mask the true anguish you are feeling inside. If you're not on social media then it's highly recommended that you remove all breakable objects from arms reach before the start of the match. In advance, you're welcome.

Bargaining. This is a fairly brief phase that is once again played out on social media and usually goes something along the lines of “Let's just beat [insert rival here] next week. They're all cheaters anyway. Innit.” Just so you know, you probably won't beat your local rival. Sorry.

Depression. No one can console you. Your friends and family avoid you at risk of either making you burst into tears or provoking your irrational anger. If you play for the uni, the trek from 22 Acres is a good chance to consolidate your thoughts. Hold in the tears until you're safely in your room, though. Crying over a game makes you look mental. Unless you're John Terry, then it apparently makes you look 'ard.

Acceptance. This usually happens at about 1 o'clock in the morning when you're standing in the queue for Willow and slurring “Who cares? It's just a game!” Well done, you've traversed through the stages of grief and are now a wiser and more regretful person.

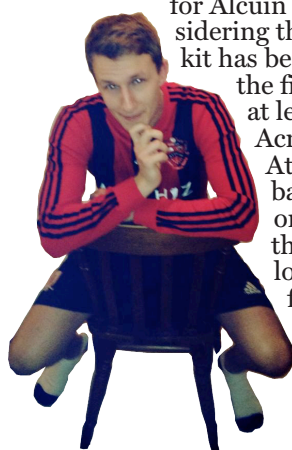
Coppers, kit and crunching tackles

The Nouse Sport Team take a light-hearted look back at last week's sporting action on campus

Good Week

Alcuin's Men's Football

This is probably the best news for Alcuin in quite a while considering their form. Their new kit has been a sensation on the fields of 22 Acres (or at least it would be if 22 Acres wasn't more like Atlantis than a football pitch). Modelled on the Dortmund kit, these boys can now look fly, even if their football does not. Alcuin Big Name Tom Simpson models the new strip.



James and Derwent Netball

It was a good week for both Derwent and James' netball sides, as they got the better of their opponents in the Tent on Sunday afternoon. Derwent breezed past Alcuin 10-4, whilst James won a hard-fought fixture against Halifax, 20-15. Nevertheless, Goodricke remain top of the league on goal difference, so finally Hes East gets some sports bragging rights. Took their time, didn't they?



Men's Lacrosse

It was a good week for the lacrosse men's firsts as they destroyed Sheffield Hallam seconds 35-0 to maintain their perfect start to the season and sit happily at the top of the league. When York were ten goals up inside nine minutes though, there was a danger it'd be a cricket score. Not an England cricket score, obviously.



The Local Constabulary

For the cause of building bridges between students and the local police, a team from the North Yorkshire local constabulary kindly agreed to take on UYAFC firsts in a friendly football match. On a serious note, the match was played in an amiable spirit and was also a good run out for UYAFC before the start of their spring fixtures tomorrow. It wasn't so good for the Dibble though; they lost 9-1, and their only goal came from an unfortunate goalkeeping error. Chins up, fellas; it was a cracking gesture, but obviously there's some defensive work to do.



The Weather

Well, the weather was crap AGAIN this weekend, just for a change. We had planned to bring you news of some college football results, but unfortunately the weather conspired against us and 22 Acres had an identity crisis, deciding to become a swimming pool. Thankfully, college rowing wasn't affected by the rain, but judging by the level of waterlogging on the long lost land of 22 Acres, maybe we should've just stuck some real boats on there.



Josh Spurling

Josh Spurling copped a good'n (pun very much intended) on Saturday, as he went sliding in on a North Yorkshire policeman in the friendly match between UYAFC and the local police force. Ten out of ten for brass neck, but if you're going to take someone out, a copper probably isn't the best chap to pick on. Thankfully, in the spirit of the match, the policeman took it well. Spurlo didn't even get booked, or anything. Just a slapped wrist and a bit of a humbling. Maybe.

Bad Week

The Man From Uruguay

Following the release of his latest book, author **Phil Brennan** talks to Jamie Summers about the life and times of pioneering football manager, **Danny Bergara**

ALL IMAGES: DANNYBERGARA.CO.UK

Foreign managers are commonplace in football nowadays. But long before the likes of José Mourinho and Arsène Wenger were household names, there was one man who first graced the path for others to follow.

Danny Bergara, a man born in South America who played the majority of his football in Spain, moved to England in the 1970s and became a true pioneer of the English game.

