



“ To get the nod from the industry truly means the world. ”

How Sam Smith became the man of the moment >> M17



NOUSE



Spring Term Week Six
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Society heads slam YUSU management

• Sabbs respond to claims of poor organisation

Anwen Baker
Gary Holland

STUDENT SOCIETIES have hit out at YUSU, branding the Freshers' and Refresher's fairs as poorly managed, while figures reveal a marked decrease in their total membership.

This year's Freshers' Fair saw the introduction of a bar code scheme, designed to simplify membership payments by allowing students to scan the bar codes of different societies and then pay membership fees online.

Chris West, the 2012-2013 YUSU Activities Officer, implemented the system and was hopeful for a "10 to 20 per cent increase in society memberships" as a result of the scheme and said that he felt "confident in the new system".

Many societies were unhappy with the scheme, with Charlie Kingsbury, Chair of the University of York Liberal Democrats describing it as a "total nightmare".

He said: "We had to spend a lot of time signing people up who hadn't paid on the day, either because they'd forgotten or the pay points were too busy, which is time we could've spent developing in

other ways.

"The Lib Dems' society membership is up this year thanks to our hard work, but I wouldn't be surprised if society membership generally has fallen because of barcodes. YUSU should be helping societies grow, not hindering their development with this terrible system."

In fact YUSU data shows a decrease in total society membership of nearly 3000 since last year, from 18,942 in June 2013 to 16,019 currently. This is despite an increase in student numbers from 14,918 to 15,253. These figures include both paid and unpaid membership.

Kingsbury also criticised the YUSU Refreshers' Fair, which was held in Week 2 of this term. He told *Nouse*: "The event itself was an utter waste of time. The publicity was almost nonexistent, and hardly anyone turned up."

"Even when YUSU did get around to publicising it with a sign outside, a room full of politics isn't exactly everyone's cup of tea. Segregating political societies from the

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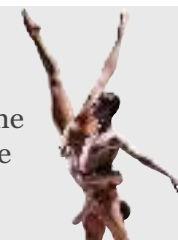
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Ballet Boyz. Banter with the all-male dance company.

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News



York In Brief

YuCycle event launched

A new YuCycle event was launched for the University and City last week. The event, backed by Professor Koen Lamberts, the University of York's Vice Chancellor, will take place on 22 June. Riders will be able to choose from a 25km, 50km or 100km route, all of which will start at the York Sport Centre and continue through the Yorkshire countryside. Free training sessions will be offered to all participants as well as on-ride support. The aim of the event is to raise money to support the Achieving Excellence Bursary Appeal.

Chinese New Year celebrated at Central Hall

On Monday the York Chinese Students and Scholars Association with help from YUSU, the International Students' Association, and York St John University, held an event to celebrate Chinese New Year at Central Hall. This Chinese New Year Gala featured traditional Chinese musical instruments, a calligraphy show and 'crosstalk', a form of Chinese comedy. This new year marks the end of the Year of the Snake and the start of the Year of the Horse.

Letting agency approved by York St. John

York St. John University have approved the feasibility study for a YUSU owned letting agency. The study was developed after the referendum. An overwhelming majority of students voted in favour of the Union letting agency which will rival other York letting agencies such as Sinclair and Adam Bennett. To be able to do this it needed the agreement of both York University Unions. The aim of the agency is to provide better quality accommodation and reduce costs.

Reporting by Rosie Shields

>> Continued from front rest will never work."

William Hornett, Chair of the Socialist Society, echoed these views, saying "The Refreshers' Fair was awfully organised. There was effectively zero publicity for any

“The political societies fair was an embarrassment”

Kallum Taylor
YUSU President

Refreshers' Fair events and no information about which societies were around on which days.

"As well as the total lack of publicity, the separation of political, sports and other societies into different days was extremely detrimental to political societies especially. I'm pretty sure in the four hours I was at the stall, I only saw two people walk into the room in interest.

"The conjunction of these two problems meant the Refreshers' Fair was probably one of the worst events I've ever seen or-

ganised, at least by YUSU."

Many societies have had communication problems with YUSU outside of Freshers' and Refreshers' Fairs, with the History Society facing issues when confirming finance for their trip to Sofia.

Chair Elli Hatherell commented on Twitter, "The past week has made me completely lose faith in @yorkunisu- serious transparency and effectiveness issues need to be addressed!"

Hornett also told Nouse, "in general getting a hold of YUSU figures is difficult".

Anna McGivern, YUSU Activities Officer, recently acknowledged these complaints in a blog post on the YUSU website saying "I know last term I got pretty slow on the emails".

"This job is demanding, and I love that and as I've already said a few times now I'm sorry about last term or if I drop the ball on anything."

However, she also added: "A little reminder to the very small number of you who think that because you've not heard from me or because you don't like what you've heard that being rude is the an-

swer. It is not."

McGivern and Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, both also cited the breakdown of a University server as one of the reasons for the recent lack of communication. This has prevented the YUSU weekly information email from being sent.

McGivern defended the bar code system, saying: "From my point of view, Chris' idea makes a lot of sense. Moving to online payments for societies is something lots of SUs have already done. The issues I found to come out of the Freshers' Fair feedback that I recorded was that there was too little information too late. I completely agree and put this down to planning being across the summer."

She also defended the controversial decision to leave all pre-existing societies out of the Refreshers' Fair: "The Refreshers Fair on Friday of Week 2 went really well for new societies.

"Telling everyone the plan to give refreshers fair over to new societies should have been done sooner. However when I did email societies the consensus I got back was that this was a good move."

Taylor also commented on

the recent criticisms of the Union: "YUSU have more societies per head than pretty much any other SU in the UK - and this is a great thing which we should celebrate more. However, it does bring with it incredibly large demands on funds, staff and officer time, and space.

"The Refreshers' Fair and week could have worked better and clearly we need to address this by involving as many stakeholders as possible - if a review of it doesn't involve those who were actively in it then it's a review simply not worth doing. It's always going to be a harder 'sell' than the autumn freshers fair though, to students, and the commercial partners we get to come along with all their freebies.

"One thing that stands out as a sore point in my mind was the part-time officer and political societies fair, which was an embarrassment. You can't just have people sat at tables in the Your Space common room and just expect it to work.

"We've recently made some structural and staff changes to YUSU and we hope that this should see provide the much needed improvement in the service level given to our societies."

Arts: Illusions of the body



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Petroc Taylor

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2014 YUSU elections candidates revealed

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

THE CANDIDATE LIST for this year's YUSU elections for both Full-Time and Part-Time roles has been released.

The candidates for President, as pictured on the front cover, are, from left to right: Tom Armston-Clarke, Andy Lake, Dylan Chambers, Daniel Nolan, Jack Coy, Fred Isaac, Daniel Whitmore, Sam Maguire and Josie Field.

Pictured right are the 11 other candidates for Full-Time positions.

Last year saw only three candidates standing for the role of President, with incumbent Kallum Taylor winning with a landslide majority of votes.

In the last edition, *Nouse* revealed that only 33.8 per cent of students voted in the 2013 YUSU election, a drop of 3 per cent from the previous year.

Voting figures were disproportionately low among international students, postgraduates and students of the Hull York Medical School.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, was positive about the outlook for this year's elections, saying "In the last three years turnout has increased by nearly 10,000."

The Full Time Officers debate will be held on Monday of Week Seven, at 8.30pm in the Roger Kirk Centre. The event will be hosted by Greg Dyke, Chancellor of the University of York and Chairman of the FA.

Voting opens Monday Week 8. The full candidate list can be found on our website.

Academic



George Offer



Josh Henning



Robyn Haycock

Activities



Bev Rodgers



Harriet Gibson



Chris Wall

Welfare



Jemima Busby



Beth Campbell



Grace Winpenny

Sport



Dave Washington



Cass Brown

Look out for our elections mini site with all the YUSU election news, analysis and gossip!

Majority of prominent societies governed by men

Thomas Witherow
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN ARE significantly under represented in senior committee positions in a number of campus societies traditionally dominated by men, figures released by YUSU have revealed.

The YUSU figures, calculated from the names of society signatories, show that men hold committee positions in a number of areas that they would traditionally dominate.

Seventy-two per cent of the "executive" committee members of York's political societies, including York Tories, York Student Think Tank and the Debating Society, are men. The University of York Conservative and Unionist Association have had seven male chairmen in a row.

Seventy-one per cent of the senior committees of the University's careers societies, including Bright Futures and the Entrepreneurs Society, are made up of men.

Half of the 170 senior committees surveyed are made up of female

students, but with 58 per cent of the student population made up of female students, this still signifies an under-representation.

But the figures do show that women are more likely to win positions in traditionally "feminine" societies. Dance and performance society committees, including CHMS, Pantsoc, Fusion and Dance Society, are made up of 65 per cent women.

Charity and campaign societies, including Oxfam, York Pen and International Development Society, are made up of 68 per cent women.

There is also a difference between in academic societies representing traditional male and female subjects. Sixty-six per cent of arts and humanities subject committees are made up of women, while the equivalent figure for 'hard' sciences is just one in three.

One in three members of the Physics department are female but Physoc has an entirely male executive committee, with only three women out of a committee of fifteen.

Sam Bourne, Chair of Physoc said that women were applying for positions, but just not winning them: "There's always the standard cliques voting for each other, and friendship circles tend to dominate elections."

He added: "We have a fair few girls who run for positions, in our recent bi-elections there were probably 50/50 guys and girls running for the positions, so they are applying."

Alex Wilson, Chair of University of York Feminists said: "The numbers from the survey don't surprise me at all, and reflect the gender division in these areas that exist in national professions."

"Traditionally male-dominated spheres can often feel hostile to women. Politics, sciences and being ambitious career-wise are considered 'male' pursuits, whereas voluntary work and the arts are viewed as 'female', 'softer' or less useful."

She added: "It's deeply rooted in the assumptions we make about what men and women are good at."

Lizzie Lynch, former women's officer of University of York Labour Club and co-founder of Gender Access Politics (GAP), said all male committees can put new women off from joining: "If the two women who were already prominent committee members [of UYLC] hadn't been at fresher's fair, I might not have joined the society."

"It's about women trusting themselves in their abilities and contributions to join in the political side to University life to start setting a precedent for the working world."

"Sadly I don't think this is happening on campus to the extent it should."

In response to the findings, Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said: "To varying extents we're always going to be bound by the 'norms' which are generated in our recent history; though business, media, culture, and politics"

"These figures are no doubt similar across other institutions."

"The challenges to status quo have to start with young people

though"

"We should be doing more to enable our members (regardless of gender) to become leaders as soon as possible."

"Only having one female candidate out of the nine who are running for YUSU President this year speaks volumes for how this kind of thing can become a representational problem."

"I think it's well worth YUSU looking into what Nouse have raised here with measured urgency."

Out of York's 13 media societies 50.6 per cent of senior committees are made up of women, similar to the campus average but still below the overall campus population.

The findings also showed that music societies were under represented with women making up just 45 per cent of the 12 committees surveyed.

The data is not one hundred per cent reliable since it is reliant on individual societies updating their committee on the YUSU website after elections.

News

Sexposed: the bedroom habits of York students revealed

GRAPHICS BY KATE MITCHELL

Thomas Witherow
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

HALIFAX STUDENTS spend more time masturbating compared to other colleges, a survey conducted by *Nouse* and *Sexposé* has revealed.

Two out of three students from the University's biggest college masturbate three or more times per week, while the equivalent figure for Alcuin and Langwith is 51 per cent.

The data emerged in a survey conducted by LGBTQ Social, Fet-Soc and WomCom for last Friday's panel-based event *Sexposé: The Second Coming*. Eight hundred and forty four people completed the survey, making it the largest of its kind conducted at the University.

Loussin-Torah Pilikian, Chair of Halifax Student Association, said of the survey's results: "Bigger is certainly better - our members take on a work hard, play hard kind of thing... Everyone needs some time off!"

Josh Allen, former chair of Alcuin said: "It's no surprise Alcuin hold off from self pleasure what with the rising cost of university laundry. Socks are a scarce commodity and they don't wash themselves."



There was also significant data for male versus female sexual behaviour. Some of the results didn't come as much of a surprise, with 82.1 per cent of men masturbating three times or more per week, compared to just 34 per cent of women.

One in three men masturbate every day while only five of the 286 men who completed the survey said they didn't masturbate at all.

Women were much more likely to be let down by their first sexual experience. Eighty-four per cent expected it to be positive, but only sixty-seven per cent agreed that it was. Men, on the other hand, had negative expectations before losing their virginity, but considered it more positively afterwards.

The survey also revealed that men were more likely to have used porn to learn about sex, with 61 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement, compared to 43 per cent of women.

Women are more likely to tell friends intimate details of sexual encounters with new partners (14 per cent), while men are twice as likely to not give any details away (32 per cent). Langwith and Vanbrugh are the biggest gossipers, but still behind the figure for women: just one in six don't reveal details of the night before.

The survey also asked about sex education at school, with an overwhelming number saying it didn't prepare them adequately for sexual relationships. A massive 86.2 per cent surveyed said it was inadequate.

Fifteen respondents said that they didn't receive sex education because they were at Catholic schools, eleven bemoaned putting condoms on bananas, while two even commented that their sex education lessons could be compared to those in *Mean Girls*.

Teachers not recognising queer relationships was a common complaint.

One person surveyed wrote: "They never talked about homosexuality, except to say it made you very unhappy and it was impossible for gay people to form meaningful relationships."

Another wrote: "It never covered the emotional side of things that could happen, such as casual sex, drunk, not in your bed" and that "teachers were embarrassed by the subject they were teaching."

Hugo Dale-Harris, who carried out the survey, said: "Sexposé was originally set up to tackle the shocking lack of awareness. It all started when one of the founder's was talking with one of their housemates and they didn't realise you could get STIs through oral sex."

"It turns out guys like to masturbate. I thought that would be a fun question."

“It's no surprise Alcuin hold off from self pleasure what with the rising cost of university laundry. Socks are a scarce commodity”

Josh Allen

More worryingly, over one in three surveyed didn't know or weren't sure where they could go to get a sexual health check.

Dale-Harris added: "You hope they've had STI checks somewhere else. The vast majority of people have had some sex, but there's a taboo about getting an STI check that means you've been doing something you shouldn't. Really anyone who's

had sex once should go.

"The problem comes when people aren't wanting to look."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said: "We're planning on running a large scale sexual health awareness campaign this term, and hopefully that'll improve the current situation."

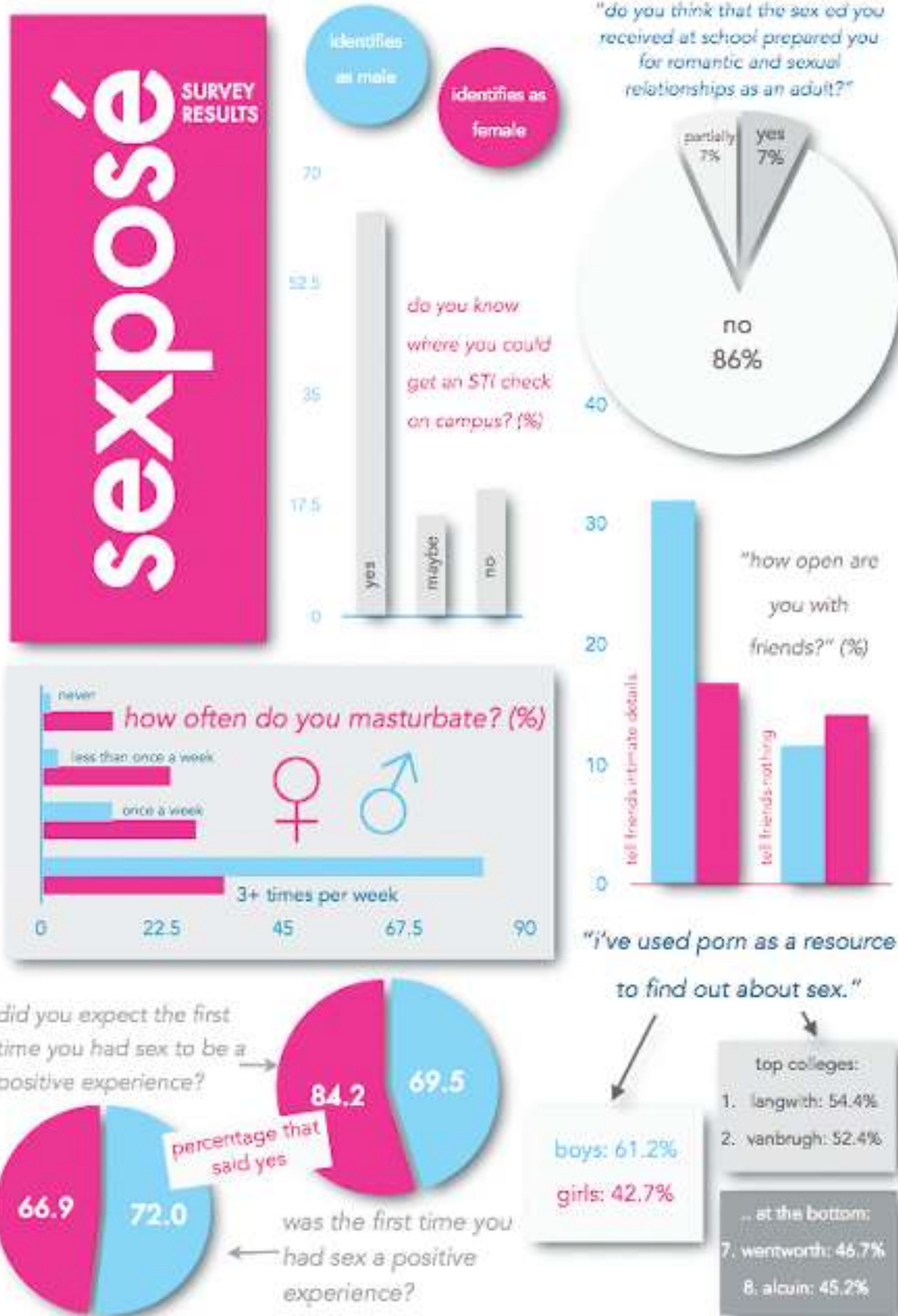
George Offer, YUSU Welfare Officer and former Halifax Presi-

dent, commented on the findings, telling *Nouse*: "I think that *Sexposé* is a great event, bringing together different groups from across campus to talk in an open (and often hilarious) way about sex, and I'm glad that it was so well attended - the great success of the event is a huge credit to the societies and networks involved!"

"I think we should probably

take the results of the survey with quite a serious pinch of salt, as the results are likely to demonstrate bias.

"Granted, I focused mostly on finding ways better to integrate families and international students into a broader college community, but while I was President of Halifax I didn't notice a particularly substantial propensity for wanking!"



York lap dancing club to remain open

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

UPSTAIRS, York's only lap dancing venue, is to remain open despite objections from the York Feminist Network (YFN).

Upstairs, which is situated above Mansion on Micklegate, appealed to have their 12 month licence renewed in November.

The York Feminist Network, a York city feminist group not connected to the University, began a petition calling on City of York Council to reject the application for renewal of licence from the club.

The petition stated: "Lap dancing clubs have no place in our community. They promote sexist stereotypes, create 'no go' areas for women and local residents, and impact negatively on the character and reputation of York as a welcoming, family-friendly city."

In a quote on the YFN's blog, Tony, a Skeldergate local, said of Micklegate: "It is sadly unsurprising on any given evening to hear them [young men] wolf whistling, leering and even see them masturbating in the streets."

One respondent to the petition said: "I think lap dancing clubs

send out the message that it's perfectly acceptable for women to be dehumanised and objectified."

The YFN also cited the venue's proximity to premises of 'sensitive use', such as churches, several nurseries and organisations working with vulnerable people such as the nearby York Women's Counselling Service.

They also claimed that the club made women feel threatened or uncomfortable.

Andrew Whitney, the owner of Upstairs, denied this, saying that the club was promoted in a discreet way and that closure would result in up to 40 dancers losing their jobs.

Feminist societies across the country responded to the petition, with the Edinburgh University Feminist Society denouncing the petition as "whorephobic".

Upstairs's 12 month licence was renewed 2 weeks ago by the council's licensing committee. According to licensing manager Lesley Cooke none of the grounds for refusal were established.

YUSU Women's Committee were divided on the issue, telling *Nouse*: "Within the YUSU Women's

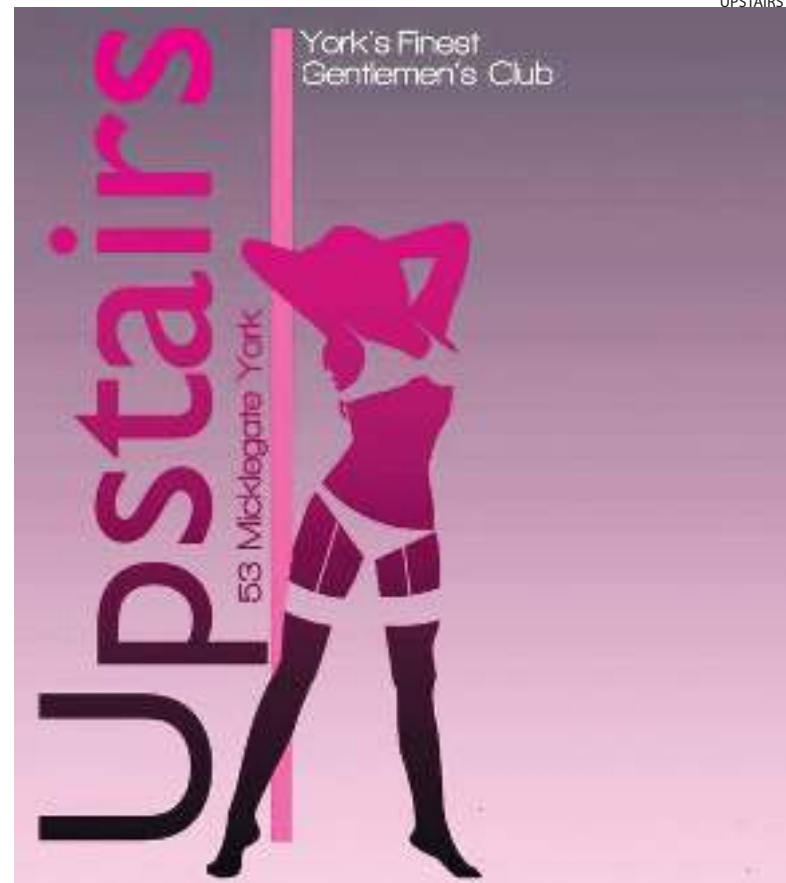
network opinions are divided on the issues at play surrounding the lap dancing club remaining open. We are unaffiliated to York Feminist Network's campaign.

"Although lap dancing clubs are in many ways problematic, we understand a need for feminist and women's movements to respect the agency, opinion, safety and welfare of the women involved in the clubs.

"This is one of many areas which cannot be defined in polarized terms and the opinion of the YUSU Women's Network as a whole acknowledges this."

The YFN have confirmed their commitment to re-launching the campaign next year, saying: "We are confident that with time and more education on gender equality, and the harmful effects of sexual entertainment venues, the outdated views of the councillors will change."

They also described their disappointment with the council's decision and regretted that they had not joined councils such as Leeds and Oxford, which had "prioritised women's safety and said no to the objectification of women – as advised by the Equality Act 2010".



The York Feminist Network have campaigned to have Upstairs closed

NekNomination trend spreads through York student body

Vee Wells
George Wood

CONCERNS HAVE been raised over NekNominations after dozens of York students have participated in the new trend.

The online drinking game, where participants film themselves downing a drink before nominating others to do the same on social media, has spread quickly since it was started in Australia in January, especially among student populations.

Elements of competition have been introduced, with many people trying to outdo their friends, either by drinking stronger alcoholic beverages, or by doing so in increasingly extreme circumstances.

One girl was recorded on the 'Spotted: University of York Library' Facebook page as downing a pint in her underwear, and Lewis Ratto, Alcuin JCR Chair, posted a video online of himself drinking a pint after pretending to sexually accost a friend dressed as the Alcuin owl.

When asked about his nomination, a second year PPE student explained: "I drank beer, gravy and urine all mixed up into one delicious cocktail. I did it as I think it's a good laugh. Some people disagree with the idea as they think it's dangerous. Personally I don't see the problem as it's up to them what they drink!"

However, the trend is causing

PETROC TAYLOR



YUSU Academic Officer Dan Whitmore bleached his hair for RAG week

concern among some groups, who feel it is encouraging peer pressure and drinking to excess. In Ireland, two young men died after participating in NekNominations. The craze claimed its first British victim on Saturday.

Ben Rothwell, a fourth year Physics student, is unimpressed by the trend, saying: "I only saw friends getting involved in NekNominations after I saw national news articles on it – which you could maybe argue is the media driving the trend."

However, many students are also finding ways to subvert the game.

One first year English student "necked" a cup full of Angel Delight, while third year student George

Hughes responded to his nomination by posting a video of himself drinking tea and reading the first chapter of *The Hobbit*.

Some are even trying to use the fad to encourage positive behaviour. At Durham University, many students are propagating a "donate nominate" scheme, where tagged friends have twenty-four hours to donate to a charity of their choice.

Closer to home, 'Respect Nominates' are beginning to appear. Lloyd Wallis, YUSU Union Chair, gave out free cakes in the Physics department for his, whilst Dan Whitmore, YUSU Academic Officer, bleached his hair to raise money for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) as part of RAG Week.

Langwith campaign for common room

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

LANGWITH COLLEGE have launched a campaign calling for a dedicated common room for its students.

Currently Langwith is the only college without its own common room. Without a convenient space to hold meetings and socials the college are often forced to use Goodricke space and the Law and Management building.

Olivia Batty, Langwith Press and Publicity Officer, emphasised the unused space available on Hes East, with "large bikesheds and bin areas going unused".

She added: "It is unfortunate to see so much money going into expanding the University with Constantine whilst there are missing facilities in an existing college."

According to Batty, Academic Registrar Kate Dodd and Deputy Vice Chancellor Jane Grenville have said that they have no objection "in principle" to a common room.

However, Batty adds, "Nothing has been done or planned in concrete to sort it out. We believe the process to be stuck in university bureaucracy."

Symone Thomson, Langwith Chair, told *Nouse*: "The great success we've had with our events, in particular free food Thursdays, means that now more than ever we

are desperate for new space.

"This year sees the arrival of Constantine who have been rumoured to have three common rooms while Langwith has been left untouched. YUSU and the University should look after their own before helping someone else."

"We are currently collaborating with all the staff and students in our college and intend to keep going forward with our campaign until we get what we want."

A first year Langwith student commented on the lack of common room, saying: "The thing I think Langwith really needs is more close study areas. It would be really nice to have a few quiet study rooms on Hes East."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, expressed his support for Langwith's cause, saying "We've always been, and still are, completely in agreement with the will of the Langwith CSA. The Glass House bar was actually intended to be a common room until late in the day, and the plan has always been to hand it 'back' once Heslington East could support a proper, purpose built bar and event space."

"The college needs its own common room/nucleus and we'll be doing what we can to ensure that this and many other urgent requirements for Heslington East [are met]."

News

UCU to launch legal challenge over pay docking

Grace Marsh

NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITIES and College Union is set to establish a court battle with universities across the nation over what they claim to be an unlawful docking of staff pay.

The UCU are looking to take legal action after almost half of the higher education institutions that responded to a survey run by The Universities and Colleges Employers Association declared that they would not be paying a full day's wage to staff participating in the two-hour strike on the 23 January.

Universities are yet to deny whether they will be taking the same action against staff striking on the 28 January and the 6 and 10 of February.

Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the UCU, outlined their challenge. "Any university that tries to dock a full day's pay for a two-hour walkout will face a legal challenge from us and an lecturer escalation of strike action, as well as risking considerable damage to their reputation for fair play."

University staff nationwide have been striking as part of the latest row over pay. A statement on the website of the York branch of the UCU affirms "we are striking to ensure a fair deal for everyone and a reconsideration of the offer of 1 per cent which would be the fifth year in

a row of pay rises of 1 per cent or less for university staff."

The strikes at the university of York have resulted in disruptions to teaching time and the closure of some departmental facilities. One first year mathematics student had two lectures and a tutorial session cancelled on the 6th of February because of the strike.

He told *Nouse* "It's definitely a disruption but I don't blame them. The loss of three contact hours is redeemable, although, I understand how some students could feel that it is unfair to lose teaching time that they're paying for when they have pretty much no say in the matter."

UCU, which represents nearly 120,000 workers including lecturers, academics, researchers and academic related staff in colleges and universities across Britain plans to go ahead with the court case despite regulations that cast doubt over resulting success.

Case law suggests that if staff only undertake partial performance and fail to work contracted hours universities have the legal right to withdraw pay, although it is not clear whether withdrawing a full days wage is permissible.

In a statement on their website, the University clarified their position on pay.

"UCU members were notified on their ballot papers that taking

industrial action might constitute a breach of their contract of employment. Any member of staff who takes two-hour strike action will be committing a breach of their contract of employment.

It is the policy of the University, as detailed in the Managing Industrial Action policy, to withhold pay

from staff who participate in the industrial action."

"The University of York does not accept the partial performance of the contract of any member of staff, including partial performance due to a part-day strike."

"We are entitled to withhold a full day's pay for partial perfor-

mance in the form of a part-day strike, but we have decided – without prejudice to our legal rights – to make an ex gratia and voluntary payment to staff who do participate in part-day strike.

"This voluntary payment will give the effect of withholding only two hours' pay."



Staff on strike in York city centre last term. Further strike action is planned for this term, totalling 6 hours

GRAHAM MARTIN

UNIVERSITY of York

University of York study needs YOUR stories

We are inviting women who have experienced a termination of pregnancy to take part in a research interview.

The study will help gain an understanding of the issues important to women.

Interviews are strictly confidential and women will not be identified.

Women can choose to be interviewed by phone or by meeting the researcher in person.

Can you help?

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the women who have already taken part in the research.

The project is still looking for women who have experienced a termination in the second trimester of pregnancy (about 12 weeks onwards), to take part in the research. Very little is known about these women's experiences and it is important that they are included in the study.

Anybody aged 18 or over, who has had a termination in England, can take part.

For further details, please visit the study website

www.york.ac.uk/satsu/timing-termination

Alternatively, you can contact the researcher directly by emailing Sian at sian.beynon-jones@york.ac.uk or phoning on 01904 323064.

Many thanks.

Men less likely to go to university

Thomas Witherow
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

MEN WILL soon become the most under-represented group in the country in applications to UK universities, the head of UCAS has predicted.

Figures show that the gap between applications from women and men is rising sharply.

87,000 more women than men applied before the 15th, increasing the gap by 7,000 compared with January 2013. Women are now a third more likely than men to opt to

go to university.

York has seen a consistent fall in the male undergraduate applications, from 45 per cent in 2007/8 to just 41 per cent now – equivalent to 9,509 students out of a total 23,353.

“There remains a stubborn gap between male and female applicants which, on current trends, could eclipse the gap between rich and poor within a decade,” said Dr Mary Curnock Cook, chief executive of UCAS.

“Young men are becoming a disadvantaged group in terms of go-

ing to university and this underperformance needs urgent focus across the education sector.

“At York, the proportion of male applicants has decreased slightly over the past few years,” said David Garner, a spokesman for the University of York.

“We believe this is more to do with changes in demand for particular programmes than an effect of any national decline in male applicants.”

In the current cycle, it is believed that York will buck the national trend, with an increase in the numbers of men applying.

Mr Garner added: “There is considerable debate about underachievement by boys in schools and this is something we think should be addressed.”

One leading academic has suggested the remedy might be to offer university places to men on lower A-level grades.

