

NOUSE



Boris Johnson

Top-up fees, Ronald Reagan and vomiting on your girlfriend Page M2

Lord Hutton

On the report which left York Chancellor Greg Dyke unemployed Page M12



York graduate remains 'person of interest' in America double murder

- Neil Entwistle, 27, flees to Britain after wife and baby found murdered
- Police investigate vendetta after suspected York based Internet scam

BY Toby Green
EDITOR

A YORK graduate remains a "person of interest" in relation to the shooting of his wife and nine-month old baby.

The bodies of Rachel Entwistle, 27, who also spent two years studying at York University as an overseas student, and the couple's baby daughter, Lillian, were found by US detectives in their family home in the small town of Hopkinton near Boston, Massachusetts on Sunday 22nd January.

Initially the police believed that they had suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning, but it was later discovered that Rachel had been killed by a gunshot wound to the head and Lillian by a shot to the torso.

Neil, who took a degree in Electronics Engineering at York and graduated in 2002, met Rachel whilst they were both members of the University's boat club. A former member of the club who had rowed with the couple, Richard Skinner, said "Having known both Neil and Rachel ever since they first met at university, this news comes as a great shock to me and I hope that justice can be done in finding the perpetrators."

Another friend of the couple at university, John Gibbard, said "Given that they met while rowing at York and many of [the club] will have been coxed by Rachel or rowed with Neil, [the case] is very close to the club's heart." The Students'



Neil and Rachel Entwistle, 27, met whilst at York through the University Boat Club before moving to America

Union and the University Boat club declined to comment on the case.

Neil Entwistle, 27, left the US and flew to London from Boston two days before the bodies were found. The discovery was made after guests invited to a dinner party on the 21st found the lights in the house turned off. The American authorities launched a hunt to get in contact with Mr Entwistle after finding his abandoned

BMW in the car park of Boston's airport, and they were not aware of his whereabouts until he contacted them at the beginning of last week from his parents' house in Worksop.

He was persuaded by four police officers who travelled over from America to attend the US embassy in London to answer questions, after a lack of evidence and refusal to brand him as a suspect meant he could not

be arrested by British police.

In a statement released to the media, District Attorney Martha Coakley, who is leading the investigation in America, said "At this time, Neil Entwistle, husband of Rachel and father of Lillian, remains a person of interest in this investigation.

"No one has been ruled in and no one has been ruled out as a suspect in this investigation. A person of interest is a person who we believe

may have relevant information about the case that we are investigating."

Ms Coakley has confirmed that the authorities are not planning to extradite Mr Entwistle to the US, and added "The only thing I will say is we're interested in getting some information from him. I will say he has been cooperative. He is not considered a suspect." She also added that the murders, the first to occur in the small

town for over 10 years, did not appear random killings.

Neither of the Entwistles had a gun permit and the murder weapon has not yet been recovered. When police were called to the Entwistles' rented house they had to force the front door open as it had been locked by the last person to leave. A post-mortem was conducted on Rachel and Lillian Entwistle at the end of last week and forensic evidence shows the murders took place late on the Friday or early Saturday morning.

The couple married in August 2003 in Manomet, Massachusetts after having moved from England to America to start a family. An entry on Mr Entwistle's profile on the Friends Reunited site reads "Getting married to the most amazing woman in the world this summer: Rachel. We met through rowing. She was my cox, I her stroke! She's from the good ol' US, Boston to be more specific, Plymouth if you're really curious."

The Boston Herald has reported that Neil Entwistle answered investigators' question of whether he would return to the US for the funeral with the response "I don't know. Maybe."

Police are also investigating the possibility of a vendetta against the couple, as investigations have revealed a number of websites linked to Neil Entwistle and York that are believed to be scam sites.

In-depth: Page 5

Constitutional dispute leads to resignation of SU Women's Officers

By Heidi Blake
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

GRACE FLETCHER HALL resigned from the post of YUSU Women's Officer on Wednesday, in the midst of controversy over proposed changes to the SU constitution.