Bergara started off as a coach at Luton Town and had spells as manager at various clubs in the North of England. His most successful period was a six-year spell at Stockport County during the mid-1990s, where he quietly worked his magic out of the spotlight and frenzy of the modern media.

His career finished with stints as a scout at Sunderland and Wolves, where he remained until his untimely death at the age of just 65 in 2007.

Very few football fans have ever even heard of Bergara, let alone know anything about him. However, there is more to his story than first meets the eye. I caught up with author and former Stockport press-officer Phil Brennan, whose excellent new book *The Man From Uruguay* chronicles Bergara's remarkable life.

Although it has just been published, the book has been a long time coming. "I first spoke to Danny about writing his story a couple of years after he left Stockport, but it never happened," Phil said. "A few years later I decided to give it another go, but then he died suddenly and I thought that was the opportunity gone. When we spoke, Danny always used to call me Stuart. The local press reporter was called Stuart Brennan, and I never got to find out whether Danny was mixing us up, or whether it was just his wicked sense of humour."

"In the end I got in touch with his wife Jan, and read so many interesting things. I thought I knew about this man but I actually knew nothing except for his time at Stockport, and I knew this story just had to be told."

From humble beginnings, it is obvious that Bergara was always destined for great things. "This lad was born on a ranch in Montevideo, won the Uruguayan second division at age 15 and played at the highest level in Spain for a decade as a prolific striker before injury ended his career. Then he and Jan settled in England," Phil recalls.

"Danny got a job from Harry Haslam, the Luton Town manager, in 1972. He was the first ever foreigner to earn FA coaching badges, and did them alongside the likes of Nobby Styles. At the time, Luton were in what is now the Premier League and Danny was the manager of their very successful youth team, which consistently won the league."

And from hearing about Bergara's earliest days in England, his trend-setting nature is something that comes across strongly. "Dan moved with Haslam to Sheffield United in 1978 out of loyalty, and soon became the first ever foreign national to work with the England team. He coached the under-20s side and travelled to competitions across the world with them for two years."

"So he was doing what Sven Goran-Eriksson did, but 20 years earlier, and he never gets the credit for that. He was then the first non-British man to lead his team out in a cup final at Wembley with Stockport in 1992. Dan was also the first for-



Danny Bergara (right) with Ex-Tottenham manager David Pleat (left) at Luton Town FC in the early 1970s

eigner to work in the game here whose first language wasn't English, but he used it almost as a mother tongue every day. I guess that helps to put into context how hard it must have been for him to break new ground," Phil stresses. "Dan really did set a lot of trends, and he always used to say when he was at Stockport that he was born too soon. He was incredibly proud to have a job in the country that invented football, but felt he maybe was a bit before his time."

As a coach himself, Phil is also under no illusions about the pioneering influence that Bergara had on the game, which remains largely unrecognised. "One of the main things that Danny is responsible for was bringing mini-soccer into English football. I've been a coach for 25 years and mini-soccer was only really introduced properly here about 15 years ago."

"Danny was asking for it to be introduced in the early 1980s, saying we should stop getting kids playing on full-sized pitches. We did it when I was growing up, but it doesn't make it right. He was a real advocate of looking after the youth."

And it's clear that what Bergara started still influences the game years later. "It'd be fair to say that without Dan doing what he did, the likes of Arsène Wenger, José Mourinho and Roberto Martínez would all have struggled to get a foothold in the English game," Phil explains.

"Arsène has been able to buy better players than Dan could, so we'll never know if Dan was a better tactical genius because he didn't work with the same standard of player. But I genuinely don't believe that Arsène would be quoted as the tactical pioneer that he is without Dan opening the door first."

Bergara achieved legendary status at Stockport County in particular; his memory is immortalised in a stand carrying his name and a Uruguayan flag flying at the Hatters' Edgeley Park stadium. But aside from his managerial ability, another aspect which endeared him to supporters was his unique sense of humour, which Phil alludes to.

"My favourite story with Dan was when I interviewed him after a Stockport game. We were losing at half-time but won the game comfortably in the second half, and I commented that he must have given an inspirational half-time team talk. He just looked at me and said 'No. All I said was, the opposi-

tion are the same as you; they've all got two arms, two legs, and one cock.' That was Dan. He wasn't laughing, that was just his grasp of the English language."

However, aside from his sense of humour, Bergara was also an incredibly talented coach who was undoubtedly much-loved within football.

