



Censorship in Science

The unusual sex lives of penguins

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What to read this summer?

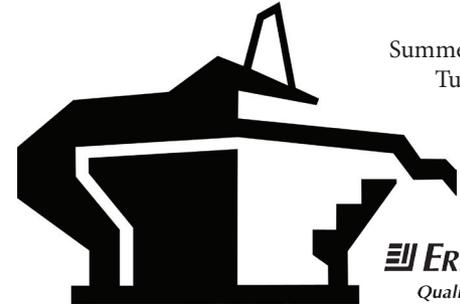
Book Supplement



Summer Term Week Nine
Tuesday 19 June 2012
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KOMINYETSKA

NEWS

Postgraduate pay: History postgraduate tutors have had their pay cut by 50 per cent, after a clerical error

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University staff treated to premium iPads and iPhones

Neil Johnston
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

IT HAS emerged that the University has spent over £35,000 on providing staff with iPads and iPhones. The top of the range devices have been purchased by various departments for staff use along with a variety of accessories.

Data obtained by *Nouse* under a Freedom of Information Request shows that since the latter part of 2010, and throughout 2011 the University spent £25,113 on iPads, iPad 2s and accessories.

These accessories included docks, adapters, and top quality leather cases costing just under £50 each. However, an apple smart cover can be purchased for £29,

and other good-quality covers can be found for around £15 online compared to the £49 the University has paid on several occasions.

YUSU has hit out at the University arguing that while staff need good equipment, the Apple products purchased are unnecessary.

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, stated: "I would definitely question the extent of some of the expenditure claims that University staff have been making on accessories to their work phones and whether high end iPads are always necessary as opposed to cheaper laptops."

Despite the obvious concerns over the spending, a spokesperson for the University defended the money spent on iPads and iPhones. "Expenditure on technologies

such as this help us to make more efficient and effective use of staff time. Many members of staff need to be in contact at all times of the day during the week and over weekends, and mobile phones and iPads help them to do that."

The greatest expenditure came from the Psychology Department which purchased 10 iPads and accessories for a cost of £5,111. Computer Science, Electronics, and IT Services all purchased six iPads each while Biology, Economics and Social Work and Policy bought four iPads each. Hull York Medical School purchased one iPad and the Chemistry Department bought two iPad accessories but no iPads.

There was also one order for 13 iPads, but the department that

bought them cannot be traced. All of these purchases were for staff and not for student use.

Apple iPhones were purchased by 17 departments including the Vice-Chancellor's. The Management School and the Research Innovation Office bought the most, purchasing three iPhones each.

Although there are many cheaper alternatives available, the University argued iPads had specific benefits that made them more suitable than laptops because they reduced the requirement of paper documents.

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"iPads represent a competitive alternative to laptops and their use has also led to a reduction in the requirement for paper documents such as agendas and meeting reports."

Ellis added that although he questions some of the money spent: "Any well run organisation needs to ensure that its employees are provided with the necessary resources to carry out their roles."

However, the money spent on the gadgets by the University could be of concern to students at a time where spending is being increasingly scrutinised. With the cost of student living increasing and a new wave of students paying higher fees next year, there has been an increased emphasis on the "value for money" of university life.

The University spent £10,850 on iPhones, while tariffs and calls for these devices totalled £4,251 and 31 pence. Some of the phones had a combined tariff and call cost as low as £22 indicating they were not used extensively. The prices

paid for the iPads varied with some costing as much as £550 each. A normal tablet PC, with most of the features of an iPad can cost as little as £150 in some stores.

The figures only include devices purchased directly from Apple as information could not be obtained on any purchases from other suppliers. This means that the actual spending on premium Apple prod-

ucts may be higher. Any iPads or iPods claimed back on expenses are also not included in the figures.

Some departments purchased more of the devices than others, with ten departments in total purchasing iPads and related products. Several of the highest spending departments were contacted, but did not respond.

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£25,000 spent on iPads

£10,000 spent on iPhones

51 iPads purchased

32 iPhones

29 covers

One iPhone for VC's Office

York student to carry Olympic Torch

Second-year mathematics student Max Strachan will act as an Olympic Torchbearer later this month as part of the build up to the 2012 London Olympics. Strachan, a student of Vanbrugh College, will carry the flame through Pickering in North Yorkshire on the 18th June. He was selected to carry the torch in recognition of his extra-curricular achievements, including his completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and participation in a World Challenge expedition in India.

Students wheelchair stolen in Vanbrugh

A disabled female student in Vanbrugh College has had her wheelchair stolen from outside her room, late on Saturday 10th June. The wheelchair went missing from Le Page Court. Investigations are ongoing and Vanbrugh's provost is appealing to any student with information on its whereabouts to contact him. Next year's YUSU Disabled Officer, Emma Hersey, is "disgusted this has happened and deeply concerned for those responsible, who felt this was an appropriate thing to do and for the welfare of the student."

University hosts Festival of Ideas

The University is hosting the York Festival of Ideas, from 14th to 30th June 2012. This year's programme is themed *Metamorphoses*, and is bringing together a range of world-class speakers, exhibitions, performances, and a host of stimulating and interactive experiences for people of all ages, including York residents and visitors to the city. Events this week include: an interactive student debate on the Kony Video and author, Nick Barnard, explores how to fly a plane.

Reporting by Ross D'lima and Laura Hughes

Nouse Photography competition

The four categories are:

- Landscape
- Campus
- Portrait
- Open

2 entries per category
Send as .jpeg

Deadline: Friday 26th October



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Send your photos to photo.competition@nouse.co.uk

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The extraordinary stories of World War II female spies
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Postgraduate History students see their wages slashed

● History postgraduates feel that at times they are in a “three-year, poorly paid internship”

Ross D’lima
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

POSTGRADUATES WHO teach in the History Department at the University have seen their wages cut by 50 per cent in the last year.

Postgraduates who teach (PG-WTs) have had part of their wages cut from £26.75 to £8.75 per hour.

One postgraduate expressed frustration with the recent cuts: “Over the last year, the postgraduates who teach had their wages cut by over 50 per cent. They were asked to teach the same courses and complete the same workload they had the previous year, but for half the pay.”

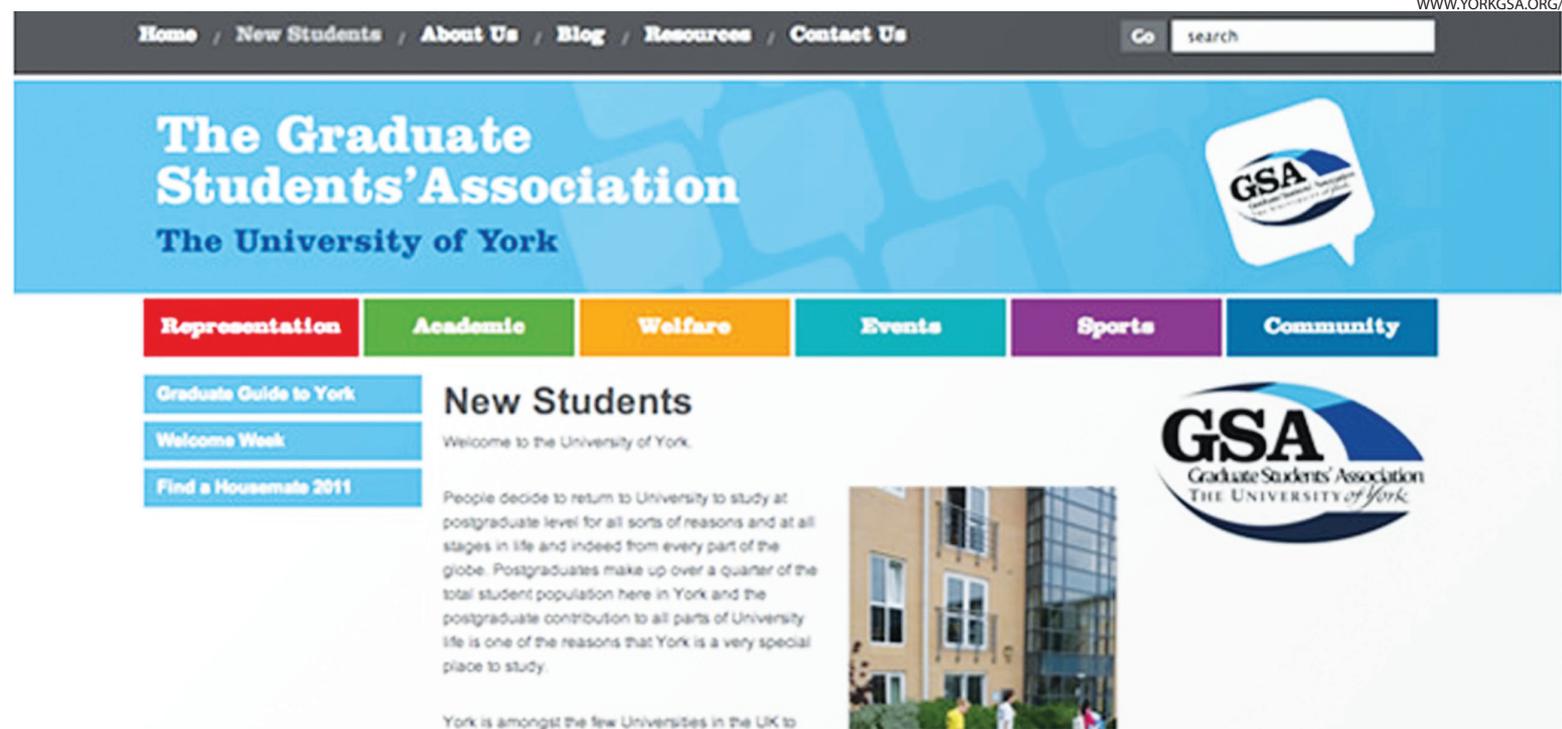
The University has commented on the cut, stating that it was the result of a previous “clerical error” which meant that wages in the department had been set too high in the first place. They stated that these rates “were unsustainable and unfair to PGWTs in other departments.”

“Departments use postgraduate lackeys to ease the tensions of tight budgets”

Postgraduate student

A spokesperson for the University added that members of staff “were informed of these rates in their letters of appointment.”

Some postgraduates have, however, recently expressed dissatisfaction with the way they have



Postgraduate students are represented by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), as well as YUSU. The GSA is run by elected postgraduate students

been treated, saying that they are being used as the “lackeys” of departments.

One postgraduate, who wished to remain anonymous, stated: “Departments use postgraduate lackeys to ease the tensions of tight budgets or lighten heavy teaching loads... At times, it feels like being in a three-year, poorly paid internship.”

They added that postgraduates require teaching experience to be competitive in the job market, but that “this situation is exploited by the University. Administrators know that postgraduates can’t say

no to teaching experience”.

Cuts are also being made at the University of Leeds, where PhD students are rejecting a cut of 56 per cent.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, offered his support to a new national campaign launched to prevent the exploitation of postgraduates employed by universities.

The campaign and network, the Postgraduate Workers Association (PGWA), has been launched to support postgraduates whose conditions, the website claims, are being attacked in the wake of a “High-

er Education funding crisis.”

The campaign, which seeks to protect the “respect, pay and conditions” of postgraduates, has been inspired by a host of recent cuts to the wages of PGWTs.

The University introduced a Policy on PGWTs in August 2010 to ensure that postgraduates were treated “appropriately”. The policy was endorsed by the National Union of Students (NUS).

Hughes stated that postgraduates, who make up approximately 23 per cent of all Higher Education students, are often a “black hole”

when it comes to support. He added that despite continued efforts by YUSU and the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) to ensure the fair treatment of postgraduates, “there is still a lot more that needs to be done”.

The PGWA was launched at a conference in May, where it called for the University Colleges Union (UCU) and the NUS to launch a full inquiry into the work conditions of postgraduates.

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University warned over future increase in numbers

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAS warned the University that many departments are now at “critical mass” and any further increase in student numbers might be to the detriment of York.

Recent figures have revealed there are almost 15,000 students currently at the University.

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, revealed in the Community Assembly last week: “Most departments are now at ‘critical mass’. We believe that any further student number expansions would negatively affect the ‘feel’ of York as a relatively small University, and that we don’t have the infrastructure or service provision to adequately cater to a higher number of students.”

Ellis told *Nouse*: “I strongly believe that the student experience at York would be negatively affected by any further increase in student numbers and am glad that Community Assembly agreed with this.”

“I worry about the capabilities of many of the University’s services to cater for a larger student body. We have increased in size dramatically over the last five years and I believe now is the time for the Uni-



CARLOS62

The University confirmed it is approaching the scale of students numbers expressed in its Development Plan

versity to start thinking about how the careers service, student support services, college welfare teams and other vital support services can cater more effectively for the needs of current and future students, without putting extra strain on them in the coming years with an even larger student body.”

Student numbers at York have increased dramatically over the last five years. In the University’s 2009 Development Plan, the target was

to acquire this growth in the next 10 years.

A University spokesperson confirmed York is approaching the scale of student numbers expressed in the Development Plan, however, they said this will be addressed at an unspecified date.

“In the context of the new undergraduate funding environment, it is, therefore, timely for us to reflect on our current size and whether further expansion of student

numbers would be desirable.

“In these considerations, retaining the ‘feel’ of York and its quality of teaching and research will be central. Any future growth would clearly need to be associated with the provision of appropriate levels of support services to students and staff, together with appropriate development of the physical estate and infrastructure.”

Over the next 10 years, the Development Plan predicted the

already realised 20-25 per cent growth in student numbers.

Benedict Hardwick-Grey, a first-year Sociology student, said he was worried about the effect of this on the quality of teaching at York: “You have to wonder how such big increases in numbers will affect the standard of teaching. If the University doesn’t increase staff at a level

“We don’t have the infrastructure or service provision to adequately cater to a higher number of students”

YUSU President
Tim Ellis

equal to the increase in student numbers, which I doubt they have the funds for, then the effect on the student to staff ratio is inevitably going to be detrimental. This could make it harder to see staff during office hours, or even affect the number of contact hours we have.”

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Review of the year: best and worst



Student centre delays continue

In January, it was announced that the student centre faced continuing delays. The centre was planned to be open by Autumn 2011, but after a series of problems, including the contractors falling into administration, the building is planned to finally open in week 10.



Archbishop of York criticised over homophobia comment

In January, Archbishop Sentamu stated his concern over gay marriage, and its place in the Anglican Church, in a *Telegraph* interview. His comments were met with widespread disapproval, with YUSU publishing an open letter condemning his actions. York students also participated in a vocal demonstration outside the Minister.

V-Bar refurbishment delayed after confusion



The confusion over the renovation of Vanbrugh's V-Bar was ended when Commercial Services stated there were no plans to renovate the bar this year. Instead, the proposed refurbishment will take place in the following academic year.

Vanbrugh College:

“The college's greatest achievement to date has been providing every Vanbrugh student with opportunity in all aspects of college life. Our sports teams have done brilliantly throughout the year. Musicians at Vanbrugh have been able to get involved in a wide range of events. The welfare side of college life has been outstanding; 'Vanbrugh Loves You' was a great hit and the welfare team won a YUSU award for their achievements. All in all, a pretty cracking year for Vanbrugh.”

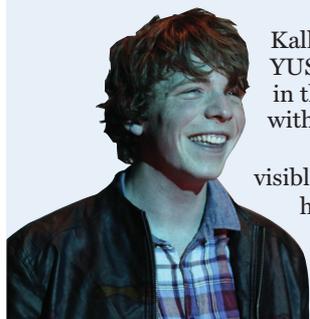


James College:



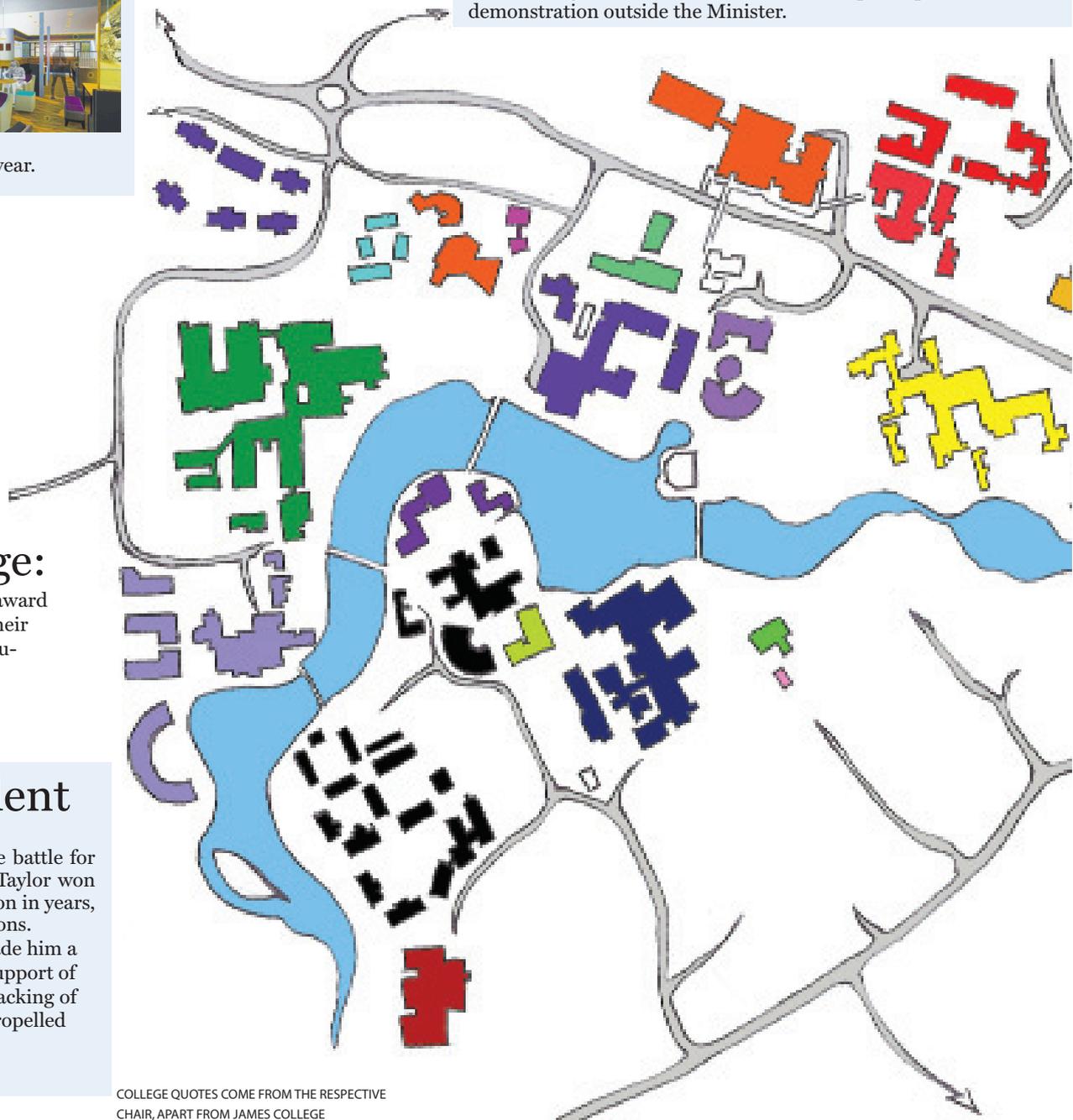
James College was awarded a Vice-Chancellor's award for Outstanding Achievement, specifically for their innovative approach to welcoming international students and fostering an international community.

