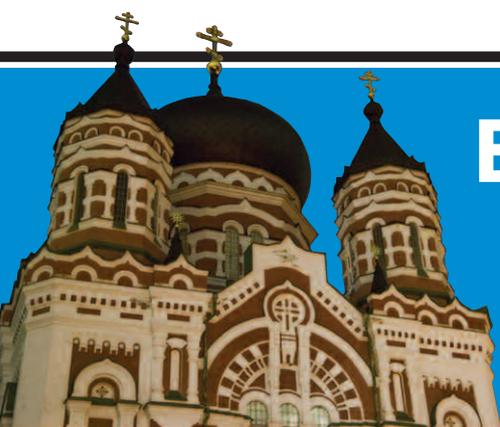
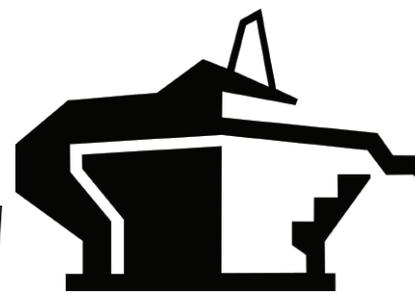


# NOUSE



## EUROPEAN TRAVEL SUPPLEMENT

A special pull-out including an exclusive guide to the undiscovered gems of Europe on a student budget

Statistics released by YUSU show overseas students are

# 250%

more likely to face an academic tribunal than their British peers

**Henry James Foy**  
NEWS EDITOR

OVERSEAS STUDENTS at the University of York are 2.5 times more likely to be involved in an academic tribunal than their British peers, according to figures obtained by *Nouse*.

In the past academic year 12 undergraduate overseas students were involved in an academic tribunal, amounting for 1.73% of all undergraduate overseas students at the University. The equivalent figure for undergraduate home students was only 0.68%.

Overseas students, who make up only 8.7% of the University's total undergraduate student population, accounted for over 20% of the number of academic appeal cases handled by YUSU between

September 2006 and July 2007.

The figures also show a worrying proportion of Health Sciences students involved in academic appeals. Of the 19 cases currently being handled by YUSU, 17 concern students from the Health Sciences department, which has a total student population of around 900.

Anne-Marie Canning, YUSU President and acting Academic and Welfare Officer, said: "The figures are of great concern. An academic misconduct hearing can be a frightening experience. I hope that in the future, through better introductory sessions, the University and YUSU can work together to reduce the number of home and international students going through them."

While the majority of cases currently being handled by YUSU are Health Sciences students of UK origin, Canning predicts the

amount involving overseas students will increase during the term: "Over the next few weeks we expect to get about three cases a week, and based on previous trends, most will be overseas students... Health Sciences students and overseas students are the groups that we see the most."

"We need to resolve this, we need to ensure that the support is there and the induction is there [for overseas students] to stop problems later on," added Canning.

Rosie Li, President of the Overseas Student Association, said: "I am aware that there is a disproportionate amount of academic appeals involving international students. But I do believe that the University is providing sufficient help for international students."

"I think that the University has been trying to provide as much help as possible. The only problem

is that it maybe needs to be publicised more. It also depends on if the international student is active, if they are seeking for help with their problems," continued Li.

Canning, however, believes that more must be done to help overseas students with their studies. "While the University has taken some initial steps to improve academic support for international students, there is a lot more do be done considering the high fees that they are paying," Canning said.

*Nouse* contacted Jane Grenville, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Students, but she was unable to comment at the time of going to print. Fran Collins, International Student Support Co-ordinator was also

Continued on page 2

**COMMENT** >> Page 10

**LEADER** >> Page 10

### 'Incident' supends YUSU Kids' Camp

THE YUSU Executive has voted to suspend Student Action Kids' Camp after an alleged 'incident' on the camp's Easter session. The Union received a letter from the council requesting information on a specific child on the camp. >> NEWS P2

### Governance review sparks controversy

COLLEGE CHAIRS remain unable to reach agreement on a joint approach to negotiations with the Union after a week of arguments. The debate comes as YUSU prepares for a wide process of consultation on governance changes, in the wake of the recent defeat of the NUS governance review >> NEWS P4-5

### 'Studentification' motion attacked

A MOTION allowing local authorities to limit the number of multiple occupancy houses in residential areas has been criticised as unfair to student residents and "a farce" by YUSU President Anne-Marie Canning >> NEWS P6

### Cricketers defeat Huddersfield 1sts

YORK'S 1ST team cricketers have defeated Huddersfield in their first away match since Roses last week. The match is an important psychological victory following their loss in Lancaster >> SPORT P20

### The truth behind the Isle of Man

>> MUSE M6-7



# Student complaints force YUSU to change free condom manufacturer

**Henry James Foy**  
NEWS EDITOR

REPEATED COMPLAINTS about the current brand of condoms distributed across campus have forced YUSU to change manufacturers.

Negative feedback, including reports of breakages, from students using the EXS brand, which have been distributed for free across campus by YUSU, and a sharp increase in requests from students for pregnancy tests have compelled the union to switch to market-leader Durex.

Acting YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer Anne-Marie Canning said: "Some students have had problems. We have to respond to the student body and give them what they need. The welfare of students is paramount"

"There has been a definite increase [in requests for pregnancy tests], but it can be attributed to exam stress and late periods," Canning continued. "I have spoken to our healthcare company (LTC), who have said that they have not had any other problems. But, if they aren't working for us, we'll go somewhere else."

Andy Taylor, Director of LTC, which also manufactures the EXS



MICHAEL BRUNSDEN

**YUSU switched condom brands after a number of complaints about EXS**

brand, said that he was unaware of any problems. "We are not aware of any negative feedback," he said, adding: "If there were reports of breakages, we are legally and morally bound to investigate that further... Our obligation is to look into a legitimate complaint."

Both EXS and Durex condoms carry the ISO 4074 standard

and the kitemark logo. EXS condoms, however, are cheaper than Durex, and offered YUSU much better value-for-money.

"[EXS] are kitemarked, which means that they shouldn't be bad, but we have to change in line with how students are responding to condoms. Students are more responsive to Durex, though they

are very expensive... We are all under budget constraints," said Canning, who began the process of switching brands as soon as she assumed the Academic and Welfare role following the departure of Grace Fletcher-Hackwood.

"Negative feedback might be the colour of the packet, or how tight is it to wear. The differences in brands are size and shape, but I would refute that there is a difference in the quality of condoms. If it comes down to personal preference, then that is fine," said Taylor.

Charlie Leyland, former Derwent JCR Welfare Representative and YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer-elect, assured students that their welfare was paramount. "If people are unhappy with [condoms] then YUSU will have to reassess what it's providing. People should always be comfortable with their chosen contraception and take further precautions if necessary," she said.

YUSU currently distribute condoms to all the college JCRs, and at certain campus events. Free condoms can also be collected from the YUSU offices, through Nightline, and by email request to the Union.

**COMMENT >>** [nouse.co.uk/comment](http://nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Closet couple disturb lecture in Langwith

A first-year History lecture was interrupted in Week Two after students became distracted by continual banging noises in an adjacent room. Lecturing in L/N/028, History professor Guy Halsall found himself suddenly interrupted by the sounds of copulation emanating from a nearby cupboard. Despite initially ignoring the distraction, Halsall was forced to admit the presence of some 'vertical activity' nearby, and after judiciously knocking on the cupboard door, successfully managed to silence the passionate pair inside. The identities of the clandestine lovers has yet to be discovered and the lecture was able to resume.

## Lake swim leaves student hospitalised

A York student was rushed to hospital last Tuesday after having spent 45 minutes in the University lake. The student, whose identity is being protected, was asked by porters and friends to remove themselves from the water on three separate occasions. Described by porters as under the influence of alcohol, the student was eventually persuaded out of the lake at 2.20am, when they were conveyed to hospital. One observer commented that the individual appeared to have "gone crazy, and just ran into the lake." Friends of the student described themselves as "distressed" and "really shook up" by what had happened.

## Amnesty 'sleep-out' planned on campus

Members of the York Amnesty Society are planning a 12 hour sleep out as part of a campaign to highlight the plight of failed asylum seekers in the UK. Part of the nationwide 'Still Human, Still Here' campaign, next week will see students sleeping rough outside the Physics Exhibition Centre from 9pm to 9am, encouraging others to join them and sign a petition. First year Amnesty member, Thesi Harman commented, "we are here to highlight the human rights issue in forcing people to sleep rough because they won't return to a country where they might be killed."

**Reporting by Sian Turner, Peter Campbell and Beth Gandy**

# Overseas students more likely to face tribunal

<< Continued from front

unable to comment on the issue.

A University spokesperson said: "We are still analysing the information around this issue, and until that exercise is completed, it would be inappropriate to comment further."

Academic appeal cases are commonly launched by students to refute the outcome of an academic misconduct hearing, which could involve accusations of exam cheating, plagiarism or collusion. YUSU figures include both academic appeal and misconduct tribunals.

Figures from other universities show a similar trend. Leeds University Student Union's 2007 QAA report referenced the "disproportionate number of international students accused of plagiarizing". The report states: "to date in 2006/7, 13 out of 16 plagiarism cases were international students."

The NUS have recently launched a campaign to assist student unions in forming programs to advise students of the dangers of plagiarism. The briefing document reserves particular mention for overseas students.

"It is a concern for many stu-

dents, but particularly acute for international students, many of whom come from different academic traditions and backgrounds," said Wes Streeting, NUS Vice-President (Education).

"Institutions need to work doubly hard to ensure that they support international students... Punishment after the fact will not improve their learning experience, or help them change their practice," continues Streeting.

YUSU is planning its plagiarism campaign for week three of next term. The University has also created an online plagiarism tuto-

rial set to go live next term. Students will be required to view a plagiarism tutorial before completing an online test. It is thought that the tutorial and test will be provided in both English and Mandarin.

Canning said: "Any student who is experiencing academic difficulties or is called to an academic misconduct hearing is encouraged to approach the union for advice and representation." Students are encouraged to email [acwelf@yusu.org](mailto:acwelf@yusu.org) for more information.

**LEADER >>** Page 10

**COMMENT >>** Page 10

# In this edition

May 13 2008  
[www.NOUSE.co.uk](http://www.NOUSE.co.uk)

News	1-9
Comment	10-12
Letters	13
Politics	14-16
Sport	17-20

The Isle of Man: Meeting the man in charge	M6-7
Special investigation: Inside prison education	M8-10
Surviving the Credit Crunch	M11
Summer cocktails	M12



*With summer fast approaching it's time to start thinking about going away. Nouse gives you the lowdown on the hottest places to go in Europe for students.*

>> TRAVEL SUPPLEMENT

## Who's NOUSE

Grimston House (V/X/010)  
Vanbrugh College  
University of York  
Heslington  
York  
YO10 5DD

[contact@nouse.co.uk](mailto:contact@nouse.co.uk)

**EDITOR**  
Raf Sanchez

**DEPUTY EDITOR**  
Anjli Raval

**MUSE EDITOR**  
Nicky Woolf

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
Chris Cowan

**CHIEF SUBEDITOR**  
Sarah Foster

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Henry James Foy

**NEWS DEPUTIES**  
Jonathan Fransman  
Sian Turner

**COMMENT EDITOR**  
Lily Eastwood

**COMMENT DEPUTY**  
Lida Mirzaii

**FEATURES EDITOR**  
Venetia Rainey

**FEATURES DEPUTY**  
Liam O'Brien

**ARTS EDITOR**  
Helen Citron

**ARTS DEPUTY**  
Sarah-Jane Silvester

**MUSIC EDITORS**  
Olivia Haughton  
James Cousins

**MUSIC DEPUTIES**  
Ollie Elliot  
Steven Williams

**FILM EDITOR**  
Dave Coates

**FILM DEPUTIES**  
Dan Rodwell  
Jonathan Wilkes

**F & D EDITOR**  
Will Heaven

**F & D DEPUTY**  
James MacDougald

**LISTINGS EDITOR**  
Daniel Ball

**POLITICS EDITOR**  
Alberto Furlan

**POLITICS DEPUTIES**  
Polly Ingham  
Peter Campbell

**SPORTS EDITORS**  
Crisis Noice  
Matthew Jaynes

**SPORTS DEPUTY**  
Jack Organ

**WEB EDITOR**  
Daniel Whitehead

**WEB DEPUTY**  
Jennifer O'Mahony

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Ally Carmichael

**ADVERTISING TEAM**  
Frances Oke  
Chloe Dean  
Fabiola Clemente  
Esme Anderson

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Arthur Reeves

*The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors, writers, or advertisers*

# Executive votes to suspend Kid's Camp following 'incident' during April session

**Raf Sanchez**  
EDITOR

THE YUSU EXECUTIVE has voted to indefinitely suspend Student Action Kids' Camp after an alleged incident during the camp's Easter session.

YUSU received a letter from a York City Council official at the beginning of Week Two, detailing the allegation and requesting information on the activities of a specific child during the camp. Societies and Communications Officer Sam Bayley could neither confirm nor deny that the allegation was made against a specific member of the Union and would not provide any specific information on the nature of the allegation.

After taking legal advice from Union Manager Jolene Jessiman, YUSU refused to reveal the name of the council official who sent the letter or the department they worked for.

Both YUSU and council authorities are currently carrying out their own investigations into the allegation. The police are not involved in the investigation at this time.

In the April 30 meeting of the YUSU Executive the committee was called into closed session in which all non-officers are asked to leave and no minutes are published. The Executive was informed of the allegation and voted to suspend Kids' Camp until further notice.

The Easter session of the Kids' Camp ran in Bramhope Scout Campsite just outside Leeds. The camp takes 18 children between the ages of 8 and 11, all within the social services



**Kids Camp is run entirely by Union volunteers with no outside staff present**

system and recommended by organizations from York, Leeds and Selby.

The Kids' Camp is run entirely by Union volunteers with no external staff present on the site. Volunteers received one day of training from Student Development and Charities Officer Joey Ellis before going on the camp. While Ellis is personally trained in child protection there is no requirement under the Union's current vol-

unteering structure for the Student Development and Charities Officer to have such training.

Ellis defended the one day training, saying: "Volunteer feedback has indicated that the training given is more than adequate and prepares people as much as possible for camp. The training that we provide covers child protection, the day to day running of camp, the underlying principals of camp and how

to deal with certain situations that may arise."

In YUSU's current structure all Executive Officers are trustees of the Union and therefore potentially personally liable for any legal claims brought against it. The Executive decided that the set up of Kids' Camp, especially its involvement with children, left both the Union and its trustees vulnerable to legal action.

The issue was flagged in

the recent YUSU Organisational Audit undertaken by an outside consultant. The report recommended that the Union restructure its current approach and described Kid's Camp as being among a number of "high risk delivery of student volunteering activities for which the union lacks any track record or professional experience"

Student Development and Charities Officer-elect Jamie Tyler criticized the decision to bring the allegation to the Executive and make it public. He said: "I think it was unnecessary to take the issue to Exec at this point in time. It has caused a big panic about something that could eventually be shown to be a trivial issue. It needn't have worried and upset as many people as it has done."

Bayley defended the decision, saying: "It definitely was something that needed to go in front of the trustee board as ultimately, if any legal action were to be taken against the Union, it would be their necks on the line. It would be unfair to take a decision without consulting them first."

Volunteers were notified in a brief email on May 8 that the program had been suspended. Derwent Chair Oliver Lester, who took part in the Easter camp, said: "It's really terrible, because people absolutely love the camp and get so much out of it. I have no idea what this incident could have been, it was a total shock when I read the email this morning. I'm worried because there is so little that YUSU can say, people are going to assume the worst and jump to conclusions."

# Student arrested on campus after fight in McQ's

**Raf Sanchez**  
**Criss Noice**

A STUDENT WAS arrested on campus last Wednesday night after a fight outside of McQ's bar. Several others were injured during the fight before police and campus security were called.

A North Yorkshire Police spokesperson confirmed that a 19-year old man had been arrested and released on bail. The man was not charged but may face charges at a later point pending further police investigation.

A first-year student who witnessed the incident said that four men, students who had allegedly been drinking heavily since the afternoon,



**Police were called to Goodricke after a fight broke out**

had been sitting outside of McQ's shouting insults at passers-by.

She said: "The four guys who were sitting at the table were trying to provoke pretty

much anybody they saw into fighting them. They were spoiling for a fight."

One of the men allegedly shouted at a member of the Tae Kwon Do club, who

were on a social at McQ's.

The student said: "One of the guys from the club said 'what's your problem?' and they started pushing each other. And then another Tae Kwon Do guy tried to mediate. One of the guys sitting at the table threw the first punch."

At least three other men became involved and one member of the Tae Kwon Do club had his glasses smashed during the fighting.

The student said: "It didn't look like the Tae Kwon Do guys threw any punches, they just got them down on the floor and tried to subdue them."

Bar staff working at McQ's on the night attempted to intervene but were unable to break up the fight.

It is believed that the bar staff contacted the police.

Police arrived on campus and ran through a busy McQ's to reach the fight. One onlooker said: "They showed up really quickly and seemed to come out of nowhere." One man involved in the incident tried to run away towards Vanbrugh bridge, but was pursued and eventually caught by police.

A University security patrol member confirmed that at least one student had been arrested and taken off campus but would not reveal any further details.

Goodricke JCR and porters' lodge were temporarily closed while police and campus security personnel interviewed those involved.

Goodricke College Provost Jane Clabour was nearby at the time of the arrest and spoke to a number of the individuals involved in her office.

Nouse has learned that the Tae Kwon Do club social was based on a 'T' theme, with club members dressed up as objects beginning with the letter 'T'. One of the members on the social was dressed as a tomato at the time of the incident.

Tae Kwon Do Club President Cyrus Malekpour refused to comment on the incident but the club's newly formed Facebook group description reads: "We have a facebook group! We also got into a fight at the last social but let's not get into that."

# Colleges divided as YUSU begins

MILDA SABUNAITE

## VIEW FROM THE COLLEGES

**VANBRUGH** - Matt Oliver  
Grant Allocation: £1,696.50

"I believe that the set up we have is designed for us to be self-governing, I don't want to be completely independent and have no reins, but I do want to be allowed the chance to have slightly more control over what we can and cannot do. The money that I am looking to invest is for our JCR."

**DERWENT** - Oliver Lester  
Grant Allocation: £1,642.50

"We don't actually need the extra money. At the moment, we function relatively well and have generated a slight surplus in our accounts. However, people have no ideas on what to spend it on. Even suggestions that we do get, such as improve our JCR, we have a college amenities fund which covers it."

**JAMES** - Chet Khattu  
Grant Allocation: £1,705.50

"Colleges are given a variety of hurdles to overcome when dealing with YUSU, however with current issues over funding and given support being received between the college chairs. I'm confident we will be able to come to a situation which colleges and YUSU will find beneficial."

**ALCUIN** - Erik O'Connor  
Grant Allocation: £1,743.50

"Greater autonomy from YUSU can be achieved within our 'external affiliate' status. Do I want a JCR which is completely without YUSU co-ordination and financing? No. Do I want a YUSU which is perhaps a bit less bureaucratic and a bit more conducive to student welfare? Yes, but I'd like to make this happen from within YUSU."

**LANGWITH** - Zach Pepper  
Grant Allocation: £1,487.50

"JCRCs and YUSU have a mutually beneficial relationship, but it's not exclusive. JCRCs need to make sure that they are receiving sponsorship from outside sources and earning steadily - not just relying on YUSU to bail them out of tough times. JCRCs need help to maximise their earning capabilities and manage their money"

**GOODRICKE** - Joe Clarke  
Grant Allocation: £1,594.00

"JCRCs do not get enough money and the money that we do get is too tightly controlled. The union has no reason to receive the funding which should then be passed onto us. If the money is meant for us then why have a middleman? The system in place contradicts our independence."

**HALIFAX** - Dave Sharp  
Grant Allocation: £2,037.50

"I don't agree with disaffiliation as one college cannot operate alone without the help from YUSU. I'm not 100% keen on how we all have to bid for the money at the start of the year as I was very inexperienced at the time. Generally, at Halifax don't have that much of an issue with the amount of money we get."

**Anjli Raval**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

COLLEGE CHAIRS remain divided after a week of arguments with YUSU and each other over the future of union-college relations.

All seven college chairs met on Friday, May 9 to try to agree a joint strategy for dealing with the YUSU. The idea of a UGM motion, designed to force union policy on the policy, was mooted but subsequently dropped after chairs failed to reach an agreement on its content.

The debate on the issue was sparked after Vanbrugh Chair Matt Oliver criticised current levels of college funding and described the system by which JCRCs receive their grants as "completely broken".

Under the current the structure JCRCs receive their funding out of YUSU's block grant, instead of directly from the University. Oliver said: "It seems to me that the SU likes to control the amount of funding we get. No other collegiate University relies on their unions for all of their funding."

His criticism was echoed by Goodricke Chair Joe Clarke who questioned the need for YUSU to act as a "middle-man" between colleges and the University. In the May 6 edition of *York Vision* Clarke was quoted as saying: "we are looking into disaffiliation [from YUSU] but nothing has been decided yet."

Derwent College Chair Oliver Lester defended the current collegiate structure, saying that he believed the system functions well and he does not feel further autonomy is required. In a letter addressed to all college chairs and released to *Nouse*, Lester said: "I



**Oliver Lester reacted angrily to calls for colleges to disaffiliate**

am far happier with YUSU finance committee telling me that X amount should be spent on Y rather than me or a treasurer dictating what gets spent where. I think students would prefer it too that a far more professional body helps us decide where our funding should go."

Lester attacked the idea of disaffiliation, saying: "What on earth were you thinking Clarke? Disaffiliation? Surely you yourself must see this as a shockingly silly idea?". YUSU Societies and Communications Officer Sam Bayley earlier described plans for disaffiliation as "absurd".

## Generous GSA budget questioned as affiliates prepare for funds battle

**Sian Turner**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE GRADUATE Student Association's (GSA) large budget of £140,000 has come under increased scrutiny the debate on funding levels continues.

With Union expenses growing and JCRCs publicly calling for greater funding from YUSU, the GSA's substantial grant has been criticised for lacking financial clarity and sensible budgeting.

The University-funded organisation's 2006/07 budget reveals a large underspend of almost £30,000, representing 21% of the total funds requested for that year.

Tom Flynn, GSA Treasurer, has defended the organisation's financial situation, citing recent moves to overhaul its financial management. "The budgeting process hasn't been as good as it

should be, I'll freely admit that, but that is changing this year, and we're going to be talking to the student union and following a much more specific budgeting plan," Flynn said.

"Now, I've come in and I've not really been happy with the way that things have been run, and I'm looking to change things a lot. Events in the past we've tended to run at a bit of a loss, that's stopped from this year, they've all been run at revenue neutral, so we don't make any profit, but we also don't lose it," Flynn continued.

"They are getting better," commented YUSU President Anne-Marie Canning, "but a couple of years ago, it was a real mess."

While the GSA have received criticism for large event spending, the budget reveals that the organisation spent only half of the events budget of £26,900. "The single biggest problem that graduate stu-

dents face at university is meeting other students. The vast majority live in houses, come in for their lecture, go home again. So social activities is a much larger role for the GSA than YUSU, and we've fallen prey in the past to being seen as only a sociable activity kind of organisation," Flynn said.

Flynn is keen for the GSA to be better understood. "A common misconception is that the GSA is simply the Wentworth graduate common room. We have to remember that the GSA is not just a JCRC - it's on exactly the same footing as YUSU. We also fund common rooms, graduate common rooms, just like YUSU do the college JCRCs," he added.

"When the university was first created, it was predominantly for graduate students," Flynn continued, "the GSA existed a year before the Student's Union, and it's in the ordinances of the University."

# governance consultation process

VENETIA RAINEY



**Matt Oliver has criticised the current union-college relationship**

Alcuin College Chair, Erik O'Connor stated that disaffiliation was not even an option saying that there is "no way in which a JCR can be completely separate from YUSU, or YUSU from JCRs. Collectively, the JCRs, make up most of the YUSU membership."

O'Connor upheld that greater autonomy could be achieved from within their 'external affiliate' status and any changes to YUSU should be made from within.

College chairs have also failed to reach a consensus on the levels of funding necessary for JCRCs to

operate effectively.

Oliver also expressed concern about the sum of money colleges received saying it was "simply not good enough for a university of York's standings."

"JCRCs have a huge impact on the student life and in order for us to provide the best possible experience we need to have greater resources made available to us," he continued.

Lester demonstrated concern about vying for more funds saying that "like everything in this university, this money you propose would go to us ultimately would come from somewhere else. I would rather the university spent the money on other key issues such as the bar refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments or bridge planning, something that would benefit the students on the whole."

YUSU Services and Finance Officer Matt Burton not only argued against having a more central distribution of funds but however also questioned what indeed a larger amount of money would be spent on, as with the current system it would still be subject to ultra-vires law.

He said: "I know from when I was a JCRC Chair that actually, there's really not that much to spend money on and in fact, if the Provost supports you in new furniture and resources and if you properly budget and market events, they can be successful and generate a lot of money for the other JCRC activities".

The debate comes at a time when rises in the fixed costs of the Union's running have meant that there is little money available to be bid for, compared to the relative surplus of last year. JCRCs will

**COMMENT >> Page 11**

## Changes to charity law force crucial reforms

### ANALYSIS

**Henry James Foy**  
NEWS EDITOR

THERE ARE SOME changes that are made as a necessity. Others grow from great ideas. Unfortunately, the current YUSU governance review is an example of the former. If the structure of the Union doesn't change by 2009 it will cease to exist, such is the impact of the Charities Act of 2006.

Put like that, students would be going down a pretty dangerous path if they voted to defeat the governance review. However, if other changes, beyond the essentials, are proposed, then the average York student will certainly have a right to turn it down when presented as a package.

By 2009, to stay compliant with the Charities Commission, the Union must appoint a trustee board. Currently, the YUSU Exec members - the union officers - act as trustees of the union. This is a less than perfect situation. For example, students elect the Environment and Ethics Officers on the basis of how much they care about global warming, rather than how good they are at steering the Union away from any potential legal battles.

YUSU would, as other unions have done, probably appoint trustees with specific expertise,

such as a legal professional or a media consultant. While some may have reservations about non-elected professionals having such important roles in the union, this is essential for YUSU's survival.

But what of splitting the Academic and Welfare Officer into two roles, and merging the Societies and Communications and Student Development and Charities roles as a result? Or the creation of a Student Activities Office, and moving the AU President upstairs? These ideas



**YUSU's Organizational Review has proposed some changes which may form a part of the reformed constitution.**

were proposed by the organisational review - which means they are suggestions, not requirements.

The consultation sessions and working groups will inevitably throw up more suggestions that YUSU must bear in mind when drawing up the final constitutional amendments. But this is key - if enough students are involved, it should make for a review that both achieves the necessary

**COMMENT >> Page 11**  
**LEADER >> Page 10**

### REVIEW TIMELINE

- Week 4**  
Feedback from consultation sessions, working groups and student questionnaires is collated. Initial drafting of the constitution begins.
- Week 5**  
Exec and Senate are presented with the draft constitution, which is also posted online for student feedback.
- Week 6**  
Changes and alterations made to draft in line with feedback received in Week 5.
- Week 7**  
Constitution is presented to Rules Committee for checking.
- Week 8**  
Finalised constitution submitted to a Union General Meeting.
- Week 9**  
Students vote to decide whether to adopt or reject reforms

## York learns from defeat of NUS review

**Beth Gandy**  
**Jonathan Fransman**

YUSU IS PLANNING a wide program of consultation in the run to the governance review in the hope of avoiding a membership defeat like that suffered at the recent NUS annual conference.

"We are very keen to avoid the NUS syndrome" admitted YUSU Societies and Communications Officer Sam Bayley, before adding that he is keen to "avoid the problems of the past by speaking to everyone that is interested".

The Union sabbatical team has already held an open session on the proposed governance changes in Week 3 and a number of focus group meetings with internal affiliates such as JCRCs, the Overseas Students Association, RAG and societies. Specific sessions have also been held with individual Union committees. However, turnouts at the open meeting and the societies meeting, the two most



**President Gemma Tumelty saw NUS reforms defeated by voters**

likely to involve typical students, were both poor.

"Basically, from day one we have started off with the aim of consulting people, from the top all the way down," said Bayley, who wants students to fill in feedback forms and give their views on the changes. "We are keen for everyone

to have their say, and feel that they have had their say," he added.

Previous constitutional amendments are thought to have failed due to limited consultation and involvement of interested parties. Following the controversial move by the Union to pass constitutional amendments in 2006, Neil Barnes,

then Academic and Welfare Officer, said: "It still makes me shudder to think about how seriously dodgy the process became."

Already, JCRC chairs have spoken out with indignation due to not having been consulted with respect to the proposed constitutional changes. Bayley, however, claims the initial plan was to approach them when the constitution has reached a less formative state, stating: "[JCR chairs] have not been left out of the process and are coming into it later"

Bayley is hoping to avoid the events of the recent NUS National Conference in Blackpool that saw motions submitted for a reform of the NUS constitution defeated. The necessary two-thirds majority of representatives from Student Unions across the country had not been met by a margin of 25 votes.

The motions for reform followed a mandate for change to make the NUS more accessible and relevant in the light of recent disil-

# Plans for Union bar in Langwith unveiled

**Sian Turner**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

PLANS FOR THE redevelopment of Langwith bar have made further progress, with a finalised choice of building contractor and the release of designs for the new venue.

The brainchild of YUSU Services and Finance Officer, Matt Burton, the bar is set to be redeveloped over the summer to become the first Student Union bar on campus.

Design company Heron Designs have been chosen to undertake the redevelopment works as it has extensive experience in bars and catering.

"We looked at testimonials from other Student Unions and businesses that they'd worked for, and we got some very good feedback," said Burton.

He continued: "One of the key things about this project is that we've got no experience in catering and running bars so we're looking for a company that can bring that experience to the table and guide us as to how things should be laid out and what resources you need. On top of that they've got proven, turnkey experience, so they can deliver within the set time frame we've got for this summer."

Drawing board designs for the new venue show an extending of the bar into the current lower JCR in Langwith. The area surrounding the bar is also to be redeveloped, with an emphasis on sustainability and natural materials, featuring wooden decking, plants and energy-efficient lighting.

"What we've been doing recently is touring around with the initial design and getting feedback from the key stakeholders, from Langwith students and we've got some comments from the Provost," said Burton.

"The feedback's been really

positive in that it's been very different, and it makes a big emphasis of the outdoor space, of which there isn't on campus at the moment. It really livens up the area," he added.

Current Langwith Bar Rep, Max Tyler, expressed support for the redevelopment. "We're really excited about the plans for the new bar," he said, "especially all the development that's going to be happening outside; it's something different that will really give our bar an edge. I think it's a great thing for Langwith, and should enhance the college in the way that it deserves."

It is hoped that the work put into the establishment will help rejuvenate the falling numbers of students currently patronising campus bars. "The outdoor space and the benefits it will bring to the college will hopefully retain people on campus and provide the students with a space to socialise in within Langwith," said Burton. "We aim to create place they want to be in, hopefully reversing the trend that we're seeing where people are leaving campus to go elsewhere."

An asbestos scare at the start of term threw doubt over the continued progression of the project, Burton however was keen to dismiss fears that the issue would hinder redevelopment plans;

"We commissioned an asbestos survey over the Easter holidays and we get those results in a week or two as to what there is to deal with. But we're working with the University, making sure there's enough time in the development programme to have anything that needs to be removed."

YUSU hope to have access to the venue by the end of July, ready to open in time for Freshers' Week at the start of the 2008/09 academic year.

**COMMENT >> Page 12**



Designs show a revamped interior (above) and an outdoor development (below) for the new Langwith bar

## BBC explores lesbianism at York

**Jack Trewin**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A RECENTLY aired BBC documentary saw a York academic discussing the fluidity of female sexuality.

*Dawn Goes Lesbian*, shown on BBC 3 over Easter, follows journalist Dawn Porter as she investigates the world of lesbianism.

Setting herself strict rules, Porter immerses herself in a world of women, moving in with lesbian housemates and working in a busy lesbian bar.

Also featuring interviews with experts on female sexuality, Porter visits Professor Stevi Jackson, Director of the Centre for Women's Studies at the University of York.

"I don't think we're



Journalist Dawn Porter visited York in her documentary

innately either heterosexual or gay," Professor Jackson explains on the programme. "I think it's very much a result of the culture we inhabit, which exerts very strong pressures towards being heterosexual in fact, and I think that without

that, sexuality would be much more fluid. Most heterosexuals, men and women, never actually pause to question their sexuality," she added.

At the Centre for Women's Studies, Professor Jackson is a specialist in the-

ories of gender and sexuality.

Dawn Porter is renowned for her documentaries challenging the effect of modern culture on women. These have included her controversial *Super Slim Me*, where she dropped to a dress size zero. She has also appeared on Channel 4's *Balls of Steel* as the Man Tester, and on the popular series *How to Look Good Naked*.

Despite the title, Porter does not truly explore with lesbianism during the documentary; the month long investigation leads to some drunken kissing with housemates at most.

However, Professor Jackson has said she believes that ultimately, all women can be lesbians and that "life would be a whole lot more interesting" if they were.