"We spoke to a lot of people whilst writing the book. Because we had so many stories, we had a chapter at the end of people's memories which didn't quite fit in the context of the book but deserved to be in there," Phil explained.

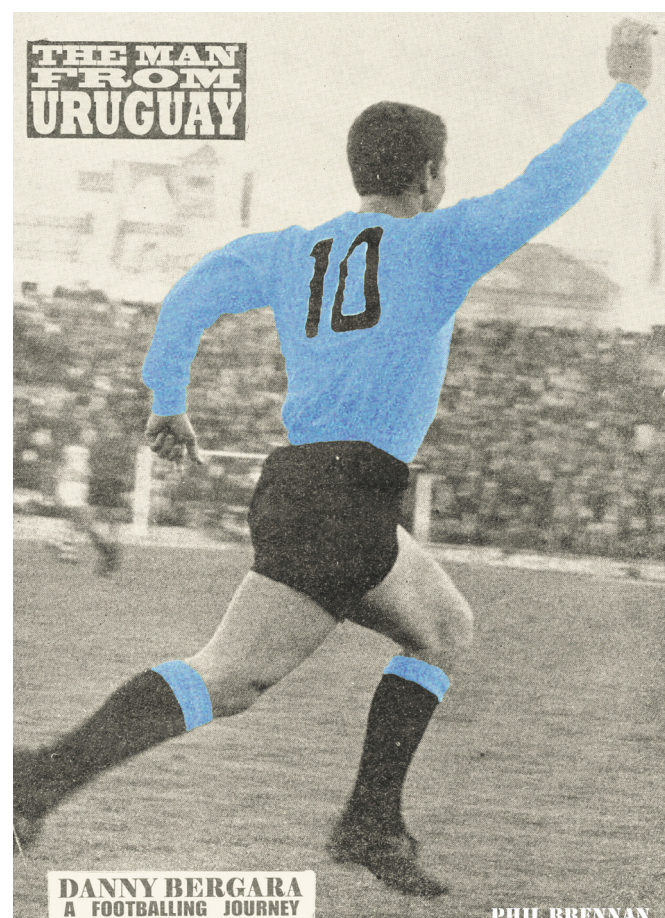
"In my job as press officer at Stockport in the last three years I've been to so many grounds, and there's been so many people with stories to tell about Dan. Mick McCarthy is quoted on the back saying that Dan was possibly the nicest man he's ever worked with in football."

Overall, writing the biography has been a challenge which Phil has relished. "It's been an absolute honour for me, as a Stockport County fan, to write the book. I got the opportunity in the past to write the history of my football club, but to write a story about one of your all time heroes with the help of his family? I don't think I'll ever top it."

The book has so far been a huge success and may in future be translated into Spanish to be sold in Spain and Bergara's native Uruguay.

And with two publications now under his belt, Phil is planning more work for the future. "I've been working on two or three other projects as well. I've got a book that I've been working on for a while which will work for several football clubs. I've also been working on a sitcom which may involve a certain football club. We'll see where things go!"

For now though, one thing is for certain: superbly written, *The Man From Uruguay* tells the story of a truly remarkable football manager and a truly remarkable man.



Waltz On By

DanceSport is one of the lesser known societies on campus, Tom Fennelly speaks to team captain **Andrew Grantham** and President **Chloe Francis** about Strictly, Roses and their ambitions for 2014

Anyone who knows me will know that I am not a dancer. Anyone who knows what I look like will also be able to testify that I don't appear particularly agile and, most certainly, that I am anything but dainty.

Asides from the obligatory jiggle on the revolving dance floor in Popworld, I can honestly say that I haven't danced since the mandatory lessons that I had to take during Key Stage 3.

So you can understand my apprehensions when I was asked to investigate the realm of DanceSport, one of the lesser known (and lesser recognised) physical activities at the University of York.

Despite the word 'sport' being included in the title, I was shocked to discover that DanceSport isn't part of YorkSport and, instead, it is labelled as a society.

"The name DanceSport is the international name for competitive ballroom and Latin America dancing, so that's where the name comes from," explains the society's president, Chloe Francis, "It's not even an amalgamation of dance and sport really".

"It depends what you define as a sport," she adds, and she makes a good point: "As far as this goes, it's hard work, physical hard work, so I would call it a sport. I don't do anything apart from dancing and I'm reasonably fit".

