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Rugby club in weekend rampage

Anwen Baker

CURRENT AND former members of the University of York Rugby Club have reportedly been involved in a weekend of mayhem as part of their President's celebration.

President's weekend is an annual event in which alumni return to the University to see how the club is performing.

The club had booked out a room in The Graduate, a popular student pub on Lendal, on Friday night.

A member of the bar staff told Nouse: "There were about 60 people at the bar, all members of the party booked by the rugby club. Over the first hour or so it was fairly good humoured with only a bit of noisy chanting, but some of them began to get more rowdy.

"They started downing pints and smashing their glasses on the floor, which was covered in broken glass by the time they were kicked out. Two women had been hiding in the toilets and only felt safe to come out once they had left the pub."

After leaving The Graduate, members of the group are reported to have gone to The Willow where, after having pulled down their trousers and exposed their genitals, several members were thrown out of the venue. A third year student who was present described how she was "disgusted" and went on to say "They're not exactly helping the rugby and sports club image".

According to members of staff

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Health centre under fire amid claims of 'dismissive' attitude to mental illness

● Students made to feel like 'time-wasters' as concerns about campus health centre grow

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

SEVERAL STUDENTS have spoken out against Unity Health, the campus health centre, claiming that the surgery cannot deal with mental ill health issues properly.

One first year student who spoke to Nouse said: "When they saw depression on my form they didn't bat an eyelid". The student described the appointment itself, with the doctor asking in "an accusatory tone" why she had been seeing her GP at home on a weekly basis. The student then went on to

say "she never once asked what I was diagnosed with. She said to me 'look - you've been on medication for two years and you're only 19'. It made me feel so bad, like I'm just a messed up person really. I tried to explain my home GP's plan [for] my medication and she said I was setting myself up for failure.

"She also told me that people didn't prescribe the medication I was on any more.

"I left feeling horrendous and very upset. I feel like she thought I was a time waster and a messed up kid who shouldn't be at uni. I had to give her name to my home GP as

she's the only person I've seen, but I absolutely refuse to see her again."

The student stated that she then went on to see a GP at the Wenlock Terrace surgery, who was "more helpful, possibly not so fed up of seeing students all day."

The student acknowledged that the health centre had been helpful in dealing with physical issues and stated that the rest of the university welfare had been "fantastic" but told Nouse: "We're freshers moving away from our support systems. We have mental health problems so have increased anxiety anyway, and those people who've been there for us at

home treat us in this way. It's horrible because it's really hard to transfer between professionals anyway and this just makes it worse."

Another student who had faced difficulties with the health centre said "There's only one doctor on site who specialises in mental health and he is under a lot of demand - so you might end up seeing say a sports specialist who doesn't have the expertise, or has a different attitude

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towards mental health. A lot of people who see the wrong doctor can be sent away with no help, or feel even more frustrated and guilty because this doctor thinks there's nothing wrong with them."

The student spoke about how he felt one of the doctors he saw dismissed his depression "as a headache".

He also criticised what he felt was a lack of outreach, saying "Given the nature of mental health it's not surprising people don't go until everything is crashing down around them. There's very little investigation into people's wellbeing unless you go directly to them".

Another student who spoke to *Nouse* described how he had gone to the health centre to get an official diagnosis for depression for the purpose of mitigating circumstances. The doctor he spoke to chose to refer back to a previous physical illness for the mitigating circumstances form. According to the student, "she decided it was easier for her to go back to an illness that had happened a month or so ago than talk to me about mental illness".

There have also been claims of delays in the transferring of notes and refusals to issue medication.

The campus health centre is run by Unity Health Services who have three surgeries within the practice; Wenlock Terrace, Hull Road and York Campus.

There are currently six GPs working within the practice, one

of whom is a mental ill health specialist. There is also a counsellor and a community mental ill health worker.

Peter Quinn, Director of Student Support Services, told *Nouse* "I'm obviously disappointed to hear about these student's experiences. Student Support Services work collaboratively with Unity Health on a range of health related services

“It made me feel so bad like I'm just a messed up person really”

Anonymous first year student

including mental health provision. Unity Health have been successful in securing a community mental ill health worker and a counsellor to work with students at whichever surgery they are attending which, given the well reported continuing cuts in provision nationally and locally, is better than usual provision.

"The University is making the local Clinical Commissioning Group aware of its concerns about mental health service provision in York for students and have received an initial positive response.

"The Open Door Team and college, YUSU, GSA and other university initiatives on well-being and promoting good mental health practices are also an important area of our work.

Unity do contribute to these initiatives when appropriate."

Unity Health declined to com-

ment, stating that they preferred to be represented by a statement from Student Support Services and that they were unable to comment on individual cases.

The 2012 University health centre Survey showed that 75.9 per cent of patients surveyed were satisfied with their experience of Unity Health, whilst 24.1 per cent of respondents rated their experience as poor or very poor.

Of the 36.9 per cent of respondents who had a disability (including mental health problems) 57.3 per cent were satisfied with the service provided in relation to their illnesses or disability whilst 26.5 per cent were not, with one patient commenting "The health centre was dismissive of my mental health problems."

Thomas Ron, YUSU Disabled Students Officer, commented "The health centre has been a cause for concern for students, especially those with mental health issues. There have been numerous complaints about GPs who have refused to help students or prescribe them medicine, rude behaviour which belittles or states that problems are not important, or inexplicable waits for urgent matters.

"The health centre has brushed this under the carpet as anecdotal, but when you have enough people saying the same thing, that stops being anecdotal and starts being a problem that requires investigation".

According to George Offer, Welfare Officer, YUSU have also received complaints about the Health

centre's inability to deal with mental health problems. Offer told *Nouse* that "If even one student receives poor service from the health centre then it's a problem, and I urge all students who've had a bad experience to raise their concerns with me, and to formally complain to the health centre. I'll make sure their concerns are taken seriously.

"I've ensured the health centre has set up a student patient participation group to make sure that students' experiences and views are put front and centre, and I'll be working hard to lobby for any recommendations that come out of this process.

"It's very important that the

“The Health centre has brushed this under the carpet as anecdotal”

Disabled Students Officer
Thomas Ron

support networks across the University - including the Student Support Hub, Open Door Team, Colleges and the health centre - take mental ill-health and mental illness seriously, which is why I'm working with the University on improving training for college tutors and making sure that every student has the support that they need throughout their time here."

The Student Patient Participation group will take place on Thursday 28 November.

Contact George Offer for more information on how to participate.

>> Continued from front

The Graduate has had previous trouble with the Rugby Club, with other incidents of anti social behaviour.

In a separate incident on Saturday the Rugby Club reportedly visited The Courtyard and according to one member of the bar staff "they took over the whole bottom half of courtyard" and "were standing on chairs and filling up well over 20 condoms with beer, some just spinning them round their heads in the air.

"The result being beer every-

where and smashed glass covering the floor." A section of The Courtyard was then forced to close for an hour while staff cleaned up. He noted, however, that the majority of the group were not involved in the incident and many members of the club seemed "very apologetic".

Tomasz Chadwick, President of the Rugby Club, told *Nouse*: "Despite the event attracting more than 60 alumni, it is saddening to hear that certain people affiliated with the club have acted in such a way as to lessen its reputation.

"There are various members on committee that have worked ex-

tremely hard to enhance our club's status for a number of years now, and it's frustrating that certain indi-

“I'm just very disappointed at their choosing to damage the club's reputation”

York Sport President
Cass Brown

viduals have let them down in this regard, especially, if those individuals are no longer current members. "We can only apologise to those

that we may have upset, and will continue to do our best to limit and if not eradicate seriously antisocial behaviour. I hope that those responsible for these actions are held accountable as individuals so that the club can move forward without any lasting and damaging effects."

Cassandra Brown, York Sport President, commented: "I'm just very disappointed at their choosing to damage the club's reputation - this kind of behaviour simply isn't acceptable and the York Sport Union will be working with the club to ensure this kind of immaturity isn't demonstrated again."

York In Brief

Police warn students with fake burglaries

York students have been targeted in a series of unusual burglaries this week. Police dressed as thieves found the windows and doors of 29 student homes unlocked when they staged the fake break-ins. The stunt was part of a national campaign to reduce the number of sneak in burglaries, which account for around a third of all burglaries reported to police. It is hoped that by highlighting the ease in which people can enter their homes students will increase their security.

York students scoop television awards

York students have won several prizes at the 'Yorkshire Student Awards' hosted by the Royal Television Society. The winners were chosen from over 50 entries by a panel of television industry professionals and were revealed at a ceremony held at York Racecourse. University of York undergraduate Diogo Guerner took the award for the best fiction film of 2013, impressing judges with the quality of his script and camera work. Students from York St John's University won the Factual Award for their documentary about a York Spiritualist Church.

York to share in £350 million gaming grant

The University is set to receive part of a £350 million grant to train the next generation of researchers, designers, developers and entrepreneurs in gaming. The funding for the project was announced on Friday and is a collaboration between four universities, the games industry and user groups. The money will be used to train postgraduate students to collect information on human behaviour from digital games and provide new scientific tools, and research topics.

Reporting by William Isted

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York students horrified at 'predatory' hot-or-not site

Tom Witherow
NEWS REPORTER

YORK STUDENTS' Facebook profiles have been uploaded to a site that allows users to rate their 'hotness' without them knowing.

The website claims to "sort out your nightlife" by pointing you towards "hot" girls and boys on the York campus.

The site, branded "deplorable" and "disgusting" by York students, has already seen 150,000 profiles uploaded nationally without permission being required.

"Ratemash promotes invasion of privacy, stalking and harassment"

Charlotte Jones, Secretary for Women's Committee

Anisha Wilmlink, a third year student has condemned the site: "It's predatory, and encourages the idea that just because someone is hot it means that they're public property - open to pursue and hunt."

"I find it a disgusting invasion of privacy," said Rebecca, a second year Economics student. "I gave no consent for this. What worries me most is that this can have happened to you, and you might never find out."

Users can flick through photos and rate them as 'hot' or 'not', with a link provided to the Facebook pro-

files of the 50 'hottest' of each sex. Ratemash doesn't notify users that they are on the site.

CEO Michael Healy previously claimed that users get "invited by their friends", but the students that *Nouse* spoke were unaware that their profiles were being looked at.

Rebecca emailed to ask to be removed from the site: "The response I got back from them was 'I am sorry that you have been wrongly added, you have now been removed.'"

"It's bullshit - they know exactly what they were doing ... And I haven't been taken down."

On being shown the site, one anonymous student asked if it was aimed at "adults sharking on students".

Facebook has announced that

Ratemash is under investigation.

Charlotte Jones, Secretary of Women's Committee, told *Nouse* she thought the site was "debasement",

"I find it a disgusting invasion of privacy... I gave no consent for this"

Rebecca, second year economics student

and turned people into "objects for the sexual gratification of strangers".

"Ratemash promotes invasion of privacy, stalking, and harassment, which is completely intolerable and deplorable, within or outside the internet." She added: "Ultimately it suggests that an individual is the

sum of their exterior features, which is unacceptable."

Mr Healy previously told *The Tab*: "I made it for a university [Regent's University, USA] that my roommates were going to and it got like 50,000 ratings overnight so I thought I'd scale it to other universities. It's just a bit of fun."

"I see it as Tinder for universities - it's a lot more interesting because of the leaderboard."

The site has also drawn criticism by allowing users to rate babies, as some students had them as their profile pictures. But the site isn't very accurate with the 'girl-guy ratio' confidently stated to be 65 per cent - 34 per cent [sic], and girls appearing in the guys' leaderboard. Paris Bennett, a third year student,

was "honoured" to have been rated second hottest guy in York [at time of writing]. "I even told my mum", she told *Nouse*.

Bill Timpany, a student in Goodricke, made it onto the girls' leaderboard.

He told *Nouse*: "The site looks a bit creepy, and the fact I'm in the hottest girls list would suggest it's not even very good." He added: "But I am pleased that people still think I look good without my makeup on!"

Nouse has made all attempts to contact Mr Healy for comment, but has not yet received a response.

Students who find their profile on the website are encouraged to contact email@ratemash.com if they wish for their profile to be removed.

RATEMASH.COM

Hottest Girls



Check out the Girls Leaderboard



Hottest Guys



Check out the Guys Leaderboard



The University of York site of ratemash.com, which has been branded 'disgusting' by students

Vanbrugh football to pay back £1250 debt

Anwen Baker
NEWS EDITOR

THE 2012/13 VANBRUGH football team spent £1250 hiring out the JLD without informing their Treasurer, putting the JCRC into further debt.

Will Addy, the current Vanbrugh Treasurer, told *Nouse*: "We promised to pay for all Vanbrugh sports costs before the debt came to light in April. The mistake we made was not limiting the amount teams could spend, which we've now done."

"The reason it was sprung on us late was a lack of communication between us, last years football captains and the sports centre."

"YUSU have changed the booking system now so that won't happen again."

However, Max Brewer, current captain of Vanbrugh football, told *Nouse* that the team have planned to pay off the majority of the costs themselves, saying: "We've reduced our training times and agreed a schedule of repayments with the JCRC, which essentially means

the vast majority of our sponsorship money will go straight to the committee. Although this will not amount to £1250 required, I feel we have done our utmost to resolve the issue."

Addy added: "In any case we had always planned for the debt to be paid off over two or three years rather than have one year of very harsh times."

This follows the news that the Vanbrugh JCRC have been forced to face £3000 worth of debt, thanks to the actions of the 2011/2012 JCRC. The 2011 JCRC, chaired by Matt Stephenson, spent £13,000 on their winter ball without informing Treasurer Daniel Whitmore.

The debt problems facing the Vanbrugh JCRC are not the only money issues to plague JCRCs this year.

Derwent College faced backlash over their spending on the annual Big D event which lost them £25,000 in 2013 and raised concerns over the continuation of the event.



Vanbrugh football team, pictured in action on Sunday, have volunteered to pay back the money owed to the JCRC

ALEX BYRON

News

Majority of University of York leavers in graduate positions

George Wood
NEWS REPORTER

ACCORDING TO recent data, the majority of York students are in graduate jobs, while fewer leavers are in non-graduate jobs compared to the national average. The unemployment rate for recent graduates is also lower than current UK statistics.

The proportion of those qualified with a undergraduate degree now in a non-graduate job is 19.5 per cent, compared to the UK average of 47 per cent, which was revealed this month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to have risen from 39 per cent before the financial crisis.

These figures, provided by the Careers service which surveyed those who graduated in July 2013, also reveal that the most popular sector for York graduates is education, closely followed by health and social work.

The rest of the data shows that 43 per cent of York students are in graduate jobs, 31 per cent are in further study (i.e. Masters or PhD) and 6.5 per cent are unemployed. This is lower than the present national unemployment rate for recent graduates, which is at 9 per cent.

Out of the 1,955 students who responded, 292 individuals found graduates jobs in education, 256 found jobs in health and social work, and 124 found work in public and other administration.

Information and communication was also a highly employed

sector with 116 students in graduate jobs.

In comparison, the highest employment sectors for non-graduate jobs were retail and hospitality. Breakdown of this data suggests that departments such as Psychology and Theatre, Film and Television (TFTV) have the highest number of students in non-graduate jobs.

However, sectorial data does not take into account the nature of the non-graduate jobs required to support their future career direction (i.e. jobs that may be classed as preliminary work to a graduate role).

For example, some graduates from Psychology work in care assistant roles within the NHS or in teaching assistant roles in schools, which are classified as non-graduate jobs. Archaeology and Education also have low figures in graduate jobs, but due to the further qualifications needed to take on careers in these sectors.

Conversely, departments with the highest numbers of students entering into graduate jobs are Hull York Medical School, Health Sciences, Computer Science and Management. Liz Smith, Director of Careers, said: "Many of these students have a clear career path or range of career paths in mind when they arrive here, and so can make good use of the opportunities on offer, either within their department or across the institution."

Degrees with the highest employment rate of all graduates nationally are Medicine and Dentistry at 95 per cent, with Media and in-



AFAGEN

York graduates fare well on the job market with 19.5 per cent in non-graduate jobs compared to 47 per cent nationally

formation studies the second-highest at 93 per cent. However, media and information students have the lowest pay at £21,000 a year, compared to medical students at £45,600 a year.

Overall, the recent ONS figures suggest that graduate employment has been slow to recover from the financial crisis, even in the context of a wider jobs improvement. Re-

garding the employability of York graduates, Liz Smith added: "Approximately 50 per cent of graduate jobs don't specify a degree subject."

"Even if you don't know exactly what you want to do when you arrive, and most students don't - you can still develop yourself and your ideas during your time here, and make sure you have lots to talk about in a job application when you

get to that stage.

"York destination data is improving every year, and that is because our students are becoming more aware of employability and the things they can do to develop themselves - and so they are well on their way to having some clearer ideas when they graduate, rather than starting their planning after final exams and hoping for the best!"

University boat club left deflated

Caitlin Dyde
NEWS REPORTER

MEMBERS OF the University of York Boat Club found themselves somewhat deflated after an early morning practice.

Following a regular 6am training session, members of the club returned to the boat house to find that the air in twenty of their bicycle tyres had been let out.

There have been claims that the act was carried out by a local, annoyed by the noise created by the rowers and the coxes early in the morning. The Boat Club is situated in Fulford, near a heavily residential area. The Rowing team are keen not to make any allegations as to the identity of the perpetrator and are not intending to take legal action.

Natalie Smith, coxswain for the Senior Men's team, described the affair as an "annoyance", particularly for those who then had to be on campus for 9am.

This incident will not infringe on the necessary morning outings of

the boat club, who are in the process of training five Great Britain trialists who are currently 5% of national benchmark.

Last weekend five of York's rowers attended the Great Britain trials. While none of them made it through to the second day of trials it was excellent experience as they are aiming to attend the trials next year and improve on their performance.

This season the Boat Club have already competed in the British Championships and the Small Boats Head, both of which saw the squads entered put in sterling performances.

The incident will only be a blip for the squad as they come off the back of a fantastic season which saw the women's fours squad reach the semi-finals of the Henley Regatta where they lost out to Exeter University.

Rowing continues to be one of the most popular clubs on campus with the largest amount of sign-ups at Freshers Fair this year.



AGATHA TORRANCE

The University of York Boat Club train on the Ouse in York several times a week

University attracting 'working class' students

Nick Morrill
NEWS REPORTER

The Sutton Trust has released a paper suggesting that top universities in the United Kingdom are failing to attract students from working-class backgrounds, despite them attaining the grades for some of the country's most elite educational establishments.

This includes universities within the Russell Group, which York joined in 2012.

The report written by John Jerrim of the Institute for Education in London pointed to a link between the social class of a child and their likelihood of attending one of the country's top universities. It noted that 27 per cent of the differences in admissions between social classes are not due to academic achievements. This statistic shows the possibility of social disadvantage being transmitted across generations, with great difficulty in breaking this cycle without outside intervention.

The report also looked at establishments in other countries, such as the United States. This revealed that UK universities are seriously behind in the levels of financial aid which they provide to their students in comparison to their US counterparts.

While a student at Harvard has fees over three times that of the UK's current £9000, families from poorer backgrounds are expected to pay a fraction of the tuition fees they would here. In the report Jerrim

stated that "the 'sticker price' of elite private US colleges like Harvard is high compared to their UK counterparts in the UK, such as Oxford.

However, the generous aid packages mean that the actual price young people from low-income backgrounds pay to attend elite private colleges in the United States is significantly lower."

Statistics obtained from the University of York show that the current student body is made up of 77.3 per cent state school or college educated students. Also 18.6 per cent of students come from a background category graded between 4-7 on the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification scale. This means that students within this group are from lower income jobs or semi routine jobs.

This would put the University in a better position than the average presented by the Sutton Trust's report. The University told *Nouse*: "We attach great importance to social inclusion and it is one of the major objectives of the University Plan.

"We have increased staffing significantly in the widening participation team in the last two years and we work locally, regionally and nationally on outreach programmes to disadvantaged groups.

"Our Access Agreements are published online, and section seven of these agreements relates to targets, milestones and outlines our view on NS-SEC and low participation neighbourhood proportions."

Disabled students on DSA 'perform better' nationally

George Barrett
NEWS REPORTER

A RECENT report has found that students beginning full-time degree courses in 2006 who had received Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) performed better than expected in higher education and later employment. The report looked at 225,765 students and was carried out by the Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), examining the success of university entrants over a lengthy period of time.

DSA gives extra financial help to UK students studying a higher

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY: THOMAS RON



education course who have a disability, ongoing health condition or Specific Learning Difficulty like dyslexia. The report showed that the number of people qualifying for Disabled Students Allowance had increased since 2002.

The DSA report classifies students by sex, ethnicity, disability, school type, qualifications on entry, address, subject studied and type of institution.

It uses averages to compare the actual outcomes and results achieved with those that would have been statistically expected from the student profile. Thomas Ron, YUSU

Disabilities Officer spoke to *Nouse* about the new report. "This DSA report shows that it is incredibly important for students who believe that they qualify for DSA to apply. "We are paying a lot of money for university and therefore it is important that students can operate on a level playing field. Students should not feel that they would be rocking the boat and should ensure that they apply for DSA in order to get the most out of university."

He added he was "very happy that the University seems to be encouraging eligible students to apply" and was quick to point out the work of the Student Support Service, saying, "I particularly applaud the efforts of Peter Quinn and the Student Support Service."

The report also showed that students who did not receive DSA did not perform as well as expected in higher education and later employment.

Another finding from the report is that students who entered higher education from state schools gained higher than expected employment outcomes given their entry profiles. But their peers from independent schools were much likelier to secure a graduate job or progress to further study.

Speaking on the differences between employment outcomes, Sarah Howls, Head of Student Opportunity at HEFCE, said: "Seeking to understand and, where we can, address the reasons for these differences remains a key priority."

Dozens of University students have experienced sexual assault in night clubs

Rosie Shields
EDITOR

DOZENS OF students from the University of York have been sexually assaulted in nightclubs.

A recent survey run by YUSU brought up five individual cases of 'underhanding' in York clubs alone, with a further ten outside of the area. Taken on a university wide level this could equate to over 100 people experiencing sexual assault directly and a further 150 seeing it happen. It is difficult to put an exact number on cases as many people are reluctant to speak out.

The practice of 'underhanding' has gained publicity in recent weeks, with students across the country speaking out against the practice, in which the perpetrator stands behind a woman and tries to insert their fingers into her.

One student from the University of York told *Nouse* how they were 'underhanded' on a student night in York. "It shocked me if I'm honest. I'd never had any real trouble in a club before but this took me completely by surprise". The student, who wished to remain anonymous

added, "I felt utterly violated, what makes them think they can do that?"

She continued to say that the attitude of "oh she's wearing a short skirt she must be up for it" has to be removed. "I want to be able to get dressed up and feel good on a night out...this in no way invites anyone to touch me" the student added.

Touching anyone without their consent is condemned as sexual assault by the police. 'Underhanding' is a form of penetration and thus carries the same maximum sentence as rape.

Many students are unaware of the severity of the crime and thus most cases of 'underhanding' and other incidents of sexual assault go unreported. In a recent article by The Guardian it was claimed that sexual assault is so common that many do not think of reporting it.

Students in Sheffield have started an Anti-Sexual harassment group in an attempt to raise awareness of the issue and encourage nightclubs and the general public to be more vigilant of such incidents. A 'Spotted: Sexism in York' Facebook page has been established, encouraging followers to report any inci-

dents of sexism or sexual assault in York.

George Offer, YUSU Welfare Officer, spoke to *Nouse* about the issue: "Underhanding is a completely unacceptable activity: it is sexual assault. Although it does not currently seem to be a big problem in York, we take it very seriously and have ensured that the lead door supervisor at all YUSU nights will deal with all reports of underhanding appropriately."

Josie Field, YUSU Women's Officer, commented on the the findings, saying, "Sexual harassment is an issue that touches a great deal of people's lives in one form or another and University is sadly no exception."

She went on to add, "It's important to know what constitutes as sexual harassment and your rights surrounding it. Everyone deserves to have a fun night out without having to worry about being harassed or assaulted.

"By taking trends such as 'underhanding' seriously we can hopefully stamp on misogynist cultures beginning to grow in York as and when the symptoms are surfacing."



'Reclaim the night' was a protest against domestic violence and abuse

Incidents of sexual assault should be reported to: Doorsafe,

Open Door, Nightline, YUSU and the police.

PETROCTAYLOR

News

MARK-SPOKES.COM

Survey reveals satisfaction with college life

William Isted
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

RESULTS FROM a recent YUSU survey on student's first impressions of their college have been released. The survey was conducted to discover how aware students are of the support available to them and how satisfied they are with their college when they first arrive.

Six hundred and seventy eight students across the eight colleges responded and the results reveal that students in general have a good knowledge of their college committee and enjoy their time at the college.

Eighty-one per cent of those surveyed stated that they were aware of their college Chair. Students in Langwith were significantly more likely to have heard of their college Chair than students in any other college while Derwent students were the least likely to have heard of them.

Knowledge of college tutors also followed this trend. Twenty per cent of Derwent students surveyed had never heard of their college tutors in comparison with 1.6 per cent

of Langwith students. The survey also suggested the replacement of college Provosts with Principals in some colleges was a positive change.

For the three colleges who now have a college Principal instead of a college Provost, 94.1 per cent had heard of their Principals whereas only 85 per cent of students in the other colleges had heard of their Provosts.

The second section of the survey regarded student satisfaction. Of those surveyed 61 per cent of respondents agreed that they felt like a valued member of their college community. However international students, graduate students and students living off campus were all significantly less likely to agree.

Students in Derwent, which provides some of the cheapest accommodation on campus, had the highest levels of dissatisfaction with accommodation in the survey. Over 23 per cent of respondents from the college stated that they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with their accommodation.

Feedback on freshers events was largely positive: 77% of students surveyed were satisfied with



Otterly adorable

Otters have once again been spotted in the River Ouse near York according to conservationists. The sightings indicate that the water quality has im-

proved. Claire Burton, of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said: "It is always a real thrill to see an otter. They are such beautiful animals and it is great that they have made

a comeback in our river." Anyone who wants to see the otters will have to sit quietly and patiently and wait by the river side in the early morning or at dusk.

the quality of fresher's events, up by 14.6 per cent on last year. Derwent and Vanbrugh had some of the lowest levels of satisfaction however, with only 71 per cent of students stating that they were satisfied with the events. Vanbrugh also had the highest level of students answering 'no' when asked if the fresher's wristband provided good value for

money, compared to James college where three quarters of students answered 'yes'.

When questioned about how useful they found their STYCs, 86.9 per cent of students stated that they were very or somewhat useful with only 6.4 per cent stating they were somewhat or very useless. Commenting on the survey results, Kal-

lum Taylor, YUSU President said: "Things look positive and this is a massive credit to the hoards of student representatives, volunteers and staff who've all put in the time and effort to put on the best possible show for freshers, whilst ensuring they can hit the ground running in a way that makes them feel comfortable"



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How flammable is your college?

Vee Wells
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ACCORDING TO new figures obtained from the University of York, Wentworth is the most fire-prone college on campus.

The data, going back to 2007, reveals that the postgraduates' college has caught fire the most frequently, with five incidents between March 2008 and January 2011. Wentworth is also the location of the lone event of arson reported on university property during this time, when a skip was set alight outside D block in 2009. James and Derwent

colleges tie for second place: each college has reported three fires in the last seven years. The University could not reveal any new information about the fire in the Boulevard earlier this year, as it is a privately owned accommodation.

However, a spokesperson was keen to point out that all residents had undertaken a fire safety briefing, as required. 2007 saw the most callouts to the North Yorkshire Fire Service. Each year since then the total number of calls to campus has fallen. There have only been 93 callouts so far in 2013, the lowest of any year on record.

It also seems that students are becoming better cooks, with the number of cooking-related smoke alarm activations dropping from 122 in 2007 to 13 in 2013 so far. The most common fire is the toaster fire which accounts for 6 out of every 23 incidents. The University changed its guidelines on toasters in 2011 with no toaster related fires since then.

The most flammable department is Biology, which had two fires in 2011 and 2013. Langwith and Halifax have both escaped unscathed, with neither college reporting any fires since 2007.



PETROC TAYLOR

Wentworth College is the most flammable college on campus

Alcuin

The college has had two fires; one in The Bistro, previously known as B Henry's in 2007 and one in F Block in 2008. The first was caused by a deep fat fryer whilst the unit was being drained of oil. The second was caused by a toaster.

Vanbrugh

There has only been one fire in Vanbrugh (well done, Vanbrates) which was caused by a chip pan catching fire in May 2010. It happened in Barbara Scott Court, F Block.



KATE MITCHELL

James

James has had three different fires, in three different blocks, caused by three separate events. The first happened in 2008, caused by a toaster in K block. The second broke out in M block in 2008, this was started by a pan fire. Campus' most recent fire was in James, in 2013 caused by a resident placing clothing over a light fitting. Apparently it's cheaper than the tumble dryers.

Derwent

Derwent has only had three fires since 2007. There were two in 2008; one was caused by an electrical fault in a new cooker in B block. The other occurred in the bike shed due to the incorrect disposal of a portable barbecue. The third fire was in 2009 in A Block caused by a toaster.

Wentworth

Wentworth has the dubious honour of being York's most flammable college. It has seen five fires between 2008 and 2011. Special mention goes to Wentworth C block for being the only block to have had two fires. The first was a toaster fire, the second was an unattended cooking incident. Wentworth D block is the site of the only recorded case of arson at the University. In 2009 someone set the waste skip on fire. The other fires were also caused by toasters in Wentworth A block in 2008 and B block in 2009.

Most Flammable Year

2008 was the most flammable year on campus as it involved nine fires. There were 331 total call outs by North Yorkshire Fire Department. While there were 445 call outs in 2007 there was only one actual fire in Alcuin.

Most Expensive Fire

On the 2nd of February 2012 there was a fire on the roof of Chemistry B block. It was caused by external maintenance works and cost £2.2 million in damages. The cost of interruption to business is still ongoing.

Sports Facilities

The Sports Centre and the Sports Village have both had fires in 2013. The Sports Centre had two fires caused by external maintenance works while, the Sports Village caught fire because of a discarded cigarette in the wood chippings.



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Fees could rise to £20,000 warns Northampton Vice Chancellor

Christy Cooney
NEWS REPORTER

TOP UK universities may be able to charge annual fees of £20,000 in the future, the University of Northampton's Vice Chancellor has said this month.

Speaking in a Times Higher Education podcast, Nick Petford said that if the fee cap remains at £9,000, even for the next decade, then "a number of universities - including [Northampton] - could potentially be in financial difficulty".

He added that he thought it was "naïve of politicians to think that there would be a spectrum, and that there would be lower-cost providers and higher-cost providers", once the cap was raised from £3,000 in 2012.

He went on to say that the UK's leading universities form a "luxury brand", and that fees for some could exceed Oxford's Vice Chancellor's estimate of £16,000, reported by Nouse last month, before demand for places falls. A University of York spokesperson said: "It seems highly unlikely that any Government will agree to raise fees to £20,000 anytime soon. However, from York's perspective, the cap on fees will have to be lifted at some stage if UK universities are to remain among the best in the world.

"We need to continue to spend on reducing staff student ratios, renewing facilities and buildings im-



PETROC TAYLOR

The University has admitted that raising fees to £20,000 could be a possibility due to inflationary pressures

“We need to spend on reducing staff student ratios”

University of York spokesperson

proving other aspects of the student experience.”

There have already been acus-

sations that the affluent middle classes dominate the upper echelons of British society including higher education. The University commented further that it was "anxious to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds and ensure that very able students from all income groups are able to benefit from a York education."

Matthew Noden, a first year Politics student, described the prospect of £20,000 fees as a "disgrace". He said: "I was talked into paying £9,000 a year by family members, I wasn't going to come. There's no way I'd pay anything over £10,000, and I don't think that's just me. It's especially bad for a course like Politics which has so few contact hours.

I can't figure out what I'm paying for."

He added that "students probably do underestimate the costs involved in running a university, but that doesn't make it okay to charge such huge tuition fees."

Petford also acknowledged that alternatives to fee hikes did exist for those universities who are struggling to raise funds: "Universities should be continuously seeking to be more effective and more efficient in how they run their financial business". Discussing whether universities could raise more funds from philanthropic sources, he added: "I think what investors... will be looking for in future are projects to invest in that actually show real good and social value and social return to the communities that universities are based in. So I think that's an area that we want to explore in more detail."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, told *Nouse*, "The prospect of fees rising further is a frightening one. or us it is simple; education should not be toyed and tampered with for political means and the debate urgently needs swinging back to it being seen as a social good... If things carry on as they are, then education's going to be seen as some kind of super-contained product which individuals purchase for the benefit of themselves only. We'll have a very bleak future if this was to become the case."

Chico's fined for use of illegal signage

Jamie Summers
NEWS REPORTER

POPULAR fast-food outlet Chico's has been successfully prosecuted by the City of York Council for placing illegal signage outside their premises.

The outlet was found guilty of placing digital signage at the front of their premises without proper consent.

Chico's is a popular takeaway restaurant with York students. Situated at the crossroads between Bridge Street and North Street near many of the most popular clubs, the property is one of many listed buildings in York. York Council states on their website that any "repairs and alterations to listed buildings must be carried out with consideration to protect the building's special interest".

Chico's failed to secure Listed Building consent from City of York Council for the moving digital signage which was used. The signage also breached appropriate advertisement regulations.

Ibrahim Akdemir, owner of the takeaway, was found guilty of the offence on Thursday 7th November 2013 at York Magistrates' Court.

Akdemir was also served with a fine of £3,200 which consisted of two advertising regulation offences at £500 each and two Listed Building offences at £750 each. A surcharge of £120 was also added.

Commenting on the matter, Councillor Dave Merritt, Cabinet member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability, remarked: "York has a strong heritage and it's vitally important that we protect our listed buildings and take action against anyone who feels they can flout the law and place illegal and harmful signage on their buildings.

"This case sends out a strong message that the courts will back the council in taking action against illegal and unacceptable advertisements in the city."

