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Concern raised over welfare provision at York after college tutors' hours cut

Ben Rowden and Elliott Banks
DEP EDITOR AND NEWS EDITOR

MAJOR CONCERNS have been voiced over the changes to the college tutor system and the increasingly involved role that STYCs and head STYCs have had to play in maintaining welfare during freshers' week.

This change has occurred because college tutors are now subject to the working time directive, which affects the on-call nature of their remit. Previously college tutors were on-call during term time on top of their contracted 30 hours a week. Under the working time directive, workers need a minimum of 11 hours between the start of each shift.

This means that college tutors can no longer be on call to assist with the welfare issues of students during freshers' week, given that they are no longer permitted to work after 6PM. This has meant that college tutors were not on-call as welfare assistants during freshers' week, and given that the working time directive is a part of UK law it is likely that this situation will remain the same. The college tutors have received welfare training, provided by the University and YUSU.

HCSA (Halifax College) and Vanbrugh JCRC have exclusively told *Nouse* that this year head STYCs came under increasing pressure to provide services, notably welfare, that went far beyond their official duties.

Commenting on the issue, HCSA released the following statement: "For a voluntary role, immense pressure was placed on STYCs and head STYCs this year without the presence of college tutors. Many found themselves having to deal with freshers' personal problems alone, as they didn't have anyone else left to turn to."

They went on to raise concerns that students often became too reliant on STYCs to help with situations for which they have not received training: "In return, freshers are even now turning to their STYCs/head STYCs whenever they face an issue, and aren't going to their college tutors or the college wellbeing team."

"No STYCs/head STYCS should be expected to deal with such issues, especially as they have not received the training that college tutors receive. In the training sessions they received they were told to signpost freshers to the college wellbeing team, which is nearly impossible when the only part of that team present throughout the whole week was the head/assistant head of college."

Meanwhile, Vanbrugh College JCRC explained that the decision to change the working hours of college tutors was taken very close to freshers' week and that no clear contingency plans were put in place to deal with the loss of a vital, trained and experienced body of volunteers. They went on to tell *Nouse* how college staff often had to plug the gap, making up for the lack of welfare

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The annual Illuminating York festival brightened up many of the city's most famous buildings and landmarks, P.6

York looking unlikely to increase fees under TEF

Anna Coughlan and James Hall
NEWS EDITOR AND REPORTER

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR did not see a rise in fees for University of York students. Unfortunately for some students however there was a secondary increase in fees from £9000 to £9250. Despite last year's cohort of freshers starting higher education under the former bracket, institutions such as Exeter

and Durham saw this rise as having precedence.

For students starting in 2018 the government has indicated that universities which perform well in the Teaching Excellence Framework will again be allowed to raise undergraduate home fees each year in line with inflation.

The Teaching Excellence Framework was introduced this year with a ranking system based as either bronze, silver or gold.

In response to the new league

tables, pro-vice chancellor John Robinson said: "Although we already knew the TEF results would be in three ranks, until now we didn't know they would be called gold, silver and bronze."

Universities who receive a bronze rating will have been underperforming in one or more areas and silver for universities that offer courses where students are 'significantly challenged.'

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

There are many duties which any new editor of Nouse must quickly take in their stride. Tapping all the phones in the sabb office; keeping up to date with all the campus politics (as if one society filled with overly-ambitious self-publicists wasn't enough); trawling back through the Nouse archives to locate and eliminate every article you ever wrote that, you now know, labelled half the US Senate.

Add to these surviving your first production week, and celebrations are in order. You're well on your way to becoming a full-blown two-bit student hack.

These challenges are faced by every intrepid young Editor when they take the reins of this esteemed newspaper, but there is one task which I now face that my predecessor never had to consider: writing an original Editor's Note.

There have been Editor's Notes for years, but they were short, factual pieces – to plug a particularly interesting feature, or give a run-down of what's in the sports section. It was only when the last editor, in a move of glorious self-indulgence, instituted this 400-word monster bedecked with giant 'N' and matching kingfisher logo, that this column really took flight.

So, here's my dilemma: how do I craft my own original Editor's Note, without plagiarising from a full year of his Nouse-related ramblings. Could I perhaps talk about our name? No, he already did that (19/01/2016).

Perhaps I could ruminate on our logo, or the many front pages that adorn the walls of our office? Nope, done (16/02/2016) and done (05/05/2016). I can't even satirise this column itself: that opportunity was snatched away in his very last edition, at the beginning of this term.

But perhaps I'm trying too hard. When we sit down at our computers at the start of every production week, at the mercy of that cruel mistress InDesign, each team member is faced initially with a template of what came before. But every time the final paper will be entirely individual and their own.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that as the paper evolves, we evolve with it, building and adapting without losing sight of the excellent foundation that we've been handed. Empires rise and fall, editors come and go, but Nouse will always be here to serve: ready to report, rant and perhaps even occasionally enrapture. As Tywin Lannister would say: "it's the name that lives on."

And so I shall honour my predecessor's legacy by continuing his self-aggrandising soliloquies, while being meticulously careful not to rehash any of them. And to any future editor, who, on sitting down to pen their first note finds themselves cursing the ingenuity of their forebears, be not too disheartened.

There's always a meta way out.

Luke Rix-Standing

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York looks unlikely to increase fees under TEF

Anna Coughlan and James Hall
NEWS EDITOR AND REPORTER

>>> **Continued from front**

He continued, "Is using medal-related terms helpful for students, universities and the reputation of British universities? Some will say that with 20-30 per cent of universities awarded gold, 50-60 per cent silver and 20 per cent bronze, the overall world-leading quality of UK higher education will be undermined: most institutions will be 'only' silver. Others will say that the medal metals are better understood as ranking terms than any others.

"I don't have an immediate opinion, but the names are important and I hope the effects of using them will be thoroughly tested once the results are out. So far as York is concerned, we will go on improving our already excellent learning and teaching, working in partnership with students, and we will do what we can to get that quality recognised nationally and internationally."

The rating will be based upon "student satisfaction, non-continuation rates and employment data," as determined by students and education experts. An appeal process will be made available to dissatisfied institutions.

Universities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be allowed to opt in, although this will not affect their tuition fees.

All universities will be allowed to raise their tuition fees this year, and those who meet the excellence framework will be permitted further increases in subsequent years. The new rating system will commence before the new intake of students apply for university in autumn 2017.

Universities minister Jo Johnson said: "By setting out clear incentives for universities, the framework will drive up quality in the sector at the same time as improving student choice and crucially, graduate outcomes - so that we can be confident we have the skills employers need now and for the future.

"The framework will also give students clear, understandable information about where the best teaching is on offer and for the first time, place teaching quality on a par with research at our universities."

The University came 44th in the benchmarked TEF rank and 26th in the absolute TEF rank in June 2016 - notably below York St John. In light of this it appears unlikely that York will be able to increase its fees.

David Duncan, university registrar, has clarified: "At this stage we have not made a decision about fee levels in 2018 and beyond - this would depend partly on market conditions. However, we would not wish to see an increasing imbalance between expenditure and income, so fees increases in 2018 and beyond are certainly possible, but these would be pegged to the prevailing rate of inflation."

IMAGE: CARL SPENCER



STYCs faced extra pressure

Ben Rowden and Elliott Banks
DEP EDITOR AND NEWS EDITOR

>>> **Continued from front**

support following the departure of on-call college tutors. Source on Vanbrugh JCRC also said that without the college staff making up for the shortfall, then Vanbrugh would have struggled like other colleges during freshers' week.

YUSU President Millie Beach told *Nouse*: "STYCs are invaluable; year on year it's fantastic to see so

many students eager to volunteer to make sure that incoming freshers receive a fun, York welcome. Just because there is this great student volunteer force it doesn't mean there isn't the need for professional support staff to be there, in colleges, for our students.

"The boundaries of the role of STYCs must be clear and maintained. It's concerning to hear that students have felt a lack in this professional support and have felt too much is expected of them in a voluntary role. They aren't there to provide in depth welfare support for other students. Moving forward YUSU have worked with colleges

to put together a group to examine how welfare issues are managed during freshers' week and how we can best support students and ensure they do not experience this pressure in future."

University registrar David Duncan, when asked about the changes to the college tutor system, he told *Nouse*: "Despite the changes to the hours of college tutors, both they and the STYCs continue to have important parts to play. However, it is difficult to comment in detail until we have carried out a proper evaluation of freshers' week - we are currently seeking feedback from first year students through a survey."

IMAGE: FACEBOOK



Group of freshers and STYCs enjoying York's nightlife; concerns have been raised about student welfare provision

AT A GLANCE EMPLOYABILITY

Ben Rowden
DEPUTY EDITOR

Employability at the University of York has long been a contentious issue, with graduate prospect statistics lagging behind other Russell Group counterparts for a long time now.

Numerous issues have been flagged why York lags behind other such institutions. Potential reasons range from the distance between York and London, to the smaller proportion of science students at the University, who typically go straight into graduate careers.

The Complete University Guide places York 39th for graduate prospects, in their most recent 2017 rankings. That's 19 places below their overall ranking in the tables. Yet their rankings for graduate prospects are based off HESA 2014 data and only ap-

ply to first degree graduates. York is therefore coming under more pressure to increase their statistics in national league tables.

When asked about employability, university registrar David Duncan explained, "The employment prospects of York graduates have been improving steadily over recent years, but our overall statistics still lag behind the best in the Russell Group. In part this is due to the subject mix we offer, but we are working very hard to improve career prospects.

"The vice chancellor chairs the University's Employability Strategy Group, which includes representation from academics, employers and students, and we have allocated additional funds to support internships and work placements. All students are encouraged to think about their future careers from their first year onwards and to make full use of the help that is offered by the Careers Service."

The signs are clear then, that York is starting to play the em-

University to strengthen academic links with China

Camilla Zurru
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THIS WEEK, the University of York and Peking University in Beijing are about to sign a student exchange agreement, which will be finalised by York vice-chancellor, Professor Koen Lamberts, via a visit to China.

This five-year agreement will consist of five York undergraduates studying in Peking University for one year and both undergraduates and postgraduates from Peking studying in York.

There is already an established collaboration between the two universities.

Peking University is the academic partner of the University of York for the Jiangning Foundation that in 2011 funded Art History MA scholarships and a programme for visiting academics at the University of York. As well as this the Summer School, which was organised by the Centre for Global Programmes, welcomed 13 Peking undergraduates at York in 2013.

Furthermore, the University of York has important research collaborations with Peking University, including one on atmospheric pollution, led by Professor Ally Lewis at York.



IMAGE:KENNER116

Peking University (above) and York University create an exchange programme to strengthen academic links

In general, research projects with various universities in China are expanding quickly as Hilary Layton, director of internalisation at York, underlined: "Our research projects in China are increasingly important, and include partnerships in plasma science, safety-critical systems for railways, and heritage management."

During his visit to China, Professor Lamberts will also meet officials from the China Academy of Science and the Ministry of Science and technology. He will also be attending the UK Russell Group meeting in Shanghai with China's elite C9 universities – which includes Peking University and Nanjing University, another important partner of the University of York.

The visit will also include discussions with senior York alumni on the topics of careers, professional networking and employability. In fact, there are strong alumni groups of York graduates in Beijing and Shanghai and nearly 6500 York graduates currently living in China. Professor Lamberts said: "It is important for us to have exchange agreements with leading universities, such as Peking. Our students benefit enormously from spending part of their degree in another country, and experiencing what other cultures and economies have to offer."

YUSU is to launch a review into campus democracy

Anna Coughlan
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU have initiated a change in their policy with the aim of becoming more transparent and responsive. Millie Beach, YUSU president, included such a revision in her manifesto seeing the review as an opportunity to seek out "how we continually improve to ensure that students remain at the heart of YUSU."

"It is important that Union processes for making change and agreeing policy are as simple, transparent, representative and as engaging as possible.

"The review will give students

an opportunity to share their views on the policy system and let us know how it can better meet their needs."

A review into democratic process and engagement will re-evaluate current policy process to develop a framework that works to a higher and more efficient standard. In turn, this aims to make YUSU more representative of the student body.

YUSU are encouraging student groups involving academic reps, colleges and societies to attend focus groups in order to raise their involvement in the process.

Beach hopes that "students will take the opportunity to get involved and let us know how they want to be represented and they want decisions to be made."

The recent initiative of 'Question of The Month' also aims to en-

sure that student voices are heard, endeavouring to make a more impactful difference to student life based on the feedback such surveys provide. This will continue throughout the year and maintain the contact between students and YUSU.

This month centres student's desire to make their democratic voices heard, and which positions are currently the most effective at representing them.

Concerns have been raised that there is currently only one body in position to analyse the actions of YUSU.

The policy review group is made up of individuals who are interviewed and appointed to scrutinise YUSU proposals and policies.

Member James Humpish, concurs: "It's important that YUSU's

policy structure reflects the genuine interests of the student body while also being as accessible as possible.

"It might be that as the review progresses we find that the student body is happy with the current process, but every once in a while it's worth checking that is the case. Any proposed alternative would be subject to a student-wide vote and would hopefully tie in with the officer elections in February."

Naturally it could be the case that students are not so dissatisfied with current processes. But the democracy review looks to use the data collected at the end of the term to convene an Officer Question Time. This will allow students full disclosure on the findings and the effect such research might have on democratic procedures or future

proposals.

Following this a referendum will be held in the second term involving the entirety of the student body. The last referendum to be held was on whether York should remain a member of the NUS. The interest sparked by this issue indicates the potential of student involvement.

A dedicated mini-site hopes to condense all information in relation to the review. This will allow students readily available and more accessible data capture.

As a consequence, non-time-sensitive policy ideas have been set back to second term so that in the short term the YUSU staff can focus on all consultation work with a mind to making the necessary changes to democratic processes within the union.

NEWS IN BRIEF

York Tories: Fox hunting social

The York Tories hosted their infamous fox hunting social last week. The event, in which the committee are dressed as foxes and pursued by the members dressed as hunters, attracted around 30 members. The hunt ended successfully at the Slug and Lettuce in town after a thrilling chase through four other pubs.

Clifford's tower redevelopment

The City of York Council's planning committee have put forth a controversial idea for a new visitor's centre. Built at the base of the tower with a new walkway and stairwell inside the tower, there would also be a bigger viewing platform for a better view of the city. The idea has been put forth by English Heritage.

Late night London to York

Virgin East Coast has announced that a new late-night train service will be made available in December from London to York. Currently the latest service is 10PM however the revised timetable will see trains continue for another hour. Aimed at Christmas shoppers, the service will also be beneficial to students.

Bomb scare in York

A bomb disposal squad was sent to Burdyke Avenue in Clifton on the launch night of Illuminating York. Police initially said that the public were not in any immediate danger. A man has since been arrested for 'health and safety' offences and it is believed it was for creating fireworks.

Students protest at STEM fair over BAE systems careers stall

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

A GROUP OF student activists called Disarm York have protested outside a STEM careers fair. The students were protesting the inclusion of BAE systems, a company which develops military, security and aerospace technology for governments and the private sector.

The company, which has provided nearly £4m to the University

of York for research projects, is a regular feature at STEM subject careers fairs and is featured consistently in The Times top 100 of graduate employers.

However, students at Disarm York have expressed concern about the ethical nature of BAE's business as the company is involved in the manufacture and sale of weaponry.

The group's Facebook page states that they want to "end the links between the University and arms companies actively involved in corruption and human rights abuses around the world."

The company and the University have previously come under fire for BAE's funding of research here at York and previous careers fairs have been picketed by students wanting an end to this relationship.

University registrar David Duncan said "As a university, we uphold the right of everyone to free speech, including the right to demonstrate and protest peacefully. At the same time, we have a duty to help students find employment after they complete their degrees; to this end, we welcome a wide range of employers to the campus."



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Disarm York protested at the STEM career fair over the decision to allow BAE systems to have their own stall

44 bus cut leaving 66 as sole provider

Jack Davies
NEWS REPORTER

THE 44 BUS, run by Transdev, is set to end its five year relationship with the University of York on 4 December by discontinuing its Unibus service from the city to campus.

Starting from next year, the spring term will see the 66 bus become the sole provider of transport from the two main campus sites, York City Centre and Railway Station.

The Unibus service was specifically aimed at students and worked closely with both the Graduate Students' Association and the student union. A survey conducted by the University to students and staff showed that 92 per cent of their services scored good or excellent compared to a fitting score of 66 per cent for the 66.

However, this was not reflected in the University's decision to award the transport contract to First York. Attempts were made by Transdev to continue without the university's financial support but it is now no longer economically viable to do so.

The service will still run between Acomb and the City as part of their contract with the City of York Council but devoid of the Unibus name and following a new timetable.

Some have raised questions as to whether the cost of tickets to and from the city and campus will increase on the 66 route. With a lack of competition, First York

are very much in a position where students are subservient to such a rise. As such consultations between YUSU and First York hope to ensure that travel remains at a reasonable price and covers the full area previously catered to by the 44 bus.

Concerns have also recently been raised in regards to First York's capability to cope with an increase in their services. The company has been struggling to recruit drivers and consequently some services have been cancelled due to staff availability.

Marc Bichtemann, managing director at First York has stated that he, "would like to assure students and staff at the University that we are working to recruit more drivers to join our team, and we apologise for the inconvenience caused by the cancellations of some services."

When asked for comment regarding the changing bus situation: "YUSU works closely with the University and First to ensure that the best possible service is provided for students. On Friday 28 October, YUSU facilitated a meeting between students and First in order for students to voice their concerns about ongoing issues and allow First time to respond to them. YUSU and GSA hold monthly meetings with key stakeholders in order to hold First to account and ensure they hear feedback from students first hand, we will continue to use these avenues to ensure quality of service. We understand that First are currently in the process of recruiting new drivers and we look forward to working with them to ensure the service on First buses is great."

Sabb officers to attend the March for Education

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU SABBATICAL officers Dom Smithies (community and wellbeing officer) and Tamaki Laycock (academic officer), are to join a delegation at the March for Education in London. The event, which will take place on Saturday 19 November, is a national demonstration organised jointly by the National Union of Students and the University and College Union. YUSU is not endorsing the march as the sabbatical officers will be in attendance as individuals, not union representatives.

The aim of the march, according to its organisers, is to highlight the effect of government cuts, with

the protest calling for "free, good quality further and higher education, accessible for all".

The main aims of the march are to pressure the government into investing in further education colleges and sixth forms and to stop college mergers. The march also calls for the government to write off student debt, stop private education companies profiting from student fees, and to halt the rise in tuition fees and bring back maintenance grants.

The NUS stated on their page for the event that "In HE, tuition fees are rising and the government is forcing universities to run like businesses. Students are facing higher debt than ever before with maintenance grants and NHS bursaries scrapped, student loan terms changed and tuition fees set to reach £12 000 by 2026."

A coach down to the march is being organised by individuals for those who want to attend, leaving on the Saturday.

Community and wellbeing officer Dom Smithies said: "The demonstration calls for free, accessible and quality education in the UK and seeks to challenge the marketisation of the education sector. It was called, in part, in response to the government's Higher Education and Research Bill. While we obviously value a focus on teaching quality the metrics in the government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) are hugely concerning. This demonstration is a rally to challenge the imminent increase in fees across universities and to demand consultation with & representation of students within the Office for Students."



IMAGE: BILLY H

Previously held education protests have attracted large crowds in the past

Northern Youth hosts exhibition at the Minster as part of Illuminating York

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

EVERY YEAR Illuminating York presents a series of commissioned artworks throughout the city centre, designed to light up the its famous landmarks. This year, from 26-29 October, the city was lit from within with works spanning across the lawns of York St Johns to the top of Clifford's Tower. Among other exhibits, the Minster was illuminated with beams of white light stretched across its interior and a transformative exhibition was held at the National Railway Museum.

This year's event also featured The Northern Youth. Last term they hosted a fashion show in Central Hall inviting Anna Wintour, the US editor of Vogue, as the guest of honour. The group, comprised of students studying at York aims to present a less London-centric view of the creative arts. The group began

as an off-shoot of York's fashion and arts publication, HARD Magazine.

Their press release stated that the north is "often unjustly overlooked due to the increasingly London-centric creative industries, the mission statement of The Northern Youth is to devolve this bubble through celebrating the unique identity and untapped potential of the north."

The group hosted an exhibition in York Minster's Chapter House, entitled 'Millennial Minds' and featured a variety of artists showcasing their work. In a press release by the The Northern Youth, the group said that at its previous event they sought to raise awareness for two refugee charities. 'Millennial Minds', was designed instead to 'incite discussion about mental wellbeing amongst the young people who are most affected.'

According to The Northern Youth, the exhibition in the Chapter House received over 400 people an hour while the exhibition was running.



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Freshers mini clinic

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

A SMALL EMERGENCY clinic was set up in the former James Dining Hall during this year's freshers week. The clinic, staffed by the local emergency service was designed to provide assistance to freshers by providing bedding mats and medical equipment on site for campus-based events.

The clinic was designed to deal with the typical medical problems associated with freshers week such as minor injuries related to alcohol. This clinic aimed to reduce emergency callouts to campus relieving pressure on the local A&E.

When this reporter visited the clinic only a small number of students were using the facility with most of the cases relating to overconsumption of alcohol. The creation of this clinic was in response to concerns regarding the overemphasis of drinking during freshers week, as freshers often exceed recommended alcohol limits.

University registrar David Duncan told *Nouse* that: "This initiative was organised by YUSU and funded by the University. The total budget we allowed was £5 000, though the final costs were less than this. Initial feedback suggests it was worthwhile, with small numbers of students making use of the facility each night."

New student partnership agreement introduced

Anna Coughlan
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is developing its first student partnership agreement. It aims to clearly outline what the University should be doing for its students in line with what students owe to their education, research and society.

With a clearer definition of these reciprocal positions, the agreement hopes to enable important policies and procedures to optimise student experience.

The draft agreement was launched over two events. One on Friday 14 October on Heslington East and one on Thursday 20 on

Heslington West.

Millie Beach, YUSU President, is incredibly positive "about the student partnership, as it provides a means to hold the university to account, through the union or as an individual student.

It also provides a central point of reference for support services, as seen in the Cardiff Student Charter.

We are pleased to support the University in creating an agreement that listens to student feedback and reflects student recommendations. We also believe some tangible elements, such as electronic submission and feedback deadlines can complement the partnership in the future."

The document premises York as "a place of scholarship. As a student, you will join a community of

learning in which you can pursue your academic interests and develop as an individual who strives to make a positive difference in the world.

"At York, you will be challenged intellectually, encouraged to consider your place in wider society, and supported to achieve academically and thrive personally.

"We want to empower you to take some chances, and, with our support, use your time here to become the best person you can be."

This is only a draft. The full document can be found online and the University strongly encourages students to give feedback by 21 November. The partnership agreement is part of a series, which offers a greater student led focus from the university.

Archaeological evidence at risk

Anna Coughlan
NEWS EDITOR

SCIENTISTS AT YORK believe that important archaeological evidence at wetland sites across the world, could be at serious and immediate risk.

The research harks back to the 1940s when the very first excavations at Star Carr revealed excellent preservation of organic materials.

Excavations from 2006-2007 then revealed an alarming level of both bone and wood deterioration in research conducted by York in conjunction with the University of Manchester.

At the time little was known about the timescale of deterioration or how quickly it had occurred.

In the first study of its kind, an assessment has been made on the changing environmental and geochemical conditions that affect the preservation of organic remains. Bone and marrow artefacts collected from the Star Carr Mesolithic site were analysed and compared to results from lab-based experimental burials.

From this, researchers are encouraging the archaeological community to reassess the assumed tradition of preserving sites such as Star Carr. Instead immediate evacuation should be considered.

Dr Kirsty High stressed that 'the short time scale of this experiment highlights the alarming rate.'



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Government migration review will likely include international students

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT is conducting a review into UK migration which is likely to include international students. The review, sparked by prime minister Theresa May, is to include foreign students with a view to potentially reducing the number of international students at UK universities. International students have been included in migration statistics since 2013, despite widespread opposition from five parliamentary select committees, academics and MPs.

The Conservative government has pledged to reduce net migration down below 100 000 a year, a pledge which was repeated at the Conservative Party conference earlier this month. Currently, according to the Office for National Statistics, the figure for net migration stands at 330 000 in 2015, the second highest since records began.

Gross migration figures show that 167 000 of the 600 000 new migrants each year are students from outside the European Union.

At the Conservative Party conference, home secretary Amber Rudd said that the government is to consider creating a two-tier visa system for international students, with students attending lower ranked universities left likely to face difficulties obtaining a visa. In addition, international students' right to work following the completion of their degrees is likely to be restricted.

The announcement was heavily criticised by the University and College Union, which represents universities. General secretary Sally Hunt told the Guardian "International students make an enormous contribution to UK higher education, both educationally and



IMAGE: DIEGO DELSON
The UK government is conducting a review aimed at reducing immigration

economically. As highly skilled people, they make an invaluable contribution to our economy".

However, the decision has also caused discord in the government ranks. At a recent appearance of the Treasury Select Committee, the

chancellor of the exchequer Phillip Hammond voiced his concern that the government's approach would harm UK universities.

Mr Hammond expressed concern that the government's focus on migration would unfairly harm

skilled migrants and students coming to the UK.

The chancellor told MPs that: "When the public tells us loudly and clearly that they have a problem with levels of migration, it is very clear to me that they are not talking about computer programmers, brain surgeons, bankers, senior managers... possibly students".

This has been coupled with reports in The Times that the home secretary Amber Rudd tried to get international students exempted from the government review, but was overruled by the prime minister. However, Downing Street has resisted calls to exempt foreign students as the government remains committed to reducing net migration 'down to the 10 000s'.

Following Mr Hammond's appearance, a statement was released the next day by Downing Street stating that: "The government objective is to reduce annual net migration to the tens of thousands, and in order to deliver this we are keeping all visa routes under review. Our position on whom is included in the figures has not changed, and we are categorically not reviewing whether or not students are included."

When asked about the proposed changes, University registrar David Duncan said: "As an international University with a global reputation, we want to be able to attract very able students and talented staff from all over the world. We are very concerned that the government's approach to visas should not hinder our efforts in this regard. We believe that university students should be excluded from the immigration statistics as the vast majority return to their home countries after graduating. Those who remain benefit the UK economy and should be welcomed as such."

Violence at UCL

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

THE METROPOLITAN police had to be called to an event hosted by University College London's Friends of Israel society. The event, in which a former Israeli Defence Forces intelligence officer talked about his experiences, was interrupted by pro-Palestine protesters.

The protesters entered the event with banners chanting 'free Palestine' and 'Shame' while the officer was speaking. The police were subsequently called to accompany Friends of Israel society members out of the lecture hall. An alleged assault on a woman was also investigated. No arrests have been made at present.

The pro-Palestine society had been lobbying the university for several weeks to have the speaker banned from appearing at the event. UCL allowed the speaker, and rejected calls to ban him from appearing.

The speaker, Mr Mazzig, told The Independent that "it was one of the worst events I have ever held. Being rushed in by security and spending half an hour inside the room while angry mob is banging on the doors, screaming outside, chanting terrible things against me. I was afraid for the safety of the students and myself."

Here at York, students are currently trying to create a Friends of Israel society. *Nouse* understands that the society is currently going through YUSU's ratification process. York also has a Palestinian Solidarity Society, which campaigns for a free Palestine.

EU student numbers in decline

Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR

UCAS has announced that applications from EU students on highly competitive courses have declined by nearly 10 per cent. EU students who wish to study medicine, dentistry and, veterinary science or at Oxbridge have seen figures sharply fall since last year after the deadline passed on 15 October.

University leaders have cited Brexit as a possible reason for the decline in student numbers, al-

though this can't be proven until the main deadline passes in early January next year.

EU students pay the same fees as UK students but there are fears that following Brexit EU students could be liable to pay international fees. This may have deterred some from applying. Some university leaders have criticised the government for providing assurances that fees would not increase for 2017 too close to the early deadline.

The chief executive of Universities UK, Nicola Dandridge, told the BBC that the applications window opened on 6 September, "but the government guarantee on fees and

financial support for EU students for 2017 entry was not provided until 11 October, only days before the deadline."

However, there was an increase of 3 per cent in applications for home students and a 1 per cent increase for students coming from outside the EU.

The government said it remains committed to attracting international students but urged caution when interpreting these figures, with a spokesman stating that: "It is too early in the application cycle to predict reliable trends, but the overall increase in applicant numbers is positive."



IMAGE: EUROPEAN SANACTIONWATCH
Figures have shown a decline of nearly 10 per cent in EU student applications

So long seminars and lectures, hello online uni

Anna Coughlan
NEWS EDITOR

A NEW UNIVERSITY HAS opened in California that works without teachers on a zero contact hour basis. The college, called 42, is the latest branch of the same group founded in Paris in 2013.

With an overwhelming number

of applications resulting in over-subscription, it has been hailed by many as a great success.

There are no tuition fees and accommodation is free thanks to the backing of Xavier Niel, a French technology billionaire.

The college works by completing a series of projects that gradually increase in difficulty and progress over three to five years.

The projects focus on workplace tasks and scenarios, and many

graduates go on to start their own businesses or work for the likes of IBM, Amazon and Tesla.

The most striking element of it is that there are no lectures or seminars. Students are expected to research all tasks by using available resources and each other. Their work is then anonymously marked, also by each other.

The lack of contact hours in a humanities subjects continues to be a contentious issue in light of tuition

fees. This new model of teaching which is free and so far successful, suggests a new wave in education, enabled largely by technology.

At York, technology continues to grow in prominence with the importance of the virtual learning environment and EARL.

Students are increasingly able to miss lectures in favour of online recordings and slides. Contact between students and tutors often centres on emails.

Second year English and Philosophy student James Lewis explained that he feels he is able to "get more if I instead go through it slowly on lecture capture, it is more convenient and suited to my style of learning."

Equally, there is a lessening demand for physical copies of books. Required reading can be found online for most subjects. Scientific journals or humanities based erudition lessens the need for paper copies.

This raises the question as to whether there will be a further move to online group discussions and forums in future years.

The use of emails and the internet as a point of contact implies that students can access all the informa-

tion they need through a screen. Student-teacher interaction is decreasing more and more as technology continues to widen the amount of information made readily available.

In recent years more and more students have been turning to online courses. On an international front it enables individuals in difficult circumstances, such as that of the Syrian conflict, access to higher education.

California is also home to a separate project from 42, The University of the People, which offers degrees completely taught online. Its students come from 180 countries around the world and are offered the cheapest option of education at this level.

The only cost is invigilating the exams - this is currently being waived for Syrian refugees.

The methods of 42, peer learning and group work, already feature heavily in many courses at York. Degrees from multiple disciplines use this format for both seminars and tutorials.

Therefore, the transition to an online format suggests the continuing importance of technology in the development of higher education.



42 is a new university created by a French technology billionaire in Silicon Valley, which is all technology based

Student suppression leads to shooting in Sri Lanka

Anna Coughlan
NEWS EDITOR

SRI LANKA is in mourning for the loss of two university students, Nardarasa Kajan, 23 and Pavunraja Sulaxan, 24. They were shot dead by Sri Lankan police whilst they were riding through Kankesanthurai village in Jaffna, allegedly for not stopping, on the 23 October.

Students, parents, politicians and organisations have lead protests condemning the actions of the police, calling for an independent investigation. Since the 25 October shops and offices have also shut in solidarity.

The University of Jaffna is the city's only public university and students and lecturers alike are now boycotting their academic engagements in order to convey their an-

ger. They do not plan to reconvene until their demands are met, including compensation for the parents of the dead students; as such the situation is escalating.