Taylor elected YUSU President



Kallum Taylor emerged victorious in the battle for YUSU President in March of this year. Taylor won in the most hotly contested YUSU election in years, with over 50 students standing for positions.

Taylor's 'Special K' campaign had made him a visible presence around campus and the support of his college, Vanbrugh, as well as the backing of most of the former college chairs, propelled him to victory.



COLLEGE QUOTES COME FROM THE RESPECTIVE CHAIR, APART FROM JAMES COLLEGE

Then and Now

At the start of the year *Nouse* spoke to several freshers to find out their first impressions of York. We speak to one of those first-years eight months on to see how their perception of the University has changed.

Alex Buckley

Goodricke College,
Film and Television
Production

1. How has your accommodation been?

Accommodation has been great, I'm pretty gutted that I am moving out next year, no more ensuite or nice kitchens!

2. Have you been to many YUSU events this year?

Yes, I attended Live and Loud and other smaller events, and in a few days time I will be going to the Summer Ball to help film with

YSTV, which should be amazing.

3. Do you now know who Tim Ellis is? Have you ever met/spoken to him?

Yes, I do now know who Tim Ellis is. But I have still never spoken to him personally.

4. What has been the highlight of the year for you?

The highlight of my year, this is a hard one, I really can't pinpoint it. I

love the course I am on, but I guess I would have to say (rather embarrassingly) it is how many great people I have met this year that have helped to make my first year so fun.

5. What one word (or phrase) would sum up the year for you?

I hate these kinds of questions! I can't really describe it. So in the words of Mary Poppins I would have to say it has been 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' (and also bring on next year).

Then: October 2011

1. What do you think of your new room?

Nice, but I'm worried about the showers - my friend's has already flooded her room.

2. Have you bought a ticket to 'Live and Loud'?

Not yet, but I think I probably will.

3. Do you know who Tim Ellis is?

Sort of - I think I've seen his name on some of the Facebook groups.

moments of 2011/12

Alcuin College:



“So far this year the Alcuin JCRC has succeeded in creating a more diverse communication system which has been very successful in benefiting college spirit. Alcuin’s future looks bright.”

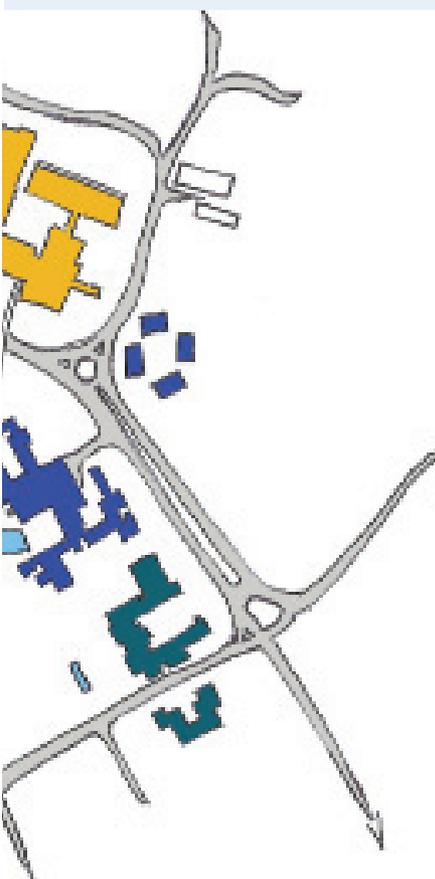
Langwith College:



“Saturday’s So Longwith Langwith event was probably the biggest achievement so far. Langwith’s first all-day event involved a lot of planning, coming together of the JCRC and a few sleepless nights trying to get everything organised. Everyone who came had a great time. Moving to Hes East will throw a whole new set of opportunities for the college and JCRC to prove themselves and achieve great things.”

Library becomes 24 hours

The library moved to open for 24 hours at the beginning of this term, after a long-running campaign from YUSU. The changes have been met with a broadly positive response from students.



Derwent College:

“Derwent has won the Judi Dench Volunteering Cup, has been nominated for two YUSU awards for welfare, and has achieved sporting success with the rugby team being nominated for team of the year.”

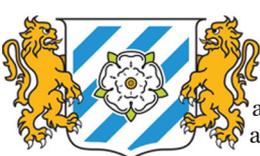
Goodricke College:



“Goodricke have run a range of great events this year. GoodFest - held last weekend - has got to be Goodricke’s greatest achievement of this year, it went to show that we can pull off an amazing uni-wide event that brings people together, however much the weather may work against us!”



Halifax College:



“We’ve had great success bringing together the graduate, undergraduate, and family communities within the college - subsidising a families trip to Chester zoo - out of JCR funds.”

York joins the Russell Group

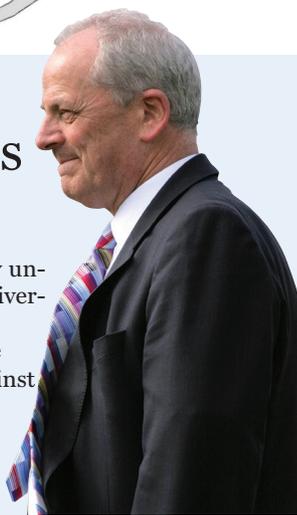
In March, the University announced it had accepted an invitation to join the Russell Group, an elite group of Universities across the country.



Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor Resigns

In May, the Vice-Chancellor, Brian Cantor, announced he is to step down in the coming academic year. He will remain at the University until, it is estimated, December 2013. It is the University’s 50th Anniversary in 2013.

Cantor’s tenure has been one marked by the physical expansion of campus buildings, set against a significant fall in overall league table rankings and student satisfaction.



Sabb Review

12 months on, *Nouse* asks whether the YUSU Sabbatical team have fulfilled their pledges?

1. Turning your student experience into a better graduate job **60%**

Aim:
- Helping you realise the skills and opportunities that extra-curricular activities at York provide for students when it comes to looking for graduate employment

Results:
- Societies now have to complete a development plan
- A pilot national NUS Award scheme has been tested

BUT,
- York still scores poorly for employability and no obvious signs of a change have happened yet

2. Improving our university community by championing and strengthening the collegiate system **60%**

Aim:
- Increasing the support and training that YUSU provides to JCRCs and working with the University to invest in the collegiate system

Results:
- YUSU have reviewed the college system and made proposals to change the system, as reported in this edition of *Nouse*
- Plans, by the University, not to have a bar on Heslington East were reversed

BUT,
- Behind the scenes work, not many tangible improvements

3. Researching and reducing the hidden costs of being a student at York **80%**

Aim:
- Finding out the areas where your money is going and working to reduce these costs as much as possible

Results:
- ‘What are you paying for’ campaign was a success
- Increased bursaries for students between £25,000 and £30,000 from 2013

BUT,
- Still more work on hidden costs to be done

4. Bringing your Students’ Union to you by involving you in everything we do **20%**

Aim:
- Ensuring that as a member of YUSU your voice is being listened to and acted upon, as well ensuring that your elected representatives are making you aware of what we are

Results:
- Several YUSU campaigns have been successful

BUT,
- Not really a mobile Union because of delay in Student Centre
- No YUSU Wall, physical or online
- More communication between officers and students is needed

5. Creating a culture where our students can support our students **70%**

Aim:
- Drawing attention to common issues that can affect all students, helping you to spot signs in friends, flatmates and teammates, and increasing awareness of where students can get support

Results:
- Bob Hughes has done a great job of making students aware of the support that is available
- New mental health software (Kognito) has been bought
BUT,
- Not all Society Chairs and Sports Presidents have had training that would help them recognise potential welfare problems

News

Animal Rights group targets University

DOPAMINEHARPER

Harry Meek
NEWS REPORTER

ANIMAL RIGHTS activists are planning to protest against the University's involvement in animal testing.

Jonathon Proctor, a spokesperson for the Northern Animal Rights Campaign, said: "We are going to start a campaign against Durham University and York Animal Testing Lab - it's time for people to wake up and smell the unscientific coffee."

A Freedom of Information request, from the Northern Animal Rights Campaign, claimed that the University used 9,928 mice, 234 rats and 128 frogs in experiments between January 2011 and January 2012.

The University released the following statement: "No live vertebrate animals are used in teaching undergraduates at York and whilst a couple of practicals do involve dissection of dead animals, students are free to opt out of these if they wish."

Proctor went on to say: "The fact that one department member went on to be a researcher and director at Huntington Life Sciences (the notorious testing lab) does not surprise me, once a killer, always a killer. We are a Northern Movement and against all animal testing. We are trying to get something sorted as soon as possible at York."

He believes there are many alternatives to animal testing, stating: "many drugs, which were passed as safe in animal tests, have caused serious side effects, and even deaths, in people."



An Animal Rights group is planning to campaign against the University over the use of animal testing in research

Dr Mark Coles of the Centre for Immunology and Infection at the University of York, is looking into testing drugs on the biological proteins which cause human disease or illness, rather than animals.

The University has stated that "all projects involving animal research are subject to the University's ethical review process, prior to authorisation by the Home Office."

The Ethical Review Committee, which oversees the welfare of animals involved in testing at York, includes lay representation as well as veterinary and animal care expertise. The Ethical Review Committee ensures that high standards

of animal care, welfare and accommodation are maintained, and that University employees working under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act receive appropriate guidance and training.

The University has said that by "focusing on physiological and psychological processes, [the University] has been able to devise measures to combat medical disorders and transmissible diseases - making major breakthroughs in the last few years".

Research on malaria two years ago, or pressure ulcers this year, have both contributed significantly in understanding the causes of

these illnesses and how to combat them.

They added: "The University is committed to the use of the minimum numbers of animals required to meet the objectives of the study, and the refinement of procedures so as to maximise animal welfare. The purpose is to make certain that the research carried out on animals is conducted humanely, and only when there is no alternative."

Lancaster University shut down its animal testing facility years ago - calling it "obsolete with modern research".

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Students walk for Samaritans

Lizzie Lynch
NEWS REPORTER

ON 10 AUGUST, three Samaritan volunteers from the University of York will take part in a 40 mile fundraising walk.

The Samaritans is a nationwide organisation which aims to provide a non-judgemental listening support service for those who are suffering from emotional anxiety and/or thoughts of suicide.

Tom Martin, a York student and leader of the fundraising expedition, said increasing awareness of the 24 hour support service provided by the Samaritans is key to sustaining the charity's work.

The Samaritans receives less than two per cent of its income through the government and the state, resulting in fundraising being a vital necessity.

They have over 15,000 volunteers to help them respond to the levels of calls received daily, spread through 201 branches in the UK.

Nationally they are contacted every five seconds; less than every minute they will take a call or have contact from someone who is experiencing suicidal feelings.

One report, released by Merlin in 2006, suggested that 61 per cent of freshers experience depression at one point during the early months of their university career, with 11 per cent being classed as 'suicidal' but only one per cent attempting to take their own lives.

New YUSU media guidelines

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

YUSU HAS introduced social media guidelines for Union officers after a number of disputes and controversies concerning the use of Facebook and Twitter were raised in the past year.

The guidelines state that both full-time and part-time officers must abide by the YUSU Code of Conduct when writing on their personal, as well as official, Facebook or Twitter page.

Union officers have agreed that they cannot distinguish what they say in a personal capacity from anything they say in an official capacity, as outlined in the document.

"What you publish cannot be isolated from your representational role and may be picked up by the media and students. As such, you can still be held to account for views expressed when not acting in an 'official' YUSU capacity."

Officers must abide by the Code of Conduct which forbids a variety of different illegal and unauthorised activity, including: "conduct detrimental to the public reputation of the Union".

This means that any YUSU officer is accountable for what they say in private conversations on their personal social media pages.



Officers would be accountable for comments on personal media pages

There were calls for guidelines covering activities by YUSU officers on social media at the start of this academic year after an incident involving a former Racial and Equalities Officer in a private conversation on Facebook.

The Officer was accused of making anti-Semitic remarks in a Facebook chat with a local councillor. Although the Officer was not speaking in an official capacity at

the time, they resigned two weeks later.

Similarly, the University rugby team was criticised in June last year after racist tweets appeared on their official twitter account. Two individuals within the team were expelled from the club.

The social media guidelines for full-time and part-time officers were accepted by the current YUSU team last week.

Late history exams prompt complaints

Tom Witherow
NEWS REPORTER

FIRST-YEAR history students have voiced complaints about the late timetabling of a three hour closed exam, which took place last Monday.

The exam, which was sat by 265 students, fell outside of the common assessment period as detailed under the New Modular Scheme.

The exam guide lists weeks five to seven as the period when closed exams are to be scheduled.

Last year, the assessment period included all ten weeks of the Summer Term. Jen Winter, Assistant Registrar (Student Progress), defended the timetabling: "We've got 49,487 sats to schedule in what used to be 10 weeks, and now we've moved it down into three."

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, highlighted the administrative challenges posed by exams: "it is certainly a great challenge to schedule tens of thousands of exams into a three week period. Some departments at York are very heavily dependent on closed examinations. This creates a large administrative burden and can limit the chances of students who don't per-

form well in closed examinations compared to other forms of assessment."

Clare Third, a student in James College who sat the exam, does believe the timing of the exam affects preparation: "By week eight, we'd all just lost momentum. It was a little bit unfair that everyone was out having fun, while we were studying. The noise was a bit of an issue too."

However, she mirrored the views of the majority of students in supporting the move to a three-week exam period: "As long as it's manageable for the Exams Office, then having them all in three weeks works well. We're all in it together and it's more concentrated."

Osborn sees the issue of noise as a shared responsibility: "YUSU, Colleges and the University need to work together to ensure that everyone respects that many students don't finish until the end of the assessment period, without preventing those who have finished from enjoying themselves."

"We didn't schedule for bank holidays this year, we're probably going to have to next year to make it all fit." The University is within its rights to set exams on bank holidays.

Isoc defends Yusuf Chambers event

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

IT HAS emerged the University of York's Islamic Society failed to submit the appropriate approval forms required by the University in time, before hosting Yusuf Chambers last Wednesday.

The University requires that societies fill out an EMF (Events Management Form) three weeks in advance of external speakers coming to campus. This is to ensure events can be checked and monitored.

An EMF was submitted for this event in May, but after Chambers postponed, no further form was completed. Ellis revealed: "We have taken action to ensure that until we have spoken to the Islamic society about following the proper process for events, they cannot book any more."

"However, the University felt that in this instance it was ok for the event to go ahead after ensuring that the chair and speaker were fully briefed on what is, and isn't, acceptable."

Isoc told *Nouse*: "Yusuf Chambers had already received clearance when committee members filed an Event Management Form last term."

David Duncan, the University Academic Registrar, commented: "Mr Chambers was permitted to speak on the campus, in accordance with our commitment to the principles of free speech."

"The speaker was reminded in advance that he must remain within the law and avoid offending other groups. The speaker abided by the letter to the terms we had set out. The event was well chaired by the Society President."

Chambers is a member of the Islamic Education and Research Academy, an organisation associated with preachers banned from the UK, such as Bilal Philips and Dr Zakir Naik.

The hosting of Chambers was criticised by Stand for Peace, one of Britain's leading Jewish-Muslim



ANDY DAVIES

The hosting was criticised by Stand for Peace, one of Britain's leading Jewish-Muslim interfaith organisations

interfaith organisations, who say that Chambers has in the past, "expressed the desire for homosexuals to be killed and has denied that homosexuality has any natural or genetic origins."

The Islamic Society told *Nouse* they strive to provide a range of events which cater to both Muslims and non-Muslims, with the aim of spreading knowledge and stimulating discussion on Islam.

"The criticism against our event entitled 'Patience, Perseverance and the Final Exam' did not take issue with the topic which is completely uncontroversial."

"We did not invite Chambers to talk about homosexuality, indeed we do not know the views he holds on homosexuality. We accept that there are a variety of views on homosexuality within the Islamic community as in any other."

"We are a student-led society and not a professional organisation and do not have the resources to exhaustively search the internet

for any possibly controversial statements.

"Our speaker's views do not necessarily represent those of the committee or Muslim students at York but we do not condone and will never provide a platform

“Until we talk to the Islamic society about following the proper process for events, they cannot book any more”

YUSU President
Tim Ellis

for ANY hate speech against any group."

During the event's Q and A session, the audience was solely permitted to ask questions on the subject of the talk. James Armstrong, who did tackle Chambers privately

afterwards, had his question regarding Chambers views on homosexuality, refused.

Armstrong presented a transcript from an interview between Chambers and Dr. Zakir in which he argues that the penalty for adultery is death by stoning. Chambers responded: "May Allah allow us to bring back that punishment to protect all humanity, InshaAllah (God Willing)."

Jane Grenville, Deputy Vice Chancellor, had reassured Armstrong before the event: "In this case, on a university campus famed for its free-thinking, I am reasonably content that an untenable position would be dismantled in question time and I would rather give these people a platform than have them be able to argue conspiracy and victimisation and gain underground followers that way."

"I think we must be constantly alert, constantly challenging and constantly allowing edgy debate, so long as it stops short of criminal

incitement."

After the event, Grenville told *Nouse*: "I understand that the Registrar asked that questions be solely targeted to the subject of the lecture. Personally, I would not describe that as censorship, but rather precautionary, given the anxieties that had been raised with us over public order."