“The solution put forward by some universities to combat disadvantage was to offer pupils from state schools positions on lower grades than independent schools,” said Professor Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment at Buckingham University. “Perhaps universities should now admit men on lower grades.”

He added: “One thing is becoming clear – the advantage conferred by independent schools is now less than the advantage obtained by being a female.”

He continued to say that better

results, new teaching and nursing courses are attracting women to tertiary education, while men are more likely to take up apprenticeships and jobs.

The overall number of applicants at York has risen, however the number of applicants to Arts subjects has fallen. The University has been unable to release figures mid-cycle due to UCAS regulations.

The figure for girls, though, is the highest ever with 333,700 applications compared with 331,800 in 2011. The number of boys applying is 246,300, down from 251,730 in 2011.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU Presi-

“the advantage conferred by independent schools is now less than the advantage obtained by being a female

Professor Alan Smithers, commented “if we want to avoid moving from one inequality to the complete opposite, smart policy needs to understand and address the decline in male applications.”

“The reasons behind this kind of thing, as is the case with applicants from middle-to-low income backgrounds, start way before they start thinking about which University they apply for.”

York launches mental health campaign

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A NEW University-backed campaign to encourage open discussion about mental health has launched this month.

According to a YUSU blog the “#GoodDay #BadDay” initiative aims “to encourage positive conversations about mental health and ultimately remove the stigma attached to the subject of mental health.”

Students are being encouraged to tweet and Vine stories of their good days and bad days, with the appropriate hashtag, contributing to the campaign and raising awareness.

The YUSU website also features blogs and videos posted by mental illness sufferers, sharing their stories and opening up conversation. So far students Jemima, Tasha and Tay have all told their stories online to help others, speaking and writing about their experiences with depression and anxiety.

When asked how she coped with the negative reactions some people have had, Tasha wrote: “I realise it’s just lack of awareness. It’s not even their fault – it’s a problem with society.”

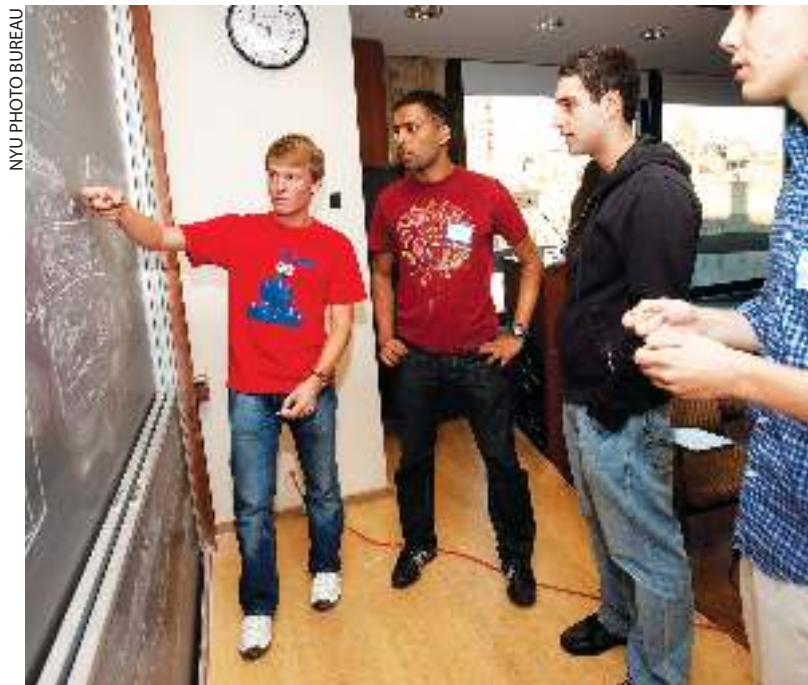
Jemima Busby, who along with Tay Whitehead started the campaign, said: “We won funding for the campaign from YUSU last year but decided to delay launching it in October because of our workloads and our own mental health needs. It has been a challenge at times, but so worth it! So far the reactions have been very positive and it’s really encouraging to know that being honest about our experiences (however scary it may be!) is having a positive effect on people reading and watching the videos.”

Mental health among students has long been known to be an issue. In a 2013 survey, the NUS found that 20 per cent of students “consider themselves to have mental health problems”, while a 2004 study quoted by the Royal College of Psychologists found 55 per cent of students to have at least mild “mental disorder”.

One first year student told *Nouse*: “Having just been diagnosed with Seasonal Affective Disorder, I wasn’t sure what to do or who to talk to. Seeing YUSU making an effort to promote and normalise mental health illness is clearly a good step.”

However, there is still more to be done. A third year Physics student said: “I know of at least four students who have fallen back or dropped out due to depression. The university should do more to assuage academic stress as I feel that can lead to mental health problems.”

Besides the Good Day campaign, YUSU are also running a Mental Health First Aid course in Halifax College Common Room on Saturday, weeks 6 and 7. More information can be found on the Halifax



NYU PHOTO BUREAU

Women are now a third more likely than men to go to university

THE survey shows a third of staff keen to leave

Jamie Summers
NEWS REPORTER

A NEW survey recently undertaken by Times Higher Education (THE) has revealed that almost one third of university staff across the country are unhappy and want to leave their role.

THE undertook the detailed survey to assess the situation of employment in higher education institutions. The ‘THE Best University Workplace Survey’ was carried out on more than 4,500 higher education staff in total, and almost one-third (31 per cent) of academics stated that they were considering quitting their job.

Furthermore 27 per cent of professional support staff at universities also said that they were contemplating leaving. 32 per cent of university employees overall feel that their job is at risk.

However, this sentiment varies depending upon the field of work in which staff are employed. Academics working in education are the most likely to want to leave, with 39 per cent voicing their discontent. 37 per cent of those working in the creative arts and 34 per cent working in social sciences would also consider switching roles.

By contrast, academics working in technology and engineering feel

the most secure, with only 25 per cent of respondents suggesting that they would consider leaving their job.

An early-career researcher working in a Scottish university is quoted in the THE report as saying that their institution had “sidelined, belittled and ignored me and left me isolated,” and that, as a result, they could not wait to leave.

Additionally, an academic working in the social sciences at a post-Polytechnic era university in the Midlands commented that “in spite of the satisfaction brought about by teaching and great relations with students and my immediate colleagues, several of my colleagues have left or are trying to leave, and I intend to do the same.”

Among academics, those working in the creative arts, arts and humanities and education were more likely than others to disagree with the statement that ‘my job feels secure’; more than 40 per cent of respondents in these disciplines stated that they had concerns about their job security.

However, those working in physics, biology and maths were the least worried, with only 32 per cent of academics in these areas feeling insecure in their job.

The last York staff survey was

conducted in 2011. The highest levels of staff engagement were found in the Philosophy department, with 92 per cent of those surveyed responded positively. History of Art and Archaeology also displayed high levels of staff engagement, with 92 per cent and 88 per cent respectively.

Those departments with the

lowest levels of engagement were Politics, York Management School, and History at 63 per cent, 62 per cent and 53 per cent respectively.

According to the University report the engagement index is based on the work itself, the senior management group and equal opportunities amongst other factors. The next survey will take place in May.



TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

The THE survey shows that 31 per cent of academics are dissatisfied

WHAT WOULD YOU MAKE
BETTER

Share your ideas with us to win great prizes
for you and £5,000 for your university.
Join the competition at makeitbetter.ey.com

#MakeItBetter

The EY logo consists of the letters 'EY' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'E' and 'Y' are connected at the top. To the left of the logo is a graphic of vertical lines of varying heights that form a cone shape pointing towards the logo.

Building a better
working world

YUSU propose NUS voting amendment

Rosie Shields
EDITOR

YUSU ARE submitting a 'one member one vote' motion to the National Union of Students' national conference this April.

Currently a small number of delegates are elected to represent their universities at the conference.

If the new motion is passed it will mean that every student will have a chance for vote for the NUS president, and not just elected delegates.



In the last edition *Nouse* revealed that the percentage of students voting in YUSU elections fell by three per cent last year. It is hoped that an increased say in the NUS will also spur an increase in our own student union.

Although the motion will not have the chance to be passed until after this year's YUSU elections it has the potential to make a difference to future campaign turnouts.

The motion is not a new one, having been put forward by University College London and Sheffield University several years ago.

However it is hoped that this

time the motion will have more momentum, emulating the success of some of the most popular previous motions.

Sheffield University are likely to back the motion again, this time alongside York University Students' Union.

For a motion to get into the final document it must be approved by the Steering Committee who are then obliged to notify the students' unions of any changes. Approved motions are then debated at Conference. Any passed motions will be policy of NUS-USI for the next five years.

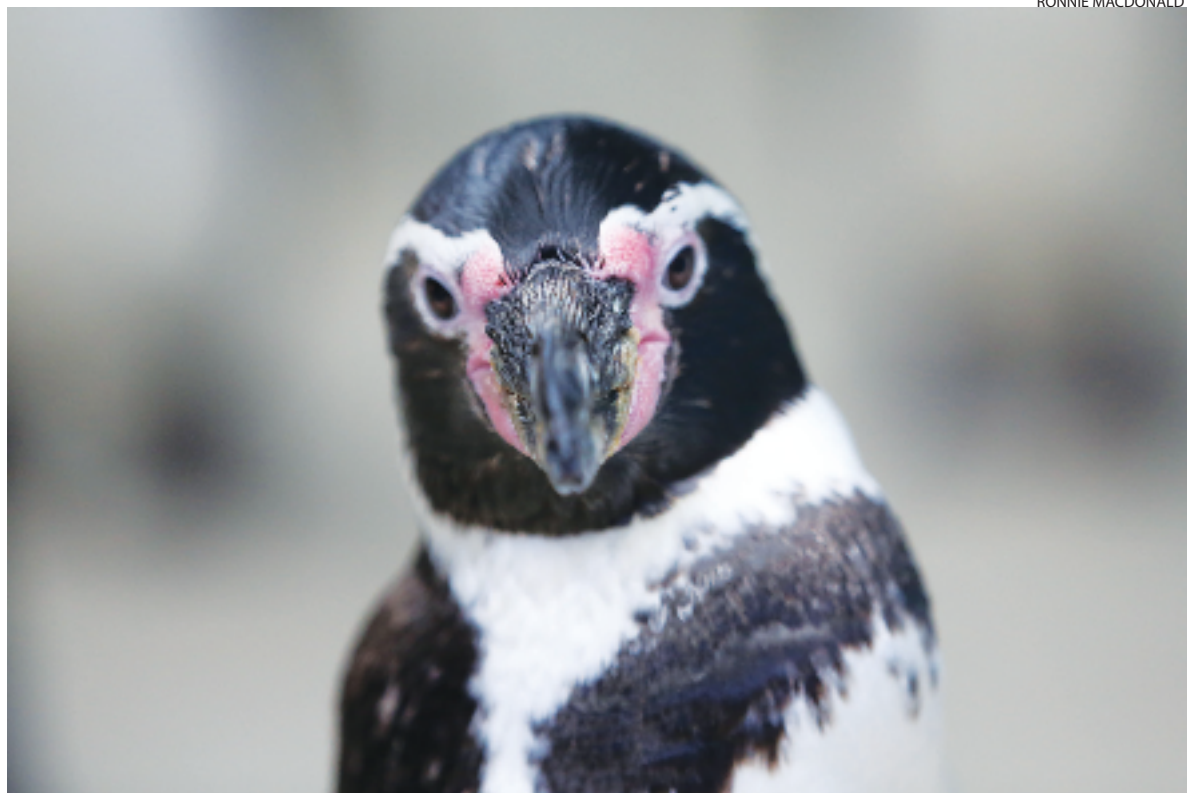
Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said: "We're hoping to submit a 'one member one vote' motion to NUS national conference this April.

"It's not a new idea but with each passing year the case grows stronger for it. Despite it doing great things, to most students the NUS is little more than a discount card and the occasional demonstration.

"YUSU will be proposing this motion, with the backing of several other Students' Unions, to create an NUS were every student in the country can vote for their national President.

"Many charities and campaigning groups have this system, and it could be a huge game changer for the NUS which will establish its long term credibility and relevance to its members."

The deadline for motion submission is in a month's time.



Unhappy feet

We've all been suffering at the hands of the brutal North Yorkshire weather, but none more so than a beleaguered group of penguins in Scarborough.

A dozen Humboldt penguins at the Scarborough Sea Life Centre have been put on a course of antidepressants.

Although the penguins are used to harsh conditions in their

homeland of South America, the recent weeks of constant rain and high winds have taken their toll.

Lyndsey Crawford, display curator at the centre, said: "After the first week, our birds were just a bit subdued, but after over a month now they are thoroughly fed-up and miserable, much like the rest of us."

According to centre staff, being miserable can severely lower

the natural defences of the penguin's body, even more so than in a human. They have been prescribed the drugs to try to ward off any more serious illnesses.

The penguins have not needed medication since April 2011 when three men broke in to their enclosure and chased them around for 15 minutes, leaving them distressed and off their food for several weeks after.

Further changes to electoral boundaries affect Halifax students

Beth Jakubowski
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE LOCAL Government Boundary Commission for England have rethought their plans to change the electoral boundaries in York.

After discovering an error in the information given to them, the Commission decided to alter the planned changes to constituency boundaries made in November.

A spokesperson stated that an error in the data received by the Commission meant that voters in Halifax College would have remained in the Fulford and Heshington Ward which is not the same ward as the rest of the University is in.

Originally, the University of York was to be included in a three-member Hull Road ward. These changes were made to make "stronger community interests" with Hull Road, which was considered to be the city's main student area.

The spokesperson said: "The new recommendations mean around 800 voters in the Halifax College area would be part of the Hull Road ward with the rest of the University campus. The amendment would deliver electoral equality for

local voters so that each councillor in York represents a similar number of electors."

The commission has now re-opened for a public consultation which is due to run until March 31st. If passed through Westminster the new constituency

portant that Halifax is included with the rest of the University in the local electoral boundaries. It's important for the University to have a united student voice."



boundaries will be in place for the next electoral cycle in 2015.

A second year PPE student said, "I think it's really im-

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Taylor campaigning to abolish printer credits

Beth Jakubowski
DEPUTY EDITOR

KALLUM TAYLOR, YUSU President, is campaigning to abolish printing costs for students at the University. Currently, it costs 5p to print one side of A4 in black and white but Taylor hopes to eradicate printing costs permanently.

To print an A4 side in colour it costs 15p and it is double the price to print anything in A3.

Speaking to *Nouse*, Taylor said: "If you're paying £9,000 a year you shouldn't have to print off an essay you have to submit.

"It would be a great thing for our university to say they offer and it would benefit pretty much every single student here."

A second year PPE student told *Nouse*: "I find it really difficult to read stuff on a computer screen so I have to print out all my reading, which is usually at least nine journal articles a week.

"The costs can really add up. Because it's for academic purposes I think the University should definitely have to subsidise costs for students. I know other universities do it, so why shouldn't York help out

their students too?"

This week Taylor met with Koen Lamberts, the University's Vice Chancellor, to discuss getting rid of printing costs. Taylor commented: "The Vice Chancellor seemed open minded about it - but this isn't a new thing - and the University have sat on this without a response for too long now."

He went on to add, "Outside of the value for money argument, the printing of essays, reports etc. shouldn't be treated as a relied upon income stream and it would also encourage departments to move to online submission."

Some departments have created a solution to the expense of printer credits.

A second year Philosophy student said: "There wouldn't be a problem with printer credits if all the departments provided you with the essential reading like the Philosophy department does.

"I think this is a good way to deal with the problem of printer credits. Although, to not have to pay for printer credits at all would be preferable. For the amount we pay to be here you'd expect a little more."

News

YUSU On The Move report shows student priorities

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

DISAPPOINTMENT with library services, transport issues and a communist utopia have all emerged as student priorities in the most recent feedback session from YUSU On The Move.

The initiative, which sends the YUSU Sabbatical Officers around campus to talk to students face to face, aims to gather information on the issues which matter to students.

The most frequently mentioned problems were with the library. Many students had suggestions on ways to improve the libraries, from creating a dedicated smoking area outside to opening the doors directly into the Harry Fairhurst building to cut down on commuting times.

Other suggestions were to increase the number of seats in the library, give students more print credits, provide heaters outside for the cold weather, get rid of the room booking system, and assign priority to third year students, or to those working on open exams.

A ball pit outside the library was also requested, resurrecting the motion submitted by Michael Walker suggesting the same thing in October 2013. YUSU did not vote on that matter.

After the library, the next most

common complaints were about campus gyms. Students wanted more classes in the Heslington West gym, longer opening hours on Saturdays, and the ability to only pay for classes rather than purchasing membership.

Transport was also flagged up as a key issue. Numerous people complained about buses and suggested new routes or changes to the timetable, and there was also an interest demonstrated in a University version of London's 'Boris Bike' scheme.

Other important ideas to improve student life ranged widely, from more ATMs, better student parking, more contact hours for Arts subjects, and water fountains

on campus; to a more widely-promoted Refreshers Week, monitoring lecturer quality, and graduation ceremonies to be held at York Minster.

Not all the feedback YUSU received was so serious. Several students told the team that they should improve the weather, or took the chance to promote their societies to the officers. One student told YUSU that they should just "do something", while another requested a communist utopia.

According to Dan Whitmore, YUSU Academic Officer, "there will most probably be things worth pursuing." YUSU's position on a communist utopia has not been made clear.

AGATHA TORRANCE



The Library is a priority for many students, particularly the number of seats

New accessibility audit commissioned

Rosie Shields
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has commissioned an access audit to evaluate campus accessibility.

The audit, which will be used as a guide for the Disability and Accessibility Committee to improve campus, aims to source any potential problems within the University and prioritise campus improvements due to take place within the next few years.

It states, "As part of its ongoing commitment to improving the campus environment for colleagues, students and visitors, the University needs your input to understand better the challenges some colleagues face accessing buildings and areas of the campus."

Thomas Ron, Disabled Students' Officer, said: "The University is sending out an audit for students to highlight problem areas. This is a hugely positive move as it will allow the university to go on more than just anecdotal evidence but hard facts.

"It will show the university many of the issues I have consistently raised and hopefully will see them take some serious action. I look forward to the publication of the audit. I am greatly looking forward to the results"

Although the audit has not been

completed yet some areas are more a cause for concern than others.

Many of the old accommodation blocks are largely inaccessible to disabled students including old Derwent and Langwith as well as some of the older Vanburgh blocks and James N block.

Even some of the newer blocks are likely to be under scrutiny, with numerous flights of stairs and narrow corridors. A number of Alcuin's blocks seem to fit this description including J1 and the E blocks.

It is not just accommodation blocks that are being covered by the audit. Lecture halls and seminar rooms are also likely to be accessed with many without induction loops.

Lighting and signage are also areas of concern as how students get onto campus is considered. This could be a particular issue for second and third years who have a long way to travel and do not live on bus routes.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President: "I would encourage as many students as possible to contribute to the access audit. It's a positive move by University to look at how campus works for its users, and I hope that they act on its findings."

A link to the audit can be found on the online edition of this article. All students are encouraged to carry out the survey.

Listings

MUSIC

14th February- Celtic Ladies and Dublin's Irish Tenors - Grand Opera House York. 7.30pm. £15.90-£26.90
15th February - Roy Orbison and Friends - Grand Opera House York. 7.30pm. £23.90
19th February - Newton Faulkner - York Barbican. 6.30pm. £19.50

STAGE

12th-19th February - Ghost Town - York Theatre Royal. 7.45pm. £10
14th - 16th February - Rough Crossing. Drama Barn. 7.30pm. £5
20th -21st February- Visitors - York Theatre Royal. 7.45pm. £10
21st - 23rd February. Breaking The Code - Drama Barn. 7.30pm. £5
27th - 28th February- Titus - York Theatre Royal. 7.45pm. £5

LECTURES

12th February- The Physics of Music - P/L/001. 8pm. Free
13th February- The Others Are Coming - W/222. 4pm. Free, ticket required
13th February - Resetting the Political Economy - Bowland Auditorium Berrick Saul Building. 6.30pm. Free
19th February- Lavish Drama, Thoughtful Documentaries and Idiots Smearred in Poo - P/X/001. 6pm. Free
24th February- Understanding Eating Disorders - GCR Goodricke College. 6pm. Free

FILM

11th - 13th February - Dallas Buyers Club. York City Screen. 8.30pm. £8

13th-14th February- The Hunger Games: Catching Fire - York Student Cinema, P/X/001.
16th February. Casablanca 70th Anniversary. 1pm. £8
17th February- Saving Mr Banks - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. 7.30pm. £3

COMEDY

12th February- Have I Got News For York - York ComedySoc, V/045. 8pm. £3
13th February- Fascinating Aida: Charm Offensive - Grand Opera House York. 7.30pm. £24.90
15th February- Jimeoin: Yes, Yes, Whatever...?! - York Barbican. 8.30pm. £17.50

ARTS

12th February- Rent 20th Anniversary Concert - Grand Opera House York. 7.30pm. £27.40-£38.90

DANCE

23rd February- Dance On Yorkshire 2014 - York Barbican. 7pm. £11.50

GENERAL INTEREST

10th February - 14th February. University of York Christian Union Events Week. All week
12th February. What would you change at the Uni of York? York Student Think Tank. 6.30pm. V/120
13th February. Derwent does Take Me Out. D Bar. 8pm
14th February. Valentine's Day. Nouse loves you, even if no one else does.

14th February. One Billion Rising in York. Vanburgh Dining Hall 2.30pm.
23rd February. RAG Parade 2014. York. Details to be released.
24th February. Gin and Juice. Fibbers. 10.30pm. £3



13th-14th February. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. 7.30pm. £3

Yorkies abroad

Anwen Baker and Rosie Shields catch up with some York students on their travels

“The French don’t do cheesy pop and tequila shots quite as well as the English”



Alex Slingsby

French and Linguistics, 3rd year

English Teaching Assistant/Teacher, working in two high schools in Orléans, France

How did I find the move? Bumpy. The plane broke down on the way to France and the journey took six hours longer than it should have done.

The biggest culture shock I’ve faced: I now have to dress like a fifty-year-old to avoid being judged by other people and absolutely everywhere is shut on a Sunday!

A funny story from my time here: I usually teach a lesson on my own, so I have to think of my own ways of disciplining the pupils. If my troisième class (year 10) misbehave, I make them sit with their hands on their heads until they stop talking and listen. It works every time. I also whisper parts of my lesson sometimes to quieten them down and it confuses them so much!

“I’ve been asked about Sherlock and Doctor Who hundreds of times”

Jack Staples-Butler

History, 2nd year

Studying History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

How have I found the culture shock? I’ve been an Americanophile since I was a child and grew up on The Simpsons and American cop shows, then in adolescence on a healthy diet of Martin Scorsese films and Bill Hicks routines so I was reasonably prepared for the new culture. What surprised me the moment I arrived in Illinois was how adored everything British is; I’ve been asked about Sherlock and Doctor Who hundreds of times as all the college kids here love it.

Have I got any funny stories or anecdotes? On my first night in my subleased house in Urbana, I got trapped in my bedroom. I wasn’t locked in as the door had no lock, it was just jammed shut. My roommate and I spent two hours trying to get me out to no avail. He called the landlord (it was 1AM), who said to call the locksmiths. He called the locksmiths, who said they could do nothing and told him to call the police. Which he did. So at 2AM, I’m still trapped in my bedroom in my Rolling Stones pyjamas feeling very tired and dehydrated as two Urbana P.D. officers try to help my roommate get the door open. Eventually, they tell him to kick it down, which he does. They take a report from us both and I get my first encounter with real-life American police officers – if only my five-year-old self could have seen me! Plus I can tell the story as “I was with the Stones in Illinois when the police kicked in the door on us.”

One thing I miss about York: After my friends, I miss the city itself the most probably, there’s a reason it got voted the UK’s Nicest City.



“There is a heated debate going on if you should say glaaaass or glasssss.”



Ralph Klöss-Schuster

PPE, 2nd year

Originally from Germany, currently studying in York

The move was somewhat complicated. I did not want to live on campus as I thought it would be more interesting to live in an off-campus flat share with English people. So the first two weeks in York I lived in a Hostel in the city centre, looking for appropriate accommodation. Two weeks and a lot of house viewings later I found an advert on Facebook and was lucky to get a beautiful room in a nice flat share with two Yorkshire guys. As for the culture shock, I can’t say I had any issues with it. But I’ve been to England before.

Have I got any funny stories or anecdotes? I live with two Yorkshire guys but spent a month in a language school in the south in Brighton so there is a heated debate going on if you should say glaaaaass or glasssss. It’s a very common thing, but usually this debate is for English people. As a foreigner I first didn’t realise what the problem was and am now very careful about what to say when and how, haha.

York is one of the most picturesque cities I have ever seen, so I guess I will miss its charm of past times, nice small cafes and tiny restaurants. Another thing that comes to mind is the prawn-crackers at Willows. Who wouldn’t miss them, right?

Comment



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www.nouse.co.uk/comment

Zain Mahmood

Deputy Comment
Editor



Who runs the world?

The domination of men in committee positions needs to be addressed

Recent figures have shown that men have been enjoying their duel with women in the balance of power where 'key' positions in campus societies are concerned.

Looking at the statistics for our university, just over four in ten students are male, yet they enjoy half of the seats on offer taking 170 committees into account. Some of the more definitive results arise when looking at the more traditional societies such as those pertaining to politics, debate or careerist pursuits, with more than 70 per cent of the cake going to males.

Peering down what is perceived by some as the opposite end of the spectrum, the arts and humanities committees represent a gulf in favour of women. Sadly, these numbers seem to conform to stereotypes we are unfortunately all too familiar with. It seems the distribution of key positions may still be influenced by the strictly patriarchal society we once had, or as some would argue,

still do. But is it that simple?

There are a variety of reasons why a society may be male-dominated. For example, take the issue of gender marketing in general. An argument proposed is that such a mechanism encourages stereotypical views and it is worth examining our societies in a similar light. While the advertising of positions and societies may be almost neutral, it is the figures in power, arguably, that attract ambition from would-be leaders and careerists.

For some societies, a male role model may be able to sufficiently motivate other men who would perceive the position as more achievable, than that which is currently held by a women (and vice versa), which in effect could represent a form of, admittedly unintended, gendered marketing.

Alternatively, simply by voting for your mates in order to help them out could be another explanation. In societies, the phenomena that is

clique-voting may, to some degree, perpetuate largely or totally same-gender committees as this intimidates outsiders, those of a different gender, but also, crucially, excluded from a group of close-knit friends.

On the other hand, we could simply blame the data, as it may not tell the entirety of the tale. With incomplete information due to a few societies not having stats to hand or unofficial changes in respective roles, there may be a small discrepancy in the conclusions I have attempted to extract thus far. However this is not significant enough to be termed an inconsistency and so the issue remains; with a larger number of females at the University, the divide in key positions is too wide.

The matter is far too complex to be tackled in a single article, but from the evidence we have, there is a concern that needs addressing. Raising awareness of the issue is the first step in the right direction.



The dark side of the FIFA World Cup

Jay Massaad



The beautiful game's ugly secrets

When Qatar won the right to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022, it quickly led to a stream of controversy that remains ongoing. With sweltering temperatures during the tournament's traditional summer slot, and comments made by FIFA's own Secretary General Jérôme Valcke, it appears many major leagues will potentially have to be rescheduled for the first ever winter World Cup – an organisational nightmare.

It's not the first time Sepp Blatter's FIFA has had problems of this sort, and past allegations of corruption from the media have certainly

done little to help the federation's image. Brazil's preparation for the hosting of the World Cup this summer has already been rife with problems and six stadiums missed FIFA's deadline for completion. One stadium, Curitiba, has been described as 'critically' behind schedule by Valcke.

Workers' deaths and construction catastrophes – such as a crane collapse – have plagued the Itaquerão and other stadiums, and employees regard the building site at Manaus as 'rated zero for safety'.

It is these workers' safety that continues to make headlines, and

in Qatar, they have it worse. There is an ongoing fear surrounding the construction industry for the 2022 World Cup that hasn't been laid to rest by months of Blatter's reassurances – fears which were initially given their global voice through *The Guardian's* investigation all the way back in September.

The article depicts how Nepalese workers died almost daily during the stifling summer in Qatar, with many claiming to have had their basic human rights impeached, telling horror stories of abuse, denial of drinking water and being tricked and exploited in a

manner that stinks of modern day slavery.

Sepp Blatter's claims after meeting the country's emir that Qatar was now "on the right track" to deal with worker's rights did little

“Workers claim to have been exploited in a manner that stinks of modern day slavery”

to reduce the growing unease surrounding the event.

The pressure on FIFA was kept alive by an Amnesty International report that was published just one week later in November, focussing on how a tolerant legal environment allowed for the abuse and exploitation of migrant workers by their employers. The "simply inexcusable" revelations led Amnesty general secretary Salil Shetty to state that "FIFA has a duty to send a strong public message that it will not tolerate human rights abuses on construction projects related to the World Cup."

So what is keeping workers from just leaving the whole thing behind? The answers lie in the kafala sponsorship system of labour,

which binds immigrants to their employers, so that a builder cannot work for another company or be allowed to leave the country whilst in such a contract.

As if that wasn't enough, some workers claim that they have been lied to, left unpaid, or not given ID cards – which effectively gives them illegal immigrant status, leaving them even more powerless.

At the end of last month it was confirmed that at least 185 workers from Nepal alone died during 2013 building the infrastructure for the sporting event – a figure which is expected to rise as new cases continue to come to light.

Amid a clamour for FIFA's sponsors to reconsider their support for an organisation with links to such a cruel industry, the chief executive of the World Cup organising committee Hassan al-Thawadi vowed that the competition would not be built "on the blood of innocents".

Jérôme Valcke has now given the committee a deadline of 12th February to workers in Qatar, before a hearing in the European Parliament in Brussels the next day. But is it too little, too late?

It's clear that once again, FIFA's image has been tarnished by a seemingly lacklustre effort to ensure the positive running of events. For FIFA, it's time to change the game.



Comment

VIEWS FROM THE OUSE



KATE MITCHELL



On paper, breeding season sounds like a brilliant concept: you get all of spring to fly around and make love to the first bird you see, like a series of Big Brother set entirely in Willow. But then it all falls apart. For one, eating 60 per cent of your body weight every day kind of nullifies any effort at the gym. And two, how many times have you seen a kingfisher? Right, now imagine the only time you could orgasm is if you saw one.

I've been told there's plenty of fish in the sea, but grimly rutting a cod in some rockpool in Scarborough doesn't have much appeal to me. Besides, that's how you get crabs. So I'm on my own this Valentine's Day.

Mind you, it can't be too much fun for anyone concerned. If you are in a relationship, it boils down to sitting in an overpriced restaurant, trying to maintain an argument-free détente like Khrushchev and Kennedy at the Cuban Missile Crisis, only with a bit less kissing. Meanwhile, multi-million pound corporations are looming over your shoulders, throwing over chocolate and stuffed animals to keep it all going like squealing shippers on Tumblr handing out giftsets.

Maybe this is the day that one guy you handed your number to in a drunken haze decides to try it on again. So you're left ducking his texts, silently cursing the stupid way he talks and the stupid way he's "planning your life together".

And of course, if you've just been dumped, it's National Screw You Day (actually, no, it's the exact opposite of that). Still, why not get in on the fun and send some cards? You just have to be creative! Maybe one with a picture of a cartoon rabbit staggering blankly as the xenomorph from Alien tears its way through his chest, with the caption DEAD INSIDE written out in glitter.

There's also the matter of what to do on a student budget. What if you decide not to buy anything, and then your lover buys you a 10kg diamond dipped in chocolate and strapped to a live angel? Maybe go for something more surprising – see if you can come up with a Petrarchan sonnet to remind your lover how their soul is like a star.