Last week the vice chancellor of Rajarata University was held hostage with several lecturers as 300 students surrounded his office. Their aim is to force the university to lift its suspension of student leaders. The university has since closed, and all unions and councils have been banned.

An investigation is being conducted by the National Police Commission and the Jaffna University Arts Faculty Students' Union have made it clear to the government that they expect these investigations within the month.

The police tried to mask the students' deaths as a motorbike accident, but the post mortem revealed that one of the students had been shot. Students' unions accused

previous president Mahinda Rajapaksa of trying to quell the progress of student representation. Though they hoped for greater governance under Ranil Wickremesinghe, it has now become clear that they can expect the same sort of attacks.

Suppression is now at its highest since the Marxism of the 1990s, according to University World News.

Funding has been cut and classes censored. Reports suggest that students regularly find themselves victims of assault, assassination, arrest and abduction. 218 students, including union leaders, have faced death.

These shocking statistics have lead to a growing concern from international human rights organisations as to the repression of the right to higher education. Sri Lankan students are now appealing to the global student body for support against their suppression.

US universities top global ranks

Anna Coughlan
NEWS EDITOR

FOR THE FIRST TIME ever the US dominated the top five spots in the Best Global Universities Rankings. With a total of 1000 institutions involved, they also claimed almost a quarter of the participants, 210, with little rivalry from China, 87, and the UK, 68. They're ranked on 12 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations.

However, China showed the

greatest increase in colleges successfully making the move into the top 1000. In subject areas such as Computer Science and Engineering their academic influence continues to grow. Peking University was counted in the top five in Asia, so its increased involvement with York will hopefully prove to be beneficial, considering its ranking of 218th. They are tied with Oregon State and the University of Turin in Italy.

UK universities made up four of the top five in Europe, alongside the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. All, however, will soon be outside of the European Union.



Harvard was ranked first; the next four were also US universities

With Trump on the ticket, third party is a no go

They might make better presidents than Clinton, but none of the third party candidates have a shot at beating Trump



IMAGE: MIKEFZIETHLOW

Oscar Bentley



The question of whether or not one should vote for a third party candidate leaves me with a not insignificant amount of cognitive dissonance. The two major candidates in the 2016 US presidential election are well known: ‘The Donald’ for the Republicans (who, as The Huffington Post states in a caveat at the end of every article surrounding him, “regularly incites political violence and is a serial liar, rampant xenophobe, racist, misogynist, and birther”), and ‘Crooked’ Hillary Clinton for the Democrats. Lesser known, however, are other third party candidates standing against the two headline nominees, with arguably the most notable of these being Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party, Jill Stein of the Green Party, and independent candidate Evan McMullin. Together, these candidates hold around 15 per cent of the popular vote.

A large part of me wants to implore every single US voter to vote for Hillary Clinton. Preventing Donald Trump from ascending to commander-in-chief is of paramount importance, and electing Hillary to office is the only way to stop that. Plus, a female president is long overdue.

And yet, in last summer’s UK General Election, I was not imploring people to vote for Ed Miliband,

so as to stop David Cameron and the Conservatives from continuing in government. Instead, I supported the Green Party, and while I did not actually campaign for them, Green Party election materials covered around 90 per cent of my Facebook timeline.

I would have rejected any arguments for voting for a candidate based on gender, and have simply said to vote for the best candidate.

So therefore one could, quite reasonably, argue that this was no act of bravery or moral high ground, but that in sticking to my principles

In a presidential system, you really only have a choice between two ”

and supporting a party with an ideology to the left of Labour’s, I let David Cameron and a party with an ideology far to the right of my preference in through the back door. In reaching for the stars, rather than going for the option of compromise, something worse was allowed to grasp power with its angry (right) fist.

This is why I am conflicted when considering the US presidential election. I want to beseech all environmentalists and left-leaning socialists to vote for Jill Stein. And yet, I feel that if I were an American voter myself, I’d ultimately vote Hillary Clinton.

Jill Stein has next to no chance of winning any states, whereas at only three points ahead of Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton needs to win every state she can. It’s also argued that in the 2000 race, Democratic nominee Al Gore (who would have been the almighty saviour from above for environmental and climate change policy – just think how different and greener the world would be today if an environmentalist was president of the US as far back as 2000) lost the presidency to Republican George W. Bush because Green Party candidate Ralph Nader ate into his vote in the pivotal battleground state of Florida.

The comparison of the UK Westminster system to the US presidential system is one way I can rationalise these conflicting views (the fact that I was too young to actually vote in the 2015 General Election also helps). With the Westminster system, third parties have a chance of winning a seat (although less so under first-past-the-post as opposed to proportional representation), and coalitions can be formed, whereas with the presidential system, you really only have a choice between two.

So, call me a hypocrite, and maybe when 2020 (or sooner) comes around I’ll even end up voting Labour, not Green, for precisely the same reasons that Americans must elect Hillary Clinton. She may not be perfect, she may not be as good as what came before (I’ll miss you, Obama), but she’s a lot better than the alternative.

And for the love of God, don’t let the Donald in.

Don’t trust Trump? Don’t trust big government

The startling rise of Donald Trump reminds us all of the potential for the State to abuse its power and why we need to curtail it

Rob Tibke



Twenty-sixteen will be recorded as the presidential election that sent everyone insane – a collective psychosis unleashed by the political detonation of Donald Trump’s presidential candidacy. Left-wing commentators were besotted, awestruck when seemingly nothing could derail the Trump train, and America’s mainstream right is equally outraged. National Review has published a hard-hitting #NeverTrump issue, collecting indictments from prominent conservatives and libertarians. Their

criticisms are substantive. Trump’s not a conservatarians; Trump’s a Democrat with a xenophobic twist.

We wonder how someone so divisive has gained popular support? As I write this in late October, I’m confident Hillary Clinton will win because of Trump’s poor performances at the debates. But we should try to learn from Trump’s candidacy.

Trump’s rise exposes the danger of central authority. Like George W. Bush, president Obama has betrayed Bill Clinton’s promise in his 1996 State of the Union Address that ‘the era of big government is over’. According to the Heritage Foundation’s Index of Economic Freedom, over 180 new federal regulations have been enacted, stifling businesses since 2009. The monolithic expansion of federal rule guar-

antees that whoever is president will heavily influence their opponents through enforcing disagreeable legislature upon them. That isn’t to say if power were atomised then the potential harm your opponent’s president could inflict would be negated, but under the current system the stakes are higher.

America is a diverse nation, demographically, intellectually and culturally. Why should Texan voters influence, indefinitely, the lives of New Yorkers? Or why should Trump influence Massachusetts’ abortion or taxation policies more than Massachusetts’ people? It’s absurd. Obviously, immigration, defence and foreign policy are national issues that should be addressed by a federal government. Yet to maintain national harmony, a robust federal system that distributes autonomy

to local governments is better than a system where lunatics can overrule the US entirely. Trump embodies the sad truth that humanity is a fallen animal, dominated by primal instincts and need for power. Successful socie-

ties recognise humanity’s inborn failings, and need to rule others.

To ensure another Trump can never achieve exceptional power, power must be mitigated through institutional limitations. It’s not a matter of ensuring a ‘Trump’ figure can never again achieve popular support, but of decentralising power when such figures can gain support.



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE

IMAGE: FIRST MINSTER OF SCOTLAND



Scotland: should they stay or should they go?

The nationalists have had their fun, they shouldn't get another referendum

Jonny Moynihan



Freedom, the archetypal word most people would jokingly exclaim when they meet a Scotsman in a bar, sports match or other occasion.

However, it seems this freedom is not likely to come anytime soon, as much as first minister Nicola Sturgeon wants it to. This is because she is chasing another referendum on Scottish independence if, along with her trio of Brexit ministers, including Boris Johnson, prime minister May delivers a hard Brexit. A hard Brexit means that the UK would not be in the European Union single market and customs union, and therefore would incur tariffs when trading with the EU.

Nevertheless, Sturgeon's new proposal of another referendum looks like a pushy child asking her stubborn father for a second toy, when she has already broken the first. There are numerous problems with another independence referendum for Scotland, and for the UK in general.

First, the nationalists' Yes campaign lost the first one in 2014 with

a resounding win for No of 54 per cent, and 46 per cent to Yes. To any normal person, that is a definitive win for staying in the UK. But, for the eternal nationalists, they just wanted a win whatever the circumstances, and getting out of the EU was the 'material change' Sturgeon saw as another chance for one.

However, she forgets that the 2014 referendum was seen as, even from the Yes side, a 'once in a lifetime' and 'once in a generation'

It's like a child asking for another toy after breaking the first ”

referendum to decide on Scotland's future. However, there hasn't been a lifetime: there have been the grand total of two years between the loss of the first referendum and the proposal for another one. For the already tired general public of Scotland, given all the recent elections and referendums, this is one step too far, in my opinion.

It is contradictory of her to demand and assert that just because Scotland went against the majority referendum result in the EU referendum she should get a second

referendum on Scottish independence. After all Scotland is still part of the UK.

In the wake of the uncertainty created in the government and the economy by the Brexiters, there is a need for certainty and stability in the UK. A divisive and bad-tempered Scottish referendum is not needed after the shock of David Cameron leaving office and a whole new government being formed.

In addition, Scotland's SNP government is losing its control, as in the recent elections it lost its majority in Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament. This is behind its desire to reassert its core message of the everlasting need for independence in order to sustain support and further consolidate power in Scotland.

With a resurgent Scottish Conservative party, led by the charismatic Ruth Davidson, there has been increased pressure on the SNP government. Ultimately this pressure has led to another referendum bill to get the SNP back on track and reiterating their core message to the electorate.

Other such problems include the depletion of North Sea oil and companies running out of Aberdeen like Usain Bolt, to newer, more fruitful oil fields. It has led to the prospect of Scottish independence, with an already high deficit, look like a bad nightmare for many Scotsmen.

Pardons do not address modern LGBT concerns

Government should prioritise mental health over gestures

Siobhan Middleton



An amendment to the policing and crime bill which pardons only those men historically accused of homosexual offences that are now dead has been rightly considered insufficient by SNP minister John Nicolson, who proposes a law to pardon all gay men, dead or alive. The obstruction to the passing of the 'Turing Bill' by Conservative minister Sam Gyimah reflects a standstill in an otherwise rapid progression towards legal equality between gay and straight people in recent years.

The 15 000 men still living with convictions of homosexual offences will have endured the trauma of a world that seems geared against their freedom. They lived in a time when their feelings were doomed to be either hidden or forcibly suppressed by the law, abuse on the street, or a punch in the playground. And now that the government seems to be finally working against, rather than acting as a conduit for, the homophobic tendencies of society, these men are being told that they must work for their rights. In a speech which led him close to tears, Chris Bryant, former shadow leader of the House of Commons, asked, "Why on earth would you write to the home secretary and say, 'Please can I be pardoned?... Why on earth would you want someone to analyse whether or not you were guilty at all way back when?'"

The government must turn its focus away from the dead and confront the living impact of discrimination. With a continued tendency towards mental health problems among the LGBT community, what Owen Jones has termed the "hidden" demon faced by gay people, the need becomes painfully clear. Stone-wall research in 2014 found that 52 per cent of young LGBT people have self-harmed, while 44 per cent have considered suicide. Certainly,

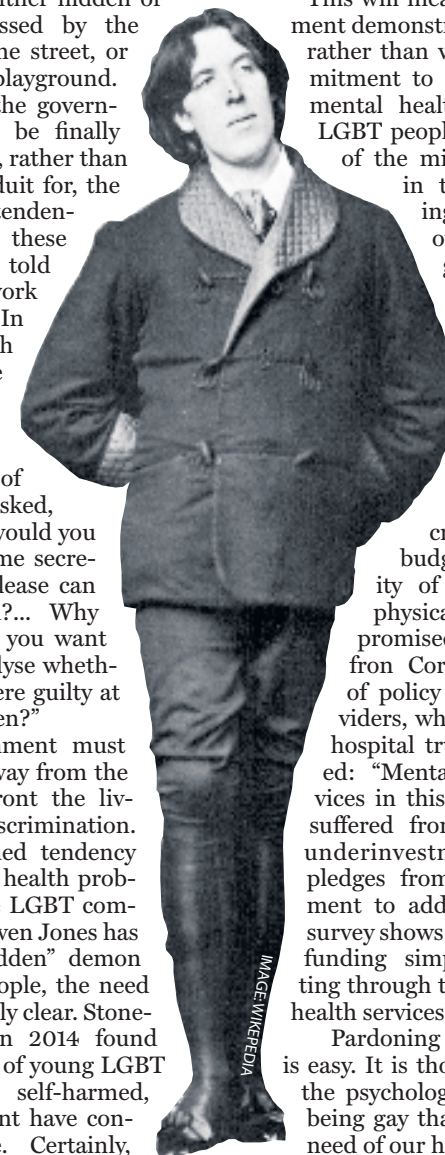
Sam Gyimah telling 15 000 men that they have to beg for forgiveness cannot help to remedy this trend. However, these statistics reflect a society which continues to judge people according to their sexual orientation and this problem cannot be solved by one law. If justice prevails, an automatic pardon for those living with historical convictions will not be difficult to

Pardoning Oscar Wilde is easy, it is the living who need our help ”

enact. What will take more time and effort from both the government and wider society, is psychological support for the thousands of gay people struggling to cope with mental illness.

This will mean the government demonstrating, in deed rather than word, its commitment to high-standard mental health provisions. LGBT people are just one of the minority groups in the UK bearing the brunt of the Tory government's aversion to public sector spending. Only 55 per cent of mental health trusts have reported increases in their budgets since 'parity of esteem' with physical health was promised in 2012. Saffron Cordery, director of policy at NHS Providers, which represents hospital trusts, has stated: "Mental health services in this country have suffered from decades of underinvestment...despite pledges from the government to address this, our survey shows that promised funding simply isn't getting through to local mental health services".

Pardoning Oscar Wilde is easy. It is those living with the psychological effects of being gay that are more in need of our help.



Artificial intelligence: not if but when

As our computer technology improves, we get ever closer to creating an artificial intelligence with near godlike power

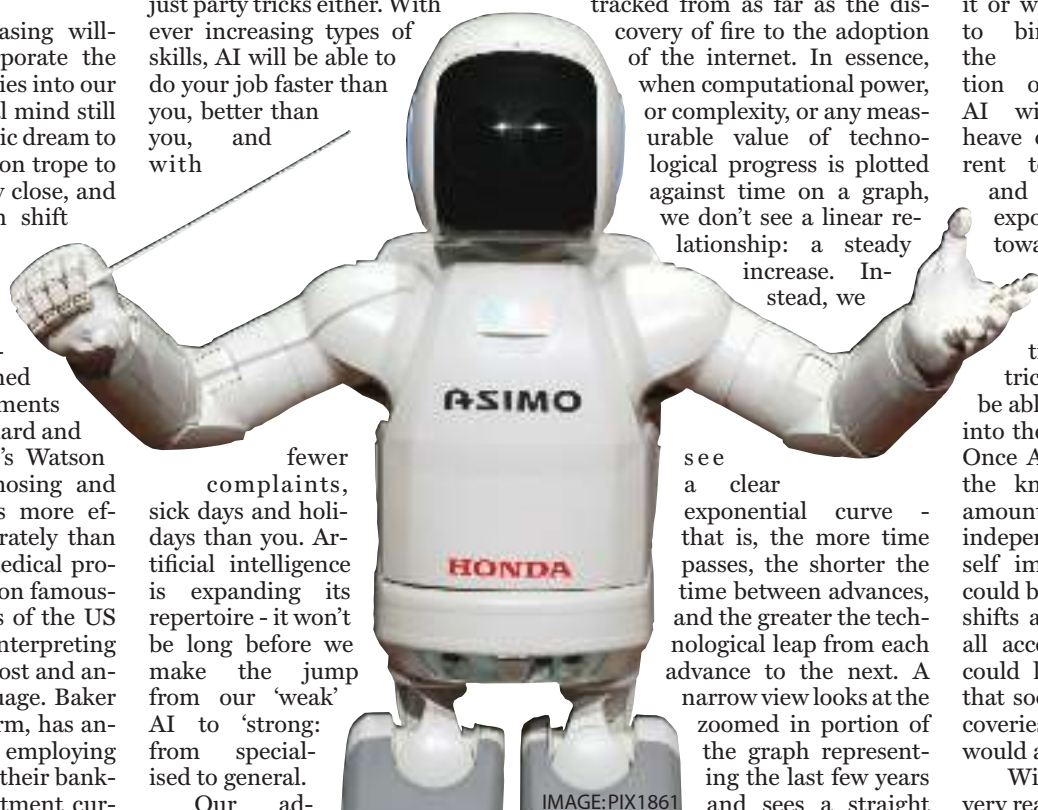
Robbie Cruikshanks



Despite our increasing willingness to incorporate the newest technologies into our lives, the idea of a digital mind still seems a far flung futuristic dream to some, and a science fiction trope to others. Yet AI is tangibly close, and will trigger a paradigm shift like no other.

It's easy to dismiss forays into artificial intelligence as glorified chess-playing machines and well-designed chatbots, but developments are coming undeniably hard and exponentially fast. IBM's Watson supercomputer is diagnosing and treating cancer patients more efficiently and more accurately than the most experienced medical professionals. In 2011, Watson famously beat previous winners of the US quiz show Jeopardy!, interpreting the questions from the host and answering in natural language. Baker & Hostetler, a US law firm, has announced that they are employing IBM's AI Ross to handle their bankruptcy practice, a department cur-

rently made up of almost 50 human lawyers. Google, Facebook and Microsoft have all developed software capable of recognising voices, faces, and movements to a superhuman degree of accuracy. These aren't just party tricks either. With ever increasing types of skills, AI will be able to do your job faster than you, better than you, and with



fewer complaints, sick days and holidays than you. Artificial intelligence is expanding its repertoire - it won't be long before we make the jump from our 'weak' AI to 'strong': from specialised to general. Our ad-

vances themselves are clear to see, but why is the future closer than ever? In reality, it always has been. Futurist Ray Kurzweil coined the 'Law of Accelerating Returns': a visible, consistent trend that can be tracked from as far as the discovery of fire to the adoption of the internet. In essence, when computational power, or complexity, or any measurable value of technological progress is plotted against time on a graph, we don't see a linear relationship: a steady increase. Instead, we

see a clear exponential curve - that is, the more time passes, the shorter the time between advances, and the greater the technological leap from each advance to the next. A narrow view looks at the zoomed in portion of the graph representing the last few years and sees a straight

line, but misses the ever-increasing curve of human advancement.

Artificial intelligence will continue to embody this very real trend. Whether we stumble across it or work hard to birth it, the invention of true AI will upheave our current technology and continue the exponential march towards loftier heights.

Just as the wheel revolutionised transport, the printing press information, and the transistor electricity, artificial intelligence will be able to drag our primate minds into the next step in our evolution. Once AI comes about, it will have the knowledge, power and vast amounts of data to improve itself independently. Through recursive self improvement, an AI system could bring about its own paradigm shifts and accelerating returns. By all accounts, this kind of system could learn and grow so quickly, that soon after its creation, its discoveries, abilities and knowledge would appear to us almost godlike.

With this in mind, there is a very real possibility that for the first

time in human history, we won't be the most intelligent beings on the planet. How do we treat species we see as beneath us? Are they pets to keep around for enjoyment, or just animals that we largely avoid unless they get in our way? How will a superintelligent god see its comparatively stupid ancestors? Will we integrate with this new technology and push the frontiers of our humanity further than they have ever gone before? Will our creation look to us with gratitude, or will the human race's inferiority leave us totally irrelevant in this brave new world? AI and humanity together could be an interesting mix, but could just as easily be the end of our reign as carriers of civilisation.

Artificial intelligence is coming. When it does, there won't be a slow progression into an AI world - instead a technological revolution that could cause us to question what intelligence really is, and more importantly, what it is to be human.

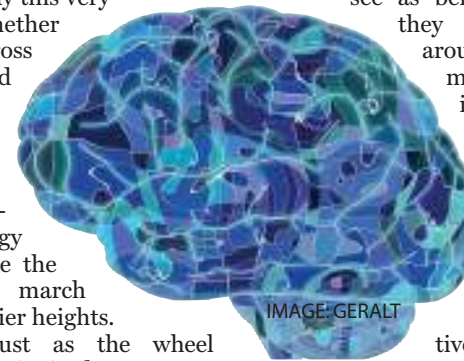


IMAGE:GERALT

IMAGE:PIX1861

Should we give cannabis the green light?

The case of cannabis is complex, but other more mainstream stimulants should face the same levels of public scrutiny

Violet Daniels



For many of you, now is probably the end of a few weeks of drinking, partying and coming home at 4AM ending up with your face on the sticky, vomit stained kitchen floor. Despite this seeming obvious to some, most of you won't have stopped for a moment or paused, mid sip of wine to contemplate that drinking alcohol is in fact, a form of taking drugs.

Drug legalisation is often on the agenda in popular debate; but not of the alcoholic kind. One of the most popular campaigns in recent years has been for the legalisation of cannabis within the UK. In Britain, cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug and police often turn a blind eye to dealing or consumption, in favour of offering their time to more 'serious' crimes. Despite this arguably relaxed attitude, cannabis remains a class B drug with serious side effects. If

we turn to other parts of the world, we see a trend. Since 2015 many countries, including Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and some US states have taken a far more relaxed approach to cannabis and have the least restrictive laws regarding its use in the world. So, if we joined that list, what would be the problem?

Peter Hitchens, who recently attended a campus debate put on by the York Union, denies the existence of addiction. Despite his beliefs, addiction is a dangerous lifestyle; it can debilitate people, rule people's lives and take control of situations and peoples' actions. Moreover, addiction makes us lose control, and isn't that a scary thing? It is, of course, not just exclusive to cannabis, and can take many forms.

The most common thing to be addicted to nowadays is coffee - we often joke about it, how we British people cannot get through the day without a hot brew. Obviously, the consumption of coffee or tea has nothing like the same effect as cannabis, but the theories of addiction are there, behind the branded logos on take away coffee cups. Regard-

ing the legalisation of cannabis, I am torn. Part of me actively opposes it as it would be endorsing the idea of addiction, the other part of me thinks that there are far more dangerous substances available to us that are currently legal, such as alcohol. Contrary to popular opinion, I would rather see the criminalisation of alcohol than cannabis. I believe that alcohol is the most dangerous drug we have, as it is readily available to us, part of our culture, and most importantly you're considered different if you don't partake in its consumption.

For some, freshers' week was a nightmare. For people that do not drink it immediately eliminates most of the events on offer and the chances of bonding with flatmates. If someone in your flat doesn't drink alcohol, you should be considerate as it is too easy to be judgemental when someone doesn't fit with the common perception of normal. I know most of you will not want to read this after your weeks have been consistently full of alcohol consumption but I think that it needs to be de-stigmatised, especially within the university environment.



IMAGE:DANIELFSNINK



IMAGE: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

UKIP needs to evolve if it is going to survive

After great Brexit success, do we still need Britain's political punchline?

Jan de Boer



I can remember waking up on the morning of 24 June and seeing UKIP on the screen. Nigel Farage beamed, declaring it our "Independence Day", although instead of destroying alien flying saucers we destroyed the power of Brussels. This was the moment UKIP were waiting for, the moment that we would cut ourselves out of Europe and drift away into the Atlantic. Four months later and the political party that started it all is still here. Do we still need UKIP, even though we have already done exactly what they wanted? It's like hanging around someone's house after the party is over. The people want you to leave and you can't recall if you got into a fight with a pot plant or triggered Article 50. However, I believe now is the best time for UKIP to adapt and learn if it is to survive the coming years.

The United Kingdom Independence Party was founded as the staunch opposition to the European Union in this country. Now that we are leaving, UKIP needs to rethink its strategy if it is to stay relevant. They have checked off the leaving bit on the list and judging by the amount of support it got during the

referendum, sticking around might seem inevitable. An idea could be to make them the wardens of Brexit. Now that the people have spoken, we need to make sure that Theresa May's "Brexit means Brexit" mentality is not just hot air to ventilate the cabinet. UKIP is in a prime position to make that push a shove if need be. It is the only party that stands united on the issue. The beer soaked hugs are over, now it should be down to business.

Nigel Farage will need to either steer his party or must come off the wheel in order to avoid a political iceberg. It has been twice now that he has tried to do this, each time something has come up to make him rise to the top once again. His cult of personality will be hard to replace, but it must if UKIP is to be seen as moving with the times. He was the champion of Brexit, now he must be the instigator of change.

Suzanne Evans, a recent candidate for UKIP's leadership, has called the party's image "toxic". If the UKIP Politburo takes this seriously then the party might stand a chance. The most recent view of UKIP on the European stage was when one of their members was hospitalised after a heated "discussion". The party's image may be fractured in the UK but across the world it is destroyed. I had been living in Switzerland until quite recently and each person I

asked in Zurich said that the party was "a bit intolerant"; this is the same country where 41 per cent of people voted to deport immigrants if they got two speeding tickets. In my opinion UKIP needs to be the iron fist in negotiations, but it's hard to be the force for Britain if you are passed out on the floor.

There is a political vacuum that we have not seen in a while, that UKIP can easily move into. Labour is moving left in ideology, the Lib Dems and the Tories occupy the centre-right, leaving the right open. UKIP needs a radical change when it comes to forming new ideas if it is to survive. Besides, there is nothing of value left to leave, although I would enjoy a referendum for the UK to leave planet Earth and go to Mars to enjoy a true single market.

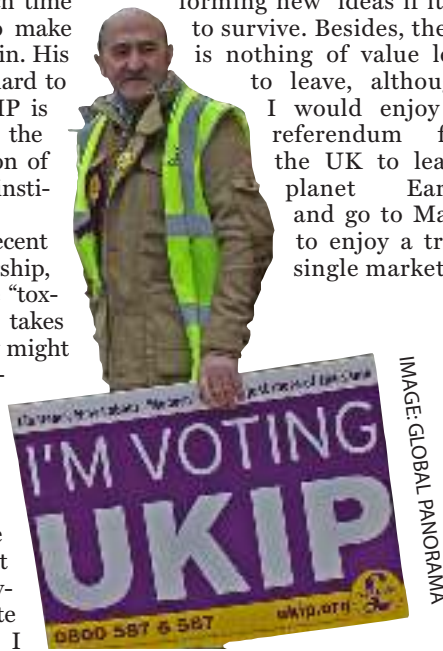


IMAGE: GLOBAL PANORAMA

The destruction behind palm oil

The palm oil trade leaves the world's forests ablaze

Ed Smith



Palm tree oil is now used in a large majority of products that are in circulation in western society, which is having a detrimental effect on the environment in Indonesia.

To extract the palm oil from the palm tree, the tree is burnt down and the oil retrieved. In addition, fires are started to burn down ordinary trees and replace them with palm tree plantations, which is rapidly increasing the prospect of extinction of wild orangutans that are native to Indonesia.

Additionally, air pollution is intensifying due to the fires that sweep throughout Indonesia and neighbouring countries. This is contributing to the already dire air pollution in Indonesia which is responsible for tens of thousands of deaths per year in the country.

The fires are producing major concerns globally. In a little over three weeks in September last year, they emitted the same amount of carbon dioxide as the US economy

does in an entire year, making it the world's biggest polluter.

The devastating nature of the fires last year was largely due to companies draining the rainforest by digging irrigation canals. This caused fire to spread with tremendous speed, overwhelming the Indonesian fire service and threatening the multitude of life that depends on the rainforest for survival.

The fires have undoubtedly created a blot and scar on Indonesia's natural and physical beauty. This issue has been primarily caused by the western desire for palm oil, which has rapidly increased illegal deforestation as companies and citizens seek to exploit this profitable trade. This has culminated in £30bn worth of damage caused by the fires.

Nonetheless there are some things that can be done to alleviate the crisis and prevent an "ecopocalypse" from happening again. For example, always check the label to see where palm oil comes from and research to see if it is sustainably sourced.

This could help retain some of the precious rainforest, which the people of Indonesia desperately need from an ecological and economic perspective.

Why Iraq Matters

As an Arab democracy, Iraq is crucial to defeating ISIS

Rory Kelly



One of the most hard-fought points of rhetoric this US presidential cycle was the stance on the 2003 Iraq War held by each of the candidates. Both Trump and Clinton have been on record as having supported the policy and both are now equally keen to distance themselves from it. Barack Obama's consistency on this point was part of what clinched his Democratic nomination in 2008 against Hillary Clinton, and perhaps even won him the national election against the "rush-to-war" supporter John McCain.

Since the Iraq War, there has emerged an ever-growing consensus that interventionist foreign policies are to be regarded as at best misled and at worst evil.

I bring this up because while the disastrous Aleppo conflict rages

on with only bombing and bloodshed on the horizon, Iraq's army are having a great deal more success in pushing ISIS out of Mosul, the nation's second biggest city. Iraqi forces have won every battle they have had with ISIS since March 2015, and ISIS have been pushed out of 17 cities in Iraq. These successes can be directly linked to Iraq's status as a secular democracy. Unlike Assad's government in Syria, the conflict doesn't provide them with an excuse to crack down hard on democratic rebels. They are able to accept military aid from the US, but on its own terms, and its rambunctious free press continues to critique the government.

Having a democratic ally able to fight for their own freedom is a credit to our democracy. To see the people of this country fight, to resist the barbarism that is always assumed to be a prerequisite of that part of the world, is to see the value of a policy that works to actively empower those people in the world who refuse to suffer under dictatorship.



CourtNewsUK
@CourtNewsUK
Police officer handing round the sherbet lemons as court settles down for a particularly juicy piece of evidence
28 Oct 2016

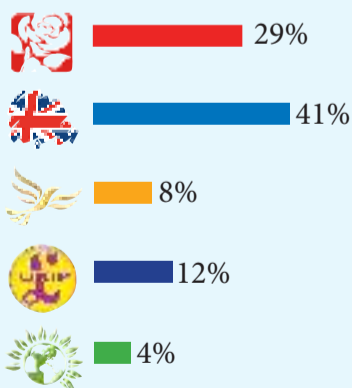
Lib Dem Press Office
@libdempress
Fear not. The Press Office has been prepping for this. #Marmite-Gate #BrexitMeetsBreakfast
28 Oct 2016

Charlie Brooker
@charltonbrooker
You didn't ask, but IMO thinking Black Mirror hates technology is a bit like thinking the Truman Show hates cameras
28 Oct 2016

Kate Weedy
@PlaceofKate
A super dumb thing: I can turn up to lectures in pyjamas and still learn things but year 7s in thanet are being sent home for white socks
7 Sep 2016

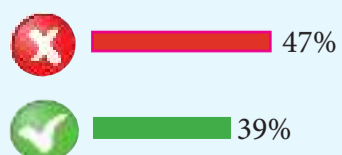
BY THE NUMBERS

Westminster voting intention 2016



Source: Britain Elects

Should Scotland secede from the UK? (Scotland only)



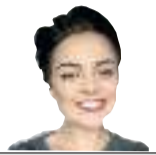
Source: Britain Elects

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should there be a second referendum on Britain's membership of the EU?

YES.

Chloe Kent



Teresa May has maintained that there will, unquestionably, be no second referendum on the UK's EU membership, that the result of the vote is final and binding. While a recently leaked audio tape of a speech she gave to a group of bankers seems to reveal a myriad of serious concerns she had about Britain leaving the EU, a recording from a pre-Brexit world, it seems she is now prepared to launch full speed ahead into a swift departure from the 500-million trading bloc.