It has been ordered that the two signs relating to the offence, on both the North Street and Bridge Street sides of the takeaway, are to be removed and placed inside with immediate effect.

Mr Akdemir has also been informed that an additional fine of £100 will continue to be applied for each day that the illuminated signage is not removed. Chico's were unavailable for comment.

University given three councillors as ward boundaries are changed

Beth Jakubowski
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY will be included in the Hull Road ward following a report by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)

If passed through Westminster, the new constituency boundaries will be in place for the next electoral cycle in 2015. The recommendations will mean that the Hull Road ward will have three councillors instead of two.

The report stated that the Commission changed their recommendations as the Hull Road ward "shares stronger community interests" with Hull Road, which is considered the city's main student area.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, told *Nouse*: "As expected, there were a large number of submissions from all sorts of people and groups.

"We wanted a result which would be both beneficial to both students and non-student residents in the area, building on the existing community links that we have established - as this University is not the busy little bubble on

the outskirts of York that it used to be.

"It's now a very busy, much bigger bubble which impacts on the city and it's people in a variety of ways.

"Of course, no sole submitter got exactly what they wanted, but we're overall happy with this result.

"One thing we were worried about was having a sole councillor who would essentially become marginalized as the 'University representative', and so we're pleased to have more representatives by being within the Hull Road ward.

"We feel we're better off having representatives who, in being accountable to plenty of students and non-students, can work constructively with us in making York better for students

and students better for York's non student residents. Problems occur when you don't work together."

Max Caller, chair of the Commission, said "We believe these recommendations deliver electoral equality for voters, as well as reflecting the identities of communities across York."

The Fulford and Heslington wards have been combined following a 12 week public consultation period.

The City of York will still have 47 councillors but in 22 wards instead of the current 21.

The Osbaldwick and Derwent wards will also be merging together and will now have two councillors.



THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

News

New developments unveiled for Hes East campus

Beth Jakubowski
Rosie Shields

DEVELOPMENTS continue on Heslington East as plans for a new supermarket, health care centre, and pharmacy are unveiled.

The new plans are aimed at making life for students on Hes East easier, lowering their reliance on the Hes West campus and putting less strain on the health centre.

With the addition of the new study shuttle bus this should greatly improve the facilities for students on the newer campus.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, told *Nouse*, "We've been lobbying tirelessly for over a year now, alongside the Goodricke and Langwith JCRC's, to make Heslington East feel much more like a home for those living there - as opposed to some very nice bedrooms and

academic departments for people to use.

"Students are still having to cross a dual carriage way just to get a pint of milk, and with a ninth college on the way, it's a bit of a joke really.

"Though it's hardly before time, I'm delighted that the University are now in line with us on the matter"

Taylor explained that the new facilities are a necessary convenience for students living on the Hes East campus.

"Though the plans are not definite yet, we're discussing the possibility of introducing 5-7 new units containing student-facing and student-serving services at the top of Heslington East - which is both exciting, and a relief!"

These plans could be put into place as soon as the next academic year.



NOUSE



Pictured left: Hes East as it is currently with new developments for the ninth college taking place. Pictured right: The new plans due to be put into action during the next academic year

Listings

MUSIC

- 29th November- Kazabian and Skylights - Fibbers 7.30pm. £8
- 30th November- UoY Symphony Orchestra - Sir Lyons Concert Hall 7.30pm. £3-£15
- 4th December- Electric Six - Fibbers 7.30pm. £14
- 5th to 6th December - Christmas Carol Concerts - York Minster 7pm. £12-£25
- 5th December- Vanbrugh Choirs Christmas Concert - St Helen's Church 7.30pm. Free
- 15th December- Community Carol Concert- Barbican 2.30pm. £5-£7

STAGE

- 26th November - Motortown - Black Box, Department of Theatre, Film and Television. 7.30pm. £5-£8
- 27th November - Punk Rock - Black Box, Department of Theatre, Film and Television. 7.30pm. £5-£8
- 28th November - DramaSoc: The Madness of George III - Drama Barn 7.30pm. £3.50-£5
- 30th November- DanceSoc Christmas Showcase - The Lounge 7.30pm. £5
- 30th November to 1st December- PantSoc, The Three Musketeers - Hendrix Hall. £3-£5
- 5th to 8th December - Measure for Measure - Friargate Theatre. 7.30pm. £12
- 12th December (onwards)- Aladdin and the Twankeys - Theatre Royal. £12-£26.50
- 13th December (onwards)- Snow White and the Seven Dwarves - Grand Opera House. £9.40-£28.90
- 20th December (onwards)- Dick Whittington - Barbican. £15.50-£21

GENERAL INTEREST

- 27th November - University of York's Christmas Market 2013 - James Dining Hall. Free
- 28th November - Sex and the metaphysics of moral reasoning - P/L001. 6.30pm. Free
- 29th November- In Conversatin with Mark Lawson - Berrick Saul building. 7.15pm. Free
- 29th November- York Student Cinema: About Time. PX/001. 7.30pm. £3
- 30th November- York Rev's 10th Anniversary Celebrations - Ron Cooke Hub 5pm. Tickets from YUSU
- 1st December- RAG Winter Wonderland - YourSpace and Roger Kirk Centre. Free
- 19th December- Sankta Lucia: A Festival Of Light - York Minster 7.30pm. Free
- 22nd December- Goodricke Christmas Curry Night - Goodricke GCR 6pm. Free
- 25th December - Christmas Day. Have a nice one. Lots of love from all here at *Nouse*

University Challenge trials

Niall Whitehead
NEWS REPORTER

ARE YOU aiming for a Bachelor's degree in Knowing Things? Want to stand up for your university, but too unfit to contribute to the football/hockey/Hunger Games? Do you crave the opportunity to gaze lovingly at Jeremy Paxman in a way that's (almost) socially acceptable?

Well, then, have we got an opportunity to give you, preferably without eye contact: YUSU are putting together a team for York's next foray into University Challenge. For those who haven't seen it, it's the kind of heart-pumping, cerebral battle of intellectual titans that only BBC2 can provide. And we're, um, losing.

As Daniel Whitmore points out, in our most recent attempt "after a promising start against Bath our team were quietly taken apart by Somerville College, Oxford in the second round. Our situation is

getting pretty desperate, when will York's glory be restored?"

Those noble masses who heed this call to arms can attend a written test on Tuesday 26th November, at 7pm. The test is 50% general knowledge, 50% your speciality (which can be Social Sciences, if you go to the test at P/T/006, Sciences, held at P/X/001 and Arts and Humanities, held at P/T/005).

After that, the top 8 applicants from each test will ascend to the live final, held at V/045. Mettle will be tested and the finely-honed swords of intellectual might will crash and clash to the final, triumphant end, the winners climbing to victory over their rivals' broken corpses, and there'll be buzzers that make a little noise and everything.

So, why not try it out, if you've got time and you're interested? And as a final incentive, you'll be able to get on TV and you won't even have to start twerking.*

*It's optional, at most.

From York to Malia: The story of one geek's journey

Fiona Parker talks to University of York student Alister Talbot about his television debut on E4's 'Geeks'

"It is what you call someone who obsesses about a hobby/something that they like/something that they do repeatedly. But it becomes their life...they live, eat and breathe it!"

This is "geek" according to Alister Talbot, a 22-year-old euphonium enthusiast who is set to make his television debut on E4's Geeks, the first episode of which was shown last night. The show follows groups of somewhat unlikely lads and lasses on holidays to the archetypal student destinations. The York undergraduate juggles 12 hours a week of band practise with a chemistry degree. However, he wouldn't self-identify as a geek.

"Many people do say I am geeky. I appreciate that some consider me to be a brass band geek



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISTER TALBOT

like peace and quiet." Alister's "old fashioned views" came to surface when the bandmates were taken to an exclusive pool party and bikini beauty contest. As gentlemen, they questioned the morality of the competition. "None of us were expecting that. It was wrong in so many ways, but that is what goes on in those places unfortunately. And no matter how much our York feminists do to try and make both genders equal, there will always be a certain view of women in these party resorts - it was shocking, it really was."

York may be a hotpot for feminist debate, but it holds other generalisations to its name. I wanted to

"There will always be a certain view of women in these party resorts - it was shocking"

because I love talking about band, I love telling people what I've been up to whilst banding and I just love doing it! Perhaps "unusual" would be a better word..."

Alister's episode sees him travel to Malia with three of his fellow bandmates to a luxury holiday villa in Malia. On arrival however, E4 had a surprise for the boys. They would be sharing the property with four girls from Basildon. The girls were as fanatic about "cosplay" (costume play) as Alister's bandmates were about brass.

"We're not idiots abroad", Alister tells me, "the show is basically showing how a group of friends who don't usually go to a party resort react to the situation. My friends and I don't go on holiday to get with as many people as feasibly possible. We go on holiday to have a good time."

"Cosplay" was the girls' idea of a good time. I wanted to know what exactly this meant.

"Cosplayers read Japanese comic strips/animé stuff and

dress up as the characters that you have read about. If you are a cosplayer you go to cosplay conventions and meet other cos-



play-ers to compare your outfits, take a few pictures and then get back into your normal

clothes. Odd concept really, and I don't re-think I've quite got my head around it yet!"

By shacking up

four geek girls and four geek guys in a luxury villa, E4 did little to hide their intentions for the students. On en-

quiry however, I came to learn that the "geek factor" wasn't necessarily something Alister was looking for in a girl. Apparently, there may be more to life than cosplay conventions.

"Some people just don't have certain "type" of girl they look for. I think you fall in love when the time feels right and when you've met the right person. That person you fall

in love with may even be the person that others thought that you would be most likely to fall for."

But for any ladies reading who may be interested, it should be made clear that Alister is already a grandmother. Known as the "granny" of the group, Alister is, according to his friends, suffering from something of a serious generational crisis. "I drink copious amounts of gin, I have old fashioned views, I'm stuck in my ways, I can be grumpy and I do

"Some people just don't have a certain 'type' of girl they look for"

"Everyone should be proud of their interests no matter how odd they are"

ask Alister whether it was fair to refer to the University as the "University of Dork". "I love the place, the people here and the amazing friendships that I have made over the past 3 years. I suppose it may get that label what with being the place for like "Oxbridge Rejects". However, I think it should be seen as a positive that this world class institution attracts some of the brightest and best youngsters in the UK. I quite simply love the place!"

As Alister reaches the middle term of his final year at the University, he recognises that his regular trips to Willow, Kuda and solo parts backed by his beloved UYBB are numbered. As a fellow third year I can sympathise all too well.

"I'm going to carry on banding for as long as I can because I love the music and I love the amazing people I have met along the way. It's always been a hobby for me, so I won't be making a career of it. I'm looking forward to becoming a teacher which is what I've always hoped I would do."

So to conclude with, a final message to those fellow York students whose hobbies have fast-transformed into obsessions and whose "geek" status is painfully conspicuous?

"Everyone should be proud of their interests no matter how odd they are..."

Episode 3 of Geeks Monday the 9th December, 8pm on E4.

Comment



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

Zain Mahmood

Deputy Comment
Editor



Caught in a trap: students, social media and Ratemash

Websites that prey on social media users invade our privacy but somehow manage to present us as willing victims.

You've completed all your work, and after a long run of hard days decided to reward yourself with some much needed sleep. Ominously, at that precise moment, your phone lets out a shrill sound that forebodes the rest of the evening.

You roll your eyes and reach for the mobile whilst minimising the amount of body that is exposed to anything non-duvet to ensure maximal heat retention. A familiar name appears on the screen by a text message notification. You open the text. It immediately becomes apparent that you aren't going to have a relaxing evening after all.

Your friend has informed you that you appear on a website where students' photos are posted for the purposes of rating. The attribute in question? 'Hotness'.

Ratemash.com, the perpetrator here, decides to make many claims such as giving you 'free entrance and drinks' at 'top nightclubs all over the world' and on the homepage it says that it 'sorts out your nightlife'.

Firstly, though perhaps not primarily, how dare they assume that my nightlife needs sorting out? I am completely content eating whatever junk food Costcutter puts on offer this week while watching episodes of Parks and Recreation. More troubling is the issue that my photos can appear on the website without my knowing about it.

Students are categorised by university and there are leaderboard systems in place to encourage competition. The rankings are

point-based and if you click on a photo it will take you straight to the Facebook profile of the individual.

Websites like this can become much worse. If we do not stop this from getting out of control, others will create online outlets with phone numbers and maybe even home addresses. It'll be called innovation and labelled as problems of the digital age.

It turns out that the website

“if we do not take preventive measures to stop this happening, it is our fault.”

cares about us and will remove any photos if contacted. Well, that's the problem solved!

Pop. That was the sound of that bubble being burst. Consider the fact that in regards to Ratemash, and subsequently students concerns with it, people and organisations with much more authority than us have just given us generic internet safety advice. These people are student union leaders, university representatives, and even vice presidents' of education. We're all continually told to check and revise our Facebook profile's 'privacy settings'

and to contact the website directly to remove the photos but the issue here is that this perpetrates an attitude that is fundamentally wrong with society.

The blame is being shifted onto social media users in general, those who are preyed upon by these websites in particular.

It makes it seem like if we do not take preventive measures to stop this happening, it is our fault. This is simply not true and we, as students, should not shoulder the blame or part of it.

The world's 'platform for change', the website change.org, which hosts petitions, is currently hosting a petition against Ratemash. The petition explains how Ratemash violates basic privacy rights and promotes the objectifica-

tion of individuals. I'm not an expert on rights but I won't disagree that the website has been the cause of negative experience for many individuals. One commenter writes that the website had "violated my daughter's privacy".

On the homepage of Ratemash, a line reads 'You'll love it! Trust me'. But consider the following situation; you're walking home and someone walks up to you with a photo album of yourself with other individual's ratings of your 'hotness' and they tell you that you'll love it. I assure you, rather than experiencing pleasure or any such notions similar to love, you'd be attempting to obtain a restraining order.

The website is still very much in its infancy, where hopefully it will die a quick death.



ALEX WESTLEY

Beverley
Slomofsky



Nutty professor's magic medicine

Alcohol replacement pill offers no magic solution to our country's drinking problems.

We all enjoy a night out, and for most, alcohol plays a major role in that. But would a pill that removed those next morning hangover blues be wholly welcomed?

A drug that mimics the effect of alcohol with an antidote to reverse the effects so we are free to drag ourselves to that 9am lecture is being researched (with hopes of development) by one Professor Nut. But his work has been halted due to a lack of funding, which may prove not to be a bad thing.

There are many arguments 'for' this drug. Undeniably, alcohol is a big burden to the country's medical skills and resources, which are wasted in accident and emergency rooms. In 2011 there were 8,748 alcohol-related deaths in the UK. As well as this fatalities resulting from drink and drive accidents increased by 12 per cent from 2010 to

2011. With the many alcohol related deaths there are each year, perhaps it is time we took a fresh approach and looked for other alternatives to alleviate the strain that this overwhelming consumption of alcohol brings.

This pill would also eradicate the excess calories consumed in excess drinking, which often lead to serious health complications.

However, years of testing and billions of pounds would have to be spent funding the research for this drug, not to mention rigorous protocols and testing before people would feel happy popping the pill itself. In fact, there are many harmless aspects to our relationship with alcohol.

Students, especially in their first few weeks at university, use drinking to bond, in this context a little bit of drinking isn't a bad thing.

Often a bottle of their favourite

tipple will go a long way as a Christmas gift too. It's also a great back up present, giving alcohol as a gift is well received by many, I'm not sure that the giving of a pill would have the same effect.

“alcohol is a big burden to the country's medical resources”

To take it one step further, like everything in moderation, alcohol can be good for you. There are many studies reporting on the benefits of drinking. Dr Arthur Klatsky, a cardiologist in Canada, found that those who drank in moderation were less at risk than those who either drank

heavily or abstained. Those who abstained completely were put into the 'highest risk' category.

We cannot ignore the problems that arise from irresponsible drinking. Turning a blind eye to weight, medical and social problems which heavy drinking brings to this country is irresponsible. Instead of resorting to a magic pill, we would do better to look at ways in which we can change our drinking culture.

For example, minimum unit pricing and stringent advertising restrictions have been proven to work. By focusing on what is going wrong, we can look at ways to put things right.

In practice we're a long way off ever being presented with the opportunity to choose between the two. However, what we can choose to do is to drink more responsibly, and this, we should surely all agree on.



KATE MITCHELL

Size isn't everything

Kate Mitchell



During my first year, I was initially disappointed by the nightlife scene of York. Coming from Manchester, I was used to having about ten different options for every night out, with a good half hour of pre-drinking time being eaten up by debating what club we were in the mood for that night. Going out just because it was Kuda night was utterly alien.

Of course compared to places such as Cambridge and Durham, York is not completely devoid of places to go. The main problem with most of our clubs is that they lack in that special something that sets them apart. Tokyo, Salvo and Revs all largely blend together. There is nothing about these places themselves that is memorable.

That's not to say it's not possible to have a good night at these places; if you're with the right people it's possible to have a good night pretty much anywhere. Yet sometimes it would be possible to have a better night if the clubs were more diverse and out there.

Moreover the few regular events that do try to cater to different tastes, such as Fibbers' Saturday indie night, are not affiliated with YUSU, meaning they can often slip under the radar of freshers. And even this is still rather on the fringes of mainstream. Those looking for house, soul and avant-garde progressive rock are rather limited in their options.

When talking to people outside of York, the only haunt with any sort of reputation is "the Chinese restaurant with the free prawn crackers." Ah, Willow. The place where you can find yourself reenacting C'est la Vie with a group of people you have never met before in the dim glow of budget fairy lights whilst a meager drizzle of foam showers around you. It is certainly individual, if nothing else. A night out in York almost seems incomplete if you don't wake up covered in Willow stamps. It's flaws are well known, but it does have a certain homely charm and quirkiness that will stick in our memories far longer than bland, stereotypical club.

Another one of York's strengths is its bars. If you are looking for a classy cocktail bar, cheap trebles, good music, even a wooden bed, York's your place. Even better is the limited stumbling distance between each of these places. Unlike Manchester, Leeds and most other cities of a similar size, there's no possibility of a half-hour trek between your favorite places (even if you do have to deal with the cobbles). This is an excellent advantage for bar-crawling.

York will never have the demand to be able to rival these big cities' scale and diversity of clubs, however that is not an entirely bad thing. Nights out in big cities can be expensive, hard to organize and require 100 per cent enthusiasm to enjoy. And Leeds is only just around the corner to facilitate occasionally enjoying the big city perks.

Rosie Shields
Editor



Health centre cannot continue to neglect mental ill health

Students suffering from mental health issues are largely left to their own devices by the University.

Moving to university brings a whole host of new challenges. Now you don't just have to grapple with academic life but with fitting into a different place and generally looking after yourself. It's hard.

It's especially hard if you go to university far away from home and can't just pop back. On the NHS website it says that 'mental health problems are more common among students than the general population' a statement which sadly I don't find surprising.

So the important question is what are the university, and the government for that matter, doing to help these students?

The University health centre seems to be under strain. With one mental health specialist to see all

“What happens to those who need someone to talk to?”

students, sufferers are sometimes left waiting a long time for an appointment and are then getting told they're wasting time when they finally get one. Although not always the case this isn't the way it should be.

It's important to have a smooth transition to university, without doctor, appointment and prescription stress. If you've been having regular appointments at home it should be easy to transfer them to the University health centre.

The University should be aware of the health of their students from

the start. Then they can provide the best care possible whether that be through the health centre or the university's other services.

If you're suffering from a serious mental health issue it seems you're likely to be able to see someone pretty promptly. In a serious event a student could be referred to the York hospital services, although they themselves are struggling to deal with the influx of people. Yet what happens to those people who just need someone to talk to? The NHS advises sufferers to talk to friends, family or college tutors about their condition, especially if it's starting to affect their studies.

The Open Door team at the University are meant to supply just that. They list themselves as being 'the first point of contact for students with emotional, psychological or mental health problems'. In theory then this is where the majority of cases will go, especially when you think about students who, the NHS says, are most likely to develop mild mental health problems. Yet this service, like the health centre, seems to be under a great strain.

The Open Door team is made up of four full time practitioners. That's only four people to deal with the thousands of students at the University. That's a lot to deal with and could mean that patients are subject to long waiting times. The Huffington Post found that "The number of students seeking help for depression [had] more than doubled at some of the country's top institutions." This is all while funding is being cut by more than £290,000.

Surely the University's provi-

sions should rise in line with the amount of student sufferers, otherwise they cannot hope to deal with these students to their full capabilities. Either the government needs to increase its funding to institutions or institutions need to think about funding mental health provision more directly.

There should be various points of call on campus, whether that be the Open Door service, a mental health specialist, a counsellor or the community mental health worker.

“Mental wellbeing is important and we need to wake up to the truth”

It's great that the University has these facilities but they're not being fully utilised at the moment. It's key that these services work together to deal with the sheer number of patients and share knowledge. Students need to be made aware of who they should see at which stage. Each avenue of support should then be expecting the level of patients they receive to a certain extent. Students and staff should know what they need to do.

Mental wellbeing is important and we need to wake up to the truth. There needs to be more funding and clearer access to provisions. Mental ill health is no longer something we can push aside. Poor mental health practice cannot be ignored especially with so many students in need.

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

Comment

Runner-up in Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2012

NOUSE

Est. 1964

Care must be consistent

Students are in good hands when facing more extreme cases of mental illness on campus. The real inconsistencies become apparent in the University's treatment of those cases that are less easily detectable. These "minor" cases include depression, anxiety and eating disorders, which are conditions affecting a significant proportion of students at York. These students should not be left ignored. Even in the face of funding cuts, the mental well-being of students must be prioritised with facilities which cater for all. The NHS' offers of advice to sufferers may be a step in the right direction, yet it is not always enough when these illnesses continue to affect patients' academic studies. It is the University's prerogative to act on issues concerning the entire student body's welfare. Despite the University having various facilities to help those with mental health issues they do not work well enough together and still leave patients without adequate care.

Think about your future

Employability should be a primary concern for any student. It's all too easy to forget about the big, bad world of work when caught in the bubble of university life. Unfortunately, there's often a preconception about careers services based on poor experiences at school; we've all had lessons in PSHE vaguely telling us to "think about our future". But we shouldn't disregard Careers at York, we should use this service throughout our studies to actually help us get a job. It sounds obvious, but with both York and national statistics showing how students degrees from various departments take different routes to graduate careers, it becomes clear how important that the process to getting a job should start as soon as possible, i.e. not once you graduate. But this works if you have a clear idea of what job you want at the end of your degree. Most students come to university either with the frame of mind that they'll decide what career they want during their degree, or with aspirations that will change throughout their course. This is natural. However, we have to spare more than just passing thought to the practicalities of graduate jobs; ultimately that's what our degrees are for.

Reclaiming the nightclubs

Sexual assault happens all too often in nightclubs and yet it is rarely reported. People need to be made aware of just what counts as sexual assault and what penalties it carries. This would then hopefully change the view that students have of actions such as 'underhanding'. It is not something that should happen and it's certainly not something that should be taken lightly. Penetration is a serious form of sexual assault which leaves many people feeling violated and degraded. The statistics in York show worrying results for clubs in the city and for those affiliated with the University. Potentially hundreds of people have been affected in York alone. If reported to the police these events would often receive maximum sentences for sexual assault. They cannot be ignored. Bouncers should be more aware of their role. Taking complaints from people who visit the club seriously and following them up appropriately should be an important aim of nightclub staff. Ultimately people should feel safe one a night out.

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Tinder loving care

Tom Fennely



Everyone knows someone who laments their lack of a boy/girlfriend. You have to endure their droning conversations at the back of Willow or the hidden corner of your favourite bar. They'll send those drunk tweets towards the end of an 'unsuccessful' night out using some inevitable hashtags: #foreveralone, #loveme, #WHYDONTYOU TALKTOMEANYMORE. Apparently, there's an app for everything, and now, for these lonely people, there's one that can link them up with someone else at the flick of a thumb.

Tinder is an interesting idea, that's also very easy to use. The app links with your Facebook profile and it will use your profile picture as something that completely shouts everything about you. Give Tinder some basic questions about where you live, your age and your name and you're ready to go. The app will set you up with a list of people in your general area and around your age and, suddenly, 21st century

speed dating is born.

The profile picture of a fellow user who matches your criteria will pop up on screen. Swipe the photo to the left to doom a fellow simpleton to the dustbin. If you find someone you like, you can swipe the other way to give them the thumbs up and, if they like the look of your photo as well, then the two of you get linked up in an instant messaging chat.

But now you're back at the part that you didn't want. Suddenly, albeit behind the screen of your smartphone, you might have to actually socially interact and make conversation with someone. These conversations rarely reach past the "hi" stage, whilst the majority of the rest will link you to their webcam chat site. Capitalist consumerism knows no ends.

If this catches on any further, I can honestly declare that romance is profoundly dead. Gone are the days of going up and dancing with a girl, or striking up a pleasant conversa-

tion at the bar. Winning someone over with your wit and charm, and maybe a well-picked shirt, are forgotten traits of the past.

However, 'failing' to get a girl has always been part of the game of love. In a bid to chirpse all the girls you like on a night out, there's going to be a pretty high failure rate. It's always been part of the game, but the new phobia of rejection when courting for love has led to a shrinking of confidence that has reduced a lot of people to 'getting with someone' in Salvation and never speaking to them again, or simply hiding behind a screen and awkwardly communicating. This culture only leads to a vicious spiral into the depths of loneliness as less and less people know about (and even fear) chatting someone up.

Tinder's only advantage, then, is that it might occasionally lead to a shag. And even that is pretty unlikely, and probably highly risky. In fact, you've probably got more chance of finding class in Popworld.

Will I be using it? Definitely not. I've got a Blackberry. So I'm going back to sitting at the back of Willow, aimlessly flicking through my Twitter feed and sobbing a bit every time the Human League's 'Don't You Want Me' comes on.

But perhaps Tinder does serve a purpose. Even if it doesn't give you the love or the sex that you are looking for, knowing that people are also validating your picture and, in turn, finding you attractive gives people that satisfying buzz. It certainly goes to some extent in downsizing some people's insecurities. But you're still alone.



LUCY WEGERIF

No man's land

George Barrett



Mary Curnock Cook recently highlighted what has long been a worrying issue in the educational system; girls are continually outperforming boys in nearly all age groups.

Recent research conducted by UCAS showed that 30 per cent of 18-year-old male school or college leavers applied to university in 2012, but only 24.6 per cent were admitted. The statistics regarding females painted a very different picture; 40 per cent applied while 32.5 per cent were given places.

In a presentation at the Sutton Trust conference, Curnock Cook showed that differences in admission rates by gender would eclipse those by socio-economic background by 2025.

If one were to quantify performance by university entry, this would bring up questions such as: what is it about our education system that seems to see women outperform men so consistently? Is there a genuine flaw with our educational system that seems to give girls an unfair advantage over boys? And are classroom settings more tailored to meet the needs of female

students?

With many more variables in play, the answer cannot be as simple as that. Take a look at other major European countries. Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) studies in German schools have shown that boys are more likely to drop out of school early.

In France 28 per cent of women have qualifications in higher education compared to 25 per cent of men. Klaus Hurrelmann, a leading German sociologist, has said that there is a lack of support for the problems boys face in German schools, particularly when it comes to discipline.

As a result of the push for equality in education (which for so long has been a major disadvantage to girls), perhaps the pendulum has swung the other way. I am not arguing here that the reforms in education to aid girls are negative – on the contrary, I am delighted that recent history shows great steps forward for women in the workplace and in education. However, there must be a reason why girls are consistently better than boys in the classroom, other than they are 'simply more in-

telligent.'

Swiss sociologist Walter Hollstein has studied the image of men presented by prominent feminists. "Many feminist intellectuals characterised men in deeply negative ways. This picture of men has been passed into the popular media and finally into the population's attitudes at large - including among men," he said.

Hollstein believes that an important step in addressing the problems men face today lies in changing the face of early education. He believes men should assume more responsibility for children as they begin school in order to serve as role models for boys at such a critical stage of their development.

Whilst Hollstein goes much further than I would, I do agree that men have a responsibility as role models to their children and (in the case of teachers) their students. Problems that Curnock Cook has highlighted are more complex than any statistics can reveal. On top of that, the emerging gap is evidence of a problem so deeply rooted that Michael Gove will struggle to solve it within the next two years.

Comment

Madi Barker

Chivalry, it's your round

A hypothetical, yet familiar situation for all of you: you're on a sticky dance floor. You've been dancing with a beautiful stranger for the past ten minutes and busting a move (or twelve) has left you parched beyond belief – not to mention the DJ has just decided that the crowd is ready for some One Direction (hard to believe, I know).

“when student incomes are more or less equal, is it still right that you are expected to foot the bill?”

It's the perfect time to shimmy your way to the bar ... but then comes the crunch point.

As you are barking your order down some poor bartender's ear, you notice your new friend just standing there. What do you do? You already bought the last round when you first met but now you've got a fiver to your name and probably (definitely) an old Chupa Chup in your pocket somewhere... and this is where you ask yourself: when student incomes are more or less equal, is it still right that you are expected to foot the bill?

Well, firstly, bravo for bringing up such a profound and interesting

question under the influence of the Willow.

Needless to say, buying a woman a drink is an outdated tradition: rooted in the patriarchal principle of women not being responsible or 'steady minded' enough to control their own purse. Furthermore, the act carries nasty connotations due to the obligation behind the drink, and dangerous circumstances that may become more than a potential.

As my mother revels in reminding me, there's no such thing as a free lunch. Or a free drink. It's frankly disgusting that buying a drink is more often than not seen as an 'investment' for later in the evening: the formulaic implication that the 'more she drinks, the more likely it is said consumer will let their hair, and judgement, down'. Yet it is also unfair to burden a legitimate and simple act of politeness with such connotations.

Those buying the drinks all too often see it as them buying a notch on the bedpost.

If anything, because we're all in the same boat down bankruptcy river without a paddle, the gifts we give mean more. Ignoring the money your friends owe you, or buying a cheeky vodka and coke for someone you fancy – you will take extra note and so will the recipient. It's all a part of the courtship process. Also, your generous spirit should not be dependent on how much cash you have – it should be a relative act. Obviously, if you can barely afford a Strongbow for yourself, it's absurd for someone to order a 'cocktail pitcher for one'.

However, when you are genu-

inely just trying to create the opportunity to talk to someone you like for that little bit longer, treating him/her is not a chore.

From a woman's perspective, it can be uncomfortable when some-

“if a man or woman wants a drink, you should be in the position to buy one yourself”

one is being over-generous. Depending on the situation, more often than not, I find it empowering to decline the offer of a drink/cinema ticket/numerous other clichés. It can be a way of you showing your principles of independence and also

being able to relish in an evening completely from your own pocket – just ask Destiny's Child.

Furthermore, it is unacceptable and completely unfair to scrounge off people's affections for the night – if a man or woman wants a drink, you should be in the position to buy one yourself. Stringing some poor chap along to get an extra six shot stick is undignified and just plain mean. Everyone's starting point should be in neutral: not expecting anything from anyone.

So, going back to where we began, you're on the dance floor and the guy you've been dancing with for the past ten minutes just motioned hysterically to the bar. You laugh. While he's ordering his drink, you're just standing there – not really paying attention. You notice he hesitates and you're not really sure what to do about the classically awkward 'who is buying the drinks' scenario. You are on roughly equal incomes after all. What do you do? You lean in and offer your last tenner – it is your round after all.



REBECCA DRAKE

It's getting hot in here



James Hotsford

The University of York's Dr Cowtan has used a technique called kriging to accurately gauge the temperature of the Arctic and attain a more precise average surface temperature. It has now been proved that the rise in temperature per decade has been 0.12°C, over twice the previously estimated figure of 0.05°C. The sceptics will no longer be able to hide behind the anomalous data from the last 15 years in their dissension of global warming. The new data very clearly shows that the apparent pause was erroneous.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) data since 1880 shows an undeniable rise in global temperatures, the impacts of which is well known. On top of this changes in oceanic acidity and permafrost thaws also demonstrated the severity of the warming.

The effect of global warming has been ravaging the earth since the Industrial Revolution. From melting glaciers to falling biodiversity, the effects are clear to see.

Despite the evidence Conservative politicians and commentators have often preferred to reject environmental responsibility because it seemed that the globe wasn't getting any hotter. Indeed in a recent column in The Telegraph, Lord Lawson berated "gullible journalists" for belief in global warming prior to this revelation.

Cowtan's recent revelation has confirmed the projected rise in temperatures which will have devastating effects on millions of the globe's poorest. The increasingly extreme weather patterns can be explained in part by global warming. The Typhoon Haiyan's decimation of the Philippines serves as a poignant reminder of the damage that climate change can cause. Elsewhere the pleas of the Amazonian tribes people for protection of their ancient forest have been disregarded in favour of enterprising farmers earning millions. We cannot sacrifice the future and biodiversity of the planet for enlarged share prices.

The truth is that earth is warming and we have a responsibility to curb it, especially in developing nations. Lord Lawson spurns proposals to reduce the use of carbon rich fossil fuels in favour of economic growth. Whilst there is something to be said for the tiny contribution of developing nations to global carbon dioxide levels, the increased pollution from developing countries should not be ignored. The increased prevalence of extreme weather systems will far out-weigh the economic benefits of using fossil fuels rather than seeking alternatives now.

The culture of denying global warming will cause even more irreversible damage to the planet. Dr Cowtans work brings the issue back the forefront of peoples minds. It is proven that the rise in global surface temperature is extraordinarily high. We must force our politicians to take more drastic action to stick to global initiatives to tackle climate change.



Callum Adams

Coming of age

Earlier this week, Professor John Ashton, the Faculty of Public Health president, called for David Cameron to lower the age of sexual consent to 15. While the prime minister may have rejected the call, I believe that this issue is in desperate need of debate.

Ashton told the BBC that society has to accept that up to a third of teenagers engage in sexual activity before the age of 16. "[We need] to recognise the facts of what is going on by the age of 14 or 15 so that we can respond helpfully to them and support them on this journey into adult life."