Well, that's Valentine's Day. I'll mark it in my diary, next to the tearstains. Next on ruining holidays: you know when Santa Claus showed up that one Christmas just as your dad had mysteriously vanished from the room? That's because they're having

Liberating lap dancing

Vee Wells
Deputy News Editor



Closing down Upstairs would be hindering people's right to work

Feminism is a messy, nebulous thing, a movement in which arguments and counter-arguments are made for every possible position. "Is it feminist?" is no longer a question which has any answers, as every viewpoint will be attacked.

With this in mind, it's unsurprising that 'feminist' societies are so quick to disagree over pretty much any issue regarding women. What is more concerning are the second-wave ideologies that still permeate the community, which promote a feminism concerned exclusively with middle-class white women. These feminists, keen to "save" sex workers, have been dubbed "neo-Victorianists" by author Ellen Willis, as they attempt to change legislation with no knowledge of how the industry works.

The York Feminist Network's

“Sex-positivity is a key part of feminism”

opposition to 'Upstairs', the Mickle-gate lap dancing venue, is a prime example of this. Sex-positivity is a key part of truly progressive feminism, and attempting to shut down a legitimate business is not helping anyone.

The fact of the matter is that

lap dancing clubs are perfectly legal, as long as they have a licence to operate. On a purely pragmatic, capitalist note, there is a supply and demand system going on here: lap dancing fills a niche in the market, and there is demand for it. Hence the business thrives.

Lap dancing also allows women to be in control of their income in a way many other jobs don't allow, working when it suits them. Ultimately it could be seen as a way of earning money without having to rely on other people. And as the old adage goes, if you've got it, flaunt it.

On top of this, some may argue that, as working in the industry is a choice, decrying women for working as dancers denies their agency and attempts to invalidate the women's decisions.

Shutting down the club would have cut off these women financially – and it wouldn't have just made the women unemployed. The bouncers, security team and bar staff also would have all lost their jobs, contributing to the already woefully high unemployment figures across the country.

Besides the economic arguments in favour of lap dancing clubs, there is also a strong argument in favour of keeping safe spaces for women working in more physical professions.

Sex work has been a part of civilisation since ancient times – there's a

reason prostitution is known as the oldest profession. While lap dancers do not sell sex, they are still sex workers in the sense that they sell the idea of sex and female attention to men. Trying to close down avenues where women can do this

“If YFS really have a problem with Upstairs, they should go and find out about it”

legally and safely isn't just unfeminist: it's dangerous.

Most of the stories the media peddles about sex work, as something seedy and socially reprehensible, are due to the conflation of prostitution with sex trafficking – both of which are illegal. The difference is, one is a horribly damaging crime that treats people as objects or slaves, while the other is a profession.

Much of this ignorance comes from the industry's lack of regulation. Performing any job illegally and without adequate provisions is a recipe for disaster, whether it involves taking off your clothes or not.

Closing down lap dancing clubs merely forces this kind of work underground. In a dedicated club, there are security provisions in place to keep the girls safe and cre-

ate a good working environment. In illegal venues, it's unlikely these women would be looked after the same way.

In a 2007 *Nouse* feature, three student lap dancers were interviewed about their part time jobs, and none of them had any concerns over their safety within the clubs. One of them, Lara, said: "You have to be able to handle people who have been drinking, and as long as you're confident and firm with them then you can avoid any problems."

"It's certainly not the sort of job where 'the customer is always right'."

YFN's petition was aiming for 1,000 signatures: it only achieved 183. The concerns over a single privately-owned, regulated lap dancing club are essentially trivial. It does not affect York as a "welcoming, family-friendly city" as the group claims: it merely highlights York's status as a city where people live and work.

If YFN really have a problem with Upstairs, they should go and find out about it. They should talk to the girls and the staff there. In short, they should do something that would actually help the people concerned.

Feminism means working to support women, in whatever they do – and if that happens to be lap dancing, we owe it to women to make sure lap dancing establishments are as safe as possible.

Follow the debate:
Comment online at
nouse.co.uk/comment
or on Twitter
[@nouseopinion](https://twitter.com/nouseopinion)

Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964

Lets talk about sex

The second Sexposé survey and panel show, nominated last year for YUSU event of the year, took place last week. Our seemingly adolescent fascination with sex was titillated again by this 'no holds barred' discussion of the sexual habits of York students. Brought to the exhibition centre by FetSoc, WomCom and LGBT, Sexposé always proves a popular event. Often at university, the transition from awkward teenage fumbles to meaningful sexual encounters is completed, and talking time to understand our relationship with sex in these formative years is incredibly important. Sex is still something which too few people feel comfortable talking about in public. The sexposé event has allowed us all this chance, and long may it continue to prosper. Openness cannot be a bad thing.

Societies deserve better

When it comes to looking back on our time at University, it will not be the bleary eyed 9 am seminars or the week long coffee fueled exam hazes that receive the rose tinted treatment. University, for many, is defined by the people we meet and the experiences we gain. Societies are a huge and vibrant part of University life, catering to everyone, from the bondage enthusiasts of Fet Soc to the aspiring knights of the Medieval Society. We are tremendously lucky here at York to have such a wide array of societies to choose from and such a huge number of enthusiastic and talented people running them. It is these people who need support from our Union to enable them to continue running their societies to such a high standard, support which is clearly lacking. With poor publicity, a lack of communication and an absolute shambles of a Refreshers' Fair it is hardly surprising that membership levels have dropped. Go to the Drama Barn on a Friday night, see for yourself the talented actors and directors that we are capable of producing. Within this newspaper, or even within the pages of our 'friendly rivals', you can see huge amounts of dedication and hard work. Societies nurture and develop individual skill and those who run them work incredibly hard. Unfortunately YUSU aren't exactly making it easy for us.

Exercise your right to vote

Voting in the YUSU elections is not often the top of everyone's priority list, but this year, we should all make a concerted effort to vote for at least one position. People constantly complain that their voice is being ignored yet the only way this will change is if people put themselves out there, not just running for positions but voting for them too. Everyone is impacted by the election outcome, even if its indirectly. Therefore it is important we each make use of our suffrage and exercise our right to democracy. These ordinary students have made a courageous leap in deciding to run for positions; it is the least we can do to show some interest in their choice. If we choose the right people then this university, and the experiences of the student body in their time at York, can only go from strength to strength.

NOUSE

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It's all gone Ron ...

Sofia Geraghty

Deputy Comment Editor



Spare a thought for Harry's downtrodden sidekick this Valentines Day

Anyone feeling unhappy about the prospect of a lonely Valentine's Day should spare a quick thought for Ron Weasley. The last few years have been far from easy for the most famous sidekick of modern literature. If finding out that the person who brought him into this world wished she had killed him wasn't bad enough, the 21st century's great tragic hero has just received some more devastating news.

After ten years of marriage, and two children, he has just found out that the love of his life would actually be happier with his famous best friend. Yes, Hermione would be better off with Harry, if only he would stop sleeping with Ron's little sister that is. Bloody hell indeed.

Many fans have been angry with J.K Rowling for the revelation. Ron really did not have it easy during his six years at Hogwarts.

Yes, Harry may have had his parents murdered by the most evil wizard of the age, and people may have tried to kill him throughout his school life, but at least he got invited to the Slug club. Not receiving entry to Hogwarts version of the Bullingdon club was sadly far from the only time Ron found himself surpassed by his best friend.

Right from the beginning poor Ron had to suffer embarrassments such as turning up to school with his infamous hand me down robes and a fat rat, which was actually only with him to kill Harry, and being rejected by the Triwizard selec-

tion process, which was once again used to attempt to kill Harry. Having a best friend who has people constantly trying to murder them would be horrendous.

You can imagine the pain of walking into Salvation and having

“ After ten years of marriage... he has just found out that the love of his life would he happier with his famous best friend. ”

a large number of the opposite sex attempt to chat you up, only to find out that they are only talking to you in an attempt to savagely kill your best friend. No one's self-esteem needs that.

And that's why so many of us rejoiced when after about seventeen years of coming second to just about everyone and everything, Ron landed the girl he had probably fancied since she told him he had a dirty nose. After what appeared to be years of sexual tension the duo finally kissed after severing a fraction of Voldemort's soul with a Basilisk fang. While naturally killing fractions of people would put anyone in the mood, it is still important to realise that kissing someone in the wizarding world will most likely

lead to you being stuck with them for the rest of your life. With nearly every eligible wizard and witch attending the same school playing the field isn't really an option.

With Hermione being aware of this fact, and being experienced in the magical dating game after kissing Krum when she was fifteen, it has to be asked why she would go there with Ron if she liked Harry. Well, like JK Rowling at a time, and many critics, she probably just thought that Ron would be killed off and she would be able to end up with Harry in their joint loneliness.

This may seem cruel but she does have to be admired for her playing of the long game in getting to Harry through his best friend. While many girls attempt to make their crush jealous by slurring "kiss me" to any male in the vicinity, Hermione put's in seven years of tough graft. It can't have been easy for the girl, and we can now understand her panic when Ron asks her to come with him after falling out with Harry. "I can't go, we said we would help him kill Horcruxes." A likely story Hermione.

So no matter how abysmal life may get, things could always be worse. But if you really do find yourself excruciatingly lonely, you can always join Hogwarts' unluckiest man, who was last seen stumbling around The Three Broomsticks in a maroon jumper muttering the words "I'll give him a f*cking scar" to anyone who cared. Which for Ron Weasley wasn't anyone at all.

KATE MITCHELL



Plastic surgery rears its perfectly sculpted head once more

Kate Mitchell



Cosmetic surgery leaves its patients with a fake body and false happiness

Cosmetic surgery is a controversial trend that's returned to the fore following a report from the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons revealing a 17 per cent rise in private treatments in the past year. Procedures are now available for almost every form of "imperfection", from vaginal reconstruction to reshaping of the eyelids. I'm not sure I want to know the full menu. The increasing social acceptance of cosmetic surgery is incredibly disconcerting, but not because I am opposed to it in itself. What's scary is the shifting benchmark of 'normal' appearance pushed by the beauty industry.

This convinces extremely attractive young people that without cosmetic surgery, they resemble a creature newly-risen from the deep sea. With the ubiquity America's celebrity hub has in global media, it will only be a matter of time before this trend trickles towards the edges of civilization. Before we know it, Amazonian tribeswomen will be flaunting their liposuction. The idea of dangerous and pain-

ful procedures being an expectation is nothing short of ridiculous. It would be hard to argue that peer pressure on any level is acceptable, and this takes it to new extremes.

“In a supposedly meritocratic world, modelling is the only profession in which appearance should play a role in your employment

Specifically regarding the impact on the female gender, a quick browse of the covers dominating the women's magazines in any newsagents would highlight the shame economy on which the beauty industry thrives. Somehow, pictures of celebrity women in bikinis, showing off figures that unsurprisingly do not resemble the photoshopped

bodies photo shoots portray them to have, continue to shift copies week after week. It is becoming so repetitive, all that really needs to be changed with each issue is the date. Ramming such degrading judgement down women's throats is irresponsible journalism. It convinces people that certain appearances are worthy of mockery and that if they do not alter the way they look, they will face similar mockery.

Another reminder that shards of the glass ceiling still remain (ready to cut you on your way skyward), one that has prominently featured in recent news, is the revelation that beautiful women are likely to advance further in their careers than their less aesthetically inclined counterparts.

In a supposedly meritocracy based world, modeling is the only profession in which appearance should play a role in your employment status.

Facing such strong consequences for not looking the way you are expected to is another indicator of the extreme pressure to get plas-

tic surgery many women face.

However this does not mean the concept of cosmetic surgery is inherently evil. As cushy as it would be if self-love were as easily taught in schools as the likes of History and Biology, that is not the world we live in. Human nature does not work that way, and for some people simply looking in a mirror is enough to ruin their day. If a bigger bra size or a less prominent nose is what puts a wider smile on someone's face and a spring in their step, can it be classed as wrong? Cosmetic surgery can be empowering, and the choice to get it is the freedom of the individual just as much as any other form of body modification.

If it could be proven that the only person people were going under the knife for was themselves, I would be screaming my support from the rooftops. Unfortunately the body shaming culture we live in continues to manipulate cosmetic surgery as a tool of oppression. On this basis, I reiterate my alarm at its ever-increasing prevalence and acceptance.

Legalise cannabis

James Hostford



Last week's news of the tragic death of Gemma Moss, due to cardiac arrest in her sleep after smoking cannabis, has revived arguments about the dangers of cannabis use. The death was reported by tabloids as cast-iron proof that, "cannabis can kill". Yet, a glance at the most popular comments beneath the online reports of the case reveal that the public aren't so convinced of the dangers of cannabis.

It's disturbing how some find it more acceptable than smoking a cigarette. Indeed the debate has become trivial and limp when advocates of legislation hold up cannabis as a remedy to sooth all ills.

Some of the most compelling arguments for decriminalisation of cannabis are therefore economic. The British cannabis industry is worth an approximate £6.7 billion, a sum which nearly exceeds the revenue of McDonald's. In legalising cannabis much of the income which currently goes into the pockets of faceless gangsters and traffickers will be in taxes. The recent legalisation of cannabis in Colorado is estimated to puncture a \$600 million hole in the Mexican cartels' income.

The current prohibition of cannabis in Britain rouses stories of 1920s America where organised-crime became entrenched and the government lost a crucial source of revenue.

The benefits of regulation and taxation of a popular recreational drug are not excluded to the economic. The prohibition criminalises fairly minor offenses which burden the penal system and take resources from more destructive crimes. The implication of the government restriction of cannabis glamourises its use; there was a marked increase in consumption of cannabis in 2009 when it was upgraded from Class C to Class B drug. The unrestricted manufacture and distribution of cannabis also creates a health risk because criminals indoctrinate the product with glass, lead and pesticides.

The decriminalisation of cannabis will not solve the damage that drugs have on our society. Dealers will still exist as well the health problems it causes. The resignation of cannabis lurking in the shadows in this country is far more damaging however. The debate in Britain is far behind much of Western Europe where the buying of cannabis is being decriminalised and the shadows are being illuminated.

I am not advocating that the government surrender to the criminals. Far from it. I think it is time to divide and conquer. The current policy of prohibition of cannabis has prevented the ability to regulate or even to accurately monitor such a vast industry.

KATE MITCHELL



Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



@RachaelPotter10
Rachael Potter

31 Jan

All these big claims and ideas, but should we really listen to anyone who plays the bagpipes? #CampbellYork



@MikeyCrisp
Mikey Crisp

31 Jan

Can't wait to tell the Daily Mail reader in my flat who I've just been listening to. #banter #campbellYork @yorkunion

31 Jan

@HanaSimons
Hanna Simons



People voting in x factor and not bothering to vote in an election make you want to scream- need for compulsory vote #campbellYork

31 Jan

@AlbyEarley
J A Earley



Words of wisdom: Next time you complain about being stuck in traffic remember you are the traffic. #campbellYork

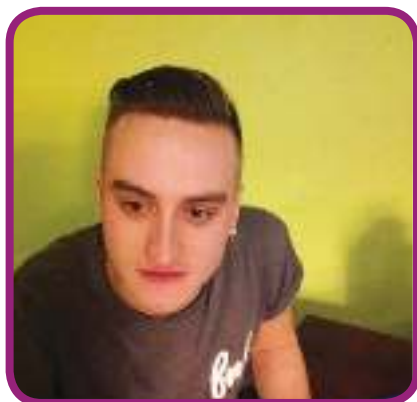
Comment

What is the worst...

chat-up line you've heard?

“Does this cloth smell of Chloroform to you?” 10/10

Anna, second year
Politics and IR student



“My magical watch says you're not wearing any clothes? You are? Must be an hour fast.” 5/10

Rob, third year
Electric Engineering student

(To a friend with a missing tooth) “Can I have a gummy blowjob?” 7/10

Anne, second year
Politics student



“I could give your helms deep a good goblin...” 4/10

Thomas, second year
Astrophysics student

Some these were so bad we decided to give them our own rating out of ten...ten being the ultimate disaster.

To nek or not to nek

Niall
Whithead



Memes can be fun, as long as they're not dangerous

What's the fatality rate on a meme these days? Nyan Cat – did we ever bring him back from space, or was he left up there to asphyxiate, bug-eyed and gasping, like Sandra Bullock trying to win an Oscar?

How many adventurers had careers brutally cut short by arrows to the knee? Has a dog mauled anyone yet (so gore, very bloodshed, wow)?

I ask because the #NekNominate hashtag's just racked up its first two casualties, both in Ireland. 22-year old Ross Cummins died in hospital after drinking too many spirits, while 19-year old Jonny Byrne decided to jump into a river, presumably earning some Facebook likes and a sad shake of the head from Darwin.

For those of you who don't know, NekNominations are pretty much what they sound like – if nominated by a friend, you have to down a drink before nominating some people yourself.

It's reportedly been popular

“ Things have escalated faster than a fighter jet strapped to a flight of stairs ”

with sports societies for a while, but recently received a massive upsurge in popularity through an Australian Facebook group.

While the original craze was simply to down a pint of beer in an unorthodox fashion, things have escalated faster than a fighter jet

strapped to a flight of stairs. Entries went from the disgusting – chugging vodka after biting a dead chicken's head off or lapping beer out of the toilet – to needlessly cruel

“ There's no need to get screwed over early because you were reckless with alcohol, like your mother on a Friday night ”

– a man who downed live goldfish – to the downright dangerous, such as the guy who set his trousers on fire and dodged firecrackers while downing shots, or the woman who had to be pulled out of another river in Carlow while drunk and dressed in a Batman suit.

The original concept of simply finishing a drink has given way to a new game of one-upmanship, and to back out is social death (as opposed to the possibility of actual death.)

Jonny Byrne's brother, Patrick, claimed it had morphed into “a bullying competition”, where refusing gets you labeled as “a chicken and a coward.”

Now there are campaigns to scrap the meme entirely, or for the nominated to commit a random act of kindness instead of downing a drink.

For instance, a South African

guy gave a homeless man a sandwich and Coke, and another participant bought a random person's shopping for them at ASDA.

That's a laudable idea: certainly a better idea than trying to stop the meme, which usually works about as well as kindly asking the sea to move back a few feet.

If buying a stranger's toilet roll doesn't appeal to you, then let's at least aim for moderation. The meme of downing a drink is relatively harmless in itself: mild alcoholism is one of the more vaunted joys of the student experience. But knowing your limits is important.

Besides, it doesn't take actual danger to make a video entertaining: why not try adding coffee to your concoction instead of bleach, or wear a fancy-dress costume while making your video rather than being on fire at the time? It's all good!

Death comes for us all eventually, like your mother on a Friday night, but there's no need to get screwed over early because you were reckless with alcohol, like your mother on a Friday night.

If you get nominated, down what you can handle, as long as it's not putting your health or anyone else's at risk.

Then be considerate with your own nomination: don't throw it on someone who you know won't want to do it.

Failing that, if you want to skip the whole thing, just wait a few weeks until the #NekNominate craze quietly exits the mainstream like a hipster salmon, and wait for the next meme to turn up.

Maybe the cake's a lie again or something.

#minstergram

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

You know you go to #yorkuni when.....

@helleulv



The beauty that is my campus
#Langwith-till-i-die
#HesEastForTheWin #YorkUni #
StudentLife

@lesito_t

FEATURES • ARTS • FASHION • THE SHOOT • MUSIC • FILM • FOOD & DRINK • COLUMNS

MUSE.

11.02.2014





M12. The Shoot hails this issue's footwear fashion theme with inspiration from Jimmy Choo, Nike and Valentino



M17. Sam Smith is fledgeling vocalist destined for stardom. We talk to him about the future



M19. Meryl Streep is on the Oscars hunt once again, but does August Osage County deserve a statuette?

Arts.

M7. Gracie Hagen's nude photographs have gone viral. We speak to her about photography's power over perceptions of beauty

M9. We meet the Balletboyz Edward Pearce and Matthew Rees

Music.

M16. Reviews of Bombay Bicycle Club and Katy B's new albums

Fashion.

M10. Why the Instagram hashtag "#from-whereistand" is the ideal platform for those who love shoes

M11. Cold feet this February? Our pick of the the month's hottest footwear

Film.

M18. The Oscars nominations are in and we ask, who cares?

Food & Drink.

M20. Breakfast doesn't have to be boring: how the most important meal of the day can be made the most tasty too

M21. The best restaurants to take your significant other this Valentine's Day

Image Credits.

Cover: Tony Cole
M2 Top Left: Petroc Taylor
M3: York Labour

Valentine's Prey

Poppy Bullard

Roses are red, violets are blue
(And this is part of the chauvinist debate.)
Let's go out for dinner, I adore you -
No, of course I don't mind that you're late.

Here munchkin, let me help with your coat
You look beautiful- wow, you got rid of that pimple!
You use so many products, I'm sure I couldn't cope,
(Of course MEN's face care is much more simple).

I'll choose the vino - I'll pick something sublime;
With a Diploma in Tasting, I know my stuff.
Oh darling, please let me pour your wine
You certainly don't know how much is enough.

What shall we talk about, my sweetheart?
Spin Class? How the toddler's total torment?
I know you try hard to play your part,
But really, I'm far more busy and important.

I hope you've enjoyed your dinner sweet-pea
And it lived up to your societal conformation.
It really was my pleasure, you see,
To perpetrate such stringent gender expectation.

CARTOON: KATE MITCHELL





“I’ve never been shopping in a supermarket.”

Alastair Campbell

Journalist, political aide and author

The highlight of my career? Apart from playing football with Saga Maradona, it’s got to be the election wins, but I didn’t enjoy them. I was stressed out, I wasn’t in the moment. I think in terms of the best moment that I can remember it was probably the Good Friday Agreement. I’m not saying it was my triumph but in terms of being part of something, that was amazing.

I had a very embarrassing moment this morning. I did that terrible thing when you say something about someone in a text and you send it to that person. It was really bad.

I do regret one thing. I don’t know how I could’ve done it, but I wish I could’ve done the job that I did and be at home more. Maybe I could’ve, I’m not sure.

I also wish I’d read more at university. At the moment I’m writing a nonfiction book and I’m reading a lot of books about different things and I’m just thinking God, I wish I’d read this before, I wish I knew about this. I just think at university you have so much time to read books and I didn’t do that.

Someone I’d really love to interview would have to be William Shakespeare. He’s my kind of all time. I went to see King Lear the other night and I couldn’t believe it. If he had only written one play and that’s all he’d done, you’d think wow, that guy really is quite something. Any emotion anybody has, put it into Google slash William Shakespeare and loads of things will come out that are really on the button. What I find fascinating about him as well is that so little is known about him, other than what he wrote.

The two politicians I find the most impressive? Of the current global leadership, both of them are women, Merkel and Hilary.

It is important for young people to have someone to relate and aspire to. People being inspired by great people is a fantastic thing. What I worry about in Britain is that to become a celebrity, you’ve just got to go on Celebrity Big Brother and behave like a complete twat and you’re suddenly famous and people are going ‘oh I love him’, ‘I love her’. I just think that that is not role modelling as it should be. Role models are great writers, great musicians, great artists and great teachers. Yes they’re great athletes, but not this kind of celebrity bollocks.

I do admire great sports people. I did a book called the Happy Depressive and it’s true: I cannot watch an Olympic ceremony without crying, even if they’re not crying. Because what I see when I see someone on an Olympic podium, particularly when they’re really young, is a person that has devoted their whole life to that. They’ve made sacrifice and they’ve made a real commitment. They’re the sort of people I admire.

Something people don’t know about me? I’ve never been shopping in a supermarket. I’m not proud of it.

I do actually have a fear of ketchup. I hate ketchup, I won’t let it anywhere near me. It’s not the biggest fear, I don’t like snakes and the fear of failure is quite a big thing. One of a few recurring dreams, loads of students must have this, is going into the exam room and getting the wrong exam or going into the exam and not having a pen and there’s a sign saying you get disqualified if you speak.

My hopes for 2014? That Scotland stays in the UK, Burnley gets into the Premier League and it’s the last full year of David Cameron’s term as Prime Minister.

With thanks to York Union for arranging this interview.

Interview by Rosie Shields

Editor’s note



Muse Editor Alfie Packham gets all nostalgic about video games

If, like me, you were privileged enough to be spawned in the nineties, video games probably contributed to your childhood development in meaningful and enduring ways. In the midst of the still-brilliant PlayStation, and the worse-yet-somehow-better Gameboy, growing up during the rise of gaming was, I think you’ll agree, pretty awesome.

Everybody had their favourite game – even girls and the kids who played “sports”. The undisputed champion of the playground was of course *Pokémon* in its various colours.

Based on a failsafe blend of pathological hoarding (“Gotta catch ‘em all”) and an irrational fear of long grass, *Pokémon* insanity gripped a generation.

The game’s moral make-up may have been fairly dubious, but the virtual animal abuse was far outweighed by its didactic value. *Pokémon* personally taught me a very important life lesson: if at first you don’t succeed, throw a masterball.

Yet for its sadism, nothing compared to *The Sims 2*; the simulation game that doubled up as a pitch for a SAW film.

Twelve year-olds undertook the systematic execution of their helpless Sim avatars, who would wail through the screen as the Sim family’s novice chef was locked in a very flammable kitchen with a faulty oven. But where it lacked in ethics, *The Sims 2* at least nurtured inventiveness.

Elsewhere, along came online gaming. Remember the fantasy game *Runescape*? In the mid-2000s, this MMOWOT (massive multiplayer online waste of time) flickered across the monitors of IT classrooms everywhere.

I think that the cryptic merging of “run, escape” in the title must have been significant – whether it was an instruction to retreat from reality or a caution against paying the membership fee is unclear, though. In any case, I was a level 99 woodcutter with an amazing cape and no regrets.

Over in this world, the weirdness of “Neknominations” has spread from remote regions of the internet and started infecting people in real life like the zombie virus in *Left4Dead*.

Frankly, I’d rather play *Spyro* than watch Keith from school down a pint of Disaronno and mouthwash in his Y-fronts. It seems that the escapist draw of gaming is only getting stronger.

If you too prefer gaming to real life then you’d be well-suited to writing for Nouse’s new Gaming section online. Read it here at www.nouse.co.uk/muse/gaming or Email games@nouse.co.uk to get involved.

Tom Witherow: *Overheard at... The Cal Soc Ball*

One society at York is contributing to a tragic breakdown of freedoms. Men and women are led to perform steps they are taught week in, week out. They are drilled in compliance.

It has its own language, a tongue designed to cut out all independent thought, a unique and constantly updated vocabulary to act as weapons against the latest advances of anti-snobbish thoughtcrime.

It sounds like an Orwellian dystopia. But it is not. This totalitarian environment transplanted itself to a secret location in central York just the week before last. This is the Caledonian Society Ball.

For those of you who don't know this is a meeting of the country's Scottish dancing societies, which (bar York, thank God) are filled with a plethora of Britain's finest and best (wannabe) upper class tossers.

And lo, one must behave as "one should" the moment you step through the door.

People flock from miles around. It's hard for some. If you aren't London based (and I mean really, who ARE you if you aren't), then where do you turn for parties? There's, what, Sandhurst? And Scotland, which I suppose counts, in a sort of illegitimate child way... And then the reels balls. All the "right sorts" there.

Champagne is obligatory, and you must erect the pinky finger - it's a sign of virility you understand.

At dinner, bread rolls are to be thrown, cutlery stolen, the poor lambasted. Standards must be maintained. We can't let the Bullingdon Club have all the fun.

Once the music starts you must line up according to your sex and prepare yourself for the dances, all named after great men of history. The Dashing White Sergeant and the Reel of the 51st Highland Division are favourites - you forget there isn't a Scot in the room, of course.

Of utmost importance is the language, which you must learn. You must use a mixture of words and clicks (of champagne glasses) to shut out the unaccustomed. The Saturday before last was a showcase: "I love working there", one recent York graduate said of his job in Kensington, "It's just round the corner from the club."

"Fitting in is elementary"

"Oh, I didn't know there was a golf club in central London," you might ask. But you will be met by gasps ringing around the table rising to a previously unheard pitch. No murder has been committed, you have just been "found out".

From there it will come thick and fast - "Well of course I live in Chelsea, I don't want to get stabbed!" quickly followed up by, "It's rather nice coming up to York - I haven't left zone 1 for months." Many are left reeling. Only the strong survive.

"Well when I first got to Africah I walked around with \$4000 in my fanny pack for a month." It's key that you talk about gap years. It is well known that students at university don't hear nearly enough about it.

You can attempt to ingratiate yourself of the "common man" by talking about everyday problems. Hangovers - anyone can relate to hangovers. "I'm so hungover", says

one, "I had SUCH a heavy day's shooting yesterday". You will note that this man showed potential, but blew it (with both barrels no doubt).

Or you might discuss politics - a little more down to earth I'm sure you'll agree, "All politicians should hunt, I can't tell you the amount of back-stabbing in hunt politics". Everyone chortles, the pack mentality is safe.

Remember: fitting in is elementary. And it would be quite double-plusungood to think otherwise.



GOING UP...

Oscar buzz. This year sees seriously contested nominations for Best Picture, though *12 Years a Slave* is the favourite. And it's very likely Leonardo DiCaprio will be snubbed... again.



Valentine's Day. Fear not to all you singletons, it's a guaranteed pull-in-Willow day.

such cutout
very ruff
so muse
wow



Happy Birthday Facebook.

It's been a decade since Mark Zuckerberg's Harvard days. Today the company has over a billion users. Why not celebrate this momentous birthday by delving into the depths of your social networking past; those first profile pictures were always winners.

History of Student Life in 1000 Objects

Some praise the onesie like it's the best thing since sliced bread, some hate it with a vehement disgust.

The Marmite of loungewear fashion.

But as the onesie crept outside of the house and into the outdoors, this modern-day jumpsuit has become the clothing manifestation of 'CBA' - a visual expression of the "I'm hungover and really don't give a shit" student attitude.

Maybe the rise in popularity of this garment can be correlated with the financial crisis, and subsequently become a central tenet of the #YOLO generation.

Maybe, on a deeper psychological level, the onesie represents some Freudian need to regress to a simpler state of mind, a protest to adulthood in the form of oversized baby clothes.

Or maybe, just maybe, the legacy of the onesie derives from how goddamn cosy it is. More versatile than the blanket and just as warm as a duvet, sometimes you can't help but wonder why doesn't everyone wear this gift to mankind all the time?

...Oh crap, need the loo.



CARTOON BY KATE MITCHELL

sochi.ru 2014

Sochi Winter Olympics. It wouldn't be the Olympics Games without some controversy, but Russia's problems with regarding LGBT rights might be pushing it too far.

Neknominations. How did this become so popular? We don't want to see any more guys freezing their nips off as they down a bottle of tabasco, or worse.

Flappy Bird. It's a terrible, shoddy excuse for a game, yet we can't put it down. Luckily it's been taken down ...



GOING DOWN

Antarctic Adventures

The discovery of a giant sub-glacial trench in Antarctica has made headlines across the globe. Researcher **Dr David Rippin** talks to Georgie Andrews about the highs and lows of working in the coldest place on Earth





PHOTO CREDIT: NEIL ROSS

Dr David Rippin, a senior lecturer from York's Environment Department, has recently been part of a monumental discovery in Antarctica. Alongside researchers from various UK Universities and the British Antarctic Survey, David has helped to unearth a huge trench, many times larger than the Grand Canyon, hidden deep under the West Antarctic ice sheet.

The sheer size of it seems unfathomable, but David illustrates it brilliantly: "Imagine setting out from York by car, and driving to London. For your entire journey, out your window you can see a valley that's twice as deep as the highest mountain in England, and it persists all the way to London! Not only that, but it's 25 km across too. That's pretty big!"