It is perfectly reasonable to call for a second referendum. The leave campaign has, unquestionably, sold its argument on the basis of shadows, unstable half-truths, and a good number of outright lies. Immigration is not going to fall, the economy is now the weakest it has been since the introduction of the pound, and the laser-cutting of a promise of £350 million more for the NHS onto the side of a bus was apparently some huge accident. Must've been an intern.

The leave campaign won because it offered a mirage, a lake in the midst of a desert which disappeared as soon as the electorate fell to their knees to take a drink. The UK will not be leaving the EU but remaining part of the single market - it's like ending a relationship and expecting your ex to still spend the same amount of time

with you and do all of the same things. It's highly unlikely to be a successful, stress-free arrangement in the long term. Equally, the idea that Britain will get access to the EU market but say no to free movement of labour is a ridiculous and borderline insulting notion, and the chance of member-states not vetoing is absolutely zero. We want you to help us, but we're not going to help you, says Britain to the EU. The states of the union raise their collective index fingers.

No one knows what Brexit Britain is supposed to look like. It was sold on ideology over policy - much like our pal across the pond Donald Trump, the leave campaign said a lot of words, conveying much meaning. Sure, if we reran every vote each time a politician couldn't follow through on their claims, we'd never step out of the poll booth. But this is a rather extreme situation, mitigating circumstances if you will.

When the government finally produce a document which actually details the specifics of our departure from the EU, rather than various campaigners extending the breadcrumb trail of empty promises which has left us in this mess, there should be another referendum. One where people actually know what it is they're voting for. A 50+% majority, moreover, is not strong enough for a constitutional change as major as this - the bar must be set higher, the stakes made clearer, and the people of this country given another go at this being told the truth thing.

NO.

Has'san Suhail



Speaking from the perspective of someone whom the consequences of Brexit do not much concern, except that my living expenditure here has significantly decreased, it was nevertheless an unwise and a hasty decision by the people of the UK. There is always strength in unity, and you certainly need a Union like the EU considering the respective size of the member countries. It is yet to be seen what changes exactly Brexit will now bring about for the dynamics of the UK, Europe and in general the world.

I am however keen to discuss how Brexit exposed our double standards when it comes to our belief in the democratic values. Is it fair to call for a second referendum if the decisions of the first referendum were not to our liking? Quite simply, democracy empowers people to get a say in affairs of state, and to ask for a second referendum is therefore disrespecting the decisions of those 52% who wanted to leave the EU. Do not get me wrong, I largely disagree with the reasoning of the Leave campaigners, but if there was not any outcry on the criteria of the referendum (who can vote or who cannot) before the vote, then a second referendum is unjustifiable.

Moreover, it is unfair on the people who want to leave if some powerful individuals (the British Government) use the resources at their disposal to try and influence the opinions of the people using

those resources. I am referring to David Cameron inviting Barack Obama to persuade the British people to stay within the UK. This just shows that if you are a small campaign group who has received a lot of support from the people over time, the government can easily distort the views of the supporters of that campaign group using gimmicks. Inviting Obama was obviously a smart move - he is renowned, and even if people do not know his policies, they still know him socially - and that is unfortunately all you need today to alter the views of the people. It failed nevertheless.

Lastly, I was really surprised to see people complaining about the level of education in the country because they were upset about the rationale used by people to form their decisions when choosing to leave. I agree, that in order to fully derive the benefits of democracy, the educational standards of your country should be sufficiently good, so that people wouldn't make decisions based on irrational considerations. However, did these people also object to certain countries trying to enforce democracy in countries where the literacy rates were not as good as those of the UK (e.g. Iraq and Libya), and thereby toppling the dictatorial regimes - as if it is their duty to meddle wherever they want to. Yes, there could have been really bad leaders in those countries, but if Britain isn't educated enough for democracy, how can they enforce it elsewhere?

Hence, I conclude, that while Brexit might have unearthed the underlying racism of some leave campaigners, it also helped identify duplicity in some of those who voted to stay.

#minstergram

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



@lottie.elisabeth 's snap of the Minster from town



@ben_rowden Juxtaposition exists in the world of campus. Its called Hes Hall being located next to Derwent



@amramina I might enjoy this kinda weather even more if my annoying fresher's flu ever decides to leave me alone!

FEATURES • GAMING • ARTS • FASHION • THE SHOOT • MUSIC • FILM & TV • FOOD & DRINK

MUSE.



**REMEMBER
REMEMBER**

HOW THE IMAGE OF
GUY FAWKES BECAME
AN ANARCHIST ICON

12

MUSIC

M12 From Lady Gaga to The Stone Roses, the team share their favourite-ever gigs

M13 Ben Phillips tells us why there's no time like the present to get into thrash metal

FEATURES

M4 Features editor Becca Challis speaks to journalist, author and documentary-maker Jon Ronson about Jedi and psychopathy

M17 With Guy Fawkes Night right around the corner, how has the infamous figure become such a popular cultural icon?

M19 Scare-acting puts you right in the middle of a horror film, so Hina Rana goes behind-the-scenes at York Maze's 'Hallowscream' event



6

ARTS

M6 The team offer their thoughts on the scrapping of the Art History A-Level, the lack of art spaces in York, and Bob Dylan

M7 Artist Belinda Syme speaks to Arts Editor Lara Medlam about her distinctive and poetic work

FASHION

M8 Fashion find out how tricky it can be to express one's own style at work, plus the newest trends in feminine sportswear

M9 Dale Lyster lines up the main features of the growing 'Goth Punk' aesthetic

14

FILM & TV

M14 The team review the latest series of *Black Mirror*

M15 Patrick Hook-Willers discusses *National Treasure's* depiction of the treatment of sex offenders



16

GAMING

M16 James Lees and friends explore the *Outlast* asylum for Halloween, and Sam Flint reviews the latest offering from the *Battlefield* franchise



FOOD & DRINK

M18 Food & Drink editor Mustafa Chaudhry heads into town to find out more about York's sustainable food organisations

EDITOR'S
NOTENEW MUSE EDITOR
LUCY FURNEAUX IS
THINKING ABOUT FEAR

“How the hell do you write an editor’s note?”

This question has genuinely haunted me since I got this role three weeks ago, though I couldn’t really put my finger on why. That is, not until Wednesday evening when I found myself trawling through years of *Nouse* archives for inspiration from previous editors.

See, an editor’s note has to be funny, but with a tinge of self-deprecation. It ought to be themed, but also needs to bridge the content of the paper it’s introducing. And it has to be relevant, even though chances are the only people who will actually read it are the sub-editors. Eventually though, I realised that it came down to fear – because everyone before me was so damn good.

With dwindling bank accounts and essay deadlines creeping ever closer, we all probably have enough to be worrying about, but fear’s still a big topic in this edition. Fashion’s ‘Goth Punk’ shoot (M10) provides inspiration for keeping the Halloween spirit going, whilst Features takes us into the world of scare-acting (M19), and writer Jon Ronson (M4) discusses psychopathy and Donald Trump (what could be scarier?!).

But if you’re in need of something more light-hearted, we’ve still got you covered. The new Music team run through their best-ever gigs (M12), Food & Drink explore York’s food sustainability organisations, or Belinda Syme’s poetic artwork (M7) might help you relax.

That’s what I need to do at any rate. After all, none of this is about me; it’s an enormous privilege to take the reins of Muse, but more than 30 fantastic people work tirelessly to put it together every month. That’s what’s really important: what matters isn’t that you like me, but that you like the pages that follow, with their shiny new typeface and design.

There’s always something to worry about, and too much fear can really hold you back. But, cliché though it is, university is all too fleeting to not make as much of it as you feel you can. Pushing the boundaries of your comfort zone can do wonders for your confidence.

I guess a little fear goes a long way; you might even work out how to write an editor’s note.

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: Wikipedia Opposite, from top: Rachel Cairned, Belinda Symes, Channel Four
Q&A: Ben Smith



*“Be confident with who you are,
find someone you trust to confide
in and don’t suffer in silence”*

RUNNER AND CAMPAIGNER **BEN SMITH** ON RUNNING 401 MARATHONS
IN 401 DAYS FOR LGBT AND ANTI-BULLYING CHARITIES**Why did you choose to take up running?**

Running for me was a form of stress relief. A friend of mine introduced me to running when I was 30 and I fell in love with it on the first day. It was the first thing I had truly done for me in my life and it gave me so much satisfaction. I have a genuine passion for it, it calms me down, helps me deal with the mental health issues such as the depression I faced throughout my 20s and gives me the opportunity to express the true me.

What sparked the idea for the 401 challenge?

Having found a passion for running and wanting to support two charities that are very personal to me I came up with the idea of doing a large-scale challenge to raise £250,000. I knew this needed to be big so we looked at the most amount of consecutive marathons ever run which stood at 365, we rounded this up and added one for a victory lap.

Why are the charities Stonewall and Kidscape so important to you?

Both these charities are personal to me. I was bullied for being gay at school and both these charities work directly with supporting schools and businesses to help highlight

and actually deal with the issues of bullying.

What were some of the highlights of the challenge?

The scenery, the people I have met, the experiences I have had with people achieving things they never thought were possible and the places I have been. It truly has been an incredible experience. Highlights were the Virgin London Marathon and the Official Bournemouth Marathon in 2016; the atmosphere was incredible. And of course the final marathon, especially when a group of primary school kids joined us for the last mile – this really encompassed what the project was all about, a perfect end to a brilliant life-changing challenge.

What was the most difficult thing about the challenge?

The relentlessness of the whole experience to be perfectly honest. Getting up every day and feeling like I needed to be motivated to run a marathon every day even if I didn’t want to. I suffered from injury throughout the project including a fractured back which put me out for 10 days. Having to pick myself up after this and run ultra-marathons to make up the 262 miles I missed out on was difficult. The weather was a battle at times

too, especially during the winter period and the storms and floods.

How did the support you received from the campaign make you feel?

It was overwhelming at times, the British public really got behind what it was we had created and this I will forever be grateful for. The fact that we had over 9,500 people come out and run with the project – we had people achieve things they never had achieved before in their life. This really drove the support for the challenge along with the fact that almost everyone in the UK and the world has been touched by issues of bullying in some way or another.

If you could tell your younger self anything, what would you say?

Be confident with who you are, find someone you trust to confide in and don’t suffer in silence. One thing I have learned from this challenge is that I am no different to anyone else. People are kind and really do want to support you – letting those people do that is one of the most difficult things, but if you do, things can turn out amazing.

Interview by Becca Challis

A FRANK DISCUSSION

JON RONSON TALKS TO BECCA CHALLIS ABOUT JEDI, TWITTER AND WHETHER OR NOT DONALD TRUMP IS A PSYCHOPATH



IMAGE: BBC FILMS

Jon Ronson possibly has the most interesting job in the world. As a journalist, radio presenter, author, script writer and documentary film maker he has his fingers in all sorts of pies, but ultimately, he says, he researches what he's interested in. Anything from *Deal Or No Deal* to trolls on Twitter, Jon Ronson follows his nose, sniffs out the bizarre and the misunderstood, and then uses his words to truly make you think in an alternative way. It's a rare talent and I've found all of his work unpredictable, exciting and unbelievably shocking - and therefore really enjoyable. Ronson will be in York on Friday 11th November for his 'Psychopath Night', a discussion of his overwhelmingly successful book *The Psychopath Test* and featuring two very interesting guests. I spoke to Ronson about his upcoming visit, ringing him in New York to find out more about him and his lat-

est mission.

I wondered what had sparked the idea for *The Psychopath Test*. Ronson remembers a specific conversation he had with a Harvard psychologist who told him "Psychopathy is so powerful it's remoulded the world. We are all

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WE ARE ALL
VICTIMS OF
PSYCHOPATHS
BECAUSE
PSYCHOPATHS
RUN SOCIETY

victims of psychopaths because psychopaths run society. You're much more likely to get a psychopath at the top of the tree than at the bottom - in the corporate world, in politics, in business." He had this discussion in 2009, a time when "nobody was thinking about it. I had never heard anything like that. I suddenly had this brainwave. I was cycling through Primrose Hill and thought 'Oh my god. I should learn how to spot psychopaths and then with my powers I can journey into the corridors of power to see if I can stop them.'" Ronson certainly recognised this as a defining moment; "There's a moment in journalism, it's happened to me a few times in my life, where I come up with an idea and I think, whatever happens it'll be interesting."

It certainly was interesting. Ronson then began his research process, communicating with specialists in psychopathy all over the world. He came across Dr Robert Hare, a

Canadian who wrote the 'Hare Psychopathy Checklist', a 20-part test to detect psychopathy. After months of communication, Ronson was invited to attend a conference where he learned about the details of the checklist and how to put it into practice - this is where his adventure began.

Ronson mentions many people in his book, but the two that most stand out are Tony and Albert J. Dunlap. Both men are also mentioned in Ronson's TED talks and his Oxford Union Address which you can watch on YouTube. Tony was a man detained in Broadmoor psychiatric hospital who claimed that he was a victim of the psychiatric industry as well as being a prime example of how difficult it is to convince people that you are sane and 'normal'. Albert J. Dunlap is a corporate leader whose priority was to make profit for a company's shareholders above all else, and he became famous for his ruthlessness in firing thousands of employees in one sweep to cut costs and increase wealth.

I asked Ronson if he anticipated the immense success of *The Psychopath Test*, which, when published in 2011 remained on the bestseller list in the UK for the whole of 2012. He replied that he didn't because "with all of my other books I have to really convince people that they want to read it", and laughed that "people don't need convincing to read a book about psychopaths." However, Ronson has received some criticism, interestingly from Dr Robert Hare himself. Hare published a statement in 2012 outlining his concern that "readers not familiar with the literature on psychopathy will take seriously what Ronson has written" and that "Some will have the erroneous idea that, with a 'simple list,' they too could be armed against psychopaths. As a recent email to me stated, 'I would like to know about psychopath-spotting courses in my area'."

Ronson responded to this: "At first he [Hare] loved the book, and then about a year later he decided that he didn't love it. And then what happened I think was that the

book became more successful than anybody anticipated. Suddenly I was the person that people wanted to talk to about psychopaths." Ronson was invited onto *Conan* and many other TV and radio talk shows to give his view on psychopathy. He says, "I think Dr Hare rightly felt 'Fucking hell, I've been studying psychopaths since the 70s, Jon Ronson's, you know, not 'an expert'. He's basically somebody who journeyed into this world for a few years, wrote a book that's really entertaining but psychopathy's my field.' But I totally get that."

I moved on to ask Ronson his view on the presidential campaign in America, where he now lives with his wife and son. "Actually I've just written a mini 15,000 word book, *The Elephant in the Room*, so I spent the summer kind of journeying with the Trump campaign." I asked Ronson the obvious question on the real 'elephant in the room'; "Would you say

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I'VE BEEN PLAYED
BY TWO JEDI,
ACTUALLY...
I'M NOT SURE
WHAT A JEDI IS

that Donald Trump is a psychopath?" Ronson laughed and answered "I've been really reluctant to say... because one of the lessons of the book is that it's kind of psychopathic to label people as psychopaths. But I have to say he is constantly behaving in ways which are straight from the checklist, it's uncanny."

Ronson is most concerned, however, by one of Trump's famous qualities: "One of the

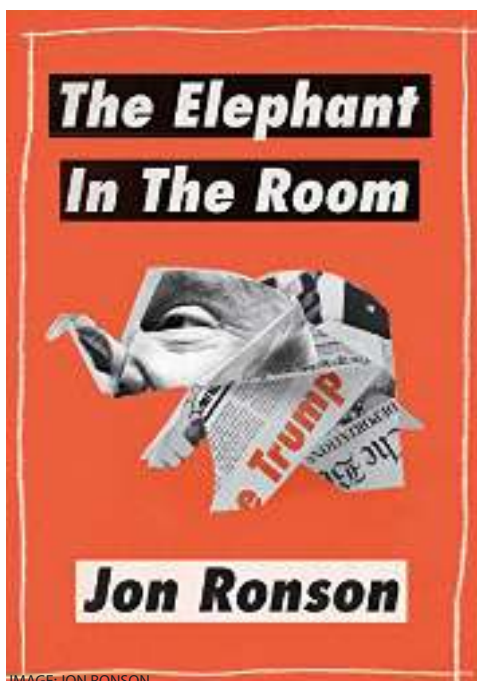


IMAGE: JON RONSON

starkest ones I think is his pathological lying. Not only that he lies pathologically, but that he's not the slightest bit embarrassed. Most people are embarrassed to be caught lying, and they feel guilty and remorseful and he doesn't." The ebook exposes some of the people on the inside of Trump's campaign, including Roger Stone and Alex Smith (who is also featured in Ronson's book *Them*). It definitely reveals Trump's most extreme side as well as some of the hypocrisies and ridiculous elements of his campaign. One of the most memorable of these is the fact that people are forbidden to enter the arena for Trump's rally with squirt guns or paintball guns, but bringing a real gun is completely normal and in fact encouraged.

The Psychopath Test is only one of Ronson's many investigative adventures. *Them: Adventures with Extremists*, is a 'quest to locate the secret rulers of the world.' An accompanying television series was made called *The Secret Rulers of the World* for Channel 4, and it's easy to compare this work to Louis Theroux's later documentaries of similar themes.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT DONALD TRUMP IS A PSYCHOPATH? RONSON LAUGHS

”

His most recent book *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* explores the re-emergence of public shaming through the medium of the internet, particularly over social media sites such as Twitter. Public shaming has been used as a form of punishment since the dawn of time and actually phased out as a state punishment in the UK in 1837 after there were increasing calls for some compassion.

Ronson has interviewed many victims of public shaming for his book, the most famous of whom is Justine Sacco, whose tweet went viral during the time that she was asleep on her flight from Heathrow to South Africa. It read: 'Going to Africa. Hope I don't get AIDS. Just kidding. I'm white!' Rightly, people were outraged, however her punishment for this mistake on Twitter, which was only intended for her 50 followers, led to her losing her job, receiving death threats aimed at both her and her family, and consequently a mental breakdown. Ronson examines whether this is just or whether the punishment perhaps outweighs the crime. One of his most famous titles is *Men Who Stare at Goats*, which has been made into a film starring Ewan McGregor, George Clooney and Kevin Spacey. It tells the story of Ronson's investigation into a secret unit within the US Army which defied all normal military practice and instead focused on the power of the mind. The men in 'The First Earth Battalion' believed 'that a soldier could adopt a cloak of invisibility, pass cleanly through walls, and, perhaps most chillingly, kill goats just by staring at them.'

I ask Ronson how he felt about being played by Ewan McGregor in *Men Who Stare at Goats*, to which he responds: "I was also played by Domhnall Gleeson in *Frank*." This is a film starring Michael Fassbender and is inspired by the life of Frank Sidebottom (the comic persona of Chris Sievey), memorable for his costume of a spherical papier-mâché head. Ronson co-wrote the film, having been a member of Sidebottom's band and he is also

featured as a character. This means "I've been played by two people in *Star Wars*!" Ronson remarked excitedly. "I've been played by two Jedi, actually... I'm not sure what a Jedi is."

After looking up Gleeson's role in the upcoming *Star Wars* film I hate to report that he is actually on the dark side, but Ronson doesn't need to know that. When I asked if he enjoyed working in film production his answer was complicated: "Here's the unglamorous truth about it: it's a long process. I worked as a screenwriter, then I visited the set, then there were lots of complications with agents and lawyers, so that by the time you get to watch the premier it just doesn't feel as magical as you might think." Ronson's role as a screenwriter means that he gets a very specific experience: "In terms of movies, the writer has a certain place in the process, but that place is sitting at home writing the script. So do I like sitting home writing? Um, I mean, yes. Writing's stressful and I find it tiring but I really enjoy it."

Ronson's most recent film project is *Okja* which is due to be released in 2017. It stars Lily Collins, Jake Gyllenhaal and Tilda Swinton and follows 'a young girl named Mija who risks everything to prevent a powerful, multinational company from kidnapping her best friend - a massive animal named Okja.' Ronson mentioned that he has been spending time with the stars of the film who are "all really lovely" and it's this part of the process which is really "glamorous and exciting." Ronson reflected that "Making a movie is like building a house. Everybody's doing their work, everybody is working very hard, everybody is part of the machine, but it's much more like going to a construction site than it is going to the theatre."

I asked what his next project is, expecting him to tell me that it is all top secret and he can't say anything more. "I can tell you that I'm making an audible series about the tech takeover of the porn industry", he revealed before adopting his secretive stance: "But I've got a couple of things I'm just starting which I can't tell you about."

I've hugely enjoyed speaking with Jon Ronson. As I researched him every new piece of information I discovered seemed to be more interesting than the last, so much so that I actually began to feel quite nervous about interviewing him, especially as he tends to have a way of humorously analysing those he speaks to with his psychopath-spotting powers. I had to try and make sure that my questions were in no way filled with superficial charm, appearing grandiose, cunning or manipulative, revealing of a lack of empathy, seeming impulsive or coming over as irresponsible. However, while speaking with him all of this ebbed away and as he called out to greet his son, who must have just walked through the door, I was reminded instantly of his point throughout - the fact that we are all human.

This is one of Ronson's main emphases in his advice to aspiring journalists: "Write about something you really want to write about... passion and enthusiasm shines through the page. Also, care as much about the quality of the writing as the quality of the information that you're trying to impart. A lot of journalists... care about getting the story but don't care about the way they tell the story - I think both things are equally important. Oh, and hustle. We're hustlers in terms of getting our stories placed, we're hustlers in trying to convince people to be in our stories... you've got to be very tireless. And beyond that, I'd say for me you've got to be empathetic and humanistic, to not make your interviewees feel like they've been mugged. To try and see the world through the eyes of the people you're writing about. I think that's incredibly important." So if you're looking for something interesting to read or watch, remember the name Jon Ronson - you'll be forever intrigued and never



IMAGE: FILM4

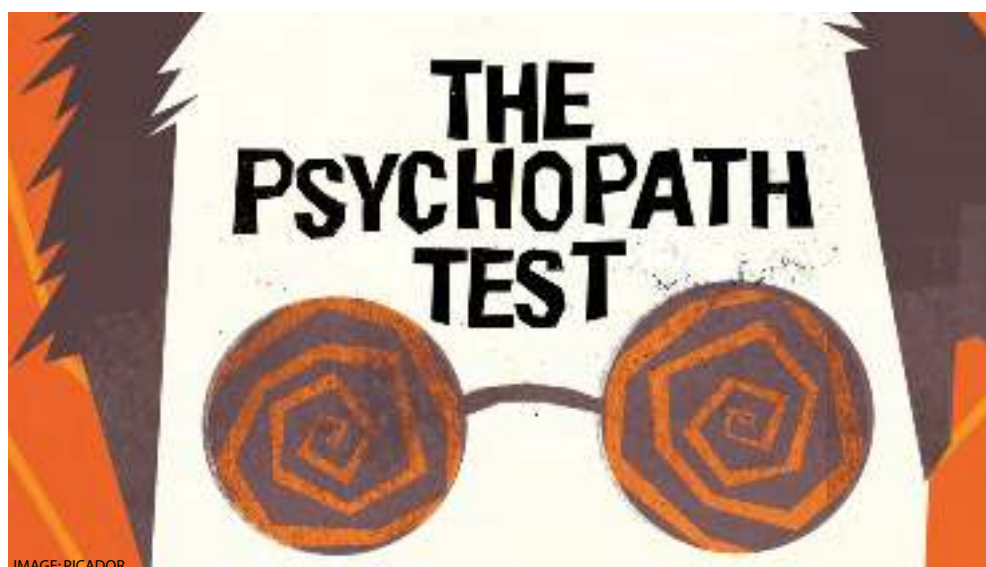


IMAGE: PICADOR



IMAGE: LAKIN MCCARTHY

ART IS HISTORY

ELIZA HUNTON ON THE NEWLY SCRAPPED ART HISTORY A-LEVEL

My first experience of the art world was no great epiphany in an art gallery, just crayons and rough paper. Should my curiosity and enthusiasm have ended there?

With the recent scrapping of the Art History A-Level by AQA as an extension of Michael Gove's educational 'reforms', the benefits of the arts are being perilously sidelined.

Of course, art has never been safe in academia: students across the arts have been warned for decades that they're doomed to a life of unemployment. With only 56.3 per cent of 2014 Art History graduates in full time employment within six months, it's not so difficult to see why Gove might have had a point. No one can deny STEM students can generally expect higher pay and employment rates. Arts students hardly need reminding.

Yet does this justify abandoning art? Viewing an Art History A-Level as lesser than a Chemistry A-Level is ultimately a null point: the two develop completely different skills, and lead to completely different careers. Art History, and other 'soft' subjects require creativity, fine-tuned analytical skills and communication, preparing students for careers in the civil service, heritage, PR and multitudes of other sectors that STEM students would be unsuited for. Nor am I clutch-

ing at straws to justify myself: the Art History A-Level counts David Cameron amongst its alumni, while Michael Gove studied English Literature at Oxford. Art History students may not cure cancer, but Biology students don't run for prime minister.

Scrapping the Art History A-Level exposed a hypocrisy in our culture. Famous writers and artists are viewed as the pinnacle of high society, yet those wishing to pursue those skills are actively discouraged in the education system. We pride ourselves on being the nation of Shakespeare while students of English Literature are forced to justify themselves at every turn. Visiting an art gallery for pleasure makes you worldly, while visiting for education makes others question your intelligence. To have "culture" – that is, films, media, theatre, literature – someone has to create it, and someone has to perpetuate it.

Abandoning the arts in education not only hinders the talents of millions of students, but hinders the development of our culture as a whole. Claiming that arts students have lesser career prospects does not negate the need for those careers: we need our art historians in business, media and politics just as much as we need scientists in labs. After all, a society of scientists alone would not have culture outside of a petri dish.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

LARA MEDLAM LAMENTS THE LACK OF ARTS SPACES IN YORK

York's art scene all too frequently feels rather parched. Yes, the university fuels events, but that fizzing underbelly, that feeling that electric things happen and are free to happen, is absent. Of course, we're all aware that York isn't exactly dripping with alternative spirit, but it's a town with character and potential, and enough people who want to do interesting things, surely?

Take The Parish. Whether you've been or not, we all know that bar, nestled inconspicuously in an 11th century church on Micklegate. It changed hands in August, and was sold to the Cairn Group, a Newcastle-based company with a 'diverse hotel, bar and restaurant portfolio'. So it looks as if The Parish will remain a venue focused on tourists and profits, proffering a bland, pseudo 'lifestyle glam' night out.

What you probably didn't know is that between 1968 and 1999, that very building was York Arts Centre. Many people, both locals and former students, reminisce fondly; it seems as though when people reflect on their stomping grounds, these recollections are the sweetest of all. Think back to when you've seen bands, felt the electricity, known that the explicit purpose of a place is to experience something fuelled by creativity and enthusiasm.

Whilst some organisations certainly want to recreate that, they usually lack the space. And even when an option presents itself, it's not feasible. For instance, consider the old fire station opposite Clifford's Tower. In a year it will be demolished and the land used for housing. Currently, it's a raw, versatile space that drips with potential and a few events have been held there.

However, although there were many more in the works, York Council have pulled the late licences. And a 'late licence' only covers the hours between 8 and 11pm – anything beyond that is wholly unobtainable. It seems that above all the council prioritises an easy ride, free from noise complaints. Tell that to the stag and hen parties...

Of course, such issues often boil down to basic economics. Arts is far from a profitable area, but can offer so much more than its pecuniary value. Yes, York is great for tourists, but it would be encouraging to know that venues are supported in the interests of actual people who live here. The lack of a dedicated arts space seems a crying shame.

York is full of interesting spaces with unrealised potential, and the desire, enthusiasm and ingenuity is all there. Yet when obtaining a licence becomes a nigh on impossible task, that all counts for nothing.

KNOCKIN' ON DYLAN'S DOOR

JACK DAVIES OFFERS HIS THOUGHTS ON BOB DYLAN'S FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS NOBEL PRIZE

The Nobel Prize for Literature. An award one might, certainly in my case, associate with novelists, poets, playwrights, screenplay writers, journalists and even philosophers or historians. But perhaps not songwriters.

However, the Swedish Academy (the body responsible for awarding the prize) have surprised the arts world by presenting this year's accolade to US music legend Bob Dylan for "having created new po-

etic expressions within the great American song tradition".

When considering some of Dylan's overwhelmingly powerful lyrics from his glittering career, his recognition as a Nobel Laureate becomes at least slightly more understandable. Take the following scathing example from his 1975 song 'Idiot Wind': "*Idiot wind blowing every time you move your teeth/You're an idiot, babe/It's a wonder that you still know how to breathe*". This is just one sample from a cornucopia of poetic and lyrical gold.

What is perhaps more surprising has been Dylan's complete failure to acknowledge his reception of a prize formally won by the likes of Albert Camus, Rudyard Kipling and Winston Churchill.

Dylan has attracted much derision for this. Certainly, the fact that a low-key update on the biographical page of his website that stated him to be "winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature" was removed just a couple of days after it initially appeared, seems evasive and even slightly discourteous. Academy member Per Westberg has branded Dylan's actions in ignoring his prize as both "impolite and arrogant".

Indeed, the prize is widely considered to be at the zenith of achievement for those in the field of literature, and Dylan's reception of the award has attracted criticism from other writers who don't just disagree with his perceived contempt for the honour, but also the decision to award it to him in the first place. Irvine Welsh, the Scottish writer famed as the author of seminal stream-of-consciousness classic *Trainspotting*, has said that while he is a massive Dylan fan, the decision is "an ill-conceived nostalgia award wrenched from the rancid prostates of senile, gibbering hippies".

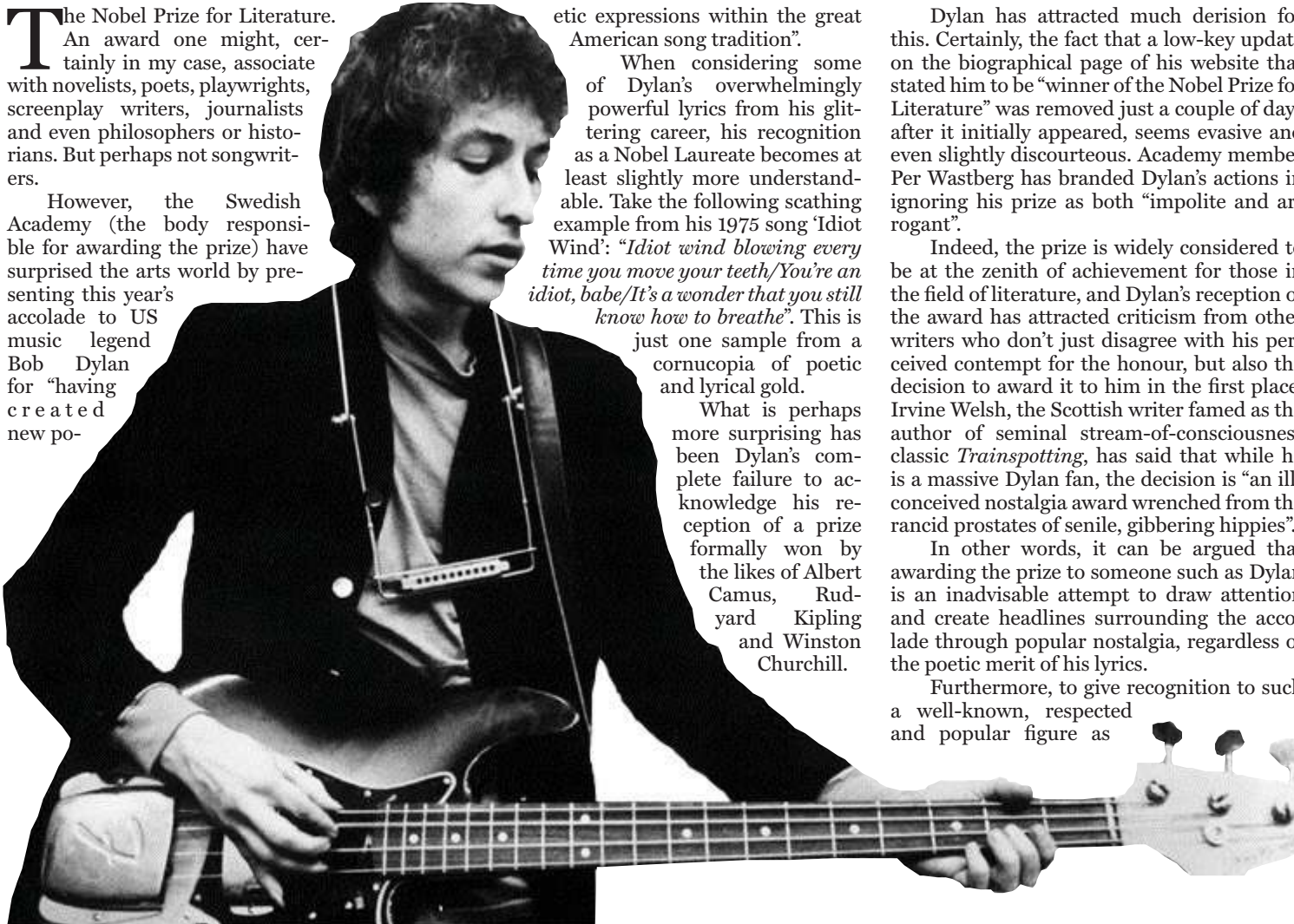
In other words, it can be argued that awarding the prize to someone such as Dylan is an inadvisable attempt to draw attention and create headlines surrounding the accolade through popular nostalgia, regardless of the poetic merit of his lyrics.

