



“ I had a pretty depressing time with a lot of negativity focused in my direction ”

Frank Turner
>> M17



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NOUSE



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Tuesday 30 September 2014
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YUSU to tackle 'worrying' lad culture

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU are launching a campaign to tackle lad culture at the University, including an evaluation of its harassment policy.

The news comes after a recent *Nouse* survey found 76 per cent of respondents thought lad culture exists at the University of York, while 60 per cent thought the University could do more to tackle the problem.

The survey also found that 70 per cent of female respondents experienced unwelcome sexual advances, and that 69 per cent had

had overtly sexual comments directed at them.

In comparison, a survey commissioned by the National Union of Students (NUS) found that 25 per cent of respondents has experienced unwelcome sexual advances, while a third of respondents had overtly sexual comments directed at them. Toni Pearce, President of the NUS, accused universities of ignoring the problem.

The results of the *Nouse* survey suggested several students thought lad culture "mainly exists" within sports societies, with one respondent saying the rugby teams are "no-

torious" for it.

Another respondent said: "The mentality encouraged amongst teammates can be worrying."

Izzy Welby, President of Women's Rugby Club, told *Nouse*: "On the day we won our league and earned a promotion we all went out to celebrate. Our president was told that evening by a male member of a prominent sports club that not only our club, but also our sport and her personally were 'fat and insignificant'. Despite our incredible performance in our chosen sport, it feels we will always be deemed insignificant in the eyes of our male coun-

terparts."

She said that the Women's Rugby Club do not face the "sexualisation and harassment in the way other female teams do because [they] are not seen as feminine". Instead, they are often called "dykes".

According to Welby, her friends who play sports such as lacrosse, hockey and netball "have either been verbally harassed or physically harassed in club night situations" and "had male teams hang around to watch and heckle" when they train and play.

She went on to say: "Traditionally 'female' sports are expected to

conform to the lad culture hierarchy and make themselves present at Salvation on a Wednesday night for the men to choose who they will take home that night."

Research conducted by the YUSU Welfare team and Women's Network in 2012 suggested that many students didn't report their experiences of sexual harassment because they were not sure about whether or not a crime had been committed.

Emily Inglis and Peggy Lock-

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News



York in brief

New Teaching building planned for 2016

Plans are being developed to create a new two-phase Teaching building on Heslington West. The £8 mn space would include extra lecture theatres and seminar rooms, along with break-out and workshop space. The project, should it go ahead, would be completed by August 2016. Regarding the plans, George Offer, Academic Officer, told *Nouse* "The University are aiming to locate the building on the edge of Spring Wood, between Derwent College and the Berrick Saul building. The second phase of the project is yet to be announced."

New plans for Hes East move into public consultation phase

Plans to move Unity Health to Heslington East have entered the final phase. The project was first announced last year as it came to light that the existing centre will not be able to cope with demand. The plans also include a pharmacy, which neither campus currently has access to, along with retail buildings, a small supermarket and takeout shops, including a Domino's. The outcome of the consultation is expected by the end of October, with the final vote from the City of York Council expected in January.

Research highlights students' money woes

New research reveals that almost a quarter of current undergraduates fear they may have to give up their studies due to their financial situation. The survey also found that over a fifth of university students believe they will have to take up part-time work alongside their education. As a result of the changes to tuition fees two years ago, the study reveals that on average, English students will owe £16,514 by the time they finish their course, whilst domestic Scottish students will owe just £12,048.

Reporting by Alex Byron

>> Continued from front

wood-Lord, who share the role of Women's Officer, told *Nouse*: "We know that harassment is a serious problem at most universities, and we're trying our best to tackle it."

They went on to say: "This year we are working closely with Sam [Maguire, YUSU President], Dr Vanita Sundaram from the Department of Education and colleges to start confronting lad culture. From aggressive pack behaviour on nights out to the seminar room, it affects all aspects of the uni experience and we want to make sure the actions of [a] few don't alienate the many!"

As part of the University's campaign to tackle lad culture, Maguire has already talked to heads of sports teams. Anna Cook, Development and Wellbeing Officer for York Sport, told *Nouse*: "Lad culture is often associated with sports clubs, and we all know what it's like on a Wednesday night!"

However, she also praised the

"positive interest from clubs [and] their willingness to tackle these issues" and said she is "really excited to help out with this campaign to make a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for sport at York".

Ellie Whittaker, President of Women's Football Club, similarly said that lad culture was an issue in sport, although she suggested it was "not so much" a problem at York.

Speaking of her experiences of lad culture and those of her peers, she said: "Playing for a women's football team ... you do get all the stereotypes and quite a lot of criticism."

"One of [the girls in my club] was excluded from GCSE/A Level PE assessment for football ... They weren't allowed to do it because they were a girl. Another one [who's now a second year] said she found that when she said she played football at [university], they were like, 'Oh, women have a team.'"

"The year before we'd got Roses Team of the Year and we'd won our league really easily. We did really

well but people don't really know. They know the men's club exists [though]. Luckily, we're working a lot more closely with the men's club so we're getting a lot more publicity now."

Whittaker went on to say: "I don't think, to be perfectly honest, you'll get a uni that's putting in more effort into trying to combat it than here. It's amazing the level of work they're putting in."

"I think the Sport Union has definitely improved over the last couple of years to try and combat."

As part of the University's plans to address lad culture, sexual consent workshops will be introduced. Last weekend, James College became the first college to discuss the issue of consent to hundreds of freshers at their welcome talk. Other colleges have similar plans.

Maguire told *Nouse*: "Lad culture has been shown to be a real issue within Higher Education all over the UK. We need to make a concerted effort to tackle it in order to ensure that everyone feels wel-

come, safe and able to be involved with any activity at this university.

"YUSU want to work with our student leaders among sports teams, societies and colleges as well as the University to develop a plan to tackle the issue here at York."

One student told *Nouse* "one of the things that ruined Fresher's [sic] week" and that it "makes going out in town and troublesome and off putting."

Another respondent said: "Lad culture seems to be inherently present in a lot of the Freshers' week events which pressure everyone to get drunk. Gendered language is used around a lot of these events telling [people] to act in different ways or to dress according to their sex."

However, others believe the issue is not specific to university: "The issue does not begin at universities. To tackle it seriously, it must be tackled earlier. Banning activity will not change how they think. The issue should be raised in schools and in upbringing."

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NOUSE

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Students left in the dark over changes to English assessments

Naill Whitehead
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS HAVE complained after a lack of communication regarding recent changes to assessment methods in the English Department.

Previously, Period Modules were assessed by two essays, one submitted and marked during a term, and another one completed over the holidays.

Under the new changes, second and third years will be assessed by an open exam taking place over eleven days for their Period Modules.

Special Modules previously consisted of a 1,000 word procedural essay and a 3,000 essay to be completed over the holiday period.

They will now be assessed by of the larger essay, coupled with a one-to-one essay planning tutorial.

Special Module Office Hours will also be held during Weeks

“I have had no time to prepare or figure out the implications of this change before it was thrust upon us”

seven to ten provide more opportunities for discussion between tutors and students.

Meanwhile, first year students now have two eleven-day open exams in their Translations and Victorian Literature modules. These modules were previously assessed by two 1,500 word essays.

The Approaches to Literature and Global Literatures Modules now contain one textual analysis task per term, with

the intention of better preparing students to write essays.

Students were upset not by the changes themselves, but by the way the University handled them.

The alterations were announced via email at the end of last term, but the email was only sent to second years, leaving third year students unaware of the changes until they were informed by their peers this month.

Many also felt the change had been implemented too late in their degrees, and that they would struggle to adjust to the new conditions.

One English student, who wished to remain anonymous, said: “On the grounds of it being my third year and the most important one, this change means I will be undertaking a method of assessment that I am inexperienced in.

“The Department[...]made the mistake of only telling the second years and my peers and I have had no time to prepare or figure out the implications of this change before it was thrust upon us.”

The English Department said that the changes to assessment methods were implemented “in response to student and staff feedback about current practices”.

However, one student told *Nouse*: “As a year group we were advocating a change in the critical questions examination procedure, but that has remained unaltered.”

Some people reacted more positively to the changes. One student said: “Despite the fact that we were informed of the changes so late, I think the extra breathing room across termtime will be invaluable.



UNIVERSITY OF YORK ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English students will now be assessed by open exams and textual analysis tasks as well as essays

“This will...be especially true when it comes to our tutors being able to spend their efforts on developing our understanding across the module, rather than marking a silly amount of essays.

“As long as they retain the same freedom as the old system, the dissertation time we gain over the Christmas and Easter breaks will, I’m sure, be more than worth it.”

Another student commented: “Overall, I am really positive about the changes, and excited to see how the paper will be formatted!”

After a variety of responses were shown to them, the English Department quickly pointed out through an email to all student that these were not the “frenetic two-hour exams and fragmented replies” some of them

were dreading.

The Department reassured students that the questions provided would be as broad as possible, and incorporate all of the topics in the module.

The open exams were originally meant to be completed over five days, but this was subsequently extended to make the workload of students doing two Period Modules at the same time more manageable. An email sent to students last week also revealed exam papers for second years may also include tasks alongside the main essay, such as a close reading exercise, although students graduating in 2015 will assessed by a single 3,000 word essay.

The English Department claims these changes will allow students to better reflect

on feedback given to them and implement it in their next essays while stressing that students will be “fully prepared” beforehand.

It also praised “the maturity, efficiency and promptness English student representatives, for working alongside the English Department to implement the changes and for informing staff members of students’ concerns.”

Dr Emma Major and Professor David Attwell released a joint statement saying: “Since becoming aware of the problem, we have acted promptly and carefully to engage with student representatives.

“Following two days of meetings and discussions we are issuing a revised set of assessment guidelines that address worries about assessment timing and support.”

York bars could start breathalysing drinkers

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

PUBS AND BARS in York could start making customers take a breathalyser test before letting them in as part of attempts to reduce drunkenness in the city.

North Yorkshire’s Chief Constable Dave Jones revealed in a radio interview that door staff could be given equipment to conduct breathalyser tests by Christmas.

They will be advised to use readings three times the drink-drive limit as a threshold for deciding whether to let people enter their establishment.

A spokesperson from North Yorkshire Police said: “Door staff will use them at their discretion if they believe someone has consumed

an excessive amount of alcohol. A person could be refused entry if their blood alcohol level is too high.

“This is part of a number of measures being introduced to tackle excessive drinking in the city in partnership with Safer York Partnership.

“We are also working closely with British Transport Police to address visitors who ‘preload’ while they are travelling to the city.”

The plans are the latest in a series of steps that have been taken to reduce excessive drinking in the city and were praised by Jane Mowat of Safer York Partnership.

Earlier this year, York’s Alcohol Restriction Zone was extended to include anywhere within the city walls.



SEBASTIAN SURENDAR

Drinkers might have to take a breathalyser test before they are allowed into pubs and bars in York

News

York praised for 'LGB-friendliness'

Jamie Summers
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY of York has scored highly in a guide ranking the 'LGB-friendliness' of universities across Britain, conducted by the LGB rights group and registered charity Stonewall.

Stonewall rated a total of 158 institutions on a checklist of 10 different areas which offer support to LGB students to create an overall score out of 10 in the Gay By Degree Guide 2015.

York was awarded a score of eight out of ten, along with another nine universities, including Derby, Durham and Exeter.

The criteria that institutions are scored on include having mandatory training for staff on policies which protect LGB students, having a society for LGB students that is advertised on the university's student union website and holding LGB events.

The other measures that Stonewall believes should be taken are providing career advice for LGB students, consultation with these students on university policymaking, having an LGB staff network and being a member of Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme.

Engagement with the local community on lesbian, gay and bisexual matters is also taken into consideration.

The provision of welfare and

support for LGB students is also taken into consideration, alongside the existence of a monitoring system which asks students about their sexual orientation.

In total, six universities scored a maximum score of ten out of ten, including York St John University, marking a generally high score in the city as a whole.

Although this total of six institutions is only a very small figure out of a total of one hundred and fifty eight, it is up from zero universities with full marks when the list was first published back in 2010.

A further 11 universities, including Aberystwyth, UCLAN and Manchester, scored 9 out of 10.

Eleven institutions failed to meet any of the criteria for gay-friendliness, including the Royal Academy of Music and Glasgow School of Art.

However, Stonewall is quick to point out that in the majority of cases, the small size of the institutions should be taken into account.

Maddie Boden, YUSU LGBTQ Officer, was delighted with the results.

She told *Nouse*: "We're really pleased to see that our other local university, York St John, has achieved such a high mark in this ranking."

"The LGBTQ Network at the University of York does not work specifically with Stonewall for a

number of reasons, but many of the targets Stonewall has set such as providing welfare and support, setting up a social space, having a staff forum, and engaging with the wider community are all goals that we have met and are looking forward to improving on this year.

"Additionally, we are proud to say that we include our trans* students in all of these markers, whereas Stonewall is only currently a LGB charity."

The two points for which York was not awarded were being members of the Stonewall Diversity Champion scheme and for engagement with the wider community, but the University did meet all of the other criteria.

The guide did not collect information on support for queer or transgender students, although this is often included with other support for LGB students.

Across the board, the area in which universities did best was in having societies for LGB students, which 85 per cent of universities assessed did, as well as holding socials, which was undertaken by 72 per cent.

By contrast, the area in which institutions did poorest was in engaging with the wider community on lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. This includes the University of York.

Sam Maguire, YUSU President, was also pleased with York's strong



RAIN RABBIT

Stonewall's Gay by Degree Guide ranks universities for 'LGB-friendliness'

performance, but stressed the need for further work and suggested that the door could be opened to becoming a Stonewall Diversity Champion in the future.

He said: "While I am very happy that we meet a really high number of the requirements on the checklist, it is really important that we progress and fulfil the whole checklist."

"I think it would be really interesting to discuss with university staff the prospect of becoming a

Stonewall Diversity Champion as it would be another step forward in ensuring all those within the institution feel welcomed.

"I am slightly disappointed about not scoring for the engagement with the wider community as our LGBT network have done some really great work in the past year with local schools.

"However, I understand that this is YUSU work and the University themselves should perhaps do more to educate local children."

AstroSoc to send duck to space

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York's Astronomy Society have created a YuStart campaign to raise money to send their mascot, a rubber duck named AstroDuck, into space.

The duck will be launched using a weather balloon and accompanied by a black box so that information about altitude, temperature, air pressure and magnetic fields can be collected.

It is hoped that this data, along with footage obtained using a Go-Pro camera that will be built into the weather balloon, will allow Astronomy Society to conduct a thorough analysis of the rubber duck's flight. A parachute will be used to return it to Earth.

The society need to raise a minimum of £540 to buy the equipment needed for the launch.

They have currently raised £520.

If fundraising targets are met, it will take place during Science Week in November.

However, the YuStart page suggested that "further launches" were a possibility in the future.

Astronomy Society are offering rewards for supporters of their project.

These include advertising, depending on how much they donate.

Cameron Spence, Chair of Astronomy Society, told *Nouse*: "The University of York is home to hun-



UNIVERSITY OF YORK ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

Astronomy Society need to raise £540 to launch their mascot into space

dreds of great societies, and we at the Astronomy Society are doing our part to maintain that reputation.

"We have an action-packed year ahead of us, with our planned event to launch our mascot AstroDuck into space being one of the most ex-

citing. "This perilous adventure would not be possible without the help of our kind sponsors, so a huge thank you to everyone who has donated money towards AstroDuck's maiden voyage. We'll see you all on the launch pad!"

York's alternative student media in list of the country's best

Rosie Shields
EDITOR

THE HUFFINGTON POST has included two societies from the University of York in their list of the best of alternative student media.

The list, which was created to highlight unconventional media outlets from universities across the UK, commended both York PEN and Chat Politics.

York PEN is the York branch of the global organisation English PEN branded as "special" by the Huffington Post.

Founded in 2012, the society campaigns for the release of imprisoned writers all over the world through campaigns, petitions, and letters to governments.

Their termly events include poetry readings, exhibitions, and panel debates.

The big draw to the York branch in particular is their online blog which is updated regularly.

Connor Briggs, Co-Chair of York PEN, said: "York PEN is very proud to be included in the list of best alternative student media - the website has been a collaborative ef-

fort from all members of the committee, and those affiliated with York PEN.

"We feel that it had been a very successful year for the website, and we are very excited to implement our plans for the site in the upcoming year."

"We're sure it will continue to expand and provide interesting and engaging material."

Chat Politics, which reached an impressive third on the list, was set up by two University of York students with the aim of making politics more accessible.

Their past interviewees include Nick Clegg, Evan Davis, and Alastair Campbell.

They have recently also launched Chat Life which focuses on presenters, writers, and comedians.

Oscar Pearson, co-founder of Chat Politics, said: "It's top news that York is recognised as a strong student journalism base but also now as the home of alternative media."

"It means there's something for everyone."

NOUSE

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Welcome meeting Tuesday Week 2 7.30 pm D/L/002

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News



News

Fifth Looking Glass Anthology launched

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

THE FIFTH instalment of the *The Looking Glass Anthology*, a collection of fiction written and produced by students at the University of York, will be officially launched on 11 October.

The launch will be celebrated with a party at the Norman Rea Gallery at 7pm where extracts from the book will be read out. There will also be live music and drinks deals.

The cover of the anthology, which is split into five parts, features a photograph of campus taken by Heather Lysiak, a third year English and Philosophy student.

The book also contains illustrations drawn by Kate Mitchell, a third year History student and Graphic Director of *Nouse*.

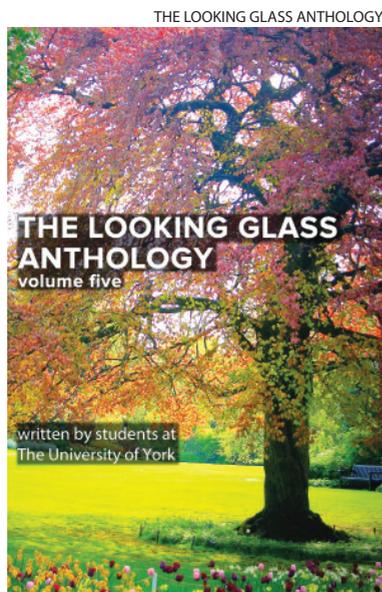
Elisabeth Shuker, Editor in Chief of *The Looking Glass Anthology*, said: "I have loved heading up *Looking Glass* this year, the editorial meetings have been great fun.

"I hope that everyone who came along has enjoyed being part of creating something so brilliant. The quality of submissions was at an alltime high ... So thank you, and please keep on writing!

"We have achieved a lot this year, what with our YuStart campaign and the illustrations (yes, there are illustrations in this one!) It has been a privilege."

The Looking Glass Anthology was founded in 2009 by David Zendle and a new volume has been published very year since. It was the first creative writing anthology created for and by students at the University of York.

The society which makes the



A launch party will be held in October

book decided to start publishing the anthology instead of printing it during the production of Volume Four, so every new volume now has its own ISBN number.

This year, over £600 was raised through YuStart, the university's crowdfunding platform, to become *The Looking Glass Anthology* to become a self-sufficient society.

Emma Bowler, Head of Publicity, said: "Our launch party and huge publicity drive for our new volume will hopefully draw some attention to the incredible work students are doing all year round on *The Looking Glass*."

"It will also help us to sell enough copies of this year's edition of the anthology to print next year's, and thus become a truly self-sufficient society at the University of York."

THE LOOKING GLASS ANTHOLOGY

THE LOOKING GLASS ANTHOLOGY
volume five

written by students at
The University of York

YUSU assess disability access in its official club night venues

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

VENUES WHICH host official YUSU club nights are taking steps to become more accessible, including improving wheelchair access for disabled students.

On 22 September, delegates were sent to all official YUSU affiliated clubs to assess how accessible they are. The team, comprised of representatives from YUSU, York Parties and Callum Dziedzic, Goodricke College's Disability Representative, examined the changes clubs have already made and suggested possible improvements to access.

Many clubs are located up a set of stairs, which make the bars inaccessible to wheelchair users. However, the venues are also affected by planning permission restrictions, meaning that solutions like lifts or wheelchair ramps may not be possible.

Despite this, the clubs have said that they will do what they can to help all club-goers have a good night out.

Thomas Ron, Disabled Students' Officer, told *Nouse*: "I am naturally very happy that the clubs we are working with are taking such a proactive attitude and making the fixes required."

"They have been a pleasure to work with and I hope we will continue our cooperation for a long time."

"I am also happy that Goodricke College with its fantastic reps are taking such a lead on this and the progress we have made would not be possible without them."



Club Salvation is one of the venues looking to improve its accessibility policy

YUSU's official club nights for this year are Tuesdays at Kuda, Wednesdays at Salvation, Thursdays at Mansion and Sundays at Vodka Revolution. Of these, both Kuda and Mansion require navi-

gating stairs just to gain entry, and both Salvation and Revolution have stairs to upstairs bars.

There will also be more college-led events and campus club nights, including a termly LGBTQ night.

PETROC TAYLOR

Sharpest fall in graduate unemployment since 1999

Jamie Summers
NEWS REPORTER

FIGURES released by the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (HECSU) showed that last year saw the largest fall in graduate unemployment since 1999.

HECSU's statistics reveal that 7.3 per cent of graduates who completed their degree in the summer of 2013 were unemployed six months after their graduation, compared to 8.5 per cent of students who finished university in 2012.

This is marginally higher than the national unemployment figures, which were 7.2 per cent in the same period.

The sharp drop in unemployment, the largest for fifteen years, means that graduate unemployment is now at its lowest level since before the onset of the financial crisis, in 2007. At that stage, unemployment for graduates was at 5.5 per cent.

It was also revealed that there has been a decline in the number of

students working in retail, waiting and bar work, and those going on to further studies.

There was a rise in the number of graduates entering professional and managerial work, rising to 66.3 per cent from 64.9 per cent the year before.

The survey also found that the average graduate starting salary has increased this year by roughly £500 to £27,000.

The *Sunday Times* university league table, which ranks the University at 16th in the UK for 2015, awards York a graduate prospects score of 73.8, the 37th highest in the country.

The University of York's graduate employment went up from 43 per cent in 2012 to 44 per cent 2013 while the numbers in non-graduate employment went down to 18.5 per cent from 19.4 per cent in 2011/2012.

According to the University, wages have also risen for both those working in graduate employment



Graduate unemployment has seen its biggest year-on-year drop in 15 years, meaning more graduates are going into work

and non-graduate employment.

The average salary for those working in graduate employment was £27,085, compared to £15,308 for people working in non-graduate employment.

A spokesperson from the University told *Nouse*: "We are working to support new graduates in a variety of ways, for example liaising

with the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) to enhance our contact with new alumni, reminding them that we offer career support for life and promoting opportunities to engage with us online or in person (depending on their location)."

"We are also following up with students who made contact with us

shortly before graduating and those we spoke to on graduation day."

The University are currently developing their online resources for undergraduate and postgraduate students, including the interactive Timeline on our website and the employability and CV tutorials on the VLE. An interview tutorial will soon be available.

PHIL CASABLANCA

University events for World Mental Health Day announced

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

PLANS ARE underway for this year's World Mental Health Day which will take place on Friday 10 October.

The day, which is being organised by a team of students led by Naomi Barrow, Disability and Access Rep for Vanbrugh College, will involve a range of stalls being set up in YourSpace in James College between 10pm and 4pm.

The event is being backed by several charities and organisations, including Neuro Partners and Survive, a York based charity which provides support to women and men who have survived child sexual abuse, rape or sexual assault.

Lifeline, a charity which helps people affected by drug and alcohol addictions, will give students the opportunity to play Jenga whilst wearing beer goggles.

Services from the University will also be present throughout the day, including the Open Door team, Unity Health and Nightline.

Barrow has worked with YUSU and Open Door to ensure all events have been properly as-

essed.

One of the day's events involves Kevin, the Nightline Mascot, hiding around campus.

Students who find him will be encouraged to take selfies with the cow and post their photos on social media using the hashtag #FindKevin.

'Happiness bags' containing items such as a piece of string 'to hold things together when they fall apart' will also be handed out to people.

In addition, students will be encouraged to write things which relax them or help with cope with difficult situations on 'paper butterflies' which will then be displayed around campus.

There are plans to end the day with a concert in the evening, but details are yet to be confirmed.

Barrow told *Nouse*: "For this year's World Mental Health Day, we're focusing on the idea that everyone has mental health and we all need to look after our mental health in the same way as we look after our physical health."

"We've got a range of organisations involved as well as a number of different student-led events.

I'm incredibly thankful for all of the support we have received from everyone involved, particularly from the Open Door Team.

"We look forward to seeing you there on the day!"

The day is being funded in whole by vInspired, registered charity no. 1113255.

Thomas Ron, Disabled Students' Officer, said: "Mental Health is a major issue and every year the Disabled Students' Network puts on an event to raise awareness about this important issue.

"This year I am delighted that Naomi Barrow has stepped up to the plate to run this event and give it the importance it deserves.

"Already looking at the plans and the people that this event has engaged I hope it will be a great success and I am so happy so many people have been involved in it.

"Hopefully we can build from this day into more events and campaigning opportunities."

Last year's Mental Health Awareness Week events included a 'Living Library' and the introduction of the '#goodday #badday' social media campaign.



Constantine mascot revealed

York's newest college, Constantine, has finally revealed its mascot as an eagle.

The rare bird, branded 'Constanteagle', will live among the mascot kangeroos and gorillas in the small but growing animal kingdom on Heslington East, en-

tertaining the new intake of freshers.

So far the mascot has squawked at new students, scared off some innocent mallards, and already posed a threat to the Duck of the Day man. Don't mention the pink T-shirt, he's easily offended.

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Vanbrugh JCRC join forces with societies

Thomas Fennelly
NEWS REPORTER

VANBRUGH COLLEGE has announced plans to build relationships with societies in order to encourage members, known as 'Vanbrites', to get more involved in university life.

The brand new initiative, which is called the Vanbrugh Association Scheme, will be run and managed by the Vanbrugh Junior Common Room Committee.

Links have already been set up with societies that are 'local' to Vanbrugh, such as University Radio York, Band Society and Drama Society.

Baking Society and the York Student Think Tank have also agreed to take part.

The scheme hopes to provide mutual support for both the College and societies.

It is hoped that in return for use of Vanbrugh spaces and equipment, the societies will be able to support the College's events and encourage more involvement from members.

However, the scheme does also stress that Vanbrugh students should also be encouraged to join societies from across the entire university, and there are plans to expand the scheme further in the future.

The JCRC also hopes that the scheme will lead to joint events and increased promotion.

The committee is currently liaising with DramaSoc to allow a group of Vanbrugh freshers to produce a play within a week which will be performed to their peers.

Zoe Biles, Chair of DramaSoc, told *Nouse*: "DramaSoc are incredibly excited about creating new links with the colleges, and our Vanbrugh partnership is a reflection of our expansion as a society and our aim to



DRAMASOC

Drama Society is one of the societies taking part in Vanbrugh's new scheme

get even more people involved.

"Vanbrugh have been incredibly open to setting up a cohesive relationship with DramaSoc and we are so looking forward to seeing our exciting plans pan out."

The scheme will begin properly in Autumn Term when partner societies will be allowed to set up stands at Vanbrugh's Freshers' Fair on 30 September.

Michael Duncan, Chair of Vanbrugh College, said: "Vanbrugh's Association Scheme, whilst brand new, is also a recognition of the fantastic existing relationships we have with

many societies.

"With our students getting involved in so many societies and groups, this scheme is an exciting next step as we continue to develop and expand the links we already have, whilst also seeking to create entirely new ones."

Alongside their plans with the University's societies, the College is also running a campaign called 'Vanbrugh Presents You'. This aims to bringing students closer to the JCRC's decision making process and will take place in Weeks Two and Three of Autumn Term.

Library fines fall for second year running

Holly Knight
NEWS REPORTER

LAST YEAR saw a 38 per cent decrease in the amount of library fines given to students for failing to return their books on time.

The amount of fines levied in 2013/14 was £35,531, a drop from the £57,462 that was charged in 2012/2013.

This follows a 50 per cent decrease the previous academic year. In 2011/2012, the amount of library fines levied was £113,929.

The library has recognised its Flexible Loans policy as the reason for the decrease in the amount of fines.

A spokesperson from the University said: "The reduction in library fines has been driven by the success of the Flexible Loans initiative which we introduced in October 2012. Under Flexible Loans, students and other users need only return an item when another user has requested it, and therefore only receive a fine if they fail to do so."