As several pairs of students blissfully float around a music-filled room in an otherwise deserted Physics department, I can definitely see her point.

Although not all of the dance is fast and energetic, each dance certainly requires a huge degree of finesse and balance that stresses and tones the entire body. You are certainly going to burn more calories than you would playing darts.

And, like every other sport, DanceSport is certainly competitive. However, competitions

PETROC TAYLOR



take a different form to what I was expecting, which was having Len Goodman shout numbers between one and ten from the sidelines.

Thankfully, I couldn't have been further from the truth, as team captain Anthony Grantham explains: "What will happen is that in a competition at the beginner level, all the beginners from all universities will dance in a series of heats.

"Say there's 120 beginners; in that heat they'll be about four or five judges wandering around and they'll pick the top 80 to go through to the next round, and this progresses through and through.

So they'll be looking at things like technique, timing, general dance contents; whether you're dancing basics or whether you are doing something fancy".

"How you look on the floor," adds Chloe, "how you're dancing with your partner. Posture's very important".

Anthony continues: "In the earlier rounds, it gets you through. Because there's so many people on the floor, they don't often have time to look at what people are doing with their footwork, where their heel leads or anything like that.

"You've got to catch their eye quickly because the judge is looking for just three seconds sometimes.

Sometimes you'll be really lucky; sometimes your routine will go horrendously badly, but if it's been good for three seconds and the judge has looked at you they could put you through".

Chloe added that there was more to the competitions than just dancing: "It's important to look good when you step onto the floor. People dress up a lot and do their hair and make-up, but posture and the way you stand with your partner is really important for the first few rounds.

This academic year, the team has seen mixed results in the various competitions that the team have to travel, including the national tournament held in Blackpool which is attended by all the university DanceSport teams in the country.

"As a university, we're not in Oxbridge's league," says Anthony. "It depends what competition we go to," ponders Chloe, "in the last couple of competitions, we've had people in semi-finals.

You're talking, actually, to a rock'n'roll champion as of last



LILY GRANT

term," pointing to winning team captain sat next to her.

"Oh yeah," interjects Andrew, as if his fabulous win had somehow slipped his mind. "A lot of the winners are always Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, but then again they've got the funding for it, they can fund teachers for their sessions for many, many hours a week".

So how does the society run at York?

"On Tuesdays we have our generic lessons taught by a professional teacher," Anthony explains, "they're three hours. Then on Saturday morning we have two hours of general practise and then our teacher comes in for two hours".

Socially, there is nothing better than going out with your club or society and going for a dance in the town. But when your society does is dance, how do they spend their nights out? Or do they just show up all of the other of York's drunken revellers with their superior dance?

"When it comes to the socials, you want to be able to dance with anybody," smiles Chloe, "We've cha-cha'd up the Willow steps, which is good fun.

We're quite the fans of Ask Italian and we have our end of term meals there because we just look up and think that this would be a perfect ballroom if they could just move all the tables!

"We're planning some bowling socials for

this term and we have Strictly Come Dancing socials in Alcuin JCR, we just get together eat pizza and watch Strictly.

However, having a room full of dancers watching a celebrity trying to dance can act as another learning curve for the beginners, notes Anthony: "They'll often see things that

they're learning and to them (and to us as well), when you see a professional with a celebrity doing the sets that you know how to do on TV. My parents don't let me watch Strictly with them".

As for the future, DanceSport have a lot to look forward to, including three major competitions this term and the big fixture against Lancaster in Roses during the summer term. There will also be a performance in the summer term at Woodstock.

After losing 3-1 at Roses last year, both Chloe and Anthony are hoping that they can pull off an away upset at this year's competition. Andrew elaborated: "This year we've got a lot of beginners, which is very hopeful, but we've also got a lot of novices. Lancaster haven't been at many competitions so we don't know what their team is like, because last year they had some very good couples. But we'll see. With the beginners, I'm hopeful of not just getting one but maybe two points".

Regardless of what the future holds for the DanceSport team, the society is always open to new people who want to try out dance or, as Chloe notes, "some people just come to

"The judge is looking for just three seconds sometimes, sometimes you'll be really lucky"

Derwent emerge victorious in dramatic college rowing event

Dan Holland reports on an action packed evening of college rowing where reigning champions Derwent took home the trophy once again

HAVING RESOUNDINGLY won the event a year earlier, Derwent cemented their place as the University's premier rowing college in Sunday night's college rowing tournament.