Furthermore, to give recognition to such a well-known, respected and popular figure as

Dylan seems more than a little sycophantic; a thinly-veiled attempt to gain awareness for the award through such a recognisable figure, at the expense of other, perhaps more deserving individuals within the field. A field which, it is worth noting, Dylan isn't really part of. If you're going to set the precedent of awarding the prize to musicians, then where does it end? Why not directors of film and theatre who come up with new ways of expressing literature on screen and stage? This broadening of what qualifies as literature only succeeds in blurring the lines of what is and isn't part of the field.

Yet I feel that criticising Dylan over his silence regarding the matter is unfair. This is a man whose beliefs in pacifism have been entrenched in a great deal of his compositions throughout his career. It is unsurprising that he has stayed silent after being awarded something set up by Alfred Nobel, a man whose fortune was earned as the inventor of dynamite and leading manufacturer of armaments. The line "*You that build all the bombs... I can see through your masks*" from his 1963 song 'Masters of War' seems perfectly tailored for this situation. His silence represents nothing to me other than a commitment to his principles.

In this case, the criticism should fall solely on the Academy itself for what seems a wholeheartedly ill-advised decision. French-Moroccan author Pierre Assouline branded the decision as "contemptuous of writers". The Academy have overlooked the varied merits of many within literature in favour of a wistful and hopefully headline-grabbing winner, something they should be careful of in future should they want the field to continue caring about the prize.



HAPPY MEDIUMS



IMAGE: BELINDA SYME



IMAGE: BELINDA SYME



IMAGE: BELINDA SYME



IMAGE: BELINDA SYME

LARA MEDLAM SPEAKS TO ARTIST **BELINDA SYME** ABOUT HER ECLECTIC APPROACH AND THE CENTRALITY OF MEMORY AND IMAGINATION IN HER WORK

Belinda Syme's work is infuriatingly difficult to define. While it can fundamentally be split into two themes, 'Trees' and 'Landscapes', there's no clear-cut style, no absolute identifying features, no artistic 'brand'. This is refreshing; an artist who creates what they want to, when they want to, experiments with different mediums and lets ideas ferment and bloom.

While some of her paintings have a distinct graphic quality, others have a more elemental, airy feel. It's this very nebulous aspect that makes it fun to talk to her and ponder the wealth of influences that have informed her work.

Syme is a native Australian, a fact manifestly evident in her paintings. "Even though I've been here since 1976, I grew up with Australian painting and that's where my influence is." Rocks figure strongly in her landscapes, and even depictions of lush nature still whisper an element of uncertainty. For all the richness of colour and texture, a delicate sparseness remains. It is a reminder, as she puts it, that "man and nature can really ravage a landscape, and obviously that's very evident in Australia."

Despite Australia's visual pull and centrality in Syme's work, in the 1960s the allure of London was undeniable. "It's where I always wanted to be. All we got in Australia was this reported vision of the music, Portobello Road, all the fashions. Everyone at the time just wanted to get the hell out of there, all my contemporaries were heading over to London and I longed to go." And go she did.

However, as with every intoxicating dream, the reality was somewhat different. "I

went to art school and everyone was talking about Walter Sickert and Frank Auerbach. I just found it pig ugly - dull and splodgy." Artists like Auerbach tried to capture the oppressive, dank quality of London, thickly applying paint to canvas to achieve a figurative yet murky rendering. Syme's dislike and dissociation from the prevailing artistic trends instilled a desire to depict the opposite, and so she began to reflect on Australia and colour. "I don't think it was conscious, but I found a distinct colour palette, and although I got pulled apart for the brightness of my 'parrot' palette, it appealed to me because it was a relief from all the dark and sludge." The 'parrot' palette has certainly been toned down now, but that artistic playfulness and the influence of memory and imagination have remained.

Take her collages. Syme initially studied graphic design in Melbourne, and the vestiges are evident. A linear aesthetic, solid colours and contrasting textures all feature, and it's here that her interest in Asian art is particularly clear. Some pieces have a strong Japanese, graphic quality and many are informed by the materials themselves. From making her own marble paper to collecting various wrappers and textures, Syme is something of a self-confessed squirrel and likes to let materials dictate her work.

Her fundamental principle is to derive inspiration from memory and imagination, which arose from her initial dislocation when she settled in London. "My aunt sent me a calendar of Australian landscapes, typical scenes like Ayres Rock and the bush, so I painted things like that. Then I started to abstract them more, and got into tree trunks."

She devised her own technique, painting the tree trunks more as stripes. "I would use masking tape and a little cardboard squeegee, and squeegee on the paint in between. You'd get these interesting effects and I liked the combination of ordered and unpredictable." She used a similar technique with masking tape for her more linear, graphic oil paintings. "It's more time-consuming but you have that serendipity, you're not sure when the masking tape might reveal the colour underneath - what might peep through."

Yet another stylistic tributary is photography. She studied Asian Art History and Archaeology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, visits Asia regularly, and was besotted with a particular church in Goa which she decided to photograph. However, when it came to printing, some of the ink toners in the cartridges had run out. "I noticed it would create a good effect to print on acetate and just sandwich them all together. You don't really know how the colours will come out, so you just take your chances." It creates an intriguing, ghostly effect. Even when working with snapshots of real places, Syme still produces imaginative, questioning images. Ink depletion has paradoxically given rise to layering and texture; the very lack has led to substance.

With a diverse range of styles and techniques, Syme has a distinctly 'scrapbook' approach and a sense of happy coincidence weaves through a lot of her work, yet the different moods vary greatly. One foreboding painting is titled 'Evening Storm', whereas the collage 'Mallacoota Inlet' glows with coloured cellophane pieces, and is inspired by a child-

hood holiday at the beach. Regardless of the subject matter, Syme's work is "reminiscent of the feeling of remembering."

Her newest project is a slight departure from her usual approach. The idea, which came fully formed after stewing away for years, is art for the 'Ikea generation', because as she puts it, "I know too many people who have beige houses and nothing on the walls." She's planning some collages, using sample paint charts and a dose of conceptual wit to comment on the current narrow-mindedness of art buyers. "A friend offered to buy his daughter a painting, and as they were looking she kept saying 'Oh yeah, that would go with the sofa, that would fit the space' and in the end she couldn't decide because nothing quite went with the sofa or was quite the right size."

Such concerns are symptomatic of the art buying public; it's not about the art itself, but the 'lifestyle aspirations' it exudes. "People don't want their parents' old furniture - they want new, clean, perceived modernity and it's all totally anodyne. It's like a five star hotel, completely lacking in personality." Considering Syme's colour saturated approach and irritation with the art world's preoccupation with 'brand', her desire to comment on the current state of creative consumerism seems astute. She's found a rich spring of inspiration from something that is inherently uninspiring.

In thoughtfully weaving memory and imagination together, along with a healthy dose of experimentation, Syme has developed an approach that drips with evocation of places both real and imagined. Never predictable, her various influences have melded to form a distinct yet eclectic oeuvre. **M**

www.ey.com/uk/careers

AU REVOIR TO BORING BUSINESSWEAR

WILL ROBINSON DISCUSSES THE PROBLEMS FACED WHEN DRESSING FOR WORK

Summer of '16 saw many in the fashion industry admiring the perfect swimwear that adorned the idyllic beach bodies of many celebrities, and eagerly awaiting the release of new Autumn/Winter collections. However, a bigger issue came to my attention during my tiresome days sat at work. It was announced in early July that a woman had been sent home with unpaid leave, due to not wearing high-heels to work.

As a result, the campaign "My heels, my choice" was formed which received over 151 000 signatures, leading to a debate being held in the House of Commons on 'whether employers should be allowed to dictate what men and women wear within the workplace'.

Huge corporations such as Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC), responded to this campaign and abolished their strict uniform guidelines.

The campaign caused me to question; 'Do men really have it easier when it comes to business attire, and can you still dress formally but express individualism?' After all, that is what

fashion is all about; expressing your style through what you wear. For men, a suit is always a go to point. But, what is acceptable? Can men wear tweed to work and still not face scrutiny from their co-workers? Or even wear eye catching socks? I say yes.

Formality is of course essential, yet individualism is just as important. We are not all clones of each other, and wearing a pink checked shirt to work on a Wednesday morning with a pair of dog-toothed socks, should be just as acceptable as a plain white shirt and a block coloured tie. The fact women are being subjected to wearing heels in the workplace seems both sexist and unfair. Employees should to an extent, be allowed to wear what they like and be comfortable in doing so, as long as it is still professional.

However, it did not come to my attention until the beginning of October, when my friend came to me for advice on what to wear for their interview, how difficult it is for women to dress for 'business'. Questions such as 'what is acceptable for women to wear to an interview? A skirt or trousers? A dress or a suit? And of course shoes... heels or no heels?' were discussed. As a result, it is understandable why many women are often left confused in what they can wear and still give the impression they are serious about their job.

Stella McCartney, Vivienne Westwood and Boutique Moschino are all examples of brands whose latest collections identify on both levels of being fashionable and professional. They inspire both men and women to explore individualism within their own professional attire.

Nevertheless, it is an unfortunate fact that in many ways women will always be scrutinised and judged for what they



wear to work. In the first month of Theresa May being made prime minister, tabloid headlines were covering every outfit she wore and stating why the 'leopard print kitten heel' was making a revival.

As a society, we are scared to be different, and in the serious world of work having individuality in what you wear is scarce. Yet, it should not be this way. Neither men nor women should be afraid of being different in what they wear to work. Yes, men may have a less stressful time in deciding what to wear compared to women. However, the ability to express your own style can be argued to be just as difficult for both men and women alike.



BONJOUR TO FEMININE SPORTSWEAR

YANA WALKER WALKS US THROUGH THE LATEST TRENDS IN WOMEN'S ACTIVEWEAR

Sportswear is heading into a new direction as the trend that is usually recognised as more urban is being combined with a more feminine edge.

Sportswear has been a prominent style of fashion since the 1990s, gaining prevalence through the 90s hip-hop era. However, sportswear has only recently surged in popularity amongst luxury brands. The iconic trend is evolving as big designer labels incorporate it with a more feminine tone.

The snapback makes a very stylish return this year as Karl Lagerfeld proves his innovative nature once again by bringing it forward to the catwalk. The Chanel Spring/Summer 2017 collection was unlike any other as girly dresses, integrated with pastel colours, joined forces with active wear. You might never believe that the snapback could be combined with femininity but Lagerfeld's impressive and experimental show proved otherwise.

Kenzo also embarked on something very similar in their recent collaboration with H&M. Once again, the baseball cap joins forces with more feminine wear



as it was styled with various dresses. Kenzo take it one step further as the show was presented with dynamic dance to further demonstrate its sporting appeal.

The ruffled dress, sporty cap and eccentric rhythm worked unlike anything else, proving that everyday women's wear and sport are a great pair when combined together. There is no doubt this collection will sell out in no time.

But why is sportswear changing and how does it work so well? Perhaps it's simply that today's women are happier and more comfortable donning more casual outfits than ever before. Despite this change, many women do not want to lose their femininity, which is why dresses and pastel colours have not been completely abandoned.

Furthermore, there has been a huge surge in attempting to increase the number of women

taking part in sport so it is without a doubt that active wear will be merged with normal everyday wear as female style changes to suit their new interests.

Sportswear is increasing in popularity because women and men alike prefer to feel more comfortable in their day to day life. Many brands have taken advantage of this by combining comfort with different trends so that there is something for everyone. This has already been proven by the fact that women have ditched their high heels for trainers and their tight skinny jeans for leggings.

The vast array of styles, patterns and colours on offer for all budgets at the moment is astonishing and just goes to show that sportswear is not going anywhere anytime soon - even more so now that it is beginning to appeal to a wider market.



STYLE



Velvet dresses are making heads turn with their noticeable shine. Zara has revamped this classic straight cut crossover dress with crushed velvet strokes.

Zara
£25.99



Ditch those plain black work trousers, forget carrying around your evening outfit and go from work hard to play hard and straight into the night with a pair of blue pleated velvet culottes.

Bershka
£20



A fan of the material but not keen on what to work it with. Keep with this current trend and pair your silks and denims with a simple velvet mini backpack.

Urban Outfitters
£36



Every item you wear may be essential to your outfit to complete the look. However, pair your plain outfit with a men's reclaimed vintage overcoat in crushed velvet and you're good to go.

ASOS
£90

GUIDE

GOTH PUNK ARISES

DALE LYSTER TALKS THE DARKER SIDE OF FASHION AND THE RECENT RISE OF THE 'GOTH PUNK'

THE RISE

As is tradition, there is of course a natural leaning towards a darker palette in the approach to Winter. However, throughout the past year there have been both subtle and indiscreet whispers of a darker side of fashion. Though, in terms of the recent reveal of Autumn/Winter 2016, these whispers have come to the forefront of fashion in the form of the trend that is goth punk.



MARK JACOBS NYFW

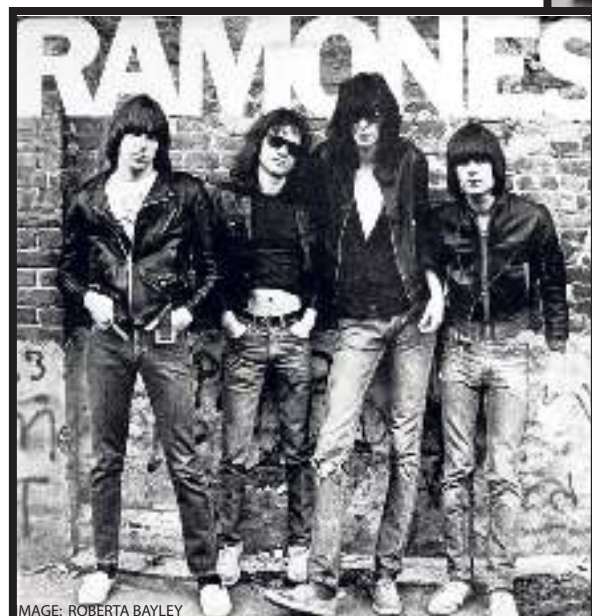
The key indicator of this movement was at the closing of New York Fashion Week as Marc Jacobs had his models walk the runway in a unanimous representation of this trend. As with any Marc Jacobs' Ready To Wear collection, it seemed to make irrelevant all its predecessors, whilst making the current collection simply new. There was a vibe of nostalgia to the show, while also bringing the collection up to date and harking towards the future. While adopting gothic punk fashion generally consists of rocking a pair of skinny, ripped black jeans, Jacobs draws in a twist to the style with oversized capes, the incorporation of effeminate pussy bows and hints of pale pink.

A QUICK HISTORY

Explorations of the darker side of fashion cannot be viewed to be completely surprising. After all, as with any art form, nothing is created in a vacuum, and everything new that arrives contains echoes of the past, while shouting to the future. Designers such as Alexander McQueen and photographers such as Nick Knight are groundbreaking figures in exploring the darker tone of fashion. McQueen, nicknamed *l'enfant terrible*, by his fashion peers and critics, continually explored a dark and unafraid tone throughout his work. In his case, it was believed to be a reflection of reality; in his collections in 2004, it was said that the tones to his work were a haunting reference to the dark side of Scottish history.

GOTH X PUNK

Following the 60s Summer of Love movement, gothic fashion thrived due to its counteraction with a fashion era that defined itself by flares and florals. As the 70s came about, a growing disinterest among the public with the mainstream artistic movement led to a growing influence of punk and gothic fashion that came from bands like The Sex Pistols, Led Zeppelin and The Ramones.



STYLE

Modern day fashion brands have birthed a hybrid between the two subcultures, gothic and punk. The mix of gothic and punk subcultures, added to the current drive in fashion towards a desired, luxurious aesthetic is the pivotal reason why the goth punk trend has been able to flourish. The rise of this trend has been hinted at for the past six months; through the increase in popularity of velvet, pinstripes, boots, deep colour tendencies and most recently metallic shades.

Whilst goth punk fashion was used as a means of expression through anti-mainstream culture, many high street fashion brands have adopted this style to transition the trend to the mass market. Through the rebirth of velvet, lace, boots, and all things black, goth punk has undergone a cultural shift; once for the few, it is now for the many.

THE ART
OF
DARKNESS





Photographers: Jenny
Cao and Dale Lyster

Models: Yana Walker
and Dale Lyster

Clothing: Dog & Bone
Vintage, Zara,
Topshop

GIGS OF A LIFETIME

MEMBERS OF THE NEW MUSE TEAM SHARE THEIR FAVOURITE GIGS OF ALL TIME

Nothing compares to seeing your favourite artists perform live in the flesh. Putting the feelings evoked by a gig into words is a monumental challenge. First off, there is the communal aspect, singing along to your favourite songs, in unison with thousands of others. Then there are those intimate moments. Those moments when it feels as though the artists are playing just for you, as you are submerged in the instrumentals and forget about everything else. The fact that these same artists can then, with a subtle key change, revert the setting back to one huge party simply adds to the allure of a live performance. These transcendent moments stand out for us here at *Nouse*, so much so that we want to share our favourite gig experiences. In our 'Gigs of a Lifetime' feature, the brand new Music team, and our new Deputy Muse Editor share with you the stand-out examples of their live music endeavours. Their picks cover a varied range of genres, from pioneers of the Madchester Sound, The Stone Roses, to pop icon, Lady Gaga, to the innovative alt-rockers, Radiohead, and American metalcore group, A Day To Remember.

LADY GAGA @ SHEFFIELD ARENA, 07/03/10

I was 12 years old when my life gained meaning, because I saw Lady Gaga in concert. She was, in a word, astounding. Meat dresses and disco sticks aside, Gaga proved herself to be one of the most incredible vocalists in the industry. Dynamics, range, power – she deployed everything in her arsenal, and ended up singing the entire arena's faces off. Gaga's always prided herself for her artistry, but it was never self-indulgent. There were breath-taking

acoustic performances of album highlights, like 'Speechless', as well as arena-storming anthems like 'Telephone' performed with knee-slapping gusto. Now, in 2016, the Gaga well has run a little dry, but 2010 was a different – and better – time. Donald Trump was still on *Celebrity Apprentice*, Wagner was on *X Factor*, and Lady Gaga inspired incredible enthusiasm at the time. I distinctly remember finding myself confronted by some vigorous thrusting by a bedazzled woman in the row in front, which proved both terrifying and incredible. Nowhere but a Gaga gig would you get such a display. Lady Gaga still has a magnificent voice, but what made this gig so brilliant at the time was that of course she sounded different to everybody else in the industry, and her songs also had hooks. Hooks that 20 000 people could sing along to, which made for an unforgettable experience. Perhaps she'll never create such moments again, but for gigs like this, she will always be iconic to me. **AT**



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

THE STONE ROSES @ HEATON PARK, 30/06/12

Manchester's Heaton Park. June 2012. The seminal Manchester band had only 7 months earlier announced their reformation after 15 years, with two planned shows at their hometown's Heaton Park. Tickets sold out in record time, the initial 150 000 being snapped up in just 14 minutes, before a third date was added (and just as promptly sold out). As a massive Roses fan who had, after a stressful morning exercising my keyboard's refresh button, obtained a ticket, my excitement for the gig was tangible; it was set to be the band's first UK show since 1996 and was always going to be special. I wasn't remotely disappointed. Ian Brown, known perhaps for his often-faltering vocal performances in the past, was in fine form as the band belted out a set of rapturing classics from their self-titled 1989 debut to 75 000 adoring fans. It was a show that had everything a hardened Roses fan could want: the dance-funk of 'Fool's Gold', the rockiness of 'Love Spreads', the swagger of 'I Wanna Be Adored', and the sing-along euphoria of 'Made of Stone'. Never had I been to a gig that actively had the feeling of musical history being made in front of you, not until The Stone Roses rediscovered what made them so great the first time around before my very eyes. **JD**

“

NEVER HAD I BEEN TO A GIG THAT ACTIVELY HAD THE FEELING OF MUSICAL HISTORY BEING MADE IN FRONT OF YOU

IMAGE: FACEBOOK



A DAY TO REMEMBER @ ALEXANDRA PALACE, 12/02/14

After two hours of waiting in the cavernous Alexandra Palace, the lights dropped and the image of lead singer Jeremy McKinnon stood in his bathroom was projected over the audience. He got a call to head downstairs, and found the whole band having a party in his house. A few song puns later, they announced that they'd invited some people over to party, so they best get ready. And then, the screen dropped. On stage was a full sized suburban house – complete with basketball hoop and garden furniture – and out of the garage walk A Day To Remember. What followed was the wildest party you could ever attend. From the opening song the crowd split into one massive mosh pit that pushed me straight to the front, and every song came with demands from McKinnon to open the floor up more. If strobes, streamers and killer tunes weren't enough, the party of a lifetime was made when McKinnon got shoved in a Zorb ball and rolled over the ecstatic crowd. When the softer songs came round, the entire venue was scattered with lights as every fan present screamed the words. Raucous, intense, incredible. But wait, was that the cops? A helicopter (papier-mache) descended above the house, and we're told to shut it down. Nobody was having that. A dozen fans were pulled on stage and out came toilet paper, beach balls and t-shirt cannons which were thrown/fired into the crowd. The night climaxed in a monumental and beautiful mess. The house party of the decade ended on a most incredible high. **EL**



IMAGE: ADAM ELMAKIAS

RADIOHEAD @ THE ROUNDHOUSE, 26/05/16

When Radiohead announced three dates at the Roundhouse, I was simultaneously filled with both uncontainable excitement and dread; Radiohead are one of my favourite bands, however the venue has a capacity of only 3,300 standing, so the chances of obtaining tickets were incredibly slim. Luckily, my father and I were two of the few to get tickets. We arrived at Camden at around 4pm on the afternoon of the performance, and the wait to enter the venue seemed endless. Upon finally making our way inside, we found ourselves stood in the second row, directly in front of where Thom Yorke would stand. As the band walked on stage, they were greeted by a loud roar from the small, but enthralled audience. Yorke and co began with five songs from their latest album, *A Moon Shaped Pool*, and then proceeded to play another twenty songs from the rest of their impressive discography. My favourite of these was *Kid A*'s 'Idioteque', with the frontman dancing around the stage with a mesmerising energy. The first set of songs performed was closed by 'Everything In Its Right Place', on which Jonny Greenwood was stunning. In fact, Greenwood was as impressive as the frontman, playing a variety of instruments, from electrifying guitar solos, to moving piano motifs. Other highlights were 'Reckoner', 'Talk Show Host' and the very last song of the two encores, 'Paranoid Android'. I felt so privileged to find myself witnessing one of music's truly great bands perform from barely metres away. The small size of the venue resulted in an extremely intimate gig, with a special dynamic between the band and their adoring fans, something that is extremely rare with a band of Radiohead's popularity. I was utterly captivated for two and a half hours, and it is certainly an experience that I will never forget. **HB**

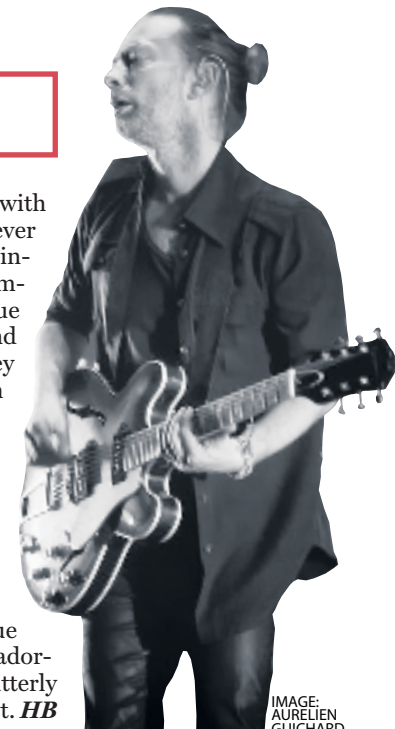


IMAGE: AURELIEN GUICHARD

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN

BEN PHILLIPS ON WHY METALLICA'S LONG-AWAITED TENTH STUDIO RELEASE IS WORTH YOUR ATTENTION, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME

When Metallica were announced as Glastonbury 2014 headliners, criticism flew in a jealous frenzy. Some questioned whether a metal band was an appropriate booking, as others worried about the relevance of a band founded in 1981 (despite the same slot being filled by The Rolling Stones in 2013). To those who do not consider themselves fans of metal, this controversy may have been their first conscious experience of the band this century, or since they last heard 'Nothing Else Matters' in *Forbidden Planet*. I ask that you delve into the history of metal's most cherished sons. Maybe you'll find your inner headbanger.

Metallica have changed massively throughout their career, for the better, but their enormous fan base is split over their dalliance with any activity that distracted from writing *Master of Puppets*. This means that there's something for almost everyone.

Of Metallica's first four albums, regarded by most metal fans as some of the most influential releases, 1988's *...And Justice For All* still carries a crushing heaviness both of sound and of theme. The production is completely claustrophobic, the guitars grind through the band's most complex riffs and arrangements, and the lyrics throw failings of the human condition up against the wall while mourning the loss of original bassist Cliff Burton to a bus crash. It remains one of their angriest albums.

The band's fifth album, in contrast, is an accessible and commercial behemoth; 1991's *Metallica* (or *The Black Album*) borrowed the glossy production and straightforward arrangements of glam rock and unleashed upon the mainstream some of the most concise and

compelling songwriting metal has ever produced. *Metallica* has to this day never sold fewer than 1000 copies per week, and the album is certified 16 times platinum.

What sticks out to me from Metallica's career since their mainstream breakthrough is their bravery in pursuing projects that have confused and even alienated some of their fans, even more than the significant (read: infamous) change in style in some of their studio releases. They've made a feature film out of a stadium gig (2013's *Metallica: Through the Never*), a bizarre collaborative record with Lou Reed (*Lulu*, 2011), and a warts-and-all documentary that showed us exactly why 2003's *St. Anger* was such a disaster (2004's *Some Kind of Monster*). They've even had a surprisingly successful stab at collaborating with a live orchestra (*S&M*, 1999).

I mean this personal shortlist to be illustrative of the fact that Metallica have done most things that have worn out other bands creatively or destroyed them entirely. It's unfair to dismiss any of the band's work because of their age or the genre they inhabit. Metallica have not just been pioneers in heavy metal, but have continued a tradition of fearlessness and self-confidence without arrogance. So what if *Metallica: Through the Never* flopped commercially; so what if *St. Anger* was a hot mess; so what if Hetfield will never again capture the immortal guitar tones of their early releases. Metallica's every next step is different and self-aware enough to be exciting, even thirty-five years on. With a new album on the horizon, and two promising singles, now is a great time to dip into the troubled interpersonal relations that is thrash metal.

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA



MICHAEL BUBLÉ NOBODY BUT ME

HENRY BROWN

★★★★

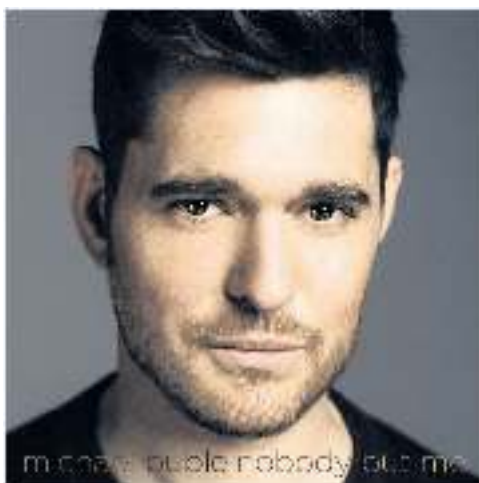
The Canadian crooner has returned with a new album, three years since his last release.

The lead single is the radio friendly title track, boasting an infectious, upbeat melody. Despite not charting well, the song remains the album's best original song.

However, other originals, 'I Believe In You' and 'Someday', are generally forgettable. The latter, written by Meghan Trainor and Harry Styles, certainly delivers the generic pop song that one might expect from this partnership of songwriters.

Nobody But Me's strengths, as expected, lie with the big band and American Songbook numbers. For example, 'My Kind Of Girl' is the first hint at that trademark, big band Michael Bublé sound.

Other high points include covers of Dean Martin's 'On An Evening in Roma' and Ray Noble's 'The Very Thought of You'. On the first of the two, Bublé delivers the first verse beautifully in Italian, continuing the vocal



masterclass as the lyrics change to English. The latter demonstrates Bublé channelling his inner Frank Sinatra.

The final number is a touching cover of The Beach Boys' 'God Only Knows', on which Bublé produces a much more tender interpretation, with stripped down instrumentation.

Nobody But Me offers few surprises and the original songs are catchy at best. However, the big band covers deliver as always, and his vocal performance is as tremendously strong as ever.

SOLANGE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

ANDY TALLON

★★★★★

Both Solange and her rather famous sister Beyoncé have released albums this year that have dealt with extremely divisive political issues. Where Beyoncé's frustration came out as a roar on *Lemonade*, *A Seat at the Table's* 'Weary' phrases it as a whispered, desperate lament.

However, subtlety doesn't come at the expense of nuance or depth. 'Cranes in the Sky' is stark in its honesty, and even the album's interludes are striking. 'Dad Was Mad' is only 46 seconds song, but it's an unapologetic insight into the anger black Americans feel at the inexplicable discrimination they face.

'Tina Taught Me' dismisses egalitarianism, and makes no apologies of its support for pro-blackness and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Similarly, one of the record's highlights, 'Don't Touch My Hair', doesn't shy away from its attack on appropriation, arguing for the



emotional significance of black culture.

Given that this album has been in the works for 8 years, it's unsurprising that it dips into various genres. It's ultimately an R&B/soul record, but with elements of funk and synth (particularly on the opening 'Rise'), it's a record that will divert expectations.