Her resignation automatically means the resignation of joint officers Bex Emery and Becky Tichband.

The ex-Women's Officer, who had put up posters around campus encouraging students to vote against the changes, resigned at the Union's Executive Committee Meeting on Wednesday after Micky Armstrong, the SU President, threatened to propose a vote of no confidence against her unless she called a halt to her campaign.

Fletcher Hall explained in an interview the day after her resignation that she opposes the constitution,

which removes all Equality Officers from the Union's Executive Committee, primarily on the grounds that it will reduce the representation of women and minority groups at the SU. She also expressed concerns about the fact that the changes allow for sabbatical officers to stand for a second term.

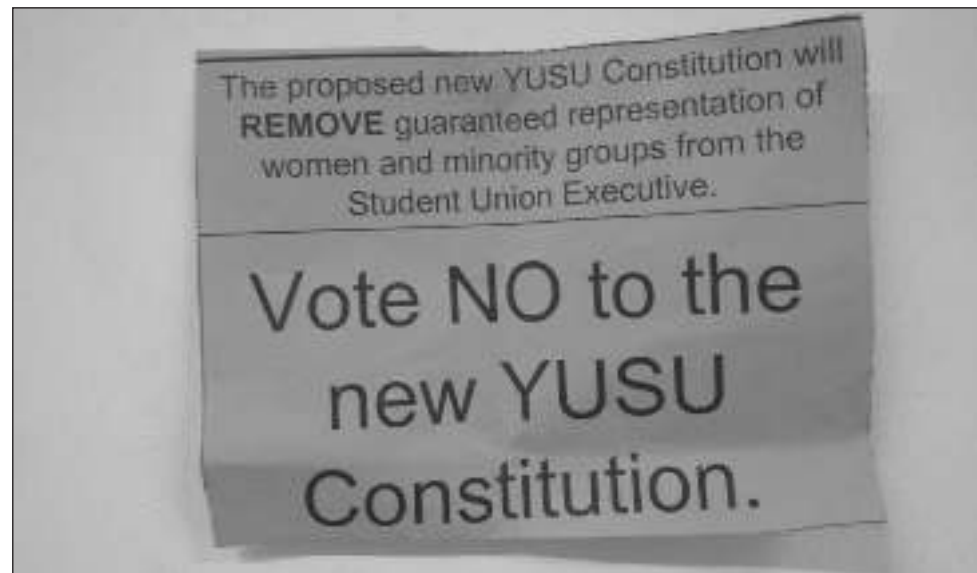
The ex-Women's Officer commented that, despite promises of "lots and lots of consultancy", the changes are being "rushed through", adding "they want it done in time for the SU elections". The revised constitution, which was released in week two, will be discussed at the Union General Meeting next Tuesday. Online voting will take place in week five.

Fletcher Hall told Nouse that the Women's Officers had attended meetings with the President and Services Officer to discuss their objections to the

changes last week, but reached no agreement. Following a discussion at Women's Committee, they informed Armstrong that they intended to campaign against the changes, to which he initially made no objection.

However, Fletcher-Hall claims the President later threatened a vote of no confidence against her (which he denies) unless she stopped the campaign, claiming that it is illegal and unconstitutional to protest publicly against an organisation of which one is a trustee. Despite saying at the ECM "I don't agree with Micky's interpretation of the law", Fletcher Hall chose to resign her position.

Armstrong said on Thursday that he was "disappointed" that the ex-Women's Officer had decided to resign, but that he understood their differences on the



The posters and leaflets were distributed around campus. Photo: Georgi Mabee

matter were fundamental. In response to the claim that the changes had being rushed through Executive Committee, he said "I thought two weeks was quite a long time". The President claimed that the changes will increase representation of minority groups, while commenting, "certain people are presenting it differently", adding "that's what makes me angry".