A packed out Roger Kirk Centre once again played host to a tournament that proved a huge hit last year, with Derwent eventually finishing the night 45 seconds ahead of James, who led the overall college sport standings at the end of the Autumn term.

With all eight colleges represented, albeit Wentworth and Goodricke suffering with somewhat depleted squads, it was a competitive evening that was far from the Derwent walkover that many had expected beforehand.

And having eventually overcome the technical difficulties that saw the tournament postponed in November, the women's 2000m race kicked off proceedings – after navigating a false start from Goodricke.

The Hes East side recovered from that well, though, opening up a comfortable early lead over James, Vanbrugh and Wentworth in the first heat. Their success was shortlived, however, as Vanbrugh and James fought back and the former finished first in an impressive time of 7.48.3.

Wentworth were well behind, bringing up the rear in 9.38.4, but that was no disgrace given that they competed in both the women's and men's races with two rowers instead of the standard four. Alcuin came out as the fastest women's squad, winning the second heat in 7.44.8, ahead of Derwent, Langwith, and Halifax.

Come the men's races, Derwent proved themselves worthy of their favourites tag. Despite Langwith leading their heat at the 500m mark, the Derwent boys fought back and the combination of Sam Davies and Fraser Kirkley in the second kilometre, accompanied by a vociferous crowd, saw them finish over 40 seconds ahead of nearest challengers Halifax.

James came close to matching that time in the second men's race, with 6.16.7. In the closest race of the night, the Swans were neck and neck with Vanbrugh for the majority of the 2000m but eventually edged them by seven seconds.

The final event was the mixed 4,000m race, which Wentworth and Goodricke were both absent from – given that their understrength teams were suffering after the opening races, no one could blame them

for opting out of the mammoth finale.

The race to decide fourth, fifth and sixth saw Halifax record an impressive time of 15.04.1, only beaten by Derwent and James later on. Langwith, who boasted York Sport President Cass Brown in their team, were next, with Alcuin finishing in just under 16 minutes. That slower time in the 4000m would cost Alcuin fourth place in the overall standings, Halifax's narrowly edging them by just 0.7 seconds.

That was just the warm-up for the main event, though, as James and Vanbrugh set out to make up a gap of 24.0 and 6.8 seconds to Derwent respectively. The reigning college rowing champions employed some risky tactics, putting all of their girls out first and hoping for a comeback in the final half of the race.

It paid off though, with the Derwent girls putting in a sterling effort that saw them beginning to claw back James' 200m advantage by the halfway mark. At this point the noise inside the Roger Kirk was reaching deafening levels, particularly with Derwent desperate to urge their rowers into the lead.

With 1500m to go, that gap had been reduced to 136m before Hugo Marino stepped up and put in a stunning stint.

By the time he handed over the reins, Derwent were just 10m behind and all set to power their way to victory. Eventually taking the lead with 800m left to row, it was down to star man Kirkley to bring it home and he obliged in trademark powerhouse style.

With the Derwent crowd drowning out the other two colleges, the university rugby captain extended the lead to over 100m by the end, Derwent finishing in 13.54.7, 20 seconds ahead of James and over a minute ahead of Vanbrugh.

In the overall standings, Derwent recorded a winning time that just broke the 28 minute mark, 45 seconds ahead of nearest challengers James, with Vanbrugh impressive in their third place finish.

With college rowing once again proving a big hit and generating one of the best sporting atmospheres of the year, college sports officer Dave Washington expressed his delight at proceedings: "It was an absolutely great atmosphere, and after a few hiccups with setup the event went brilliantly – it's a fantastic advertisement for college sport."

Congratulations to Derwent, they were brilliant, but every college should be very proud of their efforts



JAMES HOSTEORD



The rowers were giving it their all as they aimed to win the college rowing title, but Derwent emerged victorious

tonight. It was great to see Derwent pushed so hard by James and Vanbrugh, and there was a good battle between Alcuin and Halifax who were up there as well." York Sport

tournament secretaries Bronwen Dalley-Smith and Dani Farsiani told Nouse, "It was a really great success, an even bigger turnout than last year and you could just tell everyone

was so enthused by the whole event – the atmosphere was fantastic. Every college got involved and the standard was really good, which was great to see."

James and Derwent victorious in the Tent

IMAGES: PETROC TAYLOR

Zoe Thompson
SPORTS REPORTER

JAMES' NETBALL side triumphed in a close, competitive game against Halifax in the tent this afternoon, winning 20-15.

