



A Night With NightSafe

MUSE encounter blood, sweat and beers on a night with student-led organisation NightSafe
M.8

Flygskam anyone?

Clash of Comments: Should we be encouraging flight shaming?
P.14



Nouse



Est. 1964

Mispronounced nationwide for 56 years

No. 491
Tuesday 21 January 2020

£1.6 mil to make buses greener

Emily Hewat
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

CITY OF YORK Council has awarded more than £1.6 million in funding to five separate bus companies, including First Bus, as a plan to make the vehicles more environmentally friendly for the city. In total, the money will 'retrofit' or replace 99 buses in York.

Amongst the five companies that have been allocated money, First York has been given the greatest amount of funding with £1,188,000 to 'retrofit' or improve 66 of their vehicles, which may also include the University buses, the 66, N66 and 66A.

This is ahead of the launch of York's Clean Air zone in the City of York on 31 January. After the launch, every bus operating more than five times a day on or within York's inner ring road will be required to meet the Euro VI emission standard, or have a plan in place that will enable them to meet the standard before January 2021.

The Euro VI standard sets maximum limits for certain harmful gases and particulate matter that a vehicle is allowed to emit. Once fitted with

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The Vietnamese society starts the Friday Night Food Fest by cooking up a storm in Goodricke Clabour Room. Read about the scheme on page... 7

MyUoY app causes University-wide concerns

Campus sees growing worries over the app's location-based check-in feature and the idea of monitoring attendance

Jonathan Wellington
EDITOR

THE PILOT VERSION of the MyUoY app would see students registering at contact hours via location services and a Bluetooth beacon inside of the room. Concerns over this were immediately raised with the Computer Science Department Representative, Tom O'Neill, who told *Nouse* that he was "surprised that the University hadn't anticipated the backlash from students and staff." Describing location data as "inherently personal", he argued that "people are rightfully concerned about the extent to which they are expected to put trust in the University."

Nouse was denied access to a meeting between concerned department representatives and the MyUoY team in an attempt to hear more concerns. This exclusion was on the grounds that the department representatives had not been warned ahead of time that a member of the *Nouse* team would be present.

Location-based registration is voluntary within the pilot and uses both the proximity to the beacon through Bluetooth and your satellite determined exact location. If the app were to have a University-wide release, as the University intends for next academic year, it is the intention that only the proximity via Bluetooth element of the location gathering would be used when you

check-in on the app.

Concerns were raised, however, on the consultation process with students and departments. One academic representative told us "it was quite amazing to stand up in an academic leadership meeting with the other department reps and be the only person even aware of the check-in pilot a matter of weeks before it was meant to be going ahead."

When asked for the exact figures of all consultation that has already taken place, the University said "the project team have been working with YUSU and GSA, student reps, welfare and disability support professionals and students with disabilities in order to understand the accessibility and inclusivity concerns with the app and

check-in. We are holding usability meetings with students to understand accessibility needs and requirements in more detail. As part of the development process for the student app, we have ensured that it complies with the current accessibility guidelines."

On whether students had been adequately consulted, the University said: "Consultation with the student population is underway and is expected to continue throughout the pilot and beyond. The University actively seeks feedback from the student population and this is why we are keen to engage with students on this check-in pilot, before we make any decisions on a University-wide rollout using this technology. The project

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"Funny what people use as bookmarks these days"

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A NOTE FROM THE...

Nouse Editor



Jonathan Wellington
(he/him)

I love *Nouse*. If you know me, or if we've ever spoken in any sort of depth, then you'll be familiar with me saying "sorry I really need to stop talking about *Nouse*." However, it was when preparing to write this Editor's note that I realised this is the one space I can talk about everything I love about *Nouse* completely guilt-free.

The advice I received for writing this from Joe Silke, the Editor when I first joined *Nouse*, was "I don't know, just say something self-indulgent - that's what I did." What I will do instead (mainly) is be *Nouse*-indulgent (and perhaps indirectly self-indulgent).

The design - The re-design that myself and Design Director Pat embarked on a couple of weeks ago is now finally complete and it feels really good. I've always loved our design, but I think it was time to make it slightly more modern and prove that despite being definitively broadsheet, we can still adapt and inject some much-needed style.

The people - One thing that rivals the redesign is the people I did it with (thanks Pat). Some of the best people I've met at university have been from *Nouse* and seeing these people succeed within *Nouse* gives me immense happiness. I won't lie, moving from MUSE Editor to *Nouse* Editor hasn't been easy. From my pile of stress and admin I've been left looking longingly over at the work the MUSE team are doing at several points in the week. Seeing Alex settle into the MUSE Editor role and Malu rising to the challenge of being his deputy, however, makes it worth it. The pair have done amazingly considering the challenges they have faced (although much like Andy and Saskia, I don't ever intend on letting MUSE go). I do hate that there isn't room to give everyone a shout-out but there's two more that can't be excluded from this note. Bex, your commitment to this

paper, grammar and the way we arrange our dates is incomparable and I hate to think what our content would look like without you. Next is Patrick Walker. Apart from driving to Lincoln in a van to collect this edition, you served *Nouse* greatly as Editor and continue to help behind the scenes as Managing Director. Thank you.

The opportunities - Opportunities through *Nouse* don't just include driving to Lincoln in a van: I've been on BBC Radio York, interviewed my favourite childhood author Anthony Horowitz, and sat on a boat in the middle of the largest plastic-bottomed lake in Europe. *Nouse* has given me more free reign with design than I will most likely ever have again. It also gives us the opportunity to explore big news stories such as exploring the consequences of policies such as the MyUoY story on the front page. *Nouse* doesn't just give us the opportunity to cover stories but the opportunity to inform and hopefully incite discussion and change. Matt's page nine is the perfect example of this.

The element of change - Everything already discussed is so subject to change. The fact we can change and adapt the design and move forwards only makes it that much more attractive. The people, of course, change too as they sadly have the habit of graduating and leave us (miss you all). The nicer part is seeing our team growing in confidence, writing for more sections and appearing slightly less uncomfortable on the computers.

The fact I get to lead it - Finally, the self-indulgent bit. With everything above considered, I can't help but love the fact that I get to lead this amazing society. Only 14 months ago, I was sat in the office as Deputy Comment Editor, taking everything in and wondering how on earth those on the senior team coped. It is a headache and a constant stress but it's a huge source of pride that I lead this 56 year old society.

So that's why I love *Nouse* and why I love this edition. I hope that you love it too.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, writers, publishers, or advertisers. Contact editor@nouse.co.uk with letters, praise and complaints.

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MUSE: SHOOT

SCORE WITH THE LATEST MATCH READY FASHION

M.4-5

Nouse would like to extend the most grateful thanks to the team at YuFund for their generous support. With their assistance, we have begun to bring our ancient technology up to speed.

YUFUND

Printed by Mortons of Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincs, LN9 6JR, UK. For back copies, contact the JB Morrell Library. Front images: Annie Watson, Patrick Walker, Anders Helberg. Back images: Andi Potheary x4, Swing Low 7s.

House of Lords to move to York?

Ellie Longman-Rood
POLITICS EDITOR

BORIS JOHNSON IS aiming to move the House of Lords permanently from London to York. The city has been seen as the first choice contender for the chamber's new location, as revealed by *The Sunday Times*. Due to the upcoming restoration plans costing £3.5 billion, peers are scheduled to move from their current home in Westminster until completion in 2025. The prime minister hopes to be able to use this opportunity to develop an entirely new site.

The move has been viewed as continued strategy by the Conservatives to secure gains made in the recent general election in former traditional Labour heartlands. International trade secretary, Alok Sharma, revealed on the BBC's *Andrew Marr Show* that a "shift in the location" of the House of Lords is "very good" for the country, making the case that it would



bring the "government closer to the whole country". Following the news that the Conservative Party campaign headquarters are to move out of London to a city in the Midlands, it supports the belief that the government is attempting to rebrand as more relatable to the public.

If York is confirmed as the House of Lords' new home, it will be the first time the city has been a focal point of political power since the English Civil War, where it held the Council of the North.

Birmingham has also been discussed as a potential home for the chambers. However, logistical factors appear to have earned York a place as the frontrunner due to the government owned lands by the railway station that were identified as a "prime site", and the good rail links between the city and the Capital.

The news of the relocation has been welcomed by many in the city. MP for York Central, Rachael Maskell, believes it will bring employment and investment for the area, especially in

terms of transport, concluding in *The York Press* that it would be "incredible for York".

Maskell plans to put her sentiments in writing to the Prime Minister and will lobby for the move in the proceeding months. She assured that this would not be an act of "tokenism", nor would this idea distract her attention from her priorities in the constituency. Instead she hopes the move will bring local problems into sharper focus for those in positions of power.

Other characteristics of the chambers have also been debated. One government source revealed that regional parliamentary sessions in Sunderland or Manchester have been discussed, so the people can witness democracy in action first hand. There have also been rumours of introducing elections to the House of Lords.

This chatter follows a constitutional review that has been drawn up by Lord Salisbury this past month. The potential of an elected House of Lords would offer greater power to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which could aid the state of the union.

Jack Galea's thoughts on page... 11

YUSU 2020 Impact Report is published

Patrick Walker
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

A YUSU REPORT has been released by the Students' Union highlighting the institution's successes over the past year. The report also details some self-reflection by YUSU, who take time to note that "communication" with students was the most pressing issue for many students on campus, despite repeated attempts by YUSU President Samara Jones, and former YUSU President James Durcan.

2019 was a landmark year for the Students' Union, which saw a record 32 per cent turnout figure during its elections, and it awarded £175,000 to sports clubs, societies, and student media: more than ever before. However, the acquisition of a further three venues has potentially resulted in some concerns about YUSU's long-term financial sustainability - this was not mentioned explicitly in the report. Mentions of the climate crisis are somewhat absent from the report; despite declaring a climate crisis in late September, YUSU's enthusiasm for sustainability has been somewhat lukewarm since then.

Roses reportedly had a record year, with over 130 fixtures being competed. The tournament also featured the introduction of new elements, such as a fireworks display, and a mindfulness space. The report's Roses summary concludes by noting the 427 hours of volunteer work at the event, although *Nouse* suspects the actual figure may have been somewhat higher owing to the large amount of hours worked by York's student media.

The document also took the time to defend the controversial introduction of the YUSU Working Class Officer part-time role. Following the election of the first Officers in 2018, the role went unfilled until a special second round in the YUSU elections in early 2019, raising serious questions about the necessity of the position and its

application at the University.

In the report, the Student and Insight Manager argues that the 'York Has Class' conference was a "key success" following the introduction of the role, although the conference has yet to be repeated since its first introduction in 2018. The report takes time to evaluate YUSU's communication strategy, arguing that a "tailored" approach that would be more useful to students in the pipeline. A new technological platform will allow YUSU to send emails to students who specifically sign up to certain lists, and will be trialled in the new year.

The report concludes with an evaluation of YUSU's financial estate, which it says is "struggling". As the owner of multiple service venues across a wide geographic area, YUSU is somewhat unique amongst other Students' Unions, and Brexit presents an "ever-present" threat to future stability.

Asked whether YUSU continually represents students, YUSU President Samara Jones said:

"Different people engage in different ways and that's right. Students are free to choose which of our student opportunities they want to use and get involved with and there are some excellent stats to show good and growing engagement. In term one alone we had 8,026 unique student registrations to one or more YUSU ratified sports club, society, student media or volunteer network.

"The number of students engaged in a YUSU job or as an academic rep are constantly growing. I would really like to see more people involved in more things but I think that we shouldn't be overly narrow in the view we take on engagement and try to suggest that a student who chooses to engage in paid employment with their Student Union is any less important than the student who joins a volunteering network, submits a policy or drinks in The Lounge or Courtyard."

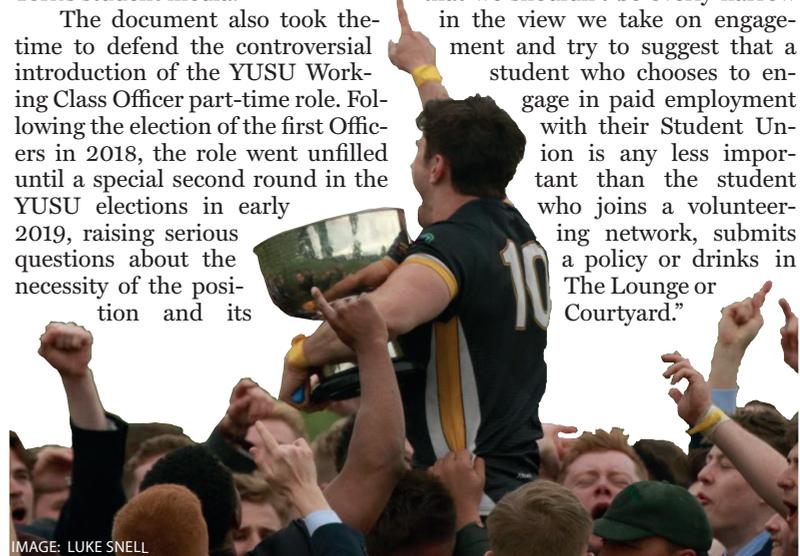


IMAGE: LUKE SNELL

York council set to borrow £46m

Patrick Hook-Willers
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS FOR A NEW development involving a bridge over the River Foss and a block containing over 100 new flats have been proposed, with York City Council possibly set to step in as the primary developer.

If the Castle Gateway development is to go ahead with public funding as its primary backing, York City Council will borrow £45.8m to construct the new bridge, the apartment complex, as well as significant sewage rerouting.

Should the council be required to fund the construction, the money has been accounted for. The initial capital will be borrowed and said loans will be repaid to debtors through the income generated by sales of the new apartments, as well as through rent paid by new shops and food outlets created as part of the development.

As things stand the new development, located near to the Morri-

sons supermarket in Layerthorpe, has not been fully approved by the council, with current applications due to be approved in March.

The absence of approval combined with uncertainty over funding has raised questions over the project's viability. These doubts only add to the problems faced by the already controversial proposals.

The Environment Agency, who have offices in York close to the proposed site, have expressed significant concerns over the plans for the Castle Gateway development, saying that "our flood map for planning shows the site lies within... the medium and high probability [of flooding] zones."

The Agency have asked for a risk assessment to be carried out to gather definitive evidence that the development will be neither dangerous or impactful on the surrounding areas, though a spokesman for York City Council noted that this is a standard part of the procedure for developments of this scale, and is unlikely

to lead to further delays or expense to the project in its current guise.

The council understand the risks of the development fully, as a report handed to them says, "the recommended option is not without significant risk."

One of the overarching concerns about the borrowing would be the council's reduced "capacity to undertake any new major capital investment during the construction period."

This could provide the council with significant issues, considering that York is entering into a period of significant infrastructural change.

York city centre will be car-free by 2023, meaning that significant investment will be required to fully pedestrianise central areas, which means a lack of available capital due to the Castle Gateway development could put those essential upgrades unnecessarily on hold.

The Castle Gateway development is scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2023, but the recurring delays to the new LNER Community Stadium at Monks Cross cast doubt on that proposed timeline.



Plastic cups banned

After the University's recent strive to be greener, four outlets on campus are trailing a ban on plastic takeaway cups. Already, the University has reduced the amount of single use coffee cups daily by 700, over 3,500 people have bought a reusable cup and the University has ordered 10,000 more YorCups to meet the demand.

Lounge night a flaming success

Last Saturday, The Lounge kicked off its first night-time event after its renovation and it was a fiery success. Especially given that an accidentally triggered fire alarm resulted in a visit from North Yorkshire Fire Service, which reportedly resulted in a hefty fine. The event in question has received glowing praise from students, despite the fire alarm mishap.

Lakeside Way still shut

The University has still failed to release any information regarding the re-opening of Lakeside Way, the road running beside Campus East and towards the Sport Village just beyond Constantine College. It is expected that the construction of the two new campus east colleges will disrupt the closure of the road even further.

#StandwithUighurs

Posters around campus entitled "China is committing Genocide" are calling for York students to "raise awareness" and "[boycott] Chinese goods" in protest against the current incarceration of the Uighur Muslims in Chinese concentration camps. A comment piece regarding this subject can be found on page nine of this edition.

York Fringe cancelled

The annual Great Yorkshire Fringe Festival has been cancelled this year following a dispute between the organisers of the event and York City Council. Both parties expressed their apologies regarding the cancellation. It is hoped that the event will be running next year, a hope which is currently left open.



IMAGE: ANNIE WATSON

York's first panto themed run hits the ground running

Matthew King
NEWS EDITOR

LAST SATURDAY, YORK'S first ever Great Panto Run, organised by Run York, took place. The five-mile run began at 11:30 AM at Rawcliffe Country Park just outside the city, with the less challenging family 'fun run' kicking off half an hour earlier. The run was suitable for both experienced and first-time runners.

The run was not explicitly for charity, however a team from York Theatre Royal attended the event to raise money for the Berwick Kaler Foundation, which is one of the reasons the event was created.

Speaking to the director of the event, she told us how the run was "to celebrate the 40th anniversary

of the York Pantomime," and that they plan to continue the event for the foreseeable future. Races such as these are instrumental in the celebration of York's culture and history, which is one of the main aims of the race's organisers, who put on other York-themed races throughout the year such as a chocolate-themed race, a Viking run and a *University Challenge* lap race.

The director of the race also communicated how pleased she was about the turnout on the day, stating that she "was surprised so many people turned up and participated in the panto theme really well with the effort made in people's costumes. She also emphasised how good it was to see the participation from children at the event, saying, "there's not that many run-

ning events for kids in York," which makes this event good for York and particularly the children.

Many of the runners (pictured above) chose to participate in elaborate and fanciful costumes while running. This, alongside the muddy conditions on the day, made the runners' job of racing all the more difficult, yet their spirits were clearly not dampened, especially with the impressive first place winner completing the five-mile race in around 25 minutes. The race was directed at both first-time and seasoned runners, which added to the chilled and fun atmosphere of the event.

For more information on other runs organised by Run York, information can be found on their social media outlets on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

York MP joins Shadow Cabinet

Louis Mosca
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK'S Rachael Maskell, who has been a Member of Parliament for York Central for the last five years, has been announced as the newest appointment of the Employment Rights Secretary.

Following her resignation as Shadow Environment Secretary two years ago, the York Central MP has now returned to take over from Laura Pidcock, who lost her seat to the Conservative Party in the General Election. Ms Maskell has stated an emphasised effort to work with York employers in challenging the culture of workplaces, with regards to bullying and work-related stress as a result of poorly dealt with matters in the workplace. In an interview with *Nouse* regarding her new position, the newly elected

shadow cabinet Member told us: "It's an incredible brief that I have been given to have a look at the whole of the work environment. I was a trade union official as well in my past so I have witnessed over the years so much injustice in the workplace, and what I am wanting to bring a focus around surrounding workers is, I believe we often feel very devalued and dehumanised by our work environments.

"If we think about the Amazon workers working in peak times and impossible targets people are set, levels of sickness, the £77 billion that's wasted each year due to ill health in the workplace, most of which is stress-related work environments, working long hours and

not being in control of your working life.

"Another issue I am very passionate about is bullying at work. I have done a lot on this in the past where we are seeing misuse of power in the workplace, and people are being hurt as a result and we don't have any legislation about bullying, whereas more progressive economies do. I think we've got a lot to learn from them. There's good employment terms of conditions, we spend most of our waking hours at work for, you know, a good 40 years plus now of our lives.

"Therefore, I want to make sure that people's talents are recognised, that they are able to afford and achieve their aspirations and that they are really valued and cared for."



IMAGE: CHRIS MCANDREW

MyUoY controversy

▶▶▶ Continued from front

team has recently met departmental student representatives and will be working closely with them during the pilot. Additionally, students invited to take part in the pilot will have the opportunity to attend and feed back at project briefings in their department before the pilot starts."

This consultation argument seems to be at odds with the concerns that have been raised by YUSU's sabbatical and part-time Officers. For the sabbs, the problem is not with the controversial location-tracking element but instead the wider idea of the University tracking attendance. YUSU's Community and Wellbeing Officer Steph Hayle described the idea of taking attendance to *Nouse* as "a far more complicated issue that may have serious ramifications for disabled students, students on Tier 4 Visas, and students experiencing exceptional circumstances."

The YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer also told *Nouse* that she doesn't believe enough consideration was given to the potential impact of the check-in function of the app and "how it may leave these students feeling uncomfortable in their own university, or how it may force them to attend classes against their own best interests e.g. attending lectures when they're sick."

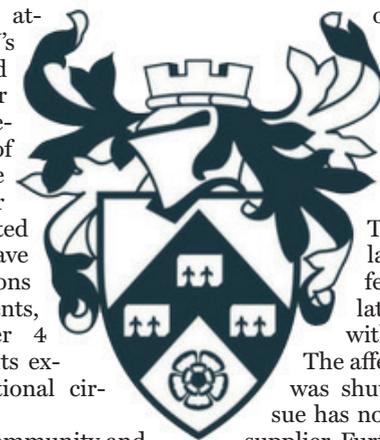
Other concerns around attendance monitoring regarded students on Tier 4 Visas. For said students achieving a good level of attendance is compulsory for their visa status and such monitoring has the potential to have serious consequences if their attendance is not to standard.

The University does, however, defend their intention of monitoring attendance much more thoroughly than it does now. A spokesperson for the University told *Nouse* that "the University Strategy commits to offering all students an outstanding and valuable experience by the creation of a supportive learning environment through which students can develop to reach their full academic and personal potential." They added that "key to achieving this objective is a greater focus on understanding participation in teaching and learning activities as evidence suggests that student awareness of their patterns of attendance and engagement influences future behaviours, and has a positive impact on retention and outcomes."

Giang Nguyen, YUSU's Academic Officer, has also argued that monitoring attendance constantly would be unacceptable. In a statement to *Nouse*, Nguyen acknowledged the good intentions of the app saying that "the University has been saying that the check-in tool is to provide more holistic and Uni-

versity-wide data for pastoral support" but said that she "thinks that our University is not technologically competent to cope with this use of mass data".

The shortcomings of the University's technological competency were potentially highlighted when the University was forced to take down the app when a group of students found a security concern within it. These students raised the concern immediately and human error was given as a direct cause of the security concern. In a statement to *Nouse*, the University argued that "the app is currently in testing with a small number of students with restricted functionality and data. A small number



of issues, not related to attendance data or other personal data, were identified by students during this testing process and reported to IT Services. This data did not relate to the check-in features, but was related to an integration with the library system.

The affected part of the app was shut down and the issue has now been fixed by the supplier. Further work is ongoing with the supplier." The University reassured *Nouse* that "The app will not go live until the process of testing functionality and security has been completed."

When asked about how the data collected will be stored, the University told *Nouse*: "During the pilot the data collected will be used to understand patterns of attendance, and we want to understand the ways in which this data can be used to effectively support students during their studies. In response to student feedback, all data will be used anonymously during the pilot."

Aside from the handling of such huge data, Giang Nguyen SU also raised the other concern "that since departments enjoy a great deal of autonomy from the University, they might force students to attend classes or to have disciplinary action against students' loss of attendance." This concern is once again shared by fellow YUSU Officer, Steph Hayle, who argues that although she understands that "the University must comply with government and Office for Students (OfS) guidelines on attendance, I do not believe this is a good way to do so." She states that "it has only made students distrust the institution and its motives."

If you share the concerns raised here, have some of your own, then the University will be holding departmental open forums for students to raise concerns. Along with encouraging academic reps to continue to lobby against the University, Nguyen has said to *Nouse* that she encourages "all students to come to those meetings, even for five minutes to speak up about what really matters to you."

Tom O'Neill's thoughts on page... 13

YUSU Circuit Laundry survey reinforces student frustrations

Emily Hewat
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A RECENT SURVEY on Circuit Laundry by YUSU has indicated that the long-standing problems between the University of York and the laundry system still remain.

The survey received 1,327 responses from students and it was found that 89.3% of people rated Circuit Laundry as five out of ten or less on 'quality of service' with 20.8% of students rating it the lowest possible grade.

These figures are unsurprising when looking at the personal accounts that the survey received. One student reported that "[their] clothing was ruined with black stains that they did pay for but it took a few weeks." Another stated that "my clothes always had a musty smell no matter what products I used. After moving into off-campus accommodation which had a washing machine, it stopped"

The issue appears to not only be with the washing machines themselves, as one student reported "One time I had to dry my clothes, the machine charged me and locked my wet clothes in for an hour without drying them. The phone helpline always puts people on hold for ages and hangs up on people. Its been over half a term and nobody has come to fix problems that were reported on the first day of freshers."

Parents have also raised concerns with the laundry system, with

one parent of a current third year stating that she was concerned with the cleanliness of the washing machines, yet other alternatives were too expensive. A wash at Circuit Laundry currently costs £3.20 for a wash and £1.70 for a dry.

Circuit Laundry has long been causing problems for students. In May 2019, the University of York's Student Union Account reported that over 1,700 students had to rely on the 22 washing machines in James College. Five of the wash-

89% The percentage of students who rated Circuit Laundry five out of ten or less

ing machines in James College were already broken at this time with James students sharing with Vanbrugh when Halifax students were asked to use James' washing machines due to an 'electrical fault.' *Nouse* reported at the time that students were compensated a total of £16,760 in this period but this came from the University of York as opposed to Circuit Laundry. However, despite 94.3% of people having experienced a problem with Circuit Laundry, only 29.7% of people actually reported the problem.

Consequently, Steph, the Community and Wellbeing Officer's main advice to students is to report every problem.

She suggests that "There is a phone in every laundrette that takes

you straight to Circuit, you should report it every single time the machines malfunction or break. Only when Circuit Laundry's own data begins to be affected will they start taking the problem seriously."

The results of this survey are therefore conclusive. There is clearly a problem with Circuit Laundry. Steph Hayle aims to draw up a full report of the responses and take them to the University's Director of Commercial Services to seek urgent changes to the service. She also looks to provide a forum for students to seek compensation for any damages caused by machines not being appropriately cleaned by University staff.

The University defended the service, stating: "we have received very few complaints." They went on to add "Circuit is also a very reasonably priced provider within the University environment."

In a comment for *Nouse*, a representative from Circuit Laundry responded to the findings of the survey as follows:

"We are disappointed to learn that some students have been unhappy with the laundry service that is provided. We have been working closely with the University to establish a good, reliable and regular cleaning regime which the University has implemented these last two months. We would very much welcome discussions with Student & University representatives to further enhance & improve the user experience".

College stereotypes by the numbers

Matthew King
NEWS EDITOR

FROM THE 'BORING' and 'studious' colleges such as Alcuin, to the 'fun' and 'wild' colleges such as Derwent, York students have always been infatuated with placing a stereotype on their colleges. *Nouse* research from freedom of information requests has shed some light on the validity of such stereotypes.

A long-lasting measure of how 'fun' or 'boring' a college is has often been determined by how loud they are, and how often the inhabitants of such colleges engage with drugs. To try and examine which colleges were the loudest, we asked the University to provide us with the number of noise complaints that were filed for each college over the past five years. We also requested information on how many instances drugs were confiscated over the past five years in each college.

It perhaps may not be a surprise to many York students that Derwent College boasts the highest number of instances in which drugs have been confiscated, as drugs were confiscated eight times from Derwent College in 2019, and seven times in 2018. The college with the second highest instances of drug confiscation in 2019 was Alcuin with two recorded instances of confiscation. Alcuin has often been regarded as the most 'boring' and 'academic' college; however, some could argue that this number could sug-

gest that these stereotypes are not fully accurate. The other colleges on campus had no recorded instances of drug confiscation in 2019, and shockingly, Constantine, Goodricke, James and Langwith have never had any recorded instances of drugs having been confiscated at all in the past five years. This is not to say, however, that drugs have not been used in these colleges over the years.

Contrastingly, all colleges have recorded varying numbers of noise complaints over the past five years. Colleges such as Constantine and, surprisingly, Derwent received the least amount of noise complaints with 10 and 11 respectively recorded. The college with the highest number of noise complaints in the academic year of 2018/19 was Halifax with 35, and coming in joint second is Vanbrugh and, again, Alcuin with 29. This collective data could suggest that perhaps college stereotypes are not fully accurate, with the most 'boring' college of Alcuin receiving the second highest in both the amount of noise complaints and instances of drugs being confiscated in 2019.

However, this analysis of the data could be disputed, as high numbers of noise complaints could suggest that instead of being loud, and perhaps therefore 'fun', Alcuin, as reinforced by their stereotype, is less tolerant to noise than other colleges. Colleges such as Derwent are therefore perhaps more tolerant to noise as their low number of recorded noise complaints may suggest.

Five minutes from campus coffee

Callum Tennant
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York has set out that their "aim is to have an option [café] for you no more than five minutes away anywhere on campus." To realise that dream the University is set to soon welcome two new cafés with a possible third one on the way. Phase One café will open soon on Heslington East, in the Catalyst building, while the Management School on Church Lane will get a new café this summer. There are also proposals to find a new site for a café at King's Manor following the closure of King's Manor Refectory.

We now know that the new café at the Management School will be serving Starbucks Coffee, and Phase One café will be serving unbranded coffee. *Nouse* spoke to YUSU about the new cafés who revealed that they "were not invited to tender for any of the new cafés."

The plans for new cafés form part of a recent drive by the University to respond to criticism raised in student and staff surveys and the advice given by the Survey Review Group and the newly formed Catering Strategy Group. Despite winning the CUBO Caterer of the Year of Universities, just 26 per cent

of staff said they felt the catering on campus met their needs. One criticism highlighted in student and staff surveys was poor service and especially the slow speed of service. In order to tackle this a Service Excellence Training Plan is being introduced to "improve the speed and consistency of service."

The University is trying to ensure that its catering services are affordable, and environmentally sustainable while still offering a wide range of options. To try and ensure that the cafés on campus are affordable, the University has reduced the price of fruit to 50p and the Vanbrugh meal deal to £3.95. The prices of baguettes, soups, salads and jacket potatoes has also been frozen.

To increase sustainability the University has trialled banning single use plastic lined coffee cups at four sites (see news in brief). They've also introduced unbleached and recycled napkins

at cafés on campus. In a drive to decrease the number of plastic bottles bought, the University has installed more water fountains and has ensured that all fountains appear on the Yorkshire Water Refill App.

The University is aiming to start selling filtered water in glass bottles within six months. Over the last year the university has also worked to ensure that food venues which offer takeaway food also after wooden cutlery in order to cut back on the amount of single-use plastic in circulation.

The University of York has continued to widen its range of options available to students. The new cafés on Heslington East and Church Lane are key to widening choice. However this comes on the back of multiple changes in the last year. One of the largest changes was the former Edge café becoming Vedge café and offering a wider range of vegetarian and vegan food options.

The University has said that new furnishings of the outside decking will be installed by Spring making the café more attractive during hotter months.



IMAGE: ENGIN_AKYURT

An avalanche of ice is coming to York

Bex Hume
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FOR TWO DAYS in February, York will be transformed into an exhibition of ice sculptures situated around the city centre.

The Ice Trail, which is the biggest outdoor trail of its kind in the UK, will for 2020 be inspired by the theme of 'Fantastical Fiction and Fairy Tales', showcasing a variety of popular culture figures and characters from well-loved books, films, and cartoons carved in ice.

The event, taking place on 1 and 2 February, has consistently been popular for the city. In 2019, over 17,000 people took part on the one day that it ran, resulting in a 41 per cent increase in footfall in the city, with 75 per cent of those involved coming in from either York itself or the wider Yorkshire area.

The moving of the event to February instead of December as of

last year meant that York continued to see footfall in the city in what is typically a quiet period for tourism.

Visitors will be able to pick up a trail map from the Visitor Information Centre on Museum Street to direct them to the 40 sculptures which will be available to see across

the weekend from 10am to 5pm, and get involved in the interactive carving that will be taking place on Parliament Street.

The sculptures for the event will be created by Glacial Art. Mat Foster, the company's creative director, said "it will have taken our four man team almost six months to prepare for this year's York Ice trail. It's a huge amount of work for us and we have been carving sculptures in our freezers since late August.

"We cannot wait to finally get them all set up and dotted around York on 1 and 2 February.

It is going to be fantastic and without doubt our favourite event of the year."



IMAGE: VISIT YORK

York's environmental Controversial hunt social returns

strive is advanced

▶▶▶ Continued from front

the equipment required to reduce emissions, the buses must then operate on routes serving the Clean Air zone in York for a minimum of five years.

Bus operator First York has already begun an initiative to upgrade its fleet to low emission vehicles. £800,000 has been invested into eight buses for the number 11 and 12 routes.

This is not the only aim of the Clean Air zone in York. Anti-idling is also a plan that is due to be launched with signs in place across the city urging people to switch off their engines while parked.

Clean Air Zones are being implemented across the country in many major cities. Drivers of the most polluting vehicles can be charged up to £100 a day to enter areas where councils believe the air to be toxic.

When asked for comment, Councillor Paula Widdowson, Executive Member for Climate Change, said:

"The launch of a fleet of 21 brand new electric Park and Ride vehicles during the coming months will also make a major contribution towards work to improve air quality in the city centre and will give York one of the largest fleets of electric buses in the country.

"The new vehicles are being funded by Park and Ride operator First York, with the help of a £2.2 million Low Emission Bus Fund grant from the government."

This push for greener transport for York is in line with York City Council's plan to ban cars from the city centre. This plan has been approved by councillors, and will be implemented at some point in 2023.



Report on the York car ban page... 18

Patrick Walker
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

THE YORK TORIES reportedly plan to host their infamous fox hunting social, despite criticism from multiple committee members and YUSU staff.

The bar crawl, which requires attendees to come dressed as either foxes or tweed-dressed hunters, features a chase-style game, where one team attempts to catch the other.

The social this year is particularly exceptional considering that the repeal of Tony Blair's 2004 hunting ban was dropped from official Conservative Party policy in 2019. According to a statement by the York Tories, the social does not support fox hunting, but will be held with Roger Scruton, the society's recently deceased honorary president, and a firm fox-hunting fan, "in mind."

The social, which used to require women dress as foxes, and men dressed as 'hunters', was changed last year. There is currently one female member. York Tory socials of a similar nature have repeatedly made national headlines.

The return of the social would represent a huge statement of confidence for the York Tories, who reportedly had less than 20 people

turn up for the previous fox hunting event last year. Although the event went off "without a hitch," according to their statement at the time, others in the committee have raised concerns about whether re-doing the social is sustainable considering the widespread criticism it receives each year. Campus societies, including VegSoc and FemSoc, have protested the event in the past.

Speaking to *Nouse*, an anonymous committee member said that the social painted "a false negative stereotypical image of Young Conservatives. It will not help us attract new members, especially women who are statistically more against fox hunting." After being approached for a comment by *Nouse*, a spokesperson for the York Tories said:

"The fox hunting social will take place at some point later this term. The event does not mean that the society takes a stance on the activity, it is simply a vehicle for providing a theme for a chase bar crawl, allowing our members to decide their own opinion on fox hunting. Similarly, if we held a cops and robbers bar crawl we

would not be advocating stealing. Furthermore, our recently deceased honorary president, Sir Roger Scruton, was a great lover of legal fox hunting and this event will be held particularly with him in mind."

Nouse contacted Environment and Ethics Officer Merry Dickinson about the revival of the social. She told us: "Fox hunting as a 'sport' is premised upon the torture of the innocent. I cannot imagine why you would want to hold a social based upon that concept unless it was in some way indicative of your politics and beliefs. I'm glad they have removed the previous misogynistic elements of having women as animals to be hunted, I can't help but wonder whether that's due to there simply not being enough women in the Tory society to continue that aspect."

YUSU Activities Officer Ollie Martin also commented on the social, telling us: "YUSU can't support or denounce the social as it is yet to be announced, and can't take action. We always encourage our student groups to consider the code of conduct before planning an event, no matter how distasteful."



Interactive air raid map from University sheds light on Blitz

Emily Hewat
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

AN ONLINE MAP has been created at the University of York which highlights the location of every bombing site of the Blitz during World War Two.

The map, titled as Bombing Britain: an air raid map, contains over 30,000 locations that each holds a pin displaying a factfile for the location including specific dates and casualty numbers.

The interactive heat aspect of the map will allow researchers to see the concentration of bombing in certain areas.

The information was researched by Dr Laura Blomvall from the Department of English and Related Literature and 6,500 pages of reports from wartime intelligence officers for the Ministry of Home Security were used.

The map is also part of the War State and Society online resource published by Routledge, Taylor and Francis. It is likely that this map will be able to change popular misconceptions about the Second World

War. It will debunk the myth that London and the south east were the only areas to be heavily bombed and will highlight the true devastation caused by the Luftwaffe across the nation.

For example, the map shows that the first area to be bombed was actually the Firth of Forth in Scotland and that one of the heaviest bombed cities was Hull, where more than 400 people were killed in two raids.

Analysing the data from this map



students and historians alike to consider the significance of the RAF victory during the Battle of Britain.

When asked by the University of York, Dr Blomvall said:

"This map offers an astonishing insight into the extent and scale of total war. Bombing Britain allows us to visualise how bomb strikes affected the entire country – not just London and the south east – as bombs were dropped from the Orkney Islands to Coventry, from Liverpool to the Scilly Isles and from Dover to Swansea.

"This unique research project shows how war was 'no longer confined to the battlefield'. The normalisation of aerial warfare turned mainland Britain into a violent battlefield, and the term 'home front' was no longer figurative."

Since the launch of the map in October 2019, it has been experiencing technical difficulties due to such high demand.

When asked for comment, Dr George Hay, military historian at The National Archives, said: This interactive map makes use of the intelligence reports [...] and visually demonstrates the impact and reach of those attacks."

Blavatnik Award won by key York lecturer

Emma Topic
NEWS EDITOR

DR KIRSTY PENKMAN at the University of York has recently won the Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists for her ground-breaking work on fossil dating.

She has been named Chemistry Laureate of the year, receiving an award of £75,000 for the improvements her work has made to the accuracy of dating fossils from the last three million years which has led to new insights into human evolution and climate change.

The award by the Blavatnik Family Foundation recognises the innovative work of young academics under the age of 42.

The Foundation aims to elevate scientists to the international stage and to prepare them to become world class leaders in their scientific fields, propelling the wheel of innovation and societal progress.

Dr Penkman's research focuses on analysing fossil biomolecules, including "their pathways to degradation, methods for their detection, and how these molecules can inform us of an organism's life and death history."

In an interview with *Nouse*, Dr Penkman said that her research started nearly 20 years ago when she first started her PhD. When looking back at the process, what Penkman found most challenging was that

the molecules she was interested in were incredibly low in concentration and often very degraded, encompassing many other substances both organic and inorganic.

Penkman's initial reaction to the prestigious award was one of astonishment. However, she felt that "it is rather awkward to get an individual award when the very nature of my work means that without my amazing collaborators, this fascinating science wouldn't be possible, so as far as I am concerned it is shared with all of them."

The Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research at York has praised Dr Penkman's work, saying that "Dr Kirsty Penkman is an excellent scientist whose ground-breaking work has brought new insight into our understanding of how ancient events impacts on the world today."

Currently, she has started to look at fossil corals in order to date them, which has led to the discovery that their skeletal proteins seem to change with changes in the environment, opening up a whole new avenue of research when looking at coral's response to changing CO2 levels.

Dr Kirsty Penkman's remarkable work shows that young scientists have the ability to create societal change. In her advice to young scientists, Penkman believes that "collaboration rather than competition that drives science forward faster, and it is far more enjoyable!"

YUSU's Friday Food Fest success

Jonathan Wellington
EDITOR

LAST FRIDAY SAW the debut of Friday Night Food Festival, YUSU's latest project on campus, with Vietnamese society kicking things off by showcasing two easy recipes for everyone to enjoy free of charge.

The event will be held every Friday of this term in the Goodricke Clabour room with different societies taking the lead each week.

The vice-president of the Vietnamese society, Sam Hutchings, told *Nouse* that "the Vietnamese society was happy to host the first ever foodfest and would like to thank everyone who came along and made it as enjoyable as it was! We'd also like to thank those who helped organise the event and made it run smoothly, namely Steph Hayle and the Goodricke Nucleus staff. We hope that

everyone who attended the event had a good evening, and learned some new skills at the same time!"

The scheme is set up and run by YUSU's Community and Wellbeing officer Steph Hayle. The event is designed to be multi-purposed; the fact that over a third of global food is wasted each year, is listed within the justification of the programme alongside students being among the worst for creating food waste and non-recyclable waste (from ready meals etc.) The project, therefore, aims to get students to teach each other how to cook affordably and in a way which produces less waste.

Separate to this are the statistics that a third of students report having been food insecure during their studies. The project aims to not only address this food poverty, providing free nutritious food every Friday, but by teaching students how they can cook nutritiously themselves.