Students incur a charge of £2

per day or part of a day if they fail to return a Flexible Loan item that has been requested by another user, compared to £1 per hour or part of an hour for a Key Text that has not been returned on time.

Key Texts can be borrowed for up to four hours or overnight if taken out after 6pm on weekdays or 2pm at the weekend.

Speaking of the introduction of the Flexible Loans scheme in 2013, Stephen Town, Director of Information, said: "Student experience is at the heart of all we do at York. We work hard to bring about change in response to the needs of our users."

"We are continuously looking to improve our services, and it made no sense to us to limit the time a user has an item if nobody else actually wants it."

The library aims to achieve zero fines and told *Nouse*: "We are pleased with this [recent] success and have an ongoing commitment to reducing fines."

"We are keen to work with students to achieve this."

AGATHA TORRANCE



The drop in library fines has been attributed to the Flexible Loans system

York falls five places in Times league table

Yvonne-Stefania Efstathiou
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY of York has fallen five places in the *Sunday Times* Good University Guide.

The University was ranked 16th, behind the likes of Surrey, Lancaster, Loughborough, East Anglia, and Birmingham, after being placed in 11th position last year. York also fell six places in the QS World Rankings.

While four UK universities made it into the top ten, York fell from 114th to 120th, with an overall score of 65.1 in the 2015 rankings.

Cambridge was ranked third in the world with Imperial, followed by Oxford in joint fifth with University College London.

King's College London and the University of Edinburgh were also included in the top 20.

This results come a year after



AGATHA TORRANCE

The University of York was 16th in the Sunday Times Good University Guide

the University of York was ranked among the top UK universities under 50 years old in the *Times Higher Education* Rankings.

In the under 50 rankings, York

was ranked seventh globally, the only UK institution in the top ten ahead of Warwick in 13th and Lancaster in 14th place.

In terms of international rank-

ings, York did not fare better, falling six places in the QS World Rankings.

While four UK universities made it into the top ten, York fell from 114th to 120th, with an overall score of 65.1 in the 2015 rankings.

York is currently ranked as 16th nationally in *The Guardian's* tables and 14th in the Complete University Rankings.

Sam Maguire, YUSU President, said: "Certain fluctuations in the University's standing both nationally and globally is to be expected."

"However, the decline not only this year but over the past number of years needs to be tackled. I have confidence in the University's plans to turn it around as set out in their strategy and expect York to progress in the rankings over the next five years."

George Offer, Academic Officer, reacted in a similar way. He

told *Nouse*: "Although this isn't great news, higher education is very competitive, and we need to make sure we continue to step up at York to stay on top. We'll be doing lots of work with our students and the University this year to make sure we climb back up."

A University of York spokesperson said: "There will always be year-to-year fluctuations in University performance and league table position depending both on local factors and what is going on elsewhere in the sector."

"For instance, last year, we went up from 13 to 11 in the *Times/Sunday Times* league table. York remains a strong University, committed to excellence in teaching and research and to delivering researched-led teaching."

The *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings will be published on 1 October.

News

Luanda Links fundraising

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

LUANDA LINKS, an organisation run by University of York alumni, have unveiled their new RACE2EDUCATE fundraising initiative.

Aiming to raise £2,500 to further the education of girls in West Kenya, the initiative will see 15 runners braving the Wimbledon Half Marathon on 12 October 2014 to raise money for the charity.

The charity was the brainchild of Esther Cameron and Stephanie Hines.

Founded in January 2013 when the two were second-year students, the charity exists to raise money for secondary school education for girls in western Kenya.

Lunada Links has currently funded five girls through their first year of secondary school education and board at St Bakhita's High School, and the aim of RACE2EDUCATE is to raise the money to fund their second year at school, including all associated costs such as uniform and textbooks.

The charity's first fundraising event in November 2013 brought in £600, and since then the charity has continued to expand, recruiting four other York alumni since.

The University of York Travel



York alumni run the education charity

Bursary allowed Hines and Cameron to travel to Luanda in person in September 2013 to set up the infrastructure, meaning the project works in collaboration with local communities.

Providing education for girls in Africa is "not only about educating the girl child but also a challenge to a culture of oppression or discrimination," according to Father Innocent, Luanda's Parish priest and on-the-ground project facilitator.

The sponsored girls send the charity regular updates on their progress. Beyond merely providing an education, Luanda Links aim to encourage the girls to shape their own development and fulfill their aspirations.

Students unhappy with campus food

Rosie Shields
EDITOR

A RECENT survey by the York Student Think Tank has shown widespread dissatisfaction among students in the availability of healthy food on campus. The survey, whose aim was to investigate the health status of students at the University, showed that the majority of participants rated Nisa as "poor" in both its food selection and prices.

More than 80 per cent who took part in the survey were not happy with the food prices in Nisa, and that the prices of the Halifax Nisa were greater than the one in Market Square. Two thirds of participants also complained about the lack of variety, with one student saying "none of it is healthy."

The consultation suggested that proximity was a major factor in deciding where to shop for students.

This could have ramifications for students' health, as the limited selection of food on campus could be driving students to choose convenient options instead of healthy ones.

The consultation noted: "during exam period, students are often constrained by time and tend to make poorer food choices with many increasing their consumption



PETROC TAYLOR

The Glasshouse in Langwith, where students pushed for time often go to eat

of junk foods." Participants suggested that improvements should be made on campus to increase the availability of healthy food, particularly in vending machines.

Some students also suggested cooking classes in the first few weeks of term and information on healthy eating during exam season.

The survey also looked more broadly at student health, with 47.5 per cent of the participants labelling their own health levels as "good".

A further change to students'

diets was found in the way they ate, with fewer students having set meals and instead preferring to "graze" throughout the day.

The report concluded that it was the University's job make healthy foods more accessible:

"The current lack of these services is felt by many to have a negative impact on student health. It is the responsibility of this University to provide these services to students to increase and encourage healthy eating and lifestyle behaviours."

Listings



16-17 October - Ross Noble.
The Barbican. 8pm. £25

MUSIC

30 September - This Is The Kit. Picture House Basement. 8pm. £7
-3 October - Wolfen EP launch. Picture House Basement. 8pm. £3
5 October - Max Raptor. Duchess. 7:30pm. £5
6 October - Demob Happy. Duchess. 7:30pm. £6
11 October - York Rocks Against Cancer. Grand Opera House. 7:30pm. £13
11 October - David Warn Maclean. Picture House Basement. 8pm. £5
12 October - The Amazing Snakeheads. Duchess.

7:30pm. £8

13 October - The Wytches. Duchess. 7:30pm. £8
15 October - Level 42. The Barbican. 7:30pm. £27
16 October - John Etheridge. Duchess. 7:30pm. £15
18 October - York Guildhall Orchestra. The Barbican. 7:30pm. From £15
19 October - Billy Lockett. Duchess. 7:30pm. £9
20 October - Conquering Animal Sound. Picture House Basement. 8pm. £5

STAGE

1-4 October - The Perfect Murder. Grand Opera House. 7:30pm. £7-£35
7 October - The Man Jesus. Grand Opera House. 7:30pm. £18.05-£26.50
9-12 October - Journey's End. Drama Barn. 7:30pm. £5
13 October - Life Without Porpoise. Drama Barn. 7:30pm. Free
16-19 October - Immaculate. Drama Barn. 7:30pm. £5
20 October - Black Out. Drama Barn. 7:30pm. Free

LECTURES

1 October - Out of the reach of children? Adolescent health and medicine use in Africa. The Treehouse. 6pm. Free
6 October - The Magazine as Catalogue, or, The Assemblage of Specimens. Bowland Auditorium. 4:30pm. Free
7 October - Understanding the Scottish Referendum. H/G/21. 3pm. Free
7 October - Feet of Clay. P/L/001. 7pm. Free
8 October - "No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails". National Science Learning Centre. 6pm. Free by ticket only
9 October - Hybrid bioelectronic devices. P/L/001. 7:30pm. Free
13 October - The Dyslexia Debate. ARRC Auditorium. 5pm. Free
15 October - Questioning 'Global Mental Health': The uses and non-uses of evidence. The Treehouse. 6pm. Free

FILM

30 September - Life After Beth. York Picture House. 9pm. Free
6 October - Dawn of the Planet of the Apes. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
9 October - The Grand Budapest Hotel. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
10 October - Godzilla. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
13 October - The Amazing Spider-Man 2. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
15 October - X-Men: Days of Future Past. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
16 October - Captain America 2. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
17 October - Guardians of the Galaxy. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3
20 October - Only Lovers Left Alive. P/X/001. 7:30pm. £3

COMEDY

4 October - Saturday Night Longue. Duchess. 7pm. £14
5 October - Komedia's Krater Comedy Club. Picture House Basement. 7:30pm. £12
7 October - Bridget Christie: A Bic For Her. Duchess. 7pm. £14
8 October - Andy Zaltzman: Satirist For Hire. Duchess. 7pm. £10
10 October - Tom Stade. Duchess. 7pm. £15
13 October - Wozzon Comedy. Picture House Basement. 7:30pm. £5
16-17 October - Ross Noble - Tangentman. The Barbican. 8pm. £25
20 October - Eric and Little Ern. Grand Opera House. 7:30pm. £13-£25

GENERAL INTEREST

1 October - Café Scintifique. Picture House Basement. 7pm. Free
3 October - Coquette Burlesque and Cabaret Club. Duchess. 7pm. £12
4 October - Down By The River Variety Show. Picture House Basement. 7:30pm. £10
9 October - Robert Temple. The Barbican. 8pm. £15

Meet the Sabbatical Officers

The Sabbatical team share their memories of first year, from roller discos to getting lost in town



Sam Maguire, YUSU President

What was your most memorable freshers experience?
Being really lost in town and being found by none other than our current York Sport Union President...

What advice would you give to this year's freshers?
So clichéd, but just be yourself. You are now at a place where whoever you are, there is a home for you.



Cass Brown once climbed Kilimanjaro.



Cass Brown, York Sport President

What was your most memorable freshers experience?
Winning Roses - our varsity against rival university Lancaster!

What advice would you give to this year's freshers?
Just get involved in sport, even if you haven't done sport before. Not only is it a great way to make friends and fill your time, but it will enhance your CV and provide you with loads of skills to make you more employable!



Chris Wall performs magic and appeared on the E4 show *Geeks* last year.

Chris Wall, Student Activities Officer

What was your most memorable freshers experience?
Erm... Difficult. Potentially due to the fact that my 19th birthday coincided with Viking Raid which means that I probably don't remember it...

What advice would you give to this year's freshers?
Try new things and meet new people. Everyone at York is wonderful to speak too and will happily help you out. Oh, and avoid making eye contact with the geese.



"Sign up to everything that sounds interesting at Freshers' Fair, try out as much as you can and stick with what seems fun."



Jemima Busby, Welfare and Community Officer

George Offer, Academic Officer

What was your most memorable freshers experience?
The pressure not to sound lame is high here ... The roller disco was my highlight. Dressing up in a crazy cool clashing outfit and trying not to fall on my face was super fun!

What advice would you give to this year's freshers?
Mingle, mingle, mingle! University is an opportunity to meet a whole mix of people and find great friends!

What was your most memorable freshers experience?
Playing a gig for the Masquerade ball last year, and being followed by some 'interesting' cabaret dancers. The roller disco in Hendrix Hall was great fun, until falling flat on my face.

What advice would you give to this year's freshers?
Get involved! Sign up to everything that sounds interesting at Freshers' Fair, try out as much as you can and stick with what seems fun. Freshers is the best opportunity to try something new and meet literally thousands of people - enjoy it!

Comment



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

Maria Fazio



Emma Watson bewitches the UN

The #HeForShe movement is one we should all take part in

Emma Watson, UN Good Will Ambassador, addressed the UN in New York on September 20th regarding the launch of a new movement He For She, which encourages men to actively advocate gender equality.

Some claim that 'the Harry Potter girl' has no place addressing the UN, however the intended outcome is being achieved. The movement is gaining momentum—people are talking about feminism, about gender equality. Having formally invited the male population to join the cause will only increase this momentum.

In an inspiring speech, Watson highlighted how damaging the current stereotype of feminism is, claiming it is frequently associated with 'man-hating' and being 'unattractive'. This has allowed many to ridicule the cause.

Watson went on to shut down this common misconception. She defined feminism as 'the belief that men and women should have equal

rights and opportunities', hoping to reduce the unpopularity of the term, and abolish the men vs. women stereotype.

The Harry Potter star spoke about how gender inequality affects both sexes, about how men often feel unable to express their feelings out of fear of appearing less 'macho', and suggested that if 'we all perceive gender on a spectrum not as two opposing sets of ideals' then we can start on the road to a more gender-equal society.

Despite controversy amongst some, this will be a great step forward for the gender equality movement as a whole. By attempting to remove the damaging 'ladylike' and 'manly' stereotype, the hope is that there will be no reason to live up to said stereotypes and thus both sexes will be freed from the expectation to behave in a certain way, and from the shame factor of not behaving in said way.

Following this empowering speech, Internet trolls on 4Chan

were accused of creating a website which appeared threatening to release nude photographs of Watson.

It was later revealed that the post was actually a hoax by marketing organisation Rantic, to prove to the US government why it is necessary to shut 4Chan down. And they did so successfully.

These misogynists, who routinely wield sexual terror as a threat, send the message that for women to avoid being sexually harassed, they must retreat and reduce their role in society.

Their presence is one of many reasons this movement needs to exist in the first place.

Overall, though, Watson has been a perfect spokeswoman for her cause. She refused to be intimidated even before the threat was revealed to be a hoax.

Furthermore, her speech actively worked to break down the barriers between men and feminism, and has served to help the cause significantly.



KATE MITCHELL

How young is too young?

Maria Correa



Should 16-year olds in Scotland have been allowed a vote?

The recent inclusion of 16 and 17-year-old voters in the Scottish referendum has generated a discussion regarding whether the UK voting age should be lowered for the next general election. This raises the question of whether a group of people who still live at home, do not support themselves or pay taxes should really be allowed to make decisions for those that do.

Proponents of lowering the voting age argue that the Scottish referendum has proven that young

people can be passionate about being involved in the processes of political decision-making, and that they should be allowed to contribute to making choices that impact their future. Though it could be said that there is some truth to these statements, the fact is that at such a young age, most teenagers simply do not have the life experience required to be able to truly make an informed decision, even if such decisions will affect their futures. That is not to say that young people can-

not be involved in debates regarding politics or be aware of political issues, but that nothing can replace actual experience in an adult world.

It's also crucial to consider the age of voters in context with other age related restrictions. A 16 year-old teenager is unable to legally drive, drink alcohol and is still considered a child by law. If a 16-year-old isn't considered mature or responsible enough to be in control of their own alcohol consumption, then this implies that they are ulti-

mately not fully in control of their own mind and body. Is it therefore reasonable to consider a young person mature enough to vote on the future of a country, when they are

“The Scottish referendum has proven that young people can be passionate about getting involved in political decision-making”

not yet responsible enough to make many other decisions for themselves?

In addition to this, the simple fact is that many of these supposed voters would still be legally classed as children and have never lived away from their parents. We should not assume that these young voters would automatically share their parents' political views. However, with the majority still living at home, they may not yet have had the chance to be truly exposed to a variety of political ideologies and form their own independent and informed perspective. Whilst everyone is shaped and influenced by the environment around them, young voters would be particularly vulner-

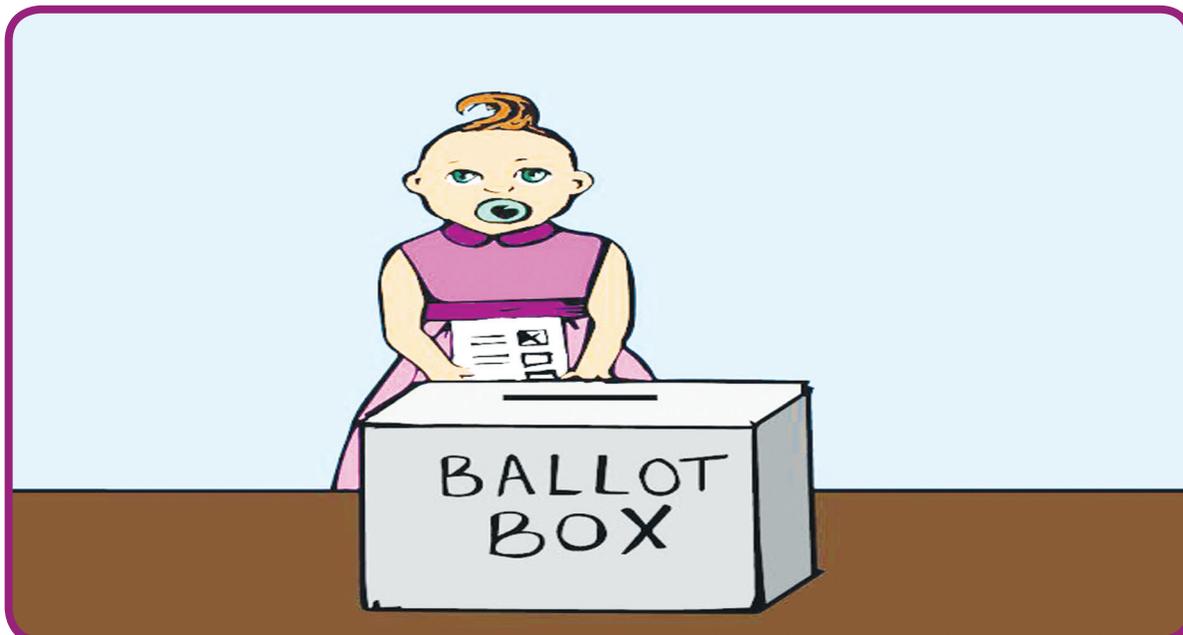
able to such influences. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether their political beliefs could yet be regarded as truly independent and personal. Although political maturity essentially depends on the individual and may be reached at any age, it seems safer to allow young people to vote at an age where they have at least lived independently and had time to be exposed to a range of political viewpoints.

To hold off on giving teenagers a vote isn't to deny them the opportunity of becoming involved in politics. Young people should be encouraged to be politically active and given the chance to develop their own beliefs.

“Is a young person mature enough to vote on the future of a country?”

However, this doesn't necessarily have to be done by rushing into giving them a vote. Developing an informed and independent political stance is something that requires time.

We should be focusing on how we can help educate young people on political issues, not forcing them to make up their minds before they are ready.



KATE MITCHELL

Comment

NOUSE
VIEWS FROM
THE
OUSE



Well, here we are again. It's always SUCH a pleasure. Time for another year. Time to slope off to your new house for a brand new story with your friends-turned-flatmates. And silently hope that story doesn't end with "before turning the gun on himself".

But this week isn't for you people! It's for the FRESHERS! Those whose burning desire for independence falls somewhere between 'snow queen singing on a mountain' or 'that vision behind Alex Salmond's eyes as he cries himself to sleep'. Any minute now they'll start dumping tea in a harbour.

As such, I've decided to use this first column to answer some questions I saw on the Freshers' Facebook page.

First up, "What happens if I swim in the lake?" Lots of things! Maybe you grow a kidney made of teeth. Maybe you turn into a goose. Don't worry, though: official policy dictates that whatever disease you catch will probably get named after you.

"What's the Live and Loud lineup going to be like?" No idea. The only name I know from the poster is Hodor, and I've been told he's not actually real. Then there's DJ Fresh, who's a DJ who's fresh, and last on the list is "Duke"—consensus appears to be that it's the Duke of York.

"He had 10,000 tracks, he marched them up to the top of the hill and then he DROPPED IT (make your own dubstep noises here)."

"Where's my timetable?" Ha! Silly fresher. Doesn't even know that time is an illusion.

"Will there be a poster sale?" There will ALWAYS be a poster sale. Some day our Sun will expand and our tiny teeming rock will be swallowed whole, and at the University of York you'll be able to buy a poster of it.

Then there's just a general warning not to bring summer clothes, to make sure the Southerners don't freeze to death. It's hard enough for them—nobody here speaks English. Some of them aren't even that fond of dear old Maggie.

People keep offering them "butties", which is probably some perverse sexual code.

And that, sadly, is all there's space for. Just remember – don't do anything I wouldn't do! "I" being an anonymous entity, here, so really I could be doing anything. Do ANYTHING.

... Except THAT. Ew. You weirdo.

Follow the debate:
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York's league-table slip: what does it mean?

Victoria Chater-Lea



York's drop in the ranks is disheartening, but not the end of the world

A new academic year brings a new release of the University League tables, and with it, what seems to be very bad news. It appears that the University of York is slipping in standards, as measured categorically by each separate establishment.

Last year, the Sunday Times

“The institution has slipped to 16th, being overtaken by Loughborough and the University of East Anglia”

placed York eleventh on the UK University league table. However, it has since slipped to sixteenth, being overtaken by Loughborough and the University of East Anglia.

The Complete University Guide has ranked York 14th, down from a modest 12th last year, and the Guardian has kept York at 16th from last year.

The question is, why is York slipping? Comparing our university to other institutions in the top 20 of the Sunday Times shows two potential answers right away. York has one of the highest ratios of students to staff, and spends close to the least on facilities and staff.

Suppose there is a correlation there. Should more staff be employed in order to raise the rankings? Would that make the University itself better or would it just go to improve our statistical rankings?

A further scan of the table shows that York has the second worst graduate prospects in the Top 20, above only the University of East Anglia. The Sunday Times states that "scores in the National Student Survey—a traditional strength of the university - slipped in 2014".

Perhaps we are not all happy to be here, with the considerable drop in student satisfaction to 54th in the UK.

A closer inspection of York's ranking on the Sunday Times table shows that student satisfaction is especially low in Nursing (70.6 per cent), and this is reflected in the specific subject league table. At the other end of the spectrum, Archaeology has received the greatest student satisfaction of 94.7 per cent, the highest of any university's archaeological happiness.

These assertions are all well and good, and can show the university's administration a lot of areas to improve. However, can the tables really be taken without a pinch of salt?

The University League Table classification has come under fire for judgements on performance linked to research and reputation.

Bernard Longden from Liverpool Hope University has called for the US based Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education to be used for ranking, to reflect the different strengths of all universities.

Appeals have been made against the current 'U-Multirank' system, which lets students choose categories to compare as consumers personal conflicts may flaw the data.

However, if a student has a problem with the institution, then

“Even if the tables reflect a slip in rankings, York's long-standing reputation will continue to be upheld”

surely it is right to reflect on the institution.

Obviously the various tables will have a huge amount of predisposed influences from the league's architects.

League tables tend to heavily weight research as the most important measurement, and fail to properly account for teaching quality according to The Cambridge Student. Yet for York, this favours our stand-

ing in the league tables.

Research remains renowned considering our young age according to all three University League Tables. Additionally, York has made a swift move up the world rankings from 124th to 120th in the Sunday Times table.

The indicators used to rank universities are extremely subjective, but it's near impossible to create a table without comparing measures in different proportions. Data is limited, which has led to a tendency to 'count what can be measured rather than measuring what counts' as reported by TCS.

The league tables will inevitably affect student applications, but surely York will continue to see numbers rise in line with continued population growth.

Personally, it's almost disheartening to see York slide down the ranks, but they still remain in the top 20. Student satisfaction ought to be higher, especially with an astounding number of services on campus.

Teaching quality is subjectively measured, however maybe it's time to hire more staff if this indicator really is as important as it's made out to be. Which brings another question, how important are these rankings? Even if the tables reflect a slip in York's ranking, its long-standing reputation will continue to be upheld.

Comment

NOUSE



Est. 1964

We must all do our part to stamp out lad culture

There are many elements to university life— two of the most prominent, especially around Freshers' Week, are the cultures of meeting women in clubs and drinking as much as you can. Normally, these are perfectly fine, and seen as pretty much par for the course. However, there is always a minority willing to take it too far, and from these a thousand-and-one examples of "lad culture" are spawned.

We all know what that term implies: the treatment of women as objects to be groped, harassed or abused without any input or consent. This is never acceptable under any circumstances, but especially during Freshers' Week, when the campus receives an influx of students still adjusting to the city and learning to live on their own.

The University itself has taken steps to eradicate lad culture, and ensure the safety of freshers during this fragile first term. YUSU's Night-Safe initiative, the Clubbers' Bus and the use of STYCs to guide students through the city are all important measures there to keep students safe. But we as students need to be involved too.

Watching our own behaviour, as well as that of others, and looking out for our friends is vital, in order to keep ourselves safe. Shutting down an inappropriate comment or warding off a predatory gesture can make all the difference, and make our city and campus a little bit safer for all those who inhabit it.

English assessment changes were ill-handled

Recent changes in the English syllabus will ultimately be good for students. Opening up more opportunities for dialogue between tutors and students to work on special modules and giving more time to absorb feedback should hopefully help essays to improve. Any changes from open exams, due to the broad nature of questions and the eleven days' time they have to do it, will be negligible.

However, failing to adequately inform third-years of this decision was a blunder that led to mass discontent. The third year of a degree is the most important, providing 60 per cent of the final grade, and seemingly radical changes to module content panicked a lot of students very quickly. This should have been cut off before it occurred.

Student ambassadors, though, deserve credit for their handling of the situation, and emails were soon sent from the department to quickly dispel any fear. All this is, hopefully, a lesson for the future.

AstroSoc aims for the final frontier

Following in the footsteps of such luminaries as Neil Armstrong, Yuri Gagarin and Howard the Duck, one brave (and plastic) member of York's waterfowl community plans to cross the final frontier and head to space, with the help of our local AstroSoc.

While this is but one small step for man, it's a significantly larger step for a rubber duck, which has no actual legs to speak of. AstroSoc are currently endeavouring to raise the funds needed for this expedition, from generous students willing to help the University of York stake its claim to the universe. This should, at least, help us with our issues regarding accommodation space.

Will AstroSoc's next mission involve sending Greg Dyke to Mars? Will astronauts soon be menaced by stumpy, waddling explorers hissing through their spacesuits? Will Peter Capaldi ultimately be chosen to play the twelfth rubber duck, in a shock casting decision? This editor waits with bated breath.

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Anyone fancy a cuddle? There's an app for that



Olivia Turner

It's not for everyone, but maybe society needs it

Have you ever suddenly fancied a cuddle, just a cuddle, nothing more? Then a new app called Cuddlr may be perfect for you. As of 11 September, those with access to iOS have been able to find strangers in the near vicinity who claim to have the exact same desire; for innocent physical touch.

Cuddlr works in a very similar way to past crazes such as Tinder, where the app links up to your Facebook profile and finds other users near to your current location. However, unlike Tinder, the founder of Cuddlr, Charlie Williams, has no desire for the app to be used as a means of finding a quick romp in the sack.

Instead, Cuddlr's purpose is to provide "spontaneous physical affection carrying no further expectation". You simply pick a user you like the look of, send a cuddle request and wait for a response.

Since Britain was voted the sec-

“You simply pick a user you like the look of, send a cuddle request, and wait”

ond loneliest country in the world, with 34 per cent of houses lived in by single occupants, there is a market for an app that provides the opportunity for physical contact. For

many, Cuddlr provides an escape from the disconnected nature of modern society, and its lack of real intimacy and closeness, by allowing them to meet strangers for the sole purpose of forming a temporary connection.

“The importance of touch for human development and stress relief has become lost”

The importance of touch for human development and stress relief has become lost in a society where people spend more time with their phones than other. Thus, the presence of Cuddlr is arguably, although rather depressingly, necessary to keep those whose lives are lacking in physical intimacy emotionally content.

The innocent intentions of the app also provide a refreshing change from the hook-up society that has been fuelled by other apps such as Tinder. Today, any mention of physical contact is blackened by sexual innuendos and comments; it has become an expected consequence of physical touch that one thing will lead to another. Cuddlr allows for the common pressures associated with physical intimacy to be wiped away and for physical touch to become as simple as it

should be; it's just a cuddle after all.

However, the reality of these innocent aims for Cuddlr being respected by every user is questionable. There would never be a sure way of preventing the app being used to find a potential hook-up whatever the aims of the founders were. The release of the app also raises questions about safety and the dangers of meeting strangers with the intention of physical contact; would everyone stop at a cuddle?

Of course the app provides a service for reporting questionable Cuddlr users, and you can also rate any awkward cuddles accordingly. However, neither of these aspects of the app provide a definite safety net for users and the usual dangers of meeting a stranger on your own will always be present.

There is no doubt that Cuddlr won't be the kind of app that everyone will want to download. It will certainly have a very niche market, as the idea of meeting a stranger for a hug will inevitably be seen as odd by many, including myself.