One of the most interesting aspects of this unexpected discovery is how it reminds us that there is still so much to learn about the world we live in. David explains that they "weren't explicitly looking for this feature": the revelation was an exciting surprise. The scientists were trying to discover what the terrain under the ice sheet was like, with no idea, however, quite how extraordinary it may be.

The scientists initially used a technique known as radio-echo sounding in order to determine the terrain at either end of the trough but it wasn't until they used satellite data that they could really appreciate the magnitude of what lay beneath. "We were expecting to see valleys and peaks, but we didn't expect to find something so big!"

As it turns out, the canyon, formed tens of millions of years ago, is so big that it can be seen from space. "We looked at satellite imagery, and we actually see an expression of this canyon in the ice surface - i.e. it's so big, that the location of the canyon is visible (as a change in ice surface properties) even though it lies beneath ice that's up to 3000m thick. This is pretty astonishing!"

The discovery provides useful information that will allow scientists to figure out what Antarctica used to be like and how it may change in the future. The research shows that the trench was not formed under the current ice sheet.

As David says, "It helps us to understand that at some point in the past, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet was different to now, and was also much smaller. It therefore grew from this situation to the ice sheet we see today. As our climate warms,

it also gives us a hint as to what we might expect in the future."

David explains that Antarctica must once have looked more like modern-day Arctic Canada; it would have consisted of large individual glaciers cutting through the landscape, rather than a landscape submerged by a huge ice-sheet. This is important information as it allows researchers to predict what will happen in the future as the climate changes.

"If the ice sheet changes in the ways that we fear, in response to continued climate warming, then perhaps one day it will look like modern day Arctic Canada," David explains. The Antarctic Ice sheet accounts for around ninety per cent of the world's fresh water, meaning that such a change would result in dramatically higher sea levels, hugely altering the world as

"You need to be willing to be away from loved ones for an extended period of time, sometimes without contact"

we know it today.

Although David worked only on the planning side of this research, such as the project design and data-analysis, he has been quite the Antarctic explorer in the past. Having spent months in the east of Antarctica back in 2001 and 2002 doing similar research, he knows how tough it can be. "You need to be willing to be away from loved ones and home for an extended period of time, sometimes without much contact for a while. You also need to be willing to keep working, even when the weather is poor, but also to accept that you may spend days on end tent-bound. The team in the field on this latest project was tent-bound for a few days on more than one occasion."

To most people, camping out in Antarctic conditions may seem unthinkable, but according to David, it's not always so bad. "The bases are quite comfortable," he comments. "In the field there is no luxury. However, I was quite fortunate when I was there, as although it was cold (air temperatures of about -22°C), it was bright and still. You have a very comfortable

sleeping bag with lots of liners to keep you warm at night, but outside you need to ensure you are properly wrapped up! If there's any wind, then it can be biting! It's not unheard of for there to be storms of a week's duration."

Antarctica covers more than fourteen million square kilometres and has no permanent residents, resulting in a very isolated environment. "When I was there earlier, we didn't have internet access so to speak. We could email, but these went out (and came in) via a satellite link twice a day. Now though, I believe that internet access in the bases is easier. In the field we have a radio-schedule so we speak to the bases once a day (mainly to get a met report and to check in) and we have a satellite phone for emergencies." The weather and remoteness make life in Antarctica hard and dangerous, but also, seemingly quite boring. "You need to be able to keep yourself occupied, so as well as carrying out preliminary data-analysis, lots of books are a good idea!"

Despite the difficulties and the feeling of isolation, David doesn't complain. "You need to be aware that you're pretty privileged - that you're in a unique place that not many people get to experience, and so you want to be able to do the best job you can - to make your time there worthwhile, and so do good and worthwhile science. You need to have a real interest and enthusiasm for what you're doing."

Hearing the highlights of David's time in Antarctica, I can certainly see the perks of the job. David's reminiscing would make anyone want to hop on the first plane heading south. He tells me how amazing it was "seeing the continent for the first time, to finally get to somewhere I had wanted to visit for a very long time. I remember the first time I took a walk around Rothera (the main British base, where you first fly into). It's perched on the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, surrounded by ocean, mountains and glaciers, with huge icebergs floating in the water, and hundreds of penguins, seals and sea-birds all around. That was pretty spectacular!"

Nowadays, David is focused on Arctic research, working on glaciers in Svalbard and Arctic Sweden. Wherever he is working, however, he is obviously passionate about his research, describing one of his favourite things as "the great sense of satisfaction you get when you know that you've successfully collected all the data you need". **M**



Illusions of the body

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRACIE HAGEN

Amy Blumsom talks to **Gracie Hagen** about the use of photography in influencing modern perceptions of beauty

Gracie Hagen runs a small photography business, but in the last few months her photography has gone viral. More specifically, it is her project *Illusions of the Body* which has captured the world's fascination. The series features two nude photographs being taken of the same model; one in a flattering pose and the other in an unflattering pose.

Gracie was first inspired to take up the project in order to challenge "the body image issues we as a culture have and the misconception that the photos we see in the media are accurate portrayals of people".

She is trying to send a message, and that message is for everyone, both "people who have body image issues and people who judge how other people look based on what their standard of beauty is, which is usually built upon what they see in the media."

"The more everyone realises that the imagery being shown to them is a selling mechanism, and that's its trickery, the more they can look at it with that lens and progress through the day without feeling terrible about themselves or other people."

Does she feel as though this goal has been achieved? "I feel like in some aspects [it has]. The goal and how I achieve it has become more clear as the project has progressed. Within the diptych the idea is achieved when the person

looks like two totally different people. That's the illusion of photography, within the same lighting and same angle, same eve-

rything someone can look completely different from one photo to the next."

Unsurprisingly, a photo-shoot with the main aim of making its subject look ugly did not appeal to some and there was an initial struggle to find models. "Some women were uncomfortable participating because they felt uncomfortable with the idea of an unflattering photo of them being out there. Men were hard to find because [of] the places I was looking. Since the series has got some press, I've recruited at least four more men and received a lot more interest in general in terms of participation."

With the wide-reaching influence these photos have achieved, many have seen the series as an attempt to redefine what it means to be attractive. "I feel like it's been taken that way by people, even though that wasn't my intent. But art is interpretive so I'll take it."

Instead, Gracie thinks, "Maybe I've helped people realise not to hold themselves to the fake standards of magazines and with that process made themselves feel more attractive."

Gracie believes that art is just as important as rhetoric in challenging the images of beauty

promoted by the media. "I mean, art is the place where ideas can be translated in many different ways so people can express themselves and for others to consume the ideas. Art is just as important as the people blogging or talking about the beauty portrayed in the media. Everyone understands things differently so the more ways in which the idea of beauty in the media is out there, the better."

Illusions of the Body has generated an incredible amount of international attention. "I was surprised with the amount of interest people have showed in it, the virality of it on the internet."

"I've also been surprised with the comments on some of the larger websites (*Huffington Post* and the *Mail Online* to name a few) where people were incredibly negative. Not even about my photography but more about the models in the photographs, saying how ugly everyone was and making comments about body hair and even the amount of tattoos people had."

"I guess I live in a bubble where the people I took photos of don't look unattractive and body hair and tattoos are things I'm used to."

The viral success of Gracie's photographs has been met with different recep-

tions, some websites choosing to blur out the more explicit aspects of the nude pictures. "It's interesting to see

who and where the blurred photos are. Who meaning the different websites and who they cater to, and also where meaning the countries that have to blur (America) and the places they don't (Europe)."

"Cultures are different and the people websites cater to are as well. One website had the full nudes of everyone but blurred the one male photo, which I found to be incredibly frustrating. The double standards of male nudity in almost all mediums is frustrating."

Not one to sit still, Gracie is running other projects alongside continuing *Illusions of the Body*.

"I have a series I am doing on people with physical abnormalities. That could mean a genetic defect or an accident that changed a physical aspect of their life. I am attempting to tackle physical differences that most people don't have and document how that particular distinction affects the person in a safe, positive and humanising way. I want to do more video work, as my original goal was to be a film maker." **M**



Is It Art? Hand-iwork

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID CATÁ



Spanish artist David Catá stitches portraits of loved ones into his palm.

YES

Deborah Lam

For those of you who are a bit squeamish, look away, take a deep breath, and then look again. An artist must suffer for his art, and David Catá just happens to take that a little more literally than others.

Unlike much controversial performance art, Catá's work has both clear aesthetic value in the visual sense and manages (quite literally) to interweave the lives of people significant to him into his own.

Although less self-destructive, to transpose Catá's work onto a harmless canvas would be to defeat the purpose entirely – as art is a very personal means of self-expression, what makes this undeniably powerful is the fact that he chose this medium willingly. No other canvas would be able to translate the same transient quality that is so integral to Catá's message.

NO

Grace Marsh

Yes, David Catá's final products may look pretty, but I can't help focusing on how he is harming his own body in the process. This may be a performative scar and only mild skin damage, but it is still self-harm.

For me, Catá's actions are purely attention seeking. How can such an experience be worth the pain? I don't feel that Catá will feel a stronger personal and emotional bond with his loved ones whether he uses his body as a canvas by sewing portraits onto his hand or using a piece of material; his memories of these people are still captured in a physical manner regardless.

Essentially, there are less painful ways of imprinting the memories of your loved ones in your life. Self-mutilation is not art.

Book Review

And The Mountains Echoed

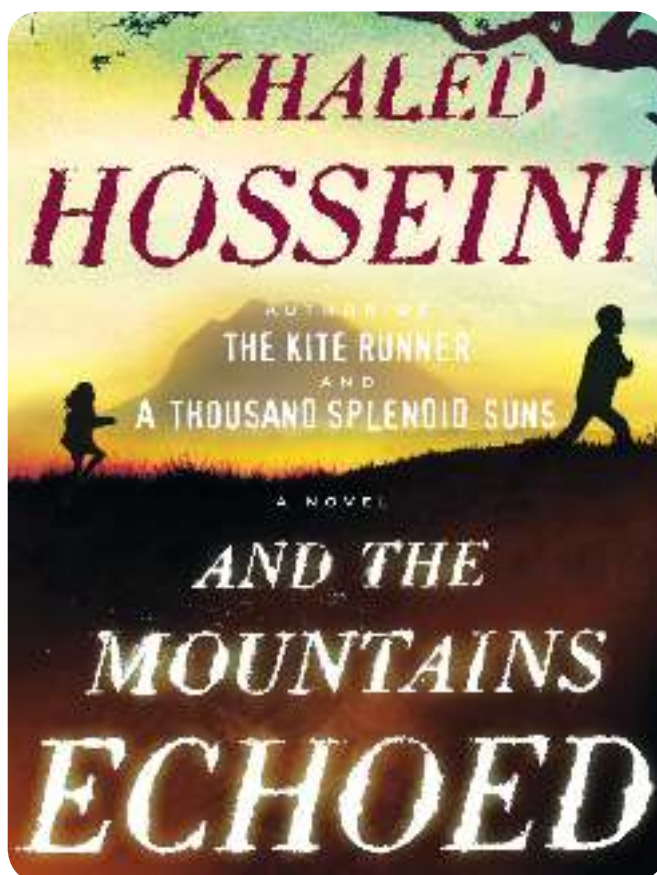
Joanie Hutchinson-Ross reviews **Khaled Hosseini's** latest novel

And the Mountains Echoed, the third novel of Afghani author Khaled Hosseini, tells the sometimes-devastating story of the brother-sister relationship ripped apart by circumstances and the many lives that are affected in the following years. Spanning almost six decades, Hosseini's signature flow between English and Farsi transports us across continents from Afghanistan to California, Paris and Athens with effortless grace.

Needless to say, as a fan of both *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, I had high expectations for Hosseini's latest novel, but unfortunately, the novel's ending left me with a distinct feeling of discontentment, as though no real resolution had been offered. It has been previously suggested that the endings of Hosseini's first two novels were somewhat contrived and even rushed. Hosseini makes an obvious attempt to avoid this, but the result seems to be what is almost a series of semi-linked short stories without much explanation of their significance.

While much of the overall structure of the novel seems a little confused, Hosseini's writing itself maintains its strength of narrative voice, and provides us with some beautifully poignant quotes, such as one which comes through the quiet voice of Nabi – "I suspect the truth is that we are waiting, all of us, against insurmountable odds, for something extraordinary to happen." Hosseini's writing is, as ever, tremendously thought provoking, and certainly stays with you even after you've finished the novel.

The novel is undeniably moving and Hosseini certainly has a talent of weaving together seemingly unrelated stories, but for me, what could have been a heart-wrenching tale of family and loss is lost under a myriad of unnecessary side stories and subplots.



Get Your Fix

Deborah Lam

Ghost Town

York Theatre Royal, £10-£12, 12-19 Feb

York Theatre Royal's latest offering promises mystery, memory and madness. Post-show discussions available.



Fay De Winter & Alice Evans

Norman Rea Gallery, 11-21 Feb

This exhibit combines photo art with ceramics, focusing on the overlooked and forgotten moments of everyday life.



Jimeoin: Yes, Yes, Whatever...?!

York Barbican, £17.50. 15 Feb

The critically acclaimed stand-up comedian presents his own unique brand of observational comedy.



Fusion La Mer

Central Hall, Week 7

Exotic, exciting and energetic - This year's performance is sure to impress.



Meet the Balletboyz

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BALLEBOYZ



Amy Blumsom talks to **Edward Pearce** and **Matthew Rees** about life with the all-male ballet company

Balletboy Edward Pearce always wanted to be a dancer. “Ballet was actually a suggestion from my mum because I always said I wanted to be a dancer but didn’t really know how to realise that. My mum said every dancer needs a good ballet training, which I found out later not to be completely true. But it definitely helped me, so it was my mum who sent me to ballet classes.”

Co-dancer Matthew Rees on the other hand got into ballet by chance. “It was compulsory. I went to secondary school in Kent and we had to do dance in Year Seven. I fell into it.”

Before he joined Balletboyz, Matt was in the first stages of becoming a Royal Marine.

There wasn’t any Billy Elliot style stigma for Matt and Ed dancing when they were growing up. Ed says, “No one dances in my family but yeah, they were happy for me to be a dancer. My brother’s the clever one so at least they had one.”

For Matt’s family the decision to be a ballet dancer “was unexpected. I think they got used to the idea of me going to Plymouth (to train as a marine), but then I said, ‘Actually, I’m not going, I’m going to be a dancer’. Much to the delight of my mother to be honest.”

Becoming a member of the award winning Balletboyz was more cut-throat for Ed than for Matt. Ed’s was an open audition. “Yeah it’s quite cut-throat, very competitive. You have to be quite confident and have a lot of self-belief when you audition”, says Ed. “I was invited in my third year of dance school. There were about 250 guys and they selected four of us. It was a two day process, having to do class everyday and also performing some repertoire.”

The selection process was different for Matt. “I heard about an audition that was coming up for a company with them. So me and a few of my mates thought ‘that’s good’ and got in from there.”

Matt goes on, “I think because it was the first ever audition it wasn’t as big as when Ed did it. There have been about four or five auditions and that was quite a small one. I think because I hadn’t had as much training as the others it was very

different back then. Now it’s a lot more relaxed and I’m used to how every thing works.”

So, how does being an all male company set Balletboyz apart? “There definitely is a different atmosphere to our dance show because it’s all male.” says Ed, “It’s very different from things like Matthew Bourne’s Swan Lake because there’s no actual story to our dance, so it’s all much more contemporary. I think we can achieve a lot more daring lifts and strength work than maybe a mixed company can.”

Matt also thinks being an all male group creates something different “There’s so much strength and there’s less bitchiness..which is a plus.”

That may change soon, as there are rumours of a collaboration for the Balletboyz with female dancers. Ed says: “We’ve done a few research weeks with the girls, I think there are some

“We’ve got the typical male banter”

plans to do something in the future - but it’s all very much in the planning stage. I think it will bring a different quality to Balletboyz.”

Matt noticed how the atmosphere did change when girls were thrown into the mix. “It was nice to have a go in the studio, but we’ve got the typical male banter with each other and when the girls came we kind of behaved ourselves a little bit! We’d still like to dance with females again, but it would be... interesting, I think.”

With everyone coming from such different dancing backgrounds, I ask Ed if it was difficult to merge into one homogeneous company. “It should be difficult but actually it wasn’t. It was actually really easy and I think it works really well that we’re all from such different dancing backgrounds because it means we can try different things which shouldn’t really work on paper but it does.”

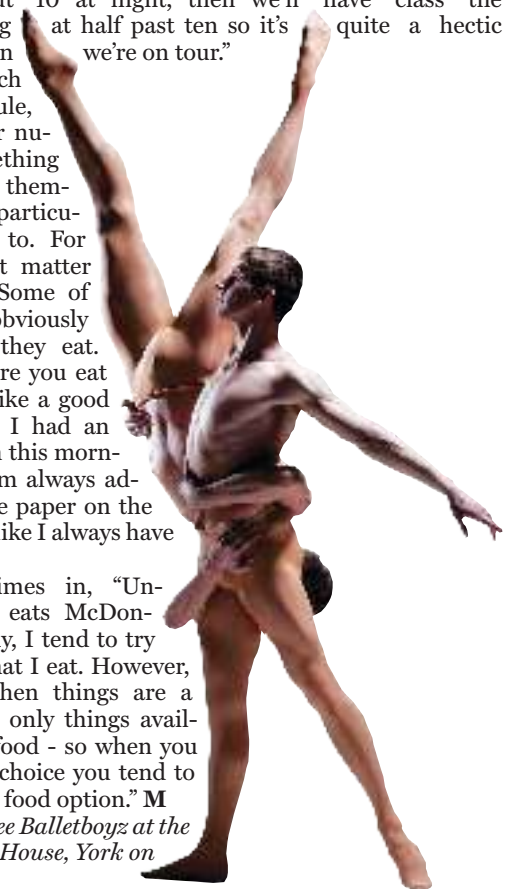
A day in the life of a Balletboy can be pretty hectic. “We

start at half past ten in the morning, which is quite usual for a dance company, then we go on till 6 pm. That’s six days a week. On show days it’s a bit longer so we usually start around 1 and go on to about 10 at night, then we’ll have class the next morning at half past ten so it’s quite a hectic schedule when we’re on tour.”

With such a busy schedule, I ask whether nutrition is something the boys find themselves paying particular attention to. For Ed, it doesn’t matter that much. “Some of the boys do obviously watch what they eat. I find the more you eat the better. I like a good McDonalds - I had an egg McMuffin this morning. I see them always advertised in the paper on the train so I feel like I always have to get it!”

Matt chimes in, “Unlike Ed who eats McDonalds constantly, I tend to try and watch what I eat. However, sometimes when things are a bit hectic the only things available are fast food - so when you haven’t got a choice you tend to go for the fast food option.” **M**

You can see Balletboyz at the Grand Opera House, York on March 12th.



Campus style: what are you wearing?

Krista Levtsheva, 1st year, studying
Sociology with Social Psychology

At university, I tend to find that my main thought when it comes to dressing is which of my clothes are the most comfortable; this definitely applies to my footwear.

I adore these Nike shoes for that very reason, not only are they a godsend to walk in but the deep purple hues and textile pattern mean that they remain unique at the same time. I love the colour black and wear a lot of it, so these shoes go with the majority of my wardrobe. This criteria is essential for anyone living on a student budget.

Not only are they a great way to get from A to B in the daytime, Nike Air Max trainers are so on-trend that they make fabulous (and practical) footwear for a night out. I have quite an urban style, and prefer to wear leggings or trousers with a nice shirt, over say a dress and heels.

These Nikes get me through a night of clubbing without having to suffer from blisters the next day. Platform shoes are also hot right now so if you want to go for a dressier look I would recommend investing in a pair. I just bought some leopard-print creepers and have to say they look pretty damn good!

When it comes to shopping I invariably head straight to Urban Outfitters or Topshop, although I always hope they'll have a sale on as I don't understand the rationale behind paying £50 for one jumper!

River Island, with its slightly cheaper price tags, is great when sourcing an outfit for a night out but the best finds can be sometimes found in York's charity shops – the bargains you can pick up are unbeatable! Finding a statement shirt in a charity shop for a fifth of the price of Urban Outfitters' vintage section is always a wonderful moment and definitely worth the time you spend searching.



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

The Instagram sensation

Instagram's #fromwhereistand is a blessing for shoe lovers, **Izzy Ashton** explains



PHOTOS (FROM TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE): @IZZYASH @CAMYTOX @AFTERDRK @THEFASHIONGUITAR @ANOUKYVE @LIONWINTHEWILD

Feet. Shoes. It's bizarre how we feel we can judge a person's personality on them. Somehow pictures of people's feet clad in must-have footwear have become the most loved and double-clicked thing on Instagram. But how did this happen?

#fromwhereistand - that's how. Fashionistas all over the world use this now ostensibly ironic hashtag to demonstrate to their followers just how fashionable they are looking at a given moment.

The question on my mind as I look at these photos is what if they still have on some gross pyjama top? The reality is of course that we can't see their face. It's stylishness kept below the belt, much to my own delight.

I take my photographic cues from the more fashionable people out there. You know, the ones who get thousands of likes and comments on a photo of them in a pair of jeans and trainers. Yeah, those ones. If they're taking pictures of their perfectly straight legs and often fairly garish shoes, sometimes with a drink in hand just to complete the image, then that's what I'll do. If they get loads of likes then I will too, right? And don't ask "If they jumped off a cliff would you?" because I probably would.

I find Instagram foot fashion a blessing. Think about those mornings when you may not have had time to either wash your hair or put on any make-up. Those facts can just remain a secret; your followers and friends will only see the chic image (from the waist down) that you want to portray. No one has to know.

On reflection, 2013 has been considered the year of the selfie, from the stuck-out tongue to the famous person at the shoulder. But this hashtag is creating a new category of selfie. This one has the same basic ethos, but withholds

some information about you (the more reserved selfie, perhaps).

The appeal comes from the fact that you can't know who someone is by just looking at the bottom section of their body. Those brand new Nike trainers could belong to a runner, off for their morning jog. Or, thanks to Phoebe Philo at Celine, they could belong to a person simply on their way to work.

Whether it's used ironically or not, #fromwhereistand provides a platform for people to express their style with anonymity.

On one level it is exciting to see those likes going up (as sad as that may seem to some of you). On another, these photos taken from the waist down represent acceptance to many people. It allows them to be recognised as fashionable by the thousands of other Instagram users after they carefully arrange their coats and bags to get that perfect shot.

The question for many will be, "How could anyone be sad enough to spend their time taking foot-selfies?" The answer to this some people will never completely understand.

But every girl (and a great many men) will understand one part of this photo phenomenon - the shoes. In the end, this is what it comes down to: judging someone by the shoes they wear.

Boy or girl, young or old, shoes invariably embody your personality and the way that you feel. Your shoes can portray who you are, whether you're someone who works a hard ten-hour shift, a sports fanatic, maybe a flirtatious madam, a fashion guru, or a man who just adores velvet tasseled loafers.

For these people, a quick picture of your face can't convey very much about you, especially if you're not looking your best. So why not get out there and lead with your sole?

Buy now or regret later

Robbie Hodges fills us in on the must have feet accessories this February. Grab them while they're hot



Nike Airmax Liquid Gold/Silver – In yet another development of the Nike Airmax revival, the geniuses at the helm of the sports-wear brand have gone all *Back to the Future* and released the iconic shoe in holographic silver and gold editions. You may have thought the re-birth of the Airmax was merely a cheap and easy way for Nike to cash in on last year's 90's hysteria, but these Susie Lau-favoured space-age sneakers prove Nike are willing to use the 80's trend to the same effect. Buy them now if you are a bling-busting glamazon or a spirit child of the 80's.



Kinky Boots – With the colossal feat of fashion month fast approaching there is limited time to rock your favourite trends before they are swept away and replaced by a new set of style rules. If you are yet to submit to your darkest desires and squeeze into a pair of patent, chunky-soled, kinky ankle-booties with buckle and chain fastening, fear not, there is still time.

Look no further than Jeffrey Campbell for naughty footwear; we love his Benson Cutout Boot which is sure to demand respect from fashion slaves. Buy now if you are aching for the sexy and mysterious attitude of the Vogue Paris team or if you're just feeling spicy.



Slip-on – Where once stilettos, kitten heels and pointed courts were synonymous with the editors of the fashion industry, there is now a comfy revolution amongst the upper echelons. Last season's fashion weeks were like never before. Dust off those old checkerboard slip-on Vans abandoned in the pits of your wardrobe and stride with pride in skater-kid comfort.

Although we would ideally head to Kenzo for their tiger-print Vans collaboration, Marks and Spencer's (significantly more fashion-forward since their re-branding) have created an equally fierce leopard-print version. Buy now if you find trainers too chunky but want some comfy, practical kicks.



Adidas Stan Smiths – The epitome of modern elegance and Parisian class, Phoebe Philo has once again kick-started a trainer revolution adding Adidas' Stan Smiths to her trendy repertoire. First launched in 1965 as a tennis shoe, under the celebrity endorsement of the shoe's eponymous court-star, it quickly became an all-time classic.

Now, with Adidas' relaunch of the trainer, already a hit with Marc Jacobs and Jason Wu alongside a myriad of street-style big shots, you can be sure to see hoards of fashionistas following suit. Buy now to be one step ahead of the New Balance hype.



FASHION EDITOR'S CHOICE

Russell & Bromely Downton Loafers - Loafers may have been around for a long time but you just can't beat them. Sturdy and sophisticated, they are a fashion staple in every sense. The reason for their longevity is the diverse styles; they have even released an all crystal bow version. These well known beauties should be worn with pride. My advice is to stick with tradition and get them in patent black. Don't fret about the price, you'll easily earn it back in compliments.

Hot

Trainers at couture. You no longer need to totter around in some towering platforms or squeeze your feet into a pair of pointed stilettos, it seems it's all about the sophisticated trainers. Comfort for the win.

Morning glory. Want to feel the energy of 'oneness'? Then embrace the morning fitness rave. It's a fresh type of exercise class with great music, cool DJs and positive affirmation, signalling a new fitness wave. Fingers crossed this pump-it-up class will come to the Sports Centre soon.



Katie Eary's collaboration with River Island. This means a 18-piece capsule collection, and the dream team have made a short film to showcase it all which will be unveiled at the 'Fash/on Film' event on 14th February.

Rachel Thompson tells us what's hot and what's not in the world of campus fashion

Valentine's outfit discussions. If you've been together this long, neither the blue tight dress or the silver skirt are likely to affect your relationship in any way.

Heels in Salvation. They will never look the same again, are a distinct health hazard on the stairs and no one wants to look down at guys. Guilty as charged.



New Year: New You. You took up running in January, fabulous effort. Now you're suffering with a weather-beaten face, muddy Nikes and a continual feeling of damp. The York weather? Not so fabulous.



Not

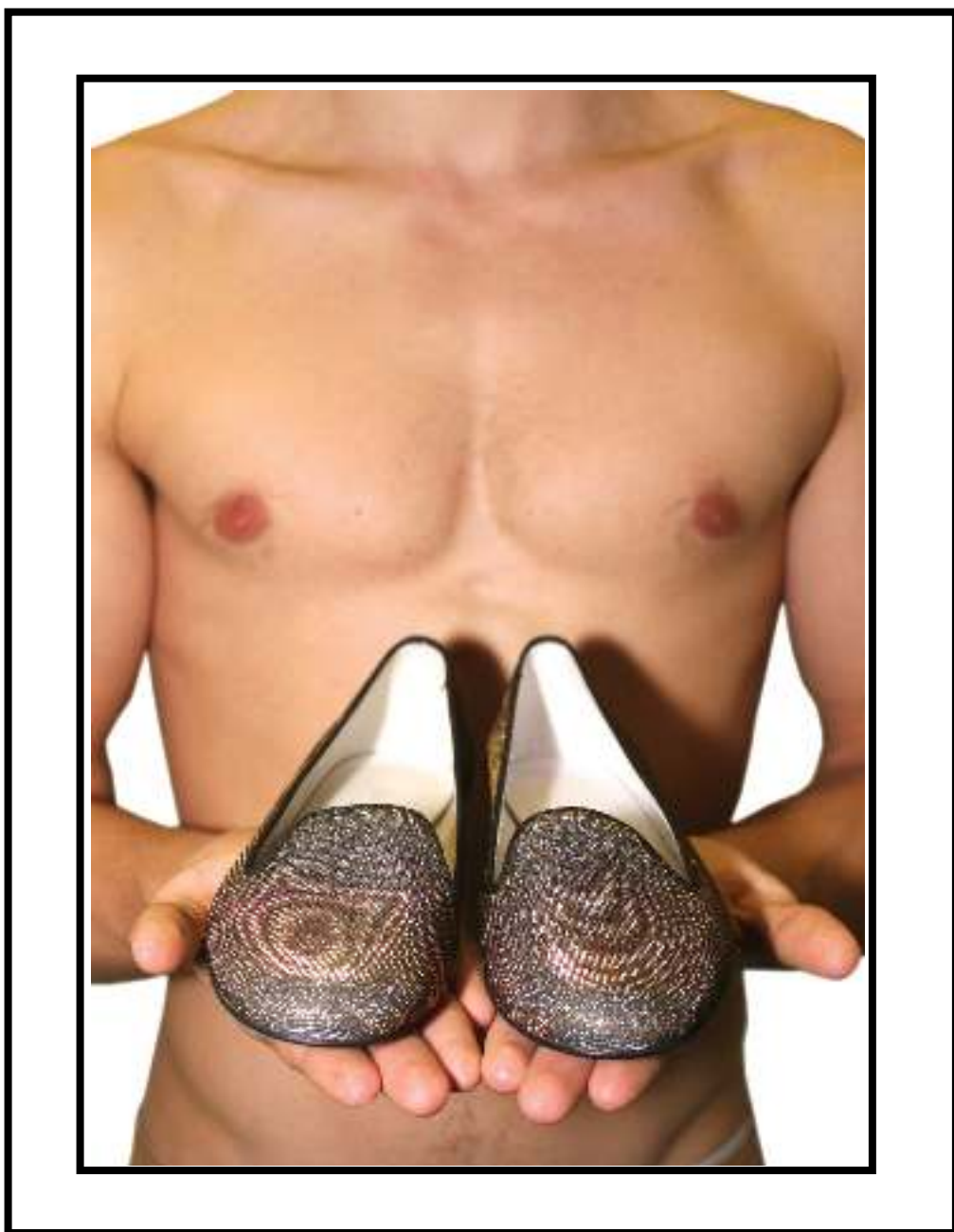
LEAD

WITH

YOUR



SOLE



Fashion directors - Rachel Thompson, Izzy Ashton
Models - Harriet Taylor, Sara Zangri and Edward van der Straaten
Photographers - James Hostford and Petroc Taylor
Studio courtesy of Photosoc



Choo 24:7



Inspired by Jimmy Choo, Nike and Valentino, we showcase the best on the highstreet with a designer edge. The high-life experience for a fraction of the cost.



This page: Harriet wears Nike Air Max 1 Essential trainers in black, £95; Kurt Geiger Red platforms, £150; Vagabond Dioon Closed toe sandals, £75. Sara wears Zara Mid Heel Sandal with Ankle Strap, £40; Deena & Ozzy Lottie suede lace-up heels, £55; Vagabond Dioon closed toe sandals, £75. Rachel wears Russell and Bromley Black loafers, £265.