"As for censoring Chambers himself, we made it very clear to him that we would not tolerate him breaking the law on our premises by any incitement to violence or hatred on grounds of gender, sexuality, race or any other protected characteristic."

Sam Westrop, from the Institute for Middle Eastern Democracy, complained to the University, who consequently checked Yusuf Chambers' record for inflammatory statements, and asked an Equalities Officer to attend the lecture to monitor.

On Tuesday 12 June, ISoc removed links from their website which linked directly to material intolerant of homosexuality.

One article entitled *The Organised Homosexual Movement: Its Methods And Its Goals*, states: "Because homosexuals can't breed they must recruit in order to perpetuate their perversion, and the younger their victims are caught the better."

Chambers' visit led to YUSU removing their twitter feed from their site. Ellis stated: "Insults and abuse have no place on the YUSU homepage and unfortunately, such things were showing up."

A small protest gathered outside before the event, and whilst the community police arrived to oversee the students, it remained peaceful.

Ben Dilks, YUSU's Campaigns Officer commented: "Whilst it's important not to falsely vilify any individuals or inadvertently stir up Islamophobic sentiment, students must feel able to express the view that there's no place for hate on our campus."

Changes proposed for campus collegiate system

Ross D'lima
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

RESEARCH CONDUCTED by the University of York Students' Union has outlined key improvements that should be made to the collegiate system.

The report calls for an increase in funding and resources for colleges, for a more consistent and clearer role to be outlined for colleges, and for more time to be invested into improving the collegiate system.

It is hoped that these targets will work towards the attainment of YUSU's "vision for the collegiate system": a stronger community; greater support for college members; greater leadership and direction in colleges.

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, stated: "YUSU has made some key recommendations to the Univer-



CARLOS62

The report identified the key strengths of the collegiate system to be welfare support, the social networks, and the sense of belonging it helps form

sity on how we can help build on the community, support, and also the accountability of the collegiate structure, and we are hoping this might be the start of a new look at the role that Colleges play at York."

He added that "colleges are one of the main things that set York apart as a University... it was felt

necessary to have an in-depth look at the support and prominence that has been given to them."

The report identified the key strengths of the collegiate system to be welfare support, the social networks it helps form, and the sense of belonging and community spirit it affords.

It outlined the general weaknesses of colleges to be their potential to force students into groups, and to leave students out owing to the location of the college.

The growing number of students in each college was recognised as a problem that undermines support and a sense of community

spirit.

York is one of few universities in the UK, alongside Oxford, Cambridge and Durham, to use the collegiate system. It has developed six more colleges since the completion of Derwent and Langwith in 1965.

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Platinum or bronze? Society grading system introduced from next year

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

FROM AUTUMN term next year societies will be graded and awarded according to their performance in areas such as: membership, collaboration, events, and fundraising.

The Society Accreditation Award Scheme is linked to the newly introduced Society Minimum Standards, and has been designed to encourage societies to grow and develop.

James Croydon, YUSU Student Activities, stated: "It is hoped that the award is a nice way of helping societies develop further and reward societies that are developing and developing their students. The criteria discussed with societies were a first draft and the official criteria will be released next year. The award does not directly affect funding."

The plans propose giving a status of platinum, gold, silver, or bronze to societies to reward growth, independence, and student involvement.

The level a society will be given depends on four criteria: number of members, number of collaboration hours (with departments, external groups or other societies), funds raised independent of YUSU, and number of events held.

To reach each level the soci-



TOM WITHEROW

There are three bandings to be offered to societies, dependent upon four criteria which will be decided by YUSU

ety must achieve every criteria of that level. There will be different rewards offered for each level attained. A gold level society must raise over £400 of its own funding, beyond that given to it by YUSU, hold over six events and have over 40 members in the year.

However, this move has received a mixed response from a number of society chairs, who feel that this method of ranking will damage some societies.

Andy Davis, Chair of York Student Think Tank, commented: "Societies which are weak in just one of these areas would have a lower

category than they deserve. If funding is dependent on the level of the society, then it could be harder for small groups to develop."

However, Phil Downs, Chair of the Conservative Society, told *Nouse*: "We think it will further encourage societies to strive to do the best they can for their members and for the student experience at York."

Louis Lunts, Drama Soc Chair, said: "YUSU must be aware of falling into the trap of evaluating all societies on the same scale. Regular ticketed events, for instance, may be less indicative of success for a study group than it is for a perfor-

mance society."

The new system may benefit some societies more than others. But Byron Karemba, University of York Labour Club Chair, said this was a good thing for political societies who are often not recognised.

"I very much welcome this award system as it provides an opportunity for political societies to be recognised. Political societies are usually sidelined for special grant awards or any other recognition because they are considered polarising, however I think this particular scheme will be fair as it is based on objective assessments."

Heslington East horse evicted

Harry Meek
NEWS REPORTER

THE HORSE by Heslington East has been removed from University property following threats from the University of repossession.

A University statement read: "the nuisance involving a number of horses tethered on University property became apparent in early March, but attempts by both University security staff and North Yorkshire Police to persuade the owners to move the animals were ignored."

However, last Monday, a notice appeared on the fence next to where the horse had been kept, threatening that if the owner did not remove the animal by Friday, then it would be repossessed under the Animal Act of 1971.

The University had taken this step after inspecting the animal to find "no animal welfare issue as the horses were well grazed and watered. Nevertheless, the animals posed a risk to the welfare of University users, as they regularly broke free," prompting them to "engage a special company of bailiffs."

Luckily the animal "was removed by the owners before the deadline and any further incursions will be monitored". The horse has been moved to a new home, and bailiffs were not called.



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News

Alcuin

The Alcuin Fete was held this Saturday. The event also celebrated York's 800th anniversary. It was a family friendly day with inflatables, a BBQ, and numerous other stalls. It was also a chance for the college to show off their best acts on stage.

Derwent

Derwent is invading Scarborough Beach on Thursday 21 June. Coaches will be leaving from James College Car Park at 9am. Coach tickets are only £3 and will be available at the JCR Open Meeting on Tuesday Week 9 and at Porters Wednesday Week 9 (12-2).

Goodricke

Goodfest took place this weekend, headlined by Benjamin Francis Leftwich on the main stage alongside a host of other acts. There were also a range of other activities for those attending to take part in, including a bouncy castle, BBQ and a masseuse.

Halifax

Halifax have got a new mascot. 'Faxy the Lion' has been loving life representing the college at events like Faxival and appearing as the main judge at Halifax has got Talent.

James

The James Summer Formal is being held next Sunday in the Roger Kirk Centre. There will be a drinks reception, band and chocolate fountain. The evening will celebrate the best of college sport as well as so-called 'outstanding college members'.

Langwith

Langwith College marked the last few weeks of existence, before the college moves over to Hes East, with the event 'So Longwith Langwith' held on Saturday Week 8.

Vanbrugh

Vanbrugh College held a Volume does Refreshers event on Monday week 9, to be followed by a day trip to Scarborough and a beach-themed bar crawl on the Thursday of week 9.

Wentworth

Wentworth will be holding a Wimbledon evening on Thursday 5 July at 5pm, to get in the mood for the Wimbledon singles finals. This event is open to all members of staff.

Reporting by Laura Hughes, Neil Johnson and Tom Witherow

Memorial service held in Physics for "sorely missed" James student

Rachel Banning-Lover
NEWS REPORTER

A MEMORIAL service was held last Friday for Leyah Karodia, a fourth-year Physicist, who passed away in early April after an episode of illness.

Leyah, a member of James College, who had struggled with Sickle Cell Anaemia for many years, was a dedicated member of the Physics Department, producing work of a publishable standard.

While she appeared quiet and unassuming to the outside world, she was a "force of personality" to those who knew her. Friday's event, which was held to celebrate Leyah's life, was hosted by the Physics Department and was well attended by family, friends and colleagues.

Leyah's boyfriend, Joe Wilson, who led the service, described her as having a courageous and determined approach to embracing life

at York, despite facing a number of challenges along the way, saying how she "never ever allowed the disease to get in the way. If she wanted to do something, she was going to do it."

Dr Kieran Gibson, Leyah's project supervisor, who presented her MPhys Project on temperature changes in plasma at the service, described her as "someone with a real talent, real determination," and who had a bright future ahead of her.

Leyah's field of study for her project had only previously been researched by postgraduates at York. After Gibson's presentation and an introduction by the Head of the Department, the floor was opened up for people to share their memories of Leyah.

Mathilde Hazenberg, a fellow Physicist who had known Leyah since school when they had studied GCSE Chemistry together, said:

"She was the funniest, kindest person I've ever seen". She added how Leyah never failed to bring popcorn to every Physics girls' night.

Friends and family remembered her for her sparkling personality and quirky taste in literature, films and clothes as well as her questionable colour schemes for Physics graphs.

"She had a wicked, biting sense of humour, and could sum up a whole situation in a sentence," Bob Hughes, a former housemate and YUSU Welfare Officer, said.

Describing the service, Hughes added: "It was so nice it was such a positive celebration of her life, bringing everyone together - she'll be sorely missed, it's a great way to end on a high by celebrating everything she loved."

The Physics Department are currently making provisions for instigating a book prize in Leyah's memory.

York Awards honours students

Rose Troup Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

LAST FRIDAY the third annual YUSU Awards were held, celebrating those York students who have gone the extra mile to enhance the student experience at York.

Sam Asfahani, YUSU Sport President, hosted the event which was held in the Lounge.

17 awards were on offer and winners included Alice Ward-Gow for Course Rep of the Year, Helen Marrison for Lifetime Achievement Award, and Lewis Haines for his dedication to student support. Rebecca Irwin and Baxter Willis were the winners of the Outstanding Leadership award, whilst Jamie Riley received the Greg Dyke Award for Student Journalism.

Derwent College claimed the Judi Dench Volunteering Cup with James College collecting the RAG College Trophy. The Society of the Year was awarded to PantSoc.



The YUSU Awards honour both individuals and groups of York students



Library fines to be increased

Joshua Boswell
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY Library customer services are proposing to increase fines and introduce changes to the book loan system from 3 September.

Fines for late return of requested books will rise by over 550 per cent to £5 per day, and until requested books are returned a block on the student's account will be imposed.

All ordinary books except key texts, audio visual, and reference books, will be available in four-week loans, with 24-hour and one-week loans abolished.

The proposed changes permit an unlimited number of renewals on unrequested ordinary books. However, if at any point the book is requested the loan period will be shortened to three days. This is a decrease from the current five-day allowance.

“ We want to develop a system which is fair for all groups of library users ”

Head of Relationship Management
Michelle Blake

Jackie Knowles, Library Customer Services Manager, clarified: "The four week loan is not guaranteed and will be shortened if requests are made at any time, whether it is one day after you take it out or weeks after you take it out".

Students will also be expected to post requested books back during holiday periods.

Michelle Blake, Head of Relationship Management, said she was "investigating the cost of subsidising postal returns" but that "we haven't got anything concrete yet".

According to Blake, income from fines will be used exclusively for the acquisition of highly demanded books.

"We want to develop a system which is fair for all groups of library users" and "communication will matter quite centrally".

In the academic year 2010-2011 only 11 per cent of Library fines were from ordinary loans. A document outlining proposal, given to the YUSU Academic Assembly last Wednesday, said: "In the majority of cases we are charging fines on material that comes back late but that no one else is waiting for."

According to Knowles the proposal is a response to falling student satisfaction with library services. The 2011 National Student Survey measured a 74 per cent satisfaction rate with Library resources.

Library senior managers have already signed off the proposals, and academic departments are currently being consulted.

Funding Your Future

As another fundraising telethon campaign draws to a close, **Rachel Banning-Lover** talks to some of the student callers responsible for reconnecting alumni with their Alma Mater

The York Annual Fund is one special organisation that this year, as in previous years, has been working hard to bridge the financial gap for the hardest hit students at York through special bursaries. They are a registered charity run by the Development and Alumni Relations Office, who through generous donations from alumni, last year provided £33,750 for Entrance bursaries for 50 students. This year, they are on course to raise 50 Achieving Excellence Bursaries of £1,050 for next year's incoming students.

However, their work stretches far beyond helping individual students, with many more York students benefiting from grants to societies and sports clubs. In 2010/11, £58,189 worth of grants were raised for York societies and £28,485 for sports clubs. They've approved requests for grants from £100 for a society banner through to £4,000 in 2011 for YUSU Volunteering's Kids' Camp.

Beyond the large sums of cash raised though are the people who make these donations possible. Much of the money is collected from alumni bi-annually in autumn and summer telethon campaigns, at the heart of which are 26 students.

For Ellie Haines, a post-graduate student and one of two callroom supervisors, this is her seventh telethon campaign.

"Every shift brings with it a number of different challenges and unusual situations, but these make the job what it is," Haines said.

"For me, the most inspiring calls are the ones in which the caller speaks to someone who starts the call by expressing that they are not really in a financial situation to give, but ends, having been reminded of their time at York by one of our student callers, wanting to give a gift to the University. It is far easier for



UNIVERSITY OF YORK

"The activities and bursaries supported by the York Annual Fund directly impact students so it seems right that they play a role in raising that money"

these people to say no than to say yes, but despite their financial difficulties they feel that contributing to the York Annual Fund really is worthwhile."

Haines herself has overseen how much of a difference York Annual Fund grants can make as Director of the 2012 Spring Festival, which she says without generous support from the Fund, elements

of the Festival could not have taken place.

The telethons were started in 1998 and have been run continuously since 2007. They appeal to alumni, according to Hilary Blake, Annual Fund Officer, because: "Having a conversation with a current student takes alumni back to their student days and gives them a chance to reflect on the path that

their time at York started them out on."

It is an enjoyable opportunity for many alumni, some of whom may have not returned to York in 30 years. Blake added: "It also makes them more aware of the challenges that current students are facing and the ways they can help." Many attended York before students had to pay tuition fees.

Calling alumni isn't all about the money though, it's about reconnecting old students with their former University, and giving them a chance to get involved again – whether they want to attend a reunion, a University careers event or reconnect with friends over the University's online professional networks.

Blake recalled receiving an email from an alumnus a few weeks ago. Having answered a call from one particular student last summer, he's now re-connected with some people he studied with over 30 years ago and has been involved in York's professional networks. Having decided to come to the Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend, he asked to meet the student caller in person to thank her for getting him involved again.

Of course, the calls also offer alumni a chance to depart pearls of wisdom to current students.

Nick Skeavington, a third year History and Philosophy student, said: "I have had some really strong careers advice including information from a man who worked for lots of major airlines and now works as a freelance consultant in the aviation industry offering to introduce me to people and take a look through my CV."

"Ultimately, I think it is important to have student involvement [in the telethon] because the activities and bursaries supported by the York Annual Fund directly impact students so it seems right that they play a role in raising that money."

While giving back to York may not be the first thing on some graduating students' minds, a special graduation appeal is being launched this year, with Tim Ellis, YUSU President, and other graduating students having already pledged to make a small donation of £10.

AGATHA TORRANCE

- Last year donations from alumni provided £33,750 for Entrance bursaries for 50 students
- It's on course to provide 50 Achieving Excellence bursaries in 2012/13
- In 2010/11, £58,189 worth of grants were raised for societies
- £28,485 was raised for sports clubs
- Grants for society and sports clubs have ranged from £100 to over £4000



Two York student callers hard at work trying to raise funds from York alumni for bursaries and societies

Comment



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Rose Troup
Buchanan



Selling a manufactured illusion

iPads are indicative of a prevalent trend of the commercialisation of our university experience

It has emerged that the University has spent over £35,000 on Apple technology and accessories for its staff. Included in this total were iPads and iPhones.

The Psychology Department is now the proud owner of eight iPads. However, they saw fit to buy 10 iPad covers in a range of suitably cheerful colours and styles, including top-of-the-range leather covers, at £49.17 a pop.

The grand total of this Applephilic spending spree came to £5,114.19, which is more than double what the Computer Sciences Department spent on Apple goods over the same period. The Department of Social Work and Social Policy managed to spend just under two grand on a similar range of equipment. They also saw fit to personalise their iPads – having them engraved with the department's name – although the iPad covers render this slightly pointless, to say the least.

A Luddite through and through, there was always going to be a part of me that would oppose such expenditure.

The University has partially defended the purchases on ecological “paper saving” grounds. I'm not sure exactly how much paper HYMS (Hull York Medical School) will save with the addition of a single iPad. It's lone purchase betrays the superficiality and needless expenditure of the entire operation.

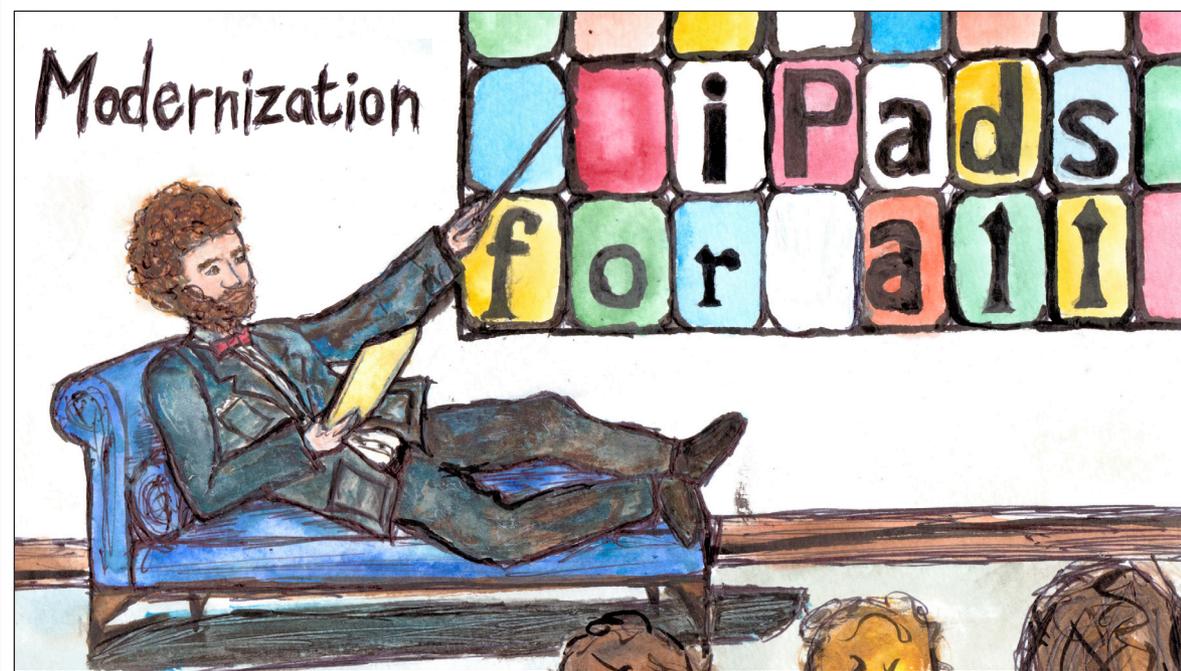
How exactly the purchase of leather cases is necessary to our

education and the research that is carried out across the University remains unclear. Ranging from between £332 and the most expensive £509 iPad, I fail to see what the department is going to be able to achieve with these pieces of technology that is worth the money, beyond perhaps attempting to contribute to the image that the University is not continuing on an ever downwards spiral through the league tables. Wave a shiny new toy over here, distract from increasingly low standards and student apathy over there.