But who am I to judge? As long as people use the app along with a bit of common sense, for example meeting in public rather than private, I doubt it will cause any harm. In fact, it may even provide a benefit to its users.

It is undeniable that modern society is, at times, extremely lonely and the opportunity to have cuddles on tap does seem quite appealing; after all, everyone needs a cuddle once in a while.

KATE MITCHELL



♥ pgdating cuddlecrew,
hugginghoney
genericgirl One month
since our first cuddle!
#Anniversary #CuddlrBae

Comment

The library that doesn't give a book

Rebecca Darling



San Antonio's "bookless library" is not the way forward

The immense popularity of e-books and tablets have resulted in bookstores vanishing from high streets up and down the country and, more generally, a steep decline in book sales. Now, it's apparently gone even further. Florida Polytechnic University have introduced their brand new state of the art library, which houses no physical copies of books. Absolutely none - there's not even a single copy of *The Great Gatsby* tucked away on a shelf somewhere.

Bibliophiles and bookworms everywhere have been dreading this day. It's a bleak outlook for the trusty paper-and-ink books. Instead of using physical books as a primary resource, its inaugural class will be tapping away on the sleek screens of over 130,000 e-books, tablets and laptops. This follows the opening of San Antonio's hugely popular Bibliotech, the world's first all-digital, book-shunning library, in 2013.

The new university's radical library has been labelled by many as a "bookless library", yet this doesn't really feel right. The whole concept of a "bookless library" seems hugely oxymoronic in itself, as books have arguably always been the most fun-

go forward without books". Bold, yes, but is it relevant to eschew actual books for their technological counterpart? Although many see

“Many professors, such as Kathleen McCook, have argued that the quality of reading experience will be lost in translation.”

this as progress and a big step towards some sort of futuristic digital takeover, I actually think it belongs on Charlie Brooker's "Black Mirror" series. I don't think books will ever

stop being relevant - in society or in a library - regardless of whether you're studying a science or an art.

Many professors, including the distinguished professor of librarianship Kathleen McCook, have argued that the quality of experience will be lost in translation.

Frantically running around half of the library and hundreds of aisles trying to locate the last copy of that crucial text for revision is actually part of the university library experience.

Instead, people will spend their time casually flicking between some electronic journal and Facebook and a cute video of a cat on Youtube - which they could have effectively done at home. The worry is that the "intimate connection between people and the printed word" will be

missing entirely in this new digitalised library.

While many are voicing their opinions that the digital library is some sort of heavenly utopia of information and knowledge, what is wrong with a library housing both physical books and electronic resources?

I feel like this "bookless library" trend is simply demonstrating the strange relationship modern society has with technology.

We completely fetishise the latest, innovative device (whether it's the iPhone 6 or Windows' surface laptops) and we become fixated.

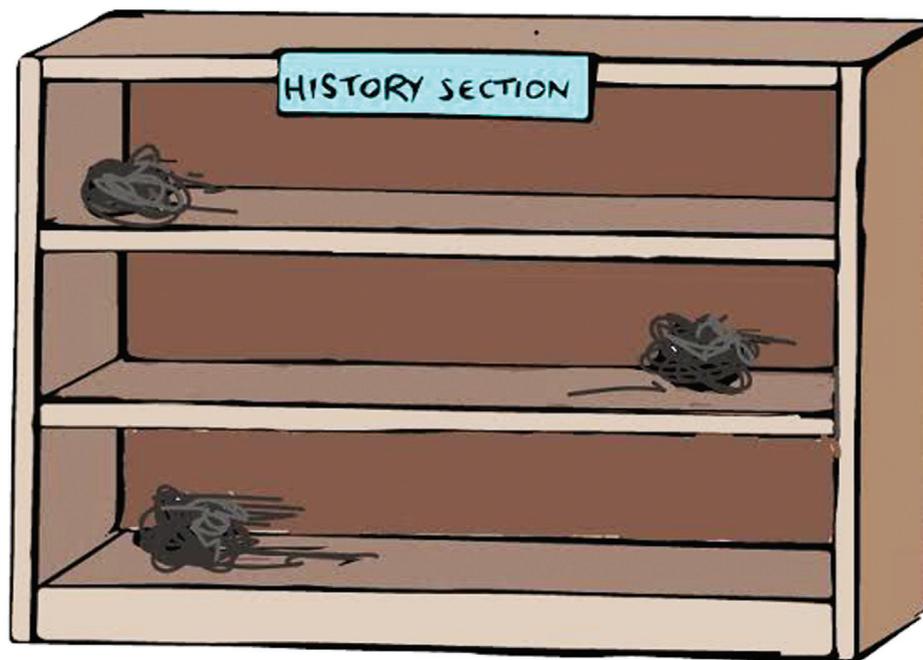
We're just always waiting for the next big thing and I don't think this all-digital library is it. All I can say is that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

KATE MITCHELL

“The whole concept of a bookless library seems hugely oxymoronic in itself, as books are the central component of a library”

damental, central component of a library. The JB Morrell has over a million printed books. It's hard for me to even contemplate aisles upon aisles, shelves upon shelves of dusty traditional tomes gone, to be replaced by rows of shiny Maes and iPads for your perusal. It seems to be more like a glorified Apple store than a library to me.

The university's director of libraries, Kathryn Miller, stated that it is a "boldly relevant decision to



Nicer at Nisa?

Niall Whitehead



Comment Editor

Recently, the York Student Think Tank produced a report on student nutrition throughout campus. They didn't find anything too shocking, like that the average York student survives on helium and adrenaline pills, or that Vanbrugh residents swallow six ducks in their sleep per year. Instead, one thing they learned was that "there is an overwhelming dissatisfaction with Nisa."

Complaints varied, when it came to the specifics. More than 80 per cent said the food was overpriced, while two-thirds considered it low-quality (shame, really - you get free maggots and everything). Another bugbear was the fact that the Nisa near Halifax actually charges more than the one in Market Square, causing students "frustration and discontent."

The report has its flaws, admittedly. The sample size for both surveys was significantly smaller than the Think Tank were hoping for, which does limit their capacity to speak out on behalf of every student at York. But it matches with general opinion, at least from what I've heard—it's fine for grabbing a few trinkets, but actually doing your shopping there'll stick you quickly in agonizing debt ... well, you know. *More* agonizing debt.

In fact, it's been accepted. This is just the price you pay - destiny is calling you, at all times, and so are lectures and coursework and seminars, and if you want to go for the nearest option you'd better be prepared to pay extra for it.

Now, is Nisa responsible for making sure students manage to eat properly? Not really, no.

Reasonable prices and quality are things the University should consider when handing out contracts, granted, especially with new shopping developments on Heslington East coming up, but Nisa's a business and as such their purpose is to make money.

Besides, they can't afford to be too expensive. York's campus has a plethora of nearby supermarket alternatives, from ASDA to Morrisons to Aldi, and even if you can't make it there yourself, delivery charges between a flat of six are negligible.

As a result, Nisa does have some good deals - prices on spirits, for instance, and certain chocolates are the same or cheaper than at their local competitors.

But there's still room to improve, and there's also a business advantage to improving their quality and prices, too. The survey notes that a majority of its participants said they'd use Nisa more often if it changed its ways, especially due to its proximity.

Ultimately, Nisa taking the results of this study into account could well improve their sales in the future. Meanwhile if you, as a student, don't like the place, don't shop there. Vote with your wallet—it's the best way to send a message.

Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



@yusuactivities
Chris Wall

24 Sep

Looking at what Freshers events I want to get to next week and the colleges have made it so hard. So much awesome happening!!!



@_Paul_Tobin_
Paul Tobin

25 Sep

Hodor is djing at @yusu #freshers week! Hodor.

25 Sep

@roryericsimpson
Rory Simpson



Got Freshers' Flu before the freshers have arrived. Bloody great.

25 Sep

@graceoconnor_
Grace O'Connor



Massively looking forward to arrivals weekend and Freshers week after that session and meeting everyone @ConstantineColl @SAConstantine

Comment

What are you most ...

Looking forward to next year?

Amassing thousands of pounds of debt.

Ruby,
first year student



Duck density.

Connor,
first year student

The beautiful sunny northern weather.

Liz,
first year student



Making friends.

Alex,
second year student

Oxbridge leads the way against sexual abuse

Sofia Geraghty

Deputy Comment Editor



Compulsory sexual harassment classes are sadly necessary

Oxbridge students will have a new addition to their introductory workshops this year: don't touch drugs, don't play with matches, and don't sexually abuse fellow students. Naturally many of the country's brightest students are offended by the compulsory class. No means no, it's a pretty clear concept after all.

However, the workshops are not there to inform students that sexual harassment is wrong, they are there to inform students that sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

Nearly every girl I know has been unwillingly groped, slapped or cat-called at some stage, but no one I know has ever reported such an event. The problem is not that the small minority of men that do these things think that it's okay, it's just they know they will get away with it.

Groping is of course far less serious than rape, however they are both in the 'sexual harassment' category because they both spring from the notions of theft and entitlement.

“ Nearly every girl I know has been groped, slapped or name-called at some stage ”

Sex and attraction are big parts of university life and this is a good thing, but problems arise when people feel they don't have to play by the rules.

Take club culture. In many ways sex is at the centre of the clubbing scene. People dress up, whether it is

in the form of a tight dress, a suit or sleeveless shirt, because they want to be considered attractive (even if just in general). Most of the music is sexually orientated, a lot of grind-

“ Sex and attraction are big parts of university life, and this is a good thing, but problems arise when people feel they don't have to play by the rules ”

ing and questionable dance moves will be taking place and people will be drunk and therefore more confident. It is the perfect environment to flirt and attempt to 'woo', so to speak.

Part of the fun comes from the fact it is a lot like a game, or exchange. Whether by being sexy, funny, charming, cute or just plain weird, people can attempt to attract the attention of anyone they want. They may succeed or of course they may epically fail.

This game is not the problem, the problem arises when people think they are above having to earn the attention and consent of the person they are attracted to. An individual who goes around groping people clearly does not feel that they should have to put any effort into gaining consent.

They are superior to the game, rules and other players and can get

what they want by force. This person is more likely to be a man only because our society has a long history of men having more power than women. If a woman chooses to look sexy or act flirtatiously then she has a certain amount of power, touching her sexually regardless of her consent therefore rids of her of this power and reaffirms that of the man. This having been said the issue is not unique to heterosexual men.

The huge majority of men of course wouldn't want to grope a woman even if they knew they wouldn't get punished, 99.9 per cent wouldn't dream of raping a woman even if it was legal, and most men really don't want to sleep with a girl verging on paralytic. In an ideal

“ The huge majority of men wouldn't grope a woman ”

world, just like theft, there would be no need for sexual harassment laws to be in place or enforced. However, the fact that so many people are still experiencing harassment shows that this is definitely not the case.

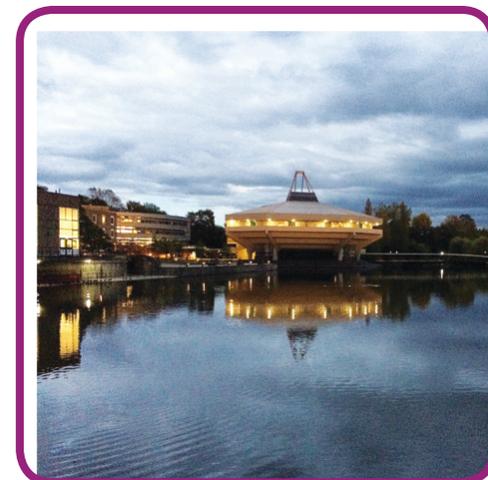
A small member of individuals still feel that they are entitled to get what they want, even if it means riding another person of the intrinsic right to their own body.

Until there is universal respect therefore, universities must protect their students by enforcing the rules they have in place. If a workshop is needed to remind all students that sexual harassment will not be tolerated then, while this is sad, it is definitely for the best.

#minstergram

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

Visited my friend last week at uni, what a beautiful campus! #york #yorkuni #university #trees #pond #friends #beautiful #british @sarahnicolalouise



You can't not fall in love with a campus like this. #nature #lake #yorkuni #ducks

@charlotteschreurs

MUSE.

30.09.2014

50 Years Strong

The Shoot
celebrates 50
years of Nouse





M9. Photographer Trevor Christensen takes photos of his subjects whilst naked



M12. 50 years strong: The Shoot celebrates 50 years of Nouse



M21. Michelin-starred chef Michel Roux Jr. shares his stories from the food world

Music.

M16. We catch up with Henry Ruddell of Leeds band and NME favourite Eagulls.

M17. Folk singer-songwriter Frank Turner talks to *Nouse*

Food.

M20. Beat your freshers' week hangover with our useful guide

Fashion.

M10. Easily accessorise a simple outfit with our pick of the best 'it' bags

M11. Is style defined by age-determined boundaries?

Arts.

M8. Laura Dodsworth's project challenges perceptions of the female body.

Gaming.

M7. Our gaming editors choose their favourite games to pair with pre-drinks

Film.

M19. Classic films and TV series to get you in the mood for the start of term

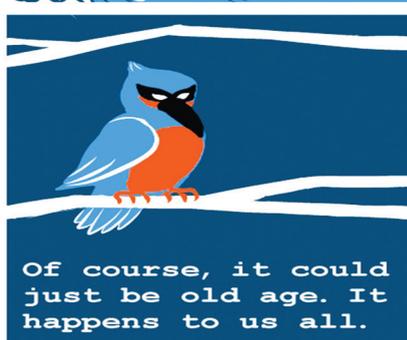
Image Credits.

Cover and Top Middle : Petroc Taylor
Top Left: Trevor Christensen Top Right: Shelley

The first installment of Muse's murder mystery serial from **Alexandra Craven**



Kingfisher's Court
#1 A S Craven



Of course, it could just be old age. It happens to us all.



The Black Swan is Dead.



But the coroner insisted on checking -



"Poisoned!"

- and she's usually right.

“I thought, well if I give it a go and it fails, it won't be worse than what I'm doing now!”



Andrew Ryan

Comedian performing at YUSU Comedy Night

My worst memory of a gig is from I was doing my Edinburgh show one year and a bloke fell asleep during it. His phone went off and he was in such a deep sleep he didn't even wake up. He was so bored, I actually nearly sent him in to a coma.

The strangest thing that has ever happened at a gig was when I was chatting to a bloke and his girlfriend on the front row and I heard another woman shout his name. He was actually married and was having an affair and his wife's friend was sitting at the back of the gig! Things got awkward and he left at the break.

What I think makes me funny is that I just like being myself and telling stories. I think I've just found that being myself makes people laugh!

When I think about creating new material I normally focus on small things and just open it up more and try and use my feelings about the situation. Hopefully people feel the same and we all laugh as one. If not, it's a tough gig!

The comedian I admire the most is Tommy Tiernan. He's an Irish comedian and he was the first one I ever saw live and will never forget it.

Tell us a joke? I tell stories, so no jokes am afraid!

I decided that I wanted to be a comedian when I worked in a call centre and my life was going nowhere. I always wanted to be a comic and I thought well if I give it a go and it fails, it won't be worse than what am doing now!

My most unappealing habit is that I have slight OCD on locking doors, i need to check three times that a door is locked.

If I could go back in time I'd go back to 1998 and start doing stand up comedy straight after school!

My most treasured possession is my London Marathon medal. Everytime I look at it it reminds me that if you work hard you can find one of them on ebay and convince people you ran the race.

In my set at the university this weekend I will be giving lots of advice to students about what life is like after uni. The constant pain of being alive, the misery and the inevitability that none of your dreams will ever be achieved. Very uplifting stuff.

The worst thing that anybody has ever said to me is: 'Sorry we cannot increase your overdraft'... Some bloke at the bank.

Editor's note



Muse Editor Grace Marsh evaluates being a second year

And so it begins. By it I mean the start of a new academic year at our favourite Northern university, and I don't mean Leeds. We're in the midst of freshers' week and for first years it's the most exciting time of their lives, ever. For everyone else, well, we can't wait to see the back of it.

What I'm most excited about is the increasing level of authority that being a second year brings. No more will I go to the library and feel like i'm stealing the valuable revision space of second and third years; and no more will I get annoyed reading tweets complaining about it. Instead, I myself can become a member of the 'freshers in the library' hate club. However, what i'm not looking forward to is having to remember that this year, my degree counts. Last week I had to remind myself that I was at university to do a degree; that's when you know you need to take a step back.

On a more *Nouse*-related level, we'll be at the freshers' fair on Saturday in the media tent, so please come and keep us company. Otherwise we'll have to talk to the other media societies on campus and that wouldn't be fun...

We're also holding a welcome meeting on Tuesday of week 2 in D/L/002, where you can come along and awkwardly chat to the current team (also known as mingling), which will be fun. You'll be able to find out about all the roles available, whether you're an eager freshers or a second or third year in a panic about the lack of credible work experience on your CV. If you're interested in getting involved, write a little something in the last edition before elections. For all things related to the world of Muse, email muse@nouse.co.uk and we'll try our best to reply promptly.

This edition of *Muse* has come with its ups and downs. We've had disasters, disruptions and everything inbetween but thankfully it has all turned out okay in the end, just. Hopefully you'll enjoy reading this edition's content. Interview wise, we've got a lovely interview with folk-punk singer Frank Turner and the drummer of Leeds band Eagulls. The amazing Michel Roux Jr. is interviewed in food and drink this edition and tells us about his well-established career.

Arts are following their usual trend of managing to include nudity in some form, in every edition: we talk to a photographer that takes his photos in the nude (an interesting concept), remember an artist that paints naked women, and discuss an art project called 'Bare Reality'. In gaming we pick our favourite games to play during pre-drinks and for something to do during whilst recovering from your hangover during freshers' week. This edition's fashion shoot celebrates the 50 long years that Nouse has been in print and for an insight into York, take a look at our feature about the street performers in York city centre.

Happy Freshers' Week, *Muse* readers.



Interview by Grace Marsh

My First Day: Discord at the Silent Disco

Alfie Packham reminisces about his freshers' week experience

The first day may be a minor event in the grand and vibrant scheme of a university course, but it tends to be among the most memorable. Mine was a positive experience, but to this day I maintain that more care could have gone into the opening event laid on for Halifax College's 2012 intake.

I mean, whose idea was a silent disco on the very first night? My guess is a keen committee of student union types who say "guys" all the time:

"Okay, guys, this meeting is a big one. We need an event that hits our freshers in the face with a feeling of, like, 'wow', it's my first day at York and I'm really enjoying myself. Shoot."

"A silent disco?"

"Boom. We've got this, guys. What's a silent disco?"

"It's, like, a disco where everyone wears headphones and listens to music, but not necessarily the same music that everyone else is listening to. Like public transport but with dancing and less alcohol."

"Looks like we have our first event sorted, guys. Now, let's track down that busker we saw by Waterstone's who looks a bit like Professor Green - he'll make a great headliner for Live & Loud ..."

The day began with hope. I felt good sat on my new mattress surrounded by cardboard boxes full of equipment for the post-A-Level Renaissance: some clothes, some pans, an optimistically large box of Durex, a toastie maker. My new housemates were all going to the silent disco that was happening in a tent on 22 acres, so I went too; it sounded like a good way to meet people.

We didn't anticipate that a silent disco actively makes it more difficult to meet people than any normal situation would. We arrived at the venue late - unfashionably so, due to the mandatory Halifax T-Shirts - and there found a groaning flash mob of mutual strangers half-heartedly covorting to both Psy's "Gangnam Style" and Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" at the same time. Conversation was off the menu. "Silent disco", it transpired, was mere abbreviation for



"silent discord".

Of course, some slurred exchanges could be heard on that eerie, musicless dancefloor, but they were mostly along the lines of: "Hey, I just met you / And this is crazy / But here's my number / So call me maybe?" "EEEEH, SEXY LAYDEH."

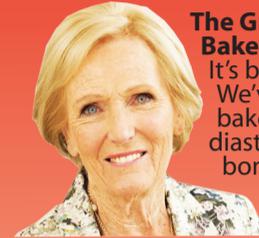
At least the committee had basic introductions covered. On our white T-shirts a printed message read: "Hello! My name is ---- and I'm studying ----", with the gaps filled in by housemates in felt tip. On meeting someone new, we needed only to point at ourselves while we writhed in confusion to the Black Eyed Peas. For some reason, though, this information was printed on the backs of the T-shirts, which gave rise to a weird, room-spanning waggle-dance of freshers courtship. If I had a pad on me I

would've taken some field notes.

Maybe I'm slightly bitter about my first day now because my headphones broke. Or perhaps because I would later discover that I'd been wearing a T-shirt with "Hello! My name is COCK" written on it. I've also considered that my bitterness might well be own my fault for having tried to look cool at a silent disco.

My unsolicited and patronising advice to first years, then, is to ignore the patronising advice about how to have the best "freshers experience". Just be involved in something. Avoid standing on the periphery taking field notes and trying to be cool. Seize those headphones, functional or not, but some questionable moves, and embrace the discord of your first university days.

GOING UP...



The Great British Bake Off.

It's been a journey. We've witnessed baked alaska disasters, and Mary's bomber jackets. And soon we'll find out the winner.

Britain's Got Talent.

Everyone's favourite cheesy Saturday night entertainment is coming to campus in their search for talent. We better start searching as it could take a while.

Emma Watson.

Blew us away with her UN speech whilst women around the world watched and wished they were her.



Cuddlr

Download the app for some no-strings-attached cuddling.

iPhone 6.

No one wants a bendy phone. Especially not a bendy iPhone.



The campus gym

Prices are now so high we can't even afford racket hire. Goodbye treadmill.

Mansion

No longer a YUSU student night. because of a lack of organisation. Off to the new Fibbers we go.

'YES' tattoos

Patriotic scots aren't feeling so smug now that they have a permanent reminder of the failed campaign.



GOING DOWN

Heslington East

Sam Hickford



You'll see no swans nor coots or geese
When you're over in Heslington East
Just strange fellows reveling in antiquated garments
Searching for the Theatre, Film and Television Department
Or grizzly men with looks of sturdy defiance
Studying things like Computer Science.
Where the fuck even is Constantine -
Will they ever install a cash machine?
And not even one solitary cloud,
Demure, descends upon Live and Loud.
The omega call of the careful cherub
Will collapse the walls of the Ron Cooke Hub.
No: I'll find your long sought-after shadow
Among these imitation meadows.
There's someone lurking, lissome, lithe,
Through the languidness of shit Langwith -
My life experience's ultimate peak
Grazes the grounds of gaudy Goodricke.
Let me believe it: let me be proud
Of "bars" as dead as The Glasshouse.
I'll find you standing humbly by
The glint of the lake reflected in your eye.
I'll stride with you among this plaintive plain -
Gliding gently among Kimberlow Lane.
No: You're just another awkward reverie
From starvation by insufficient facilities.
Oh Heslington East! Oh Heslington East!
All you've given is paltry peace.

Paving the way to free TV

Freesat creator, **Emma Scott**, talks to Aaron Stennett about Greg Dyke, the BBC and adapting to the culture of UK media

The way that television is consumed within the UK has evolved over the years, with increasingly popular video-on-demand services driving companies like Blockbuster to extinction. Television companies face the task of adapting and embracing these changes to provide their customers with the viewing experience that they crave.

Freesat, a free-to-air digital platform born out of an alliance between the BBC and ITV, is one such company taking on the challenge. Its new service, Freetime, allows viewers to watch programmes from up to a week in the past at the single press of a button.

Its fresh approach to free TV is paying dividends, as they are currently ranked fourth

“It was very Australian: work hard, play hard”

in the Champions League of TV service providers in the UK. With 24,000 new homes signing up in the first half of 2014 alone, Freesat have become a threatening competitor to market frontrunner Sky, who signed up fewer homes in the same period, on a much greater budget.

Directing the Freesat ship is Emma Scott. A Hull University graduate from London, Emma worked in parliament before beginning an illustrious career in media and television. I was lucky enough to sit down with her to find out more about her path to success.

“After working in Parliament I went travelling, and ended up with a job by accident which set me up for my career in media in Australia - I ended up working for the equivalent of Virgin Media over there. It was very Australian, so it was work hard, play hard. That changed my attitude towards work there in, and I put that down to the people I worked with there.”

The Australian experience was crucial in the next step of her career at the BBC. “I came back to the UK in 1997 and soon after applied for a job at the BBC. I was lucky enough to go and work for Ed Richards who’s now the CEO of OFCOM. I didn’t have a consultancy background which was the norm in the corporate strategy team, but I had very relevant experience in industry from setting up the cable TV company in Australia and knew a lot about dotcom and the internet.”

Having helped set up a new firm in Australia, Emma had experience that far belied her age. By her late twenties she found herself working for the Director General of the BBC at the time, John Birt.

Despite ascending to the summit of the BBC, things were not entirely positive. Giving me a wry smile, Emma spoke about her experience of the working environment at the corporation.

“You know what, I learnt an awful lot working there. It was very strict, you had set hours and you certainly wouldn’t mess around



or turn up with a hangover or anything like that. It was very serious and your work was critiqued to such a high standard that it made you learn quickly.

Emma emphasised the extremes of sur-

“You certainly wouldn’t mess around or turn up with a hangover or anything like that”

vival within the company: “You either sank or swam. You were out within six months if you didn’t step up to their standards. I think that that’s taught me a lot about valuing quality over quantity of work. I’ve found that every strategist who has worked with me since has also learnt that the hard way.”

As John Birt neared the end of his term, Emma soon found herself awaiting work with the incoming Director General, Greg Dyke, a prospect she found very unappealing: “I was actually applying for other jobs, I was trying to leave at that stage, I wanted to try something else.”

“However, John Birt very kindly gave me work as an analyst for Greg Dyke, the incom-

ing Director.”

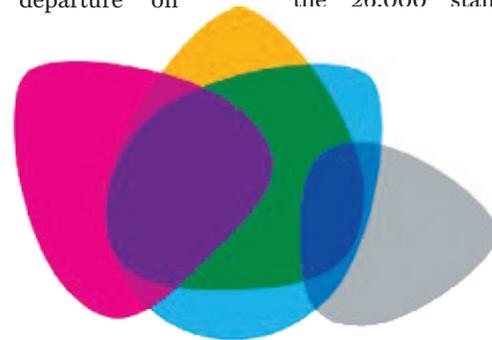
Emma explained the uncertainty of her position in this ‘in limbo’ period between jobs: “I think Greg and I had mutual reservations about our working together; he essentially thought that I was going to be a some sort of spy during the six month handover period.”

Emma’s tone changes as she describes to me the crucial turning point in her and Greg’s relationship that acted as the catalyst to the positive correspondence they share to this day. “Following many failed attempts to contact him, I had a harrumph, which I really shouldn’t have done, and said ‘well if you don’t want to work with me then bloody well just tell me.’ He then decided that I was alright. We eventually just hit it off. He’s the Chancellor of the University of York, something that he’s obviously very proud of. He loved his time at the university, and reminisced about it a lot whilst I worked for him.”

Emma soon found herself as one of Dyke’s closest lieutenants at the BBC. She cites the launch of Freeview, the move to Salford,

and the restructuring of the BBC as but a few of her achievements whilst working for him. Greg is a huge believer in people. I would say that my style of leadership was really strongly influenced by Greg.

“I had a fantastic time working for him, until it all went wrong with the Hutton crisis, something I would never want repeated in my career. Watching the impact of Greg’s departure on the 26,000 staff



freesat

was really tough. The confidence that he gave me to move forward and do my own thing meant that when the Freesat opportunity came up, I had a real feeling of, 'if I've done it once, I can do it again'."

The two remain in contact. It would seem that having been mutually wary of each other before working together, Emma and Greg now have an easygoing relationship: "When Greg turns up here every now and again I get him to talk to the team. I still ring him if I need to bounce ideas off him or need general advice, and he'll ring me if he needs a free Freesat box or two... He's an amazing mentor, and he likes to take credit for everything good that's happened in my career."

The working environment at Freesat couldn't be further from the strict formal operation that Emma told me existed at the BBC in the late nineties. The offices have trendy names like, 'The Engine Room', and there isn't a single area of the building you can pass through without seeing a television.

Was establishing this type of working environment the direct result of a rejection of the way that the BBC operated earlier in Emma's career? "Leaders always define the cultures of organisations, so yes, in a way it's part of me, but also part of the management team. I think it was predominantly a response to the Australian experience though, people spoke their mind but they were fair, and if

"It never looks good to see an employee of any company boasting about how much ketamine they've taken in a weekend"

you made mistakes, it was okay. It's harder to define a working culture at bigger organisations, but luckily Freesat is small and eclectic. Your harshest critics are always the ones who sit next to you. That criticism may come from over or under the radar, but picking up on those nuances is important. What is and isn't acceptable in a business is always a difficult thing to pick up as a graduate.