Downing Street responded saying that the current lawful age is 16 and "there are no plans to change it." However, I do not believe that this makes it immune from discussion. There are two major problems with our current outlook on the age of consent and both need meaningful consideration.

Firstly, the UK has the highest teenage birth rates in Western Europe. This is five times those in the Netherlands and double that of France and Germany, according to the Family Planning Association

(FPA). The figures, published in 2010, are alarming.

“They're doing it, and we need to be able to engage with them”

The problem is that we all have expectations in the UK of our children reaching 'the right' age, and then having all the tools necessary to conduct themselves in the sphere of sexual activity.

Ashton spells this ideal out, "We still have this fantasy about young people, we live in a world of wish fulfilment. They're doing it, and we need to be able to engage with them."

The current age of consent in the UK is out of touch with reality. We need to accept that young people develop at different ages and that many of them will engage in sexual activity before the current law allows them to.

I am certainly not arguing that

we should remove an age of consent. A lawful age of consent is important to protect our children from predatory individuals.

Rather than abolishing an age of consent, I agree with Ashton that the age should be lowered to 15. By lowering the age we will come more into line with Germany and France, who specify the age of consent at 14 and 15 respectively.

It will allow teachers and parents to be more comfortable in discussing sexual activity and it's implications at a time when teenagers are being bombarded by messages from pornography, social media, and their peers.

My second point of criticism is that the law needs to recognise and accept that sexual activity does happen between young people of a similar age and subsequently protect minors from prosecution when it does.

Everyone can accept that there is a huge difference between a 45 year old and a 16 year old engaging in sexual activity with a 15 year old. The current law does not.

The Home Office is adamant that legalising sexual activity be-

tween children would "damage a fundamental plank in our raft of child protection measures".

This simply does not reflect reality. Sex happens between teenagers. What I suggest is that we adopt a law similar to that in Switzerland, allowing sexual activity between consenting teenagers if there is a difference in the ages of the participants by two years or less.

While lawfully protecting minors from predators, it would also

“This simply does not reflect reality”

encourage parents to allow teenagers to practise safe sex in their own homes rather than forbidding it and allowing them to make mistakes.

By lowering the age of consent to 15 and adapting the law to accommodate sexual activity between minors we can encourage a change in attitude in the UK which better reflects reality and can better protect our children.

Comment



Nicole Sørlie

There's nowt wrong with accents, duck

Our accents are unique and interesting, and deserve a place in the classroom.

A teacher from Cumbria, working in west Berkshire, was recently told to tone down her northern accent at school. It was listed in improvements by Ofsted, where they set her the target of reducing her accent to be more Southern in order for pupils to understand her better.

“London is a melting pot of different accents and dialects and even the Queen no longer speaks Queen's English herself”

So it seems the battle continues; the north/south divide emerges yet again to be debated endlessly.

At university this topic comes up on a regular basis. It's not seen as a proper discussion until there are full blown arguments about the geography of England and the exact location of the invisible north/south border is determined. Soon the maps will be out and everyone will be slightly biased depending

on where they're from, in apart from those frp, the Midlands who are generally confused and have an identity crisis at this point.

There's something which always falls under the radar. What exactly is a southern accent? It can only be assumed that when Ofsted set this teacher the ridiculous target, they were thinking of Received Pronunciation (RP) also known as the Queen's English. As many people will know, it's usually the stereotyped accent of England and is most commonly used in London, but is most definitely not used by everyone in London, let alone in 'the south' (wherever that may be).

London is a melting pot of different accents and dialects. Even the Queen no longer speaks Queen's English herself. So why become more southern if the Queen is slowly but surely becoming more northern in her pronunciation?

Of course I'm playing the devil's advocate as I'm perfectly aware that the Queen will never sound northern, but she is gradually drifting from what used to be the ultimate mark of prestige, sophistication and class. The BBC is also moving towards having more regional accents on air. As globalisation becomes the norm, people are exposed to new accents and dialects more regularly.

Now I have to be honest and say that as a South African living in Cumbria, it was a real struggle for

me to understand the accent when I first moved, especially since I was only really exposed to the RP English accent previously. I couldn't believe how difficult it was to understand people speaking my native tongue, but in a completely incomprehensible way. It was painful having to ask people to repeat themselves over and over until I eventually gave up and just nodded in reply to everything said to me, which only made me look more like a fool.

It seems ridiculous now. It didn't take me long to adjust to the

“Being taught by Northern teachers never once hindered my ability to do well in school”

accent. It was just the initial culture shock which stumped me. However, I quickly learnt to tune my ear to this strange but somewhat wonderful accent which sounds a bit Yorkshire, a bit Geordie and a bit Scottish (but definitely not Scottish if you're talking to someone from Cumbria).

Through being exposed to it,

I learnt to appreciate it without adopting any of the features myself. Being taught by northern teachers never once hindered my ability to do well in school and in some cases I even stopped noticing that they had a northern accent.

The most important thing to point out from a linguistic point of view is that even if someone has a northern accent, they can still talk in Standard English. They can still use the language 'correctly' and be grammatically correct despite their pronunciation, which is where the real importance lies in terms of schooling.

I think it's absolutely vital that students and pupils are exposed to different accents and, along with it, different kinds of people. The longer people go unexposed to different accents, the longer stigmas will be attached to them and discrimination will arise as a result.

On another note, children in the north may view northern accents in a more positive way. They can relate to it, and it provides them with a role model who demonstrates that regional accents need not be a barrier to success. By enforcing this ridiculous requirement Ofsted are reverting to a traditional mindset, which in turn affects many people and indirectly teaches children to discriminate. In reality, southern pronunciation doesn't make for a better education.

Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



@professor_dave
David K Smith

23 Nov

10 years of #xfactor versus 50 years of #drwho? Who on ITV even thought that was a contest???

23 Nov

@tomscott
Tom Scott



At the end of this episode of Strictly Come Dancing, Bruce Forsyth will regenerate into Peter Capaldi. #doctorwho #brucefivesyth



@nbutton93
Nick Button

23 Nov

Tom Baker is still wonderful. That is all #doctorwho #dayofthedoctor

23 Nov

@NatashaClark92
Natasha Clark



The best minute of trailers ever. #silencewillfall #sherlocklives agsvvshsjdbdhd #DoctorWho50th

Victoria
Chater-Lea



High school never ends

A recent study by the *Times* suggested that high school social standing could determine your future. It states that the “Popular kids in high school wind up making more money. Then again, a lot of people still hate them.”

In a similar vein, The University of Chicago recently observed that individuals' social status in high school had a “sizable effect” on their incomes. Students in the 80th percentile of popularity earn on average 10 percent more than those in the 20th percentile.

A University of Texas sociologist has suggested that interactions of the adolescent between the hierarchies of high school are consequential later in life. A psychology professor at Williams College stated that in the three years subsequent to graduation, popularity was associated with higher rates of substance abuse and promiscuity.

Researchers differentiated between two types of popularity: “perceived popularity”, or rather socially prominent individuals who are statistically more likely to partake in bullying and gossip, and “sociometrical popularity”, which involves having a wide group of friends and being perceived as kind. The University of Oregon analysed undergraduate results concluding that

“low SATs scores do not prelude high performance in most majors”, but high achievers succeed due to effort. The University of Colorado reported that “previous analyses have overstated the role of intelligence in economic success,” favouring the development of conscientiousness and cooperation found in ‘popular individuals’.

The studies suggest that high

“People have social circles, but is there any stand-out ‘popular’ group?”

school cliques determine your post high school fate, but being from the US can the findings really be relevant to a British reader of *The Times*?

Talking to university friends, every school is different and diverse. People come from different school backgrounds: mixed or single-sex, state or private, boarding or non-boarding schools. ‘Popularity’ has different standards in schools. At my former secondary school, popu-

larity was defined by being sporty and attractive, however at my housemate's sixth-form there was no defined group and everyone got along in their own niche. But in other circumstances, promiscuity led to popularity. Success in these cases can't be measured on popularity. Maybe we were still too young, or maybe success is reflected in where you go to university.

Life after high school is equally as important in deciding your future success as seen here at York. Does popularity even exist at University? People have social circles, but is there any stand out ‘popular’ group? The only exception I've seen are BNOs. From my observations, it's more about ‘who you know’.

Contrary to the *Times* article, since coming to York a year ago I've certainly noticed friends lose their ‘high school’ identity. I definitely changed from the quiet girl to a confident and outgoing individual. However, my future success is still unknown.

University allows for changes in perceptions of popularity, and the advancement of success when coupled with hard work. Popularity ultimately comes from a high confidence and this is sought after in the working world, which leads to financial and career success.

MUSE.

26.11.2013

Frack to the Future

Photographer Nick Brandreth captures fracking's threat to New York's natural landscapes.

Male Model of the Year

Face to face equality

"There is no beauty in death"



M17. Reflecting on their latest album, four piece **Kodaline** want to keep it all about the music.



M12. The Shoot takes inspiration from the 1920s with tweed, flat-caps and corduroy.



M19. Celebrating fifty years of everyone's favourite sci-fi series and beloved British institution Doctor Who.

Arts.

M7. "There is no beauty in death": How photography helped **Kathryn Cartwright** beat cancer.

M9. "Old fashioned traditionalist" **Daniel Strange** is part of a dying breed of artists.

Music.

M16. The Music team round up their favourite records of 2013.

Fashion.

M22. Meet **Daniel Lukikas**, the macho male model taking the fashion world by storm.

M23. It's all about the men this issue, as Holly Eve shares her DIY tips.

Film & TV.

M18. The second instalment of The Hunger Games franchise doesn't disappoint our film critic.

Food & Drink.

M20. Grace Marsh talks to **Mike Tattersall** about life as an award-winning indie icecream maker.

M21. Holly Knight discovers what festive foods the rest of the world has to offer.

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M2: Top Left: Courtesy of Kodaline
M3: Left: Courtesy of Adam Boulton

The Twelve Days of Pissedmas

Poppy Bullard

From Monday Week Nine until Friday Week Ten
There are only twelve days til Christmas.
Twelve days of hedonistic revelry, twelve days of freedom again;
These are the Twelve Days of Pissedmas.
On the first day of Pissedmas, t'was the college formal,
Oxymoronically named - social transgressions are normal,
My true love could only flourish with aplomb
His heartfelt gift: a single Jaeger bomb.
On the second, third and fourth days, wine was mulled,
Mince pies baked, tinsel thrown and pints were pulled.
Come days five and six, a great light did shine
Upon the Sports Dinner, and the heraldry was thine:
"Do not be afraid, this is the night of nights"
Said a Host of Heavenly Kryptonites.
Suddenly day eight emerged as though from a fog,
Mmm... last night was total heaven...
Wait - what happened to day seven?!
Oh Christ. Only one option. Hair Of The Dog.
Days nine, ten and eleven passed in keeping:
Gin and tonics dancing, daiquirizz a leaping,
Tequila; a sw]imming, bu wha' hppned to numbr eight?
(You should stop. You've had enough mate)
O th twelhts;lsl pissdmAsas
I dun wh'appn last nite?
where uu thik durnk.
OFUCK ;is bcsot CRISZMSAAS



CARTOON BY KATE MITCHELL

“I made an actress cry on camera”



Adam Boulton

Political Editor, *Sky News*

My father always wanted me to be a doctor. I've got science A Levels, but I always thought if I had to be a doctor I would be a psychiatrist. The only other activities I ever thought about quite seriously were law and architecture.

I don't really like dinner parties. But I think you could have quite an interesting time with Napoleon and Hitler and the Duke of Wellington and Churchill. You could probably chuck in Elizabeth I as well.

If someone was to play me in the film of my life it would probably be Philip Seymour Hoffman. I don't know how tall he is though.

The highlight of my career was undoubtedly presenting the first Prime Ministerial debate in 2010. But I think the moment I found most personally interesting was interviewing Obama in a slave fortress in Ghana, just after he'd been elected. I think that was pretty good.

My most embarrassing moment was when I made an actress called Sarah Miles cry on camera. I asked her if her autobiography was true, which probably wasn't a triumphant moment. But I also nearly had an embarrassing outing here. I was sitting on the metal seat waiting for the tube coming up to York and suddenly felt a bit cold when I realised I had completely split my trousers!

My biggest fear is not being able to go and do what I'm doing. I really like what I'm doing. I think politics is

important, I like interviewing people, I love television and I love live television and it would be a big loss.

My favourite interview was one I did with Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist. It was towards the end of his life. I find musicians interesting to interview anyway, whatever their type of music, but he was a man who was Jewish, who played at Auschwitz just after the close of the Second World War. He was also an American, and I just felt he had a centeredness and an insight which you don't often get.

What most people don't know about me is that I'm really, really not partisan. I really don't have a party which I support. It doesn't matter whether they accuse me of being married to someone from New Labour, or being a Tory or whatever, what I'm really trying to do is to get to the nub of the issue, irrespective of where people stand in the political spectrum.

My worst habit? I'm a bit fat so I probably eat too much.

My New Year's Resolution? To try and do as much as I can covering the Scottish referendum. I think it's important and interesting and I think we in England are sometimes guilty of overlooking it.

The advice I would offer to students is do what you're good at. Follow your interests, whatever they are.

Interview by Charlotte Wainwright.

Editor's note



Muse Editor Alfie Packham reflects on a sleepless week

There are times when I wonder whether being a student journalist is really worth it. After all, it's not as if the rewards of doing student journalism are particularly obvious. You don't get paid, you don't get sleep, and the chronic neglect of your lecture reading will leave you with the academic proficiency of Joey Essex's left eyebrow. And then there's production week.

Production week is the name given to the seven days during which student newspapers like this one get made. For us editors hunched in the cramped confines of the student media offices, it is a time of sweeping ambivalence, when morbid tedium is mixed with inconsequential triumph. A rapturous flicker of joy at the correct alignment of a margin will be doused in an instant by the crushing sugar-low that results from exclusively eating out of a vending machine for 48 hours straight.

Inevitably, sometime around the fifth or sixth day of staring at words which by now have morphed into a floating matrix of indeterminable glyphs around your head, morale levels will dip. That unwelcome worm of disillusionment will crawl into your ear, seize control of your Diet Coke-pickled frontal lobe and will force you to ask yourself; "Why am I still airbrushing a photograph of an apple pie at four o'clock in the morning?"

This week, however, the new editorial team and I did emerge from the experience armed with some advice as to how best combat the self-inflicted horrors of producing a student newspaper. This information could of course prove useful in other walks of student life, like hopeless essay deadlines or last-minute exam cramming sessions. In fact, it would be a disservice of me not to share it with you now.

First, good music is essential to the preservation of sanity during any night shift. I would heartily recommend the Disney Movie Classics Album on loop. Even with a heavy workload, these nostalgic melodies will help you regress into a state of child-like immersion in the carefree cadences of "Under the Sea". You won't even notice the sun rise as Sebastian the lobster practically fills that blank page up for you.

We've also realised the importance of good dietary planning. While the fruits of the library vending machines will be an instinctive choice for the overnight grind, chewier foods are always the more prudent option. The resplendent squidginess of malt loaf is perfect. Those masticatory rhythms provide a primal pleasure that will shed any deadline anxieties that evolution has unfairly burdened you with.

Lastly, make sure to punctuate your work with social interaction every now and again. Any stranger around you can help. Talk to them; be it in Standard English or just the guttural noise that comes out after eating a lot of malt loaf. Anything will work really - it just reaffirms the fact for everyone that you're not dead.

Alternatively, you could always put your pen down, sit back and flick through the pages that are the product of our sleepless week. We've assembled a fine culture and lifestyle selection which might otherwise take your fancy. Kodakline, Dr Who, holiday-themed recipes, a Peaky Blinders-inspired fashion shoot and so much more await. For now it's good-night from me and the MUSE team; we're going to eat some vegetables.

Witherwoes: The 5 types of sex you're having right now

Tom Witherow

It's week 9 and relationships are falling apart as fast as public school boys' reputations (haha). It was only two weeks' ago that the first of my friend's smug wanky coupliness (SWC) came crashing in at the door. SWC number 1 demanded 'a hug', needed 'Bridget Jones' and couldn't live a moment longer without 'ice cream'.

Clearly a crisis was afoot. (Even if for a short time it was I who was smug and wanky. On the inside you understand.)

But as I endured the Two Minutes (man) Hate played on repeat, I started to get concerned for the welfare of the student body (something which of course troubles me regularly).

With all of these 'crises', where was the sex? In the termly recession of relationships would we recede into a sex life akin to a Jarhead-ian dystopia armed with a Bon Iver soundtrack?

No! We at York are made of sterner stuff. We tread the same streets as Cromwell, have winters to rival Westeros and put up with @Yusuprez's incessant hashtagging. In fact I reckon there's a whole five different ways that students are getting into the sack - and none of them involve any hyper-stalking on RateMash.com.

1. The sex-is-cheaper-than-turning-up-the-heating shag. Quite how York has managed to do so badly in the sex rankings is quite beyond me.

In the bitter depths of winter, you will inevitably have one totalitarian housemate guarding the thermostat day and night with some tribal weapon he picked up on his gap yah, maintaining the temperature at a frugal minus three degrees centigrade.

Only one choice is left open to you. Electric blankets are too expensive. Hot

water bottles ceased to be useful when you turned five. You will have to find ANOTHER WARM-BODIED HUMAN BEING. And think of the benefits - you will be lauded by a grateful Tory party. This is the Big Society in action. You are doing your bit for the nation, for the progress of society. Nice one you. Less rosy is...

2. The revenge fuck. It's week 8. You struggled through weeks of pain and agony. You've been dating him since you were 15. You said you'd manage, the distance would be fine. You did not manage. The distance was not fine. She broke up with you by text. You will sleep with anyone to piss off your ex (watch out best mate from school...).

3. The 'finish-with-the-hot-water-bottle'. This isn't some sort of sexy move, this is because you are having no sex. Remember the Harry Fairhurst is a sexless desert, if you're popping more Modafinil than MD you could at least be spending your breaks trying to get involved in ...

4. The Tinder fuck. Who knows where this will end up. You're going in blind... well not completely blind, you're going in based on three pictures selected from 3,000 shots over a period of ten years.

All you know about each other is that you're both DTF - which for the uninitiated means 'dashing, thoughtful and funny'. You have to say it on Tinder apparently, or everyone thinks you're an asshole. Courting custom, far from the complexities of the struggle met by Jane Austen's unfortunate heroines, have evolved to an utter inanity which must have any Darwinists completely miffed.

No longer must you spend years in education studying the classics, dancing some wanky waltz, learning which of the seventeen forks you to select to slurp down your cre-

vettes... Things are a bit simpler now: "hi"... "hi"... "you dtf"... "yeah, you?"... "yeah"... "kl". The Tinder Fuck is so simple you don't even have to spell out complete words. And thank god, because it's the only thing between most of us and ...

5. The panic shag. Closely related to the Tinder fuck, this form hasn't got into full flow yet since we're a fair distance from the buffers of summer exams and the social abyss of holiday employment/graduate unemployment.

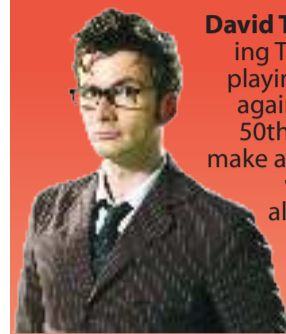
But early planners are building up their levels of sexual capital in preparation for this inevitability, with those who haven't yet mastered Tinder particularly concerned (shout out to all my fellow Snake II players).

So if you're punching above your weight, your reputation as a great guy and a bedroom god may be getting around. Alternatively you may have nabbed yourself a Panic Shagger.

Sorry to burst the bubble.



GOING UP...



David Tennant. Seeing Tennant on TV playing the Doctor again for the Who 50th is enough to make anyone squeal with glee. But alongside Matt Smith and John Hurt is just nerd heaven.

Mulled wine. Christmas celebrations should wait until December, but the warmth of mulled wine is enough to start early.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. The sequel to the ever popular young adult book has just premiered with both critical and commercial success. You could say it was "catching fire"... I'll get my coat.

Eton Mess. Everyone's favourite dessert!

Brick Tamland. "I would like to extend to you an invitation to the pants party." Steve Carrell's hilariously stupid character will return next month with more memorable lines in *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues*.



Darkness. The nights get longer, the days get shorter, and everyone gets grumpier.

John Lewis Christmas advert. Sorry, but this animated short was no tear-jerker. The bear would have died from being disturbed from hibernation in the grips of winter, or simply would have eaten the hare. The hype for this advert was staggering.



Terrifying Photoshop animal mashups. Should this even be a thing?



PHOTO CREDIT: MATTYSFLICKS

Bitstrips. Perhaps the most annoying thing to ever surface on Facebook, including Farmville. If you use it, stop - your life in cartoons isn't even worthy of a 'lol'.

GOING DOWN

History of Student Life in 1000 Objects #3: the Mobile Phone



CARTOON BY KATE MITCHELL

You're in a bar, buying drinks. Someone you recognise approaches you, and says hello. In your slightly intoxicated state you're wondering how the hell you know them.

Are they from your course?

Did you play against them when you finally turned up to squash club last Saturday?

Were they one of the potential BFFs you made in freshers' week but subsequently never made contact with again, apart from the occasional polite nod when you pass them on campus?

"Hey [insert name here], how did you find the lecture today?"

Good news, they're from your course! Bad news, they know your name, and you don't know theirs. You cow. To save yourself from this spiral of social awkwardness, you casually pull out your iClone, open Facebook and proceed to search through your friends list. Aha! You find their photo. Therein lies the rub. Or Rebecca, it seems. With a smug look on your face, you turn to face this fine being and say hello back, making sure that when you say their name, they hear every single syllable, just to prove what a great guy/gal you are.

Of course, your guardian angel in the five seconds it took for these events to transpire is that wonderful piece of Chinese plastic you carry around with you everywhere.

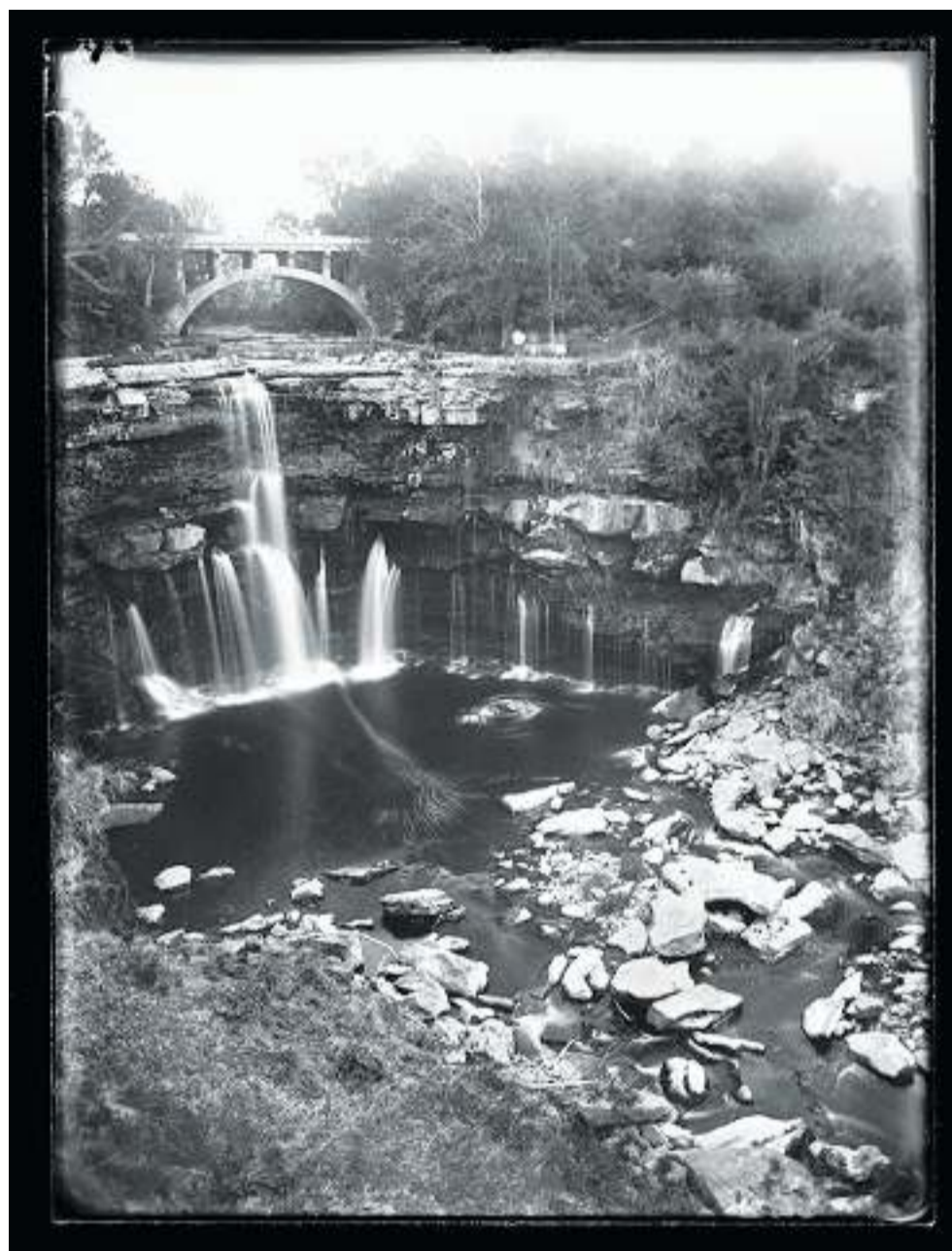
The mobile phone is the fifth limb of a student.



Fractured Landscape

New York State is in danger of changing forever. Photographer **Nick Brandreth's** new project examines areas that could be most affected by fracking. Georgie Andrews asks about the aim of the project, the consequences of these changes, and why New York should be protected.





“It’s inevitable that the landscape will change, but what I’m hoping to accomplish is to create a body of work that will stand the test of time as a document of a time and place.” These are the ambitions of documentary photographer Nick Brandreth as he embarks on an inspiring project to demonstrate what stands to be lost with fracking.

Nick’s project, Upstate, is a chance to “make people aware as to what’s happening right outside our door.” His plans are both unusual and ambitious; after photographing beautiful, natural landscapes across the state of New York, he plans to use historical photo processes to create a body of work which he describes as “a special bond between subject and object”. Describing the techniques he will use, Nick said: “I will make my own emulsions, and use dry plate technology popularised by the Eastman Dry Plate Company in the 1880s. I’ll collect soil samples in the areas where I shoot and, by using carbon transfer printing processes, I’ll use these actual soil samples to create photographic prints that bear traces of the land they document.”

“With my vision and ability to shape images I can help to have a positive impact on trying to make serious change”

New York is one of the last states in the US to make a decision on fracking. The pressure is on to save the land and Nick hopes to make a difference. “I felt that with my vision and ability to shape images I could help have a positive impact on trying to make serious change.” Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing to use its technical name, is the controversial process of drilling down in to the earth and directing a high pressure and high volume mixture of water, sand and chemicals into the rock, in order to release gas and oil. Where permitted, fracking is able to make huge quantities of otherwise inaccessible fuel available for use. For many people struggling in today’s harsh economic climate, this has resulted in a greatly needed source of income.

The problem, however, is that alongside the short-term economic benefits come polluted, over-used water systems, exploited land, and the possibility of earthquakes. In the long

term, this could ultimately lead to substantial economic loss. As a popular tourist destination and home to a large winemaking and farming industry, upstate New York stands to lose a lot. Nick, who spent much of his childhood hiking and fishing in this area, wants to make people aware of these detrimental effects of fracking. “People have become blind to the way things work. All we need to do is look at history and we’ll see how this will end up. People will see a few years of prosperity followed by a crash that will leave them worse off than before.”

New York sits upon the Marcellus Shale formation which is rich in natural gas and is, consequently, a keen target for energy companies. However, its waterways provide water for millions of people across New York and its neighbouring states. Contamination of this water by toxic, carcinogenic and radioactive materials, used during the process of fracking, would have devastating effects.

Despite these shocking consequences, Nick believes that many people don’t seem to have grasped the extent of the problem. “Most people today are disconnected to the world around them. People look at a map and unconsciously view New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania as different places. We all share the same air and water and what happens in one place can seriously affect another. If we end up ruining fresh water supplies there’s going to be a serious issue for millions and millions of people.”

Statistics have shown that Nick’s worries are shared by others; according to a Siena College survey in September, 45 per cent of New York voters were not supportive of allowing high-volume fracking in the state. Thirty-seven per cent did support it and 18 per cent had no opinion or did not know enough to make one.

Fortunately, New York has a governor who is sympathetic to Nick’s views. New York has managed to curb the advances of fracking so far with a moratorium launched by former Governor, David Paterson, which has prevented high volume fracking in the state for the last five years. But by summer 2014, this will no longer apply. Current Governor, Andrew Cuomo, hasn’t made his stance clear, but has delayed making decisions to go forward with fracking, until the results of a review by the Department of Health are announced.

With most US states jumping on the fracking bandwagon, I asked Nick what hope there was for New York. “I’m forever the optimist and I don’t think the landscape will end up being ruined, but one cannot rule out the serious possibility of that happening. It’s inevitable that the landscape will change, but

what I’m hoping to accomplish is to create a body of work that will stand the test of time as a document of a time and place. If it will change in a bad way or a good way I can’t say, but we must do all we can to protect it. I’m hoping that my images will help inspire people and make them realise what we have and why it needs to be protected now.”

Nick’s reasons for the project are certainly noble, carrying the hope that it will inspire others to seek to protect their land. Yet Nick is doubtful as to whether his images will affect those running the energy companies. “I don’t see that the energy companies care one way or the other about what I have to say. This project is for the land, and the people who love and need this land. I feel we’ve become consumed in the bullshit we’re fed through the media and I hope that what I’m trying to do can break through to people if only for a brief moment.”

“The dangers we face from fracking are not instantaneous: they are a long, drawn out, slow death”

Talking to Nick, I could tell how much the land means to him; this project is a truly personal and important piece of work. When describing the issues involved his words are filled with a refreshingly genuine appreciation and worry. “The landscape was formed slowly and deliberately shaped into what we now know as our home.

The dangers we face from fracking are not instantaneous: they are a long, drawn out, slow death. Sadly, often it’s not until our children become sick, our animals lame and our food and water poisoned that we will see what we’ve lost. By then, simply, it’s too late. I hope to make photographs that are a contemplation of what we have now, what we stand to lose and why it needs to be protected.”

The true message of the Upstate project is to not take the land you live on for granted. The earth is beautiful, but delicate, and needs protecting. “We’re at the point in human history where it’s completely about sustainability. If we don’t follow that path we’re doomed. Fracking is not sustainable in my eyes. The short term financial gains are trumped by the fact that you could potentially leave the land in ruins forever.” **M**



“There is no beauty in death”

Can art heal? Faith Whitehouse talks to **Kathryn Cartwright** about photography's role in her fight against leukemia.

“There is no beauty in death,” Kathryn Cartwright candidly remarks.

Her emotions have become numb, something that she imitates in her photographs of her fragile body ravaged by a five year battle with leukemia. Her photography is cold, distressing and raw. There is no editing to them, no fancy filters, no tools to blur out the horrific details – these are photographs that reflect the 22 year old's illness.

On her GCSE results day, Kathryn began chemotherapy. From that day the camera became an optic, an extra part of her body that took control of her emotions. It tracked the journey from chemotherapy to remission and remission to chemotherapy; a pattern Kathryn has become accustomed to. “Can art help overcome illness?” Now the camera is running out of power, the optic is fading away as Kathryn faces the real, honest and brutal truth that she is dying. The cancer has destroyed her liver and a transplant is no longer a viable option. This changes everything and increases the meaning of the camera in Kathryn's life even more.

Describing her photography as “jolie-laide”, she attempts to show the ugly yet beautiful truth behind cancer. She also tries to educate the viewer of her work on cancer: words are not powerful enough, but her photography highlights the torture of the disease. Photography in her words provides a cruel visual reference to the disease: “People can't really see that I was green with jaundice, or I had what was probably the most amount of bruising brought on by one fall, until I showed them a photograph”.

When asked how photography has helped her escape cancer, Kathryn bluntly replies in two words “it hasn't”. In fact, according to Kathryn, “Photography makes everything a bit more brutally real.” This is evidenced in her creative decision to not edit the photographs or Photoshop the gory, bloody details out in her photos. The reality behind the photography glides over our stereotypical images of cancer that we see in the media and highlights the cold, dark struggle that is never broadcasted. She shows fatality through clinical, distressing images that remove all aspects of life. Death is not a

beautiful, aesthetic thing, as Kathryn explains: “Many people romanticize death because they are afraid of it but when it's their own death, it feels much less dignified.”

So what should our response be to the work? Should we pity her or draw back in horror at the revelation of cancer?

“Most people look at my work in two ways, they either reply with a sympathetic nod of gosh that's terrible or stating I'm glad that's not me.” Our reactions show that we can never realize the awfulness of sickness. As Kathryn says “even photography has limits”. Photography

“People romanticise death, but when it's their own it feels much less dignified”

removes us from the experience of cancer, its only role is to act as a documentation for the disease.

“Nobody who hasn't been through a serious illness can understand it, no matter how hard the artistic sick people try. I can photograph my every moment until I die, but I have always said that I only ever speak for myself, no one else. Even if they've been through cancer, we didn't have the same experience. I can show you where I've been, but you weren't there, and it's only if you go there yourself that you will truly understand what real sickness is.” Our response can only be one of mixed emotions.

However, there are lapses in Kathryn's photography where we can grasp the strength of the victim, the sheer determination that she shows to “put two fingers up to cancer”. An iconic photograph by Kathryn is her eating a pizza at a house party. An unedited image expressing authority over the cancer by her tucking into a large pizza, drunk. The story behind the image is a conventional one. “I was drunk at a party, on a break from chemotherapy and

free from any of the medical nonsense that was weighing me down. It means I was able to be sixteen because I was supported by people who would let me.”

A striking image in Kathryn's work that further demonstrates the strength of her as a victim of cancer is a black and white profile of her bald head. The head is the focal point of the image, while the expression on her face is peaceful. Here she unashamedly parades the effects of leukemia in her “jolie-laide” manner. Remarkable is the strength of Kathryn to take such a beautiful image about such an ugly disease, to give “two fingers up” to cancer and show that it has not impacted her beauty.