Most importantly we need to ask what this technology can really bring to the University, it's teaching, and the first-class research conducted. Without playing up to the old-fashioned professor stereotype, how many of the researchers and professors, for whom this technology was bought, will know how to take full advantage of all this innovation can offer? If these iPads become nothing more than a constructed and artificial background to research, present only for their “shiny” factor (and after a few years not even fulfilling that) then

we need to act to prevent further squandering of University funding. Until there is a clear need for such purchases no amount of “paper saving” muttering by the University should deter our reservations.

We can hope the purchase of such technology was ultimately for the benefit of those researchers and students already present, and not yet another example of the commercialisation of our education into a shiny manufactured façade, which will soon be termed obsolete – not through lack of technology, but through lack of learning.



PATRICK GREENFIELD

Emma
Double



Assessment of postgraduate pay must be realistic

To all students, the issue of money is a case of putting up without while doing what you (hopefully) love. Of course, many students hope they will be reimbursed for their skint years of student-hood in later years as some of the most qualified of the workforce.

Indeed, Masters and PhD students endure further years of near-empty pockets in the hope of future recompense without any student loans available to them. While undoubtedly this is not such a problem for those from affluent backgrounds, to many from less financially comfortable backgrounds this can make the postgraduate research experience a true labour of love, especially in these economically competitive times when a de-

gree does not guarantee a well-paid job, or indeed a job at all.

Bearing all this in mind, doesn't it seem like postgraduate student teaching work is an ideal solution to such a problem for today's postgraduates?

The current issue with this work appears to be the recent and sharp step down in pay for postgraduates who teach (PGWTs). There are examples cited of the University of Leeds cutting funding by 56 per cent, and York's History Department cutting PGWTs' wages from £26.75 to £8.75 per hour.

This has led to a postgraduate mobilisation, particularly through a new campaign group, the Postgraduate Workers Association (PGWA). The main criticisms seem to be that PGWT work can result in

manipulation of student labour by universities which are now acting in more economically motivated ways.

“ PGWT work can result in manipulation of student labour by universities which are now acting in more economically motivated ways ”

There are also concerns that it feeds social immobility, as the postgraduates who rush for the teaching jobs tend to be those who don't have to worry about earning money

too.

These concerns do seem perfectly valid, and especially with rather dramatic funding decreases, as can be sensed from the figures above.

Also, to put the pay issue in some perspective using the York History Department's example; for part-time student work such as waitressing, bar-tending or shop work, most would not complain at a £8.75 per hour wage. The £26.75 which York's History PGWTs previously received therefore appears positively off the scale compared to most student jobs (this was in fact apparently due to a clerical error overpaying previous postgraduates).

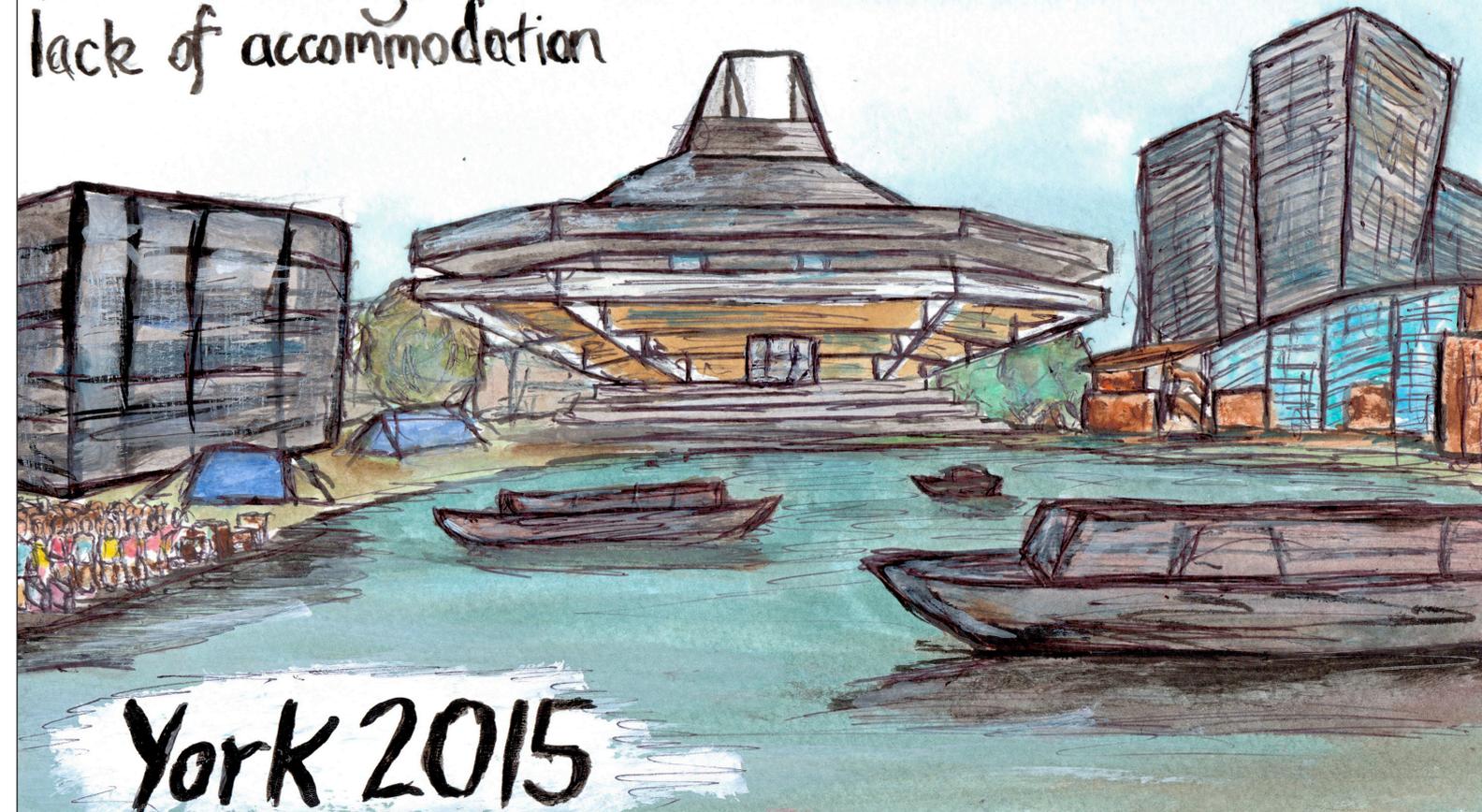
I can't help but think that the postgraduate student experience,

especially in the humanities, is notoriously badly funded and has been for years. Agreed, pressure on postgraduates and underpay are important issues. However, if you can academically and fiscally gain from what is effectively a part-time job through your university while still being paid a competitive wage wouldn't you prefer to work as a PGWT, over the other student work options?

In these economically stringent times, yes, students must be careful to stand up for their rights, especially during a period of funding changes in the university sector, but also remember PGWT works advantages, while the opportunity for relevant experience, training and (at least some) pay it provides still exists.

PATRICK GREENFIELD

The University takes radical measures to cope with the lack of accommodation



York 2015

Martin Spurr



Bigger isn't always better

One of York's best selling points is the small, campus community, but an unrestrained growth strategy would leave York in danger of losing this

Soon the University will face a choice. In fact, the fork in the road may already be upon us. The number of students at York has hit around 15,000; but this wasn't meant to happen yet. In the University's 2009 Development Plan, it foresees this being achieved towards the latter half of the decade – not in 2012.

This creates a fundamental question for York: what kind of university do we want to be? The first road is the safe option, stop expanding so quickly and begin further development on older buildings, accommodation, and departments on Heslington West. The other path leads us to a dramatically larger University, with a bigger (and potentially better) Heslington East. A few years ago, the University said it would assess these options in 2019, but it is being forced to decide sooner than it wants.

The best business decision would probably be to continue expanding. Students want to come to York – and many prospective students are rejected. The demand is there to increase numbers. But is this really what we want to happen? The best characteristics of York would be lost if there were over 20,000 students trampling the muddy shores surrounding the lake. The library would become a haven for only those who have the personal space of a sardine. Your housemate wouldn't know whom you're talking about when you moan about the annoying person in your seminar, nor be able to find the phone number of someone you just met in two texts. On the up

side, perhaps the Willow would relocate, double in size, and provide other Chinese-British staples apart from their favoured prawn crackers. We can only dream.

Obviously I am being slightly facetious. The University would invest to a certain extent to cope with 5-10,000 more students, but I'm not sure that's what I really want. I quite like the small community feel York currently has. I enjoy constantly bumping into people I know on campus. I don't envy those who have to travel for half an hour on a bus to get to a lecture.

“Without these charming features, York just becomes another generic, relatively large university”

Heslington East would benefit from more students, if only to get rid of the Wild West ghost town feel it currently has; whenever I venture across its grassy moat I expect to see tumbleweed blowing across the road.

Hopefully, this will happen with Langwith's move there next year, and a new college in 2014. But the third college on 'campus mark two' must be used to allow more second and third years to live on campus, not to increase the number of students York admits as a whole.

The increasing divide between freshers on campus and everyone else off it, is also slowly undermining the feeling of a united college community.

Without these charming features, York just becomes another generic, relatively large university. We cannot compete with Leeds or Manchester on nightlife, quality accommodation, or music acts.

What we can beat them at is community and spirit. Forsaking that would change the University we are a part of and put a lot of people off coming here. Bigger doesn't mean better. Quality teaching and a quality experience are easier to provide within a smaller community and any significant increase above 15,000 students would endanger the best characteristics that York has.

The University has a choice to make. They say they haven't decided on the path yet; let's hope that's the case. One path keeps York the way it is, whereas the other risks turning it into a generic, middle-sized institution.

Although university league table rankings aren't generally reliable, a pattern has been emerging over the last two years, with York falling in almost all of them. This hasn't affected the number of applicants yet.

But it does put pressure on the management to distinguish us from the other top 20 universities. A close-knit community has been one of York's best selling points. Let's not jeopardise that by a delusional pursuit of growth for the sake of growth.

Immigration law a step in the right direction

Stephanie Milsom



Immigration has always been a contentious issue, and Theresa May's new plans for deportation are about to make it even more so.

May has decided that she wants judges to take into account the wider needs of the public in ruling that the right to family life is “not absolute”.

At the minute, foreign criminals can escape deportation or extradition if members of their family live in this country. This means that hundreds of foreign criminals are able to delay or even completely cancel their deportation date, living off the tax payer's money in the meantime. If things change, this could only happen under exceptional and rare circumstances, putting a stop to national scandals similar to Qatada's shambled case.

While some may judge that it is unfair to separate a family, regardless of criminal activity, the point remains that the perpetrator of the crime has been taken in by a country, and then broken that country's law. It could be argued that, should you commit a crime, you lose your claim to certain rights and privileges, and what is stopping ‘the right to family life’ being one of them?

“You commit a crime, you lose your claim to certain rights”

May's ruling will also directly affect normal, non-criminal citizens. Foreigners wishing to move to England to live with their partners or family must be supported by a sponsor earning more than £18,600, or £22,400 for families with children. May proposes setting up a minimum probationary period of five years, to deter sham marriages, and setting a minimum requirement of skill in understanding and using English, to ensure that immigrants are able to integrate.

While the wage requirements may to some seem unfair – if your partner/parent does not earn enough, you can't live with them – the above moves are for the greater good. The economy cannot stabilise and grow with a continuing influx of dependents on it, and thousands of immigrants every year enter the country and sign up for benefits.

The priority is making sure that our country's needs, and those of the native population are put first; we should offer a helping hand and shelter where possible, but not to the detriment of those born here.

These moves should also help to alleviate some of the problems associated with immigration, for example British anger towards the subject. It's not an issue that's going to go away, but it can be helped by the rulings May proposes. They may be baby steps, but they're positive enough for now.

Follow the debate:
Comment online at
nouse.co.uk/comment

Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964



Expensive toys are no use to students

Tuition fees will triple next year, just in time for the next batch of iPhones to make an appearance in Apple stores across the globe, and what a better way of celebrating the rise in University funds than to flash the cash? But, there are quite a few alternatives. The University needs to concentrate more on focusing its funds on improving the academic life of the student body. Some of the building work around campus leaves a lot to be desired, and many of the teaching facilities have yet to be updated to the 21st century. So why has it been suggested that a few of Apple's finest rip-offs here and there will make a difference to student life?

It is not the proportion of money being spent on the technology that is necessarily the problem - out of the University's total budget, it is rather small. But however large or small the amount of money being spent is, it seems pointless to be spending anywhere near this amount on posh toys. Hardly anyone needs an iPad, they are merely an expensive accessory. Laptops and desktop computers can fulfil the role of iPads for academics and departments, their new shiny toys will not bring the great benefit that the University management expects.

Donkeys of the department?

Postgraduates have an ambiguous status, situated somewhere between student and member of staff. The University's postgraduate students here are gaining useful teaching experience, transferable skills, and relationships with the leaders of their own academic fields. The job is more important than just the workload, payment and status, but they should not be marginalised by their departments. This drastic cut in History postgraduate pay has devalued their worth. Resource-based constraint, forcing departments to 'cut corners' in an attempt to cope with existing student numbers and funding constraints, should not mean postgraduates take the burden. Departments call on them to teach where and when the need arises. Their reactive, rather than proactive use, results from the fact departments are unable to plan further ahead than a year, in determining likely staffing needs, and investment. Taking advantage of our graduates, who need this teaching experience, is exploitative irresponsibility.

Hasta luego

As the summer term draws to an end, we hope you don't mind us taking a small moment to thank those who have made *Nouse* possible during the last few years. We say thanks to Sam Morgan for years of sport reporting, Alexander Prowse for his political knowledge. Thanks to Sarah Jilani for the best Arts Editor *Nouse* has ever seen. We wish you all the best at Oxford. Thank you to Michael Allard and Christopher Fraser for your encyclopedic knowledge of film, and thank you to Adam Bychawski, the cat-loving music reviewer extraordinaire. Many thanks to Charlotte Fairclough and Frances Sampayo for all the fantastic cartoons and drawings that dazzled our pages throughout the year. We say thanks to Lucy Dixon, an excellent photographer. We hope you go on to great things. Thank you to Hannah Brearley for your witty humour that kept us all going through the early hours of a Monday morning, to Hannah Clugston for your charm and cheery persona. We will miss you both. Thank you to Henry and Jake for your dedicated sports reporting and bringing some much needed humour into the office. Enjoy China. Thanks to Andrew Ryan for your technical wizardry and dead-pan sense of humour, to Rachel for all the long hours proofing, but especially for your fantastic cakes each production weekend. Thank you to Luke for your amazing work rate, we still don't know how you managed to juggle everything. Thank you to Mia for being wonderful, a special thanks to Camilla for all your support and enduring passion. We will miss you greatly and know you will be great. Finally, to Hannah, thank you and we wish you the best of luck in the future. We thank you all for your hard work and dedication - we couldn't have learnt it without you. We hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have knowing you.

NOUSE



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University research should not be undermined

Neil Johnston



Although the sheer scale of the numbers of animals killed by animal testing at the University might come as a shock to many, it must not be forgotten that this has become an accepted, and possibly essential, practice in modern society. Animal testing has led to breakthroughs that have helped us all; it's not pleasant, but it is something most people accept.

The University holds a leading position as far as national research is concerned and animal testing will contribute to part of this. Of course, there are serious ethical questions as to whether killing the animals on campus is necessary and I can fully understand why some people disagree with the practice. While the figures indicate it is an everyday occurrence at York, in comparison to other institutions, the University has not been as extreme. Newcastle University has faced severe criticism for testing on primates.

That kind of research is very different to York's testing on mice, rats, and frogs. In fact, I will extend an invitation to the science departments to come to Halifax and get rid of the rats that seem to be lurking around my accommodation, but not the hedgehogs, we like them.

The campaign group that has had some success at other universities, is now targeting York. However, their methods of campaigning threaten to undermine their cause further. The campaign at Newcas-

tle caused controversy as protesters entered banned areas and clashed with police. The storming of laboratories and the sabotaging of the University Ball, as seen at Bradford, is not the right way forward. If they continue to act in this manner they will lose the sympathy of their own supporters.

It has been argued that animal tests do not always provide successful results and there are alternatives. But until truly effective ways to conduct the same research at the same rate become available, a small amount of animal testing is morally acceptable. 10,000 is a lot of animals, but animal testing is currently the only way that gives the most accurate results without testing on humans. Alternatives such as computer programmes and testing on proteins are evolving but are still

not as effective.

It is important to remember that many of the big scientific breakthroughs have come from animal testing at universities. This is the reason why the practice has continued for years, despite campaigns against the use of it. The University's testing is classed as "moderate" by the Home Office, and as long as this does not progress any further, that may satisfy most.

The solution for the University is a compromise with the campaigners. 10,000 is too many animals to be killed in research each year. However, the testing should continue if there is a chance of scientific breakthrough. But only when a more effective method of research becomes available will the practice really be able to stop. Because only then will it become unjustified.

BRANDON SEAGER



Rejection is the first step to acceptance

Rohan Banerjee



If you're reading this, chances are you're a student at The University of York, or that garishly tattooed bloke who always hangs around The Courtyard.

Nevertheless, anyone with some experience of the University will be aware of its brimming population of cardigan clad, chino wearing champagne socialists, who were unsuccessful in their Oxford applications.

But as a better-spoken version of Take That traded off their tales of rejection with many a chunter and snort in my Politics seminar earlier this term, I began to wonder if their, or indeed my own bitterness, is entirely necessary.