## Charity slams Hes. East greenbelt plans

**Emily Hirst**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

PLANS FOR the Heslington East campus development have been heavily criticised by the environmental group Campaign to Protect Rural England.

The group, who aim to protect British greenfield sites, are worried about the potential impact of the build on the local environment. The charity claim that the development will destroy 289 acres of green belt land making it one of top 12 most harmful developments in the country in terms of size.

The greenfield site chosen was intended to prevent urban areas from merging, and while CPRE say they

know they cannot prevent the development from going ahead, they hope to draw attention to the government's policy towards green belt land which, they say, is worryingly indifferent.

The extension to the current campus was approved by ministers last year and the University has emphasised that it will be as green as possible with gardens and wetlands incorporated into the design and close to 40,000 trees due to be planted.

The University aims to be able to accommodate as many as 16,500 students by 2020. Supporters of the expansion argue that the estimated 8,000 jobs the expansion will create will benefit the local economy.

# Council motion threatens students through restrictions on off-campus accommodation

CERI OAKES

**Henry James Foy**  
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU PRESIDENT Anne-Marie Canning has strongly criticised plans by York County Council to restrict levels of students living in certain areas, labelling the decision "obscene".

Canning's criticism is directed at a motion tabled in November of last year, which called on the council to "join other university cities in their lobby, via the Local Government Association, to central government, for specific powers to enable local authorities to address the impact of the proportion of students residing in specific geographical areas". The motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor David Horton, draws strongly from Early Day Motion (EDM) 1488, which was presented before parliament in May 2007. That motion, which was written by Labour MP for Durham, Roberta Blackman-Woods, urged local authorities to "use the planning system to encourage the establishment of harmonious balanced communities". It was signed by 56 MPs, including York MP John Grogan.

"[The York motion] has been proposed by the council under the guise of helping students, but it's a farce. It's the EDM motion tarted up," continued Canning.

York councillor for Holgate and former YUSU President James Alexander, who voted in favour of the motion, defended the council's decision, and denied that it would be detrimental to students.

"I think if enacted with the motion's true intention, this is good for students. The motion supported by all political parties seeks to increase the quality of private student housing by forcing unscrupulous landlords to maintain student homes properly," Alexander said.

Alexander first saw the proposals during a York Labour Club meeting, where he admitted to Canning that he had "toned down some of the language in it."

"Students won the election for John Grogan, and James [Alexander] will want to get the student vote out for him, so I think it's a shame that they haven't spoken out against this motion. I have told James that



Students living in Badger Hill may be affected by the motion

he should have spoken out against it," said Canning, who is hoping to make fighting the motion one of YUSU's key policies for next year.

Grogan, who drew on the student vote to win his seat at the general election, also defended the council. "It's a simple motion to allow Local Authorities to have a separate category for multiple occupancy homes with additional planning powers. To maintain the quality of the area, it's important to have diversity," said Grogan. "It does potentially restrict the supply of houses of multiple occupa-

tion, but there is a responsibility on the University to supply accommodation," Grogan added.

Councillor Roger Pierce, who seconded the motion, has stated on his website that he will push for a large amount of accommodation on Hes East "to reduce the pressure on family housing in the Ward."

Canning, however, defended the rights of students to live in off-campus accommodation if they chose to. "Students don't want to live on campus for three years, they want a house, a TV, a sofa. It's not up to [the council] to decide where students

should live," she said. "I think that students in Badger Hill are in danger, as it's near Hes East. "I don't want to see a situation where students are driven further and further away from campus," Canning added.

Ama Uzowuru, NUS Vice-President (Welfare), has stated: "It is totally unacceptable to expect students to be curtailed and told where they can and cannot live." The NUS are campaigning against government restrictions on student housing.

**LEADER >>** Page 10

**COMMENT >>** Page 12



Cllr. James Alexander, a former YUSU President, supported the motion

Canning said: "It's awful. It's saying that councils can decide whether students can live in certain areas. Students are entitled to live wherever the hell they like. It's not up to them to decide where we can live as citizens of this country."

"Basically, it deems that students can live in some areas and not in others. If you start with one section of society, I don't see why we can't start ghettoising others, like asylum seekers or immigrants," Canning continued.

The motion, proposed by

## Student to feature in year-long TV show

**Will Heaven**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CLAIRE HAZELGROVE, a second year politics student running for Parliament, is to have a year of her life documented for a program for Channel 4.

Hazelgrove, the parliamentary candidate for the Labour party in Skipton and Ripon, is one of 15 young people taking part in the documentary *YearDot*.

The documentary will be shown as a series of programmes on Channel 4 and will follow its 16 to 21 year old subjects for a year, filming them once every three weeks. It will be broadcast later this year.

According to Steve Maud, *YearDot's* producer, the programme is "about the time of your life that you get it together." He said: "The idea is to inspire kids to see examples of people their own age that are doing something with their lives. It was originally called



Claire Hazelgrove filmed in Vanbrugh

Get a Life." *YearDot* is produced by Graham Norton's So Television.

Unlike the other 14 contestants who were handpicked from an application process, Hazelgrove was approached personally. "I had a phone call asking me whether I

would be interested in applying for the documentary," said Hazelgrove.

"It later transpired that "they'd interviewed Emily Benn [the 18 year-old granddaughter of Tony Benn who is standing for parliament in East Worthing and Shoreham] already, and she'd mentioned me. They were intrigued, I think, because I don't have a political family background," she continues. After a phone interview, Hazelgrove was filmed in York for an hour and asked how she managed to balance student life with being a parliamentary candidate.

"It's quite a confidence boost to be asked to apply, as opposed to all the hundreds who applied off their own back," Hazelgrove joked before adding that "One of the others is competing in the Eurovision song contest."

Hazelgrove has also been supplied with her own handheld camera, allowing her to film events, such as Ed Miliband's recent visit to York, when the camera crew is not available.

## FTR prices unlikely to fall despite trial week success

**Emily Hirst**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FTR HAS DECLARED that the trial week of a £2 return bus fare into the city centre has "certainly been a success" but did not suggest that prices were likely to be lowered.

Last week saw FTR running a trial period of lower fares on the presentation of a university student card. FTR announced the trial after talks with YUSU who voiced student dissatisfaction following an increase in fares in March.

The company said that it would need to see around a 45% rise in patronage before lower prices would be viable. An FTR representative said it was "a step in the right direction and an attempt to show the students that we are listening", but did not suggest that any fare reductions were likely.

FTR has faced criticism for how it chose to conduct the trial.

One first year student said "FTR seem determined to prove their own point by making the experiment a failure. They haven't publicised it on campus so no-one really knows it's going on and a week isn't long enough for people to change their habits".

Publicity of the weeklong trial was limited to adverts on bus screens and posters pinned on the bus stops. The representative admitted: "There's always room to do more". Critics have also argued that the advertising solely targeted people who take the buses normally as opposed to students who rarely use the service.

Some have claimed that a trial in the summer term will fail as people are more likely to walk, or travel less because of examinations. FTR says it will compare this week's figures with those from the same week last year, but there are worries that the recent good weather will distort results.



## What would you like for breakfast?



Waking up to something a little more exotic than toast is just one of the perks of a global network like ours. With 27 offices in 20 countries, there's a very real possibility you could spend six months of your training contract overseas. You might even qualify into one of our worldwide offices. If you're based in London, your scope will be no less international. As a trainee, the client work you'll contribute to will span countries and continents. With a whole range of vacation schemes and workshops on offer, we can give you the chance to dip a toe in the water before you make any commitment. As one of the world's most successful and respected law firms, it all comes with the territory.

Want to explore law? To find out more and apply, visit [www.cliffordchance.com/gradsuk](http://www.cliffordchance.com/gradsuk)

**C L I F F O R D**  
**C H A N C E**

We have a global commitment to diversity, dignity and inclusiveness.

# Video made the political star

Jennifer O'Mahony looks at the students who have harnessed the potential of YouTube as a means of campaigning

**W**e all know YouTube as the site where you can find videos of pandas sneezing, or of idiotic teenagers filming themselves falling off skateboard ramps.

However, a new generation of students and activists are harnessing the potential of YouTube not as mindless entertainment but as an immediate and effective medium for campaigning and raising awareness on student issues and societies.

Derwent College Chair Oliver Lester posted a 7 minute video on YouTube that showed the appalling lack of safety, hygiene and living space available in the kitchens of E and F blocks of his college.

It highlighted the impossibility for 16 students to cook on a Baby Belling microwave/hob together with the danger of overcrowded kitchens. The video featured appliances balanced precariously on shelves and underlined the expense the students involved incurred in constantly eating out, given that cooking was a practical nightmare. After posting the video and promoting it on Facebook, it became the 3rd highest rated link for people searching for "Derwent College" on Google.

Lester decided to take action after living in Derwent himself and seeing none of the facilities change, despite promises to the contrary, when he became a second year. He says he was attracted to YouTube after traditional methods failed to make a difference "writing letters just takes too long to achieve anything, whereas



**Clockwise from top -left: Goodricke College Chair Joe Clarke; presidential candidate, former Women's officer Laura Payne; President of the New Generation Society, James Townsend ; Derwent College Chair Oliver Lester's kitchen campaign video**

making a film means that it will be viewed by far more people.

"I made half an hour of film in the block, edited it and it was on YouTube by midnight. Within 3 or 4 days the persistent mould had been deep cleaned and there will be a complete renovation of cooking facilities over the summer."

York students have not used YouTube solely to campaign on specific issues, but have also promoted their societies or personal candidacies in elections on the site.

James Townsend, President of the New Generation Society (NGS), uses YouTube as a way of putting across what his soci-

ety stands for. He says: "YouTube puts politics into the mainstream. Young people might not choose to watch an hour long news bulletin, but they might stumble across something on YouTube which really inspires them. The mix between people falling over and musings on the future of the health service makes it

all more accessible." The NGS posts videos of speaker events to maximise exposure. When guests like Sir Crispin Tickell, the famous climatologist, come to speak to the society they are filmed with YouTube and Facebook in mind.

In recent YUSU and college chair elections, students have posted videos of

themselves explaining their policies on camera as a way of interacting quickly and directly with a large group of potential voters. When Laura Payne campaigned for YUSU President, she posted a video on YouTube to highlight the issues she wanted to raise, and to encourage undecided students to pick her for the top post with a personal message.

Similarly, Joe Clarke, who went on to become Goodricke College Chair, posted a video of himself touring the college and proclaiming that if won the position then events would no longer take place in the "school disco" venue of Goodricke Hall.

What is clear is that this kind of campaign can be extremely effective in getting traditionally reluctant figures to listen to the concerns of students. Lester says: "I got emails from the University management at the top level, and they were angrier that they weren't aware of the problems, other than with my video."

The democratic nature of YouTube means that anyone with a camera and an internet connection can use it to campaign or promote, and it is this grassroots emphasis that makes the video-sharing site such an asset to activism. In contrast to most direct forms of action it actually yields results.

Jeff Jarvis, the MediaGuardian columnist, summarises the power of YouTube with the typical language of an activist and firebrand: "We are watching the seeds of a revolution sprout right before our very eyes".

## WEB-CANNING

This week's snapshot from YUSU's web-cam



**YUSU Student Development and Charities Officer Joey Ellis**

**enjoys the freedom of her Roses souvenir rugby shirt, just without**

**the trouserless rugby bloke gaffer taped to her leg.**

## Looking forward to a year of campaigns

**Anjli Raval**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York is set to witness a number of student campaigns getting underway over the course of the next year.

This term the key campaign led by YUSU Policy and Campaigns Officers Michael Batula and Tom Langrish, is to ensure that students know their rights as workers. They have emphasised the importance of this issue given that an ever increasing number of students are taking on jobs during term-time as well as in the holidays to fund their degrees and reduce their amount of debt they are left with after university.

Langrish said: "Despite many students taking out jobs, very few are

aware of their rights as workers and are subsequently being shafted by the more unscrupulous employers out there. It is about making sure that York students are treated on a par with their co-workers."

Another major campaign that will be launched from October is the fight against the lifting of the cap on tuition fees. 2009 will see a government review on the current fee system and many believe the current £3,000 cap will either be raised or scrapped altogether. With the possibility of fees reaching £10,000 per year students could potentially leave university with a debt of over £30,000. "Although any changes will not impact on current students at York, YUSU has a responsibility to protect its future membership so inaction now is not an option," Langrish commented.

Some more campus-based campaigns include increasing the opening hours of the library and maintaining pressure on the University to improve accessibility around campus. This is particularly in relation to the replacement of the Goodricke-Vanbrugh and Langwith-Alcuin bridges which are currently out of order. Langrish stated: "We want to make sure that the 'costing' is more than just an exercise to stem the current disquiet over the closure and demolition."

"The second element to this campaign will be to call for improvements to the current alternative routes for example the Central Hall to Physics bridge and the dirt-track running along side Biology and the lake."

Open sessions of Campaigns Committee will be held in weeks five, eight and nine of this term.



# Comment & Analysis

Nouse Office  
University of York  
YO10 5DD  
comment@nouse.co.uk

## An international approach

When considering the striking statistics on academic tribunals released by YUSU, the first thing to get clear is they do not by any means automatically indicate higher rates of attempted cheating among overseas students. Students who seek YUSU's help may go for a wide range of reasons, including academic appeals. Those who do face misconduct hearings, in other words a charge of impropriety, should not automatically be assumed to have been accused of cheating. The highly publicised cases of Elnar Askerov and Qui Shi Zhang, clear examples of deliberate fraud, are the exceptions. Most of those facing an academic tribunal will be there after breaking the rules of scholarship by mistake, not by intention.

Yet, while there is not necessarily a cheating epidemic there is a clear and striking problem in the way overseas students are being handled at this, and other, universities. International students make up a vastly disproportionate percentage of those facing an academic tribunal. We would do well to remember how stressful a degree can be, even in our own language, let alone in a foreign one. The language barrier effects every element of an academic career - from establishing a relationship with tutors, to learning the course, and to understanding complicated plagiarism regulations.

The situation demands a much more proactive and concerted approach from all those concerned with the welfare of international students. The University must provide a more targeted support network and move beyond a barrage of lectures and forms that may not always be assimilated in the whirlwind of a move to a foreign country. Supervisors must also take the initiative and make sure that they go beyond termly meetings and fulfill their primary responsibility to those in their care - to keep their academic careers on track. Finally, there is an important role for the Overseas Students Association as well in helping students to build up a body of experience that can be passed on to new arrivals in terms that can be understood and taken on board.

## 'Community' Control

The ugly term 'studentification', coined in 2002 to describe the social and environmental changes caused by increased numbers of student residents, is rapidly gaining credibility in local authority circles. Last November a motion passed was by the council granting authorities the power to restrict the number of multiple occupancy houses, i.e. student accomodation, in any one residential area.

YUSU President Anne-Marie Canning has rightly called the motion "obscene". Those who value their freedom - to live where they choose - will most likely concur. That one section of society should be singled out by the council is shocking. The motion was passed under the guise of protecting "diverse" and "harmonious" communities, but could seriously jeopardise accommodation prospects for the student population. Many students already struggle to find houses near campus and central planning by council authorities is likely only to exacerbate this.

We should feel disappointed by the lack of opposition from John Grogan MP and Councillor James Alexander. Students rallied to support Grogan in 2005, when he won his seat in parliament by less than 500 votes. Alexander, himself a former YUSU President, would do well to remember the potency of the student vote as parliamentary candidate for York Outer.

Students value independence. But more than that, we value the normal freedoms granted to all UK citizens.

## A happy union?

The ongoing YUSU governance review has sparked an often ill-tempered debate on the future of college-union relations. Some chairs have argued strongly that colleges are being short changed by union "middle-men" and denied the funds and autonomy they need to run effectively. While it can be tempting to argue for more localised decision making, it is hard to imagine a federation of colleges working effectively. Few volunteer committees have the professionalism to carry out extensive functions, to say nothing of the doubling up of costs. Rather than wrangling over slices of a small pie, colleges and the Union should work together to try and increase its overall size for the benefits of all students.

## No surprises and no excuses: plagiarism at this university



The revelation that a disproportionate number of international students involved in academic tribunals should not come as any real surprise. The difficulties involved in studying for an academic degree in an unfamiliar country using a foreign language are such that it is perhaps inevitable that many overseas students will struggle to progress in the way in which they may be expected to.

But that is not an excuse for students to resort to illegitimate means, nor does it mean that the University can afford to be complacent about the issue, especially given the sheer scale of the disparity between home and international students going through what Anne-Marie Canning rightly describes as "a frightening experience".

As a proportion of the size of each student group, 2.5 times as many overseas students as home students are referred to academic tribunals. At a university that is often criticised for its relative lack of ethnic and cultural diversity, the number of minority students facing expulsion is particularly striking - and worrying.

It is worrying not only because it reduces the size of the foreign student community, but also because it damages that community's reputation within the University, and acts as a potential deterrent to future overseas students, who may feel intimidated by the high incidence

of current foreign students who see their academic ambitions left in tatters.

This situation simply cannot be allowed to persist, but with increasing reliance of many students - and course lecturers - upon the internet and the wealth of material it provides, the danger is that the number of those caught neglecting proper procedures will continue to rise, and it is international students who are most at risk.

After all, although it is impossible and inappropriate to speculate about the nature of the cases referred to tribunal, Leeds University's QAA report and the statement from the NUS both clearly identify plagiarism as the issue that is of most concern. At Leeds over the past two years, around 60% of plagiarism cases have involved students from overseas.

Indeed, it must be stressed that the issue is not specific to York, but appears to be a general trend across the country, in which the same obstacles of language and culture are confronting international students from the same diversity of backgrounds. Nor is there evidence that the problem is growing; the numbers of international students in tribunals is growing, but so is the overseas-student population in British universities.

In York's case, the criticism of the University in the light of the exam fraud case last year was a little wide of

the mark. Instead, the consensus is that provisions are in place to help both home and international students, but that not enough is done to make students aware of the help that is available to them.

The OSA is taking steps to advise its members about where they can seek assistance, but concedes that it is the responsibility of the students themselves to be sufficiently active in responding to accusations of misconduct, before it is too late. YUSU is also getting involved, with a plagiarism campaign scheduled for later this term that will aim to raise widespread awareness about the issue.

However, YUSU must be careful not to overwhelm students with pessimistic propaganda at what is an already daunting time for many new students, particularly given that school leavers should already be well aware of the penalties that academic misconduct carries. Already, some home students that I know are actually fed up with what they perceive to be a bombardment of warnings about the p-word.

Nevertheless, the OSA, YUSU and the NUS have all made the point that it is preventative action that is needed, because punitive measures are not a satisfactory way of addressing the problem. Therefore, it is at least promising that the University is aware of the problem, and is attempting to tackle it in a direct and meaningful way.

## The Debate Should JCRCs have more independence from the student union?



Anne-Marie Canning  
YUSU President

Back in the day when I was James College chair I was an absolute thorn in the side of YUSU. I would argue every point and kick up a fuss over the most minor thing. But after squabbling my way through a YUSU meeting I would pick up posters for the next UGM and stick them up for the union.

JCRCs are autonomous but also need lots of support from YUSU, not least financial. Any talk of JCRC disaffiliation is nonsensical and sensationalist. JCRCs must recognise that the relationship between themselves and YUSU must be symbiotic. They must understand the bigger picture.

YUSU is funded by a block grant, a chunk of money given to us by the university. We receive £83 per student which adds up to around £700,000. Our JCRCs receive £16,000 per year. (As a quick comparator, our 110 societies receive around £33,000.) JCRC funding increased by £4,000 last year. It was I who argued for that. I have been a college chair, I understand the challenges the JCRCs face, but everyone wants more money and the YUSU purse isn't bottomless.

A myth has been circulating that JCRCs receive only £1 per student. To clear this up JCRCs receive the following: £1 per fresher, £1.50 per kitchen, £100 from the Silent Students Happy Homes campaign, £200 for RAG, £50 for Student Action, £750 for college sport, £150 sports training subsidy and First Aid training for 6 people.

There is also money left over from which the JCRCs can then bid for additional items. They also get money from: event income, pool

table income, vending income, sponsorship, generous donations from the Provost, as well as other areas where profit may be made, such as merchandise.

I was over at Lancaster for Roses last weekend and their JCRC system is very comparable to ours. Their union allocates the money to the JCRCs just like us. The University would never want to allocate directly - they don't want the time consuming responsibility of deciding who gets a new trophy cabinet or microphone. At YUSU Finance Committee we try to address the inequalities between the colleges to ensure all students get a fair deal.

I'm all up for a debate about funding here at York, just as long as we use correct figures and do it in the right way. Misinforming students does everyone an injustice.

We are a students' union, every member of every college is also a member of YUSU so we achieve more by working together. With the dawn of Heslington East on the horizon this is a time when the JCRCs and YUSU must work together more than ever. And let's face it, that is where the real expenditure lies in this University.

## "JCRCs are autonomous but also need lots of support from YUSU."



Will Heaven  
Contributing Writer

Why we were always going to vote for piracy, silliness and fancy dress.

## Thorns in sides and happy marriages



Matthew Oliver Vanbrugh  
JCRC Chair

The marriage between the SU and the JCRCs is not always a happy one. We disagree on many things and the communication between us is not always as good as it should be. With the completion of the governance review, however, we have the opportunity to redraft the SU constitution and I hope that many of the flaws in the system will be fixed. The members of JCR committees play a huge part in the work undertaken by the SU and, accordingly, we feel that we should have been consulted in the original review. But we weren't, so all we can do is hope to be involved in the reforms.

York currently ranks 56th in a league table denoting the amount of money invested in Staff and Student facilities - for all our differences I suspect that both the JCRCs and the SU agree that figure is simply not good enough. We are around forty

places below Lancaster and two below York St. John. To put those figures in perspective, for just an extra £1 per student the colleges could afford to provide the facility for free sport for everyone in the University. That's 0.03% of our annual tuition fees. The investment we want is not astronomical.

It's not the SU that is at fault; it's the system. The issue is not so much to do with the amount of money that the JCRCs receive from the SU but on the fact that we are reliant on them at all. The SU has to make sure that everyone gets fair treatment with the little money that they allocate. Why should one college be given x amount of money to buy a TV when another isn't given a comparable sum? There simply isn't enough money available. The JCRCs can operate on current levels of funding, they've proven that for years, but we don't want to just operate, we want to make things better. We want to improve what we have, and we can't do that with this funding.

Improvements need to be made. For a University that prides itself on its "vibrant college system" we're not delivering. College spirit is declining. Without investment in our bars, our common rooms, our sports, and our college activities the JCRCs can try their hardest, but there's only so much difference that we can make. I believe that declining college spirit has had an impact on student satisfaction; which is low. York, accordingly, has dropped in the league tables and this has a direct and negative impact on the perceived value of our hard earned degrees.

Ultimately, the JCRCs (and I'm sure the SU) would love more money, and to be honest I don't care who invests in student facilities so long as someone does. Students at York deserve more than adequate investment and more than adequate facilities. We deserve the very best that is possible because heaven knows we're all paying enough to be here.



## To the University of York: I'm so, so sorry

I want to come clean. It's all my fault and I'm sorry. I voted for Tom Scott, our pirate YUSU President.

At the age of 20, I have to learn to take full responsibility for my actions. To my friends, I've let you all down - I was never going to vote for the real candidates. You've now realised I am, at heart, a sociopath.

To Brian Cantor, my deepest apologies - the YUSU meetings are going to really test your patience and reserve. There's no place for this sort of thing in YUSU, and you, our Vice-Chancellor, will be the first to suffer.

To the rest of the University, and the other presidential candidates, I can only say this: I have undermined the political system, which is there for my benefit. This fills me with remorse.

But, in my defence, it wasn't just me. Scott was always going to win. Here are a few obvious reasons why:

1. York students like dressing up. Whether or not we care to admit it, all of us dress up (as chavs, tarts or golfers) around 20 times while we're at York, possibly more. Scott did it convincingly well, too.

2. York students are sometimes a little bit silly. People don't take YUSU seriously, and we like throwing the odd spanner into the works, if only to see what happens when it gets stuck. York students are often a little bit geeky - he appealed to a lot of us. I won't try and define "geek", but they're everywhere. Didn't you see Scott's merry band of supporters? Wasn't one of them in your seminar?

Here are four slightly less obvious reasons why Cap'n Scott won:

1. Scott's campaign spread virally around the University campus, including on Facebook. By the time it came to voting, everyone had heard of the pirate. It was, unwittingly, a brilliant PR master-class.

2. Anne-Marie Canning's campaign to get more people to vote. This was our downfall - we should have kept it small, quiet and sensible.

3. Third years voted him in because they are leaving and don't care about YUSU. It was like a good-bye present. "Thanks, York, for all you've given me. And enjoy...click...this!"

4. Freshers voted him in because they were drunk (and don't care about YUSU). Freshers, we all know, are here to enjoy their first year. They don't know any better, and perhaps shouldn't get to vote till sec-

ond year.

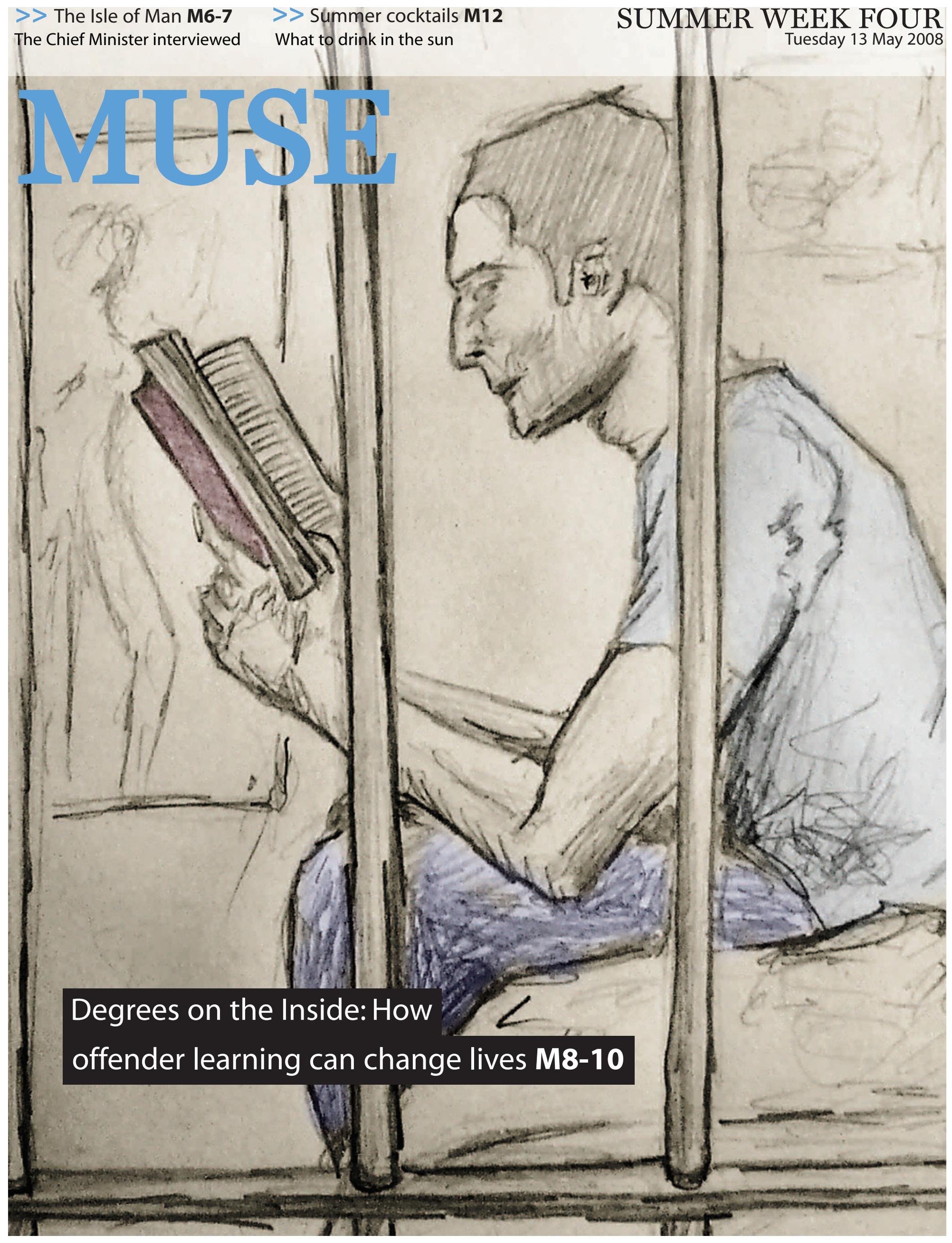
So, for those reasons and a few others, I voted for Scott - I like to back winners, and he was always going to win.

The pirate presidency should be interesting. It might be funny or even surprise us all and be successful. It will certainly be talked about for years to come, and possibly emulated by future York students.

But no. We probably shouldn't have voted for piracy (even if we did have a £10 bet with a Payne supporter). We will probably come to loathe the "mad Cap'n" as quickly as we came to love him, and next year, all things considered, may be more about damage control than anything else.

Scott is, after all, just a post-grad who dressed up as a pirate. For a joke.

# MUSE



Degrees on the Inside: How  
offender learning can change lives **M8-10**

# Muse 13.05.08

## The Isle of Man

Henry James Foy talks to the Chief Minister of the oldest democracy in the world and discovers a vibrant and fascinating island

>> M6-7

## SPECIAL: Prison education - the inside story

What's it like to do a degree in the Big House? How does the system treat those trying to turn their lives around? Nicky Woolf investigates

>> M8-10

## The Credit Crunch

Will Heaven puts together a student survival guide for the economic crash

>> M11

## Summer cocktails

Alcohol wizard Jonathan Fransman takes us through some of the sexiest cocktails to sip in the sun

>> M12

**F&D:** Good food for reasonable prices >> M13

**Fashion:** Inside the world of the fashion model >>M19

**Arts:** 'Art Educates' - students at the Rae >>M14

**Music:** Jazz and blues, as well as an investigation into Classical >> M16

**Film:** Persepolis and In Bruges reviewed >> M18

**Last word:** Satire and gossip galore >> M20

*Muse cover drawn by Adam Hanley*



## Robin Seaton

The old git mutters into his pint

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a postgraduate student in possession of a good job offer must want to leave York. Partly, of course, because our 'hypothetical' postgrad is fed up of being a student, of having yet another conversation about word limits, or how much time we've all spent pissing around on the internet. Partly, he cannot stand you, dear student reader. You're vain, loud, arrogant, self-important, pretentious, rude, objectionable, probably vomiting and, crucially, the correct usage of the apostrophe appears to elude you completely. To an extent, he is bored of churning out the same generic history essay time after time with little or no alteration in his grade. Mostly, how-

ever, he is fed up of not having any bloody money."

That was much how I envisaged the beginning of this column when I first began to consider the opening on a drizzly Monday afternoon. However, my bike has now been fixed, the weather is beautiful, and I've just managed to use up around one hundred of my five hundred word limit without unduly dragging out this section on how brilliant everything is. How to cope? Since being designated a grumpy mutterer into pints (for which Muse's editor has earned my undying enmity) I have been left devoid of an outlet for the sunnier side of my character, for I feel that I must remain in character at all times,

# Lily Eastwood



## The guilt-sodden ramblings of a liar

I am sorry. I am truly sorry, very sorry, and sorry all the time. When superior blackberrying business-people, who aren't looking where they're going, walk into me, I apologise. When loud sweaty corpulent men on public transport step on my toe, I apologise. I can't tell whether I'm defective or too nice - in virtue of past actions, probably defective. It could be my Catholic heritage, or perhaps something more sinister, but I am terminally seeking absolution.

When I was eight I was very efficient. Colouring in was my particular forte but in general I took pride in getting things done. Precocious and socially unaware, for some time my priorities were Brownie badges and winning at everything. I never noticed the whispers of "boff" as I put my hand up straight and proud in class, I only saw the ticks on my times tables test.

One fateful Thursday afternoon at Brownies we were finishing off some badgework. Brown Owl called us over to collect flag designs we had started the previous week. Cara stopped picking her nose, fat Georgia dropped Fiona, it was time to get serious; at the end of these felt tip masterpieces we were due to receive the coveted Brownie World Awareness Badge. Unusually, I hung back, suddenly remembering what I had forgotten. Having wanted to get ahead I had smuggled my flag design home in my culottes, an old girl guiding trick - be conniving. However, school boy

error, and quite unlike me, I had forgotten to bring it back.

But as I watched fourteen pairs of fat little hands scrambling for scrunpled pieces of paper, I realised: somebody is missing. Illness is surely a sign of weakness and in their absence a Brownie must prepare to be subverted. Be prepared and all that - damn it I'd promised to do my best, I would have that badge. Hands cold and head calm I took that last half done flag and turned it into a masterpiece. Kimberley came back the next week, she never got her badge - I think they told her off for having taken her design home. Funnily enough she insisted she hadn't. I never did own up, Kimberley was my second so it wouldn't be good for the camaraderie. That is when the guilt began.

Only a handful of people know about my dark past of fraud and corruption. Cruel ambition took a hold of me too young and warped my forming sense of morality. Since then it's been the straight and narrow all the way. I even gave up cheating my little sister in Monopoly. When everyone was snaffling a few penny sweets from Woolworths, I was pacing around, sweating profusely. Already feeling bad because I looked like I might have once shoplifted. Which I hadn't, not since I picked up a rolling pin in a department store age two. Everyone's too busy looking at the hooded yooof in the corner to notice the toddler brandishing a rolling pin half her height. My

mother noticed my new acquisition half way home. Apparently plagued by a guilt complex equalling my own she led me back to the store so she could earnestly apologise to a chuckling sales assistant.