The overcoming power of photography is most evident in her perseverance to continue to take photographs. Photography has allowed Kathryn to look back at her journey. She can see the progress she has made and watch her “skin knit together” by viewing the photographs on a slideshow. It has acted as a powerful medium in her recovery as, like many people experiencing adversity, it is difficult to be positive about the progress she has made. Using photography has enabled her to “see how much worse it has been”. She can see her hair grow back, weight be put back on and her body be healed all in the space of fifty frames. The art form has captured her toughest moments when her body was fragile and brittle and has watched it revive, again, something that Kathryn is very grateful for.

As the heaviness of her death hits her, Kathryn has started to place the camera in a new light. No longer does she capture the wounds, instead she takes shots of her completing her bucket list. Shots of her meeting famous people, travelling and the many gifts she is receiving now make up her collection. These photographs do not graphically show death but there is a stark reminder that this is Kathryn's final visual chapter of her journey. Her photography from the day of diagnosis to after her death has left a lasting legacy in showing the journey of cancer. Not only has it supported Kathryn but it has also helped us in the seeing the full, horrific picture of illness. Death may not be beautiful, but capturing it through art might help us to comprehend it. **M**



Ask the Editors: Art School Stole My Virginity

Clayton Pettet has caused a stir in the art world by announcing his plans to lose his virginity on stage. But is it art?

YES

Amber Benbow-Hart
Deputy Arts Editor

Clayton Pettet's conceptual piece 'Art School Stole My Virginity' is art. The Oxford dictionary defines art as "the expression or application of creative skill and imagination, especially through a visual medium" and we have all those elements here.

Clayton's piece may be conceptual but it is also undeniably visual; media outcry has focused on the detail of the audience who are there to see it. The medium is him and his partner. With "a light smattering of paint on their bodies" while they are "having sex on an upstretched piece of canvas", not only will the performance be visual but also the resulting permanent work.

You can't question whether the 'creative imagination' is there either. His artist statement displays detailed thought around his subject and in particular does what any art piece does, it challenges societal views: Is virginity significant? Inherently heteronormative? A social construct? The art of the act opens up these questions to debate.

Art is all about prompting thought in its viewers and this piece does that. Certainly Clayton Pettet's piece blurs the lines of art, but it doesn't cross them. This piece is art - just perhaps not the type we expect when we walk into a gallery.

NO

Amy Blumsom
Arts Editor

If it takes place in an art gallery, it's art. Theoretically. But that doesn't mean 'Art School Stole My Virginity' can be considered artistic.

At the risk of sounding clichéd, the project devalues intimate relationships between two people - regardless of gender. By having sex on a public platform, the intimacy of the relationship and significance of Clayton's virginity is lost.

What's more, the word "stole" in the title of the piece has an aggressive quality, creating a sense of negativity surrounding the loss of virginity. This conveys Clayton Pettet's virginity as something which has been forcefully taken, rather than willingly - and dare I say it - lovingly given.

By drawing attention to virginity Clayton is not losing the supposed social stigma of being a virgin as he claims, but monopolising controversial subject matter for the sake of being provocative.

Pettet's 'piece' is being used to stimulate debate without making an explicit statement about modern perceptions of virginity and sexuality. This is dangerous ground, as people will be, and have been, far too quick to project their own message onto the piece - which may not be the message Clayton intended.

Get Your Fix

Amy Blumsom

Dick Whittingham

York Babrican, £15.50- £21

See many famous faces star in the classic pantomime.



Madness of George III

Drama Barn, £3.00-3.50

The play chronicles George's descent from supreme ruler to unwilling patient.



Portrait of an Author: C.S. Lewis

On the fiftieth anniversary of his death, **Jack Hartley** looks back on the life and works of beloved author C. S. Lewis.

"This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" Simply enormous is a good way to describe the outpourings and success of C.S. Lewis. He has long been counted among the greatest contributors to children's literature of the 20th century and 50 years after his death, his work has been translated into over 40 languages and has sold millions of copies.

In 2008, the Times ranked him eleventh on the list of 'the 50 greatest British writers since 1945', and this is testament not just to his work as a children's author but also his wide ranging subject matter.

Lewis was phenomenally diverse in his writing and was renowned in many different genres, not least science fiction, theological writing, Christian apologetics, autobiography and philosophy. Of all of Lewis's writing though, he is best known for his immense imaginative collection, the Chronicles of Narnia, a seven part series set in a land inhabited by talking lions, fauns, giant bears, and evil Snow Queens. These stories remain classics of children's literature and the success of recent film adaptations is testament to how Lewis's work has stood the test of time.

The Chronicles of Narnia is an amazing work of fiction, an escapist dream of children pushing aside the stuffy fur coats of the adult world and breaking through into the crisp, clear light of a snow covered Narnia, where they can make their own footprints, free from

calls to tea and parental control. But looking at the Narnia books years later, it is impossible to ignore the Christian allegory that C.S. Lewis applied: 'what might Christ become like if there really were a world like Narnia, and He chose to be incarnate and die and rise again in that world as He has actually done in ours?'

Remarkably, C.S. Lewis's creative works were secondary to his career as a respected medieval literary scholar, publishing work which is still widely regarded today, an unusual and impressive feat for literary criticism which was written nearly 80 years ago. He is also regarded as one of the most influential Christian apologists of the last century and in the year 2000, Christianity Today voted his *Mere Christianity* the best book of the 20th Century.

His works are incredibly wide ranging and this diversity in output as well as popularity of reception has led to a huge interest in his personal back story. Such interest has led to creative works based on his life, foremost in these creations is *Shadowlands*, the popular film in which C.S. Lewis is played by Anthony Hopkins.

At the time, C.S. Lewis's death went largely under the radar, as it occurred on the same day as the assassination of J.F.K. On the 50th anniversary of his death though, the 22nd November this year, his place in the hearts of the nation will be formally acknowledged with the unveiling of a memorial in Poet's Corner, Westminster abbey, joining Chaucer, Shakespeare, Austen, Dickens and other infamous literary figures.

The consistent popularity of C.S. Lewis's work is reflected in his characters' ability to revisit Narnia again and again as new readers do the same: "And so for a time it looked as if all the adventures were coming to an end; but that was not to be."

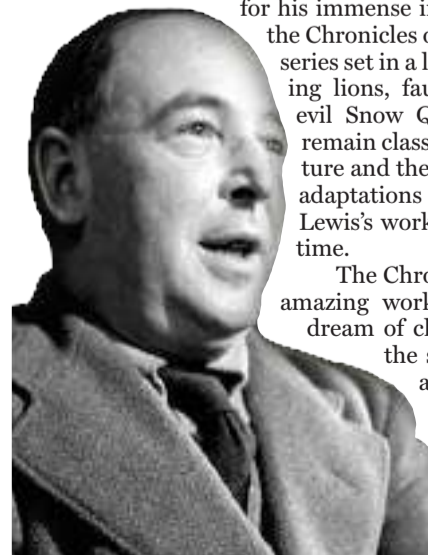


PHOTO CREDIT: SFJALAR



Festival of Angels

York City Centre, Free

See the city magically transformed into a winter wonderland.



Cleopatra

Leeds Opera House, £39.00

A modern interpretation by the Northern Ballet of Cleopatra.



Mining for iPods

Deborah Lam interviews artist **Daniel Strange** about being “an old fashioned traditionalist”

With performance artists like Pyotr Pavlensky nailing his scrotum to Red Square and Clayton Pettet losing his virginity in public making headlines, it is easy to overlook traditional fine artists like Daniel Strange. Printmaker, painter and proud purveyor of humble sketching, he works as a primary school teaching assistant by day and an artist by night. His works distill everyday observations, stemming from his childhood practice of copying what he sees.

Dan's work is concerned with the growth of the developed West and its paradigm shift from labour-intensive to creative industries, moving its industry to exploit cheaper labour. Dan is particularly interested in news linked to this process of production and consumption, and when this “process of capitalism” is in crisis. Regarding recent articles about Bangladeshi textile workers going on strike, he explains, “These little things reveal how this process works.”

His linoprint ‘Mining for iPods’, depicting a man with a hard hat with miners in the background, is exemplary of his subject matter. “The title is a little bit cheesy,” he laughs. “I absolutely love when we open the boxes of these products and they say, ‘Designed in California’ and yet the actual minerals are dug out in the Congo or wherever, and done in appalling work conditions... everyone knows they must be appalling, because that’s how you can make such technology so cheaply.”

Acknowledging the danger of becoming a “boring moralist”, Dan consciously avoids being too obvious when approaching articles for potential material. “My slightly frustrated left-wing politics act first. I try to be political, but at the end of the day, I’m trying to be an artist.” Working against his initial reactions to press photographs, he refrains from depicting overtly literal images. Instead, he “searches for images which will encapsulate that issue rather than find a perfect image and then just copy that.”

Starting with a story rather than press photographs, he sometimes feels “a little bit mean” creating his portraits. “I don’t want to be picking on people just for an ad hominem attack on them. I always want to make sure it’s a part of a narrative because if you say, ‘Oh this person is greedy; he’s got too much money,’ that’s not politics, that’s moralising.” He tries to avoid crass depictions of “evil CEOs” (although he does cheek-



ily confess to being guilty of this occasionally), admitting it detracts from the art.

His project ‘The Logic of Compound Growth’, the title resembling a philosophical economics essay more than an art book, attempts to escape these preconceived perceptions of the individuals he portrays. Beginning with his portrait of Peter Brabeck after he implied that water should be a private commodity, he thought, “If I do too much of this, it is just going to be a terrible book saying, ‘Here are people who I think are bad, let’s look at these people.’” To circumvent this one-sided portrayal, he included a greater range of people, marked ‘UNKNOWN’, identified only by their professions, from a model to victims of the system. Stressing the importance of doing away with “clear, easy categorisations”, he hopes this will make people “think of their place within this system.”

With a romantic attitude toward the selection of media, Dan particularly enjoys printmaking, inspired by the German printmakers of the New Objectivity Movement, due to the questions it raises about value and originality. “Every print is individual, but... the only definite picture is the block and that

will live in a drawer that’s just mine.” A defender of the humble biro, Dan also appreciates this non-traditional art tool and its appealing honesty. He says it shows “someone trying their best to note down what they’re seeing.”

Dan raises concerns that fine artists today “can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking of Art History as this kind of treasure trove to be raided for their work to comment on how art functioned in the past... but I think it’s often not used as a way of talking about what’s going on today and that, I think, is a shame.” This is why he respects performance, video and conceptual artists who make overtly political work, despite being a self-professed “old fashioned traditionalist”. Whilst managing to come off as intelligent, humble and charmingly self-deprecating, Dan stands by his art with temerity, declaring that “I, like artists, have a message... Art for art’s sake isn’t a good trend for me.”

“I try to be political, but at the end of the day, I’m an artist”

In spite of this support for artists with a message, the only time he would show any antipathy was toward art that was “too obvious”. “It really just depends case by case. Every time you go and see a show, and lots of people know this... you leave and you’re like, ‘It was good, but it was so obvious.’” Expressing distaste specifically for Damien Hirst’s painted skulls, he bemoans, “We get it, Damien, it’s about death. You’ve always done death, and now you’re painting skulls because you’ve matured now. You’re going through the grand master stage of being a painter.”

Minor outburst aside, Dan’s answer when asked why he chose visual art out of all the possible modes of self-expression is a testament to his commitment to honesty in his work. “If I can give my work a certain honesty, by which I can show people that it’s a bit rough and ready... people will respect it, not as a fine work of art which is finished and you don’t need to think about, you just need to admire... but as an open text. Nothing finished – you can continue it, you can change it.”

While recognising the commercial art world can be obsessed with the avant-garde, Dan reminds us that “actually, people do like looking at pictures”. He may lack the audience of some part-time artists, but he manages to remain focused on a genuine mission: “I’m a young artist who is trying to make their way... with a limited viewership, a lot of the time my work won’t go very far.” However, he accepts that if he gets people to ask, “Why has someone decided to do that?”, that in itself is a success without sacrificing your genitals or virginity. **M**



Campus style: what are you wearing?

Robbie Hodges
First Year
History of Art
Derwent College

When I got changed this morning I was thinking more about comfort than fashion. I always aim to look presentable and feel that my clothes reflect my personality. They might be slouchy but I've not just thrown on some trackies and called it quits.

Today I'm wearing a Levi jacket, my jumper is from the Rockefeller Center which I picked up on a trip to New York, I teamed the jumper with a H&M shirt just to make it look that bit smarter, I've got on my doctor Denim Chinos from Urban Outfitters (a shop I really won't mind living in!) and my trainers are New Balance.

What influences my style the most are adverts in magazines like iD and Dazed & Confused and men's fashion blogs which have really taken off over the last couple of years, showcasing so many creative looks and designers.

For me it's about never looking rough. If my clothes are more casual I'll make a conscious effort with my hair. If I was to sum up my look I'd say it was urban workwear.

When I shop I opt for sturdy and staple pieces. I have a particular method when it comes to buying, if I think I want something I have to go back twice. It has to be worth it. If I'm compelled to go back then I'll buy it no matter the cost.



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

Meet the Male Model of the Year

Fashion Editor Rachel Thompson speaks with **Daniel Lukikas**, Fashions Finest Male Model of the Year about what inspires his demanding career.

Daniel Lukikas, of Greek and Irish descent, is the youngest male model to win this year's Fashions Finest Male Model of the Year award, making the achievement at just 20. Participating in campaigns and shows around the UK and abroad, it is hard to believe that he only started modelling to earn money to fund his degree. Daniel is currently studying Physiotherapy in Medicine at Keele University.

With such a demanding university course, you'd assume Daniel would focus on his degree rather than his modelling. This is not so. He believes that balancing these aspects of his life has only helped him to thrive in both. He dedicates every hour of the day to do something productive, for either his course or career. Both are stressful, but the need to succeed really seems to drive him: "My degree and the modelling are draining, but also extremely different; one is academic and the other is creative. I am a driven individual and I see every hour as an opportunity." We complain about our hectic university schedules, but Daniel also have to consider castings, shows and jobs that demand his presence in any location, at any time.

"In my mind I will succeed"

Hearing Daniel describe what motivates him every day was inspiring. He claims that the person who really inspires him is his mum: "Both my parents were driven people. Their ethos was to never give up and to always persevere. Making my parents proud of me is the most important thing in my life." It is this 'never give up' attitude that helps Daniel to succeed in the pressured environment of the modelling industry.

Daniel's first London Fashion Week was last year and he walked for designer Danish Wakeel. Daniel, who prides himself on being confident, admits that it was an intense few days. He said that he knew his first experience was always going to be daunting, but he hadn't quite realised how many journalists and people there were back stage all clamouring to talk to him. "The catwalk shows were intense but I was blessed to be there and saw it as an eye opener that further cemented in my mind that this is an industry I want to succeed in." Clearly, he wasn't put off by the attention.

It was not for the fashion, fame or name that Daniel starting building his portfolio in 2009 and became interested in the modelling world. His story is humble and real, about a handsome young man who was tackling a challenging and expensive degree, with parents who couldn't financially support him. He didn't moan about his hardship, rather used it to inspire himself to seek funds from elsewhere. His drive for pursuing this career was to offer his parents a better life, and he can't think of a better way to thank them than by achieving what he sets his mind to: "In my mind I will succeed."

I asked Daniel about the perception of the modelling industry as ruthless and he said, "It is a bit of a generalisation. We are all individuals and real people. Yes you will meet those who are unkind, I'm just lucky that I have been taught to deal with these kinds of people. The lessons I learned at a young age help me to embrace my role as a model and really, we can all choose who we want to become, independent of whatever job or industry we are part of. I think this is what sets me apart, makes me different, because I have these lessons under my belt."

Daniel's family has helped to keep him grounded, and he believes that if you never give up you can never truly fail. "You will obviously have rejection and I have experienced it more than most with my unconventional look, but this has never compelled me to change." He might not fit the industry's current skinny stereotype, but with his idol, David Gandy, paving the way for the old fashioned, gentlemanly style, his place in the future of modelling looks bright.

Since winning Fashions Finest Male Model of the Year, he has embraced many new exciting opportunities. Daniel admits, "I wasn't expecting it at all and was extremely humbled by the whole experience." The number of people who voted for and supported him and his already substantial fan base truly reflect what he has accomplished at such a young age. New opportunities range from magazine and newspaper interview requests, to new designers wanting to work with him. The next London Fashion Week is looking extremely promising for this young model, and with a new manager, there is nothing stopping him from branching out. The world is truly his oyster. What more could you ask for on a shoot: looks, charm, character, and even training in medical care!

Even with the award under his belt, Daniel doesn't believe he can rest on his laurels. When asked as to why he thinks the look of



male models needs to move on from the androgynous clothes hanger, he responded that the masculine gentleman is far more attractive and realistic. He has seen David Gandy pioneer this concept as the current face of Dolce & Gabbana, and wants to follow in his footsteps. In Daniel's eyes, working out in the gym should not be a disadvantage; it has helped him to stand out and it seems that the public and fashion industry are taking notice.

In his opinion, "Skinny doesn't look good, but eating disorders are not synonymous with the modelling industry, that is just a media perception. Rather, it is the men and women who idolise these wafer thin models and try to copy their looks." He went on to say that, "If more models showcase a real and natural look, then disorders could remain a thing of the past." Encouragingly, girls, Daniel mentioned that what he finds attractive is someone with a love of life. Her appeal would be her non-conformity to social pressures. There is hope!

Wrapping up our conversation, I realised that with Daniel's strong, hold-fast mantra, I couldn't let him go until he'd given me his advice for any potential models who want to break into the industry. He advocates being yourself, and never letting anyone change you: "It is your individuality that separates you from the rest." He personally attributes his physical differences as a 'big guy' - I'm talking tall, gym fit and muscular - with making him stand out. He will go that extra mile and believes you should "never ever give up". Daniel is not your stereotypical, fame-hungry, food-loathing model. He is an individual who prides himself on his roots. He wants to help pioneer the gym-honed gentleman look in the modelling industry, and has the brains and determination to go all the way. **M**

"It is your individuality that separates you from the rest."

DIY: boys in it for themselves

Holly Eve
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

DIY is often considered the role of the man of the house, yet when a button falls off his favourite shirt or he's acquired an embarrassingly awkward trouser-tear, the handyman suddenly seems to flounder helplessly. Cue the wife/mother. Long gone, however, are the days when DIY simply meant putting up a bookshelf: it is time, boys, to swap your hammers and hacksaws for some needle and thread. A clever bit of so-called 'up-cycling' can instantly transform a cheap, boring shirt into a beautiful upmarket garment or plain denim jacket into a one-off statement item, requiring very little money or technical skill. Here are some tips and tricks.

Patches Aren't Just for the Punks: Iron-on patches in many various forms (smiley faces, yin-yang/peace symbols, diamante dollar signs) can be obtained from eBay for just a couple of pounds. They are an easy, lazy way to add a bit of personality to a garment; simply iron on and add a few stitches around the edges for extra security.

The Devil is in the Detail: Try using fabric paints and a fine paintbrush to apply intricate patterns to the collars and cuffs of plain shirts. You don't have to be a true artisan to make a shirt look good: a few, simple swirls or a basic paisley pattern in gold metallic paint could easily make your shirt go from totally uninteresting to the talk of the town. In fact, true designer shirts, with designer price tags, often aren't hugely outrageous. Common tricks designers use to make their shirts stand out from the bog-standard M&S multi-packs, whilst still being

wearable, are to give a shirt a collar or pocket in a contrasting material, or to use interestingly coloured or shaped buttons. Bear in mind less sometimes really is more, and can be the difference between those with true style and the try-too-hard eccentrics.

Dye Everything: Tie-dye, dip-dye, stonewashed, bleached... Whatever your poison, dying clothes can be lots of fun and totally addictive, not to mention it's probably the easiest and quickest way to make a dramatic change to your attire. Furthermore, should you use the same dye on several different garments (try using different methods to produce different results), it can be extremely cheap as well. All you need is a bucket, some salt, some warm water, a big stirring spoon... and some poor, unsuspecting, fabric-victims to submerge.

Quick-Fixes: Got a favourite pair of black boots or brogues? Mesmerise your friends and make your shoes shine a beautiful deep green colour when they catch the light by polishing them with a green shoe polish. Want to give your footwear a quirky edge? Swap your plain laces for some garishly bright ones instead. The more they clash with everything else, the better. Look even more dapper in your best blazer by picking up a bargain vintage scarf from a charity shop and folding it into your top-pocket or as a fine cravat. Finally, add a beautiful brooch to your jacket lapel for that extra bit of character. You can easily pick second-hand brooches up in charity shops everywhere for under a fiver. They are not just for women!



Sacre bleue! Isabel Marant H&M collection flops

Robbie Hodges
FASHION WRITER

Unknown to many women yet worn by all, Isabel Marant is the serpent of the fashion arena. Those wedge trainers your girlfriend's wearing; Marant. Those Western booties she never takes off; Marant. That general studded-ness your girl pals can't live without: you guessed it, Marant.

There is a reason this collection for H&M was eagerly anticipated. Contributing to the latent anticipation was the collection's significance as Marant's first ever foray into menswear.

Commercially, Marant delivered a retail dream of a collection. Trend-led, wearable, easily identifiable and good quality, it is little wonder men all over the world raided H&M's online store, leaving it empty within minutes of its release. Not only were Marant's classics, such as linen tees, available for a fraction of the 'Isabel Marant' price, but identifiable design motifs running through the collection in the form of frayed wool, embroidery and monochrome knitwear (also digitally transferred onto tees) littered the range; providing it with cohesive unity and designer sophistication.

This sophistication was also present in the high-quality materials, notably the pure wool and supple leathers, and the innovative way these were used to create the Parisian designs which Marant is famous for, the mesh-like texture of the marled purl-knit jumper for instance. All in all, it is fair to say that H&M churned out another perfectly purchasable collection and Isabel Marant proved her menswear credentials, no questions asked.

It was a nice and wearable collection: nice, wearable and unaffordable. Despite being a long-term fan of H&M - a fandom based primarily upon their extensive research into sustainable fashion, the provision of stylish eco-conscious clothing at filthy cheap prices, and their support of young design talents - I have no desire to buy their designer collaborations. They are overpriced booby-traps for fashion slaves, traps that

the best of us fall for (my submission to the Marni for H&M 2012 collection will forever haunt me).

Whilst I may sound bitter about my previous retail frivolity, surveys show that I am not alone. In the notoriously stylish Derwent College, a series of pieces from the Isabel Marant Pour H&M collection were shown to randomly-selected male students, who were subsequently asked to guess the prices of said items. One hundred of the students estimated that the jumper was being sold for less than it was, one student guessed £35 (half of the jumper's actual price) and another speculated that it came from "a sub-standard high street shop, not much better than H&M". Needless to say the general attitude was one of repulsion when the price (£69.99) was revealed. Further loathing ensued when I toed H&M's party line of "making high fashion accessible to all."

There is an underlying paradox to these designer collaborations. While the idea of democratising luxury goods to allow any plebeian to have a slice of the elitism offered by these designers sounds attractive. The exclusivity a certain echelon of society look for in designers is lost as a result of these collaborations. Without wanting to sound melodramatic, collaborations undermine (or expose) the fashion industry.

Therefore, whilst the hoo-hah surrounding Isabel Marant's inaugural menswear collection is totally justified

and given the overwhelming successful response, I urge any collaboration-junkies to seek help and avoid losing your all your money. Yes, Isabel Marant Pour H&M wasn't a completely unpurchasable collection, but you'd be a blind fool to listen to their ethos of accessibility and pay their consequently extortionate prices. That's not to say that I haven't already set 'H&M designer collaboration 2014' on Google Alerts or that I don't know the staff at H&M York by name, but a little more honesty wouldn't go unappreciated.



Hot

The Mullet: A sleeker more gentlemanly version of the eighties hairstyle of choice updated for the modern man. See David Beckham's current do for inspiration.

Christmas jumpers and Fairisle knits: A must have as the nights start to grow colder and darker. Head to Urban Outfitters.



Hats: Snapbacks, beanies, caps and hoods. Covering your head suddenly looks so good.



Library nerds: Never has it been more important to look both smart and geeky.

Izzy Ashton tells us what's going up and crashing down in the world of campus fashion.

Dirty sports kit: worn all day is not acceptable. We get it, you play sport, now shower and change please.



Butt cheeks: so 5 years ago. If we wanted to see them we would ask. Trousers can and should be worn with a belt.

Flip-flops: in case you hadn't noticed it's freezing! We're knee-deep into November now, save the flip-flops for holiday. Shoes and socks are the only way.



Red trousers: "Look at my fucking red trousers." Nothing more needs to be said.

Not



RELIVING TWEED

MOVE OVER MAD MEN, THE PERIOD DRAMA INFLUENCING MENSWEAR THIS SEASON IS PEAKY BLINDERS. THINK 1920S BIRMINGHAM, FLAT CAPS, TWEED AND CORDUROY. THE MEN ARE BROODING AND THE TAILORING IS SHARP.

ANGUS WEARS ASOS THREE PIECE SUIT IN HUNTING TWEED, £150; TOPSHOP TIE IN BLACK, £10; TOPSHOP FLAT CAP, £12; BROGUES MODEL'S OWN. JAMES WEARS GREY CHECKED TWEED JACKET, £85; BLACK-BUTTONED WHITE SHIRT, £20; GREY BRACES, £10; FLAT CAP, £12; ALL TOPSHOP. DR MARTEN'S BLACK SHOES, £75; GREY TROUSERS MODEL'S OWN.



CREATIVE DIRECTOR & FASHION EDITOR - RACHEL THOMPSON
FASHION ASSISTANTS - IZZY ASHTON, ALFIE PACKHAM
MODELS- ANGUS RYAN AND JAMES POTTER
PHOTOGRAPHER - PETROC TAYLOR

Changing Faces, Changing Minds

For over twenty years, **James Partridge** has been fighting prejudice against people with disfigurements. He tells Adrian Tschismarov why Face Equality matters.

“There is a long way to go but I’ve never been less than optimistic and, of course, getting some good things to happen encourages that.” This could easily be a summary of James Partridge’s approach to life and his work. Whilst there is much to be frustrated about, in his public appearances, newspaper editorials and all throughout our brief interview, he is charismatic, approachable and positive.

James Partridge is the founder and chief executive of Changing Faces, a charity that champions the cause of people with disfigurements, meaning anyone with an unusual appearance due to birthmarks, skin conditions, paralysis, cancer and scarring. It is a charity that finds it necessary to act on the behalf of people with disfigurements in many facets of life, criticizing a looks-obsessed culture and its prejudices against people with unusual appearances. It attempts to help people with disfigurements live productive and fulfilling lives, aiming to improve their treatment in education, the workplace and medical services.

A large part of Changing Faces’ strategy is “general awareness raising and policy influence, trying to increase professionals’ interest, awareness, training and skills around the subject”.

But, as Partridge argues, “being aware of something is not necessarily enough. Quite a lot of health professionals are aware of the patients’ psycho-social needs but they don’t get to the next step. We need to put systems and arrangements in place to address these concerns.”

Despite this, Partridge and Changing Faces have made admirable progress. The charity’s “Skin Camouflage” service

(advanced medical makeup which can reduce the visibility of disfigurements) is available in 150 UK clinics, seeing over 5,000 patients. In another recent success, a Changing Faces Practitioner has been employed in Edinburgh Sick Kids Hospital, to excellent patient feedback. In addition to this, plastic surgeons will also soon be required to complete a module focussing on the psychological issues for patients with disfigurements. The glacial pace of the NHS as well as budget cuts mean that some medical specialties are “still in a semi-prehistoric era”, as Partridge puts it, but the charity’s progress cannot be denied; an estimated 14,000 patients have benefitted from

“There were moments when I realised that I could influence how others saw me and behaved towards me, by what I did”

training targeted at health care professionals last year.

There is also another side to the work of Changing Faces, which is the “Campaign for Face Equality”. This is an attempt to change the negative public representation of people with disfigurements, a representation that leads people with birthmarks, skin conditions and scars to be considered less attractive, less successful and less likely to lead happy lives. This is a culture that, unfortunately, James Partridge is all too familiar with.

In 1970, then only 18 years old, Partridge - a promising student about to start a Politics, Philosophy and Economics course at Oxford University - survived a car accident with extensive burns to his face, body and hands. In the hospital, he was discouraged to look in the mirror for three months. “That was a very, very difficult five years of my life.” It started a long, arduous process back into social and public life. “I think excruciating would describe it best. It would be impossible to describe every tiny interaction that I felt was difficult, or went wrong every time I went out of my house. I felt exposed and vulnerable.”

“There were breakthrough moments when I realised that, actually, I could influence how others saw me and behaved towards me, by what I did.” Yet even these moments came with their own troubling realisations for Partridge. “I discovered that the more self-conscious I was, the more self-conscious others were. But how could I feel comfortable about myself when others didn’t? It made for a very unpleasant experience.”

With time and experience, Partridge found it easier to handle his situation, and in 1990, he published the book “Changing Faces: The Challenge of Facial Disfigurement”. “It was really the warm reaction to that book that triggered me to try and set up a charity, which I eventually did, and got it off the ground in the May of 1992.”

“There was a great deal of scepticism that I would ever manage to raise any money for a subject like disfigurement, unless I was desperate about it. But I wasn’t feeling desperate about it. I wanted to create a charity that had a positive approach to the subject, but that was also challenging - challenging to the culture and public attitude and ridicule and unfairness.”

This cultural current, however, is still strong, and is difficult to change in an era of ever-increasing beauty standards. Flawless faces and bodies are often depicted as the only way to happiness, contingent on buying certain products, wearing certain clothes and behaving a certain way. Aside from their public portrayal and perception, the mere representation of people with disfigurements sometimes seems like a depressingly distant goal. “Having a recurring character on a popular soap opera like *EastEnders* would be a great step forward,” says Partridge. The problem is that producers and screenwriters shy away from difficult, sensitive topics. “We need to persuade TV companies that people are not going to switch off just because somebody looks a bit unusual. It actually

adds interest to the show and they can be quite normal; they can fall in love or have awful affairs. Everybody has their own story.”

When people with disfigurements are portrayed in popular culture, they tend to be placed in one role and one role only. “All too often there is the easy script that says ‘Oh, let’s just put some scars on this person’s face’ and on the whole they become a villain.” Any one case may seem innocuous, but for people dealing with the harsh social ramifications of disfigurement, they can be immediately felt. This is especially true in schools, where Changing Faces clients have reported being called Freddy Kruger, Two-Face and any number of horror movie villains with facial scarring.

Disney’s *The Lone Ranger* is the latest entry in this sad tradition, with facial scars as the defining characteristic of its cartoonish villain, Butch Cassidy. The Lego set associated with the film made the stereotypical assumption explicit in its description of Cassidy as “a ruthless outlaw whose terribly scarred face is a perfect reflection of the bottomless pit that passes for his soul”. Changing Faces expressed its concerns, and whilst Lego was quick to remove the offending description, Disney has still not responded to the criticisms. “Some companies put their hands up and apologise, but there is discomfort. People and companies don’t feel very comfortable when you point out that they’ve committed some kind of prejudice, even if they’ve done it unwittingly.” As a result, the task of changing the culture around disfigurement can sometimes seem impossible. “Small victories don’t add up to anything really, but we’ve got to start somewhere. We have to be persistent in our attempts to change people’s and companies’ preconceptions, and it’s not going to be easy.”

“You can meet someone with a disfigurement comfortably”

I wonder then, if there is an assured way of speaking to someone with a disfigurement without unwittingly committing some kind of prejudice. A section on Changing Faces’ website offers very broad advice: look them in the eyes, don’t stare and treat them like you would everyone else. “It is very generalised, it’s not perfect,” Partridge admits. “Our attempt is really to bring it to a sense that this is possible.”

“You can meet somebody with a disfigurement comfortably. If you are worried, think about how you react when you meet somebody who’s bald or a wheelchair user and the principles are probably much the same - you don’t stare at his bald head; you don’t ask her why she’s in a wheelchair. You interact with them like with anybody else: nice weather, what’s the score of the match, how come you’re here, who else do you know, and all sorts of small talk. The big talk, if it’s going to become big talk, comes later, and only if the other person gives you signals to the effect of, yes, I don’t mind talking about this.”

As for the future of Changing Faces and the charity’s cause, Partridge is optimistic. “There’s an important opportunity for students to think hard about how these subjects are tackled. When I was a student in the 70s, the civil rights movement was still relatively unsupported, feminism was very much a key issue of the era, and in those days disability politics had hardly been invented. Forty years is a long time, and it may take that long to make face equality a familiar topic in the public mind. Students forty years on from now will hopefully say, ‘ah, that’s a given, we don’t need to discuss it, of course face equality is important.’” M.





Are you only
comfortable
looking here?

“All too often there is the easy script that says
‘Oh, let’s just put some scars on this person’s face’
and on the whole they become a villain”

MUSIC.

2013: A Year in Review

Our Music team rounds up the standout records of this musical annum, from the most memorable to the downright controversial.