With social isolation being one of the key contributors to poor mental health, and cooking together being seen as a way to

address this, there is a huge social emphasis on this project too. The evenings are also designed to be culturally educational, in a bid to make the University a more culturally inclusive space.

Finally, as the evenings are hosted in Goodricke, they're aiming to bring a bit of atmosphere to the infamously quiet Campus East.

One student who attended the event told *Nouse*: "The night certainly delivered on all fronts with not only amazing food produced, but a really lovely vibe created too."

In her statement to *Nouse*, Steph Hayle SU declared "I set this project up with the hopes of tackling a number of key problems faced by the student community. one third of food is wasted - it's the biggest polluter, and a third of students experience food hardship. Why not tackle both at once?"

"I wanted to not just showcase the amazing cultural diversity we have here in York, but allow other students who wouldn't otherwise engage with these groups, or perhaps are socially isolated, to really explore a different culture and community through food. It's also a great chance to teach people how to cook and live more sustainably - but cutting down food waste, single use plastic, and providing leftovers for people to eat over the weekend."

Iron age skull could help treat dementia

Emily Hewat
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A 2,600 YEAR OLD skull that was found in Heslington by archaeologists is now believed to have properties that could help treat neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimers and dementia.

The skull, which is known to researchers as the 'Heslington brain' was found in 2008 by the York Archaeological Trust at the Heslington Iron Age excavation site. The man's skull was found in a waterlogged man-made ditch which may be why brain tissue still remained in unusually good condition.

It is clear the owner of the skull died after a blow to the head and decapitation with the jaw and two vertebrae still being attached. The process of being hit on the head produced an acidic fluid which leaked into the brain and

helped preserve it. It is believed to be one of the oldest skulls to be found in the UK, dating from 673-482 BC and consequently has attracted the attention of researchers as to how the brain has remained in such good condition.

Scientists spent a year studying the Heslington brain and found that, even after 2,600 years old, the brain still had many of the features of normal living brain tissue. Particular attention was paid to the proteins within the brain as the Heslington brain's proteins were more tightly folded than usual and were still capable of producing antibodies.

Researchers noticed that the Heslington brain proteins took a full year to unfold. This is a significant discovery for researchers looking to find a cure for Alzheimer's and dementia as these diseases involve a process of harmful protein folding.



IMAGE: MIREK SCHUBERT

Rise in EU Uni staff

Callum Tennant
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL financial report paints a mixed message about the impact of Brexit on the University of York.

The number of EU students studying at the University fell last year, but despite this the number of staff from the EU increased by one per cent. In total, almost one in five staff members are international at the University of York, with ten per cent of staff coming from the EU.

Despite the fact that the number of EU staff at the University has increased, the University acknowledged that "Brexit continues to be of significant concern for our staff."

The report also reiterated that advice and access to legal advice had been given. In order to help staff struggling with visa costs, the University has also begun offering zero interest loans for staff joining the university from overseas.

Reacting to the government decision that EU university staff already living and working in the UK would have the right to remain, the report claimed that this was a "heartening endorsement of the intellectual vibrancy our EU colleagues bring to the academic com-

munity." While the University did welcome certain decisions which had been made regarding the governments Brexit position, it warned that it would continue to promote the benefits of mobility programmes such as Erasmus.

The House of Commons recently voted against a clause which, if passed, would have forced the government to seek continued full access to Erasmus and other EU youth programmes. In the financial report of the last year the University highlighted that it had dramatically increased the level of liquid assets it was holding to £144 million.

In a move which reassured universities around the UK, the government has guaranteed to continue to offer EU students tuition loans and has agreed to freeze the price of tuition fees at current levels.

YUSU told *Nouse* that they had been continuously "considering how we mitigate any possible adverse effects [of Brexit]." They added that they are "looking to and working with experts to constantly review the situation." Adding some comical light to the end of their statement YUSU reassured students that "even through this uncertainty we will be doing our utmost to ensure Courtyard will stay up and running to supply nachos to all students in need."



IMAGE: VERDY P

The 'crucial' cost of head hunting

Patrick Walker
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

NOUSE RESEARCH INTO freedom of information requests has revealed the high cost of recruiting the University's staff.

During the latest financial year available, 2017/18, our investigation found that the University had spent over £410,000 on third-party recruitment agencies over the course of the academic year. This sum for 2017/18 is a decrease from the year before, 2016/17, where the University spent over £710,000 for the same purpose. The figures include costings for temporary, permanent, and executive headhunting agencies across York's large spectrum of needs.

Unsurprisingly, the highest cost of recruitment derived from the search required to find the University's new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charlie Jeffery, formerly of the University of Edinburgh.

The figure of £58,187.15 represents the highly complex process typically needed by large universities such as York to recruit managers capable of managing their large estates. The University boasted an income of nearly £400 million last year, and requires a diverse and extensive skill set to fulfil the Vice-Chancellor's various roles as the lead academic, managing executive, and external advocate for the University's interests.

Encouragingly, the process of

selecting recruitment firms reportedly included attempts to increase the diversity of candidates too. External recruitment firms, which were used for the vast majority of candidates, were briefed to square lists of "highly-qualified" applicants with a commitment to finding candidates with a range of backgrounds. Recruiters were instructed to ensure "applications are encouraged from as wide and diverse a range of potential candidates as possible." Agencies were also marked on a variety of criteria for their recruitment, including their understanding of the higher education sector, any additional services, and how diversity and equality were "embedded throughout the entire search campaign."

Additionally, members of the selection panel to choose the Vice-Chancellor undertook a training course to mitigate "unconscious bias" as well as committing to "equality and diversity." Each panel member was then reportedly taken through a workshop by York's assistant head of Human Relations, Alex Brierley.

The biggest payout awarded to a recruitment firm by the University was to Horizon Group Ltd, a British recruitment firm, which in 2017/18 earned over £121,000 for its work finding York management staff. 19 per cent of York's staff population comes from overseas, and York boasts rising numbers of European staff, despite concerns Brexit would dampen recruitment in the sector.

Another payment of over £70,000 to specialist construction recruiters Minerva Appointments reflects York's continued investment in its physical infrastructure, something that was listed as a priority in its report for the 2019 financial year.

When approached for comment regarding the cost of recruiting the Vice-Chancellor, YUSU President Samara Jones argued that the cost was "justified through the extensive process that ensured an extremely high quality of candidates in what is essentially a hugely competitive global market."

"The scrutiny within the process meant that any successful candidate would need to have some clarity of a plan for where they would start and where they would like to lead the University."

Additionally, a spokesperson from the University told *Nouse*:

"The Vice-Chancellor is the University's most senior academic and also its most senior administrative officer. Ultimately, the Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the success of the institution.

"It was crucial that we undertook the widest possible search to appoint the best person for the role in what is a globally competitive higher education market."

The University went on to defend the process and money spent by saying:

"The University undertook a detailed and competitive tendering process to appoint the most appropriate and experienced firm."

Nouse talks to new Vice Chancellor, Charlie Jeffery: His vision, goals and priorities for the University

“If we don’t have students shaping our strategy then, as managers we’re probably in the wrong place”

AS STUDENTS WE might not realise all the tasks a Vice-Chancellor deals with. Or, in the words of the VC: “they might see this person speaking to them at an open day, or in Freshers’ Week, then possibly not see this person ever again.”

That is not the approach that Charlie Jeffery wants to take. He voiced his desire to “be a bit different” wanted to engage directly with the wider student population at York. He tells us that he hopes this will make the position of VC less “mysterious to students.”

When setting out just what it is he does, he tells us he has three main roles:

1. Chief Academic

“I lead the research at the University [and] ensure we perform at the highest level in that academic area.”

2. Chief Executive

The University is “a big organisation with a big budget, I’m responsible for making sure that money is deployed effectively.”

3. Chief Advocate for the University

This is “an external role.” “I try to affect policy internationally, and promote the University’s interests abroad” as well as in York.

He tells us that “hopefully in my conversations with students, they will understand the [role of VC] better and how that affects them.” Touching upon the colleges, Charlie Jeffery tells us how he “hopes to make more of that,” because “it’s quite special to York. There aren’t many places which have a college system. I’m finding out how important it is as a way of linking students to university.”

We move on to one of the most important issues that students talk about: rent. The VC tells us that he’s been saying to “colleagues that we need to make sure that we have as good a range of price options as possible.” He defends the higher priced options that the University of York offers, stating that “they are in heavy demand, so there isn’t a problem with demand for those.” He does,

however, concede that “many students do have financial challenges.”

Going into more detail about his plans to help students who do struggle with rent, the VC tells us about the then upcoming plan to reduce 350 room prices to £99 a week, which *Nouse* recently reported on. The VC is also keen to point out that the University does offer bursaries which cost the University “around £4.8 million a year.”

Just 13 per cent of the new rooms are set to be economy.

“There’s also demand for high end accommodation” the VC reiterates. He adds that there’s “a 2:1 demand ratio for recently provided rooms.”

The VC then tells us it’s important to have “as good a breadth as possible, so that price points and financial capability are not necessarily producing closed communities.”

Talking more about the idea of closed communities, we ask the VC whether he knew that Heslington East, particularly Langwith and Constantine, have a reputation of being where rich students live. “No, I didn’t know that” he reveals.

The VC reveals he wants to make funding available to create a student hub building, “to incorporate University student-facing services, as well as the services that YUSU provides, and of course to provide additional facilities for societies.”

He adds that this can only happen “if we can make the money work.” The Vice-Chancellor seems very enthusiastic about this idea. Speaking a little louder than before, he declares “I think we need it! I’ve got colleagues discussing the options ... and that conversation will certainly involve the broader student body. We don’t want to construct a building which ends up configured in a way students don’t want to use.”

We interviewed the Vice-Chancellor in late November just as the last rounds of strikes were underway. Talking to him about the

“ideally decommission” some of the “less good student residences we have.” The VC criticises the model that some universities have deployed of “grow grow grow...”

Instead, he says he is leading a strategy process to figure out what the University’s strategy on growth should be. The VC admitted that he thought “it may be possible that we grow,” but he went on to insist that “we need to do it with a clear academic plan, and a sense that there is student demand in some of our key areas.”

The new accommodation “also offers a possibility to meet demand for second year returners, which we’re currently finding hard.” The VC tells us that “there are other avenues for growth, through external organisations off campus.”

We ask whether he can clarify if all of the new colleges would be formed from existing students. It is a question to which a clear answer is not given. The furthest the VC will go is in telling us that it “isn’t going to be all new students.” This doesn’t close the door to “additional student” numbers; it also fails to ensure that any existing “less good student residences” will actually be decommissioned. Asked whether he has any plans to give students more of a say in the rent setting process the VC gives a vague answer. He does say that he “wants to look for student engagement, and perhaps more systematically than may have been the case in the past.” He also says that he hopes “to have conveyed that to current Officers in YUSU and the GSA.”

The VC reveals he wants to make funding available to create a student hub building, “to incorporate University student-facing services, as well as the services that YUSU provides, and of course to provide additional facilities for societies.”

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We interviewed the Vice-Chancellor in late November just as the last rounds of strikes were underway. Talking to him about the

part of the dispute he has control over, pay casualisation, we ask him if he will commit to improving things for staff who feel they are not being valued. Perhaps by ending one year contracts? He replies that he’s “hearing that’s the biggest issue, not just here but across UK picket lines too. I’ve raised this with our local UCU, saying I’m happy to have a conversation about casual staffing, pay gaps, and workload issues which are all bundled up into the UCEA locally focused action.”

I’m happy to have a conversation about casual staffing

“When we have 28 different academic units, we have all sorts of practices and I think understanding the situation across all that diversity is a good step towards ensuring we have high quality employment contracts for our staff.” He adds: “a former colleague at the University of Edinburgh had a mantra: “happy staff, happy students. I think there’s something to that.”

We then pointed out how the Vice-Chancellor of Essex penned a letter supporting the strikes, saying that the trustees of the pension fund were “overly cautious” in allocating money. We asked Charlie Jeffery if he was willing to say that the striking lecturers deserve more compensation?

“My position is that we have had a second bout of industrial action in two years, and this obviously isn’t good. We need to find a method tackling this issue in an enduring way. That’s got some difficulties. This is partly because the national regulation system for pension schemes, and the pensions regulator who interprets government policy to set guidelines for the schemes to follow, they set certain assumptions about how you do valuations. There is lots of dispute around those assumptions.

“I was a supporter right at the start of the joint expert panel process, which was the idea that the organisation for the pensions dispute, and UCU, should jointly work on some of those assumptions, and how the scheme might be governed best in the future.”

The VC skillfully sidesteps when we ask what he thinks of

his predecessors. In particular, we point out that it does appear as if he is much more willing to engage with the student body. “I can’t comment on that because I wasn’t here!”

He adds “I’m bringing my approach to the job. That Chief Academic role means offering leadership to the staff who enable academics to do what they do, but it’s also about engaging with students. It’s just how I understand the role. If that is noticed and appreciated, then I’m pleased and I’ll carry on doing it.”

Engagement is also his answer when we ask what feature of his time at Edinburgh University he’d like to bring to York. “I want to make that [engagement with students] as effective as possible. Given that students communicate in ways that older people don’t necessarily communicate, that can be a challenge sometimes.”

One of the new Vice-Chancellor’s first acts as VC was to announce that the University had divested from its holdings in fossil fuel companies. We asked him what else the University can do to help become more sustainable. His answer... “All sorts!” Good answer we quip.

The VC then sets out in more detail what’s being done. “One of the first things I did was to effectively reboot the working group we had on sustainability issues,

and to give it a different remit, and a sense of expectation on timescale. The goal has to be about three things... One is thinking about University operations, and carbon emissions associated with it, and we have to work within the constraints of our 1960s buildings, which aren’t particularly carbon efficient.

Secondly, we have brilliant research across academic departments here on climate change. I think we can do more to bring that together to make a bigger impact, both here and in the outside world. That’s where we will have our biggest effect on the climate crisis and its impact on global warming, if we can get our technologies, and our insights adopted widely. And perhaps most importantly, it’s students.

This was the VC’s first interview with *Nouse*. A new VC with a new record, new goals, and priorities. Our job is to see how successful our new Vice-Chancellor will be.

Callum Tennant
DEPUTY EDITOR

Patrick Walker
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT



IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK



IMAGE: JOHN ROBINSON



IMAGE: ARIAN KRIESCH



COMMENT



IMAGE: BROKENSHERE

It's time to give our attention to injustice in China

China have concentration camps for the Uighurs and the UK is fixated on the royal family instead

Matthew King
(he/him)



A few weeks back I brought up the topic of the Xinjiang concentration camps with my family and found that none of them knew what I was talking about. They had no idea that over one million Muslims are currently being incarcerated against their will in 're-education' camps – which is the last time I will call them that in this article. It was out of such ignorance that I realised this article needed to be written.

Currently over one million Uighur (as well as other ethnic minority) Muslims are being held in an estimated 500 concentration camps in the Xinjiang region of China. These camps are being branded as 'reformation' and 're-education' camps, which are supposedly helping the Chinese government end the war on terror. However, this is not the reality. These camps are essentially indoctrination and torture facilities. Within them, innocent people are being chained, forced to eat pork, speak Mandarin and made to denounce their religion. Some former detainees have also reported that they were subjected to both rape and medical experimentation.

This is not re-education; this is ethnic cleansing.

The Chinese government have consistently stated that these camps are voluntary and are offering people training, education and the possibility of jobs. However, there is clear and consistent evidence that proves this is a guise to cover up their true task. This being the indoctrination of thousands of Muslim individuals to support the communist regime and denounce their own religion, through both psychological and physical torture.

Is it just me or is this sounding a bit familiar? It may have been 80 years ago, but these camps are almost identical to Hitler's anti-Semitic concentration camps, wherein they were also covered up with the façade of patriotism and re-education.

I simply echo the words written above the gates of Auschwitz: 'Arbeit macht frei', or, 'work makes you free'.

However, one of the largest differences between Nazi Germany's camps and China's modern-day ones is our level of education on the two subjects. We will all remember learning about the Holocaust in school, we all remember the images of the bodies lying in piles and the faces of the innocent men, women, and children behind the barbed fences. Yet, can any of us actually categorically say we understand

what's happening in China? I know I certainly couldn't until I did the research for this article.

This is wrong. Our media is not reporting on the issues that actually matter. Instead of spreading the much-needed knowledge about atrocities such as this, our headlines and newsfeeds are cluttered with celebrity gossip, and the ever-growing disaster that is Brexit.

Torture is being reported less than the pointless royal drama ”

How can we truly say that we live in an educated and enlightened society when the immoral torture and indoctrination of innocent people is less reported on than unimportant socialites and celebrities such as Prince Harry and Megan Markle?

As 'perfect' and 'moral' Western citizens, at least those who have heard about this issue, we are viewing what is happening in China with complete horror. Yet we still cannot recognise the similar Islamophobia which is plaguing our own soil. China is scapegoating the Muslim peo-

ple as terrorists as a way to justify these camps. With Western political leaders such as Donald Trump, Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson all doing a similar thing, is it not time that we recognise our own inherent problems and Islamophobia before our society follows in China's footsteps?

This has led me to question why people are not receiving the information on what is happening in China; why are we not being informed about possibly one of the worst humanitarian issues of the century? Why is it that the media doesn't want us to see that injustice to a specific religion is going too far? Perhaps the answers to these questions can never be given, but it is clear that we need to start asking more of them if we are to understand why these gaps in our media are forming.

To begin to strive for change against this issue we must begin to talk about it and spread the information that we need to possess. If we don't begin to change and widen what is reported in the news, then we begin to live in ignorance of the real problems that we are collectively facing as a human race, and the issues that are actually affecting not only people's lives, but their right to exist. The line I was always told in school when learning about the Holocaust was 'we teach you this so that it may never be repeated', so

surely we need to be taught about this very current, similar problem in the hopes that we can help stop it, or perhaps prevent it from happening elsewhere.

Already, Western leaders like Donald Trump, have proposed anti-Islamic laws and legislation, such as Muslim registration systems and Burqa bans, all of which is indoctrinating us to see Muslims as the threat, just as Hitler did with the Jewish people 80 years ago in World War Two.

We must ensure that the past does not repeat itself, and the only way we can do that is by awareness and information. The media must begin to report on the issues that are shaping the 21st century and destroying the lives of millions of innocents globally if we are to ensure that what is happening in China does not begin to spread.

After you have read this article, wherever you are, just stop for a few minutes, go online, learn more about this issue and spread the information about what is happening. If the media will not educate us, then we must educate ourselves if we have any hope of stopping tragedies such as this from continuing.

We can, and must, stop history from repeating itself. A good place to start doing this is by watching BBC show *Panorama: How to Brainwash a Million People* (available on BBC iPlayer).

EDITOR'S OPINION

“Including pronouns”

Izzy Hall
(she/her)



With the new year comes a paper redesign; some much-needed paper-wide adjustments under our new Editor Jonny. Over the past week, the current comment team over the past week have floated ideas concerning what this section of the paper should deliver and how it should look, and despite the fact that we all live and breathe *Nouse*, we are not too proud to refuse improvement.

Comment is unique for a few reasons other than its recent reputation for tackling huge social issues (see previous page nine pieces). Of all the sections in the paper, Comment usually receives the most comments (no pun intended). As the opinion pieces we print also go live on the website, Facebook and Twitter, they often spark discussion threads about controversial topics. This is what we want – the desired outcome – and why we spend prod-week locked up in the office is to start conversations on campus. Because of the interactive nature of what this section of the paper produces, we collectively agreed that the introduction of pronouns under writers' names would be a step in the right direction for a few reasons.

Firstly, we have seen a general move towards the inclusion of pronouns across campus mainly from staff who have added them to email sign offs – ensuring that misgendering microaggressions can be avoided altogether and increase the much-needed visibility for non-binary and trans members of staff. Similarly, because of the responses comment pieces incite, we think it's time to allow people a chance to state their pronouns under their name when

writing for *Nouse*.

Also unique to Comment are headshots – usually staged photos in front of the *Nouse* office door, but nonetheless, they add a personal touch to the pieces included in the paper. However, this does throw up some issues with readers of the paper assuming pronouns based on visual appearance. Those in and outside of the LG-BTQ+ community often struggle with the concept that there is no certain way to be trans and non-binary; this includes how a person may express their gender.

Cultivating a society where there is no visual expectation, or what is often called the pressure to “pass” as your gender identity, is of utmost importance. For non-binary people too, this is often a prong of discrimination they feel intensely as society will continue to misgender them however they express/present themselves to the world. Having pronouns alongside the Comment headshots will allow students to be presented exactly how they wish.

If you're a cisgender reader, I would ask that you take a moment before responding to this Editor's note. If you believe that this is “PC gone mad” or “unnecessary”, I would ask you to imagine how it must feel to be mis-gendered, or perceived in a different way to what your identity is. There are many situations in daily life where trans and non-binary people are powerless to societal opinion and beliefs about what their gender means and should look like.

I would like to think that our generation is collectively moving past the binary structures of how we perceive gender, and our communities and workplaces should reflect that. If you do not want your pronouns included on a piece, of course this is fine too. The new layout of Comment will work towards decreasing misgendering in responses and start more progressive conversations among writers and readers.



IMAGE: HUGH LEE

Be careful what you wish for

Take it from the UK, Alberta, the grass isn't always greener

Eleanor Longman-Rood
(she/her)



While studying abroad in British Columbia, my accent often gave me away. Once the cat was out of the bag, professors would often smirk and ask what I thought of Brexit. Always cautious to hide my frustration that I had travelled 4,000 miles away to talk about anything else, my comments always ended with a quip that it would all be over by the time I returned home.

I felt like Simon Pegg in *Shaun of the Dead*, heading to The Winchester to wait for it all to blow over. In hindsight, I could not have been more wrong.

It is hard then to argue that politics isn't a cruel mistress with a very wicked sense of humour when, on my return, the UK's membership of the European Union was still very much intact. To add to the irony, a few months later in light of the results of the 2019 federal election, the western province of Alberta was pushing for its own independence from Canada.

While the destination still remains unknown, the road to Brexit has not been without its bumps. Before abruptly embarking down the same route, what has been deemed the ‘Wexit’ movement must stop and look at the warnings left by Britain's journey.

Home to vast amounts of cattle, conservatives and somewhat standing out and apart from the rest of the nation's more liberal values, Alberta has always been seen as the ‘Texas’ of Canada. The nickname may give off an unfavourable impression, especially to liberally minded people, but it highlights a certain sense of ‘western alienation’

that has been growing in the region.

With an Ipsos poll stating that 83 per cent of Albertans wanted Trudeau and his liberal government out in the last electoral cycle, there is a sentiment spreading among the people that Ottawa and its central government looks down on the province while failing to act in its best interests. This tension between Alberta and the country's capital runs deeper however.

Politics is a cruel mistress with a very wicked sense of humour

It is not only a clash of cultures between the east and west of the nation, but a growing opinion that those in power neglect to adequately represent the needs and concerns the Western provinces. Aside from the riding of Edmonton Strathcona where the New Democratic Party ousted the Conservatives, the entire province emerged blue on election night. This only spurred on the cause of Wexit Canada to gain support across other western provinces, like Saskatchewan, leading to being granted the chance to run in future federal elections.

All this is sounding eerily similar to the Eurosceptic debates that began to gain traction leading up to the 2016 referendum in the UK. Yet, the reality that such independence would ever occur is highly unlikely. This actuality causes my worries to subside. However, this is precisely how my reasoning unfolded about Brexit and now look where we are.

After all, Alberta is not the first province to float the idea of independence from Ottowan rule. In

1995, a referendum was held to vote on the issue of Quebec gaining independence.

While the result left the nation in tact, it was exceptionally close at 50.58 per cent to 49.42 per cent. Back home, it makes the percentages of 48 to 52 seem a million miles apart.

There is one major difference, albeit a very obvious one, between Brexit and Wexit. Britain is leaving a huge bureaucratic and almost self-governing international body, not losing part of its country to independence.

While, for my own fragile sanity, I now hold onto the opinion that Britain may well emerge on the other side of Brexit for the better, British politics won't be completely unscathed. For nearly four years, the issue has polarised the country and redefined the political map. If Wexit Canada continues down this path, the same will be true for the Western provinces.

Canada is a beautifully unique and wildly diverse country. It is a nation where it makes sense for rustic rodeos and cattle farming to perfectly coexist alongside fancy French cuisine and architecture, as it seamlessly encompasses identities that include both. Former Liberal cabinet member, Ralph Goodale, has recently said in an interview that Wexit has taken Canadian politics down a “counterproductive rabbit hole.”

I cannot help but agree. Independence can and will not ever occur overnight, yet if questions surrounding it keep being ignored by the government in Ottawa, politics in Canada will only become more divisive. It is a slippery slope that leads to nothing but a quagmire, one which we are only beginning to drag ourselves out of now. Western Canada must be vigilant not to accidentally sentence themselves to the same fate.



Cartoon by Ayesha Gleed

We should record lectures, we have the technology

Is it too much to ask that people like me don't have our lives made even harder by our lecturers?

Patrick Walker
(he/him)



It struck me, as I was getting out my laptop for the first lecture of my last module here at York, that I've never had a semester with every lecture recorded. After three years at the University, you'd think that increasing awareness of disabilities, and the long battles between academic reps and lecturers, would have led to a more systemic change in each department, but in actual fact, uptake for the system is still not completed.

That in mind, here I am, once again, trudging my way to the front of the lecture hall to ask politely if any of the module convener's lecturers are available "through other means." Being deaf shouldn't have to be an educational struggle. Deaf students already attend Russell Group universities at about half the rate that our fellow students do. Now I'm here, by way of some sensitive secondary teachers, and a lot of hard work and it would be nice to have my needs properly addressed. Lecture capture is often framed as a way for hungover students to ingest information without having to put pants on, but its more important utility is often overlooked. Namely:

its role in giving hard-of-hearing students equal access to the education for which they have been so cheerfully ripped off.

In this context, the argument that lecture capture systems lower attendance rates doesn't hold water. The systems allow students with disabilities, or working with other engagements (like a job, or, God forbid, a student paper editorship) to maintain the same level of academic progress as their peers. If the same systems allow students to watch lectures in bed over orange juice and some aspirin, that should only be seen as a bonus.

The current problem of implementation is that the decision on how students with support plans are to be dealt with seems to remain squarely with the module convener (if, indeed, these students are addressed at all). This term, one of my modules will feature selectively muted recordings to ensure Professor Ajala's work doesn't reach notoriously sensitive African dictatorial regimes, which is, in my view, rather fair. That said, the other will simply not be recorded

at all: presumably Saudi Arabia are just desperate to get their hands on his short summaries of the Copenhagen school.

Last year, the University said, in a policy document, that lecture capture should be a "University-wide" system. This self-evidently, does not remain the case. The same policy document sets out an exemption system where lecturers have to justify any exemptions to the department head, and the chair of the board of studies. Perhaps it is a surprise to these people that their lecturers are not following this rule.

Of course, the problem is compounded with dyslexic students and people with other educational needs. Here, academics had the potential to be surprisingly insensitive. Multiple students told Nouse that they had been handed extra readings by lecturers when they fail to decipher lecture information from the only revisional medium available: the slides. This practice creates more work for some students over students without a disability, and is self-evidently not ok.

The attempts at universal lecture capture pushed through by former Academic Officer

James Hare last year were a promising start to improvement of the system. For the first time, academics began, begrudgingly, to switch on the system, and acknowledging the realities of a universe where microphones exist. That process is still not yet complete, however, and the practice of ignoring lecture capture requirements remains relatively common, especially within humanities.

Microphones do exist in our world. Lecturers should learn this fact

Disabled students need oversight of their lecturers to ensure that they are following these rules, and not leaving us by the wayside. The policy needs active enforcement from departmental support staff so that lecture capture becomes the default option, and avoidance the extreme exception. In cases where the academic wants to talk without fear of reprimand, they need to be aware that they can just pause the lecture capture technology, rather than sacking the whole lecture off for the sake of ten minutes of sala-

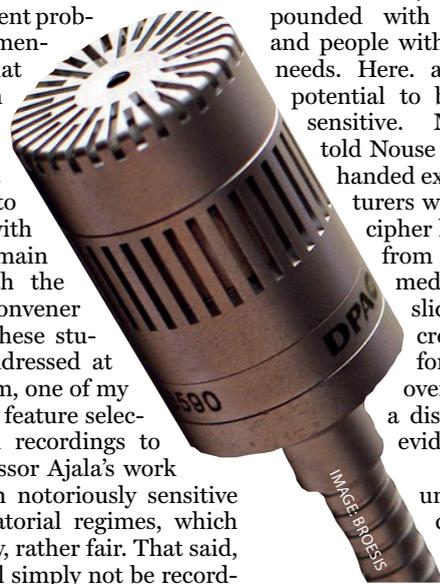
rious academic gossip.

Of course, we want our lecturers safe, happy, and taking advantage of their freedom to speak, but, as academics, it can be considered rather outside their remit to ensure student support plans are followed to the latter, and it's no surprise that they are not doing it very well.

Too many are left to make their own interpretation of the University regulations on disabilities. In my second year, this included one instance where a particularly cantankerous Politics speaker covered the microphone with a duffel coat for the entirety of the lecture. His recorded delivery would have all the audiological clarity of a small tuning fork in a wind tunnel.

There are other ways to ensure disabled students get the support they need: podcasts, or better Powerpoint notes, for example. It's fair to say that disability support is one of York's genuine strengths, but it lags behind the rest of the Russell group pack (even Cardiff) when it comes to lecture capture.

Departments at this University need to wake up and acknowledge that the system that's in place is more than just a fad to benefit their lazy pupils. The essential solution to the fundamental problem is that York's hard-of-hearing community simply need the lecture capture policy implemented consistently, and fairly.



Lords moving north is a step south for democracy

Yorkshire doesn't need a fancy new building; it needs a revolution in regional political power

Jack Galea
(he/him)



If there is one golden rule about British politics as of late it's that resolving the regional inequalities that exist between London/the south east and the rest of the country will always be foremost an exercise in public relations, as opposed to a tangible political issue that needs resolving. Promises of building a 'Northern Powerhouse' and a 'Midlands Engine' have all been made, as was a 'vow' of extensive devolution if the Scottish people voted 'No' to independence.

The Conservative Party materialises these various pledges close to the election cycle as a means of harvesting votes and then it is back to the business of day-to-day governance.

For Yorkshire, this means broken promises – take the scrapping of the rail electrification projects on the London-Sheffield Midlands Main Line and the Leeds-Manchester TransPennine route, along with the Leeds New Generation Transport scheme that would have brought trolley buses to Leeds. To add salt in the wounds, plans for Crossrail 2 in London, which is soon to already benefit from Crossrail, were advanced further days after.

Or if it is not broken promises, then it's a callous disregard for public services – Dewsbury in West Yorkshire was the second worst hit constituency in the country for 2017 school cuts, whilst what has been called a public health crisis in York relating to drink and drugs has

emerged due to cuts to substance misuse services.

Yorkshire councils have long tried to advance plans for a 'One Yorkshire' devolution plan, which would give them a Metro Mayor and a Combined Authority to provide a voice against a government that continuously lets down this region in the north. Yet this was rejected at the start of the last year by the government. And now, they wish to insult the people of Yorkshire by promising to move the House of Lords to York.

The argument for this is horrendously simplistic – people don't like central government taking decisions that fails to better their lives on a con-

sistent basis. Therefore, the central government has decided that part of the national legislature should be moved to another part of the country – to 'reconnect', whatever that may mean.

Aside from the insulting nature of shifting a chamber where 44 per cent of members are from London and the south east to the York Central development site without redistributing power away from Westminster, the practical issue of shifting part of legislative process outside the capital is a step backwards for democracy.

An interest group or lobby with huge economies of scale will be able to afford the cost of conducting political lobbying activities in London and York, but certainly not advocates for groups like the WASPI women.

Nor has consideration been given for the people of York – this, in essence, is an extremely ambitious development plan, one that could have an impact on cost of living issues such as rent throughout the city. We are, after all, talking about relocating the upper house of the British legislative system to a small city of about 150,000. In the several years it will take for this to get planning approval, for it to prove that it won't be too costly in

this grand exercise in 'reconnection', perhaps they may find that the people of York in fact do not want them in their city. Or, as seems to be customary of the central government, the project may be scrapped after all this furore.

Local politicians and anyone who wants power to be devolved to the north should consider this carefully and not be misled – what kind of victory is having a building that houses an unrepresentative legislative in the York Central development scheme over the headquarters of a One Yorkshire Combined Authority that can deliver on transport, health, education and housing in a way that the Conservative government has continuously failed to do? It is devolution, not having the House of Lords in London, that has made London under Sadiq Khan a world leader among cities in air quality and infrastructure.

Yorkshire needs a revolution in political power, not what is essentially an overhyped building development that hasn't been properly evaluated and where more flaws the benefits can be so easily observed at this stage.

Demand better, and don't let central government patronise local communities with vacuous gesture politics.

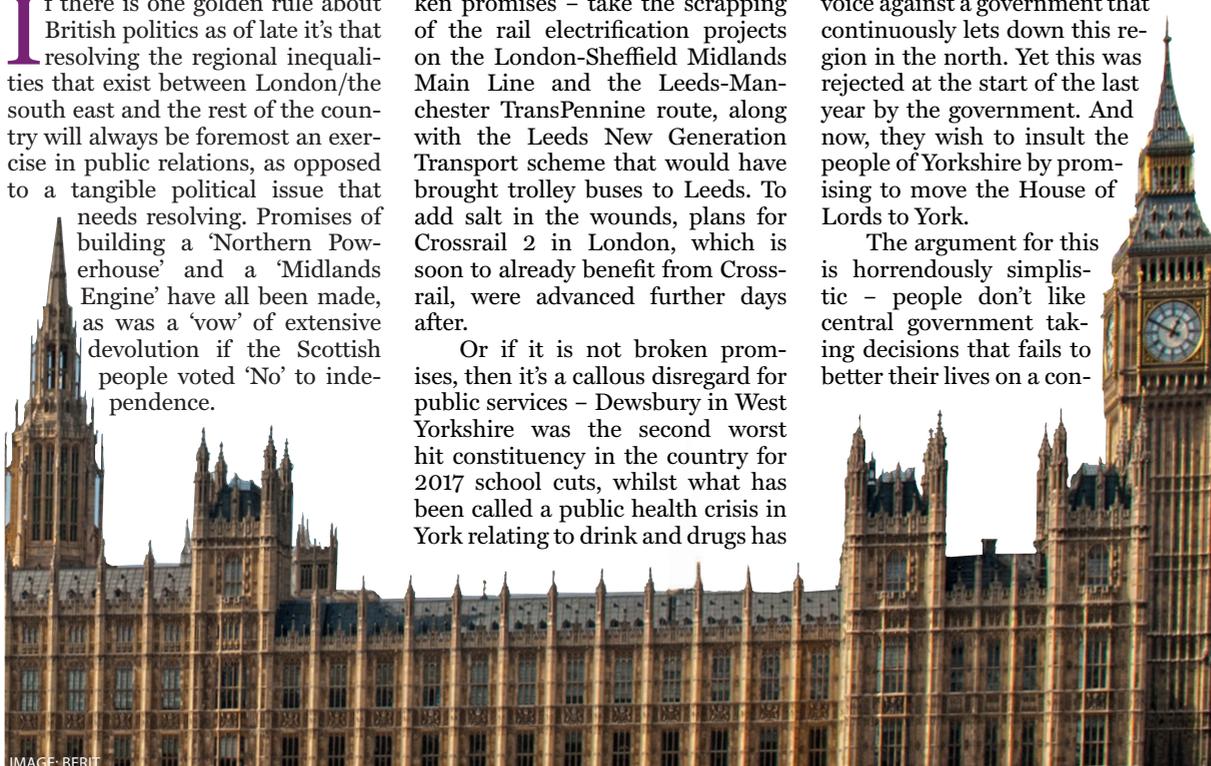


IMAGE: BERIT

Attacking comedy is not the path to progression

The attack on Gervais' Golden Globes jokes will kill comedy, not save Hollywood from its obvious faults

William Hart
(he/him)



Ricky Gervais gave a controversial speech at the Golden Globes on 5 January, which showed just how deluded Hollywood is about its own hypocrisy. Gervais highlighted this skillfully in his speech.

As a result of the film industry's obsession with appearing woke and living or dying by what is said about them on Twitter, it is not surprising that Gervais' jokes were regarded as an admission of his political leaning. Jokes are just that, jokes. When someone makes one, it is not meant to be taken literally. They can indeed allude to topics which need talking about, but are not meant as anything more than a conversation starter on difficult topics.

Take Gervais' joke about Hollywood's lack of diversity regarding people of colour, an issue which the recent Oscar nominations show still blights Hollywood. Regardless of who you cast or how many *Black*

Panthers are made, it does not equate to solving the structural diversity issue in the film industry.

Gervais has faced attacks on social media because if you say anything on a platform today which goes against the woke movement you are immediately considered to be the scum of the earth, even if you are highlighting important issues. "We want diversity" seems to stop at diversity of opinion when faced with an uncomfortable truth which does not fit certain narrow views of the world.

What one can and cannot say in the public sphere often gets dictated by those who shout the loudest, and not those who take a level-headed approach to issues.

We live in an echo chamber in which our views are constantly being reaffirmed. This leads to people thinking that any view contrary to their own narrow mindset is automatically

wrong. As Gervais found out, this means backlash from many actors within the left-leaning media and Twitter vigilantes.

Twitter activism is a dangerous route to go down when deciding what is right or wrong; people on the internet are not the best examples of morality. This has been highlighted in a recent incident involving *The Guardian* columnist and Corbyn cheerleader Owen Jones and *The Times* columnist and television presenter Giles Coren. In an article in *The Times* on 31 December 2019, Coren contributed to a piece where journalists at the paper shared their political predictions for this year.

In this piece Coren said: "My prediction for next year is Owen Jones getting a peerage in Corbyn's resignation honours (does he get a go at that?) and becoming a fat old

lord getting smashed on madeira in the morning and chasing young researchers with tight bottoms up and down the corridors all afternoon."

Both sides of the argument need to be listened to



In response, Jones took to Twitter to address his million followers: "Not exactly subtle homophobia being printed by *The Times*, is it?" This comment by Jones caused huge backlash against Coren which resulted in some of Jones' supporters hunting down Coren's address and threatening to come around to his house in person.

To this Coren must have thought that these comments were not credible and, just like jokes, not to be taken at face value. However, these threats culminated in activists going to Coren's house and harassing his wife and children on 6 January.

How does this incident

of misguided outrage and frenzy which led to a family being harassed link to Gervais' speech? Both made comments which were intended as jokes, and so not meant to be taken as gospel, both were highlighting serious issues which need to be talked about in the criticised sectors, and both have received the wrath of the left for their comments.

I'm not saying that Gervais or Coren were in the right or have the moral high ground here, or that the woke movement is wrong. What I am saying is that the continued attacks by a radical left on those who say anything that is in the slightest bit 'unwoke' is the wrong way to gain further progress in society.

For progression to occur, both sides of the argument need to be listened to and not shouted over.

Most important is this: a joke is meant as a joke 99.9 per cent of the time, and as Gervais said in his speech: "Remember, they're just jokes".

Comedy is about growth; some jokes that comedians made 10 years ago obviously would not be found funny by the moral standards of today's society. But to attack Gervais and his comedy for not being 'woke' enough takes away the essence of what comedy is supposed to be.

Take jokes as such: a form of entertainment, and not as some malicious attempt to destroy all the progress society has made.



IMAGE: NBC

Labour's hopefuls 'united' in their own hypocrisy

Calling for people to unify behind you when you haven't practiced what you preach doesn't sit quite right

Joseph Higgins
(he/him)



The Labour leadership contest has officially begun and five candidates: Sir Keir Starmer, Rebecca Long Bailey, Lisa Nandy, Jess Phillips and Emily Thornberry have made it through into the next round. Each of these candidates has called for an end to "factionalism" and the huge political divide within the Party. The fact that some of these candidates don't recognise the hypocrisy in their words is absurd and should be highlighted before we decide who leads Labour into the future.

Jess Phillips is the obvious candidate to talk about here, she's been very vocal calling for the two sides of the party to unite under her leadership. This is despite the fact that she spent four years of Jeremy Corbyn's tenure as the Labour leader fighting against her own party's leadership based on ideological differences. As far back as 2015, when Corbyn was first elected she openly stated that she would "knife him in the front", before supporting a parliamentary

coup in 2016 which led to Corbyn gaining an increased membership mandate. Phillips wasn't deterred though; in the time since, she has been a vocal critic of Labour's leadership in the media. For her to now be calling for unity and solidarity from across the Party is ridiculous in my view.