Far from the glamour of bi-weekly bops, boogying in The Bodleian or partying with the next PM, the reality of Oxford is something quite different to a three-year homage to Harry Potter. Students are more likely to be isolated in their room, often for days at a time, trudging through mountains of reading that even a Nepalese Sherpa would think twice about.

Pressured by the fear of failure, with perhaps just enough time for a few crammed in mouthfuls of Pot Noodle for dinner, the Oxford cohorts are sorted, wheat from chaff,

and ground down into the flour that makes the upper crust. I have to ask, are we really missing out?

Although this is a gross generalisation and I'm sure many students do occasionally stumble upon a social life in a haze of academic overdose, the point remains that Oxford is not the guaranteed stepping-stone to greatness that pushy parents insist it is.

“It is really only our pride that suffers, not our prospects”

No one likes rejection, and those that apply to Oxford will have dealt with little of this before in their academic lives. The average Oxford reject will be used to constant praise for an unflinching string of A grades, where failure has rarely been an option. But what I'm trying to say is that it's not the end of the world.

York has most of the stuff you wanted from Oxford anyway: cobblestone streets, old bridges, a cathedral as well as a few eccentric ac-

ademics and stacks of bright, funny and friendly people. Besides, have you not noticed the striking resemblance between The Shambles and Diagon Alley?

Of course, it would have been nice if Oxford had wanted us. You'll hear lots of people say how they would like to have got in, "just so I could reject them".

Because that's what we really want from Oxford isn't it - confirmation that we're good enough? It is really only our pride that suffers, not our prospects, and certainly not our development as 'rounded individuals'.

But for this short-lived placate, we would have entered into some Faustian pact, signing away our lives just to say we went to Oxford. And little good it would have done you, if you lacked ambition in the first place. I'm not saying York is a better university, but it might be a better experience. For a start, we're spared the surrealism of watching grown men carry teddy bears across campus.

So instead of seeing your rejection as a complete and resounding failure consider it the equivalent to an annoying but minor ailment, such as acne or the queue to Wil- low.



Josh Boswell

Comment Editor

YUSU strategy: gate-crashing the AA

To get more people involved, YUSU needs to make the policy process more interesting, comprehensible, and accessible

Last week, the final Academic Assembly of the year was held. It was quite an important meeting that determined the policy direction for the whole of next year. Stalwart Yusucrat Graeme Osborn presented his key aims and painted us a picture of the academic priorities for his second sabbatical term as Academic Officer – priorities that, if realised, should have a significant positive impact on our academic experience.

Yet despite Osborn's engagingly dulcet tones, and the gravitas of the meeting itself, there were only 14 of us there to vote. As we sat in a non-descript Langwith seminar room, gathered in a circle of plastic chairs, it occurred to me that the meeting's acronym 'AA' was rather fitting.

A recent YUSU strategy document outlined how the union would benefit from a sense of direction. In an impressively frank analysis of the policy formation process it described the mish-mash of policies, piled one on top of another, which form the current mandate "without any distinction or priority". It goes on to recommend the four assemblies (Academic, Community, Liberation & Welfare, Student Development)

to actually set themselves a strategic agenda for the coming year, and to prioritise key policies. Another integral point it advises is the creation policy documents that people actually want to read. That means candour and clarity, not waffle and confusion.

“Committee-speak is the plague of any public organisation”

I think this is extremely important, not necessarily for the tangible benefits to policy, but for opening up our students' union. The union often has a hard time getting anyone to actually care about what it does or says. A more hard-boiled cynic than I might say that is because it does nothing worth caring about.

But I don't think that is true. It's just that the meaningful policy that is passing through our assemblies and networks all the time is

buried under a thick, drab layer of words: the committee-speak that is the plague of any public organisation, from a parish council to the UN. Dull procedure and opaque documentation is a major disincentive for the average union member, and is probably a large part of the reason for low turnouts and turn-ups to important, useful meetings that do bring real change for students.

The handover process for the new officers began last week. I am hopeful that the new team will take on this clear, vision-based approach to policy. It might not have much to do with the actual administration, but it gives us students something to hold on to and rally around; something to understand and interact with, that might just stimulate some participation.

Which brings us back to Osborn. He seems to have wholeheartedly embraced this 'policy with a direction' idea. Each of his eight proposals at the final Academic Assembly was summed up succinctly but clearly, with enough detail for us to comprehend and engage with. Even I, stumbling into the democratic process with the all wonderment of a newborn babe,

felt I understood it all as he led me by the hand into Yusucrat enlightenment.

Going into his second term, Osborn has had the advantage of being able to take the long view, and perhaps that is why his policy seems more coherent. It is of course necessary to have the ability to kick out a poorly performing officer after a year, but sometimes a two-term officer can make the best progress. Regardless of whether that has made his administration more effective or not, it has certainly made it easier to engage with. The 'you run us' slogan is one that, in YUSU's academic policy, can actually be realised.

So I urge you too to go to the meetings next year, the assemblies, the AGMs, and see if you can get a handle on it. With the new, clear approach it's a lot easier and more rewarding a process – you can understand the issues without prior preparation, and have a real impact on your union and its policy for you. It doesn't have to be dreary either. Take a light-hearted, playful approach. Bring some mates. Bring some beers too – though if you do, make sure you get the right 'AA' meeting.

Accommodation lottery is the fairest of them all

Katherine Tabor



Previously described as "the worst system seen at one of the best universities" and "an unfair lottery", the University of York's application process for accommodation has left a lot to be desired.

Organisation-wise, there isn't any. The so called 'first come first served' process (totally undermined by staggered email sending) has left a bitter taste in many a student's mouth before having even entered their freshers' week. After yet another year of endless complaints, it is unsurprising that changes have finally been announced regarding the system.

For the organised among freshers, who commit to York for their firm choice, this is great news. Chances are, you'll be able to live in one of the sought-after rooms in the luxury accommodation you scouted out on the open day. On the other hand, for those with York as their insurance choice, emails will be released 24 hours after this first batch; meaning a place at the bottom of the accommodation food chain.

Receiving my fabled email, with horror, at 8pm, I was one of many who felt thoroughly ripped off by the system (in which there was no distinction between firm and insurance applicants). Despite this, I believe there is definitely something to be said in favour of the random side of the procedure.

Without wanting to point the finger at what is arguably the worst accommodation on campus (yes, including James N Block) to say my heart sank when a STYC first walked me through Wentworth E Block, would be an understatement: Peeling paint on the death-by-beige exterior, breeze block corridors and the most bizarrely positioned wardrobe ever seen, was the sorry result of my belated email.

“This random allocation of emails allows for a strong mix of personalities”

However, on the first night of drinking in our 'cosy' kitchens, the ice was already broken by speculation about the similarity of our mental-asylum-chic rooms to those of Broadmoor.

Throughout the course of the year, some even argue the conditions got worse. Regardless, the past term at Wentworth has featured the birth of Dumbledore's Army (goslings), a unique photographic mural and a state of the art heated (padding) pool.

The simple fact is that this random allocation of emails allows for a strong mixture of personalities in

each accommodation type. If there existed only a simple first come first served process, the more organised and arguably wealthier students would be concentrated in certain areas. The risk being that this could lead to sectionalisation across campus and perceived judgement based solely upon your address; not uncommon at some universities.

Having survived, and more importantly enjoyed, my year of questionable quality accommodation, I feel distinctly less like the application system left me with the short straw.

Next year, residents of Vanbrugh Palace could find themselves in lesser conditions in the private sector. However, with the strong belief that no private housing could possibly feature mould outbreaks alongside sporadic ant infestations: for those who have experienced the lower band this year, accommodation-wise, the only way is up.

"It's what you make of it" is the tired cliché said to those who find themselves in these initially unbecoming situations. Although this phrase is fitting for the less attractive blocks around campus, surely it's also the general rule for all university accommodation? Yes, it's arguable that the accommodation lottery shakes things up a bit, but if it manages to prove the point that bad accommodation and a good time are not mutually exclusive, is there any need to complain?

Comment Bites from the Nouse website

ISOC event sparks controversy

The Doctor says:
June 13, 2012 at 5:27 pm

From what I have read here, Mr Chambers' views do appear rather abhorrent. However his views have every right to be heard in this country, much like the views of those who take offence at his opinions. It would make much more sense to rationally refute his arguments (and embarrass him), instead of merely banning him from speaking at the university, as I feel doing something that would make us equally intolerant.

Concern over international academic misconduct cases

Matt Sharp says:
May 23, 2012 at 2:20 am

Being unable to communicate properly undermines any sense of... well, community.

It's probably a significant contributing factor to any general opposition to immigration in the UK; cultural differences will never be resolved without good communication, but with good communication such differences can sometimes be celebrated and shared.

The Burning Question

This edition, Nouse asked:

“What do you think of the Summer Ball line-up?”

180 people voted, with the majority stating NOT BAD



40 people voted Best ever (22%)

61 people voted Terrible choices (34%)

79 people voted No bad (44%)

Comment



Rob Thomas

Decriminalisation needs open, frank discussion

Authoritarian approaches to recreational drug use will solve little. Education and discussion are the way forward

The cannabis debate has again come to the fore in recent months with a widely followed Home Affairs Select Committee on drug use, and a British Lung Foundation report on cannabis. This report highlighted two astonishing points.

First, that smoking a joint is more harmful than smoking twenty cigarettes. Second, that only 12 per cent of people know this (myself not included). Even more worryingly, one in three believed that it caused no health problems whatsoever.

It also evidenced a rise in the number of users amongst 18 to 24 year olds, with an overall decline in cigarette smokers. Apparently then, most students have a completely false view over what they are taking. Whilst I've never met someone who thought it was harmless, most have viewed it as a safer alternative.

However, the report is slightly misleading. It focuses on the comparison between smoking a joint versus smoking twenty cigarettes each day for a year. But does that describe most cannabis users? Most can be described as recreational users, whereas smokers do so habitually. Use among our age

group usually involves smoking, the most harmful form of cannabis consumption. However, the cannabis cigarettes are often shared in groups, infrequently.

Thus, although numbers of tobacco and cannabis users are broadly comparable, 84 per cent of lung cancer deaths are attributed to cigarettes. This then begs the question why cannabis is illegal yet tobacco is not.

I think that any debate on decriminalisation should begin ignorant of current legality. Therefore, it is useful to consider tobacco. In light of concerted government campaigns and steps such as raising the age to purchase and banning their display in shops, usage has fallen, most crucially amongst teenagers.

This highlights the success of education and defacilitation, versus expensive and ineffective drug crackdowns.

I believe that a cannabis campaign on a similar scale would reduce use more than reinforcing its illegality ever could. Incorporating into the curriculum the health hazards of cannabis to the same extent as nicotine cigarettes would suffice to this end. Has any person ever not taken drugs solely for fear of pros-

ecution?

The reasoning is usually worry over social stigma or the damage to one's health. In most student environments, experimenting is almost expected of you, leaving only the latter as a serious impediment.

This helps frame the Committee's inquiry, hearing evidence from notable figures such as Peter Hitchens and Russell Brand.

“ I think that any debate on decriminalisation should begin ignorant of current legality ”

Whilst we should be wary of acting on the advice on any one man, on the issue of deterring drug dependants it seems prudent to trust a former heroin addict more than a *Mail on Sunday* journalist (though this is generally a good rule of thumb).

They clashed over whether a truly hard-line approach would

prevent use, with Brand saying that to a drug addict, prison is a mere “administrative blip”.

Meanwhile, any comparison between legal and illegal drugs in the classroom signalled doom for Hitchens, who maintained that it “confuses the mind of the child”. Although this may be true for younger students, I do hope that by the time you're a teenager you are able to distinguish between a line of sherbet and one of cocaine.

It seems that there are two foundations for any person's view on extra-criminalisation versus decriminalisation; the nature of legality, and the nature of addiction.

If you believe that what is legal always describes what is right, and that any user is an addict, then you will fall firmly in Hitchens's camp. Yet if you see a discrepancy between the harmfulness of legal drugs such as tobacco versus cannabis, and you believe in the possibility of use without abuse, then a stance of decriminalisation seems tenable.

For me, it is clear that the best strategy is a full and frank discussion to discourage use with the flexibility and compassion that can never be afforded by an authoritarian approach.



Alex Slingsby

Deputy
Comment
Editor

Sorting out the collegiate system

As the University continues to expand onto Heslington East, it is becoming clear that we need to develop distinct personalities for each of our colleges

Continuing in its endless endeavours to make the world a better place for us all, YUSU has decided to modify the collegiate system at York.

In an attempt to redefine the University in the image of something not so far from Hogwarts, YUSU's proposed plan for each college is for it to further develop distinguishable personalities, so that you can select a college based on the belief that it was destined to be part of your life, rather than for the en-suite, or the mind-blowing social life the college website claims to bestow upon every unsuspecting first-year within the first few days of Freshers Week.

For a student who mainly chose accommodation on the basis that it 'looked nice', as was the case for many people, this seems like a mammoth task for anyone. How can I say that I'm '[insert college name here] till I die' if I am still not entirely sure what the phrase constitutes? Once you have left the freedom of first year behind, you are likely to realise the truly grim reality of life in halls. I certainly haven't seen many second and third years lurking around halls like it's JB Morrell and they have exams to revise for. With the current system, once most people have left their halls, they have left their college too.

It doesn't help that every single one of our eight colleges is the

same; half a dozen replicates of the degenerated old-timers Derwent and Langwith, still trapped in the 1960s decor, with nowhere to go but Heslington East.

“ We are trapped in our own ideals of the perfect university ”

And if you haven't selected one of the many colleges making up the hub of the University, haphazardly located in a manner similar to a child's attempt at a jigsaw puzzle, then you undoubtedly ended up in either Alcuin, Goodricke, or Halifax, left sulking, away from the party like the missing jigsaw piece of York.

I am a self-confessed advocate of individuality, though I admittedly possess little myself, but only when there actually is some sort of a unique selling point to serenade. Without distinctiveness, is there really a point in all of this one-upmanship? We have college versus college bar crawls and inter-college sports; everything we do is focused on our instinctive competitive spirit. But who are the real winners in college football? Is it the players bound by a love of 'the game' or just a collection bound by the shared inadequacies of their block?

It seems that when the colleges around campus aren't fighting for sunlight, we spend our spare time strutting around campus trying to pretend we have a certain 'je ne sais quoi', which would be perfectly acceptable if we actually did.

If our colleges were known for their own speciality, the diversity of students applying for each one would surely diminish, but this is a small price to pay when there's no need to know everyone in the same academic year anyway, especially when the diversity contained in the queue for Willow every Sunday night alone is enough keep you entertained and surprised for the entirety of your education at York.

“ Without distinctiveness, is there really a point in all of this one-upmanship? ”

YUSU's proposals will put the University back on the map as far as student satisfaction is concerned, with many more excuses for college-related events, and I imagine the new-found community will pour the elixir back into student life on campus once more. Freshers will be given the chance to pop on their own sorting hat and choose a col-

lege they connect with, as they sign away their soul to another three years in education.

Having said this, the proposed collegiate system may become a catch-22, because attempting to become more individual inevitably renders the University as little more than a Madame Tussaud wax-work model of Oxbridge (something which we have yet to welcome with open arms).

We're trapped in our own ideals of the perfect university. Surely it would make life a lot easier to rekindle the community spirit and give each college a reason to exist. It would certainly eradicate the tension that emanates from first-years as they bicker between themselves over the preeminent college. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter. Most people chose their college based on something entirely superficial anyway.

We either need to jump in to the deep end of a collegiate system and join Oxbridge and Durham, or admit defeat and get over the fact that we're not Hogwarts, despite the lures of Diagon Alley resting on our doorstep.

YUSU's proposals not only highlight a need for reform in the collegiate system, but they throw the spotlight on just how similar every one of York's colleges actually are, and the blinded ignorance we all share, bound together in the belief that our college is the best.



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UK: The Supreme Court has dismissed a bid by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to reopen his appeal against extradition to Sweden over alleged sex crimes.



Egypt: Egypt's Supreme Court has caused outrage by calling for the dissolution of the lower House of Parliament and for fresh elections.



Bahrain: A Bahraini appeals court has partially overturned a court ruling sentencing 20 medics to lengthy jail terms for taking part in protests. Nine were acquitted while the rest were given reduced sentences.



USA: Disgraced tycoon Allen Stanford has been sentenced to 110 years in jail for operating a ponzi scheme that defrauded investors of more than \$7bn (£4.5bn). The case is one of the largest in US history.



Australia: The Australian online retailer Kogan.com has introduced the world's first "tax" on Microsoft's Internet Explorer 7 to make up for time spent attempting to fit its "antique browser."

PwC programme highlights alternative to university route

Alex Osborne
POLITICAL REPORTER

A GLOBAL accountancy firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, has become the first of its kind to begin offering apprenticeships to students directly after their A-Levels.

The London-based company has pioneered the Higher Apprenticeships scheme, which is government backed and sponsored, by offering 60 apprenticeships directly to secondary school students. Opportunities are being made available in specialist accounting fields ranging from Assurance to Advisory.

Under the scheme school leavers would start their apprenticeships in July, and would receive formal teaching and training combined with a wide variety of on-the-job experiences. PwC promises to develop students' skills in communication, performance management, and commercial awareness throughout the two-year programme.

Numerous employers and professional bodies were consulted prior to the scheme's introduction in order to offer the best possible prospects to successful applicants. Upon completion, students will gain a recognised professional services business qualification with the Association of Tax Technicians (ATT).

Commenting on the scheme, Gaenor Bagley, PwC partner and Head of People noted:



The apprenticeship scheme, an alternative to the well-trodden university route, is backed by the government

"Our new Higher Apprenticeship programme is a real alternative for talented students who want to get into business straight from school or college, but without compromising on high quality training and development.

"Over the last 10 years we have recruited over 500 school and college leavers across the firm. By im-

plementing this new framework, it's a great opportunity for us to make the training and development opportunities for school leavers even better."

The Higher Apprenticeships scheme is soon to be officially endorsed by the government and has been developed with assistance from the Coalition. It comes as stu-

dents seek alternatives to the typical school to university transition in light of rising fees.

In the last five years, applications to schemes such as this within the PwC have increased by 300 per cent, indicating the attractiveness of schemes which provide the security of work without the worry of university debt.

"Troubled families" to be tackled

Ellie Swire
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a scheme which will offer financial incentives to local councils in England who successfully reduce the number of "troubled families" in their area.