Can a cheating Brownie learn? How could anyone love such a schemer? If I could trace Kimberley down I would unpick that badge from my heaving sash and hand it to her, just to be able to walk down the street without apologising. I get flashes of what it must be like to live a good life, a life without such a shady past. Colours are brighter, birdsong is sweeter, and there are many, many rabbits. Of course I then feel bad for feeling that way, and everything fades to grey.

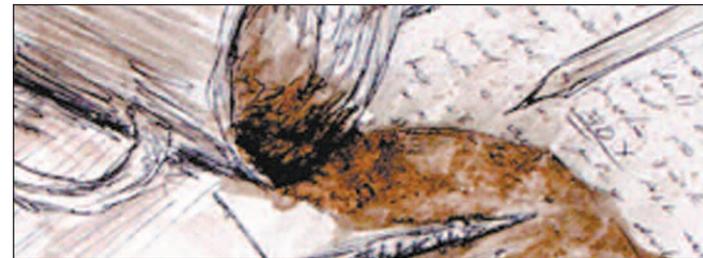
Sometimes I fear a relapse, and on dark days when I see no end to my torment, I resort to gratuitous dishonesty. There is a kind of liberation in lying to strangers, but in the spirit of confession I would like to apologise. To the boy who I met at a barbecue, I don't know why I told you I was a vegetarian; to the girl from Fibbers toilets, my name is not Tallulah and finally; to the gentleman I met on a delayed bus replacement service in sixth form, I thought you were lovely which is why I spun a particularly elaborate web of lies. The only true thing you know about me is my name, only now am I twenty, I was not and am not at Bristol studying maths and philosophy, I was not home for the weekend because my mum missed me and my dog

to the great detriment of almost all my interpersonal relationships.

Friends point out that muttering into pints is, and always has been, my favoured activity when in or around a pub, and that they have noticed little or no alteration in my deportment. Furthermore, they claim that my disposition veers towards the curmudgeonly at the merest hint of a grammatical inexactitude, fun, or criticism. In return, I accuse each of them individually of being a hateful, splenetic intellectual pygmy with a distinctly palsied grasp on reality and no sense of proportion. Put me on a bike, however, and everything changes. The open road! The wind in my stubble! It's all terribly exciting. The equilibrium - on bike, happy, off bike, grumpy - was disturbed last term, however, when my trusty blue 'horse' - so named for its size and weight - was stolen from my back yard by the local criminal element. The gears may have been wonky after I rode into

a bike hoop on Thief Lane and had to flatten them with a hammer, the brakes may have been incapable of stopping a hamster's wheel and the chain may have come off every time I put it into third, but it took me places, albeit slowly and with straining calves.

Since acquiring a new bike from the excellent York Bike Rescue Centre, I'd been speeding across Walmgate Stray quicker than ever, and with the benefit of mudguards that prevented me getting a face full of shit every time I went through a cowpat. Recently I've had to revert to two feet since I broke my rear axle. Not something I'd object to were I a big fat guy, but given that, despite my best efforts in both pub and kitchen, my BMI remains in the low twenties, I feel a little resentful. Now, however, after some time in the repair shop, my crippled velocipede has been restored to its full stripy-handlebarred glory. I'll be using it to get out of York as fast as possible.



## Social Pariah

Hugh Morris is a warning to us all

I have never been one for impressions, whether it is a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Over the holidays, returning home from a night on the tiles, my equally inebriated friend and I decided the five minute walk to our abode posed too many risks. Having instead fallen asleep in the road and refused to move, I am forcibly taken to our female friends' residence. Unable to conquer the stairs, I go to sleep unceremoniously on the kitchen floor. Having been fully clothed at the time, it is a surprise to me, and more to the unassuming elders of the house, when I struggle awake at family breakfast time in just my pants, with every single tea towel in the place conspicuously glued to my face with vomit.

Nothing makes you friends faster than a good sense of humour. I manage to combine a sub-standard, slightly cult-esque one with a prejudice against anyone I serve drinks to at work. Six or seven drunken partygoers entreat me to "hum us a song and we'll guess if it's a song we know, like". Being sober and at work, I pass. "Ah go on, go on, 's'jus' a song." Told not to be "lame", I begin to weakly hum the song that was in my head. But when I inform them that the song was 'Sit on my face and tell me that you love me' by Monty Python, I receive deadly silence. I collect their empties and move to the next table quickly. I bet John Cleese never got that.

After having requested a song from good ol' Ade, the Toff's DJ (merely knowing his name, makes me very 'scene'), when it comes on I am, as they say, 'well up for it'. Ade explained that as I had pestered him all night I "had better dance" if he played what I desired; which seemed, at that point in time, in that dank indie room, with two tropical VKs in one hand and my sweaty forehead in the other, ideal. I danced like a professional pogo-sticker on acid, knocked some big bloke's drink all over him and then smiled as if to suggest that was the right thing to do. He reciprocated.

Ring of fire is a splendid game. In my slightly masochistic version of the game, an 'ace' denotes that you have now become the 'gimp'. You must do whatever anyone else says. I take advantage of this inform one of my close female friends that she has to pick up her wine glass with her mouth, and imitate some sort of cow/sheep when drinking. I find this hilarious. Then the glass breaks in her mouth. Shit. It is the Ring of Fire equivalent of Guantanamo Bay and I am the prison guard. She spits it out, cries, bleeds, and doesn't talk to me for the rest of her sentence.

As his eyes catch hers under the disco lights, the sensual heat of the club and the sexual beats make the couple next to me act out a scene from 'Inappropriate Sexual Activities 2'. The kind of courting that's frowned upon in swimming pools is perfectly welcome in a club, but when the guy gets his cock out I feel it's a bit much. Stuck with the conundrum of how much eye contact to make to show my disgust without showing what might seem like a desire to join in, I turn my back. No one else seems phased at all.

## This week, Lily will mostly be...

Refraining and abstaining. 1 in 10 students have Chlamydia and across campus a barrage of emergency contraception has caused me to mull on celibacy. Too many times have I heard "so we didn't have, you know, but we sort of...anyway!" Or..."well it broke, but it'll probably be fine right?" Sheepish smiles and pregnancy tests all round, then. Even the campus playboy does not love without his glove. Students are incestuous; who knows what minefield you're stepping into?

In this time of unfettered promiscuity let us give the madness of fornication a backseat (no, not literally) and rediscover romance. "What the world needs now is love sweet love" or at least a little dignity in courtship. Just last week my buttocks were caressed so tenderly by a passing lothario about town that I couldn't even bring myself to be disdainful, just baffled. "Do I know him? How can

anyone think that's appropriate if we haven't seen each other naked?" Even when advances are consensual we can't bring ourselves to pick up the phone. I dimly remember when exchanging numbers might have meant you would telephone your suit-or before a first date, now god forbid you put too many kisses on the end of a first text. I have even heard the young folk saying "What's your name? I'll Facebook you." Perfectly willing to fondle you in Ziggys, less than keen to have to speak to you.

I am not asking for much. I would just like gentlemen callers to feel able to phone before a first date, bring flowers and Facebook me only after handholding but before heavy petting. And remember: think of the condoms! Holding hands will suffice for now. Tie a knot in it gentlemen, and ladies kindly recall that even nice boys have sexually transmitted diseases.

had died. I had not yet left home and I have only ever had cats. I am tragically undeserving of your praise that I was 'so refreshingly forward and honest.'

Only the most seasoned liars learn to appear so unnervingly honest. Unflinching because they are giving away nothing about themselves. Come to think of it, he was pretty refreshingly honest himself. If he too was a compulsive liar, maybe he'll understand.

Please do not dismiss me on grounds of my past actions, I stand before you today cleansed. For the past week I have only lied to taxi drivers and authority figures - which isn't real lying - and I've given up my seat three times on the bus. I have poured out my heart to you, dear reader, and hence my fate is in your hands. Kimberley may not ever forgive me but with your approval, maybe I can make a fresh start.

## Sarah Foster

I'm a feminist. That's why my mum does my makeup

I gave up wearing make-up a few months ago. If anyone asks, I claim I am making a feminist statement, and refusing to allow myself to be constrained by unrealistic ideals of feminine beauty. In truth it's because my previous attempts to 'beautify' myself resembled a five-year-old let loose with paints. I might have well have just drawn on two red cheeks with lipstick, such was my complete lack of any idea of what one should be doing with one's face in preparation for stepping out into the world.

Of course, even though my skills



were minimal, I still wore make-up sporadically before taking my final stand against it. Although then make-up tended to mean nothing more than attacking my face with a black eyeliner pencil, which meant that by the end of the evening I looked a little like I had got lost on my way to a Sisters of Mercy gig. It wasn't really the best of looks, but it was my look, so I was rather happy with it. It remains one of those questionable decisions of my life, like the six month long period in which I didn't brush my hair. But before I completely shrugged off the shackles of beauty products, I tried my very best to embrace them. It all started when I travelled to Edinburgh with some friends. We decided that we were going to 'hit the town', and rushed to

the showers. Within half an hour I found myself sitting on the floor, ready to leave, while my friends were passing hair straighteners around the room.

I read a book, as it was hard to make conversation over the buzz of the numerous hairdryers. And then I thought to myself, maybe I was actually missing out on something. These girls weren't wearing make up in an attempt to snare themselves a man, they seemed to genuinely enjoy the process of getting ready.

I mentioned this to my mother over the Easter period. As a woman of the world, she would surely be able to answer my problems. I also thought she might have enjoyed having a conversation with me that didn't end with me asking her for some money. She concluded that maybe I

did need someone to show me the ways of the world, and offered to do my make up for me. So I, aged twenty, allowed my mother to draw on my face for a bit.

And you know what? It wasn't horrible. My face didn't really look the right colour, and I wasn't sure that I looked that much different at all, but I quite liked it. I like my face, so I was happy for it to still look like my face. I decided to take the initiative to purchase some of this stuff for myself (I still don't quite understand what foundation is supposed to do). And did exactly what my mother had done to my face mere days ago.

As I stepped out of my room my seventeen year old brother laughed at me. And that's probably the reason for my new stance. It's not feminism at all. Just my own sick, sick vanity.

# Aunty Sara

# Uncle Sam

Get out of the cat food and into the shops

You make me sick, you crypto-fascist pig

As Sam will no doubt tell you, I am not one for presumption. Really, stereotype just isn't my style. But you're a boy, aren't you? You fetched up at University, mummy wasn't there, and you started to feel the gnawing hole of despair that just couldn't be filled.

I remember seeing this syndrome in my girlish days at University. While I sautéed my chicken in some gin, your species would skulk around the kitchen and salivate. I too came to a point when I would no longer "share" with the desperate - oh that fateful day when I returned home to frantic rustling in the kitchen near where I kept Mr. Snuggles' cat food (Sam, there are some things even I can never forgive). So I assume, that for your housemates to forsake you so mercilessly you have succumbed to some form of thieving - trust me, even if it's just the occasional dabble in the Shreddies' box, people notice. And they hate you for it.

Now, I'm going to suggest something that may seem controversial to you, that may make you twitch and tick a little with trepidation, but trust me, it may just work. Go to the supermarket. It wants you, you need it; the ecstasies of a co-dependent relationship await you. It's high time you get up off your pot noodle-cushioned behind and made the journey from Vanbrugh to Costcutter. To soothe the shock that will no doubt paralyze you upon first step into this peculiar world, I recommend that you take one of your housemates with you. Although the news that you plan to purchase your own fodder will probably be met with rapture, they may be hesitant at first; I certainly was after that cat-food incident. Your first time in the supermarket will be daunting, awkward and may even be a little painful.

You must reassure them, offer them incentives. Market the expedition as an adventure of food discovery. Hold a house meeting where you pool ideas on the creative possibilities of tinned tomatoes; flatter them with tales of how you watched them stir sauce with an expressive sensuality that only Nigella could rival, how all your life you've felt like one of those kids from Jamie's School Dinners, peering longingly through the burger-grease coated playground bars. Or suggest they tow you through Costcutter on a leash.

If none of this works, only one option really remains. Settle yourself in Vanbrugh paradise with the remnants of your pot-noodle Tupperware strewn about you and try to look sympathetic while holding your "feed me" sign.

Dear Uncle Sam and Aunty Sara,

I am hungry. My stash of pot noodles that I brought from home is depleted. I don't know how to cook rice, and I have run out of interesting things to do to pasta. My housemates no longer share with me, I can't afford to eat out and I can't face another Efes kebab. I'm starving to death! What should I do?

Yours hungrily,

Lazy, Vanbrugh



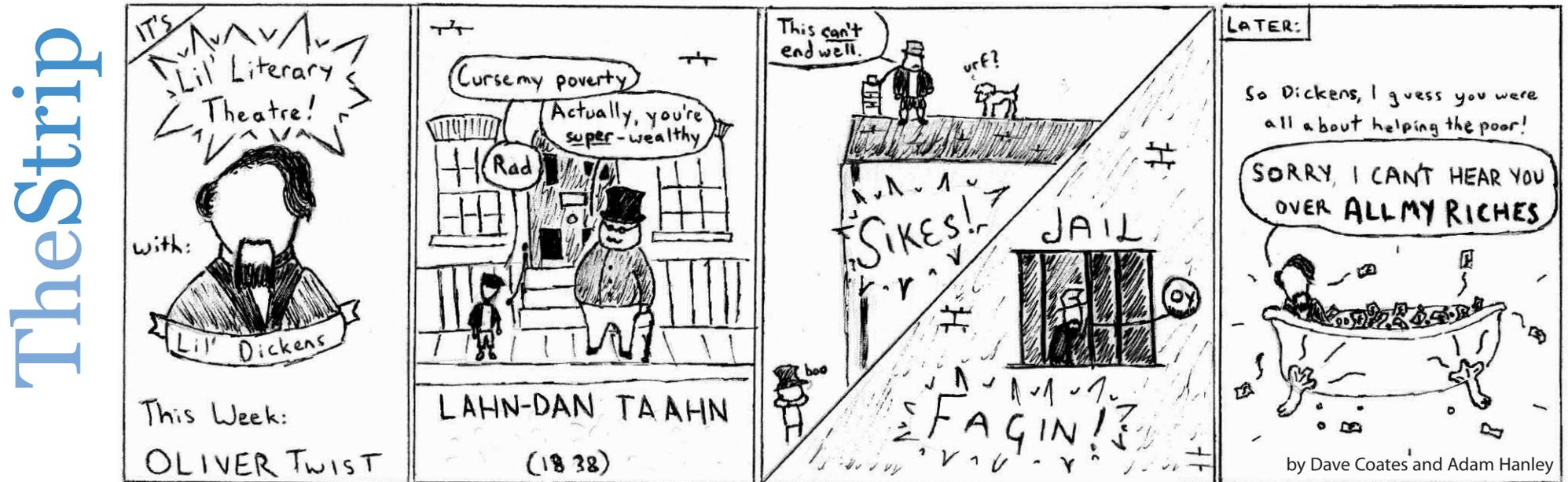
An 'Agony Uncle' is supposed to give advice on a reader's agony. In this instance, the agony is all mine, what with the recent devastating typhoon in Burma and the hideous violence in Tibet, people all around the world attempting to sabotage the Olympic Torch relay the message to them Communist Capitalists in Shanghai that Tibet is not China's back garden.

What with the credit crunch, which has rendered our future into a somewhat bleak and austere period it is hard to tolerate such an irrelevant and inordinate way of implying how privileged you are. Not only to have food available at any moment's notice, but you have the time to complain, showing me that you are lazy and your priorities are predicated entirely yourself. No wonder your housemates do not relish sharing with you, you sound awful.

I'll cool my righteous indignation from now on, for the readers of a jaunty student newspaper feature have no interest in my opinions on international political controversies. I only mention them to juxtapose them against your pointless complaint, no one cares and no one certainly wants to know about your predicament either.

Nevertheless, 'what should I do' you ask? York is a very small and pleasant city which for many years has welcomed people who sell food, drink, clothes, hell they will even sell you all of them at once in a cocktail if the price is right. They do this business in shops. Go to one which specialises in food, handover money in exchange for food and you are half way there. Although they are reprimanded for tax evasion, fixed price collusion and other palatable business models, supermarkets will provide you with all the food you need. Walk there, take a recyclable bag with you to carry your food and return from whence you came and eat.

Your 'stash of pot noodles' indicates to me that we are peddling the well worn student clichés, so another few cannot hurt: what with your student loan and affluent parents financing your excessive drinking and partying at (insert local York nightclub here for familiarity's sake, thus giving the reader something to relate to), you can take that money and buy food from 'Efes Kebab', that quaint institution of haute cuisine. As for pasta, aside from eating it, you can make fetching jewellery with added glitter (from them shop places) and PVC glue, make sure you have an adult supervising you at all times kids.



by Dave Coates and Adam Hanley



## Almost Overheard

DAN, a student, enters a gun shop in York. the OWNER, who has a thick Yorkshire accent, is on the phone.

OWNER: ...Well, if he kills himself with it, I don't want to be stood there holding the baby. Yeah.

DAN: Excuse me?

OWNER: Sorry mate I've got a customer. Yeah, cheers. Bye. *(Puts phone down)* How can I help you?

DAN: *(With extravagance)* Hello good sir. I am interested in procuring a small handheld firearm.

OWNER: Can I ask what it's for?

DAN: *(Striking a pose)* The theatre!

OWNER: Right.

DAN: Not a real one. It just needs to look good and make a bang.

OWNER: Well I've got this standard 20 mil cap gun. It's a starter pistol really, but it looks real and makes a hell of a noise.

DAN inspects the gun.

So what's the play then?

DAN: It's a dystopian satire set in a totalitarian Britain. It tells the story of two young morticians caught up in a terrible conspiracy.

Pause

OWNER: Do you want a bag with that?

DAN: Yes please.

OWNER: That'll be £16.

The OWNER gives the gun to DAN in a plastic bag and DAN turns, then stops.

DAN: I'm... not going to get arrested for this, am I?

OWNER: Arrested?

DAN: I mean carrying this thing around isn't a crime is it?

OWNER: It's a cap gun, not a pound of heroin.

DAN: Ha! Heroin! Very good. But seriously, is it legal?

OWNER: As long as you don't run into a bank with it I think you'll be fine.

DAN: You said it made a loud noise. How loud are we talking?

OWNER: Well I wouldn't fire it next to your ear or anything.

Pause

Something wrong?

DAN: Oh no, no! Nothing is wrong. I just... I think... It's heavy isn't it? *(Laughs nervously)*

DAN fidgets for a while and then gives the bag to the OWNER.

OWNER: You don't want it?

DAN: No no, I want it. I just, I don't... Do you have any knives?

OWNER: Knives?

DAN: I've changed my mind about the gun. I don't think the play even needs one.

OWNER: Are you alright?

DAN: I'm fine!

OWNER: Do you want a refund for the gun? I can swap it for a knife of similar price.

DAN: What a splendid fellow you are. The OWNER gets a knife from a cabinet and gives it to DAN. DAN inspects for several minutes and gets increasingly nervous.

OWNER: You okay? You look pale.

DAN: I'm fine, fine. Splendid in fact. Just admiring this weapon. This, lethal blade.

Pause

DAN: It's very sharp, isn't it?

Simon Maeder

# DeFacebook

Profile edit Friends Networks home sweet home account privacy? never logout



Karis's Wall-to-Wall with Antonio Perdedor

Karis's Profile

Displaying posts 1 - 20.

1 2 3 Next

Go to Karis's profile | Go to Antonio's profile



Antonio Perdedor (York UK) wrote at 11.51pm on April 23rd, 2008

Hey Karis! You back up in York yet? Shame we didn't meet up during the holidays, you sounded pretty busy though. Cute profile pic by the way!

A x



Antonio Perdedor (York UK) wrote at 9.57am on April 25th, 2008

Wow, Ziggys was messy last night. Didn't see you out though - and I know Ziggys is your favourite! So I'm guessing you're not back up yet. Hope everything's cool. We should catch up soon. What's your timetable like this term?

A x



Antonio Perdedor (York UK) wrote at 1.32pm on April 26th, 2008

Hey Karis! Last night when I was walking back from the library I thought of you. I was looking at the Shell garage and I remembered that time when we stopped and talked there for AGES last summer. You remember? It was such a nice day and you were wearing that really cool skirt. Remember? Hurry back up to York!

A x



Antonio Perdedor (York UK) wrote at 3.51am on April 27th, 2008

God I'm bored. Hope you don't think I'm being weird. I've been on Facebook a lot, writing on loads of people's walls. Everyone seems to be busy when I'm free. Can't wait until lectures start, then we can all hang out on campus and stuff. Unless of course you're ignoring me! Hahahaha...only kidding! Yeah?

A x



Antonio Perdedor (York UK) wrote at 5.37am on April 28th, 2008

Look, I don't appreciate you not replying. It makes no sense, we've been such good friends since that night you accidentally came to a FragSoc social and now you're acting like I'm some kind of psycho stalker? I'm not a fucking stalker, it's fucking arrogant to think that everyone fucking fancies you. You're not even that hot, Jake only slept with you because you're easy. So fuck you. I don't want to catch up. I never want to see you again.



Karis Barnes (York UK) wrote at 10.32pm on April 30th, 2008

Hey Antonio. Soooooo sorry I've been away from Facebook, haven't even really had time to read your messages. It's been mad! I know my best pal Tony won't mind though!

Coffee?



Antonio Perdedor (York UK) wrote at 10.36pm on April 30th, 2008

That'd be cool.

A xxx

## Mothership

To: Flurg a

Date: th

Flurg,

I don't want to write much today because I am very hung-over; Garry took me out clubbing last night.

Clubbing is a social activity generally undertaken by students and young humans as an alternative to going to bed early. Basically, humans

who are already in a relationship go to bed early to practice recreational mating, and humans who are still looking for a partner go clubbing. A hangover is the natural aftermath of clubbing, and its symptoms are similar to cholera and amnesia.

In most cases clubbing is not a pre-planned activity. Toward the end of a standard social outing one member of a group will spontaneously suggest visiting a club rather than going home. A vote must then be taken. Intoxicated humans always advocate clubbing and sober humans always advocate going home. Therefore, if more than 50% of a group are already sufficiently intoxicated clubbing will always win.

Because clubs are such popular venues for social interaction after midnight they have very long queues. At the end of the queues are creatures called Bowncerz which resemble large, bald humans. It is the job of Bowncerz to guard the doors of the club and

to intimidate the male humans, while complimenting the female humans on the skimpiness of their garments.

Inside the club a variety of techniques are employed to subject the humans to sensory deprivation. The light sources are dim, infrequent and multi-coloured so that the humans cannot see clearly.

A strong smell of beer and sweat is pumped into the atmosphere so that the humans cannot smell anything else. Finally, a thunderous sequence of bangs and clicks called 'dance music', is emitted by large sonic amplifiers so that the humans cannot communicate verbally. At the bar a complex series of gestures is used to indicate the drink one requires, however the success rate is only 60%.

An area known as the 'dance flaw' is the site of most initiations of human mating rituals. A game is played whereby the heterosexual females and homosexual males

attempt to attract the attention of partners by moving in synchrony with the 'dance music'. The homosexual females and heterosexual males stand around the edge of the 'dance flaw' watching the ceremony and drinking as much as possible as fast as possible.

A human known as a DJ (Demon Jukebox) is required to keep the 'dance music' seamless until near the end of the evening. Shortly before the club closes the 'dance music' is replaced with 'cheese music' such as television theme tunes and one-hit wonders. At this point the humans who have found a mate try to take them home, and the drunken remainder jump up and down for ten minutes before the Bowncerz forcibly expel them from the building. I was in the latter group.

Signing out, Blarg [Human name: Robbie Birchall.]



# Mr Brown's secret island

Tourist destination or tax haven, insular community or island retreat, **Henry James Foy** talks to the man in charge to discover what the Isle of Man is really all about.

It is Monday morning in April. Two Mr. Browns sit in their respective offices as leaders of their respective countries, and assess their schedule for the upcoming week. One is facing the prospect of an economic recession, constant challenges to his leadership and the largest deficit in opinion polls for decades. Life is not great for Gordon. For Tony, life is a little different. As the sun streams into his warm office, Tony Brown - Chief Minister of the Isle of Man - who has driven through rolling fields and past blue seas to work this morning, looks out of his first-floor window, surveying the street below. "People here have a good quality of life," Brown suggests, with his customary smile. "We are very lucky, those of us who are able to live here. That's my view!" he proposes.

Brown is not your typical head of government. He may hold an almost identical title, wear a similar suit and tie, and attend alike meetings to his similarly-named counterpart in Westminster, but little else. Devoid of party politics, internal factions and an embittered opposition, the Chief Minister of the Isle of Man is a relaxed, good-humoured man who is thoroughly enjoying his job.

"It's challenging, it's exciting, it's a great honour. It's really quite interesting to have the ability to influence our

future, but with that comes considerable responsibility," he offers. It has been almost 18 months since he was appointed after the island's December 2006 general election, and he is enjoying the role: "It's good fun. I mean, it's hard work. It's great meeting people from all walks of life."

Brown was elected during the media circus prior to Tony Blair's departure from 10 Downing Street and Gordon Brown's subsequent ascension to the role, which caused some confusion among non-resident Manx voters. "I had constituents studying London, and when I sent manifestos down to them, other college students couldn't get over that there was a Tony Brown, a Tony Blair and a Gordon Brown. People say 'Oh, you must have a bit of both,'" he jokes.

No British Prime Minister has ever had any power over the island. Although it was 'purchased' by the British Crown in the 18th Century, it was never amalgamated into the United Kingdom, and as a result receives no funding, nor heeds to any demands from the British Government. Neither does the island receive benefits from, or make contributions to, the EU. The island is, however, a Crown Dependency, under the official control of the Queen, voluntarily paying a contribution to Britain for defence and common services.

When Brown was born in 1950, the island's population stood at just over 50,000, and reliance upon shrinking agriculture, fishing and tourism industries was leading the island into economic decline. As employment dropped, immigration

just below Mauritania, and comfortably above North Korea and Sierra Leone. On the per capita list, however, it sits slightly above the UK. Currently, the island's population stands at just over 80,000. For comparison, in 2001 the population of York was just over 180,000.

While the low-taxation regime has undoubtedly boosted the Manx economy, Brown is eager to assure me that the island does not tolerate illegal tax-dodging. "There are still misunderstandings about the Isle of Man being a tax haven. We are a low tax area to the UK, just like the UK is a low tax area to Europe," he emphasises. "We don't agree with tax evasion or avoidance, and our record has proven that."

Instead, Brown prefers to attribute the island's successes to its unique political situation, and the abilities that brings. "Different is good. If the Isle of Man was part of the UK, I expect it would be very depopulated. It would not be very logical to the UK to have an island populated by 80,000 people. They could not make the differences that we make to encourage business here," he says. "We see ourselves as the main player in the British Isles as an offshore jurisdiction. Our survival will be very much dependent upon how good we are at creating climates to encourage business to be done and managed through the Isle of Man."

---

"People here have a good quality of life," Brown suggests. "We are very lucky, those of us who are able to live here."

---

ground to a halt and people began to leave the island. When he entered the House of Keys for the first time in 1981, the first measures had been taken to ensure its economic future. A 1979 agreement with the UK allowed for the recuperation of VAT receipts, Protocol 3 of the UK's 1972 Treaty of Accession to the EU grants the island special trade abilities while remaining outside of the EU, and the all-important tax rates had begun to be set below those of the UK.

In the years since, the island's economy has swelled as a result. According to the CIA World Fact Book, the island's GDP, at \$2,719 million, ranks around 150th in the world,

It is certain that independence from the UK has contributed immeasurably to the island's dramatic economic revival, but Brown keenly stresses the common ground that the two countries share. "We are very active in playing our part in the British economy and way of life. We are Manx and proud of it," he offers, sweeping his arm across the office, "but we are very much a part of the British Isles, and what it does. We can do both, it doesn't cause a problem."

For Manx students with university aspirations, however, both the island's non-EU status and position outside of the UK do create a number of difficulties. Tuition fees, for example, are almost three times greater than for students from inside the EU, and Manx students are not eligible for student loans. Fees, however, are covered by the government, which also distributes grants to poorer students.

"We will send our students to anywhere in the world. We have students in Europe, the Americas, Australia and the UK," says Brown. Footing the annual bill for the approximately 1,250 students that leave the island to study every year, however, does not come cheap. Last year's budget allocation for university support stood at £11.5 million. However, in the last financial year, a total of £99.5 million was set aside for the Department of Education, representing over 18% of the £538 million budget. For the same period, the UK government earmarked only 13% of their budget for education. "It's very expensive, but we believe that educating our young people is very important," says Brown. It is evident that the opportunities afforded to young people are paramount to the Chief Minister: "We know that about 40% of our students don't come back to the island, but we bother because we think that it is important to invest in our young people." Brown, who does not hold a degree, appreciates the benefits of off-island study: "There is a lot of merit in our students going off the island. They get to meet other people, see a different way of life, and it breaks the point of only being on the Isle of Man."

This is not to imply that life for young people on the island is perfect, as Brown admits. "The Isle of Man has its problems like any country," he states when I question him about the rises in drug and alcohol-related incidents amongst young people on the island. "We do endeavour to thwart drug importation. We have to accept that we are potentially vulnerable in the middle of the Irish Sea, but we are successful in combatting it," he counters. Damningly for Brown and his ministers, a March 2008 study by the Positive Action Group found that a quarter of island residents were binge drinkers, and labelled the government's drinking strategy "a disaster". This came only a month after island Home Affairs Minister Martyn Quayle admitted that "almost one in three A&E admissions of young people was because of alcohol."

Forever the patriot, Brown defends the youth of the island: "The vast majority of our young people are fantastic. They want to get on with life, they want to enjoy themselves. They work hard, they are good citizens. They get involved in sport, music and the arts. We have invested in that." But life for young people on the island can lead to alcohol or drug abuse. Breeshey Harkin, head girl at one of the island's six secondary schools, feels that young people sometimes find the island quite cramped. "Although it's a great place to

grow up, at times it can be a bit suffocating. There isn't a huge amount for young people to do over here, and entertainment is definitely limited," she says. In the Facebook group 'you know you're Manx when...', the information varies from the useful 'You say you're going "across" when you leave the island', to the painful 'You don't need

---

**"A lot of people in the UK say it must be great to live in a place where there aren't pressures, where life is a lot easier."**

---

"Friends Reunited" to find the people that you went to school with. You just go to Douglas on Friday night."

Brown and I discuss the strange reputation attributed to the island among some non-residents. Its eccentricities, communal nature, unusual history and isolated position have provided a mix of factors that commentators have found too tempting to pass up.

Food and television critic A.A. Gill caused uproar amongst local residents when he described the island as "a bit like the Falklands, except that nobody wants it back" in his Sunday Times column. Gill went on to write that he had taken his children there, as he thought it "important they get an idea of cultures that are different from their own and see remnants of a life that vanished from the rest of Europe decades ago."

These comments came after a similar onslaught from Gill in January 2006, in a review of Manx restaurant Ciapelli's. In it he described the island as "the last seriously draconian wee country left in western Europe," and one of "a few places in the world that have managed to slip through a crack in the space-time continuum, or fallen off the back of the history lorry to lie amnesiac in the road to progress." Gill also stated that "only reluctantly and recently have [island residents] been forced to give up public flogging and hunting homosexuals with dogs" and outlined the "competitive drinking and wife-swapping that makes up rural culture." He ultimately gave the restaurant a very positive review.

The backlash was swift. A BBC feature by island resident Howard Caine described the comments as a "ribald mix of public school boy wit, [with] cheery disregard for factual accuracy," and labelled the Sunday Times Style magazine, in which the review was published, "a sort of 'Beano' for the over thirties." CRONKY, commenting on the website manxforums.com, preferred the more direct attack: "Well, it's happened again. That twat AA Gill has written another offensive article in the Times."

Brown, naturally, is more diplomatic when asked about the comments. "I think it's obvious he didn't really know what he was talking about. If he had taken the time to research the island, he wouldn't have made those statements. We are not draconian, we are very democratic. We are very accessible to our people."

The Chief Minister constantly refers to both the island and the Manx people as 'we'. Born and raised on the island, and a life-long resident, he is proud of what it has to offer: "We are different to the UK, but we are a very rural community. Is that a criticism? A lot of people in the UK say it must be great to live in a place where there aren't pressures, where life is a lot easi-

er." He tells me that a group of British MPs are visiting the island today, and that they are enjoying the slower pace of life on the island "Their reaction is that it's like stepping back in time. We are a modern and diverse economy, but the feeling of life over here is very relaxed," says Brown.

Brown is not the only person to commend the Manx way of life. Actor Patrick Swayze reportedly stated while filming on the island: "I love it. It is a magical place and people have been really nice." Jeremy Clarkson, who recently purchased a second home here, affectionately described it as "a thorn in the side of Tony Blair's nanny state", assumedly with reference to its lack of national speed limit.