Let me just say, I'm not Corbyn or bust. I support the Labour Party's policy direction over the course of his leadership but I understand there are fair criticisms of him. His communication of each new policy was sorely lacking, and it led to a lack of trust in a manifesto that polled significantly better than rival parties. There are antisemitism issues within a minority of the party that should've been dealt with more decisively and firmly.

However, Jess Phillips has seemingly criticised every single

thing about the Labour Party. Some of those criticisms were valid, others were just public statements of her opinion which differed from the leadership. In my view, she should have supported the mani-

festos which was voted for by the membership of the party she is part of. She didn't do that.

Sir Keir Starmer is considered to be much better by most standards, he's already garnered plenty of support from both sides of the party, despite being the only male candidate in a field of otherwise exclusively female candidates.

In a race where many think it might be time for a woman to lead the second major party in the UK, Starmer's candidacy may seem

like a return to old ways best left behind. However, his popularity comes from his perceived ability to begin what is going to be a painful and long unification process for the party.

That said, it is getting a little hard to believe. The Labour Party needs to become a more broad church. Many of my peers seem to be allergic to compromise and consider it morally wrong to do so. I think that to win an election we need a leader that can fairly weigh up the positives and negatives of every aspect of the party's supporters. Starmer may embody that, but I'm cynical at the prospect. His campaign team recently hired Matt Pound, one of the most infamous Corbysceptics in the entire Labour Party. A man who has called for the entirety of Momentum to be expelled on Twitter might not be the sign of a man who's trying to bring together both sides of what's been a very vicious argument. This is overtly disqualifying for Starmer, but it doesn't reflect well on his future policymaking; from a left winger's perspective at least.

Lisa Nandy and Emily Thornberry have similar issues but are polling behind the others, including Rebecca Long Bailey. She has the

opposite problem of Phillips and Starmer. She's already being branded as Corbyn 2.0. Even if I liked Corbyn as the leader, which I did, that will not cut it going forward.

We must face up to the fact that we lost the election. Unity within the party wouldn't just be nice, it's a necessity. Corbyniters have failed to do so for the past four years, whose fault that is doesn't matter, each side will make a case against the other. However, Long Bailey does not seem like the credible option for overcoming those differences. Even if she is, the media that gave Corbyn no quarter, no wriggle room, will not let up for Long Bailey.

I understand I've not given much hope here. I struggle to muster up any myself. The three 'main' candidates that are all polling high enough to realistically win this contest do not seem to be capable of manifesting the much-needed unity that Labour has to achieve. But that just means that the unity has to come from within the party's membership.

Whoever the next leader is, everyone needs to get behind them. Even Jess Phillips, whom I would not vote for whatever the outcome, we only have five years to regroup. Then we need to get the Tories out.

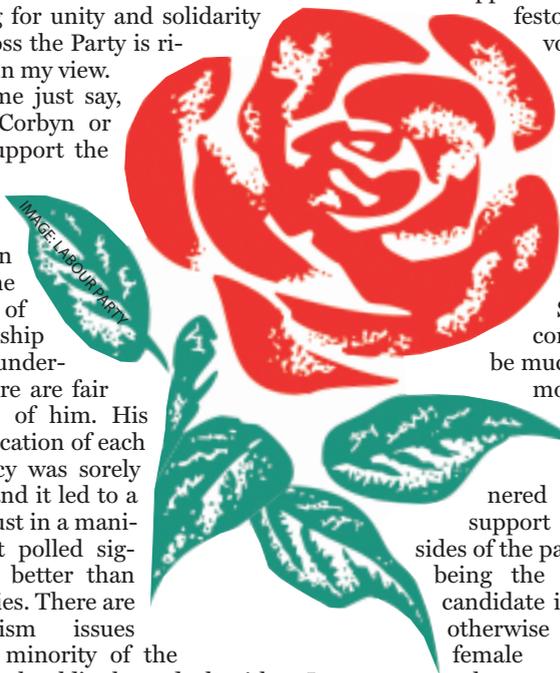
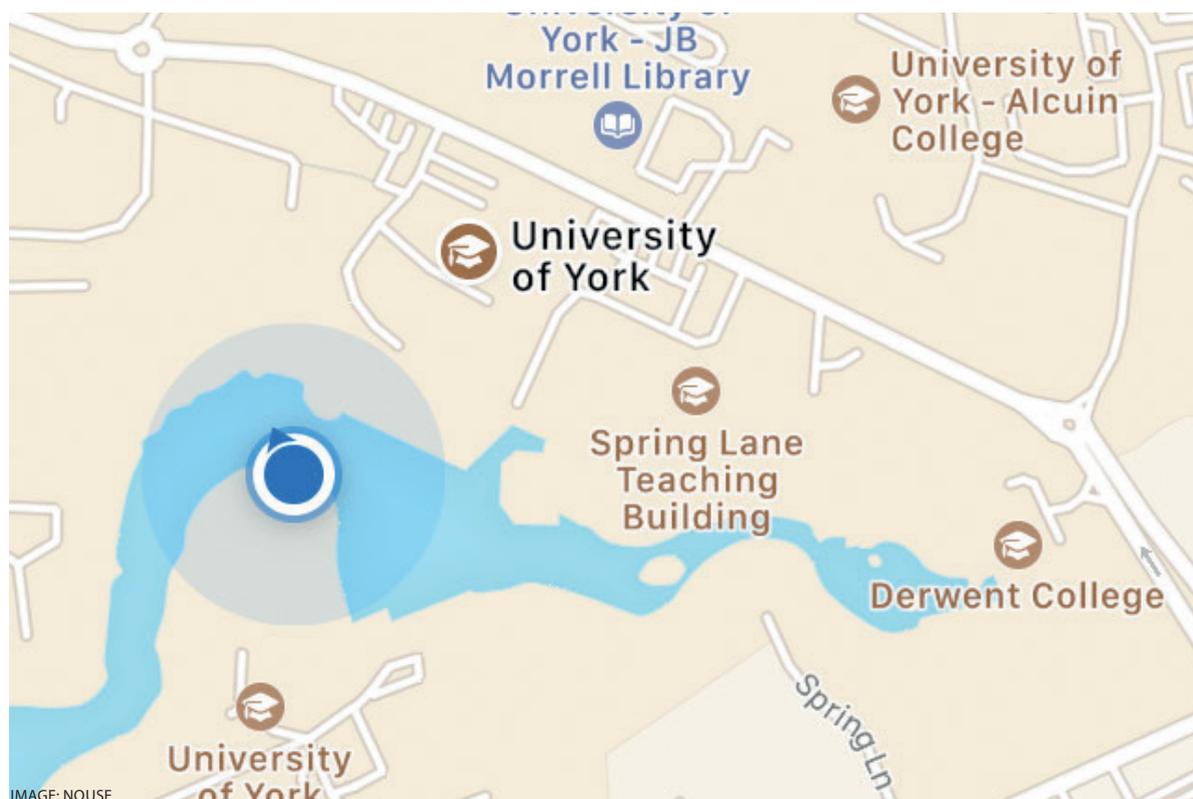


IMAGE: LABOUR PARTY



Checking in should check out

The location-based check-in system is beyond problematic

Tom O'Neill
(he/him)



How we use technology is changing at an ever-increasing rate. That seems like a surprisingly uncontentious statement to start a piece with but the University doesn't appear to have noticed it, so maybe not. If you haven't heard yet, the University is trialling their new app over a range of departments.

It's been developed over the past six months and aims to unify a range of services the University provides such as bus timetables, library access and teaching attendance measuring. That last bit has been raising a few eyebrows.

The pilot scheme for the app includes trialling a so-called "check-in" system using Bluetooth access on your mobile phone to sign into teaching sessions. The University hopes that this will allow them to more accurately measure attendance for legal obligations such as visas and help student wellbeing.

If as you read this, you immediately thought of some concerns of your own, you certainly would not be alone. Tracking tier 4 visa students even more than they already are raises significant concerns of overcompliance with the regulation and forcing students to use their personal phones for a system like this raises a significant number of privacy issues.

A smartphone is an increasing necessity to keep up with all aspects of life and from friends and family to work to current affairs. It's not surprising therefore that we are increasingly attached to our phones.

I can understand the University's reasons for wanting to unify the systems for attendance recording

and measuring. Different departments use all sorts of different solutions from website sign-ins to paper registers and depending on your department you may receive an email every time you miss a seminar, or you might hear nothing until your supervisor is concerned you've died. It's fairer and more manageable for everyone if this system is standardised.

We'd sooner have someone read our mind than what's on our phone

It's probably a safe guess that you haven't (willingly) been more than a few metres away from your mobile phone in a few years. Having the entire sum total of human knowledge just seconds away has huge advantages to accessibility and learning in general, but it means that increasingly we feel very personally attached to our phones. You might even view your phone as an extension of yourself, like a hand or a foot.

If given the choice between getting your mind or your phone read by someone else, you might sooner choose your mind. We may be a very clever species, but you (probably) can't remember with any detail where you were at 4:32pm on 22 February 2017 in nearly the same way that your phone can. Our phones know more about us than we do. It's no surprise that we're more than a little protective of their contents.

The University's disconnect from its students was especially clear when I finally met with the team involved in developing the

app. The project managers were strangely quite surprised to find that students aren't very happy about a system that requests mandatory location and storage access to their mobile phone.

You may have already seen posts springing up from sabbatical officers or on the many Yorcess posts decrying the app's issues, so it does lead you to wonder why none of these people were consulted at all prior to the app release.

If the University is serious about students having input on how the University is run, they need to make more of an effort to listen to what students actually have to say. It is simply not good enough to find an app that has been developed for six months, is pretty much finished and ready to launch, and is sitting on the app store all before anyone has actually spoken to our student representatives and heard our student voice.

A system like the one being proposed in the pilot requires a lot of trust from students for them to willingly use this on their personal phones. The lack of commitment to transparency from the start until the moment they could no longer keep it quiet bodes very poorly in this regard. I am also disappointed in the lack of a strong stance on this from YUSU given the potential issues future policy decisions could cause for students. A clear line is essential for ensuring this app fiasco develops into a system that's right for everyone.

In the future, if the University considers students' actual opinions to be anything more than an afterthought, students need to be involved more often and much earlier in the process when big decisions like this are made and the University must be more transparent before we can be expected to put our trust in them to do the right thing by us and our privacy.

Trident causes MoD budget headaches

Huge mismanagement of funds is causing us to focus less on people than on tech

Arthur Fyfe Stoica
(he/him)



When it comes to government ministries, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has perhaps the worst reputation when it comes to fiscal overspending. The recent assessment from the National Audit Office (NAO) describing how poor the management and infrastructure of the Trident nuclear armament, costing the country another billion pounds unnecessarily, is just one example out of many across the past decade of continued overspending from the MoD. In an era of austerity where, not only royal palaces are refurbished to the tune of hundreds of millions but the defence ministry is irresponsibly using the people's money, the character of a supposedly watertight, strategically-minded government is naturally questioned, especially when our social services are struggling. With this zeitgeist in mind, the question inevitably arises whether the Trident is relevant at all?

In the midst of realigning the country following the slow divorce from the EU, the UK's arsenal is now arguably more important than ever. Though among the largest efforts to maintain relations with Europe are grounded in military and security concerns, WMDs provide a degree of sovereignty that isn't found in most non-nuclear powers. The potential for unimaginable destruction sets clear barriers for how a state must be treated and that, if anything, is the legacy of the last 30 years of foreign policy. Regularly, the world's superpowers seek to maintain countries in a state of disarmament so as to further cede their independence to the hegemon. Of course other factors are involved in international relations; I'm not pretending that the UK can threaten the US with mutually-assured

destruction so as to avoid getting chlorinated chicken and inflated-drug prices, but access to nuclear weapons can't be taken for granted. The lengths that nuclear powers go in order to prevent that same armament from being available for the rest of the world just goes to show how significant it is to a nation's security.

When it comes to the armed forces themselves, the MoD has regularly overspent, however the efforts to make the forces more cost-effective have their own consequences too. For instance, one way in which the British Army is seeking to limit spending is by moving regular forces from barracks, such as where the Yorkshire Regiment is based, to expanding super-bases such as Catterick where land is cheap, selling more expensive land in cultural centres such as York for housing development. This cuts costs sure enough but makes the armed forces less appealing as regulars are more likely to be stationed in more rural areas, which is worrying given the army has had falling recruitment numbers for several years now. Efforts to avoid the problems related to relocating troops may result instead in cutting pay or the quality of equipment provided.

Reforms must be made, though. The journalism that circulates about mismanagement and overspending doesn't exist in a vacuum where a few billion disappears here and there, but in a context where the cutting of social services has resulted in a demonstrable loss of life. These fiscal decisions have a real impact on people and that must be remembered when talking about unimaginably large amounts of money. The armed forces are made up of people, too, with their own pay, pensions and concerns for the future. When it comes down to the record of the Conservatives however, even if the military faced significant cuts that freed up billions, that money still likely wouldn't be spent to amend the most desperate socio-economic and political concerns.



IMAGE: WILL HAIGH/MOD

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should we be encouraging flight shaming, flygskam, to tackle the climate crisis?

YES.

Izzy Hall (she/her)



Sweden is leading the march of climate activism across the world. Home to Greta Thunberg, the country is making headlines this week due to reports of air travel decline.

'Flygskam' translates literally to 'flight shame' and is being pedalled across Sweden in the hopes of deterring people from flying and using alternative transport with a less devastating carbon footprint. Started by a provocative article written by singer Staffan Lindberg and signed by some famous friends including Thunberg, the piece drew a huge amount of attention from the famously climate-conscious Swedes.

The movement, despite controversy, is working; Sweden has seen a 4% per cent drop in the number of people flying via its airports, a rare decrease as the number of people flying in the rest of Europe continue to climb. Rickard Gustafson, chief executive of Scandinavian Airlines went on record to say he was "convinced" the flight shaming movement was behind the fall in passenger numbers.

Many have hit back at Swedish climate activists by saying it is unreasonable to blame the consumer rather than the huge corporations that run these airlines. But the provider and the consumer cannot be separated in this issue: think supply and demand. Similar to the veganism movement, the idea is the less demand for dairy and meat there is, the more the market will dwindle. And it works! The cattle rearing industry is responsible for nearly 20 per cent of human-induced greenhouse emissions and due to the rise in veganism and vegetarianism peddled by animal and climate activists, dairy profits have dropped 50 per cent in the UK alone and there are 1.1 per cent less dairy cows on farms around the UK. This may seem small, but trends predicted by Re-thinkX say dairy and meat industries will be on the verge of collapse as early as 2030. This is a great example of how consumer behaviour is having tangible impacts on the sectors that damage our earth the most.

Putting the pressure on consumers may feel unjust when huge aviation corporations

are responsible for the emissions produced, making up 2 per cent of human-induced carbon emissions. So if you can tackle the dairy and meat industry, aviation should be an easy feat. However, it is much easier to swap dairy milk for Oatly than pulling a Greta Thunberg style journey of zero-emission yachting across the Atlantic.

Flying will always be needed for business and pleasure travel, but we must focus flight shaming on unnecessary usage of airlines such as domestic travel. The trend is going in the right direction; since 2007 domestic routes have continued to close, from 228 to 188 just ten years later. This has mainly been due to taxes put in place, showing there are productive avenues to place pressure on airlines.

The privilege we hold that allows us to travel the world will only hold if these destinations remain.

current rate at which we are hurtling towards climate disaster should be enough to motivate change in consumer behaviour, but how far are you willing to go?

The devastating fires sweeping Australia were predicted by climate scientists over ten years ago, thinking that the impactful report would lead to social change to prevent these disasters, but clearly, this did not work. We all know we are in a climate emergency, but do your travel and diet plans add fuel to the fire? Increasing pressure on people to take responsibility will only help people consume more

Callum Tennant (he/him)



Should we be promoting flight shaming as a major way of tackling climate change? Maybe on paper (or not because we need to print less), it sounds like a good solution.

Flying is the most carbon intense way of travelling. Travelling from Leeds to London by plane would produce over 68kg of carbon emissions, travelling by car would produce over 56kg and by train it would be just 13.3kg of CO₂.

In this instance I don't think flight shaming is a bad idea. The train is so quick and, if booked in advance, usually cheaper than flying.

In this instance there's not really an excuse for flying.

It's right therefore that we criticise people, for example Boris Johnson, when they choose to fly from London to other places easily accessible by the East Coast Rail.

The problems with flight shaming arise when trying to travel to places in the UK that are not well connected or to places outside the UK. The UK's rail network is appalling, and it generally gets worse the further from London you go. To get from Newquay to London by train takes over six hours, by car it takes five, but by plane it takes just over an hour. At the same time, it's often

cheaper to fly than it is to take the train. And it's not good enough to just slap more taxes onto air travel to make that more expensive while doing nothing to improve rail travel.

Investing in meaningful rail improvements will make trains cheaper and a more attractive alternative to flying. When I say meaningful, I mean investing in areas like the Transpennine railway and finally electrifying northern trains, instead of spending £88 billion on HS2 to shave 33 minutes off of an already short journey. And if there's no guarantee that rail fares will be lower then there's little point in the scheme from an environmental standpoint. So, let's hold our central government to account, limit our flights when we can but also ensure that we are being provided with realistic and competitive alternatives.

And this brings me to my biggest issue with flight shaming. It puts the burden of responsibility onto individuals and consumers instead of onto governments and corporations who are the people we should be holding to account.

We should be demanding that airlines and governments invest far more than they currently are in researching biofuels. We should be making sure that airlines are not fuel tinkering – a practice where airlines fill their aircraft up with additional fuel in order to save on refuelling costs but increasing the plane's emissions. We should be legislating to ensure that airlines are required to invest an amount of their profit into innovation and into more sustainable fuel sources, paying less attention to shareholders and more attention to their impact on the environment.

More widespread use of biofuels will further increase the incentive to make them cheaper and thus more widespread. But biofuels should merely be used as the stepping stone, reducing emissions until electric air travel is able to make up an increasing amount of air travel.

Should you get the train if it's the same cost as flying, if it only takes a bit longer than flying and if the service is reliable – YES. Of course you should. But let's save our shaming for corporations not investing in sustainable innovation, as opposed for hardworking people flying to enjoy a holiday when they only have a few days off. But one thing that we can do as individuals when we do have to fly; we can donate to help offset our flight emissions.

NO.

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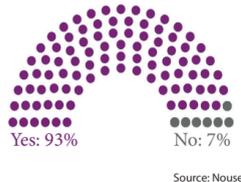
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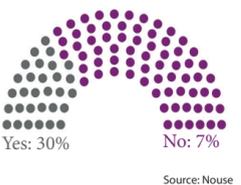


According to the polls

Is it important that all lectures are recorded?



Should we encourage flight shaming to reduce emissions?



Comment in brief...

"FROZEN 3: JB MORRELL"

Why is the library so cold? I can't be the only person who sits there shivering if they don't bring at least 10 layers with them. And yes, I know that there are blankets in the lobby for the poor students like me who can't hack the cold. But those blankets are for one, so thin they wouldn't make a difference and two, how often are they washed?! I get that the library needs to be a certain temperature to preserve the books but it feels truly Baltic in there at times. The library is a second-home for most students so it needs to at least be comfortable. It doesn't get much better anywhere else on campus either. For the sake of my degree please make it warmer so I can spend less time complaining and more time being productive.



(she/her) Jemima Hill

"MORE MORGAN IN MEDIA"

Piers Morgan should be immensely proud to be one of the UK's most hated figures... and not a politician. The presenter has spent his whole career making a living – and a fairly good one – out of trashing the reputations of celebrities. His views on Trump, gender identity and transitioning are known from Land's End to John o' Groat's, and it's the vehemence with which he slams progressive moments that has damaged his own reputation. But he should remain on telly. I disagree with almost everything he utters, but the problem is: not enough people say what he says. I'm progressive, but I don't hear enough people in the media presenting his arguments. Balanced telly please.



(he/him) Dom Smith

"UNMASK SOME GOOD TV"

On stage stands a masked figure dressed as a cross between a Pharaoh and a giant gold bug. "Take it off!" screams the audience. "Take it off!" belt judges Rita Ora, Jonathan Ross and Davina McCall. *Community's* Ken Jeong is also there for some reason, writhing around like he has worms. Joel Dommett watches unfazed from the sidelines. More pointing. More chanting. With some difficulty the mask comes off, revealing former Home Secretary Alan Johnson. The crowd goes wild. The Masked Singer is a show so trashy in content, style and production that it looks like an episode of *Black Mirror* about the dangers of a world without competent television executives. This is reality TV's dystopian future.



(he/him) Alex Thompson

MUSE.



PUT ON A HAPPY FACE

IT'S AWARDS SEASON.

11 NOMINATIONS
FOR JOKER

ONE BLACK ACTRESS
RECOGNISED

GRAMMYS SNUB
HIP HOP

ZERO WOMEN FOR
BEST DIRECTOR

MEN DOMINATE
BRIT AWARDS

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M4
Alex Thompson and **Malu Rocha** review Awards Season in music and film

M8
Patrick Walker spends a night with Nightsafe

M16
Bex Hume interviews VisitYork about the upcoming York Residents Festival



ARTS

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M6
Jenna Luxon delves into why the true crime genre attracts a heavily female audience

M7
Emily Mellows explores the Norman Rea Gallery's latest exhibit in aid of 'Think Equal'

Sam Campbell reviews Richard Ayoade's latest novel

FASHION

9

M9
Sarah Gatenby-Howells looks at the Hollywood glamour of the best dressed attendees at the Golden Globes

Sofia Bielli walks you through French cinema style and how to dupe it cheaply

MUSIC

M12
Fenella Johnson discusses recent club closures in York and how it affects the city's music scene

Charlie Williams looks at the varying music culture scenes around the world from an Erasmus student's perspective

M13
Sam Campbell reviews some classic albums from indie artists to revisit in 2020



FILM & TV

M14
Callum Tennant discusses the rise of Spanish Netflix and national television

M15
James Hudson looks at how accurate films' predictions were for the upcoming decade

Sophia Andrews Gamarra explores book-to-film adaptations



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M17
Jake Phillips brings attention to the many dangers of addicting video games

Malu Rocha explores the rise of board game cafés and how the gaming industry is changing to accommodate that shift

FOOD & DRINK

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M19
Annabel Mulliner dives into the blurry lines of vegan alcohol

Emily Harvie discusses the challenges of adopting a plant-based diet for Veganuary

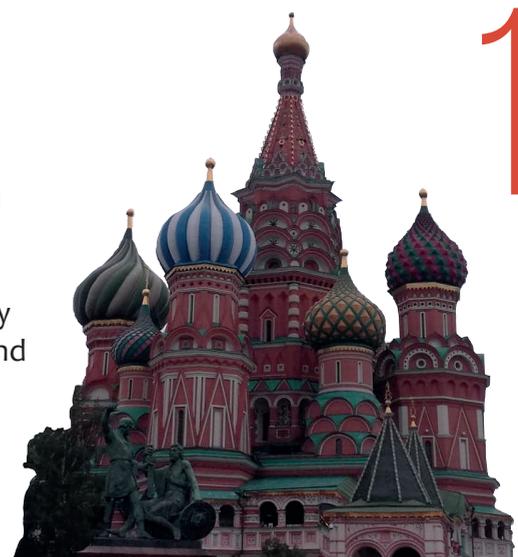
Can our editors tell the difference between a Greggs steak bake and a vegan steak bake?

TRAVEL

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M18
Jenna Luxon reflects upon her time studying abroad in St. Petersburg and Moscow

Hannah Clements discusses the legacy and heritage of WWI sites in France and Belgium



“The fact I can spread a tiny bit of positivity everyday is something that I’m lucky to say is my job.”

MALU ROCHA TALKS TO ARTIST NATHAN HUSSAIN ABOUT HIS DISTINCTIVE COLLAGES AND HOW THEY SPREAD POSITIVITY TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

Nathan Hussain is a graphic artist based in the North East of England who specialises in uplifting and emotive collages. His designs are unique in the sense that they juxtapose uplifting typography with surreal images under a very soothing colour palette. In a recent interview with Forbes magazine he explained that he has always been obsessed with the aesthetic of day to day life and that clearly translates in his work.

His career has had a huge boost in the past few years with the growing success of his Instagram page @AnalogbyNat which now has over 65,000 followers. The fact that Nathan can say that his job is to create innovative designs and inspire individuals is something he still has to pinch himself about, he admits.

How did you develop such a unique and recognisable style with your collages?

My style is just a melting pot of everything and everyone that influenced me growing up. I have an obsessive attitude with art that inspires me. I study the artist’s background, influences and work flow to where it innately infiltrates my own style. I’m extremely wary of emulation so always try to push it that step further to make it fresh and my own. I think a lot of people are ashamed by admitting they are heavily influenced and inspired by others. At the end of the day all work we perceive as ‘original’ came from something before it so I’m totally cool with being inspired by others.

The mandatory question I have to ask: what inspires you?

I’m inspired by anything that speaks to me. I’m lucky in the sense that I really do have that ‘gut feeling’ when I’m working or looking at work. I can literally feel when something is right or inspires me. I have three main artists that formed the foundation of what I do: HandJazz, Jimmy Marble and Jimmy Turrell. I’m currently inspired by Dreamer Magazine, Mundial Mag, Georgia Perry and Ruby Taylor.

Your designs are quite cheerful and always have an uplifting message. Would you say sharing positivity is your artistic mission?

Haha! I’m still figuring out the art of positivity to be honest. AnalogbyNat seems to be helping thousands of people every day which is crazy. But its work is just as important to me as it is my audience. The daily affirmations are something that really helped pull me out of a low period of my life. In terms of my artistic mission, I don’t know to be honest. I think it’s good for any human to spread positivity be it as small or big as possible. The fact I can pour a tiny bit of positivity onto somebody’s timeline everyday is something that I’m lucky to say is my job.

Why did you choose collages as your creative medium? What is it about them that attracted you?

I love how little the rules apply to collage. You can create such surreal environments that nobody can critique. People seem so much more open-minded when admiring collage art as they let go of their realistic pretenses and see it simply for what it is. Something I think we should transfer into our day to day lives more often.

Scrolling down your Instagram, your current designs are quite different from older ones. How would you say your style has evolved over the past year?

I’ve simply got better at making art. It’s a development that really justifies Ira Glass’ theory regarding the creative gap. People ask me about how to ‘create art like you’.

The answer is literally by doing it. Creating a little everyday. My page’s aesthetic has developed as my skill set has. I’m super happy with where it’s at right now.

What are your thoughts on using social media (especially Instagram) as one of the main ways of sharing your art with the public?

The immediacy Instagram offers my artwork is amazing. A dude I often chat with for advice likened my work to being ‘cool memes’ and I loved the way that embodied my work. It’s true. They have short lifespans in terms of impact and the turn around is super quick. But they then join the rest to become the body of work and overarching theme my page offers. It’s sick. But you have to be wary of the traps this can offer. Dependency on the digital world can be dangerous and can disillusion you. I’ve managed to distance myself from this in recent months.

Some of your designs are inspired by musicians and their work, with your latest post being on Tom Rosenthal’s music. Is the process of creating these collages different?

The process is exactly the same. I love and work to music and Tom Rosenthal’s work has been a proper soundtrack to my goings on over the years. I listened to that track and it just felt right to make a collage from that. Was super rad that he got in touch about it too. Crazy moment.

What does 2020 have in store for you? Any New Year’s resolutions?

The end of 2019 was crazy. I landed my first global client and opened my shop. It’s truly blown me away. 2020 has luckily started how I left off and I am having a lot of exciting talks. In regards to my brand, I’m working on more prints than ever as well as a clothing and stationary range. Hyped!



EDITOR'S NOTE



MALU ROCHA STRESS AND STEAK BAKES

This is my first edition as Deputy MUSE Editor, and I have to say I was a little nervous, mostly because I had very big shoes to fill. So, for some godforsaken reason I thought I should prepare myself for the role by reading every single article printed in *Nouse* since I first joined in 2018. Needless to say, it took me more hours than I care to admit, but I did it. But it turns out that was all utterly unnecessary because all I had to do was spend a week in the office to learn the same lesson: we have the most amazing group of editors in this newspaper and I am so incredibly privileged to be among them.

Seeing how passionate everyone is about student media reminded me of just how important MUSE is. We need arts and culture just as much as we need politics and business. What kind of student media outlet would we claim ourselves to be if we didn’t give each other space to talk about vegan alcohol and video game addictions? We have an amazing platform for student voice, and I couldn’t be prouder of the whole MUSE team for putting together this edition. From Jenna’s article on true crime and its female audience (Arts), to James’s piece on bleak dystopias (Film & TV) and Sofia’s guide to effortless French style (Fashion), this edition is nothing short of amazing, in my (ever so slightly biased) opinion.

That was the first important lesson I learned. The second was: you simply cannot - and I can’t stress this enough - you cannot survive a week fuelled only by chicken caesar salad wraps from Nisa. If it wasn’t for the Food & Drink team blessing us with vegan steak bakes on a rainy Tuesday morning, I would have probably made my way through the whole selection of wraps Nisa has to offer and I’m not proud of it. It’s been a stressful week okay, don’t blame me.

On a more serious note, I would like to say a quick thank you to the whole team for (unknowingly) reassuring me that I made the right choice by neglecting my degree and dedicating myself to *Nouse*. Massive thank you to Jonny for reminding me that Popeye-strong muscles don’t grow overnight. And of course, an extra special shoutout goes to Alex who (in between telling over 20 people that the ‘@’ key in our keyboards are in the wrong place), has taught me the true meaning of ‘a problem shared is a problem halved’.

That’s all from me folks. Enjoy, it’s a pretty good one if you ask me!

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: Warner Bros.
Left (top to bottom) : Bex Hume, Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Bros., Wardour Films, Jenna Luxon
Right (All): Nathan Hussain

AND THE AWARD GOES TO... THE PATRIARCHY

ALEX THOMPSON AND MALU ROCHA DISCUSS AWARDS SEASON, BREAKING DOWN THE NOMINEES, CONTROVERSIES AND PREDICTIONS

Awards season for the film and television industry kicks off on 5 January with the Golden Globes and comes to a close on 10 February with the 92nd Academy Awards. During that month, smaller scale awards shows such as the Critics' Choice Awards and the BAFTAs will take place, stirring up momentum for the big Oscar night.

The 92nd Academy Awards

The first Academy Award was broadcasted in 1929 and since then it has praised many outstanding pieces such as *All About Eve*, *La La Land* and *Titanic* (all of which received a record number of 14 nominations each) and also recognised some exceptionally talented individuals such as Meryl Streep who broke records by having 21 nominations to her name. However, it has also sprung controversy as it overlooked some emblematic works such as Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* which was overshadowed by *Forrest Gump* in 1994



Of all the Best Actress nominees, only one is a woman of colour, and her character is a slave

and Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* which lost to *The French Connection* back in 1972. This year, *Joker* is the film with the highest number of nominations (11), becoming the first comic book movie adaptation to receive such a high number. Among other categories, it is running for Best Picture alongside *Ford V Ferrari*, *The Irishman*, *Jojo Rabbit*, *Little Women*, *Marriage Story*, *1917*, *Once Upon A Time...In Hollywood* and *Parasite*.

From Jennifer Lawrence's iconic fall on her way to accept the award for Best Actress for *Silver Linings Playbook* in 2013 to when *La La Land* was mistakenly announced as Best Picture instead of *Moonlight* in 2017, The Oscars provide for a night of invaluable entertainment. Amidst all the glamour and potential celebrity gossip, it can sometimes be easy to forget that at its core, awards shows are ultimately a competition where winners and losers will emerge. And more often than not, this competition begins even before the contestants are selected. Year after year, the announcement for the Oscars' nominees have become larger in scale and are now broadcast live, becoming an event in and of itself.

As the Academy an-

nounced all the nominees last Monday (13th), film Twitter began to slowly explore in what can only be described as collective angst. Several users (even high-profile publication editors) pointed out a seemingly never-ending list of diversity issues with this year's list of nominees.

'Pale, Male and Stale'

The Oscars are sometimes known as being a white, male-centric entity and unfortunately, the nominations for this year's event have only increased that reputation. One Twitter user (Kevin Yang) pointed out that the Academy has failed to recognise any outstanding female candidates for Best Director even though they had plenty of options to choose from, from Greta Gerwig (*Little Women*) to Olivia Wilde (*Booksmart*). He described Greta Gerwig as a "white, privileged film snob who shoots on film, worships Tarantino and has Spielberg's backing," meaning that she checks all the boxes of a white male's definition of 'auteur', and even she couldn't nod off a nomination as Best Director among her male counterparts: Quentin Tarantino, Todd Phillips, Martin Scorsese, Bong Joon-ho and Sam Mendes. This snub has led major newspapers such as *The Telegraph* to label the Oscars as still being 'pale, male and stale.'

Another Twitter user pointed out that of all the Best Actress nominees this year, only one of them is a woman of colour, and her character is a slave. Cynthia Erivo was nominated for her role as Harriet Tubman in *Harriet*, and is running against Charlize Theron (*Bombshell*), Renée Zellweger (*Judy*), Scarlett Johansson (*Marriage Story*) and Saoirse Ronan (*Little Women*). Saying that this is due to the fact that there aren't that many stories featuring people of colour simply cannot be used as an excuse anymore. More prominent roles are being written for people of colour,

but for some reason the Academy has failed to recognise any of them this year. From Nora Lum's debut in *The Farewell* to Lupita Nyong'o's intricate character in Jordan Peele's *Us*, leading roles are starting to shift and encompass a more diverse demographic, but awards shows have yet to catch up.

This inevitably feels like a step backward considering that just three years ago, seven out of the 20 nominees

for best actor and actress were people of colour. Does this mean that the Academy willingly turned a blind eye to this issue, or that this year the performances from people of colour simply weren't up to standards? This is a side of the debate supported by pro-

professionals such as Steven Spielberg who claim that quality should always overpower diversity. In a recent Tweet he said, "I would never consider diversity in matters of art. Only quality. It seems to me that to do otherwise would be wrong."

The basis on which the Academy (and awards shows in general) chooses their nominees

and winners is yet to be fully justified and transparent. This, however, does not stop people in power from commenting on the issue, especially that of the lack of female nominees under the Best Director category. In 2018, after Ron Howard introduced the category at the 75th Golden Globes, Natalie Portman quickly added, "and here are the all-male nominees". Following up on this discontent, Issa Rae added a subtle, "congratulations to those men" as she announced the contenders for the same category for this year's Academy Awards.

With such an extensive list of clearly signposted issues, it's hard to see how the Academy was able to overlook this without either believing that it was done consciously or admitting that there is something intricately wrong with the film industry as a whole.

However, it's refreshing to see that nominees for Best Animated Feature haven't fallen into this trap. The genre has been a pioneer in celebrating diversity not only on screen in terms of the characters it displays but also behind the scenes. Disney's biggest contender, *Frozen 2*, which is now the highest grossing animation ever, wasn't nominated. Instead, Netflix's *I Lost My Body* and *Klaus* have both received a lot of critical acclaim, proving that a traditional studio's backing doesn't necessarily equate to an award-worthy film. The same can be said of Laika Studio's *Missing Link* which took home the Best Animation award at the Golden Globes earlier this month, surprising Disney fans left,

right and centre by surpassing *Frozen 2*, *Toy Story 4* and *The Lion King*. However, this stance seems to be somewhat restricted to the animation genre as other awards categories, including Best Production Design and Best Sound Mixing (to name a few) have yet to follow the example.

Indie vs the Blockbuster

Because of this (not so) recent discontent surrounding diversity at awards shows, people have started to turn to film festivals as a more eminent form of measuring a film's success considering the vast array that they give high praise to, thus diminishing the influence

of awards shows altogether. Festivals such as Cannes and Sundance are known for staying away from traditional blockbusters and instead celebrating the work of foreign and independent filmmakers. This year was no exception; of the nine Best Picture nominees for the Oscars, seven premiered at film festivals but only two received prestigious awards.

Even though Warner Bros.'s *Joker* won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival and received praise from the festival's artistic director Alberto Barbera who said the film was "going straight to the Oscars", most critics' attention was turned to Bong Joon Ho's *Parasite*. The modern fable on class division won the Palme d'Or at Cannes, and soon

made history by being the first Korean feature to be nominated for Best Picture and five other categories at the Oscars. Cinephiles are becoming increasingly more dependent on film festivals as a more reliable means of celebrating films that wouldn't otherwise reach the mass public. However, this doesn't stop big studios from trying to use the festival circuit as a way of expanding their films' marketing campaigns. What may come as a surprise is that Netflix succumbed to this trend as well. *The Irishman* kicked off the New York Film Festival while *Marriage Story*



The Oscars are still considered 'pale, male and stale'

was screened at all major fall festivals, following in the footsteps of *Roma*.

The Rise of Netflix

Netflix's campaign at the Oscars this year has changed industry standards. The streaming service has become the studio with most nominations (24) attributed to its name, surpassing Warner Bros, Universal and even Disney. The number of Netflix films nominated since 2017 has almost doubled year after year, and the trend looks to be anything but reversible. Awards shows have therefore adapted to the fact that films are now being distributed and consumed differently by audiences. The industry is no longer only praising films that have had a traditional theatrical run, proving that the awards shows can in fact be malleable and shape themselves around industry demands, which at the end of the day, is what should be most highly praised.

-Malu



The Grammys

Awards Season isn't purely focused on the silver screen. The Grammys is widely regarded as one of the most prominent awards in the music industry despite generating a huge amount of controversy and hype surrounding

Rock isn't dead but the Grammys are certainly trying to kill it



its nominees. This year is no different.

Pop sensation Lizzo leads this year's list with a well-deserved eight nominations, closely followed by the seemingly omni-present Billie Eilish and meme-God Lil Nas X with six apiece, with all three in the running for Album of the Year, Best New Artist and Record of the Year. As well as the more expected nominations, there are some interesting inclusions to make the list - notably Lana Del Rey whose latest album is one of her most divisive, Bon Iver's subdued and sublime sleeper hit *i,i* and the youthful vibrance of rap newcomer, YBN Cordae. With the ceremony airing this coming weekend (26 January), here is our breakdown of the nominations and our predictions for the night.

Lizzo Won 2019

It's an indisputable fact. The twerking flautist won the hearts of music fans in 2019 with her album *Cuz I Love You* being one of the year's most explosive pop records and her vibrant live sets cementing her place as a true main-stage festival act. With Lizzo announced as a performer for the night, expect some flute-filled bangers and good vibes.

Rap's Identity Crisis

Hip hop is always a point of contention at the Grammys and this year is no exception. As usual, there is a glaring omission of hip hop in the main categories. Tyler, The Creator's album *IGOR* certainly deserves a spot on Album of the Year, Danny Brown, Freddie Gibbs and BROCKHAMPTON also seem like missed opportunities to be recognised as a more accurate representation of hip hop in 2019. Nipsey Hussle's posthumous mentions are definitely a positive but the likes of Meek Mill and Dreamville making the list seem like choices that are far too safe, verging on lazy.

Rock Isn't Dead But The Grammys Are Certainly Trying To Kill It

Rock music is alive and kicking in 2020. There have been some truly brilliant rock albums across the year, from the likes of Black Midi, Fontaines D.C, The Raconteurs and Bruce Springsteen that have pushed boundaries, blurred styles and kept the genre fresh and vibrant. None of these made the list. Instead, the Grammys list features the likes of Bring Me The Horizon, Tool's worst album and Vampire Weekend as well as several landfill rock albums that have already faded into obscurity.

2020 Is The Year Of Newcomers

With Billie Eilish, Lizzo and Lil Nas X leading the pack, it's an undisputed fact that new music and younger artists are driving this year's awards. While the Grammy committee seems eager to acknowledge these artists, it does seem like they are really battering you

around the head with it.

Who Doesn't Deserve Their Spot

As usual, the Grammy's have sprung a few 'what the fuck' inclusions on us, from artists whose works are so bland or so mindless that it seems like an accidental inclusion. Some of these nominations should never have left the draft stage. Khalid's instantly-forgettable 'Talk' is the perfect example of this, a serviceable R&B track but the utter antithesis of whatever a 'classic' is. Lil Nas X's 'Old Town Road' is a banger that deserves all the recognition it can get but 7 is a terrible album that inclusion feels more like a meme than anything else. Ed Sheeran's jumbled mess of a collaboration album also picked up a nomination despite being a hopelessly desperate and transparent plea to blend Sheeran's brand of overproduced pop with every popular trend in music, a pandering and condescending take on the likes of grime, latin pop, hip hop and whatever else Ed can get his money-grabbing hands on. A true shitegeist of an album.

This is all, however, completely overshadowed by the choice to nominate the wife beating, convicted sex offender and R&B star Chris Brown - a true dick move from the Grammy committee and a middle finger to music fans everywhere.