Opposite page: Harriet wears Nike Balance 620 running trainers, £60; Dr Martens Serena 6 Eyelet boots in black, £90. Sara wears Nike Air Max 1 Essential trainers in grey, £95; Dr Martens 1460 6 Eyelet patent boots, £110. Ed holds Russell and Bromley silver loafers, £99. All clothes sylist's and models' own.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF TONY COLE

The art of being human

Street photographer **Tony Cole** talks to George Wood about capturing moments of the everyday



It's clichéd to say street photography aims to 'capture the moment', but it's difficult to describe York-born Tony Cole's work in any other way. There is nothing particularly technical about Tony's work - though his ever-increasing Flickr portfolio, Yorktone, might suggest otherwise.

Rather, it's better to describe his photography as a mixture of spontaneity balanced out with a painstakingly crafted composition. As Tony describes, "It's really as simple as just going out, keeping my eyes open, capturing the image and then perhaps developing a concept or message based on the associations I draw from the image, associations with literature or poetry for example."

His inspiration in photography is curiosity, an urge to "understand how we all manage to get along together or why sometimes we don't". No photo is staged, and Tony's shots of real-life people are taken in such a way that perfectly encapsulates snippets of everyday lives.

"I never stage photographs - what would be the point? If there's any value in the images I produce it's in the fact that they are simple representations of ordinary life. The fact that there are sometimes interesting things going on in them just reinforces the point that all lives are worth examination, not just the celebs' - we're all, always, doing something interesting, just by existing."

Tony's current work has been focused on York, the city he grew up in and then returned to two years ago. For Tony, the familiarity of the city gives him a chance to focus on the subjects of his photographs, though he admits York's beauty and

historic character provide a "superb backdrop". Despite their content, his photos never feel intrusive, even in shots that Tony considers morally questionable. "I guess all I can say is what's the alternative? Ignore what I see?"

Ultimately, his photos bring across a sense of intrigue. They do not pretend to understand everything being captured, but instead offer genuine contemplation or wonder, using quotations from literature and poetry to help frame certain images. Above all, they try to be honest.

"I never stage photographs, what would be the point?"

"In the photo 'Money', a homeless man holds a few pennies in his fingers and stares at them. When I took the shot he was utterly absorbed in turning the coins over and over and mumbling to himself. What exactly he was thinking about is of course much more complex than any image can hope to convey, but as a symbol of how some members of our society are adrift through poverty (and the many consequences and causes of poverty), it genuinely moved me. Still does."

The contrast of people in certain photographs is particularly striking. Commonplace images that we would take for

granted and pass by in the street become the focal point for much of Tony's work. The young and the old, the homeless and the rich, construction workers and businessmen, York locals and Snapchatting students - all these disparities within society are brought to display through brilliantly realised juxtaposition.

Sometimes the results are comical, at other times, melancholic. In the end, it is the human element that makes, in Tony's view, a good image. As he points out, "We are by far the most interesting, diverse, tragic, comic, beautiful things in existence."

Accentuating the juxtaposition of his photographs is Tony's choice to often work with monochrome colours. "I take all my photos in colour and convert them to black and white if I think that the colour is a distraction from the subject, which, I think, it often is."

"In general I think monochrome photography suits the English urban setting - lots of shadows. It could be that I also associate black and white with serious subjects; not too long ago all newspaper images were black and white, documentary photography was black and white, TV was black and white."

There are times when the composition fails, or the moment of the shot was missed. "I'm never entirely happy with the shots, they could always be better. 'Ever tried? Ever failed? No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better,' as Samuel Beckett notes." However, it's fair to say Tony's work captures the essence and rough-and-readiness of street photography, and his photographs are all the more dynamic for it. **M**



“This one (left) was taken at York City’s Bootham Crescent ground. (I’m a lifelong City supporter.) It was taken at half-time during a match, the three guys in the shot just seemed to arrange themselves perfectly under the frame of the stand – the lines painted on the floor and the structure of the stand draw the viewer into the picture and focus you on the figures, all of whom are perfectly, but utterly coincidentally, posed.”

“I’m interested in how candid photography, where the subject is often unaware of the photographer, can tread a line between art and exploitation”



“This shot (above) was taken outside the British Museum as I work in London quite a bit too. Workmen were preparing advertising hoardings for the Ice Age Art and Pompeii exhibitions but had left a gap in the ‘m’ of Pompeii which rendered the word ‘Porn’ in metre high letters.”



“This (left) was taken on my daily bus journey to work. The passenger in shot only travelled on a Wednesday and got on the bus before I did, and remained on the bus when I got off. For the six months or so that I shared the weekly journey with her I never once saw her wake up. It intrigued me, still intrigues me.”

MUSIC.

Music reviews



Album review: Little Red - Katy B

Victoria Chater-Lea lends her ear to the sophomore effort from YUSU 'Live and Loud' star

Katy B, formerly known as Baby Katy, has put herself back on the radar with the impending release of 'Little Red', the long-awaited follow up from her successful 'On a Mission'. This BRIT school graduate has come an extraordinarily long way since her debut single 'Katy On a Mission' in 2010 which reached fifth place on the UK singles chart.

'Little Red' is a euphoric tangle of deep house, pop and dance, stimulating your inner party animal. Deriving its title from Kathleen's childhood nickname attributed to her ginger locks, 'Little Red' incorporates a tremendous club-dance influence. Sticking to her underground Hackney roots, Katy B employed Geeneus, her original Rinse FM producer, to create a record not just for an audience of party-goers, but one that stems from her personal clubbing history. Katy B has evolved this album to move away from harsher dubstep

sounds towards smoother, neo-soul sounding synthesizers, however LR will inevitably be heard blasting out of Tokyo.

The pre-released '5AM' has already achieved a modestly successful 14th place in the UK singles chart. This after-party anthem integrates her clubbing history; she can't stop dancing, lusts after boys and loses her friends. "I need somebody to calm me down, a little loving like Valium" ultimately shows her alcohol-drug related desire stemming from a night out on the town. Though the lyrics are basic, they are extremely catchy and that certainly sells.

Opening the album is 'Next Thing', a generic bass-pumping anthem, soon bound to be overplayed in a club near you. Katy B confidently shows us that "We are the creators and the troublemakers" with pulsating beats. Jessie Ware makes a guest appearance in 'Aaliyah', during which both artists per-

form a resonating argument over a DJ, both battling for his affections. This track sounds suspiciously similar to 'What Love is Made of', originally pinned for release in LR, but was dropped at a later date.

'Emotions' is a lovesick ballad, distinctively different to captivating house beats found earlier. This track starts softly and gradually builds to an expressive yet confrontational drum and bass peak. Katy B pours out her soul with effervescent passion, crying out to "Fill me with emotion", a drastic change from Valium.

Generally speaking, Katy B has done a superb job with the much awaited 'Little Red', though it may dip into monotony at times. With similar sounding club anthems, this deep-house-dance mix is tipped to rank highly in future charts.

Keep an eye on Katy B; she'll continue to make club-fuelled statements for years to come.

Live review: Vertigo

Christoph Macdowall heads to Mansion to sample the latest college night from Vanbrugh.



Vertigo, the long awaited event tipped to be the biggest in Vanbrugh history, was just that - a sociable night with all kinds of affordable drinks and good rooms of music that make for a great club night. The night started (officially) at Gibson's, which, with its two for £5 cocktails is as good a place to start as any. One exciting way in which this night distinguished itself from the rest and targeted Vanbrugh members was in the "Vanbrugh cocktail" served here, a drink which represented its namesake by having a blue/purple colour. I can't say I remember what exactly was in it, but it was one of the better drinks I've had from Gibson's - and they certainly began to take effect by the time we got to Mansion.

The choice of Mansion as a club added to the one-off atmosphere of the night - most freshers have had little experience of this club due to how infrequently it hosts student-friendly nights in comparison to other major clubs in York.

The turnout at Mansion was strong enough, though mainly dominated by first years - there were, however, many familiar STYC faces from Freshers' week. Though the use of Mansion's main rooms made it something of a maze, the fact that all the bars were open meant that drinks were easy to come by, and the £1.50 Jagerbombs were persuasive even to a guy who pretty much destroyed his bank account the previous Monday night under the influence of absinthe.

Admittedly, I hadn't gone into the night expecting the music to be much better than any other student night, but even if I had

gone in with particularly high expectations I'd be impressed. DM Sounds put on a good house set but unfortunately they weren't met with much of a response by the crowds, who were mainly situated in the other two rooms of music.

The resident DJ's set was surprisingly eclectic, with seamless mixes between, for example The Jackson 5 and Macklemore. But the real standout was the upstairs set by Vanbrugh's own Paul Scarlett, which played only the best of modern mainstream. Within ten minutes of my arrival, Daft Punk and Kanye West had already been played and the set continued on that form: the only downside was that I didn't hear anything from Kanye's new Yeezus while I was there, but you can't have it all.

Vanbrugh JCRC vice ents rep Chris Morris said "the whole idea for the night was to give Vanbrugh students an event bigger than anything the uni had seen before, and the response we got to that was incredible. We sold 500 tickets - so many that at 250 we had to book more space in the club. It makes me extremely proud of the team around me, and proud to be Vanbrugh." If one of the aims of the event was to make a night big enough to bring together people from different parts of the Vanbrugh community, then it was an unqualified success, for me at least.

By the end of the night I'd found myself spending time with people from different blocks and in different years across Vanbrugh, from close friends of mine to people I'd never met before. Many thanks to Chris Morris for organising the event.

Album review: So Long, See You Tomorrow - Bombay Bicycle Club

Alex Killeen reviews the much anticipated fourth album



Bombay Bicycle Club are back and are sticking to what they know. 'So Long, See You Tomorrow' is a return to the dance-rock anthems they're known for, this time introducing an electronic element.

Making controversial comments earlier in the year on the saturation of "bad Indie bands" that arose post-Arctic Monkeys debut, the band had a lot of hype to live up to, doomed to the label of 'pretentious idiots', for want of another word, if expectations

were left unfulfilled. Luckily for them, this album is not a complete train wreck as the record is a very skillful example of the intertwining of restraint and explosive energy. Each track moves through the motions, except maybe for 'Eyes Off You', which bursts into life with anthemic choruses that make you want to dance.

It seems right to discuss their singles off the album so far, 'Carry Me' and 'Luna', the latter of which is circulating around

the radio like there's no tomorrow. Both of them are infectious, the beat almost forces you to bop in time. But electronically they are precise and it's surprisingly apt, adding a fresh dimension to their sound.

I do have a few niggles though. The combination of restraint and energy may make for some choruses bursting with life, but at the same time the pacing is stunted in places. As soon as you get into a chorus some songs will just cut off into the verses,

leaving you slightly in the lurch - a perfect example being 'It's Alright Now'.

This album is definitely worth an exploration. Bombay Bicycle Club have not departed far from what their fans would want and if you've never listened to them, now is a good a time as any to start.

'You burn through my mind again and again' the chorus of 'Luna' goes, and if it's anything to go by, this album will be burning for a good few weeks.

Man of the moment

Katie Woodard has fledgling solo vocalist **Sam Smith** on her mind



“To get the nod from the industry truly means the world”

The year has just started and it has already been a busy one for Sam Smith. Becoming the winner of the BBC Sound Poll 2014 and the Brit's Critics' Choice Award which he will be presented with on the 19th February at the O2 Arena; can we look forward to the same success as previous winners? With the release of his new single 'Money On My Mind' on the 16th February, his debut album *In the Lonely Hour* on the 26th May through Capital records and sell out tour dates; this year looks to be big.

Smith has already had an incredible 2013, after coming to our attention in 2012 as the vocalist on electro duo Disclosure's single, 'Latch'. Smith says how "The guys have taught me so much" and that he is thankful that "they've also given me a year of practising my trade at some incredible gigs." This has included Radio 1's Future Festival, Bestival and Reading and Leeds festival. He also got his

first number one working with Naughty Boy on 'La La La', tipping Daft Punk's 'Get Lucky' off the top spot. After finding out on his 21st birthday he states what a "magical moment" it was and how it felt "insane" to be at number one.

Smith's response to winning the Brit's Critics' Choice Award and the BBC Sound Poll for 2014 was that it was "just unbelievable. It's all about the music for me and to get the nod from the industry truly means the world."

The BBC Sound poll which is compiled by 170 DJs, critics and bloggers who were asked to name their three favourite new acts, illustrates just how much a 'nod' Sam Smith has from the industry. Winning the Brit's Critics' Choice Award Sam Smith joins the prestigious list of former winners including Jessie J, Ellie Goulding and Adele.

After starting singing at the age of eight, Smith states how he was trained by a jazz

singer who "really triggered off my love for music". His passion for music can be seen through his soulful and rich vocals as he sings every word with genuine emotion. This is seen in his emotive lyrics for which his inspiration comes "from my everyday life; music is my number one love, but it's also important for me to live. So I try and do things, then write about them."

A lover of soul music, Sam speaks about how his musical inspirations range "from Whitney to Stevie", this soulful vibe can be felt in his EP 'Nirvana'. He admits his "latest obsession is Ariana Grande." Listening to "Right There" he admits that he is "late to the party, but I think she is out of this world."

When asked who he would most like to open for Smith, he is answer is instant: "Beyoncé. Because she is everything". Who knows, with the way 2014 has started for Sam we may see him up there on stage with Be-

yoncé in the future. For now, though, Smith would like to be sat in the dressing room at Jimmy Fallons in New York next year "ready to sing 'Lay Me Down.'" You can easily see this becoming reality.

It has now come to the point in Smith's career where he must break through as a solo artist. This specifically means a headline booking at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, which has already sold out, as well as a new album.

Coming off two collaborations, Smith says "This album is all me". It will certainly be interesting to see how Smith will fare when left to his own devices as a solo act.

With the backing of these awards and his debut EP creating a buzz for fans of the up and coming debut album, he looks to follow in the successful footsteps of past award winners. I'm definitely going to be keeping an eye on his music this year, so should you!" **M**

REVERB.

Justin Bieber,
Paranoid stoner

“...What the fuck did I do? Why did you stop me? I ain't got no fucking weapons.
Why do you have to search me? What the fuck is this about?”



Rosemary Collins

Should we care about the Oscars?

“Yes, yes, a thousand times yes!”

The YouTube video ‘A Trailer for Every Oscar-Winning Movie Ever’ summarises why many film fans have such mixed feelings about the biggest night in the film calendar.

The parody has characters declaring lines like “Also, I’ve got to use tough love to help this Latin American teenager believe in himself!” over saccharine background music, fulfilling the common perception of the sort of film that gets nominated for Oscars – a vaguely politically liberal, conservatively made drama that people watch because they think it will make them a better person, not because it’s entertaining or challenging.

Any film fan can rattle off a list of brilliant directors, including Howard Hawks, Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrick and David Lynch, who have never won the Best Director award, whilst categories such as comedy, sci-fi and world cinema are chronically snubbed come awards time.

A 2012 survey revealed just 14 per cent of Academy voters are under 50, painting the picture of a group who are too stuck in their way to embrace what’s new and bold in film.

However, in the past few years, the Academy nominations have been slowly and painfully reinventing themselves as something still

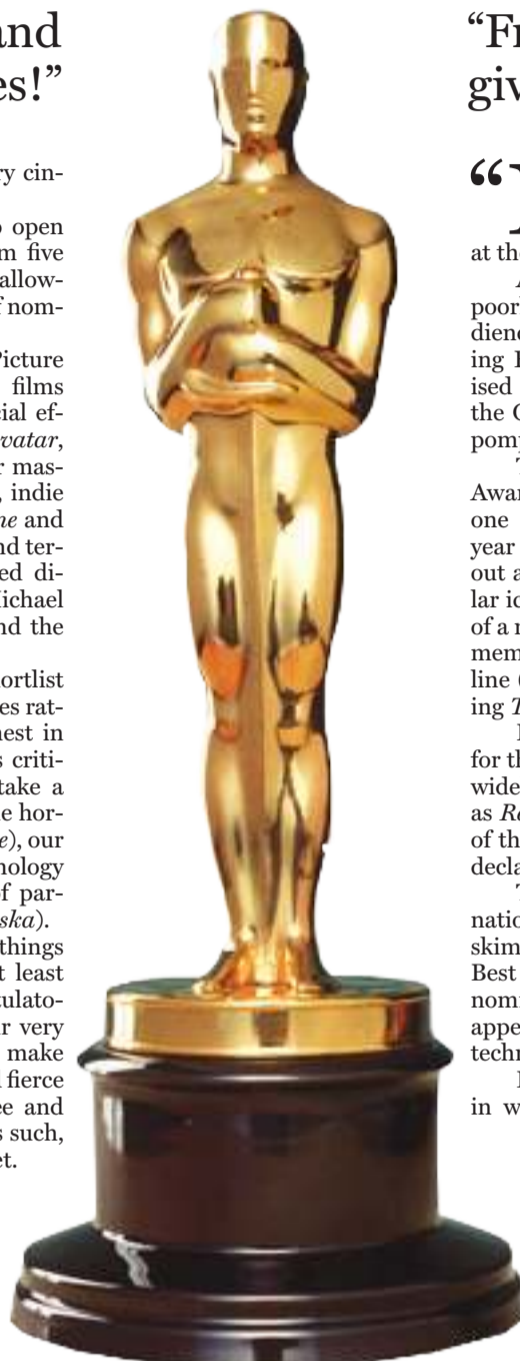
relevant to twenty-first century cinema.

The decision, in 2010, to open the Best Picture shortlist from five slots to ten has been crucial, allowing for a more diverse range of nominees.

Since then, the Best Picture nominees’ list has featured films which push the limits of special effects technology, such as *Avatar*, *Inception* and *Life of Pi*, Pixar masterpieces *Up* and *Toy Story 3*, indie outsiders such as *Winter’s Bone* and *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and terrific new films from acclaimed directors like David Fincher, Michael Haneke, Darren Aronofsky and the Coen brothers.

This year’s Best Picture shortlist has an average Rotten Tomatoes rating of 91.7 per cent, the highest in the past decade, and includes critically acclaimed films which take a bold look at themes such as the horrors of slavery (*12 Years a Slave*), our growing dependency on technology (*Her*) and the complexities of parent-child relationships (*Nebraska*).

Of course, there are still things to hate about the Oscars, not least the excruciatingly self-congratulatory awards ceremony. But their very flaws are what continue to make them a hub for an ongoing and fierce debate about the films we see and what they say about us, and as such, there’s plenty of life in them yet.



Michael Brennan

“Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn”

“It came true!” Anne Hathaway mewed as she won Best Supporting Actress last year at the Oscars.

And with three magnificently poorly chosen words the whole audience cringed, the dreams of dying French prostitutes were trivialised and the rehearsed illusions of the Oscars reached a new height of pomposity and self-congratulation.

The fixation upon the Academy Awards always seems a perplexing one as, despite its prestige, every year the cinephilia community cry out at the unjust snubbing of popular iconic pieces of cinema in favour of a movie which is unlikely to be remembered just a few years down the line (anyone still fervently rewatching *The Artist*?).

But when the Academy does go for the populist choice and declare a widely-loved box-office smash such as *Return of the King* to be the best of the year, it feels as unnecessary a declaration as the York Award.

To be fair, the broader nominations are vaguely interesting to skimread, with the expansion of the Best Film category from five to ten nominations being a skilful move to appear to widen the range of films technically in competition.

Despite this, the favourites in with a chance of snatching the

top prize are still those primarily moulded into existence in order to compete for awards and appeal to this narrow demographic. (Hello, Harvey Weinstein.)

Why do we value the views of this committee of mainly old white men above all others? The expertise argument seems to falter when any member can vote for Best Cinematography, meaning clueless actors choose the prettiest film, snubbing the god-given gifts of Roger Deakins again and again.

Even when the Oscars shine the spotlight is on under-appreciated talent such as the many talented VFX artists who worked on the innovative *Life of Pi*, they are quickly ushered off-stage to the sound of the *Jaws* theme before anyone points out that most of the people who worked on that film are now unemployed due to the unsustainability of the current Hollywood system.

Ultimately, the awards only function as an accolation of the most tightly engineered ‘For your Consideration’ campaign, a reminder of the overhyped current flavour of the month with a sour aftertaste and an excuse to have a ceremony which celebrates studio politics, dresses and Jennifer Lawrence GIFs far more than the cinema it is supposed to be upholding.

FIVE MOST CRINGEWORTHY OSCARS HOSTS

Chris Rock, 2005

Don’t insult Jude Law. This was the lesson learnt by Chris Rock when he laid into Law’s acting. Making similar jibes at the nominees throughout, Rock took the cheekiness a little too far.

Chevy Chase, 1988

Chase’s opening line set the tone for the rest of the ceremony: ‘good evening Hollywood phonies’. Using his stage time to attack just about everyone, it’s little wonder Chase wasn’t invited to host again.

Seth Macfarlane, 2011

McFarlane brought controversy to the hosting table. His ‘We’ve Seen Your Boobs’ song was easily the low point.



James Franco & Anne Hathaway, 2012

Meant to appeal to a younger audience, Hathaway tried too hard, while Franco looked as though he would rather be anywhere else. The two most awkward hosts in Oscars history.



David Letterman, 1994

Letterman’s stint still brings a cringe as he repeatedly fell back on his ‘Uma-Oprah’ joke, referring to Uma Thurman and Oprah Winfrey’s unique sounding names. It wasn’t funny the first time David.



Streeping Mum

August: Osage County

Kate Barlow ★★★★★



At the centre of *August: Osage County* is Violet Weston (played by Meryl Streep in an Oscar nominated role), a drug-addicted matriarchal mother of three, whose oral cancer is a metaphor for the vitriol which comes out of her mouth at any opportunity.

The highlight of the film is a dinner party scene mid-way through which contains snide remarks, ruined casseroles, awkward phone calls and finally descends into a full on fight between Violet and her eldest daughter Barbara (Julia Roberts). Taking up nearly a quarter of the running time, this cringy, awkward, painful to watch but also gloriously funny scene becomes a marker for the total ruin soon to follow.

The film follows a family who have come together to attend the funeral of Violet's husband, an alcoholic poet who committed suicide. It quickly becomes clear to the viewer as to why, as the family bicker, curse and antagonise one another,

and that's before the funeral has even begun. A family which is essentially rotten at its core is thus what defines *August: Osage County*.

Even tender moments between characters, such as the blossoming relationship between Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) and the socially awkward underdog 'Little' Charles (Benedict Cumberbatch), are destroyed under Violet's abuse which she attempts to pass off as 'truth-telling'.

The performances are the key selling point of the film. Boasting a star-studded cast carrying more award nominations than you can count, each and every character gets a chance to show off their acting credentials.

It is thus difficult to pick particular stand-out performances, as you find yourself stunned into silence (and frustration) by Streep's poisonous Violet one minute, only to be greeted with Julia Roberts' defiant Barb (in her best perfor-

mance in years), Ewan McGregor's exhausted husband Bill or Margo Martindale's Mattie Fae the next.

While each actor brings a unique spin to their role, the same cannot be said of director John Wells. He fails to successfully translate Tracy Letts' play (on which the film is based) to screen. The dialogue is left almost unchanged, resulting in some overlong and overdramatic speeches which seem unrealistic before the camera.

Similarly, while Wells has moved parts of the action outdoors, making a change from the claustrophobia of the (mad) house, one can't help feeling he could have made a little more use of the stunning environment of Oklahoma.

Nonetheless, the film remains a fascinating and at times hard to watch family drama, deserving of its Academy Award nominations this year. If nothing else, you'll come out appreciating your own family a little more.



Lone Survivor ★★★★★

Mark Starling

Lone Survivor is Peter Berg's first directing credit since the abysmal *Battleship*. Fortunately, *Lone Survivor* doesn't share the same rough waters of its predecessor.

Berg has managed to create a surprising-worth war film that, despite falling short of greatness, still manages to pay respect to those who lost their lives in the real life story on which the film is based.

The film tells the story of Operation Red Wings, a failed US Navy SEALs mission which took place in 2005, and the four man reconnaissance team sent in ahead of the main force. After the team is discovered by a group of civilians who warn the Taliban of the upcoming attack, the squad is forced to abandon its original mission and escape whilst being hunted down by more than 200 enemy insurgents.

Although the film struggles through the slower paced first 45 minutes, once the action hits it is relentless and rarely dies down for the remainder of its two hour running time.

The action sequences are superb, unapologetic in their portrayal of violence, giving the middle section of the film a vivid sense of tension and momentum. One particular

scene in which the SEALs have to jump down a steep cliff is particularly memorable, possibly because the stunt performers chose to do the fall for real, resulting in several broken bones and even a punctured lung.

However, *Lone Survivor* does have several flaws, not least of which is characterisation. The first half hour of the movie is spent trying to establish the characters but by the time the mission begins we know little other than some of them have partners back home and one is getting married.

The moral choice whether to kill or release the civilians also fails to resonate as much as it should have done. The performances too are hardly remarkable. The two that stand out, Mark Wahlberg and Eric Bana, only do so because of the stars' prior fame and reputation.

Despite these failings, *Lone Survivor* is a respectable and thought-provoking film about the horrors of war which succeeds in its aim of respecting those who were injured and lost their lives on the operation in 2005.

The film is ultimately a heartfelt tribute to those in the armed forces and, although it may not be for everyone, it is a must-see for fans of war movies.



I, Frankenstein ★★

Will Murray

If you're a die-hard fan of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, this is not the film for you. To start with, Victor Frankenstein dies within the first 10 seconds and his monster is less of a 'monster' than an average-looking blonde guy with a few scars.

In this attempt at a horror thriller, set 200 years after the death of his creator, Adam Frankenstein (Aaron Eckhart) is caught up in a raging war between the saintly gargoyles and the vengeful demons.

Demon Prince Naberius (Bill Nighy) is keen to resurrect his devilish allies by helping them possess human corpses and believes Frankenstein's monster holds the key to helping him achieve this.

Eckhart does his best to portray this weird anti-hero, who turns out to have more of a soul than first realised. But aside from the messed-up face, this performance failed to hit the heights of Harvey Dent.

And Eckhart isn't the only one: Nighy creates a reasonably scary villain, but you can't help but feel he was just collecting the cheque in this one.

Miranda Otto produced a decent performance as gargoyle queen Leonore, but this was nothing any of the main cast will be re-

membering for a long time.

It must be said that some of the fight scenes, with CGI shots of the gargoyle towers and Jai Courtney slaying demons like a boss, were impressive to watch. But that's all I'll say.

The frankly ridiculous script was too far-fetched and it seems as if the producers already had their mind on a follow-up video game.

Director Stuart Beattie sets too fast a pace for a film that needed a little build-up to introduce the audience to the *Frankenstein* story. Instead you are left with only brief snippets of Eckhart's narration to explain his sudden transformation from ghastly monster to vigilante-in-a-hoody.

The role of Yvonne Strahovski as Terra is even more curious: whether she is supposed to be the love interest of the film is left up in the air, with only a fleeting look at the end between her and Adam as any hint at a future.

The idea of this sci-fi flop - a look at how Frankenstein's monster would cope in the real world without his maker - did have some potential. But the plotline of gargoyles and devils makes this a boring fantasy adventure that lacks any real drama.

Breaking the breakfast mould

Amber Harcourt explains why the first meal of the day doesn't have to be boring



PHOTO CREDIT: GRACE MARSH

Breakfast. The most important meal of the day. We've heard it over and over again; on the news, from our parents, from health experts, but we don't seem to be taking any notice.

February is International Hot Breakfast Month, a scheme dedicated to raising awareness of the perils of skipping breakfast and encouraging us to fit breakfast into our daily schedule.

We've all heard the facts and figures over and over again. More and more studies are linking the skipping of breakfast by children and young adults to the increased risk of developing health problems such as metabolic syndrome in adulthood. But the trend isn't just limited to schoolchildren.

Despite the increased risk of high blood pressure, heart disease and the inability to concentrate (something students in particular need), many adults fail to eat the first meal of the day, with the online One Poll Survey discovering that a quarter of women do not eat breakfast at least once a week. The main reason given? Getting ready for the day ahead is more important.

Eating breakfast should be considered a fundamental part of getting ready for day ahead for everyone. Students are amongst the worst culprits for skipping breakfast; we've all had those mornings where we've overslept or couldn't find our keys or books, therefore having to fly out the house in a hurry with the cereals sitting uneaten in the cupboard. Such occurrences must remain one-off emergency occasions. In Britain, we have a very limited view of what foods are suitable to eat at breakfast, with cold food such as cereal, and also toast or porridge shaping the list.

A full cooked English breakfast is often appealing, with another popular choice being cold leftover pizza after a night out. Neither are what you could call nutritional. For us British, a plate of cottage pie or fish and chips would be a strange choice to start the day and perhaps that's where the problem lies; that we are under the impression that breakfast can only consist of the same boring store cupboard things.

Globally, however, the tradition of eating 'breakfast-exclusive foods' is less common; some cultures eat the same dishes whilst others just adapt the recipes slightly. Korean breakfasts for example, traditionally consist of rice or soup dishes, whereas in Burma, the traditional breakfast is Htamin jaw - fried rice with boiled peas, also a popular meal eaten throughout the day. Perhaps we just need to be a bit more creative.

Breakfast doesn't have to be the stale cornflakes left in the cupboard. With a little imagination, it can become an interesting start to the day. French toast is a great option as it uses up any stale leftover bread or eggs about to reach their use by date. Scrambled eggs also; you can add curry powder and cumin seeds to make it Indian style, or even chilli powder and kidney beans to make Mexican scrambled eggs - great wrapped in a tortilla for a breakfast burrito. Pancakes aren't the unhealthiest option either, as long as you don't smother them in nutella, golden syrup or sugar. Honey and chopped banana are great alternatives.

So this month, make the effort to eat the first meal of the day. And in honour of the Hot Breakfast theme, why not leave the cereals in the cupboard and try something a little warmer and more adventurous?

Breakfast pizza muffins

Ingredients

1 wholegrain English muffin, halved
1 small tomato, seeded and diced
2 teaspoons olive oil
2 rashers of back bacon (or ham),
a handful of grated cheddar cheese
dried herbs such as basil or oregano
salt and pepper
a few mushrooms

1. Preheat the oven to 230°C.
2. Line a small baking tray with foil or cover with olive oil.
3. Place the English muffins halves on the baking tray, with the insides facing up.
4. Top each muffin half with the tomato and then drizzle with olive oil.
5. Scatter the bacon and mushrooms on top of the tomatoes and finally, cover it all with the cheese of your choice.
6. Bake in the oven for approximately 10 to 12 minutes, or until the cheese is fully melted and beginning to brown.
7. To finish, sprinkle with the herbs and salt and pepper to season. Enjoy
8. Tip: You can cover the muffins with whatever meat or vegetables you have left in the fridge.

Lonely this Valentine's?

Grace Marsh

Delicious, moreish and simple to make, these chocolate truffles are a great gift, or a much-needed pick-me-up for any singletons suffering from Valentine's blues. This recipe uses milk chocolate, but you can swap this for white or dark. For alcohol truffles, try adding 2 tablespoons of your favourite liquor such as rum or Baileys. Orange or lemon zest adds a citrus punch.

Ingredients

300g milk chocolate, broken into pieces
250ml double cream
30g unsalted butter

1. Place the chocolate in a large glass bowl. Heat the cream and butter gently in a saucepan until the butter melts and

the cream is almost boiled. Do not let it boil fully.

2. Remove from the heat and pour over the chocolate. Mix together until smooth and glossy.
3. If adding flavourings, let the mixture cool a little and then add them to the mixture.
4. Line a deep baking tray with greaseproof paper or cling-film and pour in the mixture.
5. Chill in the fridge for 2 hours until almost set. If left to set too long it will become impossible to shape.
6. Dust your hands with cocoa powder or icing sugar to prevent them from sticking. Roll the chilled chocolate mixture into small balls using your hands. If the mixture becomes a bit sticky, put it in the fridge for 5 minutes.
7. Then immediately roll the truffles in cocoa powder, icing sugar or a coating of your choice such as chopped nuts or chocolate sprinkles. Place the truffles onto a baking tray or plate and chill in the fridge until set.