At present, it is thought that there are 120,000 "troubled families" across the country, said to cost the taxpayer £9 billion per year, in social services, healthcare and policing.

The scheme is part of a larger, long-term move by the government to crackdown on levels of anti-social behaviour and social disruption following last year's summer riots.

If councils do opt to participate in the scheme, then they will be expected to cover 60 per cent of the related costs, with the government supplying the other 40 per cent. This funding will be put towards streamlining existing services so that families receive the appropriate level of support.

The new legislation will also



Community Secretary Pickles is determined to push through reforms

see local authorities rewarded with extra money if they cut levels of absence from school, anti-social behaviour and benefit dependency.

Speaking on the BBC's Today programme, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said that "these families are ruining their own lives,

their children's lives and the lives of their neighbours."

He added: "There's a kind of acceptance that we tend to throw money at these folks for them to go away and we have a chance now, a window to actually break that cycle of deprivation."

However the government has come under criticism from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), who have questioned the validity of the 120,000 figure.

They have argued that the research conducted by the Department of Communities and Local Government represented a conflation between families that cause disruption to society and those which are most vulnerable within it.

By using the umbrella term "troubled", they argued that the Department ran the risk of not distinguishing between the individual circumstances of families.

Nor would it address those families who pose a problem to society, yet would not qualify for assistance under the proposed programme.

While Pickles might not be throwing money at these families, this scheme appears an attempt by the government to pass on the problem to local councils, rather than taking direct action to deal with the matter.

Elections are the start of Egypt's democracy

Alexander Prowse

“Most of the candidates are from the previous regime we rebelled against. The ideal candidate doesn't exist at the moment.”

Those are the words of Kamilla, a tour guide from Cairo whom I spoke with in March of this year. It appears that those words rang true for the culmination of the Presidential elections this weekend. The run off between the final two Presidential nominees, the former Prime Minister Ahmed Shafik and Mohammad Mursi, will take place with the decision having a very powerful effect on the future of Egypt.

Boxed into this position, the Egyptian voter has a difficult choice. There is the possible continuation of the previous regime's ideals with Shafik, something they vigorously fought against in the revolution of January 2011, or the more radical party of the Muslim Brotherhood, who most importantly would like to make the country an Islamist state.

Shafik has the advantage of previous experience running a government, which at this point in time is something that Egypt needs. Political uncertainty has affected the domestic economy – the vastly smaller numbers of tourists proceed with armed guards, building projects are left unfinished and there is a small element of lawlessness.

Despite the interim military rule, it is very difficult for small courts or the police to function ef-



Women queue to vote in the second round of Egypt's Presidential election. The result is expected on Thursday

fectively when there is an absence of a valid constitution or sound politics – last week the Parliament was ordered to be dissolved by the Egyptian Supreme Court. The diplomatic past of former Prime Minister Shafik is something that Mo-

hammad Mursi lacks.

Some on the ground are wary of the link a Mursi presidency will create between the country's religion and constitution, with around 20 per cent of the population Christian. The country has developed

its links within the North African region and beyond whilst keeping religion and politics separate.

There are fears that such a move would harm the country's international relations, especially as the Muslim Brotherhood are one of

the most radical parties that took part in the elections. The party takes an antiquated view of women in society, and has a violent history. President Mubarak did not make enemies of the West, but members of the Muslim Brotherhood make no secret of doing this through their preferred foreign policy.

However, the image portrayed by the party in the election has been less extreme, basing their project for a new Egypt on successful Turkish blueprints. Nevertheless, elements of its shady past have not disappeared overnight.

Whatever the final result of the election, the immediate consequences could be further instability – the possibility of more iconic protests is high if Shafik is victorious, whilst Mursi's chances of a secure government could be affected by the fact the army maintains the right to imprison revolutionary Islamists in military courts.

In essence, social turmoil could follow from one result, whilst continued political turmoil could amount from the other.

I recall asking Kamilla whether she would vote in the elections. “Yes, I will cast my vote, I wish to do that” she replied, “but now I do not know who I will vote for”. The dilemma she had in March has not been made any easier.

There is, however, no doubt the Egyptian population would like to fulfil their duty and elect a new president, although it appears the result will not draw a line under the uncertainty they have lived with since 2011.

Leveson trundles on, but with few answers

Neil Johnston

Over the last few weeks the Leveson Inquiry has begun to heat up, but despite big names facing interrogation there are questions over whether progress is actually being made.

Currently there seems to be a bit of a blame game going on where each individual is motivated by protecting themselves. So have we actually learnt anything?

Last week we heard that Rebekah Brooks claimed her and David Cameron were “definitely in it together” after *The Sun* pledged allegiance to the Tories.

This is hardly much of a revelation though; of course the paper will work with the party to promote their cause if they have pledged allegiance. After all *The Sun* would like to claim it won the election and can only do that if the party is successful.

At the moment we are not really getting to the bottom of corruption in government and the media. Currently it is just a face-off between differing opinions and claims. Take Gordon Brown's claim that the Tories agreed to cut funding for the BBC and Ofcom in return for political support from News International.



Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt has been among those who have answered questions before the Leveson Inquiry

Cameron said this was just because Brown was “very angry and disappointed” at *The Sun's* decision to switch support from Labour ahead of the 2010 general election.

Maybe there was some sort of informal deal but without any real evidence the public are left to make their own judgement on who is telling the truth.

As for Tony Blair, who had clearly rehearsed well for his ap-

pearance at the inquiry, he arguably did not reveal anything of high significance.

The majority of politicians facing the inquiry are guilty of courting the media and only minor details of their efforts really seem to be getting revealed. What went on in private meetings we will never know.

Last week's revelation from Alex Salmond that *The Observer*

newspaper hacked him has, though, shown hacking was rife all over Fleet Street, across both tabloids and broadsheets.

Evidence of this has not, however, come to light supporting this claim. If he was concerned about his bank account being hacked why did he not contact the police?

Salmond's was an appearance typical of those facing the inquiry in that like others he failed to ac-

tually answer any of the questions. Those involved are being let off too easily on the important and crucial questions.

Nick Clegg gave his backing to Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt, calling his account “convincing”. Although the Deputy Prime Minister stopped short of full support when his Liberal Democrat MPs abstained last week on a motion over whether Hunt should be investigated by Sir Alex Allan, the Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests.

Whether he actually believes Hunt we may never know, but this is another example where those facing the inquiry seem to be more focused on protecting those connected to them than constructing a new model for the British press.

At the end of this whole saga it is hard to tell whether there will really be a reformed press or not. A strong press is needed in our society, as we saw with the expenses scandal, but the disgraceful corruption that has taken place needs to be eradicated from the media.

With more arrests taking place, as both the inquiry and police investigation continue, there is hope that the threat of real punishment may lead to an effective but law-abiding media when this is all over.

East-West relations cool on Syria

PANARMENIAN_PHOTO

Patrick Greenfield

As Syria slowly descends into civil war, the diplomatic crisis between Russia, China and the west has become a heated throwback to the days of the Cold War. Western diplomats have been expelled from Damascus and China and Russia's political and military support of the Assad regime is showing no sign of bowing to immense political pressure from America, France and Britain.

Hillary Clinton and William Hague have readily criticised Russia and China's foreign policy on Syria, warning of future isolation in the region if they fail to act constructively. Indeed, daily videos of brutalised civilians may make it hard to understand Russia and China's support for the current government, but the history and importance of the relationship between these three states presents a far more complex picture than the one currently being painted.

Russia and Syria's military partnership has been well documented throughout the crisis. Aside from the billion dollar weapons deals that has traditionally been enjoyed, Syria holds a key geographical significance for Russia.

The Syrian port of Tartus is home to Russia's only naval base in the Mediterranean and has been a powerful tool in combating the construction of the USA's controversial missile defence shield in Eastern Europe. Having recently strengthened their presence in the region, Moscow is reluctant to dispose of a ruling family that has been consistently helpful and loyal to their wishes.

Moreover, Russia and Syria are important trading partners as Russia has heavily invested in Syrian infrastructure and developed the Arab Gas Pipeline into Syrian territory with the state owned natural gas giant Gazprom. A Western peacekeeping mission could easily dismantle Russian-Syrian trading ties if the wrong government were to emerge.



President Assad still has the backing of both the Russians and Chinese, despite significant western pressure

China's relationship with Syria, however, outdates Russia's by thousands of years. Their mutual mercantile respect dates back to the days of the Silk Road when Syrian markets were key stops for Chinese traders along the route. Modern day China boasts a huge share in the Arab state's export market and is heavily involved in the Syrian oil industry. A successful Syrian revolution would be expensive for Chinese business and Beijing is keen to protect its commercial interests.

By far the most important point of contention between Russia, China and the west is the actual benefit of international peacekeeping missions. Often fickle, uninformed, and poorly organised peacekeeping

operations usually become a chaotic series of blunders motivated by the USA's need to export the American Dream and Britain's unwavering desire to promote fairness.

“ Russia and China have not forgotten western failures ”

Russia and China have not forgotten our failings in Rwanda, Afghanistan, and Iraq and they readily cite these cases as justification for their stance.

Ultimately, serious questions

must be asked about the motivation behind western criticism. Can Russia and China really be expected to promote a form of government they do not practice and betray a loyal and consistent friend whilst running the risk of destroying historic commercial links?

Notwithstanding the tragedy of the crisis, the reality of international relations is that a number of murdered civilians does not validate radical intervention. Much in the same way Britain enjoyed a close relationship with Gaddafi's Libya and Mubarak's Egypt, Russia and China have constructed a complex relationship with a murky dictatorship that will not be unravelled with ease.



@patrickwintour
Patrick Wintour,
Political Editor,
The Guardian

“Cameron shaky and embarrassed by Brooks intimacy and oddly vague about future of press regulation. Otherwise totally alive.”

14 June



@BBCGavinHewitt
Gavin Hewitt,
BBC Europe Editor

“Dangerous days for euro. Spain's borrowing costs up to 7%. Greek unemployment shooting up. Election results unpredictable. #Eurocrisis.”

14 June



@IsabelOakeshott
Isabel Oakeshott,
Political Editor,
Sunday Times

“So much handwringing from the PM #Leveson. On a day to day basis, the relationship between politicians and lobby journalists works ok”

14 June



@afneil
Andrew Neil,
BBC Journalist

“Something of a relief when BBC News Channel leaves #Leveson and goes live to snow-swept Falklands for remembrance.”

14 June



@AllisterHeath
Allister Heath,
Editor, City AM

“U.S. 10 year bond yields hit record low at 1.622% - crazy bubble which will end in tears but could still continue to blow for a while.”

13 June



72% of the people say it is time for the Coalition to focus more on economic growth and less on spending cuts.

ComRes, May 29



The Queen is seen as more in touch than senior politicians and government ministers, by 28% to 9%. 45% think neither are.

YouGov, June 5



The Conservatives continue to trail Labour in the polls. Labour lead 42% to 34%.

ComRes, May 29



73% wish to keep the monarchy; just 18% want an elected head of state.

YouGov, June 5



60% disapprove of the government's record to date; 25% approve.

YouGov, June 10



42% say Prince William should become King ahead of Prince Charles; 44% do not.

ComRes, May 29

Can Russia escape from oppression?

In light of constitutional changes to silence dissent, **Laura Hughes** looks at what alternatives, if any, the Russian people can call upon to improve democracy.



The democratic deficit in Russia is arguably expanding; one which is exemplified by the penalties on dissent

Since his re-election, Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, has made unconstitutional moves to silence dissent and tighten restrictions on freedom of expression. Police raids of protestors' homes the day before last week's protest, by police armed with assault rifles, suggests a shift towards further suppression of expression, as Putin begins his new six-year term in office.

An opposition rally last week drew tens of thousands of Russian citizens to the streets. Protestors were opposing new laws designed to curb protests and increase fines for violations of public order at street demonstrations.

Protestors exercising their fundamental right to speak could face fines as high as around £6,000 for taking part in a protest and as much as £20,000 for organising one.

The legitimacy of a government derives from the consent of the governed. In Russia, consent was equated with a lack of presidential candidates, a delimiting political spectrum and a lack of genuine Presidential contention, but were there viable alternatives?

The strongest adversaries to the President elect were the Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov and the popular nationalist Liberal Democratic Party leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Zyuganov has a disturbing history of antisemitism whilst Zhirinovskiy has endorsed the deportation of the Chinese from the Far East of Russia, and has explicitly expressed his condemnation for all Turks and Caucasians.

The two opponents are hardly suitable alternatives for either Russia or the international community to embrace. Despite the allegations of electoral misconduct, it is unsurprising that the Russian people were forced in the elections to place their faith in a flawed but orderly system of government.

After this year's election, monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) and Golos, a Russian civilian organisation established in 2000 to protect Russia's electoral

rights, reported around 5,000 election fraud complaints nationwide

“ It is unsurprising that the people were forced to place their faith in a flawed system ”

and four election monitors were reportedly beaten by police.

Allegations of corruption included voters casting their ballots outside the designated polling stations and workers pressured into voting by their bosses at state-run corporations.

Voters were allegedly driven to polling stations where they were not registered to vote or involved in “carousel voting”, which meant voters were casting ballots at multiple stations. The use of over two million absentee ballots and ballot stuffing was also criticised.

Should we in the west care?

Intervene even? The feasibility of such a move is low. Despite the Cold War, Russia remains a permanent fixture in the United Nations Security Council and has the world's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons.

The elections were undeniably skewed, but it is unlikely Putin would have received less than 50 per cent of the vote. The main causes for concern are the lack of an alternative, the abuse of the government's resources to secure an inevitable electoral result and the absence of any real concessions, despite December's democratic demands.

At this stage the political landscape is stunted. Press censorship is worryingly prevalent and the majority of the population's primary concerns centre around their own economic interest, rather than wider political rights. The attraction of daily normalcy that comes with political stability should not be overlooked.

According to the Levada Center, 62 per cent of December's protesters had at least one university degree, while a quarter were younger than 25, and more than half were under 40. It is Russia's urban and educated youth who hold the power to shake the political establishment and demand real alternatives in the coming years.

The west, without the option of endorsing a viable alternative, can only wait for the new Russian generation to bring about change. These new laws are a salient signal of the inevitably difficult and lengthy struggle to come.

Coalition must take care with internet powers

THE LAST WORD
Sam Shepherd



inals, to stop paedophile rings and to put people behind bars to continue in an age where people are communicating through different means. It's on such a scale because it is useful to the police.”

“ For the nth time the Coalition has failed to adequately articulate a policy ”

Inevitably, there will be a large outcry here, as on the surface it seems merely an extension of the “assault” on civil liberties many associate with the previous Labour government. The Conservatives and Lib Dems came into government promising an end to such privacy intrusions. Many would argue that they have reneged on their promise.

If we take a step backwards, we can see that there is reason and



The PM must protect civil liberties

enormous role in crime in this day and age.

If we consider this, it makes sense for the government to grant increased powers to the police. Indeed as May says, the new laws could be rather helpful in catching paedophiles, terrorists and online criminals. That in turn, could make the rest of us safer online and in the real world.

Moreover, if people are doing nothing wrong online, then surely they have nothing to worry about. In addition to this, the bane of all government - local councils - are likely to be stripped of the powers to access phone call data.

However this bill is rather concerning. There are benefits to it, but putting the majority of hardworking, law-abiding people under the microscope to search for criminals that may not even be operating online is wrong and a cruel subversion of some of the basic civil liberties.

Furthermore, if we take online criminality as a given, then it is quite plausible that criminals and terrorists have the wherewithal to negotiate whatever the police

throw at them quite comfortably. Indeed, David Davis said last week that the laws would only catch the “innocent” and the “incompetent”.

Branded a “snooper's charter” by civil liberties groups, the bill runs the risk of alienating a great deal of the population. For the nth time the Coalition has failed to adequately articulate to the general public a policy, one which could change the face of police investigations.

It would be leaping to conclusions if we see this as part of a “big brother” society, but the government is beginning to blur the distinction between liberty and license, and is giving the latter an excessive primacy over the former.

Theresa May must be very careful. By granting the police these powers, she has given them a look into snippets of our private lives at the expense of individual liberty.

The police must use these powers with caution; a huge amount of trust is being placed in their hands. It is doubtful the majority of the public wanted it to be placed there in the first place.

Science



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Organs to order: a future in reach

Erin Cullen
SCIENCE REPORTER

One thousand people die in the UK every year in need of an organ transplant, as there are simply not enough donors available. The problem was termed “a public health crisis” by Anthony Atala at the March 2011 TED (Technology, Entertainment & Design) conference, as “during the last 10 years, the number of patients requiring transplants has doubled, and at the same time the number of transplants has barely gone up”. However, Atala’s own research team at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM) is providing hope. They are developing ‘bio-printers’; 3D printers which can ‘print’ organs.

A prototype kidney was presented to the audience at the 2011 TED conference, which took a mere seven hours to print. Although these prototype kidneys are many years away from being applied in clinical use, it is a significant achievement considering 90 per cent of patients on transplant lists are waiting for a kidney.

The idea of a 3D printer is to create a solid three-dimensional object from a digital file, in an additive process. Conventional 3D printers are used in manufacturing to produce items ranging from jewellery to aeroplane parts. They are similar in structure to ink-jet printers, yet instead of using ink, the machines layer a material, such



The future is here: the prototype of an artificially grown kidney is demonstrated to the public at TED in 2011

as plastic or titanium, in successive layers to build a 3D structure. A bio-printer works on the same principle, depositing layers of human cells on top of each other to create a tissue or organ. To ‘plot’ the organ, a CT scan is performed on the patient, which creates a detailed image of the individual layers of the body. The printer can then use the CT scan as a map, producing the required organ.

Atala has said eventually he hopes advanced machines will be able to scan a patient whilst they are in surgery, then ‘print’ healthy

tissue onto the required area whilst they are on the operating table. It is difficult to predict when this technology will become mainstream and it must be emphasised there are many challenges to overcome. Solid organs are difficult to produce: the liver, heart and pancreas are the ultimate challenge for regenerative medicine. Despite this, researchers seem optimistic that one day in the future patients may not have to be put on a waiting list for a donated organ, a new one could quickly be ‘printed’. The organ will be tailored to the individual’s body, as the cells

can be generated from the patient’s own progenitor cells.