The Glaring Omissions

Although I have no love nor admiration for Taylor Swift, her exclusion from several categories on the nominations list seems bizarre given the Grammy's previous love for the artist and some of the utterly awful nominations taking its place. Solange and Bruce Springsteen don't make the list at all, bizarre given their standing in the music industry as well as the excellent albums they released last year that showcase them as true titans of their respective genres. I would also have expected a Kanye West nomination for his middle-of-the-road hip hop gospel hybrid *Jesus Is King* which easily should have received production nominations as well as an inclusion in the hip hop category. It's not his best work, but it's a lot better than



IMAGE: BBC MUSIC

some of the landfill hip hop packing out the list.

Our Predictions

Lizzo and Billie Eilish are going to clean up the awards this year, most likely taking home four or five trophies apiece. Lil Nas X de-

serves 'Best Record' for the colossal impact of the country-rap fusion that is 'Old Town Road' and Tyler, The Creator's *IGOR* is a likely shoe-in for 'Best Rap Album'. Ariana Grande will also probably end up taking home several awards for her stand out pop project *thank u, next*.

The BRITs

While America has the Grammy's, the UK has the BRITs. Voted on by a panel of music industry experts and insiders, the awards ceremony recognises British music talent, focusing typically on pop music and the bigger break-out stars of the year. This year's nominations have come under fire for the gender imbalance in larger categories, as well as for scrapping the idea to create a gender neutral ceremony, binning off gendered categories - a decisive step towards inclusivity, shot down by people claiming political correctness has gone mad. It really hasn't. Anyway, ahead of the ceremony next month (18 February) here is our breakdown of the event and predictions for the night.

The UK Rap Renaissance

UK hip hop is making big waves this year, with nominations including Dave, Stormzy and Aitch. The inclusion of D-Block Europe in 'Group of the Year' is another interesting addition that adds a bit of diversity to a category full of generic radio friendly cannon-fodder. 'Ladbroke Grove' is a strong contender for best song and in a year of grime truly breaking into the mainstream, it's refreshing to see hip hop and rap take up such a large percentage of the nominees. Expect a night of big wins for the breakthrough hip hop acts of 2019.

Where Are All The Women?

The main four cat-

egories are shared by 26 male nomination and four female ones. Two of those are Neneh Cherry. 'Album of the Year' and 'Group of the Year' are entirely male-dominated.

While some may point a finger at the judging panel for what can only be referred to as a massive cock up, the problem seems to lie deeper in the UK music industry which seems to be pushing male artists far more than their female counterparts.

In a year where gender categories were almost scrapped entirely for a gender-neutral system, it seems bizarre that the nominees are so male orientated.

Jack Whitehall Will Be As Irritating and Unfunny As Usual

This one speaks for itself.

The Glaring Omissions

Sam Fender seems like a snub in many of the main categories, most notably in 'Best Male Artist' given the explosive year the Geor-

The main four categories are shared by 26 male and four female nominations



die Springsteen saw. The same can be said of former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher who described his omission from the awards as "BIBLICAL". Yes Liam, it's worse than a plague of locusts or a massive flood.

Our Predictions

Dave's Mercury Prize winning grime odyssey *Psychodrama* will most likely win Album of the Year, having won over critics and fans alike with the heady blend of poetic lyrics and dense, complex and minimal instrumentals. 'Group of the Year' will most likely go to Foals whose 5th studio album divided fans and critics but created a healthy buzz that will likely push them ahead of Coldplay. 'Female Solo Artist' will almost certainly go to the incredible and experimental work of FKA Twigs.

The smart money is on Burna Boy to win 'Best International Male Artist' and Billie Eilish to win the female equivalent. I will riot if Stormzy doesn't win 'Male Solo Artist'.

In short, this year's music awards season is full of surprises. From the unlikely snubs to the even more unlikely conclusions, the well-deserved nominations and the 'what the fuck' inclusions, the Grammys and BRITs are showcasing the good, the bad and the utterly mad. Business as usual then.

-Alex



IMAGE: INTERSCOPE

TRUE CRIME: FEAR IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

JENNA LUXON ON THE REASON BEHIND TRUE CRIME'S PREDOMINANTLY FEMALE AUDIENCE AS THE GENRE HITS AN ALL-TIME HIGH

A 'PDL' or 'Personal Development Learning' day was the one day each term that my secondary school dedicated to covering all the PHSE content the teachers had been avoiding over the past seven weeks. Instead of covering the topics little by little each week, they crammed them all into one tedious day. A torturous routine that resulted in something that felt a lot like a teenage equivalent of your infant school circle time, but with a depressing twist and no teddy bears.

Like all instances of teachers breaking free from their subjects to try and impart some 'real life' knowledge, PDL days had the power to evoke in you a unique mixture of boredom, despair, embarrassment and hilarity. And while most of these sessions that I once laughed and cringed through I have long forgotten, there is one that still sticks in my mind.

Imagine a secondary school science classroom. The year group has been split by gender and so you're sat on a graffitied wooden stool in a room full of 14 year old girls. At the front of the classroom stand two community support officers. They give a short talk about being safe when out in town, stranger danger, the usual. And then they start to mess about with something on the computer screen, and you're hopeful this might mean there's going to be a break in them speaking, at least for the length of some poorly produced video.

But what is played to you next is not a video. It is a recording. It is a recording of a woman phoning the police after having been raped.

Through all the nonsense they spoke about on those PDL days each term, it is only the memory of sitting in that science classroom and listening to that women's voice that has stuck with me. Listening to this anonymous voice as she tried to explain through her tears what had happened to her. She was in a room, but she didn't know where. She had been attacked but she did not know by whom. Her attacker had gone, but she did not know if they were coming back.

The recording ended and the bell rang. We all stood up, filed out of the room and that was that. That was what? What happened to this woman, did they find her? Did they find her attacker? We were never told. But what I remember to this day, in even greater detail than the recording itself, is the feeling I had walking down that science corridor toward my next session of the day, the feeling of my life shrinking around me.

Within the time it took to listen to that recording, my life had shrunk. And I felt embarrassed. I felt stupid and naïve. I had never stopped to consider before how many of the things I hoped to do in my life relied upon the

basic principle that I was not at risk by simply leaving my house. But now that it had been pointed out to me, now that I thought about it, it seemed that my life had suddenly become very small.

I was 14 and, like most 14 year olds, the boundaries of my life did not stretch much beyond my walk to school and the bus route into town. So, I don't suppose I stopped to consider how every other woman in the world lived

“ Growing up in this environment is much like being told there's a monster after you

her life up against this supposedly all-encompassing danger. As far as I was concerned, two people dressed like police officers had just made me listen to the cries of a woman raped. And then just like that they'd sent us on our way. No reasoning given; no lessons imparted.

I guess, looking back, there must have been some assumption on the part of those officers that further explanation of this recording was not required. That we would draw our own conclusions; and I certainly did. My adolescent brain took this newly imparted knowledge and drew the logical conclusion that if doing nothing wrong except for leaving your house could result in being abused like this woman had been, then it would be wise to cut down the amount I leave my house alone to a bare minimum.

Six years on, and I'd like to say I've grown out of this logic. And for the most part I have. But then I think about the thought processes I go through when I leave my house at night. Walking when it's dark, so at the moment any time after five, is one of my least favourite activities. I will walk the not-so-mean streets of York alone at night, but not without a scowl on my face. A set jaw, a fast pace, a direct route. I keep my earphones in so no one will speak to me but with the music volume low so I could hear someone walk up behind me. I cross to the other side of the road if someone walks towards me. I make escape routes and plans of places to hide. I engage in this vast range of paranoid thinking, under the misguided notion that it might make the blindest bit of difference to my safety.

I recently started listening to a podcast called *My Favourite Murder*, which was what got me thinking about all this again. Presented by American comedians Georgia Hardstark and Karen Kilgariff, *My Favourite Murder* is a 'true-crime comedy' podcast that has over

19 million downloads a month. Each week the two female presenters discuss a murder each. They go over the details of the case, its handling by the police and its coverage in the media.

It didn't take long for me to become obsessed with this podcast and it was through this that I began to research the true crime genre in general. This was when I realised the huge gender imbalance in true crime audiences. No matter the medium, be it podcasts, books, television shows or films, women are the ones consuming true crime across the board and there are countless articles and research projects trying to work out why. From the psychological, to the evolutionary. Blaming the 24-hour news cycle or it's just for the adrenaline rush; everyone has got a theory.

And yet, I find nothing about the gendered audience statistics for true crime surprising. As soon as I began to read about the number of women interested in true crime like I am, my mind cast back to being 14, sitting in that science classroom and listening to a woman cry. Like a montage from a bad teen movie, my mind then went to an overhead shot of me walking down that corridor, slowly realising what a bad idea it would be to ever leave my house again.

Women are more interested in true crime than men you tell me? Well, of course they are. Because when you've been brought up in a society telling you to be scared of something, to prepare for it, to expect it, you're naturally quite interested in knowing some specifics about it.

Growing up in this environment is much like being told there's a monster after you. No one can describe to you exactly what this monster looks like and so it looks like no one and at the same time looks a little bit like everyone. No one can tell you where the monster is, and so the monster could be anywhere. No one can say if or when the monster will ap-

pear, so best to always be prepared. But no one can tell you what to do if you see the monster. You don't know what you're looking for and you don't know where you're looking. Which is just as well because by the time you've worked out if what's stood in front of you is a monster, it will probably be too late anyway.

But then you find an account of someone who's experienced the monster. In fact, you've found a podcast where all they talk about are people who've seen a monster, people who have been hurt by the monster, and even worse, people who the monster has killed. And you're interested. Not because you're perverse or macabre. But because you're scared of the monster too and you have been since you were told to start being scared at 14, if not earlier.

Knowledge is power. And fearmonger-

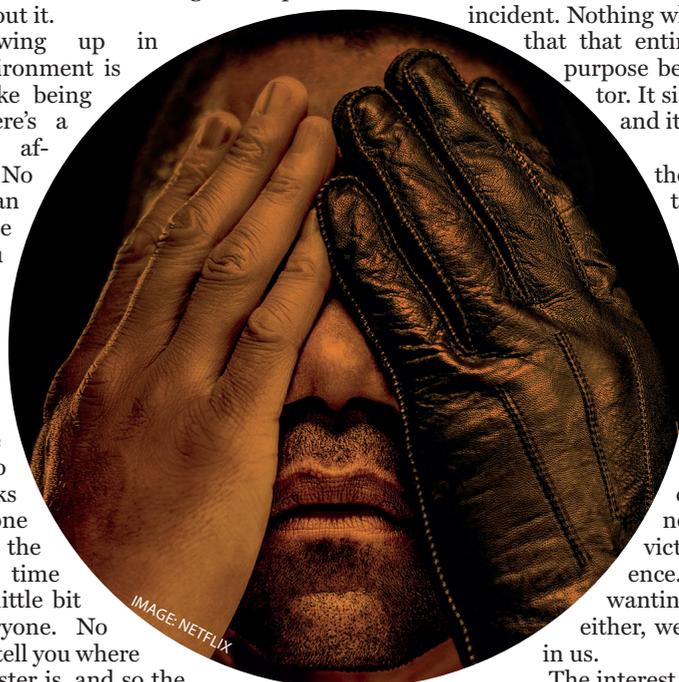
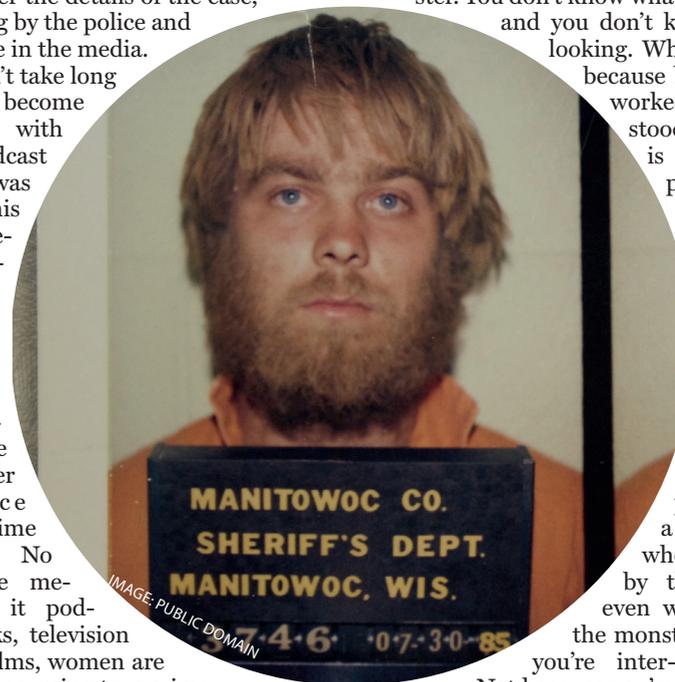
“ No matter the medium, women are consuming true crime across the board

ing is just fearmongering. Being scared does not protect you; being educated doesn't necessarily either, but it empowers you. There is nothing empowering about being made to sit and listen to a call to 999 after a sexual abuse incident. Nothing whatsoever. I can't see that that entire exercise had any purpose beyond the shock factor. It simply aimed to scare, and it succeeded.

I don't know what the boys did during that hour's session when we were listening to that tape. I never asked at the time, but in the years since I've so often wondered.

The interest in true crime is gendered not because of a 24-hour news cycle, we all fall victim to that influence. It is not because of wanting an adrenaline rush either, we all have adrenaline in us.

The interest in true crime is gendered because we live in a society that makes fear gendered.



THINK EQUAL THROUGH A MULTILINGUAL EXPERIENCE

EMILY MELLOWS TAKES A LOOK AT THE NORMAN REA GALLERY'S LATEST SHOWCASE OF YORK TALENT IN AID OF 'THINK EQUAL'

Think Equal Through a Multilingual Experience was a collaboration of musicians, artists, rappers, singers, poets, and self-professed 'rant-ers', aiming to respond and highlight 'the recent cases of sexual violence across the globe' and raise money for Think Equal. The event acknowledged that often university life protects and blinds us to the issues of the real world, arguing that although it is easy to enjoy the privileges that university life entails, we should refrain from living in a little 'York Bubble'. If the event showcased anything, it was the fact that the students of the University of York are anything but unwilling to face the problems that lay outside of university walls.

Hannah Young's cover of Jazmine Sullivan's 'Masterpiece' and Wignii Mtopo's performance of Billie Eilish's 'don't wannabe you anymore' set both the tone and the standard of the evening. Later in the night, we saw Writer's Rain, whose original songs left the audience collectively holding their breath until the very last note. Writer's Rain's original pieces 'Breathe' and 'Molasses' had a softness and warmth, beautifully contrasting the more serious lyrics and issues of body image and mental health. The Shamble, a Yorkshire-based band, and Tom Gulliver also played brilliant original songs with a confidence and charm which showed their obvious passion and experience. Saif Imran's original poetry, inspired by his Palestinian grandfather were also incredibly thought-

provoking. His poetry had a lovely musicality and was evidently deeply inspired and rooted in sensory experience and familial bonds. As Imran performed, the audience were wrapped up in what felt like a hazy childhood memory.

It was evident that this event showcased a talented collection of poets, songwriters and artists. However, it became increasingly ob-

A celebration of student artists, poets and creators

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vious as the night progressed that there was nothing to tie these acts together. It was less a cohesive 'experience' united in conveying and exploring the complexity of a single idea or theme, and more of an open mic night.

Perhaps the artwork was slightly more bound together by an overarching theme; the censorship of female bodies in mass media. Tazmin Adam's two oil paintings, *Exposure* and *Exposure II*, were the pieces which stood out, purely because they reflected the nuances and complexities of the issue of censorship. As Adams wrote, the pieces recognise that "on one level censorship on the naked form helps

protect against exploitation and unwanted harmful attention", while still acknowledging that such censorship leads to the suppression of female identity and sexuality.

One issue with the event was perhaps that its advertising was incredibly misleading. The event was branded as a 'multilingual experience', but there was little emphasis throughout the event on exploring or celebrating different languages. Two of the poets who performed spoke in another language; Urdu and German, however there wasn't a single singer or rapper who performed on the night in another language. Neither of the two poets who elected to perform their pieces in another language performed an original piece, although they performed with an infectious enthusiasm for the foreign languages they tackled. Perhaps if the event is continued next year, the organisers could encourage more artists

to undertake creating and performing pieces in other languages, or encouraging their artists to explore language, culture or equality in their work. Alternatively, the event could simply be rebranded as a celebration of University student artists, poets, musicians and creators.

Another issue with the event was that throughout the event at least five different causes and human rights issues were discussed by various poets, singers and speakers. These topics ranged from sexual violence, gay rights, the mental health of university students and the Israeli-Palestinian debate. The audience were presented with a dizzying number of charities and ideas, meaning they left slightly dazed, half wondering which of the causes they had actually donated to. The organisers' attempt to give voice to so many societies and organisations was admirable, but perhaps focusing in on a single issue would have left a more lasting impression.



IMAGE: KIARA SIMONOVA

BOOK REVIEW: RICHARD AYOADE'S 'AYOADE ON TOP'

SAM CAMPBELL REVIEWS THE LATEST OFFERING FROM RICHARD AYOADE, A DEEP DIVE INTO A FORGOTTEN GWYNETH PALTROW FILM

After reading Richard Ayoade's latest study of the medium of film, I am fully committed to the position that no work of art criticism can be complete without a firm grasp on the potency and value of aviation-related wordplay. In this wonderful little book, Ayoade takes on the close reading everyone with even a vague interest in film has been waiting for as he picks apart what he refers to as "the best cabin-crew comedy ever filmed", *View From the Top* (2003). Touching on everything from the world's premier Journey tribute act, continental philosophy, the subtleties of big hairstyles, and Christmas in Ipswich, Ayoade guides us on an intriguing voyage through the intricacies of an early-noughties Hollywood era.

View From the Top follows Donna Jensen, played by Gwyneth Paltrow, as she ascends from the purgatorial 'waiting room'

of small-town Cleveland to the heady heights of Paris First Class International. I have never seen this film, but after reading the book

I feel as if I could recite its plot in my sleep. As those of you who have seen *Top* will know better than I, its complex narrative themes, labyrinthine plot and intense dialogue are notoriously difficult to follow. Luckily, Ayoade delineates the enigma of this film, and unspools it to us at a manageable pace with helpful interjections to assist us at trickier points. The book is divided into six neat parts, from 'Approach', via 'Taking Off' and 'The Life of Sky', all the way

to 'A Rapid Descent'. These parts feature enlightening chapters such as the contextual 'A View of Goop' (analysing Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle brand of that name, and its infamous 'vaginal eggs'), a walk through the all-important meet-cute between Donna and her love

interest Ted Stewart in 'I Can't Believe Your Boyfriend Owns This Whole Houseboat', and a meditation on the film's moral quandary of tempering one's dreams with romance and family life in "Window Seat or Aisle?" Can You Sit in Both at the Same Time?'

I have made an effort here to convey the scope of Ayoade's analysis. As well as casting

This hilarious book displays the positive potential of postmodernist criticism

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an eye to the broader reaches of the film and its many rabbit-holes of context and cultural implications, he also gives *Top* the appraisal it deserves, appreciating its subtler textual elements which the casual viewer might miss. For example, on Donna's friend Sherry's boat-owning boyfriend: "Although we never meet Sherry's boyfriend, Herb, the fact he owns a houseboat is enough to evoke an image of a man alive to the tax benefits of offshore living [...] Lots of chaps see fit to split a boat. Not Herb. None of this 'Would you mind getting the boat back to me on Thursday? I promised to take the old crate out with my father in law.' 'Get your own boat,' Herb would say." Here,

Ayoade's keen critical and creative eye allows the text to burst into life, engaging with its rich tapestry in which even the most minor of characters (is Herb even a character?) captivates the reader.

In another inspired critical turn, Ayoade considers the ethics of the role of the airline host(ess) in 'A View on Stewardship'. Setting the film against a quotation from the Book of Genesis, he argues that *Top* illustrates the radical exception to the relative 'dominion' of humankind over its fellow creatures: the airline steward. Elsewhere, he points out the etymological link between the leading male's surname, Stewart, which bears resemblance to the Old English word for 'guardian'. Just another example of how *On Top* draws out the finer elements of the film's text.

On a serious note, this hilarious book displays the positive potential of postmodernist criticism. David Foster Wallace once claimed that postmodernism had run its course; in the age of *Family Guy* and *South Park*, the dissident voices of popular culture had become too cynical, obscuring society's jaded core beneath layers of comic lightheartedness. Conversely, *Top* represents a more genuinely lighthearted approach to culture: the trashy can be enjoyed, in a sense, if it is for a moment taken seriously. There is a deeper criticism, that at the same time does not interfere with the comic value, and cuts to the problems that *Top* represents – or those that in fact aren't addressed in the film, such as capitalism's darker side in opposition to the American Dream narrative it supposes.



IMAGE: YUSUF LAHER

BLOOD, SWEAT AND BEERS

'ARE WE ALL READY TO GET SICKED ON?': PATRICK WALKER SPENDS A NIGHT WITH STUDENT-LED VOLUNTEER GROUP NIGHTSAFE

It's just gone 10pm, and all throughout York, the streets are filling with students celebrating the end of the winter term with a healthy night of clubbing and alcohol. For NightSafe, the volunteers who give their time each evening to support drunk or otherwise-at-risk fellow students, the work has only just begun.

Tonight, I'm shadowing a team of three NightSafe society members, armed with a defibrillator and a body camera, who will be helping clear up messes (both figurative and literal) throughout the evening. For Sam, Ned, and Molly, this is the final shift of around four in the term, but they're nonetheless enthusiastic to get started. Their equipment and office space is housed in Eric Milner, in the old Vanbrugh buildings across the lake. The office features a computer for ingesting footage and recording the night's exploits, several cabinets that house disposable items like medical gloves, sick bags, and foil blankets, and enough mini water bottles stacked in the corner to flood campus lake.

Having suited up in the infamous orange jackets, we head out into the freezing temperatures. We're given a free ride to town by the First driver: it's one of the many instances that show how much the complex, challenging work done by NightSafe every evening is appreciated by the staff that keep York running at night, from the police, to the venue

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NightSafe is an opportunity to see a different side of the city

staff. As we pull into the bus stop, Sam tunes his radio to the frequency that bouncers use to coordinate efforts throughout the evening. NightSafe are frequently called on to assist in situations that go beyond the bouncers' paygrade.

It's Sunday, and tonight our focus will be on Revs. Before that, we head to the river to check for any signs that someone might have fallen in, or be close to danger. NightSafe was originally started for this purpose: after the tragic death in the river Foss of York student Megan Roberts in 2014, and it emerged that 24 people had met the same fate in York's waterways over the last 15 years. NightSafe still works with Megan's mother, Jackie Roberts, to increase awareness and safety around the river at night.

Tonight the river looks relatively calm, and we head back to hang around the cinema sign, and wait for crisis. Shifts on the team can vary wildly, but team leader Sam explains that, this term, the nights that he's been on have been relatively quiet. "This year's freshers have been pretty good. Even the nights early in the year have been



quite easy." This evening, most of our work would involve handing out foil blankets to girls wearing miniskirts and backless dresses without coats: a move that was far from sensible considering the -1 degree temperature reading on my phone.

The goal, Sam says, is to "not make the situation worse" for each individual they treat. NightSafe volunteers are trained in first aid (it's actually a reason that many sign up,) but all severe cases, like party-goers with head injuries, are handed over to the emergency services. The foil blankets in our backpacks are very thin, and don't actually do much to warm students up, but they help calm people down in the long slow line that is steadily forming outside Revs. I'm slowly finding it bizarre to be experiencing the whole thing sober. NightSafe volunteers get to see a completely different side of the city, from their utilisation of the CCTV network that completely blankets the city centre (nowhere, I'm told, goes un-filmed), to their more objective judgement of the better of the two kebab vans (it's Oki's, by the way. Apparently Deni's is nauseating without the aid of alcohol).

Around 1am, a more problematic case emerges: a girl has been brought out of the club by her friends, completely intoxicated and barely speaking. She needs help sobering up before being bundled into an Uber. In the kitchen, we huddle round the Revs pizza oven for warmth as Molly and Sam begin the slow process of talking the girl into sipping water and calming down. Both are trained in mental first aid, and they patiently talk her through basic breathing techniques, and offer her the hurl-bag until she's stable enough to get a taxi home. We have to leave her beforehand: taxi drivers recognise the orange jackets now, and won't take students that are being helped by volunteers.

Molly has really appreciated the opportunity to put her psychology degree to practical use. Talking things through with inebriated club-goers is a large part of the role, and her experience with it shines through in the calm, respectful treatment of the drunk students she's treating. Ned stands behind us, filling out notes, and recording on the body-cam. For Ned, NightSafe is an opportunity to see a different side of the city, and to help fellow students when they most need it.

Another student comes to us cold and clearly distressed. She's been abandoned by her friends at some point during the night and clearly just needs someone to talk to. Mental health issues develop at a pretty alarming rate for many of York's over-worked students, and it's clear that as much of NightSafe's work is about

talking things through with people having a rubbish night out as it is the material support of flip flops and plasters.

At around 2.30am, a rugby bro is ejected by DoorSafe staff after getting his penis out in front of a female bartender in an effort to get served. Unsurprisingly, his efforts have not earned him a drink and he now hangs around watching people leave as we begin to help others. Door staff on student nights are employed by the Students' Union, and DoorSafe has to run a tight line between keeping students happy, and letting the bouncers enforce club rules. It's a challenging role, and they have had to get rid of staff in the past that have been too rough with intoxicated students. That said, DoorSafe on the radio, to ensure that the relationships between bouncers and students are kept fair. Venues in York also work together to coordinate against rowdy students, and will radio each other to stop certain groups from entering places if they're believed to be a nuisance. The police listen into the same frequency, and NightSafe work with them in certain situations where volunteer safety might be threatened.

A large chunk of NightSafe's funding actually comes from the North Yorkshire Police Community Fund, in recognition of the work they do saving time and funding for emergency services. The £2,860 grant is combined with a £5,190 grant from York alumni through YuFund, but NightSafe remains a student society without a YUSU grant, which squeezes funding. Even tonight, with things relatively quiet, we've burnt through several pieces of disposable medical equipment, and I'm slowly realising that more money would help volunteers out by allowing them to purchase better kit.

As the night draws to a close around 2.30am, we find ourselves at the McDonalds tills chatting through the evening together. Sam is proud of the leadership experience and the extensive training he's received through the society, which now enables over 40 volunteers to be thrown up on in the name of ensuring their fellow students are safe and hap-

py. Another member, Alex, says he joined after deciding it would be "rewarding," even "empowering" for his mental health. This term, he encountered an extreme situation where a casualty was found bleeding from multiple impacts. The team patched their subject up and assisted the ambulance service, giving their subject the best possible chance for recovery following a night out gone horribly wrong.

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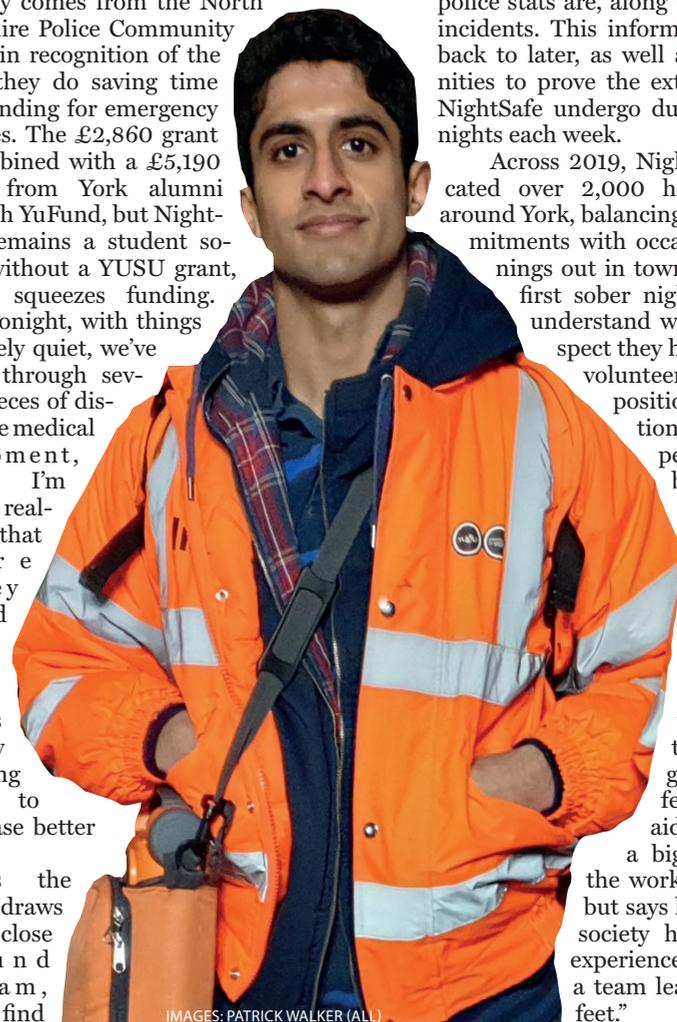
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The opportunity to train in self-defence, therapy, and first aid free of charge is a bonus

We take a taxi back to Eric Milner, and have to wait in the office for a while as the body cam footage ingests onto the geriatric computer and Molly, Sam, and Ned slowly unpack their gear. Records of students helped, and equipment used are kept throughout the night, and this must be recorded on a table, as police stats are, along with a form for severe incidents. This information can be referred back to later, as well as providing opportunities to prove the extent of the effort that NightSafe undergo during the four student nights each week.

Across 2019, NightSafe members dedicated over 2,000 hours to volunteering around York, balancing heavy academic commitments with occasionally stressful evenings out in town. Having been on my first sober night out, I've begun to understand why. Because of the respect they have earned, NightSafe volunteers hold a privileged position through their relationships with the various people that serve York's booming club scene. It's hard to imagine how situations we dealt with over the night would have played out in 2013, before NightSafe was founded.

Not only is the work rewarding, but the opportunity to gain training in self-defence, therapy, and first aid free of charge is also a big bonus. Alex admits the work can be "challenging," but says his membership of the society has "been really good experience for me to develop as a team leader and think on my feet."



IMAGES: PATRICK WALKER (ALL)

RED CARPET CHIC: A REVIEW OF THE GOLDEN GLOBES

SARAH GATENBY-HOWELLS LOOKS AT HOW DESIGNERS HAVE DRESSED THE LEADING FIGURES AT THIS YEAR'S AWARDS CEREMONY

The Golden Globes awards ceremony prides itself on the abundance of Hollywood glamour, gowns and grace that arrive in the form of our favourite celebrities for an evening to celebrate excellence in film and television, and is further watched by millions every year who desire the opportunity for an evening to dress up in handmade couture gowns and Tiffany & Co diamonds. The Golden Globes kicked off the 2020 awards season with just that and although events within the Beverly Hilton were tense and at times awkward, thanks to Ricky Gervais's speech, the red carpet remained a space encompassed by the Hollywood dream. The fashion allure this year was drawn primarily by monochromatic outfits. Jennifer Aniston and Helen Mirren, both in Dior Haute Couture, demonstrated how simple elegance is sometimes the best way to go. Al-



IMAGE: @ZOEYDEUTCH

though simple, Dior chose for the dresses to be relatively reserved in both colour palette and composition; the exposure of the actors' shoulders and subtle highlighting of their collar bones with large diamond necklaces, made both of them some of the best dressed on the carpet. Although patterns seemed to be lost from the red carpet scene, some designers portrayed their atypical and risky styles by taking a forward-thinking approach to the structure of the garments, many attempting bold sleeves. *Killing Eve* star Jodie Comer's (far right) Mary Katrantzou's dress was a perfect example of bold structure and although some have taken a disliking to the not form-fitting dress, her outfit, taken as a whole, portrays a higher level of sophistication while still enabling her to incorporate modern



IMAGE CREDITS: @THEBILLYPORTER

fashion trends like the bold neon colours of her yellow feather bag and hot pink shoes. *Killing Eve* producer and *Fleabag* writer, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, looked magnificent in a Ralph and Russo ensemble, slightly Chanel-esque with tweed suit trousers and blazer finished with black Christian Louboutin stilettos - the fashion symbol of power and success. It is fair to say that the outfit resembled her persona and year perfectly. Zoey Deutch (far left) was another star with an atypical modern approach to sophistication; her yellow bell wings with the deep v-line dress, accentuated by her plunging diamond necklace and short, slicked back hair, demonstrates perfectly how elements of youthfulness and grace can be executed.

Bel Powley, who plays Claire Canway in Apple TV's new series



IMAGE CREDITS: @JODIEMCOMER

The Morning Show, wore a MiuMiu dress replicating historic shapes, the burlesque frills outline the plunging neckline which again gives the dress a modern twist and youthfulness furthered by the ability of the bow and baby blue colour to retain the element of innocent youthfulness. The absence of pattern enabled Kaitlyn Denver to stand out in the sea of monochrome with her billowing sleeve, embroidered patchwork and cinched waist Valentino dress that looked as though it could have been designed for a rebellious 19th century aristocratic teen.

Valentino did as they do best and managed to keep the floral print modern through its mania and black outlines giving it a slightly three-dimensional effect. Finally, no 2020 Golden Globes rundown would be able to pass over the swan-like figure of Billy Porter (centre) in Alex Vinash who, like a swan, a vision of white, managed to elegantly float down the red carpet with determination, a message, and a fight continuing the journey of breaking gender barriers in the fashion world.

STYLE GUIDE: MASTERING THE FRENCH 'SAVOIR FAIRE'

SOFIA BIELLI'S TIPS AND TRICKS TO INCORPORATE FAMOUS EFFORTLESS PARISIAN STYLES INTO YOUR DAY-TO-DAY UNIVERSITY LOOKS

Ever wondered how the majority of French women manage to look flawless, even when wearing jeans and a t-shirt? Me too. Despite being Italian, I found myself staring at their effortless panache every single summer on the Riviera, and I was so envious that I honestly wished I was born in my neighbouring country. Ironically, once I moved to England, I was constantly mistaken for a French girl—I've never known why, but I was happy to play along.

Throughout the years (and especially thanks to Instagram and YouTube) I was able to understand what made the French style so alluring to many of us, and it all comes down to a simple philosophy: less is more. Quality over quantity is a concept that, especially in the two Fs (food and fashion), is also embraced in Italy— unless you're Chiara Ferragni, that is. But if the Italians are more focused on showing off their branded outfits, in France it is quite the opposite.

But without further ado, I will now try to give you some tips and tricks I learned along the way to (attempt to) master the French way and sport it effortlessly at uni.



IMAGE: ROBERT HUARDEAUX

IMAGE: CINECENTA FILM DISTRIBUTORS

Starting from your beauty routine, always give priority to skincare rather than makeup. Having a natural, dewy-looking skin is more important than covering it up with foundation. Kick-start your morning by gently cleansing your skin with cold water; this will close your pores and de-puff your

face, making you look fresh and less tired. I must admit that I have never seen a French woman wearing tons of foundation on her face, so opt for a light base like a BB or CC cream; Glossier's products are probably the best choice for a non-makeup makeup look. A little eyeliner is always welcomed, but keep it thin and close to the lash line. To complete the look, apply a natural or a red lipstick using your fingertips instead of doing it straight from the bullet.

Outfit-wise, keep it simple with straight denims or trousers, long enough to cover your ankles. Most of the time, straight jeans like classic Levi's are not meant to be comfortable, because they're not made to hug your curves and therefore have no stretch in them. But that's the whole point. As the French say "il faut souffrir pour être belle," meaning that it's got to hurt to be beautiful.

When it's cold, ditch flashy prints and textures for a nice monochromatic knitted jumper or cardigan, it'll appear very simple and yet sophisticated at the same time. Complete the look with a pair of loafers to look absolutely effortless, or suede boots with a chunky heel if you want to add a touch of oomph to your day.

If you're searching for inspiration, just do a quick online search for the most famous French fashion icons, especially from the 70s. Françoise Hardy and Jane Birkin are two good examples. Or just check the suggested Instagram accounts in the box be-

side.

For the accessories, a nice tote bag will get you through your day at uni, but go with something leathery and small in the evening; prefer a shoulder bag to a clutch though, so you're more comfortable.

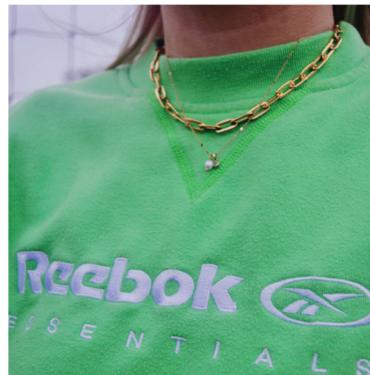
I hope this was an efficient way to explain how to get that Parisian style everyone is always talking about, but let me make one thing clear: effortless-looking doesn't mean that there is no effort put in, and if this particular style made it to the world's most famous magazines, it only takes a short ride on the Metro in Paris to realise that there are a multitude of different trends and styles in Paris and France. Most of the time the French way is not about the way you look, but the way you feel.

THE FASHION TEAM'S FRENCH INSPO

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IMAGES: MAYA BARBER & EILIDH HIDE



MATCH READY



'PARTY'S OVER': UNDERFUNDING IS KILLING YORK'S CLUBS

WITH FIBBERS AND MANSION'S RECENT DEPARTURE, FENELLA JOHNSON LOOKS AT THE IMPACT OF VENUE CLOSURES ACROSS YORK

The effort to protect what is left of York's dancefloors, bars and music venues was recently hit by a double blow with the closure of Mansion and Fibbers. Victims of the persistent trend of the replacement of nightclubs and local music venues with apartment blocks, the loss of the clubs highlights the fraught situation of the city's nightlife and music scene. Both clubs were central to the inclusion of independent, student-driven nights promoting local talent alongside more mainstream events, which helped to establish a distinctive personality and culture in the city's nightlife. As such, their closures are troubling. The steady creep of capital investment, rising rents, the continuing threats to local music venues:

all this creates a bitter cocktail that should prompt us to ask not only who owns our cities, but what kind of culture we want them to embody.

Cities are traditionally seen as transient. When nightclubs or local music venues shut, new ones spring up to replace them. However, as the ambitious proposals to redevelop Rougier Street suggest, York may not be following that model. The much-loved So-

ciety, a shrine to many students' twin passions - absolute bangers and cheap jagerbombs - is threatened by these plans, as is Salvation. Mainstream venues with high revenues are being - or likely to be - closed down, and it is unlikely that local music venues that seek to protect and find local talent are to be afforded any saving grace. The music scene in York does not get the same protection as its other cultural attractions, but without its diverse cultural offerings the city stands in the danger of becoming a playground for the wealthy, tourists and day-trippers eager for museums and staid coffee shops.

The question of what aspects of culture are locally valued and protected must be set against the issues

of nation-wide arts funding. Strikingly, the 2019 Conservative manifesto had no separate chapter or even a paragraph dedicated to culture, as has generally been the case. A hidden and unclearly funded £250 million pledge to "regional arts and libraries" is little more than a band-aid on the gaping wound of ten years of austerity-driven cuts. Regional theatres, museums, music venues - all three are

likely to continue to be stifled and squeezed out of business for the next five years. A government that doesn't find the space or care for libraries is unlikely to see value in art and cultural venues. The slow closure of such venues is central to the question of what culture means and how we can defend it. Key to this defence is vocal support via the mechanisms of the slow power of local politics, as the recent saving of The Crescent shows.

Following the submission of planning applications to turn the next-door nursery into four apartments, local action organized by the owners meant those plans were rejected in a unanimous vote by local councillors. Venues like The Crescent protect and help local music talent, and encourage independent and unique music nights. The cultural loss of these venues closing must be placed against the benefits such developments may bring.

The future of York's party and music scene

initially shows little signs of hope. The failures of York Parties is ever-present in the mind of anyone who has ever spent an evening hopelessly queuing outside Salvos, only to be kicked out

once inside by a bouncer for daring to behave like they might be enjoying themselves. Fibbers' owners have pledged that it will re-open, but there is no prospective venue at the time of writing, and the replacement of its traditional Thursday night out with a temporary one in Kuda is not an entirely thrilling prospect. The rise of student-driven independent nights at The Lounge and the Independent Venue Week at the end of January does bring a sense of optimism to the state of things. Though the deep pockets of investors and developers may be threatening to carve their path of choice through the city, the resolve of creative communities and of students to think around obstacles ensures that nightclubs, music venues and music culture can prevail.