But surely, I ask, does he not recognise the potential benefits for people to break free from the island? "There is a danger of being too insular, and a benefit for people going off-island," he says. He is an accomplished traveller himself; saying that travelling has "broadened [his] outlook on life." Brown also cites York as one of his preferred places for a break. "York is one of my favourite places; I've been on holiday many times there. One of my likes is heritage, so I just think York is a fabulous place, the way that it has been retained," he says.

Notwithstanding his love of history, Brown is a man who is very focused

on the future. Many island residents are concerned about the financial bubble bursting, but Brown is excited to talk of bigger and better things. An island of 80,000 may not be the most predictable place for an international player in the space industry, but that means nothing to Brown. "We are in the space industry, in feeding funds through the island and managing them here. We are involved with satellites that go into space, and have worked with NASA and the International Space Agency," he says, "they see the island as one of the few governments that is positively promoting and supporting the space industry."

As my time with him comes to an end, Brown is amused to hear of Mad Captain Tom Scott's unpredicted victory in the YUSU Presidential Election. "That's politics for you," he states, with a knowing smile. In similar fashion to Scott, and unlike his London namesake, Brown had no intentions of taking his current role. For a man who never intended to run a country, the Isle of Man – with its healthy economy and relaxed attitude – might just be the best place for Brown to govern. "We make good decisions, we make decisions that some people aren't happy with. Someone has got to make them. All I ever do is what I believe to be right," he surmises, before laughing, "They all say that don't they?!"

**Left: The island enjoys a warm, sunny climate. Below: Brown relaxes in his meeting room.**



# Learning behind bars

What is it like trying to study in a jail cell? **Nicky Woolf** talks to people on both sides of the bars to uncover the gritty realities of learning in a prison classroom

“We have one very serious rule in here,” I am warned as I settle myself down. “We don’t talk about what people are in for. Whatever they’ve done...” She puts heavy emphasis on ‘whatever’, then pauses, to stress to me the importance of this point, “...whatever they’ve done is not relevant in this room.”

The room is pleasantly furnished, arranged in a rectangle and filled with the lightly-padded chairs and the generic rectangular tables you find in classrooms and seminar rooms everywhere. In fact, the only sign that this is not just any classroom anywhere is the big, ominous bars on the windows.

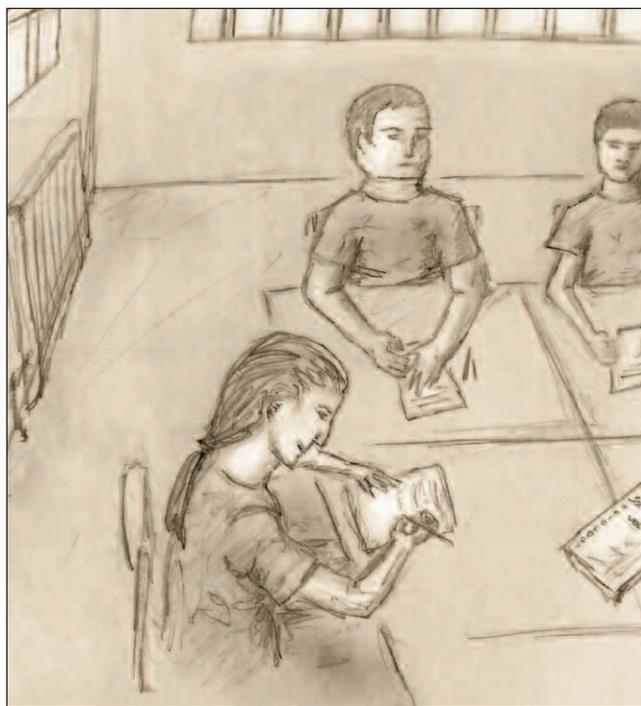
I thought I had come to HM Prison Hull to meet Fi, one of the tutors here, and to sit in on one of her humanities classes. It turns out that this is not to be entirely the case. “What’s your lesson plan then?” Fi asks me at the door with the faint suggestion of a grin, adding that I “shouldn’t be nervous.” Do I look nervous? “They want to know about you, too,” she tells me. “They’re curious.”

I am fairly apprehensive as the students file in, but they put me instantly at my ease. I introduce myself, and explain what I’m doing, and they are almost overwhelmingly eager to respond, to interact, to have their voices heard. Jim\*, an intelligent and energetic Londoner with dreadlocks, tells me that Hull Prison is one of the best places to be in offender learning. “You’re seeing the real cream of the crop”, another student cuts in, and there is a general murmur of agreement. I ask why.

Firstly, I am told, this class is what are called ‘VP’s’; “Vulnerable Prisoners”. This means that those I am sitting in the classroom with today are those who are separated from the “mains”, the mainstream prisoners, for various reasons. “They could be paedophiles or sex offenders, or high-profile grasses or informers”, Daniel Vulliamy, from Hull University’s Centre for Lifelong Learning, who helped set up the education system at the prison, told me. “Any people who need protecting”.

Marcus, a man in his early fifties sitting opposite me, leans forward on heavily tattooed arms. “VP’s tend to move around less than Mains, which allows us to concentrate much better on our studies,” he tells me.

“There’s no consistency between



“It was really nervewracking. Suddenly here am I, going back every night to a prison, and yet all day I was teaching”

prisons,” agrees Bob, the skinny guy to my left. “There’s not even any consistency between wings, in some places.”

Jim, the Londoner, started the seminar sitting apart from the class but, interested in the direction the conversation is taking, is now leaning against the window near where Fi is sitting. “I used to be in Dartmoor,” he says “and it was a lot worse than here. I used to order books, right...” Here Marcus interrupts, waving at massive Sociology textbook. “See this book?” Jim shoots him an annoyed glance, and Marcus backs down with exaggerated rolling of his eyes. There are grins all round the classroom. “Settle down,” says Fi, almost fondly. Jim continues his story. “I ordered the textbook. And it’s expensive. When your week’s wage is a tenner, you have to save up a long time. But they wouldn’t give it to me. Claimed security reasons. That’s what they can just do, any time. If they say ‘security’, there’s nothing you can do.”

“If there’s a security alert,” Fi adds,

“then the whole teaching block gets shut down. Nothing happens for the rest of the day. Rest of the week sometimes, until they give the ok.”

Hull’s education system, I’m told, is unusually strong. Driven by a series of fairly progressive governors, as well as a partnership with Hull University, Hull Prison has been the recipient of several pilot schemes for offender learning. As well as allowing inmates to do Open University degrees, it also teaches the UFA, a modular foundation course that Hull University offers.

Most VP’s are doing longer sentences, often for ‘crimes of passion’, or very serious, one-off offenses, are less likely to be ‘career’ criminals, and are more likely to have prior education. Due to their protected status, they tend to spend longer in one prison, as their isolation is expensive to maintain in transit. Mains prisoners are a very different story. Back in the class, I hear about students who find themselves with a one year sentence, or less, who spend less than a month in any one prison before they are moved on.

Jim has a theory. “Each prison is run separately,” he tells me. “There is no real unified system. There isn’t even and similarities in security levels. This is a C-cat prison, but it’s got higher security than some B-cat’s I’ve been in, and even some A-cats. It’s a fucking joke... In Dartmoor, they said I couldn’t have a PS2, because they said I could connect it to wireless networks. I said, ‘listen mate. I am a network systems engineer. I am telling you, a PS2 cannot connect to a wireless network even if there was one, which there wasn’t. And in my last prison, it was allowed, so it’s not like it’s illegal.’ It’s a fucking joke.”

Marcus leans forward again. “I’ve seen prison officers who can’t even add up,” he says, with an air of superiority. There is general assent at this. “And then we’re here, doing degree-level stuff. I think they resent it. Not all of them, by any means, lots of them are very supportive; but certainly a few.”

Later that week, I get a call from John Hirst, who taught himself law during his 25 years in prison, and has won several high-profile cases on prisoner rights, including winning the vote for inmates in the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in the case of Hirst vs United Kingdom, 2005.

Hirst, a grizzled 57-year-old with a mischievous grin, is a man who used

his time in prison to take education by the scruff of the neck and then use his new-found knowledge to fight the system. When I arrive at his house in a grey suburb of Hull, I am first welcomed by the attention of his friendly but irrepressible Black Labrador, Rocky, with whom I am to share chocolate biscuits with. The ceremonial splitting of the biscuits complete, I ask Hirst for his story. “I started a life sentence 1980 in Winchester, though I was convicted in Reading,” he begins. “They asked me, ‘which route do you want to take through your life sentence?’ and I said ‘education’. But they then denied me education for 10 years.” On what grounds, I ask. Hirst laughs. “On security grounds. They said that they believed that I would use education for subversive purposes.”

As it turned out, that is exactly what he used his education for. “You can’t beat the prison system with violence, because they just use more force against you. I’d already had that experience; that had been my way. But if you can beat the prison system by using the law then obviously you know it’s a powerful weapon... If they recognise that you’ve got intelligence then they actually fear you. It turned out that the prison system feared me more for my lawful pursuits than they ever did for my unlawful pursuits.”

“Certainly the education, prison education helped me,” he tells me, pausing to help me defend my second biscuit against Rocky’s enthusiastic attentions. “Hull prison had an education-based special unit, which was ideal for me, ‘cos I did want to do education. So I studied there. Ron Cooper, who was the education officer, was good as gold. He’s not your run of the mill prison education officer. Most of them just go through the motions, whereas Ron really believed in educating prisoners. So that’s basically where I got my education... My whole period at Hull special unit was a turning point in my career.”

Daniel Vulliamy had introduced me to Graham, and I met him that weekend. A mild man in his late thirties, Graham served nine and a half years for attempted murder and fraud, and during his sentence he took courses in Technology, Environmental Studies and Business Studies from the Open University. He then took a teacher-training course at his local college while living in an open, or



Category D, prison, and is now teaching A-level Business Studies at the same college.

I ask him what it's like teaching after having learned in a prison environment. "At the early stage it was really nerve-racking," he tells me. "Suddenly here am I, going back every night to a prison, and yet all day every day I was teaching these kids. It was really quite surreal. If they knew what it was all about..." He pauses. "You know. Obviously I wasn't teaching in a class on my own, I was a trainee teacher, but it was quite surreal, and very challenging as well... I love it now, I really do," he smiles. "It's better than a life of crime, that's for sure..."

Like Jim, Graham had also spent some time in Dartmoor, though he actually found the strictness of the regime helpful. "That was the best grades I ever achieved. Dartmoor has a very rigid routine, a very structured regime, and there's a lot of lock-up. Consequently, all you could do was study. Some days it was 23 hours a day. You're entitled to one hour of exercise a day, and that's it. And you think, 'I'd go stir-crazy if I didn't have my studies.'"

I am getting the impression that education in prison might be more than just some way to pass the time. Is there something addictive about it? Graham believes there is. "You send off

a tutor-marked assignment and it comes back and you've got a good mark and you can't wait to send the next one off... You look forward to it coming back, you want to know how you've done. And off you go and you do the next one. It's that continual ongoing addiction. You do become addicted to study, I think."

John Hirst, and Graham, have found their niche since leaving prison. Unfortunately, a lot of people don't.

---

**"You get all these places saying 'we're equal opportunities employers', but when it comes down to that, they're clearly not."**

---

"There's an awful lot of guys and women who do very well in education but they can't get a job on release," Graham, who is on the board of the Prisoners' Education Trust, which is licensed by the government to help prisoners fund higher education, tells me.

"A lot of it is to do with the introduction of the disclosure act, meaning that you have to declare that you've been in prison. There's an awful lot who drift into casual labour, rather than do

**\*Certain names in this feature have been changed to protect identities**

anything more education-based."

One of these is George. An amiable 39-year-old with a thick Hull accent, he served two and a half years of a five year sentence for the possession and supply of ecstasy, speed and cannabis, and the possession of cocaine. While in Hull prison, he began a Sociology course, and subsequently was accepted to Hull University to finish his course when he was released.

"I never really had any self-belief at school'n'that," he tells me over coffee. "The lecturer that was there, Ron Cooper, and another guy called Bill gave me the belief, and a lot of the other lads as well, that we could study at this level and achieve at this level... Obviously, when I got out, I'd changed, which I put down to the education. It changed my outlook on life."

Daniel Vulliamy helped George to find his place at Hull University. When I met him in his office in the Centre for Lifelong Learning, he tells me about George's experience. "The nice thing was the feedback from the other students. They said that as an ex-con, he had a range of experiences which might have seemed quite limited to him, because he was stuck inside these walls all the time, but to them, to the students, it was outside their world. It gave him some perspectives and angles that he was able to share with them in

class that they found useful, and appreciated." He pauses. "And he was a supplier, and an addict, and he's neither now. But he can't get a proper job either."

George is certain that he is being discriminated against. "I had tried for two or three jobs and been knocked back, and so I saw a job going in a local call centre and I went for it... I was hoping, you know, that I wouldn't be there for very long, neither. I just looked at it as a bit of a stopgap, really. And yeah, I got the job. Three years on, I'm still there. And it isn't for the want of trying for other jobs... They just come out with one excuse after another."

He has no shortage of evidence. "I've had other people denying that they've actually spoke to me before. I've been told 'just give it another year, you know, another year you've been out of prison, and then apply again,' and I've rung back and talked to the same person a year later and he denied having any conversation with me. I had someone say to me that a lot of their clients have or have had substance abuse problems, and I'd have a ready-made clientele if I wanted to start dealing again. Which is just absolutely mad," he splutters, obviously outraged, "because to put myself through all that and this that and the other, and... y'know..." He spreads his arms desperately; "if I >>

was going to start dealing again I'd... I'd have done it by now; I wouldn't have done it through like looking for a job, know what I mean. It's just absolute madness. You get all these places saying 'we're equal opportunity employers', but when it comes down to that, they're not. They're clearly not."

At several points during our meeting, George is almost overwhelmed by emotion. "I've been out of jail five years now, and I thought somebody might have given me a chance by now, but they haven't. I just don't want it to have been all for nothing, because I feel like I've got so much to offer, you know?"

"There's others at the call centre that are at university, or just using it as a stopgap, and they get their degree and within a few weeks they've gone off to a better job. I get continually questioned, 'why are you here', 'why are you still here', and I have to make excuses up. I feel that I shouldn't have to, but at work nobody knows my past, apart from a couple of people that I've come to know really well. I don't like lying to people, I don't like hiding things from people, but there's a lot of people at work who just wouldn't understand. 'Once a prisoner, once a con, always a con,' that sort of thing... I just feel gutted. Really gutted that I've got so much to offer and nobody'll give me the chance to offer it. And if nobody gives me that chance, it'll have all been for nothing."

His eyes brim with something approaching tears. "I did me time. I've obviously worked hard to reform myself and to come out to be a valuable member of society and to put something back rather than just taking all the time. But I've been out five years and I feel like I'm still being persecuted in society for a mistake I made all them years ago. That's all people want to look at, 'oh you did something wrong'. They don't want to see 'oh wait a minute, he's done something to try and put it right'. So yeah, I don't know where I go from here now. I really don't. I try so hard."

The media image of the convict has changed fairly little in the last few decades. They still seem to be pariahs, even after they have served their sen-

tence. A quick trawl of recent tabloid headlines confirms this. On the introduction of a 2007 prison scheme to allow prisoners to lock their own cells - not from the prison officers, but from each other - the Daily Mail hysterically commented: "Thousands of prisoners are being given keys to their cells in the latest farce to hit the criminal justice system." With an unpleasant sneer in its tone, it continued: "They can roam in and out virtually at will under a scheme designed to give them more 'respect and decency'."

Despite this, the class when I see

**"Justice doesn't come into it, and trying to reform people doesn't come into it. There's too many people living off the system."**

them are all confident that their education will still not only give them a better chance at a new start when they get out, but make their time inside bearable as well.

I ask them how the system could be better, and have to scribble to keep up with the response. A national curriculum for prisons is generally accepted to be the most important thing; almost all of them have had their education inconvenienced or interrupted in some way by being moved about from prison to prison with vastly differing regimes.

Then they begin to talk about the lengths of people's sentences. All of them are in for a fairly long time, but they have all seen the negative effects that a shorter sentence can have. They are convinced that short custodial sentences, two years or less, are damaging.

Graham, with his experience with PET, sums up the problem. "Somebody who's been sentenced for two years for example, he will serve a year, so if he spent a little bit of time on remand, he arrives in prison, he's assessed, and they say 'we'll put him on a basic skills course'. So then there's a waiting list of maybe three or four months... by the time he does anything at all he's a good

halfway, three quarters of the way through his sentence. The course might be 6 months long, and he can't fit that in. The guy's doing a year in prison, and yet he cannot get on the ladder to do any form of education... You get people saying 'he should be locked up, he shouldn't be studying, how come youngsters outside can't get college places and yet these guys who've done these horrendous crimes are getting the best of education?' But nine times out of ten, the guys who keep on coming back to prison all their life are the guys who can't read or write."

The class has another theory. "They've got to tick their boxes, yeah?" says Mike, a tall, thin man with jet-black hair in a bowl cut, in a slow, considered voice. "So when you go to a new prison, which is pretty often in some cases, it might not matter where you'd reached in your course before, they'll make you do the basics again. So you've ticked the boxes, yeah?" Marcus cuts in. "There's no continuity. None of the prison departments talk to each other."

Hirst is much more candid. "It is a business. Prisoners come in, and it's like a revolving door, they're coming back out. Prison officers living off prisoners, you get psychologists, doctors, people like that living off them. The builders that build the jails, shops that surround the jails. The whole thing is actually a business, and it has to keep going on. Justice doesn't come into it, and trying to reform people doesn't come into it. There's too many people living off the system."

I ask him for an example. "Some places, when you come out, they give you two weeks money when they know you're not getting any dole for three weeks," he tells me. "So what are you going to do for that last week? Most fall down, go out screwing again, say 'well, I can't afford to do anything else', so they fall back into that trap... It's easier to end up back inside than stay out."

I am told that there are places where the guards have bad attitudes when it comes to education. "They want to see us banging out numberplates. They think education is a privilege," says Mike.

I ask the class if there is a self-esteem issue at the root of why education is so important for them, and there is overwhelming agreement. "When I come here, I don't feel like a prisoner," sums up a quiet, fairly young student with short blonde hair, who hasn't spoken much so far. Everyone nods.

Daniel Vulliamy has more. "I can think of a student who gave a particularly fine account. He was a Barnardos boy, an orphan. He was in trouble and in an approved school, and a borstal, and in the borstal he worked with animals, found he had a real knack with working with them, and he liked it a lot. So then in prison some ill-humoured placement officer said, 'we've found the ideal job for you. You're good with animals, Johnson, we're putting you in the abattoirs.'"

He laughs bitterly. "So his job was to kill the animals. And he spent probably the next 25 years of his life as a criminal, mostly dealing in drugs, and more than half of that time in being prison for it."

He continues: "He's now up to his fifth or sixth year of a part time degree in Social and Behavioural Studies, having started inside Hull prison. Education has completely changed his life. He's involved in various projects to help ex-offenders when they come out and try to make sure they don't reoffend, just by giving them support... I

think he's a magnificent tribute to the power of learning to change people's lives."

I called Ann Creighton, chair of the PET, whose remit is to promote offender learning throughout the criminal justice system, to ask her how the system works. "For education above A-levels, since the Learning and Skills Councils took over operational responsibility in 2005 there has still been no decision as to where higher education sits. At the moment those operational and policy matters lie with the Learning and Skills Unit. My trust holds a contract with them to provide 800 open learning courses, OU courses, in prisons in England and Wales... Everything else that is provided in prisons has to be provided either through the vagaries of charitable funding or prisoners have to pay for it themselves."

Creighton is infectiously passionate about education. "Our prisons are full of people with loads of potential. People come into prisons thinking they're stupid, thinking they lack self-confidence, and something clicks sometimes and they begin to grow, and they begin to find all sorts of interesting things to do..."

"There is evidence that the higher the level of education people get, the less likely they are to reoffend," she continues. "A piece of non-scientific research we did showed a very interesting result. We took 437 people that we had funded to do a course, and who had completed it, and we asked the Home Office to keep their names. That was about December 2003. Early in 2006 they looked to see how many people had reoffended. They only found 377, but of those people only 25% had been reconvicted compared with the current level of about 57%. That is a huge indication of what education can do. Of course people who do distance-learning are self-selecting, they are often people doing longer sentences, and are less likely to offend again. All I can say is that this is a very clear and powerful indication, and there should be more research done."

It's clear that offender education is important, but it seems there is a problem with the national mindset when it comes to convicts, both institutionally and generally. Hirst is certain that this is the case. "They just turn round and say, 'our children can't get this kind of free education, so why should prisoners get it?' It's a very outdated attitude, and a very wrong one. The thing with education: If you sunk more into it, you'd get a lot less reoffending."

I ask Creighton what improvements she'd make to the prison system. "I would like to see a period of stability... I reckon I could run this entire trust on what's been spent on changing the headed notepaper in the last ten years, the number of changes there've been... I'd like to see government policy based on proper, long term research. I'd like to see fewer people sent to prison, and much less of the revolving door process, and I would like to see that prisoners, like in all societies everywhere, are treated as whole people, and not each bit."

She pauses, then chuckles. "If that doesn't sound too horrendously idealistic. And, I think it's a complete waste of time sending anybody to prison for less than 2 years."

One thing is certain: A lot more attention needs to be given, and a lot more money spent, before the system works. Before that can happen, there needs to be a sea-change in the attitudes people have towards prisoners.



# TRAVEL EUROPE

YOUR GUIDE TO SUMMER



SUMMER WEEK FOUR

# TRAVEL EUROPE

## Contents



**Best of the Euro fest**  
>T2

**A Yugoslavian journey**  
>T3

**Carbon offsetting**  
>T3

**EUROPEAN GUIDE:**

**Austria to Germany**  
>T4-5

**Iceland to Ukraine**  
>T6-7

**The top 10 of travel**  
>T8

**Your summer, your voice**  
>T8

**Lonely Planet competition**  
>T8

**Venetia Rainey**  
Travel Editor



**“T**he traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see.” G. K.

Chesterton's quote sums up for me what real travelling is all about: going somewhere not with a strict plan or itinerary in mind, but rather with a desire to see, experience, and understand as much as possible.

My mother is the absolute worst for planning out every second of her holiday; from sights to see to places to eat, very little is left to chance. I blame guidebooks for a large part of this irritating tendency. With so many to choose from, and with all providing seemingly exhaustive lists of everything that every destination in the world has to offer, it is hard to resist the temptation to read ahead and form day by day plans in your head. The result is hundreds of blinkered, backpack-toting, camera-clutching figures gliding through streets, noses buried in books, furiously muttering under their breath about grid-references and page numbers.

Don't get me wrong, guidebooks definitely have their use. For practical information on even the most obscure places and often life-saving maps, a guide is exactly what you need when stuck somewhere wondering when that bus is next going to come, and whether you can even afford it. Just try not to forget the liberating power of exploration. Try that slightly grubby

looking restaurant that isn't given a mention; making your own discoveries is what travel is all about. Plus, any listings or entries are mostly only representative of a single person's opinion; a deeply boring museum for one person can be the starting point of a passion for another.

This supplement is an attempt to inspire rather than instruct. From the features to the guide, hopefully you can find something within these pages to fill those long summer weeks. We have also chosen to do an exclusively European travel supplement (rather than one on the world) to encourage people to open their eyes to what is right on their doorstep.

Europe is a vast continent; geographically, socially and politically diverse beyond belief. From the icy lakes of Scandinavia to the classical gourmet of the Mediterranean; from the wholesome Bavarian heartiness of the Germanic world to the giddy political landscape of the Balkans, Europe still possesses the power to surprise and entertain. Just because it's close doesn't mean it should be written off, and just because you think you know what to expect, doesn't mean you're right.

It is also ridiculously cheap to get to, and even cheaper to enjoy once there, if you know where to go. All of which make for the perfect student traveling ground. Accordingly, every entry in the guide attempts to point the reader in the direction of destinations you might not normally consider, or even have heard of, and all on a student budget.

So go explore, and remember the immortal words of Saint Augustine, "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."

# Best of the Euro fests

## >EXIT Festival

Created by three students in 2000 as a protest against then-despot leader Slobodom Milosevic, EXIT now draws over 200,000 visitors to Novi Sad in the north of Serbia. The festival location, an imposing 18th century fortress rising above the majestic River Danube, is hard to beat. Crossing the Vorodin Bridge at sunset with thousands of others is an experience, but the most impressive sight of the entire festival is the Dance Arena from above: a seething mass of over 50,000 people filling the old fortress's moat. It's no wonder EXIT has just been voted Europe's best festival.

Concentrating primarily on promoting dance music, this year's line-up includes Primal Scream, M.I.A., Manu Chao, and The Hives.

**Henry James Foy**

EXIT is from 10th - 13th July 2008. Tickets are available from [tickets.to/exit](http://tickets.to/exit) for £72 which includes a four day festival pass. Camping passes cost £14. More info at [exitfest.org](http://exitfest.org).

## >Festival Internacional de Benicàssim

Think sun, sea, palm trees, cheap beer, clean toilets and showers, and good music. Over nine days, the sleepy Spanish coastal town just north of Valencia transforms into an energetic hub for international festival-goers. Acts start at 8pm, and continue right through the night until the early morning, with the day set aside for recovering, swimming and sunbathing. It's basically one long, sweaty beach party: the best way to bring in your summer.

Celebrating alternative indie and electronica music, some of the artists lined up for this year include Hot Chip, Jose Gonzalez, Gnarls Barkley, Mika, Babyshambles, Sigur Ros, The Kills and Leonard Cohen. Remember your sun cream and the one key phrase: 'Una cerveza por favor'.

**Esme Anderson**

Benicàssim is from 17th - 20th July 2008. Tickets are available from [lastminute.com](http://lastminute.com) for £137, which includes all three days of the festival and 10 days of camping. More info at [fiberfib.com](http://fiberfib.com).

**From top to bottom: fans cheer in their masses at EXIT; happy campers at Benicàssim; Oktoberfest's funfair is illuminated by night**

## >Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is truly a festival of consumption. Six and a half million people over 17 days manage to drink over nine million litres of Bavarian beer, eat half a million roast chickens, one million sausages and 53 roast oxen.

The site is open to everyone and has roller-coasters, ferris wheels, arcades and seven tents exclusively serving beer. Get there early or you won't get a table, and you won't be served if you are stood up. Be warned as the beer is cheap, sweet and very strong. It won't really hit you until you're stood on your bench singing along to the big band and embracing this incredible Bavarian experience.

Beer is not the only thing on menu, however, as the 14 large tents provide everything from crossbow competitions to traditionally prepared suckling pig meat (soaked in beer).

**Simon Maeder**

Oktoberfest is from September 20th - October 5th 2008. The festival is free for all. More info at [oktoberfest.de](http://oktoberfest.de).



# TRAVEL EUROPE

## A means to justify the ends

**James Smallwood** on his journey through ex-Yugoslavia; from the easy bliss of boating around Croatia to driving through the gritty, recovering lands of Kosovo

JAMES SMALLWOOD

I've always thought there was something tragically mysterious about Yugoslavia. For our generation, its predominant connotations are of grey tower blocks, oppression, war and genocide. Yet the ever-increasing offshoots of former Yugoslavia are fascinatingly unique and distinct from the rest of Europe, combining communist drabness with the grandeur of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, all in a countryside that changes from Alpine to Aegean in just a few miles. My journey took me through six of the seven independent states that have progressively emerged during the last 15 years, travelling over 700 miles by train, bus, scooter, boat and even camper van.

Fittingly my first destination was the old heart of federal Yugoslavia: Serbia's capital, Belgrade. The midday train from Budapest was scheduled to last a mere few hours. Trains in Eastern Europe, however, are something of a lottery. Occasionally squeaky new as the result of sporadic investment, they more often than not feel like Gorbachev himself might have last updated them. So when I discovered that my train originated from Austria, I was flooded with relief. But, as frequently occurs in the world of backpacking, it wasn't to be. The only spare seats were in the smoking section, and on top of that, the air-conditioning quickly surrendered under pressure from the blazing Balkan sun. Soon, hordes of red-eyed and exhausted revellers from the EXIT festival flooded the already full train at Novi Sad, adding a smell of stale beer to the cigarette haze. As the train wound through open farmland, past ramshackle huts built before communist times, and over the mighty Danube, I was transported to pre-smoking ban Ziggy's, bringing for the first time that journey a small smile to my lips. Finally, several hours late, we pulled into the city once ruthlessly bombed by NATO, and now more famous for its hedonistic nightlife.

My next destination was Sarajevo, Bosnia. An unexpectedly ragged and mountainous country, the terrifyingly narrow and twisty roads made for an interesting experience. Even my two veteran travel companions, toughened by four months travelling in the South American Andes, winced as we embarked on near suicidal overtaking manoeuvres round blind corners and hair-pin bends. Nevertheless, the views were stunning (possibly sharpened by the adrenaline); the tragedies of the country's recent past temporarily hidden by a tapestry of mountains and

forests. History was far less compromising in Sarajevo. Bullet holes were splashed across building faces, "Sarajevo Roses" marked shell and grenade craters, and the large, new graveyards were impossible to ignore. Despite this, the city is living and breathing again, now a fascinating and vibrant place where churches sit peacefully next to mosques, and an atmosphere of quiet determination pervades.



**Above: the paint-filled street craters named "Sarajevo Roses"; right: the Croatian island, Korcula**

This couldn't contrast more with the two Croatian islands I found myself on next. Hvar has recently been given the dubious accolade of being the 'new St. Tropez'. Korcula, meanwhile, has one of most "fun" hostels I've ever stayed at. Both have medieval town centres to match Tuscany's finest, Caribbean blue sea water, and countryside primed for scooter-bound exploration. Inevitably, a stay of a few days turned into almost a dozen.

Fortune continued to smile upon me. I hitched a ride to Montenegro, the newest country in the world, with some new-found friends whose final destination was India. The purest and simplest joys of travelling came together for me in that journey: new friends, completely random plans, and fantastic views, all rolled into that one drive.

As I continued with my journey, visible signs of poverty began to dramatically increase. I was now heading to Prishtina in Kosovo, a country ruled by Milosevic until only a few years ago. It was completely different to anything I had seen on my trip so far. The city felt more Asian or North African than European, with minarets dominating the skyline and local kebab sellers blithely ignorant of the McDonald's effect. UN armoured trucks were parked on the pavements and there was not a single tourist to be seen. Yet just as with Sarajevo, there remained a quiet but tangible feeling of hope and a resolve to forge a national destiny free from the perceived tyranny of Serbia.

My final stop was Macedonia, reached through more heart-stopping

mountain roads in a bus easily twice my age. The lowlands of the country seemed by comparison to teem with prosperity, only serving to highlight the effect of the recent troubles in Kosovo on ordinary people's lives there.

Skopje, Macedonia's capital, was the perfect final destination. It wasn't pretty, it didn't boast world-renowned cultural relics, and its nightlife barely stood up to that of York's. Yet it was real, a far cry from the tourist traps that cities like Prague have become. It was gritty and frayed at the edges, but the people drinking at cafes or eating ice cream in the streets were locals, not drunken Britons. After all, you travel to see different places and people, not your compatriots in a sunnier clime.

I found it hard to imagine these starkly different and proudly individual nations as one united country less than 15 years ago. Crammed into one corner of the Balkan peninsula, the geographic and cultural diversity of such a small area was staggering. Travelling through the region was often challenging, sometimes disheartening, and occasionally plain heart breaking, but it was also consistently rewarding. I would recommend it to anyone through with the banality of monotonous, Anglified summer destinations; anyone ready for a real journey.



### CARBON OFFSETTING

Andrew Purcell

When booking your holiday you will probably be given the opportunity to opt in to a carbon offsetting project. Your instant reaction might be to tick the box immediately, persuaded by vague notions of environmental responsibility. But are offset schemes really aimed at alleviating the problems of climate change, or are they just to assuage our guilty consciences?

Carbon offset schemes involve calculating the amount of carbon dioxide produced by a given activity, in this case a flight, and planting enough trees to compensate for this. This is not, however, the panacea that airlines and offsetting companies would have you believe.

It is a myth that all forests are net sinks of carbon dioxide. Whilst tropical forests do tend to absorb more carbon dioxide than they emit, there is clear



evidence that this may not be true for forests at higher latitudes. For roughly half of the year deciduous trees are without leaves and therefore actually emit carbon dioxide. Recent research published by the Hadley Centre has shown that, because the 'albedo effect', forests decrease the amount of sunlight reflected away from the earth, leading to an increase in global temperatures. Scientists have also recently discovered that forests emit almost a third of the world's methane, the most harmful greenhouse gas per molecule.

Do not misunderstand my argument. The overall effect of planting trees is almost certainly a positive one. Its effect, however, clearly isn't quite as positive as one might suppose. That said, there are ways

in which you can ensure the money you give to offset your travel emissions is used effectively. A growing number of offset companies are buying up existing areas of rainforest to prevent their future destruction. This is not only good for the global climate, but also for the forest ecosystems. The most effective programs concentrate on developing renewable technology in developing countries. EasyJet's Perlabi Hydroelectric Project in Ecuador is one such example.

If you do offset your flight's carbon emissions this summer, and I really do implore you to do so, then take the time to think about what carbon offsetting scheme you are giving your money to. Tip: projects endorsed by the non-profit organisation, 'The Gold Standard', all meet the criteria of the rather more stringent Kyoto Protocol.