PHOTO CREDIT: FOODIE BAKER

Love is in the air

We select our top three independent restaurants in York to make this Valentine's Day one to remember

CARTOONS BY KATE MITCHELL



Rustique

French
Castlegate

www.rustiquerestaurants.co.uk

Rustique is the perfect name for this restaurant and bistro. Think cosy, candle-lit dinner and rich French food. Portion sizes are very healthy, and the three-course set menu offers a lot of variety at a decent price (£15.95). Confit du canard (slow roasted duck), and moules marinières à la crème are two great options. Given how packed the restaurant can be on an ordinary weekday, it goes without saying you'll need to book a table in advance.

The tables are quite cramped and whether that adds to the romance factor or not is up to you to decide. Some like it up close and personal! But if French is the language of love, then the delicacies prove it's the flavour of love too. With great food at great prices, Rustique is perfect for both first dates and long-time couples this Valentine's Day.



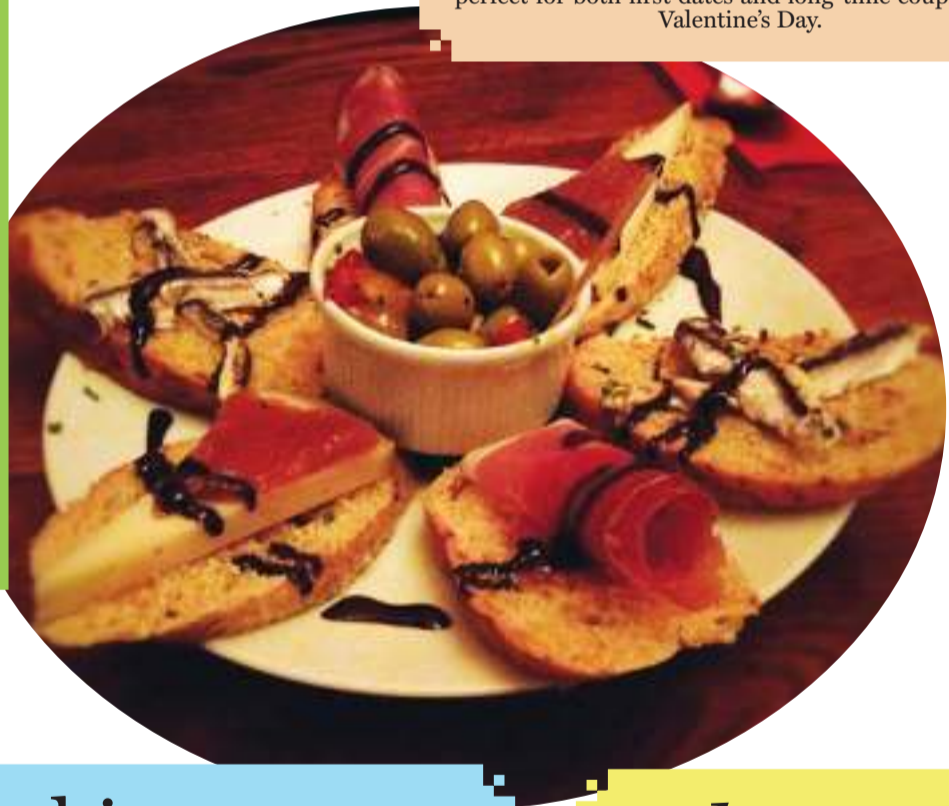
Delrio's

Italian

Blossom Street
www.delriosrestaurant.com

Just up from student hotspot Nag's Head and (the late) Rumours lies **Delrio's**: the self-proclaimed "little Italian restaurant down the stairs by Micklegate". To enter, you first must venture down a flight of stairs into the cellar of the building (very scary, may require hand-holding) to reveal the cosy, mood-lit, authentically decorated restaurant that lies at the bottom. Delrio's is romantic.

Reserve one of several tucked-away alcoves for you and your beau and enjoy some privacy as you tuck into your candlelit meal à la 'Lady and the Tramp' spaghetti and meatball scene. The restaurant is family run and uses ingredients both from local and Italian sources, and with many dishes for under a tenner, the extensive menu caters for all budgets. If you think this sounds too perfect to be true, let the 4.5 star rating on trip advisor persuade you otherwise. Give Delrio's a visit on Valentine's Day and you're guaranteed to be exclaiming 'Mamma Mia' long into the night...



Ambiente

Spanish

Goodramgate
www.ambiente-tapas.co.uk

With a name that means 'ambience' in English, you would hope that **Ambiente** on Goodramgate is able to live up to its name. The busy hustle and bustle of a traditional tapas bar isn't typically associated with romance, but then again, sharing is romantic and tapas is meant to be shared. Just don't forget to request a table away from the bar area, a quiet corner upstairs will provide a lovely romantic setting.

Serving up authentic Spanish cuisine with a contemporary twist, Ambiente offers a wide range of dishes. A particular favourite is 'Introduction to Tapas', seven dishes of delicious tapas to share for two at just £25. Or you could go for the aptly named 'Shared Platter', which comes in a vegetarian, meat or seafood option at £9.95 per person. This tapas restaurant is a small restaurant with a great cosy atmosphere and lovely staff. If you're looking for something a little different this Valentine's Day and want to avoid the chain restaurants, then this could be the option for you.

Where next?

A few after dinner drinks would be a perfect way to finish off the night. **Kennedy's** on Little Stonegate is a great place to grab a drink, offering a selection of cocktails for £3.50 after 5pm during the week. **All Bar One** on New Street is offering a bottle of fizz (Pignoletto) for £15.

You also can't go wrong with **Lucia** just off Grape Lane for an amazing atmosphere and an extensive selection of cocktails under five pounds. If you're still hungry, they also offer traditional Italian desserts. If beer is your drink of choice, then **The Guy Fawkes Inn** on Lower Petergate is a traditional, historic pub with a wide range of real ales.



“Sorry, no orgies!”

Charlotte Wainwright talks to three members of the **FetSoc Committee** about reducing the stigma surrounding kink

Sexposé, the “no holds barred dirty talking panel show” organised by FetSoc, happened last Friday night. Hosted by members of FetSoc, WomCom and YUSU LGBT, the show’s aim was to get “sexy people talking about sexy things”, in order to create a more public and open attitude, in regards to all things sex.

The second of its kind, the show was developed last year by FetSoc Secretary Leena Rivaz, after a revealing conversation with some of her peers. “It all came from a ridiculous conversation with some housemates. They were all being so naive, and I just thought, we have to talk about sex!”

“It turned into something that a lot of people were really passionate about getting involved in. It was an enormous success. Bob Hughes, then YUSU Welfare Officer, even came along and said that it was one of the best events he’d seen. It was then shortlisted for YUSU event of the year, so after that, we decided to host another”.

The aim of Sexposé is to reduce the amount of stigma that is often attached to controversial or risqué sex, by encouraging more people to talk about their sexual experiences. This is a stigma which, Chair Simon Stead explains, has surrounded FetSoc since its beginning, and is something which the society as a whole is aiming to eradicate.

“Compared to other universities, York is a very progressive university. The student body is very active in the face of any homophobia or sexism. Now it’s really about removing the stigma surrounding kink”.

“It’s sexy, but it’s not chaotic”

“Everyone who knows about kink will come to FetSoc and say, this is a great idea, I’m really happy you’re around. But it’s the people who aren’t in FetSoc and who don’t want to be, and who wouldn’t want to be, who still feel uncomfortable with the idea. FetSoc though is just a really sex positive, progressive society. It’s an open forum for anyone to talk about largely anything sex related”.

For Marketing Manager Philippa Garth, the main way to remove this stigma is by building a greater sense of transparency around FetSoc. “What we want to do at the moment is to promote a culture of curiosity regarding FetSoc, rather than the binary we have at the moment. People seem to have this view that either you’re kinky and you’re in FetSoc, or you’re not and you have nothing to do with it, which needs to change”.

In order to achieve this change, Simon believes that the society must now be “active”, in altering public opinion. “Sexposé has been a great help. But now we want to do more things specifically for people who aren’t in the society, where they can come along and ask questions about what we do”. “We need to make FetSoc more accessible”, Leena explains, “by opening the doors for everyone to come and see”.

Despite the stigma surrounding FetSoc, this is a change which Philippa strongly believes can be achieved. “There’s a very sex positive culture in the university. We already have WomCom, the University of York feminists and YUSU LGBT, all groups which promote sexual awareness and the acceptance of those of your peers. FetSoc recognises that each person is different, and that each person has their own preferences. As long as we promote safe practices for those, people should accept that there is absolutely nothing wrong with what people want to do”.

“The only thing that FetSoc lacks at the minute is the representation in the public eye of the University. This is what makes it more of a stigmatised society for our members, because they don’t feel like it has a positive presence in the awareness of those who aren’t actively involved. But I would say that with a better understanding grows much better acceptance”.

“FetSoc should be something that stands alongside WomCom, LGBT and the York Feminists, as one of the most progressive societies in the University. It’s time it should be



recognised as a society that’s at the forerunner of making a difference in the student body”.

What cannot be denied is that FetSoc has the membership needed, in order to make this happen. The society currently has around 50 paid members, with over 200 on the mailing list. Of the three ratified FetSoc’s in the country, including Birmingham and Edinburgh, York also holds the title of the largest Fetish Society. “We’ve started to make a name for ourselves in the student community, not just in York, but in the whole country”.

Behind closed doors, FetSoc is also an incredibly active society, hosting numerous events for its members across the term. “It breaks down into kinky things, drinking things, and non-drinking things. We have normal society nights, where we go into town for a few drinks, which are just like any other society nights - there are no whips or canes involved. Then we have a lot of discussion groups, which is where people of a kinky mindset just get together and have a chat”.

“But we also have things like show and tell events, where people bring in their toys and equipment and can really get geeky about them to other members. Other than that we have things like rope workshops, where people are able to work on the art of Shibari” (an artistic form of rope bondage).

The risk assessments are extensive, but the irony of this, Philippa explains, is that “a FetSoc rope workshop is pretty much the safest thing you can go to. Each person has access to EMT shears, which are the shears that ambulances use to cut clothes and seatbelts. People are always under the supervision of someone who has been doing it for a number of years, and numerous members of the committee have been trained by someone who is a renowned expert in it”. “You’ve probably got a lot more of a chance of getting hurt at a sports social than at FetSoc!” Leena claims.

In addition to this, the society also hosts a number of “tamer” events, including Alice in Wonderland style tea parties, where, according to Simon, members sit together and “literally just drink tea”.

“The only thing that makes it different to other tea parties”, Leena explains, is that “some of them are open, and some are only for paid members. For the ones that are paid members only, it’s usually a bit more discreet - we don’t advertise where we are. It’s so that people can come and be comfortable and say or wear whatever they like”.

“FetSoc is, ultimately, a place where our paid members can feel comfortably protected”, Simon informs me, “and was made in that way, in some sense for good reason. Though we’re going to be more open in reducing the stigma around it, we’re

“There’s actually an awful lot of couples in FetSoc”

still going to maintain the same level of privacy we have for our individual members”.

Despite this discretion, the society has often struggled to find places to accommodate its events. “Part of the reason we want to get rid of the stigma”, Leena tells me, “is so that we can do more events like this. We planned to have a tea party last term, but the room we planned to use told us that it wasn’t bookable to societies. But I’m also the Chair of MathSoc, and I know for a fact you can book that room for a society, because I do it myself. So it’s things like that, when you email a person in an office and say, can we do a tea party, and they just think oh no, FetSoc are going to come in and trash the place and do all sorts of crazy things, when all we want to do is have tea and cake”.

The events are, as Philippa tells me, very organised. “It’s sexy, but it’s not chaotic”. Even for members, the events come with a certain amount of rules. “The number one question I get asked by people who aren’t in FetSoc”, Philippa states, “is what’s your fetish - singular. When they ask this, I tend to po-



PHOTO CREDIT: FETSOC (ABOVE), THE.COMEDIAN (BELOW)

lately explain that we don't ask people what's your fetish, because it's an extremely personal thing to ask on first meeting someone!"

"If you're at a society meeting, someone might clarify whether they're 'Dom' or 'Sub' in the BDSM culture, which is a general way of telling people which role they prefer to play in kink, but the general party line of FetSoc is that we don't ask, we tell".

"We really don't", Simon states, "need to know the ins and outs (no pun intended), of what everyone gets up to".

After all, the main part of the kink comes into play outside of the society, in the privacy of people's bedrooms. Shockingly though, Simon claims, "there's definitely no more sex than in any other university society".

"If you pick any society and you go on a social and get drunk, I bet a similar number of people would end up sleeping together", Leena claims.

Although, Philippa informs me, "kinky people can meet other kinky people. An open and accepting culture leads to better sex for those already that way inclined, but quantity? Who can tell!"

All three members are quick to point out, however, that FetSoc is not simply about lots of people coming together to have group sex, as many people presume. "There's actually an awful lot of couples in FetSoc", Leena tells me. "Simon's been with his girlfriend for seven months, and I've been with my boyfriend for two and a half years."

For Simon, this common attitude has stemmed from a lack of communication about what FetSoc actually do. "Since joining FetSoc, a lot of people I've spoken to are very candid about what I, or other people in FetSoc might do. I can speak to people who say that they'd never do anything kinky, but you get talking to them and then they'll say, oh, I spanked my partner yesterday – but that's not kinky, right? So it's like, so why do you have such a big deal with FetSoc?"

"There's no qualifying trait or hierarchy in FetSoc. You don't have these edge players who are really awesome and everyone else is rubbish, it's just whatever you like, that's great". Despite this, however, Simon informs me that members often downplay the level of kinkiness within the society, in order to help reduce

the stigma attached. "Often people in the society will say we're not actually kinky, we just do discussions. Which is not true – we are a kinky society. But it's true that it's not as kinky as people think".

"It's just like any other society", Philippa claims, "just with a slightly more fun repertoire of things to talk about!"

"It really is an exciting society to be in", Leena tells me. "Talking and learning about sex is interesting. But FetSoc is not a place to come to try to fuck everything that moves. It's actually not, as many people believe, all about organising orgies for everyone".

It is because of this belief that the committee are strongly dedicated to providing privacy and anonymity for their members, across their events. "It's important to afford our members as much privacy as they need to feel comfortable, and that's different for everyone. It's a society that's very accommodating of people's needs." For Leena, this is something that has had personal importance. "I came out to my mum as kinky a while ago. But though I don't mind that she knows, there are lots of people who I wouldn't want to know. You have to decide your own level of openness".

I wonder then, if being kinky is something that you are required to "come out" as. For Philippa, it most certainly is. "It's a very grey area regarding what's kinky and what isn't, but generally, if you're part of the subculture, or if you go to FetSoc or some of the events that are on, people do feel like it is a binary that needs to be discussed".

"It's not as vital", Leena explains, "as it might be for people of the LGBTQ group. I don't want to downplay anyone who has felt upset about having to come out as kinky, but people who are gay may want to come out because they feel it is an integral part of who they are, and they want people to accept them for it. But even though I may come out to some people, I don't feel like it's something that everyone in my life needs to know".

"For example", Philippa states, "my grandma doesn't need to know. However, my housemates might find it useful to know – otherwise seeing chaps cleaning the kitchen in French maid's outfits might come as a bit of a surprise after a night out!" **M**



My shit week so far

Thomas Fennelly

I think, for a change, that it's time to start with a positive in this column. The most fortunate thing to happen to me this week was being twatted by a pine cone as I walked under a pine tree on a blustery morning in Derwent. Aside from that, this week has been another week to put behind me.

Every day this week, I've been mugged off by a Number 4 bus driver, meaning my morning routine into campus now involves the inevitable run downhill through Hes East as I attempt to catch the Unibus in time.

There are some positives to take from this, however; it's highlighted how unfit I've let myself get as I sit in my morning lecture looking strangely sweaty (despite the cold), wincing at the burning pains in my calf muscles from a minute run that I had made twenty-five minutes earlier. My fitness evidently needs to improve.

Or I could simply ignore it and just get up earlier so that I actually make the bus on time. In any case, I will concede to the residents of Hes East that watching fat people running for the bus must be a hugely entertaining spectator sport – not that there's anything else to do in Hes East, mind.

As essay deadlines come at me thick and fast this term, I have made the library my second home, living off Library Café sausage rolls and butter croissants (although this probably explains why I now struggle to run downhill). The library is a strange Mecca for the socially odd and pretentious twats (although this is probably why I get drawn to it daily).

All these distractions have led to new levels of procrastination that go beyond doing difficult Sudokus, shouting at Flappy Bird and laughing at people who accidentally play their shoddy music taste out loud on their laptops.

One new pastime of mine, for instance, is taking the piss out of a mate doing a Geography degree, with insults like "don't worry, we'll get you some more crayons for Christmas" and "blimey, they're moving you on to words now" being my particular favourites.

Saying this, at least they'll get a job out of their nine-grand a year educational investment - I study Sociology. One unwelcome distraction is listening to some of the pretentious conversations that many stuck-up students come out with.

Just as I'm about to settle into some work to the sound of Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* in its entirety, some deluded fresher will pipe up with an outlandish view of how shit and dangerous Tang Hall is.

Most views on Tang Hall are based on the basic observation that it's a shithole because 'the houses are closer together than in the rest of the city'.

The 'hoodies' that come from Tang Hall are also not

“The Latin graffiti in Tang Hall is a sign that you have nothing to worry about”

much of a threat either. Two kids often come to cycle and smoke outside the library, but when you actually talk to them, they're very polite, moving out of the way for people whilst making a conscious effort to use the bins.

In fact, if I went up to a smoking twelve-year-old in this city and asked for a lighter, I have no doubt that he'd politely oblige and probably strike up a conversation about my day (although asking me about my day is often a bad idea).

I've had more trouble with students than I have with locals. The niceness of Tang Hall is put into perspective by this: the only bit of street art that I've come across is the



CARTOON: KATE MITCHELL

word 'Ebor' sprayed on a paving stone. The fact that the graffiti is being written in Latin is a sign that you have nothing to worry about.

Dedicating this much to the library, however, has meant that all the notions of social interaction have been forgotten and replaced with the boring theories of the transnational capitalist class that currently fill my mind. My ability to speak to girls, even those who I consider to be in the 'fit friend zone' with (an acronym of which is scarily close to FFS), has disappeared completely.

I can't even latch on to chivalry. This morning, I stood next to an attractive blonde as we both looked to cross Hull Road in the hope that a misogynistic motorist would stop to let her across, meaning that I've become a strange chivalry repellent.

But as soon as drivers saw me within her five-metre ra-



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STUDENT HACK



Protesters have ended a 12-day occupation at Birmingham University after its lawyers sought an injunction. The protesters left to “prevent the... expenditure that gaining an injunction represents, instead asking that the money be spent on paying staff a living wage.”



Edinburgh University students last week voted down a motion to ban involuntary gender segregation at SU events. Speakers who opposed the motion did so claiming that the motives of the Humanist Society, who tabled the motion, were “racist and Islamophobic”.



History students at Warwick University last week delivered lectures to younger undergraduates after lecturers walked out over a pay row. The SU defended university staff, and said it was “disappointed” by the students’ attempt to minimise the impact of the strike.

Student outrage at debt privatisation

TCPON

Kate Marshall
POLITICAL REPORTER

In late 2013, the Government sold the last 17 per cent of the ‘old student loan book’, the student debts of 1990-1998. These debts were worth £890m at the time, a value which would have increased over the years with interest. However, they were sold for just £160m, a figure which is, at most, 18 per cent of the books’ actual value. This long-term loss, over £730m, was ignored in favour of a short-term reduction of the budget deficit, because George Osborne vowed to eradicate it by 2015.

Thus far, students who took out loans after 1999 have been safe from this measure, including those who have been paying the maximum £9,000 tuition per year. However, this is about to change. Next year, potentially sooner, the government will be selling off the remainder of the debt. Awareness of the issue is startlingly low.

Last year’s sales were made to a bespoke company called Erudio Student Loans, which was set up by Wilmington Trust SP Services, which in turn is part of the huge US banking group M&T. The sales were guaranteed not to affect the amount owed, the interest, or repayment schedule, yet this provision is not in place for the new sale. This means all students would be left vulnerable to the designs of a private agency. A hushed-up report made by the Rothschild Bank suggested a retrospective increase of the cap on in-



The Coalition’s policies have led to students suffering from rising costs and decreasing financial support

terest rates, or worse, the removal of the cap entirely. With it already standing at 6.3 per cent above inflation for 2013-14, and tuition costs higher than ever, the effect would be crippling. To enact such a measure would amount to a retrospective, further spike in fees, and not one that students can opt out of.

Furthermore, other terms could be changed, such as the rate of repayment and the income thresholds. Most importantly, with our financial fates in the hands of a limited firm,

the Government would no longer be accountable for problems and injustices, and the power of students to prevent harsh measures is made negligible. Erudio Student Loans will stand amongst the likes of ATOS.

However, the Student Assembly Against Austerity has called a National Week of Action, in the week beginning 3rd Direct Gov website, currently standing at around 17,000 signatures, whilst a campus petition is being run by the university’s La-

bour branch. There is still time to act.

Students have been the target of rising costs and decreasing financial support throughout the coalition’s term. When we were in college, we lost EMA; when we were applying to university, we faced a policy reversal and tripling fees. When we leave university, our job prospects and jobseekers’ support are both insecure. Each reform has been met with waves of protest and anger, and victories have yet to come.

The lady is not for Cameron

Lisa Rumbold
POLITICAL REPORTER

It’s no secret that Labour commands more female support than the Conservatives. While the Tories won’t let us forget Thatcher, people seem to forget that Thatcher herself was not overly concerned with issues of gender equality. She praised family values and would much rather have seen women at home with children than a society of childcare and crèches. Female support for the Conservatives is historically low. The line from Labour is that Cameron is pushing his “old boy’s network” way of doing things. He’s failed, they say, in helping women find childcare and addressing the ever-increasing gender pay gap.

According to the Guardian, Miliband is 26 points ahead with women. With little else to brag about Ed sought to remind Cameron of his success amongst women at PMQs. If Miliband’s attack at Cameron over his unfortunate comment to a businesswoman of ‘Where’s your husband?’ sounds familiar it’s because this show in the Commons on Wednesday was mere replay of the ‘Calm Down Dear’ incident in



The Conservatives are losing women from the party and support group

2011. Initially it was thought that these attacks were merely a long-standing tool of the Labour party. If they can’t hit them over issues of policy why not attack them over the lack of female representation in the Conservative party? This was certainly not the day for Theresa May to be absent from the front bench.

However, Conservative party failings with women have become an ever more pressing issue. The lack of female Conservative MPs is shocking and whilst all women shortlists

are not the solution, the issue needs to be addressed by both parties. Anne McIntosh, 17 year long MP for Thirsk and Malton has been deselected to stand for Conservatives in the next election due to local executive voting misconduct. The number of female Conservative MPs in the North is soon to become a mere 2. Another MP, Jessica Lee, has also announced she won’t be running in 2015 due to family issues. According to the BBC, 8 per cent of female MPs of both Labour and the Conserva-

tives are stepping down in 2015.

Unfortunately for Cameron, the Conservatives were already behind, showing promises of party modernisation to be all but a dream.

The issues affecting women and thus affecting their choice at the polls are inherently linked to more pressing issues of social mobility, economic growth and unemployment. Cameron’s tax cut for 11 million women and the end to pensions being discriminated against women have only addressed the tip of the iceberg.

There remains a lack of opportunities for working class women that pushes them into welfare dependency.

This is the reason why women vote Labour. As women are being more widely represented, policy will start to address female concerns of educational and economic opportunities, pay inequality and childcare provision.

It is through this that the Conservative party may win back the women they have lost in recent years.

In any case, Cameron shouldn’t worry too much ... I’m sure Samantha will vote Tory.

The plight of the Rohingya in S.E. Asia

A K ROCKEFELER

Marie Poupinel
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

In South-East Asia, an area notoriously known for its Golden Triangle of opium-producing countries, trafficking through the porous frontiers of Myanmar, Thailand and Bangladesh isn't solely confined to batteries of drugs, but extends to flesh.

The market of human trafficking is a deep-rooted, complex and resilient commerce, the nexus of its illicit activities tying up the triad in a history of abuse, spilling over to the ring of peripheral neighbours such as India, Malaysia and Nepal.

Forced labor and sex exploitation in the global pattern of trafficking of an estimated 22 million people (UN Drugs and Crime Report 2012) constitutes South-East Asia's most daunting human rights challenge.

The bane of such prevalent human rights violations was recently put into relief when Thai police uprooted hundreds of imprisoned Rohingya Muslims from the squalor of an official refugee camp bordering Malaysia. Following up on an alarming report last month by Reuters putting forward alleged records of Rohingyas being held hostage in camps, the police were prompted to launch a raid.

Several investigations conducted by various human rights activists and foreign media in the past decade have unveiled the woeful reality of sustained minority discrimination leading to segregation amidst

well-established routes for human smugglers. Thailand, with Bangladesh, have been the two main source countries for the persecuted Rohingya peoples fleeing the ethnic cleansing plaguing the brittle de-democratic state of Myanmar.

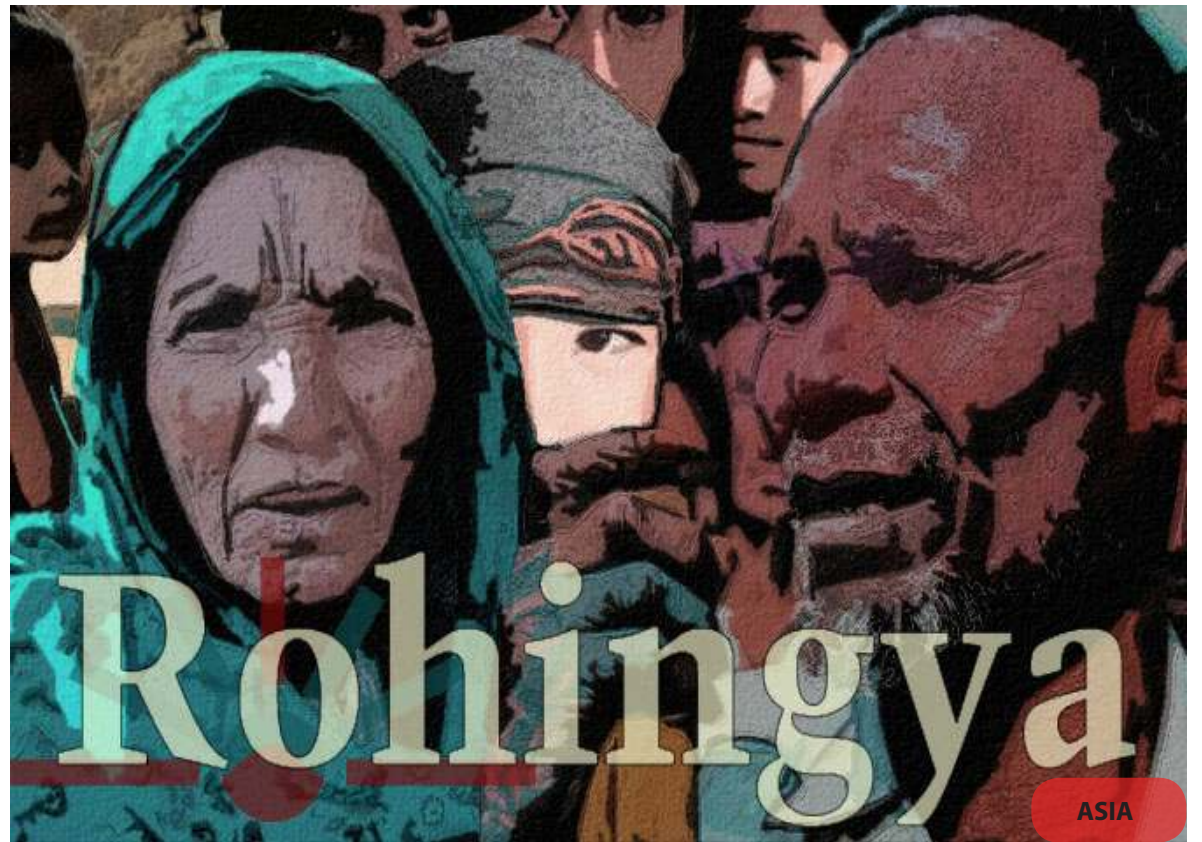
The religious-based violence between the Muslims and the Buddhist community has been ongoing since the independence of Myanmar in 1948, marking an era of humanitarian and human rights crisis. In a climate of historic animosity, the ethnic minority was coined by the UN Human Rights Council as one

“The Rohingyas have been subjected to a battery of restrictive regulation”

of the most persecuted and largest stateless groups in the world.

The Rohingyas have been subjected to a battery of restrictive regulations and denial of rights: stripped of their citizenship by the Burmese government in 1982, clustered in forced labor.

Living under constant threat of arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion by a bellicose, military-backed government which unrelentingly carries out violent attacks, and hampers the delivery of hu-



Within a system which denies the existence of basic human rights fear tends to be the order of the day

manitarian aid with impunity.

In June 2012, new waves of violence reached their paroxysm when the massacre of 10 Muslims following the killing and reported rape of a Buddhist woman, escalated into a fully-fledged slaughter engulfing the whole country and displacing over 140,000 Rohingyas.

For months now, the Rohingya Muslim people have been targeted

in a campaign that a Human Rights Watch report has described as “ethnic cleansing”. Thus a victim of systemic and endemic crimes, the persecuted minority is compelled to escape subjugation by braving new perils, seeking refuge abroad.

The noose keeps tightening as they are trapped between severe repression in their homeland and comparable oppression in neigh-

bouring countries. All this puts me in mind of an Aung Aun Suu Kyi quote:

“Within a system which denies the existence of basic human rights, fear tends to be the order of the day. Fear of imprisonment, fear of torture, fear of death, fear of losing friends, family, property or means of livelihood, fear of poverty, fear of isolation.”

Mexico: All against the Knights Templar

Branden Lynn
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Since the turn of the century, the power of the Mexican drug cartels has increased tremendously.

The problem was largely ignored until 2006 when President Felipe Calderón began using military force to go after the cartels.

However, despite high profile arrests of various cartel figureheads, the cartels still remain powerful. The increased military pressure on cartels and the violent power struggles between cartels has led to 70,000 deaths in the past 6 years, and while the government has been able to restore order in some regions, there are still many areas where criminals operate freely, and the local populations live in constant fear of violence.

The western state of Michoacan has been under the control of cartels for some time, and the Knights Templar rose to power in 2011. With local police doing nothing to stop the cartel, and many officials on their payroll, locals were forced to pay extortion money to the Knights Templar.

Feeling increasingly fed up with waiting for the government to help them, some locals took matters into



LATIN AMERICA

The Mexican Government and vigilante Ggroups seek to rid michoacan of Knights Templar cartel

their own hands.

Vigilante “self-defence” groups launched an offensive against the cartel in early January 2014, and on 13 January they succeeded in

ousting the cartel from the town of Nueva Italia.

This followed earlier success in the towns of Paracuaro and Antunez, and they looked to build on

this as they marched towards the Knights Templar stronghold of Apatzingan in an effort to eliminate the cartel entirely. Following the initial offensive, the government deployed

hundreds of troops in the area on 14 January in order to restore order. The security operation was joined by a call for all vigilantes to lay down their arms, with renewed promises that the federal government would work to topple the Knights Templar.