According to a recent SU press release, "the current Executive Committee will be expanded and converted into a Union Senate

[on which Equality Officers will have a place]. With increased participation, this body will make all moral and ethical decisions, and will set the direction of the Union. The Executive Committee is to be streamlined into a management body."

Fletcher Hall said on Thursday "Exec. will be about making managerial decisions and not representing welfare [but] if they are not going to be making decisions which represent the student body then what the hell are they there for?"

Responding to concern

over the provision for sabbatical officers to stand twice, Armstrong said "this isn't something I've done just to give myself a job [but] I won't rule anything out". He said that the changes would bring the SU into line with the Education Act, which states that sabbatical officers should not stand for longer than two terms.

A by-election will be held in week six to replace the resigning officers. Until then, Neil Barnes, the Education and Welfare Officer, will take on their workload.

University projects £3 million budget deficit

By Heidi Blake
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A PROJECTED shortfall in the University's budget has led to concerns among students that an increased focus on commercial services will be detrimental to their welfare.

The University has foreseen a shortfall of £3 million in its budget by the end of the academic year. The overspend has occurred chiefly as a result of unexpectedly high energy bills, and is to be remedied by campus-wide cut-backs on the use of electricity and an increased focus

on income-generating activities such as conferences, printing and campus shops.

A complete review of the budget is underway, and is being overseen by Vice-Chancellor Felicity Riddy. According to David Garner, the University Press Officer, "every Department and every member of staff is involved in the drive to help the University to become more cost-efficient".

One member of University staff, who cannot be named, said of the cost-cutting drive "it's all very well, but you've still got the big bosses sitting there with

their big salaries and all the perks".

When asked about what he thought an increased focus by the University on commercial ventures might mean for students, Matthew Lacey of Alcuin College said "I wouldn't like the idea of University facilities being monopolised by conferences and I wouldn't want large amounts of student-received finances to be spent on them either".

Catherine Vondrak, of the same college, said "students won't matter anymore. We'll just pale away into insignificance. We could fall

into the lake and drown for all they care".

This comes at a time when ninety students have recently been relocated to Alcuin from Vanbrugh C Block, which is to be converted into offices. Speaking on Friday, Mickey Masefield, Vanbrugh Chair, said "it sometimes feels like they operate as a conference park rather than an actual university, and they wish students wouldn't get in the way for 30 weeks of the year".

Nat Thwaites-McGowan, the SU Services Officer said on Thursday "The University have set

themselves a target of reducing their budget deficit. Several methods are being considered, one of which is to increase commercial income. The alternative, one might suppose, would be to cut services in other areas. Given, then, that an increased concentration on generating income will save services in other areas, I don't think this should be seen as a negative decision".

David Garner claimed that the University is not "seeking to engage in significant new income-generating activities, but we want to make our existing commer-

cial activities [such as Costcutter and the Conference Park] more profitable". He was keen to emphasise that such activities exist to subsidise facilities and services for students and members of University staff.

The University asked that students conserve energy where possible. Thwaites-McGowan joined the call for greater campus energy consciousness on Thursday, saying "every student who takes the positive decision to turn off a light or a computer when it isn't needed is helping the situation."

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U-turn by University staff as Vanbrugh protest over threatened laundry closure gathers speed

By Heidi Blake
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS GATHERED outside Vanbrugh on Friday afternoon to demonstrate against an announcement by the Facilities Manager that their laundry would close on Monday. Later that day, the protesters were informed by the Campus Services Manager of a decision made that afternoon to keep the facility open. Despite this apparent U-turn, the Vanbrugh Provost, Allen Warren, flatly denied that there had ever been plans to close the laundry on Monday.

According to Vanbrugh Chair Mickey Masefield, the JCRC were informed during the Summer Term last year of plans to close the laundry in January 2006, with promises that a replacement service in Market Square would be fully operational by December 2005.