Famous sister aside, Solange has proved herself to be no Dannii Minogue - she's become a shining star entirely in her own right with this album, truly stepping out of her older sister's shadow.

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Liam Gallagher offers his thoughts on why brother Noel missed the premiere of Oasis film *Supersonic*

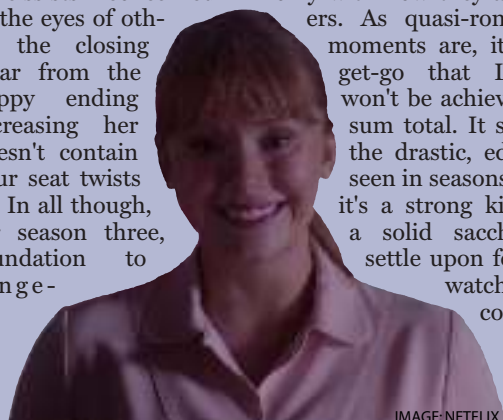
"He's probably sat in his big fucking house, eating tofu and having a face peel."

BACK TO BLACK

THE FILM AND TV TEAM TAKE A LOOK AT THE HARD HITTING TRUTHS OF **BLACK MIRROR'S** NETFLIX DEBUT

NOSEDIVE

Launching the third instalment of Brooker's dystopian epics, 'Nosedive' invites us into a hellish rosé swamp where every social interaction, from small talk with a barista to listening to a best man's speech, is followed by the conversational participants rating one another out of five stars on their phones. Everyone dons a mask of pleasantry, holding any bile behind their back teeth for fear of the disastrous consequences of a low rating. The life of protagonist Lacie (Bryce Dallas Howard) centres almost exclusively around her rating. Overjoyed when it rises and devastated when it falls, it becomes a harrowing vision of what could occur should our yearning for an objective record of approval spiral out of control. Unfortunately, the episode is weakened by the simplistic nature of the plot - from the outset, every scene feels a little predictable. The woman Lacie meets with a rating of 1.4 is, unsurprisingly, the most sympathetic character, while the high-4s are all narcissists concerned only with how they appear in the eyes of others. As quasi-romantic moments are, it feels clear from the happy ending increasing her doesn't contain your seat twists by. In all though, for season three, foundation to binge-



CK

IMAGE:NETFLIX

PLAYTEST



IMAGE:NETFLIX

Backpacking American, Cooper (Wyatt Russell), is brought in to test a hyper-realistic augmented reality game. The timing for this episode was spot on given the recent release of the Sony VR headset - the technology isn't science fiction anymore. The whole episode revels in its survival horror aesthetic making it the most 'fun' episode in the series, in a nightmarish kind of way. There are knowing references to horror clichés, from the haunted house to the jump scares. The horror grows from the Lovecraftian monstrosities to the monsters waiting at home.

Despite all these very self-aware references, it still felt new, walking the line between old-fashioned horror and sci-fi. That said, this episode is by no means perfect. The pacing is slightly off, with a long set up before they start the game which seemingly goes nowhere. The lack of the more moralistic elements is both the episode's strongest point and its failing. It makes the most of the B-movie horror fun, but it also feels more forgettable than Brooker's other efforts. It's more of a dark-humoured romp than a truly affecting piece of horror. But remember, it can be dangerous to ignore your mother.

ET

SHUT UP AND DANCE

All it takes is one click. One click changes everything. Kenny (Alex Lawther) is an unremarkable teenager. However, he has a secret - a secret that he must be willing to dance like a puppet on strings to protect.

Black Mirror aficionados will be accustomed to skewed realities and dystopian futures. 'Shut Up and Dance' turns its back on these traditions, planting its feet firmly in the present day. Its plausibility is what will send shivers down your spine, make your fingers curl into fists, and lead you to turn off the GPS on your phone.

The plot escalates relentlessly, never allowing for comic relief and failing to grant the viewer a moment to take a breath. The conclusion does not disappoint and the twist is largely unforeseeable. Through all this, Lawther's performance is outstanding; his panic becomes your own as the challenges set become increasingly complex. He makes Kenny little more than a boy caught up in a world he's too naive to be part of. *Shut Up and Dance* proves alternate universes isn't necessary to illustrate the dangers of technology. The real world is terrifying enough.



GO

IMAGE:NETFLIX

SAN JUNIPERO



IMAGE:NETFLIX

'San Junipero' is built from startlingly beautiful cinematography, muted pastel tones, and vast scenic shots. Yorkie (Mackenzie Davis) is a gawky tomboy who enters into a nostalgic 80s nightclub scene, wearing goofily large glasses and baggy khaki shorts. Forced into conversation with the Cinderella of the episode, Kelly (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), they exchange words to discover they are both 'just visitors' in this unfamiliar town. That is, until midnight strikes, when Kelly has 'somewhere else to be.'

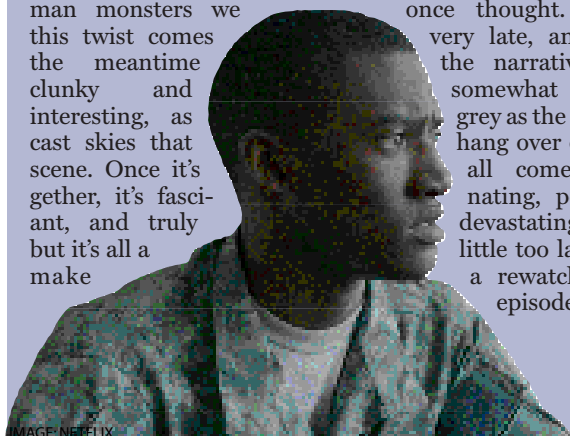
The peculiar passing of time often jumps weeks in one go - a few odd conversations and Yorkie's unquestioned instant outfit changes culminate in the unshakable feeling that something isn't quite right. Yet the first 30 minutes of 'San Junipero' don't come across as particularly dark or *Black Mirror*-esque. However, with a considerable amount of hints and foreshadowing, the twist reveals itself much earlier in the episode than normally expected from the show. 'San Junipero' exhibits an honest portrayal of love, care, and affection, just two girls finding their way in San Junipero, the non-descript American party town that slowly builds around them.

MW

MEN AGAINST FIRE

As the season begins to wind down, 'Men Against Fire' takes a stern look at human propensity for warfare. The world has fallen into disrepair, overrun by snarling humanoid creatures. The military are charged with wiping out these 'roaches.' Our protagonist Stripe (Malachi Kirby) takes down two of them, without hesitation, in a scene reminiscent of the sheltering of Jews during the Second World War. One roach carries an unknown device which emits a high pitched scream, damaging the chip installed in his head and pixelating his vision.

So far, it feels predictable. The device has obviously done something to him, likely to change his perception of the roaches. Not so simple. Eventually, in true *Black Mirror* fashion, there's a sickening twist, where every heinous crime against humanity from the past century is dragged into the limelight. The situation is not as it seemed from the outset at all, and the roaches are not the subhuman monsters we once thought. But this twist comes very late, and in the meantime the narrative is somewhat uninteresting, as the overhang over every scene. Once it's all come together, it's fascinating, and truly but it's all a little too late to make a rewatchable episode.



CK

IMAGE:NETFLIX

HATED IN THE NATION



IMAGE:NETFLIX

The finale of *Black Mirror*, directed by James Hawes, takes undeniable jabs at Twitter and trolling, while straddling the line between realism and science fiction. Set in London in the near future, the episode follows the formula of a procedural drama as Karin Parke (Kelly MacDonal) and Blue (Faye Marsay) investigate the death of a journalist and its link to a hashtag.

Overall, the episode maintains the quirks of *Black Mirror*, the quality of cinematography, the exploration of 'big themes.' However, the concept promises more than is delivered. Tension is often broken by absurdity, notably the swarms of animatronic bees which move the episode more in the direction of *Doctor Who*. To Hawes' credit, the episode still delivers shock and awe through the body-horror moments and the subversive ending. A further issue is the acting; MacDonal and Marsay are given limited moments to shine, causing drab performances, which is unfortunate as the more emotionally driven scenes give a much needed intensity to the episode. Ultimately, the lack of subtlety prevents this closing chapter from being engaging and Brooker fails to add a new spin on the social media conversation.

IM

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY?

PATRICK HOOK-WILLERS EXAMINES RECENT CHANNEL 4 DRAMA **NATIONAL TREASURE** AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE PERCEPTION OF SEX CRIME IN SOCIETY



IMAGE: CHANNEL FOUR

The world of showbiz in 2016 is rife with sexual abuse. Cases involving people of all ages have been coming to light in an unprecedented manner since the discovery of Jimmy Savile's abhorrent crimes. Previously adored famous faces are being exposed as vile predators, one of the most notable being former musician and entertainer Rolf Harris. *National Treasure*, Channel 4's four-part drama series follows Paul Finchley, a universally loved funny man accused of a historical rape. Inspired by the ongoing Operation Yewtree, it is shaped specifically to make its audience question their own views on the central issues of sexual consent and rape trials in the UK, as well as the happenings of the story itself.

From the very beginning, the show does very well to fully immerse the audience in Finchley's world, introducing him backstage at an awards ceremony in a dark and smoky room, being called on stage to present a lifetime achievement award to his long-term comedy partner. It gives you a real sense of his life, having frequent compliments from real life celebrities, and from more ordinary fans like a demanding taxi driver begging for him to parrot his catchphrase: "do it for me, go on." It is entirely possible that the series' writer Jack Thorne, of *This is England* fame, is attempting to build an affinity between Finchley and the viewer through the consistent praise, a rising liking that is easily detectable while you watch. The casting of Robbie Coltrane further helps this subliminal development; his most famous role is of Hagrid, one of the most loveable characters in the *Harry Potter* film franchise. The introduction of wife Marie (Julie Walters), along with grandchildren Billy and Frances, is done in the

Finchley is definitively innocent and that the accusations brought against him are entirely unjust, a belief which is portrayed through various flashbacks to key dates in question during the trial. He slowly begins to lose everything he holds dear, most importantly his afternoon game show *Smuggle*, before any kind of verdict has taken place. Everything that happens to him provokes the idea that the notion of "innocent until proven guilty" does not really exist in practice. This reflects a real issue in the UK today, with accused men losing incredible amounts due to false accusations. One of the most high profile cases is that of Cliff Richard, who is suing the BBC after a live broadcast of the police raid of his home in relation to Operation Yewtree and child sex offences.

The overarching aim of the series however, is reflecting the disrespect that is shown towards women who report rape and sexual abuse. In the second episode, Christina (Susan Lynch), babysitter of the Finchleys and one of the eight women accusing Finchley of abuse, is dismissed by Marie as "a fantasist [who] always did try to act older than she was". Similarly, Rebecca Thornton (Kate Hardie), is portrayed in court as an obsessive fan, saying in a letter a year after being raped by Finchley, "sorry I missed you, I'll see you soon". She pleads that the trauma she suffered in the wake of her rape caused this obsession with her abuser; this consequence of serious sexual abuse is not at all uncommon, especially given her young age at the time of the alleged crime. The entire basis of the defence is trying to find ways to slander or degrade the character of the women accusing their client, rather than to find genuine evidence of Finchley's innocence, which is a sad reflection on the justice system we must try to put our absolute faith in. It was only this month that we saw the sexual history of an anonymous woman who was allegedly raped by footballer Ched Evans have her case questionably discredited.

By the end of the final episode and the series as a whole, it is known that Paul Finchley is guilty: guilty of being a serial adulterer, abuser, and rapist. The flashbacks to key times that made the audience believe Finchley couldn't possibly be guilty return, and show what happened after we returned to the present. He didn't send fifteen year old Christina home in the taxi, he took advantage of her in his home with his unknowing daughter upstairs. Rebecca repeatedly pleads "no thank you... I'm a fan". Finchley darkly replies, "oh I'm a fan of you deary", before proceeding to jump at her. Just like in the real world of show business there is a dark sense of protectionism, where those who commit horrendous crimes and damage their victims hugely, often beyond full repair, are kept hidden and presented with fame, money, and lifetime achievement awards in place of the cages they deserve. The series achieves its aim of making you wonder who else could still remain hidden. The series ends with Finchley calling hopelessly into the garden for his wife, perhaps the only one who can now see him for what he really is.

THOSE WHO COMMIT HORRENDOUS CRIMES ARE PRESENTED WITH FAME IN PLACE OF THE CAGES THEY DESERVE

same scene as the revelation that Finchley has been accused of rape. The impact and severity of the accusation is increased by the presence of the innocent youths, and the genuine concern of the police to keep their young minds out of what becomes a very dark investigation: "we didn't realise your grandchildren would be in your home with you."

This series explicitly addresses the issue of sexual violence and how criminal cases of this kind are handled in the UK. The purpose of *National Treasure* was to highlight how such cases progress, and the impact they have on all those involved. In the first half of the series there is a belief that

TOP 5 HORROR FILMS OF THE DECADE SO FAR

IT FOLLOWS (2014)

There isn't an exercise in pure, unadulterated dread quite like the constant, untiring stalk of the 'it' in *It Follows*



THE BABADOOK (2014)

Grief manifests itself as a terrifying pop-up book character come to life - chaos ensues



THE SKIN I LIVE IN (2011)

A cocktail of murder, kidnapping, and coercive sexual reassignment where no one emerges untarnished



THE WITCH (2015)

A Puritan family isolated in the wilderness are terrorised by a malicious entity in the forest



GOODNIGHT MOMMY (2014)

When a mother returns home from hospital, her children begin to wonder if this figure is the same woman who left



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WE'RE NOT SCARED, HONEST

JAMES LEES AND COMPANY EXPLORE A HAUNTED ASYLUM IN HORROR GAME OUTLAST

Me and my housemates are (by our own admission) not fans of horror. So then it's something of a surprise that I managed to convince us all to sit down in the living room, turn off the lights and play *Outlast*. Okay, so I admit it's not the hot new thing being over three years old now but I already owned it on Steam and it's small enough that I could download it in a reasonable time. So after a little bit of psyching ourselves up and messing around with cables to make it actually work we all raced to dibs 'not first', leaving it to my housemate Sam to start.

Outlast begins with you (as an investigative journalist) going to find a big scoop in the recently re-opened mental asylum of Big Mountain (no really, that's what it's called). So we instantly begin to question why we were doing it at night and why we didn't just book an appointment like normal people.

Sam spent a good amount of time trying to delay the inevitable by exploring every inch of the courtyard apart from the great big obvious gap under the side gate that was the entrance to the rest of the building. Eventually, after some coaxing, he went in and the game got creepier. Predictably, the first scare came when down a long corridor he opened a door and a body swung down in front of it making us all give out a small (probably very manly) cry. Sam refused to play after this point.

So, it being my idea, I was left to take up the controller and push on. I did so with a



IMAGE: RED BARREL STUDIOS

certain amount of reckless bravado, choosing to run straight down corridors and after the supposed scares shouting insults. We then hit the first major story point of the game as some strange priest said some creepy things about prophecy and destiny etc.

The game then lost a lot of its scariness as we couldn't find a key card and had to Google for it. I carried on pointing out an incoming scare that still managed to make one of my housemates jump and managed to reach the

security room and turn off the lock-down. At this point, the priest turns off the power and an on-screen prompt tells you to hide in a nearby locker before a huge fat creature bursts into the room.

Now, I'm not a big player of horror games but I recognise a set-up when I see one. The idea being that as a first-time player I would sit in the locker waiting for the monster to go away but then it would burst open the door and presumably do horrible things to me. So

wanting to avoid trial by error I shot out of the locker while its back was turned and belted it down the corridor, much to the horror of my housemates who seemed to get a fright from the whole experience. So, running away from the chasing man, I entered the basement and passed the controller over to Toby.

Tasked with turning on a couple of pumps to get a generator working, he crept around until a messed-up creature ran out and, despite his panicked attempts to run away, murdered him. The second time, Toby waited a lot longer before popping out and almost perfectly after I said "maybe he doesn't spawn in every time" we were jumped on from a dark corner. After this, however, we became acquainted with exactly where and why the creature spawned and it became a game of figuring out where we needed to go once we had turned on the power which resulted in a Benny Hill-like run around a central pillar whilst somebody Googled for the answer.

After being knocked out again by the priest and wandering somewhat aimlessly around a prison which we were in with a bunch of 'Crazies', one of which we named Mr. Wall Head for his fondness of smacking his head against a wall, we realised we were no longer interested. So we stopped playing *Outlast* and played some *Gurgamoth* and *Gang Beasts* instead and had a much better time. Seems horror games still aren't really our thing.

REVIEW: BATTLEFIELD 1

SAM FLINT WONDERS, IS THE NEW WORLD WAR ONE TITLE THE BEST YET IN THE FRANCHISE?

Bullets whizz past your character's face with a distinctive crack as tanks rumble past you, ripping up mud and soil that glistens on their tracks. Biplanes attack a huge zeppelin that bursts into a fiery explosion spewing debris across the field. This initial entrance to the multiplayer aspect of *Battlefield 1*, rendered in all its muddy, bloody glory on developer Dice's frostbite engine, is in many ways breath-taking.

As a triple A title, *Battlefield 1* had some mighty boots to fill, and so far it has launched far better than its big brother *Battlefield 4*. Smooth and glitch free for the most part, it is easily playable. It's here in these wide open spaces that the game shines. Vehicles and infantry work in combination across the map with it being so large, enabling everything from dogfights to tank battles. Quickly, I'll

talk about the obvious.

It looks amazing. Anyone that's seen any gameplay footage will know how gorgeous the game truly looks. The gameplay for the most part retains the classic *Battlefield* feel; conquest is the same, open maps with vehicles and flags to capture, and rush is also here along with a quirky new edition of war pigeons.

The major shakeup in multiplayer is the new game mode operations. In what feel like extended multiplayer campaigns, teams attack or defend flags, more in a rush style, with the background story of a campaign. The ebb and flow of the battle does feel compelling and heroic final pushes or last ditch defences do make the experience fun and personal. Overall, Dice haven't reinvented the wheel here, if you've played a *Battlefield* title before

you'll immediately feel at home among its destructible chaos.

As feared, the single player is disappointingly poor. Although not as bad as *Battlefield 4*'s attempt at a compelling story, *Battlefield 1* manages to throw away its huge potential. Its prologue, a vivid suicide mission where you play as characters doomed to die, highlights the pointlessness and horror of the game's setting. Instead after this we are treated to a series of short, bland missions, full of good looking set pieces but lacking any really development or punch, and with some shockingly bad AI that struggles to kill you (although in one mission you are literally invincible).

The single player aside, the major problem, one that I can't stress enough, is the poor map design. If *Battlefield 1* shines in its huge, sprawling maps, it becomes an ugly, maddeningly frustrating death simulator on its smaller ones. In particular, the Suez Canal map is appallingly designed, pitting the British attackers on the first point against an armoured train. With limited if no cover behind flimsy sand dunes, it becomes an aggravating shooting gallery.

Battlefield 1 is, for the most part, a blast. Not only will it feel homely yet similar for returning *Battlefield* fans, but it also offers a welcoming refreshment from the saturated modern military shooter market. There are some pitfalls though, if you attempt the smaller maps expect some rage inducing, controller throwing moments where you swear you shot that guy yet still he got you, only to respawn next to an enemy tank and be blown to bits.

But at least it looked amazing when it happened.



IMAGE: EA

TOP TEN HORROR GAMES YOU NEED TO PLAY THIS HALLOWEEN

1. OUTLAST
2. SCP: CONTAINMENT BREACH
3. ALIEN: ISOLATION
4. FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S
5. HALLOWEEN: THE GAME
6. AMNESIA: THE DARK DESCENT
7. AMONG THE SLEEP
8. CONDEMNED
9. DEAD SPACE
10. F.E.A.R. 2

A DESPERATE DISEASE

YOUSIF ALAWOAD REMINDS US TO REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER

In 1605, a darkened, dusty cellar underneath the hallowed halls of parliament housed John Johnson, a man who argued that “a desperate disease required a desperate remedy”. The disease he was referencing was the Protestant rule of Britain during the 17th century, and the cure being an event that rocked Britain to its cultural core.

John Johnson was, of course, the guise for Guido ‘Guy’ Fawkes, a figure of profound infamy within British history. Fawkes was a devout Catholic who viewed the movement of Britain towards Protestantism as a way of subjugating the oppressed Catholic believers, so he sought to change it.

The Gunpowder Plot, or The Gunpowder Treason Day as it was historically named, was a plan devised to blow up King James during Parliament’s opening on 5 November. Fawkes, alongside some 15 co-conspirators, rented out a small cellar underneath the Houses of Parliament and began loading it with 36 barrels of gunpowder. This was enough to cause serious damage to the building, and (more importantly for them) kill the king, the symbol of Catholic oppression.

However, the smallest of decisions can create mass ripples that change the course of history, and the Gunpowder Plot was no different. On 26 October, Gresham (one of the plot’s conspirators) sent a warning letter to his brother-in-law, William Parker, and duly asked him not to attend Parliament on 5 November. The letter reached the chief minister, Robert Cecil, who then demanded a search of parliament. Later that night, Sir Thomas Knyvett found the cellar, loaded with barrels of gunpowder and of course Guy Fawkes carrying a watch, matches and tools to ignite the explosives.

The story of Guy Fawkes remains arguably one of the most captivating events in British history, but what is especially powerful about it is that an event over 400 years ago still has cultural, social and political ripples today. Britain still celebrates the day that Guy Fawkes was captured with fireworks and community events up and down the country. So why the Gunpowder Plot? Soon after the failure of the plot by the conspirators, 5 No-

vember became a day when the masses would openly harness their anti-Catholic sentiment. By the late 17th century, many would pour out onto the streets and burn effigies of the Pope as a way of reaffirming the power of Protestant rule. This soon changed.

5 November took on a new skew when it came to why and how it was celebrated. No longer was the day so rigidly set on the Catholic/Protestant divide, but rather it began to surpass its original meaning. To map the changes of the cultural relevance of what we know now as Bonfire Night is to map the changing skew of British society and what issues we face as a collective.

During the Crimean War for example, 5 November acted as a morale boost for so many of those who suffered during the years of conflict. It has been historically recorded that many effigies of Tsar Nicholas I were burned as part of communal events. Similarly during World War I, huge parts of the British community saw Guy Fawkes Day as a chance to burn symbols of foreign enemies, including the German Kaiser.

The changes that the night has seen really show how often historical events transcend their original conception, and yet still maintain the root symbol of its original meaning. So no longer is Guy Fawkes night about the rebellious Catholics, but it is about jointly showing our disdain for a common social enemy, or at least ostensibly so. The Pope, Tsar Nicholas and the Kaiser: all were seen as villains amongst society during their times, and were thus used during Bonfire Night celebrations.

So what ‘joint villain’ do we have in today’s society that could justify the continuation of this age old tradition? Well, it stands true that the impact of Guy Fawkes night has followed historic trends when it comes to its modern day reincarnations of the events of 1605. It is definitely true that the actual traditions of Guy Fawkes night itself are not as politicised as they once were, with fireworks and sparklers making up the bulk of the evening’s celebrations. But that is not to say that the image of the

events of 1605 bear any less of a cultural and political influence on our modern day society. The symbol of Guy Fawkes still maintains its relevance when it comes to uniting a group of people against a common enemy, which is what we are seeing currently.

V for Vendetta, a film that follows a revolutionary figure fighting against the fascist establishment in a post-nuclear war Britain, has taken the image of Guy Fawkes as a subjugated member of an oppressed class and rocketed it into the modern world. Designed by David Lloyd, the mask within the film became a way in which the populous could anonymously rise up against the ruling elite. The merging of modern issues of governmental elitism and the historical connotations of Fawkes’ act of rebellion now form the basis of why 400 years later it is still as relevant as ever.

As a result of that film, elitist politicians and the establishment have now become the new ‘joint villain’ that has come to define the ‘Guy Fawkes’ symbol. The ‘Anonymous’ hacktivist movement’s main inspiration is the fight against the politicians, banks and financial institutions that have arguably not been sufficiently held accountable after the financial crash of 2008 and beyond. It is in this sense that the Guy Fawkes image has maintained its purpose of uniting a community against a common enemy, and the anonymous nature of the mask helps to demonstrate this point even more explicitly by stressing the joint nature of the struggle.

The image of the *V for Vendetta* mask has now expanded beyond anarchist hackers protesting big corporations – it has moved to now becoming a self-identified international network that fights terrorism. After the shocking Paris attacks of November 2015, Anonymous revealed a video that declared war on the so-called Islamic State.

This propelled the Guy Fawkes image to the new ‘joint villain’ that is so consistent throughout its timeline. International terrorism is the new enemy that we face as a community, and following the trend of Guy Fawkes’ memory it stands to continue his historical legacy.

What is interesting is that while the event itself was so long ago, the

basis of Fawkes’ beliefs thread through the ages. The Anonymous group have themselves acted illegally and have partaken in acts that

THE GUY FAWKES IMAGE HAS MAINTAINED ITSELF AS UNITING A COMMUNITY AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY

are tangent to a conformist view of society, but have done so because they view the terrorist organisations as the enemy that our community faces.

It will undoubtedly be interesting to wait and find out what the Guy Fawkes image sees as its next collective enemy. But as for now, the ethos of what Guy Fawkes stood for lives on – Anonymous and many of those who used Guy Fawkes’ memory as a protest believe, much like he did nearly 400 years ago, that they are providing the desperate remedy to a very desperate disease. **M**

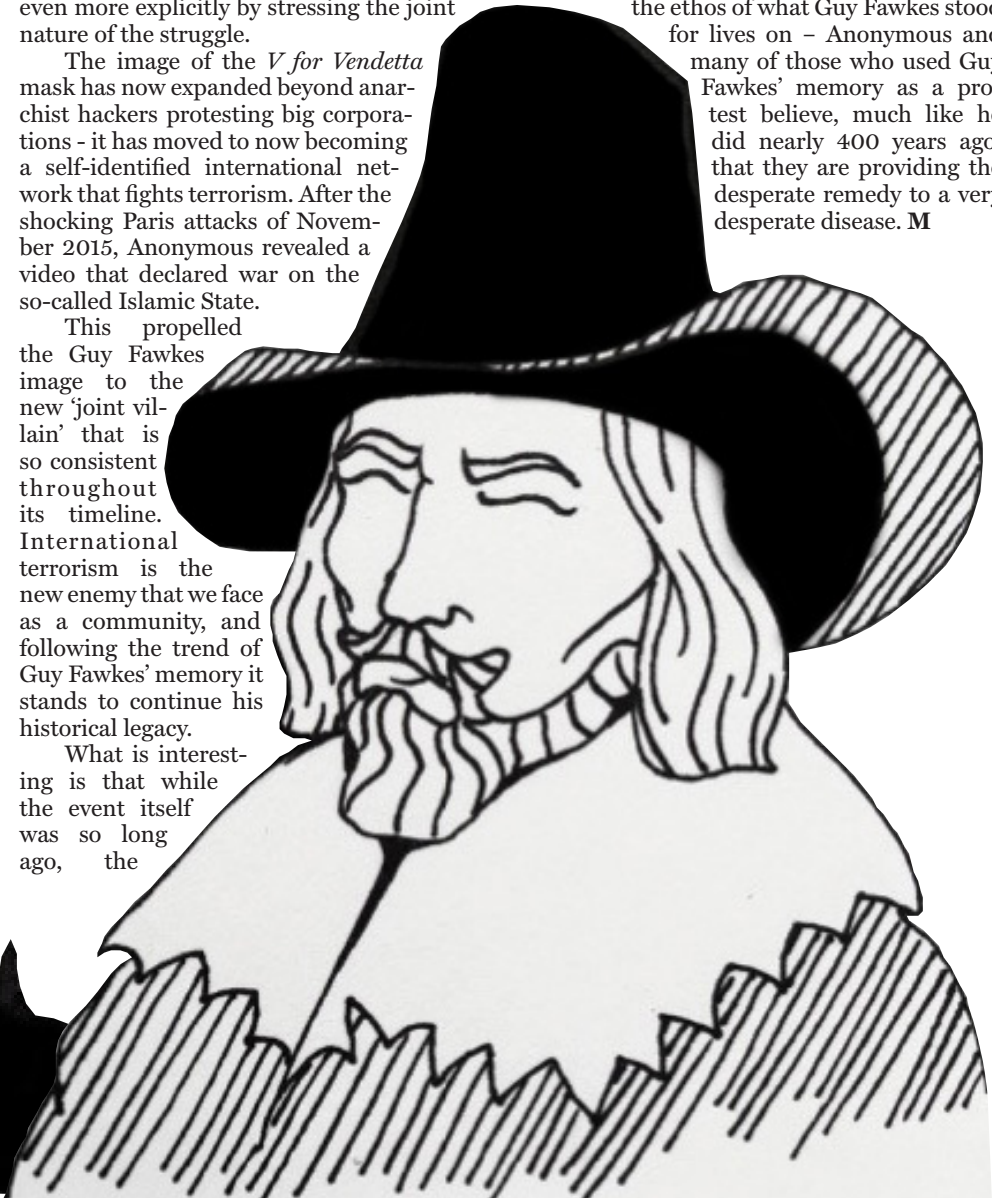
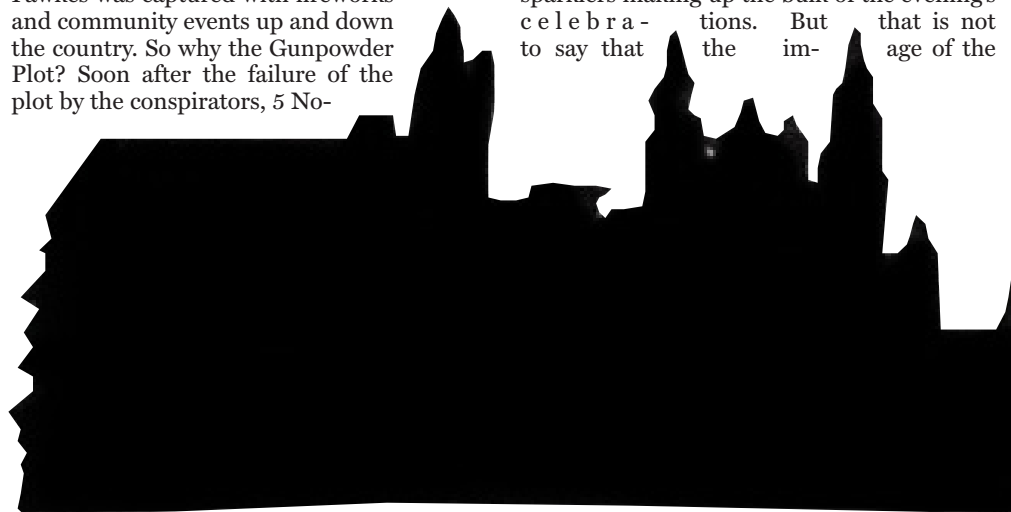


IMAGE: ELLA DAWSON

TRASH! SAVIOUR OF THE FOODIVERSE

MUSTAFA CHAUDHRY TAKES A LOOK AT THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD ORGANISATIONS YORK HAS TO OFFER

Our need for food is something that, it is fair to say, never really wavers. Whether it's that lavish meal funded by your parents upon their termly visit, or the fast food you order to satisfy those pangs of hunger that won't go away, food can clearly be appreciated for several different reasons. However, with it comes the inevitable but unfortunate prospect of food waste.

According to the Food Waste Recycling Action Plan, a UK-based organisation working towards 'positive environmental action', 4.2m tonnes of the 7m tonnes of food waste thrown away each year can actually be eaten. There are, however, several local organisations that aim to play their part in dealing with this issue head-on and utilising all the food that we tend to turn a blind eye to.