This is a promising future for regenerative medicine, since the body will not reject organs produced in this way, and immunosuppressant drugs are not needed. This gives transplant patients immense freedom when compared to today when they are required to take immunosuppressants for the rest of their lives. Imagine, a patient may be able to have a diagnosis, for example of heart disease, a sample of their cells taken and a new heart grown for them and transplanted

within a few days.

The advances in knowledge in regenerative medicine leading to the production of a ‘bio-printer’ have already brought patients benefits. There are two basic elements required to engineer a whole organ: a scaffold and human cells to layer onto the scaffold. We can take cells from an organ’s damaged tissue, less than the size of a postage stamp, and grow them in culture. Then layer a ‘smart bar’ material acting as a scaffold with these cells.

This technique was successfully used in 2008 on Claudia Castillo, whose windpipe had been damaged by tuberculosis. A donor windpipe from a recently deceased patient was washed with strong enzymes, leaving a tissue scaffold, made of fibrous protein. Then cells with Castillo’s damaged windpipe and adult stem cells were then layered onto the tissue scaffold. The windpipe was incubated in a bioreactor for 4 days, and transplanted into the patient; the operation was successful and the patient now leads an active life.

Currently the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine is working to engineer over 30 types of tissue and organ, and although the engineering technology of ‘bioprinting’ will not be ready for some time, recent successes in the field including Claudia Castillo’s prototype have proved that perhaps we can all look forward to a day when transplant waiting lists are a thing of the past.

Nobel Prize winning Professor comes to York

James McAuliffe
SCIENCE REPORTER

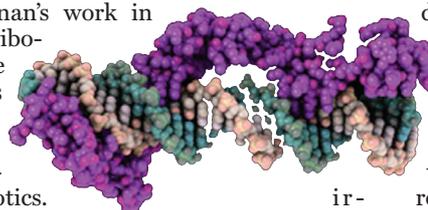
THE CANTOR Nanoscience Lecture, organised by the York Nanocentre on an annual basis, was given this year by Nobel Prize winning structural biologist Dr Venkatraman Ramakrishnan. The lectures are open to the public and bring distinguished scientists to the University to discuss science at the nanoscale.

Dr Ramakrishnan was awarded the Nobel Prize (along with Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath) for Chemistry in 2009 for his work on

the elucidation of the structure of ribosomes.

The lecture titled, ‘How antibiotics illuminate ribosome function and vice versa’ was an account of Dr Ramakrishnan’s work in determining ribosome structure and how this knowledge can be used to develop effective new antibiotics.

Ribosomes are a vital part of the molecular machinery of cells, crucial to translating the genetic code of DNA and turning it



into functional proteins. The ribosomes found in bacteria are different to those found in higher organisms such as humans, making them a useful target for antibacterial drugs. Bacterial ribosomes consist of two subunits, termed the 30S and 50S. Many antibiotics work by irreversibly binding to the 30S subunit thereby inhibiting protein synthesis and causing death of the bacteria.

Dr Ramakrishnan and his

team used a technique known as X-ray crystallography (famous for its role in the discovery of the double helical structure of DNA) to determine the complete molecular structure of the 30S subunit and how it interacts with antibiotics.

Other than providing invaluable information about the workings of genetic mechanisms at a molecular level, this work paves the way for the development of new antibiotics.

Antibiotics are currently the only weapon available against bacterial infection and the need for new antibiotics is becoming ever more critical with the increased

spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria such as MRSA. Currently, many strains of bacteria have developed resistance to all but one or two antibiotics. Armed only with our current array of antibiotics, it will not be long before diseases such as tuberculosis and cholera, once consigned to the scrap heap of history in developed countries, soon become untreatable killers again. The work of Dr Ramakrishnan and his team in determining the precise way in which antibiotics bind to ribosomes provides the possibility of manufacturing new antibiotics to prevent this from happening.

Top Five: Newly Named Elements

Jessica Wynn examines the five most recently named elements.

Have you ever looked at a periodic table and wondered why some of the elements have unusual symbols, such as Uuh and Uuo? The names of the elements aren’t permanent, and chances are the periodic table you are looking at is already out of date.

These are placeholders ready for when the scientific community decides on what to name these recently discovered elements. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) stated, “elements can be named after

a mythological concept, a mineral, a place or country, a property, or a scientist”. But it isn’t that simple.

Before any names can be agreed upon and take their place in the periodic table, IUPAC must verify whether the researchers actually discovered the element. This is an extremely long process and so elements that were discovered years ago have only just got their names.

Here is our selection on what inspired the naming of five recently discovered heavy elements, and the background behind them.

110: Darmstadtium

Darmstadtium was first made at the Heavy Ion Research Lab in 1994 and the name reflects the place of discovery, like many of the other elements in the periodic table. Like the other heaviest elements, it was actually synthesised. In this case a heavy isotope of lead was crashed into nickel-62, creating four atoms of Darmstadtium. The name was recommended by IUPAC in 2003, but it wasn’t officially approved until 2011.

Roentgenium was also discovered in 1994 at the Heavy Ion Research Lab in Darmstadt, Germany in the cold fusion between nickel ions and bismuth. However, due to lack of evidence for the element at this point the name wasn’t officially approved by IUPAC until 2004. The name honours German scientist Wilhelm Roentgen, who was awarded the first ever Nobel Prize for physics in 1901 for the discovery of X-rays.

111: Roentgenium

Censorship in Science

In light of recent revelations regarding the private lives of penguins, **Imogen Breen** investigates how church, state and media have attempted to censor science over the years

SU YIN KHOO



A tale deemed unfit for the Edwardians: these unsuspecting penguins found themselves at the centre of one of this year's most surprising revelations

Earlier this week, it came to light that Dr George Murray Levick, a scientist working with Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition, had his observations of the unusual sex lives of the Adelie penguins censored. This censorship was twofold, performed by Murray himself, by writing his findings in Ancient Greek, and by those who published his paper "The Natural History Of The Adelie Penguin", by omitting those sections.

The reasons for this were simple, his observations and graphic descriptions of the abnormal sex acts occasionally performed by the younger penguin males were deemed as being too shocking for the Edwardian public. In contrast, the BBC and numerous other media outlets appear to feel that the modern-day public are desensitized enough to learn about penguin necrophilia. The original publication has almost become an ornithological Lady Chatterly's Lover.

Considering the theme, censorship of scientific data and discovery is not a new phenomenon, be it by the church or, more recently, by the state. The infamous example of this

occurring in 1633, with Galileo and the Catholic church. The story of Galileo Galilei and his support of Copernicus' heliocentric model of the solar system now being taught in schools as an example of science proving blind faith wrong.

“Censorship of scientific data and discovery is not a new phenomenon”

Today, the church, in all its forms, has long lost the power to suppress discoveries it disagrees with and the internet has taken freedom of information to a level that even our parents' generations would have struggled to predict. Nowadays, ideas and discoveries are not considered dangerous if they change a long held view of the universe, astronomy is no longer a threat to any country's stability. Instead, it is the fields of defence research that come under scrutiny.

The most recent examples of government censorship of science can be seen in the USA, as the re-

sult of heightened national security post-9/11. One of the most publicised examples occurred in 2011, when the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (an American federal organisation) requested that key information on the methods behind the modification of a flu virus were removed from a scientific paper. The justification being born from the partially exaggerated fear that the information contained within may be used to create an extremely deadly strain which would be utilised as a powerful bioweapon.

Some may argue that, when it comes to censorship by the state, governments could be seen as justified in their attempts to keep discoveries and research into fields such as virology and nuclear weaponry on the quiet. Indeed, the line between breaking a censor and committing treason can become very narrow indeed.

A noted demonstration of this occurred in 1953, when the issue of censorship ceased to be a one of contemplation for two American communists and engineers. For Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, cen-

sorship had become an issue of life and death as they became the first US citizens to be executed for espionage, after passing information about the construction of atomic bombs to the Soviet Union.

It would be naïve to assume that censorship is only performed by religious organisations or governments. In reality, the media is also to blame as the larger and more established scientific journals, such as *Science* and *Nature*, discreetly request a kind of confidentiality to be applied by all its contributors. Essentially a subtle form of self-censorship. Many feel that information that could pose a threat to the general population should remain unpublished. In fact, this form of self-censorship is likely to have had much more of an effect than any government mandated enforcements.

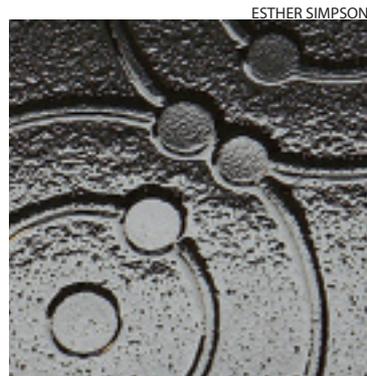
Upon reflection, history does appear to show us that, in every field of science and the arts, attempts at censorship will always eventually fail. Sometimes the truth is too big to be contained, sometimes people gossip too much to keep secrets. Eventually, the truth will out.

112: Copernicium

Copernicium was first discovered in 1996, another success of the Heavy Ion Research Lab. The name was not officially recognised until 2010 and was proposed in recognition of the achievements of astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. The discoverers of the elements said that they chose this name to honour the scientist who "changed our world view" (Copernicus proposed that the planets orbited the sun, discrediting the theory that the Earth is the centre of the Universe).

Flerovium is the first of the two elements to be officially named this year. Being informally reported in 1999 by the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia (using isotopes from the Lawrence Livermore lab). The name honours the Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions where super-heavy elements are synthesized, which in turn was named after physicist Georgiy Flerov who discovered the spontaneous fission of uranium.

114: Flerovium



ESTHER SIMPSON

116: Livermorium

Livermorium is the second of the two super-heavy elements officially named this year, and yet it was first created 12 years ago. This name replaces the placeholder name Ununhexium (which had the symbol Uuh). The element's existence was confirmed in a collaboration between the Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, which was the inspiration for the name.

HIV: The Closeted Truth

Shaan Bassi

HIV: we've all heard about it, but how many of those, both directly and indirectly, affected by it have you actually met? It is an infection which is largely considered to be an untreatable death sentence, associated solely with homosexuals, drug addicts and those of African descent. The reality, is very different. In the west today, we find ourselves in a situation where HIV, and AIDS, the disease it potentially progresses to, are readily treatable conditions and yet still the social stigma towards it remains.

This stigmatisation is thought to emerge from several different factors, including: misconceptions about transmission, fears surrounding socially sensitive issues such as sexuality, and a general lack of understanding about the illness. This has led to a stalemate in which society sees HIV as a problem with no possible solution.

Considering that it is thought that over 90,000 people are currently HIV positive in the UK today, with the number of cases rising daily, the matter is a pressing one.

More alarmingly, the number of individuals who are diagnosed late is very high, accounting for 50 per cent of newly diagnosed cases in 2010. Late diagnosis is associated with high morbidity and mortality, with those unfortunate individuals having a tenfold increased risk of dying within a year of diagnosis when compared to those diagnosed early. In addition to this, it is thought that a quarter of people with HIV in the UK remain undiagnosed, leading to an increased chance of infecting others and allowing for unnecessary progression to AIDS.

In order to prevent further future unnecessary infections and deaths, the issue needs to be discussed openly and the stigma eroded. The truth is that AIDS is an easily preventable affliction. It does not discriminate; it does not care about society's woes or the sexuality of the recipient but all that is needed to prevent and manage it is the use of condoms and regular STI testing. In the unfortunate circumstance that it is transmitted, it can be treated, and particularly if diagnosed early.

In order to show that HIV is no longer a taboo and to help tackle the stigma that affects thousands of people in the UK, a HIV awareness campaign has been started locally, in York, and is being funded by Santander through York Solutions. The campaign celebrates the scientific research that may one day lead to a vaccine, whilst educating people about the disease and showing HIV in a positive light as a treatable and preventable infection.

To find out more about this campaign, and about HIV in general, you can visit these websites: www.HIVhaart.co.uk or www.avert.org.

Sport

PARK LIFE

Luke Gardener
SPORTS EDITOR

With my final week at York looming and coinciding with the final of the College Cup 2012, reflecting on the three years of sport I have been a part of has been quite something.

From successes and disappointments with UYAFC and the Langwith football team, to reporting at a manic Roses 2012, there is one thing I can say for certain: York has a wealth of sporting talent.

My particular highlight from a reporting stance would have to be the late equaliser the men's hockey firsts team scored in the dying seconds against Lancaster at Roses.

My personal sporting highlight would have to be playing my first match for the University football team in my second year at the University.

With so many opportunities about to become available thanks to the new sports complex on Heslington East, it is arguably the worst time to be leaving from a sporting perspective, but I am adamant that the three years of sport I have been involved in have been the most enjoyable of my life.

“The three years of sport I have been involved in have been the most enjoyable of my life”

Getting involved with sport at York is much more than playing for your College every week or playing in BUCS every Wednesday afternoon.

It is a way of meeting a vast array of different characters and sportspeople from a range of colleges and sporting backgrounds.

I never imagined being *Nouse* Sports Editor alongside being on the UYAFC committee and playing for Langwith as well.

Juggling all of these roles has definitely been a unique challenge, but one that I have enjoyed immensely throughout my final year at York.

If anyone out there is thinking about getting involved in sport at York, whether it be playing, reporting or officiating I would struggle to find any good reason to stop you doing so.

At times of course it is challenging but the end result is hugely rewarding.

Initially, you may feel like the new one of the group but from my experience all of the clubs at York are extremely welcoming and the more you seek to get involved, the more satisfaction you gain and the more respect you gain from your peers.

So with my last week approaching the perfect finish to the year will be a dramatic College Cup final with a Langwith Plate success to go alongside this, and maybe even an England triumph in Poland and Ukraine.

Well we can dream, can't we?

Overnight badminton a success for RAG

AGATHA TORRANCE

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

DEDICATED BADMINTON players took part in an epic overnight session last weekend to raise money for RAG.

The session lasted for 12 hours, from 8pm on Saturday night until 8am the next morning, with many then staying on until 6pm that evening for their regular training.

As well as the badminton challenge, the event also incorporated a raffle, tuck shop and auction amongst other attractions, eventually raising around £300 on the night for the RAG charities.

One of the highlights of the night was the sight of people attempting to play whilst wearing sumo wrestling suits.

Josh Cole, Badminton Club Fundraising Officer, said, “We had a great turnout, probably about 70 or 80 people not just from the badminton club but also from squash and loads of others too.”

“Money-wise we did really well on the night, hopefully we've helped raise around £300 here for the RAG charities.”

“It's really nice that we've been



Badminton players don sumo wrestling suits as part of the 12 hour overnight marathon to raise money for RAG

able to continue this event once again.

“I think this is the third year it's been done, so it's obviously a very popular event and it's something that we'll look to keep doing every year.”

New Club President Cassandra

Brown added, “I'm really happy with everyone.”

“It's taken so much organisation to get to this point and everyone's been amazing in helping us make it happen.”

The total money raised is likely to rise significantly in the coming

weeks, with the competitors also able to raise their own sponsorship money.

This is seen as the main source of income from the event, and the club will be hoping to match the total of roughly £1000 that has been previously achieved.

Awards honour sporting achievements

ANDY DAVIS

Luke Gardener
SPORTS EDITOR

THE PICK of the University of York's sporting talent were honoured at the York Sport Dinner on Sunday, with the annual York Sport Awards handed out.

The ‘Most Improved Team of the Year’ award went to women's hockey, just rewards for a season in which both teams got promoted from their respective divisions.

The firsts won eight of their 10 fixtures, while the second team went the whole season without being defeated. The hockey teams then went to Roses and secured a series of good results despite being in lower divisions than that of their opponents.

The coveted ‘Sportsman of the Year’ and ‘Sportswoman of the Year’ went to Tom Brandreth and Louise Highton respectively.

Brandreth was impressive playing for both the University football firsts and the University cricket firsts.

He was voted as the player of the year by his footballing peers despite their relegation, while in the cricket he scored crucial runs in helping York to a top of the table finish and victory in the BUCS Northern Conference Cup, including a century in the win against York St. John.

Highton took the women's award largely thanks to her efforts for the York fencing team, one of the University's strongest sides.

ANDY DAVIS



Women's hockey won ‘Most Improved Team’ after securing two promotions

Currently ranked in the top 30 in the UK, she has captained York to a solid fourth place finish in the BUCS season ensuring survival. York pushed Birmingham for third place for the majority of the season, even defeating them when the sides met in January.

Highton has also been a key member of the swimming and water polo squads which have performed admirably this year.

‘Roses Team of the Year’ went to the American Football players of the York Centurions after their sensational 15-14 victory over the Lancaster Bombers, the first time the Centurions had won at the annual tournament.

For a lot of the York players it was their final year at the University and a Roses victory was the perfect way to end their University careers.

Women's rugby were awarded the ‘Club of the Year’ while their coach Joshua Moatt was given the honour of receiving the award for ‘Services to Sport’.

Moatt has helped coach the women's rugby team to promotion this season winning four of their five matches. The future certainly looks very exciting for the team who will go into next season with every confidence that they can replicate the success of this year.

The Boat Club Senior men's squad received the accolade of being ‘Team of the Year’ after a very successful season.

Captain Sam Agass was the cornerstone for the club as they went on to perform superbly throughout the season.

Finally, in the new ‘President's Award’, in which both a club and individual are chosen to be honoured by the York Sport President, badminton won the team award,



‘Sportsman of the Year’ Brandreth

after yet another successful campaign.

Chris Unsworth won the individual award after his remarkable season as men's swimming captain, alongside his work as York Sport Development Officer.

Unsworth spearheaded the Be A Champion campaign, which was, amongst other things, responsible for the creation of the Roses Torch.

Sam Asfahani, outgoing York Sport President, stated “It's my favourite night of the year because it allows me to share my favourite memories with the clubs that have made York Sport what it is.”

Charlotte Winter, who will take over from Asfahani very shortly, said that the awards were “a great way to show our appreciation to the clubs and individuals that made sport at York so great.”

Burning ambition

York Sport President and Olympic torchbearer Sam Asfahani speaks to **Dan Holland** about legacies and the impact of the Games

BRYAN BURKE

Today, the Olympic Flame will make its way through York on Day 32 of its journey to the Opening Ceremony in London for this summer's Games.

Bringing the Olympics to people across the nation, its official purpose is to spread a "message of peace, unity and friendship" in a ritual taken from the ancient Games in Greece.