"When I was at the BBC it was a very intellectual environment. I look back now and I was actually doing exceptionally well, and was well regarded, but I didn't have an Oxbridge background, nor did I have a consulting background and so I felt quite intimidated by it."

One thing that Emma confided in me is that she has never seen herself as a leader figure, despite the number of senior positions she has held over the years. Working in the offices of two Director Generals meant that it was inevitable that an opportunity to lead was always going to come along eventually.

The role isn't without challenges. "The biggest challenge is staying one step ahead of everybody else. Remaining clear about what the business is trying to do and what my leadership is trying to deliver is the most important. There are always blind alleys that you can go down.

"When you are the leader you just have to embrace the fact that sometimes projects are not going to work and that there are going to be mistakes. You have to have clarity of vision. You can never communicate enough with your team and your owners."

And the good points of being the boss? Having been invited along to the Freesat

Sports Day earlier that week, and taking part in some light-hearted competition in Regents Park, I'm not surprised when Emma tells me

"We reckon we would be a brand new Mini. Great engine, great design: small, but perfectly formed"

that the best thing is the team. "They are the best people I've ever worked with. They're such good fun."

I decided to ask Emma a few off-piste questions. The first: if Freesat as a company was a type of car, what would it be and why?

Laughing, Emma tells me "I was interviewed by the Sunday Times recently and they asked what car I drove. When I said I drove a Honda Jazz even the interviewer stopped and said "It's not normally the Maserati response I get from CEOs and industry leaders..."

She's not getting off that easily. After a bit more pressing, Emma tells me that "we reckoned that we would be a brand new Mini. Great engine, great design: small, but perfectly formed." An impressive sound bite indeed (she would later tell me that as a company they had actually discussed this very same concept.).

As the Managing Director of a media company, I wondered what her thoughts are when it comes to social media and recruitment, and whether she has any tips for students.

"The problem with Twitter and Facebook is that you sometimes think that nobody is actually looking at your profiles. Keep your LinkedIn site professional and up to date, it really does put doubts in a recruiter's mind if there are typos and different information online from what is on your printed CV.

"For students in particular, even if it's just to intern, your online platforms will get looked at, even if it's just to see how silly or daft they are! No one's going to want a party animal coming in to work. It's the same with Twitter, it's really, really easy to track people down on Twitter.

"The media industry is a double edged sword because you want people to have a voice and a personality."

But does it go both ways? Surely you'd look just as unimpressive in the media industry if your online presence was particularly bland? "In general, businesses are still trying to work out their relationship with social media.

"Lots of people who work here have said they've toned down what they say online now. Whether you state that opinions are your own or not, it never looks good to see an employee of any company boasting about how much ketamine they've taken in a weekend." M



Party games galore

Gaming editors **Alex Killeen** and **Adam Koper** take a look at classic games that can brighten up a party or pre-drinks



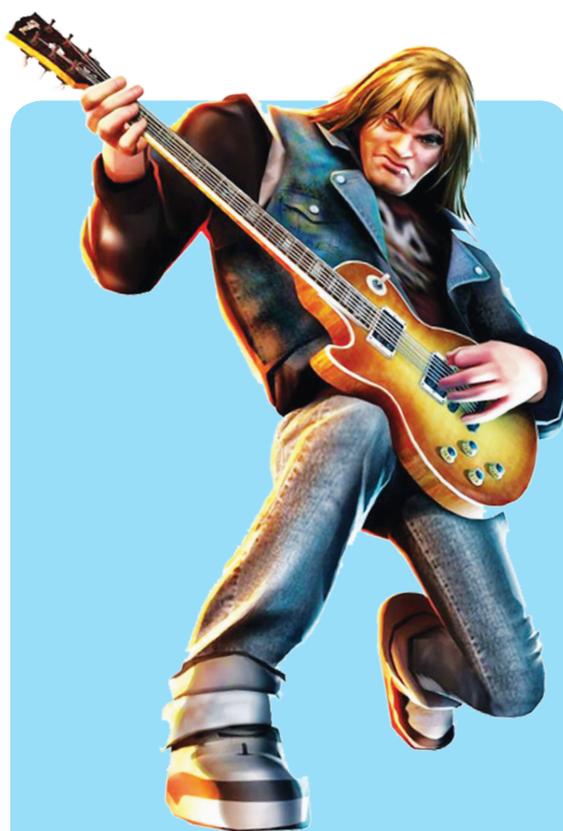
Super Smash Bros.

These classics spawned the genre known as brawlers. Your aim, to beat up your opponents so much that when you hit them really hard, they are rocketed off the screen and to their demise. With a roster full of Nintendo's most famous characters like Mario, Samus and Link, as well as environments including Mushroom Kingdom and Hyrule Castle be prepared to lose friends in drunken disputes over the ridiculous manner in which you were just defeated. With items appearing from all their franchises, the Pokéballs in particular lead to some interesting situations. Be prepared for a very busy screen and not knowing what the hell is going on. It has a surprising level of longevity as well, constantly challenging you to do something new with the promise of tantalising unlockables like new characters, stages, and music. This series has defined itself as Nintendo's most unique and it continues to provide some awesome competition amongst friends.



Guitar Hero

Often a party will end up with one person playing an out-of-tune guitar badly, whilst others look on in horror, wishing it would stop. The *Guitar Hero* series resolved this issue, simplifying musical technique and breaking the instrument down to five brightly coloured buttons and a paddle. At last, anyone can play guitar like a professional without any prior training, so say goodbye to those badly plaid renditions of 'Wonderwall' and 'Imagine'. Released way back in 2007, *Guitar Hero 3* was the most popular title in the series, selling over 8 million copies and signalling the start of a golden age for rhythm games. *GH3* expanded the appeal of the series, featuring competitive and co-op modes for the first time, as well as a wireless guitar controller. The tracks available are well known classics, and the gameplay manages to be challenging without being punishing, meaning that anyone and everyone will want to have a go. It also features Tom Morello and Slash as playable characters, and with over seventy songs by the likes of The Rolling Stones, The Who and Rage Against the Machine, there's sure to be something for everyone's taste. This one's bound to be a crowd pleaser.



Mario Kart

Everyone knows this beloved racing game. From 1992 Nintendo have been providing us with this alternative take on the conventional racing genre; it has fun, innovative courses that have gone from basic 2D to full 3D, high definition anti-gravity weaving insanity. With up to four players on once screen this game will turn friendships sour, but it'll be a lot of fun while you all slowly turn on each other. Seriously though, this game is one of the best party game experiences and will lead to many moments where you're cheering at a TV screen. With a surprising longevity, each title adds something to the series and manages to constantly change itself for audiences. It's known across the world for the game that brings family and friends together as one of the greatest party games ever; but it will almost definitely test the strength of your relationships. Do be careful with the Wii version, you'll be tempted to throw the controller at the screen.



Halo

While online multiplayer may be the more popular form of gaming nowadays, there still remains a special place for split screen multiplayer. There's no sight quite like four friends glued to the same TV screen, trying to blow each other sky-high with a variety of dangerous weapons. Developers Bungie must have taken note of this, as their seminal *Halo* series has consistently excelled at providing a superior split screen first-person-shooter experience. The standard Slayer mode is fun, but there is so much more to do than just go for kills; you can race each in futuristic hovering vehicles; you can engage in the infamous energy sword duels; you even get to see your friends' immediate reaction to being sniped from a mile off - such a reward is impossible in online multiplayer. A wide range of well crafted maps and game modes provide for endless fun. Of all the first-person-shooters out there, the *Halo* series provides a far more open experience, and allows you and your friends to mess around in just about any way possible.

Guys, bring a helmet

Georgia Ridge looks back on the life of the late Maria Lassnig and her powerful work

This September would have been Austrian artist Maria Lassnig's ninety-fifth birthday. Lassnig once said "I've never celebrated my birthday. Then you don't notice it."

Lassnig was an artist who seemed to conquer the 'style over substance' dilemma of contemporary art. She invented the term "body awareness", demonstrated in her nudes about "bodily sensations", depicting the feelings of the body in "static postures".

Her art is full of honesty (she doesn't shy away from sagging breasts), even if some of the figures are distorted. This makes her work refreshing and attractive to audiences in today's body-conscious society and although never openly so, Lassnig's art has feminist undertones.

She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna at a particularly troubled time in history with the dark shadow of the Second World War hanging over Europe. She was quickly bored by the limitations of the Nazi conservative techniques taught in the Academy and turned to cubism and art *informel* which lead to her "body awareness" work. She returned to the Academy as a professor in 1980.

Lassnig once said, "I'm a researcher, not a painter," which is demonstrated in her bold gestural brush strokes and con-

troversial subject matter in paintings such as the self-portrait *You, or Me?*.

Here, the subject (Lassnig) stares, naked at the viewer, guns pointed at her head and ours. The fear in her eyes is alarming and her vulnerability is expressed in her uncovered body, the soft pink tones of her skin and her open legs. This is a power-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA LASSNIG

ful image to which male viewers were "advised to bring a helmet". This is not just a painting of vulnerability but of anger.

Lassnig never married or had children, after witnessing the unhappy marriage and separation of her parents. She did, however, start to rediscover feelings of romance or companionship in later life, seen in her paintings of couples embracing. The artist questions traditional gender stereotypes and relationships through her films with a dry humour in her film *Art Education* in which the relationship between the male artist and female model is reversed.

Lassnig exhibited internationally with exhibitions in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Museum Ludwig and, in 2008, had her first solo exhibition in Britain at the Serpentine. Lassnig was recognised within her lifetime. She was awarded a scholarship to study in Paris in 1951 and in 1988 she won a Grand Austrian State Prize as well as the Golden Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013 at the Venice Biennale.

Coming before the Actionist Movement, with her provocative Post-War art, Lassnig was a highly influential woman and it's not only time to take notice of her but to pay homage to her substantial and fascinatingly honest art.

Baring all

Rebecca Duncan discusses Laura Dodsworth's latest shockingly real project

Laura Dodsworth's recent art and social project, *Bare Reality*, comprises of 100 women's bare breasts photographed and displayed without airbrushing. The end result demonstrates the variation in women's breasts: some tattooed, some saggy, some women with only one breast - barely any the perfect, perky and voluptuous breasts akin to those seen on Page 3.

Breasts are a common source of anxiety for women from prepubescence through to old age, and it isn't difficult to blame media such as Page 3 for this. Women are faced with an image of what their bodies should be like if people want to look at them. The value of Dodsworth's project is that it demonstrates how you don't have to match up to the bodies shown in the media because they are not necessarily reality.

Comments on *The Guardian's* report on 'Bare Reality' question the paper's motivations in examining the project and including the photographs, suggesting that it wrote about the project as an easy way of drawing in readership, with some even comparing the article to Page 3. Does this mean that it is impossible to expose intimate areas of the human body artfully without objectifying them?

It is, of course, impossible to give a blanket definition of what is artful and what is not. To me, it involves a delicate but immeasurable combination of aesthetic pleasure and an important message. Maybe Van Gogh's *Almond Blossoms* seems far more aesthetically pleasing than

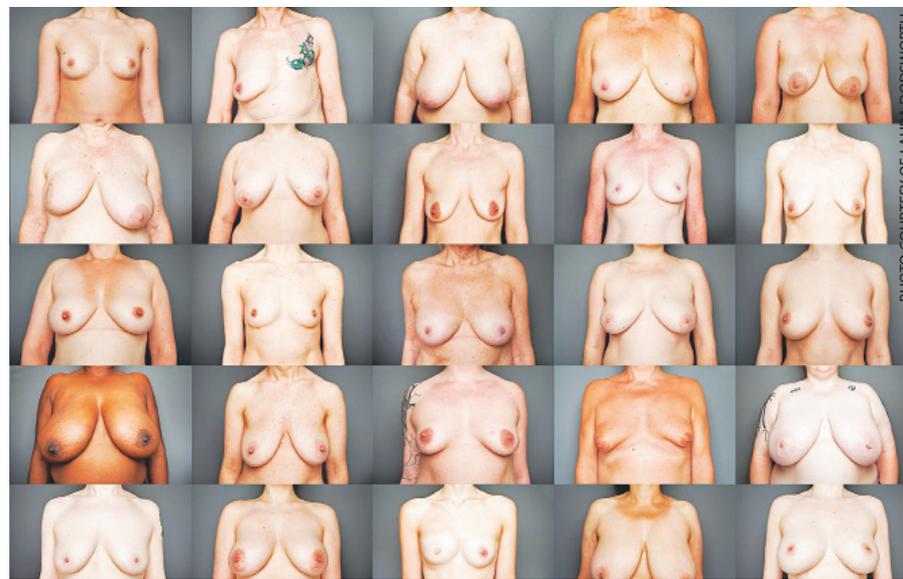


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA DODSWORTH

it does carrying an important social message. Dodsworth's project would be the opposite in that it may be less aesthetically pleasing and even offend some people, but it definitely carries an important message.

The personal stories collected from Dodsworth's anonymous interviews with each of the 100 participants provide enlightenment as to how a variety of women feel about their breasts. They may not all love them, but some do. One woman in her twenties hated her breasts until she had them surgically reduced, while a 101-year-old woman was perfectly comfortable with the appearance of hers even after a single mastectomy, which resulted from a breast cancer scare.

Works of art such as this not only surprise us, but inform us that life and people are artful and meaningful, and it does not seem fitting to equate them to superficial Page 3 photography.

The usual photographs of breasts we

see have undoubtedly influenced our expectations of what they should look like.

These breasts look nice, and therefore it is not unreasonable or offensive to suggest that this kind of photography is art.

Dodsworth's project definitely challenges expectations. She even commented that, when her husband first saw 'Bare Reality', he was dumfounded and remarked firstly at how different it was to what we see in magazines.

Thanks to this project and others like it, people's expectations of what the female body should look like can be challenged and changed. Women may begin to feel differently about their breasts, which in turn can affect their relationships with others. It may also provoke men to think that they do not have to look like models either. *Bare Reality* is a reminder that, alongside aesthetic pleasure, the value of art involves an importance beyond its physical appearance. It is socially relevant.

Get Your Fix

Georgia Ridge



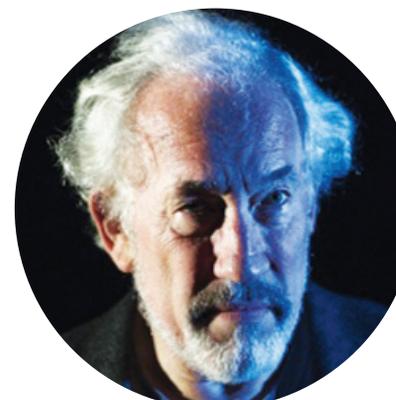
Peter Blake

Pyramid Gallery, open till 28 Oct
Popart star Peter Blake celebrates 75 years of the Beano.



The Perfect Murder

Grand Opera House, £10 - £35
running till 4 Oct
Peter James' chilling production stars Robert Daws.



The Man Jesus

The Basement, £24.40-£29.40
running from 7 Oct
Simon Callow stars in this powerful performance of biblical proportion.



SAY OWT SLAM

The Basement, £5, 28 October
An evening of spoken poetry featuring Mark Grist.

Male standing nude

Photographer **Trevor Christensen** talks to Deborah Lam about stripping for his sitters, and not the camera

There are many things Trevor Christensen has in common with the woman in Carol Ann Duffy's poem, *Standing Female Nude*, both bearing 'belly nipple arse' in the name of art. There is, however, one crucial difference: Christensen is the artist, not the sitter.

Freelance photographer, Trevor Christensen initially joked about being a "hapless photographer" who assumed that nude portraits consisted of the photographer being the naked one instead of his subjects, thus sowing the seeds for his peculiar interpretation of the nude portrait.

Initially expecting an extremely liberal artist fervently insisting that the organic rawness of the naked form was nothing to shy away from, Christensen's refreshing confession, stressing that he isn't "a dude who gets naked a lot", makes his bizarre experiment all the more fascinating; the sitter not just reacting to his nakedness, but to his vulnerability as well.

Despite challenging traditional notions of subject and photographer, the photographing process is surprisingly a normal. The half an hour portrait sessions become less awkward after the first five minutes. That is, until "[he stands] up and you'd be like, 'Oh right. He has a penis I can see.'" Christensen experiences a similar kind of rude awakening. "I'm concentrating on photography and talking to them, and just trying to take them through the process, and then I'll walk around and [...] I'm gonna be crass, but like my dick hitting my leg and it's like, 'Oh shit, what am I doing?'"

Polite, laid-back and gentlemanly, Christensen stresses that all his sitters know what they're getting into beforehand. "I don't think it's very fair to just surprise people like that," he explains simply. Not all of his friends are so willing to sit for him, though, and Christensen has had close friends who he thinks would have hilarious reactions decline. While believing that the project brings him closer to his subjects, Christensen still keeps very realistic expectations, being mature and understanding as to reasons why his friends might shy away from the idea: "I'm from Utah. Most of my friends are either Mormon or have a pretty conservative background and there are just too many hang-ups to ever get them to be quite okay with that."

However, ever since his project went viral, there has been an overwhelming number of complete strangers asking to be photographed, which has shocked Christensen. "I don't even know if I would be willing to do something [...] like this, you know?"

Interestingly, eighty percent of people asking to be sitters have been women. Is it flattering? "I don't know... I don't *what* it is..." he answers cautiously, suspicious of any attempts to catch him being the least bit arrogant. "I would like to think [it] must mean I'm hot shit," he concedes, laughing. Acknowledging that there must be a demographic who are attracted to "long-haired [photojournalists]", he maintains that, "I don't think a woman in Illinois is contacting me because she's like, 'Oh yeah, I want this hot naked guy to walk around and take my picture.' I don't think it hurts, but I don't think that's the reason why anyone has contacted me."

What proved surprising about this statistic were the antithetical reactions of the men and women whom he shot. "I think with the men, it's just sort of like, 'Oh, there's a naked guy. Don't wanna see that. With the women,

I think [...] when I walk out naked, you can't fully prepare yourself." Christensen then elucidates that there is certain camaraderie with his male sitters that no woman has yet been able to be comfortable enough to achieve: "It's easier just to talk about my penis because like, that's kind of the thing that we're both thinking about, we should probably just bridge that."

Though Christensen was more often than not charmingly scatter-brained when answering questions, when we broached the hypothetical possibility of a female photographer attempting his project, he hit his stride, answering with an intellectual verbosity, once again testament to the great amount of thought and sensitivity to the gender politics surrounding his fun experiment. "So I'm a white, straight, twenty-five year old man and I pretty much think that those are all things that are to my benefit when it comes to doing a project like this [...] So if you were pretty much anything other than what I am, I think this project would be much different." Not once does he get lost in his conviction, constantly reiterating how privileged his circumstance is to be able to embark on this project.

Admitting that he occasionally gets frustrated at people sexualising his photos and trying to read sexual pleasure in his sitters' reactions, he recognises how much more they would be sexualised if they were by a female photographer. "I bet more people would be willing to pose for her and I bet they would be eighty percent men."

Although Christensen's 'nude' portraits don't actually contain nudity, he argues that it actually augments the sexual dimension of the photographs. Justifying this using a metaphor, he says convincingly, "It's like a scary movie where the thing you create in your head is always much more terrifying than whatever is shown on the screen."

So I think it actually heightens the sexuality a lot [...] I have photos that make me a sexual god and I have photos that make me look like a [...] just a flaccid, withering infant, depending on what you're bringing to the table just because the expression looks like either she's terrified or bemused at best."

The compelling element of this series, then, is the initial bewilderment at the seemingly pedestrian portraits, learning about what is actually behind the camera and then going back to the same pictures, scouring for any clues that would suggest that the photographer is, in fact, stark naked. This strange take on the otherwise familiar trope of the nude portrait exemplifies the type of art Christensen loves and what he aspires toward as a photojournalist, "[wanting] to show people something that they've seen before in a new light".

Divorced from context, "the photos that went viral are not very good photos". They rely heavily on the supporting concept to make them the compelling images they are.

Christensen may shy away from being called an artist, humbly commenting that "doing anything that can be considered fine art is really outside of [his] understanding". But managing to produce an incredible series of photographs that tickle, tantalise and thought-provoke has been a substantial aesthetic achievement and he certainly has the mind – and heart – of an artist. "A photo that gives you an answer is fine, but a photo that causes you to ask more questions is always preferable to me." **M**



Back to Basics - Bag Style

One dress, multiple looks. From the boxy backpack for a back to uni style, to the good enough to eat hold-up for when you want to be outrageous. For more dressed up occasions, the feather clutch is perfect for an evening party, and the jewelled box bag essential for looking fabulous on nights out. **Rachel Thompson** chooses her favourite 'it' bags to instantly define your look.



BOX IT with this River Island pink transparent jewelled box clutch £35



DON THE BACKPACK with this Asos suede mini backpack with fringing £30



SNACK TIME at LFW with Anya Hindmarch's Supermarket sweep bag £POA



FEATHER UP with Accessory O's Ostrich feather clutch bag £75

Spend, Save, Steal: Button-down shirts



SPEND
Equipment Silk
Shirt, £230

The ultimate shirt. A perfected design that nothing else can even really begin to match. Equipment has got their shirt design down to a tee. Loose fitting but still flattering, longer length at the back with two breast pockets, made from gorgeous huggable silk and in every colour and print you would want. It should be at the top of every generation's wish list. Just don't think you will be able to afford the trousers to go with it.

SAVE
Whistles Skye
Cotton Shirt, £85

Many may feel that this isn't much of a save... but luckily student discount exists - live saver. And with the button down shirt, it is essential to invest in good quality and good fit, otherwise you can end up looking a little like a ship at full sail (if that is the look you are going for then of course just rock it!) Whatever your age, this Whistles number will be your best friend when you are having yet another wardrobe crisis.

STEAL
ASOS Boyfriend
Shirt, £28

A simple, relaxed fit that can be buttoned up to the top for a smarter, cooler look or unbuttoned that extra one too many to reveal a lacy number underneath. The shirt is also vital to those of us living in colder climates that require layer upon layer of clothing to stop ourselves from perishing. The button down will ensure that you look less like a waddling penguin and more attractive in your five layers of clothing.

Mind the Gap

Florence Mitchell discusses the formidable fashion age boundaries.

There is most definitely a gap, nay a gaping void, in fashion between the generations. Just take a look at any photograph of Anna Wintour (age 64) with daughter Bee Shaffer (age 27) and it's clear as soon as you lock eyes on the 6 inch disparity in hemlines. Why is it then that arguably fashion's most influential woman covers up while Ms Shaffer is free to flaunt her admittedly beautiful toned pins?

Fashion is undoubtedly built on a culture of exclusivity. Prescribing age determined style boundaries is just another way of creating an elite crew.

Style.com described Fendi's SS14-15 show as "In a word, young". Used here 'young' is meant to be synonymous with a certain vitality and carefree existence as encapsulated in model of the moment Cara Delevingne (who walked exclusively for Fendi in Milan Fashion Week). There was no hint in Fendi's so-called 'young' collection of the quarter-life existential crisis that more than a handful of us experience; predictably fashion's version of young is idealistic, not realistic.

If this version of youth is not based on realities of age, it's instead about feeling young and using what you wear as a medium

to express this. Anna Dello Russo (age 54) is the antithesis of this approach. Notorious for showing off her enviable figure and dressing in all kinds of weird and wonderful creations her outlook is something to be admired. This being said it's in no way the norm. After all, the majority of women over 35 that you'll see on a day to day basis wear a uniform of modest knee length skirts, grey suit and comfy jeans.

Heidi Julavits and Leanne Shapton, authors of the new fashion book *Women in Clothes* told the guardian 'it's impossible to say nothing about your personality through your attire, and i'd agree. Indeed, this statement is definitely useful in trying to ascertain why women of older generations don't strut around in crop tops and hot-pants.

It's a (slightly depressing) fact of life that as you get older you have more responsibilities and therefore have to maintain a more respectable facade, which is why people become more conservative in their fashion choices. With maturity people want to be viewed as a serious member of their community, something you're less bothered about in your early 20s when you 'secretly' consider yourself a big kid. Indeed, perhaps the disparity between the style's of Dello

Russo and Wintour can be attributed to the kitsch and playful ethos of Vogue Japan versus the commercial outlook of American Vogue.

It'd be fair to say that once women reach their twilight years the anxieties of the middle aged often appear to be left to rot, lessening the established fashion

gap between the generations. As Jenny Joseph wrote, "When I am old I shall wear purple, and a red hat that doesn't go and doesn't suit me," and I'd agree that the grandmas I've encountered do indeed leave behind some of the sobriety of their youth and adopt a more flamboyant, or simply colourful, wardrobe, albeit centred around the now more necessary practicalities of an elasticated waistband and chiropractic foam inner-sole.

To quote the old cliché maybe age is just a number and, in fashion, being young just a state of mind.



Hot

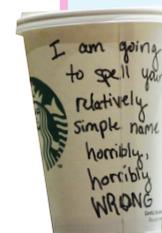
Fashion-Show Denim.

This LFW showed us all how to do denim. It was accessoried up, quirky and shredded. Straight from London to York.



Stylebucks.

Current favourite game: tell the staff at Starbucks your name is Karl, Muccia or Donatella, and watch them try to write it on the cup. It's the simple things that will keep you from being depressed



The Shrimps Daisy Clutch. I dare anyone not to smile every time they hold this adorable Shrimps daisy clutch.



The 6:1. If the celebs are doing it why not us? The 6:1 is the relationship version of the 5:2. Make sure you have at least one day off from each other a week.

Rachel Thompson tells us what's hot in the world of fashion

Campus style: what we wore this Summer

Rachel Thompson, Grace Marsh, Izzy Ashton

This summer I attended a fair few birthday celebrations. This was my dad's 50th birthday where we attended Hickstead national show. My dress is Topshop and the green embellished drape coat is from Zara, as are the red heels. I added a floral pop with a clutch bag that I picked up on Asos. I also had a scarf from the Swedish Beck Sondergaard.

I was au pairing this summer in France and wore this outfit for dinner with my au pair family, as it's smart but good for the warm weather. I'm a bit of a bargain-hunter so was pleased to pick up this blouse for £2.50 in a charity shop; it has a lovely cut-out detail and can be dressed up or down. The skirt is American Apparel and is a staple wardrobe item, as are my trusty Dr Marten lace ups.

I'm wearing an Urban Outfitters tee, Mango trousers and Topshop sandals. I spent most of my summer in Sri Lanka in the boiling heat and tropical rain so these cream culottes from Mango were an absolute lifesaver. These sandals are one of my summer essentials as they add a excitement to an otherwise monochrome ensemble. Such a simple outfit allows you the freedom to accessorise.



'Miss' Mixing. This new trend is the art of making mistakes during a set to prove you are a 'proper' DJ. Oh, please don't let this one come to York!

Email Psychosis. It's the start of a new term and your university email comes back to life. Each day welcomes thousands of emails and you have no idea where to start. Despair.

Malerobics. We love the sports-luxe trend, and have all fallen head over 'Air Max' for Nike, but it's not quite so hot when it comes to dudes. Please take note, Shai. Tight leggings are not your thing!



Not

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

50 YEARS STRONG

AS NOUSE APPROACHES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY, WE EMBRACE THE POPULAR FASHION FROM WHEN WE FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1964. SMART PASELY SHIRTS, BOHO FRINGED DRESSES AND MONOCHROME PRINTS REDISCOVER THEIR PLACE ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.





ALL GARMENTS, TWEED BAG AND HEADDRESS BY PAPER-DOLL, YORK.

ALL SHOES AND OTHER ACCESSORIES SYLIST'S OWN
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR - BEKI ELMER

MODELS- ALICE MASTERSON AND MARIA FAZIO

PHOTOGRAPHER - PETROC TAYLOR

MAKE UP - EMILY BOUL



Meet York's diverse street performers

This summer, York city centre was saturated with talented street performers. **Charlotte Wainwright** went out to meet some of them



In King's Square, a man dressed in a white tutu is balancing on a great big circus ball, juggling fire for a delighted crowd.

Daryll Hackett, a street performer from Bradford, has been entertaining audiences across the world for 21 years. His eccentric act, entitled *The Fabulous Kapow Sisters*, is full of wonderful tricks, but it is his wit that truly captivates his crowd.

It's not, he tells me, without intention.

"To me, the essence of street performing isn't really about the difficulty of the trick; it's about the relationship you get with the audience. I've actually taken down the skill level of tricks that I do as I've got older, but my rapport with the audience, and the audience response, has got better and better."