The closure was to form part of plans to convert the previously residential C Block into offices, for which, according to Masefield, the University will receive a grant of £600,000 if the work begins on time.

The plan was confirmed in the Autumn Term of last year, when the JCRC were informed that the closure would be pushed back to mid-to-late February to allow for problems with planning permission for the new laundry.

In a meeting on January 23rd of this year, Jane Whyman, the Facilities Manager for Zone 6,



Students protest outside Vanbrugh on Friday, following an announcement that their laundry was set to close

informed Masefield and his Vice Chairs that, despite the failure to get planning permission for the new laundry facility in Market Square, the closure of the old service would go ahead in February, leaving Vanbrugh residents without a laundry for 6-8 weeks.

Just two days later, Whyman announced in a College Welfare Meeting that the laundry would now close on Monday. In an email sent out to all Vanbrugh residents

the following day, Whyman wrote: "I regret that Vanbrugh laundry facilities will close from Monday 30 January. I have checked the nearest for you until the new facility in Market Square is commissioned".

The email, which gave students just three full days to prepare for the closure of their laundry, advised residents to use the facilities at Langwith or Derwent, which, according to Masefield, are already over-

crowded.

By the time this email was sent out, a student response had already been co-ordinated, involving a petition which gathered 1125 signatures in 48 hours.

Friday's protest was widely attended by students from most colleges. The SU and campus security were called in to quieten the crowds and flyers were handed out, music was played and banners were touted.

One foreign student, who wished to be known only as "Crazy French", wore nothing below the waist but a pair of boxer shorts and a cardboard sign which read "I will not change my boxers until Vanbrugh reopens our Laundry".

He said "Everyone needs to have a laundry: it's a human fundamental right. It must be in the constitution of every country. There will be social complications if I don't change my boxers".

Michael Leech from Vanbrugh expressed concerns about the tensions that could be caused by Vanbrugh students encroaching upon the laundry facilities of other colleges. He said "it will incite violence on campus". Sarah Jones, the ex-Chair of Vanbrugh, said "I don't want people getting into any fights. Students need their own laundries".

When Jane Whyman was contacted during the protest, she refused to comment on the closure of the laundry, saying only "we're doing all we can". Accordingly Vanbrugh Provost Allen Warren flatly denied that there had ever been any plans to close the laundry on Monday.

When told that the JCRC Chair had been informed of the closure on this date by an email, he said "well I'd like him to come down here and tell me who told him that".

He was adamant that the decision not to close the laundry was not a change of plans, and that the student protest on the day had no impact at all.

According to Masefield, the protesters had met with Sue Johnston, the Campus Services Manager, who had informed them that "Estates had reached a decision that afternoon to keep the laundry open until the end of February, and possibly [to] extend that date".

Masefield said on Friday "I still aim to keep the laundry open until the replacement facility is opened." Market Square".

University dismiss threat of pending lecturer strikes

By Daniel Whitehead
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has played down fears of the proposed lecturer strikes scheduled for later in the academic year.

Concerns have been raised by some students that their graduation could be delayed if lecturers refuse to mark crucial exams or pieces of assessed work.

David Garner, the University Press Officer, stated that "there is no way" students' graduation will be disrupted.

However, representatives of the AUT (Association of University Teachers) recently proposed an "assessment boycott" in which exam preparation



AUT's Dr. Simon Parker

would be "halted", in a recent press release.

The threat of strike action comes after negotiations between the AUT and University officials broke down in the first week of term.

The Union, which represents a large portion of

teaching fellows at the University, is demanding increased salaries for lecturers and argues that the Vice Chancellors of York have failed to live up to their promise of "substantial increases" in pay for lecturing staff once the new nationwide top-up fees are launched.

The AUT have begun the process of allowing members to vote for action to be taken against the University. This was met with severe displeasure from David Garner who stated "we're disappointed they have balloted members before negotiations are complete".