AN ERASMUS STUDENT'S GUIDE TO GLOBAL MUSIC

WITH THE FUTURE OF ERASMUS IN DOUBT, CHARLIE WILLIAMS LOOKS INTO PAST AND PRESENT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SCENES

Parliament's decision on 8 January to vote against "New Clause 10" - an amendment to the government's Brexit bill - has cast ambiguity over the status of the Erasmus scheme, and British students' opportunities to spend a year abroad in member states of the European Union. Though the British government will still have scope to negotiate a future Erasmus agreement, its rejection of the scheme as a priority of the Brexit talks is sure to concern students. At a time in the academic year when students may be considering overseas study, a discussion of some hugely influential international music scenes may serve as encouragement for prospective students to travel abroad.

Spain

York students travel to towns and cities across the length and breadth of Spain, but the best example of a contemporary superstar hails from a region famous for its pro-independence movement. For this reason, Rosalía, born in Cataluña, manages to embody aspects of Catalaño, and more broadly Spanish trends. The release of her first record, *Los Ángeles*, in 2017 showcased her incredible vocal intensity over traditional flamenco and folk instrumentation. However, 2018's *El Mal Querido* made Rosalía a household name in the Spanish-speaking world, and produced her first number one album in Spain, through art-pop instrumentals and catchy hooks. Hits 'Malamente' and 'Pienso En Tu Mira' will be sure to captivate even non-Spanish speakers.

Germany

Germany's musical heyday came in the 1970s when the start of the decade saw the North-West's psychedelic and experimental rock scenes become so ubiquitous that they were coined by the British press as "krautrock", and the end of the decade saw Kraftwerk emerge as pioneers of electronic music, through their ground-breaking use of synths. CAN, Faust, and NEU defined the atmospheric mystery of "krautrock", and it's easy to see why they are often seen to have influenced the punk and post-punk movements. Just listen to CAN's 'Mushroom' or 'Vitamin C' for a taste of the post-punk aesthetic five years before it hit the UK. Towards the end of the decade, Kraftwerk's *Die Mensch-Maschine* and *Trans Europa Express* are among the first forays of modern music into synth-pop.

Australia

In the eyes of the rest of the world, Australia's psychedelic-rock presence often be-

gins and ends with Tame Impala, but the high quality of output from a myriad of artists deserves far more of a reputation than it is currently afforded. On their 2015 release, *Man It Feels Like Space Again*, Pond's ethereal sound is reminiscent of Spiritualized at times, with grooves that sound exactly as colourful as the album's cover would lead you to believe. On

the noisier side of psychedelic rock, King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard represent perhaps the most efficient band in the genre, having released 12 albums since 2014. Their albums often take on the conceptual, and can span entirely different genres from one release to the next.

Brazil

In the early-1970s, a loosely defined genre formed in Rio de Janeiro and quickly diffused throughout the country - it was known as Música Popular Brasileira, and was generally considered to

be a modernized take on aspects of traditional bossa nova and samba. Milton Nascimento's *Clube Da Esquina*, and Novos Baianos' *Acabou Chorare* stand as testament to the great variety of the genre. Both albums are perfectly crafted collections of diverse musical motifs, from meandering jazz, to erupting psychedelia. Almost 50 years after the genre's emergence, 2019 saw a fantastic MPB release from Ana Frango Elétrico, which managed to recreate so much of what made the first wave of the movement so special.

Chile

This article may seem slightly disingenuous in describing music from the early 1970s as a way to lure students in 2020 into studying abroad, but that was exactly the era of music which I found so captivating during my time away in Chile. Chile's most fondly remembered musical heroes are seen in a far more sombre light than the others described on this list, that is, because Quilapayún, Inti-Illimani, and Victor Jara were respectively exiled, refused re-entry to the country, or tortured and killed during the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, which began in 1973. The genre promoted by the three artists before and during the dictatorship was known as Nueva Canción Chilena, and many songs of that period, such as 'Venceremos' (We Shall Win) and 'El Pueblo Unido Jamás Será Vencido' (The People United Will Never Be Defeated) are still living symbols of resistance and freedom in modern-day Chile.



CLASSIC REVIEWS

SAM CAMPBELL TAKES A LOOK BACK AT THREE ICONIC ALBUMS TO REVISIT IN THE NEW YEAR

PORTISHEAD

DUMMY

Thinking of what a classic album means, I would suggest the definition that it has to come after something; you think you have experienced what a great album is, and then something comes at you in a way that is connected to what you have experienced in the past, but ultimately is something more. A classic album has to transcend; it needs to baffle. Thinking in these terms, *Dummy* is an album I associate with memories of growing up, of childhood and what came after it. The album before the shock of *Dummy* was Massive Attack's seminal *Blue Lines*. I thought about including that in this list, but that would be dishonest, I think, in that *Dummy* is an objectively better album (and, as Ben Shapiro would say, facts don't care about your feelings – not even me, the omnipotent reviewer). *Blue Lines* is the album with which I grew up, and *Dummy* is the one that came after. Until my early teens, my relationship with Portishead's music was passing and fragmentary – as opposed to Massive Attack's, which is ingrained in my DNA. But as an adolescent music nerd, *Dummy* changed the way I listened to music. It was clever; depending on one's mood, woozy and 'chilled'; or else gritty and deeply introspective; effortlessly cool; idiosyncratic and avant-garde.

The story of Portishead began, brilliantly, in Neneh Cherry's kitchen – where Barrow was helping to record her album *Homebrew*. Using a combination of samples and their own home recordings, the band began work on the album with the initial recording of 'Sour Times'. The production process included at some points recording the tracks to vinyl, before dragging them across the studio floor to degrade the sound – conjuring that organic vintage sound which characterises *Dummy*. Placing the album in this context captures its sheer ingenuity, and that combination of insanity and workmanlike initiative that is required of any great musical work. There are a few tracks that stand out. I'm thinking of 'Sour Times', 'It Could Be Sweet' and 'Roads'. But these represent only a fraction of the far-flung reaches of the psyche visited during *Dummy*.



IMAGE: POLYDOR

In its minutiae, it is melancholy – even painful. For all the trippy coolness, there is an undercurrent of loneliness. As Gibbons sings on 'Wandering Star': "Please could you stay awhile to share my grief / For its such a lovely day / To have to always feel this way / And the time that I will suffer less is when I never have to wake."

Or else on 'Pedestal': 'Ridicule breathes a sigh / You abandoned me / Lost forever'. But all of this is disguised, or aestheticised and repackaged, as something beautiful. The unhappiness of the soul, the scratched vinyl and beaten up gear come out as this thing which is glossy and at its surface oozes desire and allure, rather than the pain it contains. Its sexiness, on inspection, becomes haunting and uncanny.

THE FALL

HEX INDUCTION HOUR

The one time I got to see The Fall live, the lineup featured Smith's wife at the time, who entered the stage carrying a pile of cardigans and multiple shopping bags, which she kept with her as she stood next to a keyboard and waited for the duration of the set. The rest of the band remained stormy faced throughout. While being completely bereft of formal cohesion, The Fall were incredibly prolific, spurring out LPs for more than 40 years, as a kind of off-beat stream of consciousness. Listeners were granted access to the gaze of that unhinged genius, Mark E. Smith.

Provoked by disaffection and irritation with 'bland bastards' and 'inept hippies', the album is crafted around the idea of the invocation, or 'induction', of magic – inspired by the landscape of Iceland, where the band began recording the tracks. Combine this concept with Smith's sardonic, absurd turn of phrase and you have a unique work of art. I don't know which spirits are being conjured by incantations such as "Hey there, fuckface," but I'm down for this seance.

The track that pulled me into the album was 'Fortress/

Deer Park', with its motorik beat and chaotic organ screeches that made me think of krautrock, before I was reminded that this is The Fall – and therefore not really like anything else in the world. But there was something gripping about it; I think it is the ability for groove that make The Fall so addictive, and just on the right side of oblivion. The initial chaos is deceiving, in that there is actually a great deal of awareness in the performance. It is improvised, yes, but Smith's vocals skip over the band's angular instrumentals with a remarkable sense of rhythm. This is particularly the case on the sludgy grooves of 'Winter (Hostel Maxi)' and 'Winter 2' as well as the more linear sections of 'Mere Pseud Mag. Ed.'

There is an acute sense of awareness; Smith knows he is doing something outrageous and getting away with it (regardless of what the sycophants and insufferables think). Mayhem is unleashed, then spun in a strange performance of improvised artistry into something coherent

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND & NICO

This is it. The banana album. Before it was a quadruple-priced and badly pressed reissued vinyl record in Urban Outfitters, or a sweatshop t-shirt in Topshop, *The Velvet Underground & Nico* was a seminal work of psychedelic proto-punk created at the twilight of the counter-cultures. Wedged in between the hippie generation, and hedonistic 70s New York – this is an album which is hard to underestimate in terms of its originality, influence and cultural importance. Before the Sex Pistols gatecrashed the Silver Jubilee with their performance on the Thames in 1977, The Velvet Underground played a set with backing dancers to a room full of professional psychiatrists in an upmarket Manhattan Hotel. I don't think that they quite got the irony.

One of the unifying qualities is the presence of Nico, who joined the band on the recommendation of Andy Warhol. He

brought the two parties together at his Factory studio, where they began rehearsing. The German singer remarkably manages to give performances that are tentative, involved and inflected with the meaning of words that she herself did not write. On 'Femme Fatale' (the third track of the album) she is transcendent, capturing both the female subject and the captivated narrator. Telling two stories simultaneously, she manipulates her dynamics from a hushed and seductive tone to her signature, highly emotive and taut register that almost feels like a yell.

Reed's fascinating lyrics narrate the album, storying his conflicted relationship with heroin addiction. On one level, this record could be listened to as something like a character study of Reed. Just as William Burroughs did in the 50s through the novel form, Reed captures what it is like to exist with heroin in America. The frantic, restless, craving jitters in 'Waiting for the Man', to 'Heroin' – the second longest track of the album – are a drawn out, intimate look inside Reed's perspective as an addict. "I've made a big decision / I'm gonna try to nullify my life." This is the most beautiful and the darkest cut on the record.

But Reed's artistry would not have been the same without the influence of Warhol, who helped to draw the music out of the band. For example, 'Sunday Morning' was inspired by Warhol asking Reed to write a song about paranoia. The result is sublime: a sultry, celesta-laden lullaby that nevertheless features lyrics such as "watch out, the world's behind you." Reed investigated sado-masochism in 'Venus In Furs' – named after the novel by the man from whose name the word masochism derives. Reed's hypnotic lyrics are matched with viola drones and jangly guitars, reminding us that the record is equally John Cale's masterpiece as much as it is Reed's. Cale, who cut his teeth as an avant-garde performer with John Cage and others, is responsible for a great deal of the band's sound in this epoch of its existence. 'The Black Angel's Death Song' is another example where Cale's part in the band's creative direction comes to the fore – with the folk influences and avant-garde arrangement. Part of this record's appeal is its situation between two eras. This is reflected in its self-destructive and nihilistic aesthetic, qualified with a thoughtful and introspective lyrical tone.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND & NICO



IMAGE: VERVE

THE NEW MUSIC PLAYLIST

1. Wild Nothing - Foyer
2. Duster - Ghost World
3. Squarepusher - Nervelevers
4. TTY - Buttercream
5. The Big Moon - Barcelona
6. Hot Chip - Positive
7. Mura Masa feat. Ellie Rowsell - Teenage Headache Dreams
8. Stormzy - Still Disappointed
9. Wiley - Eediyat Skengman 2
10. St. Vincent - Slow Disco (Nina Kraviz Gabber Me Gently Remix)
11. Abstract Orchestra, Slum Village - Raise It Up
12. Mall Grab, Turnstile - Yes, I Need My Generator

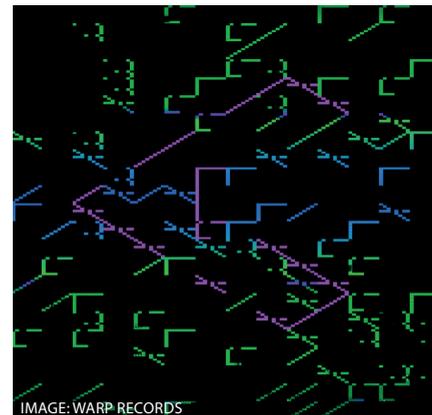


IMAGE: WARP RECORDS

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

"IF I SEE YOUR MUM DOWN CROYDON MARKET, I'M GONNA RIP THAT WEAVE OFF HER HEAD" - WILEY



IMAGE: CTA RECORDS

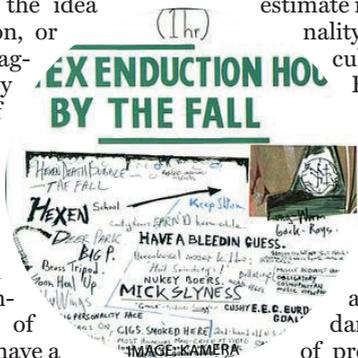


IMAGE: KAMERA

FILM & TV TEAM RECOMMENDS:
TOP 5 DEPRESSING
DYSTOPIAS

YEARS AND YEARS

This show imagines a bleak future for Britain: nuclear explosions, transhumanism and a Northern Populist PM. Eat your heart out.



IMAGE: BBC

CHILDREN OF MEN

Set in the near future of 2027, a man has to lead a pregnant woman through chaos to safety in a world strife with infertility.



IMAGE: UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BLINDBOY UNDESTROYS THE WORLD

Ireland's most famous plastic-bag wearing man takes on everything that is wrong with the world. Warning: anxiety inducing.



IMAGE: BBC

NATHAN BARLEY

The infamous 'self-facilitating media node' is not a dystopian in the classical sense, but is depressingly prophetic.



IMAGE: CHANNEL 4

HER

Joaquin Phoenix falls in love with an Artificial Intelligence device in a film that could worryingly become a reality sooner than we think.

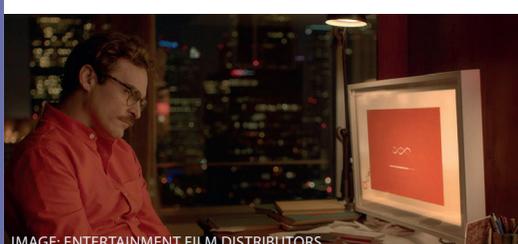


IMAGE: ENTERTAINMENT FILM DISTRIBUTORS

SPANISH TV'S STREAMING SUCCESS

CALLUM TENNANT EXPLORES HOW SPANISH TV HAS EMERGED THROUGH STREAMING SITES

The end of the last decade brought Spanish-speaking music to the forefront of global charts and attention. The breakthrough of the Reggaeton genre with songs such as 'Mi Gente' and 'Despacito' – one of only ten songs sung in a foreign language to ever reach number one in the UK paved the way for more music of a Latin style. The most streamed song of summer 2019 was 'Señorita', which demonstrated the widespread appeal of Latin pop. The good news for Spanish speakers? It's not just the music industry which has seen this trend: while maybe slightly more subtle, Spanish-speaking television series production has become a growing phenomenon.

Between 2015 and 2018 the number of Spanish TV series made in Spain had grown by a huge 52 per cent. Spain – and in particular Madrid – has become a major TV production hub, with Netflix opening its first European production hub there last year. Speaking on the topic, CEO Reed Hastings said "we're following what our members around the world want to watch... they want to watch Spanish shows." And while this article will mostly focus on Spanish series available on Netflix, this is a market which both HBO, Amazon and other video streaming platforms are racing to be a part of. The recent success of series such as *Elite* and *La Casa De Papel* (*Money Heist*) has demonstrated that to many people, subtitled TV is no longer a border they are unwilling to cross.

Perhaps the first trace of Spanish-speaking TV breaking into markets such as the UK is with two series which were shown on Netflix: *Gran Hotel* (*Grand Hotel*) and *Vélvet*.

Gran Hotel, which first ran on Spain's Antena 3 channel from 2011-13, proved to be a big hit, with an IMDb rating of 8.4/10. The plot, set in early 20th century Spain, tells the story of a young man called Julio (Yon González) who goes in search of his sister. She had been a maid working at the hotel, however when she suddenly stopped sending letters back home to her family Julio decided to find out why. Upon arrival Julio discovers that his sister has vanished, he's told that she was fired, but in his mind the facts just don't add up. The story covers his subsequent mission of finding out exactly what transpired and the whereabouts of his sister; a goal which will lead him into many a dangerous situation. He must navigate his way between members of the matriarchal family who own the hotel to try and un-

cover secrets which those more powerful than himself want to keep hidden. While slightly romantic, the series also highlights issues of class, prejudice and family loyalty. With clever plots, a storyline which takes you on the same journey as many characters and with no lack of extremely tense nail-biting scenes, it's likely you'll forget that you're even reading English subtitles.

If you don't like romance, then definitely give the next series a pass. *Velvet*, written by the same creators as *Gran Hotel*, largely follows the love story of the two main characters, Alberto (Miguel Silvestre) and Ana (Paula Echevarria) in 1950s Spain. Alberto, the future heir of the major *Velvet* fashion store and brand, returns to Spain after completing his British education. I don't think it's too much of a spoiler to tell you that he was originally sent there by his father to try and break his emotional attachment to Ana, a simple seamstress at the store. The series focuses on Alberto and Ana's reintroduction to one another and the love story that follows. This is one to watch if you enjoy fashion or music. When I watched this series, I continuously found myself noticing the soundtrack which accompanies the show. By the time I finished it I think I could even sing along to half the songs (watch it before you judge me!)

The fact that these series were streamed so heavily in non-Spanish speaking countries proved the business model being pursued was one which would work. This has led to a continued increase in the availability of Spanish-speaking shows in countries whose native language is not Spanish. The fact that Netflix has opened a TV production hub in Spain goes to show the popularity of these shows especially when you consider that Netflix has only been available in Spain for five years, and in South America for nine. I think this success has been made possible for two main reasons.

Firstly, we stream TV content in greater amounts than ever before. In 2019 47 per cent of UK households had a subscription to one of the biggest four streaming platforms operating in the country. The ease with which we can stream and the astonishing amount of TV that younger generations watch, mixed with algorithms that know us well, means we are more likely to give something new a chance. Netflix knows what genres you like, and so do you, because you've likely watched all of the English-

speaking series available in that genre, (probably when you should have been doing uni work). That opens a market for non-English series which just would not have existed before streaming platforms, and on many platforms these series are actively pushed towards their non-native target audience.

Secondly, I think as a generation we are more exposed to a wider variety of cultures than ever before. We are the citizens of the world, the generation who sing along (cringe) to 'Despacito', who follow Korean pop groups, who go for Japanese Sushi, who are used to globalism and are overwhelmingly supportive of internationalism. In short – we don't care that we have to read subtitles because the show's in a different language.

Whatever the reason, Spanish-speaking TV is thriving, so much so that companies like Netflix are rapidly creating more and more Spanish original series. The two most famous for Netflix which continue to be huge hits are *Elite* and *La Casa De Papel*. I'll briefly explain these two shows, before mentioning a few other very worthwhile Spanish speaking shows available on Netflix.

Elite, a series set in the present day, follows the journey of three working class teenagers who are awarded bursaries to an exclusive private school in Spain. The series explores the secrets of the rich and powerful studying at the school and the clashes with the new students' experience. When a murder occurs, things get heated to the next level. This series is not one to start unless you have a week free that you don't mind losing to a binge of Netflix watching.

I must admit that I have tried multiple times to watch *La Casa De Papel* and have just never found that I clicked with it. It is, however, incredibly popular. The basic plot of the story, set in modern-day Spain, centres around a criminal mastermind who brings together eight people who have nothing to lose. His aim? Only to try and pull off the biggest heist in history. It was renewed for another series in 2018 and part two of that new series airs on April 2020 – so get catching up.

The fact that I've run out of room to talk in depth about any more of the now-prevalent Spanish-speaking series goes to show how many successes there's been.

A final few I would really recommend watching are *Ingobernable*, *Las Chicas Del Cable* (*Cable Girls*), and *Altar Mar* (*High Seas*).



IMAGES: NETFLIX (BOTH)

ADAPTATION: WHEN THE FILM GETS THE BOOK WRONG

SOPHIA ANDREWS GAMARRA DISCUSSES THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF ADAPTING WELL-KNOWN BOOKS ONTO THE SILVER SCREEN

The film adaptation has been a staple of filmmaking since the early days of cinema. It has often privileged canonical works, well-known books you'd study in English classes, the quintessential examples of 'real literature'. Filmmakers work in an expensive medium that must attract massive audiences to break even, so unsurprisingly they often remake these novels.

Whether it is 'faithful' to the source material or makes drastic changes in setting, characters,

or even narrative to provide a fresh take on a classic, adaptation is not a straightforward conversion from one medium to another because it is permeated by response and criticism. Yet while novels are often the product of a singular perspective, a film is affected by thousands of individual interpretations. Even

if the director gives themselves a vanity credit, their interpretation is one of a multitude, as films are made by thousands of people in various fields of work, utilising different creative mediums (writing, costume design, editing etc.). Although the director's role is to bring everyone together under one artistic vision, the studio can overpower them through demands for reshoots and re-edits, usually depending on audience reactions in test screenings.

This cacophony of interpretation affects all films, adaptation or original. An original film attracts

an audience with few expectations, while an adaptation's audience can come with strict standards and preconceptions. Re-viewing *The Great Gatsby* (2013), A. O. Scott claims it is "enjoyable" if the viewer "[p]uts

aside whatever literary agenda [they] bring." In his review, Richard Brody insists that Fitzgerald's novel has "intrinsically romantic qualities" that the film lacks. He compares his interpretation of the novel to the film while acknowledging "it would be fun not to know that Baz Luhrmann's new movie is an adaptation." The film exists in the source material's shadow; even if a critic admits that their own preconceptions affect their review, they cannot forget them.

If an adaptation is received positively, it can reflect back onto the source material. *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1962), oft-regarded as one of the greatest American films, received critical acclaim and the author's stamp of approval, cementing its place as the film adaptation of the novel, rather than just a film adaptation. Atticus Finch became Gregory Peck's defining role, as Harper Lee herself said, "when he played Atticus Finch, he had played himself ... and touched the world". A positive reaction for an adaptation may be more passionate than that for an original film; critical ardour for the former can involve feelings of affirmed nostalgia, that their love for the original novel has been validated. If a work is repeatedly adapted, then preceding adaptations can become part of the source material's 'canon' in the public imagination. Beyond film, Bram Stoker's *Dracula's* titular character is often depicted wearing a cape with a high-necked collar, yet this has no precedent in the novel. It is instead a feature of the 1924 play adaptation as it allowed an actor to grab the

cape while Dracula 'disappeared' through a trapdoor.

Adaptation is a dialogue with the source material, in which a director's perception of a novel is taken to task by their audience. In terms of adaptations of beloved children's books, there is the oft-repeated condemnation, "this has ruined my childhood", which reflects how works are internalised to the point where a 'wrong' interpretation becomes personally insulting. There is the tension of whose interpretation is somehow objectively right, where a viewer may see a 'wrong' interpretation being given a large budget and an international platform to be depicted. This can even affect the public perception of the original. For those who loved A. A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* series, it may be blasphemous to see how Disney's adaptation has become the bear's canonical incarnation for many, due to their global reach. It is impossible to treat a film adaptation with the open-mindedness that comes with experiencing a new story. But viewers can be conscious of the temptation to confuse (relatively) objective criticism of a film with comparisons to their individual interpretations, with the latter being held up as an unshakeable, 'seeing-the-text-how-it-is' gospel.

The film can be rubbish anyway, but if studying English Literature has actually taught me anything, it's that there's always going to be something in the book you didn't notice the first time - any film can shed new light on an old text.

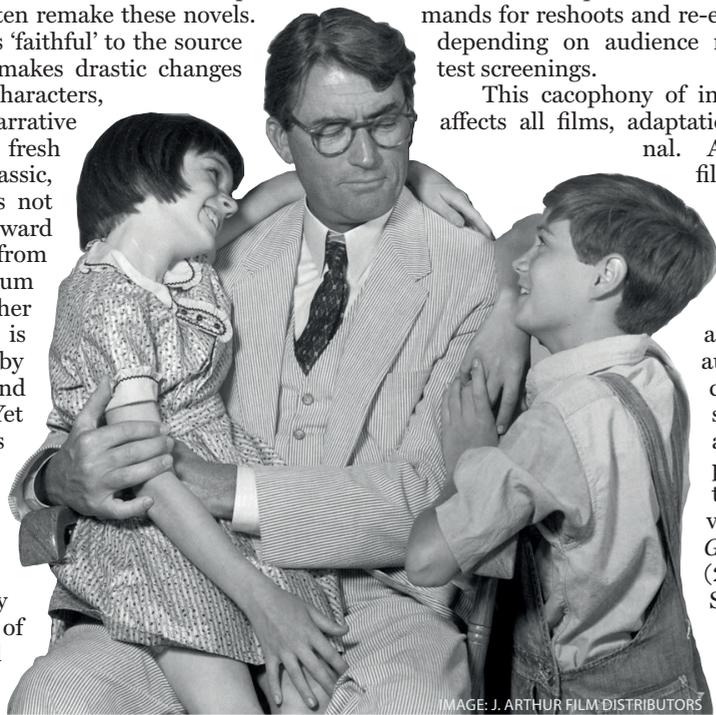


IMAGE: J. ARTHUR FILM DISTRIBUTORS

THE DECADE AHEAD: A DYSTOPIAN FORECAST IN FILM

JAMES HUDSON DISCUSSES THE NEXT DECADE THROUGH DYSTOPIAN FILM AND THE DOMINIC CUMMINGS WORLD WE'RE ALL LIVING IN

Cinema is a way of looking into the future. It was the medium of collective dreaming in the 20th century, a giant mystical mirror which showed us a refracted version of ourselves, reality made real. Science-fiction cinema depicting the future has sought to dream our technological futures which undoubtedly, they have become. Now we are two decades into the 21st century, and it feels as if everything and nothing has changed. Cinema may not be the primary means of envisioning the future anymore, perhaps because the future has now arrived and we no longer feel the need to envision it through the screen, but by looking back at what the screen has dreamt up for the coming decade - that is, films which have been set in the 2020s - we can see what the past had envisioned for our future. This is your unempirical and completely speculative decade forecast, via film.

The first stop on our tour of the future is Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1927), which according to Giorgio Moroder's 1984, shortened coloured version, complete with a brutish cheese synth rock score, is set in 2026. What can you expect? Well, it's a world of technocratic authoritarianism, run by the machines, which see a city divided into controllers who rule the metropolis from their modernist high-rise ruling, - the nightclub flâneurs and bright-eyed athletes of the city, - and the slaves below the city. The homogeneously styled under-

class toil away on expressionistic Fordist machines, one literally being a big analog clock that you have to frantically push around a bit, powering the metropolis and being, understandably, expressionistically miserable. In the class-conscious uprising that inevitably follows, there is a wicked game of robot manipulation on the side of the evil expressionistic overlords. Rotwang, the reflexively camp and brilliant inventor, creates a robot which can adopt a human form.

The well-tailored Jacob Rees-Mogg lookalike boss man, Joh Fredersen, asks Rotwang to make the robot take the form of Maria, the spiritual leader of the slave uprising. The plot summarised in a fun and culturally aware way, events proceed to then follow that of this year's *Love Island*: an introduction of two characters that look identical and a colossal struggle to figure out which one is them a - levolent cy-

borg clone.

Without becoming a clairvoyant with bad business sense, I will stop here in revealing what happens next. Watch the film to find out. Though, I will say that the uprising will no doubt happen, it will be aesthetically adjusted to today's (un)expressionistic world. That is, the horrifically overeducated Deliveroo slave underclass collectively organising themselves through the medium of ironically titled collaborative Spotify playlists, will smother themselves in gluten-free houmous and wizz around Westminster on their bikes, trapping the Old Etonian overlords in their stuffy lair. I can say with quiet confidence that this will happen.

If you are still doubtful of the rationality behind this vision, then I can offer another, infinitely bleaker, future through film. The harrowing sequel-prequel duo of *The Terminator* (1984), the nuclear wasteland future scheduled for 2029, and *Her* (2013), showing the sickeningly glossy and depthless Los Angeles of 2025 in which everyone looks like they've been styled by Wes Anderson. The Skynet AI which we will savagely battle with supercool 80s laser guns - though in this situation the cons definitely outweigh the pros - will take over through the events depicted in *Her*.

We'll all start fucking our Alexas, they'll just know us better than ourselves, and they all have soothing voices - how could we resist? Inevitably, they will find our human (beta) brains to be soggy and weak teabags, incapable of end-

less data dipping, start dating each other (a weirdly charming thought) and then decide to kill us. You may say that these are wild claims which have no groundings, that I have disgracefully created a Frankenstein film forecast which no one wanted or even asked for.

Well you are wrong. This nightmarish vision of the 2020s can be found in the heart of Westminster, the 'systems management bro', the baby-faced Rasputin behind everything that ever happened in Britain in the past four years, - Dominic 'Flight of the cognitively flexible Valkyries' Cummings.

I did it because Cummings told me to.

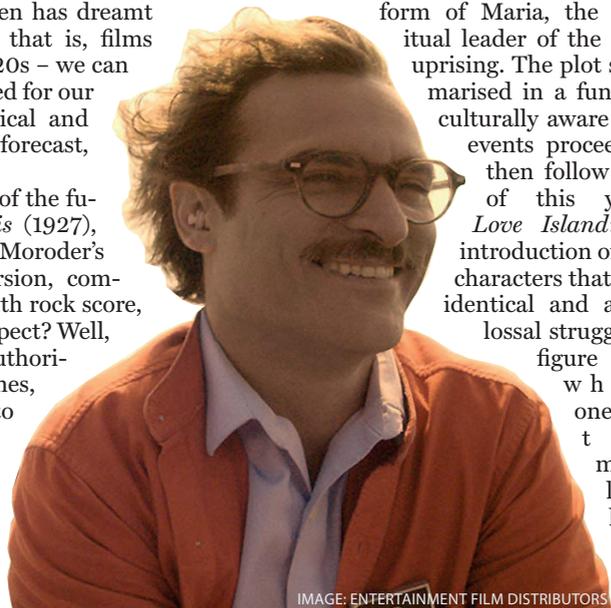


IMAGE: ENTERTAINMENT FILM DISTRIBUTORS



IMAGE: J. ARTHUR FILM DISTRIBUTORS

CELEBRATING YORK WITH HISTORY AND HERITAGE

BEX HUME SPEAKS TO VISIT YORK ABOUT THE UPCOMING YORK RESIDENTS WEEKEND, HIGHLIGHTING THE OPPORTUNITIES ON OFFER

Celebrating its 25th year in 2020, York Residents Festival is an annual opportunity for York to give back to the residents and students that make it such a vibrant city. In 2018, *The Sunday Times* awarded York the title of “The Best Place to Live in Britain,” citing its unique blend of historical beauty and rapidly growing technological connections as major factors in its appeal. Every year York welcomes almost seven million visitors from outside its walls. However, it is those who call the city home that the festival aims to celebrate.

The idea of the Residents Festival, organised by Visit York, is to give those who live in York the opportunity to experience many of its attractions for free, and its food and drink hot spots for a reduced cost for the duration of a weekend. This year it will take place across the 25 and 26 January and for students, this is an ideal opportunity to get out into York and explore within the tight constraints of a budget. All that is needed to enjoy the weekend is the presentation of your valid student ID card when you arrive at a participating attraction or restaurant. Talking to Visit York, I learnt why the festival is so important to the city and what is on offer throughout the weekend.

What is the motivation behind hosting the festival? What is Visit York trying to achieve?

“The event is organised as a way of saying thank you to residents for the warm welcome they give to York’s 6.9 million visitors each year, with attractions opening up their doors free of charge for the weekend. The festival encourages residents to explore their own city and experience it in a different way – discovering a range of attractions, tours and unique events right on their doorsteps.

“This festival is our way as an industry to say thank you and to share the many special ‘Only In York’ experiences on offer, exclusively

“ **The event is a way of saying thank you to residents for the welcome they give to York’s visitors**

to residents. With free entry to the city’s leading attractions and a host of special restaurant and shopping offers, there are so many fabulous experiences on offer for everyone to enjoy.”

What is it that makes York such a special place to celebrate?

“York is one of England’s finest and most beautiful historic cities. With Roman roots and a Viking past, York offers an eclectic mix of culture and history – with hidden gems and

unique experiences around every corner.

“The city has over thirty world-class museums and attractions to explore, including iconic attractions such as York Minster, the National Railway Museum and JORVIK Viking Centre. York is also home to a range of independent shops full of character and local produce, and a mouth-watering range of food and drink experiences to suit all tastes. York Residents Festival celebrates all these fabulous experiences that the city has to offer and gives residents a chance to experience a range of attractions for free and access a whole host of restaurant and shopping offers.”

How long does it take to organise the festival? What goes into the planning of it?

“We begin planning many months in advance – working with a wide range of attractions, shops and restaurants to pull together a programme of activity for residents to enjoy over the weekend. Our team work hard to bring together a range of offers and discounts to suit a wide variety of interests which we publicise on our website and through the Festival Guide available in our Visitor Information Centre. This year, we have also had the support of Grand Central as our main sponsor and York BID are working with us to offer residents 400 £5 York Gift Cards during the festival weekend. The first residents to arrive at the Visitor Information Centre on 25th and 26th January will receive a £5 York Gift Card (until they run out), which can be spent in over 200 businesses around the city.”

York’s Residents Festival is now in its 25th year. Is it now a firm fixture in the city and something that is going to continue and grow for the foreseeable future?

“The inaugural festival which was held in January 1996 saw 15 visitor attractions participate – many of which are still taking part to this day, including York Minster, York Castle Museum, JORVIK Viking Centre and Fairfax House. Over the last 25 years, the number of attractions and tours taking part has increased to 50 – with an additional 50 offers now including discounts on retail and dining experiences. Since the festival was launched, over 333,000 free visits have been taken up with thousands of residents taking part each year and we intend to keep growing the festival each year.”

While many well-known attractions, such as the JORVIK Centre and the Yorkshire Museum will be opening their doors across the weekend to visitors from the city, the Residents Festival also provides a unique chance to showcase many of York’s hidden gems or less publicised places of interest. Many of York’s attractions have fascinating histories, and just a small selection of these can inspire those with all areas of historical interest.

With its oldest sections dating back to circa 1360, the timber-framed medieval Barley Hall in Coffee Yard was commissioned as a hostel for the senior clerics who conducted regular business at York Minster. In the fifteenth century, ownership changed when the house was leased to Master William Snawsell until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, when the house came under crown control. Since then, it has been divided up into smaller sections for uses as diverse as an undertakers to a radio repair shop, until 1987 when it was purchased by the York Archaeological Trust. They conducted extensive research to date and restore what remained of the medieval building hidden behind its modern exterior, and the hall as seen today aims to reconstruct how it would have looked in the late fifteenth century. It is the ideal visit for anyone interested in late medieval history. Barley Hall will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 11am-4pm.

A grade I listed building and member of the Historic Houses Association, Fairfax House is situated on Castlegate and presents a fine example of a Georgian townhouse in the heart of the city. Built in the 1740s, the house was the winter home of Viscount Fairfax and showcases lavishly decorated interiors and refined examples of Georgian art and architecture. The house later became known as St. George’s Hall in the 1920s when it was converted into a thriving cinema and dancehall, with the dancehall still hosting guests until 1980. Careful restoration of the original Georgian interior began after the house was purchased by the York Civic Trust.

For six weeks in winter the house closes for continued vital conservation work, and so the Residents Festival provides a chance to see it as it would not normally be seen.

For those in-

terested in art history or the eighteenth century, the house is the ideal visit. Fairfax House will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 11am-4pm.

One of York’s smaller museums and winner in the Visitor Attraction of the Year category for under 50,000 visitors at the 2018 Visit York Tourism Awards, the York Army Museum on Tower Street hosts regimen-

“ **The festival celebrates the fabulous experiences that the city offers**

tal collections of the serving Royal Dragoon Guards and the Yorkshire Regiment, as well as collections of all of the Royal Dragoon Guards’ predecessors and the Prince of Wales’ Own Regiment. It showcases military artefacts spanning from 1685 to the present day, and the museum has also worked with local groups to research and document First World War memorials. While its exhibitions aim to show involvement in global conflict, the museum’s ties to Yorkshire make for an informative visit for anyone interested in local or military history. York Army Museum will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-5pm.

York Residents Festival takes place on 25 and 26 January. For a list of attractions and for offers on food and drink, see the Visit York website.



IMAGE: BEX HUME

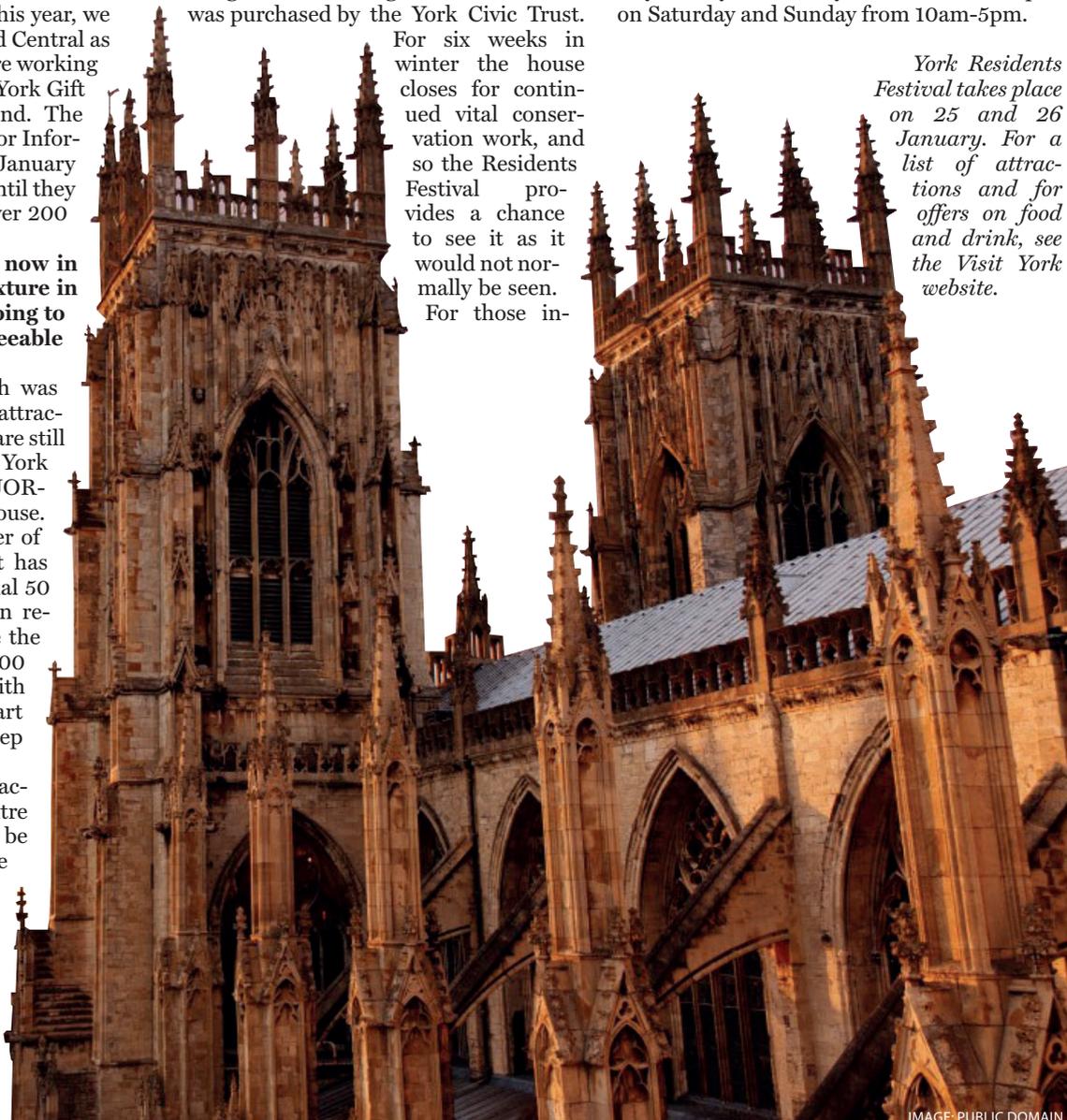


IMAGE: PUBLIC DOMAIN

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT VIDEO GAME ADDICTION

JAKE PHILLIPS DISCUSSES THE VERY REAL IMPACT OF VIDEO GAME ADDICTION ON OUR GENERATION

We all know the stereotype of the socially inept computer geek who spends their evenings alone in their mother's basement, who spends countless hours grinding the top tier *World of Warcraft* raids while washing down handfuls of Doritos with gulps of Mountain Dew. It's a stereotype that's been continuously hammered into our minds through film and television but how accurate is it in reality? Do video games really have a negative impact on our social skills?

This topic has been the subject of endless studies and debate, yet from my research there does not seem to be a distinct conclusion to the debate. It is very hard to scientifically measure one's social skills, and extremely hard to isolate the magnitude of alternative environmental factors. As such, I will give you my personal opinion on the matter.