# TRAVEL EUROPE



## AUSTRIA

**The low down:** Austria's Tyrolean capital, **Innsbruck**, was put on the tourist map for its hosting of the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. However, this is the least magnificent of the city's boasts. From a bustling but aesthetically pleasing city centre featuring traditional medieval architecture to chic and vibrant wine bars; this is the Alps at their best. Sample the delicious local cuisine whilst admiring arguably the most picture-perfect snow-capped mountain setting offered by any European city.



**Getting there:** Return with Easyjet to Innsbruck from £75.

**Where to stay:** Hotel Weisses Kreuz, (Herzog-Friedrich-Strasse 31) is £25 pp/pn for a double room.

**Three of the best:** >Visit the Alpenzoo. With more than 2000 animals of over 150 species, and an idyllic location, half-way up a mountain, this zoo is worth a visit, even if only to witness the spectacular views and enjoy the frighteningly steep funicular ride to reach it. Adults cost £5.50, students £4.

>Splash out and treat yourself to a luxury a la carte dinner at the Sporthotel Igls Restaurant. Winning numerous awards for its cuisine, the restaurant also boasts panoramic views over Innsbruck from its enviable location on the top of an Alpine mountain. Expect to pay from £25 per person for a 3 course dinner.

>Visit the Swarovski's extravagant Crystal World, the lavish birth-place of undoubtedly the world's most famous crystal makers. Be greeted by an opulent crystal fountain, and explore the bizarre interactive crystal art exhibitions, including the world's largest crystal. Guaranteed to dazzle. Adults go in for £7. **Emma Ronicle**



## FRANCE



**The low down:** **Bordeaux** makes smoking sexy again. Maybe it's the sunlight, but everything in this city has that continental "je ne sais quoi" that makes you almost ashamed to be British. It's not hate, but jealousy that leaves us enthralled in a self-loathing love affair with our closest neighbours, which this city will turn into an obsession.

**Getting there:** Flights with Easyjet from £60 return to Bordeaux.

**Where to stay:** The cheap and cheerful Hôtel Studio (€28.56 private twin with en-suite, pp/pn) is in an excellent location.

**Three of the best:** >Rise late and indulge yourself in the most chic meal of the day, brunch, at Pain & Cie, for only €19 for two. It arrives with a delicious selection of pastries, croissants, chocolate spreads, jams, cured meats, salads and juice.

>Wander through this Escher painting-esque architecture, a triumph of mathematical design and symmetry. Sip an iced tea in the Place Pey-Berland and meditate on the sombre Cathédrale Saint-André. Find the golden virgin cradling her baby on its top, Michael Jackson style, against the blue sky.

>La Cale Sèche rum bar is the perfect proof that there is more to Bordeaux than wine. The pirate style tavern will

shiver your timbers with flavoured rum for €2 per shot, poured from multi-coloured balloon shaped containers. **Gina Heslington** \*\*\*\*\*

**The low down:** The capital of the Cote d'Azur, **Nice** showcases the architecture of the Baroque era in a vibrant cosmopolitan city centre. The climate is warm all year round, with a sea breeze keeping the city pleasantly cool even in summer. Although it's the fifth largest city in France, Nice retains a distinctly village feel due to its fairly small size.

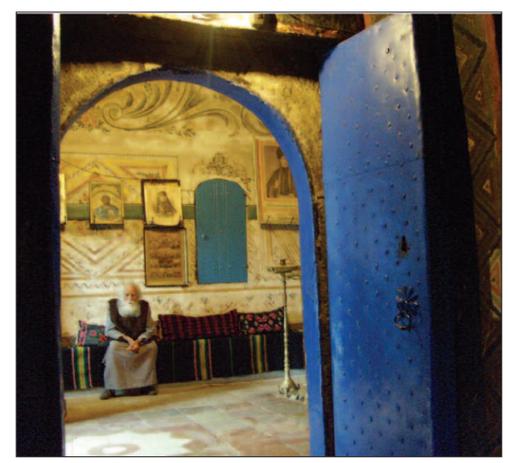
**Getting there:** Flights with Easyjet from £60 return to Nice.

**Where to stay:** Hotel Normandie - £170 per person per week (double room & breakfast), 18 rue Paganini

**Three of the best:** >The food, unsurprisingly, is divine. Le Barque Bleue, a superb little seafood restaurant on the port, is just one such example. Watch your food being prepared in front of you by the French owner.

>Ville Franche is a 20 minute bus ride along the coast, a tiny town with beautiful buildings, a discreet beach and great cuisine. It costs €2 for a return bus.

>Monte Carlo is another ten minutes down the road - home of the Grand Prix. It is so grand and ostentatious - even the outside of the casino is imposing. **Lucy Coleman**



## BULGARIA



**The low down:** Bulgaria is a country on the brink, set to take off as one of the future tourist destinations. It is cheap, and bursting with snow capped mountains and golden beaches. The capital itself, **Sofia**, has very little of its Ottoman history intact, however its bustling street life and flea markets make it easy to savour the character of the city, especially at night. Roadside pizza stalls make for cheap but delicious street food.

**Getting there:** Return with Easyjet to Sofia from £50. A bus to Veliko Tarnovo will cost £10 for a return trip.

**Where to stay:** Hostel Mostel in Sofia (Makedonia Blvd.) will set you back £7 a night for a shared room.

**Three of the best:** >One must-see is the Boyana church, at the foot of nearby Mount Vitosha. It is a tiny 10th/11th Century building decorated with some of the oldest frescoes in the world, dating back to 1259. Unlike most other UNESCO sites, you will find this place absolutely deserted. There is a slightly randy old man (harmless, but ladies be careful) who can be found smoking behind the church. For a small tip, he will let you into the church and show you around.

>If the weather is damp and overcast in Sofia, then you can be sure that the sun is shining brightly on Mount Vitosha. A trip up Bulgaria's most famous mountain can give some quite impressive views, but without a car is quite difficult.

>A nearby visit, the old capital of **Veliko Tarnovo** is brimming with history, and the perfect place for a couple of days of mooching. Dominated by an ancient fort, its horse-drawn carts and barely navigable streets make the city appear to languish in the 19th century. **Rebecca Chalk and James Townsend**

## CROATIA



**The low down:** **Rovinj** is an idyllic, Mediterranean town situated in northern Croatia on the Adriatic Sea.

**Getting there:** Return flights with Alitalia from £130. Then take a bus for £10 through the stunning mountains of Slovenia to Rovinj, which takes about 2 hours.

**Where to stay:** Camp at Porton Biondi. Even though it's a slight walk from the hustle and bustle of Rovinj (around 1km), it is situated within a forest right by the sea, and has fantastically clean facilities all for a very cheap price: £7 pp/pn.

**Three of the best:** >The best thing about Rovinj is its coastline, abundant with secluded coves and surrounded by 22 islands, all of which are National Heritage sites. Steal away for a day of sun-bathing, swimming between islands in the blue sea and dolphin spotting. Hiring a boat to drop you off and pick you up in the evening can easily be done for just £9 a day.

>Get active and rent a bicycle (£5 a day). Cycle through the Zlatni Rt Forest Park and then along the coast to discover your very own beach. If you still have energy, the nearby Golden Cape, once a marble quarry, is a fantastic place for free-climbing.

>Nightlife is sparse, but cheap. The main nightclub, Monvi, is host to international DJs on Fridays. If massive clubs aren't for you, head to some of the smaller bars up in the old town, such as Zanzibar or Havana Club. Here you will find student priced drinks, good music and lax closing times. **Esme Anderson**



## GERMANY



**The low down:** **Munich** is one of those rare cities which manages to successfully intermingle 21st century cosmopolitanism with an obstinate, proudly Bavarian charm. Hidden right in the heart of Europe, the city's various (often vacuous) fashion boutiques sit nonchalantly next to powerful Gothic architecture at every turn of this compact cultural maelstrom. Its unashamedly giddy mixture of cultural, sporting, shopping, dining and, of course, drinking pursuits offers a revitalising alternative to the well-trodden hedonistic route of Europe.

**How to get there:** Flights with Easyjet from £50 return.

**Where to stay:** The Meninger City Hostel (Landsbergerstrasse 20) has rooms from €48 (private) or €12 (shared).

**Three of the best:** >The famous Hofbräuhaus (Platzl 9) is not so much a stunning location to savour some refreshing Bavarian brew like the delicious Löwenbräu Beer, but rather the epitome of the local lifestyle and the guardian of the region's traditions. Visit during the early evening to sample some quintessential folk entertainment.

>Taste the local cuisine at the trendy Augustiner am Dom (Frauenplatz 8), an al fresco restaurant in the imposing shadow of the Frauenkirche and tucked safely away from the bustle of adjacent Marienplatz. Specialities include Weißwurst mit Süßem Senf (white sausage with sweet mustard - pictured) and Schweinebraten (pork chops). Finish with some Apfelauflauf (apple cobbler).

>Newly-refurbished, the sweeping futuristic architecture of BMW-Welt (Am Olympiapark 1) is a shrine to the local motor manufacturer, comprising an interactive museum and factory tour, within a stone's throw of the multitude of Olympic Park attractions. Festivals and concerts take place here during the summer months. **Adam Shergold**



## CZECH REPUBLIC

**The low down:** In South Bohemia, 80 miles from Prague, lies the town of **České Budějovice**. Unlike Prague, this town is yet to be hit by British tourists and remains relatively unknown. Therefore, the restaurants serve genuinely local food, having not been subjected to an invasion of westernised fast-food establishments; the architecture remains unspoilt; the price of accommodation is reflective of its quality and, most importantly, at 60p a pint, the food and drink remain cheap.

**Getting there:** Return flights with Easyjet to Prague from £40 per person. Buses from the central bus station run 3 times a day to České Budějovice. It takes 3 hours and costs £7.

**Where to stay:** The old town is best for accommodation. Penzion Centrum (Biskupská 130) offers doubles for £15 pp/pn.

**Things to do:** >Take a tour of the Budweiser Budvar Brewery (České Budějovice's own beer, which is now enjoying worldwide acclaim). The British-speaking extensive brewery tour costs £4 per person. Afterwards, stay for a beer and a meal at their beerhall; the beer is crisp and the food is plentiful.

>Take a day trip to the picturesque neighbouring town of České Krumlov. There is a regular bus service to this fairytale city running from the central bus station.

>Enjoy a night with the locals at Masné Krámy, the city's 14th century beerhall. Built in the reign of Emperor Charles IV, this beerhall still provides beer and Czech cuisine to a predominantly local clientele. Tourists are still warmly welcomed with a smile and the occasional group song. **Emma Ronicle**



## ESCAPING PRAGUE

Luke Geraghty

Prague for many students is associated with two things: cheap food and even cheaper beer. Although Prague is a city of vibrancy - from the bright ochre and yellow colours of the photograph-friendly buildings by day, to the pulsating reds and blues of the slightly raunchier side-streets by night - it can be hard to see past the depressing effects of the rising British stag and hen night culture.

If you wish to explore the other side of the Czech Republic, then heading out of the city (via Hlavni Nadrazi train station) is a good idea. The bloodthirsty amongst you might consider heading out to the Sedlec Ossuary in Kutna Hora, approximately an hour away. A chapel furnished with human bones from around 40,000 bodies, Sedlec also features a grisly chandelier consisting of every bone found in the human body.

For the gun-toting of you there is an AK47 and M16 Shooting Trip from pragueexperience.com with prices from £46 and up. You will be picked up and taken to a range where you can vent your rage by firing off bullets into the wilderness and even relax with a pint afterwards.

# TRAVEL EUROPE

## ICELAND



**The low down:**

Often referred to as the land of volcanoes and hot springs, the most isolated of Nordic countries also has a population smaller than that of Wales. Despite its name, Iceland experiences much warmer weather than other countries at a similar latitude. **Reykjavik** is the world's northernmost capital and is an eclectic mixture of Scandinavian and North American culture, resulting in its unique and eclectic character. The birthplace of Sigur Ros, Eider Gudjohnson and Bjork, this is an Edenic land of contrasts and surprises.

**Getting there and where to stay:**

Being so isolated, flying to Iceland is not a cheap option, with most return flights costing from £400 up. One of the best options is the travel package route. Although this dredges up images of tourist-laden, Benidorm-esque resorts, it also happens to be one of the best ways to see this amazingly diverse country. Poor infrastructure and sparsely populated areas mean that to see the best (often the most secluded) sights, one needs transport, and preferably an Icelandic-speaking driver, both of which are provided by a package deal. Regent Holidays offer five nights for £580 for two people. This deal includes direct flights, 4\* accommodation in Reykjavik, and visits to some of the most exquisite attractions on the island.

**Three of the best:**

>Reykjavik International Film Festival (RIFF) is an annual festival occurring in late September, and this year's festival promises to be the largest yet. Lasting eleven days, the emphasis is on both Scandinavian film-making and productions from over 30 other countries, offering both an Icelandic and international flavour. New for 2008, there will also be a side project on music in film.

>Geologically, Iceland has oodles to offer. The Blue Lagoon is a naturally occurring geothermal spa; its steamy waters are part of a lava formation and can get as hot as 40°C. Bathe in its mineral-rich waters whilst nourishing the skin with a face-mask of the local volcanic mud. The Golden Circle is a series of mind-blowing natural sights, such as Strokkur, one of the few, regularly spouting geysers in the world (every 15 minutes, so you're guaranteed to see something), and Gullfoss, a natural waterfall twice as high as the 2006 tsunami wave.

>If you want to learn more about the history of the country, a visit to Perlan ('the pearl' in English) is a must. Reaching heights of 25m high, the exhibition centre also offers sensational panoramic views. It contains over 17 well put together exhibitions about the Icelandic sagas and has a CD tour available in English.

**Ruth Morris and Sian Turner**



**Three of the best:**

>Although there is no pumpkin carriage from Sintra station, bus 434 comfortably carries visitors up the steep hill to marvel at the Palácio Nacional da Pena. The younger and more charming of the two palaces, it will instantly cast aside memories of its ugly sister, the Town Palace at Sintra's centre. Enjoy the stunning views from its many turrets and onion domes. The magic about the place can only be enhanced by inexpensive wine, so stroll down to the palace gardens with a pre-purchased bottle or three.

>Adventurous souls will find the lure of the Moorish castle ruins well worth the challenging hike. Follow the winding stone pathway along a mountain top before disappearing into the clouds. For those wary of breaking glass slippers, horse drawn rides can be taken, but at €60 a trip, it's best left to royalty.

>If you're looking for your Prince Charming, you can get your beer goggles on in the livelier bars along Rua das Padarias. The locals are friendly, just watch out for frogs.

**Gina Heslington**



## PORTUGAL

**The low down:**

Walking into **Sintra** is like walking into a Grimm's fairytale. Hidden atop a lush forested mountain with cobbled streets and birdsong, you half expect Cinderella to appear around the corner. Formerly a summer retreat for the Kings of Portugal, this earthly paradise is now accessible to peasants and students alike. It is classed as a UNESCO world heritage site, and day trippers flock on the train from near-by Lisbon.

**Getting there:**

Flights with Easyjet to Lisbon from £60 return. Train from Lisbon to Sintra: 45-minute trip, £1.50 return.

**Where to stay:**

The Two Squared Hostel is an conveniently economical and central place to rest weary feet, with private rooms from a mere £15 pp/pn.

## POLAND



**The low down:**

Poland is an increasingly popular option for students, as you can easily have a great trip on a tiny budget. Having mostly escaped from war time destruction, **Krakow** dates back to the seventh Century, and possesses both the largest medieval market square in Europe and some of the most atmospheric drinking holes on the planet. Although fast becoming the new Prague for stag and hen nights, for the moment, at least, it remains charmingly inept at the tourist game.

**Getting there:**

Flights with Easyjet to Krakow from £25.99 return.

**Where to stay:**

Krakow has no shortage of cheap beds, with private facilities from as little as £10 pppn. For a quieter place to stay, 'Trzy Kafki Plus' offers twin ensuite rooms with shared kitchen facilities from £15 pp/pn.

**Three of the best:**

>Instead of the usual open-top bus tours, try a golf-buggy, available starting from the Market Square (Rynek Główny), throughout the day for around £4. With your own tour guide/driver, they're a great way to get around the smaller streets, but become a little terrifying when you find yourselves on the road with nothing more than a plastic sheet between you and the rush-hour traffic.

>The ghostly remains of the vibrant Jewish community, awash with crumbling Synagogues, can be found in Kazimierz, providing a both fascinating and haunting stroll through Krakow's outskirts. Schindler's List was filmed here in the early nineties, and with Auschwitz concentration camp just a few miles out of the city, this is history at its most heartbreaking.

>Alchemia Bar (Ul Estery 5Pl Nowy) is lit exclusively by candelabra and a few scattered candles and it is notorious for its potent mulled vodka. Get drunk in good East European style, and make sure that, whatever else you do, you eat some dumplings.

**Alamy Scott and Zoë Stones**



# TRAVEL EUROPE

## SPAIN

### The low down:

It is best to arrive in **Santiago de Compostela** at night. After the sun sets, the winding streets suddenly swell with students from the Universidad de Santiago, as well as with older couples and families enjoying the evening air. You might be tempted to go straight to your hostel, but your fatigue is nothing compared to that of the hundreds of thousands of people who end their gruelling "Way of St. James" pilgrimage here. Considered the third holiest Catholic city (after Rome and Jerusalem), as well as being a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city has everything great about Spain - tapas, cathedrals, and rich history - combined with the palpable passion of people who come from all over the world with a purpose beyond tourism.

### Getting there:

Santiago is linked to the main Spanish cities by train but Easyjet flights directly to the city cost £40.



### Where to stay:

Meiga Backpackers is a well-rated hostel located right in the center of Old Town, close to the Cathedral and the nightlife. Beds start from £11. The city caters to the pilgrims, so there is plenty of very cheap housing, perhaps more than in most other European cities.

### Three of the best:

>At night, the pale green moss that covers the Cathedral (pictured) glows in the dark, and makes the cathedral look even more beautiful than in the daytime. If enjoying it in the daylight, sit in the plaza and take it in instead of paying to go inside, as it's not worth the entrance fee.

>In the afternoon, take a tour around the city (they usually leave from the fountain at the main square behind the cathedral). They shouldn't cost more than £10, and give you a great overview of the history of the city and the origins of the pilgrimage. Since the city centre is quite small, they are not too tiring either.

>Don't miss the performances of traditional music at the main theatre: they're cheap at only £7 and unforgettable.

**Fernanda Diaz**



## ROMANIA

### The low down:

Stalin liked **Brasov** so much that he even emblazoned his name Hollywood-style on the side of Mount Tampa. Nestled into the Transylvanian mountains, Brasov tempts most visitors with its traditional architecture, gothic "black church", and medieval fortifications. It is also worth, however, seeking out its more recent history. The bullet marks from the anti-Ceausescu riots in 1989 are still visible on many of the towering communist apartment blocks.

### Getting there:

Return flights to Bucharest with British Airways costs £177. A train to Brasov takes two and a half hours and costs £6.

### Where to stay:

The Kismet Dao Villa Hostel, tucked in the medieval Schei quarter, is an easy and safe stroll from the centre of Brasov Dorms from £9 pppn, with free beer provided.

### Three of the best:

>If you want to see the 'real' Romania, it is worth taking a bus ride through nearby Saecle, a series of collectivised villages. Be careful though, being conspicuously non-Romanian may make the journey somewhat interesting!

>Dracula buffs can find the small hill where the historical Dracula, Vlad T'pesh, impaled his victims after defeating the city. "Dracula's Castle" (pictured) in Bran is also accessible by regular buses.

>The Sergiana (Muresenilor 22) serves both traditional and modern Romanian food in a maze of "olde worlde" cellars.

**Rebecca Fox**



## SERBIA

### The low down:

Now is the time to visit **Belgrade**. Still emerging from recent conflicts and communist rule, Serbia's capital may not be Europe's most aesthetically pleasing city but is almost untouched by tourism and offers an array of unusual sights and a unique nightlife.

### Getting there:

British Airways flies to Belgrade from approximately £60.

### Where to stay:

The perfectly positioned Green Garden Hostel also offers a shady garden for relaxing. Prices from £10.50 pp/pn.

### Three of the best:

>A visit to the Kalemegdan fortress is a must, especially for the views over the city where you can see the con-



fluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers etched into the surrounding landscape.

>The military museum housed in a section of the Kalemegdan fortress contains artefacts from NATO actions against Yugoslavia in the 1990s, including cluster bomb shells, depleted uranium ammo, and graphite bombs. The uniforms of dead soldiers with blood still on them are displayed, as trophies.



>A series of barges on the river act as the city's night clubs. Essentially floating marquees, beer costs a mere 25p a pint and you can feel the planks of the boat vibrating under your feet to the beat of the music. Escape the dance floor for a breath of fresh air on deck, complete with views of Belgrade lit up at night. Steer clear of the first barge: as soon as they realise you are foreigners they instantly up the entrance fee.

**Helen Citron**

## UKRAINE

### The low down:

Located in western Ukraine, a part of Europe that has changed hands too often to remember, **Lviv** reflects this mixed blend of cultures. Rare for the former USSR, the city was untouched by World War 2, leaving the ancient next to the socialist in one sweeping skyline of contrast. Lviv is certainly a city on the rise. Knighted as "next up on the list of hot new Eastern European destinations", for those bored by the stag parties of Prague, this summer is the perfect time to visit. Three Euro 2012 group matches are due to be played here, so development money is flowing in, with new hostels and bars aplenty.

### Getting there:

This is tricky. As yet, none of the no-frills airlines fly to the Ukraine. It's therefore best to incorporate a visit as part of an Eastern European trek. The city is well connected to nearby urban areas, with regular cheap trains to Romania, Poland, etc. For the very brave, buses are cheaper, but roads are notoriously potholed.

### Where to stay:

The Norwegian owner of Lviv Backpackers' Hostel is excessively anal about noise and mess, and prone to

having domestics with his Ukrainian wife in front of all the resident travellers. However this place offers a good location, the best shower I've ever seen in a hostel, and a chilled out garden for meeting fellow wanderers.

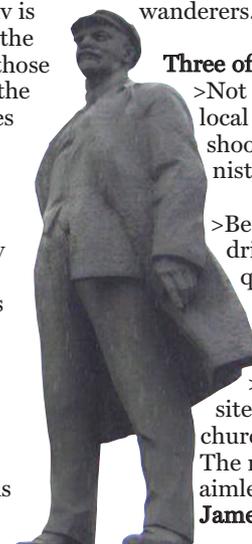
### Three of the best:

>Not for everyone, the above hostel runs trips to a local "sports" complex where you can practice your shooting skills with that symbolic tool of communists and revolutionaries the world over: the AK-47.

>Be a student and indulge in some of the cheapest drinking this side of the Urals: buy large bottles of quality vodka and still get change from a fiver. Plus, the beer is cheaper than Coca-Cola. Seriously.

>The Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a beguiling mishmash of cobbled alleys, church towers and wide, Parisian-style boulevards. The rustic atmosphere makes the streets perfect for aimless wandering, camera in hand.

**James Smallwood**







# Something sexy to bring on the summer



## Trailer Happiness Grog Trailer Happiness, London

40 ml Dark Rum (I like Pussers)  
20 ml Spiced Rum (Sailor Jerry's)  
15ml Lime Juice  
30 ml Apple Juice (not concentrate)  
30 ml Mango Purée  
2 Dashes Bitters

**How to make it:**  
Fill a shaker with ice and add the above ingredients. Shake vigorously for roughly 10 seconds before straining into a highball glass (or indeed a hollowed pineapple or coconut if you are really that keen) which is filled with ice. Garnish with a couple of pineapple spikes.

Trailer Happiness in Notting Hill has obtained a somewhat legendary status on the British Cocktail scene since its establishment. By rejecting the old school, Savoy inspired approach to the mixed drink and opting for a kitsch Polynesian theme instead, Trailer Happiness really did something completely unique in a market so saturated with profit-crazed and soulless cocktail establishments. Do not be fooled by the casual atmosphere and tongue in cheek décor, the people behind the bar are really at the top of their game. This recipe was kindly donated to us by the bar team and if you are lacking the ingredients to replicate the original potation, I do certainly recommend stopping by if you are in the area.

## Jonathan Fransman's Pimm's Cup

350 ml Pimm's  
75 ml Gin (Hendrick's Cucumber gin)  
1000 ml Lemonade  
300 ml (roughly) Ginger Ale  
25 ml Framboise (optional)  
Summer Fruits  
Cucumber slices

**How to make it:**  
Though by no means essential, an excellent way to make Pimm's is to let the fruit sit in the alcohol (though only the alcohol) for a few hours prior in order to infuse the spirit with the taste of the fruits and vice versa. After this fill the jug with ice (the more ice the less dilution) and add the non alcoholic ingredients before, if you have it, floating the Framboise on the top.

The traditional Pimm's cup is, much like our unfortunate lingering distaste for our continental counterparts, a quintessential component of British culture. Pimm's was created in 1823 by James Pimm, an oyster bar owner in the city of London. Though marketed as a "secret recipe", the drink is gin-based with the addition of various herbs and spices, including quinine. My recipe is a slight twist on the standard Pimm's cup with the addition of a few slightly unusual extra ingredients. Hendrick's is a cucumber and rose petal (seriously) infused gin and Framboise is a raspberry liqueur which compliments the fruit.

## The perfect summer Gin and Tonic

Gin of Choice;  
Hendrick's Cucumber  
Tanqueray No.10 with Grapefruit  
Martin Miller's with Cucumber/Lime  
Plymouth with Orange  
Tonic

**How to make it:**  
Fill a highball glass with ice. Rub the appropriate garnish around the rim of the glass and drop in. Add the gin and tonic in whatever ratio you see fit.

The perfect G&T is somewhat of an oxymoronic concept. What makes the perfect G&T is as hotly a debated topic in some circles as the conflict in the Middle East and the value of the welfare state. Fortunately, there is some common agreement. First and foremost the drink must be piercingly cold. The more ice you put in your drink the slower it will melt and turn your state of the art G&T into nothing more than a sloppy, vulgar mess which you wouldn't even want to offer to the most troglodytic of house guests. Gins to try include Hendrick's (see the Pimm's recipe), Martin Miller's - which is lighter and quite perfumed - and Plymouth, which is slightly more full bodied than the others and the only gin available on the market to hold an appellation. Also, try to use cans rather than bottles so the tonic doesn't go flat.

## The Faithless, Mal Spence, Rick's Bar, Edinburgh

50 ml Gin (Again, Hendrick's is great)  
6 Sage Leaves (2 leaves for garnish)  
4-6 Red Grapes  
25ml Sugar Syrup  
25 ml Lemon Juice  
Tonic to top

**How to make it:**  
Muddle (crush with a blunt object to release a herb or fruits oils and juices) four sage leaves into a shaker and add squeezed grapes. Add the Gin, Lemon Juice and Gomme to the shaker and fill with ice before shaking vigorously for about 12 to 14 seconds. Strain into a highball glass filled with ice, top with tonic and garnish with the remaining two sage leaves

The Faithless, created by multi-award winning mixologist Mal Spence, is a delectable contemporary twist on the classic G&T. The addition of sage leaves renders the drink a perfect summer aperitif but could equally be enjoyed the whole year round. The recipe calls for Hendrick's gin but can be just as pleasant with other substitutions though do remember, good cocktails highlight the spirit component and bad alcohol will inevitably result in a substandard drink, not to mention a painful hang-over. For a cheaper alternative to the £20 a bottle Hendrick's, try Bombay Sapphire, Plymouth or Tanqueray.

# Food&Drink



## THE RECIPE

Will Clarke

### DEVILLED KIDNEYS

1 Pork Kidney  
Cayenne pepper  
English Mustard Powder  
Red Wine vinegar  
Brown Sugar  
Nutmeg, Butter, Brown Sugar  
Veg Stock  
Salt and Pepper

**Forget cereal, fruit salads and sweaty fry-ups. This summer, it's time to go colonial...**

The devilled kidney was a popular breakfast dish during the Edwardian era among young men who wore white suits and administered Britain's new colonies in the Suez. One pork kidney should do two people for a small breakfast or snack, and one greedy person for a big breakfast or light supper. Pork kidney is one of the most cholesterol-rich foodstuffs available, so you would do less long-term damage if you poured the boiling gravy into your eye rather than by actually eating it.

This recipe isn't particularly faithful to the Edwardian original, so feel free to tinker about with it. You could use Marsala instead of vinegar, or add Chinese five spice or smoked paprika if you have them lying around. If you don't have vegetable stock powder I would advise just adding a bit more salt rather than using a stock cube.

Check that your kidney is fresh. You might have to pull away the opaque membrane, but underneath it should be glossy and brown like a new chestnut. If it is grey and dull, throw it away and have baked beans. Cut the kidney down the centre, and then across into quarters. Scissor away as much of the gristly core as you can: this is an acquired skill, but sharp nosed scissors and patience should get you most of the way there. Cut the kidney into small squares and toss them around in a dish with the mustard powder, cayenne pepper and a pinch of nutmeg. Next, fry them for a few minutes in a hot pan with a good quantity of butter. Add a decent slosh of vinegar, a couple of teaspoonfuls of brown sugar, a teaspoonful of stock powder, and pepper.

Let it simmer down for a few minutes, adding a dash more vinegar or water if it's over reducing. You should be getting a thick brown gravy. Taste it, and add salt if it needs it. If you want to have the kidneys on toast then sort that out. If you were going to have rice then you should have put it on the heat ten minutes ago, so if you're following this recipe sequentially you've ballsed up.

Recipe provided by Will Clarke (send us your recipes: [foodanddrink@nouse.co.uk](mailto:foodanddrink@nouse.co.uk))

RESTAURANT: THE OLIVE TREE

ADDRESS: 10 TOWER STREET

SET MENU: £10.50

REVIEW: ATHENE DILKE

★★★★☆

This Easter I set off in desperation to an alternative therapist. It was a desperate attempt to cure myself of a lifetime affliction, which modern medicine has failed to remedy. After having bits of my body manipulated in a bewildering number of ways, the therapist told me that I was allergic to everything: wheat, yeast, excess sugar, flowery mugs, etc. She also helpfully suggested that I should avoid sugar and alcohol entirely. I remember noticing that she was a little on the porky side and resembled nothing so much as a self-satisfied party pooper. But I swore I would go wheat-, yeast- and alcohol-free for two months.

This wheat-friendly digression is merely a response to the majority of restaurants that are so wheatist that I end up wanting to cry or hit a bar of Green & Blacks so hard I can feel parts of my body enlarging. However, the Olive Tree scored extremely well on the wheat-free challenge: five dishes overall and three wheat-free desserts. But as I can already hear wheat eaters sighing through their teeth I will enlarge on the non-wheat related aspects of the Olive Tree.

The atmosphere was very relaxing when we arrived, the

waiter was as attentive as a Turkish mother-in-law, ushering us in and shushing our attempts to explain that we were early for our reservation. The decor was tacky Christmas mixed with miscellaneous 'foreign' influences. The food was a combination of different cultures: Greek, Italian, French and Spanish that worked remarkably well, offering a selection of greek lamb stews, chorizo risottos and pasta dishes.

My friend and I began with generous starters: the chorizo risotto with crayfish tails for me and a French-style creamy mushroom and bread combination for her. My risotto was rich, moist and flavoursome while the mushrooms were sensationally garlicky and smothered with uncompromising amounts of butter, confirming the adage that anything with the words 'finished with cream', 'all-butter' and 'pecan syrup' are bound to be excellent.

The main courses arrived with great rapidity, but were not as exciting as the starters. The Moroccan lamb stew was well put together with delicious sticky coriander rice while my friend's pancetta and tomato penne could have used more of a variety of vegetables; there was a heavy

BAR: PIVO

ADDRESS: 6 PATRICK POOL

AVERAGE DRINK PRICE: £3

REVIEW: JAMES MACDOUGALD

★★★★☆

I've visited Pivo three times this week – an achievement which owes more to coincidence than enthusiasm. Nevertheless, this handsome continental café-bar has much to praise. I have never been to a Bavarian *beerhaus* but, if my imagination serves me correctly, each one should have at least one long, knobbly, wooden bar-top carved from the bole of a great hornbeam, several hundred variety lagers flavoured with all manner of implausible fruit and veg and one winsome barmaid who is blonde and pig-tailed, and built by the same company that did Munich cathedral.

Replace the barrel-chested lager mistress with a severe barman in a baroque earring, and Pivo is pretty much there. 'What's Ninkeberry?' I asked, peering suspiciously at the inscrutable bar menu. A charming bargirl replied: 'It's a mixed-fruit beer, but there's a picture of a pomegranate on the label to indicate its primary flavour.' Ninkeberry is very compelling,



but avoid the draught Schneider Weisse which tastes of sweetcorn. Pivo also serves paninis, which provoked an irritating conversation on the correct way to form the plural of a borrowed word. These looked good and seemed to be popular. Boys should make a trip to the loo, where the urinal is nothing less than the hellish, gaping maw of a metal gargoyle. Enough said.



**The menu, like the interior decoration, suggested a wide range of miscellaneous 'foreign' influences, but good value is a strong suit.**

reliance on onions, olives and parsley but little else. Overall there was an absence of the flair and inventiveness that had made our taste buds tap-dance during the starter.