The honour of carrying the Torch is reserved for 8000 nominees, ranging from professional sportsmen and celebrities to ordinary people who have made outstanding contributions to their community, not just in sport but in all aspects of life.

Carrying the Flame today will be Sam Asfahani, outgoing York Sport President, and his excitement is palpable as he counts down to his time of 5:33 this evening on Tadcaster Road.

"I can't wait," Asfahani told *Nouse*, "I got the torch outfit in the post the other day and it was pretty cool opening that up. You get to take the torch home as well, which is great, though it might look a bit weird walking back through town with it!"

"There are only 8000 people doing it, which sounds like a lot, but not really when you think there are 60 million in the country."

Asfahani was nominated as part of an initiative by Samsung, one of the Olympics' commercial sponsors, who selected a number of UK universities to nominate a torchbearer.

"The biggest honour is the fact that you're nominated," he continued.

"You don't apply and it's not pot luck, someone in the senior management team at the University nominated me for my services to sport as an undergrad and now

“Everything I've ever done has been for the long term”

as York Sport President."

His nomination story reads, "As president of Yorksport, the student sports association, Sam has worked tirelessly to increase participation at all levels and to represent student opinion in planning meetings for major new sports developments at the University.

"He has been re-elected for a second term of office, a huge accolade from the student body. As an undergraduate he was Chair of his college Junior Common Room and a welfare rep.

"His contribution to the University over five years has been inestimable."

Inestimable is probably the right word, at least for now. Asfahani admits himself that the projects he has spearheaded are yet to be fully realised, but it is the legacy which he leaves behind that matters most.

"Ultimately it doesn't matter what people say I did well on or didn't do so well on.



The Olympic Flame will pass through York today as part of its 70 day tour of the country before the Games

"What I would love to be able to do is look back in 10 years time at BUCS rankings or participation levels and see that York has improved in some way, and say we started that.

"Everything I've ever done has been for the long term, so a lot of the stuff I've achieved here hasn't been felt by the clubs yet.

"They haven't been able to use the new Sports Village or the new funding in college sport, the new staff member we've hired, the pre-season camp in October.

"What I'd like people to appreciate is that I've done what I've done to improve things for the future.

"This year maybe people will

say that they haven't benefited much from what I've done but I'm hoping that this year or next it will all bear fruit."

Legacy is a word that has become a focal point of our sporting parlance, with London's bid for the 2012 Games centred around creating an infrastructure and enthusiasm for sport that will endure far

beyond the Closing Ceremony on Sunday 12 August.

A complete redevelopment of East London, the transformation of the UK back into a leading sporting nation and the inspiration of a new generation of athletes are all heady goals.

Though the Olympic legacy plans have been criticised on many grounds, the aims are laudable, given the ways in which previous cities have failed to successfully make the transition from hosting the Games to sustaining its effects.

Asfahani believes that creating a long-lasting effect outside of London, though, will be a key task for his successors.

"It's quite hard to find the links between the Olympics and what we do here. People always say 'What's the relevance outside London?' Because ultimately it is London 2012 not Britain 2012.

"I think there is a lot you can do to tie in, but I don't think the Olympics on their own will encour-

“It's very much our responsibility to create the Olympic legacy”

age people to take part. Why would watching Michael Phelps swim ridiculously fast make you want to go out and learn to swim?

"It's about how we use it, it's a tool. A lot of what Charlotte [Winter, York Sport President-elect] will have to do will be to wait and see how much the Olympics buzz keeps going until October, and then she can tap into that.

"The annoying thing is that we're not actually at university during the Olympics, which would have been amazing.

"If we were, then we could put on classes in the evenings and base every day around the Olympic events that have been going on, but unfortunately we can't.

"It's not just about how the Olympics affects us though, more about how it affects national governing bodies' approaches to sport.

"They're going to be using it in the programmes they're rolling out, which we can then get involved in, and that is going to be vital."

If there is one thing Asfahani says that resonates most profoundly it is that "It's very much our responsibility to create the Olympic legacy."

From a man who has worked to create his own sporting legacy for the University, the recognition that the Olympic legacy is not something organic but a project that must be developed is poignant.

With issues such as coaching and transport still huge problems for York Sport, the real legacy here will hopefully be one of increased funding to go alongside the new wave of participation that the Games should, in theory, encourage.

As Asfahani prepares to bow out from York with his work done, the Olympic legacy will be watched with great interest come October.

Sport

New event combines University and college rugby

Will Light
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

UNIVERSITY RUGBY players will be provided the chance to represent their colleges in the inaugural College Competition this weekend.

In previous years, there has been very little association between York University's Rugby Club and the collegiate competition, with various technical rules ensuring that rugby fans wouldn't be able to see University firsts and seconds

gracing the turf at the York Railway Institute in their college colours.

However, this is about to change with the new two-day tournament.

Two pools of three 13-man teams will play on Saturday and a Finals day will be held on Sunday, with the teams placing first, second and third in their respective pools playing each other.

The draw has matched James, Derwent and Halifax in Pool A, whilst Goodricke, Vanbrugh and

Alcuin will play each other in Pool B.

Rugby Club President Sam Morrison says the tournament has been created to encourage greater links between the University and college scenes.

He told *Nouse*: "Over the last few years there has been a lot of negative feeling between college and University rugby.

"This has diminished significantly this year and this competition is an effort to further break

AGATHA TORRANCE

down the barriers between the two.

"My hope is that there will be a fluid interchange between college and University rugby in the future."

The addition of the University players to the college selection pools is certain to mix up the traditional college hierarchy.

Previously dominant were Derwent College, having enjoyed an imperious year in the college league and dismantling Alcuin 64-0 in the final.

However, Morrison stated: "Derwent have shown that they have a very strong college team over the last year, beating our 3rd XV twice. However, they have only two university players, so we'll have to see what effects that has."

He has personally installed Alcuin as favourites, as he expects the presence of four University first XV players to bolster their ranks considerably.

The tournament is another example of increasing ties between the University and the college rugby scene. Next year will finally see a college league officially sanctioned to play on campus, after years of playing in the various far-flung places around the city.

The addition of the University club support can only benefit the standing of the league in general, which certainly has much potential for expansion in interest and participation.

York Sport President and Alcuin forward Sam Asfahani is also excited about the potential for this competition, stating: "As a proud member of college rugby for five years, it's great to see links with the University being strengthened.

"I think the tournament will also be a great send off for all our leavers."

Matches for the College Competition start at 10am on Saturday on 22 acres, beginning with a titanic battle between Derwent and James.

Finals day begins at 1pm in the battle between the 3rd placed teams, with the Final scheduled to begin at 4pm.

FIXTURES

Saturday:

Group 1

10am - Derwent vs James
11am - James vs Halifax
12am - Halifax vs Derwent

Group 2

10am - Alcuin vs Goodricke
11am - Goodricke vs Vanbrugh
12am - Alcuin vs Vanbrugh

Sunday:

1pm - Plate Final
2.30pm - Shield Final
4pm - Cup Final



Derwent's dominance of college rugby will be under threat next week with the inclusion of University players

Halifax seconds victorious in college hockey

Dan Holland
Luke Gardener

HALIFAX SECONDS overcame the odds to defeat Halifax firsts 2-1 to take the Hockey College Cup crown, in a dramatic final weekend in the competition.

James McNeill scored the winning goal for his team in the dying minutes of the second half, but in truth it always looked as if they were most likely to win as they had a man advantage for the entire match.

The action started with the semi-finals on Saturday: Halifax firsts defeating James firsts 6-2 in their match with Kat Robinson scoring four goals.

The sides were evenly matched for large periods of the game, but a strong second half display from Halifax ensured that they ran out winners, having been level at 2-2 at the break.

In the second semi-final Halifax seconds were victorious, after coming back from being 2-0 down at half time to defeat Derwent firsts 4-3 thanks to a Graeme Osborn hat-trick.

That set up an all-Halifax final which was played in the glorious sunshine of Sunday afternoon. However, with only five players turning up for Halifax firsts it meant that they were at a disadvantage from the start.

Throughout the first half this advantage was nonexistent as the firsts perhaps had the better chances, Dong-Oh Shin unable to

capitalise on through balls played mainly by Alex Francis. On one occasion Shin threw himself at the ball but was just unable to make a connection at the crucial time.

It was then the seconds who had an excellent chance to take the lead when Osborn found himself through on goal. It looked like he was destined to score, but somehow he was stopped by some outstanding defensive play from Cat Johnson and captain Hannah Boyne.

Halifax firsts then continued to put pressure on their opponents despite being a player light and it took some sturdy defending from Becca

Martin to stop Shin and Francis simultaneously.

However, this resistance proved futile as with the very next attack the firsts took the lead thanks to Johnson, who found herself in some space on the right hand side before clinically firing her shot low and hard into the net.

The second half was very different to the first, with the seconds team realising they had to make their player advantage count. They did this by keeping possession and controlling the tempo of the match.

This eventually led to them creating chances with Nick Finill

hitting the post twice in quick succession before James McNeill went through on goal but was stopped abruptly by the impressive Joe Lancaster in the firsts defence.

The next chance was to be the turning point in the match as Alex Francis was in on goal. Had he scored the contest would have effectively been over, and it took a quite unbelievable diving stop from Finill to deny him.

Immediately following this stop, Halifax seconds were level in the shape of a penalty goal being awarded by the official. Isaac Barker went on a slalom-like run, leav-

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Action from Sunday's Hockey Cup final, in which Halifax seconds beat their depleted firsts side to claim the title

ing defenders in his wake before firing at goal. The ball was destined for the net, only for it to hit the foot of Boyne. The official had no hesitation in awarding the goal and the seconds could now sense victory.

And sure enough with just a minute to go Halifax seconds took victory thanks to McNeill. The ball ended up in the vicinity of the goal thanks to his sheer desire to reach it first, and with a diving hockey stick he pushed the ball over the line to the delight of the Halifax seconds supporters on the sidelines.

The final whistle sounded and Halifax seconds had beaten the firsts to take the Cup.

Captain Helen Marston exclaimed, "It was horrible to have to play our own team in the final but we are delighted to have won. However, it is more important for Halifax as a college to have had both teams in the final, underlining our dominance in college hockey."

Third place went to Derwent, after they beat James 7-2 in the third place play-off on Sunday.

Having been free scoring throughout the competition, Derwent raced into a 4-0 lead thanks to Greg MacDonald and Jack Bradshaw, both of whom displayed the ability to scythe through the James defence at will.

David Gopinath and Katharine Brownwell pulled two back for a James side that refused to take the defeat lying down, but Derwent ultimately had enough quality to extend their lead and take a deserved win.

College Cup Semi Finals Preview

Dan Holland and Luke Gardener look ahead to this week's two heavyweight College Cup semi final matches

DERWENT vs VANBRUGH



Wednesday 20 June
2pm



The first of this week's semi finals sees Derwent take on Vanbrugh, a match that many will consider too close to call. Despite being one of the pretournament favourites, Derwent have looked out of sorts for the majority of the competition so far, with the ability to keep a clean sheet and grab a scrappy goal proving essential to their group stage success. But against Alcuin in the quarters, they finally found the form that saw them romp to victory in the Winter League; if their attackers can match their usually unbreachable defence then David Kirk's men will be difficult to beat.

Vanbrugh, by contrast, are the tournament's top scorers and, with the exception of a slip up against Halifax seconds, won their group at a canter. Phil Taylor, in particular, has been in good form, but they will surely miss the influential presence of Jon Gill, who will again be missing from action this week. Vanbrugh fell at this stage last year and will be looking to go one better, but their hopes will rest heavily on the ability of Elliot Rous-Ross to take whatever chances he is presented with. Vanbrugh will probably be seen as slight underdogs, but with Derwent struggling for goals throughout the competition this one is sure to be a tight contest and could even come down to the dreaded penalty shoot-out.



3	14
Both sides have conceded just three goals so far in the tournament	Derwent are the lowest scorers of anyone left in the Cup with 14 goals
Quarter Final results	
Derwent 1sts 4-0 Alcuin 1sts (Kirk, Farrell, Atherton, Earle)	
Vanbrugh 1sts 3-0 Goodricke 1sts (Taylor 2, Stanier)	
5	35
Number of clean sheets both sides have kept, more than anyone else	Tom Brandreth is the top-scoring defender in Fantasy Football with 35

Likely Lineups

DERWENT



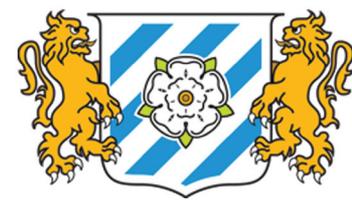
VANBRUGH



JAMES vs HALIFAX



Friday 22 June
Time TBC



James firsts meet Halifax firsts in the second semi final of the College Cup 2012 in what promises to be an enthralling battle. The winners from last year will be out to defend their title, while James will be looking to live up to their billing as favourites by reaching the final. With the teams evenly matched, the decisive factor could be a moment of brilliance from any one of the 22 players on the pitch and this perhaps gives James the edge. Forward James Offord perhaps holds the key as Tom Clarke is unavailable while attacking midfielder James Davies is potent from midfield, scoring six times and providing many assists for his teammates. Having said that, James' attack has been misfiring somewhat of late, as they scraped through the end of the group stage and their quarter final.

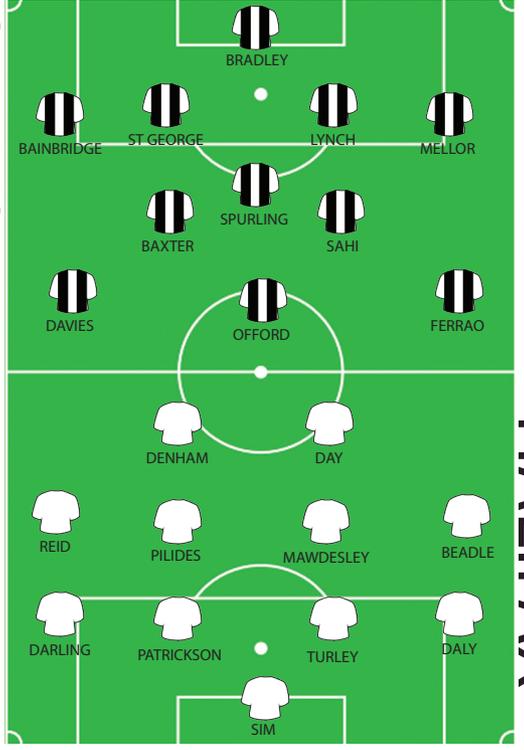
Halifax, meanwhile, have not been at their best throughout the tournament but the one off semi final against James could prove to be the perfect time for the 'Fax to finally make an impact. With the talented Tom Day in attack and the pace of Jack Beadle on the wing, James will be certain to face their stiffest defensive test to date. My prediction is that James will have the extra quality needed to see off the challenge of the men in white, winning 3-1 and booking their place in the final.

9	1
Tom Clarke's goal tally, more than double that of his nearest Halifax rival	Halifax's Jonny Sim has kept just one clean sheet from their six games
Quarter Final results	
James 1sts 2-1 Halifax 3rds (Davies, Ferrao)	
Halifax 1sts 3-1 Halifax 2nds (Denham 2, Reid)	
45	8
Davies and Clarke are level at the top of Fantasy Football on 45 points	James have scored eight more goals than Fax so far, with 23 to their 15



Likely Lineups

JAMES



HALIFAX



IMAGES: PHILIPPA GRAFTON AND AGATHA TORRANCE

Nouse Prediction: Derwent 1-0 Vanbrugh

Nouse Prediction: James 3-1 Halifax

Burning ambition

Dan Holland talks to Sam Asfahani as the Olympic Flame comes to York

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College Hockey Cup

Match report as the Hockey Cup ends with an all-Halifax final

SPORT >> Page 26



COLLEGE CUP

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SPORT

Hull want KC Stadium for Varsity

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of Hull could host the White Rose Varsity tournament next year and are hoping to secure the KC Stadium as a potential venue.

Sam Asfahani, York Sport President, confirmed to *Nouse* that Hull are seeking to host the competition for the first time, having been York's opponents for the last two years.

Asfahani said: "Hull have declared interest that they want to host Varsity next year.

"It's great news and they are trying to get us the KC Stadium for the event which would be great."

Hull are currently looking for an available weekend that does not clash with existing fixtures at the stadium. Asfahani confirmed that football could be played in the week leading up to the rest of the Varsity events, with YUSU providing transport for spectators to the stadium as they did for the rugby match in Roses 2011.

As well as the stadium, which has a capacity of over 25,000 and is home to both Hull City Football Club and the Hull FC Rugby League side, the University has a range of sporting facilities.

Alongside a recently refurbished health and fitness suite, Hull has a sports hall, studio, squash courts, a netball and tennis complex, hockey pitches, American football pitches, cricket circles; facilities that sound comparable to those currently available in York.

The jewel in their crown, however, is a full size, floodlit, third generation synthetic grass football pitch and an accompanying floodlit training pitch with the same high-tech surface, opened in 2006.

York will be able to boast a 3G pitch of their own from next year as part of the new Sports Village.

Next year is set to be Hull's third competing in Varsity, with York prevailing in both of their previous meetings, 61.5-21.5 this February and 60-25 in 2011.

However, the event has become more competitive since Hull replaced York St John, and Asfahani stated at this year's tournament that he expected that trend to continue, with Hull improving as a sporting institution.

York's city rivals were replaced in 2011, having been on the end of heavy defeats in each competition since its inception in 2005.

This year, York placed 29 spots above Hull in the BUCS rankings and scored over 300 more points, but this still represents a closer rivalry than with York St John, who are currently 97th in the country.

At the time of the rebranding of the tournament, Asfahani cited a desire to make it more competitive and worthwhile as justification for the changes, saying: "If it isn't beneficial to students and it's losing money, then it's not worth pursuing."

"The new structure means more clubs and more teams will be able to represent at the weekend, making it a larger spectacle."

Despite the improved competition and the passion displayed by the large following Hull had at this year's tournament, there is still a feeling among some York teams that Varsity struggles to measure up as a meaningful competition.

Tom Day, the University of York Football Club President, commented, "From my personal experience the Varsity tournament has been somewhat of a disappointment."

"There has been an obvious lack of effort on Hull's part on the field and I do not believe a change in venue will result in anything different."



PHILIPPA GRAFTON



PHILIPPA GRAFTON



PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Full semi finals preview inside as the College Cup big guns prepare for battle >> Page 27