Both teams came out strongly and battled hard, with neither team gaining the upper hand for the first few minutes.

Three minutes into the tie, the scores were dead-level at 2-2. Although both sides demonstrated solid shooting skills and maintained the pressure to keep themselves within the game, a steadfast James defence allowed them to take control of the first half which eventually ended 10-7 in their favour.

However, determined not to lose the game, Halifax came out fighting in the second half.

This paid off as they went on to score the first two goals of the second period, bringing themselves within one point of James with just two minutes played. Nevertheless, James were defiant themselves and quickly fought back to take the lead once again.

Determination was consistently demonstrated by both teams, keeping the game both tense and combative, with a points difference of no more than three at any point during the first ten minutes of the second half.

It was not until the final few minutes of the game that James were able to reassert their dominance.

But when they did so, they managed to pull away, increasing their lead and eventually winning the match with a score-line of 20-15.

Speaking after the game, James captain Ellie Redwood stated that "it was an amazing game; really, really tight. Both teams deserved to win really."

On the losing side of proceedings, Halifax captain Sarah Moody told *Nouse* that she thought "everyone played really well... There was lots of positive energy and James put up a good fight. I'm proud of



James beat Halifax in the Sports Tent on Sunday afternoon with ease, whilst Derwent took on Alcuin and came away as clear winners in a 10-4 victory



each and every one of the players."

Meanwhile, in the final match of the day, Alcuin put up a good fight but were unable to match Derwent.

The team in blue came out on top in a pulsating fixture, winning 10-4.

Both teams performed solidly, attempting to gain a foothold in the game, applying great pressure on their opponents.

Alcuin were unable to capitalise

on early chances and were only able to put one goal past the solid Derwent defence. However, they maintained their own defensive tenacity, making many interceptions and restricting Derwent to only five goals.

The first half ended with Derwent leading 5-1. After the break, Alcuin appeared determined to get back into the match and seemed to be making a comeback, getting the better of their opponents' defence

on three occasions.

Nonetheless, Derwent reasserted their dominance as the second half neared its close and repeated their first half triumph of scoring five goals.

This resulted in them eventually winning the match 10-4. Following the game, Derwent captain Rosie McCluskey told *Nouse*:

"It was a great result for the girls today, we're starting to get back

to top form after the holidays, but we had strong opponents in Alcuin."

Meanwhile, disappointed Alcuin captain Honor Stott stated: "We did not do as well as we'd hoped and were not up to our usual standard."

Earlier on, in the other match of the day, Goodricke dominated Langwith in a fast-paced game, running out as 31-9 winners against their Hes East rivals.

Boxing Club confirm exhibition night

DAN HOLLAND

Aaron Stennett
DEPUTY ONLINE EDITOR

UNIVERSITY OF York Boxing Club Vice-President Oli Whear has announced that the club will host its second boxing exhibition fight night on the penultimate Sunday of term, following up from an event held in 2013.

Last year's Spring Term event, which was the first of its kind, was a sell out success. One of the main highlights of the evening was the high-tempo nature of the occasion, which provided a tense atmosphere for a highly charged crowd to revel in.

This year, the exhibition will take place on 9th March in The Lounge at James College, with twelve fights in the pipeline. And in

a repeat of the first event last year, there will be both boxing and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) on display.

Prices have been reduced to just £6, ensuring a fantastic atmosphere as the crowd slowly but surely blows its cash on shots and cocktails.

Chok Dee, the well known independent MMA Club in York, are sending down fighters to take part, as they did last year.

The bout between UYB's Max Raju and Chok Dee's Mikey Chadwick was one of the highlights of the night during the 2013 event, and sets the bar high for the contestants in this year's event.

Whear, the main organisational force behind the exhibition nights, spoke fondly of the inaugural event. "It was by far the highlight of my undergraduate life. When I started

university I was fat and unhappy. Boxing has changed that!"

Speaking more seriously about the virtues of boxing and the reasons for UYB's success, Whear said: "Boxing helps with discipline, creativeness and confidence. You can be a man or a woman, fat or thin, and it doesn't matter as long as you push yourself to work hard then boxing is always rewarding."

"With these exhibitions we have put the foundations in place for a club which is open, accessible and friendly for everyone, regardless of ability."