After the resplendent portions of the previous courses, my dessert was pretty small, but it represented a return to the exciting combination of flavours in the starters. I had vanilla pancetta, strawberries and ice cream that looked like an exqui-

site art exhibit and tasted even better. The combination of passionfruit, strawberries and vanilla was inspired and the texture of the pancetta was subtly gelatinous.

The Olive Tree is an excellent choice for anyone wanting a quiet, inexpensive meal: not much more expensive than Wetherspoons but infinitely more appetising. A definite recommendation, unlike visiting porky alternative therapists.

BAR: KENNEDY'S

ADDRESS: 1 LITTLE STONEGATE

AVERAGE DRINK PRICE: £3

REVIEW: BETH RIDLEY AND SHERINE EL-SAYED

★★★★☆

On a beautiful summer's day, three hungry friends decided to wander into Kennedy's for a spot of lunch. As they ascended the stairs, they discovered that the lavatory doors were labelled in a most unusual fashion: the ladies, "Betty", and the men's "Stan". Thus, for the purposes of their dining experience, they decided to re-name themselves Betty and Stan. Beth, however, liked her name as it was and kept it the same.

Stan ordered the club chicken sandwich and a portion of chips; Beth ordered a beef burger; Betty, who secretly fancied herself a somewhat more sophisticated diner than the other raucous two, ordered the chicken caesar salad. As the waiter laid each meal in front of them, one-by-one the three gasped with delight as they realised that the sizes of their meals would more than satisfy their meagre frames! Stan's chips looked like miniature building blocks and even the proud Betty could not resist the temptation of joining in for a



game of Jenga with them.

The giant slabs of potato came tumbling onto their plates, making an unholy mess of what had previously been carefully arranged side-salads. Stan enjoyed his sandwich, which he felt was like a gourmet lunch-box treat, while Beth remarked at how juicy her meat was. Betty also found the texture of the chicken most succulent.

# Arts Reviews

BOOK: THE BOOK THIEF  
 AUTHOR: MARKUS ZUSAK  
 REVIEW: TOM FITZ-HUGH

★★★★☆

Even this book's synopsis is one of the finest I've read, describing Markus Zusak's international bestseller as, "A small story, about: a girl, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist fighter, and quite a lot of thievery."

When it cursorily informed me that, "This novel is narrated by Death", in the customary block capitals, I immediately dreaded a poor imitation of Discworld. However, Zusak's novel could scarcely be more different to Pratchett's series. Far from entertaining flights of fantasy, this is a harrowing tale of a young girl in Nazi Germany.

Even given the setting, protagonist Liesel Meminger can hardly be said to have luck on her side: the story begins and ends with devastating visits from the narrator. But despite the immense anguish of her childhood, she finds solace in stealing books, and learning from them the power of words.

The writing is exquisitely crafted throughout, making this a long, but constantly rewarding read. Zusak also expertly uses his unexpectedly compassionate narrator to view humanity from the outside, mourning the atrocities and tragedy of the war, but above all celebrating the love and virtue to be found everywhere, even in the darkest hours of our history.

Utterly heart-rending.

BOOK: THE POST-BIRTHDAY WORLD

AUTHOR: LIONEL SHRIVER  
 REVIEW: BETH GANDY

★★★★☆

The birthday in question is Ramsey Acton's, a world famous snooker player, whose birthday dinner opens up two possible futures, each attractive in its own way. Irina is given the decision to embark on

an affair with the charismatic Ramsey or stay with her devoted, but steady husband Lawrence. So does she do it? In one world, yes. In another, she comes to her senses and devotes her life to perfecting her marriage. Shriver achieves this with an alternating chapter approach devoting them to these two differing universes. In doing so she shows the reader how such a decision affects every angle of Irina's life and the lives of those around her.

Shriver produces a fascinating different approach to the usual chick-lit romance novel with one which keeps a grip on reality. Despite certain areas which dragged due to the "sliding-doors" effect of repeating events, the story is moving and meticulously written. Shriver leaves the reader questioning the infinity of our lives and the decisions we make within their parameters.

## Sarah-Jane Silvester talks to students organising 'Art Educates' exhibition at Norman Rae

During most of the year the Norman Rae Gallery in Langwith College displays professional artwork on sale to the general public. However, this summer term sees the gallery space being taken over by a group of York undergraduates who have been set the challenge of putting on a series of themed exhibitions from scratch.

First year History of Art student and aspiring curator Grace Dunning, leader of the group, found that her team "learnt how much work goes on behind the scenes when putting together a seemingly simple exhibition". From selecting pieces, to acquiring display boards from suppliers and mounting the work, the team of five students found that the process was "a lot more lengthy than first expected, but nevertheless hugely rewarding to stand back and look at the final result!"

The opening exhibition focuses on the role of art in education and was launched earlier this week at a special evening party. The students had collected children's artwork from Knavesmire, Osbaldwick and Heworth primary schools on the themes of Portraiture, Nature and Motion, filling the gallery with colourful pieces of pottery, sculpture and multimedia collage.

The organisers also invited local artists to help lead two workshops in the gallery itself, exploring painting oriental script and watercolour flowers, for small groups of children. Langwith Provost Dr. John Issitt has facilitated the student run exhibitions



The Norman Rae Gallery in Langwith will be the venue for several student-run art exhibitions

for a second year running. He is keen to break away from the University's representation as an isolated academic institution and the workshops have proved a successful way of enabling York to truly act as an open campus.

In addition to children's art, many of the works came from the educational department at Full Sutton High Security Prison, 17 miles out of York. Dunning said that the group wanted to "high-

light the fact that art can be an educational tool not only for young children but for adults too". The work is very varied including emotive pencil sketches of roommates reclining on beds and brightly coloured cartoons.

'Art Educates' is open Monday to Friday weeks 4 and 5 in the Norman Rae Gallery, situated above the Langwith Snack Bar. It will be replaced with a second student run exhibition in weeks 6

and 7 focused on 'Art in Community', which will display works from a range of artists from across York under the theme of 'The Body'. Once again this exhibition seeks to unite the campus with its host city bringing together pieces by local amateur artists and students work from the Wentworth Art Studio. The Norman Rae Gallery is open weekdays 9am - 8pm and entry is free of charge.

EVENT: MICHELE ROBERTS READING

VENUE: ALCUIN

REVIEW: NICK SCARLETT

★★★★☆

Her work is certainly not airport fiction, but she is still a big name in the literary world, having produced some excellent work and winning the WHSmiths Fiction Award and a Booker shortlisting along the way. It was thus highly disappointing to see empty seats.

In some ways though it almost added to the deeply personal feel of the event. Roberts read segments from her recently published memoirs 'Paper Houses', and answered questions about her socialist, feminist libertarianism and her often fraught relationship with her late but dearly loved mother.

Roberts's treatment of her past self as almost another person entirely, 'a daughter' as she put it, was intriguing, as was her honesty and reflection on a nomadic life in a series of

free-thinking and idealistic London communes.

The memoirs are an attempt to rehabilitate the perception of the late sixties and seventies in England, after what Robert sees as a dismissal in the eyes of the general populus of what was achieved, and the changes made to society in that bohemian era.

The reading at times felt directed at the professors in attendance, prioritising the more emotionally complex parts of the book over effervescent passages on her revelatory time at university, outlandish demonstrations and her sexual discovery. Interestingly, she informed the audience of her none-too warm view of Virginia Woolf's novels, which she criticised as having full presence of mind, but little discernible sensual body. What



Michele Roberts reads to an intimate audience

cannot be denied, however, is that we were treated to a real insight into the life of a supremely talented and generous author in an enjoyable reading imbued with her inimitable joie de vivre.

### ARTS IN BRIEF

York Theatre Royal

until May 17  
*Patient No. 1*

14-27 May  
*The Scarlet Pimpernel*

York Grand Opera House

16 May  
*Paul Merton's Impro Chums*

18 May  
*Simon Amstell*

Leeds Grand Theatre  
 until May 24  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Drama Barn

Week 4  
*Pool (no water)/Hot Stuff*

Week 5  
*The Homecoming*

Week 6  
*The American Pilot*



# TheatreReviews

## Fernanda Diaz chats to Hannah Davies and Mark Smith, the writers of *Pool (No water)/Hot Stuff*

The first time Hannah Davies and Mark Smith worked together as co-directors of a play, they faced a considerable obstacle.

The task at hand was an assignment for their MA in Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance: a staging of Samuel Beckett's *Come and Go*. Not surprisingly, they each had very different versions of it in mind. "We couldn't have been more opposed in our interpretation of the play," Smith recounts, "How were we going to direct it? We were sort of hitting our heads against each other." Davies added: "It was either going to go really wrong or..."

Or, it would turn out well, and their professional partnership would result to be quite promising. Judging from the fact that next month the Drama Barn will house their newest collaborative endeavor, a double billing of one-acts—one written by Davies herself, who trained as an actor before switching to play writing, and who has participated in London's Young Writers Festival—Beckett's absurdist drama can't have been too much to handle.

Davies's one-act play, which she wrote over Christmas as another assignment, stood out to Mark Smith amongst all the other plays his classmates had written. "When I read Hannah's, I was blown away," he says. The success of their previous collaboration, in spite of the initial tension, says Mark, cemented the fact that they really could work together.

Davies's play, *Hot Stuff* premieres this weekend in the Drama Barn, and is directed by Smith. It explores the dynamic of a couple that goes on holiday to try and save their relationship, following them and an assortment of "third-wheel" characters; chronicling the ways in which their attempt to salvage their union ends up leaving them more damaged. Davies describes it as "witty and energetic, but dark", and continues by saying "it is an autopsy of a relationship," an artistic investigation of the different ways in which a relationship can go wrong.

"I find destructive relationships so interesting, especially ones which also have underlying love and friendship," Davies describes.



Danie Linsell, Alex Wright and Tom Powis are the cast of *Pool (No water)*

The play also relies on complicated stylistic structures that ask the audience themselves to piece the story together as the characters attempt to do the same to their connection.

*Hot Stuff's* non-linear plot structure and enigmatic narration make it a good fit with the first play

of the night, *Pool (no water)*, written by Mark Ravenhill and also directed by Smith. The play has no explicit characters, relying instead on three actors simply following line divisions instead of portraying separate individuals. It focusses on a violent accident which profoundly affects a group of artist friends,

and the resulting jealousies and fears.

So, are they worried about the response? Davies nobly admits that a finished script is still not a play, it's the collaboration that matters, and that ideally her York debut will reflect this. She is keen that audiences judge the play on the same basis as they would any other, more established playwright, not focussing on the fact that she is a student.

As my last question, I asked Davies, "So, do you eventually want to be a playwright?" before immediately realizing—she obviously already is. If there's another thing that one can be sure of, it's that Davies and Smith exhibit that collective spirit necessary for the production of a drama. Now maybe at their performance, they will pass on the task of deciphering intricate stories and dealing with multiple interpretations to their audience.

Tickets are on sale in Vanburgh Stalls from 12 until 2, from Wednesday to Friday this week. The play runs from Friday 16 until Sunday 18. Performances begin at 7.30 pm.



PRODUCTION: PATIENT NO. 1

VENUE: THEATRE ROYAL

REVIEW: BETH RIDLEY



This provoking drama, set two years in the future, presents a deeply traumatised former President George W. Bush, sent into a state of shock and psychosis. He is helpless and depends upon his security agent to lead him. He is assigned by the government to a psychiatrist in order to restore his health.

Through the destroyed shell of Bush, we meet the writer's dystopian view on America's fate. The security agent represents those who once signed up to defend and protect their nation. However, as the doctor probes this idealism, and presents the case of a lost man and a government which does not answer, the agent realises that he too must join the fight, and break away from the slavery

of the system in order to save the President that he once believed in.

The production was gripping, due to an incredibly well devised script and an impeccable display of acting talents from Jon Farris playing the doctor. Despite the topic, there were comedic moments, delivered with perfect timing.

The audience's last view of the ex-President is of him putting back on a Texan hat, assuming the false mask of a Cowboy, afraid to accept the reality that he is really an Ivy League Yankee. The futility of his reign is expressed by a failure to accept his identity and his failings. His demise symbolises what could be awaiting the US.

This is a moving political drama.



PRODUCTION: MORBID CURIOSITY

VENUE: THE DRAMA BARN

REVIEW: DAVE COATES



Dominic Allen's absurdly and gleefully violent farce ran this week in the Drama Barn, a showcase of physical comedy and tech department creativity.

Matt Springett and Jethro Compton star as Dr Hart and Flint, two (ostensibly) unassuming coroners in a bleak vision of the future in which England rules the globe and Gibraltar is a hellish island prison. A missing batch of livers alerts the authorities, embodied in the terrifyingly anarchic civil servants Morgan (Jamie Wilkes) and Lambert (Lucy Farrett). Allen's depiction of civil servants is less than flattering. The play focuses on the investigation into the missing organs, unearthing the brutal personal histories of Hart and his boss Leach

(the joyously prim Simon Maeder), and some uncomfortable home truths.

The set is remarkably creative, and makes terrific use of the limited space of the Barn. Wilkes' performance is on a relentlessly high level, while the quasi-romantic relationship between Hart and Flint is often genuinely touching. The recurrent, government-enforced 'happy minute' is an amusing conceit, and allows for a nightmarish, yet highly creative, fight scene worthy of the more brutal elements of professional wrestling.

The play could do with being a shade shorter, and one or two gags fell flat, but that is nit-picking. *Morbid Curiosity* was an entertaining and professionally executed student performance.



PRODUCTION: BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

VENUE: THEATRE ROYAL

REVIEW: SARAH-JANE SILVESTER



Internationally respected for their innovative new ballets this touring ballet company performed three outstanding pieces fusing the classical and modern styles with originality and grace.

The first performance, entitled 'Concerto Barocco', interpreted Bach's Concerto in D Minor. Accompanied by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia the two lead ballerinas mirrored the two violin roles that provided a two-part melody. Such direct interpretation of an orchestral piece was an interesting idea resulting on a heavy reliance on timing, which, unfortunately, was often slightly out.

'Twilight', a mini drama told the story of a couple's quarrel, using the experimental music of John Cage. As the sounds of Cage's pre-

pared percussive piano intensified, the row exploded in full-blown rage. Ending in a comic sigh as the couple took up the same motif that opened the piece this raw dance delightfully captured sexual politics of couple-life.

The final piece was definitely the highlight. An energetic, light-hearted ballet set to Dave Brubeck jazz classics opened with the iconic 1959 piece 'Take Five'. Using lighting which threw coloured grids onto the stage and multi-coloured costumes, the six virtuoso dances had a Broadway feel. The ten dancers leapt with incredible athleticism turning and falling to the increasingly frenzied jazz beats.

Such a diverse combination of performances made the night one to remember.

# MusicInDepth

## JAMES COUSINS

Has it really come to this?



So it has happened. It was perhaps inevitable, but I had still hoped that, somehow, it could have been avoided. The inevitable being the arrival of the dreadful 'Insert country/city/institution here's Got Talent'-style show. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, 'York's Got Talent'. Heaven help us.

This sort of talent contest usually provokes in me a largely apathetic reaction. There are many other things more worthy of attention than the desperate antics of some vapid eejits willing to risk public humiliation in the slim hope of finding fame - the appropriate response to third world dictatorships, cute little baby ducklings, the price of chocolate; the list goes on. But now that it has found its way to campus I think it's time I took a little look at this odd and ostensibly talent-seeking phenomenon.

For what exactly is talent, in a musical context at least? Any attempt to pin down specifically what sets apart the sublime from the mediocre is ultimately doomed to failure - the illusive and illuminating spark that is inspiration appears in different forms and guises, not all of which can be appreciated by any one individual. The rather subjective issue of personal taste muddies the waters of any rational debate on this issue, for what sounds to you like the most beautiful music on earth could easily sound to me like a load of trashy old noise. I'm afraid that, though I may begrudgingly understand the appeal, I'm never going to listen to power metal for my own personal aural pleasure.

But moving from one end of the musical spectrum to the other, I used to be adamant that manufactured pop... what? I hesitate to use the word 'artists' but as no suitable alternative suggests itself, I guess it'll have to suffice. Anyway, I used to be insistent that manufactured pop artists weren't artists at all. In the vast majority of cases the famous face who appears on the record cover has little or no creative input into the music released under his or her name; the pop star has been reduced to an attractive karaoke singer. The lyrics of the 'confessional' song from Britney Spears' latest album (which contains the immortal line "It's Britney, bitch") weren't even written by Spears. Instead of music that actually means something we get a cheap sheen of pseudo-intimacy; hardly an applaudable substitute.

The more I think about it, however, the fact that a musician isn't performing their own compositions seems irrelevant. Classical musicians earn great acclaim for their re-interpretation of the music of others, and rightly so, for the act of playing great music involves more than just the regurgitation of notes on a page. But if musical talent doesn't come from compositional abilities and can't be measured objectively, then what's the problem with a talent show finding particular people who fit their criteria? Well I don't like the idea of the artist as a ready-made commodity. Artistic development appears to have gone right out the window; instead, the newly discovered star is thrust blinking and squinting into the glare of the spotlight, prepared only to rake in the cash for Simon Cowell et al. So talent shows are evil. Or perhaps I'm just becoming a grumpy old man.

## Nicky Woolf goes behind the scenes to find out what it's like to bring a single to release

So you've got your tunes. You've got a product. You are a group of talented musicians. What do you do next? How do you take your product to the market? If you want to make it big in the music business, it's no longer good enough just having talent, you have to have in roads, you have to have a foot in the door.

Mike Fenna, a DJ and producer who left York last year, has set up The True Ingredients, a 33-piece hip-hop and jazz group made up of musicians and artists from around the world. He hopes that by sticking together, doing collaborative tracks and helping each other out on solo projects, they will have a better chance of success in a musical world increasingly dominated by the giants of record production. This tactic has already been fairly successful. Performing at a special Oxjam gig in 93 Feet East in Brick Lane, with friends Asian Dub Foundation, Lisa Mafia, Kele Le Roc, and a whole host of London Hip-Hop royalty, Fenna tells me about where the project will go next.

"The first single, 'Space and Time', is out at the end of this month, and the next album, *Prepare and Assemble*, is out later this Summer," he tells me in a break between his own DJ set and the next act. "We've also got a track featured in *Skins* season two, and in Gumball3000, and lots of other stuff, and BBC 1Xtra are interested in an exclusive on the single."

The set at the concert goes down a storm. The crowd love the True Ingredients sound. But Fenna's plan is much more ambitious than just writing and performing the music. He wants the True Ingredients group



Rapper Blu Rum during the True Ingredients' set at 93 Feet East in Brick Lane

to support each other in every aspect of music production, from writing, through to recording, producing, mixing, and promoting everything that anyone in the group produces.

"The new single will be released entirely online, but sold as other objects with stickers on. These stickers will link straight to a track download" Josh Wah, guitarist and a founder member of the True Ingredients told me. "So you'll get a lighter with a sticker on, or... a vegetable maybe, and download the track with the code on the sticker."

Of course, there is an awful lot of practicing, and writing music involved in the production of a new album, as I see when I go to a rehearsal before the 93 Feet East gig at a flat near St. Pauls in London.

However, most surprising is how much of bringing out a new record depends on finding a foothold in the industry, whether it be a slot on BBC 1Xtra or a play in a major TV show.

You can check out the True Ingredients at [www.trueingredients.com](http://www.trueingredients.com), or keep an ear open for the new single.

## IN DEPTH: CLASSICAL MUSIC

Olivia Haughton

It is sadly a primarily vacuous pop culture we currently live in. What place has classical music got in youth culture, or, for that matter, in main stream culture, today? Research in 2002 said that genre boundaries are breaking down and young people are 'seeking music of many kinds ... they are open to adventure'. Based on these findings Levi Jeans broadcast an advertisement using a backing track of a re-scored Sarabande by Handel and claimed to be the first to 'sell lifestyle to under-twenties' using classical music. Has this trend stuck?

Apparently not. I asked 20 students aged 18-25 how they feel classical music is presented to their age group by the media, not one of them said it was easily accessible and all felt that the media does little, if anything to promote classical music or attempt to integrate it into mainstream awareness.

Various artists try to bridge this gap. Vanessa Mae, the original crossover artist 'defined the fusion of classical and pop' and posed in scandalously fashionable clothes on her album releases. More recently (think way back to the Christmas holidays) Big Brother housemate Calista was labelled as the 'classical musician' as if it were some

sort of alien lifestyle choice; it seems we as a nation aren't really sure what to make of such foreign entities. This said, we embraced Charlotte Church, our singer extraordinaire who now presents her own TV program and graces the pages of Hello and OK!

Glyndebourne has become the first British opera house to show their productions in mainstream cinemas. For the price of an Odeon ticket Joe Bloggs and his friends will be able to watch world-class opera on the big screen. This epic development in the world of opera is a step towards making classical music more accessible and moving away from the perceived elitism of this genre.

With the 30th anniversary of the BBC's Young Musician of the Year competition last weekend, what better time to delve into the world of classical music. A time when young musicians come together to showcase their outstanding talent and compete for this coveted title. They are unusual in their artistry but less so in their enjoyment of the classical tradition than may be expected among young people. Only two of those I spoke to said they have absolutely no interest in classical music, the remaining

18 said that at the very least they appreciate it because they were introduced to it at a young age. Recurring again and again was the comment that people like to listen to classical music to relax or work to. This got me thinking; there must be something about this particular tradition of music that allows people to zone out, switch off, or lose themselves. Mind you, with our current culture of incessant background music filtering into every walk of life, we've

trained ourselves to tune out. There must be something more, something that draws people in. I have come to the conclusion that classical music is so far

removed from our daily grind that for some it feels like a refreshing relocation to a hassle free world. In a word: escapism. We live in an age of instant sensory satisfaction; with our short attention spans popular music is ideal for a quick fix. But for those of us who like something a little different, something that carries with it age old traditions, something to stimulate or switch off from, classical music holds the answer.



# MusicReviews

## THE SUMMER PLAYLIST

ARTIST: LEN

TRACK: IF YOU STEAL MY SUNSHINE

There's no escaping it; Len are to summer what Slade is to Christmas. Much like Noddy Holder's reputed allure to women, their appeal is not one that can be easily dissected. The existential lyrics are so opaque they would leave Sartre with cartoon question marks above his head. Masquerading as a chorus is a sweetly delivered threat, made all the more chilling by the fact that what will actually happen if said sunshine is stolen is never fully revealed. As for the vocals, they switch between Daphne and Celeste-lite to the strained tones of a man who appears to be struggling to sing through a nose full of gravel. Yet it's as summery as a Callipo in shorts. As though through some inimitable process of sonic photosynthesis, in goes sunshine and out comes FUN. Put it on repeat, grab oneself a 'tinny', and try to block out the memories of the video in which the sibling singers touch each other inappropriately. If Len doesn't make you want to have fun in the sun, you're an... eskimo?

ARTIST: PET SHOP BOYS

TRACK: SE A VIDA E (THAT'S THE WAY LIFE IS)

If Len's 'Steal My Sunshine' is early June; then the Pet Shop Boy's 'Se a vida é (That's the Way Life is)' is late August. Though upbeat and sun-soaked, its lilting melody is tinged with a mature recognition: as summer's candle burns to its wick, our free-spirited optimism is put away with the barbecue grill. Even more frighteningly, our advancing years diminish the power of summer to infuse our experiences with elements of the carnivalesque. The summer as an anarchic expanse in which responsibility is cast into the fire is, after all, a misconception belonging to childhood. For the vast majority of us, leisure time during our adult lives will be scrapped and saved for; a few wonky circuses standing out in a desert of processed bread. After all, That's the Way Life is.

ARTIST: THE SONICS

TRACK: DO YOU LOVE ME

Maybe not strictly a summer song per se, but, like most of the band's repertoire, this is a prime slice of fuzzy surf-guitar pie with all the necessary ingredients: sing-a-long backing vocals, fun lyrics and its own dance. On top of that it's a raw cover of an early motown classic, sung by a man whose unfettered howls sound like they single handily kick-started the sexual revolution. One note from Larry Parypa could corrupt more of the nation's youth than any amount of 50 Cent's gansta posturing. Add to this pioneering drum and guitar tones that gave birth to a thousand Iggy Pops and Dead Boys and you've got the first genuine punk band. Who'd have thought Sid Vicious and co. were actually pre-empted by fifteen years by a group covering a song later made famous by the Dirty Dancing soundtrack? Altogether now! I can mash potato! I can do the twist!

Tracks selected and reviewed by Steven Williams and Jed Fazakarley

## Calling all cool cats. Tom Fitz-Hugh studies the growth of Jazz & Blues on campus

If you ever tire of the relentlessly modern music tastes of your fellow students, and find yourself harking back to the true swing of the thirties, it's surprising quite how much campus has to offer.

Signs of a broader musical palate at York were evident when Magic P and the Innuendos' "folk-funk" and Half A Dog's more traditionally funky stylings won over the crowd at Battle of the Bands, seeing off more traditional student bands. This depth of taste can easily be satisfied without even venturing beyond the campus bubble, and where better to start than with the Jazz and Blues Society?

Recently the society has organised jam nights in McQ's on Friday evenings, with another due in week 7. If you like what you hear, the society will obligingly take your money and offer you trips further afield. But if the academic pressure's too high to even leave your room, Fabiano Corsetti compères the society radio show on URY between 9 and 10pm every Tuesday evening.

Goodricke is not the only college boasting live jazz: Wentworth Jazz nights continue



this term, featuring a newly-formed quintet of music students, "WorldService Project". Though largely unpublicised, these evenings at EDGE grant free entry to all; 8 - 11pm, Thursdays weeks 4 and 7. Meanwhile in Alcuin, Friday Week 4 sees B Henry's present a Battle of the Jazz Bands to find groups worthy of playing a part in the college's 40th birthday celebrations.

Cats whose thirsts remain unquenched could do much worse than head to the music

department. The University Jazz Orchestra will be blitzing the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall in an evening concert on Friday Week 8. During the day, the lunchtime concert series hosts many jazz groups this term, the highlight of which will undoubtedly be the return of upbeat big-band "Re:Impressions" on Tuesday Week 9. Leader Dave Morecroft and co. promise to give, "Large doses of their passionate, funky and groove-based medicine to all those on prescription!"



ARTIST: iLiKETRAiNS

VENUE: FIBBERS

REVIEW: OLIVER ELLIOTT

DATE: 27/04/08

★★★★☆

Despite putting their all into this gig, iLiKETRAiNS were clearly bemused by the quietness of their Fibbers audience. But it is hard to imagine people not finding themselves awed into solemn and introverted self-reflection when confronted by this music. It is emotive, but with a sense of ancient and epic melancholy- maybe akin to a mountain reminiscing about its lost youth. This feeling, largely constructed through their distinctive use of heavily layered crescendos of drums and guitars, leads to an incredible sense of intensity, although this can seem off-putting to some.

But there is far more to this band than just post-rock heaviness. iLiKETRAiNS revel in eccentricity. Their songs (and the fascinating projections that accompany them) find inspiration largely in heroic struggles of the past - from Captain Scott's ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole to the tragic life of chess champion Bobby Fischer. It is on this score, however, that iLiKETRAiNS were, for me, a disappointment. Their eccentricity was most intriguing in their older material, which was mostly left unplayed. Nonetheless, when the band left for the pre-core break, it felt like a spell was broken. The audience, previously entranced, burst into wild applause. The people have spoken.



ARTIST: SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO

VENUE: CHIBUKU, LIVERPOOL

REVIEW: LIAM O'BRIEN

DATE: 05/04/08

★★★★☆

Chibuku has been attracting some big names recently, Klaxons and 2 Many DJs included, and seeing Simian came at the expense of missing Roni Size on another stage. Perhaps this was a mistake. We live in an age where Kelly Osbourne and half of London's transvestite population list DJing as an aspect of their multifaceted careers, and common to this movement is what has become known as the Peaches Geldof school of DJing whereby you whack on your iPod playlist and piss off for an hour and a half. Simian weren't that bad, of course, but surely crowds thrusting against the stage at least deserve a presence.

Quibbles aside, the set was pretty good; its low-key nature meant an absence of any spectacular light shows adding to that hefty, crushing atmosphere specially sought by your average NME reader. As one would expect, it was the heavyweight tracks that truly got people going; out came 'Hustler', 'It's the Beat' and 'Sleep Deprivation', every reprisal of lyric causing lunges forward, chewing gum bouncing wildly from top jaw to bottom. A Simian take on the 2 Many DJs version of 'Get Innocuous' (still inferior to the insane Soulwax remix) was met with similar, if predictable approval. Just whack in a giant neon cross à la Justice I say - or stay behind the decks for the set. Either is fine.



ARTIST: PORTISHEAD

VENUE: WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC

REVIEW: OLIVER ELLIOTT

DATE: 13/04/08

★★★★☆

The 90s were a frighteningly long time ago. This is an unavoidable fact of life. As, it seems, is the never-ending torrent of reforming bands from that very same decade. Portishead have faced a greater challenge than most in their return to the world of music because the 'trip hop' movement that they had helped define has since met its demise. Their new album has thus been a reinvention of the Portishead sound- indeed, one so different that it is only the stunning voice of Beth Gibbons that reminds us that this is the same band from a decade ago.

The difference in the two styles becomes plainly obvious when seen live. The past is what people are here to hear - a nostalgia for those songs that they had angst over as teens in the twilight years of Thatcherism. There can be no doubting the immense organic beauty of classics like 'Roads' and 'Mysterons'. But it is the future, however, that Portishead are understandably most interested in, and the picture they paint is a bleak one. Aggressive pummeling drum beats and electronic percussion punctuate their new songs, with only the angelic voice of Gibbons offering a shard of human emotion. The explicit contrast between old and new is a chilling reminder of how much things really have changed.

# FilmReviews

## DAVIDCOATES

The Marvellous Plan: Three Years til The Avengers?



Most regular cinema-goers will recognise the ever-growing market for superhero genre-movies, particularly between May and August. This week, Marvel announced plans for an interwoven series of films, culminating in the enticing team-up of "The Avengers", three years down the line.

*Iron Man's* \$200m worldwide box-office receipt in its first weekend is evidence enough of the lingering appeal of the Marvel stable, and with even the national dailies giving positive reviews, it seems like the quality of these blockbusters is rising to match its popularity. Considering little more than half the overall takings have come stateside, it also seems like Tony Stark and his metallic one-piece have pulling power worldwide. But Marvel's bigger picture will depend heavily on the success of his teammates: The Incredible Hulk, Captain America, and, no kidding, Thor, the Norse god of thunder. Hulk is already on thin ice after an ambitious but misfiring original, and the deity-turned-superhero will suffer all the character issues Superman faced, without half the ink-and-paper popularity that character enjoyed.

*Captain America* is something of a wild card. His film will be the last in the build-up series – the Hulk arrives next month, *Iron Man 2* and *Thor* in summer 2010, and the Captain débuts two months prior to *The Avengers* the following year – and will feature the catalysing episodes that ignite the big finale. His fans cover both extremes of the political spectrum, and expectations of the character run the gamut from staging anti-war demonstrations to punching out Osama bin Laden.

Little surprise, then, that Steve Rogers' alter-ego has been appropriated, to a degree, as Marvel's answer to what is 'American'. In the Marvel universe, he opposed the federally imposed 'Super-Power Registration Act', in which all individuals with super-powers are coerced into making their identities public. Considering *Iron Man's* foray into Afghanistan and the arms trade, it will be fascinating to see how brave the filmmakers will be on the subject of armed conflict personal liberty.

Strength in depth is Marvel's blessing; tortured plot convolutions are Marvel's curse. The grand, three-year story is an impressive undertaking, and could really change the face of the industry, so long as the movies maintain the standard of quality set by Downey Jr. et al. Here's hoping.

FILM: PERSEPOLIS

DIRECTOR: VINCENT PARRANAUD, MARJANE SATRAPI

STARRING: CHIARA MASTROIANNI, CATHERINE DENEUVE

REVIEW: LIDA MIRZAI

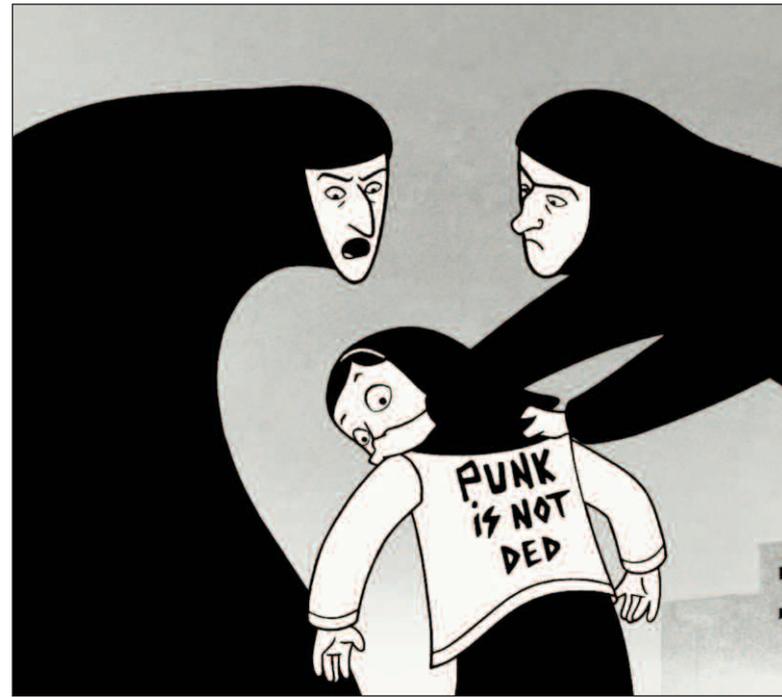
RUNTIME: 95 MINS



Referring to the now ruined ancient capital of the Persian Empire, *Persepolis* offers a refreshing insight into Iran, beyond the usual images of the country projected by the media. Adapted from Marjane Satrapi's highly acclaimed graphic novels, it traces the life of Marjane, a gutsy and independent young girl growing up in 1970's pre-revolutionary Iran. The Satrapis, who lead a liberal, middle-class lifestyle in Tehran, at first welcome the collapse of the Shah's regime, only to find the revolution has led to the religious fanaticism of the new-established Islamic State. Life for Marjane is a constant struggle between an adaptation to and evasion of the strictures imposed. While swaggering through the streets in a 'punk is not dead' jacket on her way to get some bootleg Iron Maiden, Marjane is caught by the morality police and brought to her knees in fear. Disillusioned by what Iran has become, especially for women, Marjane's parents send her to Vienna for a supposed better life, where she encounters the disap-

pointments of love, education and friendship as an expat.