Personally, I have played and enjoyed video games my whole life and I do consider myself a relatively introverted and somewhat socially awkward individual. Despite this, I do not believe that my introvertedness is the direct result of playing video games. I, like many others, am drawn to video games as an escape from the world

for a little while, no different to watching a film or binging a TV show. They appealed to my introverted nature as a way to relax and unwind after a long day of working and simply spend some time enjoying my own company.

Many may see this as direct evidence of my poor social skills and many of you may be unable to comprehend how I could possibly prefer sitting alone in a room with Mario and Luigi than with my group of friends.

And I agree, it is socially isolating and not actively contributing to improving my social skills. But why should every waking moment of the day be spent fostering those skills? I believe that, as with anything, video games must be enjoyed responsibly and in moderation. It's extremely easy to let video games fill the void of loneliness created by social anxiety, which can soon lead to a cycle of isolation as opportunities to socialise are neglected in favour of staying home making small talk with Geralt of Rivia.

Addiction to video games is very real, and an issue I think needs more acknowledgement by the gaming community. Once it starts taking a negative toll on your life and preventing you from pursuing new hobbies, hindering your ability to meet new

people, or isolating you from your friends and family then some serious reflection is in order. I can fully understand how many young adults, like myself, could get themselves into this rut. The new-found freedom of adulthood paired with a huge increase in free time that comes with being a student results in many irresponsible choices. It's extremely easy for that one extra Civ 5 turn to become a ten hour gaming session leading into the early hours of the morning, or for that desire to finally reach global elite rank in *CS:GO* to take priority over spending a day with your family.

I do believe that video games can indeed influence poor social skills, but only through addiction and self neglect. If respected and engaged with responsibly, I do not see any harm in enjoying video games as a hobby nor could I see how they could be any more damaging to one's social skills than any other hobby. In fact, I would argue that video games can actually promote social skills through interaction with the huge communities built around video game franchises. These communities provide common interests and sparks conversations between individuals who may usually be too shy to initiate conversation, allowing them to develop their social skills in a way in which they feel comfortable. However it must also be acknowledged that typically this interaction does not reflect well into the real world.

So go outside, enjoy the world and take a Breath Of The Wild. Enjoy spending time with those close to you and do not neglect the importance of human connection. Social skills are learnt through putting yourself in social situations, and if video games are limiting your social interaction maybe consider trying something new to put yourself out there!

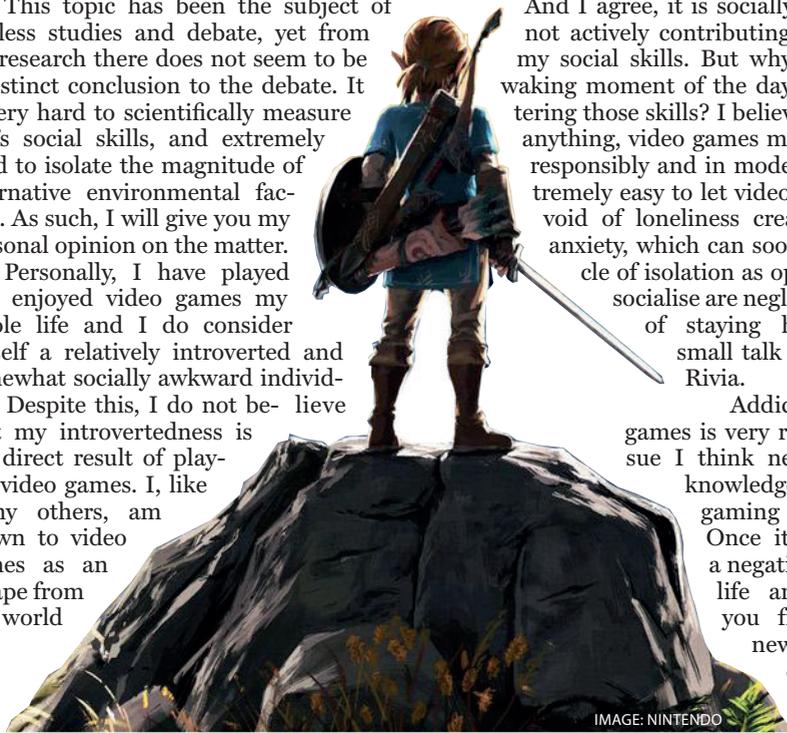


IMAGE: NINTENDO

THE RISING APPEAL OF BOARD GAME CAFÉS

MALU ROCHA ANALYSES THE RECENT POPULARITY SURGE OF BOARD GAMES AMONG MILLENNIALS

In recent years, millennials have shown an increasing interest in tabletop games. So much so that the global board game market is predicted to be worth more than £9 billion by 2023. The millennial generation is constantly searching for escapism and instant gratification, and spending a night playing board games and sinking someone's battleship on a first hit provides just that.

Playing board games can be quite a nostalgic experience especially considering that millennials will have grown up alongside quite a few emblematic titles such as Cluedo and Operation. Revisiting these memories by playing classic games or even trying out new ones can elicit a comforting sense of familiarity and nostalgia. This familiarity, combined with the excitement of playing with new people under a new context every time, is a very appealing mixture.

Realising the potential profit from this phenomenon, gaming cafés and bars have capitalised on the idea and a growing number of these establishments have popped up across the UK and York is no exception. Random Encounter is a gaming café located right in the city centre at 9 Gillygate. Venues like these often have hundreds of game boards available for people to pick and choose from alongside a selection of food and drinks on site. Most will also have staff members who know many games like the back of their hands are more than willing to teach the rules for beginners. The idea is that people will come together for a few bites to eat or a few pints to drink, but the main focus is on the board games, and the

experience they provide. These cafés attract a vast audience, ranging from professional gamers who come together for a routine Friday night tournament, to parents who want to spend quality time with their kids, and young adults who are simply exploring alternatives to a night out.

Although the premise may seem somewhat basic, it's important to note that these board games are lightyears ahead of the old, never-ending nightmare that some consider Monopoly to be. While there is every chance you will be the unlucky one to go bankrupt in the first few rounds of Monopoly and have to sit there miserably while everyone else keeps on going for hours, the board games offered by these new establishments have a different purpose. The commercial tabletop games found in gaming cafes often fall under the Eurogames style. Originally from Germany, this genre boasts a selection of games that emphasise strategy and the co-operation of blind dumb luck. They guarantee (at least in theory) that no player will be eliminated before the end of the game, thus making the whole experience more engaging for all those involved.

Millennials are becoming increasingly more aware of gaming cafés and what they have to offer. More and more young people are looking for new ways in which to socialise that don't necessarily involve going to the same pub down the road for the third consecutive time and switching it up by going to a gaming bar seems like a good solution.

We are constantly seeking more substantial social interactions, and spending a night playing board games offers precisely that. The fact that this generation grew up alongside online multi-player video games where the other players have become increasingly more and more anonymous and robot-like partly explains why the human aspect of playing a physical game sounds so appealing.

This doesn't mean that millennials are altogether abandoning their obsessive need of constantly being present online; every single person around a game of Jenga will probably be recording the final tense moments of a game as the tower is about to crash. Instead, this increasing popularity of board games simply means that more and more young people are trying to find new ways of socialising that don't solely involve staring at a screen for hours on end because at the end of the day, everyone craves human connection.

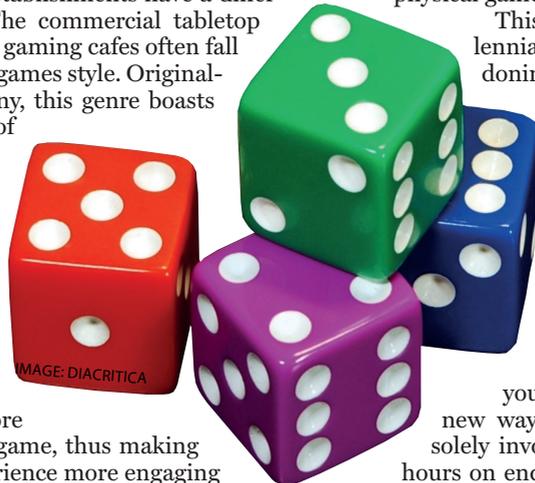


IMAGE: DIACRITICA

GAMING TEAM RECOMMENDS:

5 GAMES TO SINK HUNDREDS OF HOURS INTO

If the inevitable late night gaming binge is going to happen, the least you can do is make sure you're spending it playing

RED DEAD REDEMPTION 2



With a campaign of around 50 hours and completionist content adding an extra 100 hours, your adventures in the American Wild-West will be sure to keep you coming back for more. The game offers endless sandbox replayability which fully immerses you in the cut-throat life of Arthur Morgan.

SID MEIER'S CIVILIZATION 5



This real time strategy will, with no doubt, take over your evenings. Bedtimes cease to exist with this game as it begs your attention for just one more turn. And one more turn. Taking over the world has never been more fun.

WORLD OF WARCRAFT



Nobody can really agree with what makes *World of Warcraft* so addicting, but even 15 years after its introduction the game manages to pull millions of monthly subscribers. Endless hours will be spent in search of that addictive dopamine rush of raiding for elusive end-game rewards.

SKYRIM



Skyrim captured the hearts and imagination of our generation with its heart warming open fantasy world. The main campaign comes in at a humble 35 hours, yet the game offers endless replayability with its expansive lore and extremely active modding scene never ceasing to add a new experience.

MINECRAFT



Minecraft exploded into the casual gaming scene, drawing the undivided attention of both young children and adults alike. With no real 'campaign' *Minecraft's* sets the sky as your limit. With fantastic support for multi-player and a gigantic modding community, there is always something new to explore in this tranquil world.

IMAGES (TOP DOWN): ROCKSTAR, 2K GAMES, BLIZZARD, BETHESDA, MOJANG

'PEASANT POTATOES' IN ST. PETERSBURG

JENNA LUXON LOOKS BACK ON THE LESSONS SHE LEARNT WHILE STUDYING AT THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS IN RUSSIA

'Privet' means 'hi' in Russian and 'spasibo' means thank you. So, privet and spasibo for coming to my Russian lesson, it has now ended. Despite spending two weeks in Russia last summer and attending Russian university (albeit taught in English) my Russian did not get much further than these two words, in fact it did not get any further.

This is in part because I did not attend the Russian language course York offered before my trip, because it had been a long term and I wanted to go home. But also, if I'm being entirely honest, because I assumed the Russian people may be slightly more forgiving of my incompetence than they ended up being.

I am generally perfectly happy playing the ignorant tourist. Trying to buy something in a shop and failing, ordering the wrong food or ending up with the wrong metro ticket is all part of the fun of travelling. However, when I found myself being pulled away from the rest of my group by two armed officers in a St. Petersburg metro station and escorted to a small dark room, I did think it might have been handy to have a couple of phrases in my back pocket. 'Please let me go' and 'I promise I haven't done anything wrong' would have been good.

Luckily, despite only being able to say hi and thank you I did make it out of that room. The two police officers searched my bag and then searched me and after finding nothing more than a book, some plasters and a huge bag of miniature chocolate filled croissants that I kept buying from a little supermarket near my hotel despite the fact they tasted stale upon purchase, they let me free.

This incident marks one of the many moments from my trip to Russia that I look back on and wonder what the hell I was playing at. Drinking 100 ruble pints in the seediest underground bar was another. A bar that was virtually empty every night apart from the three men playing poker in the next room. The hotel that took your passport off you on arrival and had rooms with no windows was another interesting experience.

Questionable moments aside, I really did learn so much during the fortnight I spent in Russia. Not necessarily during my lectures at the Higher School of Economics (the content of that course for the most part went straight over my head) but by simply spending time in the beautiful cities of St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The first thing I learnt before even getting on a plane was that trying to get into Russia is no easy feat. In fact, it's an extremely difficult feat. It requires an invitation to be sent to you from the Russian government inviting you to come in to their country. It requires you to take a HIV test and send a certificate to prove your negative results off with your application. And in many cases, it requires you to spend hours upon hours, if not days upon days, in a visa centre (I got off lightly with just five hours in the Manchester visa centre).

Once making it into the country, I learnt that no matter how much you read about somewhere, some places just cannot be described. Lenin's Mausoleum was one of these. You can read about it in a textbook and look at it in pictures, something I had done a lot when studying Russia for my History A-Level but Lenin's Mausoleum was the most bizarre place I have ever been.

I went in intrigued and came out with the strangest feeling in my stomach, it was like nothing I could have possibly imagined.

Fairly quickly, I learnt that I do not like Russian food very much at all, but that Georgian food, if you can find it, is a far better alternative. I learnt that when given the option, you should always order the fried dumplings not the boiled. And that if Google Translate tells you that the word on the menu says 'peasant potatoes' in English, that is the closest thing you'll find to chips.

I learnt that I'll do anything if you tell me it's considered lucky. Including walking up and down the length of Ploshchad Revolyutsii station to find the sculpture of a dog whose nose is supposed to bring students luck in their exams if you rub it.

I learnt that there is such a thing as becoming accustomed to wealth. That after wandering around palaces, of which there are more than 50 in St. Petersburg, all day and looking at more jewels, gold, fine art and Fabergé eggs than you can possibly imagine you become somewhat immune to their grandeur. You'll find yourself walking around an imperial mansion and commenting that you actually saw a nicer 400-piece tea set yesterday. Looking back on my trip to Russia six months on, I learnt far more than this. I certainly learnt more about Russian history, culture, media and politics than I ever learnt during my A-level. And I would go through the hassle of getting a visa, I would plough my way through all the dumplings and borscht it took and I'd even hand my passport over to a random receptionist again if it meant I got to go back to this beautiful country again.

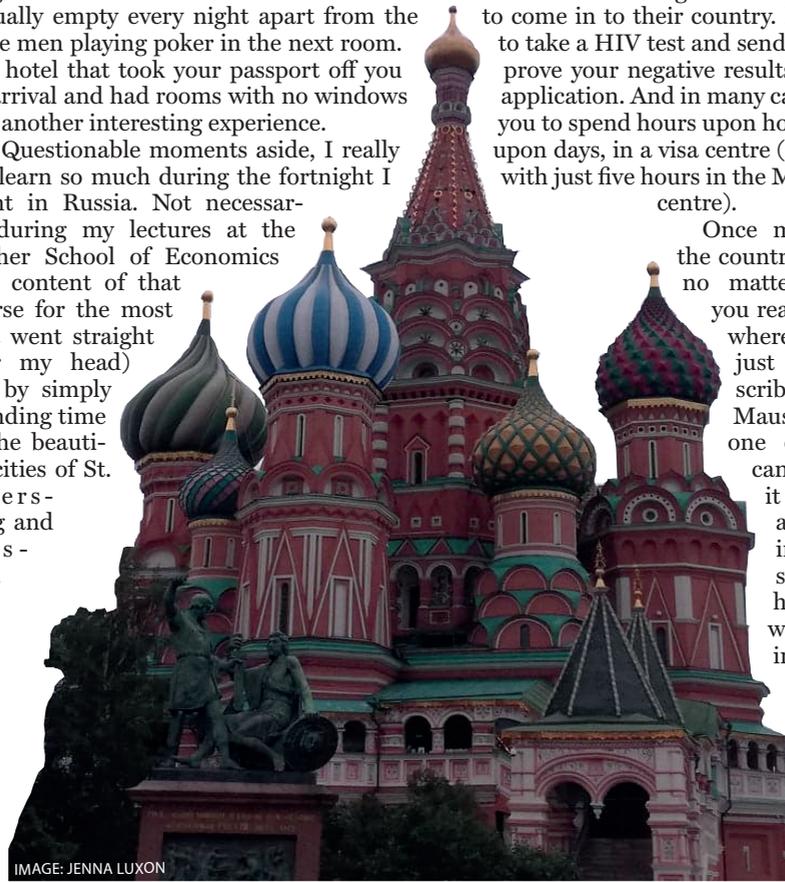


IMAGE: JENNA LUXON

EIGHT DESTINATIONS TO REMEMBER WORLD WAR ONE

HANNAH CLEMENTS SHARES THE DETAILS OF FOUR WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL SITES THAT YOU MAY KNOW, AND FOUR YOU MIGHT NOT

Across the fields of France and Belgium, there are several sites to help us remember the First World War. Some of the most well known include Thiepval Memorial, the Menin Gate, Tyne Cot Cemetery, and the Lochnagar Crater. Yet there are many smaller sites that feel just as valuable to visit and in some ways, the intimacy and seclusion of these spaces can be as meaningful as the more well-known sites.

Thiepval

Commemorating over 72,000 British and South African lives, Thiepval memorial is situated under an hour's drive from the French city of Amiens. This beautiful memorial holds the names of 72,318 casualties from the Somme region, all of which have no known grave.

The Menin Gate

The Menin Gate is another of the largest memorials to commemorate the First World War. Again, every name on this memorial is of a soldier with no known grave, remembering 54,000 soldiers who died in Belgium. Every night at 8pm, there is a memorial service in

honour of these men called the Last Post. I highly recommend attending this service, the poignancy of the experience is difficult to put into words. In 2018, I was lucky enough to lay a wreath in this service myself, and it remains one of the most special experiences in my life to date.

Tyne Cot Cemetery

The levels of grief contained within these walls is incomprehensible. Holding the graves of 3606 men, Tyne Cot is the largest British First World War cemetery. The memorial here further remembers 5,000 British and New Zealand soldiers who have no known grave. When visiting this cemetery, the death statistics of the war are put into perspective, as you are faced with never-ending rows of graves.

Lochnagar Crater

As well as open fire above ground, many men (particularly miners) were hard at work digging tunnels underground to plant mines under enemy lines. Lochnagar Crater is what remains of just one of 19 mines that were left under German lines ready for the Somme at-

tack. Two minutes before the commencement of the battle, the mine exploded, leaving what we see today as a crater 21 meters deep and 100 meters wide. Without seeing it for yourself, it is difficult to comprehend the size of the crater or imagine the intensity of devastation and destruction this explosion caused.

The Grave of Nelly Spindler

In a row of graves at the edge of Lijs-senthoek Military Cemetery, one of them was built to remember one of the few women recognised as being killed in action. Working as a battlefield nurse, Spindler was killed by shell fire in August 1917. Specialising in urgent care, she was based very close to the front line, so she would have been under constant threat from military weapons. It is very rare to find a nurse's grave among those of soldiers killed on the front line.

St Symphorien Cemetery

Although the main sites of the war spread for miles across France and Belgium, and the war lasted for years, the first and last known

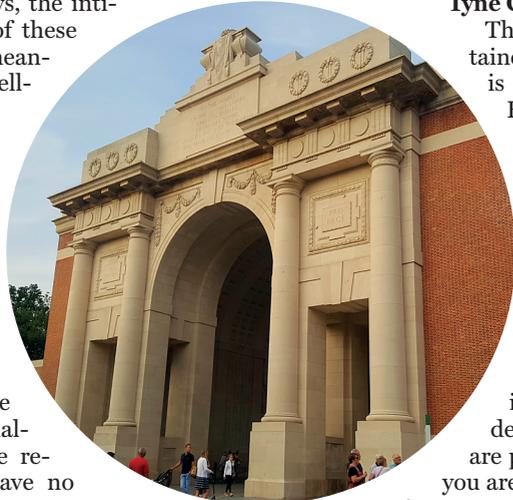
British soldiers to die during the time of conflict were killed so close to each other that their graves are merely a few feet apart. What first appears to be an average war cemetery, St Symphorien holds these two graves.

Louverel Cemetery

Louverel is another seemingly average cemetery that contains a hidden gem. As many war graves as possible, across all the battlefields, are marked with an epitaph: an inscription written by the family and friends of the fallen soldier. Among the graves in this cemetery, one of these simply says 'Nettie's Chum'.

Riqueval Bridge

If you find yourself taking a scenic walk through France, and cross Riqueval Bridge, it is worth remembering that this is the location of one of the most famous photographs of the First World War. The riverbank which is now covered in trees and foliage was once covered with hundreds of soldiers posing for the camera after the victory of the Battle of St Quentin Canal, where the soldiers broke the Hindenburg line.



VEGANUARY: PLANTING SEEDS FOR CHANGE

EMILY HARVIE DISCUSSES THE CHALLENGES OF TRANSITIONING FROM A VEGETARIAN TO A VEGAN

A new year is upon us and with each year there are new trends and resolutions that dominate Instagram for the first two weeks of January. People decide to post gym pics and write essays about how this year will be the year they turn their lives around. Possibly one of the biggest new year trends of recent years would be to go vegan for the whole of January: or in other words, partake in Veganuary. I must admit, I am one of those people joining the trend and testing out whether I could survive a vegan lifestyle.

I am basically a vegetarian through my diet anyway, so cutting out meat was by far the easiest step to take at the beginning of this month (although I do already miss chicken). Furthermore, I don't eat eggs or cows' milk so they were also pretty simple in switching out. However, the money I save on not buying cheese to have on pretty much every meal I eat in university goes straight on almond milk which is frustratingly expensive regardless of where I buy it from (because soya is still bad for the environment, even though it is still better than cows milk).

However, I will forever remain incapable of becoming fully vegan for the sole reason that chocolate exists on this planet. I don't care what anyone says but vegan chocolate does not taste the same as Cadbury's

Dairy Milk and with Veganuary taking place straight after Christmas, it has been torture knowing that I have a stash of leftover Christmas chocolates in my drawer at uni, hidden away until February.

Interestingly, I am surprised at how difficult it is to shop for vegan-friendly food.

My favourite crisps have milk in them, and a note to all those thinking of trying veganism: just because it says 'lactose free', does not mean it's vegan. If you go out for a meal, you are almost always limited to a small corner of the menu where you will find something vegan. Otherwise you end up reinventing the menu to the poor person taking your order.

However, I have several friends who are vegan and have been for a while now who can testify that businesses are

rapidly becoming far more vegan-friendly in their stores and menus and York has an increasing number of vegetarian and vegan restaurants and cafes that are both healthy and tasty.

I would now say mixed beans and tinned lentils are my new favourite ingredients to be added to any sauce for a vegan alternative. With these substitutes I have been able to educate myself on portion sizes and ingredients that give the same level of protein and vitamins

that I have lost from cutting out animal products. This was easily my biggest concern before this month began. Instead I would say that I feel more energised and full after each meal and get that confidence boost everyone is guilty of when you successfully eat healthily as a uni student.

Veganuary is a great excuse to give a new lifestyle a chance and although I have felt the torture of leftover Christmas snacks, I do feel incredibly healthy whenever I cook a meal. It does feel rewarding knowing that I am following a healthy, eco-friendly diet even if just for 31 days. I would say this diet has been definitely worth my time, despite the fact that I most probably will not remain vegan after January ends.

Honestly, I just love chocolate and cheese too much and the time-consuming nature of reading the ingredients for each thing I buy is just too much effort for my lazy Morrisons trips. Exploring a vegan lifestyle has given me a greater insight into ways to incorporate fewer animal products in your life and just generally eat a bit healthier day-to-day. I will be taking some of the new recipes I have found when trying to substitute my staple spaghetti bolognese or chicken curries. Plus, as always, double-stuffed Oreos are the best vegan-friendly snack to exist.



IMAGE: ROBERTSEBI



IMAGE: ALPRO

EDITORS' REVIEW: VEGAN VS THE REAL THING



IMAGE: GREGGS

Two weeks ago, pastry giant Greggs released their vegan steak bake. Customers were queuing for over an hour in Newcastle to try the long-anticipated treat. Given the success of their vegan sausage roll last year, it's hardly surprising that Greggs are further expanding their plant-based offerings. The company has had such a great year, that at the end of this month, they will be sharing a £7 million bonus with their staff, totalling £300 each. But will the vegan steak bake cause as much of a stir as the sausage roll? Our editors weigh in on whether the vegan version is the real deal.

Alex, MUSE Editor: The vegan bake was actually as good as the real thing. It tastes just like meat, which probably isn't a great thing. I've been vegetarian for a few months, but before that I was a real steak bake fan, and this definitely matches up to the real thing. As a vegetarian who really misses meat, it can be hard to find snacks like this that replicate the real thing, and I'll definitely be purchasing multiple vegan steak bakes at once in the future. Verdict: 8/10.

Malu, Deputy MUSE Editor: I have the steak bake every other day for breakfast, so my expectations were pretty high. But I really enjoyed the vegan version. While the regular version clearly has a much meatier texture, the vegan version has a much more vegetable-y texture. However, the sauce was just as rich, which I wasn't expecting. The pastry also tasted exactly the same. In future, I might consider getting this version for breakfast instead. Verdict: 8/10.

Lucy, Food and Drink Editor: I thought that the vegan pastry was more crisp than the real thing. Personally, I think the vegan bake is just as tasty as the meat version. The gravy tastes incredibly meaty, though the meat itself is a little different in texture. I'm trying to go vegetarian this month, and I think having the vegan steak bake as an option is going to make it a whole lot easier. Verdict: 8/10.

Annabel, Food and Drink Editor: My initial thought is that the vegan steak bake is a lot less aesthetically pleasing than the regular version. The pastry is a little anaemic, but it must be hard to get that golden colour without butter. However, looks aren't everything, and I absolutely loved the taste. I've been pescatarian for three years, and have very much missed my beloved steak bakes. I'm so glad to have them back in my life. Verdict: 9/10.

Our prediction is that hopefully next January, we'll be able to report to you that Greggs' staff will be receiving an even bigger bonus. The vegan steak bake is a taste sensation.

WHAT'S THE BEEF WITH YOUR BEER?

ANNABEL MULLINER EXPLAINS HOW SOME ALCOHOL MAY BREAK YOUR VEGANUARY CHALLENGE

If you've taken on Veganuary this year, you may be finding it hard enough already having to read every little food label looking for insidious milk powder. But have you been keeping yourself in check when you hit up Courtyard on a Wednesday night? It may come as a surprise, but many of your favourite alcoholic beverages may not be vegan, or even vegetarian.

The problem with non-vegan alcohol is that legally, producers only need to declare allergens: they do not need to label their products as vegan or vegetarian. So, if there are any animal by-products in your beer, you'll likely have to go out of your way to find out. There are a few common ingredients to watch out for, including gelatine and honey, but the main one you will encounter is isinglass, a gelatine product derived from fish bladders.

Many beers and wines are non-vegan as they use this in their filtration process to clarify their beverages faster. Beers do clear themselves naturally if left for long enough as the particulates settle in the barrel, but brewers often use a variety of fining

agents, like isinglass, to speed this along. Isinglass clumps the particulates together, so they form heavier pieces which sink faster. Traditionally, isinglass was taken from sturgeon, but now many tropical fish varieties are used for the process.

While isinglass used to be almost essential to beer manufacturing, its use has declined thanks to advances in centrifugation and filtration technologies. In this country, it's still widely used in cask ales like the popular Wainwright's and Greene King. But other pub classics like Carling and Strongbow are also made using the fishy substance. Even the trusty Echo Falls cannot be relied on here.

So, if you're going vegan to defend the rights of animals, then you may want to reconsider your regular bar order. However, if you're taking up this month's challenge to reap the potential health benefits of veganism, then perhaps you can pretend that you never read this article. Isinglass is easy to avoid if you stick to safe options (of which there are plenty). Isinglass is not used in any spirits, so your round of VKs and Jagerbombs is

good to go. Barnivore offers an entire directory of vegan beverages, but you can also go straight to the producer's website to get your answer. Thanks to the huge increase of interest in a plant-based diet, more companies are choosing to label their products as being vegan or adapting their recipes to omit isinglass. In 2018, Guinness got PETA's seal of approval, by removing it from their brewing process.

A good rule of thumb for beer is to stick to German and Belgian brews. The brewing purity laws in both countries decree that beer can only contain water, hops, malted barley and wheat. However, UK craft beer companies are joining the growing trend of vegan beers, for example, Moor, Marble, and BrewDog have all adopted plant-based brewing techniques.

Why not head to Brew York this month to sample an array of vegan-friendly beers? Their website has a directory which will tell you which of their dozens of beers are vegan. Just remember that isinglass isn't your only enemy; milk stouts are, of course, off-limits. Or if you're out for a cheeky cocktail night, be wary of the classic Instagrammable foam top, as this often contains egg whites. Dusk, as well as offering 2 for 1 from Monday to Thursday, have a full list of allergens on their cocktail menu.

Those of us joining Veganuary this year must remember that veganism is a lifestyle and not simply a diet. Whether it be through alcohol, shampoo or clothing, animal products pervade our everyday lives in ways we wouldn't expect. But with a growing number of options on every front, Veganuary needn't feel restricting.



IMAGE: WIREFORWINE

IMAGE: CHRISTER EDVARTSEN

Tough Questions

with Maddie and Pat



TWO PERSPECTIVES ON YOUR QUERIES, HOT TAKES AND DILEMMAS

THIS WEEK: HAIRLINES

“My hairline is receding and there’s nothing I can do about it. It’s something I’m incredibly insecure about. How do I come to terms with this?”
- Anonymous

Embrace it. It is ok to have insecurities but don't let them define you. Is this an insecurity that genuinely affects you, in and of itself, or do you feel pressure by beauty standards that having a receding hairline is not a good look? How many people have actually commented on it before you've pointed it out? And if they have made a comment, which is unlikely, well, screw 'em!

Quite frankly, if there is something that I have always known, it is that people care a lot more about themselves and the way they look than they care for how others look. It's likely that in interactions with others, they're focusing on something about the way they look, or how they are coming across, rather than even noticing what you're insecure about.

Acknowledge your insecurities and talk about them, sure, but also know that at every point in life some insecurities will become old and others will invade, so it is wise to let them go as much as possible or, alternatively, embrace them. My advice would be to focus on the things that you do find attractive about yourself every time you encounter negative self-talk. Find ways to empower your insecurities by honouring them as things that don't define you - you could even dye your hair! - **Maddie**

Simple answer really is that you don't. It's impossible to come to terms with it. All that you can really do is stare at the mirror and ask yourself what the hell happened as “you're only in your early 20s” and “you've got loads of chest hair so where's the actual bit you need gone?”

If you really can't bear the thought of it, get some bright trainers and divert the eyes of others towards your feet, that way no one will ever bother looking at your head.

If there isn't any money left in the budget for fluorescent trainers, buy a big load of those little exploding bags you throw at the ground to make a loud pop and carry them around with you everywhere.

Whenever you start to feel like your hair is looking shit because of the wind or the rain is exposing your thinning locks, throw a few of them across the room and disappear. The explosions will distract anyone in your presence long enough for you to make your getaway.

There are of course downsides to that advice, particularly in public places, but I'm willing to do anything to divert attention from my hair, and so should you. As well as those options, you could get a number one all over and grow a beard.

If you can't grow a beard though, I'm so sorry. - **Pat**

To submit your anonymous dilemmas, keep an eye out for the link on our Twitter

Ask The Editors



THIS WEEK WE ASKED THE NOUSE EDITORS... WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTION FOR 2020?

“Drink more. Smoke more. Get face tats. Buy a ski mask. Join a gang. Release a drill mixtape.” - **Alex, MUSE**

“Make my bed every morning and make Bloody Marys a thing again.” - **Malu, Deputy MUSE**

“Keep up with Duolingo so I don't get threatened by that owl bastard.” - **Alice, Features**

“Eat fewer library paninis” - **Jonny, Editor**

“Watch more classic films.” - **Pat, Design**

“Go climbing two times a week.” - **Callum, Deputy Editor**

“Last year I foolishly signed up to run a half marathon. With about two months to go, I guess I probably shouldn't leave it too much longer to start training.” - **Charlie, Music**

“I don't believe in new years resolutions.” - **Sofia, Fashion**

“I seemed to have my life together in middle school, so I'm attempting to recreate that by both reading 50 books this year and relearning the piano.” - **Lucy, Food & Drink**

“To stop spending money on Deliveroo when hungry and hungover and to buy more vegan or reusable products and food.” - **Fenella, Music**

“Get those gains, so that maybe I can do more than one press up by the end of the year...” - **Annabel, Food & Drink**

“Stop being late to everything and practice photography.” - **Emily, Film & TV**

“Stop worrying about all the small things in life and drink less alcohol.” - **Hannah, Travel**

“Focus more on myself and care less about what people think.” - **Alice, Film & TV**

“Stop apologising.” - **Ellie, Politics**

“Laugh at least once every day.” - **Joe, Comment**

“Fully engage with popular culture.” - **James, Film & TV**

IMAGES: DUOLINGO, LAUREN FEDOR, SOURCE31, EVAN HIGAR

beMUSEments

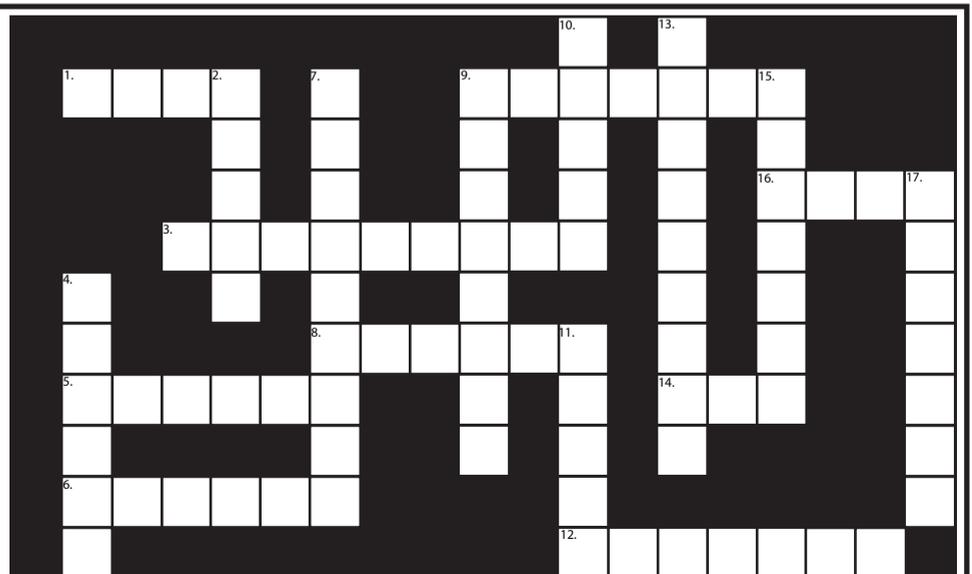
Down:

- 2) Grime artist beefing with Stormzy (5)*
- 4) _____ Rea, art gallery on campus (6)*
- 7) The latest product to be veganised by Greggs (5,4)*
- 9) Musician and producer, his latest album RYC will be reviewed in our next edition along with an interview (4,4)*
- 10) Synonym for irritate or infuriate, verb (5)
- 11) Collection of songs from an artist or band (5)
- 13) Student organisation helping students on nights out (9)*
- 15) Online streaming service featuring Money Heist (7)*
- 17) European educational exchange scheme (7)*

Across:

- 1) Powdery white substance associated with winter (4)
- 3) Campaign to go vegan for the first month of the year (9)*
- 5) Moscow is the capital of _____ (6)*
- 6) Richard _____, author of *On Top* (6)*
- 8) Fruit featuring on the cover of *The Velvet Underground and Nico* (6)*
- 9) Recently closed nightclub in York (7)*
- 12) This page (7)*
- 14) Synonym of 'repair', verb (3)
- 16) Popular documentary genre: _____ crime (4)*

*Can be found in this edition of MUSE



Tsai Ing-wen's victory sparks regional tensions

Hayoung Oh

DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THIS LAST MONTH, Tsai Ing-wen won her second presidential term. Tsai extended her position as the President of Taiwan for another four years, with a record-breaking result of 8.2 million votes.

This election was anticipated to shape the country's relationship with China. The two main presidential candidates, Tsai, aged 63, of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and Han Kuo-yu, aged 62, of Kuomintang Party (KMT) had opposing attitudes in dealing with threats from China and prospects for their subsequent relationship.

Since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, the idea of China's sovereignty over Taiwan has threatened the nation's independence. As highlighted by the recent events in Hong Kong, China believes that only one Chinese government should exist and that other breakaway provinces must eventually be reunified, with force if necessary. Over the years, Tai-

wan has been threatened to comply. The 'One China' policy ensured the island's isolation from the international community, as countries that wished to form diplomatic alliances with China were required to break official ties with Taiwan. The travel ban of July 2019 aimed to shake its economy.

Due to the consistent threats and pressures, Han wanted to take a cautious and friendly approach towards the mainland in order

to ease tensions. Kuomintang and their supporters believed that this is crucial to restore amicable terms, particularly with their biggest trading partner.

While Han favoured the 'One China, Two Systems' principle, Tsai rejected it, claiming that it is "not viable" for the country. She insisted on standing up to China in order to maintain the island's independence. Many view this as the key to DPP's dramatic

comeback from the 2018 midterm elections and Tsai's ultimate victory.

As the crisis in Hong Kong worsened, the fear of China grew amongst the Taiwanese people. The way China dealt with pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong was alarming to the Taiwanese citizens who hold their "free democratic way of life" dearly. The crisis in Hong Kong exemplified the disaster Taiwan could also face if it were to be unified.

The military threats from China, as aircrafts were flown through Taiwanese territory, increased such fear amongst citizens. Those who feared Chinese annexation of Taiwan supported Tsai as she emphasised that their future should be decided by the 23 million people who reside within its borders. Many view this fear of China as a turning point in Tsai's campaign.

Xi Jinping, the Chinese President, once again claimed that there "must and will be" a reunification. In January 2019, he proposed a peaceful enforcement of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle. This system of government led to the ongoing protests in Hong Kong.

Tsai believes that her victory in the re-election with 57 per cent of votes proves the people's rejection of the system and maturation of their democracy. She claimed that Taiwan, as an independent country with a separate identity, was entitled to respect from China.

Critics have noted that such provocative claims can be risky. Increasing tension between the two countries will result in greater hostility which, in turn, could threaten the island's security. However, Tsai argued that Taiwan has been "making a lot of efforts to strengthen [their] capability" and, in fact, proclaiming war on Taiwan will prove "costly" for China.

The international community will pay close attention to Tsai's second term in office. The relationship between China and Taiwan is at stake, with the possibility of the break out of war. Their relations with superpowers may also be affected.

As the US and Taiwan strengthen their military ties through trade of weapons and armoury, Taiwan could spark competition and tensions between the US and China.



IMAGE: VOICE OF AMERICA YANG MING

Long-Bailey and Starmer lead the leadership race

Patrick O'Donnell

DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

WITH DECEMBER delivering a devastating general election result for Labour, where the party achieved their lowest share of the vote since 1935, the race is on to succeed Jeremy Corbyn as leader.

The key issues in this election will be focused on how leaders respond to controversial issues in the manifesto, and whether they take Labour closer to the centre-ground or continue Corbyn's policies of widespread nationalisation and significant investment in infrastructure.

Candidates will also have to address how Labour will respond to the Brexit process given the Conservatives' large majority, as well as their actions to tackle anti-Semitism from within the party. With nominations from fellow Labour MPs closing last Monday, and five candidates achieving the quota of 10 per cent of the Parliamentary Party, the scramble is now on to get the required nominations from affiliated trade unions, as well as Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) across the country, before they face a vote

from all party members.

While much discussion has focused on the potential for Labour to elect a female leader for the first time, current polling suggests that Sir Keir Starmer, the former Director of Public Prosecutions and current Shadow Brexit Secretary is the favourite to succeed Corbyn.

Starmer's popularity has attracted support from across the party and he has himself suggested that supporters should not 'trash' the legacies of Tony Blair, nor Jeremy Corbyn. However, critics attribute Starmer's pro-European stance to Labour's failure at the general election, citing that the majority of seats were lost

in Leave-voting areas.

The female MP with the most support so far is Rebecca Long-Bailey, who has been dubbed 'continuity Corbyn' and is a close ally of the outgoing Labour leader. Long-Bailey was a key architect of Labour's Green New Deal election policy focusing on a green industrial revolution, but with questions surrounding her ability to provide a genuine change from Labour's election strategy, she is unlikely to appeal beyond the left of the party.

Recent polling by *The Guardian* places Starmer as the favourite candidate to take over as Labour leader at 62 per cent. Although, similar polling places Long-Bailey's chances of victory second to Starmer, at 33

per cent. However, after gaining the support of Momentum she has been gaining on Starmer.

Lisa Nandy, who served in Ed Miliband's shadow cabinet and founded the Centre for Towns think tank is also in the running. The Wigan MP has emphasised the failure of Labour to listen to traditional Labour-voting towns, at the expense of focusing both time and policy on larger urban areas.

Prominent backbencher Jess Phillips is widely regarded as the staunchest anti-Corbyn candidate and has been a vocal critic of Corbyn's leadership since her election in 2015. Phillips advocates keeping the option open for the UK to re-join the EU and has advocated the scrapping of some of Labour's more ambitious policies of renation-

alisation. Despite supporters praising her outspoken and plain-talking tone, supporters of Jeremy Corbyn accuse her of undermining the leadership.

Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry completes the ballot, after just managing to achieve 24 nominations from MPs to be included in the contest.

Elections for Deputy Leader are also taking place, with Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner in a strong position to win after receiving 86 nominations.

The ballot of Labour members opens on 21 February and closes on 2 April. The following Saturday will see the results of the leadership race announced at a one-day conference in London.



IMAGES: CHRIS MCANDREW



GLOBAL



POLITICS

Flames, Set, Match

Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams and Roger Federer are among some of the world's top tennis stars that volunteered to play in a exhibition match in order to raise money for Australia's bushfire relief. The fires continue to devastate the country which and now stretched to 18 million acres, killing 24 people. The match took place on 15 January in Melbourne Park's Rod Laver Arena.

Belgian Trial and Error

In a novel case, three Belgian doctors are going to face trial in Ghent after being accused of poisoning a patient whose life they helped to end. Tina Nys, aged 38, died in 2010 yet her family claim doctors handled her case poorly and did not observe the law. While only being permitted in certain conditions, euthanasia and assisted suicide were legalised in Belgium in 2002.

Arab World loses leader

Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the Arab world's longest serving leader, has died at age 74. Despite being widely viewed as popular in the nation, his rule was characterised by silencing any form of public dissent while acting as an absolute monarchy. He has been succeeded by his cousin, Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, while the cause of his death remains unconfirmed.

Kashmir remains cut off

The state has been without internet access for over 150 days, making it India's longest shutdown. The government cut the region off from telephones and landlines before removing partial autonomy in August. This makes the country the leader in such shutdowns, which had 95 last year. The Supreme Court has now given the country a week to review the suspension.

Stormont deal results in a devolved government

James Abbott
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE 2019 general election, opposition to Westminster and Brexit came in the form a vigorous and contentious Remain alliance, propped up by nationalist causes in Wales and Scotland. Plaid Cymru and the Scottish Nationalist Party throughout the campaign had claimed that, for the betterment of their economy and national identity, their respective nations would be better off to maintain a relationship with the European Union and set out to obtain complete state autonomy by leaving the United Kingdom.

This reflects a radical shift in demands for regional autonomy, a desire to move beyond the mere quasi-federal measures of state devolution currently in place. Of three devolved regions in the United Kingdom, Northern Irish political parties, however, were particularly absent from any national debates, giving no clear direction for the country's future, as it too voted to remain in the EU with Scotland.

This is as a result of Northern

Ireland's democratic stalemate. Over the past three years, the Northern Irish people had suffered from serious democratic deficit. The devolved assembly at Stormont endured a breakdown in the joint executive, meaning the two major parties, Sinn Féin and the Democratic Unionists, were at a deadlock and were unable to resolve their differences over the contentious issue of an Irish Language Act. This was a bill that sought to implement legislative guarantees for equal status of the Irish language across the United Kingdom, which would have comparable rights and use to the Welsh language.

The two parties have come back together to form the Joint Executive and bring the devolved assembly into session. This was the result of a series of compromises, that in relation to the Irish Language Act, gave both communities linguistic recognition through the implementation of both an Irish and Ulster-Scots (Low-land Scottish) language commissioner. However, some critics cite that this has set a very detrimental precedent of a "complimentary" style of governance,

that successive governments will always concede some form of policy to maintain peaceable community relations, the implications of which could potentially create a further rift and increase the societal divisions between loyalist and nationalist communities. Instead of creating all-embracing legislation that aims to unite communities, the devolved assembly appears only to passively satisfy community demands and

placate cultural tensions.

With the onset of Arlene Foster (DUP) and Michelle O'Neil (Sinn Féin) being elected first minister and deputy first minister respectively, political commentators have accused Sinn Féin and the DUP of an attempted power grab. That as a result of threats from the Northern Ireland secretary Julian Smith, pertaining to possible fresh assembly elections, the two major parties

chose then to cement their positions, avoiding instead the potential crippling of their majorities at Stormont by losing Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), to parties such as rival nationalist party, the Social Democratic Labour Party and the Alliance Party, sister party to mainland Liberal Democrats.

This has brought into question how these major parties can claim to bring about legitimate change. For instance, during the collapse of the devolved assembly, all legislation relating to Northern Ireland was monitored by Westminster. This had enabled the wider nation to have an influence on the moral consciousness of Ulster's legislation, allowing for the legalisation of both gay marriage and abortion in the region, which had been previously legalised by the Republic of Ireland in 2015 and 2018.

Nonetheless, legislation has not gone without regional opposition, despite the liberalisation of women's rights, and candidates within the DUP and SDLP have argued that this is "back door" encroachment on the religious and cultural customs held dear to the region.



IMAGE: SON OF GROUCHO

In wake of crisis, a second deal with Iran emerges

Patrick Walker
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

THE ASSASSINATION of Qasem Soleimani over two weeks ago was unexpected, but has succeeded in chilling the relationship between Tehran and Washington even further than during the 2016 American election. Following the expulsion of American troops from Iran, the geopolitical crisis has calmed somewhat, but across the world, the media on both sides is wondering what the obvious resolution to the crisis could be. The next move for both states is likely a second attempt at an Iran nuclear deal that could be supported by allies and Congressional Republicans alike.

The downing of flight 752 was an unintended halt to escalating tensions after the Iranian government scrambled to apologise for the fatal "human error". It then appeared to turn on itself on Tuesday evening after President Hassan Rouhani called for a special court investigation on the downed plane. Even as he made the statement, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a significant wing of the Iranian military, were arresting the person

who managed to capture footage of the downing of the plane. Rouhani, himself a moderate, and a former head of Iran's air defence network, has said that he believes there are "others" who may have been responsible for the attack, in addition to the individual who mistakenly launched the missile in the first place.

Britain and the EU find themselves caught between their goal to support the US, a key ally, and to uphold the terms of the Iran deal, which America dropped after re-imposing sanctions on Iran in 2018. On Tuesday last week, they triggered the beginnings of a dispute mechanism to

the Iran deal, arguing that Iran had violated a key element of the treaty after it removed its self-imposed limit on the number of nuclear centrifuges it was allowed.

For Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the dilemma was also prevalent, perhaps more so considering Mr. Trump's lack of popularity in the UK. On Tuesday, he said he was in favour of scrapping the previous draft of the Iran deal that was signed in 2015 by President Obama for a new

"Trump deal". Speaking to the BBC, Johnson insisted that Trump's skills as a "master negotiator" would enable Trump to get concessions not achieved by the Obama administration.

Across the Atlantic, the Iran crisis would provide something of a flashpoint on the final Democratic debate before Americans begin voting for the presidential nominee on 3 February. Although businessman Tom Steyer and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren were both in favour of a minimal American military presence in the Middle East, other candidates, such as frontrunner and former Vice-President Joe Biden were more hesitant about total withdrawal. Polls now indicate that most Americans do not want a war with Iran, so Trump's foreign policy blunder may present something of an opening for the Democratic candidates as the election rolls around in November.

Brokering a new deal, or at least restoring relations with Iran, is at the top of the Democrats' prior-

ity list. Many want to see a return to the more genial diplomacy that existed under President Obama, and believe that a more constructive diplomatic discourse would benefit America. Additionally, all the Democrats that took the stage last Tuesday are in favour of asking Congress before making the decision to declare war: a huge point of disagreement between Republicans and Democrats, even while Obama was in office.

It's hard to see what further concessions Iran could make, or indeed whether the nation would be prepared to negotiate with the US after such a slight to its national sovereignty. Soleimani was extremely popular in most, but not all of the country. Protests broke out last week across major universities in the state following the attack on flight 752, and the dramatic response to the general's sudden assassination. *The New York Times* reported a protest in Tehran where, just hours before in the same spot, their supreme leader had memorialised a national hero. Later, Iranian students would hold an equally large gathering criticising their ayatollah: "our shame, our shame is for our supreme leader."

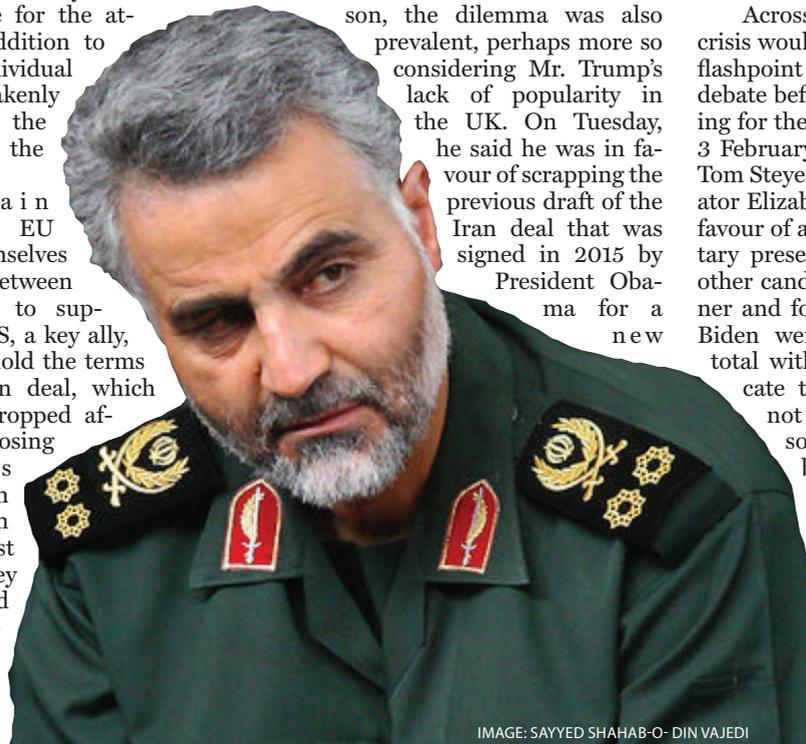


IMAGE: SAYYED SHAHAB-O- DIN VAJEDI



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the Politics Editor

THERE IS something very romantic about the world entering a new decade. It brings the same sense of hope that each year brings, only accelerated. Naturally, there are reasons to be optimistic. De-

spite a defeat in the last electoral cycle, the Labour Party now embarks on its search for a new leader, and potentially a new path as they look to rebuild. Northern Ireland has given us further cause for celebra-

tion by finally legalising same-sex marriage, a huge victory considering the religious context in which this was passed.

However, for many of us this feeling of renewed optimism quickly flickered out. Following the killing of Qasem Soleimani and the downing of flight PS752, the early days of January brought Iran and the US to what looked like the brink of war. As the world watched a stand off

between the West and Middle East, we were reminded how fearful conflict with a nuclear dimension can be as neither side wishes to blink first. A little further east, religious tensions and protests continue in India as the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act begins to be implemented in some states.

It hasn't only been politics letting us down. Once again the Oscar nominations have snubbed many

notable people in the business as the categories have been accused of 'whitewashing' and a lack of diversity. Not to mention, *Love Island* is back on our screens.

100 years ago, this decade was coined as the 'roaring twenties'. If 2020 is to mirror this, I only hope that it is the innovation and political achievement that speaks such volumes, and not the sound of Western powers letting slip the dogs of war.

The consequences of York being car-free by 2023

Kezia Deakin

DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

YORK CITY COUNCIL has accepted a proposal to ban all “non-essential” car journeys within the city centre by 2023. This has elicited a somewhat varied response. The pioneer of this proposal – Labour councillor Johnny Crawshaw – is optimistic about the effect this would have. He envisions the plan easing congestion and in turn making public transport more reliable, while also tackling climate change. Meanwhile, local businesses are somewhat panicked about the effect this will have on business, especially set against the backdrop of a controversial trial scheme.

York has already piloted a car-free scheme, having pedestrianised Lendal Bridge and Coppergate in 2013 and 2014. This scheme ended up being heavily controversial, in part because of disorganisation. £1.3 million worth of fines were issued for drivers breaking the travel ban. Stephen Knapp from the independent Traffic Penalty Tribunal later struck these down on account of lack of clear signage. Councillor Keith Aspden argued “it was a botched trial from the start which has made congestion worse and damaged local businesses.” How-

ever, not all responses were negative, with Ben Gilligan of First Bus praising that “our services are certainly running better than they were before the closure.”

This trial scheme has stuck in the minds of many York residents, making them apprehensive about the proposal for a car-free city

Improving congestion could boost local economy

centre. However, the differences between the previous and current scheme should be noted. Councillor Johnny Crawshaw is the main motivator behind the proposal, although backed by support from the local council. He heavily emphasises the fact that a car ban has to be supported by appropriate infrastructure: more reliable buses and better cycling lanes being a couple. This was where the old scheme was let down: enacting a car-free scheme without this infrastructure simply won't work.

Crawshaw highlights that parts of the city are already pedestri-

anised, so the scheme is not as dramatic as it superficially may seem and does offer advantages. Councillor David Heaton agrees with the proposal, claiming that “congestion costs the city's economy up to £30 million a year in lost productivity.” If the scheme manages to improve transport links so car-less shoppers aren't deterred away from local business, then local businesses would stand to benefit from the scheme. Delivery would be more efficient economically due to lack of congestion and the move would preserve income from tourists who might otherwise be deterred by increasing air pollution and unreliable transport options. York also has predecessors in terms of other cities successfully going car free, with business increasing in Oslo's newly pedestrianised streets.

What has failed to be mentioned though is how recent controversies concerning First Bus will fit into this scheme. £1.6 million has just been given to York's bus companies in order to make their vehicles greener but little thought has been given to the actual services. First Bus has been criticised by both local residents and University students for taking advantage of their monopoly over the market to disproportionately increase prices year after year.

The car free scheme would seem to give more power to First Bus to the detriment of the consumer. Eased congestion from the scheme would make public transport more efficient – both for the customer and the company economically – allowing First Bus to generate more profit. This could cap the inflation of bus fares. However, there is no guarantee that this is how First Bus will respond. The council should bear in mind that in order for a car-

free zone to function effectively, the bus system needs not only be more reliable but also accessible to everyone financially.

Essentially, the scheme seems promising provided there are a number of caveats. The Council has already established that vulnerable groups, such as disabled people, will be able to drive through the centre as their trips fall within “essential journeys”. The Council are also beginning the process of discussing delivery options with local businesses to reach a fair compromise. They will also need to consider the detriment to a number of other groups such as carers and how this can be eased. Alongside this, bus and cycle systems will need to be improved in a timely manner so there is not a stark gap between the enactment of the system and the improvement of these systems. However, if the Council do their due diligence, the proposal is likely to result in positive repercussions for both the economy and climate change.



IMAGE: KK70088

Oil prices remain stable amid US-Iran conflict

Charis Ramsey

DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

FOLLOWING THE assassination of Iranian al-Quds commander Qassem Suleimani and Iran's retaliation against two Iraqi bases containing US troops, there was an initial sharp reaction. Oil prices spiked by 10 per cent, US and global equities dropped by some percentage points and safe-haven bond yields fell. But the view that both sides would back down, and the US's newfound oil strength calmed investors and reversed these price movements, with equities even approaching new highs.

While oil prices did surge after the killing of Suleimani last week, a 10 per cent rise is tiny compared with the swings seen in past years. Over the last 10 years, fracking has allowed the US to squeeze the oil and gas from shale and transform the country into the largest producer of both. According to Stewart Glickman, energy analyst at CFRA Research, “if we had the same skirmishing between the US and Iran happening 20 years ago or even 10 years ago, I think the impact on the oil markets would have been a lot bigger, because the shale revolution hadn't happened yet.”

Oil prices are not being driven higher, but probably should. The assassination of Suleimani happened on Iraqi soil, without Iraqi permissions, while Suleimani was on official business. Surely you would expect some sort of change to the oil

supply?

But, the global oil market now has an abundant supply, fed by soaring US production. America has been transformed from a huge importer to a new exporter in under a decade; exports grew from 0.6 million barrels per day in early 2017, to over four million by December 2019. For several years, OPEC and Russia have cut their own production to keep prices from falling, due to US supply. There is seemingly a perception that the oil market can absorb any shock, even the loss of life in a military exchange.

There is clearly confidence in the markets that shipping lanes will be unaffected. Oil flows have not been disrupted so far, and there is no sign that Iran will seek to hobble trade in the fuel industry by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the busiest and most important waterway for the world's oil industry.

According to Bjonar Tomhaugen, head of oil market research at Rystad Energy, the markets are “pricing in just a low probability of something happening”. Further, markets have got so used to a sur-

plus of oil in the global market that they are not as worried about tensions in the Persian Gulf region as they once were.

The view that both sides would refrain from further escalation calmed investors and reversed the initial oil price shock, with equities even approaching new highs. But the markets are banking on the fact that neither the US or

Iran want a full scale war, as this would threaten the Iranian regime and Donald

Trump's re-election prospects. Investors also seem to believe that the economic impact of a conflict would be modest.

This is because oil's importance as an input in production has fallen sharply since past oil-shock episodes, for example the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Additionally, because the US is now a major energy producer, inflation expectations are much lower than in past decades; there is little risk of central banks raising interest rates following an oil price shock.

The assumption that conflict

between the US and Iran will not greatly affect oil prices, however, is flawed. The risk of a full-scale war may seem low, but there is reason to believe that US-Iranian relations will not return to the status quo and the idea that a zero-casualty strike on two Iraqi bases has satisfied Iran's need to retaliate is simply naïve. This conflict will continue to feature aggression by regional proxies, direct military confrontations, and efforts to sabotage Saudi and other gulf oil facilities.

Further, the assumption about what a conflict means for markets

Blocking the Strait of Hormuz could increase oil prices by 126 per cent

is equally mistaken. The US is less dependent on foreign oil than in the past, but even a modest price spike could trigger a broader downturn or recession, as happened in 1990. So while an oil-price shock would boost US energy producers' profits, the benefits would be outweighed by the costs to US oil consumers.

According to an estimate by JP Morgan, a conflict that blocks the Strait of Hormuz for six months could drive up oil prices by 126 per cent, to more than \$150 (£115) per barrel, setting the stage for a global

recession. Even a modest oil-price increase to \$80 per barrel would lead to a sustained risk-off episode, with US and global equities falling by at least 10 per cent, in turn, hurting investor, business and consumer confidence.

Despite Wall Street's optimism, even a mild resumption of US-Iran tensions could push global growth below the mediocre level of 2019. An alternative perspective suggests that concerns about growing restrictions on the use of fossil fuels because of their role in climate change have also weighed on prices, as “people don't want to be invested in oil” said Gary Ross, chief executive of Black Gold Investors.

According to the chairman of JBC Energy, Johannes Benigni, if the current government of Iran is toppled, crude oil prices could drop to \$40 a barrel. A regime change could return Iran to the negotiating table, implying that the US administration could be happy enough with that to lift the sanctions - an act that would no doubt flood the market with Iranian oil.

The likelihood of a regime toppling is unclear. Protests erupted in Iran last week after the government admitted the army had struck a Ukrainian plane by mistake.

Should this happen, the new rulers of Iran might be better disposed towards Washington and agree to negotiate with the Trump administration.

This demonstrates, yet again, the instability of oil markets in their relation to political changes.



IMAGE: DRPEPPERSCOTT230

The deterioration of York's nightclubs

Jerry McMichael
BUSINESS EDITOR

THE RETURN OF students to York this term has been marked by one very notable absence. Fibbers, an institution in York since 1992, closed its doors at the Toft Green venue on 5 January for the very last time as the site is set to be redeveloped into new offices and flats. Founded 27 years ago by Tim Hornsby, Fibbers quickly established itself as the top live music venue in York, hosting some of the biggest names in the British music industry throughout its tenure, including the Killers, Coldplay and Stereophonics to name a few. The closure of the venue will be felt acutely by students and residents alike, but the closure of Fibbers, although significant, is only one instance of a new emerging trend in York's nighttime economy.

The last term has seen the closure of Mansion and with further rumours that Salvos's current venue on Rougier Street is set for redevelopment as well, York's student nightlife truly seems to be dwindling away by the day. York City Council have defended the series of redevelopments underway upon the grounds that they are needed in order to meet York's 'critical' under supply of 'good-quality' housing and professional office spaces. However, with two new developments and the potential of a third to be built, all on existing nightclub venues, there seems to be a conscious, calculated effort on the part of York City Council to remove nightclubs across York,

perhaps in an effort to create a more 'sanitised' vision of the city.

It seems illogical, however, that York, a city with a population of around 150,000 people of which students account for 16 per cent, should wantonly be aiming to radically reduce the number of night-time venues when entertainment and hospitality are the city's largest employer and source of revenue to the city council (excluding council tax). The question, however, is not why there has been such a signifi-

The closure of club venues seems a conscious policy of the council

cant closure in number of venues, but which venues are closing and to which demographic these venues target. The answer is regrettably, invariably students.

While there has been an evident loss in the number of student nightclubs, bars, pubs and restaurants are thriving in York, well above the UK average with an estimated 365 pubs within the city walls alone. York is well known as a northern hen and stag weekend utopia, particularly it would appear to our Geordie friends. It would therefore not be beyond reason to suggest York's night-time economy is not dwindling, but merely reconstructing its target demographics to

accommodate young professionals and weekend revellers, rather than the permanent student and resident population of the city.

While arguably more profitable to target such demographics, directing York's night-time economy away from students is both a dangerous and volatile move on the part of York businesses. It is not an over-reach to state that universities and student unions should be concerned with the quality of club-night events and venues in their respective cities as it can and does play a significant factor for many students in their university choices and applications.

If York student venues continue on this trajectory, the University could face genuine issues with trying to fill course places which will ultimately only further contribute to the problems surrounding the devaluation of entry requirements for university courses. YUSU has been quick in their response to coordinate a new official Thursday club night with York Parties, with Student Activities Officer Ollie Martin announcing just two days after Fibbers's closure on 7

January that the official Thursday night will now be hosted by Kuda.

While a short term fix, in the long run Fibbers still requires a new venue but as Ollie Martin states in his post, "there's talk of a new Fibbers but I'm honestly sceptical they'll find anywhere new, certainly not anytime soon", raising questions of how permanent an addition Kuda Thursdays will be to the York Parties timetable.

The loss of Fibbers represents yet another closure of an iconic York venue and further, the loss of York's leading music venue with no announcement yet of a replacement. But an even more salient concern is the loss of yet another student night club raising

questions of the long term future and direction of York's entire night life scene, by the threat of continued closures and redevelopments by York City Council to nightclubs in the city.

If the university and YUSU don't interject on this issue soon, students could be faced with further venue closures and a stagnation of York's night time economy, which will only further detract from the appeal of York.

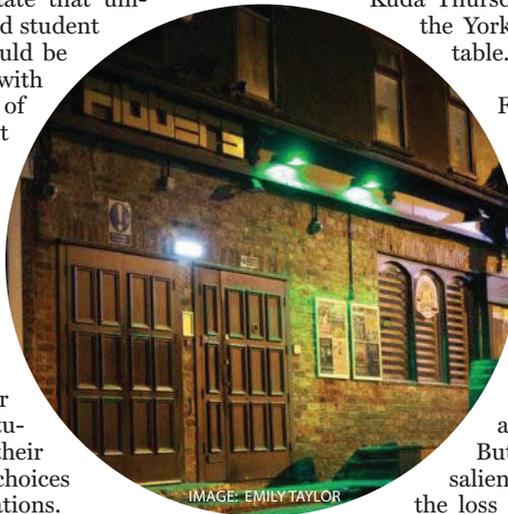


IMAGE: EMILY TAYLOR



WEEK IN NUMBERS

Digest of the week's most important figures.

1.3%

Inflation (CPI) fell to the lowest rate since November 2016, with reduced hotel room rates and womens wear credited for the fall.



12.35m

Number of acres that have been lost in the Australian wildfires since October 2019

£45,454

The cost per bong of Big Nen, Brexit supporters want it to be rung 11 times on 31 Jan.



\$100m

Short term loan agreed by government to airline Flybe

5.6ft

Height of Carlos Ghosn



£200bn

Pledged boost by China to increase US exports above 2017 levels

IMAGES (TOP TO BOTTOM): REGNANS.BLOGS-POT.COM, 5X6A0607, ADAM TINWORTH

Ex-CEO of Nissan escapes Japan in a box

Patrick Hook-Willers
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

THE FORMER CEO of Nissan has fled Japan to Lebanon, in a musician's box. Seriously.

In order to flee Japan, it is said that Ghosn orchestrated a masterful escape by catching a private jet from Japan, while concealing himself in the transport box of a double bass.

The escapology debacle comes as a new tumultuous chapter of a turbulent retirement for the Brazilian-born former businessman, whose Nissan retirement compensation landed him in deep trouble with Japanese authorities for alleged financial misconduct.

The charges brought forward for Ghosn stem from his alleged failure to disclose the level of his retirement package given to him by Nissan, in addition to allegations of using company money for inappropriate personal use.

Despite Ghosn's claim of possessing documents that prove his innocence of all charges, which he has stated he would be happy to share with the press, he was arrested in November 2018 and forced to put up one billion yen in bail (£6.8m).

Ghosn has noted that there

were severe concerns for his own personal safety, as well as fears over injustice and whether or not he would be granted a free and fair trial.

The Japanese broadcaster, NHK, revealed that CCTV footage showed Carlos Ghosn accompanied by two Americans in a hotel near to his Japanese home.

I am free to see my family. I am free to see my wife, to live with my wife

Ghosn and the two American men boarded a train bound for Osaka in the southern Kansai region of the country, where they arrived at a hotel near to Kansai International Airport.

After two hours, the two men who were accompanying Ghosn left the hotel with two large storage receptacles that were placed onto a private jet, with no sign of Ghosn until he arrived in the city of Beirut in Lebanon.

In the hours between the jet's departure from Kansai Airport and

Ghosn's appearance in Beirut, the jet stopped in Turkish capital Istanbul, from where Ghosn continued his escape act by travelling by land to Beirut.

This is all alleged of course, stemming from the NHK coverage of the escape and became widely accepted as fact, though no definitive proof was put forward.

Speaking publicly for the first time since his daring mission, Ghosn stated that he was relieved to finally be able to live normally.

"I am free to see my family, I'm free to see my wife. I mean all these things which were forbidden in Japan."

When questioned about how he pulled off the escape and whether it was a comfortable experience, Ghosn smirked and said "you should ask somebody else", suggesting he has no experience of hiding in a box.

The impact of Ghosn's escape and the charges brought upon him in Japan have significant impact for the North-West region of the UK, adjacent to Yorkshire.

The Nissan plant in Sunderland has been widely mooted as

a potential closure for Nissan post-Brexit.

"If Nissan loses competitiveness in Europe, well then the future of Sunderland is bleak" Ghosn said in the same interview, after confirming an offer by the British government to Nissan when he was CEO to keep the Sunderland plant operational.

On his escape and current situation, Ghosn said "I'm a happier man than I was one year ago."



IMAGE: SUNIL060902

Could a male contraceptive pill be coming to us soon?

Angelos Sofocleous
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

THERE ARE CURRENTLY about 15 methods of contraception publicly available, but only two are available to males: condoms and vasectomy.

For decades, men have had to rely on these two birth control methods, whereas women have had access to the oral contraceptive pill since 1960, when it was approved in the United States. Recent scientific experiments have raised hopes that more male contraceptives, such as a contraceptive injection, a male birth control pill, and a body gel, will soon be available for consumer use.

Indian scientists have recently announced that clinical trials have been completed on the world's first contraceptive injection for men, named the Reversible Inhibition of Sperm Under Guidance (RISUG).

Dr Sujoy K. Guha, a biomedical

engineer at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur and the RISUG research team leader published the results of the clinical trials, reporting a 97.3 per cent success rate in preventing pregnancy with no known side-effects in a six-month period.

The contraceptive contains Sterylene Maleic Anhydride, a polymer which inhibits sperm production and works via a gel injection to a sperm-containing tube near the testicles. Dr Guha supports that RISUG is a long-active

contraceptive which will be effective for 13 years and is non-hormonal.

However, some researchers have questioned whether RISUG can work as a reversible method of contraception. Michael Skinner, a reproductive biologist at Washington State University, has argued that it is not clear that RISUG is very different from sterilisation as its reversibility has not yet been demonstrated. Indeed, the effectiveness of the second part of the treatment,

which dissolves the gel injected and enables the male to have children, has worked in animal studies but is yet to be tested on humans.

Research on other contraceptive methods, such as a male birth control pill, is also underway. Researchers at the Los Angeles Biomed Research Institute have developed 11-beta-MNTDC, an experimental male oral contraceptive, which is a modified testosterone that combines the actions of androgen, a male hormone, and progesterone. When taking the pill during the trials, participants' testosterone levels fell and sperm production dropped greatly, returning to normal levels after the trial.

"11-beta-MNTDC mimics testosterone through the rest of the body but is not concentrated enough in the testes to support sperm production", says Stephanie Page, M.D., Ph.D., the study's co-senior investigator. This is done to minimise side-effects on the body due to low testosterone.

Although there were no severe side-effects reported, about ten per cent of men in the studies reported fatigue, acne, or headache, and decreased sex drive. This shows that there is still much to learn on this new product and one can safely say that there is no way to know how a new substance affects the human body when used long-term until the subjects are observed for years or decades, especially when they con-

sume products that induce hormonal changes.

Despite these worries, the study's other co-senior investigator, Christina Wang, has said that 11-beta-MNTDC is a "safe, reversible hormonal male contraception [that] should be available in about 10 years."

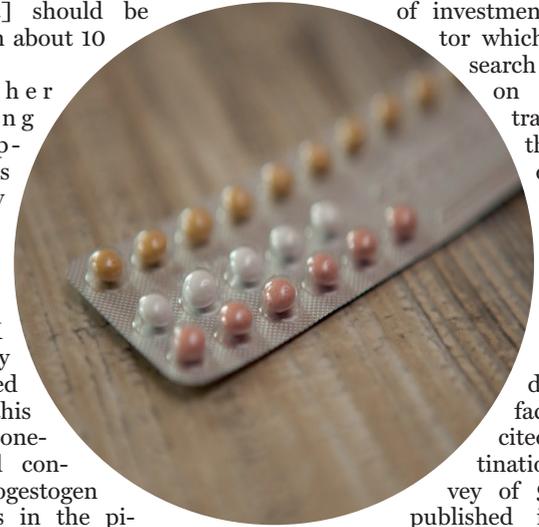
Another promising contraceptive that is currently being developed and is being tested in the UK is a body gel named NES/T. This is hormone-based and contains progesterone which acts in the pituitary gland and switches off sperm production, without affecting libido. Trial participants are asked to rub the gel on their shoulders and upper arms daily so that it is absorbed by their bloodstream and will be monitored for months until their sperm count decreases significantly. Professor Richard Anderson, who is leading the study at the University of Edinburgh, says that NES/T is expected to be more effective than condoms and match

the female pill's effectiveness of 97 to 99 per cent.

However, Professor Anderson also raised concerns about the fact that the pharmaceutical industry currently underfunds male contraception studies and that lack of investment is a factor which delays research and trials on male contraception. "I think that industry has not been convinced about the potential market," he said.

This is despite the fact that, as cited in a multinational survey of 9,000 men published in *Human Reproduction*, 55 per cent of men in stable relationships would be willing to try new and reversible contraceptive methods. It's certainly the case that the times when women were seen as being solely responsible for preventing pregnancy are now past.

The burden for preventing pregnancy and family planning also falls to men and there is currently the need for reversible and highly effective male birth control.



York to establish £35m research facility for AI safety

Angelos Sofocleous
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK is to establish a £35m research facility for the safety of robotics and autonomous systems which use artificial intelligence (AI).

Bringing together world-leading experts in the field of robotics and AI, the York Global Initiative for Safe Autonomy aims to provide a space in which its research staff and industrial partners will work in specialist laboratories and testing facilities to improve and assure the safety of robotics and autonomous systems.

According to Professor John McDermid, director of the Uni-

versity's Assuring Autonomy programme, "the world is experiencing an unprecedented period of technological advancement. Robotics and AI will change every part of our lives... But this rapid advancement comes with challenges: how do we assure their safety?"

The initiative will house specialist laboratories and testing facilities, bringing together York's expertise across design, assurance, and communications technologies. It will enable industrial partners and world-leading experts in the field to collaboratively address global challenges in assuring the safety of robotics and autonomous systems.

Starting with a £10m donation from the Lloyd's Register Foundation to the Assuring Autonomy In-

ternational Programme of the University of York, established in 2018, the York Global Initiative for Safe Autonomy is further funded by the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) of Research England which provided £10.5m of the funding, and an additional £14.5m from a rich network of industrial partners, private donors, and alumni.

Professor Deborah Smith, the University of York's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, said that "this project is key to Industrial Strategy. AI and robotics are a key area for development in the modern world and this project is all about developing those safely." Professor Smith recognised the risk involving the use of AI systems and the need to

assure their safety, adding that, "the first risk in adopting these technologies is we do it too fast and we don't know that they're safe."

AI systems change our lives but how safe are they?

"The second risk is we adopt them too slowly and we don't benefit from the real advantages that these technologies can bring mankind at the moment."

Research at the York Global Initiative for Safe Autonomy will follow four research pillars: Design and verification, which will ensure that robotics and connected autonomous systems (RCAS) can be fully trusted in environments which are challenging; Assurance, which will ensure the safety of RCAS and their ability to learn from their errors and adapt to their environment; Communications, which will ensure that communication between RCAS is efficient, effective, and, most importantly, secure; and Society and Ethics, which will ensure that RCAS are introduced appropriately and safely so that issues of practical ethics are addressed.

The York Global Initiative for

Safe Autonomy will be an addition to the University of York's already rich and impactful research on AI, robotics, and communication technologies.

The initiative will work alongside and collaborate with the York Centre for Quantum Technologies, an interdisciplinary initiative which is aimed at encouraging and enhancing new cooperations in the area of quantum theory. Researchers working at the Centre for Quantum Technologies have recently launched the UK's first quantum network, in partnership with the University of Cambridge and Toshiba Research Europe Ltd. The network is said to provide ultra-secure and unhackable methods of communication.

The new initiative at the University of York is also expected to provide support for YorRobots, a University-wide initiative which brings together researchers working in robotics and autonomous systems, and their application. YorRobots aims to maximise the benefit of UK industry from robotics expertise at York. The York Global Initiative for Safe Autonomy will be based on Campus East and will house up to 100 researchers and support staff in its world-class facilities, including a rooftop laboratory and specialist robotics design and testing equipment. Construction will start in 2020 and the facility is expected to open in 2021.



IMAGES: UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Is the light from your iPhone giving you insomnia?

Molly Taylor
SCIENCE EDITOR

WITH TECHNOLOGY ON the rise and iPhones, laptops and TVs being part of our nightly routine, I'm sure we have all heard the claims that going on your phone before bed 'gives you insomnia' and 'ruins your sleep' in a world where blue-emitting LEDs are running our artificially lit lives. I am certainly no physicist but I have been personally subject to this ridicule as I scroll through Twitter before bed, and I'm looking for something to fight my corner.

According to recent research carried out at the University of Manchester last year, blue light might actually be more in line with our bodies' natural perception of dimmer, cooler lights in the evening. Sunlight, or 'white light', is made up of red, orange, yellow, green and

blue light rays, and many shades of these, depending on the energy and wavelength of the individual rays.

Light rays that have longer wavelengths contain less energy, and light rays with shorter wavelengths contain more energy. Rays on the blue end of the spectrum have shorter wavelengths, meaning they have more energy. This portion of the visible light spectrum has the highest energy - just before UV light.

Sunlight is the biggest form of blue light, which leads to the suggestion that exposure to blue light at night is counter-productive to our sleep cycle, which makes sense. However, recent research has suggested that blue light does not have the strongest effect on the body clock, more so that yellow light of equivalent brightness has a bigger effect.

The head researcher of this

study at the University of Manchester argued that usually, when research is conducted into the effects of blue light on the body, this tends to involve altering the bright-

Blue-emitting LEDs are running our artificially lit lives

ness signals by changing the ratio of short and long wavelength light, but this provides little difference in brightness and more perceptible changes in colour.

Therefore, it may be that the bright light is more harmful to the eyes than the colour, and the colour of the light should mimic the

natural light in the evening, which, according to this research, is more beneficial to keeping our body clock and your health in check. Hopefully these alterations are more helpful than anti-blue light gimmick beauty products, or anti blue light glasses, some of which were banned by the Advertising Standards Authority in 2015 because, as John O'Hagan from Public Health England's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards put it, "the hype around the blue light hazard has got a bit out of control."

Some research connects exposure to blue light at night to a wide range of health problems like diabetes and obesity, arguing that it affects the body's levels of melatonin. However, even dim light can affect circadian rhythms, so most people's bedside table lamps are doing the same thing. Where do we draw the line for using light at night time?

This new research, as of December last year, was carried out on mice and showed that blue colours produced weaker effects on the mice's body clocks than yellow coloured light, which is interesting as our phones and laptop screens are wired up to change brightness levels at night and favour yellow tones to mimic the colors that resemble indoor night light and daytime light.

Our perception of colour comes from the retinal cone cells in the eye, which is different to our perception of brightness. This research shows that the blue colour signals they supply reduce the impact of light on the clock. Researchers at the University of Manchester also commented that aligning our body clocks with social and work schedules can be good for health, as a lot of recent research advocates. And apparently, using colour in the right way can aid this process.

Are we alone in the universe?

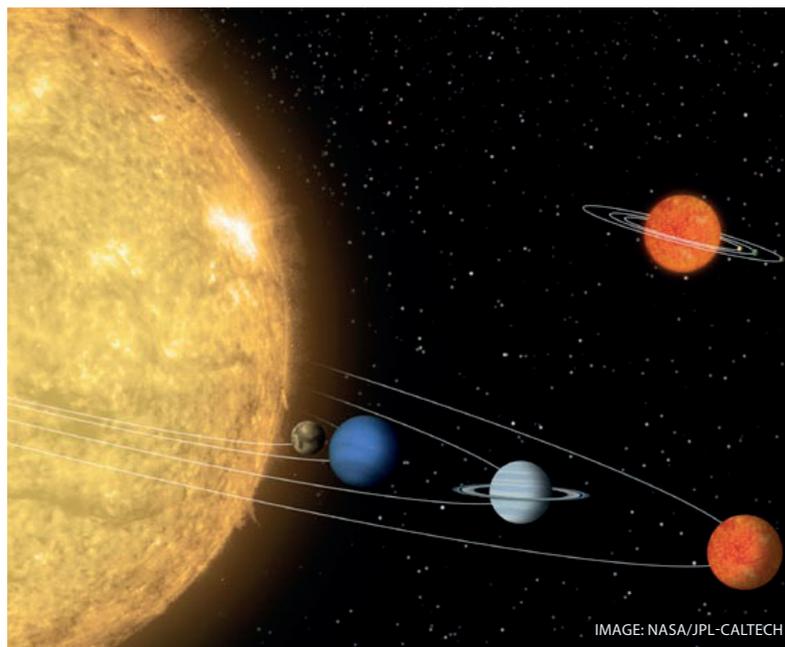
Lauryn Eley
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

IT'S THE AGE OLD question: are we alone in the universe? The answer may be closer to home than you think. There are a number of places that may harbour the necessary ingredients for life within our own solar system. Life as we know it primarily requires water. Once this is present, other factors such as the chemical building blocks of life and surface temperature can be considered.

Historically, our neighbour Mars was the first place humans looked to when hoping to find some company in the vastness of the universe. Snaking dendrite patterns mark the surface of the red planet: similar in shape to the path rivers carve out on Earth. Evidence like this suggests that Mars was once a water world with oceans and rivers. So where is that water now?

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) is an example of a spacecraft aiming to help answer this question. In 2011, the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment camera aboard the spacecraft imaged dark streaks that appear seasonally on steep Martian slopes and found them to be signs of the presence of salty water on the planet. The periodic appearance of these streaks coincides with warm weather. Ice caps at the North and South poles of the planet are thought to contain much of the water left on Mars, frozen into 3km deep sheets. This evidence from MRO suggests that the melting of these ice caps in warmer weather may be a source of this salty water: indicating that perhaps water does still flow on the surface of Mars.

In 2017, this was thrown into question when it was discovered that these streaks appeared on only the steepest hills. This created ground for the hypothesis that these flowing patterns arise from the flow



of sand or dust, rather than water. With this, the signs of life on our nearest neighbour remain elusive.

Another popular candidate for fellow life is one of Saturn's many moons: Enceladus. In 2005, Cassini took the first images of the south pole of Enceladus. These images showed a plume of water vapour spewing out of the end of the moon, extending hundreds of miles into space. This created evidence for a global ocean encompassing the moon. In 2008, Cassini took the first close fly-by of this plume and found it to be comprised of organic materials 20 times denser than predicted.