Despite taking his act as far as Australia, York remains Daryll's favourite place to perform. King's Square has always been a top pitch, he tells me, in large part due to the perfect view. "I can see the Minster whilst performing, it's great."

The recent development of King's Square also appears to have had a positive impact on Daryll's work. "I think it's great. Its widened the area, which works a lot better, because it's always packed. Now when you've put your rope out you've got two dozen people watching you before you've even done anything."

As for the future, Daryll is about to undertake a drastic change in career. "I'm about to go and train to be a vicar - I start training in September."

"The essence of street performing isn't really about the difficulty of the trick; it's about the relationship you get with the audience"

Fortunately, *The Fabulous Kapow Sisters* won't be leaving us just yet. "This is probably my last full year of street performing full-time, but I'll still do it in the summer over the next two years."

As Daryll clears his stage, another performer begins to set up. Andrew Sumpton, 27 from Harrogate, has been performing in York for four years. A large crowd soon develops, and it's not hard to see why. Andrew's show involves some terrifying tricks, including swallowing a sword and juggling axes blindfolded on top of a seven-foot unicycle.

He tells his awestruck spectators (some clapping, some wincing) that it has taken him three years to learn how to overcome the three gag reflexes required to successfully swallow the sword.

After the show, Andrew explains that the trick is less dangerous than it seems. "It's really just the illusion of danger. It's very well rehearsed."

Andrew began performing full-time after realising that university was not for him. While working in York one summer, he saw a number of street performances, and, being able to eat fire already, decided to try it out himself. "I like doing it, because I enjoy the freedom it gives you. I like working for myself. I think you could do it forever."

Although York is his favourite place to work, Andrew is less complimentary about the makeover of King's Square. "Practically, I think it's ten times better, but I don't like the look of it. It's too generic, it's lost its character."

After King's Square it's time to go down Stonegate and visit York's Purple Man. Sitting on his purple bike with his purple tie and coat-tails flying behind him, he is surrounded by bewildered tourists, all eager to take a photo with him. He is more than happy to oblige. "I've been doing this for 13 years, because I like to make people happy."

Purple Man, who shuns his real name, entertains York's shoppers



ten hours a day, seven days a week. Yet he would not call his act a performance, simply “meditation in public”.

It’s for this reason, he tells me, that he never tires of doing it. “I don’t get bored because I’m in altered state of consciousness. I’m not thinking as you might think. I empty my mind of all thoughts, so I’m not worried about the rain or the cold temperature.”

Though he doesn’t reveal too much about himself, Purple Man does provide me with an exclusive about his background, informing me that purple was not, in fact, a choice. “My mum was blue and my dad was red, but people think it’s make-up.”

He says this year will be his last as a street artist. “I’m go-

ing to make a statement soon.”

Leaving Purple Man behind, I am lured into St. Helen’s

“I’ve been doing this for 13 years, because I like to make people happy”

Square by an acoustic guitar played by busker Lewis Thresh, a 21-year-old from Doncaster who is studying at the University

of York. Lewis has only been playing in York for three days, but already loves busking. He plays for around four hours a day, performing a number of covers. “I tend to cover small acoustic artists that most people haven’t heard of, because I don’t know many songs yet. I do cover one or two Disney songs though, just for the fun of it.”

“People really seem to enjoy it though. It’s nice to know that they appreciate solo acoustic stuff”

Lewis intends to carry on busking throughout the year, but won’t be straying from York any time soon. “I won’t be going anywhere else. People come from other cities to York to perform because it’s such a good place to do it.” **M**



In the Spotlight: Eagulls

Katie Woodard



Starting off the year on the Letterman show, picking up Best Music Video for their song 'Nerve Endings' at the NME awards in February and now looking forward to their upcoming tour, Eagulls started the year off well.

I spoke to Eagulls drummer Henry Ruddell on their new album, and the future. Having asked whether they found it easy to get into the music business, Ruddell replied that they had "never tried, it just happened. We just like playing music together."

It just shows that dedication and passion for what you do can get you far. Their self-titled debut album which came out in March 2014 took a while to be released which annoyed Ruddell "a little bit." He continued, "it made sense, we had been playing songs for quite a while but there was no one who had ever heard them except the band so we just wanted it out, but the record label sort of said trust us." It seems that the wait was worth it as he comments that the reaction has "been good."

Eagulls's upcoming tour starts in October and Ruddell is unsure which of the venues he's most looking forward to playing at. "I'm not

sure because there is loads on that tour that we have never played at like Hull, Cambridge and Oxford." Being a northerner, I was interested in whether he thought playing for the northern crowds is better than the southern ones. "Usually when we used to play the kids in the north would go absolutely mental and when we played down South they were a bit more reserved. But when we played Leeds and Reading at the weekend everyone went really mental." That all depends on the night".

On the subject of tours and festivals, I asked who Ruddell would most like to open for. "Everyone in the band is a big David Bowie fan." But then went on to say that "I don't think that would fit as his die-hard fans would be like, what?" I think his fans wouldn't be disappointed. Although his favourite band is "The Cure" so he would love to open for them.

As the conversation came to an end I asked where he would like to be next year: "Japan, I've never been before" was a very interesting reply and added that he would like to be there with the band as they have always said that they "would play anywhere". After an amazing year so far, keep an eye out for Eagulls as they may just be global by next year!

Album Reviews

Encyclopedia The Drums

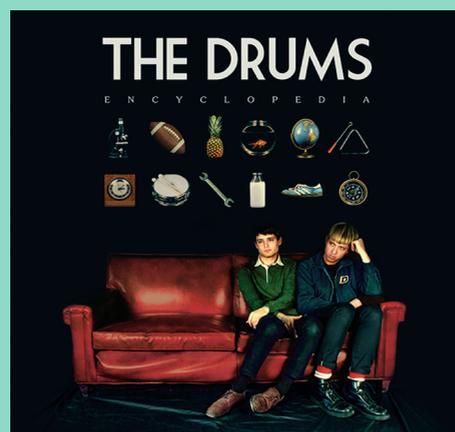
Hatti Linnell

This album starts off slow. Not in a temporal way, but because it is mentally draining to listen to. The first song, 'Magic Mountain', is exciting for the first verse and chorus, but then descends in a blur of slightly flat singing, leaving you pondering the existentially puzzling question of what the magic mountain actually is.

'I Can't Pretend' does no better, with lyrics like "Remember when you first touched my hand? We sparkled inside at the same time" being delivered in such a monotonous, manner it's guaranteed to make you miserable.

However mundane the first section of the record is, the band pull it back with 'Kiss Me Again'. This is possibly my favourite song by the band to date, which is saying something considering how much I loved the debut album. If they'd released it three months ago, it could've had charting potential as it's so perfectly summery. Its simple lovesong theme and pace make it reminiscent of a Beach Boys song, yet it transports us back to the very essence of The Drums that made their first album such a cohesive whole.

Encyclopedia continues leaving little



impact. There are a few good songs, like 'Face of God' and 'Deep in my Heart' (despite the slightly odd lyrics), but I wouldn't rush to see this album played live by any means.

The cloying emotional lines that were endearing in songs like 'Down By The Water' from the first album become irritating in songs like 'Let Me' and 'Break My Heart', and it sounds like Pierce's lyric book was stolen from a thirteen-year-old girl.

The album isn't bad by any means, but it feels like the band are still reeling from losing Hanwick. The record sounds like they are sticking to a tried and tested sound, rather than pushing their music through a much-needed metamorphosis.

Tyranny

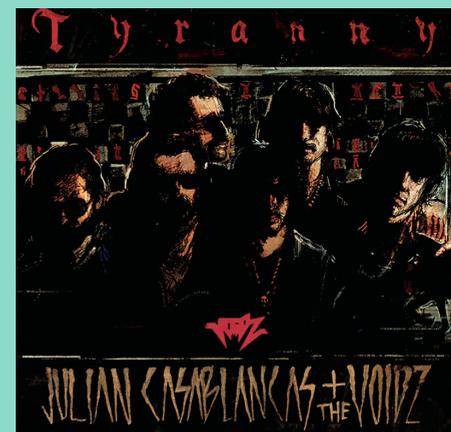
Julian Casablancas + The Voidz

Alex Killeen

Julian Casablancas + The Voidz are a very recently formed band. In 2013 Casablancas surprised us all with an unexpected collaboration with Daft Punk in *Random Access Memories*' 'Instant Crush'. We saw a new aspect of his vocal work, a development that seems to be influencing this new side project.

Tyranny is wildly different to anything that has come from Casablancas before and calling it ambitious would be cutting it short. This is high-risk, highly experimental musical work that's accompanied with dark undertones, both blindingly obvious from song titles ('Human Sadness' and 'M.actually A.ssureD.estruction to name a couple) and more subtly in the structure and content of the lyricism.

'Where No Eagles Fly' is particularly strange, discussing predators and meat, wolves and sheep. The emotionally drearier themes that come through in the The Strokes' back catalogue is seemingly magnified here. It's all a bit grungier and heavier than anything The Strokes have ever done and resonates with the crazier stuff seen from the likes of Cage the Elephant in *Thank You, Happy Birthday*. But throughout the album, even though the instrumental work is not exactly appealing, the oddities and extras are splices of uniqueness in what could have been a disastrously similar sound to The Strokes.



And while unique and an excellent example of a man defined by his previous work, it feels like this could be an attempt to not be The Strokes.

The synthesizers and use of distortion accompany the rest of the instruments a bit oddly; they're a bit too strong at points and drown out some solid rhythmic and lead work from the guitarists. Fortunately, this usually quiets down leaving them to shine, but still feels unnecessary. 'Crunch Punch' is staggeringly good, with an excellent beat, and rhythmically like The Strokes.

While the album is engaging, even intriguing, and awesome at being different, it overpowers itself just a few too many times.

Talking Frankly

Frank Turner talks to Hatti Linnell about his rise to fame



PHOTO: BRANTLEY GUTTEREZ

Every time I see Frank Turner live (which is fairly regularly), it hits me again just how successful he has become in what feels like a short space of time. Relentless touring, (he's played a show a little less than every other night on average over the past ten years), has probably been a contributor, along with his music being a great social connector. Turner's music isn't just something that people like and appreciate but something that people tell their friends to listen to, and parents play to their young children. With such a passionate fanbase, for Turner to achieve the success he has was inevitable. With these increasing musical successes, however, other things must also follow.

Things like being recognised by members of the public must feel normal for someone who's had a number one album and performed at the Olympic opening ceremony. "This is a difficult thing for me to talk about," Turner responds when I ask him about this. "In a way I want to because I want to figure out what I think about it a bit more." He pauses in careful consideration. "When I say it's difficult to talk about, I don't mean emotionally difficult, I mean that I don't quite have the vocabulary to figure out exactly what I'm trying to say. For a long time, I've always protested normality, and I don't want to be removed from my audience in any way and that still remains the case, but there comes a point after which you can't attest to your surprise forever."

He continues "I know that my songs get played on the radio and I know that people come to my gigs and buy the records, so in the last year or so I've kind of gotten used to people coming up to me in bars and saying hi. Part of me feels like I should still be a bit weirded out by it, but I'm not that weirded out by it anymore, because it's happened for quite a while. But I haven't yet decided whether or not that's healthy. It might be unhealthy. But like I say, I don't want to waste my life being wrapped up in this debate. It's like, that's how it is, fuck it, whatever. It's a great compliment if somebody comes over and says hi and they like my music, thank you very much. But I guess things have changed a bit, and the last couple of records have been bigger."

Of course, there are also benefits to becoming better-known. There's been a lot of positive coverage in the press lately about the Music Venue Trust's campaign, which Turner

is spearheading, to seek a change in planning legislation. The Agent of Change principle states that if a domestic residence is built or developed near a music venue, then the developer is responsible for soundproofing the property, if it existed after the venue. "I didn't come up with the Agent of Change thing myself, but they wanted a figurehead, as it were. There are two things I really like about it: one is that it's really focussed, like it's not like 'please make everything better', it's just saying 'listen, here's this really small thing we want to do'. It's not asking for extra funding as well, because so much petitioning just comes down to 'please give us more money' and we don't want more money, we don't want state support, we just want, what

"I know what it's like to live somewhere where bands don't usually come...."

seems to me, a completely just piece of planning legislation put in that's going to make everything better for everybody. And it seems to me that unless you're some kind of caricatured, evil developer then I can't really see why you'd be against it. It seems achievable to me."

As we're speaking, Turner is on a tour of small venues. Tonight is show 1,612 in the Alban Arena, perhaps the least picturesque building in the whole of St Albans, and we're sitting in a dressing room that resembles a very clean nightclub toilet, just with no actual toilet present. He's tired as a result of a busy touring schedule, but comes across as engaged and animated. Turner's tour announcements tend to be particularly divisive, with some fans upset that he chose to play much larger venues, such as the O2 Arena in London, than usual in the previous tour.

"Some were," Turner acknowledged, when I raised this with him. "I like to mix things up. The tour before that which

was in November and December 2012, we did loads and loads of small, spread-out venues in small towns and stuff. I grew up in a town that wasn't on the live music circuit, so I know what it's like to live somewhere where bands don't usually come. I don't want to be too like 'I'm a hero' about it for deigning to come to smaller towns, that's bullshit, but I had a lovely thing in Leicester where people were saying it's given the local music scene a real kick up the arse because there's a touring band coming through, and that's a really exciting thing for me as well, I think it's cool you know. If maybe tonight there'll be some people from St. Alban's who might decide to put up some more gigs, or get their band going and play some more local shows, whatever it might be, I'm all in favour of that kind of thing."

Conversation turns to Turner's next album, which is on the table for release next year and has been discussed a lot already. "It's a bit too early to say for the next record; a lot of the songs are about picking yourself up and dusting yourself down after a fall, I guess. I had a kind of crappy year, with the breakup thing that the last record was about, just around the time we were making *Tape Deck Heart*. But once I'd finished writing it was when I got my first taste of being on the wrong end of Twitter and the press, and I had a pretty depressing time with a lot of negativity focused in my direction. And I came out the other side of it, and I feel stronger for the experience and I guess that's a big part of it. The image I have in my head is the end of *The Wizard of Oz*, when the storm has passed from Kansas, and they come out of the storm shelter and the whole town has been destroyed, but they're still alive. That's what the next record is about."

Frank Turner's excitement to release another record is palpable in a time when more than ever, making money is the centric force of music-making. It's fantastic to see a wave of artists like Turner who still care passionately about their fans and the community spirit of music that is often prevalent in smaller, less corporate venues.

The petition to the Culture Secretary, Sajid Javid, has already almost reached its required level of signatures, and hopefully thanks to this campaign, we can rest assured that the live music scene that is cherished across this country won't be going anywhere. M

REVERB.

Apple,
on the U2 Album.

"...We're Sorry."

FILM & TV.



Pride

Thomas Shutt

★★★★★

In the vein of *The Full Monty* and *Brassed Off*, *Pride* is one of those true-life comedy-dramas that the British film industry seem to do so well. Set in the forlorn working class industrial ruins of Thatcherite Britain, the film follows the unlikely alliance formed between the population of a small Welsh mining village and a motley crew of gay and lesbian activists from London during the height of the 1984 miners' strikes.

Directed with vitality and genuine heart by theatre alum Matthew Warchus, (director of the recent *Matilda* adaptation and soon-to-be artistic director at the Old Vic), *Pride* provides a razor sharp balance between funny, sad and affecting.

Much of the success must also be attributed to writer Stephen Beresford, whose punchy script juggles a number of narrative threads and finds humour in areas that may not seem obvious. The humour may often be broad, but the characters are all given a natural depth and humanity that gives them an endearing quality and renders the inevitable defrosting of the relationships all the more heart-warming. And

what a cast it is, an impressive roster of British (and American) talent, with Bill Nighy, Paddy Considine and Imelda Staunton all shining as Welsh Union members, while Fay Marsay, Dominic West, and Ben Schnetzer play members of the LGSM. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Jessica Gunning stands out as the proactive and lovely Sian and George MacKay as wide-eyed innocent Joe, who is thrust into this world almost by accident and through whose eyes we experience the story.

As the bonds are formed and strengthened, the real backbone of the film becomes apparent, mostly casting aside the politics in favour of a focus on the value of friendships.

Warm and endearing from start to finish, *Pride* is one of the better British comedies of recent years thanks to a sharp script and a uniformly excellent cast. And while the issues in the film may on the surface seem very much of their time, they're still pertinent to present day events, particularly in how two apparently wildly dissimilar groups or communities may find a common ground and unity if they just bothered to try.

Woody's back

Magic in the Moonlight

Thomas Shutt

★★

Much has been said of the variable quality of Woody Allen's output over the last decade or so, but even after nearly five decades in the business, when he hits his stride he can still knock it out of the park.

So after the sublime *Blue Jasmine* last year, expectations were always going to be high for the follow up, and with that in mind *Magic In The Moonlight* is sadly a bit of a disappointment.

The story follows Colin Firth's Stanley Crawford, alias Wei Ling Soo, a world renowned magical artist and debunker of mystical bunkum, as he is recruited to out the young Sophie (Emma Stone), a naïf-like clairvoyant, as a fraud.

The more he gets to know her the more bewildered he is by her apparent powers, and a third act romantic tangle naturally rears its head.

There's plenty here to enjoy, littered with many recognisable Allen-isms (obsession with magic, that trademark razor wit, a middle aged chap falling for a much younger woman), it has the potential to be classic Allen, but in the end it falls quite a long way short of the mark.

That's not to say it's a complete write-off; even off form, as he sadly is here, Allen still delivers plenty of great humour and effective observation on the human condition, but it just doesn't seem to amount to much in the end. Recruiting a

great cast (they must be queueing up to work with him), they all do the best with the lines they're given and for the most part it all holds together fairly well, if a little too breezily.

Firth and Stone are both fine and charismatic as the leads, although the rushed script leads to some fairly clunky line readings, and as a result most of the big moments utterly fail to convince. Although he settles in eventually, Colin Firth's abrasive (and often unlikeable) Stanley takes far too long to get used to, thanks to an excess of expositional dialogue that renders many scenes unwieldy and even dull.

On the plus side, the film looks beautiful thanks to sterling work by cinematographer Darius Khondji (who has photographed most of Allen's recent European output).

The idealised 1920s southern French setting is beautifully realised, every shot shimmering, the period costumes twinkling from the screen. This is how last year's *Great Gatsby* should have looked.

In the end then, it's an entertaining enough diversion offering a few good smirks and some decent work by the cast; but by stretching the premise too thinly it comes across as more of an under-developed half film with more potential than it can fulfil. Fingers crossed for the next one.



Maps to the Stars

Kate Barlow

★★

Cronenberg is a director known for his ability to shock an audience. However, in this over-the-top tale of family trauma and the dark side of Hollywood, being purely disturbing is not enough.

Maps to the Stars starts as a story about the futility of chasing fame and the hollow lives of the Weiss family: 13-year old child star Benje, reminiscent of a Justin Bieber in the making, is pushed into fame by his parents, the controlling Christina (Olivia Williams) and the egotistical TV psychologist Dr Stafford (John Cusack), while their estranged pyromaniac daughter Agatha (Mia Wasikowska) tries to regain contact with the family with the help of wannabe writer turned limo driver Jerome (Robert Pattinson). The fact that Agatha, a "disfigured schizophrenic", is one of the only vaguely likable character is a testament to how screwed up this film is. Julianne Moore adds to the craziness of the characters as Havana Segrand, an aging actress determined to nab a part in a remake previously played by her deceased mother. So far, so messed up.

From disquieting beginnings the film gets only more cynical. Cronenberg's perceived bitterness towards the falsity and corruption of the Hollywood industry is told with unrelenting force. However, it strays too far from any

sense of realism or honesty. Every character has a dark past that haunts their present (and for Havana and Benje this strays into the horror region as their hauntings come in physical form). From incest and mental illness to fame and ambition, each story is told with a sense of distance which ultimately rings a little cold and eventually becomes simply boring. The problem with providing no element of subtlety or range in emotion is that cynicism becomes old quickly. By the end of the film we are so used to seeing the characters act in ways so deranged and unrealistic that the dark and chaotic ending no longer surprises the viewer.

One positive thing that can be said of the general disarray that is *Maps to the Stars* is that its star-studded cast undoubtedly put on one hell of a performance. Moore throws herself fearlessly into the role with a sense of pure raw emotion. Wasikowska is also strong, becoming one of the only sympathetic individuals on screen. The issue is that every motivation for every action seems to be a result of some form of past, often childhood, trauma, an unoriginal excuse which feels like a bit of cop out.

Ultimately, this is a film which tries to be too much—part horror flick, part commentary on fame, part family incest drama—making it easy to come away with nothing.

Higher education, Hollywood-style

Through the decades, university has been depicted to the viewing audience in a variety of ways. As student life continues to fascinate directors on both the small screen and in cinemas, **Ricky Jones** shares his top ten films and TV series related to university



Monsters University (2013)

It is always hard to follow perfection, but *Monsters University* came incredibly close. The scene where Mike Wazowski walks around the Monsters University Freshers Fair with youthful vigour and abandon brings back nostalgic moments of my own tentative steps around Vanbrugh Paradise. It feels strange to relate so strongly to a diminutive one-eyed reptile, but Pixar always knows exactly the right chords to play in eschewing accessibility and empathy.

21 (2008)

Based on a true story, *21* details the sordid world of counting cards through the eyes of a group of intelligent MIT students, led by student Ben and their professor Micky Rosa (the indomitable Kevin Spacey). The brutalist 1960s architecture of campus may be a far cry from the glitzy glamour of Las Vegas where most of the action in the film takes place, yet from the youthful vigour of the opening credits as Jim rides his bike onto campus to the adolescent dreamers' anthem 'Time to Pretend' by MGMT, to the lifeless seminar rooms where the group practice, *21* proves itself grounded enough to relate to us student folk. It may have been a critical failure of sorts on its release, but the film still offers a fun thrill ride, led by charming performances from the two leads, Jim Sturgess and Kate Bosworth.

Good Will Hunting (1997)

A strong and intelligent drama, featuring a tour de force performance from the legendary Robin Williams. *Good Will Hunting* sees Matt Damon as the eponymous janitor working at MIT, who also happens to be a genius, and Williams as the psychologist who attempts to coax him out of his blue collar lifestyle and realise his full potential. Kudos to joint writers Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, who created an incredibly touching and multi-faceted screenplay that deservedly won them an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

The Young Ones (1982-1984)

A classic 80s sitcom that casts a large shadow over the modern British comedy scene. Brimming with offbeat anarchic energy and featuring the colossal talents of Rik Mayall, Adrian Edmondson, Ben Elton and Alexei Sayle, *The Young Ones'* scumbag college setting still accurately defines what it feels to live in squalid student housing.

Fresh Meat (2011-)

What makes this loveable, razor sharp TV comedy so successful is just how relatable and densely crafted each of the characters are. From JP, the arrogant yet hapless posh boy to the hard partying, secretly insecure Vod, *Fresh Meat* paints a vibrant picture of the various colourful characters you will most likely meet in your time at university. Sam Bain, co-creator of the show, has been touting a film adaptation for some time, although no concrete plans have been made so far.



The Social Network (2010)

David Fincher applies his tense and compelling directorial style to the unlikely subject of the founding of Facebook and the rivalries it generated at Harvard.

Starter for Ten (2006)

The premise may not be the most appetising, but *Starter for Ten* turns the ultimate test of student minds up and down the country – University Challenge – into a charming, typically British coming of age story. Featuring a plethora of young British talent, from Benedict Cumberbatch in a supporting role to leads James McAvoy and Alive Eve, *Starter for Ten* is a seamless example of just how good British film can be.

Community (2009-)

A cult favourite sitcom set in an American community college, sort of like the US version of a polytechnic. Quirky characters and popular culture references abound along with a career topping performance by Chevy Chase, as *Community* provides a modern take on the familiar US sitcom about a group clashing friends, set in a library study room.

Chariots of Fire (1981)

A bold and wistfully romantic film that touched heartstrings all over the world and put British film firmly back on the map when it ran away at the Oscars in 1981. The film follows two outsiders, Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, from competing against each other at Cambridge University to the 1924 Olympics in Paris.



Animal House (1978)

Echoing what *The Young Ones* did for the British sitcom, the influence of *Animal House* on US comedy from *American Pie* to *Old School* is undoubtable. Featuring the boundless creativity of Harold Ramis and John Landis and the mythical comedic talent of John Belushi, *Animal House* was a huge commercial success. Irresistibly funny and chaotic, the film perfectly encapsulates the madness of university life.



Does university really make you fat?

Steven Scott



The only disciplinary exclusion that I heard about in my first year of University was that of a student who caught and killed a duck. Anyone who goes to the University of York will know that touching the waterfowl for any purpose is a definite faux pas. I can only assume that poaching one with the intention of serving it with plum sauce and an aromatic glaze is also heavily frowned upon.

It would, however, be fair to give credit to the unfortunate student for actually making an effort to cook from scratch. It is commonly joked about that students survive solely on Pot Noodles and Heinz Baked Beans. The truth, however, is slightly more dire. All students are aware that Pot Noodles, and any branded food for that matter, are far too expensive. So really, the joke should be more focused on Lidl's "Not Poodle" and other similar foods. This requirement of students to get value for money does not lead to the best food choices; fast food, microwave meals and sweets are all easily available, and cheaply.

Let's look at a typical night out, and how much your eating habits will have changed by graduation. A typical night for me would consist of around 10 pints. Ten pints of Doombar would give you an extra 2030 calories, and scarily, Doom is one of the lighter ales served in the North. That's already your daily allowance and we haven't even considered the Viking's pizza you collect on the way home, or the fact that you will have already had a full days worth of meals before you go out.

Of course, the more frugal students know that upon showing your student card at McDonald's you receive a free cheeseburger. You will give in to this junk food, because it's free, even if you had no prior intention to indulge in grease after being chucked out of Tokyo. So, a big night out can quite easily double your daily dosage of calories, even if you do dance like a maniac in Willow. Even Willow encourages a culture of late night snacking with its offering of free prawn crackers to the more hardcore party goers.

Make an effort. For those of you not fortunate enough to be catered there is a lovely 'grow your own' area in all of the colleges. Here you will find plenty of herbs and vegetables to cook with. Scrap the take outs, crisps and junk food and cook yourself a proper hearty meal.

That's my advice. Of course, you are at University, probably living away for the first time. You're going to get take outs because you are lazy; who can resist an Efe's pizza? My mum gave me some advice before I left for uni—that if I wanted to stave off becoming fat I should drink white wine spritzers in the place of my pint. Did I listen to her? Oh no. I can't go to the pub and order that, the locals shout enough abuse when ordering shandies and half pints.

In my first year I drank more pints than I care to remember, ate so much rubbish and even as I sit here now I have a packet of Doritos open, yes, the large bag, and a Snickers bar ready for consumption. I could be skinny, but beer and food are just too good. As for sport, well, I race cars. So I'll leave it with you to speculate my physique, and once you have done that you can weigh up whether my opinion means anything. No pun intended.

Hangover remedies

As a student it's very likely that you'll be drinking at some point during your time at university. On the odd occasion that you may have had one too many drinks, **Serena Reidy** shares her suggestions for nursing a hangover

A full English breakfast

If you can stomach it, prepare yourself an English breakfast. Fry a couple of eggs, add a rasher of bacon, and squeeze on some ketchup, then serve with buttered toast. A good quantity of filling food soaks up alcohol from the system.



Potassium-rich

Your body loses a lot of potassium due to alcohol. But thankfully, a lot of fruit and vegetables, such as bananas, kiwi and spinach are potassium rich, providing you with an easy way to help cure your hangover.



De-caffeine

Try to avoid reaching for the caffeine - although it is tempting to stop at a coffee shop on the way to your next lecture, it will make you feel even more dehydrated, and increase that painful headache. If you can't function without coffee, choose a decaf option.

Replenishing drinks

It's a common myth that continuing to drink alcohol the morning after can eliminate hangover pain. In fact this will probably make you feel a lot worse; instead its best to find a drink that will restore your hydration levels. Try coconut water or a sports drink, for example Lucozade. Fresh fruit juices can also provide a refreshing boost.



Ginger tea

It doesn't sound like the most appealing drink, but research has proven that ginger tea can reduce nausea, a common symptom of hangovers. You can add a drizzle of honey for a sweeter taste.



Superfood oats

Oats aren't usually the first thing that comes to mind when we think of foods for soothing a hangover. In fact, they are a superfood packed with essential nutrients. A bowl of porridge provides a much needed vitamin B boost, as well as an energy kick as they are a complex carbohydrate. Oats also help to steady blood sugar levels to get you through the day.