Edible York is one such organisation, born from the efforts of food activists in the West Yorkshire village of Todmorden. They believed that the flowerbeds and compost heaps dotted around the village ('propaganda beds' as they later came to be termed) weren't being used entirely effectively and thus decided to grow fruit and vegetables in these places to encourage the local community to grow their own. The local council, realising the success of the scheme, fully backed it and slowly but surely it made its way to the city of York where the scheme has now been in place since 2009.

Speaking to John Cosham, local environmentalist and blogger, it became clear how the Edible York scheme is intended to show people that going to the supermarket and buying produce like fruit and vegetables (which is often imported) is not always the best answer. Instead, growing it locally as part of a community-based initiative exemplifies how, in his words, "easy it is" to ensure food won't be wasted and simply discarded. Growing it yourself provides almost more of

“ 4.2 MILLION TONNES OF FOOD THROWN AWAY EACH YEAR IS ACTUALLY FIT FOR CONSUMPTION

a motivation to want to eat and appreciate the food in front of you – “there is no better feeling than harvesting a potato you yourself planted.”

The magnanimity of Edible York isn't limited to utilising 'propaganda beds' for the organisation and they have several other ventures that ensure food is neither wasted nor neglected. A notable one is Abundance which tends to fruit, namely apples and pears, that would otherwise go to waste due to slight damage or the fact it may just have fallen from the tree and left to rot. The scheme uses the fruit collected and distributes it to the likes of refugee centres, schools, and homeless centres. Alternatively, if the fruit is slightly damaged it can instead be put to use by being turned into fresh juice or as a preserve. The onus of all of this is fundamentally to stop things from go-

ing to waste and subsequently adding to the increasing national issue of wastage; turning something that would once be discarded and

“ THERE'S ALWAYS MONEY FOR WAR BUT NOT TO FEED PEOPLE

finding a use for it seems to be something the organisation excels at.

York is spoilt for choice with the range of charitable organisations that encourage food sustainability by aiming to eradicate this widespread nonchalant attitude towards food waste. A key example would be Your Cafe, based in the Tang Hall Community Centre. It operates on a pay-as-you-feel scheme, providing hot weekly meals to a range of people, a number of whom may not necessarily have access to such meals on a regular basis. As an organisation, they rely on food donations whereby local businesses supply them with excess food that otherwise is likely to be thrown away. Similarly to the other organisations, volunteers are crucial to the initiative's success. It is evident that with the support they are given, and the successful manner in which they involve all members of the

community, they tackle the food-waste issue well and come across as an effectively run outfit.

The abundant number of organisations that deal with the issue of food wastage in York means it is difficult to address all of them individually. Each certainly relies on a resolute set of dedicated volunteers who give up their time not just to ensure that food otherwise neglected can be put to good use but also to help and give something back to the local community and environment.

An organisation that conflates both of these elements in their initiative is the York-based faction of the global initiative Food Not Bombs. Originally set up in the US in 1980, the idea was for a group of volunteers to get together and serve hot meals, specifically vegan and vegetarian, in order to protest against several socio-economic issues and make the most of food that would have been otherwise wasted. Seeing the York-based group in action and speaking to both those serving and being served food gave a real insight into how important this service is for local people.

One gentleman being served, when asked about his interpretation of Food Not Bombs, responded that “there's always money for war but not to feed people”, a comment

IMAGE: MUSTAFA CHAUDHRY



that particularly resonated.

Martin Readle, who has been involved with the York group since the start, was able to provide more information. The organisation used to “get food waste from the bins/skips behind supermarkets” (“freeganism” being the term he used) which would often still be edible but deemed waste due to being slightly blemished. A dent in a can, for example, was considered suitable reason to remove it from the shelves. These 'freegan' supplies would be supplemented by food donations from several volunteers.

They have seen some difficulty due to several different factors, one being a noticeable drop in the number of volunteers who can commit to the initiative on a weekly basis. Martin explained that recently they haven't been able to collect the food supermarkets choose to discard, mostly because they “don't have the numbers for it right now.” This is something that they are looking to maybe return to and it's understandable – if food is being discarded by the supermarkets yet is still edible then why shouldn't it be used for a practical purpose?

That being said, the important thing with the aforementioned organisations, and something notably evident first-hand with Food Not Bombs, is the real sense of unity among the group of volunteers. To have a committed number of people using food that otherwise would have gone to waste is remarkable, and using it for the benefit of others in the community is something we can all learn a little from. M



IMAGE: MUSTAFA CHAUDHRY

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...

....in finding out more about Edible York and the projects they are involved in, visit their website at www.edibleyork.org.uk

Your Cafe is located in the Tang Hall Community Centre and is open once a week; for further details visit their webpage at www.yourcafe.co.uk

Food Not Bombs meet on Fridays at 20:00, and Sundays at 16:00 at St. Helen's Square in the city center. If you're interested in getting involved, visit their Facebook group 'Food Not Bombs (York)'



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

CLOWNING AROUND

HINA RANA ENCOUNTERS ORGAN GRINDER RODDY, BARNAGGEDON AND FREE HUGS

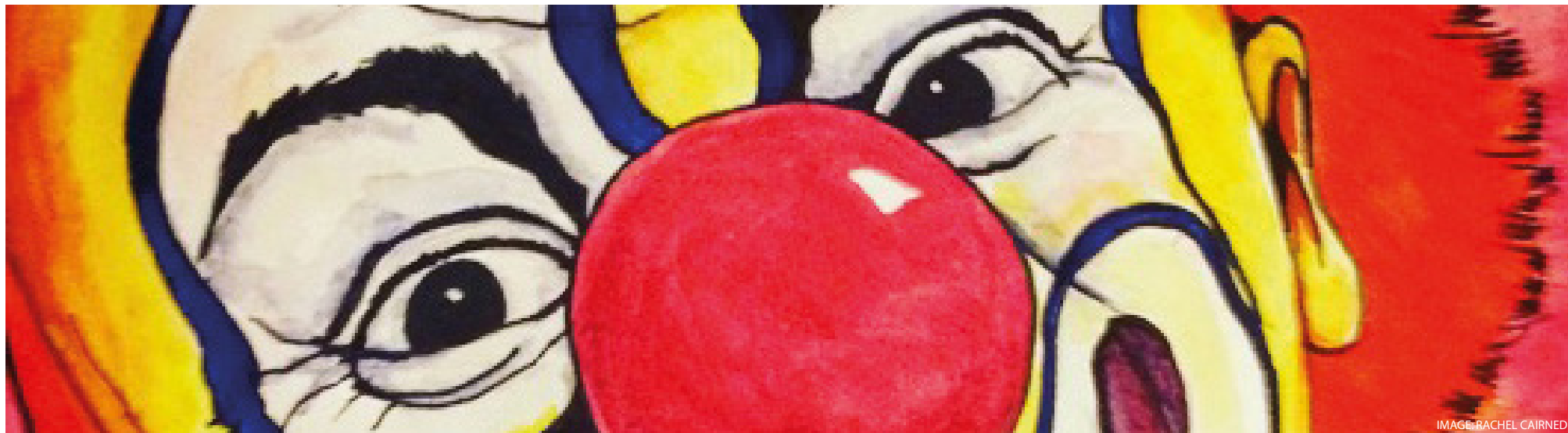


IMAGE: RACHEL CAIRNED

As soon as the taxi pulls to a stop, the scene is set. You exit the vehicle and realise how dark the night has become. It has all the makings of a horror movie; looming iron gates, a budding reporter looking for the next big scoop – wait, aren't they the ones who usually get picked off first? However, even before you get to call out a "Who's there?" you hear screams in the background. You haven't been placed at the beginning of a horror movie – you've been dropped unceremoniously straight in the middle of the action, a green haired clown chasing after you, chainsaw in hand, before you've even reached the ticket office.

Hallowscream is York Maze's annual live action scare event, running from 14 October until Halloween itself. Located close to the Heslington East campus on Elvington Lane, the large site includes a café, bar and frightening scare actors chasing after ticket holders and provides a brilliantly spooky backdrop for the themed haunted house attractions.

Organiser Tom Percy reminisces about the early history of the attraction, explaining how York Maze was originally located on the site of the new York Sports Village. During the night, local children would enter and damage the site, and Percy took it upon himself to run around in the dark to catch the 'miscreants' in the act. Before long, he realised that

this was actually "bloody terrifying."

With the regular release of new horror movies and video games looking to keep pushing the boundaries of the genre, how exactly does live horror induce fresh thrills among an audience who have been exposed to one hundred years' worth of the genre? Percy believes films and games are "sanitised" – "it doesn't feel real." For Percy, the difference lies in how "when someone comes here and an actor jumps out at you it is real and though you know you're not going to get hurt... it does feel like that sometimes."

These words ring true when walking through the enclosed spaces of the haunted houses where something is waiting for you around every corner. The attractions are appropriately named to encompass the horrors inside and all play to visitors' fears spectacularly.

'1873 – Dare You Go Back?' draws upon the darker side of Victorian York as guests are 'sent back in time' to meet unsavoury figures from the past. While the historical events incorporated with the attractions are not completely factual, Percy explains that he created a backstory to give the event "some roots, some belonging... so everything makes sense about what the haunted houses are, where they fit into the story, and the characters in them."



IMAGE: JONATHAN POW

'Barnaggedon' is a haunted house full of scare actors dressed as rabid barnyard animals, with grotesque masks and rattling cages setting a disturbing ambience. While the house is kept as dimly lit as possible, at one point the lights are completely switched off leaving nothing but the pitch-dark, no sense of direction and a room full of 'monsters' for company.

For a haunted house, 'The Flesh Pot' is very visual. Limbs and carcasses are carefully illuminated in each section while scare actors jump forward from the shadows. Nowadays, simply walking through a haunted house isn't good enough; here you are required to squeeze past large inflatable sacks through to the next room.

'The Difference Engine' has a striking aesthetic with its binary code theme, but it actually falls short in delivering something that differentiates from the other attractions. However, the idea of separating groups at different points in the haunted house into 'ones and zeroes' allows guests to experience the attraction without the comfort of their companions, shooting the scare factor up a notch.

Finally there's 'Reincarnation', a clown-based attraction with a hypnotic circus theme. Its use of optical illusions to play tricks on guests' senses is spectacular; rooms are created with bright swirls, and visitors are surrounded by cackling clowns in this frightening sensory overload.

Scare actors are clearly pivotal in making *Hallowscream* a thrilling experience for its guests. I talked to Roddy, a University of York graduate and a *Hallowscream* scare actor playing the part of a roving organ grinder. It's an active job, involving a lot of running as he chases guests around attractions. He explained that all actors are given "templates of ideas and techniques" to work with, and although it can take time to get into the spirit, "after a few nights we're settled into a rhythm."

Interestingly, literature and movies have had an influence in the way that Roddy acts. "Fagin in *Oliver Twist* influenced me, along with *The Pirates of the Caribbean* – but in a creepier way." He doesn't really believe that the advancement of video games and movies has affected how people are scared. "I can tell which people have been to the attraction multiple times; real horror addicts who have committed themselves to a genre are difficult to scare."

Roddy's hesitant response to my question about the boundaries of scare acting made me curious. How do you know when to stop

and move away from someone? For him, once his 'victims' have reached a certain distance away from him post-scare, he doesn't follow – most of the time. "If I'm not in an enclosed space, and I've got an audience watching me as someone is hiding behind their friends, I would go up and give them a last scare. Like a punch line of a joke."

Roddy thinks the appeal of horror at *Hallowscream* is a "social thing. The idea of going with a group and finding out which one

I WOULD GO UP
AND GIVE THEM
A LAST SCARE.
LIKE A PUNCH
LINE OF A JOKE

”

is the big scary-cat." I have to agree; while scare techniques and elements of the haunted houses were being repeated in each of the attractions, all of them were fun and all of them were scary.

The latest clown craze which has hit the UK is proof of people's excitement for live horror. Clowns in particular have earned themselves a terrifying reputation, which is bizarre considering their original purpose to entertain. I asked Percy what he thought about the latest clown fad, and he revealed he'd had to alter his marketing campaign, abstaining from taking his clowns with him into town.

However, he emphasised that *Hallowscream* is "not getting rid of the clowns." The attraction also has an antidote to their evening of horror: at the end of the evening 'Corny the Clown' (the one with the chainsaw at the beginning!) goes around the site with a sign advertising free hugs – though I'm not sure whether this helps or not.

The genre of horror may need to be adapted and changed in film productions and games, but perhaps the world hasn't experienced enough of live action horror. All in all, there's nothing like a person in a mask jumping out to scare you. **M**

NIAMH MURCHAN IS HAVING BAD DREAMS...

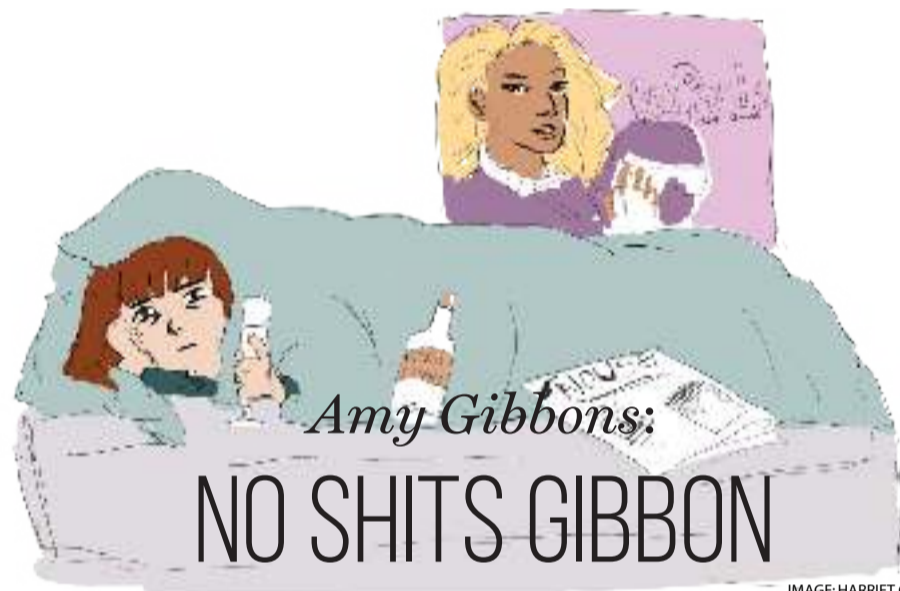


IMAGE: HARRIET CHESHIRE

In the week that Richard Ayoade was tipped to be hosting the new *Bake Off* on Channel 4, Trump and Clinton had another brutal public scrap, and a gorilla escaped from London Zoo and drank five litres of undiluted blackcurrant squash. I consumed most of a bottle of wine, two Graham Nortons and a pint of Somersby, and said my goodbyes to *Nouse*.

Yes, back to me, and to this paper. Sorry. When I mentioned to Chris (outgoing Editor) I'd like to write my second column on life after *Nouse*, he made a very good point: "Amy, isn't that sort of inevitable?" All life is now life after *Nouse*, after all. What a thought.

It's hard to leave a society, especially when you've been invested in its progress and people for so long. *Nouse* is much like a second family, and having joined only in my first term at York moving on from the paper has been much like leaving home and starting over. So, in a way, I feel like a nervous fresher again. A fresher, that is, with a disgusting amount of 18th century travel fiction, advanced level German poetry and an 8000 word dissertation on Dickens to tackle.

On handing my office key back to YUSU, I experienced an extremely sentimental few moments - noticing briefly my signature on the sign out sheet from October 2015, the reality of the year just gone came crashing down on me. I've neglected my degree to almost criminal lengths, I've spent 32 hours on the trot laying up News and Sport in an office reeking of Pot Noodles, and I've been to Dusk with the team approximately 217 000 times. I forgot about Mother's Day, I missed at least four supervisor meetings, and I still don't know what post-structuralism is.

The memories I've made, and the people

I've met, however, have completely changed my life. If I try to picture a moment that stands out to me particularly, there's one image that immediately springs to mind, and I can't shake the feeling that I've been privy to something incredibly special.

The moment in question was in our fifth production week, when we were moved into Vanbrugh briefly while our office in Grimston House was redecorated. It was the week of URY's 101 hour marathon in Greg's Place, and I was perched on a window seat in the Vanbrugh SCR next door to our temporary home, writing the front page story. Peering out of the window I could see the lake lit up in more colours than I could count, and by opening it a fraction I could hear the hoarse voices of the radio team trying desperately to excite people about the fifth replay of Bieber's 'Sorry', which summed up their sentiments perfectly.

As the music made the window panes creak, I felt suddenly completely exhausted, and completely at home; I knew, despite the growing concern that I was more caffeine and sugar than woman, I was doing something I loved entirely.

Then glancing briefly back at my story to see I had a further 500 words to add, I was brought quite violently back down to Earth.

Gotta love a sentimental column. Next time I'll probably either be musing over the inevitable demise of Marmite and Kit Kats post-Brexit (RIP) or busy burning in the post-apocalyptic hell left in the wake of Trump's election. So a lot to look forward to. Best of luck with your mid-term procedural, and let me know if you spot a general zest for life - because I think I left mine at the bottom of that £5 Cava on Tuesday night.

Jack Richard Sonnets

Wednesday Night on Campus

*I rest my head upon my feathered pillow
And drift away on thoughts of Laurence Sterne:
The final lecture of the week shall billow
With thoughts a-plenty fit for my concern.
Then later, say, the seminar shall breach
The topic that my dreams perchance make clear
For nighttime's slumber any kind may teach
To meet one's studies with most rev'rent cheer.
But what is this?, the sound of breaking glass
And bursting chants disturb my solemn rest!
Such crowds of people, dressed as bold as brass
In bed sheet togas, stumbling four abreast!
For try as ev'ry honest scholar might
No sleep is to be had come Wednesday night.*

Week Six

*When Autumn's splendour blankets Yorkist earth
The grey of geese doth glow among the leaves
And second-years rejoice in new-rent mirth
In houses far removed from last year's peeves.
Yea, so it is that all appear to settle,
The last few weeks have taken off the edge
Of Freshers' Week, the need to prove one's mettle
And throwing up, alone, in some dark hedge.
But rest ye not, I beg all you who read
For mid-term's lull leaves little for the slow
You freshers shall learn the library's aching greed
And third-years soon must bask in late-night glow.
Thus just as boozy haze and hols are banish'd
So you will find your free time too has vanish'd.*

M

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Find more info on our Facebook and Twitter pages, or email editor@nouse.co.uk with any questions.

Jack
Dep. Muse

Lucy
Muse

Luke
Editor

Ben
Dep. Editor

Jaz
MD



Trump's lessons for Team Hillary

Luke Rix-Standing
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I'M GOING TO put myself out there: Hillary Clinton will win the American presidential election. With the election just days away, statistics supremo Nate Silver is forecasting a 330 to 205 Democrat win, while Arizona is now projected to go Blue for only the second time since 1948. As his hopes recede, the Donald spits and splutters about rigged elections and scurrilous media campaigns, while defending 'locker room banter' that would have him fired by law from any of his own companies. If Clinton does lose then Paddy Ashdown might have to eat an entire three-piece suit, while Gary Lineker should present Match of the Day with nothing but an empty packet of Walkers covering his tackle.

But when the victory bells stop ringing and the hangovers start to fade, Democrat strategists will have to bed down and pore over the million dollar question: how do they ensure that the Donald Trump phenomenon never, ever happens again?

There's something uncomfortably fundamental about Trump's appeal. The instant gratification that laces his every sentence; the wife and career that fulfil the fleeting fantasies of every teenager; and most of all the extreme simplicity of his language and

ideas. Like the Freudian id, Trump speaks to the part of all of us that never grew up - that revels in the arbitrary morality of childish squabbling. A study by yourdictionary.com of Trump's speeches revealed the 20 words that he uses most - win, stupid, huge, smart, loser, tough, moron. No adult speaks like that: it's playground language for playground politics, that we all subliminally understand simply by virtue of having been children. However much we try to deny it, there's a Trumpite somewhere within us all.

But from the burning wreckage of this election cycle, there still emerges an ember of political takeaway. In a BBC special report Gabriel Gatehouse talks to Trump voters in Youngstown, Ohio - a rust-belt state in which the average annual income has dropped by \$10,000 since the turn of the millennium. "We need to stop the bleeding here" says Chad Witherstein, "we've lost enough and we can't stand to lose anymore. The Democrats don't represent us, the Republicans don't faithfully represent us, and now we have a man who's standing on the outside of that". When Kerry Pascal lost her job as a medical technician she and her husband started a real estate firm, which went bankrupt in the 2008 crash. "All we've had is same old same old," she says, "and I don't see how it could get any worse". A local hairdresser agrees: "it would be great to have a different view, even if it's just for four years...just to see what he could do differently". All across Youngstown the message is the same: when you can't find a job but must work two to prosper, you're willing to take substantial risks. Trump voters have never sounded so reasonable.

Internationalist narratives of progressive politics talk constantly of 'humanising the other' - usually referring to ethnic or sexual minorities - apparently without realising that, in many ways, Trump voters are the 'other' on their own front door step. So unless Clinton tackles with genuine conviction the urban decay and alienation that has led perfectly normal, rational people to vote for Trump, Pepe the Frog and his band of alt-right internet trolls will continue to make dangerous inroads into the traditionally Democrat blue-collar vote.

Sadly for American politics, I'm not sure that she will.



A mural depicting the Troubles in Free Derry, the epicentre of the conflict in Northern Ireland, September 2013

Brexit and Northern Ireland: reopening healing wounds

Niamh Carrol
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

"NORTHERN IRELAND can be a success outside the EU," James Brokenshire, Northern Ireland Secretary, declared at the Conservative conference. However, many would call that statement into question given the complexity and singularity of NI's relationship with both the EU and Westminster.

Northern Ireland is in a uniquely delicate position when it comes to the EU; of course it's the only place within the UK to share a land border with an EU member state, and it's also unusual in that 20.8 per cent of its residents hold passports for the neighbouring state (according to the 2011 census). With Theresa May having announced the date for triggering Article 50; many in Northern Ireland feel that both their prosperity and their national identity could potentially be threatened by Brexit.

The relationship with the Republic of Ireland is vital to the very existence of Northern Ireland, and the possibility of a hard border between the two states is a grim prospect to those both north and south of the border; especially to Nationalists who wish to maintain close bonds with the Republic and who would be incensed by the idea of border checks between the north and south of Ireland. In fact, the common travel area between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland was a significant factor in persuading many Nationalists to accept the EU-mediated peace process.

cess.

Although the possibility of the re-establishment of a hard border has been strenuously denied by Westminster, it is difficult to see how total free movement could be maintained across the border without Northern Ireland becoming an easy entry point to Britain for unwanted EU migrants. For this reason, if there is no tightening of the border between NI and the ROI, then the government might have

Many in Northern Ireland were left feeling resentful of being taken out of the EU

to introduce more restrictions on passengers travelling from Northern Ireland to the United Kingdom. This idea is as unpalatable to Unionists, who would protest at the loosening of ties between NI and the British mainland, as a hard border is to Nationalists. National identity is still a highly sensitive issue in Northern Ireland, and new border arrangements risk destabilising the fragile scaffolds which hold up the peace process.

The government in the Republic of Ireland are also concerned about the impact of the NI leaving the EU. A solid border would have a negative impact on trade in both the north and south of Ireland. Northern Ireland's trade sector is heavily reliant on the Republic of Ireland, and vice versa, therefore

politicians on both sides of the border are deeply concerned about the negative economic impact Brexit is likely to make on the Irish economy if free trade is restricted.

Having decisively rejected Brexit, many in NI were left feeling resentful towards British Brexiters for taking them out of the EU. Anti-Brexit campaigners in Northern Ireland have also contended the legality of Northern Ireland being forced to exit the EU, challenging the decision in the High Court and suggesting that Northern Ireland could perhaps "veto" the decision. The High Court ruled out this possibility on 28 October. According to Reuters, Raymond McCord, one of the plaintiffs, has stated he plans to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court, the UK's highest judicial body.

There is a real sense in Northern Ireland that those in Westminster care very little about what impact a British exit from the EU has on those across the Irish Sea. In general, the British government tend to prefer to let Stormont deal with its own problems, which is understandable when the decision can actually be controlled by those within Northern Ireland. However, on the issue of Brexit the opinions of voters in NI were drowned out by those on the mainland, even though arguably NI will be more profoundly affected by the decision than anywhere else in the UK. Therefore, Westminster cannot afford to take its usual *laissez-faire* approach to Northern Ireland lest the existing apathy towards the Brexit process grows into something more serious, potentially undermining the Good Friday Agreement.

I fought the law: South Africa leaves the ICC

Obert Tawodzera
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICA has become the second African country to announce its intention to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, a move that has raised concerns of a possible exodus by African states who of late have accused the ICC of unfairly targeting the continent.

South Africa's announcement came days after Burundi's president Pierre Nkurunziza signed a decree paving the way for his country to leave the court. He acted as ICC investigators were beginning an inquiry into a violent crackdown on

government opponents. Concerns are high that many more African countries will act on threats to pull out amid claims that the court that promised to pursue injustices without fear or favour is not the one they see before them today. In recent years a significant number of African political leaders, commentators and pundits have questioned its apparent focus on Africa and its failure to address obvious violations



committed by other states worldwide. In the ICC's 13 year history, it has only brought charges against Africans. This has rankled African leaders who have claimed that the continent is being singled out and that the ICC is applying discriminatory double standards. One case that caused considerable anger was the ICC's pursuit of former Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta for his alleged role in the deadly violence that followed the 2007 presidential elections. These charges were later withdrawn. Another was the indictment of Sudanese president Omar al-Ba-

shir for war crimes in Darfur. This prompted South Africa's decision to leave, following a pending case before the country's Constitutional Court to decide whether it has violated its obligations under international and domestic law when it failed to arrest al-Bashir on his visit to the country last year. The South African government's refusal to hold him has been viewed in some circles as a breach of international law.

Following these debacles many African leaders have been united in condemning the Court with Rwandan president Paul Kagame calling the ICC "a fraudulent institution" that was made for 'Africans and poor countries'. Some like Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe have gone so far as to accuse the ICC of being a

neo-colonialist institution peddling a western agenda that seeks to control African politics. They point to the way the court is inextricably tied to the EU which provides 60 per cent of its funding. The fact that the big five ICC funders are former colonial masters does not sit well with a continent suspicious of recolonisation by legal diktat. In January this year Kenya proposed at the African Union summit to develop a road map for the withdrawal of African nations. This has received widespread support among other states party to the Rome Statute. The implications for this call by South Africa and Burundi are particularly disturbing as other countries are emboldened to follow suit and move to withdraw from the ICC.

Columbia's FARC peace deal collapses after referendum

Ed Smith
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE COLOMBIAN public's rejection of the peace treaty that was signed between government forces and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) on 26 September 2016 has generated shockwaves across the world.

The civil war between the FARC, a left wing guerrilla force and the Colombian government is the oldest modern day civil war, dating back to the 1960s. The prospect of a peace treaty was received jubilantly across the nation. Over 200 000 people have been killed and over 5 million displaced. Opinions began to split as the details of the treaty became known, with many opposing the idea that a significant majority of FARC forces would not spend any time behind bars, and that FARC would be allowed to form a legitimate political party, causing many people to believe that there will be no justice for those killed.

Many, including former president Álvaro Uribe who became the figurehead of the No campaign,

believed that there would be no accountability for the murder, kidnapping and extortion FARC engaged in. As recently as last year, the FARC was continuing guerrilla warfare, such as an attack on an oil pipeline in Nariño which caused 10 000 barrels of oil to contaminate water supplies for over 150 000 people.

Nonetheless there have been concerted efforts to demobilise and significantly reduce the violence throughout the country by peaceful campaigning and negotiations. This has included joint government operations with advertising agency Lowe and Partners, such as, 'Operation Rivers of Light', where personal messages, jewellery and sweets were filled into luminous balls and dropped into rivers. It was hoped FARC soldiers would see these messages and demobilise. After the first operation, 331 FARC soldiers demobilised, out of a total of 17 000 demobilising since the operations began in 2006.

In addition to the 'light' settlement Santos has agreed with FARC leaders, many argue he has alienated voters by not involving any victims of the conflict. Cynically, he used the treaty to boost his own falling popularity. As one Colombian

political commentator said: "people could have voted for peace without feeling as though they were being invited to support Santos." This is compounded by the fact that Uribe's approval rating of 59 per cent far outweighs Santos' 38 per cent, with critics arguing Santos' exclusion of citizens affected by the conflict in the referendum campaign has negatively influenced his prospects, especially as Santos and Londoño were shortlisted for a Nobel Peace Prize.

The question however is: "what happens next?" It would be the best course of action for a treaty to be eventually ratified. However, it is clear that the Colombian government needs to make an effort to engage more of the country in politics. The referendum had the lowest voter turnout in 22 years at 37 per cent. This signals a political disenchantment among Colombian citizens, perhaps emphasising how they view their political system as unequal. If this view is correct, the way to a peaceful Colombian future may be greater inclusivity with the public until a satisfactory accord is met, as ultimately it is only the people who can pass constitutional reform in Colombia.



Protesters demonstrating against FARC kidnappings and extortion, 2007



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the Politics Editor

THIS SECTION is supposed to provide some lighthearted relief from the doldrums of today's political landscape. Less than two weeks from the US election, however, this seems if not totally inappropriate, then at least misplaced.

Looking back on the entire ordeal, it's hard to believe that it's been 15 months since the Donald awkwardly descended the escalators of Trump Tower to announce his bizarre candidacy that has since been marred by scandal and contro-

versy. The campaign reminds yours truly of a bed of nails: sitting on one will cause you a world of pain, lying down on many won't.

Trump's constant penchant for the limelight has resulted in a near daily stream of nonsense, from insulting the parents of dead soldiers, through rampant misogyny, to the topic now at hand: questioning the very basis of American democracy. Respect for the electoral process and the peaceful transfer of power are the factors that ensure the po-

litical health of the republic. But, railing against a "corrupt" system has resonated greatly with his voters who feel like they have been left behind by the forces of globalisation - his promise of scrapping NAFTA a popular example - and dramatic social change, or as Trump would characterise it, "political correctness".

The recent revelation (or as I like to call it, confirmation) that Trump may also be guilty of repeated sexual assault merely serves to further dis-

tance him and his voter base from the mainstream. The challenge for president Clinton (as seems the most likely scenario), will be to not dismiss the people who voted for Trump. Their candidate may be an openly racist, misogynistic, hateful tangerine, but their concerns are very real.

Addressing their grievances, through measures such as tackling income inequality, will be the only way to truly guarantee that the last year or so will not be repeated.

Economic inequality fuels mental health crises

Jack Harmsworth
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

STUDENTS ALL FEEL an uneasy sensation in their stomachs before entering an exam hall. They think to themselves that the moment has arrived, all the hours of revision, lectures and sleepless nights have boiled down to this very moment. However, it is often considered a given, an unshakeable inevitability of life. It may be unusual to hear, but the UK places excessive stress

Education is a glorified mixture of exam technique and memory. ”

on the young generation to succeed in academic examinations.

This is fuelling a young mental health crisis in the UK which has motivated the government to declare that we need “a fundamental shift in our culture to deal with the problem”. Why is the UK particularly notorious? The burgeoning level of economic inequality in the country is what is bringing about an extra layer of pressure not present in other countries. Government fiscal policy over the past few decades is directly to blame for this tragedy, and it will take more than finger-pointing at culture to solve it.