Given the bleak context, *Persepolis* impressively manages to avoid turning into another gloomy Hollywood production of Iranian politics and misogyny. Marjane's observations infuse humour into an intensely personal account of a woman dealing with relationships, sex and depression through tumultuous social change. This successfully humanises the revolution while showing its hardships on an individual level. Not seeking to carry an overt political statement is most probably the film's greatest asset, instead focusing on the day-to-day impact of the revolution and its consequences; one such scene where a young man dies after attempting to outrun the guards from a party is particularly shocking. As expected of a coming of age story, stock characters; the 'wise' grandmother, dispensing old chestnuts of wisdom, is at times clichéd, sickly sweet and just a little condescending. Nor does it really convey a strong sense of Iranian culture, concentrating instead on Marjane's



personal psychological states in different stages of her life.

Followers of the graphic novels will be relieved to find that Paronnaud and Satrapi stay true to the form of the original; it is led less by dialogue than a series of visual statements made even more striking by the predominant black and white colour scheme and highly expressionistic animation. The dubbing of the Anglophone release from the French is unnecessary. It

is telling of the patronising intention of producers to make what is 'alien' more accessible to a western audience; the dialogue was disappointingly not in Farsi.

*Persepolis* has an important message to give to an audience that will mostly be acquainted with Iran only through newspapers. It elegantly blends Marjane's life story within its context, managing to strike the balance between being both educating and entertaining.

FILM: IN BRUGES

DIRECTOR: MARTIN

MCDONAGH

STARRING: COLIN FARRELL

BRENDAN GLEESON

REVIEW: LIAM O'BRIEN

RUNTIME: 107 MINS



Pitched as a violent gangster comedy, *In Bruges* is entertaining fare, like a Dan Brown novel or a lolly. It's reminiscent of those buddy crime romps of the 90s, those *Pulp Fictions* and *Goodfellas* that are long gone, though unchanged is the classic strain of "sense danger, twat the danger, repeat". The British, though, run a nicely idiosyncratic factory of 21st century gangster, catering for both the film literate with *Sexy Beast* and those who laugh at Danny Dyer's informed performance stylistics.

*In Bruges* falls between the two quality-wise. It's definitely got its 'I'm British' badge on though: there's some witty dialogue, unusually remorseful criminals and a racist midget byline. Even the Belgian girl is a little British because she was in Harry Potter. The mix of the inherently British, the comic and the gory never really comes off, however. The main relationship between Farrell and Gleeson isn't really believable, and the scenes in which Farrell gets to do some proper acting, after a prolonged engagement in Hollywood shouting and snarling, feel show-

elled in when scripted in the midst of blinding a robber and some really badly written antics from Ralph Fiennes' character.

Problematic too is the boring use of stereotyped jokes about fat Americans, fat black children, dwarves, Dutch hookers, and the central plot device of a violent Irishman killing a priest. When the concept of a film within a film is used, it facilitates one of the most hilarious plot contrivances outside the blockbuster season. A dwarf is dressed as a schoolboy (the lynchpin had previously vowed to kill himself if he killed a child). The lynchpin blows off the dwarf's head with specially obtained 'murk the bastard' bullets, thus making his bloody remnants indistinguishable from those of a child. Like the sound of that? Then see *In Bruges*.

CLASSIC FILM: 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

DIRECTOR: STANLEY KUBRICK

STARRING: KEIR DULLEA

DOUGLAS RAIN (VOICE)

REVIEW: IAN MASKERY

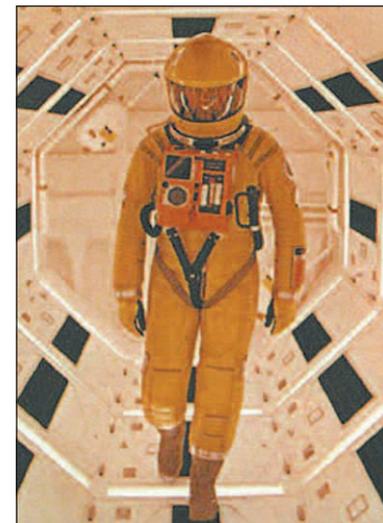
RUNTIME: 160 MINS



Before *2001: A Space Odyssey*, science-fiction films came with titles like 'Journey to the Centre of 'BLANK', and 'BLANK!!!!'. There were some gems among them but, more often, they were bland and tended to look overly cheap. (It seemed as though every scenery department in film business was sponsored by Polystyrene Inc.).

Then, in the late sixties, director Stanley Kubrick had the idea of asking a real author (the late Arthur. C. Clarke) to write a new type of sci-fi film with him. He wanted something with a bit more substance and, more importantly, something that he could use to really take the viewers' collective breaths away. Their film was released in 1968 and has set a benchmark for every sci-fi movie made since.

*2001* was born of a collaboration between the 20th century's greatest sci-fi author, and one of its most outstanding film directors, neither of whom were limited by a lack of imagination or dedication to their art. Importantly, and unlike somewhat more bombastic directors, Kubrick never stumbled into



the pretentious pitfall of explicitly telling the audience that his film was 'huge' or that it had a deep and resonating message (in the case of *2001*, he would have been well within his rights). His gift was simply to present the story in an inquisitive and beautiful way; allowing the viewer the freedom to choose their own interpretation of the movie.

Simply put, without *2001*, a great many modern sci-fi classics would never have been brought to the screen, or at least, their renderings of alternate universes would have been severely impoverished. The action-packed *Star Wars*, flawlessly logical *Star Trek* and eerily atmospheric *Alien* series, to name but a few, all owe their dues to what has to be the greatest science fiction movie ever made.

# Style&Fashion

Models are portrayed as either completely silent or brash and stupid. **Liam O'Brien** gives them respite from media critique

Throwing the accusation of stupidity at models is a pretty easy thing to do, and is something that the non-fashion media likes to engage in – a lot. Private Eye's 'Supermodels' cartoon depicts their main life goal as being extraordinarily thin, ignoring of course, the fact that most of the models that can justifiably be prefixed with 'super', like the Christy, Naomi and Linda set of two decades past, were of (at least compared to the nymph-looking models dominating catwalks today) a fuller, feminine figure. A favourite of late night clip shows is the famous Dennis Pennis interrogation of Helena Christensen. Pennis asks her "Why did the model stare at the orange juice?" The punchline: "Because it said 'concentrate'". Helena, native to Denmark, does not understand the joke, but interestingly self-deprecates so as to ruin Pennis's attempt at humiliation. "I didn't get it, but I guess I wasn't supposed to," she says, shrugging it off.

These are old examples now. Often removed from education when still in their teens, models appear to be under the obligation of an enforced silence. Heard Kate Moss speak recently? The media, in reality, only have short soundbites courtesy of Rimmel and Virgin mobile's advertising departments to judge her by. The model has reverted to the traditional, simpler function of clotheshorse; a product of what she wears outside of the catwalk, where she goes and who-

ever she goes with. Thought it's probably what the various model management companies have decided is the safest, least potentially embarrassing option, such silence is a sadness given the plethora of bad publicity around modelling at the present time. Shows like *America's Next Top Model* and its maudlin British counterparts give a sinister portrayal of bitchiness, infighting and general vapidness, all serving the purpose of sabotaging one another's chances of getting an exclusive contract at the end of the whole charade. There a couple of reasons why the peculiar morality on television modelling cannot be applied to real life. Firstly, none of the winners ever go on to be stratospherically successful. Apparently Elyse from the first American cycle is big in Japan. Adrienne Curry, the first winner, has the honour of sometimes having cum dribble from her mouth on PerezHilton.com. Additionally, the people that apply are the brash or naïve types willing to go on a reality TV show, and thus willing to submit themselves to the sensationalised producership that goes with the genre.

Aside from Tyra Banks and Heidi Klum (chief organiser of the annual Fashion Rocks spectacular), who tend to escape criticism because of presenting talent and a friendly disposition, endeavours by models other than making friends with Karl Lagerfeld and bringing out a range of shampoo are met with derision. Criticisms of models' musical ven-

**From left to right: America's Next Top Model, CD cover for Naomi Campbell's 'Love and Tears', Heidi Klum, Kate Moss with The Kills frontman Jamie Hince**

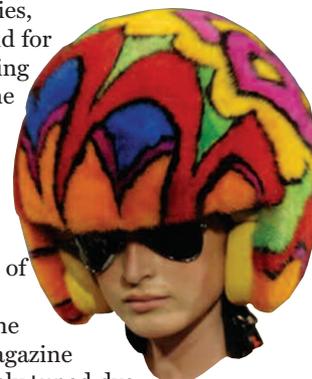
tures are common. After Naomi Campbell's singing career, the subgenre became eminently lampoonable. Perhaps after seeing Whitney Houston turning from model to singer and appearances in George Michael and Michael Jackson videos, dear Naomi thought 'Why not?' However, Agyness Deyn and Kate Moss have shown themselves to have sweet, credible voices that do not detract from the projects they have attached themselves to. Moss's backing singing for Babyshambles was welcomed more times than it was booed off, and initial doubts over Deyn's collaboration with indie band the Five O'clock Heroes were dispelled when both the song and its video achieved a reasonable artistic standard.

Perhaps more importantly, though, Deyn's recent appearance on Jonathan Ross's chatshow was memorably witty and bright. Alexandra Shulman, editor of British Vogue, recently commented on the lack of models that can pull off a front cover, and part of the problem must be the lack of personality within the industry. We know what Gisele eats, what Lily Cole endorses and what Moss wears, but no-one is willing to take the risk of saying what they actually think, conscious of the fact it will be ripped apart by eager hacks. Well tough. Models need to be something more than a face, long limbs and a moody pose. Media outlets should give them the space to do so.

**ONES TO WATCH**  
by Liam O'Brien

**DESIGNER: SOREN BACH**

In his late thirties, Bach is fairly old for an up and coming designer, but the hats and other headgear he produces are colourful and vivacious. He combines years of experience as a hairstylist for the catwalk and magazine shoots with finely tuned dyeing techniques to form outlandish, garish pieces composed of ostrich feathers, mink and horse hair. His work lacks the elegance of the famous Philip Treacy, but Bach replaces it with a youthful playfulness. He received press attention recently when Björk wore one of his baubled creations at a live performance.



**TREND: SHOULDER ACCENTS**

Whether adorned with American-footballer-esque pads like the summer dresses in the Balenciaga collection (pictured), given a highly structured sci-fi overhaul at Prada or just emphatically bare in relation to the rest of an outfit, this key look is perhaps a difficult one to pull off on the high street. Perhaps some improvisation with coathanger wire is required for aspiring fashionistas? At last week's annual Costume Institute gala, Anna Wintour appeared alien-like in a highly debated Chanel couture piece.

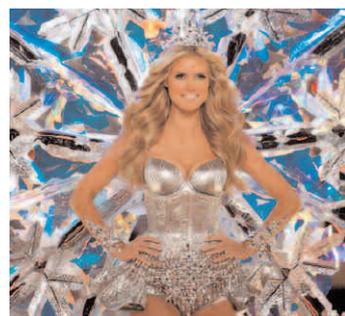
**MODEL: KARLIE KLOSS**

15 year old Kloss was universally touted as the next big thing at the beginning of this year. She is being well protected, though. A couple of runways have sufficed to show her capability, and grounding her in Teen Vogue and notorious outlets for future stars like Vogue Italia and V will hopefully mean she'll outlast most of her adolescent rivals.



**DISASTER: MAXI DRESSES**

Florals can have a tenacity to look like curtains, and maxi dresses are barely acceptable on catwalk models, so when combined the results are inevitably horrendous. Bohemian 'chic' came in a few years ago with Kate Moss and Sienna Miller, but it's over now. High street stores, though, have not acknowledged the limits of this cash-cow. To resemble a post-ironic fashion apocalypse, team with some ankle boots.



**VENETIA RAINEY  
& CHARLIE  
KIRKBRIDE**

Summer has arrived sweet little yorkies and yorklettes, and thus the time has come to don one's Panama, quaff Pimm's and snidely remark upon your neighbour's cricketing capabilities. Contrary to popular belief, York occasionally enjoys the rare English phenomenon commonly known as 'sunshine'. That frequently elusive, freckle-enhancing, tan-line-exacerbating, Jack Wills-esque clime is just around the corner. As Toby Maguire surmised in 2002, 'with great power comes great responsibility'. And so it follows that we must inform our loyal fashionista the following: 'With

the arrival of the British sun comes the infinite responsibility to locate the perfect summer frock. Don't get your frilly knickers in a twist, however, as the all-seeing eyes of Miss V and Miss C have noted an allotment-influenced propensity towards favouring floral prints this summer.

From the gourmet delicacies of Balenciaga, Etro and Dries Van Noten, to the rather more crude offerings of New Look and Primark – floromania has taken over. Delicate tea roses, childlike daisies, full figured peonies, and ornate orchids are currently splattered across garments as

though flowers were going out of fashion. These days it is apparently easier to dress as the living embodiment of a greenhouse than as a human being. Sugary shades of purple, sunset tinged feminine pink hues and frills and trills sicken the senses. Thank god the boys have more sense than we do, as the lengthening daylight hours kick our girlie instinct into full flow.

However, cynical in nature as we are, we do not denounce this floral phenomenon. Like other gullible fashion wannabes, we will follow this trend to the death. Yet little ones, we do offer the following modest but professional advice – choose with care. The line between floral sex kitten and frumpy, but sexually active grandma is a fine one. One minute you're Mischa Burton in cute rose patterned baby-doll dress, the next you may be Pat Butcher on a bad day, suffering from a severe bout of colour-blindness. Beware, dear reader...



# Last Word

## All in the family

Almost everything has a family theme this week. Almost, that is, except for Amnesty International who appear to want to protest against people having to sleep rough by leaving home and sleeping rough themselves. This is approximately akin to Iraq war protestors buying some AK-47s and invading Iraq. Exactly what they hope to achieve, except for a terrible night's sleep, is unclear.

And then there are the condoms. Now, forgive me if I'm wrong, but I was under the understanding that a condom was supposed to prevent pregnancy. That is, if you like, their raison d'être. They prevent pregnancy, therefore they are. Fertility-enhancing condoms are like homeless anti-homelessness protestors.

Or, if I may segue clumsily for a moment, Colleges that are still living with their parents and relying on pocket money. What with the influx of ACME tissue-paper condoms, most of the colleges are thinking about moving out and starting a family. As in any dysfunctional family, the children want finan-

cial independence from the domineering parents - YUSU.

This involves an appeal directly to the tremendously wealthy but curmudgeonly and slightly senile grandparent living up at Heslington Hall, in an attempt to secure some of his cash before he leaves it all in his will to a Russian transsexual prostitute he met on the internet - Hes. East, I think she's



called. Naturally, the kids are squabbling over their pocket money. Vanbrugh and Goodricke, twins only recently separated by the atrocity of the umbilical bridge that connected them at the pelvis, are working together to try to squeeze more money out of mummy and daddy. The word 'disaffiliation'; the running-away-from-home and sleeping rough with Amnesty International option, was banded about. Those crazy kids.

Poor little baby brother Alcuin was distressed by his unhappy, duck-filth-ridden home environment, and started to cry.

Trust the eldest child, big brother Derwent to be the smarmy, suckup responsible one and step in before the social services were called.

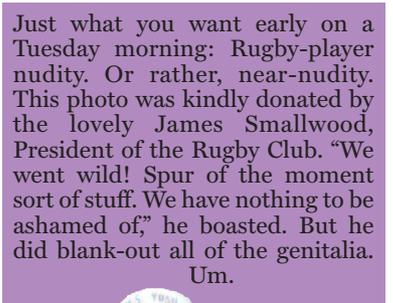
Financially semi-independent already, with a decent income and happy family of little D's, he gave the rebellious brothers a bit of a smack and told the bickering dipsticks to get a grip. Good thing too; the last things mummy and daddy need right now are problems with pesky children.

## Moment of Zen

### Cycling tipsily into the foggy darkness of current affairs with neither lights nor cycle-helmet



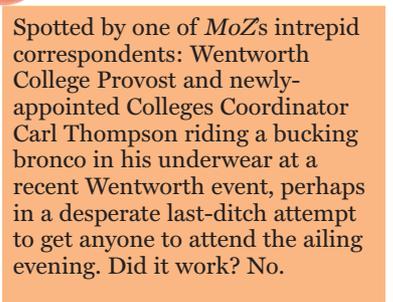
Instant hilarity. Take one half-naked Rugby player. Tape to nearby fence. Take Joey Ellis, Student Dev. and Charities officer. Tape to Rugby player. Leave to simmer on a hill in Lancaster for 40 minutes. Serve. "My legs were really bruised," said an indignant Ellis. Half-naked? Which half, Ellis, that's what we want to know. "The bottom half." Oh dear.



Just what you want early on a Tuesday morning: Rugby-player nudity. Or rather, near-nudity. This photo was kindly donated by the lovely James Smallwood, President of the Rugby Club. "We went wild! Spur of the moment sort of stuff. We have nothing to be ashamed of," he boasted. But he did blank-out all of the genitalia. Um.



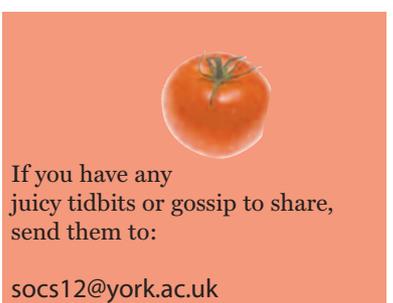
Accusations of insider dealings abound as Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor invites YUSU Pres. Ann-Marie Canning to Wembley to see an England match. "It's nothing," insisted Canning. "Nothing untoward at all." However, her facebook status about the trip contained 3 exclamation marks in a row. You make your own minds up.



Spotted by one of MoZ's intrepid correspondents: Wentworth College Provost and newly-appointed Colleges Coordinator Carl Thompson riding a bucking bronco in his underwear at a recent Wentworth event, perhaps in a desperate last-ditch attempt to get anyone to attend the ailing evening. Did it work? No.

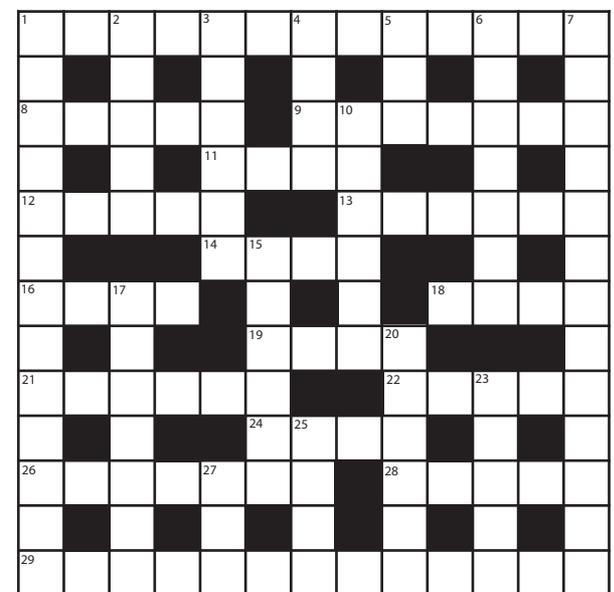


We hear from MoZ's insiders in the intrepid news section that some local drunken hooligans somewhat unwisely picked a fight with the University's Tae-kwon-do team. Unsurprisingly, the ensuing brawl was a quick one. "It was like something out of *The Karate Kid*," said an onlooker, conveniently giving MoZ an excuse to print a still from one of our favourite films...



\*Not an actual picture; in fact a cunningly engineered fake consisting of Thompson's top half and some American's bottom half. Regrettably, MoZ was barred by legal and moral considerations from recreating an accurate - i.e. semi-nude - depiction of the scene.

## Nouse Crossword



Crossword compiled by Dexter

- 21. Swapped items (6)
  - 22. Subject (5)
  - 24. Ache (anag.) (4)
  - 26. Uneven sphere (7)
  - 28. Where an Eskimo lives (5)
  - 29. Things that go bump in the night (5,8)
- Down**
- 1. Diligent (13)
  - 2. Foot joint (5)
  - 3. Soup servers (6)
  - 4. Footwear, punch (4)
  - 5. Type of light bitter (1,1,1)
  - 6. Inherited via DNA (7)
  - 7. Acutely aware of own actions (4-9)
  - 10. Paradise (6)
  - 15. Messiah's composer (6)
  - 17. Rang mad (anag.) (7)
  - 20. Philosophy of morals (6)
  - 23. Beat or bean (5)
  - 25. As well (4)
  - 27. They tried to make her go to rehab (but she said no, no, no) (3)

- Across**
- 1. Great Jazz Bassist (7,6)
  - 8. Bare (5)
  - 9. Groove, conduit (7)
  - 10. Mere (4)
  - 11. French pancake (5)
  - 13. Edible acid (6)
  - 14. Dagger (4)
  - 16. Creep, border (4)
  - 18. Symbol (4)
  - 19. Not one (4)

Answers available on [www.nouse.co.uk/crossword](http://www.nouse.co.uk/crossword)



If you have any juicy tidbits or gossip to share, send them to: [socs12@york.ac.uk](mailto:socs12@york.ac.uk)

# Can a new bar be impressive enough to work?



**Holly Thomas**  
Contributing  
Writer

Struggling to imagine a “funky” space in our concrete jungle.

“Not a heavily populated college, Langwith is known to most students by virtue of its facilities.” Thus opens the description of Langwith college as it appears on that inexhaustible fount of knowledge; Wikipedia. In this case however, Wikipedia seems to have made one of its notorious lapses in accuracy. The entry continues: “a common meeting venue...”

The tortuous saga of Langwith bar has been drawn out for several terms. Abandoned by students and languishing in pitiful disuse, it’s a fairly depressing sight. I am only aware of how it looks, I hasten to add, because my lectures are held in the hall next door - it remains the only campus bar where I have never purchased anything intoxicating for an evening. Questions of its fate have flown back and forth for months. And what exactly is YUSU’s suggestion? Yet another bar! Fantastic; what could possibly go wrong?

I know, I know, bar bashing has been done and I

would honestly like to see something positive in this. I can understand the attraction, in the eyes of the SU, of our ‘very own’ bar; a social hub where student money would come pouring in. There are however, just a few too many glitches in the current scheme for me to embrace it with open arms.

To begin with, there’s the rather glaring problem that the University Policy and Resources Committee has yet to actually give the project the financial go ahead. Not that this has encumbered the spending of much time and resources on consultants, committees and general speculation on the colour of the new venue’s walls. The financial situation as a whole seems in rather a tangle. The results from the asbestos survey have still not been given, so it is impossible to know exactly the price and duration of any work that may need to be done. An initial, now thankfully rejected, design suggestion involved a wall within the walls to avoid actual asbestos removal. And yet somehow it is hoped that

the sparkly new bar will be open for test runs by September.

The aim of the bar seems slightly confused as well; Matt Burton lays heavy emphasis on the patronage which ‘lifelong learning’ students taking classes in Langwith might bring, yet also stresses its identity as a York students’ bar. The concept of including a funky, student ‘outdoor space’ seems seductive, until one considers that it will hardly be possible to watch the sun set, nestled amongst those grim grey blocks.

Finally, and inevitably, comes the problem inherent with any University-based bar. Burton would like to reverse the “trend we’re seeing where people are leaving campus”. Well sorry, cosy though campus is, we do like to venture forth from time to time, to enter a world where not everyone has an essay due, and ducks aren’t everywhere. The concept of a new campus water-hole is not inherently doomed. It’s just going to have to be pretty damn spectacular if it’s to be pulled off.



To be a part of the debate and for exclusive web content go to [www.nouse.co.uk/comment](http://www.nouse.co.uk/comment).

## We have a right to residency too



**Elly Veness**  
Contributing  
Writer

Evacuation will not solve the tensions between students and locals.

With the prospective expansion of our campus to Heslington East and our intake of 2008 freshers almost doubling last year’s, it seems illogical for the local council to restrict areas of student housing. Badger Hill – one of the closest havens to campus and hence amid the most popular of areas – recently issued its petition against student ‘flooding’. Residents of Heslington and Fulford have also pressured the council to give priority to locals in what has been termed a ‘Local Development Framework’. Furthermore, we are not the only students in York; the council governed curb of student residential areas would mean York St John, the College of Law and York College would all also be affected.

Being in a small historic city means that we are already under a certain amount of residential strain, particularly when compared to Universities in big cities such as Manchester. Being in the first year, we had to cajole our group of house-mates together as early as the first term and continue to scavenge for something suitable that doesn’t resemble a pimp shack or a leaking barn with no central heating. This does not mean to say that student accom-

modation in the city of York is appalling. It is, on the whole, very reasonable in price and quality, just that it is already relatively limited in quantity. Every fresher is in the same situation here, whilst friends at other universities don’t give a second thought to the issue until the summer.

The business of looking for a house in the second year brings fresh excitement, but also a range of frustrations and stress. Will a flux

**“You’re right to say that we don’t pay taxes...yet!”**

in available housing force us into an even greater flurry as we fight tooth and nail for decent housing which isn’t miles from campus? Any drastic change may also mean unnecessary pressure on the University to accommodate second and third years on campus.

I admit that, on the whole, students aren’t a very popular bunch. Memories of the Gallery DJ pausing in-between tracks to call those listening a load of “tax-dodging bastards” – only to insist that he meant it in jest

– springs to mind. Yes, we can be noisy on occasion; yes, some of us tend to show ignorance of local community, choosing instead to immerse ourselves in the duck-filled concrete ‘bubble’ that governs our lives; and yes, Mr. Gallery-DJ, you’re right in that we don’t pay taxes... just yet. But these are generalisations. There are as many of us that are polite and unobtrusive as there are otherwise and we too will eventually become tax-paying members of the public.

It is public displays of pettiness such as the Badger Hill petition that aggravates me to start a government appeal of my own in an attempt to curtail the stereotype of ourselves harboured by the prejudiced. Local councillor Ceredig Jamieson-Ball is an ex-York University student himself and though it is his duty to react to complaints of the local population, surely the answer here is not to evacuate students from crucially needed campus suburbs but to tackle the roots of the problems themselves? I urge York City Council to think about their decision and I cannot stress enough our right to maintain our residence in ‘student’ areas.

Read Emily Kozien-Colyer’s reply at [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk).

## Taking from the best we can from a bad situation



**Alex Russell**  
Contributing  
Writer

Anyone got a spare ten grand? YUSU haven’t, having handed it over in return for an Organisation and Governance Review, all in the name of telling YUSU whether it’s doing its job properly. The usual suspects who seize every opportunity to criticise the union have had a field day. But have they actually stopped to consider that the review might be beneficial for struggling students such as themselves in the long run?

Student unions across the UK have a vital role to play in representing the interests of the student body. Therefore, if there’s any way that our union here at York can be made better, we should surely grasp such an opportunity. The findings of the review are not revolutionary, but they have given YUSU a clear outline of the changes that need to be made for the future. In particular, the review highlights the need to prepare for Heslington East and the increased YUSU income it could generate.

I have become increasingly aware of the animosity that exists between students and their union. This bad-feeling between us and our representatives is all wrong; we should be working together. This is one of the things picked up on in the review. It holds the importance of sabbatical officers developing greater interaction with students and making sure that they are aware of what we need and want. At the end of the day, YUSU is here to serve us. If we hate them and they grow increasingly agitated by us, there’s no hope for York getting any better.

Ideally, YUSU would have been perfectly aware of the changes that need to be made, but sometimes a fresh perspective is best to identify what needs to be done. This way, the officers can continue to focus on doing their jobs. Some of the changes are relatively small, while others are much bigger. Splitting the Academic and Welfare Officer’s role into two posts is a notable example. But all of these improvements will come together to make a better, more efficient YUSU. Let’s, for once, stop moaning and start encouraging. Ten grand’s not that much if it’ll make more through actual efficiency in the future.

## Matthew Jeynes Goes way back

For this edition of 'Goes Way Back', I've decided to go topical. With all the commotion over student spending and VCR nightmares, I felt it was time to get a bit of perspective.

The November 1974 edition of *Nouse* highlights this need for perspective with its dramatic headline of "University going bankrupt". Despite the lack of a definite article, which continues to bug me, the headline pretty much sums up the story.

Yep, the University is going bankrupt. That's all I need to know, but apparently it deserves a front page and then a double-page spread. Anyway, it seems that government cuts to the education budget mean that the universities are going to die! Not really, but that's the sort of thing the paper does to try to add some drama because, let's face it, stories about money are enormously dull.

However, the headline for the spread exceeds the bounds of melodrama. How the University losing money becomes the headline "Countdown to Armageddon" eludes me.

The story also gives a hint as to the state of college finances, with one article explaining that "colleges are making cutbacks in furniture and equipment" due to the money problems. Anyone who has ever spent any quality time in Langwith knows that these cutbacks were clearly never remedied.

The money theme of this article continues with the frankly depressing news that, back then, students could go and see York City FC play for just 25 pence. Forget inflation and the changing value of currency, that is just ridiculous.

On another note, the edition also featured an article on page four under the frankly puzzling headline of "Homosexuals in York: Where are they?" I don't know, has anyone checked under Central Hall? The article ended up a serious social commentary piece, and my overactive imagination that changed the simple question in the headline into some sort of pseudo-'Where's Wally' adventure.



# Letters

*Nouse* welcomes your letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication. Email [letters@nouse.co.uk](mailto:letters@nouse.co.uk) or write to:

*Nouse*, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

## Summer time's for ice cream not revision

Dear *Nouse*,

Which genius was it who came up with the academic year? What's wrong with January as a kick off point for learning? I wouldn't mind, except that as it stands, the end of the year, a time of revision and stress culminating in the nail biting horror of exams falls exactly at the point when one least feels like locking oneself in a musty library.

I feel disgruntled as the rest of the world emerges at last into the outdoors, gleefully donning their sunglasses and embracing the light of spring.

There is nothing less conducive to concentrating than the muffled sound of volleyball games and the happy groups who almost appear to flaunt their melting ice creams as they pass by. What a kill-joy

to turn down yet another invitation on an afternoon lazily spent sunbathing. How much more depressing is one's ivory complexion as everyone around you acquires an enviable caramel tan.

I understand that exams, loathsome as they may be, are a necessary evil. But why not take advantage of those many grim months, when the thought of venturing outside is about as attractive as diving into a pool of ice? When the library can almost appear a cosy hideaway, a refuge from the bitter wind and grizzly sleet.

I'll wager results would improve exponentially, were exams shifted back five months.

Caroline Watford

## Dancesport not Butlins

Dear *Nouse*,

I am writing in response to your reporting on the ballroom dancing in Roses being compared to something out of Butlins. We feel this is unfair and reflects badly on our society. The event was held by Lancaster Uni Dancing Society, and it was their decision to host a couple of "intermission" dances which one could have likened to Butlins. The dances that mattered, the ones for Roses points, were a lot different to this.

So you can get a better idea of the more professional teaching York Dancesport offers, we'd like to invite two *Nouse* members to one of our lessons for free in the next couple of weeks.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Luke Malkin  
Dancesport Press and Publicity Officer

(See [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk) for the full review of the Roses tournament.)

## Stereotypical and proud

Dear *Nouse*,

Whilst reading your riveting article on the North-South divide, I was struck by how true stereotypes can sometimes be. Although we would all like to think that these long established parodies are infact false, just walking through York centre and observing town folk will prove otherwise. Not that this is a bad thing. Who's to say that these stereotypes are a negative representation of class culture?

As a student from the South of England, I do indeed enjoy drinking a fine port over lambrini, eating at the Blue Bicycle over Efe's, and watching with mild disdain as rugby boys dressed as school girls stumble out of Ziggy's. Of these facts I bare no shame. Infact, this current embarassment of being middle class is rather ridiculous if you ask me. Why shun having taste, I'm rather proud of my perfect elocution, and if that makes me a stereotype then so be it.