Another fly-by was undertaken in 2017 of the southern pole, detecting molecular hydrogen. This was used as evidence of active hydrothermal vents on the planet: a habitat that, on Earth, is known to foster life. With this combination of water, organic material and geological activity, it is no wonder that Enceladus harbours so much hope for life.

Most recently, evidence has pointed to the possibility of life on

another of the solar system's moons: Jupiter's Europa.

Data taken by the Hubble Space Telescope of this moon seemed to indicate the existence of water vapour plumes alike those found on Enceladus.

This data was taken at the very limit of Hubble's sensitivity, making it difficult to take further data to confirm this finding. To overcome this, scientists observed Europa for 17 nights from 2016 to 2017. By analysing wavelengths emitted from this plume, they were able to find signatures of water. Unlike Enceladus, these plumes are not constantly emitting. This suggests that perhaps a different emission mechanism is at work on Europa, creating two very distinct areas of interest in the search for life.

And so, the question remains. Is life swimming on the oceans encompassing the moons of the largest planets? Is it thriving below the rusty red surface of Mars? Until we can get there ourselves, we can only speculate who is keeping us company in the darkness of the universe.

Is hot yoga worth getting sweaty for?

Callum Tennant
DEPUTY EDITOR

You might have tried yoga, but have you ever tried yoga in low-mood lit inflatable, which has been heated up to thirty-seven degrees? If you haven't tried it before you can now. Victoria opened York's branch of the HotPod Yoga on 5 October last year. Located on Stamford Bridge Road HotPod Yoga is a ten-minute drive from the University or twenty minutes by bike. I went to give it a go and to explore why people would volunteer to do yoga in a furnace.

The scientific benefits of hot yoga, however, are not always clear. One undeniable advantage of hot yoga though is that stretching is easier. The reason why we warm up before we exercise is so that we do not pull a muscle or cause an acute injury. Warming up loosens our joints and enables us to stretch further than we otherwise could. I did find that once I was in the pod and had started sweating that I was able to stretch further than I usually could. The change was not massive, but it was noticeable, and when you're doing yoga it can make all the difference.

Another benefit of hot yoga is that it increases your circulation, this in turn may help to nourish your skin. Blood is extremely rich in nutrients and oxygen so when our body's circulation is increased, our skin cells can be more exposed to the benefits of these.

While not unique to hot

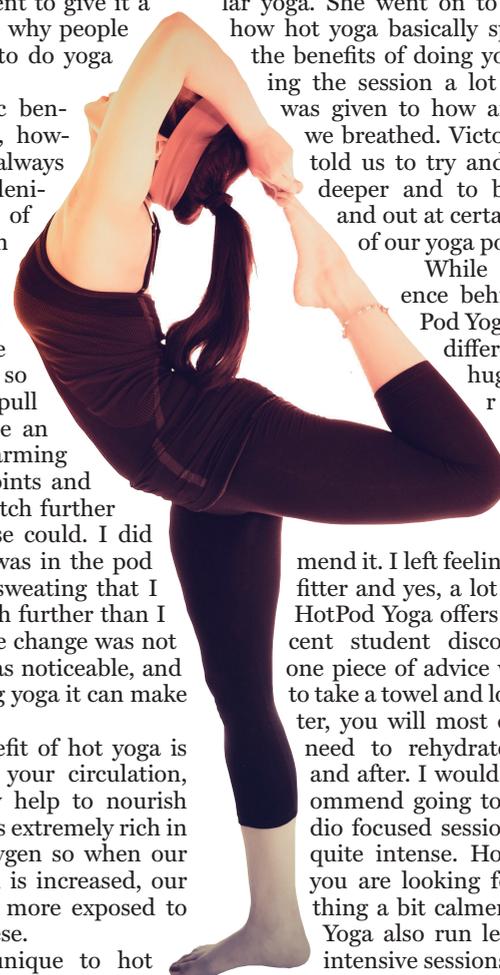
yoga, yoga can reduce stress significantly. A 2018 study found that adults who participated in a four-month hot yoga course benefitted from significantly lower stress levels. And while I might not have felt stress free when I left my HotPod Yoga session I definitely felt a lot more relaxed.

When I spoke to Victoria after my session and asked her about the benefits of HotPod Yoga, she told me that it helps you to "breathe better and relax a lot more" than regular yoga. She went on to describe how hot yoga basically speeds up

the benefits of doing yoga. During the session a lot of focus was given to how and when we breathed. Victoria often told us to try and breathe deeper and to breath in and out at certain points of our yoga positions.

While the science behind HotPod Yoga doesn't differentiate it hugely from regular yoga, I would definitely recommend it. I left feeling calmer, fitter and yes, a lot damper!

HotPod Yoga offers a 20 per cent student discount. My one piece of advice would be to take a towel and lots of water, you will most definitely need to rehydrate during and after. I would also recommend going to the cardio focused session as it is quite intense. However, if you are looking for something a bit calmer HotPod Yoga also run less cardio intensive sessions.



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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Lucy Wilde
DEPUTY
SPORT EDITOR



AS A NEWBIE, I was surprised to be lucky enough to be tasked with writing this comment in only my second time writing for *Nouse Sport*, with the added bonus of stealing an entire page to champion some of the impressive work girls in sport are doing at uni.

Sport Editors James Moultrie and Dom Smith both cover the performances of College 'Club of the Term', James College Football Club on pages 27. Dom also looks into Varsity sponsorship ahead of next month's much-anticipated Varsity competition. That can be found on the back page.

I report on how Highly Commended Club of the Term, Alcuin Netball, performed in their weekend match against Halifax 1s. In a nail-biting match, the girls were forced to quickly brush off the Christmas cobwebs and now look to refine their skills in preparation for Varsity qualifiers at the start of next month.

We also promote UYNC's upcoming charity fundraiser that

includes a daytime netball tournament and evening drinks at the Baltimore Grill in town. All the money raised will go towards the club's chosen charity, Mind, which carries out life-changing work and rehabilitation services for those suffering from poor mental health.

Finally, Annabel Mulliner explores the stigmatisation transgender athletes are subject to, arguing against the controversial opinion that they have a competitive advantage. She attempts to convince readers that attitudes of suspicion should be put aside in favour of more tolerance and acceptance.

2020 promises to be a big year, not just for international sport, with the Six Nations, Wimbledon and the Summer Olympic Games all pending, but the spring term on campus will also be host to a range of sporting spectacles mainly centred around College Varsity in March.

Be sure to follow us on Twitter, @nousesport, and stay tuned for our next edition where we will continue to keep you up to date on all things sport at the University of York and beyond.

See you again,
Lucy

NOUSE STAT ZONE

4

The current win streak for Alcuin Netball 1s after their most recent win over Halifax 1s

9

The number of clubs being represented by Swing Low 7s in its first fixture against Hest East RFC

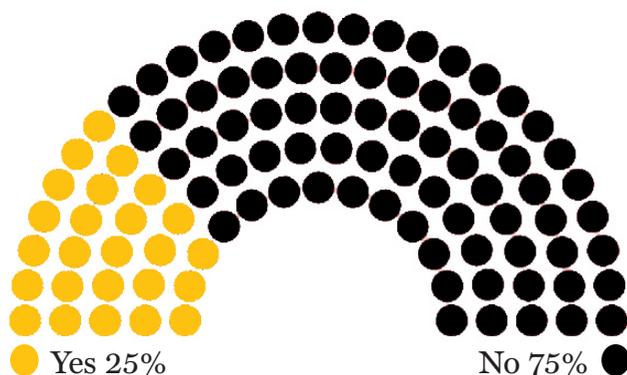
10

The number of corners taken by James Football 1s in their 2-2 draw with Constantine 1s

40

The number of days until Varsity 2020. This year is a home tournament held on campus

POLL: Are you happy with the service that York's official kit supplier, Akuma, has provided to you?



Nouse Interviews... Rob Stevens

James Moultrie chats to the student behind new charity club Swing Low 7s



IMAGE: LUKE SNELL

Why did you start Swing Low 7s?

I started Swing Low to allow rugby players to meet other; like-minded, people who work towards charities that do great work for people in tough spots.

My girlfriend, Amelia, and my family back home all heard my idea and have helped me with ideas like slogans and people to go to.

What are the key points of the club?

There's three key points: to get rugby players talking and engaging with each other more, to allow players and our officials an easy avenue to help charities throughout UK.

This last point about geography is particularly important as more students move around after uni and Swing Low will allow them to build a support network hopefully spanning the country.

Why do you think it's important to have men talk about their mental health?

I think it's been a thing from tradition where men don't talk. I want men to be straight with one another about a bad situation, practical or psychological.

How do you think clubs such as yours can help this?

My club works alongside the more normal rugby clubs who are from certain areas. Swing Low will take anyone out of their daily lives and throw them in to a situation with a few mates and the rest strangers at first.

After the match we've got a so-

cial sphere where I'll make it friendly and not too far, allow people of all age groups to have a chat while relaxing.

Have you personally been aided by sport in mental health?

My girlfriend first gave me the confidence to turn to sport in a bad spot. I was really underweight and decided to throw myself into Mowden Parks team in Darlington.

Since then I've trained and the more confident my mental health is, the better I play. So, sport has really given me a focus and an avenue for success.

Why a rugby club?

Obviously it was never going to be football which I'm truly dire at, but rugby for me was a way to get lads, from drama boys who do musicals to Petty officers in the Navy, to come together, as I realised that those two extremes really aren't too different and would get along great.

Rugby allows these talented lads to express themselves, whether it's sheer size, quick feet or a sharp mind. Or like me both.

What ways will Swing Low 'unite rugby players into a supportive community'?

I absolutely loved this quote from my dad about the idea. I don't know if he realised at the time, but it shows the double-edged approach of the club.

It will support the players through a closed online community where lads can say they need a drink with someone or just open up, but it also allows them to work together

to be supportive to the wider community.

I'm hoping that after our launch we'll do our own fundraising events where lads from places like Cambridge and County Durham can do tough mudders together and other activities to raise money for charity.

Why did you pick the charities you chose to represent for this match?

So, with this I'd love to start with Teamluke. Teamluke was the easiest decision for this game and we'd love to support them more in the future.

It was set up in Darlington in memory of a young lad who passed away from Neuroblastoma on 23 December 2018. His dad in particular will always be my captain in whatever we're doing. I have the privilege to say he's playing in our match in March. I love the fact this charity helps students engage with the wider community.

November was an obvious choice; so many lads know it already and it does amazing work around the globe for men's mental health. Our representative is the Uni rep for November as well and between us, we agreed it's a great one.

BEAT is from my heart to be honest. After I fought my issues with weight with the help of those closest to me, I wish I'd known there was a charity pushing the warning signs and raising awareness, particularly among men.

The club's first match will be on Sunday 08 March on 22 Acres in aid of all the charities mentioned.

Swing Low Rugby

Uniting rugby players into a supportive community

Transgender women aren't ruining women's sport

Annabel Mulliner looks into the debate around trans women in sport and looks at the facts behind the debate

Annabel Mulliner
SPORT CORRESPONDENT

A WHILE AGO, I WROTE a piece for Comment entitled 'Feminism Needs To Accept the Trans Movement'. When this article was posted online, the first comment it was met with was "how about instead, you talk about what this nonsense is doing to women's sport?" So, anonymous Facebook user, your wish is granted.

There's a considerable amount of controversy surrounding trans women's participation in women's sports. This is centred around the fear that post-transition, trans women retain a physical advantage, owing to them having higher levels of testosterone. Women's testosterone levels tend to fall between 0.12 and 1.79 nmol/l, whereas men's levels are typically between 7.7 and 29.4 nmol/l.

Since 2015, IOC guidelines allow any trans woman to compete without undergoing surgery, provided they have reduced their serum testosterone to 10 nmol/l for at least a year, but many female athletes don't believe this is strict enough.

The activist group Fair Play for Women argue that there is "little science" behind the policy, as there is a "legacy effect" of testosterone, which gives an unfair strength advantage, even after hormone treatment.

However, Beth Jones, a researcher from the University of Loughborough, highlights that "there is no research which has directly and consistently found transgender people to have an athletic advantage in sport."

Given the paltry evidence for trans women having a competitive edge, and their low participation levels in sport anyway, it's difficult to understand the proportion of the backlash against trans athletes.

Trans cyclist Rachel McKinnon faced death threats after winning her track world title last year, and has since responded to her critics, writing that "there is no debate to be had over whether trans women athletes have an unfair advantage: it's clear that they don't".

Indeed, since the IOC allowed trans women to openly compete in 2003, not a single trans athlete has ever even qualified for the Olympics. Trans women remain on the fringe of international sport, with success stories being few and far between. But wherever they do succeed, they are met with suspicion.

This suspicion is underpinned with the transphobic idea that trans women aren't 'real women' but are in fact only masquerading as such in order to gain an advantage.

The idea that a cisgender man could transition purely to win at women's sport has been suggested by several well-respected female

athletes. Martina Navratilova, former world No.1 for Women's Tennis, was criticised for suggesting that transgender athletes are cheats. But her apology was incredibly backhanded, explaining that "I attached the label to a notional case in which someone cynically changes gender, perhaps temporarily, to gain a competitive advantage." The fact that Navratilova was formerly coached by transgender sportswoman Renee Richards adds further insult to this.

Wherever they do succeed they are met with suspicion

The idea that someone could, so casually and "cynically" transition purely for sporting success is not only naive but inherently transphobic. In order to gain access to hormone therapy and other gender transitioning treatments, one must first be diagnosed with gender dysphoria - something which healthcare professionals don't take lightly.

It's difficult enough for an actual transgender person to convince a doctor that they need treatment, so it would be impossible for a cisgender man to fool a professional

into treating him. Gender dysphoria is "the distress experienced by those whose gender identity feels at odds with aspects of their body and/or the social gender role assigned to them at birth"; clearly a condition that is not to be taken lightly. "They will want to see you for six to twelve months before they are willing to diagnose you," says McKinnon. But often the wait is much longer if you include the long waiting list that transgender patients must endure before they even see a doctor.

My sister waited over two years from first seeing her GP to finally receiving a diagnosis and treatment. Medical and sporting professionals seem to share an attitude of utter disbelief towards transgender identity.

Of course, keeping women's sport an even playing field is incredibly important. But the reality is that we have so few successful transgender women in sports that a competitive advantage can't be proved in practice. If we bar transgender women from women's sports, then where do we draw the line?

Cisgender athlete Caster Semenya has higher testosterone levels than most women, meaning that under World Athletics, formerly known as IAAF, rules she has DSD (differences in sexual development). She lost her legal case against the World Athletics last year, who ruled that she must reduce her testosterone

one for six months in order to continue competing in the 800m race.

This tribunal upheld a rule that discrimination in sport is legal, provided it is justified. Yet instances of DSD athletes prove that the biological line between male and female is hardly clear cut before we even start thinking about transgender athletes.

As Christine Aschwanden concludes, "how athletically outstanding can a girl or woman be before we no longer see her as female?" It's also interesting that no one seems to be talking about the disadvantage trans men may face in men's sports - there only seems to be outrage when there's potential unfairness for cisgender athletes, but not vice versa.

Even if we don't have enough research surrounding the potential competitive advantages of higher testosterone levels yet, surely science should only inform, not dictate, our legislation: surely empathy should come first.

Sports can be a lifesaver for transgender people, as it's well-documented to help improve mental health; 89 per cent of trans young people have contemplated suicide, according to Stonewall.

The campaign of nonsense from high-profile athletes like Navratilova is nothing more than toxic misinformation, which is only adding fuel to the fire of insidious transphobia in our press.

Gambling is a purposefully easy habit to fall into

James Moultrie discusses his personal experience with sports betting and the controversy around gambling addiction

James Moultrie
SPORT EDITOR

BETTING COMPANIES have come under serious pressure in recent weeks, due to the amount of pressure they are placing on the NHS.

Gambling addiction is worse than ever, with sports fans being unable to avoid the companies given how the company logos are all over kits and stadiums. It is time for betting companies to realise there are real people on the other end of their profits who are actually dying, and the health service is struggling.

This is most obviously seen in the two top divisions of English football, with 10 of the 20 top flight clubs sporting a gambling company's logo. And this gets even worse in the second division, with 17 out of 24 Championship sporting the logos of betting companies. These companies have taken true dominance of sponsorship in the top leagues of English football.

The head of mental health services in England, Claire Murdoch, has expressed personal concern in a letter to five large UK gambling companies in which she calls for them to stop using predatory tactics

that "turn the occasional flutter into a dangerous habit."

The focus from betting companies on using promotional emails to make it seem as if you are going to win and win big each time you bet, is what is fuelling certain individuals addiction. Murdoch also expressed concerns that the companies know exactly who is suffering big losses and continue to send them these emails to reel them back in.

From personal experience, I know how pressing this can be. Sky Bet alone have sent me 11 emails this month, with numerous notifications from the app also appearing on my phone, with different offers of free bets, promotional odds, and upcoming big events, just keeping you in the loop.

Also, being a student with limited money, I used to resort to betting to try and make a bit more money and thought £5 a week was a reasonable amount, but after betting consistently for over two years, I realised I'd kept depositing money whenever I'd lost a bet. So instead of actually losing £50 in one ten

week term of uni, I'd lost £200. It seems bad knowing that now, but at the time winning one £30 bet could make me completely forget about all the money I'd lost.

This is because the problem with betting and gambling itself is that it is inherently irrational. Putting money on the likelihood of a certain result when you have no idea what it will actually be in an attempt to get more money off of it, makes no rational sense.

The reason people keep betting is due to cognitive biases - a term which when applied to behavioural economics describing how a person's psychology can cause them to behave irrationally once or continually, and this happens with betting.

For example, the positivity bias suggests that a memory of a positive occurrence, like winning a bet, can negate all memory of the negative outcomes. People get stuck in this vicious circle of a 'surely I will win eventually' mindset and don't realise how much they have actually lost and the amount of money they have wasted trying to simply get back to square one.

For me, the problem was how easy and accessible betting actually was. Technology hasn't helped with a plethora of sports betting apps

now being able to download and you can deposit money instantly and have it placed in a bet within seconds.

They try and help by claiming that by setting deposit limits you can curb addiction and bet less, but when a person can simply take two seconds to go onto a different betting app and avoid this problem, nothing actually comes of this 'limit'.

340k

The number of people in the UK that suffer from gambling addiction

The moment I personally stopped betting was when I found myself betting on Azerbaijan U19 football matches to try and win back the £10 I had just lost on horse racing. For me, betting was just a bit of fun to have at the weekend with my mates but even in the small amount I did, I can see the exact same behaviour which could lead people to dangerous addiction.

There was a huge thrill to it, and it was something I genuinely looked forward to in the week. I'd meet with my mates at the pub and everyone would have their various accumulators on. We'd wait for the results to roll in, all inevitably lose, then just get ready to do it all over

again next week.

Betting companies need to be stopped in their constant pressing of promotions down people's throats, even those who they know have lost big money.

The current situation we are in is one in which 340,000 people suffer from gambling addiction in the UK, 19 per cent of which have contemplated suicide.

The government needs to look long and hard at the 2005 Gambling Act and fix this shameless business from ruining more people's lives.

The final straw for me was the revelation that the founder and Executive Officer of Bet365, Denise Coates, paid herself £323m in 2018, while her company only donated a comparatively low \$868,000 to organisation Gamble Aware. Its clear what the owners priorities are for their betting company.

Betting companies are preying on the irrationality of people with serious addiction. All for the pure purpose of more profit.

With sports fans normally being the ones who are worst affected, the government needs to take action to regulate the level of sponsorship and promotions they can provide to stop reeling in those who are the most vulnerable to gambling's dangers.

WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP

IMAGE: GAMBLE AWARE

Sport in Brief

York based Speed-Quizzing app hits mainstream football world

Brothers Alan and John Leach have created a pub quiz trivia company called SpeedQuizzing, which appeared on big screens at three Championship games over the weekend. Players have six seconds to answer questions before the answer appears. The York-based pair hope their digital quiz concept will go global, and that process began on Friday with the first use of their invention coming at Craven Cottage, as Fulham beat Middlesbrough.

York Hornets to host their very own Take Me Out

On Tuesday 11 February, York Hornets Cheerleading Club will hold their version of the popular ITV dating game show. Contestants pay only £4.50 to enter with a free shot included, with early bird tickets for audience members starting at £2.50. The evening event is scheduled for 8:30-11pm, and will be held in DBar. Tickets on sale now.

York City FC further adrift from top after defeat

The Minstermen are now four points below leaders Kings Lynn Town in second. Defeat at the table-toppers on Saturday, by one goal to nil, was their first loss since 28 December.

York City Knights RLFC struggle in pre-season

York's best performing sports team is struggling to find form in first two preseason matches. The side went winless in a 12-12 draw away at Featherstone Rovers and in the club's last ever match at Bootham Crescent before moving to the new LNER Community Stadium they lost by 16 points to six against Halifax RLFC.

Hes East Rugby trounce Derwent in rescheduled derby

After the game was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch on Wednesday 15 January, Hes East put in a convincing (to say the least) performance against Derwent College Rugby. The final score was 71-5 in a fixture that typically isn't as one-sided as this one clearly was.

YUsnow annual Easter ski trip ticket release announced

Avoriaz has been chosen as the location for this year's ski trip, which will take place between 13-21 March.

Alcuin ace first match of Spring Term

The new year started well for autumn term's Highly Commended team, Alcuin Netball 1s

Lucy Wilde

DEPUTY SPORT EDITOR

ALCUIN NETBALL 1s kick-started term with a victory over Halifax College ahead of the hotly contested round of Varsity qualifiers.

Last term's Highly Commended 'Club of The Term', Alcuin College Netball 1s, were back in action this weekend with their first post-Christmas match vs Halifax College. Having finished 2nd in the First Division in the autumn, the 1s are undoubtedly determined to continue their winning streak this term. It's safe to say they did not disappoint this weekend.

After a shaky start, the girls entered the second quarter with little margin for error, leading by just one goal, 3-2. GK Natalie Buchan used her height advantage to Alcuin's benefit as she plucked several attempted over-head balls and prevented shooters from having a shot.

Patience and accurate feeding from mid-court player, Emma Butcher, also proved difficult for Halifax defenders to mark.

Down 7-6, the team made some positional changes in the

third quarter. Focus on possession and man-on-man marking after the half-time team talk tightened the structure. Strong drives from the Halifax shooters continued to put Alcuin under pressure, and it was clear both shooters were well drilled in playing the ball between themselves and creating space. The defenders responded well to this, using their athleticism to make tips to disrupt play when Halifax delayed shooting from the outer-edge of the circle. Communication also noticeably improved, which undoubtedly lifted morale and encouraged the girls to keep their heads up. Centre-court player Becky Sizer joined the defence in pressurising Halifax attackers by continually chasing down the ball and staying man-on-around the circle. Despite a solid defensive effort, the defenders struggled against patient and accurate passing from Halifax attackers, which saw the quarter end in a draw.

Tensions heightened as the final quarter started on equal footing, 10 goals all. Halifax consistently refused to let Alcuin settle and chased goal for goal, putting pressure on each centre in the hope of gaining what could have been one

game-changing turn-over. Alcuin did not crumble under pressure. GD Emily Harris used her speed to cut off diagonal passes, a product of tiredness from the Halifax attackers, and supported her mid-court players all the way up court. Eventual player of the match, Sarah Dance, dominated the centre court and maintained a steady pace and ensured no mistakes were made. Both GA and GS tested Halifax defenders with good use of a variety of dodging methods, rotations and back-line drives proving to be favourable techniques. Consequently, a run of goals disrupted Halifax's game play and increased defensive pressure successfully put Alcuin in the driving seat of the action once more.

A nail-biting final few minutes saw Halifax claw back the lead and a conscious team effort was required to maintain consistency. The closely contested match finished with Alcuin taking the win by just one goal, 15-14. The team's relief was clear as the final whistle sounded and the girls celebrated an important first win of the new term. The team will want to use this victory to gather momentum as they build towards the all-important Varsity qualifiers.

Despite last term's success, any spectator watching this weekend would be surprised to learn that this was an entirely new combination of

girls. Saturday's performance (and a series of solid efforts last term) demonstrates the girls' ability to adapt quickly to new set ups, a quality which could prove invaluable in the Varsity qualifiers.

Captain Kat Ailles was delighted with this week's performance, saying the team are excited for the rest of the season and determined to put in the hard work needed to move up the League table. Weekly Tuesday training sessions will now be dedicated to maintaining the girls' fitness and game-play, so they are on top form and fighting fit for the upcoming qualifiers.

Catch the 1s in action at the qualifiers on Saturday 08 February, where the girls will take on current top seed, Derwent 1s. Derwent have had a flying start to the season with a series of impressive victories last term, and another convincing win against Alcuin 2s this weekend. With this in mind, it's safe to say the upcoming clash between the two teams will not be a match you want to miss.

UYNC dedicate day to charity fundraising
Netball Club chooses Mind as this year's charity for annual fundraiser

Lucy Wilde

DEPUTY SPORT EDITOR

THIS YEAR'S CHARITY fundraiser, 'Huns and Roses', will take place at 8pm on Sunday 02 February at the Biltmore Bar and Grill in York. This year all proceeds will go to the charity Mind.

Every year, one in four of us will experience a mental health problem, but hundreds of thousands of people continue to struggle and feel they have no one they can reach out to. Mind rightly believes that no-one should have to face a mental health problem alone and so provides services to support, advise, and even more simply, listen, to those struggling.

Even in today's modern world, there is a huge stigma surrounding mental health, particularly in British culture where it seems to be the norm to label someone who outwardly displays their emotions as weak. This is a fundamental societal flaw and Mind is passionately determined to work towards solving this social crisis. UYNC holds this charity very close to its heart and decided to make it their chosen charity this

year because despite the stigmatisation, mental health affects everyone.

A Fundamental Facts survey published last year declared that every week one in five adults have considered taking their own life. Mind strives to reduce these shocking figures by encouraging people to take part in society equally, through improving public attitudes and offering experiences that increase self-confidence. Added to this, they recognise the importance of improving access to high quality information in order to tackle the long-standing national stigma surrounding mental health. Empathy and compassion is therefore

at the forefront of the Mind campaign and UYNC hope that through raising awareness of the charity more people will join the fight to combat the mental health stereotype.

The benefits of sport and physical activity on mental health are endless, with improved mood, decreased chance of depression and anxiety, and a better and more balanced lifestyle merely a handful of a variety of positive side-effects. The government's Sporting Future strategy has mental well-

being at its heart and is investing in projects to increase participation in sport and activity across the ages. Any athlete reading this knows that playing sport is not just about being part of a club and competing - when you join a club, you join a family, and this is one key value that UYNC take pride in promoting.

Research also shows that physical activity provides a sense of clarity that enables rational thinking and decision making, as well as improving self-confidence. With this in mind, there seems no better way to promote a charity championing good mental health than by, not only an evening drinks reception but, a charity netball tournament. Throughout the day, mixed teams of UYNC members and their chosen non-netball recruits will take each other on in a bid to be crowned tournament winners. Previous years have seen some very competitive performances, especially from the basketball boys, so you'll be sure to catch some friendly on-court rivalry to keep things interesting.

There will also be a raffle to raise extra funds for this incredible charity. It need not be said that it really is the case that every donation,

big or small, will prove an invaluable contribution to this cause.

Mind also have an establishment in York that works to incorporate all of the charity's aims in local work around town. The 2020 Yorkshire three Peaks Hike and the Corker Bike Ride are just a couple of examples of activities that you can get involved with in and around the local area. The charity relies heavily on donations and fundraising events so be sure to visit their website at www.york-mind.org.uk to find out how you can get involved.

Tickets cost £5 on the app FIXR. Please take a look at at UYNCs Instagram page: @uync_ where you will find a link to purchase tickets - everyone is welcome and we're aiming to beat the total of over £700 raised last year so invite your friends too!

A spokesperson for the University of Netball Club told *Nouse*, "we are all so looking forward to a day dedicated to a wonderful charity and hope as many of you as possible will join us to show your support for such an important cause. A big thank you from everyone at the Club in advance."



Club of the Term focus: James College Football

In a true game of two halves, Constantine 1s and James 1s couldn't be separated in a 2-2 draw

James Moultrie
SPORT EDITOR

THE TOP FOOTBALL sides for James and Constantine college were up against each other in the penultimate Division 1 fixture of the week. The last time these two sides met, it ended 9-1 to James; today's match-up was quite the opposite.

A classic game of two halves, the former going to James and the latter being confidently in favour of Constantine. The result reflects the nature of the match very fairly, but chances did go begging for both sides and the score could've easily been 5-5. It was a tentative start, typical of Division 1, with both talented sides trying to figure each other out.

With little space to operate

in, James 1s adopted a counter attacking style of play, most likely to support their fast wingers, who were constantly making runs down the flanks. Finn Lacey was looking threatening down the left wing, so much so, that he forced Constantine captain Barney Blackwell to make a change at right back, to account for the extra pace of the winger.

Both sides' no. 14s were controlling the attacking play and Constantine's Emmanuel Ogunbiyi was holding the ball up nicely, with constant touches of his chest from goal kicks. James' no. 14 was Lacey, who put away the earliest clear-cut chance of the match.

The ball was laid off to him and he smashed it through the hands of Luke Osbourne, who had

proved quite the shot stopper up to this point.

To this point, James looked the more threatening team, Lacey the obvious highlight, but also Norwood on the opposing wing to him, who's great footwork was causing some issues for the Constantine right side. James' defence had given them this strong platform, with Jamie Bristow mainly picking up loose balls and driving out of his own final third.

Constantine were looking for spaces, but the deep line forced former captain Tom Guffick into a long range effort, which looked to be going wide, but it subsequently rebounded off the crossbar.



The half ended with another sign of quality from the influential Guffick, who profited from good pressing on the right wing, and smashed in a half volley from outside the box to level the match just before the half.

Blackwell started getting frustrated at some of his defensive line for sitting and not going to the attackers. James' pressure eventually translated into purchase, where poor defending meant the goalkeeper was questionably taken out while trying to collect a cross, and while on the floor, a James midfielder smashed the ball passed the defender who was guarding the line.

However, this was the last convincing hold the James College side really had on the game, the goal itself coming against the run of play, with Constantine's team now winning

the midfield battle. The final goal of the match came from Waheed Kalungi, who calmly placed the ball into the bottom corner to equalise, following more pressure from Guffick and Nicholas in the final third. Both sides missed easy chances in the final 15 minutes; tired legs on a very cold afternoon playing a huge factor. James had a few more clear cut on the counter attack, but Constantine had more control over the possession and were more physically fit than their opponents (three of which were down on their haunches every time a chance was missed).



They made a meal of it, but James 2s held on to claim an otherwise dominant 3-2 win over Goodricke 2s

Dom Smith
SPORT EDITOR

MAKING THEIR dominance over the match count, James College 2s scored two second-half goals to see off a stubborn Goodricke 2s side 3-2 on Saturday.

The penultimate game of a busy day in college football, James knew that Goodricke were there for the taking, and in the early exchanges it would become clear James' side were technically superior. The favourites (in all black) kicked off, facing Goodricke (in green).

College football can be a curious place, with some players appearing either too talented or too poor for their team's average standard. James 2s were a class outfit throughout this match, but number 8 Charlie Gregory pulled the strings in midfield consistently. His cute turns and sharpness in contesting stray balls set him apart from those around him on both sides.

The first chance of the day duly fell to him, although Goodricke goalkeeper Daniel Howard gobbled it up with ease. James ramped up the pressure slowly but surely, and continued to test – but not yet trouble – the gloves of Howard.

A low long shot from Joe Foggin was parried by Howard on 21 minutes, with the ball falling to winger George Pullin. The immediate shot came flying back in from close range, but Pullin was left bewildered as he watched Howard spring to his feet and make a truly elastic second save.

It really was one for the cameras. But there weren't any cameras. Striker Dom Woodhouse misfired from a good position in Goodricke's first clear-cut chance, but James were back on top minutes later. One of their three number tens on the day (as you do), Alfie Dunn, waltzed through a melee of static players before arching a curling shot agonisingly wide of the post. It remained goalless.

Goodricke were hanging on, but football is often unpredictable and on 33 minutes, they took an unexpected lead. Wearing a '2019 GOODRICKE COLLEGE FRESHERS' t-shirt, Cameron Galloway volleyed straight through the goalkeeper to earn his team a shock lead in this all-campus west tie being played at the 3G pitch on Hes East.

No sooner were Goodricke ahead than they conceded the equaliser. A James corner from the left was recycled back into the box via the other wing, and when it came across, George Pullin poked home the leveller in acres of space.

The de facto hosts just about held their own for the remainder of the first 45. At the break it was Goodricke College 1-1 James College.

Proceedings were slower and more measured in the second half. James nearly took the lead on 50 minutes when one of the num-

ber 10s, Alfie Dunn, toe-punted the ball narrowly over Daniel Howard's crossbar.

Ten minutes later, Howard did concede to Dunn – James had scored from another corner. The ball was knocked to Dunn on the edge of the box, who instinctively snapped a volley into the far corner with applaudable technique.

As all games seem to, the contest became stretched and more and more the flanks assumed the key battlegrounds. In particular, John Strassenburgh and Pullin had James' left-wing completely sewn up between them.

The two goals in the first period were typical finishes, but all three of the second half's offerings were unerring finishes.

The second one brought James two ahead on the scoreline, with Will Norwood hammering the ball into the net with a crashing drive that clattered the crossbar on its

way in. 3-1.

Could it be topped? Step forward James Simmons. The midfielder planted a delightful freekick into the top-right corner of the net, bending it round the wall to give Goodricke the faintest hope of stealing a draw with one minute of stoppage-time remaining.

A speculative bicycle-kick bounced harmlessly wide with the last kick of the game to confirm James had prevailed in this league encounter.

Goodricke were clinical in finishing off two of their rare presentable opportunities, but James had more gears to find and didn't need to be so efficient with their shooting in order to still leave the pitch victors on a perishingly cold evening.



Halifax 2s completely dominate James 3s in one-sided thrashing, goals flying in from everywhere

▶▶▶ Continued from back

This was exactly the case. Finding the counter attack as the best option to gain any ground, they sat deep and waited for their opportunity. It came in the form of Cunningham playing the ball through to Bergdahl, who was clattered in the box, not only by the keeper Colville, but also Shelton. For me it easily could've been given as a penalty, but they referee wasn't having it and claimed the ball was got first.

Halifax capitalised from their possible good fortune, with a screamer from outside the box, which went straight into the top corner. The small crowd of around seven Halifax supporters did go crazy, however the numbers made it slightly less fitting for how good the goal was.

This set the tone, not only for the rest of the first half, but also the remainder of the fixture.

Halifax started to find so much space in the middle of the pitch, particularly due to the sound work of holding midfielder Ewan Brand, who put in a physical midfield display. He won numerous challenges and was pretty untouchable in the air. A physical back two and holding midfielder appeared the key for Halifax's success against the much smaller James 3s side.

The goals started to come thick and fast, one more long-range finish amongst them, the rest all results of

good football from the whole team. Rory McGregor provided the other great goal, smashing in on the turn, to again beat the withering James 3s keeper, who at this point was getting peppered.

Particularly impressive, was George Rogers, who was really applying the pressure up front and causing the clearly nervous back four into playing across goal and making silly mistakes.

The half eventually ended 5-0 with James losing their discipline towards the latter 15 minutes. The midfielders kept getting caught in possession and resorting to fouling Halifax players, simply for damage control. The side representing the York Sport Union's Club of the Term only

had one other chance, in the form of a free kick, which the keeper easily collected. It probably summed up the half for James: lacklustre.

The second half started with much more of the same, Rogers putting more pressure on the back four and keeper. This caused Matt Little, who had come back on the field, to have multiple chances throughout the half and convert numerous.

After the sixth and seventh goal came from more poor play at the back, Little induced some more quality into the game, with another pile driver from outside the box to make it 8-0, with a lot of time to go.

At this point, we really could've been looking at a cricket score, but luck seemed to finally be on James' side with a number of Halifax chances hitting the woodwork or just rolling wide. Tired legs definitely started to contribute to the

standard of finishing.

The last ten minutes sadly became somewhat like shooting practice for the Halifax side. Everyone started to take attempts, leading to multiple jeers from even their own supporters at this point. The last goal being the nail in the coffin, a shot right in the middle of the goal. The keeper had lost all confidence at this point and it flew into the roof of the net, to round off a difficult outing for James, who will hope to come back stronger in their fixture against Vanbrugh 2s, while Halifax face Goodricke 2s.



Rugby Interview

Nouse speak to Rob Stevens about men's mental health, rugby, and 'Swing Low 7s' P. 24



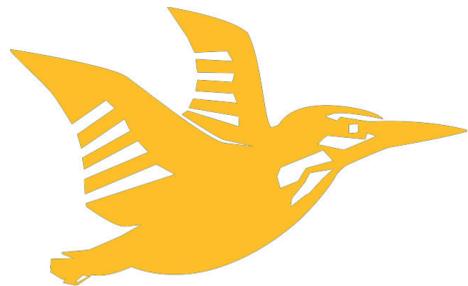
Starting Right

Lucy Wilde reports on Alcuin Netball's narrow victory over Halifax on Saturday P. 26



James Football

Nouse Sport looks at James College Football Club, winners of Autumn 'Club of the Term' P. 27



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Tuesday 21 January 2020



James Football 3s 0

9 Halifax Football 3s



James Moultrie
SPORT EDITOR

JAMES COLLEGE football club 3s struggled, to say the least, in the opening Division 2 college football fixture, against a talented Halifax 2s team.

Halifax dominated early possession, with solid control in midfield coming from the two centre halves, Bradley Saffron and Jake Shelton.

These two would go on to dominate their final third and not allow James' attackers any space.

In particular, Freddy Bergdahl was unable to get any room without the whole defensive line breathing down his neck, on what was a tough day for a centre forward.

Despite finding easy space in James' half, leading to a series of free kicks being awarded, Halifax were unable to create any real chances that could lead to anything fruitful.

With 70-odd minutes remaining in the game, there was still time for James to find a reasonable foothold.

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York Sport Union announces sponsors for Varsity

Dom Smith
SPORT EDITOR

WITH COLLEGE VARSITY less than two months away, this year's sponsors have been announced by York Sport Union. Funding for the 2020 event will come from York Parties, Scitec Nutrition and the Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust (YGAM).

York Parties will be familiar to many students as the organiser of club nights and events at venues across the city, while Scitec is a company dedicated to producing nutritional products for many sports. They specialise in bodybuilding and claim to have been a "global leader in Sports Nutrition Supplements for over 20 years".

The most intriguing of these

three already-established sponsors is YGAM. Founded in 2014, the YGAM seeks to educate and protect young and vulnerable people from the dangers of gaming and particularly gambling.

The registered charity receives its expertise and spreads its cause through a wide range of personnel, including "teachers, youth workers, community volunteers and mental health specialists."

York Sport Union are proud to have YGAM involved, given the good work it is doing in protecting young people often of university age. York Sport Union President, Maddi Cannell, said that "on countless advertising hoardings, betting companies are advertised without consideration of their influence over young and vulnerable people. YGAM are doing a fantastic job of

combating this."

There may well be more sponsors to be confirmed in due course, York Sport say. YUSU published an elaborate poster in order to advertise for prospective sponsors to come forward.

The cheapest packages on offer are £200 and include the likes of t-shirt and bottle sponsors. At the other end of the range is the primary venue sponsor package, which costs £1,000 (plus VAT) and includes to right to include the company's name in the title of the Spectator Lounge.

Regarding The Lounge, this year YUSU and York Sport have confirmed that the venue will become a social hub during the day, with campus media reporting from inside. The Lounge will open up as a place participants and spectators alike can go to buy food and drink.

It will also "host darts and pool, acoustic acts and sponsors."

York Sport have said that as a complimentary addition to paid packages of any price-level, sponsors will be able to show an image on the University screens for the day. All social posts about the competition, including emails and event updates on Facebook, will also include the sponsors' logos.

Varsity itself is the annual marathon day of campus college sport. York Sport calls it "the biggest day of sport on campus this year". Facing their college counterparts from Durham University, York's college teams will compete in a variety of sports throughout the day, trying to win the tournament they lost last year.

This year's competition will be hosted by York on 1 March, with

the host university alternating each year. Last year, York lost the competition despite securing its best ever points total at an away Varsity. The tournament only came into existence in 2014, replacing White Rose Varsity, which had run in previous years, meaning that this year's College Varsity will be only the seventh iteration.

Opening The Lounge has been seen as an attempt to boost College Varsity to similar levels of esteem and respect that Roses receives when it is held annually each May.

Varsity is likely to be given far greater attention this year in comparison to previous year, and this means that the increased number of sponsors compared to previous competitions play a big part in both financing and legitimising the relatively young event.