Each fight lasts for three rounds of two minutes, with the fighters beginning a daily training regime in preparation for the contests, "or they bloody well should be," Whear joked.



Expect more scenes like this as exhibition night returns to the Roger Kirk

Sports News in Brief

Football Team Support Charity

UYAFC have taken the bold decision to support the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) by sporting the logo on the front of their shirts instead of a sponsor. Therefore the club have foregone a source of sponsorship money. The charity aims to reduce the number of young people dying from cardiac conditions.

Tennis Courts To Gain Dome

It has been announced by the York Sport Union that the tennis courts behind James Sports Centre will have a dome fitted, making the facilities suitable for all-weather conditions. Club member Jules Delay told *Nouse*: "We can't wait for the dome to be completed. It's really going to kickstart tennis at York."

On Campus Physio

A new physio will begin operating on campus from the middle of this term. An application to YuFund from Cass Brown, York Sport President, was accepted and £4,295 was awarded for the service. This means that students participating in sports on campus can receive treatment for a greatly reduced cost.

Hannah Paterson To Visit York

Cass Brown, York Sport President, is hoping that NUS Disabled Students Officer Hannah Paterson will visit York before the end of term as part of the Key Contacts Scheme. This builds on a previous visit of NUS LGBT Officer Finn McGoldrick.

Varsity Slogan Competition

York Sport have launched a Twitter competition to pick a slogan for this year's College Varsity tournament. Students can tweet ideas using the hashtag #CollegeVarsity2014. College Sport Officer, Tom Merriman, told *Nouse*: "We're looking for something creative which really encapsulates the spirit of the tournament!"

Inclement weather wreaks fixture havoc

PETROC TAYLOR



After very heavy rain 22 Acres was left waterlogged, meaning that all Sunday morning college football fixtures were postponed until later in the term

Tom Fennelly
SPORTS EDITOR

HEAVY RAIN throughout Saturday night and Sunday morning was enough to completely waterlog 22 Acres, meaning that all four of the college football fixtures on Sunday had to be postponed.

This comes after the inclement weather was also enough to cancel two matches in the previous round of fixtures, when freezing conditions made the pitches unplayable.

This latest round of postponements will add even more pressure to an already manic college sport fixture list this term, particularly

with the upcoming College Varsity and its qualifiers prior to the event.

There is now a backlog of six games that need to be played. The matches are expected to be postponed until later this term. Drewent vs. Goodricke and Halifax vs. Vanbrugh fell victim of the weather during week one.

Last weekend's clashes between Alcuin and Derwent; James and Halifax; Wentworth and Vanbrugh; and the Hes East derby between Goodricke and Langwith will all be cancelled and must now be rearranged for coming weeks.

Dave Washington, the College Sport Activator for the York Sport

Union, told *Nouse*: "Unfortunately the elements have once more conspired against us, and it's frustrating for everyone involved. Sadly there's nothing we can do about the weather, and we'll just have to hope that it improves over the next few weeks."

"At least we had some excellent action on the JLD and indoors, but with a busy term ahead it's putting increased pressure on an already packed schedule. We'll do our very best though to ensure that all games are completed."

The captain of the Langwith football team, Marcus Campbell, added: "I think it's unlucky but there is nothing you can really do

about it.

"I just hope we have time to make up for any of the other matches that are cancelled this term."

The weather didn't just affect the football fixtures; it also led to the cancellation of several training sessions, including the women's lacrosse team.

Aine Moylett, the side's development coach, told *Nouse*: "It can be annoying having training disrupted due to the weather. However, the decision is made due the safety concerns as, with muddy conditions, people are more likely to fall over and sustain injury such as a sprained ankle etc."

UYAFC embarrass local fuzz

PETROC TAYLOR

Nick Morritt
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

UYAFC TOOK to the pitch on Saturday for their first friendly before the season resumes. However, the twist was that their opponents were a team of players from North Yorkshire Police. The game was played with the aim of building bridges between the team and local law enforcement while raising money for charity.

The home side kicked off and began immediately pressing the Bobbies (who would normally be in blue, but were strangely playing in red) down the right wing, hoping to take an early lead. These early probes into the coppers' defence couldn't produce the goods as the police keeper athletically saw every shot wide. Not to be denied, the Black & Gold continued to press on the offensive.

York captain James Davies sent a cross at the opposition goal; however this was again saved with a superb piece of goalkeeping. The York boys continued to press with two quick-paced shots just off target by Tom Brandreth and Joe Easter.