However, with the state being seen as a failure after so many years under cartel oppression, many vigilantes were reluctant to lay down their arms, fearing this would leave them defenceless against the Knights Templar, and instead continued their offensive against the cartel.

This led to clashes between vigilantes and the government troops trying to disarm them. Tension between the vigilantes and the government continued, until an agreement was reached on 28 January to integrate the “self-defence” groups into the official security forces.

Under the agreement, the vigilantes will operate under the control of federal authorities as a Rural Defence Corps, giving them a temporary legal status.

The government and its citizens will certainly hope the newly integrated vigilante groups will be able to work with security forces to build on recent successes, and ultimately restore order to Michoacan.

Politics

US marijuana: views and implications

Charley Pearson
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

President Obama has recently opposed his administration's views on the legalisation of the recreational drug, which is currently in the same classification as ecstasy and heroin.

In an interview with *The New Yorker* magazine, President Obama stated that based on scientific evidence he believes that marijuana is not any worse for a person than alcohol. Although this opinion contradicts the official Obama administration policy, the President stood by his views that marijuana should be treated as a public health problem.

Twenty U.S states and the District of Columbia currently have laws legalising marijuana in some form, with only Colorado and Washington state laws allowing recreational use of the drug. Despite gradual legalisation across the United States, marijuana is still classified as a 'Schedule One' narcotic under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, a classification that includes heroin and ecstasy.

Eric Blumenaur, the Representative for Oregon, is a long-time advocate for loosening restrictions on marijuana, has begun circulating a letter to the President among other Congress members, asking that marijuana be removed from the controlled substances categories, or at least moved to a less restrictive schedule.

As discussions over the legalisation increase, what are the real implications of legalising a drug glorified by celebrities such as Rihanna day in and day out on Insta-



Marijuana is to some extent legal in 20 U.S states and President Obama has now voiced support for legalisation

gram?

A study conducted by Colorado State University in April 2013 anticipated that 665,000 Coloradans will use recreational marijuana in 2014 now that it is of legal status, with the average user predicted to smoke 3.53 ounces in 2014. The availability of cheaper marijuana would generate tax revenue, with the drug having an excise tax of 15 per cent on both wholesale and retail sales from grower, plus the states pre-existing 2.9 per cent sales tax on retail sales.

In total, marijuana in Colorado would have 32.9 per cent taxation, meaning an estimated total market

for recreational marijuana of \$605 million, and taxation of that market will amount to over \$130 million in state revenue this year alone.

However, with Colorado looking to set prices \$400 per ounce in legal retailers, many users will surely still be tempted by the average black market price of \$156, with medical marijuana being priced at \$200.

Marijuana was first legalised for medicinal purposes in California in 1996 following the passing of Proposition 215.

The drug is not a cure, but can relieve some of the symptoms of illnesses such as cancer, glaucoma

and HIV/AIDS.

All this being said, the health implications of the drug cannot go unmentioned – anxiety, paranoia, affected co-ordination and perception and decreased concentration spans are just some of the risks associated with marijuana use.

With the President stating his main concern is in fact the criminalisation of marijuana use, the coming months are increasingly important as experiments in Colorado and Washington will see the Government work on making sure drug traffickers and violence as a direct result of drug trading are not "creeping out".

Corruption endemic throughout Europe

Katy Scandalls
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The idea of back street bribes and widespread corruption will seem like an idea out of a gangster film to most of us, a representation of a bygone time when Al Capone ruled the streets of Chicago but as a recent report from the European Commission shows this couldn't be further from the truth.

The report looked at the levels of corruption in EU member states and what was being done to reduce these levels. It found staggering levels of perceived corruption in most states with 51 per cent of respondents believing that corruption is getting worse in the EU.

In the UK, 64 per cent of people surveyed believed that corruption was widespread, with 33 per cent believing that this was the case with public officials. In terms of bribery only 5 out of 1115 people expected to pay a bribe (giving the UK the best results in Europe on this question), although 4 per cent of those spoken to believe to have witnessed some form of corruption.

Such levels of corruption are



Public have little confidence in the integrity of their governments

said to be costing the European Union around €120 billion each year which roughly equates to the entire value of the Romanian economy.

The areas most likely to be affected by corruption were a countries healthcare, local authorities and political party funding with 73 per cent of people believing that bribery was the best way to get access to some of their countries' services.

The effects of the economic crisis can clearly be seen in the findings of the reports with reported

levels of corruption being higher in countries that have been the worst affected. In Italy, Spain and Greece reported levels of internal corruption were all over 90 per cent with Greece performing the worst with an overwhelming 99 per cent of respondents believing that corruption was widespread in the country.

The next step will be finding a solution which the EU has noted will not be an easy task. The report noted that inevitably the solutions to this corruption crisis will be different in each member state with

individual governments having to find their own ways of dealing with the problems outlined in the report.

It recommended more transparency, stronger internal sanctions and higher levels of awareness around the issue as possible starting points. Systems like those in place in Denmark and Sweden were praised for increasing public trust in the system and promoting general transparency.

This was clearly shown in the statistics with only 20 per cent of Danes believing that corruption was a big problem and only 1 per cent having encountered it in their own lives.

EU commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom acknowledged that any drop in the levels will take time and effort but that if countries wanted to help themselves get out of the economic crisis then they needed to take note of the report and its findings.

With only 23 per cent of those surveyed thinking that enough is being done by their governments to fight corruption it is clear that the European Union has a long way yet to go till it combats corruption.



@Number10gov
David Cameron
UK Prime Minister

PM's #indyref message to rest of UK: "You don't have a vote, but #YouHaveAVoice" #Scotland

6 Feb



@GuidoFawkes
Guido Fawkes,
Author of
Order-Order blog

In a free society you can't ban strikes unless you force people to work at gunpoint.

6 Feb



@Brandjack
Brandjack News,
Media Strategist

I bet Ralph Miliband had no teaching qualification - unusual in those days - banned from schools?

3 Feb



@arobertwebb
Robert Webb,
Comedy Writer/
Performer

That's great, Galloway and Starkey debating what rape is on BBC Question Time. Well done everyone.

6 Feb



@OwenJones84
Owen Jones,
Independent
Columnist

It's pretty insulting to intelligent right-wingers who get sidelined by sensationalist producers in favour of Hopkins, Currie, Mackenzie etc.

31 Jan

Is Scarlett Johansson a real hero?



Yvonne Efstathiou
POLITICS EDITOR



Daniel Cooper
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

The politics editors debate Scarlett Johansson's resignation from Oxfam following criticism over her decision to star in an advert for Sodastream, the fizzy drink company which operates in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank

Scarlett, in order to claim that you are 'saving the world' and that you 'love helping people', you at least need to know what is happening around the world. Her decision to resign from Oxfam due to its anti-Israeli stance is utterly flawed. Oxfam does not support the boycott, divestment nor the sanctions on Israel. Oxfam's objection was with regards to her double role as ambassador of Oxfam and Sodastream model, and to that end to the violation of the charity's support for human rights.

The argument about the crippled Palestinian economy and how the high wages benefit Palestinians is just laughable. Why are they facing 30-40 per cent unemployment in the West Bank? Why is poverty endemic among Palestinians?

It is because of the illegal settlements which impoverish Palestinian people, severely reducing their ability to access jobs, natural resources, markets, and basic services such as adequate water and sanitation facilities, schools and health clinics. Its because they are not entitled to permits that allow them to build up their own factories. In fact it is impossible for Palestinians to run anything close to the settlements. Thus any claims of equal opportunities is not true. Its like saying that getting someone's house and turning it into a hotel, providing him with employment, is ok. Well, its not! According to international law the land does not belong to the soda factory, nor to Israel. So if they really want to help the Palestinians improve their living conditions they should let them use their land.

Finally, the fact that Palestinians and Israelis co-exist in the factory proves nothing and of course does not bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict any closer to its end. These Palestinians, as has already been noted, suffer from poverty and would do anything for a living, even work at the illegal settlements. Of course the conflict will not be solved if Palestinians work with israelis in a factory. It is incredibly naive to expect something so trivial to have a meaningful effect.

Scarlett is not a hero, she just chose the biggest cheque.

Scarlett Johansson is completely right to stand up against the illiberal and immoral anti-Israel stance taken by Oxfam. The Anti-Defamation League, one of the most prominent organisations dedicated to combatting racism and anti-Semitism, has praised Scarlett's "principled opposition" to the "anti-Israel BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement".

The Sodastream factory in the West Bank is part of Palestinian economy, helping to stimulate growth in the territory and sowing seeds for the possibility of a prosperous future Palestinian state.

The unemployment rate in West Bank is between 30 and 40 per cent. Boycotting a business which is driving the Palestinian economy forward is only going to increase this figure. 1,300 Palestinians work in this factory - how does anybody gain from these people losing their jobs?

Furthermore, Palestinian workers in the Sodastream factory are paid wages equivalent to those in Israel - four times the average wage rate in the West Bank.

It is highly ironic that Oxfam, supposedly a benevolent charitable organisation, is telling Sodastream they should throw a huge number of people into unemployment and poverty.

There have been widespread calls to boycott goods made in democratic Israel, but where is the movement calling for a boycott of goods made in China - a nation with a human rights record far worse than Israel's?

Scarlett is a hero for boldly standing up against a movement which not only has sinister undertones, but is also detrimental to the peace process and a prosperous Palestinian society.

Events this month

-Tanya Byron: Debt and Antidepressants: Are students too scared to succeed?
Friday 21st February 2014

-David Conn: Money, modern football and Manchester city
Monday 24th February 2014

Enough is enough: Immigration debate

the YORK UNION

www.YorkUnion.co.uk
www.facebook.com/TheYorkUnion
[@YorkUnion](https://twitter.com/YorkUnion)



"With many thanks for a well organised event. Good crowd and good conversation. Best wishes, vote Labour"
-Alastair Campbell

"Thank you for a thoughtful and intelligent conversation and good luck for exams"
-Mark Lawson



Business



business@nouse.co.uk
www.nouse.co.uk/business

BUSINESS IN BRIEF



Build it like Beckham

Footballer David Beckham has announced plans to create his own football team in Miami, Florida. Beckham paid \$25million for the Major League Soccer franchise.

Unhappy Birthday

Facebook celebrated its 10th birthday this month. However, there has been widespread speculation that its days could be numbered as users abandon the sight, now seen as 'uncool'. A Princeton study predicted it would lose 80 per cent of users within 3 years.

BP blasts independence

The CEO of BP has attacked plans for Scottish Independence. He said there were 'big uncertainties' that could affect BP, the largest investor in the North Sea. Fears have also been raised that RBS would move its HQ to London.

Lloyds to hit the market

Lloyds Bank, one third owned by the government, put aside a further £1.8bn to compensate mis-sold PPI. Meanwhile, the government has announced plans to sell more of its share in the bank.

Retail results

Budweiser has decided not to renew its sponsorship deal with the FA. The deal to sponsor the FA Cup is currently worth £9 million a year. Budweiser continues to sponsor the World Cups in 2014, 2018



Is Gates' time up at 'The House that Bill Built'?

Ashley Hibben
BUSINESS REPORTER

Microsoft finally concluded its extensive search for Steve Ballmer's replacement as CEO this week with the internal promotion of India-born Satya Nadella. He beat out external candidates that were rumoured to include Alan Mulally of Ford and Stephen Elop of Nokia. As Chief of the company's Cloud and Enterprise Division, Nadella is touted as the ideal person to lead Microsoft's resurgence against the likes of Apple and Google in consumer electronics and business services.

His background is the main reason behind his promotion, having overseen the bolstering of Microsoft's successful commercial services including Bing, Skype, and Xbox Live. He is also committed to the "One Microsoft" reorganisation that the company underwent in July 2013. Devices and Services are the centre of Microsoft's future strategy. Software, the products upon which Microsoft's ubiquitous brand was built, has been left on the outside looking in.

However, the announcement that Bill Gates, will step down as Chairman to take up a more involved role as Technology Advisor has left many questioning whether Microsoft can match its rivals in creating desirable services and devices. Some fear that Gates, whilst a past visionary in technology and thought to be better with consumer products than Nadella, will hinder the new CEO's ability "to believe in the impossible and remove the improbable". In short, can Nadella take



DFARBER

Microsoft where it needs to go when its founder Gates is still so involved with the company?

With hindsight, Microsoft under Bill Gates was ahead of its time in the early 2000s. Having achieved Gates' stated aim of putting a PC in every home, the company unveiled some of the first smartphones and tablets, only to see Apple arrive late to the party and steal the limelight with the phenomenal success of the iPhone and iPad in the late 2000s.

Apple and Google turned technology into a sexy and desirable lifestyle accessory that Microsoft has been unable to match, with the possible exception of the Xbox. The creativity and inventiveness has always been present; a recent Bloomberg

piece highlighted Microsoft's announcement of a contact lens designed to test blood sugar from tears that went almost unnoticed in 2011.

Google announced a near identical product last month which generated far greater acclaim and attention from the world's press. Apple has sought to tackle consumer and investor fears on the future of its trend-setting products, stemming from the rather dour manner of CEO Tim Cook, by hiring former Burberry CEO Angela Ahrendts as Head of Retail.

The question is whether Bill Gates can help his company evolve into a consumer brand on the scale of Apple or Google with a line of brilliant new products. The feel-

ing is that for this to happen, Gates needs to be shown the door. This is unlikely at a company forged and dominated by his incredible efforts over the past 39 years.

However, the appointment of Satya Nadella suggests that Microsoft will continue to focus on what it does best: delivering practical software solutions that appeal to businesses and consumers that want to get things done.

This is the Gates and Ballmer strategy that has made them phenomenally wealthy and, at times, extremely unpopular. Nadella's appointment, despite his extraordinary talents, is unlikely to shake the foundations of 'The House that Bill Built.'

Counting the cost of EU corruption

Samuel Russell
BUSINESS REPORTER

Corruption is estimated to cost the EU economy €120 billion per year, just a little less than the annual budget of the European Union - perhaps the most shocking finding from the EU anti-corruption report, released on the 3rd of February by the European Commission. The report, the first in a new series of biennial studies on this matter, raised eyebrows across the continent for both the sheer level of corruption and the public's perception of it.

Corruption has numerous effects, it increases inequality by granting the rich better services whilst depriving the poor, it reduces economic efficiency by levying a de facto tax on any major project - the proceeds only benefiting individuals and not the state, it subverts laws and fairness among others.

Seventy-four per cent of Eu-

ropeans believe that this disease is infecting their country whilst 'over two thirds believe that political parties aren't transparent enough in their funding'. Around Europe the major political parties are losing their support. Citizens grow tired of the cronyism that infects every

“4 out of 10 firms find corruption to be an impediment”

country of this continent. Despite the fact that only 8 per cent of respondents claimed to have personally experienced a case of corruption (bribery or similar), the majority are still convinced.

According to the British Parlia-

ment, '90 per cent of MPs are university graduates, compared with 20 per cent across the adult population' and 'more than one-third of MPs elected in 2010 attended fee paying schools...' compared with less than 10 per cent of the adult population.' In Britain and indeed in the rest of Europe the privileged rule, manage companies and have attended the same establishments. Ordinary people are so convinced of corruption not due to direct bribe taking, but because of indirect corruption, using connections and friends to advance which are made at these elitist establishments - oneself above the rest.

This might help to explain why more than 4 out of 10 firms find corruption to be an impediment to doing business. Though direct corruption may only affect small areas of the EU, indirect affects the majority. This adversely affects any non-incumbent businesses. As an association that prides itself allowing any

individual or business to work or operate wherever it pleases within its area, its inability to eradicate this pest is problematic.

Europe was long supposed to be rid of this evil, though jokes and stories were often told about how having the right 'connections' is the most important thing. The headline figure, that corruption costs Europe €120bn per year, is only the realisation of this attitude. The worry is that it caused so much shock. Despite almost 64 per cent of British people believing corruption to be a problem it has never featured as a prominent electoral issue. A similar trend has been repeated across Europe, on average 'only 23 per cent of people felt their government was effective at fighting corruption'. This report has already created much discussion about a hitherto accepted subject, a unique 'custom' to some countries, but it remains to be seen whether any actions will arise from the words.

Is York losing its retail identity?

James Harrison looks at the decline of independent stores on York's highstreet

ALAN ROSTRON



York is famous for its dazzling mix of cobbled shopping streets, independent boutiques, vintage stores and popular high street names, attracting people from across the country and the world. However, this unique mix is at risk with some of York's oldest independent stores closing for good in the last few months.

The closing of such stores is unlikely to be followed by the opening of new ones, leaving them either vacant or taken over by high street brands, leaving York on a slippery slope towards becoming just another generic city centre.

One of the most high profile closures of late has been the Danish Kitchen on High Ousegate, which recently closed after serving York for 36 years, leaving only parts of a traditional street lamp within its

store before work began to prepare it for its new owners. The owner, Anthony Gibbens, decided to close the well-established cafe after being approached to sell the lease on the property to Byron Hamburgers Limited, dubbed a favourite chain of the chancellor, George Osborn. Another recent casualty has been the Barbican Bookshop on Fossgate, which has closed after 53 years of operation, 46 of which have been at its final location.

The shop, which had for most of its life been a family owned store, was bought by the Christian bookshop company Wesley Owen in 2006, but even this has failed to save it. Even York's cobbled streets are not safe anymore, with a section of cobbled path close to the shambles being recently replaced with modern paving.

The closure of the Barbican Bookshop is just one of many blows

“ The closure of the Barbican Bookshop is just one of many blows ”

to Fossgate which, despite the banner proclaiming it to be the ultimate street of local independent businesses, cuts a sorry sight today, with at least four of its stores now closed. This includes the Army and Navy Stores, which opened in 1919, that has been vacant for almost two years after its owner's retirement.

The world of retail is a harsh one, and the closure of stores and chains is not uncommon, particularly in recent years. Jessops, Woolworths, HMV and Republic are some of the many retail chains that have either closed completely or have seen a drastic reduction in store numbers.

For independent stores like the many found in York, this world is an even harsher one; this can be seen in many other towns and cities in the country, where independent shops are an increasingly rare sight.

The reasons for the massive reduction in independent stores are many; the store closure notice on the door of the Barbican Bookshop highlights the rapidly changing world of bookselling, particularly the rise of online shopping and people switching to reading online or

on kindles. The owner of the Danish Kitchen blamed high street coffee shop chains pushing local businesses out for why the cafe was no longer economically viable. The changing of customer's shopping habits and the growth of high street bands at the expense of small, independent shops are arguably the two key factors behind the loss of many towns and cities' unique retail identities.

The cases highlighted prove that York is not immune to this loss of identity, though its popularity as a tourist destination has protected much of it.

Some sound of advice for those who view the loss of York's unique retail identity as a tragedy is to enjoy the experience of shopping at its independent shops, and eating at its bars, cafes and restaurants, as they may not be there for much longer.

Technology Wars

We look at three battlegrounds for the big tech companies in the near future

Smart Watches

The fabled release of Apple's smart-watch has been predicted for a long time. A recent release by Samsung failed to achieve great success, as have releases by independent companies.

In the future, smart watches are seen as the natural extension of the smart phone into wearable technology. Apple has recently patented designs of what looks to be a watch, but nothing has been released so far.



Head Wear

Google has shown prototypes of the Google Glass, a piece of technology that users wear like traditional glasses but provides information to the user via a small display. It has been seen in public on a number of people who are trialling the product before it goes on sale.

People were invited to apply to trial the product with a price tag of \$1,500 for the privilege. Samsung has announced that it will release its own glasses this year, as have Apple.



Tablets

Not necessarily new technology, but an area of intense competition. Apple released a type of pad in 1993 but discontinued it in 1998. Microsoft also launched an early tablet back in 2002. However, the tablet failed to find success until the iPad was released in 2010. Since then sales of all tablets have soared.

Imitators are common in the market now, especially at the lower end of the market. Samsung and Apple continue to dominate the market but Microsoft and others are pushing hard.



Science

Lab Notes

1. In spite of a fall in US republicans who believe in the principles of evolution, the children of Texas can now use biology textbooks free from the shackles of anti-evolution propaganda.

2. Bird flu has once again struck China with the new strain H10N8, responsible for two deaths, ten years after the initial outbreak of H5N1. In an attempt to limit the spread, China is aiming to shut down its poultry markets.



3. Evidence has emerged that the Black Death may have been the cause of death of a quarter of the population in 541AD in Emperor Justinian's reign. Was this what caused the fall of the Roman Empire?

4. Graphene's promise of revolutionising electronics has come yet another step closer to fruition with researchers at IBM successfully using the material for wireless communications. While this was limited to sending a simple text message, the circuits' performance was 10,000 times better than those previously using graphene.

5. At more than 800,000 years old, the earliest human footprints outside of Africa have been found on the Norfolk coast. Some of the prints were big enough to fill a UK size 8 shoe and could be proof of a species known as *Homo antecessor*.

Matthew Wells

Scientists go nuts over trial

Sarah Pryor
SCIENCE REPORTER

Peanuts are one of the most common foods to cause an allergic reaction in both children and adults.

This means that the body's immune system is over-reacting to a molecule within the food, and typical symptoms can include itching, a rash, swelling, vomiting and diarrhoea. In severe cases, anaphylaxis can occur, which has symptoms including swollen lips and breathing difficulty, and can be fatal.

The results of a recently published clinical trial however, could give hope to sufferers of this allergy. The treatment being tested in this instance was oral immunotherapy, which has been trialled in the past in the case of other allergies with promising results. Participants between the ages of seven and sixteen

years, were given doses of peanut protein to take everyday, with the quantity increasing every two weeks (under medical supervision in a specialist facility).

Participants were hypersensitive to peanuts and had previously shown an immediate response when exposed. The starting amount was well below the threshold for an allergic reaction, but by the end of the 6 months the group were taking the equivalent of 5 peanuts a day.

This concluding dose was reportedly tolerated by 84% of the participants. All tests for sensitivity were conducted by double-blind placebo-controlled food challenge.

This is not a definitive solution to the problem. It is estimated that doses of peanut protein would have to be continually taken for years after this sort of initial stage of treatment in



order for desensitisation to continue. However, it is a brilliant step in the right direction. Quality of life was shown to increase upon the participants' decreased sensitivity to peanuts.

The reality is that sufferers of the allergy have to

constantly watch what they eat, fearing that traces of peanut will accidentally slip into their diet. Over half of peanut allergy sufferers also have an adverse reaction to other nuts, so many still, even with immunotherapy such as this, wouldn't be

able to completely let their guard down.

There are however still a lot of people for whom treatment such as this would make life a lot easier. For the time being though, more research needs to be done.

Cell research passes acid test



Ellie Davis
SCIENCE REPORTER

We all start off as a ball of cells. As we grow, our cells change and become more specialised. With each division, chemical alterations in the nucleus send them further down their set path. It was previously thought the only way to reverse this was to manipulate the cell nucleus, or replace it altogether. However, new research has shown it may be

as easy as dipping the cell in acid.

This isn't totally novel: carrot cells have been seen to revert to pluripotent stem cells in nature when placed under acid stress. However, it has not been shown to occur naturally in any animal cell.

Haruko Obokata's team in Japan has shown that just 30 minutes exposure to pH of 5.4-5.8 resulted in cells which looked remarkably like stem cells.

This process, referred

to as stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency (STAP), was carried out on cells from a range of tissue types including blood, fat and muscle. The STAP cells produced were shown to be pluripotent: they had the potential to differentiate into any tissue type in an embryo.

The cells were successfully incorporated into mouse embryos. Under lab conditions, the STAP cells did not aggregate and grow normally and most

died within seven days. However, with the help of a hormone, they could be encouraged to produce further STAP stem cells which could grow normally and have the characteristics of pluripotent cells.

The potential stem cells have a huge. With the right stimulus the cells can be encouraged to specialise into any cell type in the body. Perhaps most importantly, this could provide a source for tissue transplants. It is estimated that

weeks could be knocked off processes which used a patient's own stem cells with this new technique. At the end of 2013 over 7000 people in the UK alone were on the waiting list for organ transplants. For these people, that extra time could make all the difference.

Though we're still a long way from treatment in humans as the cells will need to be proven safe, the process, hailed as 'revolutionary', is certainly a step in the right direction.

Six GM products heading to a supermarket near you

Hippies despise it, politicians are wary of supporting it and even scientists are uncertain about the consequences of genetic engineering. The ability to produce fluorescent pigs and bizarre animal crossbreeds (look up the 'Lemurat' or 'Dolion' if you want a laugh) was once a matter of science fiction yet now, ethics aside, we have the ability to engineer just about anything. Here are a few of the more practical products we might see stocking our shelves in the near future...

Emily Collins

Immune-boosting eggs

Although not technically intended for human consumption, chicken eggs engineered to contain large amounts of life-saving protein might play a key part in cancer treatment in years to come. Through creating 500 modified birds, researchers at The Roslin Institute hoped to produce proteins both cheaply and in bulk in order to reduce the cost of future medical treatments.



Antifreeze fish

Don't worry, no one is suggesting you spray tuna on your windscreen. Modified salmon and trout, unlike their natural counterparts which die below temperatures of -0.70c, can withstand the arctic temperatures of Northern fish farms. This is all thanks to the antifreeze protein which can be taken from the blood plasma of the winter flounder and injected into rainbow trout and salmon.

Enviropigs

It turns out that cows aren't the only environmentally-damaging livestock. Phosphorus, found in high concentrations in pig manure, is one of the main causes of excess algal growth in rivers and ponds. By engineering pigs so that they produce the enzyme phytase in their salivary glands, scientists have enabled the breakdown of phytic acid (a form of phosphorus) in the pigs' stomachs into phosphate, reducing the release of phosphorus into the environment.



Antioxidant tomatoes

Not only do they look pretty but these purple tomatoes, already under large-scale production, also have fantastic nutritional benefits. Using the gene from the snapdragon plant, scientists have engineered the tomato so that it produces anthocyanin, a powerful cancer-fighting antioxidant found in cranberries and blueberries. With 1200 litres of tomato juice already on its way to Canada, there's every chance that within a few years red tomato ketchup could be a thing of the past.

Oily veg

In an attempt to reduce demand for wild fish populations, researchers at Rothamsted have been genetically modifying plants to produce omega-3 fatty acids which are usually found in oily fish such as tuna, mackerel and sardines and can protect against heart disease. If further field trials are successful, hopefully we'll be able to get our daily dose of omega-3 without breaking the student budget.



Banana vaccines

No, this isn't another health fad or supermarket scam; scientists have been engineering bananas, potatoes, lettuce, carrots and even tobacco to produce the HBV vaccine which, if developed, could lead to more successful and widespread prevention of the disease.

Campus Bird Fact No.2

Ever wondered how ducks can bear standing on ice?

The lower leg of the duck contains only a small amount of soft tissue and therefore only needs a small quantity of warm blood. This means that the duck can exhibit counter-current flow; heat flows from the arterial blood as it enters the foot, then to the venous blood as it leaves the foot. This makes sure that there is a smaller difference between the temperature of the foot and the ice, reducing the amount of heat lost to the environment.



Sport

>> Pages 28-31

Match reports from this weekend's college sport action



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PARK LIFE

Tom Fennelly
SPORTS EDITOR

In many ways, York's upcoming College Varsity tournament is very much comparable and on a level to the Winter Olympic games in Sochi, Russia. Aside from the fact that Varsity will be held in a setting where homosexuality isn't institutionally frowned upon.

Okay, maybe there are some instances where Varsity is clearly not on the same level as Sochi. I can't see York Sport spending £30 billion on the opening ceremony; we'll be lucky if the opening PowerPoint even has sound (although I hear through the grape vine that it might even be animated).

There won't be a massive fireworks display, or a lights show, and health and safety might take issue with Cass Brown carrying through a flaming torch to light a cauldron, but there will be quite a few people gathered in the same place.

Even the cold setting of York will be comparable to Sochi, as groups of spectators huddle like

“It is quite likely that ice hockey will take place on the JLD”

penguins as they try to stay warm whilst watching sports they probably don't understand because it just so happens that there is a competitive tournament going on nearby. And, like most of the sports at the Winter Olympics, it's likely to be a downhill route into likely disappointment for our campus' sport-people.

The sports may be different, but, with the current trajectory of the ever-worsening inclement weather, it is quite likely that ice hockey will take place on the JLD.

A recent advert from Canada raised a very good point against the banning of gay 'propaganda' in Russia, making the point that the Games have always been 'a little bit gay'. Shoving two people of the same gender onto a small sheet of metal and pushing them downhill is certainly very intimate, and competitions for figure skating bring out the age-old stereotypes about men who dance.

In the biathlon, it's even implied in the title. Thankfully, the much more liberal Varsity rises above and beyond homophobia and champions diversity by bringing people together in sport, just like what the Winter Olympics try to do, and in fairness, actually achieve.

Surely it is this coming together of like-minded athletes to compete against each other without discrimination that makes these two sporting events truly and equally renowned, spectacular and inspiring.

Hurricanes, Halifax and howlers

The Nouse Sport Team reflect on the Varsity qualifiers and campus sporting action from the last week

Good Week

Every college except Derwent

Every single college will have a team representing them at the College Varsity event against Durham. The only college that was left without any representation for the main event after a busy Saturday was Derwent. Yes, you heard it here first, even Langwith will be there. Even the postgrads. Even the rabbit petting zoo of Alcuin will be there. A big well done to everyone! Except Derwent. You've let us down.



Jonny Sim

Halifax's veteran goalkeeper excellently saved the final penalty in his side's semi-final against Derwent to put them through to the College Varsity finals. On Saturday afternoon, the winds became so strong that the BUSA sailing event was cancelled, and that was a sport that relied solely on wind. Regardless, the football match took place in conditions that were hardly ideal for goalkeepers. The match ended as a 2-2 draw and went to penalties. When Sim was called upon to have safe hands, he duly obliged and saved the day for the Fax after falling to his right to save Sam Weighall's penalty.



Women's lacrosse

It's been a cracking week for the women's lacrosse firsts, who went into their away game at Hull knowing that a win would be enough to secure them a title. They didn't disappoint with a brilliant 31-4 victory, somehow making a trip to Hull enjoyable in the process. They finished the season with a 100 per cent record and a goal difference of +125. Well done girls, from the Nouse Sports Team.

The weather

The not-so-Great British weather struck again this weekend. Never mind the fact that large swathes of the South West are no longer a thing, it wreaked havoc with the College Varsity qualifying fixtures. Disgustingly strong winds transformed campus into one giant, miserable, concrete wind tunnel. We feel aggrieved; it's like there's a vendetta against us or something. Oh, and it's still raining.



JLD lovers

It's been a miserable week for sport-people across campus who have an affinity for the JLD, as it was confirmed that the legendary astroturf will be demolished later this year and relocated to behind the Sports Centre. It means that this year's College Cup in Summer Term will be the final one on the JLD. On the plus side, we finally solved the age-old enigma of what 'JLD' means. We've heard on the grape vine that it stands for John L. Dyke (father of current York Chancellor Greg), who helped to fund its original construction. What a nice chap.

Derwent College

With Derwent fighting it out with James at the top of the College Sport points table, it comes as a real surprise that their presence at College Varsity will be minimal, to say the least. With Derwent teams dropping like flies in the qualifiers, it'll be quiet on that particular part of campus



Bad Week

The American Dream

With the popularity of American football on the rise, Club President **Fred Isaac** talks to Lewis Hill about the York Centurions and the excitement of playing the sport in England

ALL IMAGES: LILY GRANT

Now I have to admit that like a lot of other Brits, I am a little bit ignorant about American sport. Indeed, I'm 'that guy' who went to New York for a week and came back with a Yankees cap and baseball mitt after watching one game of Major League Baseball.