If you think 2013 has been defined by house and garage, you've been missing out. Peace have spearheaded a Birmingham guitar resurgence, set to continue into next year. They might be arty wannabes, calling themselves Peace and having their first EP, *Delicious*, adorned with a watermelon peace sign. But since they are among the few bands actually progressing the UK music scene this year, we can let them off. 'Wraith' has quickly become an integral part of the MIC soundtrack thanks to its funky riff and cocaine references, while 'Follow Baby' is the grunge anthem this 90s comeback needs to get itself off. There hasn't been an indie ballad so delicate since 'Mardy Bum', but 'Float Forever' and for that matter, 'California Daze' are why we fell in love. *Alex Donaldson*



In Love, Peace.
Columbia

Bastille have achieved huge success over the past year, reaching number 2 in the UK singles charts with 'Pompeii' just days before the release of their chart topping album *Bad Blood*. This hipster-pop group have successfully pushed the usual chart boundaries, competing with the likes of Rhinna and One Direction to produce a fresh and eclectic sound which is becoming increasingly sought after. That hairspray-addicted frontman managed to get a song inspired by ancient Rome into the mainstream for the first time since Foals' 2007 hit 'Casius'. Notable tracks include 'Things We Lost in the Fire', a translation of his heartbreak and 'Laura Palmer' which the band members poured their souls into, turning an idol into a blood-racing anthem. *Victoria Chater-Lea*



Bad Blood, Bastille.
Virgin, EMI, Universal



Settle, Disclosure.
PMR, Island

Following the popularity of 'Latch' in 2012, Surrey band Disclosure's first album from was certainly highly anticipated. It takes UK garage to a new place by showing an awareness of a general pop aesthetic but retains the classic electronic and house-like drops. Each collaborator bring a fantastic level of variety to their tracks. We see the likes of Sam Smith, Ed MacFarlane and London Grammar appearing and their individuality provides the foundation for the brothers to produce some use their number one formula. Highlights include 'Help Me Lose My Mind' and 'You & Me'. Disclosure's signature sound has come to define pretty much every night you've been on this year., we've Search Results definitely all had seem the bass faces 'When A Fire Starts To Burn' gets dropped. *Alex Killeen*



Random Access Memories, Daft Punk. Columbia

This year saw the eagerly awaited return of electro legends Daft Punk. *Random Access Memories* elevated the duo to unforeseen critical acclaim, surpassing their previous studio releases. Although Daft Punk fanatics were disappointed with the progression away from the synthesized techno of classic Daft Punk, *RAM* represents, in Giovanni Giorgio's own words, "the sound of the future" with a new focus on a disco-funk sound and the importance of live instruments. The surreal tones combined with musical nostalgia and remarkable collaborations culminate in 80 minutes of unbeatable melodies. Seminal tracks include 'Give Life Back to Music', 'Instant Crush' and 'Within', marking *Random Access Memories* as the pinnacle of Daft Punk's creativity and innovation. *Francesca Donovan*

Kanye West came, he saw (Jay Z's poor album), he conquered. *Yeezus* is the filthiest album of the year. As always Kanye is controversial: I'm not even allowed to quote the sweet and sour sauce line. But less outrageous songs like 'Bound 2' and 'Blood on the Leaves' display the sampling genius of this record, combined with impeccably innovative lyrics. Long time collaborator Bon Iver features on 'Hold My Liquor', his ethereal vocals adding a haunting resonance to a standout track in a standout LP. The production is a triumph from Rick Rubin, if anyone can pull off trap rap its Kanye. Jesus, I mean, *Yeezus* will undoubtedly go down as a landmark record, if not just for 'I am a God' ft. God. *Alex Donaldson*



Yeezus, Kanye West.
Roc-A-Fella, Def Jam

Laura Marling's fourth record marks a departure from her initial innocence into a realm rougher, darker and more self-assured. *OIWAE* deals with the fallout from a failed relationship: loss, pain and eventual acceptance. Previous albums had a somewhat literary, dream-like focus. This latest LP is gritty and deeply personal; almost Bob Dylan-esque, with childhood and naiveté as themes throughout. Her range has expanded and her guitar playing, particularly on 'Little Love Caster', with its delicate Spanish guitar, is beautiful throughout. And don't forget: she's only 23. The waifish ingénue of English folk has so much more to offer. Our standout tracks include 'Once', 'Where Can I Go?', and the beautiful 'Master Hunter'. *Anwen Baker*



Once I Was An Eagle, Laura Marling. Virgin

In The Spotlight: Vance Joy

Katrina Northern interviews.

It's been an exciting year for James Keogh, the twenty-five year old folk singer-songwriter from Melbourne. His debut EP *God Loves You When You're Dancing* came out earlier this year after he caught the eye of Atlantic Records. Now he has ventured to the UK.

"I've toured in Australia and America so it made sense to come over here and dip my foot in the water and see if there was anyone around here who was interested in my music." The sold-out shows are testament

to the reach of his music and the number of people it has affected. One of the most emotional songs and the oldest on the EP is 'From Afar'. It was pieced together over a long time, as Vance explains "I had that line, 'I love you from afar'... I wasn't even thinking about writing songs in terms of really forcing anything... The writing process can take ages, but the best songs usually take a long while - let them simmer and they become richer because of that experience".

Vance takes his name from the book *Bliss* by Peter Carey where his namesake is, aptly, a storyteller and it is that name that was recently announced as a winner of two AIR awards (for breakthrough artist and EP of the year). It was an addiction to song-writing which

drove him to really consider music as a career, "I was doing uni and I was also ticking away writing songs and then at the end of uni I thought maybe I should spend six months just doing music and see what happens... that was about a year ago". The rest is history.

He admits to being influenced by songwriters such as Neil Finn from Crowded House and Paul Kelly but also "all the same music you guys probably listen to - like I listen to that new Arcade Fire song a lot". Having signed a five record deal with Atlantic, Vance has at least one shot at a full length album and will go into the studio in Seattle after the tour concludes. With his casual charm and melancholic folk sound the future is bright for this Australian sensation.

Kodaline and their Perfect World

Alex Killeen catches up with **Jason Boland**, chatting Birmingham truths, recording the album and keeping their music about the music.

The past year has been an epic and progressive journey for Kodaline, the four piece from Dublin. Their sudden rise to fame is undoubtedly down to their emotionally poignant material and, Irish accents.

I only got to sit down with Jason Boland the bassist, as the rest of the band was still knackered from what I presumed was a mixture of their gig at The Forum in London the previous night, the extensive journey to Leeds and a likely lethal hangover. After traversing through the maze that is the backstage of Stylus (the University of Leeds live venue) we finally managed to find somewhere to sit down.

Opening with generic questions I asked how he was, how the tour was going, how the summer festivals went, all the standard stuff. The sudden acclaim must have been shocking, although he did mention that in the US, it's exactly like they were starting out again. They were "back to small clubs" with only "400-500 capacity" and then immediately coming back and playing their "biggest shows to date in the UK so far" was "absolutely bizarre."

The interview really sparked up when, by sheer coincidence, he mentioned that the band 'lived in Birmingham for about a year'. Not to be biased, but being a native Brummie, my ears immediately pricked up. It only got better when he mentioned that they were living in Moseley - a mere ten minutes from me. Suddenly we were discussing the "slightly trendy" haunts like, The Fighting Cocks, The Bull's Head and The Prince of Wales.

When I brought up the Hare and Hounds, his instant reaction was "love it" and he mentioned the acoustic set in there; a performance I can only imagine. The thought that one of his favourite gigs was actually the "Ultimate Dubstep Orchestra" playing in the upstairs of a casual local of many a warring OAP and student, is nothing short of weird.

Upon mentioning the underestimation of Birmingham's music scene, it made me happy to see Jason quickly defending the city, mentioning their rehearsal studio: "We were in Rich Bitch, that rehearsal place in Selly Oak, and like, The Editors were in the room next to us. There was a lot of really good music all the time."

Feeling like I'd moved off on to a slight tangent I asked about an aspect of Kodaline that has always intrigued me, their surreal and thought-provoking videos. He emphasized the point that they try to make their videos 'about the music as much as possible' but revealed that they actually put the video production opportunities up online. When discussing 'All I Want', he mentioned it



was done by a mate of ours in Dublin who's called Stevie Russell and he's a really great director. He's actually the guy in the mask, he directed it, wrote it, acted in it and it's his job as well. We really wanted a narrative for that one, just to go with the mood of the song and the message. We went back to him again for 'High Hopes.' He iterated that they try to work with trustworthy directors but try to allow the filmmaking process to make the most of individuals' creative potential.

This philosophy was built upon further when we discussed the nature of the band's recording routine. "We try to put as much of ourselves into the songs, so it's really the music that we want to listen to, that's what we try to make" and that "we let the song say what it needs. In the least poncey way possible." Stressing the modern significance of individuality, both as an artist and within

and this is catalysing many bands' success. "There is this new feeling that people have latched on to way quicker. Because we've all been in bands before and, you know, it does, it feels like music is changing slightly, and it's moved forward. And I think with HAIM coming over from the States and stuff like that, music is in a really good position, that it hasn't been."

From the significance of originality, the conversation naturally moved to the other major success bringer to bands nowadays, the Internet and social networking, a trait Kodaline are particularly attuned to. It provides accessibility and breaks the barrier between the band and their fans in a much more extensive fashion than anything before it. "People can latch on to what they love without buying it, you know, there's Twitter and most of our fans have found us on YouTube or they've found

us through like streaming services and that's a whole different way to connect. And people are connecting with the music now, rather than the image of the band." It's a possibility that the internet can open us to an age of music, instead of an age of genre aesthetics and artist stereotypes.

From talking with Jason for roughly half an hour I got the feeling that Kodaline are intent on letting their music and their music alone define them. This was summed up in his closing personal insight when Jason explained their name because obviously, a lot of creative genius went into creating it, or not. "There's no magic, it's just, it sounded better the more we drank, that's really all it was. We wanted to come up with something, that was just, what we thought was not a word, you know. That we could just take ownership of and let it be about the music, 'cause we were very much just trying not to be image-based, trying not to be a 'the.' M

"When you hear that four by four beat for the fucking twentieth time on the radio it's like, I like this song but... meh"

songs he went on: "I think a lot of music just goes by the formula so much these days that that's when it starts grating. You know when you hear that four by four beat for the fucking twentieth time on the radio it's like, I like this song but...meh."

Judging from what he described, they are extremely meticulous in their own individuality-ensuring endeavours. "We're very much a studio band in that we just kinda try everything and then you just take it all off and put a few little bits back in until it feels right again." Topping it off by saying that "if we have a 'but' about a song then it's not gonna get through." This is an increasingly popular attitude among artists and the mainstream audience

REVERB.

Lou Reed, *Progressive*.

"... One chord is fine. Two chords is pushing it.

Three and you're into Jazz."

FILM & TV.

Let the games begin (again)

Review: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

★★★★

Rosemary Collins



The sequel to a blockbuster film is a risky proposition. Often film-makers play it safe by repeating the formula that made money the first time, with over-stretched and ineffective results. Luckily this latest young adult adaptation juggernaut takes a different approach: expanding on the world of the first film in a way that feels natural, with the same excitement and emotion.

The first Hunger Games book and film had a straightforward but irresistible premise: in the futuristic dystopia of Panem, the populace are kept both entertained and oppressed by the annual Hunger Games, where 24 teen-

agers are chosen by lottery to fight each other to the death until only one survives.

The sequel picks up shortly after Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) managed to survive the Hunger Games through Katniss' lethal skill with a bow and arrow and a faked romance that won the audience's hearts.

The story is less simple this time, because staying alive has just marked the beginning of Katniss' problems. In addition to her personal trauma and confusion about her feelings for Peeta, she still lives under a ruthlessly oppressive government. The support she won in

the Games is growing into a revolution, and President Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland) is putting her under pressure to prove her loyalty.

Lawrence's performance as Katniss mixes defiance and vulnerability in a way that really makes the viewer feel the agony of her situation, and director Francis Lawrence does an excellent job of lending the story breadth and depth. Catching Fire may be a Hollywood money-train, but its depiction of the rebellion against the Capitol and the pressure Katniss is under to maintain her image draw sly parallels with modern political conflicts, the heavy

role the media plays in manipulating how we see the world, and even our obsession with reality TV.

This is helped by a smart screenplay, which manages to deliver a lot of exposition with minimum awkwardness and even some black humour. Accomplished cinematography and special effects make both the high-tech Capitol and Katniss' snow-covered home in District 12 vividly real. This convincing backdrop makes the tense and often brutal story of Katniss' struggle to survive and defy Snow grippingly real.



Don Jon

★★★★

Michael Brennan

Seductive glances, lips slightly parted: the alluring promise of sex. And this is just the advertising before the film, used to sell cars, insurance and car insurance. Three boys, their legs propped up on the seats in front, half-watch, half-glance down to their phones: unable to break apart from this world of technology, even when paying extortionate cinema ticket prices.

It is these two elements of the modern age which Don Jon speaks about: our obsession with sex, our obsession with technology and how the latter distorts our perception of the former. The title is an allusion to the Byronic womaniser Don Juan. But despite being a happy, sexually active Jersey douchebag, technology has turned the modern-day Don Jon (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) into a porn addict who prefers losing himself in the fantasy to having to compromise with the practicalities of real life.

The film's use of the details of modern communication - the buzz of a vibrating phone, the sound of a Macbook starting up and the thrill of finding someone on Facebook - rings true. But other times Gordon-Levitt's direction tries so hard to imbue every frame with meaning that the obsession with technology borders on caricature. The extent of Jon's sister's commitment to her phone, while humorous, is so exaggerated that it trivialises Jon's genuine addiction.

The repetitive cycle which the film undergoes, while frustrating to watch at times, conveys the ways he has to cope with this addiction, showing the small, subtle changes which take place within his struggle to keep it hidden from his girlfriend Barbara. Scarlet Johansson gives an effective 'Jerseylicious' performance, her surface-level 'love' and attractive features quietly contrasted with a fragile vulnerability and a subtle manipulation, though the film thankfully refuses to demonise or victimise her.

The film sometimes feels undercut by the glossy production values: it boasts a colourful palette, swelling score and slick editing, alongside a couple of distracting celebrity cameos. Don Jon is most affecting when it gels with its own message, that of stripping things back to the basics in life. And the moments where it engages rather than simply preaches are when the audience are able to truly lose themselves in the film. If they're not too busy on their smartphones.

The Counsellor

★★★★

Christoph Macdowall

Writer Cormac McCarthy's ideas often translate well into film - look no further than No Country For Old Men - but the very fact that McCarthy is writing straight for the screen makes The Counsellor a flawed, but still sometimes effective, film. Michael Fassbender plays the counsellor in question, though instead of counselling, he gets involved in criminal activity through Reiner (Javier Bardem) and Westray (Brad Pitt). The plot is thin but the film becomes an unpleasant and sinister meditation on money, greed and consequences.

While most McCarthy adaptations have turned his central themes into atmospheric, involving pieces of cinema, The Counsellor is almost so rich that it becomes distracting. The thoughtful and intense dialogue is built mainly on monologues and philosophical statements that give the characters depth, but make them annoyingly obvious symbols of the script's themes. Cameron Diaz's character Malkina, for example, is made to be the embodiment of pure nihilism and evil, but while she is suitably cold and piercing, the very fact that she's being visually compared to a leopard and coming up with statements like "the truth has no temperature" in pretty much the first minute of her screen time prevents her from feeling like a character with any interesting motivations.

However, the film is not without its strengths: the omnipresence of evil within the dialogue and story is counterweighted by the fact that director Ridley Scott gives the film a visually stylish edge, from the memorable character wardrobes to the fantastic locations, and as expected, there is no questioning the brilliance of his camerawork. The violence is primal and vicious but always hiding behind a glossy surface.

Of the different performers here, Bardem's acting best complements McCarthy's writing style - for one thing, he comes across as someone who actually does talk too much, and furthermore, it is not always what he says in his speeches that is the most effective, but what's left unsaid. When explaining how a particularly nasty motorised murder weapon works he talks about it with both fascination and disgust, but doesn't seem to consider the effect it'd have on the victim. It's up to us to decide whether it's because he doesn't care, or because he doesn't want to think about it.



In Fear

★★★★

Amy Wong

Jeremy Lovering's film debut is a stylish take on the familiar story of two lost drivers being terrorised by a mystery pursuer. Alice Englert and Iain De Caestecker have fantastic chemistry as Lucy and Tom, the couple seeking to commemorate their two week anniversary at a hotel. Admittedly, Englert's performance is a little one-note compared to De Caestecker's depiction of Tom, which sees him move effortlessly between awkward shyness, cocky bravado, repressed anxiety, anger and complete despair.

Lovering's decision to conceal aspects of the plot from the cast generally pays off, giving Lucy and Tom's distress authenticity. However, the use of semi-improvisation tends to result in frustratingly repetitive and inane dialogue. The film is also plagued by the familiar horror movie mistake of characters making illogical decisions. A particularly ludicrous example is when Tom leaves the car and fails to take Lucy's frantic screams seriously, despite being terrified himself only moments ago.

A major strength of In Fear is that rather than opting for cheap gory scare tactics, it focuses on the recognisable fear of the sinisterly intangible dark, exaggerated by disorientation. The skilful camerawork makes it easy to empathise with Lucy and Tom.

Point of view shots force the audience to share their increasing anxiety as they are met with the same misleading road sign yet again, whilst their isolation is emphasised through shots which plunge the cinema in total darkness except for the car's lights. The earlier scares are perfectly timed; in one scene, a sudden attack brings a jarring end to the peace that has just been re-established following an argument.

Unfortunately, the tension is destroyed by the premature revelation of the antagonist's identity, meaning the last half of the film drags. Although the unhinged pursuer is initially unnerving, his lack of motivation makes his actions seem pointless, whilst the ending is too abrupt to be satisfying.

In short, In Fear fails to fully deliver or offer anything particularly ground-breaking, but the excellent cast and beautiful camerawork make it worth a watch.

Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special



Review: 'Day of the Doctor'

★★★★★

Katy Sandalls and George Wood

Fifty years: few TV series have reached such a prestigious milestone. Then again, few shows can reinvent themselves to new generations of audiences the way Doctor Who has. To say there was a lot riding on this episode is an understatement, but show-runner Steven Moffat has pulled off an excellent piece of entertainment without veering too much into self-referential indulgence, or the hackneyed melodrama that Doctor Who is sometimes criticised for.

There was something for everyone in the episode and for the fanboys and fangirls there was a plethora of references to enjoy (Codename Cromer, anyone?).

For the later fan the return of David Tennant reminds us all why he is remembered as one of the best Doctors. In terms of the actual plot a few cracks seemed to have appeared in Moffat's wall: the unsatisfactory conclusion to Kate Stewart's attempt to destroy the whole of London was quickly passed over in order to get to the more juicy storyline of the return of Gallifrey.

Indeed, UNIT, Elizabethan England and the Zygon threat served as plot devices to parallel the real crux of the story: John Hurt's War Doctor considering the decision to commit genocide on his race for the greater good of the universe. Hurt is on fine form, playing an introspective role that juxtaposed the livelier Doctors of Tennant and Matt Smith ("Are you capable of speaking without flapping your hands about?" was a brilliant line).

Having Billie Piper return as The Moment, a Ghost of Christmas Future to Hurt's Doctor, rather than former companion Rose Tyler, was refreshing - we certainly didn't need another 'Doomsday' reunion (though the Bad Wolf references must have been irresistible!).

In fact, Moffat really seemed to have pulled it out of the bag for once. In his earlier series, he was criticised for making convoluted and unappealing story arcs, and in the last series, every episode seemed to lack any satisfying conclusion. Perhaps

this is a clichéd thing to say about Doctor Who, but the balance here was perfect, with an ending that paid respects to the show's past while eagerly looking forward to the show's future.

Plus we got a few unspoiled treats, like our first sneak peak of the new Doctor (Peter Capaldi), and the return of fan favourite Tom Baker in his mysterious role as the 'Great Curator'.

But compared to other specials, The Day of the Doctor succeeded not because of its nostalgic nods or the thrill of seeing characters from the show's past, present and future interact on screen, but because of the episode's restraint on overblowing these elements as to provide a richly woven story that lives up to the Doctor Who name.

No one was there just for the sake of it, and no one was made to stay in the TARDIS just because the writers had no role for them. The Day of the Doctor left you wanting more, an experience only enhanced by cinema viewing.

Could its success be repeated in twenty-five or even fifty years time? It's hard to tell. But the endurance of Doctor Who was almost certainly reaffirmed by this episode. So Geronimo! All o n s - y ! Gallifrey stands!



The Time Lord Timeline

Michael Brennan

23/11/1963 - First episode of Doctor Who, An Unearthly Child, airs, introducing the Doctor and his time machine, the TARDIS.



21/12/1963 - First appearance of a Dalek. The Daleks would become the most popular monster on the show, boosting its profile through 'Dalekmania'.

03/01/1970 - The first appearance of John Pertwee as the Doctor as well as marking the series' move to colour.



08/06/1974 - Unknown Tom Baker takes over the role of the Doctor and with his long scarf and big hair he becomes the most iconic Doctor worldwide.

21/03/1981 - After a record seven seasons, Baker bows out as the Doctor, taken over by Peter Davison's celery-loving incarnation.



16/03/1984 - Peter Davison leaves in "The Caves of Androzani", and is replaced by Colin Baker, whose costume made many viewers wish the show had never made the move to colour.

1985-86 - Spearheaded partly by the BBC1 controller's dislike, the show entered a hiatus. 18 months later, its return did little to improve the ratings and Colin Baker was fired from the role.

7/09/1989 - This marks the first appearance of Sylvester McCoy as the Doctor, first in a wig pretending to be Colin Baker and then, post-regeneration, as the fully-fledged Seventh Doctor.



06/12/1989 - The Doctor and his companion Ace walk into the distance together and the show's 26-year run is brought to an end.



26/11/1993 - To celebrate 30 years of Doctor Who, a special Children in Need crossover with Eastenders takes place. Some things are best forgotten.

27/05/1996 - Doctor Who returns for a TV movie starring Paul McGann as the Eighth Doctor, whose brief presence was extended by audio stories and a short prequel to the 50th episode.

27/05/2005 - Russell T Davies finally brings Doctor Who back to our screens with Christopher Eccleston as the Doctor. Eccleston only stayed one series, paving the way for David Tennant to guide the show through its most popular period ever.



03/04/2010 - Matt Smith's first full episode airs and guides the show into a new era alongside new head writer Steven Moffat.

23/11/2013 - Smith's final full episode before Peter Capaldi's era starts, with Zygons, Daleks, David Tennant and Billie Piper all returning to celebrate 50 years of this British institution.

Proud to be Indie

Grace Marsh talks to **Mike Tattersall** about winning awards, cooking with Paul Hollywood and riding his beloved tuk-tuk

Not everyone can say they've been personally invited to star on Paul Hollywood's show. But this is the case for Mike Tattersall, owner of Indie Ices, a Leeds based kulfi producer rapidly growing in success. Mike set up Indie Ices in 2009 following a career in the food industry as a technical manager in a factory. After deciding to leave this job, Mike became a house husband and was looking for "something to take [him] forward that could work alongside looking after the kids." Indie Ices was born. Mike stocks his kulfi at local cafes but also makes appearances at street food events, festivals and weddings with Asha, his custom built tuk-tuk named after Indian singer, Asha Bhosle.

Where did Mike conjure up such an original and inventive idea? On first appearances, it seems slightly surprising that Lancaster born family man, Mike, is running a business selling an authentic Indian dessert. But it appears that he has his Indian wife's parents to thank. After trying their traditional kulfi recipe, Mike loved it so much that he began producing it from his home in Leeds. As Mike comments on his website, "I was wooed as much by the recipe as by the woman." Selling to local cafes and restaurants, he uses good quality ingredients to produce fantastic products.

For Mike, the idea of producing kulfi "was a good marriage of my background (in the food industry) with what I thought was a wonderful product when I first tasted it." He has never looked back since, recently adding lassi, a yoghurt-based fruit drink to his innovative product range, which is sold at Leeds University.

For readers that are unaware of what exactly kulfi is, Mike explained how it differs from ice cream: "kulfi has a denser texture because of the production method. They're both frozen desserts but with kulfi, you'll take milk and boil it for a couple of hours to reduce the volume of it," however, "with ice cream you'll be taking milk and you'll be whipping air into the product so you kind of make it softer and also a bit lighter." Kulfi is essentially a much creamier and denser version of ice cream.

Mike's biggest sellers are the traditional flavours such as mango, and almond and pistachio, but he has also played with flavours such as Baileys, champagne and mango and lime.

Indie Ice's twist on traditional kulfi has gained 18 Great Taste Awards, the most prestigious accolade in the foodie world, making Mike the only kulfi manufacturer ever to win such awards. Despite this, success doesn't come easily for an independent producer, particularly in the challenging economic climate. Mike explains: "It's a hard road, a harder road than I expected it to be, I kind of expected restaurants to be flocking to me." Perhaps his appearance on Paul Hollywood's new series, *Pies and Puds*, will bring his deserved success.

Fresh from judging on *The Great British Bake Off*, Paul Hollywood's latest venture celebrates food from different artisans and local producers across the UK, in each of the series' 20 episodes. Mike believes that he was picked out "because of Indie Ices' interesting background." Hollywood puts a twist on a classic British dish, which for Mike's episode was creating an arctic roll filled with kulfi instead of ice cream.

Hollywood seemed to be quite the fan of Mike's products: "He was there eating my kulfi lollies which was quite exciting really. He had three of them whilst he was on set and he seemed to enjoy them."

It seems that the *British Bake Off* judge does have a softer side, which may come as a surprise considering his arrogant attitude and distribution of harsh criticism on the show: "He was cool, very cool, quite witty and chatty. You can see he's had years of experience, a bit of banter with people." Perhaps the ability to switch personalities on and off camera comes with learned experience.

But Mike appears to have found the whole experience a little overwhelming: "I think I was possibly too nervous to have any banter with him."

It's unsurprising that Mike describes the whole experience as "quite a surreal process". It's not every day that a former househusband from Leeds gets such an opportunity; it's certainly something that he deserves. Never have I met such a humble man with so much passion for his products. If he can impress Paul Hollywood then Mike is surely destined for success. **M**

Indie Ices is on Episode 16 of Paul Hollywood's Pies and Puds, which was aired on 25 November at 3.45pm on BBC One. It will be repeated on Saturday 30 November.



"He was there eating my kulfi lollies which was quite exciting really"



PHOTO CREDIT: INDIE ICES (TOP), BBC PICTURE DESK (ABOVE)

Traditional Christmas tipples

Sunaina Suri

Mulled Wine: Christmas isn't complete without a glass of this hot, festive drink. Traditional recipes were much spicier, using lesser-known flavours such as galangal. However, the following recipe uses the spices we more commonly associate with this festive time of year. You can also add in some star anise or replace the honey with caster sugar if you prefer.

Ingredients

2 bottles of red wine
6 tbsp honey
1 orange, studded with cloves
1 orange and 1 lemon, sliced
1 tsp ground ginger
1 cinnamon stick
2 tbsp Grand Marnier (optional)

Simmer all the ingredients in a pan for 20 minutes, excluding the Grand Marnier.

Add the Grand Marnier and enjoy the rich and spicy flavours.

Eggnog: Another classic Yuletide drink. While it isn't so popular here in the UK, it's definitely worth a try. The sweet creaminess may not be to everyone's taste, but this recipe's hearty helping of brandy ought to quell any initial criticisms...

Ingredients

2 pints of whole milk
6 eggs
50g of caster sugar
1 vanilla pod, split
200ml of brandy
Cocoa powder for dusting

Add the milk, eggs, sugar and vanilla in a pot and simmer (make sure you do not let it boil or it will curdle) until the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon.

Divide the brandy between the glasses and pour the eggnog mixture over. Serve hot or chilled.

Dust with cocoa powder and enjoy.



CREDIT: KATE MITCHELL

An international festive season

Holly Knight

Moving to York and starting university has been a period of enlightenment for me; becoming accustomed to my flat mates and their strange yet wonderful habits has certainly been a challenge. One thing that I have noticed in particular is the variety of wonderful new smells that I encounter when entering the kitchen. The end of term is fast approaching and when trying to arrange a house Christmas meal, it got me thinking, what should we cook? With an umbrella of cultures and traditions living under one roof, I decided to ask everyone about their individual food related traditions at Christmas time and over New Year.

My housemate, Binura Seneviratne, spoke to me about the variety of traditional foods that he eats in Sri Lanka over the New Year period, which begins on the 13th of April. A traditional meal for him consists of bananas, Kiribath - coconut milk rice, Aluwa - a cardamom flavoured sweet made from rice flour, Kokis - a traditional deep-fried sweet dish made from rice flour and coconut milk that Binura describes as tasting similar to poppads.

I then went on to question Andre Smith-Garber, who informed me of the different food that he eats around Christmas time, which he spends in two continents. When in Nigeria, his grandmother makes pepper stew, pounded yam - which he described as having a soft texture like tofu, Okro - a vegetable stew, chicken, Jollof rice - a rice dish for special occasions and Puff Puff - a spongy deep fried snack similar to doughnuts. Born in New York, Andre normally has a roast 'Christmas Dinner' for Thanksgiving but on Christmas Day he tends to eat ribs, steak, stir fry and fried rice for his main meal.

My Polish housemate Franciszka gave me a great insight into Polish traditions at Christmas. In Poland, it is tradition to fast on Christmas Eve to prepare for the big Christmas Day meal. To start, she eats Bigos - a



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN ELI

hunter's stew containing sauerkraut, meats and mushrooms, as well as Pierogi - sweet cheese dumplings. These are followed by a grand array of dishes for the main course. As well as this, Oplatek, a type of Christmas wafer is broken into twelve and shared amongst the family to symbolise the twelve disciples of Christ.

In Bulgaria, Georgi Galov celebrates on Christmas Eve. Only vegetarian food is eaten as the day marks the end of a 40-day meatless period followed by religious Bulgarians. Before eating, Koledna Pita takes place, the most important tradition of the day. A loaf of bread baked with a coin inside is broken into pieces and if the coin is in your piece of bread, then you will be rewarded with good fortune. Georgi eats foods such as Bob Chorba - bean

soup, Zelevi Sarmi - stuffed cabbage leaves, Oshav - stewed dried fruit and peppers with rice, followed by a simple but tasty dessert of walnuts with honey.

When questioning Steve Scott from Guernsey on his family Christmas meal, he educated me on what he likes to call 'The Chilli Game'. This game begins with giving each family member a hot chilli. However, little does one unsuspecting family member know that their chilli has been injected with 'insanity sauce'... The aim of the game is to be the last person to reach for the relieving pot of yoghurt after eating the extremely hot chilli. On questioning the point of this game, Steve had no answer. Call me old fashioned but I will certainly not be introducing my family to 'The Chilli Game' this Christmas!

Come Dine With...

by Erin Rodgers

A lactose intolerant student. For some, cooking is not so simple. Those with eating preferences, requirements or intolerances often venture out into the culinary world with caution.

Lydia found out that she was lactose intolerant around three years ago. As a medic, she spends most of her day on campus. She always has to prepare her lunch in advance; buying lactose-free meals on campus isn't very easy. She doesn't risk getting fast food at the end of a night out, but unsurprisingly she feels grateful for this the morning after...

The foods Lydia misses most are Ben and Jerry's ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate and McDonalds chicken nuggets. Yet she's found that not consuming lactose has lost her half a stone; having to avoid certain snacks means she eats healthily. However, Lydia does have to be aware of calcium deficiency.

Does Lydia think there are sufficient alternative foods available? She noted that the 'free from' sections are usually great, particularly at Sainsbury's. Going out for meals is harder and she often finds that restaurants have lots of gluten free options but not many dairy free ones. Often in restaurants, she feels that her intolerance isn't taken seriously and that staff just think she's being fussy.

How does Lydia's intolerance affect her Christmas Dinner? Well, luckily, after three years, her mum is really great at cooking with alternatives (Lactofree milk and butter), so her Christmas Dinner isn't affected at all... Phew.

It's surprising products contain lactose. Lactose-free foods can still taste pleasant, and alternatives often avoid the fattiness associated with dairy products. So give them a go and step into the shoes of a student with lactose intolerance.

Pie worth the pilgrimage

Robyn Whiting

The US holiday of Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. The celebration can be traced back to 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, when the Pilgrim Fathers and Puritans from Europe came together to celebrate a good harvest.

A particular Thanksgiving favourite is apple pie, which originates from Medieval England and was brought to America by English Pilgrims. Despite its non-American origins, the apple pie has become one of the most important parts of the Thanksgiving meal. Try this recipe of apple pie with a delicious twist - caramel sauce!

Ingredients

225g plain flour
100g butter
25g sugar
30ml of cold water
3 large cooking apples
50g caster sugar
50g brown sugar
50g butter
200ml condensed milk

First, preheat the oven to 180°C. For the filling, peel the apples, chop into small pieces and place in a microwave-proof bowl.

Then place clingfilm over the bowl of apple pieces and microwave for 6 minutes.

Mix the cooked apples with a fork to form a puree and put aside for later.

Moving on to the pastry, melt the butter in a microwave and mix with the flour to form crumbs. Gradually add small amounts of water to the crumbs and mix. The crumbs should form a firm, non sticky dough - if the pastry is too wet, add more flour.

Place a sheet of clingfilm on the work surface and put the dough in the middle. Roll out the pastry until it is just thinner than a pound coin. Then place the rolled-out pastry in an ovenproof dish or tart dish, trim the excess pastry around the edge and save for later.

Put all of the apple puree into the pastry case and decorate using the leftover pastry. Bake in the oven for about 30 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown.

For the caramel sauce, place the butter and sugar in a bowl and heat in the microwave until melted. Afterwards, stir in the condensed milk and continue to heat for a further minute. Now serve and enjoy!



PHOTO CREDIT: ROBYN WHITING

Robyn's winter wonderland

Robyn Whiting creates a festive-themed gingerbread house, adorned with reindeer,

Christmas trees and snowmen. Delightful design, and creatively decorated!



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By Exquisite Design

Designer **Sonia Mugabo** talks to Charlotte Wainwright about working within Rwanda's flourishing fashion scene.

“**A**frikana” is the African way of saying “African” and “exquisiteness” is the noun for exquisite, meaning “characterised by beautiful design.” This is the description of Rwandan-born fashion designer Sonia Mugabo’s latest fashion brand, ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’, which was showcased at the second annual Kigali Fashion Week earlier this month.

While many of us are well aware of the numerous fashion weeks that are held across the globe each year, from London to Paris to New York, the Kigali Fashion Week is a new project that was launched in 2012 by House of Fashion. The aim of the project is to promote the Rwandan fashion industry, supporting local designers in order to help them compete and be recognised on an international level. Sonia Mugabo was one of the local designers to exhibit there this year.

“Rwanda can one day become the New York of Africa’s fashion”

“It was a spectacular experience. This being my first collection I was particularly nervous and excited at the same time. There was a lot to do in so little time, but it was all worth it; the models looked beautiful and my designs were very much appreciated. I was very thankful at the end of the night.”