Cooking in numbers

Emily Boul

This is a perfect recipe for post-fresher's week, when you're starting to sober up and decide it's time to get to know your housemates a little bit better. Whether you're a fresher looking to impress, or a third year who just wants a home cooked meal, this is a great dish to cook as a group.

Crispy chicken with ratatouille and mashed potatoes (serves 6)

- 6 chicken thighs (one per person)
- 6 drumsticks, (one per person)
- 2 tbsp of oil
- 1 red pepper
- 1 courgette
- 1 aubergine
- salt and pepper (to season)
- 4/5 tbsp plain flour
- 6 large potatoes
- 100ml milk
- 1 tbsp butter
- 3 onions
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 tsp mixed herbs
- 3 cans chopped tomatoes

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Prepare the chicken coating by putting the flour on a small plate. Season with salt and plenty of black pepper. Coat the chicken pieces in the mixture.
2. Heat a splash of oil in a pan. Once hot, add the chicken and leave to sizzle and crisp. Flip when the coating is golden brown.
3. Place the chicken onto a baking tray and into the pre-heated oven.
4. Next, chop the potatoes into 2cm cubes and place into a pan of boiling water. Boil for half an hour.
5. Start on the ratatouille. Finely slice the onions and garlic and fry in a pan with a splash of oil, stirring frequently.
6. Chop the peppers, courgette and aubergine and add to the pan. Continue to stir.
7. When the vegetables begin to soften, add the canned tomatoes and a teaspoon of mixed herbs. Leave to simmer.
8. When the potatoes are soft (check this by piercing with a knife), drain off the water. Add the butter and a splash of milk and mash together.
9. Check the chicken is cooked, then you're ready to serve!

The Michel-in Starred Man

Michel Roux Jr. speaks to Emily Myers about Michelin stars, Masterchef and making the most of a student budget



Michel Roux Junior was born into a family of great chefs and soon followed in their footsteps, quickly making a name for himself in the UK restaurant scene. He owns several restaurants, including Le Gavroche, which currently has two Michelin stars. Although Roux is famous in the culinary world for his restaurants, he is also well known in television thanks to his appearances on *MasterChef: The Professionals*, *Food and Drink* and *Great British Food Revival*.

I was definitely born to be a chef. I was born into a great family of chefs. My father Albert, uncle Michel and cousin Alain are highly acclaimed chefs, and my daughter Emily is following in our footsteps.

When I was a child both my mother and father were cooks for the Cazalet family. One of my earliest food memories are the smells coming from the Fairlawne kitchen—pastry, sugar caramelising and stews—I would be playing under the table while my mother Monique prepared the meals.

I think generally juggling commitments is my biggest challenge. Making sure that I can spend enough time at Le Gavroche whilst filming, making appearances at food events, and overseeing our other restaurants, plus of course spending time with the family, which can be tricky as chefs have to work such long hours.

I took over Le Gavroche in the early 90s. It was the time that my father and I felt that I was ready, but it was certainly tough, probably the toughest time in my life. In terms of the food, I couldn't bring myself to do a complete change, I had too much respect for what my father and uncle had built up over the years, so I always felt that Le Gavroche had to continue on

as it was under me. I have definitely clashed with my father a few times over the years when I've wanted to bring in new dishes or ideas to the business, but mainly we have a very good relationship. As I mentioned, my daughter Emily is a chef, and although she isn't cooking in the UK at the moment, I would love to think that one day she would be interested in coming into the family business.

Of course, having two Michelin stars is very important. It's wonderful for our food and service to have this international recognition. I think there is too much pressure put on restaurants in the Michelin star arena, but much of this is self-inflicted. I'm not chasing the third star, if it comes it comes, but I'm very pleased that my cousin Alain is cooking under three stars at The Waterside Inn, he's a wonderful chef and it's a great experience to eat there.

My father and I work very closely on a number of projects, not just Roux at the Landau. We work well together; I have enormous respect for his judgement and knowledge. I also run Roux at Parliament Square, and my father operates a number of Roux restaurants in Scotland. There will be more Roux openings, but there will only ever be one Le Gavroche!

It's very difficult to become a chef at a top restaurant. Starting off at a catering college is a good option, and then progress through as many stages as you can – working in restaurants around the world to build up your experience.

My favourite part about working on *Masterchef: The Professionals* was helping people to discover just how much they're capable of achieving. It's very important to me that we discover and nurture the best possible talent.

I would recommend Salade Lyonnaise for students on a budget. The French are very good at getting the most flavour out of low cost ingredients, and that is one of my favourite dishes.

Out of my books, I'd recommend *The French Kitchen* for students to buy. It's good home cooking.

There is no reason at all why more female chefs shouldn't receive every accolade going. In our kitchen, there is no difference at all in the performance or dedication of male and female chefs. We have three female chefs in our kitchen. Our head chef is Rachel Humphrey, and our two sous chefs are Monica, as you know, and Renee Miller.

It was an honour to be involved in the relaunch of the BBC show *Food and Drink*. The original programme inspired many and with Britain's appreciation for good food having grown so much in the last 30 years, it was a great way for me to explore fantastic food and drink with old and new friends.

I think that greater originality is going to be the key to holding people's attention for culinary TV. But there seem to be too many gimmicky programmes finding their way onto the screen. I would hope that there will be more documentary-style culinary programmes helping people find out more about culinary history, and the great diversity of wonderful ingredients that we can use, and also opportunities to help people discover the great joy that cooking and eating well can bring them.

My wife is a great cook. I'm very happy for her to prepare a meal for me when I get home!

The internet revolution

BuzzFeed UK editor **Luke Lewis** speaks to Grace Marsh about launching in the UK, British humour and what makes the site so successful

How did you get involved in BuzzFeed?

Buzzfeed launched in the UK in March 2013. It had been established in the US and actually goes back all the way to 2006. They really started ramping it up, and it started becoming more of a big deal really in 2011/12. So that's when I became a huge fan of what they were doing so I contacted them and kind of figured that they might want to launch in the UK. So I said if you do, if you're thinking about it, then you should consider me. And actually I was kind of right in that position because they were thinking about launching, they just hadn't really got round to it yet. So yeah, that happened in early 2013.

What was it like when you first started?

Initially, it was very much kind of experimental, there was only three of us, we were sharing an office which was another company's, you know, it was quite low key. The audience was there, and since then we've been building it up so the UK editorial team is about 30 people now. In terms of consumers, now we have 15 million unique users in the UK and globally 150 million per month.

What makes BuzzFeed UK different from BuzzFeed US?

The main thing that distinguishes BuzzFeed in the UK from in the US is our focus on humour. So if you look at all the most viral, most widely shared articles that we've ever done in the UK, they're mostly funny. That's not really true in the US; humour is a pretty big part of what they do, but it's not like the number one priority.

How have you adapted content for a UK audience?

Around about the time that we launched, things that were doing very well in the US was cute animal stuff, chill, uplift articles were very popular—a really huge article around that time was 'photos that will restore your faith in humanity'. That kind of thing was really popular in the US and we kind of experimented with that in the UK, but it didn't work that well. But when we focused more specifically on humour, self-deprecating humour and regional identity is another one — those things worked incredibly well so we really focused on those.

What do you think makes people enjoy reading things like 'ten reasons why you're from the north'?

There is a slight element of mockery involved, especially self-mockery, that's an important thing. When we're writing about a certain niche, or a certain regional identity, you want people who are part of that identity to share it themselves, so if it's really nasty, sort of slagging off Geordies for example, then they wouldn't share it, but if it's sort of gently mocking in a way that they can agree with, then it works. Because you know that's just the great British thing. Self-deprecating humour is a really big part of our identity.

What makes regional identity so important?

The reason that identity is really powerful I think is that British media traditionally has kind of ignored the regions beyond London. And so we were really keen to not do that on BuzzFeed. In fact we want to embrace that more actually. We're gonna sort of ramp up the amount of regional stuff that we're doing.

How do the British public respond to articles about cute cats and Kim Kardashian?

Humour is extremely important to us, then there's also the whole news side of BuzzFeed and celebrity stuff; it's always popular but it tends not to be shared that well. Those kind of things, Kim Kardashian, there's a lot of entertainment value. They do quite well from the homepage and people do like to read it, but then people won't necessarily share it. It's part of the mix, but not necessarily our main focus.

How popular is sport on BuzzFeed?

It's the same with sport as with celebrity stuff; we kind of dipped our toe in the water with sport, but it's an area that is very, very well served in the British media, by the newspapers and we've not quite found a route into that. Maybe in the future, but at the moment, sport is now something we're really focused on.

Is it BuzzFeed's unique, easy to read format that makes it so successful?

Yes, absolutely. We're thinking about impact and accessibility. For a couple of hundred years, the format of a news story has not really changed very much. It's about 500 words of copy, with one picture at the top. Especially news online, there's not been much kind of innovation; they're really just taken from newspapers. They're just repurposed, with one picture and 500 words of copy and often it's just rewritten from the wire.

What makes BuzzFeed different?

We do like to think about how we like to present news stories and getting away from that classic structure of a newspaper which is often like an inverted pyramid. Newspaper journalists will try to cram as many details as they can into the first few sentences and then the story gets less and less relevant.

How do you achieve this?

We kind of flip it on its head and we make it more conversational, a bit more chronological. News journalists will often just start at the beginning — this is the person, this is his name, this is how old he is. And then you kind of start telling it like a story, as if you were in conversation with a friend. So I think that's what makes our news stories a little bit less artificial and a little bit more conversational, which I think is why they work well on Facebook.

Is Facebook the most popular sharing platform?

It definitely is yeah, but that just reflects the fact that it's the biggest social media platform by far. The second biggest one is Pinterest and the third is Twitter. To be honest, Twitter is slightly bigger in the UK but globally Pinterest drives significantly more interest than Twitter because it's huge in the US.

How can students get themselves noticed on the internet?

You can kind of make the mistake of trying to be on every platform. I'm not personally on Pinterest; it drives a lot on interest on BuzzFeed but

I'm not sure it's a great way of selling yourself. Facebook is kind of underrated as a way of promoting yourself. I've always had a public facebook profile and posted lots of links there, and have now built up a bit of a following. I think sometimes people neglect Facebook and focus on Twitter.

Why is the more light-hearted content so popular on BuzzFeed?

It just reflects the reality of how people consume content nowadays. I think the organising principal of the web now is the kind of activity stream, especially the Facebook newsfeed. If you look at your newsfeed right now, I'm sure there's news stories and serious stuff about what's going on in the world, but there's also stuff about your friends and family, throwaway entertaining stuff as well. And I think that's just how people live their lives. So it makes sense that BuzzFeed should reflect that. So you've got the serious and the light-hearted, entertaining co-existing very closely and I think that's just a natural reflection of life really.

What do you think about The University of York having a BuzzFeed account?

I think that's great. It's great writing about universities because all it takes is for one person to put it on Facebook and people in their year share it, then it starts to spread to people that once went to that university and it ends up as being tens of thousands of people and that's brilliant, that's what BuzzFeed is all about really.

What is the best thing you've seen on BuzzFeed?

One of our writers, Robin Edge, did this great thing, which is what Game of Thrones would look like if it was set in Britain. He kind of mocked up the different houses of Game of Thrones and made them look like English counties. I just thought it was nicely done.

And your least favourite?

Nothing springs to mind really.





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My shit week so far

Thomas Fennelly

Welcome, dickheads.

There is a certain amount of animosity that that everyone has for freshers, so, in a slight deviation to the usual content of this column, I'd like to dedicate this one to the new intake of dickheads that are about to grace our University.

For another year, all of the incumbent students of this fine institution will, once again, be embarrassed and considerably irritated by the alcohol and banter-fueled antics of the fresh-faced dickheads we now have to share a city with.

Of course, freshers aren't actually dickheads; they're just labelled as such because of an underlying jealousy and a begrudging of the previous generations of freshers. Everyone was a dickhead once, a phase many of you haven't seemed to have grown out of.

Needing only 40 per cent to pass a year that doesn't count to your degree, the incentives are certainly there to piss about in your own filth for a year while you whittle away your student loan on Lucia cocktails, strawpe-doing (which I'm sure will be the next verb to be added to the OED) bottles of Merlot and trying to befriend campus geese.

There are certain things that I don't miss about being a fresher, however. Comparing Oxbridge rejection stories certainly got tiresome, for instance. Playing Top Trumps with gap years is equally as draining ("Well I went to Camp America and walked fat kids by a lake", "Well I went to Bangladesh and built a school for the children"). Admittedly, I found that there was a lot more fun in placing bets on who will sleep with who on your floor; or, as it's more colloquially known as, shitting on your own doorstep. That being said, you can

top yourself off as chief dickhead by using Uni Baggage's latest service called 'Very Important Fresher.' It offers students the chance to arrive to their halls in a supercar, helicopter, private jet, or even a horse and carriage in the ultimate game of decadent bourgeois one-upmanship. Why not go a step further and turn up in something more quirky, like a hearse. Your credibility will certainly turn up in a hearse when you land a helicopter on top of one of Derwent's many quadrilateral build-

"Everyone was a dickhead once, a phase many of you haven't seemed to have grown out of"

ings.

Yet for us returners in second and third year (or fourth year if you delayed going back into the real world by cycling round France and teaching kids English - I think it's called a 'year in industry'), life is a hell of a lot more scary.

When I returned back to my new house to finally settle in, I could barely open my door for the mountain of post, most of which were utility companies threatening to take us to court unless we paid them their money. Further inspection of the house showed that the boiler didn't work and that the shower that didn't rely on the boiler had two settings: off, and a level of radioactive heat that most Geiger counters wouldn't go near.

Then there's bumping into all the people



CARTOON: KATE MITCHELL

you tried to avoid last year, with each awkward hello always being followed by the inevitable question: "good summer?" The people, I find, that pose this question don't actually have any interest in your summer; rather, they want you to politely ask the question back so that they can gloat about their cushy PR internship or the article they got published in the Mirror and the job they've got lined up the day after they graduate. I tend not to give them the pleasure.

Anyway, I guess the message that I'm trying to get across is that freshers need to take full advantage of being a dickhead as much as possible because you're only a fresher once. If

there's any time to be a dickhead at uni, it's your first year. And if anyone gives you grief, it's because it's inherently rooted in an undying lust for another year of ultimate liberation. But in the mean time, fresher, think of the rest of us who are sat quietly in their cold rooms, drinking beer, listening to Robbie Williams collaborations and patiently waiting for the next Pink Floyd album whilst desperately trying to think up a dissertation question. Or is that just me?

FENN'S FUN FRESHERS FACT: Only Morrison's shopping bags will fit the bin in your campus room perfectly.

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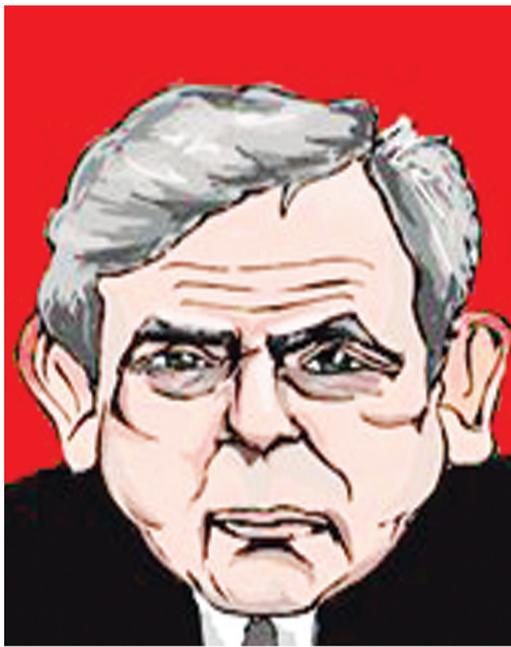


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STUDENT HACK



The Equality Challenge Unit awarded the Department of Education of the University of York with a Bronze level trial gender equality charter mark for advancing gender equality, becoming only one of 17 departments in the country to do so.



2015 General Election



Plymouth University has been criticised for wasting money while making redundancies after they spent £95,000 on 7 designer chairs, commissioned from the designer John Makepeace, for graduation ceremonies. The university claim it would bring in tourists.



Robin Bandar
POLITICAL REPORTER

As the end of this parliament draws near, the final extravagance of recent political decision-making and results will bear heavy on the minds of voters.

Victory for the Union, fresh Labour support for Middle East military action, and even the announcement of the Tory titan Boris Johnson standing for the Uxbridge and South Ruislip seat offer a reassurance that this General Election will be a gripping fight at every turn.

Fresh in thought, Scottish independence and the consequences of the Westminster party's outings may be the heaviest hitting on public opinion. Perhaps even for years to come.

Certainly, Alex Salmond succeeded in forcing the hand of the Prime Minister in giving an unex-

pected, and worryingly, emotional speech.

Yet the Labour Party equally had their tails tucked under with a full delegation sent to convince voters otherwise—desperation keenly pointed out by Mr. Salmond.

However, it was Ed Miliband's party that exited the Independence debate with a slightly increased lead shown by YouGov at 37 per cent.

Labour continued, albeit with no apparent polling gain (or drop) in the last week, their support for military action against the Islamic State principally in Iraq has found widespread approval.

The argument has been made that the situation would have been even worse if Labour allowed the Prime Minister to fight Al-Assad's fledgling clutch of al-Sham. While it

was a positive for Labour last year, their support has proved negligible in hindsight.

Miliband's party speech may not have been as successful as he would have hoped, with many focusing on what he did not say rather than what he did. However it did bring into focus the new branding of the Labour Party and their focus on togetherness.

The Conservatives may receive a slight rebranding with a fresh face to their personnel. The airbrushed billboards of David Cameron in 2010 might just feature his old Etonian friend Boris.

It's a similar sight from the Tories, known for producing both notorious and divisive figures, they manage to ensure and galvanize strong coverage of their frontrun-

ners—historically translating into votes and staying power.

At the other end, Labour will be making losses; Jack Straw, David Blunkett and even Dame Tessa Jowell are leaving, with no anticipated replacements.

Of course, some of the biggest points of contention will be the rise of UKIP, the demise of the Liberal Democrats and the position of Nick Clegg, come May. The SNP seek rejuvenation too.

Regardless, the political end games are going to swiftly start taking shape and it is clearly already on people's minds.

New policies and manifestos will come by the end of spring and a battleground of dogma will continue until the 7th, where another five years of fate will be sealed.



Google has revealed that the most searched for University on its site is the University of Phoenix. Due to its high number of online courses it ranked higher than Oxford and Cambridge, demonstrating the strong interest in online courses, rather than traditional campus-based universities.

UK says Yes to airstrikes against ISIS

Yvonne-Stefania Efstathiou
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

At five o'clock on Friday 26 September, the UK voted in favour of joining the US, France and some Middle Eastern powers in their airstrikes against Isis.

This vote signals Britain's involvement in another war in the Middle East and Iraq—the first since 2011 when the UK launched air strikes against Muammar Gadhafi and Libya.

For the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, this decision fulfils Britain's duty to protect both the West and the whole world against the terrorists.

The emergency six and a half hour Commons debate, resulted in MPs voting overwhelmingly to support bombing in Iraq, by a margin of 524 votes to 43. Britain will now send the Royal Air Force to reinforce the US-led bombing campaign in Iraq.

British air strikes against Isis targets in Iraq will begin within days. However, ministers have admitted that UK intervention could be long and maybe last two or three years.

"Is there a threat to the British people? The answer is 'yes,'" underlined Mr. Cameron during the debate. Islamic State has already killed one British hostage, is threatening to kill two more, has inspired terrorist acts in Europe, such as the attack on the Jewish museum in Brussels, and security services have

disrupted six other known plots in Europe and a terrorist attack in Australia.

"Left unchecked, we will face a terrorist caliphate on the shores of the Mediterranean, bordering a NATO member, with a declared and proven determination to attack our country and our people".

David Cameron in previous weeks had talked about its intentions in joining the airstrikes to fight and target the fanatics of the co-called Islamic State in Iraq, but not Syria. Several notable persons voiced their support during the debate.

“More than 190 US air strikes have taken place, yet the militants are still advancing”

Among others; the MPs for Plymouth, Harrogate, Knaresborough and the Amnesty International, Archbishop Justin Welby.

According to the Archbishop 'In the here and now, there is justification for the use of armed force on humanitarian grounds, to enable oppressed victims to find safe space."

IS, previously self-proclaimed as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, is an unrecognised state and a Sunni jihadist group active in Iraq and Syria in the Middle East. According to IS they are a caliphate which claims religious authority over all Muslim across the world and aims to bring most of the



DANIEL OGREN

UK will join the US and France airstrikes against IS, for the first time since 2011 against Libya

Muslim-inhabited regions under its political control beginning with territory in the Levant that includes Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus and part of the southern Turkey.

American boxer Mike Tyson once said that "everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth" and hopefully this time Cameron and the UK would have a

plan, if not a clear and well calculated one, as to what should be done in order to avoid another Afghanistan 2001, Iraq 2003 and Libya 2011.

What evidence suggests is that UK air strikes in Iraq, might have limited if any effect.

More than 190 US air strikes have taken place in Iraq since 8 August by the US, and yet there are still militants advancing six weeks

after the first bombs and missiles exploded.

Just last week, in a little battle at Saqlawiya, 40 miles west of Baghdad, Isis fighters besieged and overran an Iraqi army base and then ambushed the retreating soldiers.

Moreover, specialists suggest that a more significant level of intervention might include boots on ground.

The independence debate is not over

James Humpish
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Should Scotland be an independent country? According to the majority of Scotland, it shouldn't. At 55.3 per cent against, the lead is clear enough.

However, the questions that have arisen from the referendum are manifold and will not likely be answered any time soon.

In Europe alone, twenty-nine states contain separatist movements seeking to secede and form independent states.

Comparatively, Scotland is incredibly lucky to have been granted the opportunity to decide on whether or not to secede and have the offer of no-barrier-exit somewhat simply on the table.

Catalonia stands out as the prime example of a community seeking to establish itself as an independent state.

The Centre for Opinion Studies shows that Catalan support for independence was 48.5 per cent last year and only 18.6 per cent favouring their current status as an autonomous community.

With the Scottish referendum making global news, having an 84.5 per cent voter turnout, the question is, can such a democratically provocative issue be legitimately denied by any aspiring democracy?



GRENSAMBA/MAN

The question of devolution will certainly be salient in parliament for the foreseeable future

The optimist could say that a government may abstain from issuing such a referendum because for the sake of all citizens, if the UK has taught us one thing, would-be separate states are 'better together'.

Conversely, the pessimist might say that a government may abstain because regardless of the outcome of the Scottish referendum, Scotland

would always receive more powers than it had beforehand. The incentive for any self-interested government is to abstain from referenda.

However, adherence to such an incentive is undemocratic if opposed to clear demand and may not hold up to the scrutiny of other governments.

It may be that a door has been

opened that cannot be closed and there will be referenda in other regions to come.

Devolution is now the order of the day domestically, but in what form may be a divisive issue in Westminster.

It may now be time to tackle the West Lothian question as to why politicians in Scotland, Wales and

Northern Ireland are able to influence issues affecting England alone. It may be that if powers devolve to Scotland, they may devolve elsewhere.

Doesn't Yorkshire have an identity that isn't far from the Scottish identity? To deal with the West Lothian question in a manner whereby only the English affect England seems to me to undermine 'Better Together'.

To have us united only in so far as intra-country affairs seems to subvert our sense of unity and restructure ourselves in a manner not dissimilar from the EU.

The question of devolution will certainly be salient in Parliament for some time and may not be uncalled for, but the dilution of the British identity seems at risk as a result.

The Scottish referendum generates other questions not to be ignored. Was allowing 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds to vote a success to be replicated in the future; in general elections? In a campaign which at times seemed to both drive and be driven by the opinion polls, to what extent should they be allowed to influence politics?

The Scottish Referendum may now be done and dealt with, but its impact may well develop across the globe for years to come, with more than a simple yes or no question to be answered.

Politics

Nuclear disarmament should be the future

Jacob Miller
POLITICAL REPORTER

The U.S is preparing for a major renewal of nuclear arms. A recent federal study has estimated the collective cost of this armament project will amount up to a trillion dollars over the next three decades. Putin's invasion of Ukraine encouraged this and, "made any measure to reduce the stockpile unilaterally impossible". Samore's comments encapsulate the status quo regarding weapons of mass destruction; it is a necessity in order to force one's opponents to refrain from attack commonly referred to as the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

Conflicts between Palestine and Israel coupled with the recent activity of I.S militants, demonstrate that although we are not embroiled in a world war this certainly is a world at war. Many argue that MAD maintains peace in such an uncertain world. However, I believe the possession of Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMDs) heightens the possibility of conflict through its creation of a culture of fear and suspicion between nations. The nuclear expansion initiated by the Obama administration will exacerbate these existing tensions.

The Cold War is the prime example of MAD. One of this period's most precarious points was undoubtedly the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962). It was a culmination of antagonism between two opposing ideologies. The fate of the world was subject to the push of a button. However, actions were being under-



"Small Boy" nuclear test 1962, at the Nevada Test Site, showing the destruction that nuclear weapons can cause

taken long before to reach this peak.

Khrushchev proposed sharp reductions in offensive weapons, in an attempt to recover from the World War and cure the USSR's economic backwardness.

However, the Kennedy administration, as with America today, opted for military expansion. The Soviet response was to place missiles in Cuba in October 1962. The result was what is arguably the closest we have ever come to nuclear warfare and seems to challenge the integrity of the MAD argument.

However, others argue that WMDs also provide us with influence. In 1957, Nye Bevan stated that unilateral disarmament would, "send a foreign secretary naked into

the conference chamber". However, other nations, such as Australia and Canada do not possess nuclear weapons but still exert much influence.

Ultimately, the U.S government must ask if nuclear weapons are worth the risk. The United States spends more than \$60 billion annually on nuclear armaments. At a time of austerity, when ordinary people are having their living standards slashed, surely it is unfair that such amounts should be spent on something which has the potential to destroy all complex life forms on Earth.

It would take 0.1 per cent of the explosive yield of the current global nuclear arsenal to cause agricultural

collapse and widespread famine. This may not even occur due to aggression, earlier this year a Chatham House report stated that the risk of nuclear accidents is rising. The report lists 13 incidents since 1962 where nuclear weapons were nearly launched by mistake.

It is time for the major powers, such as the U.S to take the brave steps towards nuclear disarmament. As Desmond Tutu said in a recent article for The Guardian, America is provoked into anger by nuclear tests in countries such as North Korea, but proliferating states will not heed those which possess an arsenal of nuclear weapons. Only when the major powers forsake such arms will we prevent their spread.

The growing appeal of Gordon Brown

Katy Sandalls
POLITICAL REPORTER

If I had written this article 4 years ago nobody would have believed what I am about to say. In 2010 Gordon Brown could not have been in a worse position – having lost the support of the general public and many in the Labour party Brown seemed to be on a one way ticket to "I used to be the Prime Minister – ville". A land filled with speaking tours and seemingly meaningless jobs. But over the past few weeks Brown seemed to prove himself by helping spur on the No campaign.

Brown managed to engage the public in a way that none of the party leaders and Alistair Darling could. Perhaps it was the fact that he is no longer a "Westminster" leader that made him seem appealing. During the elections there was a lot of talk about the idea that the party leaders were only in it for themselves – that they were trying to preserve their own interests. With a general election looming this seems like a fair comment. Brown no longer has the power and therefore he doesn't have the pressure to make the "right" decision anymore. He has no one but his constituents to answer to.

Perhaps it's the fact that he is Scottish that helped. As a Scottish

MP he is more familiar than most with the issues in Scotland and what Scottish people want. He actually spends time in Scotland.

However the one thing that perhaps impressed me more than this was his ability to speak passionately about something that you could plausibly believe he was fervent about. During his leadership, Brown was seen as wet, powerless and baseless—because he was never elected. Maybe it is indeed because he has nothing left to lose and that nobody expected anything of him. So when he managed to come out and speak honestly and genuinely about the problems Scotland faces people were taken aback.

Now many, especially in the Labour Party are starting to rethink Brown's position in the party. Wondering if now is the right time for him to come back to the front line of politics, something that the 2010 Gordon Brown was more than reluctant to do. The future for Brown in England looks more uncertain but in Scotland it seems fairly clear that at least for now he is there to stay – there to ensure that the people of Scotland who voted No to independence get the concessions they were promised for staying in the Union.