My only previous experience of American football was playing Madden NFL 09 on the PlayStation 2. Whilst it has to be said that my 99-rated quarter back who was six foot six and built like a house was the guy who pulled the strings for the Miami Dolphins, he failed to resemble me in any way.

So I was delighted to extend my American football knowledge further and find out more about the sport, which is actually played here on campus by the York Centurions. I spoke to their captain and president, Fred Isaac, about what makes this sport different to a contact sport that is similarly cherished in England - rugby.

"It doesn't have a flowing nature that rugby does, it's more like the highlight reels of rugby, every play you're playing, you're playing it at 100 per cent. I've had hard hits playing in both sports, but there are more likely to be more massive hits playing American football because there are fewer tackles per game. If you get the chance, you fly into your opponent at 100 per cent."

What is apparent is that Fred clearly knows the game and is passionate about it but he's also ambitious and keen to improve on last season. "Last season we played well in the games that we should have played well in, but in the close games, we lost a lot."

"But this year we reorganised in the summer, we got some funding in to allow us to participate at the level we wanted to, we got new sponsors in, we tried to get it all sorted early."

"We got new equipment in this year and we've started to build a really good foundation for years to come and increase our coaching staff. This year has been a solid year, we're looking to go in and win our next three games and finish with a winning record and build on it for next year."

I ask him about the new players that have joined this year and how they've taken to the team, and I'm surprised at the



amount of freshers that came into the club considering they only have one team. "We tend to get about sixty new freshers coming into the club, of which about thirty or forty stay on and are regular members of the club. We had about four rookies, freshers and new people coming into sport, starting the first game."

What's astonishing though is that the majority of new players who come into the team have never played the sport before. Fred tells me that, "We had one guy who joined that had played [the sport] before, but I would say that around 95 per cent of people who come and join our sport have never played before."

"The first years on defence have really shown themselves and have become really good players, crucial parts of the team which we couldn't do without."

"We've got our set-up, we ran a programme in conjunction with the National Lottery where our first six weeks of training are sort of about bringing people up to speed, getting them game ready." It's clear that the American football club are willing to get new players in and help to them develop right from the word go, something that can only be admired.

Talking about the first half of the season, Fred says, "We've won two and lost three, the two we won we should have won; we won convincingly which was really good."

Casting one eye to probably the biggest fixture of the year, an away Roses match against Lancaster, Fred says, "Roses is always a big part

of our season, but at the moment we're concentrating on winning the rest of the season because if we win these next three games then there is a chance that we could get into the play-offs which extends our season even longer."

"We always get old boys back to support, we don't play Lancaster during the regular season which we used to do, so it actually ups the ante for Roses a bit more."

I ask Fred what the main perks of joining the American football club are. In my own mind I was envisaging the kit being one of the main perks of the job. You have to admit, the helmets are pretty cool, but Fred believes that the social side of the club really allows it to stand out. He jokes, "Well in comparison to the football club we actually go out on Wednesday nights!"

But in all seriousness he adds, "We have a really good social atmosphere as well as being a highly competitive team. I'd say one of the big differences is because everyone is new to the sport everyone grows at a similar sort of rate."

"That's the difference with other sports at this university - people will have played those before whilst if you come to American football no one has really played it before so everyone grows together as one cohesive unit."

"The other advantage is that because we only have one team there's no firsts, second, thirds - we all get on the coach together, we all go to our games together, and we're all part of one team."

"Then again, there's competition within the team, there's direct competition between offence and defence which is also another nice aspect."

"You play week in, week out against your mates, you train against each other but then you come together on a Sunday to try and work together, you congratulate each other as you go off the field. It's a nice feeling to have, forty of your mates on the side line as you come off the field after making a good play."

"In comparison to the football club we actually go out on Wednesday nights!"

What makes this club unique is certainly the "one club" spirit that is engrained with having one team. Yet competition within the club clearly adds another dimension

that makes the experience of playing for the Centurions such a unique one.

The best part of this package? It's still open. I asked Fred what he would say to those people who might want to take up American football but might be apprehensive about joining the club. He says, "Come along now, we have training on Thursday nights at eight [in the evening] and on Sundays at eleven [in the morning] if we don't have a game. We've had people who have joined after Christmas and who are already looking to certainly feature in our starting line-up for the first game [after Christmas]."

What's obvious to me is that the York Centurions are one of the most tight-knit competitive sides on campus. It's a great all round package that combines cohesiveness, competition and has a great social side. This type of club is rare but the Centurions seem to be a great choice for those looking to dive into a new sport. If you're thinking of taking up a new sport, why not American football?

Sport

James and Halifax take Varsity plaudits

Beth Jakubowski
Claire Thomas

HALIFAX AND James were the victors in the College Varsity warm ups, with Halifax recording a 22-12 win over Derwent and James managing a 57-26 victory over Goodricke.

The first semi-final between James and Goodricke was resounding victory for the Swans. James started off the match brightly, and their relentlessly tight marking ensured that Goodricke were unable to find a foothold on the game. James were cruising at 7-0 with some impressively accurate shooting from Hall and Pullan.

After the first quarter James were 15-2 up as they dictated the pace of the game magnificently with accurate and precise passing. Despite Goodricke playing more fluidly after the break, Hall and Pullan managed to put James in a dominant position at 17-4. At half time the score stood at 27-11 and going into the final quarter it was 44-20 to James. With the game dwindling to a close, James worked tirelessly to achieve a 57-26 victory.

The second semi-final between Halifax and Derwent was a closer affair. The game started slowly with both sides having a very strong defence. The deadlock wasn't broken until after the first five minutes when Halifax drew first blood. After the first quarter the tense match was just being edged by Halifax 4-2.

Changes at the break worked in Halifax's favour and they were able to pull away with ease despite the high standard of play. At half time they had pulled ahead to a 13-5 lead but Derwent fought hard in the third quarter to try and reduce the deficit. Halifax were able to resurrect their goal scoring prowess and they eventually won the match 22-12.

The final between Halifax and James was an unbelievably tense match which brought the weekend of fixtures to a thrilling conclusion. Both teams employed similar tactics in moving the ball rapidly through midfield, Halifax were aided by the scintillating pace of Wing Attack Lo Jones and some wonderful shooting from Becky Gabbittas.

Halifax controlled the first quarter, but James came back and produced some wonderful shooting to see them winning 18-17 at half-time whilst edging the third quarter 31-23, which seemed like too big of a margin for Halifax to overcome.

But Halifax defied the odds and played with pace and flair to take advantage of a tired James team. With three minutes left on the clock, Halifax had clawed the game back to 35-35.

In a thrilling final few minutes Halifax managed one last goal to shatter James' dreams of a top seeded spot at Varsity.

Wentworth too good for Langwith

Wentworth	3
Langwith	0

Lewis Hill
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

IT WAS an afternoon to forget for the Langwith volleyball side as they succumbed to a 3-0 loss at the hands of the Postgrads.

After a significant delay in the start time of the match the game eventually got underway and it was clear from the first few points that this was to be Wentworth's day. The first set was Wentworth's from the start. The team was dominant throughout with all members serving well and linking up with one another to form attacking plays that Langwith couldn't deal with.

Wentworth looked the more established team stringing together plays at ease whilst Langwith put up a good fight, looking to claim the odd point from forcing Wentworth into committing errors. Richard Rhodes was particularly effective for Wentworth, spiking the ball over the net and right into the heart of the Langwith team. The set finished 25-7 to Wentworth. The second set was played in a similar vein, Lang-

with again were on the back foot throughout the set as Wentworth players such as Maxine Pelletier and Felipe Cortesi piled on the pressure with some good spikes and volleys.

When Langwith did get the chance to serve they rarely managed to hold on to the serve often failing to set one another up for an opportunity to spike the ball, thus allowing Wentworth to recover and in turn attack Langwith back. In the end, the second set finished 25-5 to Wentworth.

The third set like the previous two was all Wentworth once again. Anna Dimitropolous served very well for the Postgrads in the opening stages of the set, helping them to win several points. Whilst Seb Booth, Kenisha Hanson and Marcelo Kern all contributed to Wentworth's overall victory whether it be through their own service or through play at the net.

Langwith however did put up a fight and put on some courageous defending in a bid to keep Wentworth at bay. The four Langwith girls of Ruby Callister, Millie Reed, Cat Santini and Symone Thompson pulled out the stops and managed to help their side win a couple of points in the final set.



PETROC TAYLOR

Wentworth powered through to the Varsity finals with a strong display

The only male member of the Langwith team, Tom Benney, entertained the spectators with some great diving attempts to prevent Wentworth from scoring points, but ultimately his efforts weren't

enough to prevent the inevitable. Despite Langwith's best efforts they were well and truly outplayed by the pre-match favourites. Wentworth won the final set 25-6, consequently winning the match 3-0.

Alcuin narrowly beat Derwent

PETROC TAYLOR



Alcuin left Derwent disappointed as they put in a dominant performance

Alcuin	3
Derwent	0

Nick Morrill
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

DERWENT WERE left disappointed today after being defeated by a numerically superior Alcuin volleyball side 3 sets to 0.

Taking to the court for the first set Derwent looked somewhat understrength initially fielding only four players against Alcuin's full complement of six with two subs.

Despite this Derwent kicked off proceedings with a clean shot proving numbers don't count for everything. Two sides remained evenly matched for a majority of the set with Derwent even recruiting a new player mid set. This couldn't stop Alcuin eventually gaining the edge however.

Alcuin's pressure continued to mount with their score gradually increasing as Derwent started to stagnate.

With Alcuin now drawing dangerously close to match point the Derwent team were able to claw back a few points but ultimately the lead was too great for them to assail and the set finished a convincing Alcuin 25 - 15 Derwent.

The beginning of the second set mirrored that of the first with Derwent taking an early lead over the match leaders.

As the set continued the two teams once again appeared to be

evenly matched with powerful shots and well executed volleys being executed by both teams.

Frustratingly for the hopeful Derwent side Alcuin were able to once again wear them down resulting in the scores once again creeping in their favour. Alcuin sensing the set was within their grasp continued to pile on the pressure.

Mirroring the previous set Derwent did manage to once again make another push towards the end of the set managing to claw back several more points than they had done previously.

Alcuin's lead proved to be once again unassailable however and the set ended Alcuin 25 - 17 Derwent.

Now trailing by two sets Derwent returned for the third set hoping to get themselves back into the running.

Following their previous form from the previous set they once again managed to convert the first point giving them hope they could carry the match into further sets.

Derwent giving it their all managed to match Alcuin almost point for point throughout the entire set.

Sadly for the resurgent Derwent team the lack of subs seemed to take its toll as fatigue set in and Alcuin managed to edge ahead and score their final required point.

The final set ended at a respectable Derwent 22 - 25 Alcuin leaving the Derwent side disappointed but still encouraged to have put on such a show despite their depleted numbers.

Shootout wins for James and Goodricke



FIONA HILL



PETROC TAYLOR

It took penalty shootouts in each of the hockey semi-finals which sent Halifax and Langwith crashing out of Varsity, meaning James and Langwith will face Durham's colleges in week eight

James 2

Halifax 2

JAMES WIN 3-2 ON PENALTIES

Tom Armston-Clarke
SPORTS REPORTER

IN FRONT of a mass of James supporters, it was always going to be a tough match for their counterparts Halifax in the opening hockey semi-final on the JLD.

Despite an early mistake from the James defence, a fluffed shot from Jamie Emerson ensured that Halifax did not score first. Following this, James started strongly; with some key UYHC members dominating the middle of the pitch.

Notably Chris Butterworth connected with Briony Peters beautifully, reading each others' movements with perfection. Elizabeth Furber, goalkeeper for Halifax was forced to make some great early saves as shots came in thick and fast.

However, it was not all one way and Halifax put pressure on their opponents; with some fantastic interlinking play from Emmerson and Hermione Warmington.

Their attacks, however, were not enough as it was not long before Nick Mitchell scored the first of his two goals.

A smooth passage of play between the mercurial James Hope through the midfield to Guy Holden fed the ball to Mitchell, who slotted it past Furber to break the goal deadlock.

The James onslaught continued, with Butterworth and Tyler having chances but Furber and her defence, in particular Laura Atkinson, proving once again why they are valued UYHC members.

Halifax dug their heels into the ground and continued to fight, with Cameron Sanders almost equalizing.

Mitchell, within moments of coming back onto the pitch, scored his second goal of the match just before the half time whistle was blown after being set up by Tim Sylcock and Emily Arter.

The second half was a different story as Halifax started to fight back.

After Alex Francis came close to pulling a goal back, the relentless work rate from Sam Mackin-

non in the middle of the park finally came to fruition as Emerson scored a somewhat scrappy goal after the ball hit both posts and rolled over the line.

As James attempted to hold onto their lead, Halifax kept fighting and it was not before long that Warmington smashed in an equalizer from a short corner.

The umpires reduced James down to ten men for the final ten minutes but neither side could find a winner and it went down to penalties to decide the score.

Goals from Emerson and Sanders were unfortunately not enough to keep James from victory in the shootout. Chris Butterworth, Katherine Bramwell and Declan Hall all scored their penalties and, combined with the three misses from Halifax, left triumph in James' hands.

Goodricke 0

Langwith 0

GOODRICKE WIN 3-2 ON PENALTIES

Tom Armston-Clarke
SPORTS REPORTER

DESPITE LANGWITH dominating a one-sided but goalless Hes East derby, it was Goodricke that came out as victors after a closely-fought penalty shootout.

There were early chances for Barnaby Steel who came close to breaking the deadlock, but Harry Jeffs was having a stormer between the posts to keep Goodricke in the match. In addition to Steel, Matt Guy was causing non-stop problems for the Goodricke back four and surprised all by not scoring at least one as Langwith continued to dominate.

As the cold weather came in from the East, the match appeared to lose its spark in a somewhat lethargic way. Inspiring moments came from Alex McDonald as he suc-



cumbed to peer pressure and threw in some aerial balls, but with a less than satisfying success rate.

The second half increased in the tempo, with Langwith continuing to dominate Goodricke. The majority of the last thirty-five minutes were played in Goodricke's last 25 metres.

Chances once again came from Guy, Ben Al-Shaikh and Mike Durnett-Stone but some scrappy all or nothing defense kept the ball from crossing the line. Langwith's wild card at the back, Andrew Lister was calm and collected as usual cleaning up any stray Goodricke attacks that came his way.

In the final ten minutes Goodricke appeared to have a second lease of life, but could not quite get the ball to their striker Tara Anison to convert the opportunities.

The final whistle blew with both teams level at 0-0, but with one final short corner to play. All of Langwith set themselves up around the Goodricke D but Laura Mitchell disappointingly could not convert.

Harry Jeffs pulled off some fantastic saves to deny three penalty attempts, with Goodricke's winning penalty slotted home by Max Fox.

Varsity qualifier results in full

Men's football

Semi: Derwent 2-2 Halifax (Halifax win 3-1 on pens)
Semi: James 5-1 Vanbrugh
Final: James 4-2 Halifax

Badminton

Semi: Wentworth 8-1 Derwent
Semi: Goodricke 6-3 James
Final: Wentworth 6-3 Goodricke

Women's football

Semi: Vanbrugh 3-2 Derwent
Semi: Langwith 7-4 James
Final: Langwith 3-2 Vanbrugh

Volleyball

Semi: Wentworth 3-0 Langwith
Semi: Alcuin 3-0 Derwent
Final: Alcuin P-P Wentworth

Netball

Semi: Halifax 22-12 Derwent
Semi: James 57-26 Goodricke
Final: Halifax 37-36 James

Hockey

Semi: James 2-2 Halifax (James win 3-2 on pens)
Semi: Goodricke 0-0 Langwith (Goodricke win 3-2 on pens)
Final: James 5-0 Goodricke

Basketball

Semi: Langwith 36-33 James
Semi: Wentworth 50-43 Vanbrugh
Final: Wentworth 31-24 Langwith

Rugby

Semi: Halifax P-P Vanbrugh
Semi: Derwent P-P James
Final: TBC



Vanbrugh victorious in the tent

PETROC TAYLOR

Vanbrugh 3

Derwent 2

Tom Fennelly
SPORTS EDITOR

IN A TIGHT game between two evenly matched sides, Vanbrugh came out as victors against a determined Derwent after a solid second half performance.

Both teams started the match brightly with Vanbrugh's Charlie Brown and Derwent's Aimee Hardy testing their opponent's goalkeepers, but both shot-stoppers were proving hard to beat.

Rhiannon Roy thought that she had broken the deadlock after five minutes, however referee Ellie Whittaker disallowed the goal as Roy was seen to have entered the D.

Vanbrugh's chance at going ahead gave Derwent a wake-up call and they stepped up their attack.

A moment of magic from Angie Dem: after intercepting the ball from Vanbrugh in their half, she broke down the left and fired a wicked left-footed shot into the side netting at the far post.

Derwent now had the wind in their sails and they grew in confidence as the half went on, creating more chances.

However, Derwent's defence was often leaving the likes of Brown and Maria Davies with too much room in front of goal and, eventually, Davies took advantage of the space when she forced an equaliser via a finessed shot.

As the first half drew to a close,

the chances were coming thick and fast for both sides. A deflected shot forced a good reflex save from Derwent keeper Anna Cook, whilst at the other end, Rohanna Nilson forced an athletic save from Vanbrugh keeper Meg Phillips.

Then, before the half-time whistle, two goals in two minutes suddenly brought the Sports Tent to life.

A break away from Sarah Rentoul allowed her to put Derwent momentarily back in the lead, however Vanbrugh came at Derwent straight after the restart and a determined Roy was able to slot away a well-taken equaliser.

In the second half, both teams set themselves up more defensively and chances were harder to come by. Katherine Wilson forced a save from Philips for Derwent.

Vanbrugh responded and they grew in tenacity as the half went on, with Derwent often on the back foot in their own half.

Eventually, Vanbrugh found their goal after Derwent failed to clear their lines, allowing Brown to fire a shot from the left side into goal via the far post.

Derwent continued to struggle to create goal-scoring opportunities as Vanbrugh saw the rest out, with Roy dictating much of their defensive play.

Roy, Vanbrugh's experienced centre-back, was solid at the back, but also showed her versatility as a player after she looked hugely threatening with the ball at her feet in front of goal, scoring the equalising goal to keep her side in the



Player of the match Rhiannon Roy helped Vanbrugh to beat Derwent and secure their place at the Varsity finals

game.

It was a performance that definitely warranted her being crowned the player of the match.

A delighted Maria Davies, Vanbrugh captain, told *Nouse*: "It was really, really tense and Derwent played really, really well.

I didn't know what the outcome

was going to be until right to the very end. The team played really well and we're through to Varsity!" Derwent captain Anna Cook added: "Derwent played really well; I'm really proud of all the girls and we put a great effort out. It was a really close match but well done to Vanbrugh".

Vanbrugh:

Phillips, Brown, Connolly, Maguire, Davies (C), Roy, Troetgruben, Churchill

Derwent:

Cook (C), Wilson, Nilson, Dem, Livesey, Hardy, Rentoul, Carroll, Patsia

Player of the match: Rhiannon Roy

Langwith cruise past James into Varsity finals

PETROC TAYLOR



Langwith routed James to secure a place in College Varsity in week eight

James 4

Langwith 7

Jamie Summers
SPORTS EDITOR

LANGWITH WOMEN'S footballers eased their way into Varsity after a comprehensive 7-4 victory over Derwent. On the backdrop of an electric atmosphere in the tent, the Hes East side put in a stellar performance and started off brightly as captain, Ruby Callister tested Ellie Whittaker in the James goal.

Neither side was particularly dominating in the opening stages, but Langwith took the lead two minutes in after a fine effort from Adeline Roussel. Nevertheless, James immediately hit back after a skilful team move down the left wing led to an equaliser.

Langwith soon got into their stride and deservedly restored their lead shortly afterwards, as Callister excellently capitalised on a goal-keeping error to blast the ball home from distance.

Langwith were working the channels well and retaining posses-

sion for long periods, which reaped rewards as Roussel grabbed her second and Langwith's third goal of the game.

The nature of the match meant that it was end-to-end, and after a superb save in the Langwith area, Lorna Livingston picked up possession and incisively counter-attacked, but could only fire her shot straight at the keeper. As the game approached half time, James seized an opportunity to score their second after the ball was squared perfectly into the area.

However, their excitement was short-lived, as Langwith responded with an instantaneous goal to hold a 4-3 lead at the break.

James were looking strong in attack but less accomplished in defence. This pattern continued in the second half as Laura Robertson found the net within seconds of the restart to restore Langwith's two-goal cushion.

At this stage, despite the best efforts of Anna Perkins and Lauren Larkin for the Heslington West side, Langwith were comfortably dictating the pattern of play, and five goals became six when a brilliantly-crafted team goal was completed by

Roussel. The match was then ended as any kind of contest when Callister fittingly rounded off a brilliant all-round team performance by scoring a seventh goal of the game for the Heslington East team. James ended the match with a flourish as they scored their fourth goal, but it proved to be only a consolation as Langwith eventually ran out as comfortable winners.

Speaking after the match; Langwith captain Ruby Callister told *Nouse*: "James are a really good team, so we weren't sure how it would go. I'm really happy with how the girls played."

Meanwhile, James' Ellie Whittaker simply commented: "Langwith train every week, and it showed in how they played. They were very well organised."

James:

Whittaker (C), Perkins, Allsopp, Pick, Cole.

Subs: Jermy, Larkin

Langwith:

Callister (C), Robertson, Livingston, Roussel, Matheson.

Subs: Wim Roberts, Thompson

Player of the match: Ruby Callister

Halifax edge tense thriller

Derwent 2

Halifax 2

HALIFAX WIN 3-1 ON PENALTIES

Tom Fennelly
SPORTS EDITOR

A PENALTY shootout was needed to split Derwent and Halifax in their Varsity qualifier. Conditions on the 3G made a lot of chance-creating play impossible.

However, Halifax had the wind behind them, meaning that their play was becoming increasingly threatening and Derwent often found themselves camped in their own half. It took seventeen minutes for a genuine chance to come about; a snaking run from Fax's Connor Meckin down the right led to a dangerous cross being played across goal.

A Halifax goal finally came just before the half-hour mark. Connor McCoy made use of the wind as he cut inside and fired a left-footed curling shot, which fizzed off the corner of the goal-frame.

However, as the ball came back down into the penalty area, it was handled by Derwent right-back Mark Askham and the referee rightly called a penalty. McCoy stepped up to send the goalkeeper the wrong way and give his side a deserved lead. Halifax happily saw the rest of the half out, with Derwent's only shot on target coming from a Ryan Gwinnett free-kick.

Derwent had the wind in their favour in the second half, and it was certainly telling as they took control of possession. Straight from the restart, striker Eddie Fotheringham burst down the left side and sent off a shot that was denied by the base of the far post.

After lengthy spells of excellent ball play, it wasn't long before Derwent finally got their equaliser.

Substitute Joe Easter burst through the centre of midfield fired off a dangerous shot that was spilled by Sim, allowing Fotheringham to tuck the ball home from a few yards out.

Derwent were in full flow and it only took another ten minutes before they found the goal that would put them in the lead. A quick free kick was played inside to Easter, and the University talisman was on hand to direct an unstoppable low shot into the bottom near post of Sim's goal.

Nevertheless, the spirit of Fax failed to falter when they brought about an instant equaliser against the run of play just a minute later. McCoy broke through the centre on the break and, after a clever one-two, he was through on goal and able to round the goalkeeper slotting away his equaliser.

Derwent threw everything at Halifax as they looked for the winner. Gwinnett, Fotheringham and Josh Bew tested Sim in the final twenty minutes, but the veteran shot-stopper was comfortably able to block whatever came at him.

The 2-2 score at the final whistle led to a penalty shoot-out. Gennoy's opening penalty for Halifax was easily fallen on by Aylett, whilst Gwinnett slotted his spot-kick home for Derwent. However, Derwent missed their next three with Sam Earle hitting the post, Fotheringham sending his wide and Weighall's being decisively saved by Sim, whilst Halifax coolly scored their next three penalties to put them through to the final.

A delighted Halifax captain, Connor McCoy, told *Nouse*: "We stuck with it well and we had Jonny Sim in goal so there's no better goalkeeper for penalty shoot-out, is there?"

Dave Belshaw, the Derwent captain, said: "We were in control of the game at 2-1; we started the second half really well but we just



Halifax managed to beat Derwent 3-1 on penalties after a thrilling game

let them back in with a goal and we gave them something to hold on to. But I can't fault the effort of the lads; we gave it everything today but it just wasn't enough."

James won the final against Halifax 4-2 meaning they will be the top ranked team for the competition against Durham despite playing two games in one day. Goal scorers were Josh Spurling, James Briars and Matt Singleton.

Derwent:	Halifax:
Aylett, Askham, Shelbourne, Belshaw (C) (Easter (Bew)), Tapper, Naylor (Fisher), Kirb, Earle (Whittall), Delay (Weighall), Gwinnett, Fotheringham	Sim, Hobson, Heap, Bull, Howerth, Bowden, Gennoy, McCoy (C), Meckin, Heath (Knott), Miller
Player of the match: Jonny Sim	

James safely through to College Varsity

James 5

Vanbrugh 1

Jamie Summers
SPORTS EDITOR

JAMES' MEN's football firsts booked their place at College Varsity with a 5-1 victory over a hard-working Vanbrugh side.

James started the match brightly and had to be patient to break Vanbrugh down. James eventually took the lead just before half time with a sublime hit from Matt Singleton, which found its way past Aaron Hooper in the Vanbrugh goal.

In the second half Vanbrugh went on the attack in an attempt to get back into the game, but it was James that doubled their lead early on, as brilliant work from captain Ralph Gill allowed Singleton to score his second of the game.

Vanbrugh were playing well despite being behind, and soon found a way back into the game as Max Brewer latched onto a perfectly-weighted John Sanderson free kick from 25 yards to head past Andy Balzan. However, they were unable to find a way to get back onto level terms, and it was this that would ultimately cost them the game.

After a lengthy period of possession, Freddie Ferrao restored James' two-goal advantage from a tight angle on the edge of the area. Almost immediately, Dan Harsenape then made it 4-1, as he capitalised on Vanbrugh's only real poor piece of defending all game, slipping the ball cutely past Hooper at close range.

Will Baker rounded off the scoring for James just moments before the full-time whistle with a clinical and well-taken goal, to hand James a 5-1 victory. James were good value for their victory, but were made to work industrially for the victory by a spirited Vanbrugh side.

After the match, James captain Ralph Gill told *Nouse*: "Vanbrugh made us work very hard for the victory today, but we performed well and scored some very good goals. We're pleased to have made it through to College Varsity."

Meanwhile, Vanbrugh's Max Brewer commented: "We didn't play badly at all today; in fact we played very well. For 70 minutes we played very well and at 2-1 we had to take some risks. We went 4-4-2 and had to take some risks which backfired, but I'm very proud of what the team did today."



Cass Brown, York Sport President, at the popular new physio centre

Physio service off to popular start

Jamie Summers
SPORTS EDITOR

CASS BROWN, York Sport President, has revealed that she is delighted after regular, subsidised physiotherapy sessions began to be offered on campus.

The service, which was one of Brown's key campaign policies in 2013, is available to students who are injured and compete for the University in BUCS league fixtures.

Speaking to *Nouse*, Brown commented: "When I campaigned last February, getting a physiotherapist was my main policy and the one I was most passionate about having had an injury myself throughout my whole sporting career."

YuFund provided a grant just short of £5,000 to provide the service until the end of this academic year. Brown continued: "This means that a service normally costing £35-£40 is costing students just

£5, making it a lot more accessible."

The physiotherapist will be based at James College, and since beginning at the start of week five, the service has been hugely popular.

"There are two sessions a week on Monday morning and Thursday," Brown said. "The first week has gone fantastically well and appointments are all booked up until the end of week eight, so there's obviously a demand there."

Brown also has confidence in locally-based Hightorn Physiotherapy to offer a good standard of treatment to students.

"I've established a good relationship with the physios there over the last 12 months. I didn't want to compromise on quality," Brown has also pledged to press for the University to ensure that it remains on offer in the long-term.

"I'm going to keep pushing the University to continue to fund a physio in the future," Brown said.

Sport

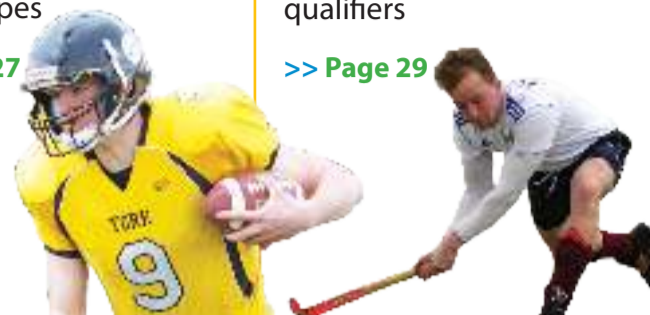
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We talk to York's American Football team about their Roses hopes

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Match reports from Sunday's college Varsity qualifiers

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PETROC TAYLOR

Colleges gear up for Varsity finals

Jamie Summers
Tom Fennelly

THIS YEAR'S inaugural College Varsity tournament against Durham kicked off with action-packed qualifying rounds this weekend.

Teams who finished in the top four of their College autumn leagues from eight different sports were eligible to take part in the qualifiers.

Awful weather conditions across campus wreaked havoc with fixtures, meaning that all matches on 22 Acres due to waterlogged pitches after heavy rain on Friday night.

The two rugby semi-final fixtures scheduled for the weekend had to be postponed, whilst all three of the football fixtures were moved to the 3G pitch at the York Sport Village on Heslington East.

Nevertheless, almost all other games could take place in preparation for the main tournament, which takes place on Sunday 2nd March.

The qualifiers were played in a friendly and competitive spirit and, from the matches which took place, seven of York's eight colleges have booked their place at College Varsity in at least one fixture.

Matches were split up into semi-finals and finals, with the winners of each semi-final automatically qualifying for College Varsity.

Each semi-final winner was then pitted against each other to determine the top and second-rated teams for the tournament.

Perhaps surprisingly, given their traditional sporting pedigree, Derwent will not be represented at the tournament as things stand, after experiencing an unusually unsuccessful weekend in a number of sports.

The University's oldest college is neck-and-neck with James at the top of the overall college sport standings, coming fresh off retaining the title at the annual college rowing event last month.

However, this may change should the college's rugby team

emerge victorious over James when the rugby fixtures are eventually played.

After some close and hard-fought matches, Halifax and James will be flying the flag for York in men's football, whilst Vanbrugh and Langwith will be competing in the women's side of the game.

Alcuin's only representation in the competition will be in volleyball, whilst Goodricke secured a slot to compete against Durham after thrashing James in their badminton tie.

Goodricke will also be present in hockey alongside James, whilst Halifax and James will be fighting

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York's new physio centre opened by Cass Brown, York Sport President

York's corner in netball.

Speaking about the weekend's action, Tom Merriman, College Sport Officer, told *Nouse*: "I thought that the standard was fantastic across the weekend and the college spirit was more present than ever, with the hockey final in particular getting a good few spectators on Sunday evening, when James proved too much for Goodricke."

Meanwhile, fellow College Sport Officer Dave Washington commented: "It's been a brilliant weekend of sport, with some superb matches, fantastic support and memorable moments."

"I'm delighted with the positive reaction the event has received and this weekend has demonstrated how much potential our college sport system has, and how great it can be."

"I can't wait for the actual event against Durham on 2nd March, and the opportunity to test ourselves against the model for college sport."

"Whatever happens I'm sure it will be a fabulous event, and I'd urge everyone to come down and support the York teams."



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AGATHA TORRANCE



Reports from this weekend's College Varsity qualifiers >> Pages 29-31

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