Sonia’s love for fashion developed from a very early age, kick-starting her desire to become a designer. “Ever since I was a little girl, I was always passionate about fashion. Every time my mom would take my sisters and brother shopping I would mix and match outfits and come up with different designs. In high school I was very good at math and sciences and my parents thought I would be an engineer or architect, but I knew I couldn’t ignore my creative side.”

It was this love of creation that encouraged Sonia to pursue a career in the arts, choosing to make the bold decision to move to the US to study, majoring in Visual Communication and Graphic Design, with a minor in Digital Media. During this time, Sonia completed numerous internships within different fields of communication, including three internships in New York City, and one in Washington DC as a researcher for The Almanac of American Politics. The one that created the biggest impact on Sonia’s life, though, was an internship at Teen Vogue.

“Being in New York and interning at Teen Vogue was the main factor for me to pursue fashion. All the interns there were so ambitious and hardworking and so I knew that I had to work as hard in order to make an impression. It wasn’t always easy, but I’m a firm believer that nothing comes easy. With the skills I acquired there, I knew I had to utilise them so that Rwanda can one day become the New York of Africa in a fashion sense.”

Following this experience in the US, Sonia developed her fashion brand, ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’, along with Candy Basominger. The idea developed, she explains, during her time in college. “Afrikana Exquisiteness’ started as the name for my senior show; being a Graphic Design Major, it was a requirement to have a show in order to graduate. In August, when I moved back to Rwanda, I saw Candy

Basominger and complimented her on her dress. When she told me she had designed it herself, I was very intrigued. On August 30th, during my nephew’s birthday party, we started talking about our passion for fashion and we knew right away we would be a good collaboration. She had appreciated my senior show, so we decided to bring ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’ to life.”

The message behind the brand, Sonia explains, is to help share the Rwandan culture with the rest of the world, especially in the increasingly popular African fashion scene. “West African countries such as Ghana and Nigeria have boomed in the industry, getting a lot of attention from celebrities such as Beyoncé and Solange Knowles. The fashion industry in Rwanda is still young; most designers here are self-taught. But with Rwandan economy booming, I think this industry has a lot of potential. The Rwandan culture is very conservative, but I want to be able to share my culture, using my brand.”

The concept of Sonia’s brand takes a particularly ethical approach. “There is a growing movement towards greater ethics in the global fashion industry. The international market has been

particularly open to young designers lately, whether they are African or not, working with African prints, fabrics and materials. ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’ aims to position itself as the Rwandan reference in high quality ethical fashion, working with local women co-operatives in beadings, crafts and tailoring using mainly Africa-made fabrics and material. This way, the brand will create jobs, transfer skills and contribute to empowering local women and the country’s economy.”

The brand currently has two lines, ‘AE by BASO’ and ‘AE by MUGABO’, in which all clothes are tailor-made. For Sonia, the process behind these designs was both meticulous and clear cut. “Being a Graphic Designer has made me a disciplined creator. I have a process where I research trends, colours, and pretty much what is hot at that moment, then go on to sketch thumbnails of different ideas I have. Then I come down to selecting the main idea that I want to execute. Once I have the concept in mind, I know exactly what fabrics I want to use and the kind of audience I want to attract.” This audience, Sonia tells me, is “the middle and upper class of both high street and luxury retail market, in and outside of Rwanda.”

Although still in its beginning stages, Sonia has high ambitions of expanding ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’ as far as possible, hoping to gain followers and customers across the globe. “We’re working on opening a boutique in Kigali and an online store where people around the world can order. In the upcoming year, I’m hoping to exhibit in different fashion shows around the world.”

This a process which, Sonia explains, has already very much begun. “The marketing for ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’ has already started. We participated in Kigali Fashion Week 2013, where we showcased the first collection of both lines, from which we received great feedback. We had an ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’ photo shoot with former Miss France, Sonia Rolland, and several articles have appeared in some of the most read African papers and online magazines, distributed all over

PHOTO CREDIT: SONIA MUGABO



“I want to be able to share my culture, using my brand”

Europe, the US and Francophone Africa. Our Facebook page has been launched and has attracted over 500 people that have read, commented and liked the page and our Twitter account has also attracted followers. I was interviewed by The Guardian, Der Spiegel and spoke on the BBC Newsday radio show. All of this has made us very optimistic for the future of the brand.”

Sonia’s optimism is certainly admirable. Though her career appears to be incredibly successful, she has had to overcome much hardship in order to achieve her dream. “I lost a lot of relatives in the genocide against Tutsis that happened in 1994. I always talk about that time with my parents and siblings. We cannot thank God enough for having spared our lives, and for that we believe we were left for a purpose. This is what motivates me to follow my dreams and work hard, so that I can give a voice to my loved ones, who didn’t get a chance to see a prosperous Rwanda.”

The history of Sonia’s family seems to have made her even more determined to pursue her dream of being a designer, and has encouraged her to approach life with a positive mind-set. This is certainly evident in her design work, and has allowed her, she explains, to see the beauty in everything. “I’m inspired by everything in life. I find inspiration by travelling, reading books, falling in and out of love; anything can inspire my designs. Grace Coddington, Creative Director of Vogue, says it best: ‘Always keep your eyes open. Keep watching, because whatever you see can inspire you.’ My favourite designers though are Elie Saab, Stella McCartney and Coco Chanel.”

I wonder then, what Sonia sees for the future of the African fashion scene. “I see an exciting future for this industry. With the fashion industry in Rwanda being so young, I think the world is curious about what Rwanda has to offer. With so much culture to explore in Africa, I think the world is intrigued by the diversity and richness that our cultures have. And with African materials being very vibrant, vivid and different, I think the Western fashion scene will want to see much more African inspired clothing.”

At just twenty-three years old, Sonia has already done much to propel the Rwandan fashion scene forward across the globe. But what’s the next step? “It is my only wish that ‘Afrikana Exquisiteness’ will be a top notch brand, hopefully showcasing Rwanda-African inspired pieces on the runways of New York, London, Berlin, Paris and Milan. But I’m growing each day and so is the brand. I’m looking forward to the future.” **M**

“The world is curious about what Rwanda has to offer”



PHOTO CREDIT: G. R. VANDE (ILLUME CREATIVE STUDIO)



My shit week so far

Thomas Fennelly

This term has gone too quick for my liking. We're already nearing the end of November and already the commercialised, consumerist, global capitalist society that we live in is focusing solely on Christmas. That's over a month's worth of preparation for a mere twenty-four hours of poor dieting, family bickering and tinsel allergies. Well, maybe that's just in my household, although I also have to cater for a cat that thinks the Christmas tree is a climbing frame that needs dismantling. To cheer up my shit week, I'd love to see the University add some festive cheer to the concrete, quadrilateral architecture that this university is based on. So far, all I've seen is posters for when the campus services are open out of term-time and some fairy lights around the terrace at Courtyard (although, admittedly, these lights have been left up from last year).

An old joke goes that a dog isn't just for Christmas; you can have it cold on Boxing Day as well. As dark as that sounds (and please don't report me to the RSPCA), life as a dog is arguably the top of the ladder of reincarnation and I hope that I'm good enough in this world to be reborn in the next one as a border collie or a Staffordshire terrier. I mean, think about it. If you want to get a girl, apparently you can just sniff their arse and everything is fine from there on in. You can defecate wherever you like, and then someone will be right behind you to pick it up as you sit staring at them with your tongue out sporting a very smug-look. People take you to the park and strangers that you pass in the street might come along and pet you. You can even get really excited and bark when trains go past – and I love trains!

If I did any of these as a human, I'd be sectioned and/or incarcerated. Although, as a fully-grown adult, I actually still do the train thing. Look, I like trains.

“A dog isn't just for Christmas; you can have it cold on Boxing Day too”

The pinnacle of my shit week actually occurred in Courtyard and it was the fine management of the University's favourite eating establishment that rescued my week. I'm sat enjoying my maiden voyage of one of the items on their menu that I've never tried before – the meatballs with garlic bread. Joined by my housemate, he lackadaisically helped himself to swigs from my obligatory pint of Courtyard Coca Cola (and I maintain that their Coke is better than the real thing).

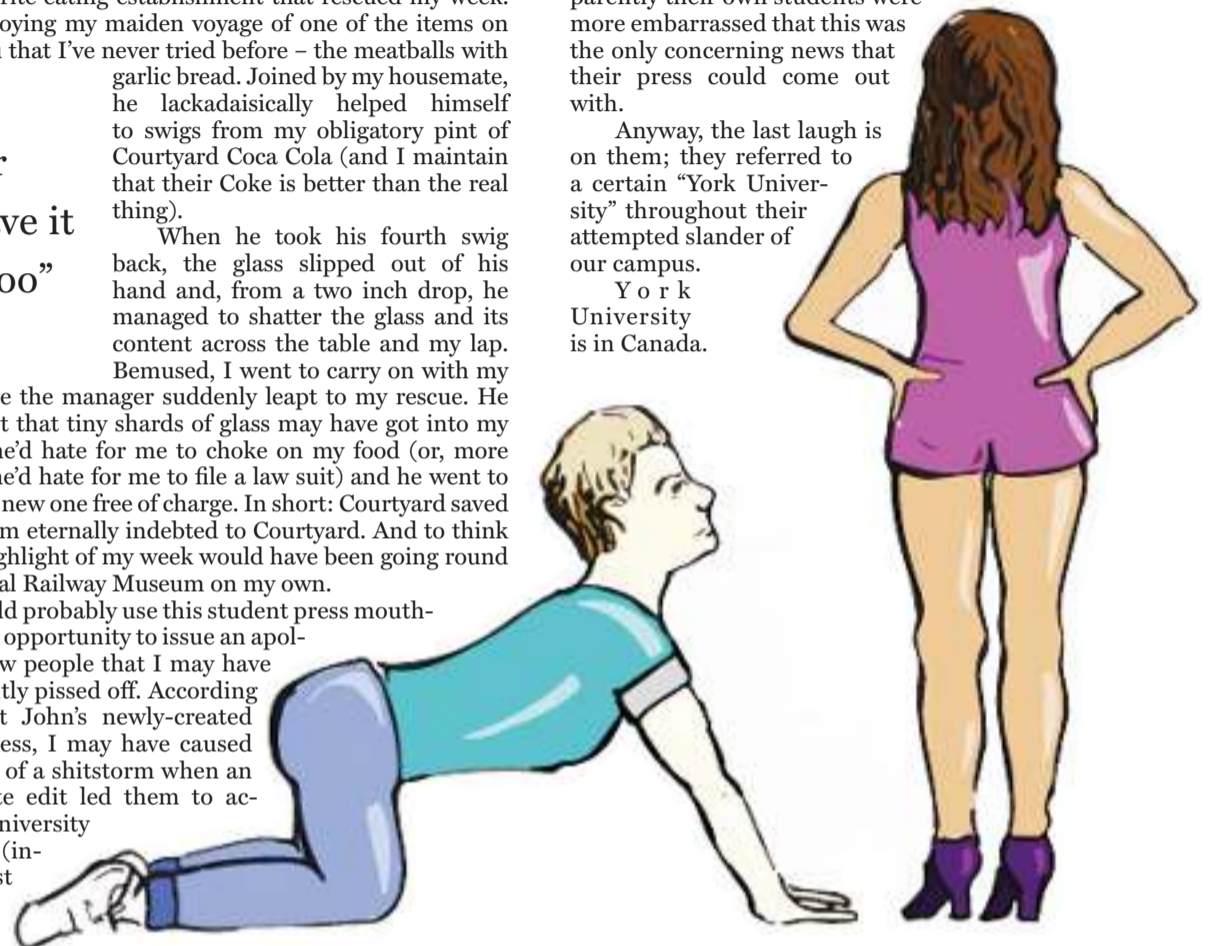
When he took his fourth swig back, the glass slipped out of his hand and, from a two inch drop, he managed to shatter the glass and its content across the table and my lap. Bemused, I went to carry on with my meal before the manager suddenly leapt to my rescue. He pointed out that tiny shards of glass may have got into my food and he'd hate for me to choke on my food (or, more probably, he'd hate for me to file a law suit) and he went to order me a new one free of charge. In short: Courtyard saved my life. I am eternally indebted to Courtyard. And to think that the highlight of my week would have been going round the National Railway Museum on my own.

I should probably use this student press mouth-piece as an opportunity to issue an apology to a few people that I may have inadvertently pissed off. According to York St John's newly-created student press, I may have caused something of a shitstorm when an unfortunate edit led them to accuse our university as a whole (instead of just me) as be-

ing elitist. It caused such a shitstorm that none of us actually noticed. Apparently their own students were more embarrassed that this was the only concerning news that their press could come out with.

Anyway, the last laugh is on them; they referred to a certain “York University” throughout their attempted slander of our campus.

York University is in Canada.



chalk

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STUDENT HACK



THE INDEPENDENT

'Joke' candidate elected as President at the Oxford Union Student Union. In his personifesto, which was written in crayon, he urges students to vote for him because he reads Geography and wears flip-flops.



LESHAINES123

Millions of pounds are spent by the Government to encourage young people from disadvantaged homes to apply to higher education. Yet only 29 per cent of the population in the North has been to university, as opposed to 60 per cent has in London.



YUTAKA TSUTANO

Hook-up apps like wTinder have changed, if not killed, the notion of romance in the university life. It seems that when previous generations went to university, finding a partner was much more common. Lots of students go through their studies without finding a partner.

Education system fails poorer students, says Major

Jack Simpson
POLITICAL REPORTER

It is "truly shocking", according to former Conservative Prime Minister John Major, that the private school-educated and affluent middle class still run Britain.

In the UK, we like to think that, whoever we are, we have a good deal of control over our own lives. Yet the treadmill-like – or should that be escalator-like? – fashion in which children born into affluent households go on to occupy powerful positions in society seems to make a mockery of any such belief.

Major said: "Our education system should help children out of the circumstances in which they were born, not lock them into the circumstances in which they were born."

Yet the Russell Group recently published a pamphlet detailing which subjects should be studied by pupils aiming to apply for one of the country's top universities. This was part of a bid to discourage state school pupils choosing subjects that were comparatively easy to score well in.

The odds of a pupil on free school meals in Year 11 attaining a place at Oxbridge is 2000:1, compared to 20:1 for those who have been privately educated.

But perhaps most surprising is the fact that even when they attain the same grades as those from



LEEDS STUDENT

Those students from lower income families have the least chance of getting into Russell Group universities

poorer backgrounds, pupils from "professional" families are 1.4 times more likely than working class pupils to go to a top university.

The problem for universities attempting to tackle these problems is that they are often part of an intricately linked set of institutions. And it is obviously extremely difficult for any given university to help socio-

economic groups that are not likely even to apply to them. Educational institutions have a responsibility to attempt to raise the expectations of those pupils aiming lower than their capabilities would otherwise allow.

The education system must do what it can to provide individuals with pathways that counteract socioeconomic hardship. But the edu-

cation system itself is so intricately bound to the rest of society that it is often hard, if even possible, to separate them from their causal environments.

The question, then, of whether we want a more equal society should not be placed merely upon the shoulders of those who work in the education system.

Do donations damage democracy?

Callum Adams
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

With UKIP set to receive potentially unlimited funds from a self-proclaimed eurosceptic, ramifications have emerged. The real issue though is campaign donations themselves, and their inherent ability to corrupt democracy and freedom.

Paul Sykes, one of Britain's wealthiest men, has pledged "whatever it takes" to ensure that UKIP emerges victorious in the 2014 European Parliament Elections. He has given no indication of how much he is willing to give, but it is understood his money will be used to pay for UKIP's advertising. However, this is not an isolated case. In 2012 alone, the Conservative party received over £13million, the Labour party received over £12million and the Liberal Democrats over £2 million.

It is a legal requirement for parties to declare donations of over £5,000, and this is the only legal requirement on private party donations. Does that sound right to you? Let us ignore the source and recipi-



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Campaign donations could be harming the UK democratic system

ent of a donation; let us ignore the amount of the donation and let us ignore how the donation is spent. What are we left with?

Let us consider the basic concept of democracy: a system of individuals equally participating in political self-determination, whether directly or through representa-

tives. If we are to be represented in the proposal, development, and creation of laws, then should we not choose our representatives on a fair and equal platform, as democracy dictates?

Of course we should. The question of party donations raised its head in the cash for honours scan-

dal. It emerged that a number of secret loans had been given to the Labour party in the run up to the 2005 general election, and that, following these loans, a number of lenders had been nominated for peerages. This incident highlights just how damaging private donations can be.

A huge disparity in funding will undoubtedly warp the ability of citizens to acknowledge and assess all of the parties available to them and, more worryingly, could enable the donor to have a say in the policies of that party. The system must be changed to ban all private donations. In its place should be considerable direct and indirect public funding.

The state currently offers small amounts of funding to political parties, but the level of this funding must be improved and enlarged so as to ensure equal say for all political parties.

While membership subsidies should remain to serve the day-to-day running of political parties, when campaign day comes all parties should be financially supported equally and fairly to encourage a truly democratic election.

EU must be rid of corruption

Michael Hollins

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The European Union (EU) could be seen as a leviathan of incompetence, and its budget follows suit. The budget is irregular, immoral and improper. Its irregularity comes from the fact that, for 19 consecutive years, its budget has never been properly signed off by the auditors due to fraud concerns.

Last year, the EU wasted almost £6bn on fraudulent, illegal or ineligible spending projects. Its error-rate, which measures irregular spending, is now at 4.8% of the budget. If this sort of accounting were found in a private company, there would be prison sentences.

For example, the European Commission recently paid £14m for a programme to support female teachers in rural Bangladesh, but over half the money was given with “no documentation”. Remember that none of this money is the EU’s outright; it comes from taxpayers.

Why is the budget immoral? Well, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which costs €55 million a year, pays European farmers for their produce in subsidies. So what’s wrong with that? It allows European farmers to compete at below the market cost, meaning that third world farmers simply cannot compete - the entire European market is closed off to them.

As a result, it is no exaggeration to say that this kind of protectionist economic policy directly impoverishes thousands, if not millions, of

third world farmers.

Moreover, the EU ploughs hundreds of millions of Euros into states that are considering joining. For example, ‘pre-accession aid’ to Croatia reached €320 million before a referendum even took place.

Last year, the EU spent more than Coca-Cola on advertising. In Ireland, when they voted ‘No’ in 2005, millions more Euros were poured into the ‘Yes’ campaign, and they were forced to have a referendum again soon after. The EU then could be seen to use its budget to

“ The Euro, a complete economic and social failure; an anti-democratic transgression of national sovereignty ”

suppress democratic and fair debate.

In 2011, at the heart of austerity in Europe, the Commission called for an inflation-busting 11% increase in long-term expenditure from 2010-2020. For any politician, this would be electoral suicide.

But the Commission is not elected. The top earners in the EU Parliament and Commission, those who earn over €100,000, pay a tax rate of 12%. Commissioners get €20,000 a month plus expenses, plus a €70,000 a year pension, plus €400,000 in ‘transition payments’



The EU Budget should be under scrutiny as the commonwealth is under an incompetent leader

once they leave office.

Baroness Ashton, the UK’s representative on the Commission and the highest paid female politician in the world, who earns more than either Angela Merkel or Hilary Clinton, has never stood for public office.

She represents 500 million Europeans on foreign security - where has she been during the uprisings

in Egypt? Or anywhere else for that matter. The only thing I know of that she has done is crush attempts in the House of Lords for a UK referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

It was to my delight to hear that, according to Mr Barroso, the EU was set to run out of money by October. But never fear, Cameron coughed up a quiet €3.9bn, no questions asked. What have we got for

our money?

Well, we’ve got the inception of the Euro, a complete economic and social failure; an anti-democratic transgression of national sovereignty, with referenda and democratic reform repeatedly rejected by the Commission; and, of course, absolutely crucial legislation on olive oil in dipping bowls and the standardisation of tractor seats. Oh dear...

US-Saudi Arabia alliance built on tension

FELIX FORBES

POLITICAL REPORTER

The current furore over the negotiations on Iran’s nuclear programme has brought another story back under the spotlight - that of the deepening rift between the United States and Saudi Arabia. This crisis in affairs has been brewing for a while and described as “a slow motion car wreck”.

US influence in the region as a whole is seen as diminished by a series of incidents. Washington allowed Egyptian dictator and 30-year ally Hosni Mubarak to be elected. Removing a stable, secular influence from Egypt then cancelled aid to the Egyptian military after it overthrew President Morsi. Israeli settlement plans in Palestine have continued near unabated, providing more reasons for anger amongst Arab states aligned against Israel on the issue.

Promised aid to Syrian rebels, whom Saudi Arabia supports, has yet to emerge in concrete form. The last-second bargain with Russia to remove Syrian chemical weaponry, when it looked like the US would at last use military force against the Syrian regime, will only have disappointed the Saudis further.

However, this cooling of relations has been brewing since late 2011, when it was signalled that the



Syria, Palestine and the Iran Program pose a threat on the US-Saudi relation which is being put under tension

country would be building up its military and setting aside around \$15 billion to spend aiding other nations in the region. This move to increase Saudi influence and clout came as Saudi officials signalled in interviews that they saw the US as unreliable when looking to their se-

curity.

Saudi Arabia’s most strident criticism of US policy in the Middle East came when it turned down a seat on the UN Security Council, citing the “double standards” of the body. This was described as “a message to the US” by current Saudi

Intelligence chief Prince Bandar Sultan, who also announced that he would cease to co-operate with the CIA in protest at the lack of American military action in Syria.

Worse however is the notion that by potentially striking an unequal bargain over the Iranian

nuclear programme, the US risks destabilising the balance of power and endangering Saudi Arabia itself. US Secretary of State John Kerry visited the kingdom on the 4th of November, declaring in a press conference that “the US will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon”, in a clear attempt to put both Saudi and regional fears to rest. He also announced that “our friends here” would be “briefed on a regular basis”, addressing Saudi anger at the lack of consultation.

However, the relations are at the moment cooler than before, both commerce and genuine need bind the US and Saudi Arabia together. The US supplies military hardware and training, while the Saudis act as a sympathetic and stable force in an increasingly unstable region. Reports to the US Congress have also noted US-Saudi co-operation in dealing with groups such as Al Qaeda, who pose a threat to each of them. Moreover, it has been noted by Kuwaiti think-tank Gulf Center for Development Policies that states such as Saudi Arabia are still, for now, reliant upon Western military might for protection, with 50,000 US military personnel and the entire US 5th fleet based in the Gulf. Relations may well have cooled, but for now both countries seem to need each other too much to risk letting things slip.

Politics

Turkey: listening to the silence

Georgia Woodroffe
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Turkey is often forgotten but the situation for journalists in Turkey is dire. Turkey this year has dropped six places in the World's Press Freedom Index, and is ranked 154th out of 179 countries.

Ercan Ipekçi, the president of the Turkish Journalists' Union (TJU), stated: "The government not only tries to silence dissenting voices, conducting robust operations to break the opposition media, whether pro-Kurdish, left-wing or nationalist, but also intends to put pressure on journalists from 'mainstream' media, who do not dare step out of line."

"It is very difficult for our union to organise solidarity with imprisoned journalists: those who are not in prison are afraid of being fired, as was the case with a number of chief editors following the critical coverage of the crackdown at Gezi Park in Istanbul."

Since the unrest in May with the Gezi Park incident, the TJU has estimated that in the six weeks following at least "seventy-two journalists had been fired or forced to take leave or...[have] resigned." The Committee to Protect Journalists this year reported that Turkey is now the "world's worst jailer" for journalists.

Freedom of expression should be important, especially in a country which is in the process of applying to the EU. How can they expect to be respected when they're oppressing this basic human right to information?

One ongoing trial is the Group of Communities of Kurdistan (KCK) 'Press Wing' trial. The KCK is an organisation allegedly affiliated with the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The PKK has been leading an armed struggle against the government since 1984. Forty-four journalists have been accused of being members of the organisation.

One journalist involved in the trial is Zeyneb Ceren Kuray. She was an investigative journalist, column-



People have started protesting against the current regime as Turkish democracy is under attack

ist for BirGun, and correspondent for Fırat News Agency, prior to her arrest in December 2011.

She is known for dealing with controversial issues including political corruption, poor working conditions and the conflict between the PKK and the Turkish army. She is charged with membership to an armed organisation and membership to a terrorist organisation.

The indictment against her, however, shows no proper material evidence. Their evidence is limited to phone calls to other journalists, articles she wrote on the alleged sexual harassment of female Turkish Airline employees and an investigative piece on the use of chemical weapons used by the Turkish army against the PKK fighters.

How can the government discriminate against someone without any substantive information? Surely

an article about alleged sexual harassment is not enough to persecute someone, especially as their job to uncover the truth.

"The truth is that they have nothing against me," Kuray said, "They just accuse me of doing my work, of showing the truths they in-

“Is the new bill merely placating the British public's hunger to see action taken on immigration?”

tended to hide."

Kuray is an example of one of the many journalists facing this kind of oppression. Like many journalists before and after her, she continues to write inside and outside of

prison, "The authorities know that I will never be silent."

She was released on April 26 earlier this year, and her most recent trial hearing was the September 25.

Of the 46 journalists and media workers arrested in December 2011, 22 are still in custody.

All are accused of terrorism. PEN International calls for "the immediate release of all 22 detained journalists pending completion of their trial, and the dropping of all charges against anyone accused of involvement in the KCK press wing which relate solely to their peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and association."

The European Federation for Journalists likewise demands for the abolition of anti-terrorism laws when misused by the Turkish government to criminalise freedom of expression.



@Aiannucci
Armando Iannucci, Satirist

"Born the week JFK was shot and Dr Who started. Been confusing politics and fantasy ever since."

22 Nov



@GeorgeMonbiot
George Monbiot, Author, Columnist

"Farage says #UKIP will provide an "alternative form of entertainment" if excluded from TV debate. But they've been doing that for years"

22 Nov



@navneetkhinda
Nevneet Khinda, Undergraduate

"What kind of responsibility is R2P? Moral, legal? B/c if legal, failure would have legal consequences"

22 Nov



@BarackObama
Barack Obama, US President

"Nobody who works hard should have to struggle to make ends meet. It's time to raise the minimum wage #RaiseTheWage"

22 Nov



@daveweigel
Dave Weigel, Slate Political Reporter

"50 years ago today, JFK was assassinated by the Cubans, the Freemasons, LBJ, the Illuminati, Richard Nixon, the mafia, and Joe DiMaggio. RIP"

22 Nov

THE YORK UNION

In Conversation With...

Mark Lawson

Friday 29th November 7.15pm

Bowland Auditorium



Not quite paradise?

As David Cameron attends a controversial Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka saying engagement is a more effective tool than a boycott, Laura Hughes talks to **Dr Saravanamuttu**, the Executive Director of Sri Lanka's Centre for Policy Alternatives.

On the wall of Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu's Colombo office hangs an explicit poster denouncing him "and his gangs" as traitors. This is just one example of the Sri Lankan government's sustained hate campaign against a man who continues to defy the prescribed lines of state censorship. We met in Colombo, where he strongly condemned the notion of Sri Lanka as a formal functioning democracy.

Dr Saravanamuttu is the Executive Director of Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA). As a Convenor of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) and founding Board member of the Sri Lanka Chapter of Transparency International, he believes Sri Lanka is under serious threat. "We are sliding into authoritarianism. What you have is a power structure that is basically a dynastic project underpinned by a strong majoritarian ideology. All of this is given a boost by the victory in the war. So you are dealing with threats coming from that dynastic domination, and the almost complete collapse of the rule of law, as a consequence of the politicisation of the institutions of the state."

"The real no-go area for the local media is the defence establishment. Because of the various attacks on media institutions, they went into self-censorship mode and it hasn't quite got out of it. So what they won't touch is any criticism of the Defence Secretary unless it's by a columnist. They won't really cover what is actually happening in the North and East. So anything to do with the whole issues of war crimes



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE

As the Commonwealth talks ended last week there was no mention of the alleged human rights abuses

and the number dead they don't really cover. They will be critical of governance issues in the South. So largely it's a self-censorship of the most sensitive areas. Arguably the most powerful man next to the President is the Defence Secretary, Gotabaya Rajapaksa. There hasn't been a single cartoon depicting Gotabaya in the last five or six years. They are terribly scared."

The military is involved in the economy and are now asking for legislation to permit them to engage in commercial activities, "which is a bit ironic as they already do that. You

have them taking land away from civilians." Citizens in the North

“Tell the international community that this is not a democracy”

complain of the government taking their land, and relinquishing it to

service personnel for cultivation.

"The particular land everyone is talking about is in a district in Jaffna, where the government have claimed they cannot locate the landowners, which is absolute nonsense. 9,000 landowners are involved. Something close to 2,500 have filed cases now in court, so the notion that they can't locate them is unconvincing. They are going to build government offices; there is talk of a presidential palace. There is already a hotel on that land, where landowners are not allowed to go in and see their land. Yet the main opposition party actu-

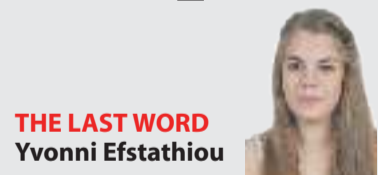
ally made a reservation under the name of one of the Boston bombers and it was accepted.

"So it's all-pervasive in that sense, you have the militarisation, and then also allied to that the collapse of the rule of law. Impunity is the religious intolerance part of that. The BBS [Bodu Bala Sena] - all these groups have the support of Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He was the chief guest at their leadership academy training. We have photographic and video evidence which show that these people have been involved in criminal acts against Muslims. Whilst police are standing there not doing anything. So you have a regime, which because of the allegations of war crimes, have to literally and metaphorically live and die in power. They can't get out of power, because once they do, they lose their immunity."

Dr Saravanamuttu believes that between Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and sessions in March in Geneva, there will be a Presidential election. They will call for a mandate to abolish the thirteenth amendment to the country's constitution, which created Provincial Councils and made Sinhala and Tamil the official languages of the country.

"Then tell the international community that this is a formal functioning democracy and the people have given them the mandate to abolish the thirteenth amendment." Describing the thirteenth amendment as a flawed, incomplete and inadequate document, he concludes, "A political settlement has to go beyond that."

Responsibility to protect is just not enough



THE LAST WORD
Yvonne Efstathiou

The World Summit in 2005 introduced a new term that of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). This was in response to the crises of Kosovo (1999), Rwanda (1994) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (2003), and after various countries' failed to reach agreement with regards to the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty in 2001.

According to R2P, states are responsible for protecting citizens against R2P crimes like genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

As well as this the international community has to help the state to fulfil their responsibilities. In this way, if the state 'manifestly fails' to protect its citizens the international community has to intervene, initially using peaceful means like economic sanction and then as a last resort militarily.

So far so good. However, things are not always as easy or plausible

as they may sound.

For better or for worse, any kind of intervention depends on the willingness of the parties involved.

Politicians might be reluctant to proceed and use the R2P due to fear that the electorate might not agree with the policy and consequently lose their election. It is thus obvious that self-interest and domestic affairs can overshadow a 'binding' principle which states have agreed on.

The R2P requires the authorisation of the Security Council, yet it constantly fails to get it due to lack

“R2P is an interesting notion to tackle disasters but does not reflect reality”

of political agreement.

China is suspect of but is receptive towards the development of R2P whilst also being traditionally eager in humanitarian crises.

The veto power granted to the



UNITED NATIONS-GENEVA

In 1994 around one million people were killed in the genocide in Rwanda

five permanent members of the Security Council makes it hard, if not impossible, to come to an agreement. That was the case with Syria. Although the United States put forward the motion to intervene in Syria, Russia and China vetoed it.

On another note, even if the person responsible for R2P crimes is caught there are times when he cannot be tried. Thirty-one countries, including Russia, have signed but not ratified the Rome Statute and thus the International Criminal

Court.

Moreover, there are countries, like the US, Israel and Sudan which have informed the UN Secretary General that they have no intentions in becoming parties and consequently have no legal obligations despite previously signing the development of R2P.

On top of these realities, there are other concerns too. States regard R2P as an 'assault' and a 'violation' to state's sovereignty. Many believe it is unfair to post-colonised

countries which did not have the same time to develop as the rest of the world.

Others are more suspicious and underline the selection of cases where intervention is applied and the abuse of military power.

But there are cases in which R2P applies. The international community are shocked by images like those from Libya and Syria and were long advocating in favor of intervention in the name of R2P. Context is everything and R2P did once have the potential to be really good.

Of course, things are far more complicated - we need to take into consideration other parameters too. Parameters which make any real change very difficult to implement.

Whether we like it or not, R2P is bound to fail, and it is frustrating to know that when we have the capacities to intervene (for the right reasons and not for our own interest) states choose not to because they value their election more than the lives of thousands of people.

The R2P theory is an interesting notion that aims to tackle 'human disasters' but unfortunately does not reflect reality.

Business



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Confectionery's secret con

Do stealth price rises amount to an unreported Christmas rip-off? **James Harrison** investigates.

Christmas will soon be upon us, but many people may be disappointed to find that the amount of chocolate we receive has been quietly reduced, with the prices remaining the same. The most notable chocolates to be affected by this are Mars' 'Celebrations' and Cadbury's 'Heroes'. Mars has cut the size of its tubs of Celebrations from 855g to 750g, a reduction of around 11 sweets compared to last year. Meanwhile, tubs of Cadbury's Heroes have been cut from 800g to 780g, equating to two or three fewer chocolates this Christmas.

However, a quick look around any shop will reveal that these covert reductions in chocolate sizes are not only widespread, but have been on-going for years. It also appears that most major chocolate brands engage in it. Arguably the most obvious case of the sizes of chocolate being reduced is the Cadbury's relaunched Dairy Milk bars. In 2012, the Dairy Milk bars were changed, having a new 'curved' shape. However, as part of this process the bar was shrunk by eight per cent – from 49g to 45g. The 59p price of the bar, however, remained the same.