@David_Cameron
David Cameron
UK Prime Minister

I have requested that Parliament be recalled to debate the UK response to the Iraqi Govt's request for support against ISIL.

24 Sept



@FrankRGardener
Frank Gardner
BBC Security Correspondent

#Saudi Arabia confirms its airforce took part with Arab allies in strikes on #ISIS #IslamicState positions in #Syria

23 Sept



@KenRoth
Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Watch

ISIS contagion spreads as #Philippines Abu Sayyaf group threatens to kill two German hostages unless its demands met.

25 Sept



@TimMontgomerie
Tim Montgomerie
Columnist and Lead
Writer for The Times

Good people cannot stand by when barbarism is on the march. ISIS, if given the chance, will one day come for us.

24 Sept



@WilliamsJon
John Williams
Foreign Editor @ABC

UK PM David Cameron says #ISIS "brutality staggering, belongs to dark ages. Left unchecked face Caliphate on shores of Mediterranean."

26 Sept

Ceasefire in Ukraine may unravel as peace alignments form

Anatolie Vataman
POLITICAL REPORTER

The recent news from the Ukraine provides a cautious ground for the optimism. Not only had the official state forces agreed a comprehensive and clear ceasefire with anti-government rebel forces, but also it seems that this plan is implemented by both parties, despite minor occasional accidents. However, it is important to remember that the likelihood of this plan being implemented is higher than its predecessors because it is no longer based on promises or benevolence of both sides but on a short-term convergence of the strategic interests of the interested parties.

On the one hand, the government forces are the most interest in peace settlement. The acute stage of the conflict, which continues from the April, weakens shaky economic foundations of the current, which even before the conflict had problems due to high levels of corruptions and regional disputes. Furthermore, Ukraine currently spends \$6 million on the "anti-terrorist operation" per day and it would require additional £8 billion in order to restore the country. In this context, it is highly probable that the Ukrainian army is rapidly becoming poorly equipped and ill-prepared for the continual fighting, particularly considering the fact that Mr. Poroshenko visit to US Congress last Thursday failed considerable financial support from the United States.



Disgruntled pro-russian secessionists are serried together, forming a barricade in Luhansk in easternmost Ukraine

Furthermore, Ukraine, which receives loans according to the IMF structural adjustment programmes, has a legal responsibility to meet rigid fiscal conditions in order to become eligible for the second part of the loan.

Politically, Mr. Poroshenko needs peace settlement ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections in order to lose his electoral

credentials further since the continuing "anti-terrorist" campaign was used by his opponents, particularly by Dmitry Yarosh and Yulia Timoshenko, who argued that campaign was seriously mismanaged and poorly handled.

On the other hand, the separatist forces, which is essentially comprised of numerous troop contingents, also require a temporary

respite from the conflict in order to regroup and possibly redesign its response towards the government forces.

Moreover, from the standpoint of the rebel forces, the most tangible result of the Minsk negotiations was the greater autonomy rights for the eastern regions of the Ukraine, which at least gives them an interesting food for thought and potentially

might change their perception of the conflict with the government forces. Most importantly, the existing peace agreements satisfy the central national interests of Moscow. Politically, Russia already achieved its most important objective, which it aimed to achieve throughout the on-going crisis-to destabilize the situation in such a way, that would create serious obstacles for the Ukraine to join either Nato or European Union.

Thus, Ukraine would likely remain economically dependent on Russia, at least in short-term, which is currently the main strategic priority. Additionally, during the ceasefire Russia would make attempts to answer one of the most important question it faces in its post-Cold War history: does it need the relationship with the West per se (which are likely to be on Western designed and imposed conditions) or should redirect its attention towards Asia and BRICs?

This means that the fact that the existing peace accords are implemented by all sides of the conflict is both good news and a bad news for international community. It is good news that they are based on a strong accordance of the key interests of main interested parties, which means that the Ukraine conflict, at least temporarily, is over. The bad news is that once the main parties of the conflict start to develop different interests and priorities the peace agreements are likely to unravel.

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Business



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BUSINESS IN BRIEF

iPhone Launch

Apple's latest iPhone, the iPhone 6, was released this week. In the first weekend of sales more than ten million phones were sold. This news exceeded expectations. However everything did not go as planned since numerous faults were found with the new phone.



False Profit

Executives for Tesco were recently discovered to have intentionally misstated their level of profits by £250m. The share price crash wiped £2bn of Tesco's stock-market valuation, forced four executives to be suspended and led to BlackRock to withdraw from holding Tesco shares.



French Cabinet Re-shuffle

In response to disagreements about the French economy and its lack of leadership in Europe, the French cabinet resigned. The Prime Minister, managed to narrowly win a vote of confidence in his new cabinet.



House Prices Rise

House prices have risen by 1 per cent since July, the Land Registry have confirmed. Once again, London has driven the house price increase and they are at the highest rate of increase for nearly seven years.

Samuel Russell

Can Alibaba's carpet really float?

James Humpish
BUSINESS REPORTER

After a year of planning with the USA, Alibaba gave an initial public offering of its shares on the stock market on the 18th at \$99 and opening the next day at \$92.70. Raising such an amount has made Alibaba bigger than Facebook as a technology listing.

Those who bought at \$68 couldn't have made a better gambit. There was just one question: what actually is Alibaba?

Based in China, the Alibaba Group is a website which functions as a trading website, providing both business-to-business interaction as well as online retail and payment services.

To the first time user Alibaba is similar to Amazon in many ways. It began as an online marketplace for businesses to trade in but quickly developed to involve consumer sales and online payments.

A quick flick through the considerable number of items on offer showed that Alibaba sell everything from beer to bulldozers and from lithium carbonate to lingerie (that's the Christmas shopping done then). The format is rather similar to online retailers such as Amazon but despite the wide-range of products, there's not a hugely significant overlap.

Amazon appears to have the edge on DVDs, books, music and the like, whereas Alibaba possess nearly everything else.

The pitch of Alibaba is quite strong. It has been sold to investors as a means of tapping into the vast and growing Chinese middle-class as their taste for consumerism in-



Alibaba, the largest Chinese online business, has floated on the New York Stock Exchange

creases. As merely a tool to make connections and link buyers to sellers, the costs of Alibaba are low and the lasting competition in China non-existent as far as online retailers goes. Its lack of prominence in the Western sphere seems to spell positive as something lucrative and new.

However, the natural flipside is that whilst having a strong opening, there is a slight hesitancy now in that investors appear to be waiting for Alibaba's the next step.

Those who bought straight away have made 38 per cent gains, mainly composed of hedge funds and other institutional investors. All those who have bought at a differ-

ent time have made negligible gains. Buyers at \$92.70 have been up by about 1 per cent. But despite its selling points, its flash increase in stock price means that retail investors are now hesitant to partake in buying.

They may wish to play safe until Alibaba proves itself as stable in the long-term since they may never receive notable benefits from Alibaba's flotation. This being what 'represents the bastion of elitism', according to Barry Schneider, the CEO at Loyal3.

Alibaba is worth taking note of. For one thing, one of its founders, Jack Ma, is now the richest man in China.

It is comparable with eBay in

its user-to-user interface with Alibaba serving purely as a mediator, and may even be comparable to ApplePay before it's even started.

Alipay's online payment accounts for half of all online payment within China, whilst ApplePay is set to be a potentially revolutionary form of online payment in the coming year.

Alibaba is new and exciting and has a great deal of potential. Whether it will prove to have lasting financial success remains to be seen and the general investor is right to hold his cards to his chest.

It is certainly a compelling business which may make for a compelling future in the stock market.

Ireland's rapid rise to stability

Samuel Russell
BUSINESS EDITOR

Ireland, which spent much of the recession being labelled as one of the five PIGS economies, is now the eurozone's fastest growing economy. The country recently posted a year on year growth rate of 7.7 per cent, whilst the average amongst the eurozone was a paltry 0.7 per cent.

The Irish Government claimed that this was due to "the policies pursued by this Government and the sacrifices made by the Irish people." This statement is true to a large extent, the prompt and proportionate action of the Irish government on this issue sharply contrasts to the actions of other 'PIGS' governments.

Furthermore the Irish people have suffered some of their hardest years. Ireland was undoubtedly helped in its recovery by a number of other factors. Britain, its main trad-

ing partner, weathered the 2008 recession quite well. Therefore there was still a reasonably strong market for Irish exports. This compares to Greece, which primarily exports luxury products (high quality agricultural and cosmetic products), whose exports suffered particularly badly during the crisis. Portugal and Spain are neighbouring countries who trade a lot between themselves, when the downturn struck the connections between these countries only served to transmit the problem from the one to the other and back.

Ireland was the only PIGS member which did not have elections during the first two years of the 'Crisis'. The recession began in America in December of 2007 and had spread to Europe by early 2008.

In April of 2007 Ireland elected a new government, which it kept throughout the crisis, and had its next general election in 2011. On the other hand, Spain had elections in March 2008, Greece had elections



in October of 2009, Italy had elections in April 2008 and Portugal had elections in September 2009. Ireland was the most politically stable PIGS economy during this time. This allowed the Irish government three years in which to implement and see through its economic policies.

Many of the other countries were forced into calling premature general elections due to political

instability, thus curtailing and limiting the policies that could be introduced.

It is heartening that Ireland has returned to growth so soon after the recession, but life is still difficult for many of the Irish.

Furthermore, much of Europe still suffers from stagnation. Ireland, and Europe, may be recovering, but the memories and scars still remain.

Germany's leadership under fire

Chris Scott
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

As much of the Eurozone periphery struggled with high levels of government debt, Germany was instrumental to shaping the response of the European Union. Its economic model, consisting of a low budget deficit, strong manufacturing sector and commitment to low inflation was seen as one which the struggling Eurozone periphery should seek to replicate. Nonetheless its recent policies have led to accusations of complacency, as concerns rise that they could reverse the advantages its economy currently enjoys.

Germany's influence has grown substantially with the Eurozone crisis, and it was seen as a safe haven for investors relative to the volatility of other Eurozone countries. Low real wage growth allowed German exporters to become globally competitive, enabling them to increase exports to meet growing demand in developing countries. According to the IMF China was recipient to 3.5 per cent of German exports in 2012, mainly consisting of luxury goods such as cars. This has contributed to its relatively high levels of economic growth from Q1 of 2010 to Q2 2014, which at 2.9 per cent is higher than that achieved in France or Britain, the other major European economies.

Business leaders have recently voiced concern that recent policies pursued by the German government could reduce its competitiveness. In particular Angela Merkel's government recently introduced a minimum wage of €8.50, higher than that provided in either Britain or the USA. This will raise production costs for German firms, and could exacerbate the loss of export markets in the developing world. This could accelerate an ongoing



The recent economic actions Germany have put in place have not been in line with the high standards with which it has come to be regarded

trend, since as countries develop they will acquire the capabilities needed to produce such technology themselves.

The German parliament has also recently legislated to reduce the retirement age from 67 to 65, with the option of retiring at 63 for anyone who has worked for 45 years. This is likely to cause a substantial increase in the welfare payments made by the German state to its population, which are already rising as a result of increasing life expectancy. Since Germany already has the fastest ageing population

in Europe, lowering the retirement age will reduce the proportion of the population in the workforce, while increasing expenditure on social security and healthcare. As such a larger budget deficit is more likely in the future.

Future concerns regarding the health of the economy are fuelled further by the perceived failure of the government to invest adequately in infrastructure. As the ruling CDU party have looked in recent years to reduce expenditure there has been a significant fall in the percentage of GDP invested, from 23 per cent

in the early 1990s to 17 per cent by 2010. In particular as much of the country's transport infrastructure deteriorates it will make exporting both longer and more costly for companies, undermining its growth prospects. The IMF recently became the latest party to express this, when in a report it suggested that investment needs to increase by at least 0.5 per cent of GDP, or €14bn over the next 4 years.

Despite this Germany still enjoys many advantages at present, which make it enviable to much of Europe. The increase in its influence

has been reflected in the greater role it has taken in international affairs, especially in arguing for more comprehensive sanctions against Russia in response to the Ukrainian conflict.

Many European countries, such as the UK, also wish to replicate its widespread vocational training programmes, which have aided its recent economic growth. In order to maintain its status as a leading European economy it must surely start to consider long-term effects of its policies more carefully, or otherwise risk undoing its previous good work.

Is there really an economic recovery in Britain?

Chris Scott
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

For the coalition government, the improvement shown in economic indicators could easily be seen as a vindication of its policies. The latest data shows that unemployment is at 6.2 per cent, the lowest it has been in over 26 years. Meanwhile recent revisions to the UK's gross domestic product (GDP), to account for the increasing role played by new technology, suggest that the recovery has been stronger than previous forecasts have shown.

This has shown that UK output passed its pre-crisis peak in Q3 of 2013, rather than Q2 2014 as originally reported.

The UK recovery also compares favourably when considering other nations' recent performances. The Office of National Statistics ONS shows that GDP has increased by 8.1 per cent since 2010. Only Can-

ada and the United States, both of which have not been held back by weak neighbours, have exhibited higher growth out of the G7 countries, at 9.6 and 9.5 per cent respectively.

The UK has also outperformed other major European countries, surpassing the growth rates of Germany and France, which achieved growth of 8.0 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively since 2010. This is probably a consequence of the UK having less exposure to uncertainty in the Euro-zone. However despite this there are growing concerns that ordinary people are not feeling the effects of economic recovery. Real wages growth, how much people's wages grow in terms of the goods they can buy, in particular is currently being outstripped by inflation, meaning that individuals generally have lower disposable income.

In particular there has been a fall in the number of people working in the high productivity financial

services sector, with a corresponding increase in people working in low productivity sectors such as the leisure and catering industries. This has also led to lower growth in productivity, which continues to sit below its pre-crisis peak. One of the effects is that the economic recovery has failed to yield a significant increase in the tax revenue collected by the Treasury.

Since those working in low productivity sectors often only do so on a part-time basis, or on a zero-hours contract, their wages are unlikely to be high enough to pay income tax, which only starts above a certain threshold.

This forced the government to borrow £11bn more than anticipated last month to compensate for the shortfall in revenue. If this persists, it will make the government's task of eliminating the budget deficit by 2019 more difficult. There are also concerns that the recovery is perhaps too dependent on the services



sector, therefore lacking the characteristics of a balanced recovery.

Whereas the services sector has seen an increase in output of 3.6 per cent from June 2013 to June 2014, manufacturing and construction continue to exhibit weak growth, and remain 7 per cent and 10 per cent below their pre-crisis peak respectively.

This means recent GDP growth largely reflects increasing output in services and makes it more susceptible to volatility in the sector. All

of these factors indicate that the UK economic recovery has been far from comprehensive. While output has increased to above its pre-recession peak, it has failed to translate into improved living standards.

Additionally the economy has so far failed to become less dependent on the services sector, which still makes up more than three quarters of output.

Consequently the Conservative's re-election prospects remain highly uncertain.

Science



science@nouse.co.uk
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Everything you never wanted to know about eating creepy crawlies



KILLERTURNIP

Does the idea of eating insects bug you? As the World's population creeps towards 8 billion, keeping away from insect-eating is getting harder than ever, potentially becoming the norm

Caitlin Killen

SCIENCE REPORTER

Would you ever choose tucking into a fried locust over a juicy burger? There are many people who think that eating insects, also known as entomophagy, is an inevitability rather than a choice. With the world's population skyrocketing there are more people to feed than ever and less land available to rear livestock. The United Nations has previously identified using insects as a source of protein because they are able to be produced on mass

and create far less greenhouse gases than animals.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of the world's nations already consume insects as part of their diet, so Westernised cultures are in the minority. Westerners have the highest levels of meat in their diet, but they are far less likely to want to eat insects as they are seen as "unclean".

Organisations such as Small Herds are emerging, dedicated to encouraging westerners to include insects in their diet. Some high-end restaurants are beginning to use in-

sects in their cooking. Archipelago, a London restaurant specialising in exotic foods, serve locusts in salads. Many believe that the key to getting more of us to eat insects is to serve them so they are not recognisable as the creatures we're so averse to; for instance, cricket protein flour is already available in the US.

Interestingly, insects often contain levels of protein similar to beef: house crickets contain 21g of protein per 100g compared to 26g of protein for beef. In addition, crickets have much lower levels of

calories and saturated fats and are more environmentally friendly to rear than livestock. Even having small amounts of insects in our diets can help us get all the nutrients and minerals we need, you only need to eat two silkworm larvae to get 10 times the amount of iron you would get in 100g of beef.

It is also thought that eating insects may be good for your immune system; many contain high levels of a protein called chitin, which promotes growth of healthy bacteria in your gut and inhibit

growth of some harmful bacteria.

The benefits of eating insects are clear, but there are still many barriers to them becoming a worldwide food source, one being the struggle to get people to want to eat them, another is that only farmed insects are suitable for consumption as wild insects may eat poisons so insect farms would have to become the norm.

Insects are a cheap, nutritious meat alternative, and only time will tell whether they are the future of our protein consumption.

Ebola crisis hits West Africa

Sarah Pryor

SCIENCE DEPUTY EDITOR

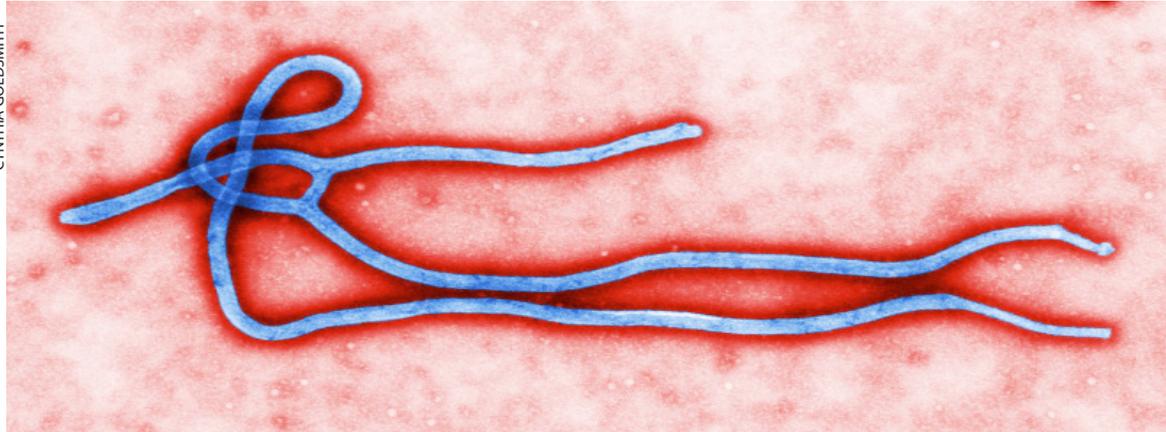
The Ebola virus has hit the headlines in the last few months, sweeping through Africa with devastating consequences, infecting over 5000 people and killing approximately half that number.

It has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organisation, and has sent numerous countries into lockdown.

America has now sent troops to Africa to give humanitarian aid to the countries which lack the resources and health systems to battle the outbreak effectively themselves. But what exactly is Ebola?

Formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, the virus got its name from a village near the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where it made its

CYNTHIA GOLDSMITH



A false-colour electron micrograph of an Ebola virus virion. Researchers believe the disease is animal-borne

first appearance in 1976.

Fruit bats are thought to be the original hosts, with transmission of the disease through the human population owed to contacts with blood, organs and other bodily fluids of the infected. The symptoms

of the disease include fever, diarrhoea, rash, bleeding and signs of impaired kidney and liver functionality, which become prevalent after an incubation period of two to twenty-one days.

It is only currently possible

to treat the symptoms of Ebola; for the time being there is nothing conclusively proven to combat the virus itself, although there are a number of therapies being tested, including two vaccines.

These experimental treatments

have been fast-tracked due to the outbreak, now trial of a potential vaccine on healthy volunteers has begun in Oxford, with similar studies being undertaken in the US. It is hoped results will be available by the end of the year.

A drug called ZMapp, developed in the US, is still undergoing trials, but has been made available to a limited number of aid workers. It is difficult to make a definitive statement on the efficacy of the drug, which comprises of three monoclonal antibodies which bind to the virus protein.

All that can be done to stem the outbreak of Ebola is ensuring that affected communities have an awareness of the disease; how to conduct safe burials, reducing the risk of contact with the disease, including identification of those who may have encountered it, and the wearing of protective equipment.

How to study good: a fresher's guide

Sam Wainwright
SCIENCE EDITOR

Ending off siblings, parents and/or housemates, you claim your rightful spot at the end of the dining room table in the comfortable chair where the light doesn't shine in your eyes.

You settle down for the day and surround yourself with books with more words than you've read in your life. You've got KitKats and tea and you're ready to work.

Next thing you know it's 8pm, your Snapchat score has increased by 136 and the rest of your day was apparently lost to a dangerous cocktail of Facebook scrolling and Buzzfeed recommended articles.

It happens to the best of us. Here's how you can work more productively, and the science to back it up.

"But I work better with music!" cry the tens of students that read the Science section of Nouse. No you don't. Studies show that both memory and cognitive ability are negatively affected by working with music.

Smith and Morris (1997) studied the effects of sedative and stimulative music on cognitive processing. Participants repeated a set of numbers backwards while listening to either stimulative, sedative, or no music.

Participants who listened to sedative music performed better than participants who listened to stimulative music and worse than those who listened to no music at all.

Another study, at the University of Wales, found that whether students enjoyed the music or not, having it on while they worked was just as distracting as hearing someone talk. Imagine doing work with

your mother constantly nagging on in the background. Now imagine if she had a mute button.

Do you sleep well? Good sleep is essential for cognitive performance, especially memory consolidation. You are less motivated, more easily distracted, and more irritable when you're sleep deprived or restrict your sleep each night.

Van Dongen et al (2003) found that participants who restricted their sleep to 6 hours a night for two weeks had cognitive performance deficits equal to participants who had not slept at all the previous night, compared to a control group who got 8 hours a night.

It's no surprise then that a 2006 review found that "sleep

“students... are chronically sleep deprived or suffer from poor sleep quality”

Van Dongen et al

quality and quantity are closely related to student learning capacity and academic performance”.

The same study also noted, “students of different education levels (from school to university) are chronically sleep deprived or suffer from poor sleep quality”. Hear that? Get some sleep!

Those of you who have been attending university for more than a week will be very aware of caffeine and its mixed consequences.

Regardless of the health consequences of consuming your own body mass in coffee and ProPlus during 48 hour library stints - history students, I'm looking at you - is



York students spend 5.2 times longer looking at pictures of swans than any other Russell Group university

caffeine actually worth its weight in sleep?

Scientific literature is a little shaky on this one. A 2010 review literature review found that “caffeine may occasionally have facilitatory or inhibitory effects on memory and learning.”

Perhaps the most important finding was that caffeine facilitates passive learning, like in picking up information from conversations, but has no effect in intentional learning, like studying.

Caffeine is however a mild stimulant, and so does have a large improving effect on memory for people who are tired. It's worth noting that caffeine has a greatest effect about 1 hour after a cuppa,

but can keep you awake even eight hours later.

Your brain is greedy. It needs a steady supply of energy, which it consumes in the form of glucose. Long chain sugars like those found in wholemeal bread and dark breakfast cereal will slowly release glucose over the day. Your brain has some other fairly specific requirements as well.

Research from 2003 found that one of the best meals to feed your student brain is... beans on toast. Perfect. Love it or hate it, Marmite is packed with B vitamins, whose brain-boosting powers have been demonstrated in many studies.

Eggs provide you with choline

to produce acetylcholine, an important neurotransmitter for encoding new memories.

Yoghurt, seeds and other high-protein foods contain tyrosine, an amino acid which depletes when we are under stress, and can improve alertness and memory.

Aside from specifics, just make sure you eat enough to keep yourself from being hungry.

Your body identifies hunger using the hormone 'ghrelin', which has also been shown to cause anxiety and depression in mice; not the sort of mindset you want to study with.

Eat. Sleep. Drink coffee. Don't distract yourself. You knew that all ready. Now you know why.

Curing your hangover with science

Lydia Donaldson
SCIENCE REPORTER

Reader: welcome to a valuable compendium of hangover treatments to guide you through Freshers' term. Read on if you would like to know how to balance the aftermath of Willow with convincing your tutor you are feeling bright eyed and bushy tailed.

To start with, dismiss the idea that there is an absolute cure for a hangover—science doesn't have the answers for everything—but there are various ways of lessening the effects. Low blood sugar, dehydration, and the toxins that your liver processes are the three main factors that make you feel wobbly when you wake up, so targeting these will make you feel considerably better.

Firstly, a long drink of water will do wonders. Alcohol is a diuretic, meaning it inhibits the hormone ADH that usually prevents you weeing out more water than necessary. As a result, alcohol makes you go to the loo much more often and

leaves you feeling dehydrated and fluey the next morning. In an ideal world a glass before sleep will help you feel perkier when you wake up, but whether or not you manage this, drink bucket-loads the next day.

Alcohol also drains your body of vitamins, minerals and salts, partly because of all the dancing it makes you do and partly because you sweat and wee it out. So, whatever is in your mouldy uni cupboard will almost certainly help: orange juice, jaffa cakes, whatever - just eating something will replenish your body's salt and sugar levels and give your liver that energy to shift all the toxins that have accumulated in it. Your housemate's thoughtfully refrigerated Lucozade is an ideal candidate for replenishing salts and rehydrating.

"I've wrecked my liver" is a frighteningly accurate observation, often heard echoing its way down university hall corridors. The metabolic breakdown of alcohol in



Playmobil people can consume a remarkable volume of alcohol considering their size and the time of day

the liver from ethanol to ethanal to ethanoic acid takes a strain on your body. Because the last step is so slow, toxic ethanal builds up in the liver, which contributes to the overall daze of a hangover. Eat-

ing eggs, if you can stomach them, provides your body with cysteine, which is crucial in the metabolism of ethanal.

"The hair of the dog that bit you" is an aged remedy, from the

school of 'treat like with like'. For a while this works, more alcohol depresses the feeling of a hangover, but knocking back the nearest jug of Claret is only postponing the inevitable.

Sport

>> Pages 30-31

BUCS Previews ahead of the up-coming season



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Tales From The 22

Beth Jakubowski
DEPUTY EDITOR

If you're a normal person, when September rolls around you start talking about the beginning of a brand new term and a brand new school year. If you're a die-hard sports nut, when September rolls around you start talking about the start of a new season.

There's not much that can compare with the childish, giddy excitement of hearing the *Match of the Day* theme tune after the long summer absence.

Perhaps the first glimpse of 22 Acres after a relaxing holiday can almost match up. Well, it does if the sun's out; veteran reporters on the *Nouse Sport* team will all too well remember that after the horizontal snow incident of 2012. It took me a week to be able to feel my toes again.

Over the past few years sport at York has taken huge strides forward with the introduction of the fantastic facilities on Hes East. As well as the York Sport Village, there's now an outdoor cycling track, a mountain bike course and an outdoor velodrome alongside the 3G pitch.

So even if you don't think joining a sports team is for you, there are still plenty of opportunities to be active.

“After the horizontal snow incident of 2012, it took me a week to be able to feel my toes again.”

But you don't have to be on a sports team to enjoy sport. Every year the annual Roses tournament brings the whole University together. Whether you're a player, a reporter or a spectator Roses is the chance for everyone to enjoy the spirit and camaraderie of sport.

Last year, York fell to an agonising away defeat despite recording the highest losing score in history. But in 2013, on home soil, we obliterated the competition and it should be the same story this year.

The campus will be draped in black and gold as the white rose look to reclaim the Carter-James Trophy in emphatic fashion.

If Roses isn't enough to tempt you to get involved with sport, then there's always college sport. Playing for a university team can be a pressurised environment if you want to play sport in a more casual and relaxed setting then college sport is for you.

It's still competitive and with the new, annual college Varsity against Durham there is always something to play for.

Getting involved in sport at York is easily one of the best decisions you'll make while at university. You won't regret it.

FROM THE SIDELINE

NOUSE SPORT'S ALL-NEW SOURCE OF SPORTING COMMENT



Lewis Hill
SPORTS EDITOR

My summers aren't filled with attending festivals or discovering who I really am in South East Asia. For you see, my summers are spent waiting for the weekend to come around so I can stand in a field for six hours, dressed all in white and chase a small, red leather ball around.

For those “inner city” cricket players (god forbid, there aren't too many of you) or simply for those of you who have always wondered what the appeal of cricket is, or simply for you poor souls that have accidentally started reading this article, allow me to take you on the journey of a mid-summer Saturday afternoon through the eyes of the village cricketer.