The fundamental idea is that the more economically unequal a

society is, the bigger the incentive there is to succeed academically in order to guarantee oneself a superior position in that society. This thesis is promoted by Oxford University’s Professor Danny Dorling in numerous recent studies. According to Dorling, young people now see academic success as a way to guarantee themselves a higher salary, a notion ingrained by the fact that those with degrees usually generate higher incomes.

Many more people have taken to degrees, but not even undergraduate degrees are enough in modern day Britain anymore, where the number of students enrolling on masters and post-masters degrees has spiralled quickly. This is distinctly concerning owing to the fact that a postgraduate qualification is too often restricted to those with access to private funding.

This is a definite act of a generation trying to ‘one up’ each other in a job market which is both competitive and precarious. The added financial pressure of £9000 annual tuition fees then accelerates the problem. The effect of this is to create an educational system as sturched and exclusionary as the British class system.

Our unequal society has created pressure upon young people to perform better, which in terms of outcome one might think is a good thing. Yet the opposite is true. As cited in Wilkinson and Pickett’s groundbreaking work *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*, it is empirically shown that more unequal states have worse educational attainment and higher levels of illiteracy. For instance, in a study conducted by the Programme for International Student Assessment, average maths and literacy scores were much higher in Sweden than they were in the US; economic



Inequality is pressuring more people to take degrees, but whats left for those that don't succeed in the system?

inequality is much higher in the latter compared to the former. This is due to a focus on exam results over actual educational development.

In objection, commentators may argue that exam stress is a universal issue irrespective of the state in question, but it is important to highlight here that it is the significance of doing well academically for future career prospects which makes exam stress so much more acute in unequal economies. To take this example to its most extreme, we can look at developments in China where the Gaokao University entrance exam is of such importance that student suicides are common both before and after the exam.

The impact of economic inequality can be seen quite clearly

in British schools which have been nonchalantly described as exam factories for a decade. This is exactly what they have become. To universities this news is financially desirable and indeed they are complicit in the pressure. By promoting the prestigious nature of their institution they directly apply pressure on A-Level students to focus on the exam and nothing else. This pressure feeds down to GCSE students who increasingly need excellent grades to apply for university. For some degrees at the University of York, indeed, an A* in GCSE Mathematics is a requirement, resulting in fourteen and fifteen year olds unknowingly fighting for a place at university. Surely this has gone too far?

By clamping down on workers’

rights, reducing social welfare and cutting redistributive taxes on the richest in society, the governments of the past thirty years have been complicit in the formulation of an unequal Britain. This has had pervasive effects in society, especially so in education. The state has accorded education a status of being a basic right for its citizens, yet education has been corrupted to a glorified mixture of exam technique and memory. Inequality therefore breeds a much more competitive academic environment so reliant on exams that it is accelerating a mental health crisis in our generation. Next time students are nervous outside the exam hall, it is worth bearing in mind that it needn’t be this way.

Heathrow expansion: oh what's in a plane?

James Humpish
BUSINESS EDITOR

THE MAY GOVERNMENT is right to back a third runway at Heathrow Airport. It will not be appreciated by environmentalists and local communities, but for businesses and foreign investors it will go some way in rectifying the perceived losses following Britain’s vote to leave the European Union.

Investments in infrastructure, particularly infrastructure which facilitates international trade and tourism, will serve the goal of economic growth for its own sake. Furthermore it will act as a gesture which may reduce the uncertainty surrounding the consequences of

Brexit. From a foreign perspective it symbolises the government’s theoretically reassuring slogan that ‘Britain is open for business’, a line slightly less meaningless than ‘Brexit means Brexit’.

Ultimately, Heathrow Airport has spent the last decade strained, operating at 99 per cent capacity which leaves little room for manoeuvre when tackling a delay or service disruption. It is expected that airports of the South East will reach capacity by 2040.

Hoping to be operational by 2026, the third runway will relieve the capacity issue, provide scope for further destinations to be travelled to, and give room for Heathrow to compete against other major Eu-

ropean airports. Chris Grayling, secretary of state for transport, has estimated that expansion will generate in excess of £60bn of economic benefits across a 60 year period.

Environmentalists who nay-say against expansion forget that the wider debate has not been

means of air travel, demand for flights inevitably increases. A stable economy needs to be able to accommodate this.

While hundreds who currently live in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport will need to be relocated, adequate compensation may



whether to expand airports but more where exactly to expand. As the national and global population increases and technology provides relatively cheaper

need to be a sufficient means of expanding what is already Britain’s largest airport in order to make a tough decision in a difficult political environment.

It’s been recognised since the

Second World War that the south east requires more space for airports and as emerging markets converge toward the level of advanced economies, it is important that the infrastructure to make trade links is already in place. With the focus on connectivity, it makes sense to expand from the already largest airport, looking to make links with any country it hasn’t already.

This might run counter to the gradual trend toward demand for devolution that the UK has been experiencing over the last few years. Nonetheless, to international eyes, it may be that the only option to secure the confidence of prospective business partners is to expand in the location that makes most sense, and that is of course Heathrow Airport.

Wallonia CETA veto withdrawn

Boris Arnold
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

ON FRIDAY, THE southern Belgian region Wallonia finally withdrew its veto on CETA, thereby ending two weeks of intense marathon discussions with the EU and the Belgium Federal State. The agreement, which needed to be unanimous among the 28 member states, was signed on Sunday in Brussels.

Between 2009 and 2014 the EU and Canada have been negotiating the creation of CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement). Advocates argue that the deal is supposed to reduce trade barriers on 98 per cent of goods between Europe and Canada and boost trade by 20 per cent, thereby creating wealth and growth on both sides of the Atlantic.

Nevertheless, the agreement, hated by anti-globalisation groups, has raised a lot of concerns around Europe. Some fear it would reduce environmental and worker protections as well as consumer rights, especially regarding food safety. Some also fear that it would benefit big companies and multinationals, not only over small scale/local businesses (especially those active in agriculture) but also over governments and the civilians' interests that lie behind. Companies could under ISDS (Investor State Dispute Settlement; rules that would apply under CETA), sue governments for new laws or policies that could reduce their profits in the future.

Belgium, because of its consti-



IMAGE: COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

There are concerns that CETA could harm workers and the environment

tion, needed all its regional parliaments to accept the agreement in order to give consent. Wallonia's centre-left government was concerned about the lack of protection for its farmers and the above mentioned ISDS. The socialist minister-president of the region Paul Magnette feared it could "weaken the power of states to regulate, to protect public services, social and environmental norms, everything

that makes the European model to which we are really attached". Finally, they feared CETA could be the 'Trojan Horse' of TTIP; the even more controversial trade agreement currently under discussion between the US and EU.

The region claimed they sent the EU concerns about the agreement when they first saw it a year and half ago, to which they only received an answer in early October,

therefore explaining their late and unexpected opposition. Magnette and his parliament were not against CETA but wanted to ensure that the framework behind the agreement was solid, as it will be shaping trade agreements made by the EU in future. André Antoine, president of the region's parliament, said to TV station RTBF: "We want to bring back law and democracy to these great treaties that affect the daily lives of our citizens."

The results Wallonia obtained were a review, clarification and amendment of the agreement which they claim have appeased some of their fears, and as Magnette said, secured a "better treaty". Finally, he suggested that "[with] the improved CETA, TTIP is dead and buried".

The delay in signing this treaty has called into question EU credibility, especially considering the fact that Canadian economic values are very much in line with those of Europe. Is it actually worth it for the 20 other countries engaged in trade negotiations with the EU to continue the discussions? If even Canada was at the mercy of a European regional veto, what hope does this hold for less like-minded nations?

In order to resolve its inner disagreements and not face a similar internationally degrading situation, the EU will have to adopt a more democratic way of negotiating trade agreements. Only then will it gain back the declining trust of European citizens. They will have to make agreements which allow benefits to be fairly distributed across countries, regions and social classes. Only then will the EU regain its legitimacy and success.

Business unusual

James Humpish
BUSINESS EDITOR



IT'S NOT SUFFICIENT to say that podcasts are to radio what platforms like BBC iPlayer and Netflix are to television. For one thing, in terms of capital, they are much cheaper to produce than typical radio programmes, and for another it is rarely obligatory to pay for podcasts, especially as they are released. However, this is just as well.

At face value, the only people who would pull in large revenues from a niche like podcasting are the people that don't need large revenues. The Ricky Gervais Show is a classic example of this. Gervais and Merchant had already made The Office and Extras before venturing into podcasting and it took less than a year before translating that into merchandise for Karl Pilkington to gain from.

Alternatively, podcasts come at ten-a-penny but tend to be done for the fun of it, are of low quality, or don't last very long.

Podcasts are available on essentially any subject one can think of. If a concept exists, more often than not there's a podcast relevant to it, or it won't be long before there is.

It's a market full of millions of losers, but also quite a few winners. The market is large with podcasts such as 99% Invisible pulling in two million viewers per episode, comparable with most British television programmes.

Yet podcasters do make money. Podcasts like Answer Me This!, The Bugle and Planet Money have all persisted nearly a decade through sheer commitment to quality, and have generated huge subcultures of fans. Each of the first two rely on donations, exclusive content or both.

But the trick isn't just in effective advertising, or making use of existing fame.

The key determinant of success isn't market size but engagement. Podcasts benefit more from a thousand engaged listeners, than a million disinterested ones.



US election fuels market uncertainty

James Humpish
BUSINESS EDITOR

8 NOVEMBER WILL mark the day when the US presidential election takes place and it will be decided who is the next president of the United States: Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. As the weeks prior to the election seamlessly drift into mere days, the US economy is on tenterhooks as the world watches. It watches with a quiet sense of dread as one of what have been dubbed as the two least popular presidential candidates of at least the last century will be declared the next president, typically regarded as one of the most powerful positions in the world.

There is a case, however, for looking forward to the result of the election. This is because it will reduce the uncertainty currently

facing financial markets. Investors like to know who the president is going to be as it gives them a grasp of where economic policy is likely to head and what investments are likely to be worth making. While in the wake of the infamous presidential debates it looks like Clinton currently will proceed to beat Trump, that indication has not been clear for several months.

The effect of uncertainty becomes more pronounced when the incumbent president is about to complete their second term. Owing to the fact that the president cannot seek re-election, it is definite that they will be leaving office while on average the incumbent president is successful when seeking a second term.

Since 1928, the S&P 500 has, on average, fallen by 2.8 per cent on the final year of a US president's second term as it becomes difficult to discern who their successor will be. On average, a president seeking

re-election is successful with 16 of 26 who have tried having done so. Furthermore, after eight years of the same president, the markets essentially settle as much as they can do before being thrown back into uncertainty.

The debates make it generally clear what the candidates' approach to the

economy is. Clinton plans to increase the wealth of the middle class through increased taxation on the

wealthy. Trump proposes to cut tax for the wealthy and for large corporations with the expectation of money trickling down the economy. It's also frequently claimed that he will add \$5.3 trillion to the United States' debt. There has been little mention from either about the working class which leaves a somewhat bad taste in the mouth.

While that may be the case, at least we know that in two and a half months one of the pair will be confirmed to be the next president.

When it comes to two unpopular prospects, the best one can do is have a clearer idea of which prospect it is that needs to be dealt with.



STEM under a microscope: where are the girls?

Eleanor Mason
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of 2016's Nobel Prize winners should have brought bags of inspiration for many science students, especially those who are currently lacking motivation. A Nobel Prize to many scientists is the prestige equivalent of an Oscar to those in the film industry. However, similarly to 2015, a noticeable lack of women claiming a prize in either of the Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine categories, deems likely female scientists may lose hope in ever claiming a prize. Since the birth of the Nobel Prize in 1901, 881 individual Laureates have been awarded, in which only twelve women have won a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, four in Chemistry and two in Physics.

Furthermore, in one recent analysis, it was revealed that women occupy only 14 per cent of jobs in STEM fields, and a recent journal in Nature revealed that relatively few women make it to top positions in science, and even fewer are

asked to speak at conference meetings, or asked by journalists for a quick scientific opinion. The prevalent gender gap in STEM subjects should be questioned; why is it very few women seem to be in the limelight of scientific research?

It is undisputed that gender gaps exist in many career areas. The fields of primary education, childcare, nursing, secretarial and administrative positions are primarily dominated

by women, with a higher percentage

employed within the construction, project management, mechanics and professional cooking industries.

A report in Nature concluded that science remains institutionally sexist; women scientists are still paid less, promoted less and are less likely to win grants, despite some progress. Scientific careers were historically thought of as male driven. Take Hertha Ayrton, born in 1854. She studied maths at Cambridge but as a woman she was not eligible for a degree, meaning she

Fewer than 14 per cent of those employed in postgraduate STEM are female

had to study in London to gain her BSc. However, attitudes towards women and education have progressed significantly since then.

To fight gender gaps that are still rampant today, a group of frustrated neuroscientists have created a group called BiasWatchNeuro in an attempt to solve the gender biases of academic conferences.

The group have analysed over 90 conferences and found some interesting results: one talk on memory in health and disease, which according to the National Institute of Health's grant-winner list is a subject with a 42 per cent women base rate, only had two fe-

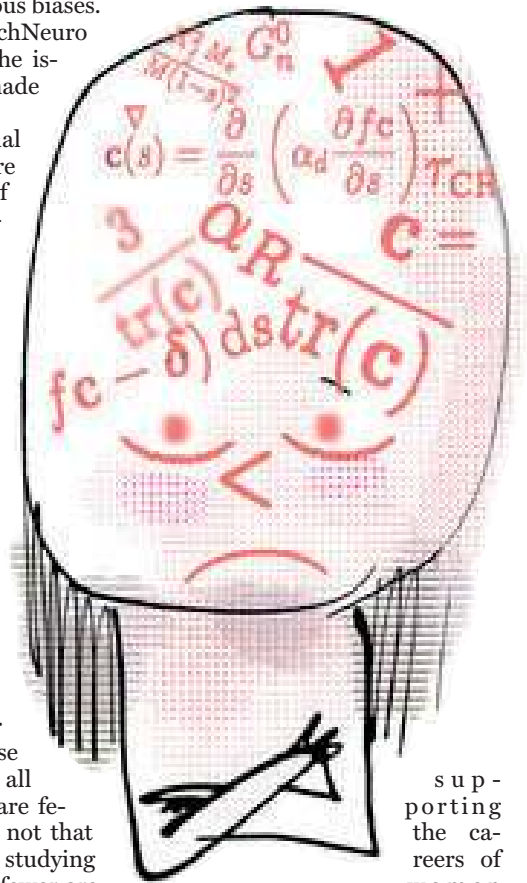
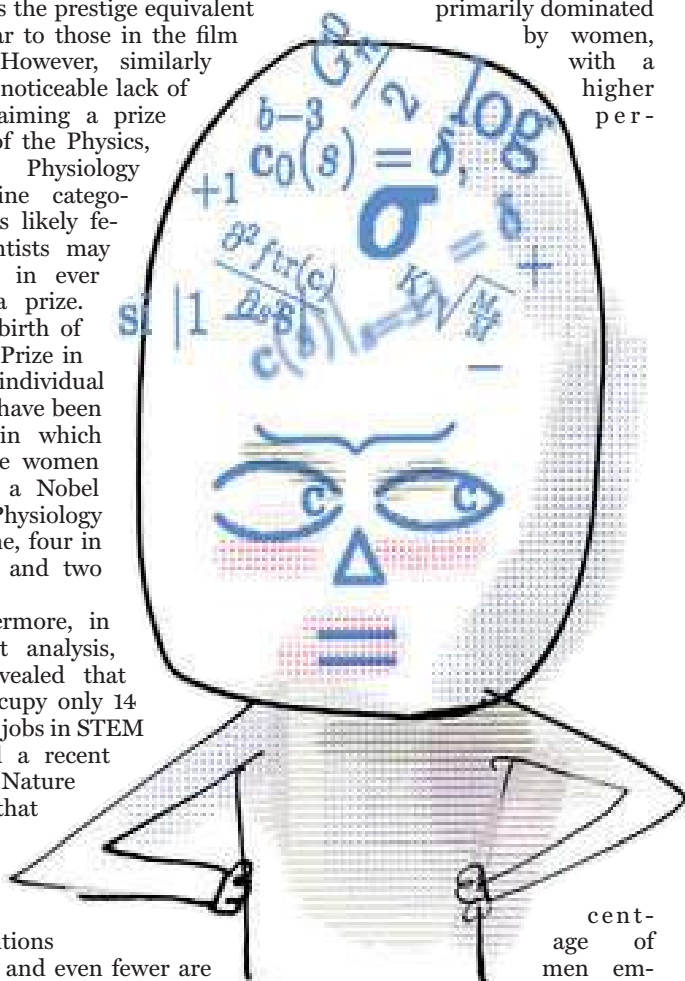
male speakers out of 17 - just 12 per cent. Although not a conscious decision to exclude women, it may be explained by social psychology that determines our unconscious biases. Although, with BiasWatchNeuro spreading the word on the issue, progress is being made in some conferences.

From an educational perspective, there are roughly equal numbers of males and females studying Chemistry at A-Level, but males dominate in other STEM subjects, except Biology.

At undergraduate level, males dominate Engineering and Technology, Computer Science and Architecture courses whereas females dominate in Medicine, Veterinary Science and agricultural subjects, according to a 2014 WISE paper. At postgraduate level, the number of women appears to decline throughout STEM subjects. Fewer than 14 per cent of those employed (including all health care professions) are female. Maybe the issue is not that not enough women are studying science at university, but fewer are continuing into scientific careers, or more are dropping out in the early stages of their career.

There is a glimmer of hope. The University of York's Chemistry department became the first UK Department of Chemistry to obtain Gold Athena SWAN in 2007. The Biology Department holds Gold and Physics Silver. The Athena SWAN awards recognise commit-

ment to tackling inequality in higher education. The award celebrates positive practice in recruiting, retaining and



supporting the careers of women

in STEM fields.

So, should we leave it to natural progression, or are groups such as BiasWatchNeuro fundamental for improvements necessary for the representation of women in science, and to ensure female role models are easily accessible for aspiring scientists? If so, could this be applied to other sectors where gender gaps are prevalent?

Genome synthesis: the path to making new life

Willem Gibbs
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

ARTIFICIALLY MAKING genes may seem odd at first thought, but the concept is becoming a real possibility. Tagged 'Gene Synthesis', the implications of this process are quite staggering.

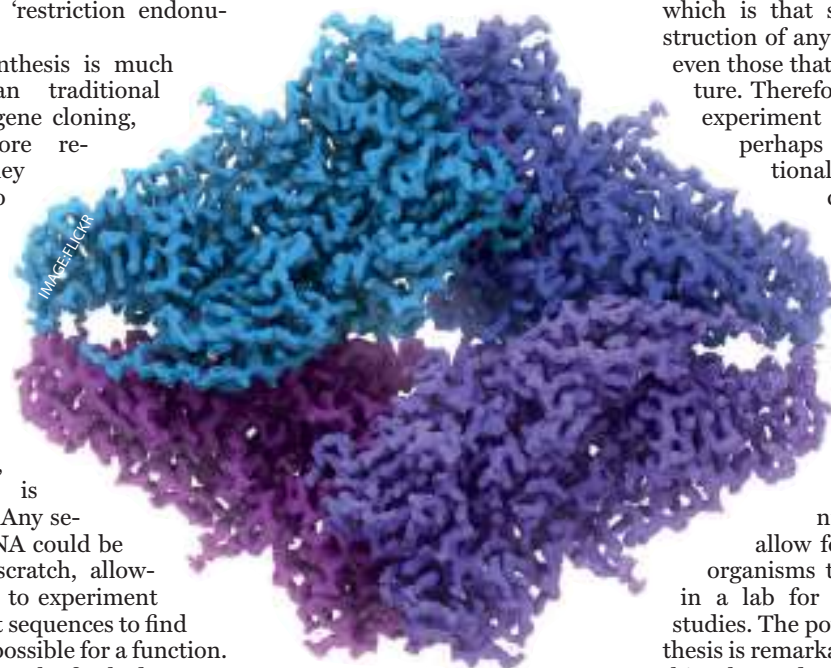
Genes control every living organism in existence and are made up of DNA. DNA is made of many monomers called nucleotides which each have one of four bases attached to them. Three nucleotides code for a specific amino acid which link together to make a protein. A gene produces a small molecule called messenger RNA which is then 'translated' by organelles called ribosomes in the cell to create a protein. The protein then carries out its specific function.

It is predicted that there are around 20 000 protein coding genes in the human genome, each with a distinct function. Therefore, if we were able to make our own genes, a whole new biological landscape would be unveiled.

Currently, to 'synthesise' genes, the polymerase chain reaction is used, but this is more of a 'copy and paste' method than synthesising DNA from scratch. Gene synthesis would allow scientists to not just copy genes, but make and alter them easily using computer technology and software. The process uses building blocks called phosphoramidites, nucleotides with added modifications for stability, which are removed at the end of the process. This would allow genes to be potentially optimised for use in model organisms that are used in the lab. The DNA could also be altered so it can be 'cut' in specific places in the genome by special en-

zymes called 'restriction endonucleases'.

Gene synthesis is much cheaper than traditional methods of gene cloning, allowing more research money to go into other aspects of biological research. It is also much quicker than traditional methods. In addition, the method is very flexible. Any sequence of DNA could be made from scratch, allowing scientists to experiment with different sequences to find the best one possible for a function. This leads on to the final advantage



which is that synthesis the construction of any sequence of DNA, even those that do not exist in nature. Therefore, scientists could experiment with genetics and perhaps even create functional genes that are not currently in existence.

If gene synthesis becomes successful, there is the potential for entire genomes to be created from scratch using these revolutionary techniques. This would allow for synthetic model organisms that could be used in a lab for molecular biology studies. The potential of gene synthesis is remarkable. How far could this take modern biology?

Asthma: an under the radar issue

Joel Kemp
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

ON AVERAGE three people die each day from asthma in the UK. Asthma is an incurable condition that affects the respiratory system. It could be described as hypersensitivity of the airways in response to triggers such as allergens or irritants, pollution and pollens, dust mites or even vigorous exercise.

If something irritates these airways, the body can react in a number of ways, such as swelling of the lining of the airways, tightening of the muscles in the walls of the airways and overproduction of phlegm and mucus in the lungs. All of these reactions combined make it difficult to breathe by restricting the airflow of those afflicted.

Two years ago, on 23 October 2014, I lost one of closest friends to asthma. It was completely unfathomable. How could I be unaware that this common respiratory con-

dition can be fatal? I don't think I am entirely alone in not understanding the severity of the condition. So what is asthma, to what extent does it affect the UK population and what research is being done into this disease?

According to Asthma UK, 5.4 million people in the country suffer from asthma. This adds up to being 1 in 12 adults and 1 in



children, amongst the highest rates in Europe. Of these sufferers, three a day will die from their condition. Around ten per cent of those affected by asthma are described

as having severe asthma, which is much harder to treat and manage. In 2015, the Office for National Statistics showed that the annual death rate to asthma hit its highest rate of the last ten years in England and Wales, standing at 1302, an increase of 17 per cent since 2014.

Although there is no cure for asthma, the NHS

spends around £1bn per year treating the condition and in most cases it's manageable. In 1955, the pressurised metered dose inhaler was developed to treat asthma and 61 years later, this method is still used. The most common drug treatment programmes for asthma revolve around the use of corticosteroids, normally in inhaled forms such as beclomethasone.

For around 250 000 patients per year, the standard steroid inhaler treatments aren't effective. A relatively new drug Xolair has helped some of these worst cases.

This drug, developed by Professor Brian Sutton and his team with investment from Asthma UK, works by blocking a protein called IgE. Essentially, this prevents it from reacting with allergens in the

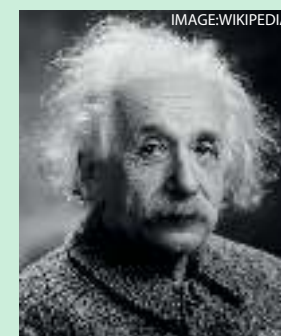
first place, rather than treating the symptoms. The research carried out by Professor Clive Robinson, funded by the Wellcome Trust

and Asthma UK, means they are now close to carrying out clinical trials for a method to prevent various allergies. This again is the concept of treating the cause rather than the symptoms. It is hoped that this approach will lead to more effective asthma management and possibly eventually complete symptom cessation.

SCIENCE SNIPPETS

"Physics are great"

A nonsense paper written entirely by the iOS autocomplete function was accepted by the International Conference on Atomic and Nuclear Physics. A sample sentence runs "Physics are great but the way it does it makes you want a good book and I will pick it to the same time I am just a little more than I can play for later and then it is very very good for a good game". Christoph Bartneck, at the HIT laboratory at the University of Canterbury, submitted the paper after he was invited to submit a paper on a subject he felt he knew nothing about.



Solar potential

The Indian government has updated its National Solar Mission target: now it wants to achieve 175GW of renewable power by 2022. Solar panels are getting ever cheaper and more efficient as the price of coal remains constant. Currently, 400 million people in India have no access to electricity, and solar energy would mean access to clean power for these people.



Self-shaming selfies

Frequent viewing of other people's selfies may be linked to a decrease in ones self-esteem and life satisfaction, a study from Penn State University suggests. This links to previous work from 2015 connecting Facebook browsing to a greater negative body image in young women. "Frequent viewing" wasn't particularly well defined here, although comparing your everyday to another's filtered best is never healthy.

The fight to resist antibiotic resistance

Imogen Breen
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

WHEN SIR Alexander Fleming received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945, for the discovery and isolation of penicillin (jointly, with Ernst Boris Chain and Edward Abraham who discovered how to concentrate the drug and proposed the correct structure), he gave an interview in which he predicted the situation we now find ourselves in. "The thoughtless person" he declared, "playing with penicillin treatment is morally responsible for the death of the man who succumbs to infection with the penicillin-resistant organism."

Throughout the Second World War, penicillin was used to treat soldiers with infected wounds as well as bacterial infections such as pneumonia, syphilis, tuberculosis, gangrene, and gonorrhoea.

Now most strains of gonorrhoea are resistant to penicillin, as well as other first line antibiotics such as tetracycline, and fluoroquinolones. Some multi-drug resistant strains are even resistant to cefixime, a broad spectrum antibiotic; it's now no longer recommended to treat the STI in case resistance develops in more strains.

Whenever anyone undergoes a surgical procedure they are given antibiotics to reduce the risk of developing bacterial infections that

can lead to sepsis. As more and more antibiotic-resistant bacteria develop, the number of people in the UK dying from antibiotic resistant infections will increase. In 2015, 44 000 people in the UK died from sepsis, compared to

We risk returning to a world where a simple operation is an infection risk

35 000 from lung cancer. As more and more antibiotics are rendered ineffective, we risk returning to a world where a simple operation like an appendectomy is a life-threatening risk of infection.

In September, all 193 UN member states agreed to combat the threat of antibiotic resistant bacteria. This was only the fourth time in the history of the UN that they met to discuss a health subject. Margaret Chan, director general for the World Health Organisation (WHO), spoke at the event, calling for medical providers to rely less on antibiotics for disease treatment, and for more innovation in antibiotic development.

Only two classes of antibiotics have reached the market in the last

50 years. There is little profit seen in their discovery. It's not a sound investment to create a drug, costing in the hundreds of millions, only to have to tell people to refrain from using it in large quantities in case resistance develops. Citizen science programs, such as Swab and Send created by Dr Adam Roberts at UCL, look to harness the energy (and financial backing) of the general public in the hunt for new antibiotic compounds.

There are other uses of antibiotics that we can now curtail. In the US, 80 per cent of all antibiotics sold are used on livestock to promote animal growth. Most of these drugs are often given at a sub-clinical level (i.e. a dose too low to combat a disease) so some bacteria in the animal are killed off but those that are naturally slightly resistant survive to multiply and mutate. This also has the effect of flooding surrounding land with waste run-off still filled with antibiotic compounds. Not only are the animal pathogens becoming more and more antibiotic resistant but the frequency of antibiotic resistance in other bacteria (such as those found in the soil and waste water) increases. The use



of antibiotics to promote animal growth was banned by the EU in 2006, though it wasn't completely phased out until 2011.

Tackling the increase of antibiotic resistance may seem daunting, but the signatories to the UN declaration agreed with the WHO to commit to innovation in antibiotic development, increase public awareness of the threat of antibiotic resistance and to develop regulatory systems for human and animal antibiotic use.

As individuals we can play our part by only taking antibiotics when prescribed by a doctor, and always finishing

ishing in the entire prescription, even if you start to feel better. You should never share an antibiotic prescription with another, or use up a left over prescription; even if you think it is for the same complaint. And remember, antibiotics will do nothing for a viral infection, so are unlikely to help if you have a sore throat or a cold!

Cuba: Paradise Lost or Found?

Luke Rix-Standing
EDITOR

THERE IS A CUBAN saying: 'Havana is Cuba, the rest is landscape'. While residents of Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Holguín would doubtless disagree, it's a sentiment with which many first-time visitors would struggle to argue. Like the duomos of Florence or the turrets of Notre-Dame, Havana is bathed in romantic stereotypes: Graham Greene, the Buena Vista Social Club and, for some, Assassin's Creed IV.

In a café with faded pink brickwork and neo-colonial chandeliers, a band plays traditional Latin improv, while a Caribbean gentleman in a white shirt and fedora dances the rumba with a lady in a black dress. Crumbling colonial facades surround luscious green plazas in which student dance troupes practice ballet, drum-banging stilt walkers compete for attention, and hawkers peddle cartoon histories of the *revolución*. Brightly coloured Chevrolets and Cadillacs adorn every street corner (until recently most cars in Cuba pre-dated the 1960 embargo). If Havana is Cuba then Cuba is vibrant, historic and enthralling.

Belying the grimness of its recent past, today's Cuba feels open

and welcoming. With hostels still effectively outlawed and hotels expensive and state-run, most tourists choose to stay in *casas particulares*, licensed homestays presided over by enterprising local families. My homely Havana hostess worked as a doctor at the local hospital (a job far less lucrative than hosting me) but still made time to advise her guests and chat with neighbours.

Life here is lived between the home and the street. Doors stand open; so much so that on one fruitless search for my casa, I accidentally barged past someone into their front room. The incident was borne with typical good humour: 'this has happened before', laughed my momentary host.

And neither of us felt in the least unsafe. 'No violencia en Cuba' declared a proudly smiling local on Havana's *Malecón*, 'solo salsa!' He had a point – with gun-crime virtually non-existent Cuba has the lowest crime estimate in the Caribbean – and most locals feel secure enough to hitch-hike. It's a stark contrast to other regional capitals like Managua and San Jose, where hostels surround themselves with barbed wire, round-the-clock guards and an advised 10pm curfew.

But there's trouble in paradise. Cuba and the US have renewed diplomatic relations for the first time in half a century and the government has already signed a multi-million



IMAGE: DAN POWELL

dollar contract with American hotel giant Starwood. Corporate fat cats and surfer dudes are on their way to suck the character from this gorgeous island like an oyster from its shell – or so the story goes. Thousands of Lonely Planet devotees are therefore rushing to sample Cuba's curiosities before it changes irrevocably.

Putting aside this obvious hypocrisy (akin to commuters complaining about the traffic), it's undeniable that change is on the way. What makes Cuban society unique is that it's embroidered with little dichotomies that challenge our conception of 'modernity'. It has universal healthcare but almost no internet; 99.8 per cent literacy but no credit cards; an arts scene that is the envy of the world but a GDP two thirds that of Puerto Rico. The more it opens up, the more likely it is to tend towards the mean.