Gerald Dittle

## Best of the web

### Ethical Merchandise

Oscar (March 15 2008, at 17:01)

I think that many people will choose to take the cheaper 'unethical' option so long as it is there. What the government or public should do about it (if anything) is a deeply tricky matter. Surely an appeal to Arcadia would render the price of their clothes uncompetitive, and a rival would nip in and take a larger market share by selling less expensive clothes? Equally, changing the opinion of the public en masse is rather unlikely. The government then, has the ultimate say - perhaps people should lobby for the outlawing of products made by cheap foreign labour?

Shinji (March 13 2008, at 15:11)

Don't forget that protest serves its own purpose by simply existing and registering disgust. You don't protest at, say, a BNP rally to change the minds of the supporters or the speakers. You may want to raise a bit of awareness, but mostly your being there is an act of non-violent aggression. Now P&P, among others, may have a wider campaign here, but it seems they may just want to protest. Anyway, the wider aims seem to have worked as well. It at least has you writing about it, which has me responding. If 'encourage debate' was an aim, then I suppose this is success. Clearly, much like institutional racism, higher level negotiation and political process will ultimately shape the ways in which major changes will occur (it won't be a Sunday Times article or a few students, anyway). And people will always want cheap clothes. But there are plenty who are willing to pay a little more, which is why goods like fairtrade and organic sell well, and continue to rise in popularity.

From "We will never care about ethical merchandise." Comment at [nouse.co.uk](http://nouse.co.uk).

## Little campus: Big Mouth...

Are you sick of cheesy music at campus events? We asked you whether it's time for a musical revolution. Check out Sarah Foster's comment at [nouse.co.uk/comment](http://nouse.co.uk/comment)

**Name:** Daniel Woodford  
**College:** Halifax  
**Year:** First  
**Subject:** Electronics



“ I love cheesy music and would hate to see events become more serious and orientated around one type of music. It's all about having a good time with your friends but I don't think there's a lack of other music events on campus. There have been quite a few drum and base nights and Battle of the Bands showed that there's lots of musical talent here at York. Events like Club D play music that the students want to listen and dance to which is obviously the cheesy stuff, if you don't like it then just don't go. ”

**Name:** Alice Mumby  
**College:** Halifax  
**Year:** First  
**Subject:** English and Philosophy



“ I'm in Halifax so our events tend to be quite cheesy and the Derwent ones have been a bit too cheesy as well. I would like to see different styles of music at campus events, although we have a couple of live music stuff, where I come from we listen to lot of dance music and that scene is missing here. I'd love to see more bands playing on campus instead of the standard cheesy events. Halifax occasionally does a live bands event and it's always full so I don't see why we can't have more stuff like that. ”

**Name:** Rowan Smales  
**College:** James  
**Year:** First  
**Subject:** Electronics



“ I'm all for the cheese! Campus events lend themselves to cheesy music as it's all about having a good time and not taking yourself too seriously. If you go for a niche market then less people will turn up to an event, so playing cheese will attract a larger amount of people and get more money. The music scene on campus is generally a bit poor, there are not really any live music events and if there are, they're not as well publicised as Club D events and definitely not as frequent, which is a shame. ”

**Name:** Kevin Bates  
**College:** Derwent  
**Year:** Second  
**Subject:** History



“ Cheesy music is really fun and when you're wasted you want to dance to trashy music, they kind of go hand in hand. It's less about the music than having a good time with your friends. I'd really like to hear more indie music, I know there's an indie society but I really only saw them at the Fresher's Fair and they don't really publicise themselves. If more campus societies got involved in these events they would be much better and have a more varied range of music to meet everyone's tastes. ”

# Boycott as the only effective form of protest

**Beth Gandy** talks to the Vice President of the European Parliament on human rights abuse and an Olympic boycott

While the Olympic Torch, the manifestation of the Olympic spirit, continues its tour around the world, April 30 marked 100 days until the start of the Games in Beijing.

Many deem China responsible for genocide in Darfur and Tibet and some vehemently uphold that it is in Tibet that the Olympic spirit died. For these reasons, should a boycott of this year's event in China take place?

There are many in the European Parliament who stand by this, including its Vice-President, Edward McMillan-Scott, the Conservative MEP for the Yorkshire and Humber region. He created the European Democracy Initiative in 2004 and has been actively campaigning for a debate about the prospect of a boycott.

When interviewed by *Nouse* he shed some light on the situation. "As the founder of the EU's £100m democracy and human rights programme, I have tried to gauge the capacity to work in the world's largest country and its biggest tyranny. There is a universal acknowledgement in the human rights community that the situation in China is already worse than it was in 2001 when it was awarded the games by a hopeful IOC (International Olympic Committee)."

Along with organisations such

as Amnesty International, McMillan-Scott believes human rights abuse in China is actually worsening as a due to the Olympics. After being asked by the IOC to organise "a secure Olympics Games", the Chinese government has resorted to more arrests of dissidents and more censorship.

The Games have in the past been used to bring estranged countries together. At the Sydney Olympics in 2000, North and South Korea entered the same stadium together during the opening ceremony for the first time; two countries that consistently antagonise each other at the negotiating table. The South Koreans, in the end, used the Olympics as a coming-out event, as it is hoped China will, and it is now a democracy.

It is thought that the Olympics will give the country exposure to the world, to different ideals that will hopefully bring about change. As McMillan-Scott said: "thanks to the boycott campaign, the world is watching China."

He went on to scrutinise Chinese politics saying that "the techniques of repression in the name of the Chinese Communist Party are so effective with their PR company teaching 84 key Beijing spokesmen how to lie about them. China is selling the same techniques to other tyrannies around



Tibetan Youth Congress activists call for a boycott whilst carrying the Tibet Independence Torch

the world, from Burma to Sudan to Zimbabwe".

Politicians worldwide will now face a decision over whether to lend legitimacy to a regime with a terrible human rights record and which continues to oppress people. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of

Germany, has vowed to boycott the opening ceremony. Hillary Clinton also recently took to the stand, urging George Bush's administration to reconsider its Olympic plans. France's President Sarkozy has not ruled out a boycott, and while Gordon Brown has said he

will go to the closing ceremony of the Games, it is likely that in he is uncertain about his position.

McMillan-Scott takes a powerful stand supporting the boycott saying: "It is time for the democratic world to stand up and be counted".

# Miliband speaks at York on the future of Labour

**Peter Campbell**  
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

"IN TWENTY YEARS time people will either say 'that guy was a tosser' or 'that guy did the right thing'". When addressing the University of York Labour Club on Friday May 1, it became clear that the 37-year-old Ed Miliband is already thinking about the next generation.

During his speech, Labour's Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, outlined three major challenges facing the country in the future: globalisation, social challenges, and climate change are all issues that need to be resolved sooner rather than



James Alexander, Labour candidate for York Outer and with Ed Miliband Minister for the Cabinet Office

later on.

One issue that caught the attention of the audience was that of Labour's decline

in the polls since the arrival of Gordon Brown. Miliband stood by the leader of his party saying: "Early on,

[Brown] impressed a lot of people with the handling of particular crises". However, Miliband admitted to some serious issues in the Labour camp. "Some problems have been our creation, like allowing the election speculation to go on for too long... it's been very difficult in the last few months."

On the local election results he commented, "I spent two hours in a BBC studio trying to defend them and it became increasingly obvious to me that these were not good results." Miliband did not express as much concern about the London result (at the time unconfirmed), saying the vote was on London-based issues, and that Ken's chances were not hampered

by affiliation with Labour. "Our history with Ken is not a glorious one. But disappointingly, Boris has been able to wish away all of his past comments... which I think is quite skilful." In hindsight, Boris, it seems, did much more than that.

Miliband attacked the current state of British politics deeming it as childish. "This is where Cameron was right; that you need a more grown-up style of politics otherwise it makes people think that parliament is about people shouting at each other. If you saw children aged 11 doing that then you would think they should behave themselves."

Miliband emphasised the importance of parliament saying that it "needs to

become more powerful." The room fell into an uncomfortable silence. He proceeded to explain how parliament should also become more open, suggesting that the youth parliament should be able to sit with the senior members.

Speaking on Gordon Brown's policy with regards to the upcoming 2008 Olympics in China, Miliband did not believe separation was the answer. "In the end you have to make a judgement - is it better to isolate them or is it better to try and work with them?", he said.

For the full interview transcript, go to:

[www.nouse.co.uk/politics](http://www.nouse.co.uk/politics)

*Forget the clichés about training with a major law firm. It's not about what you know, who you know or where you went to university. It's about what you can learn. And if you have a good degree (not necessarily in law), an inquiring mind and an ability to meet challenges, training at Slaughter and May could be the best possible route to a worthwhile, stimulating and rewarding career.*

Great minds  
think differently.

SLAUGHTER AND MAY

LEARN MORE about training contracts and work experience schemes at one of the world's most respected law firms by contacting:

Charlotte Houghton, Slaughter and May,  
One Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YY.  
Telephone 020 7600 1200.

[www.slaughterandmay.com](http://www.slaughterandmay.com)

# Survey finds that 52% of York students have no affiliation to any political party

**Polly Ingham and Albi Furlan** analyse students' attitudes towards contemporary political questions

A survey of the student population at the University of York has revealed that 52% of students feel they are not aligned to any party, while 17% of students would vote Conservative, the next biggest group.

Over 200 individuals were polled by *Nouse* last week, with the intention of discovering student attitudes towards political issues. This came at a time of heightened interest in national politics due to local elections.

The survey asked students whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of topical issues, as well as their gender, college, age and course. This is perhaps a sign of party lines not filtering down to students, or perhaps students simply formulating their own opinions rather than following the official guideline.

While 12% would vote for Labour, only 8% would support the Liberal Democrats, despite them currently holding the seat for Heslington in the Local Council and their "student friendly" image. Even when a direct affiliation is present there is no correlation between how people would vote, to how their party feels on the matter; the opinions are often directly opposed.

A positive balance of political persuasion is to be found across campus



**17% of students would vote Conservative at the next general election whilst 12% would vote for Labour**

despite widespread apathy. However some colleges, such as Alcuin, cannot shed predefined stigmas. With 24% of preferences, Alcuin has the highest percentage of Conservative students, both male and female voters, of all the York colleges.

The lowest concentration of Tory-aligned students can be found in Langwith college. Langwith

however, is also the least politically affiliated of all the colleges.

Halifax has the broadest overall representation, sporting voters, although of small proportions, from the BNP, the Green party and the Monster Raving Loony Party as well as the more conventional political parties.

In a time when global

warming dominates eco-policy agenda, the survey revealed that the environment is not far from the thoughts of York's students. Although the Green Party only obtained 2% of votes, their presence at all is significant.

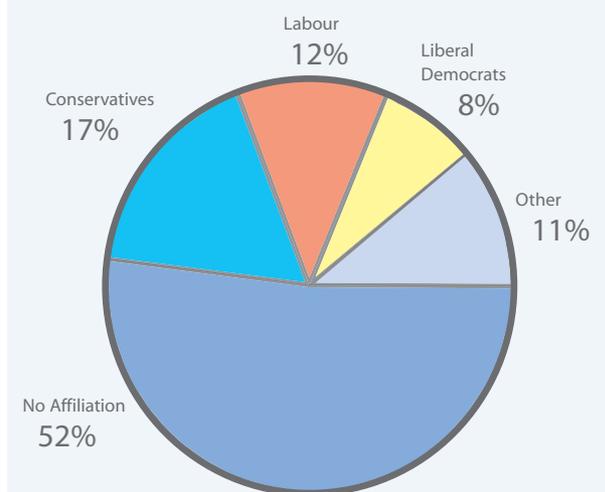
When polled about current political issues, 47% of students surveyed stated they didn't know whether troops should be deployed in Kosovo or not, but those who did respond were equally divided. Students were also generally opposed to the idea of boycotting the Chinese Olympics, with 61% of those polled either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the proposition.

While foreign policy would seem far from the minds of the student voters, educational policy was predictably closer to the heart of students - only 4% of students failed to give an opinion on the control of schools over their pupils' lives, while the overwhelming majority (70%) disagreed on the issue.

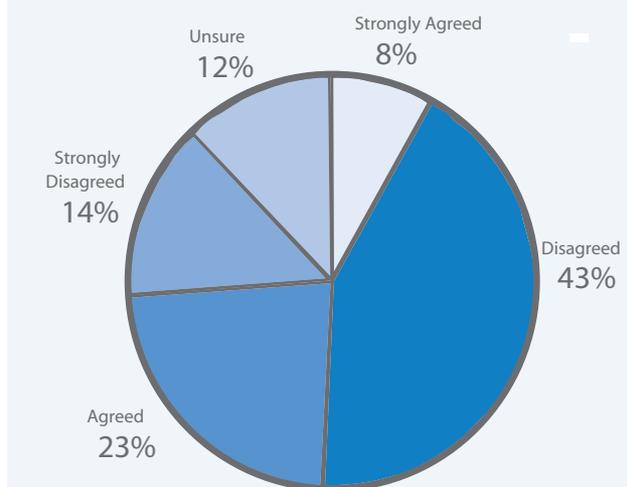
Most students thought that the power of ASBOs should be extended, with 62% of those surveyed agreeing on the proposal. Yet opinions appeared divided on the reclassification of marijuana, with only a slight majority against the attempt to raise it to a class B drug.

## POLL RESULTS

Which political party do you support?



Britain should boycott the Olympics?



# Harsher treatment for anti-social youths says Smith

**Alberto Furlan**  
POLITICS EDITOR

HOME SECRETARY Jacqui Smith stated last week that anti-social youths who misbehave and intimidate others should be "harassed themselves" and treated as strictly as possible by police.

This is in response to data showing that more Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have been breached since December last year, when the figure was already at a high of 47%. However, statistics also show that fewer ASBOs are being issued while more acceptable behaviour contracts and parenting orders are commissioned.

Smith said that "There is no let up in tackling anti-social behaviour. We know that getting in early to stop troublemakers works

but I want stronger action to deal with persistent offenders."

The techniques suggested by Smith have already been used by police forces in Essex. Specifically, she wants "police and local agencies to focus on persistent offenders by giving them a taste of their own medicine - daily visits, repeated warnings and relentless filming of offenders to create an environment where there is nowhere to hide". Operation Leopard, conducted in an estate in Basildon earlier this year, also had officers photographing known offenders for up to four days.

The "blitz" was followed up a few months later, and while Liberty, the civil rights group, called the tactics "heavy handed", residents of the estate recognized that antisocial behaviour had decreased.

Analysts have speculated that



**Home Secretary Jacqui Smith MP**

the initiative is also aimed at showing that Labour have something to say about unruly youths, after having left that issue untouched for

Tories to speak about, on the back of which, some might say, Boris Johnson won the mayoral elections last week. He has announced that during his tenure as London Mayor he will ban the drinking of alcohol on buses and the London Underground.

This is only the latest proposal to attempt to tackle antisocial behaviour put forward by the government. Last month, Labour's Children's Secretary Ed Balls announced a scheme that will force drug users as young as 10 to sign a contract controlling their behaviour and accept drug treatment. Breach of such a contract would leave them open to an ASBO. Balls criticised the ASBO scheme last year, commenting: "it's a failure every time a young person gets an ASBO. It's necessary - but it's not right."

"I want to live in the kind of

society that puts ASBOs behind us."

He firmly believes that ASBOs are a symptom, not a cause, and that the malaise should be tackled at an earlier stage: "It is about parents taking their responsibilities seriously. It is about kids having interesting things to do and it is about young people having respect for the society in which they live."

ASBOs have been criticised in the past due to the ease with which they are handed out. Last month a man in South Somerset was given an ASBO for having a rooster who kept his neighbours up by crowing too much, and was also ordered to pay £7,500 pounds in damages and evict 80 birds from the premises. It has also been reported that retainers of ASBOs brag about them, and that they are now becoming a sort of status-symbol among certain circles.



107015

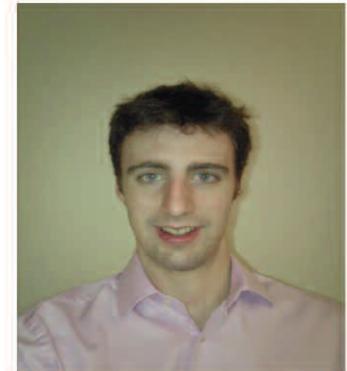
**Clare Levison – Audit (Leeds)  
(Biology—Derwent)  
Candidate Number: 84170**

During the summer after graduation, I decided to apply for Deloitte after seeing their graduate recruitment web page. I had seen their name around campus during my time at York, and knew that they were one of the top recruiters in the UK. I joined the Leeds office in September 2007, along with approximately 30 other graduates. Of these, about 15 work in audit with me. Audit involves mainly working at the client's site as opposed to spending time in the office. We spend on average of between a week to a month at each client, ensuring that their financial statements are accurate by testing them in a variety of ways. I enjoy working in different places as it is more challenging and varied compared with a normal office job. In between clients, I study for my ACA qualification at college in Leeds, which can be quite challenging but you get a lot of support from your colleagues. This does take up a lot of my time, but it is definitely worth the hard work to become qualified and increase your earning potential

# Deloitte.

## What's behind the name and the numbers?

Britain's fastest-growing professional services firm. This year, Deloitte will recruit 1,400 of the country's top graduates. For those looking for a varied and rewarding career, there's no better place to begin life after Uni. In last term's Nouse some ex-students gave you their view of Deloitte, here some more of your graduates share their experiences:



181904

**Tom Jenkins— London (Audit)  
(Economics—Goodricke)  
Candidate Number: 181904**

In Audit you gain an understanding of your client's business and how it operates. You then go in and perform tests and ask the staff questions so that you are happy that what the client says in their annual report is true, which in turn gives assurance to shareholders. In London, Audit is divided into industry sub-groups (I'm in Technology, Media and Telecommunications) and within each sub-group there are 2 or 3 intakes of around 15 people. This means that it's a really social atmosphere with people going out all the time so it is a great transition from University! The company has been great so far - when you begin you go on a lot of induction events and drinks evenings and spend a lot of your first few months in college studying for the ACA. You get to work on a variety of clients, meaning the job is always different. So far, I've worked on an Arabic newspaper, a computer games manufacturer and a mobile phone operator amongst others so the work has been really interesting and you get given genuine responsibility early on.

**Miranda Binley – Corporate Tax (Bristol)  
(Maths—Langwith)  
Candidate Number: 152095**

During my time at York I was involved in the college JCRC as sports representative, as well as participating in many of the sports. In addition to this I co-founded the Erasmus Society. After completing a 7 week placement with Deloitte working in both the Audit and Tax departments in the Summer before my penultimate year at university, I accepted a place working in Corporate Tax on leaving York. As a first year the work generally involves tax compliance for a huge range of corporate clients, including completing their tax returns and learning about the complex tax system businesses face. During my placement I was impressed by the friendly working atmosphere and the support and training available as you progress through the firm. Several social events were arranged for the summer vacation students and the social scene certainly doesn't stop on joining Deloitte as a graduate, with departmental socials, monthly office drinks and Corporate sports leagues. Deloitte places importance on a work-life balance, with a mixture of work, study and play. The people I have met in Bristol and nationally on courses and seminars have been interesting like-minded people and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a graduate joiner so far.



135728

**Natalie Cramp—Consulting (London)  
(Economics and Politics—Derwent)  
Candidate Number: 135728**

Having spent 3 years fitting my degree around Netball, being on the AU and spending too much time in Ziggys, I joined Deloitte. I spent the Summer of my second year on an internship, working on a project to introduce innovation to the public sector. Having found this really interesting and the people enthusiastic and supportive to work with, I joined Human Capital Consulting. I am in the Organisation and Change department which basically deals with the people side of businesses, making them more efficient and more motivated. Since joining, I have spent most of my time working on a Human Resource Transformation for a large oil manufacturer in the Hague, with a large team of people from many different countries to try and streamline the HR function globally. The team's brilliant and very social, and I currently live in a flat by the beach Mon-Thurs. I sometimes feel slightly in at the deep end because you learn a lot on the job very fast, but the support you get is impressive. My intake had 200 graduates in, which made training fun, college bearable and the many drinks evenings entertaining. The best part about Deloitte is all the extra opportunities they offer—recently I taught a skills session in a school and ran an event for a charity of my choice.



84170

### Applications

Those interested in applying to start in 2008, the positions still available are:

- Audit - Financial Services**—Leeds and Bristol
- Audit - Internal Audit**—Leeds
- Audit - Technology Assurance and Advisory** - Leeds and London
- Tax - Global Employer Solutions** - Leeds and London
- Tax - VAT** - Leeds
- Tax - Corporate Tax** - there are limited vacancies left across the country

Please use the website for the most up-to-date information on what is still available.

For those penultimate year students and those final year students thinking of taking a year out, applications open **1st July** for **2009 vacancies**—we strongly recommend you apply early to avoid disappointment.

Find out more at:

[www.deloitte.co.uk/careers](http://www.deloitte.co.uk/careers)

To contact any of these individuals or for any other questions please email:  
[ukyorkrecruitment@deloitte.co.uk](mailto:ukyorkrecruitment@deloitte.co.uk)



152095

**Paul Wilde – Audit Banking and Securities  
(London)  
(Economics—Derwent)  
Candidate Number:107015**

Whilst at York I was JCRC Welfare Rep, and was also a member of the Golf Society. Having graduated, I deferred my entry to Deloitte and spent 9 months travelling. I have now joined the Audit department in London. Audit involves checking the financial statements of a company to ensure that they are reporting their financial performance accurately. On a day-to-day basis, I am often involved in checking the cash balances or the fixed assets held by a company. Specifically I have joined the banking and securities division. Within this department there is a wide range of clients, from small online share dealing platforms to some of the biggest investment banks in the world. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with such a wide range of people. The graduate scheme provides us with many opportunities to meet people from all over the firm, there are great graduate social events, and also events to meet people all the way up to partner level. I'm looking forward to starting work with the new clients I have been assigned to, providing lots of new challenges and more responsibility. I have joined the golf society at Deloitte which I am looking forward to over the Summer.



# Matthew Jeynes

## Highs, lows, and all the extremes of emotion: This is how sport should be

GEORGE LOWTHER

Even in this age of the manufactured pleasure on computer and TV screens, there is still nothing in this world that can replicate the feeling of watching something live. It is true in music, and it is undoubtedly so in the case of sport.

Jumping around on the Lancastrian astroturf, caught up in the euphoria of de Boltz's last-minute Roses-winning equaliser, it was a comment from Tournament secretary Matt Knight that struck me the most. His immediate reaction to the victory was to declare, "This is how Roses should be!"

However, I would extend this comment even further. I would say that that is how sport should be. Dramatic, tense, nerve-wracking and the opposites of emotion worthy of bipolar sufferers.

There are many people who dislike sport just for that reason. They cannot stand the feeling of losing. This is the opinion that drives parents and nanny-staters to try to remove any question of failure for their children, promoting the idea of 'taking part'.

That is rubbish. A life lived without the feeling of failure is not a life worth living. It is the lows that make us appreciate the highs.

I would say that this is just as true for supporters watching a game as those playing, although of course the players are affected more. There were two moments in



York supporters at the Men's Rugby celebrate, whilst the Lancaster supporters contemplate defeat

particular that encapsulated these extremes of emotion during the Roses weekend, one of which was the Men's 1sts Hockey match.

Throughout the match, there were people with mobiles pressed to ears, desperate for news of the other events. As a result, the news that York were losing the three remaining events, and with them

Roses, slowly filtered through the crowd. Worried looks were exchanged, people unable to watch were pacing up and down, perhaps even a few prayers were offered.

Every time York got near to the Lancaster goal, a surge ran through the massed crowd, followed by despair when it came to nothing. On the Lancastrian side, the crowd

attempted to block out any York attack through the sheer force of will. Both sides lived and breathed every moment with their team. On that occasion, it was York experiencing the joy of victory.

The second highlight of the weekend was the Men's Rugby 1sts. There are few sports that can generate the same raw passion of

rugby, and this particular clash was a brutal example. The York supporters were the first to feel the creeping sense of failure when they fell behind, then saw a try contentiously ruled out. However, from this low point suddenly came a high, as James Wilson's breakaway score sent the crowd into hysterics.

Suddenly, it was the Lancaster supporter's turn to bring their team back to life and, buoyed by the crowd, they sent wave after wave of attacks to break across York's defences. In the end, Lancaster found a way through, this time sending Lancastrian supporters streaming onto the pitch in celebration.

But from York feeling that all was lost, they suddenly realised that Lancaster would not win if the try was unconverted. The York supporters then did everything they could to put off the Lancaster kicker, provoking the Lancaster supporters to run across the pitch to protect their number ten. In the end, the pressure was too much to bear for the fly-half, and he dragged the kick wide.

This provoked mad cheers from the Yorkists, despite the fact that they had just conceded the win, and had been feeling depressed only a few minutes ago. But this is sport. To use a cliché, it is a rollercoaster of highs and lows, and there really is nothing else quite like it.

## Decision day looms for Sports Centre refurbishment

CRISS NOICE

Adam Shergold  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY Sports Centre will learn on May 21 whether the latest phase of its refurbishment programme; a wholesale facelift of the reception and changing room areas, will be given the green light. Work is expected to commence over the summer vacation on the project, in accordance with an undisclosed budget.

Gym management stressed the urgency for renovation work to occur, pointing out that the decaying entrance to the sports centre is now having to cope with 10 times the number users it was designed for.

Despite this, initial

reactions to the gym renovation over the Easter holidays have been positive, with reports claiming a small increase in membership in the first three weeks of term. The changes include the addition of a second floor reached by a staircase near the entrance and a redistribution of cardio-vascular equipment across the two levels. The majority of the treadmills and rowing machines have been relocated upstairs, while the traditional weight sets and machines have remained on the lower floor.

When questioned, many gym members praised the additional space which has now been created on the ground floor by the reshuffle of machines. This makes for

a more pleasant environment. Also, the separation of the exercise mats and medicine balls, positioned too close to the widely-used treadmills before, into a side-room alongside the cycle machines has been well received.

However, some complained about the lack of natural light on the upper floor and the absence of an additional water fountain. Also, difficulties remain, despite the layout alterations, some difficulties remain: the weights bar cannot be used for deadlifts, for instance, placing more strain on the adjacent weights room. The weight machines on the lower level have been further compressed and at least one has been out of



With the new gym already under fire, planned refurbishments could be rejected

operation this week.

In addition, some have questioned whether the overall work-out experience has been improved and

whether the renovation will justify potential increases in the price of gym membership packages next year, given the financial constraints

imposed by the latest round of facility developments and the cost of the new buildings within the Heslington East expansion project.

# Snatched from the jaws of defeat: Images from the win in Lancaster

York's unexpected triumph at Roses '08 in pictures, photos by **George Lowther** and **Venetia Rainey**



**Jo Carter**  
AU President

THIS LAST WEEK HAS been a surreal one...the fact that York have just won Roses 2008 is still slowly sinking in, but the fact that it's gone is even harder to accept. Roses has been a distant date on the back of my mind since last July, and now it's been and gone and there is a void in my life.

What a weekend. After going into the weekend 12 points down from the rowing, I was a little concerned that our little jaunt across the Pennines wouldn't be as successful as I'd hoped.

But Friday and Saturday couldn't have gone better. We were winning the fixtures we were favourites in, and winning the ones that on paper we should have lost. At one stage on Saturday afternoon we were 24 points ahead of Lancaster, and the Lancaster tournament secretaries were starting to look extremely concerned.

Perhaps we became a little complacent after sitting 18 points clear on Saturday night after clean sweeps in the skiing, fencing, sailing and tennis. Coming into Sunday, we needed just 19 points from an available 54 to win an Roses away

Sadly we made life difficult for ourselves. With just three fixtures remaining it could have gone either way. All we needed was a draw in football, hockey or table tennis, and with just minutes to go, we were losing all three fixtures and contemplating a long trophyless journey home.

I spent Sunday afternoon enjoying the gentleman's pastime of croquet with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. I had a great start, but as reports of scores kept coming, I lost the plot. Neither James nor I could focus on the croquet, we were both nervous wrecks. I have never felt so sick in my life.

I couldn't have told you who won the croquet. As soon as

ored the equaliser, securing York the Roses win, I abandoned my mallet and sprinted down to the AstroTurf, nearly falling head-over-heels in the mud on route.

I am so proud of the teams, they really deserve all the credit for last weekend's success. York has now won an awat Roses three times in the last sixteen years, whereas Lancaster hasn't taken the Carter-James trophy home from York since 1985. So what made the difference this year? Was it simply that we had the better players? Possibly. But for me, the professionalism and passion of the York teams was the fundamental difference. Plain and simple: we wanted to win more.

## FRIDAY York 45 - 44 Lancaster



On the first full day of fixtures, York dragged themselves back from a poor performance in the rowing, dominating in the badminton (right) and gaining parity in the Rugby 7s (left). Unfortunately, a heavy defeat in Ultimate Frisbee (below) meant that the day ended with scores close.



## SATURDAY York 105 - 87 Lancaster



York pulled ahead on the second day with comfortable wins in both the Men's Lacrosse (far left) and the Women's Rugby (above), along with clean sweeps in the Snooker, Sailing and Fencing. However, a mixed performance in the netball (left) meant that Lancaster kept in touch.

## SUNDAY York 124 - 122 Lancaster



The final day was characterised by drawn-out fixtures such as Table Tennis and Archery, both of which were won by Lancaster. York took early points in the Volleyball, but struggled to finish off the contest. Key wins for Lancaster in the Basketball (left) and the Football (above) meant that York left it late to secure victory, eventually handing the Carter-James trophy to Jo Carter (right).



## SPORT

**Roses Victory:**

From Lacrosse to Hockey: *Nouse* presents a Photo Diary of Roses 2008, celebrating York's second away win in six years >> Page 19



# Hudson leads York's cricketers to victory against Huddersfield

ALLY CARMICHAEL



After persevering to a respectable total, York took apart Huddersfield's batsmen with measured bowling that restores some pride to the squad after their Roses defeat

**CRICKET**

**Jack Organ**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

YORK 1STS CRICKET team put on a solid showing in their first run of the season to beat a spirited Huddersfield team, despite the visitors getting the upper hand early on.

York won the toss and elected to bat, a decision that surprised some of the spectators as the wicket was still drying out, making it potentially difficult to score heavily in the early going. This scepticism seemed justified, with York failing to assert themselves in the early exchanges. The opening pair of Tom Hudson and Nick Vanner failed to settle in at the crease and Vanner was soon bowled and caught in the seventh over.

Mike Walsh coming in at number three was similarly unsettled and went in the twelfth over to a full length ball from Huddersfield's Harrison, with York only having put 28 on the board.

Hudson and Townson soon fell to Huddersfield's bowlers who were beginning

to build momentum.

Unfortunately for York, the Huddersfield bowlers continued to assert their rhythm, spearheaded by the consistent Davis. Two more wickets fell in quick succession, leaving the York squad staring down the barrel of another loss at 95-6 with only 18 overs remaining.

After the loss of Hilson for 29, York finally found the solid partnership they had been seeking to establish all match with Andrew Emmerson and the impressive Nick Hudson at the crease. Both batsmen scored

well and displaying a wide variety of shots with boundaries being hit into all corners of the pitch. Hudson's inspired effort eventually ended when Davis took his third wicket of the day to end the partnership at 93, Hudson finishing on 61.

Emmerson finished out the fifty overs, bringing the York total to 202-8, personally achieving 43 not out.

With a solid enough total, York set about bowling the Huddersfield team out, but were met with stiff resistance.

Huddersfield's opening

partnership held York's bowlers at bay in the early going, but Emmerson ended the partnership when Raja was bowled at 73-1 in the sixteenth.

After putting themselves firmly in the driving seat, Huddersfield underwent the most dramatic of batting collapses. In the space of twelve overs, Huddersfield lost a further six wickets for 29 runs. At 102-7 the game looked all but over, but Huddersfield attempted a renaissance at the crease with Amjad attempting to salvage a part-

nership out of the wreckage. However, following the loss of Jolly at 155-9, the game was effectively over and Amjad soon fell at the hand of Captain Tom Hudson.

Despite an encouraging victory and some great individual performances, the fielding was inconsistent with many catches dropped at important times. However, after the frustration of having two matches cancelled and losing by a single run at Roses, it took a lot of heart to bounce back and defeat a spirited initial Huddersfield performance.

## "I have never felt so sick in my life"

Athletic Union President Jo Carter speaks on her experiences of the Roses weekend, her reaction to the news of York's win whilst playing croquet and her pride in the effort put in by all of York's clubs to secure victory.

JO CARTER >> P19

## York win Roses in dramatic finale

Relive the tension and the drama of one of the closest finishes in Roses history with our Photo Diary, covering everything from Badminton early on Friday morning to Jo Carter lifting the Carter-James trophy.

ROSES IN PICTURES >> P19



## New gym presents new problems

York's newly renovated gym has received mixed reactions as the Sports Centre seeks confirmation to refurbish the reception and waiting room areas over the summer break to compete with Next Generation Gym.

SPORTS CENTRE >> P17

## "There is nothing else quite like sport"

Following York's retention of the Roses trophy, Matthew Jaynes reflects on the atmosphere of the largest Inter-Varsity tournament in Europe, and examines the extremes of emotion that sporting occasions evoke.

MATTHEW JEYNES >> P17

13.05.08

*Nouse* is printed by Yorkshire Web Printers of 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS. For back copies, contact the JB Morrell Library, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD.