It looked like the fuzz would stand firm until they were left bang to rights by a cracking shot from Brandreth on the edge of the area, opening the score at 1-0.

The boys at UYAFC got their next opportunity when Davies won a penalty, which he confidently converted, before Tringham was able to finally secure his first goal shortly after to increase York's lead to 3-0.

In the second half, the Black & Gold quickly continued to press the advantage with Brandreth scoring the second-half opener and Josh Bew scoring another rapid goal with a sterling header to make the score a decidedly one sided 5-0.

York piled on the shots with substitute Matt Seed securing the sixth, while Bew netted a seventh from a free kick. But the local officers weren't going down without a fight as they took advantage of a goalkeeping miscommunication to score with their first and only attempt on target.

As the minutes left on the clock began to dwindle, Jonny Gilbanks was able to achieve his first goal of 2014. This was followed by a final goal from Bew to secure his hat



trick, wrapping up the game up at 9-1.

Speaking after the game, team captain James Davies told *Nouse*: "It's a bit of fun but it's also quite serious because it's our only friendly before the start of the season on Wednesday so we took it as seriously as we could, and obviously winning

the game was quite a big thing for us.

"We wanted to mix it between ones and twos and obviously with it being the only friendly we wanted to get people minutes but not to pick up too many injuries."

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Sport

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College Netball Unsung Hero

A round-up of Sunday's action in the Sports Tent

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Author Phil Brennan talks about manager Danny Bergara

>> Page 27



IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD

Frustration over Kukri kit confusion

Jamie Summers
Tom Fennelly

SEVERAL OF the University of York's sports clubs have expressed their frustration with York Sport kit supplier Kukri after a series of major delivery blunders have resulted in whole teams being left without new kit for the start of the season.

Amongst those affected by the issue are the Lacrosse Club, Swimming and Water Polo Club and Cheerleading Club, each of which have been left without much-needed supplies for their BUCS Sport campaigns.

The York Sport Union themselves have also experienced issues with Kukri regarding the sourcing of hoodies that were ordered for their committee.

Kukri Sports, who are also the main kit supplier to BUCS, only became the official York Sport kit supplier at the start of this academic year after taking over from previous supplier Surridge. The contract is meant to run until the summer of 2015.

Speaking about the issues that the men's lacrosse team have experienced, club president Andy Chalmers told *Nouse*: "We sent off our order and they keep getting it wrong, which is slightly annoying. We're trying to sort the problems out between them and YUSU, but we're not having much luck at the moment ... We should hopefully get things sorted out."

Elsewhere, at the Swimming and Water Polo Club, the club president Joe Marshall was able to cite 28 separate errors from Kukri and 17 unreturned phone calls running between the 31st August and 10th January. Issues included receiving the wrong orders, three counts of overcharging and difficulty organising a refund.

"I've been very disappointed with Kukri so far," said Marshall, "poor communication, overcharging and ever slipping deliveries have really made dealing with them quite a disappointing and time-consuming

experience."

The Cheerleading Club also encountered problems at the end of last year. They originally tried to order their specialist uniform from a separate company, Allstar Design, but they were informed by York Sport Union that they had to order through Kukri as part of the exclusivity agreement in the contract.

However, Kukri did not have the right materials for replicating the design, meaning that Kukri would have had to outsource the specialist materials and charge an "extortionate" price.

Catherine Finch, the club's uniform rep, told *Nouse*: "Whilst the

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DanceSport talk to *Nouse* about their hopes for Roses and beyond

whole process was inconvenient and it has seriously delayed us, I understand why Kukri wanted to produce our uniforms but they weren't able to produce them to the standard we needed".

Cass Brown, York Sport President, has urged sports clubs to give feedback on their experience with Kukri.

She also explained: "Myself and senior YUSU staff met with Kukri directors just before Christmas to pass on a range of feedback from our members about disappointing levels of service in the first term of the new contract.

"Kukri listened to our feedback and concerns and expressed a confidence that many of the problems are areas that they can improve on through initiatives they were implementing over Christmas and in the New Year.

"We want to make the relationship with Kukri work but we will not accept standards that fall below the needs of our sports clubs."

YUSU have placed Kukri on probation until the 1st of February in order to monitor their performance due to the concerns that have been raised.



Full report on the college rowing >> Page 29



21.01.14

Nouse is printed by Mortons of Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincs, LN96JR, UK.
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