The peninsula-turned-beach-resort of Varadero is a microcosm of Cuban commercialism: 20km of pure white sand backed with neon lights and exclusive hotels. Though not yet infected with the same breed of oversexed, vest-wearing, booze-hounds that pollute many of Europe's premier sun spots, the evening vibe is still depressingly reminiscent of fellow beach havens Goa, Phuket and San Juan. 'If you're looking for real Cuba' reads the guidebook, 'you've come to the wrong place': broken bottles, crass dance music and hardly a local in sight. Cuba is a big island; it can

handle the loss of one peninsula. Perhaps it shouldn't lose too many more.

My Varadero casa owner, a large man with a firm handshake and obvious entrepreneurial spirit, isn't concerned: 'America is good,' he declares, 'if I want to start new business now, is impossible!' He's exactly the kind to make a killing when the American influx comes. Not everybody will: private enterprise will inevitably bring rising inequality, particularly disruptive

Thousands of Lonely Planet devotees are rushing to sample Cuba's curiosities before it changes irrevocably

in this unnaturally equal society. A local shop assistant is more circumspect: 'Obama says he'll bring us internet, but when he's gone, what then?'

The Castros' authoritarianism, though dimmed with age, still quietly envelops much of Cuba. 'Socialismo o muerte' ('socialism or death') reads the graffiti adorning a large wall by the new American embassy, while every motorway comes bedecked with propagandist billboards of triumphant revolutionary

icons. One must do one's homework before visiting the *Museo Nacional*. Up the grand stone staircase of this ex-colonial mansion, the exhibition board states: 'after the revolution, Castro set up courts to try Batista's lieutenants'. Nope, no he didn't – they were shot.

Castro-nomics reached their nadir in the early 1990s after the collapse of the Soviet Union ushered in the 'special period' – an austerity bloodbath in which the economy shrank by some 60 per cent, and the average Cuban lost about a third of their body weight. That's thankfully in the past, but it is only in the last few years that Cubans have been allowed to own cars and mobile phones, or to travel abroad. Not all change is bad.

In Cuba's top rural tourist destination, Viñales, a lush tobacco-growing region still ploughed by oxen, my guide was defiant. 'You Europeans' he said bitterly, 'all trying to get here before America does. We are Cuban, not American.'

The message was clear: the beating heart of Cuba lies not in the bureaucracy of its government, nor in the wallets of foreign nationals, but in the remarkably open demeanour of its populace and the bustling street life of Havana Centro.

So go now, in five years or in 20. You'll likely still be enraptured by the rhythm of Havana, the vivacity of the people and the beauty and variety of the 'landscape' beyond. I hope.



IMAGE: DAN POWELL



IMAGE: DAN POWELL

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#YUSURAGWEEK



My first and only marathon

Zac Sheppard talks about completing last month's Yorkshire Marathon

Zac Sheppard
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

LINING UP ON the start line of your first marathon is a strange experience.

You feel oddly out of place among the massive crowd of people, cramped together between the safety barriers. There's the veteran runners, the two women next to you casually chatting about the all times they've run before, the guy in a Batman suit limbering up behind you. Everyone seems to know what they're doing, but you.

Then the call to start is announced for everyone to begin the marathon.

At first the sheer number of people means that you can do nothing but walk. I think to myself, 'how hard can all this marathon lark be?'. But as I edge closer to the line, the running starts and everyone jostles for a clear path. That's when I realise that I'm in this for the long slog.

The first few miles pass in a blur. Fuelled by adrenaline and excitement, you start to feel more confident with every person you manage to overtake.

As the miles tick by and you settle into a rhythm, you seem to relax and start to notice your surroundings. Having gone through the town and passed by the Minster, I left York and headed into the countryside. I saw more of Yorkshire in one afternoon than I had in the whole of first year.

Every village you run through you see people smiling, children giving out tubs of jelly babies, pensioners with orange slices, and even a high fiving vicar. The mileage starts to build, but with each person that shouts your name you get a little extra boost.

Then it starts getting tougher. Mile 18 hurts. Mile 19 is agony. Mile 20 onwards is nothing but pure suffering. Each step becomes harder and you start to wonder how you're still going, but you power through. After all, why turn back now?

I passed more and more walk-



IMAGE: FACEBOOK

ers, people wobbling from side to side, that one guy bent over at the side of the road who has clearly pushed himself way too far.

The route took me back into York and I began to wind once more into civilisation. The crowds began to grow again, and I started to realise that I was getting close; I might be able to actually pull this off.

Then it hits you. Cramp in the legs as you go into the final uphill stretch. I was approaching the wall.

There was no pulling out now. I spotted my friends in the crowd roaring me on. I pushed through it, keeping one eye on the clock as I approached the line, hoping to beat my target.

Time seemed to be passing by slower and slower, but sure enough, I finally reached the finish.

Crossing the line is nothing but pure elation; the feeling of eupho-

ria is the only thing that keeps you from toppling over while you collect your medal.

As I received congratulations from my loyal supporters, the realisation of what I had achieved started to set in. I hobbled around wrapped in that weird tin foil blanket they give you, and I felt like a proper athlete.

The next day, I was in agony. Rolling from one side of my bed to the other feels like more of a struggle than the actual running. But it's worth it. All the money you've raised, all the training you did, you've actually managed to do it.

I vow to never run anywhere again.

Zac ran the Yorkshire Marathon in a time of 3 hours, 53 minutes and 49 seconds. He raised over £400 for the Alzheimer's Society.

Jake Tattersdill
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

WITH NO SMALL amount of trepidation I went to meet up with canoe polo just before one of their training sessions.

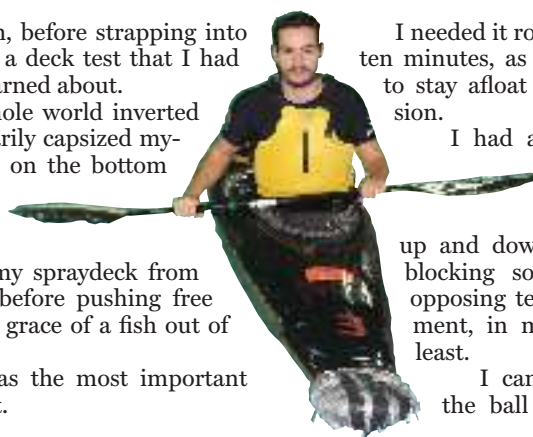
It started with a flurry of canoes and paddles being strapped and bundled to cars, before a short drive down to Yearsley pool.

Once inside, it was trunks and

lifejacket on, before strapping into a canoe for a deck test that I had been forewarned about.

The whole world inverted as I voluntarily capsized myself, tapped on the bottom of the boat three times and unhooked my spraydeck from the canoe, before pushing free with all the grace of a fish out of water.

This was the most important skill I learnt.



I needed it roughly every ten minutes, as I struggled to stay afloat in the session.

I had a couple of successful spells paddling up and down the pool blocking some of the opposing team's movement, in my mind at least.

I came close to the ball on several

occasions, although overreaching for it ended predictably with me upside down and having to kick free. Fortunately, club president Hannah Risser was always on hand to help get me back in the canoe and push me back off to rejoin the fray.

With her advice, towards the end I had managed to get my bearings and it took contact, albeit light, from the other team to knock me underwater.

While I was busy trying to stay upright, the more seasoned members of the club spent the session

powering up and down around me, proving why they've won their last three matches in Yorkshire Division 3, beating Leeds University B, Manvers B and Malton and Norton.

The game, as they played it, takes a while to follow, the speed and determination of the players coupled with the attacking and defending flow of the sport leads to a surprisingly fast paced game.

If you'd like to know more or if you're interested in playing canoe polo contact canoepolo@yusu.org

EDITOR'S COMMENT

James Voyle
SPORTS EDITOR



It's been a hectic and interesting month for me. These last two days have been especially manic, cooped up in *Nouse* HQ.

Nonetheless, I've had a blast. The team's impressed with the quality of articles sent in. This edition includes a heartfelt tribute to Anthony Foley, the head coach of Munster RFC who died last week, along with an fascinating piece on the growth of

American football in the UK. You'll find both of those articles in our new 'comment' section, which we've expanded to allow students to write about topics they feel passionate about.

A new feature we've introduced is '*Nouse* tries'. Each edition, one of our team will try out one of the lesser-played sports that York has to offer, and report on their experience. This week, Jake tried his hand (and awful balance) at canoe polo. No, I hadn't heard of it either.

Lastly, having worked with a full team, articles from 11 different writers, I've realised how impressive a job my predecessor, Anna Coughlan, did running the section by herself last year. In fact, I'm writing this very piece with the help of two other people.

TEAMMATES

Nouse chats with softball's Matt Tomlin.

Name: Matthew Tomlin
Role: Club president
Year: 3rd
Course: Mathematics

Best trainer?
George Webb: Turns up every week and gives 100%.

Gym rat?
Nathan O'Neill: Always at the gym. It shows.

Most intelligent?
Kate Densley: Studying for her PhD in Biology.

Biggest hitter?
Richie Floyd: Sends the opposition running scared when he hits the ball out of the park.

Biggest snake?
Eleanor Thomas: Has split allegiances with Halifax netball!

Biggest lightweight?
Probably myself. I end up in a mess most nights!

Best motivator?
Claire Cox and Nathan O'Neill: Can't shut them up!



IMAGE: FACEBOOK

NOUSE TRIES... CANOE POLO

The NFL in Britain: the Yanks are coming

With a London franchise on the cards American football has crossed the Atlantic, but is it here to stay?

Alex Kirkup
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SINCE 2007, WHEN the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins charged out onto London's Wembley Stadium for the first 'International Series' game, the powers that reign over the NFL have had the UK in their sights.

Their goal? To export the multi-billion-dollar sporting industry that

is American football to a foreign market.

Annual games at Wembley Stadium have followed. In October, Twickenham Stadium opened its doors to a regular season game. When Tottenham Hotspur FC's new ground is built in 2018, it shall host two games a season. Soon enough, there may well be weekly games in London, and possibly elsewhere in the UK (Cardiff and Manchester also want a slice of the pie).

As such, rumours of a new Lon-

don based franchise refuse to go away. One factor which no doubt fuels this peaked interest in America's favourite pastime is the growth of the youth game. Overall participation rates in the sport grew by 90.6 per cent in 2015, while the women's game saw numbers jump by 80 per cent. Furthermore, there has been the emergence and continual development of the BUCS American football division.

90.6%

Increase in youth participation rates for American football in the UK over the last year.

American football has clearly crossed the Atlantic, but is it here to stay?

A few weeks ago, Wembley Stadium hosted the first of its three NFL fixtures for this season, with the Jacksonville Jaguars riding out 30-27 winners over the Indianapolis Colts. Last Saturday, the Los Angeles Rams were edged out by the New York Giants 17-10 at Twickenham Stadium. Although it was not the greatest spectacle the NFL has ever offered, what the 75 000 strong

crowd did see was a sport that has now unquestionably established itself on this side of the Atlantic.

It is apparent that Brits are beginning to catch the American Football bug. Four million of us tuned in to watch Superbowl 50 earlier this year. The NFL calculates that there are 50 000 gridiron players in the UK, more than any other European nation. Broadcaster ESPN has argued that following of the sport has grown 75 per cent in Britain between 2011 and 2015, and shows no sign of slowing.

For years American football, maligned in the UK as a slow, fragmented and complicated game, and was seen by many Brits as an advertising opportunity for corporate America rather than an engrossing sporting spectacle. However, the NFL has sought tirelessly to shed this misconception; which had for so many years halted any hope of growing the sport in the UK.

One issue the sport still faces is the amount of UK athletes playing at a professional level. British born players, such as in form Jay Ajayi of the Miami Dolphins, and the Oakland Raiders' 143kg offensive lineman Menelik

Watson (pictured below), are few and far between.

Creating a transition from the amateur youth game to the professional level and increasing the amount of British players in the NFL will be key in maintaining the interest of UK fans. A London-based franchise may not survive in the long run if the roster is comprised solely of American players.

The steady rise in American football's popularity has sparked many pundits to suggest that a franchise based in London is not too far away. However the NFL has been wary to put a timescale on such a development. In order to make a London franchise a long term and sustainable project, the NFL

have suggested that the UK would require around six million 'avid fans'. Questions also remain regarding how practical a franchise based four thousand miles away from the US would be.

Nevertheless, it is thought that the NFL and UK government have been actively working towards establishing a London franchise by 2021.

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA



The pre-game scene at Wembley Stadium in October 2010, when the San Francisco 49'ers played against the Denver Broncos.



Anthony Foley: a tribute to a Munster Legend

After a stellar playing career for club and country, Munster head coach passes away peacefully at the age of 42

Joe Santamaria
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS NOW AN increasingly repetitive ritual to hear Stuart Barnes and his companions wax lyrical over the former glories of Munster whenever European rugby returns to Thomond Park. You could be forgiven for assuming that Munster had always been the kings of Europe.

However, there was a time when Munster seemed destined to be the 'nearly men'. Between 2000 and 2005, the team reached three semi-finals and two finals. Their triumph seemed to be inevitable yet somehow unattainable. Now we are left only to mourn the loss of the man whose leadership allowed Munster's dream to finally come true.

Munster Coach Anthony Foley died in his sleep in a Paris hotel on 16 October. His team were due to play Racing 92 the next day.

Foley's entire life was spent in rugby. Both his father Brendan and sister Rosie represented Ireland, and Axel, as he became known, was keen to follow in their footsteps.

Munster had been a part of his

family long before he pulled on the red jersey and Foley deliberately sat in the same seat his father once sat in when he broke into the Munster team in 1994.

62

The number of Ireland caps Anthony Foley won over a ten year period.

It wasn't long before fans began to see him as family too and he witnessed constant adoration throughout his 202 appearances.

His most notable achievements included playing in the 'Miracle Match' in 2003: Munster needed to beat English league leaders Gloucester by 4 clear tries and 27 points to qualify for the knockout round of the Heineken Cup. They scored their 4 tries, won by 28 points, and went all the way to the semi-finals. As a player he never forgot where he came from, and always played with the same passion: an increasingly rare quality in the professional era.

Anthony Foley epitomised many of the qualities that Munster has become renowned for: ferocity,

intelligence, stubbornness. I personally had the pleasure of witnessing Foley's Munster outclass Biarritz to win the 2006 Heineken Cup in Cardiff.

Many touching tributes have poured in from former teammates and coaches since the news of Foley's death, praising his ability on the pitch and his flawless conduct off it. Never the most athletic forward, he relied on his intelligence and his sheer desire to win which saw him earn 62 caps for his country. No mean feat, particularly when successive Irish coaches overlooked his qualities. Former Ireland captain Keith Wood described Axel as 'The smartest rugby player' he had ever known.

The passion of Munster fans and their reputation for creating a unique atmosphere is well founded, but they outclassed themselves last weekend in the first Munster game since Anthony Foley's death.

Over 25 000 roared on the boys in red to a 38-17 demolition of Scottish powerhouses Glasgow Warriors. Down to 14 men only 20 minutes into the game, the relentless Munster display would have made their head coach proud.

At the final whistle, Foley's

young sons, Tony and Dan, joined the team huddle for an emotional rendition of 'Stand Up and Fight', sung in unison with the immense Munster crowd. One can only imagine the atmosphere at Fortress Thomond when Munster take on the touring Maori All Blacks later this month.

The rendition of 'The Fields of Athenry' that the travelling fans performed in Paris last weekend

was different. When so often the song has been used to spur on their team or welcome their heroes home, here it said farewell to one of Munster's greats. His greatest days were in a Munster jersey, and when Irish coaches sometimes failed to recognise his talents, the Limerick faithful simply cheered louder.

Taken too soon, Thomond Park fans will never forget one of their greatest sons.



IMAGE: THOMAS

Foley played 202 matches in front of the Munster faithful, scoring 39 tries.

RAG calendar pre-sale

Support charities and university teams by purchasing the York Sports Union naked calendar. The calendar will showcase a wide variety of teams from Men and Women's Rugby to Ultimate Frisbee. As well as university clubs, this year's calendar will also feature teams from college sport for the first time: Langwith Netball and Derwent Football.

Isaac Beevor, Sports Union president, had this to say: "This will be the perfect gift to spice up any Christmas wishlist! Watch out for great shots of a whole range of our sports teams stripping down for charity. Lets just hope the weather doesn't get colder! I am also extremely happy to announce that York Parties have sponsored this calendar meaning more money can go to charity."

The York Sports Union naked calendar is on pre-sale now and you can purchase it from the YUSU website for the discounted price of £7.50.

Focus Scholars announced

The 2016 Focus Scholars have been announced. The ten scholars come from a wide variety of sports, such as judo, water polo and marathon kayaking.

These scholars will also have the opportunity to apply for the Elite Santander Scholarship programme, where three of the athletes will be gifted the sum of £5000 for their prowess and dedication to their chosen sport.

Applications for this scholarship close on Monday 7 November 2016.

RFU and FA coaching hub

The Rugby Football Union and the Football Association will be creating a coaching hub in York for students who are interested in football and rugby coaching. In week 8, people can begin signing up for the programmes, which will start in the second term.

ThisBUCSGirlCan Week

ThisBUCSGirlCanWeek is occurring from 7-13 November, celebrating women in sport.

During the week, opportunities such as judo self defence classes and women's only hours in the gym will be available to anyone who identifies as a woman in sport.

As this is hosted by both York Active and Equal Opportunities at the University of York, there will also be Equal Opportunities sessions available during the week, as well as York Active running a touch rugby session.

Softball 2nd in nationals

The University of York Softball Club finished runners-up in the UK National University Softball Championship, held in Slough. They made it all the way to the final of the national competitions, where they eventually fell to Loughborough University.

Lacrosse derby disappointment

Robyn Aitchison
SPORTS EDITOR

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER marked the date of the lacrosse derby day, an exciting day all round in which four York lacrosse teams played to their best strengths but the cold weather conditions and the high standards of the other teams meant that York only won one match.

However, the teams were still able to showcase their talents and the high spectator turnout meant that the encouragement of the home crowd allowed it to be an entertaining event for all involved.

The women's 1s and 2s teams played intense games against Manchester 1s and Northumbria 1s respectively. The York men's 1s and 2s also faced off against each other in an energetic derby making for an exhilarating day of lacrosse games.

Unfortunately losing to both Northumbria and Manchester, the women's lacrosse teams put up a powerful fight, while York men's 1s took the win in their game, powerfully ahead of York men's 2s.

York women's 2s had great work from team captain Holst who

gave a commanding performance against the Northumbrians, utilising her team members to their highest standards. This allowed them to take the lead at the beginning of the game, only to be overtaken by Northumbria near the end of the match.

With a score of 4-5 to Northumbria, the girls showed their strength and control, continually re-evaluating their plays to demonstrate their brilliant defence.

York men's 2s and York men's 1s also showed great strength on Wednesday with a large and impressive team of 2s presenting the strength of the lacrosse sport at York. York men's 2s showed great promise for their first big game of the year with the men's 1s coming in on top as a result of their more developed skills, but it still made for a fascinating game nonetheless.

On several occasions the York 2s came very close to scoring but the striking power of the York 1s and their high levels of finesse was difficult for the newer team to adapt to.

However, with a result of 1-14 it was hard to compete with the powerful attacks being made by the York 1s. York women's 1s played Manchester 1s in a tense game that unfortunately resulted in a win

for Manchester. The tense game showed promise as the women started off strong, continually fighting off Manchester's attacks.

Due to the powerful players in Manchester's team, it finished 6-18 to Manchester, but this was not due to lack of trying on York's front. They battled mercilessly for the ball, with team players utilising a tactic of peer pressure in order to establish their dominance over the opposition.

This often resulted in scuffles between the two teams as they

raced towards the goal, causing the referee to intervene, often allowing York to gain momentum from the corner.

York played to their highest strengths in this game but the strength of Manchester was too great.

Although I'm sure they were hoping for a different outcome on this day, it's early in the year and upcoming matches will hopefully allow them to gain back lacrosse titles for York as well as show off the true extent of their skills.



IMAGE: MITCHELL FIELD

Volleyball victories continue for York

Robyn Aitchison
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK MEN'S 1s played a fantastic game of volleyball on Wednesday against Manchester showing no signs of wavering as they walked away with a powerful win of 3-0, carrying on their winning streak.

The opening set established York's dominance as a team, with Manchester rarely receiving a point as York stormed ahead with a finishing score of 25-13.

Manchester returned from the break rejuvenated and ready to earn back what they had lost in the first set, but still not quite reaching the level of ferocity and determination shown by York as they attempted to re-establish their team with a score in the second set of 24-21. Manchester begin to take the lead in the second set, leading to a score of 13-12 to Manchester, but following an intense rally between the two teams and great work from Leif Fredheim, York started to bring back what they had brought to the first set, ending with a score of 24-21 as Fredheim's spike leads them to be victorious for another

set.

The third set is what really showed York's promise; they remain yet to lose a match this term.

There was very little chance of Manchester being able to catch them up pointwise at this point in the match, and York were relentless in their spikes against them. Mark Woodward showed his power as he blocked the ball from getting any further than two inches over the net. The final set ultimately finished 25-16 in favour of York and the extensive win shows how the



Win rate for the volleyball men's 1s over the past three seasons.

Manchester team would not have been able to catch up despite their best efforts. The sheer power of the York team was incredible.

This victory, along with all the other successes made by the York men's 1s team presents them as almost unbeatable, and hopefully this year they will be able to continue this indomitable success in matches to come.

Mixed squash results against Liverpool

Eden Gallant
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK MEN'S 1s team cruised to an all straight sets 3-0 whitewash against Liverpool 3s in their opening round match in the Northern Conference Cup.

First team captain, Michael Brown was flanked by Kabir Paul and Ridhwan 'Reed' Rosli, as they confidently bossed the Liverpool team aside.

He stated afterwards that "it was quite a simple match, but it was important to keep our focus." He went on to say that "the season has started well since we beat Leeds Beckett 4-1, who were just relegated from the league above."

Realistically, however, they are just looking to stay in the division (referring to the Northern

2B BUCS league). York 1s have received a favourable draw in the cup and next up will face Keele 3s, so they should be confident of progress to the last 16.

However, it was a tale of two matches last week, as the squash club had mixed fortunes.

York's women's 1s suffered a closely fought loss to Liverpool 1s in the Northern 1A BUCS league.

All four matches were well contested, however Liverpool managed to edge the score to 3-1. The result leaves the Women's 1s in the drop zone, after three defeats in the early season.

The quality of the league is very high, with both Sheffield and Leeds having clinically dispatched York 4-0. The women's team face an uphill battle to stay in the division, but will take comfort in the calibre of their play in the match up against Liverpool.



York tackle Chester and Manchester head-on

Robyn Aitchison and Rory Lavery
SPORTS CORRESPONDENTS

AFTER STRENUOUS hard work, York women's football 1s came away with a victory against Chester 1s, winning 2-0 and continuing their winning streak.

This game showcased their skill against Chester throughout, creating an atmosphere that made us sure of their superiority on the pitch.

Despite problems with communication at the start of the game, the team soon started working together and established dominance over



IMAGE: WILL PALMER

Chester. Brilliantly intercepting passes between the Chester team, it was York who scored the first goal to begin an overpowering display.

Rachel Taylor was quick to read situations, with her and Kirsty McLean gallantly showing what this team does best, ramping up the pressure on their opponents.

Alert and responsive, they had several near misses, but the number of times was enough to leave Chester concerned.

By the end of the first half, York had scored 2 goals, putting the game out of reach.

Injuries left the team

needing two substitutions, but the substitutes, Heather MacDonald and Megan Vasey, handled the situations gallantly, playing their very best and closely guarding the Chester players to block out any chance of a comeback. Goalkeeper Kathryn Batte showed great promise as blocked shots from Chester left and right, not allowing them to get in a single goal for the game, despite all their efforts to score.

This game showcased York's composure and skill and how, despite injuries, they show great promise for the rest of the York women 1s season.

Elsewhere, the York men's 1s edged past the Manchester 4s on Wednesday into the second round of the national cup.

Scrappy midfield battles punctuated the opening moments with few clear-cut chances. It took twenty minutes for the first out-and-out attack, when a twenty yard strike was lined up, only for it to hammer back off the cross bar.

The home keeper was largely untroubled; York looked confident in defence and strong in midfield

but lacked attacking venom. The game went into the break goalless with blunt attacking a feature for both sides.

Early York pressure in the second half prevented Manchester finding any rhythm with Skinner acting as the midfield metronome dictating the pace of play. The score remained goalless until the 69th minute where York's persistence culminated in a stunning 25-yard strike from Nsoatabe which nestled into the top right corner.

Manchester were finally awoken and within five minutes the score was levelled. York responded with little attacking impetus and in the 88th minute a second Manchester goal was fumbled into the net after some calamitous defending.

York were in dire need of some good fortune; it came in the form of captain, Bew, who picked up the rebound from a probing Skinner cross to make it 2-2 in the 90th minute.

Controversy ensued in the opening minutes of extra time when a Manchester winger left the pitch injured without replacement, as all three substitutes were already on

the pitch. After playing seven minutes with ten men, the rules were revised and a substitute was allowed on to complete the full outfit. The injured player himself deemed it "ridiculous", and Manchester will argue they were hard done by.

To add salt to Manchester's already-fresh wounds, another ball from deep - this time from Bell - ended in Bew slotting the ball home after a brief game of pinball in the Manchester area. York held their nerve to see the game out, successfully ending the match with a victory of 3-2.

All in all a positive outcome but there is much improvement to be had for York. Captain, Bew, believes the team "should do well for the season" but when asked how he felt the game went he responded simply "can I swear?" - summing up what was a disjointed game. York now wait to see who they will fight it out against in round 2.

Both York football teams showed their determination in their respective games to each secure a win, and their hard work did not go unnoticed.

Hockey teams do the double over Newcastle

Jonathan Moynihan, Alex Parsons and James Voyle
SPORTS CORRESPONDENTS

AFTER A LOSS in their last match to the University of Leeds, the women's 1s got their BUCS campaign back on track with a convincing 3-1 victory over the University of Newcastle 2s under the autumn haze at the JLD.

The match was a tight and edgy affair and it was punctuated by a hard midfield battle and half-chances rather than an out-an-out box to box match.

Newcastle applied the pressure early on in the match, and were rewarded with an early goal after swift play down the left wing and a pass to the centre. This was shot past the goalie to give Newcastle the lead in what would follow to be a tense match.

Nevertheless, just before the end of the first half, York created more chances with balls across the box. This creativity led to a shot, which was smashed in from the centre by Lindsay O'Brien leaving the goalie no chance but to pick it out of the back of the net.

They went in even at 1-1 at half-time.

The second half began by a slicing ball from Millie

Dyer straight through the middle of the defence to Alex Parsons, but it ended with the goalie saving with a hand pad.

Through the dominant centre touches and solid play along the wings, York exploited the space and this led to another shot.

These shots began to accumulate and, yet again, O'Brien smoothly placed it on target. After a deflection off a Newcastle defender, she rifled it into the top of the net.

As York made more changes in order to galvanise the team, cards began to be

shown for both sides, but especially for Newcastle who were given a green for not subbing off properly.

Alex Parsons sneaked in a goal through a breakaway as she rounded the goalie and scored in the corner calmly. With Newcastle's defence in tatters.

Lindsay O'Brien summed up the performance: 'I'm really pleased with the squad performance and atmosphere. It shows a lot of potential going forward. We've had a big influx of freshers

and in the match they really showed how quickly they've settled and merged, Millie Dyer particularly had a fantastic game'.

Meanwhile, the York men's 1s claimed their first win of the season against a frustrated Newcastle side who struggled to match York's intensity.

York began the game by launching an array of long balls into Newcastle territory. Controlling the high ball wasn't an issue for York's skilful attackers, but they were quickly swarmed by the onrushing Newcastle defence.

York soon settled into their attacking rhythm with Peter Newton running through the midfield. Harrison Carter opened York's scoring mid-way through the first half; his shot making its way through the disorganised Newcastle defence.

Newcastle immediately went in search of the equaliser. Rob Levy guarded the goal with some strong saves as the York defence held back a series of corners. However, it wasn't long until York extended the lead with Kieran Barker who made an interception following some sloppy passing among the Newcastle defence.

He held off the oncoming defenders and played through Ben Salter, who took on the goalkeeper one-on-one and calmly slotted home.

The rest of the first half was characterised by Newcastle's increasing irritation as the boys in white held fast.



IMAGE: WILL PALMER

With five minutes until the break, the umpire was forced to give a warning to a Newcastle midfielder after he needlessly hit the ball off the field following a stop in play.

Following a series of corners, a hit from the left of the D by Michael Black saw the ball enter the goal after a deflection off an idle Newcastle defender. The York players reeled away in delight having opened up a three goal lead.

However, York's victory was not yet ensured. With minutes to go, Newcastle scored from a short corner. Nerves set in amongst the onlooking crowd as the match re-

gressed into a scrappy back-and-forth between the two sets of tiring midfielders.

On the cusp of the final whistle, Newcastle won another corner, and scored. The umpire's whistle blew for full time straight after the restart, much to the relief of both the York players and supporters.

The 3-2 score line did not reflect the superiority of the York side. It was a narrow victory but York dominated throughout. While York will be disappointed with conceding two late goals, they'll take confidence in their attacking game into their next fixture.

Nouse tries

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BUCS hockey

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IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

Swim and water polo set to make a splash

Jacob Phillips
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

2016 LOOKS LIKE it could be a special year for the University of York Swimming and Water Polo Club.

A record turn out at team trials means that the standards for the competitive squad now almost rival those for national qualification.

This year, a time of 27 seconds for men and 31 seconds for women in the 50m freestyle was needed to make the cut for the squad.

The increase in the quality of swimming at York has been remarkable. In last years trials, the cut off time for the men's team was 28 sec-

onds. Three to four years ago, 30 seconds was required.

The quality of incoming first years has certainly increased competitiveness within the club. However, the club also boasts impressive retention rates amongst its high calibre returning students.

The flexible nature of the club's training sessions means that swimmers of all abilities are allowed to train. Fitness sessions are aimed at the more casual swimmer, while structured coached sessions train the more serious swimmers for BUCS events.

The club organises seven swimming sessions a week, three of which are run by coaches Danny Martland and Bill Timpany (a former York student).

This coming season looks set to

be a particularly exciting one for the women's swimming squad. There were times last year when the women's team was practically non-existent, having not been able to form competition squad.

Men's swimming captain Victor Amara said, "This year the fresher intake has breathed life into the (women's) team with the addition of quality, and more importantly, motivated swimmers".

Caitlin Wareing is a first year student who, along with 11 other freshers, has joined the team. She said of the club: "I think more people want to join because its not a very pressuring environment, but you can still compete.

"The wide range of sessions means you can always make a few in a week despite your timetable".

Such has been the sheer number of sign ups for UYSWC, that for their first BUCS event of the season they will be able to field more teams than they have ever been able to before. Next week six teams from York (three for both men's and women's) will compete in the Short Course Championships in Sheffield. Their new found strength in depth at UYSWC is there for all to see.

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The number of teams UYSWC will field in next week's championships in Sheffield, a record for the club.

UYSWC is also home to the University's water polo team. The men's side played their first game of

the season last week, losing out 7-12 to Northumbria. Last year, the women's team beat Lancaster at Roses.

The rise of swimming at York is doubtless partly down to the facilities here on campus. The University of York boasts some of the most highly regarded aquatic facilities in the north of England. The York Sports Village on Heslington East contains a competition standard 25m pool, as well as an 18m training pool, available for use by both students and the general public.

"The growth of the club has been startling," said Amara. "Call me crazy, but with the facilities we have I do believe that there's nothing stopping York from becoming a national swimming superpower within the next 10 years."