This year it was revealed that Nestlé had been carrying out the same practice with its Yorkie bars. Nestlé admitted they quietly slimmed the bar down by 14 per cent, shrinking from 64.8g to 55g. The process of shrinking Yorkie bars has been ongoing for years, with its weight falling from 70.4g in 2000, to 68.2g in 2003 and 64.8g six years later.

Other chocolates such as Twix, Quality Street and Roses have also shrunk in size, with no correspond-



NATALIEJ

Popular chocolate such as Quality Street is slowly being cut in size and weight, but prices are remaining the same

ing fall in prices. The reduced sizes and absence of an equal reduction in prices has the result of shoppers being hit with what amounts to a stealth price rise.

The practice has become so widespread that, for the first time, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) has revealed that the size of chocolate bars and bags of sweets have been reduced by as much as 10 per cent in the past year. The government agency mentioned the development in its latest 'Consumer Price Index' report, so that the public were made aware that they were getting less for their money. The ONS said that consumers were facing inflation "by the back door" as

confectionery products were being reduced in size but still costing the same amount of money.

Confectionery companies claim that continued cost increases over recent years have forced these reductions, with rising cocoa butter and sugar prices playing a large role in this. There have also been claims that the reductions in chocolate sizes are part of an effort to combat obesity and ill-health.

This tactic by confectionery companies does make economic sense; reducing the sizes of the products instead of increasing the price is far more likely to avoid potential customers being put off from buying the products. With the

Christmas rush soon upon us, people will be even less likely to check the chocolate they are buying to see if they have been ripped off by reduced chocolate sizes, focusing mainly on the prices. Cadbury defended its reductions by arguing that they allow the company to hold its prices, aiding customers during difficult financial times.

However this approach is certainly dishonest and plainly unfair to customers, especially during the Christmas period, when chocolate is bought in particularly large amounts. Unfortunately, these practices will continue as they ensure that companies will continue to maintain their profit levels.

The student revolution

Paul Blower
COMMENT

Economics students across Britain are questioning the academic syllabus being taught on their university course. In fact this is a trend that is uniting students from various universities all over the country. It is even starting to pick up support from notable academics and policy makers.

Brought together by a growing unease at the rigidity and irrelevance of much of the theory that is lectured unequivocally at them, they are seeking to overhaul the way Economics is taught, and in doing so hope to earn Economics a little more acceptance and respect in the real world.

Undergraduates at the University of Manchester have formed the "Post-Crash Economics Society", through which they aim to challenge the widespread teaching of orthodox free-market Economics. The societies' organisers criticise university teaching for ducking the issue of the financial crisis and claim that lecturers have too heavy a focus on preparing students for jobs in the City. Students need to be taught about economics now not just historically as markets are constantly changing. They plan to publish a manifesto arguing for sweeping changes to the University of Manchester's curriculum, with the hope that other institutions will follow suit.

In the 1990s, mathematical models came to dominate economics degrees, pushing out studies of critical evaluation and economic thought. One student phrased it like this: "A professor mentioned that economics would give me a way to describe and predict human behaviour through mathematical tools, which seemed fantastic. Now after much studying, I have the mathematical tools, but all the people I wanted to study have disappeared from the scene."

Wendy Carlin, professor of economics at University College London, said students had become "disenchanted" by the way economics is taught. She continued by saying that despite the obvious flaws in current teaching, there is a "huge inertia" surrounding the changing of curriculums that can "be cheaply taught by any decently qualified economics doctorate".

Economics graduates need to be properly equipped for the towering challenges and issues that face them in their future careers. Currently, they are not given the skills needed to grapple with economic problems in the real world. Excessive faith was put in abstract mathematical models, with not much effort made to give them a dose of reality.

We need to find a better balance that qualifies graduates to be more relevant and successful in the application of their field, and in doing so we might gain a bit more respect for this important science.

Is Snapchat the next one-hit wonder? **Edward Rollett** DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

Tech start-ups often seem unable to resist the offers made to them by bigger tech firms. YouTube was bought for \$1.65 billion by Google when it was only a year old back in 2006 and since then the race for acquisitions in the technology sector has continued at pace. Over its lifetime, Google has bought over 130 companies, compared to 90 acquisitions by Yahoo! and 40 by Facebook.

Even in the past few years there have been a number of acquisitions with hefty price tags as the race to dominate social media continues. Facebook paid \$1bn for Instagram in 2012, Microsoft paid \$1.2bn for Yammer in the same year, and in this year Yahoo! paid \$1.1bn for the blogging site Tumblr. Few of the companies stay independent for long- Instagram was three years old when bought, Yammer was four, whilst Tumblr was practically ancient at six.

And so the search for next big tech start-up continues. Like a new series of the X Factor, a company

will get lucky and be tipped to be the next big thing before everyone realises it is over-hyped and useless (think X Factor's Leon Jackson to the tech industry's Bebo). The current hype surrounds the two-year old Snapchat, an app that is extremely popular with those aged between 16-24.

“The company boasts that over 400 million snaps are sent every day”

For those who haven't experienced it yet, it involves sending a picture to friends where the image deletes itself after a few seconds. The company boasts that over 400 million snaps are sent every day, more photos than are uploaded to Facebook daily, although it does count the same snap being sent to multiple recipients.

Still, it is an impressive amount of users. The question that still

hangs over the company is whether it can ever be profitable. It currently has no revenue and is instead relying on investors continuing to pump cash into the business, having raised another \$60 million in June to continue paying staff and IT costs.

So how do you value a company with no revenue and an audience that – although denied by its founder – seems to be primarily sexters? The answer according to Facebook is \$3bn, an offer they made to the founder earlier this month. When this was rejected, Google went one better and offered \$4bn, which was also rejected.

Instead Evan Spiegel, founder of Snapchat, hopes that the app can start to generate revenue by getting users to pay for added services. This appears to be slightly ambitious; when even huge companies like Facebook and Twitter won't ask users to pay to use the service, consumers are unlikely to be willing to pay to send inane photos to each other. However, the continued success of apps like 'Candy Crush' proves that

added extras can generate huge revenues.

Whether it succeeds or fails Spiegel has taken a huge gamble. He has bet \$4bn that he can transform his app into something that users are willing to pay for. If he fails he risks going the same way as MySpace, Bebo, Friends Reunited, and Farmville, to mention just a few of the tech fads that took the world by storm before disappearing again. To continue the X Factor analogy it could all go horribly wrong like Steve Brookstein, or be a roaring success like... that other one.



J.D. JACOB

Christmas console war

Elliot Banks

Xbox One or Playstation 4? This is the question that will dominate the minds of gamers, children and parents this Christmas, as the two consoles prepare to do battle for sales. Both companies are no stranger to the games console market with both the Xbox 360 and the PS4 amassing huge sales of over 79 million units since their respected releases.

However, pass figures will not dictate the success of either console this time around. In gaming circles the Xbox One launch was a debacle, with Don Mattrick – the former President of Interactive Entertainment Business at Microsoft – failing to understand the anger felt by Xbox fans regarding constant internet connectivity and game sharing. On the other hand, Sony’s marketing was flawless, confirmed by a rise in share price, though this was not that difficult to achieve given Microsoft’s errors on launch day.

However, what are the key facts? On price the PS4 wins at

£349.99 compared to Xbox One’s hefty £429 price tag, but the Xbox One does have Kinect, a high resolution body-movement sensor. On power and performance, the PS4 is technologically more impressive, characterised by its “cinematic graphics”, with one critic Anand Shimpi highlighting “The maths works out to Sony having about a 40per cent peak potential graphics performance advantage”. The Xbox One does have plus points though. The user interface is multipurpose with television, films and music sharing space with games, appealing to those who want a multimedia unit rather than just another games console. Xbox also has better games on offer from launch. Although the games may not be groundbreaking, they offer variety with both Forza Motorsport and Dead Rising 3; something the PS4 will lack on release day. As you can see both consoles have pros and cons. The PS4 is technologically impressive, but the Xbox One has a multimedia approach. We also need to account for brand loyalty.

The term ‘Xbox/Sony fanboy’ has been used constantly on blogs and gaming website since launch day and has characterised the debate on message boards. We must not discredit this debate, as brand loyalty is a powerful



entity and this would suggest why the sales of the PS3 and Xbox 360 were broadly similar. In the long term it could be the same for the Xbox and PS4 when the hype of release week has gone making the consoles a win for both companies.

The Christmas console war may turn out to be a damp squib rather than a dramatic dash for Christmas sales for Microsoft and Sony. Both companies have produced strong contenders but it all depends, as always, on what consumers want.

Hardcore gamers will see which has the best offering and most will probably plump for the PS4 for its fantastic internal operating systems, whereas Xbox One offers a greater choice of games and multimedia for families and casual gamers. The choice will be about preference rather than any other factor. The critic Brain Crecente summed it up best: “Never before has gaming had two such stand-out consoles to choose from.”



NEON TOMMY

Microsoft Xbox One

Price - £429
Hard Drive - 500GB
RAM - 8GB
GPU - AMD Sea Islands (853 MHz)
Motion Camera? - Included
Online Capability? - Xbox Live
Backwards Compatibility? - No



Xbox One
vs.
Playstation 4

Sony Playstation 4

£349 - Price
500GB - Hard Drive
8GB - RAM
AMD Sea Islands - GPU (800 MHz)
Not Incl. - Motion Camera
PSN - Online Capability?
No - Backwards Compatibility?

The true expense of Scottish independence

Gustave Laurent
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

What’s fur ye’ll no go by ye! ‘What’s meant to happen will happen’ says the old Scottish proverb. After the November referendum in 2014, the Scots will know if their independence was written in their country’s history book as an unavoidable fate. Although beautiful, Scotland’s sovereign aspirations have a price: “Freedom is an illusion. It always comes at a price,” wrote University of York educated author, Jonathan Troad.

While various sources diverge as for the price of Scotland’s independence, there is a consensus that the country’s debt after independence would amount to £81bn, a relatively important sum for a small country. Scotland’s debt is also like-

ly to rise alongside Britain’s, whose debt is predicted to reach more than £1.5 trillion by 2017. More crucial to Scotland’s future will be its deficit – that is, the difference between its income and its spending –. It was reported that Scotland’s borrowing in 2009/2010 oscillated between 17per cent and 11per cent of GDP. Put into perspective with England, these figures reveal how crucial to an independent Scotland oil revenues will be, consequently forcing it to borrow slightly less at times and substantially more at others. Moreover, the cost of borrowing will be blurry for an autonomous Scotland. Though it can now borrow at reasonable rates now, research led by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) suggested that the country would likely be faced with rising interest rate costs, above the UK average.

Proponents of the Scottish cause underline that, with oil and gas as-

“Scotland would have to carry out a decade of ‘fiscal tightening’, either cutting spending or raising taxes, or a bit of both.”

sets in the North Sea amounting to a reported £1tn, there is no need to worry. They also argue that if Scotland assumed a population share of UK public debt, the country’s debt in 2017-18 would be 5per cent lower than England’s.

However, they seem to omit

the extent to which oil and gas are highly volatile sources of revenues, dependent on global markets and prone to acute fluctuations that could deeply harm the Scottish economy. They also uphold that, regarding UK’s expenditures and revenues, Scotland participated more than ‘its share’, generating more revenues than it spent. They argue that this trend of ‘fiscal surplus’ – when revenues exceed expenditures – has been largely constant for the last 30 years, reinforcing the view of a healthy and strong economy.

This is all nice but advocates of an independent Scotland tend to turn a blind eye on the price of matching EU debt requirements under the Maastricht Treaty. According to the NIESR, the Scottish government would have to run an annual surplus of more than 3per cent for ten years and, with a still

tottering Eurozone, the future is very uncertain. To achieve this aim, Scotland would have to carry out a decade of ‘fiscal tightening’, either cutting spending or rising taxes, or a bit of both. After years of austerity, I doubt that newly autonomous Scots will be delighted about this.

Therefore, despite pessimistic prospects, Scotland, independent or not, will always remain the country of Sir Alex Ferguson, whisky, tartan and, above all, James Bond’s homeland. Scotland will always be Scotland.



GREENSAMBAMAN

Co-op crisis continues

Chris Roberts

The Co-operative Bank is in disarray. It has featured heavily in the news over the last few days after its ex-chairman, Reverend Paul Flowers, was filmed allegedly buying illegal drugs. This is the latest scandal to affect the Co-operative Bank amidst what has quite frankly been a period of utter turmoil. But how does the bank, founded on such ethical grounds in 1872, now find itself at the center of such a media storm?

Looking back at the last few years of the bank’s activity might begin to provide an answer to that question. Strange as it may seem to us now, the last decade has seen

“So what next for the Co-operative Bank and its 4.6m customers?”

a period of rapid expansion for the Co-operative Bank, with 2002 seeing the coming together of its banking and insurance branches. Things started to go wrong when the bank decided to form a merger with Britannia Building Society in 2009.

That decision caused the bank to sustain huge losses: it had to write off about £500 million of bad loans, and lost even more money on an expensive IT project.

It is a move that many analysts say has been nothing short of disastrous, leaving the Co-operative Bank with a £1.5 billion capital shortfall.

Poor judgment in 2009 was made worse the following year with the appointment of Rev. Flowers as chairman of the bank. By this stage, events in the sector, where banks were falling like skittles, should have made it clear that chairing a bank required banking experience. This was not the case with Rev. Flowers. With him at the helm, the bank’s poor financial

health was further compounded in 2012, when a deal to acquire more than 600 branches from Lloyds fell through.

The decisions made by the bank have caused such a dent in its operations that earlier this month, a group of US hedge funds had to rescue it with a capital injection of close to £1bn. These private investors now have a 70per cent stake in what started off as a member-owned bank, leaving just 30per cent ownership for its customers.

Just as the Co-operative Bank started making progress after the announcement of this rescue package, the Mail on Sunday revealed footage appearing to show Rev. Flowers purchasing drugs. The bank’s ex-chairman now faces several enquiries, the latest of which, ordered by George Osborne, questions the reasons behind appointing Rev. Flowers as head of the banking arm of the Co-Op Group.

So what next for the Co-operative Bank and its 4.6m customers? There is little doubt that these latest allegations will have a destabilising effect on the current attempts to rescue it.

We won’t find out much more about just how badly the bank has been damaged until we get the results of the enquiries into both Rev. Flowers and the decisions made by the Co-operative Bank under his tenure. What we do know, however, is that the Reverend Flowers is no longer quite so revered, partly responsible as he is for the Co-operative bank’s current predicament.



HOWARDLAKE

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A blind study, or was it?

Hollie Melton
SCIENCE REPORTER

Blind participants demonstrate light can give you focus. Recent research at the University of Montreal has uncovered brain activation in blind participants exposed to light. The results demonstrated that blind individuals had the physiologically apparent ability to see light with use of a novel photoreceptor, author Steven Lockley said, "We were stunned to discover that the brain still responds significantly to light in these rare three completely blind patients despite having absolutely no conscious vision at all".

The experiment asked three participants who were blind, to decide whether a blue light was on or off. Surprisingly, they were able to do so correctly at a level that ruled out luck. One author referred to this as "non-conscious awareness".

This finding was expanded upon with a concurrent noise at the time of the flash – even more surprisingly, this affected the participants attentiveness to the noise, suggesting an increase of attention resultant of the presence of light.

In individuals with sight, light is important for keeping us in synch with the time, which has impacts on metabolism and behaviour. During the day the brain is more active and alert in order to respond to daily demands of life, it is suggested that it is signalled as such by day light.

This basis led to a third phase in the experiment. During the final phase participants underwent fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) which measures brain activity by detecting blood flow changes – based on the fact that brain regions under use will require blood.

In this case participants had to match sounds while lights were flashed in their eyes, within less than a minute of the light brain regions required were active. Specifically, areas important to alertness and attentional regulation were active which led researchers to conclude that light activates a reserve of resources that are left to monitor the environment. Authors, Lockley and Carrier added to this, "Our results raise the intriguing possibility that light is key to maintaining attention."

21st century space race begins

Sam Wainwright
SCIENCE REPORTER

MAVEN and Mangalyaan launch for Mars. One Small Step for NASA, One Giant Leap for Indian Space Agencies. What will Britain's role be in the 21st century space race?



NASA's MAVEN pre-launch

NASA's 21st mission to Mars has blasted off. The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutioN (MAVEN) has a budget of \$671m (£416m) and unlike

the Curiosity rover, which landed on Mars' surface in summer 2012, MAVEN will orbit the planet.

According to NASA's website, "The goal of MAVEN is to determine the role that loss of atmospheric gas to space played in changing the Martian cli-

NASA HQ PHOTO

mate through time. Where did the atmosphere – and the water – go?"

Another Mars orbiter began its multistage launch two weeks earlier. The In-

dian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), informally called Mangalyaan, is a more modest mission, costing only £45m. Currently orbiting the Earth, it is India's first interplanetary mission, and is set to be blasted towards Mars in less than a month.

If the mission is successful ISRO would be one of four space agencies to have reached Mars alongside the Soviet space program, NASA, and European Space Agency (ESA) and it would be the cheapest orbiter to have done so; an accomplishment just in itself.

This is all amongst the recent discussion on what Britain's role will be in space. It's fair to say that Britain hasn't made the biggest impact on studies in space or interplanetary exploration. In 2003, the British Mars lander Beagle

2 lost communication after separating from its carrier craft, ESA's Mars Express.

Up until 2010, the UK did not contribute funds for the International Space Station (ISS) because it was deemed not to be cost-efficient. Things are changing though; on 1 April 2010 the UK government established the UK Space Agency (UKSA). Which in May this year announced that the UK's first official astronaut, Major Tim Peake, will visit the ISS for 5 months in 2015. Private space companies are seen to be playing an increasing role in the industry.

NASA has opened a competition involving private companies to provide commercial spaceships that could carry astronauts to and from the International Space Station. A role which has previously been undertaken inhouse by NASA.

Looking beyond the UKSA then, we can see that

the private space industry in the UK is also growing fast, employing tens of thousands of workers and contributing £9bn in value to the UK economy.

Since 2010 joint government and industry initiative, Space IGS, was published, the UK has created the Space Leadership Council, the UKSA, and have brought ESA's European Centre for Space Applications and Telecommunications (ECSAT) to the UK. This month the UK space sector announced goals of growing the UK share of the global space market to 8% by 2020, and 10% by 2040. This is a bold but ultimately attainable target for the UK space sector.

If the UK can continue to punch above its weight as it has done in very recent years, there is no reason that we won't see Britain emerging as a world leader in the space sector.

York team takes gold at iGEM

Ellie Davis
SCIENCE REPORTER

A decade ago, during an Independent Activities Period, a group of students at MIT spend a month designing a system to make cells blink. The following year, this became a summer competition in which 5 teams took part. Now, in 2013, the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM) has entries of over 200 teams from all over the world. It was into this fray that our York sent it's very own intrepid team of 14 undergraduates.

iGEM runs yearly. It provides teams of undergraduates from around the world with a selection from the Registry of Standard Biological Parts with which to build a new biological system. This consists primarily of DNA sequences and protein parts. With this 'biological toolkit' the teams must genetically engineer an organism to produce a useful new machine.

The team of biology and biochemistry undergraduates started by looking at microbial fuel cells. These batteries use bacteria to produce renewable energy. Bacteria are

so abundant and divide so rapidly that fuel cells would be both clean and sustainable. However, as the York team pointed out, the batteries tend to be bulky and produce little energy. Their plan was to take a fuel cell and make it better.

The team worked on E. coli to produce their own masterpiece: Electricus aureus. This bacteria, based on E. coli, could search out and use toxic gold particles in waste water supplies. The system is designed to be a sustainable and clean way to improve the efficiency of microbial fuel cells while cleaning toxic parti-

cles from water.

The first task of the bacteria was to find the gold particles. This should have been the easy part. Cells may produce transcription factors, proteins which control which of the cell's genes are expressed. E. coli already produces a transcription factor which responds to toxic heavy metals in its environment. This means that the bacteria is already capable of sensing gold in its environment. However, this transcription factor is not gold-specific, also reacting to copper and silver ions. On top of this, it naturally regulates 2 E. coli genes so using in the team's system directly would lead to some side-effects in the finished product. In the end, the team combined several genes, including a gold-sensing one from the bacterium *S. typhimurium*, to produce a new gene which allowed their bacteria to selectively sense for gold particles.

Once the gold had been found, it needed to be processed. Again the team were able to utilize processes already present in the bacterial world. A recent discovery has shown that some bacteria are able to produce small molecules which react with toxic gold

ions to produce solid gold particles. The team designed their second DNA sequence. This one would code for the production of these molecules but in their own E. coli bacterium and this DNA would be activated by the transcription factors produced by their gold-sensing DNA.

The final part of the system was to produce electricity. Microbial fuel cells simply tap in to this source of electrons and convert it into electricity.

Under the watchful eyes of team supervisors Dr James Chong, Dr Gavin Thomas and Prof. Maggie Smith, the team took their idea to the European Jamboree. They were up against 58 other teams from around Europe. York has come away from its first ever iGEM entry with a gold medal.

As put by Dr Chong: "Team York have done brilliantly winning a gold medal at iGEM on their very first outing. The fact that the students achieved this in the University's 50th year makes it all the more memorable." As 2014 marches steadily closer, this is a time to toast all of York's past achievements, but also to look forward to its future success.



The York iGEM team

Expanding the nuclear chain

George Watson
SCIENCE REPORTER

Plans to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, already the site of an operational nuclear reactor, were finalised recently in an attempt to plug the “energy gap” created by declining fossil fuel reserves, the decommissioning of older power stations, and escalating costs.

As expected, these proposals have been met with some opposition – with the Fukushima incident still within recent memory, this is no surprise. Stories like Chernobyl haven’t helped the reputation of nuclear power, and, for some people, the word nuclear conjures up unpleasant images of mushroom clouds over Hiroshima.

Nuclear fission, the splitting of a single uranium-235 nucleus into two smaller nuclei, currently accounts for 18% of the UK’s total power supply, a percentage likely to increase as supplies of coal and natural gas (which still account for 70% of our energy supply) fall below requirements in the next couple of decades. Uranium supplies, meanwhile, could last for more than 200 years, and that figure could be extended by an order of magnitude with advances such as breeder reactors.

With such an abundant fuel source under our feet, nuclear fission sounds like the perfect solution, but how likely is a meltdown, and is it worth the risk? To answer questions like those, it helps to begin by understanding how nuclear power works.

A typical commercial fission reactor works by giving a uranium-235 nucleus an extra neutron, causing it to become highly unstable and split into smaller nuclei. The combined mass of these “daughter nuclei” is slightly lower than that of the original nucleus, and this mass deficit is compensated for by a release of energy – this is the meaning of the famous equation $E = mc^2$. Quite simply, ‘E’ refers to the energy released, ‘m’



Hinkley Point will be the site of a new nuclear reactor, increasing the energy produced from the original site.

represents the change in mass, and ‘c’ is the speed of light.

Because c^2 is a very large number, even a small change in mass can result in large energy output: Using uranium outputs around 3,00,000 times more kWh per kg than using coal.

The energy released heats up water, turning it into steam and driving a turbine to generate electricity. This process is used for all fossil fuels, and the turbine itself is very similar to a wind turbine or the dynamo powering a bicycle light.

It works on the principle of electromagnetic induction: moving a magnet near a coil of wire will generate an electric current in the wire, a principle discovered by British scientist Michael Faraday in 1831.

Of course, we now have a lot of daughter nuclei left over, and they’re of no use to us in terms of power generation. Getting rid of them isn’t simple, since many of them are highly radioactive and can cause serious health problems if not disposed of correctly.

The storage and disposal of radioactive nuclear waste is very

strictly regulated, and a lot of spent nuclear fuel will remain unsafe to biological organisms for millions of years – this is inconvenient, to say the least, but when disposed of correctly the risk from nuclear waste is negligible.

There’s also the possibility of things going wrong with the reaction itself. Accidents like Chernobyl are the result of uncontrolled chain reactions, a phenomenon deliberately invoked in nuclear bombs like that dropped on Hiroshima, but such accidents are freak occurrences caused by human error, and adequate safety controls (such as control rods) can prevent this under normal conditions.

It’s more difficult, however, to defend against natural disasters, as Fukushima taught us recently, or possible terrorist attacks. Either of these could be devastating, and making the process as safe as possible is a major concern for engineers working on nuclear power stations.

Luckily, fission isn’t the only type of nuclear reaction. Fusion, the combining of small nuclei like hydrogen into heavier elements like helium, is the power source used in

stars, and a promising candidate for the “fuel of the future”, which could avoid all of these problems. It works using a very similar principle to fission, by converting a small mass defect into thermal energy.

While not currently a practical source of power, fusion is virtually non-polluting and could generate huge amounts of power using little more than water, with no risk of a meltdown and few radioactive waste products.

It’s unsurprising that this is the subject of a lot of current research, including here at York; the university is heavily involved in fusion research through the York Plasma Institute and the multinational ITER project.

With a lot of kinks to iron out, however, viable fusion reactors are still decades away – too late to plug the energy gap. So for the moment, at least until renewables can catch up, fission may have to suffice. With proper safety procedures, the risk from nuclear power is very low, and, for the time being, our need to plug the energy gap outweighs this risk; that’s where Hinkley Point comes in.

5 things you didn't thank the Greeks for

A computer

One may be astonished to hear that the Ancient Greeks had their own analogue computer. Perhaps while not well suited to PowerPoint presentations and word processing, this machine powered by hand was able to calculate astronomical information such as the position of the Sun, Moon and eclipse cycles. Theoretically it could also have calculated the position of planets. All of this was achieved simply through exceptionally clever use of gears.

Central heating

To students, the idea of central heating might seem quite the luxury, but even the Ancient Greeks indulged every now and again. Some of their temples were heated from under the floor using a circulation of warmed air.

Automatic doors

Automatic doors may bring to mind the idea of using the ‘force’ or the futuristic reality of Star Trek, but in fact the Ancient Greeks were way ahead of us. In instances such as the entrances to Temples, automatic doors were implemented using a cunning network of ropes, spindles and buckets, ultimately being powered by steam! This was the work of Hero of Alexandria, hereby inventing the steam engine thousands of years before the birth of the likes of George Stephenson and James Watt.

A vending machine

Another of Hero’s inventions is that of the seemingly immensely modern vending machine. Instead of buying Coca Cola, the Ancient Greeks would insert a coin into a slot at the top of a machine to dispense holy water. This was achieved by the coin landing on a pan joined to a lever which would then release an appropriate amount of water by way of a counter-weight.

Alarm clock

Finally, the annoying device that wakes you up in the morning was also originally designed by the Ancient Greeks, who used water clocks. A whistling sound would be triggered by a rising stream of water.

By Sarah Pryor

The nuclear power debate

For

The arguments for nuclear power are based simply on statistics and cold hard facts. Nuclear is 8,000 times more efficient per kg of raw materials than coal, this alone should convince the world of its use.

However, if more convincing is needed then look no further than the amount of carbon dioxide it releases, zero, that’s how much.

Nuclear is the best option for the world’s fuel crisis, one day the coal, gas and oil reservoirs will be depleted, if this occurs before we are ready then the consequences will be unimaginable.

Energy is the unwritten global power in the world: energy fuels production, furthers scientific pro-

gress and increases the quality of life for people around the globe.

No other fuel source can match the boasts which nuclear can rightly claim, clean fuel, high efficiency, low costs and sustainability not to mention the promise of progress.

Nuclear fusion is the tantalising goal of thousands of scientists from all corners of the Earth, only possible due to earlier work into nuclear fission.

For all these reasons and uncountably more the future of energy at this moment in time should be nuclear. It provides both the energy security that is so desperately needed without the downsides of adding to the release of greenhouse gases.

By James Ellis

Against

The melt down at the Fukushima power plant in 2011 highlighted the unstable elements of nuclear power.

The echo’s of Chernobyl 25 years earlier were evident and it became startlingly apparent that nuclear power was fundamentally unsafe. If a nuclear power plant is built in an area that is structurally unstable, like the Fukushima plant, there is a high propensity for natural disasters to occur.

The legacy of Chernobyl haunts nuclear power and it will continue to as long as the topic is debated.

It is vital to consider the human factor in the pursuit of sustainable energy and nuclear power consistently underestimates this issue.

One of the most significant issues with this type of energy is the contribution to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Facilities that enrich uranium could be grossly misused as is the suspected case in Iran. Equally, the disposal of nuclear waste is a contentious topic. Radioactive waste remains dangerous for thousands of years and the government is still unsure of how to deal with waste from almost 60 years of nuclear power.

The cost of disposing the nuclear waste nullifies the costs saved by actually using this sort of power. The argument that nuclear power is cleaner is also dented by the fact the nuclear process needs fossil fuels to physically mine the uranium ore and then ship it into Britain.

By Beth Jakubowski



PARK LIFE

Beth Jakubowski
DEPUTY EDITOR

Winter may have descended on the British Isles in a familiar and brutish manner, but on the other side of the world the sun is shining and the sporting summer is in full bloom. In a far flung corner of the world, a tiny little urn is being fiercely contested by two giants of the cricket world. The beauty of the Ashes has begun Down Under.

So begin the long nights huddled up on the sofa, draped in blankets and surviving off endless cups of tea. Before going to university I thought only a true English cricket fan could survive an away Ashes series. I was wrong in my assumption, for I discovered a new breed of fan this week – the student cricket fan.

Students have an unprecedented advantage in pulling the Ashes all nighter, and it's not just the youth, it's the sheer wealth of experience that comes with stay-

“The Ashes sofa watchers are an integral part of the Barmy Army.”

ing up until the small hours of the morning. It's experience gained from that looming essay deadline or that night where you stayed in Willow until closing – staying up and watching the Ashes is nothing compared to those traumas.

It's the lunch break that picks off the weaker fans; staying awake during the lengthy break is a mission all by itself. Either you brave the half an hour nap or you drink copious amounts of tea and coffee. For students, the lunch break is nothing, the library equivalent is that moment where you cave in and go to the vending machine.

By the time the tea break arrives, most fans will have either passed out on the sofa or are crawling towards their beds. At this point most students are consuming caffeine intravenously. (In Willow terms, this is the point where you reach for the prawn crackers.) Sustenance is key.

There are a few things that are vital to the Ashes student survival guide. Firstly, do not subject your flatmates to watching cricket, they will never thank you. Secondly, buy a onesie, you'll thank me when you realise a student house is bloody cold in the middle of the night. And finally, don't bother with the seminar reading you feel you should do because you're staying up all night; the effort is commendable but ultimately futile because you won't be awake enough in the actual seminar to be of any use.

The Ashes sofa watchers are an integral part of the Barmy Army. If you're a student, you're even more integral because you'll be the only one who can stay awake ... and still function the next morning.

Badminton, banter and 'blustery weather'

The Nouse Sport Team take a light-hearted look back at the last week's sporting action on campus

Good Week

Derwent men's football

Derwent set up a title decider with James later on this week, after thrashing Langwith 5-0. Tom Shelbourn had a stormer by scoring a brace, while front-man Josh Bew grabbed a hat-trick. Of course, Derwent weren't helped by the referee, who denied them a penalty because they were “already 2-0 up”. Standard.

**York men's badminton**

Both the men's firsts and thirds teams had a fantastic week in the BUCS competition this week. Some excellent fighting spirit saw Andy Henderson's side clinch a dramatic draw at the death. Meanwhile, the thirds claimed a crucial win against relegation rivals Leeds to keep their hopes of staying up alive. Well done, boys.

York women's firsts football

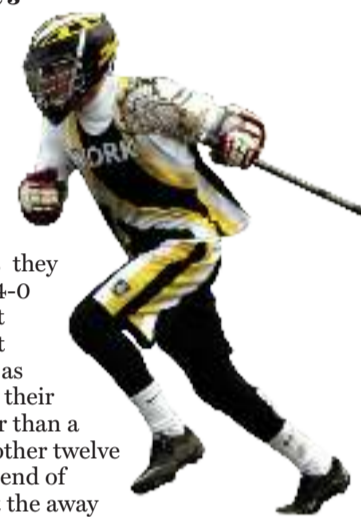
It was a cracking week for UYWAFc as they kick-started their season with a fantastic 4-1 victory over city rivals York St. John on Wednesday. St. John drew first blood in the contest, but the girls in Black and Gold responded brilliantly and put four past their dear neighbours over the rest of the game to grab a thoroughly deserved three points. York are slowly moving up the league, while St. John are still pointless.

**York women's firsts lacrosse**

The lacrosse girls continued their push for promotion this season with a sensational victory over their closest rivals, Northumbria firsts. Despite missing five major players through injury going into the game, the girls found an extra level of determination to battle their way to a 14-11 victory away from home. The wins puts York top of the league with a perfect record and a superb goal difference. Up the Black and Gold!

**Leeds Met men's lacrosse seconds**

Leeds Met had a bit of a shocker on the 22 by all accounts last Wednesday. Things started badly for the West Yorkshire outfit, as they found themselves 4-0 down after the first quarter. Things got no better for them as the game went on; their defence was leakier than a rusty sieve and another twelve went in before the end of the match. At least the away side scored - in fact, wild celebrations were sparked on the touchline as Met's first and then second goals went in. Unfortunately, they seemed to forget that they'd conceded sixteen. Whoops.

**Thomas Fennelly**

Sports Editor Tom rather selfishly decided to have a birthday this weekend (how dare he!?) and disappeared to London during Nouse production, leaving co-editor Jim and deputies Nick and Lewis to pick up the pieces at the busiest time of the year so far. It's not his fault though.* Happy birthday mate, we hope it's a good one.**

*It is.

**You owe us all a pint.

The weather (yep, again)

It was another testing time for the denizens of the Nouse Sport Team this week, as they were subjected to yet more sub-arctic temperatures across campus. Conditions on 22 Acres were anonymously described as 'most blustery', whilst it has been suggested that the 3G had an identity crisis and accidentally thought it was located in Northern Norway. One particular member of the sports team actually froze to the JLD benches on Wednesday, and was left in-situ until naturally thawing out the following day.



Bad Week

Crossing the line

In the final 'Faith in Sport' feature, George Barrett speaks to Scotland and Lions player **Euan Murray** about his rugby career and his faith in Jesus.

The modern international rugby player is one of the most impressive physical specimens that humankind has to offer.