On a cricketing Saturday, you can usually afford a lie in as most games start after one o'clock. If your team does not have a designated club member who provides the tea every week, then expect to wake up early. If you're smart, you opt to provide the less time consuming items, such as sausage rolls, pork pies and scotch eggs, all of which can be purchased pre-packaged from your nearest supermarket.

If you left it late replying to the weekly club email, then you will unfortunately have to get up at the crack of dawn and face the earth shattering task of preparing the sandwiches. The classic combinations are usually tuna and cucumber, ham salad and cheese and pickle.

However, if you want to earn extra brownie points from the opposition and your teammates, then beef and horseradish and coronation chicken are usually most welcome.

You just have to ensure that the sandwiches don't get squashed or become soggy. If there is one thing that is guaranteed to piss a village

cricketer off, it's having to eat a squashed egg mayo sandwich after spending a tortuous number of overs in the field.

Fortunately, if you're playing away from home then you don't have to worry about preparing the tea. Instead, you have to focus on finding a cricket ground in what will probably be the most rural area of the country you have ever visited.

The most rural ground I have played on was in a village called Sheepscombe (which sounds an awful lot like sheep's cum, but I digress) where in order to get running water in the pavilion, the players had to manually pump water up the hill

“If you are a batsman, accept that you gave your wicket away.”

that the pitch was situated on.

In terms of actually playing cricket, this part of the afternoon usually turns into a farce.

If you are a top order batsman, be prepared to accept that you gave your wicket away by trying to heave the old, wily opening bowler into the next field over cow corner, only to find that he rearranged your middle stump, bowling you cleanly. Also, when batting, expect a bit of sledging from the opposition wicket keeper.

However, due to fact that you're playing cricket in the countryside, the sledges will be neither funny nor witty.

Feel free to use a tactic of mine to combat the country bumpkin sledger: just remind him of how inbred he looks and speculate on the possi-

bility that his sister may well also be his mother.

If you are a bowler, no matter how good you think you are, any wickets that you take will not be as a result of your own skill.

You will usually take a wicket as a result of either the bloke at the opposite end wielding a cricket bat for the first time or as a result of a dodgy wicket.

An example of this was during the 2013 season when I was bowling for my local village team Wickwar in a harmless Sunday friendly.

Now people in South Gloucestershire know me not as Lewis Hill, but as the Wickwar Express.

Think Rawalpindi Express, but less quick, more swears and more agricultural. Anyway, during one particular match I bowled a full length ball which hit the batsman in the ear.

The next ball I bowled hit pretty much the exact same spot, but instead of bouncing high, kept very low indeed and practically rolled onto the stumps. Suffice to say the batsman I had just dismissed was not best pleased.

Arduous chores of the day will include putting out enough seating on the boundary for the opposition to sit on, collecting in the flags that mark the boundary at the end of the game and having to suffer the sight of the fattest bloke on your team towel-drying his bollocks with one leg up on a chair and the other one on the ground.

At the end of the day though, expect both sides to come together in another sport that we Brits are fond of too. Drinking.

The conversation over a pint of the local ale will quickly evolve into a post mortem of the game.

The conversation will usually include several outlandish statements. My personal favourite was when we were bowled out for 48 but concluded that we were definitely the better side.

Lacrossing the divide

As the new season draws ever-closer, **Claire Thomas**, University of York Lacrosse Club President, talks to Jamie Summers about the changing nature of the club and campaign ahead.

ALL IMAGES: PETRO TAYLOR



The story of UoY Lacrosse Club's last season is simple. Two teams, two promotions, two unbeaten records, two cup wins. It doesn't get much better.

And with such success under their belts, it seemed almost remiss of us not to have a catch-up with new UYLC President, Claire Thomas. Sat in an otherwise-deserted YUSU Centre, there's a clear sense of excitement in Thomas's voice that good things are to come from her club this year. Last season's huge success is something which she sees as essential for taking the club forward.

"Last season is going to have a colossal impact on how we go into this season. The confidence that we have as teams after having unbeaten seasons and cup runs is just astonishing. In division two, the women's goal difference across eight fixtures was 125, and the men's was 179. We absolutely smashed it.

You could be forgiven for thinking that after the rise, comes an inevitable fall; it's no secret that after an unprecedented 11 promotions last season, some tough times could be ahead for York's clubs. But Thomas isn't concerned about facing the drop.

"It's not going to be about avoiding relegation. Actually, we're going to thrive in division one. And part of the reasoning for her confidence comes from the fresh batch of players flooding through the revolving door that is University sport.

"The calibre of players we've pooled this season is fantastic. We've already got three Freshers on the girls' team that came into our pre-season and walked onto the first team. There will be more at Freshers' fair, and we're one of the clubs that retain members the most successfully. Going into the season we're going to have enormous squads, very strong and coming off the back of the best season imaginable, the confidence that the second and third years have will just be imbued into the first years. We'll be forces to be reckoned with."

But, despite the confidence that Thomas has in her club's ability to avoid relegation and even thrive at a higher level next season, there's also an important blend of realism and a recognition that several challenges do lie ahead.

"Promotion is always a double-edged sword. It's fantastic for your sports profile, it means you've had a brilliant season and you're doing the right things, but then carrying that forward is tough.

"In lacrosse, the step up from division two to division one is enormous; we have a very difficult match for the women in the first match against Newcastle firsts. After that first match, maybe we'll give York Sport a bit of cause for concern, and they'll think we're in over our heads, but give us a couple of games to warm up, and you'll see in our training that we're not one of the clubs that should be worried about relegation

this year.

With the club going through such extraordinary changes at present, it is surely an exciting time to be heading the charge up the BUCS Leagues. When asked about taking on the new role, the characteristic enthusiasm was once again distinct.

"My to-do list is longer than my lacrosse stick! There's Freshers' stuff coming up, we're re-applying to be a Focus Sport and there's a lot of pressure on me at the moment to perform as president. I ran because I love lacrosse, I want the club to be the best it can possibly be. I've got a lot of objectives I want to meet."

And with the issue having been raised, I couldn't help but enquire whether Thomas thought that York Sport Union's Focus Sport Scheme was worthwhile, her answer was very clear.

"My to-do list is longer than my lacrosse stick!"

"100per cent," came her reply. "My first year [in 2012] was, in the words of Andy Chalmers, [former UYLC President] 'a season of almosts.'

"It was a season where we so nearly managed all that we did last year, but then Focus Sport came along and increased the intensity of our work. Strength & Conditioning made an enormous difference, and I think it's also the prestige that comes with it. People care more, we felt that York Sport were really relying on us to promote the brand, and all those tiny margins tightened up and overall that made all the difference."

And following its success last season, lacrosse has become the latest sport to have its own regular league in College Sport. Thomas is convinced that the new league, starting in 2015, will be of huge benefit to UYLC.

"I think it's a really important thing that we start introducing now. The problem with lacrosse is that it's not widely played before university level. It's incredibly accessible once you get to university, and it's the sort of sport where if you've got any sort of hand-eye ability and fitness, you can pick it up and give it a go."

As part of the evident expansion of lacrosse at the University, Thomas revealed that she is currently negotiating for the sport to be incorporated into next year's Varsity at Durham, before Roses returns to York in Summer Term. The men's

lacrosse side suffered a Roses defeat for the first time in the event's history last year, but both teams whitewashed the Red Rose at home in 2013. When questioned on her club's chances at Roses 2015, Thomas was convinced of what the result would be.

"Another walkover. Three wins. Last year was, I think, the only time in eight years, which is since the formation of the lacrosse club, that we've not won a Roses fixture. We're one of the most consistent scorers in the York team when it comes to the White and Red Rose battle. That was an anomaly, a freak. We had a depleted team, and Lancaster played out their skins." And although her response came laced with humour about York's chances next year, there was also some real confidence in her words.

With a new year underway, the air of confidence associated with UYLC is tangible, and inspiring. Thomas is enthusiastic about the potential which lies ahead for the sport and the club, and finished her interview by encouraging York Freshers to get involved in the Lacrosse Club.

"Lacrosse is the fastest growing game on two feet in the world. Come along to a social, come along to a taster session you'll love the sport, you'll love the people. Everyone I know in lacrosse is the backbone to the University experience. I couldn't recommend it more."



University clubs gearing up

With the new BUCS season set to get underway, **Jamie Summers, Lewis Hill and Beth Jakubowski**

6

The men's firsts finished 6th last season

296

The women's team had a goal difference of 296

Rugby Union

York's men's and women's rugby teams experienced differing fortunes last season.

While the women obliterated the competition in the Northern 2B Conference league winning seven of their eight matches and drawing the remaining fixture, the men faced a tough season after their promotion the year before.

Newly promoted to the Premier Northern B division, the men's rugby firsts battled hard to win five of their fourteen matches ensuring their survival but it will be another tough year for them.

But they are more than up for the challenge; with strong leadership they will be looking to build on the experience they gained last season against the likes of Nottingham Trent and Birmingham University.

The women's rugby team were sensational last season, gaining promotion with a stunning 296 goal difference.

After winning Team of the Year at the York Sport Dinner last year, the women's rugby firsts will be hoping to emulate their brilliant season in the unfamiliar Northern 1A division.

Their Roses success and the incredible form they displayed throughout the previous season will stand them in good stead when they take on a tougher division.



IMAGE: ALEX BYRON

Football

IMAGE: PETROC



It's certainly going to be an interesting year for all of York's football clubs, after a whirlwind campaign in 2013/14.

The men's football firsts finally realised their dream of promotion last season, securing the Division Three title with seven wins and a draw from ten games, edging out nearest rivals Hull despite suffering a points deduction due to a mix-up in registering with North Yorkshire FA.

The step up to Division Two will be tough for UYAFC, with the likes of Leeds Met firsts lying in wait for them this season, so they will have to be on top of their game. Despite losing some important players, including keeper Luke Bradley and captain James Davies, the spine of a very good side remains in place, from Dave Belshaw at the back to Josh Bew up front.

UYAFC firsts are well-balanced, play attractive, passing football and will have confidence in their ability; their attacking style of play will suit Division Two and so they will not have to adapt too much to a new style of opposition. If things go to plan, then the firsts, under the coaching of Pete Renton and the captaincy of Dave Belshaw, will continue to thrive as they embark on life after promotion.

Meanwhile, the women's firsts will be confident of a good season in Division Three; after consolidating promotion in 2013 with a third-place finish last season, the girls will be growing in confidence. Life in the higher division was tough at first, but an excellent run of results at the business end of the season saw them shoot up towards the top end of the league. A number of key players, including Vanbrugh Sports Representative Charlotte Brown, remain at the University, and their experience from the last couple of years will be crucial. As the women's sport continues to expand on campus, there is an air of optimism and they will have their eyes set on promotion.

16

The women's firsts claimed 16 points in 2014

7

UYAFC men's firsts won seven out of ten fixtures last season

18

The men's firsts ended the season with a goal difference of 18

16

The women's firsts claimed 16 points in 2014

18

The men's firsts ended the season with a goal difference of 18

American Football

Despite not being the most mainstream sport in this country, American Football is one of the fastest growing sports on campus. York Centurions club president Jack Coppack spoke to Nouse about his ambitions for the forthcoming season.

"Last season saw us achieve a mid-table finish in the league. Two of our losses were extremely close games, with the difference being in only a couple of plays. This year we're looking to close out games more effectively. With an emphasized focus on the team's general strength and fitness we're hoping that this year's Centurions will be able to build on last year's positive platform.

"With a reshuffling of divisions this year we find ourselves in very strong position to make a push for promotion. Key games early in the season will decide our fate in this year's shorter seven game season. However, as always, the main goal of the season is to win Roses. After an excruciating loss last year by just one score, there's always one eye on the biggest event in the York Sport calendar."

Jack also adds that if you want to join the Centurions then you don't need much experience adding, "If you're committed, hard-working, and like the idea of playing a fast paced, hard hitting sport then don't be afraid to give it a go."

The American Football taster day is on Sunday 5th October and is open to everyone.



IMAGE: ALEX BYRON

for new BUCS season

York Sport in numbers

assess some of York's teams chances following last season's impressive performances

Water Sports

IMAGE: PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Water Polo have been one of the University's most consistent performers since the York Sport Village opened in 2012. It was a hugely successful season for the Women's water polo team, strolling to the league title and also winning their Cup competition, securing a large haul of points for York in the process.

It was unfortunately a tougher campaign for the men's team; under Gabriel Cramer's captaincy, they won promotion in 2013 but struggled last year, and were relegated towards the end of the season. Both sides will be looking forward to enjoying successful campaigns again in 2014/15, and we recommend keeping an eye on their progress highly. Watching from the viewing gallery at York Sport Village is superb fun.

They will be hoping to make an immediate return to Division One this campaign, with the fantastic facilities on offer here at York.

The University of York Swimming Club only competes in BUCS one-day events, but enjoyed a successful period last season. They also performed strongly in individual events, breaking a series of records throughout the year. Swimming is not the most popular sport on campus, but if they can attract a large number of Freshers with some of the best swimming facilities in North Yorkshire, they can look forward to another successful year in BUCS competition.

11

The number of York teams which earned promotion in 2013/14

2

Only two York teams were relegated last season

41

York lost Roses 2014 by just 41 points, the lowest losing away score in history

62

There are currently 62 sports clubs registered with the York Sport Union

Lacrosse

The Lacrosse Club was up there as probably the most successful York club in 2014, as they enjoyed the benefits of Focus Sport status.

After both the men's and women's teams came incredibly close to promotion in 2013 before ultimately missing out, last season was when things eventually came together for the club.

The men's team strolled to their league title, finishing with a 100 per cent record across seven fixtures and with an impressive goal difference of 179. Particular highlights were a 35-0 thrashing of Sheffield Hallam seconds at home, and a convincing 31-0 victory away at Hull firsts. Additionally, the men's firsts also lifted the Northern Conference Cup, prevailing 6-5 over Durham seconds to cap off a perfect season.

Such an impressive display was replicated by the women's firsts; they also won the Division Two title with a perfect record, and a goal difference of 125 from eight matches. Their league season was also capped off with victory in the Cup, beating Newcastle seconds 19-6. Although both sides have lost some influential players to graduation, the spines of both firsts teams remain in place. The women's team in particular have already been strengthened with the addition of some talented Freshers, including players that have trained at international level.

Lacrosse continues to expand exponentially on campus, with the introduction of a College League at the start of 2015. It is certainly an exciting time for Freshers to become involved, with the club still on an upwards trajectory.

Life will be tough for both first teams as compete in higher divisions, and they will have to adjust to a more professional style of lacrosse. However, if they find their form, both clubs are capable of avoiding relegation.

IMAGE: PETROC TAYLOR



Futsal

IMAGE: PETROC TAYLOR



The Futsal Club are another one of York's clubs that have stole the headlines recently after a tremendous few years of top-quality competition. Just over a year ago, York travelled to Europe to play in the Futsal European Championships, and performed admirably.

In 2013-14, they finished second in the BUCS Premier Northern Division, being narrowly pipped to the title by Northumbria University. They also made their debut in the FA National League North Division 2 and gate-crashed the league by storming their way to promotion - and they weren't finished there. To cap off another brilliant season, York also made it to the FA Futsal Cup semi-finals, and were unlucky not to make it all the way to the final.

The women's club has been equally successful; last season was their debut campaign, and despite a disappointing showing in the Cup, they showed their strengths by finishing second in the league to secure promotion.

York have earned a reputation for playing some outstanding futsal under the excellent guidance of manager, Junior Roberti. The men's club have lost some of their key players; Club President James Briars and team captain Alex Tringham, have both graduated and will definitely be missed.

However, with some new talent throughout the side, they will again be strong and difficult to break down. We anticipate that both sides will once again be in contention for league titles, and it will be a disappointment if at least one of York's teams does not finish the season as title winners.

38

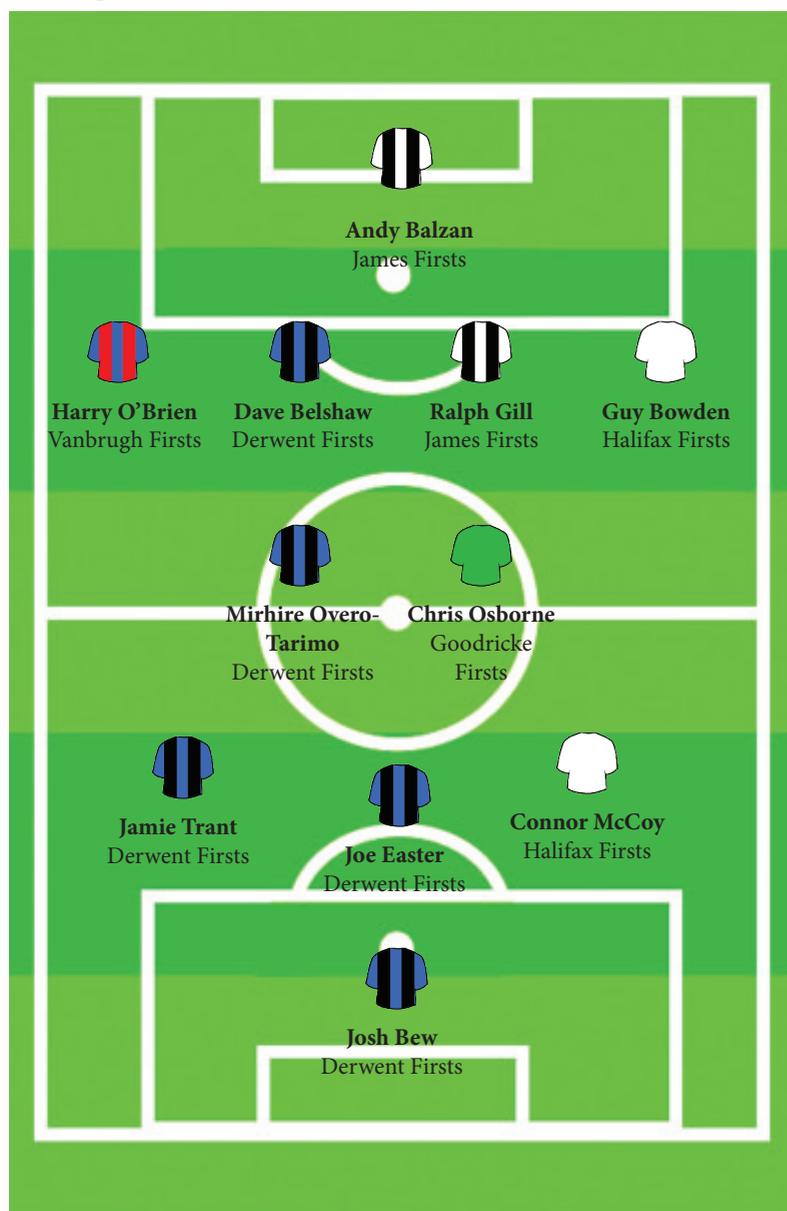
York finished 38th in the BUCS National League last season

6

Six sports clubs will enjoy 'Focus Sport' status over the coming season

Who will face the drop? Football restructure

College Football Select XI:



With promotion and relegation being introduced into College Football, **Jamie Summers**, **Lewis Hill** and **Tom Fennelly** assess how top-flight teams will adapt and select some of the most influential players

Title Winners - Derwent firsts

The title race is likely to be another two horse race between James and Derwent firsts. Ryan Gwinnett's Derwent probably have the strongest squad on paper, but have a reputation for falling at the final hurdle. James were the team to beat last season, and ultimately strolled to the title, thrashing Derwent in the final match of the season. However, because they have lost so many talismanic players, we make Derwent favourites to finally win the league.



Relegation - Langwith firsts

The prime suspect of relegation, we hear you say, is easy. Since Langwith's ill-fated relocation to Hes East two years ago has been disastrous for their football chances, winning just one league game in nearly three years. However, they showed some real improvement under Marcus Campbell next year. Although they are probably favourites for the drop, Vanbrugh and Goodricke also look shaky and could be in danger.



Promotion - Derwent seconds

Promotion from Division One is the most intriguing development to call, and every team in the division will be keen to be the first to get promoted. We make Derwent seconds the favourites to top the league and be playing in the top-flight in Spring Term. During the College Cup, they demonstrated the huge strength in depth that York's oldest college has to offer; Derwent's second team scores plenty of goals, pass the ball well and are solid at the back. If they hit top form, they will be promoted.



Jamie Summers
SPORTS EDITOR

THE YORK Sport Union have confirmed the launch of a new Sport Performance Programme, which aims to support the University's elite sports teams by using measures to promote sporting excellence.

The Programme will be run in conjunction with York Sport, and aims to promote excellence by offering support and training to some of the highest performing athletes and clubs.

The measures involved include strength & conditioning training,

guidance and support from dedicated York Sport staff members, discounted physiotherapy and massage sessions, and a series of sports science workshops to maximise the fine margins involved in sport that can make the difference between victory and defeat.

Meanwhile, it has also been confirmed the number of York Sport Focus Sports for the season will increase from five to six. This status allows chosen clubs access to all of the features of the Performance Programme, as well as a matchday physiotherapy service. Clubs who enjoyed the benefits of

being a Focus Sport last year included Lacrosse, with both men's and women's firsts teams enjoying League and Cup success, and men's rugby, who had a successful debut Premier League season by finishing comfortably in mid-table.

To complement these new measures, York Sport will be taking on 15 sports scholars, each of whom will receive funding from the Union to aid with developing their sporting abilities. Successful candidates will have to demonstrate excellence in their chosen sport, and must be able to represent the University at a high level.

>>Continued from back

selection of college football teams. Previous rules limited college first teams to selecting only three players who had been in the squad for the University first team that week. However, new rules mean that there will no longer be any restrictions on the amount.

Nevertheless, there will be restrictions on how University players are used throughout other college teams. University players cannot play for a team that is below their standard; for example, a University second team player can only represent his college's first and second team and would not be allowed to play for their third team or any team below that.

Additionally, a player cannot drop down two teams to play in a game; for example, a regular second team player would be allowed to occasional play for the third team but would not be able to be selected for the fourth team.

The rules will be enforced by making it a requirement that team captains submit a team sheet to York Sport after matches in an aim to stop colleges from fielding an uncharacteristically strong squad for teams that are in a battle to avoid relegation. A breach of these rules could lead to an automatic relegation.

The days on which college teams play their games have also changed. First teams will now only play on the 3G pitch at the York Sport Village, with one match being played on Saturday and the other three fixtures being played on Sunday.

Seconds teams will retain their usual Wednesday afternoon slot, whilst third teams will take the Sunday morning slot on 22 Acres. Division 3 will now be on the pitches at Archbishop Holgate's School on a Saturday and, for the first time, they will be free of charge.

Speaking about the changes, Dave Washington, College Sport Officer, told Nouse, "We're delighted to be able to reform College Football, and can't wait to see how this exciting new structure works over the course of the year."

The incentives of promotion and relegation should make the leagues much more interesting and add another dimension to our already excellent system. Captains have embraced the changes, and this has the potential to become an exceptional feature of our College Sport system.

"We are also delighted to be able to widen participation in College Sport by providing free football on a weekly basis for an additional ten teams, making sport at York more accessible than ever before."

Felix Aylett, President of Derwent College AFC, told Nouse, "The changes in the league structure of College football will make it more competitive as University first team players will be able to represent their college and the incentive of league promotion will make every game a must-win match."

Sport Performance Programme confirmed

News In Brief

Football League Revolution

Dave Washington and Mel Turner, College Sport Officers, have announced that the newly-restructured Football League will be sponsored by Revolution. The Coney Street Bar will have the naming rights, meaning that the divisions will be known as the Revolution Premier Division, and Revolution Divisions One, Two and Three.

Top 40 is the target again

After Cass Brown, York Sport President's successful #Top40 campaign last season, designed to push York into the top 40 positions in the national BUCS league table, she has announced that the same target would be a fantastic effort this time around. York finished 38th in the National League table, with 11 promotions on the board.

Key Contacts to expand

Following the success of Cass Brown's flagship Key Contacts Scheme last year, which aimed to increase inclusivity amongst York clubs for disabled and LGBTQ students, it has been announced that it will return for 2014/15, beginning in Week 4. Twice as many clubs will take part this time with a total of twenty overall involved.

Football friendly

Halifax and James football firsts will be hosting a friendly tomorrow at 22 Acres, starting at 5pm. The match is designed to increase participation by encouraging freshers and other students who haven't previously experienced College Sport to go down to the match, watch the game and enjoy the experience.

Bring on the Wall

For the start of the new academic year, us lot at Nouse Sport are challenging Chris Wall, YUSU Activities Officer, to raise sponsorship by doing a quick taster of all 62 sports clubs on offer at York!



Hockey Club prepared

IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD



Lewis Hill
SPORTS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY'S hockey club (UYHC) is one of the largest clubs on campus. With six teams overall and both men's and ladies hockey teams all belonging to the same club, UYHC are a force to be reckoned with. We spoke to club president Hermione Warmington about the forthcoming season as she tells us the new direction that the club is heading in.

"We have a fantastic coach who will be going into his second year with us, Simon Law. Simon has created a fantastic development plan for the club, starting this year, which will hopefully see promotion throughout the club in the next three years.

"Fitness this year is also going to improve dramatically, with Katie Penrose and Tiarnan Cotter already proving themselves with a brutal but creative pre-season fitness pro-

gramme.

"Recruitment this year will also mean the club is getting in a higher standard of players, with fresher Lyndsey O'Brian already securing a place within the ladies 1XI. We also have a fantastic committee, and some seriously good players captaining our six teams!"

Hermione is very clear that UYHC are striving to get their teams promoted into higher leagues. "The ladies 1XI are confident of promotion and both men's and ladies teams throughout the club will push hard for the coveted BUCS promotion. A strong BUCS Cup run is also on the cards. Other than that, a good fresher intake is our primary concern, paired with keeping UYHC social scene the best on campus!"

In terms of what UYHC can offer first-years, Hermione tells us that, "UYHC is one of the biggest and best clubs on campus. We are an inviting, friendly and fun group

of people, who play hockey nearly as well as we party. If you are looking for a fantastic standard of hockey, competing at a high level, we have that. If you are looking for a good standard of hockey with a great social scene, we also have that.

"We welcome first years of all abilities, plus we have really strong connections with college hockey. UYHC compete for the most amount of points at Roses, which also makes us the most important club on campus."

UYHC is clearly one of the biggest clubs both on the pitch and in Salvation on a Wednesday night. The club has been training hard during pre-season to prepare for what will hopefully prove to be a big year. With dreams of promotion, as well as the desire to have a strong cup run all coupled with a new direction that the club's coach is putting into place, UYHC seem set for a big season!

6

The University Hockey Club has six teams

26

Number of BUCS wins last season

This week's College Sport Taster Sessions:

Wednesday 1st October

Netball, Tent, 12-1pm

Lacrosse, 22 Acres, 2-4pm

Basketball, Tent, 4-5pm

Thursday 2nd October

Touch Rugby, 22 Acres, 12-1.30pm

Pool, Campus Bars, 2-4pm

Squash, Squash Courts, 4-5.20pm

Friday 3rd October

Badminton, Sports Hall, 12-1pm

Volleyball, Sports Hall, 2-3pm

Darts, Campus Bars, 4-5pm



BUCS Previews

The *Nouse Sport* team look ahead to the forthcoming BUCS season and make their predictions p.29

Autumn Term Week One
Tuesday 30 September 2014



Nouse Sport



www.nouse.co.uk/sport



College Football Overhaul

Thomas Fennelly
SPORTS REPORTER

DAVE WASHINGTON and Mel Turner, College Sport Officers for the York Sport Union, have announced a massive overhaul of the structure and rules of the College Football League ahead of the new

season. As opposed to the previous league structure, where ranked teams were limited to set leagues with one representative team from each college, a new pyramid system will now be put in place where promotion and relegation will be possible between four divisions.

Generally, first teams will start

in the Premier Division, second teams in Division One, third teams in Division Two, and fourth and fifth teams in Division Three.

York's newest college, Constantine, will start life in college football with just two sides; their first team will play in Division Two and their second team will compete in

Division Three. Constantine firsts will be replacing Wentworth thirds in Division Two, after the Postgrad side was disbanded.

At the end of the round of fixtures for the term, one team will be relegated and one team promoted between each of the Premier Division, Division One and Division

Two, while two teams will move each way between the bottom two divisions.

Changes have also been made to the eligibility of University team players when it comes to the

Continued on page 30

La-crossing the divide

Lacrosse Club President, Claire Thomas, speaks to *Nouse* about their hopes for the new season p.27



How to play cricket badly

Lewis Hill talks about the trials and tribulations of a sub-standard village cricketer p.26



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