Whether they were to play at scrum-half, flanker or hooker, you would not want to get on the wrong side of a rugby player. Not only are they giants, but they can also endure incredible thresholds of pain. Just over a week ago Chris Robshaw sported the most enormous of shiners and he simply shrugged it off, saying in an interview afterwards, "That's what test rugby is all about."

Underneath the hard-nut exterior, there is generally the perception that the modern rugby player is macho, thick skinned and able to endure any kind of verbal abuse.

By contrast, Euan Murray openly admits his weaknesses and inadequacies.

Murray is a regular in the starting XV for Scotland, having won 57 caps normally playing at tighthead prop, one of the most physically demanding positions on the pitch. Unlike many props, who can often be portrayed

"I can honestly say that Jesus has completely transformed my life."

as big slabs of meat and not a lot else, Murray wears his vulnerability on his sleeve. He is softly spoken and willing to open his heart up.

This facet of his character is interestingly juxtaposed with his high pain threshold – he had to quickly leave halfway through our conversation to allow the doctor to remove a toenail that had been damaged in training earlier that day, before calmly returning to talking about deeper and more emotive matters.

So how did Murray get to the stage where he recognised his weaknesses that lay beneath the surface?

"It was during a lengthy period on the side-lines," he says. "I had quite a serious injury and I realised how short life is and how impermanent things are. I wanted to know if there was more to life than just living and dying, so I began to read the Bible and look into Christianity with real seriousness for the first time."

For the first time in his life, Murray began to look at the claims of Jesus and the Bible's perspective on the human condition. He realised that despite the fact that he appeared strong and self-sufficient, he was in fact helpless and in need of God.

"The Bible paints an incredibly accurate

picture of the state of the human heart. I realised I was a sinner and that I had fallen short of God's standard, and because of that I knew I deserved nothing from God," Murray says. "But then I saw that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins – for all of my sins. And I could believe in him with all my heart and ask him into my life. I decided to follow him no matter what, even if it meant losing my friends, or my job, or popularity. And so I asked Jesus to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life."

So in his weakness, Murray found Jesus and from there he explains how his life changed dramatically. I'm interested to know then, what difference Jesus has made to Murray's life and whether he now considers himself strong.

"I can honestly say that Jesus has completely transformed my life. He has taken away my guilt. He has made me innocent in the eyes of God, despite the fact that I deserve to be condemned because of my selfishness. I'm

not a good person – I'm a bad person that's been forgiven. But I don't have to feel guilty for being a bad person, because God loves me and

has spared me. Living in light of that is liberating.

"In my walk as a Christian, God has given me such power. He has given me power to resist temptations. You know, the kind that men are tempted with – drink, sleeping around and so on. I used to like getting drunk, but now I hate these things. I used to like wearing tight clothes but he has taken away my desire to be vain.

"There have been many idols in my life that he has given me power to resist. An idol is anything in your life that is more important to you than God. God deserves your time and energy, but an idol is something that you make more important than God. It is something that you pour all your energy and time into. It could be your studies, or being popular. Do you want all the girls or guys to find you attractive? When that becomes more important than following God, that is an idol."

Murray is well known for choosing not to play rugby on a Sunday because of his religious beliefs, and I am interested to know whether taking such a stance on Sundays has



ALL IMAGES: CDR AITCH

ever been hard for someone who so easily admits his weaknesses and shortcomings.

"Well I had to leave Northampton Saints [his former club] because of that. That was hard in one sense but it was also good because it taught me to rely on Christ more, and that strengthened me and taught me.

"I believe it is incredibly important to stand up for what you believe in."

I'm interested to know what exactly is so important about Sundays. Surely it is just another day of the week? The majority of rugby supporters would give anything to be able to play club and international rugby and go on a British and Irish Lions Tour to South Africa, but Murray has turned down the opportunity to advance his rugby career to go to what some would consider an outdated and down-right boring institution every week. Added to this, Murray makes himself a nuisance for selectors who would love to put him in their match day XV each week. Indeed, Murray missed the recent loss to South Africa in the Autumn Internationals just over a week ago because the match was played on a Sunday.

"Our life is so short," he explains. "You see it one moment and then the next it is gone. Building up money, or caps, or a career – I can't take that with me when I die. So for me Sunday is the best day of the week. It's the day when I can refuel spiritually. Everyone is obsessed with feeding their bodies, but not a lot of people are bothered with feeding their souls. Sunday is where I get the bulk of my spiritual fuel. It's worth the sacrifice."

I am interested to know how this outlook on Sundays affects Murray throughout the week in training, particularly if he knows he won't be playing at the weekend because a match falls on a Sunday. Surely it must have an effect on his motivation?

"My target is always to give 100% every day, because of the love of Jesus," he continues. "We are called as Christians to out-work people and to out-love people. And that is because Jesus is the one I serve, the one I follow and the one I fight for. Jesus loved me enough

to die for me – so surely I should want to work hard at a job that he has been kind enough to give me the gifts to do.

"I used to want to be the best so that I would look good. But now I try to do my very best for God, play honestly and not be lazy."

And what does Murray think of the future, particularly considering the relatively short shelf life of an international rugby player?

"Sport is not the most important thing in life," he says. "The most important thing in an individual's life is where they are going when they die. I could lose my life, I could lose my job, I could lose my health, and I could lose all my possessions, but I will always have everything because I have Jesus Christ.

"Jesus says 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by me.' Unless a man is born again he can't see the kingdom of God – he says you must be born again. If you haven't dealt with Christ yet, you need to. That's the most important thing."

Murray is sometimes labelled as 'religious' by a number of his fellow sportsmen and the media. There are many negative connotations that people associate with this word, but Murray seems to be painting a very different picture of Christianity to the one our modern age can sometimes present.

Murray's faith is based upon his belief that the cross of Jesus has saved him, not upon strict ceremonies and rituals. This means that Murray can live a life of freedom and liberation because of his belief that he is deeply loved by God.

Even if that means sacrificing playing on Sundays and spurning a potentially legendary career, Murray believes that there is something far greater and more fulfilling in life than playing rugby.

Perhaps his sporting peers, or even some of us, should consider some of Murray's biblical perspectives. Maybe these beliefs are relevant to the big issues about life in the 21st Century.



Sport

The Beautiful Game

As women's football grows in a golden era of British sport, Jamie Summers speaks to UYWAF C President Vicky DeCamp about the growing popularity of the sport on campus

PETROC TAYLOR



PETROC TAYLOR



AGATHA TORRANCE



Confidence. Just one small word, but confidence is everything in sport. It's the key to unlocking potential, being successful, and most of all seeking enjoyment from taking part.

British sport is on the crest of a wave at the moment, enjoying a golden era of sustained success. With participation on the rise and a growing belief in a bright future, women's football is one sport gaining prominence across the land – and nowhere more so than at the University of York.

With this in mind, I decided to catch up with UYWAF C President Vicky DeCamp to get her take on matters. If there's one overriding thing that comes across from speaking to her, it's a sense of pride in the legacy being built at York.

"We've traditionally tended to be in the shadow of the men's game, but I think attitudes towards that are changing," she said. "Women's football is beginning to be seen as its own sport and be appreciated for its own merits."

She has a point. Whilst the men's game is enduring its own crisis of confidence, women's football is beginning to gain more attention.

Love them or loathe them, Manchester City are one of the richest clubs in the world, and this season they entered a side into the Women's Super League. Vicky points to this as an indication that the ladies' game is on the up.

"Arsenal have led the way in women's football nationally for a long time, but other clubs are starting to recognise it now. The more people get involved in women's academies, the better for us it is as the more mainstream we become."

The picture hasn't always been so bright, with certain stigmas inadvertently being brought out for women within the game. "It's frustrating that men's football is often just referred to as 'football' and women's football is considered differently," Vicky explained.

"When another committee member and I were doing our level one coaching, we were the only girls there amongst lots of young lads. A coach said to us, 'Well done for coming.' He was obviously supportive, but he was shocked that we were there. There wasn't a problem as such, but there was no need to draw a distinction in that way really."

Whether intentional or not, those kinds of attitudes have undoubtedly been rife within the game for a number of years. It seems natural, then, that putting women's football in the spotlight can only be positive – and it's something that Vicky couldn't stress enough, saying:

"I read a piece by [Arsenal & England player] Rachael Yankey, saying that people still come up to her and jokingly ask if she understands the offside rule. People mean well, but there's a backlog of stigmas attached that will take time to eradicate.

"Women's football has been in the headlines recently

though. New directions are being taken so it makes our sport worth talking about. Women becoming more involved in the men's game is a fantastic thing, and I think a lot of good can come from that."

From speaking to DeCamp, the major theme that comes across is a confidence in the future direction of the women's game. That seems to be rubbing off on UYWAF C, and the eagerness to expand women's football on campus is incredibly infectious.

"There's only one women's team registered with BUCS at the moment, but we've been trying since last year to push for a second team because the interest has been soaring. Especially since the Olympics and the women's World Cup which has been going on, interest from people has shot up." The addition of a second official BUCS team at York certainly seems justified, what with the success of the first side recently.

Having won promotion last season, the Black & Gold

"Women's football is coming to be seen as its own sport"

thumped city rivals York St. John last week to kick-start their push for this campaign. DeCamp was hopeful about the team's fortunes, saying: "We were promoted last year; we were undefeated in the league. Division three is more challenging, but we see it as a positive because it pushes us to improve."

"We were unbeaten in the first three games so that's a really positive sign for us. It's still early days and there's so much potential; I'm excited for the rest of the season."

And the better the first team does, the more likely people are to get involved and see women's football as taking a step further. "Hopefully we'll be able to enter a second team with BUCS, and looking at the standard of other universities, that shouldn't be a problem at all. Once it's established, we'll see it blossom," DeCamp argues.

"If people see us progressing, they see somewhere to go with us. I think we are where we should be now, and the only way is up really." The sense of challenge against good opposition seems to be what drives the women's team to push themselves even further. But what is also clear is their ethos of inclusivity and collective spirit, which DeCamp hopes will encourage more girls at York to get involved.

Speaking about how training works at UYWAF C, she said: "We're very flexible, which I think is what is unique about York. We're inclusive and let anyone give it a go."

"We have the 'Get into Sport' session for anyone who wants to build their footballing confidence for free. We encourage everyone to come to training and then, from that, we pick for our first team, who have separate training."

"But they also train with everyone else so there's a community atmosphere about us. People still keep turning up, which suggests we're doing something right." It seems that this sense of community is integral to everything that UYWAF C do. York Sport's 'Key Contacts' scheme has enjoyed a hugely successful start this term, receiving the approval of NUS LGBT Officer, Finn McGoldrick.

I was keen to enquire how this ties in with the dynamic the football girls are trying to create. It's essential according to Vicky, who was full of praise for the scheme: "We're a club that welcomes anyone. We don't discriminate and we're all-inclusive so we see the Key Contacts scheme as a huge positive."

"It's a great way to advertise sport for LGBTQ people on campus, and by being part of that we're showing our support for that message. Women's football is moving away from stigmas and labels and that's great," she added.

Considering the desire to enter a second team into BUCS and the inclusiveness that the Key Contacts scheme is encouraging, women's football seems ideally placed to grow organically on campus.

A key part of this is the development of the Women's College Football league, which DeCamp was eager to promote. "The College League began last year, and we're getting more coverage now. We won Roses team of the year in May, which was excellent. To get that recognition from York Sport was a great way to celebrate our hard work."

It's this which the team is keen to push; the more people get involved in college football, the more players the university side can draw upon, and the better the chance York has of becoming a force in the women's game.

What was clear in speaking to DeCamp was her desire to open the sport out to more people.

"Having the College Football now helps people with their confidence, and more simply makes people realise that they enjoy the sport. I'd urge anyone to come along and try it; no-one should have any misconceptions about it being a male-only sport because women can get involved too."

That seems an appropriate message to finish with; there is no doubt that women's football isn't yet as prominent as the men's game on campus.

But it is growing, and it is packed with potential to get stuck in. When I asked Vicky to sum it in one sentence why people should get involved, she had this to say: "It's enjoyable, and it's a beautiful game. As cheesy as it sounds, I can't really put it better."

You can't really argue with that, can you?

Halifax in thumping win

Halifax 7
Alcuin 2

Andrew Rees
SPORTS REPORTER

SIX SECOND half goals from Halifax secured them a third place finish in the league, after a late Alcuin collapse.

The earliest chance fell to Alcuin's Ben Carver, but he could only send his shot wide of the goal from the edge of the Halifax box.

Halifax drew first blood in the when a pinpoint pass from Gio Pilides found Dan Jones. He managed to square the ball across the goal for Theo Miller to slot into an empty net.

Pilides found more space in the midfield and a tidy pass down the channel between the full back and central defender found Connor Meckin, but his low cross was well cut out by the Alcuin keeper.

It wasn't long before Alcuin deservedly drew level, when arguably the best passing move of the match ended with Nestor firing low past the Halifax keeper.

In response, Halifax launched a number of good attacks. However,

Connor Meckin could only shoot at the keeper after going through one-on-one having raced past the Alcuin defenders.

Alcuin's Andy Fernando had the last chance of the half when his long range shot was turned round the post by Atkinson. The resulting corner was wasted and the referee brought an engaging half to a close.

The second half started as the first one ended, with both teams threatening to take the lead. Luca Nazzicone missed an opportunity at the back post, while goalscorer Miller couldn't double his tally at the other end.

An hour in, Halifax went ahead when Kieron Gennoy found the bottom corner of the goal with a tidy shot from inside the Alcuin box.

McCoy poked a dropping ball wide of the post before Gennoy added his second and Halifax's third. Receiving the ball a considerable distance from goal, he planted the ball into the side netting past the helpless Alcuin keeper.

Halifax were now in the mood and Dan Jones made it 4-1 after 70 minutes with a neat turn and composed shot from within the box. Alcuin were panicked at the back and Halifax had taken full advantage to put themselves in control of the tie.



James go into next week's fixture knowing a draw is enough to win the league, after beating Halifax on Sunday

Ben Carver pulled one back for Alcuin in the 73rd minute when he headed in at the back post from a knocked on corner. Carver had been

one of Alcuin's better players and was unlucky not to have scored a goal earlier in the match.

Dan Jones added his second and restored Alcuin's three goal lead 4 minutes later after a fantastic pass from McCoy. The Halifax captain clipped a ball over the Alcuin defence to find Jones in acres of space after he drifted free of his marker. Jones's finish was neat as he found the side netting from a tight angle. Oli Bull then headed in twice from corners to round the scoring off at 7-2.

After the match, Halifax captain, Connor McCoy, concisely told *Nouse*: "It was a game of two halves but the scoreline reflects that we won."

Greg Fearn, Alcuin Captain, said: "I think it came down to missing chances. We hadn't taken the chances we should have done. I feel if we had taken our chances it would have been a different game. We should have been 2 or 3 goals up at half time, but in the second half at 3-1 down our heads just went down."

Halifax:	Alcuin:
Atkinson, Brookes, Bull, Rillstone, Boyd (Knott), Gennoy, McCoy (C), Pilides, Meckin, Jones, Miller.	Green, Petrides, Perera, Tuton, Kennick (Twin), Jones-Williams, Fearn (C), Nestor, Nazzicone, Fernando, Carver.

Man of the match: Gio Pilides

Vanbrugh beat Goodricke to secure fourth position

Vanbrugh 2
Goodricke 1

Nick Morritt
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

VANBRUGH GRABBED a late victory over Goodricke on Sunday to secure a fourth-place finish in the autumn league table.

From kick off, Vanbrugh car-

ried the ball up the wing to threaten the Goodricke goal. However, they were unable to convert this early chance as it was easily handled by Goodricke keeper Tom Neil. Goodricke then seized possession and began to pile the pressure onto their opponents.

Unable to find an opening, Sam Cottingham took a speculative shot which sailed over the bar. Vanbrugh then began to probe the opposition's defence, but Goodricke remained

resolute with every run being skilfully countered before completion.

As the half continued, neither side seemed to be able to gain the upper hand. This stalemate was almost ended by Johnnie Gillbanks' effort, which was well-blocked by Aaron Hooper.

Following this, Goodricke seemed energised once more. Their closest chance came once more from Gillbanks who, taking a powerful shot sent the ball just wide of

the post.

Vanbrugh then began to make a concerted push into the Goodricke half. This paid dividends when Elliot Rous-Ross slotted home opening the scoring shortly before half time.

Taking back to the pitch for the second half, Vanbrugh went on the assault once more, hoping to maintain their lead. This early spurt of attacking energy seemed to die out however, as Goodricke took back possession and went on the attack themselves. Continuing to push forward, the men in green seemed to produce a lot of chances, but were unable to find a gap. This was until a melee in front of the goal resulted in their first goal, which brought the scores level once more.

Following their confidence-boosting equaliser, Goodricke continued to pile on the pressure against their Hes West opponents, but chance after chance was skilfully stopped by in-form Hooper in the Vanbrugh goal.

As the half began to drag on, Goodricke seemed unable to keep up their onslaught and Vanbrugh took repossession on the ball, with Clemens Blasius making a startling run down the pitch for a shot which Neil was able to save. The Vanbrugh assault then continued, with Rous-Ross making another good solo run up the pitch. However, like Blasius before him, the front-man was denied by Neil.

As the match came to a close, Vanbrugh continued to push in the

hopes of scoring a winning goal. Their efforts to continually probe the Goodricke defence meant that they were finally able to steal the victory after a cheeky goal was diverted past a disappointed Neil in the Goodricke net. This win give Vanbrugh the much-desired fourth place in the league that they were aiming for, leaving them in a position to participate in the College Varsity qualifiers next term.

After the match, sombre Goodricke captain Johnnie Gillbanks reflected; "It was disappointing to lose like that right at the end, I thought we played well. To lose to a goal like that was so unlucky. There were some really solid performances from a lot the players, we had the chances in the first half to win it. It's disappointing that now we'll miss out on the Varsity playoffs."

Meanwhile, jubilant Vanbrugh captain Max Brewer said; "I don't think it's the best we've ever played but we've ground out three points in a big game. It was very nice to score a late goal like that. Generally it's been a good season and I'm proud we got three points today."

Vanbrugh:	Goodricke:
Hooper, Brewer (C), Graham (Picknell), Blasius, Coy, Wignall, Grout, Potts (Watkins), Rous-Ross, O'Brian, Sides (Craine).	Neil, Gillbanks (C), Watkins, Hurst (Cortney), Cottingham, Fagan, Osbourne, Crawley, Cremi, Anderson, Sullivan.

Man of the match: Aaron Hooper



Vanbrugh earned a hard-fought win over opponents Goodricke to secure a top-four finish in the league table

James top after Wentworth win

James 3
Wentworth 1

Lewis Hill
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

IT WAS a must win game this Sunday for James and they duly delivered, beating Wentworth 3-1 in a game that saw both sides enjoy their fair share of opportunities in front of goal.

The opening ten minutes were fairly even; neither side had any clear cut chances but both sides had opportunities from set pieces. A nicely weighted Wentworth corner was cleared early on and James could have scored from their first corner of the game as centre back Callum Elliott rose above the Wentworth defence and headed a ball which forced Wentworth keeper Mladen Sarnaz to tip it over the bar.

James' Freddie Ferrao was probably the first player to shine on an otherwise gloomy 22 Acres. He made a darting run at the Wentworth defence, with the resulting shot being comfortably saved by Sarnaz. Wentworth on the other hand were creating very few, if any, clinical attacking moves. They often played long, hopeful balls into their target man Dom Green, which failed to materialise into any shots on goal.

James started to apply some pressure higher up the pitch as Andrew Jopson began to look lively, making a run down the middle before his shot was saved.

James eventually broke the deadlock as Ferrao, who continued to look dangerous down the left, beat Wentworth right back Nick Towson and squared the ball right to Jopson, who provided a powerful finish to make the scoreline 1-0 to James.

Shortly afterwards, James doubled their lead with another piece of counter attacking football.

Jopson was once again played through on goal and finished nicely to allow James to capitalise on their dominance and take advantage of some lazy Wentworth defending.

James continued to take the game to Wentworth and could have so easily had a third when Ferrao played in James captain Ralph Gill who struck a low, hard shot that was unfortunate to go wide of the mark.

Wentworth's first real chance of the first half came when Towson crossed in a curling ball into the box from the right wing, which landed at Green's feet. Green played the ball back to Mutlu Cukurova who had a great chance to score, but blazed his shot well over the bar.

Just before the end of the first

half, Jopson had a great chance to seal his hat-trick as he once again linked up with Ferrao, who played an inch perfect through ball to send Jopson one on one with the keeper.

However, a poor first touch led Jopson to rush his finish and the shot ended up rolling wide of the post. Regardless, James left the field the superior side at the end of the first half, comfortably in the lead and dominating the postgrads.

James started the second half in fantastic style. Having won a corner, the ball was played into the box, before being flicked on to the edge of the area where James' Jordan Steel was waiting. Steel scored a wonder goal as he volleyed the ball, sending it rocketing into the top corner of the Wentworth net, leaving the keeper with no chance of saving it. James had opened up a 3-0 lead over Wentworth, and looked good value for the lead.

The game seemed all but over, but Wentworth had other ideas. They started to get forward more and created for themselves a series of very good chances. Green was put through clear on goal, despite protests for offside, but his subsequent shot sailed wide of the goal.

Wentworth started to capitalise on their more positive play, winning a series of corners from their opponents. One of these chances led to the postgrads sealing their first and only goal of the afternoon. The original ball in was cleared but Wentworth headed back into the area and it was fumbled by James keeper Andy Balzan. The ball then dropped to Apiwat Waijakham, who placed the ball in the back of the net to earn what turned out to be a consolation goal.

James managed to win back possession more frequently towards the end of the game, and as a result, frustrated the postgrads, who were desperately searching for another goal in an effort to set up a grandstand finish.

In the end, it wasn't to be and James left the field victorious and knowing that a draw next week will see them clinch the league.

After the match, James captain Ralph Gill told *Nouse*: "We got our defensive shape spot on, we gave them no time and pressured their back line and their strikers on every first ball. We really cut out any potential threat and we broke away with two counter attacks, [Andrew] Jopson had a couple of great finishes."

On Jordan Steel's emphatic volley he said: "Jordan scored the vital goal and it would have been a very different game if they had scored that. It was an absolute screamer from about 30 yards. I was very



James put three goals past Wentworth on 22 acres on Sunday morning, setting up a league decider with Derwent

pleased to get the result and it means that we're in a very strong position going into the match next week."

Wentworth captain Wayne Paes was upbeat despite the loss, saying: "It was a good way to end our season, we were missing four of our starting eleven because they were unavailable, [we had] a couple of injuries, but we conducted ourselves

James:

Balzan, Dangha, Elliott, Axford, Steel, Ferrao, Wheldon, Gill (C), Fox, Alahasan, Jopson.

Wentworth:

Sarnaz, Towson, Kosunalp, Hulme, Papoui, Cukurova, Paes (C), Waijakham, Nicolaou (Ibrahim), Green, Beresch.

Man of the match: Freddie Ferrao

really well. I think we can go into next season as a new team with our heads up and try and challenge for at least a top three spot."

"I thought James created quite a few good chances, but I think we drew the second half and probably deserved to win it.

We can go out into Christmas with our heads up and looking forward to next season."

NUS officer praises Key Contact Scheme

Nick Morrill
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

NATIONAL UNION of Students' LGBT Officer (Women's place), Finn McGoldrick, says she was "blown away" by the positive signs she saw after leading a key contacts event on campus last week.

The Key Contacts scheme was established at the start of this term by Cass Brown, York Sport President, with the aim of promoting and encouraging sports participation amongst LGBTQ and disabled students on campus. Ten focus sports are represented by a key contact at present, and plans are afoot to expand this further from 2014/15.

The current ten key contacts, alongside members of the university's LGBTQ Network, met McGoldrick last Tuesday for a workshop aiming to increase LGBTQ participation in on-campus sport.

The workshop began with McGoldrick discussing some of the research which the NUS has recently carried out into LGBTQ participation, which concluded that there is a large barrier which remains for LGBTQ students taking part in sport. However, it was also found that representatives of these communities that do participate generally receive high levels of satisfaction.

This formed the basis for a discussion amongst the key contacts about what can be done to improve accessibility to sports at York. It was agreed that the perception of certain actions and attitudes is essential to reaching a common understanding - for both sports clubs and members of the LGBTQ community.

One issue raised was the perception of an underlying 'lad culture' amongst university sports clubs, which may appear intimidating to LGBTQ groups. It was suggested that although members of sports teams do not deliberately engage in phobic activities, inadvertent insensitivity can have a damaging impact upon people's confidence. Therefore, it was agreed that key contacts will work closely with the LGBTQ Officers and the university's teams to ensure that the problems are addressed.

The LGBTQ Officers present were able to present their concerns to key contacts, suggesting that both parties need to enjoy an open dialogue with each other to make York a pioneering university when it comes to creating a friendly sporting atmosphere.

The Officers were also keen to point out that representatives of the LGBTQ community are often from an LGBTQ background themselves, and so can offer a superb insight into the feelings of the people they represent. The key contacts were keen to forge invaluable links between these two parties to ensure that awareness of LGBTQ issues was spread around campus.

Another major positive to come from the workshop was the agreement that people do not have to be members of the LGBTQ community to support their aims. It is hoped that the key contact scheme will help to encourage more sportsmen and women across campus to support these goals.

Speaking to *Nouse* after the conclusion of the event, McGoldrick



PETROC TAYLOR

said; "The key contacts scheme seems a really good way to pool together sports teams, working with York Sport's objectives on equality and diversity."

"I think it's a really good scheme," said the NUS Officer. "I'm so impressed and blown away by how aware of all the issues everyone was, and how willing to work with each other they were."

McGoldrick commented that she will be keeping a close eye on events at the university. "I'm really excited to see what they do this year, they all seem really open and honest which is totally what you need to run successful campaigns. They all seem willing to hit the ground running. I can't wait to see what they do over the course of the year."

All key contacts present recognised the importance of socials to the fabric of campus sports teams and the reputations which these events can carry.

With socials being one of the most visible and potentially enjoyable aspects of participating in university sports, it was universally agreed that these must be inclusive and welcoming to all groups of students.

A major breakthrough was the consensus that certain themed socials - such as 'slag and drag' - may appear insensitive to members of the LGBTQ community. To tackle this potential problem, it was agreed that sports teams will work in tandem with the LGBTQ Officers to ensure that future themes are in-

clusive and welcoming to all.

Overall, the event was a major success in bringing different groups together and progressing discussions on issues which matter to students across the university; further events are planned for the remainder of the year.

Cass Brown, was delighted with the event, telling *Nouse*; "I think it's been fantastic, really successful and Finn really got the key contacts talking about issues that are relevant to York and their clubs."

I'm just thrilled with how it went, she was really engaging and I think the clubs enjoyed it. We have the LGBTQ network here and I think some nice links have been forged already between the clubs and them."

RAG society organise sports charity fundraiser

George Barrett
ONLINE EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY'S Raising and Giving (RAG) Society are putting in place bold plans to host a charity fundraising sports cup, which, if everything goes to plan, will be officially launched at the start of next term.

The competition, which will be named the RAG Sports Cup, will be awarded at the end of the academic year at the York Sport dinner to the sports club that has managed to raise the most money for charity throughout the whole year.

University sports teams across campus will be able to partake in this event, which is similar to the current RAG Cup that is awarded to the college that has raised the most money in the academic year.

The cup will have the appropriate slogan "Raise Your Game."

Money can be raised in a number of ways through a series of methods.

These can include events such as charity sports tournaments, bucket collections at matches, and

head-to-head challenges with other sports clubs to see who can raise the most money during a social in town.

The idea of raising money on a night out is one that RAG are doing themselves this term. This week they are going on fundraising rallies in clubs to raise money for their Winter Wonderland ball that will take place later this term. The fundraiser will be Christmas themed.

Superstars, the opening event of RAG week next term, will be one of the largest events of RAG week and will aim to promote the cup to as many people as possible across campus.

The event is based upon the national Superstars event, which sees sports celebrities competing against one another.

The event will include a number of disciplines such as cycle machine circuits and time trials on rowing machines, and will be held in the Roger Kirk Centre at James College.

Hope Lambert, RAG events coordinator, has been charged with heading up the operation and spoke with *Nouse*.

"We realised that a really good way to make money for charity is through sport. Sport Relief do it, as do Chance to Shine, who are a cricket charity, and we thought why can't we do this?"

Sport Relief host an event every two years, which features a number of international sports stars who come together to raise money for vulnerable people in both the UK and some of the poorest countries across the world.

Lambert added, "It will be a fantastic way to get people involved and heighten awareness of RAG and the need to raise money for charity."

"Hopefully this will get the sports clubs involved in RAG in a way they were never able to in the past."

Assisting Lambert in the organisation of the cup are Katie Barrett, a member of the women's firsts Lacrosse team, and Cass Brown, York Sport President.

If any sports teams are keen to get involved in what looks set to be an incredible opportunity to raise money for charity, they should email ragevents@yusu.org.uk.

Sports teams show silence solidarity

Jamie Summers
SPORTS EDITOR

UNIVERSITY SPORTS teams from across campus paid their respects last Wednesday in aid of Trans Remembrance Day by holding a minute's silence before the start of their regular BUCS fixtures.

The day is the culmination of Transgender Awareness week, and it aims to pay respects to those who have been killed as a result of transphobia - or the persecution of the transgender community.

Worldwide there have been 238 reported murders of transgender people in the last year, with the majority of those being women.

York Sport's new key contacts scheme aims at increasing participation in sports across campus amongst the LGBTQ and disabled communities; therefore, the Black & Gold took the decision to pay their respects in support of the university's LGBTQ Network.

On the same day, York's teams also participated in the Peace One Day campaign alongside all other North-Eastern universities, which is

aimed at promoting peace through global campaigning.

Commenting on the move, York Sport president, Cass Brown, told *Nouse*; "This year, the York Sport Union has decided to support Trans Remembrance day."

All BUCS sports teams embraced a minutes silence before their matches to memorize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia. This is just one campaign that's come out of the key contacts scheme so far."

Meanwhile, the men's rugby firsts also took the measure to postpone their regular Wednesday evening social in light of the fact that this fell on the same date as Trans Remembrance Day and fellow sports teams were taking measures to mark the occasion.

Brown stressed that the move signifies the hugely positive impact that the key contacts scheme is having on sports teams across campus.

"It represents a big step in the scheme, as the key contacts are influencing clubs to take tackling homophobia and transphobia at York seriously."

Sport

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College Sport

Match reports from Sunday's college football action

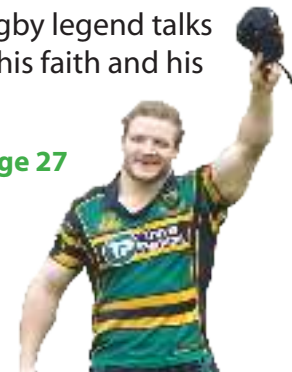
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Euan Murray

The rugby legend talks about his faith and his career

>> Page 27



PETROCTAYLOR



Derwent gunning for league title after thrashing Langwith

Derwent 5
Langwith 0

Jamie Summers
SPORTS EDITOR

DERWENT CRUSHED Langwith 5-0 on Sunday at a chilly 22 Acres to set up a thrilling title-decider against James next week, whilst consigning Langwith to a bottom-place finish in the college football league table. A brace from Tom Shelbourn and a superb hat-trick from Josh Bew helped Derwent on the way to victory.

The match started brightly, with both sides looking to adopt a fast tempo and Derwent in particular getting the ball down on the floor.

After a string of chances, Derwent eventually took the lead. Mark

Askham made a mazy run down the right wing to the by-line and into the area before crossing for Bew. Although Bew's first shot was saved, he calmly struck with a left-footed effort to put Derwent ahead.

Derwent's second goal soon followed. After peppering the Langwith goal with a string of efforts, Andy Naylor picked the ball up on the edge of the area and created a chance for Shelbourn, who duly obliged in slotting home to double his side's lead.

Morton then combined well with Marcus Campbell to forge an opportunity for Langwith. However, Morton overran the ball and allowed Askham to clear up any danger at the back, and Derwent went in at the break with a two-goal advantage.

A bizarre moment occurred after half time when the referee blew his whistle and awarded Derwent a

penalty for a foul in the area, before changing his mind and giving the free kick - citing Derwent's two-goal lead for his change of heart.

Ryan Gwinnett beautifully switched play for Shelbourn to pick up possession, and he unleashed an effort past Cheshire to score his second of the game.

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York's women's football team talk about the growing popularity of the sport

Langwith were then punished on the counter-attack for Derwent's fourth goal, as they were quickly broken against and found wanting in defence. Campbell had made a good run forward for the Hes East side and passed to Ahmed Abu-Baker.

However, the latter was quickly dispossessed, and on the counter,

Derwent scored an opportunistic goal. Josh Bew broke into the area after being neatly assisted by Harrison, and scored his second goal to make the scoreline 4-0 in Derwent's favour.

Once again Derwent capitalised on Langwith leaving themselves open at the back, as Gwinnett seized control of possession and broke forward.

Gwinnett then skilfully threaded the ball through to Bew, who smashed the ball past Cheshire to round off a superb hat-trick and score Derwent's fifth goal.

The Hes East side then had the chance to get a late consolation goal, as the referee awarded a penalty for a soft foul in the area. Campbell stepped up to take the spot-kick, but awkwardly sliced the ball over the bar.

The result means that the autumn league title will now be de-

ecided in the only remaining fixture of the season next week between Derwent and James. Derwent must win to take top spot, with James holding a two-point lead, although it promises to be an exciting end to the campaign.

Langwith captain Marcus Campbell told *Nouse*, "They were a really good side but it was a disappointing end to the season. I was embarrassed about that penalty but I'll make up for it next time."

Meanwhile, Derwent's Dave Belshaw said; "We did what we had to do. I was pleased with the effort for Tom Shelbourn with two goals from centre-half, and Josh Bew as well."

Langwith worked hard, but we had too much quality in the final third for them. We've got to go and beat James but I'm confident that we can go and win that game."

26.11.13

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