However, Garner was optimistic about the outcome, adding that there are "no guarantees" of any

action being taken and that the university will "will do its utmost to make sure that if any action is taken, it will have no impact on the way that students are assessed".

The Students' Union also played down the rumoured threat of students being affected, by showing no signs of an urgent intention to lobby against the teachers' Union.

SU services officer, Nat Thwaites-McGowan, said "we don't have any policies in place, so I don't think it would be correct for us to lobby against the action which the AUT is taking", and when asked what action would be taken if the strike did go ahead he said only that "we will have to cross that bridge when we come to it".

However, despite the Union saying that it "remains hopeful any disruptive action can still be avoided" and that "further talks will continue during the balloting process", Vice-President of York's AUT, Dr Simon Parker, also a Politics lecturer at the University, said that University employees will have to "return to the negotiating table with serious proposals to avoid any dispute".

When asked for their position on the matter, the Students' Union were quick to "support the lecturers' struggle for increased pay"; but added that they cannot "support any means of achieving their goal which would put students' education at risk".

Thwaites-McGowan

commented "I don't think it is an overreaction" by the AUT, as "putting students' education at risk and threatening to walk away is the only thing that the lecturers have".

The AUT, which was formed in the early 20th century, is a national trade union that provides support and advice to over 48,000 higher education professionals in the UK. The union prides itself on representing the traditional university sector, with regional departments in Oxford and Cambridge as well as in York. The AUT recently announced a merger with fellow lecturers' Union NATFHE under the new name of the University and College Union (UHU).

YUSU respond to drink spiking

Recent survey shows 80 per cent of York students are not aware



By Daniel Whitehead
and Jamie Merrill

A RECENT Nouse poll reveals that 80% of students at York University feel that they are not in danger of having their drink spiked at campus events with only half admitting to looking after their drinks.

The poll comes only weeks after the launch of the SU drinks awareness campaign; at a time when drink spiking had allegedly occurred at recent Club D events. Many students when informed about the recent incident were shocked by the news. One student who wished to remain nameless said "I never even considered the chances that anyone at our University would do such a thing".

Since the last occurrence of alleged drink spiking at the end of the autumn term, the Students Union Welfare committee have launched a campaign in an attempt to raise awareness. However until now the campaign has had limited success, with only 33% of students surveyed having any knowledge of the risks and incidents.

Neil Barnes, the SU Welfare officer has since promised to do a "blitz of drink-spiking awareness"

Revellers at Jungle Boogie on Saturday night: but a recent poll suggests students are not taking their safety at campus events seriously

Raising awareness on campus

How to keep your drink safe at night club events on campus

AS DRINK SAFETY concerns grow on campus, Nouse is supporting YUSU's drink awareness campaign.

Renewed fears follow two cases in the past two months in which female undergraduates have suffered suspected drink spiking at campus events.

Nouse have reported on both these alleged cases, in a drive to support the SU's campaign to raise awareness among students of the potential danger to their drinks.

Students are urged to be vigilant at all times, and never to leave their drinks unattended. It is advised that they stay in a group where possible, and avoid accepting drinks from strangers. It is also recommended that they consider their safety carefully

before leaving an event with someone they did not previously know. It is important that students remember that they are vulnerable to drink spiking and related offences on campus as well in in the city centre.

Male students should be aware that drink spiking does not happen exclusively to women, and are urged to take their drink safety seriously.

If you think your drink has been spiked, you should seek medical attention as soon as possible. Neil Barnes, the SU's Education and Welfare Officer, can be contacted at edwelfare@yusu.org. Further advice can be found at www.yusu.org/welfare, www.roofie.com and www.rapecrisis.co.uk.

Is your drink safe on campus?

- Never leave your drink unattended
- Never accept a drink from stranger
- Go out as a group, stay as a group and go home as a group
- Ask the bar staff to remove bottle tops in your presence
- Look out for our friends, don't let others take advantage of them
- If you feel ill or disorientation seek assistance from your friends or staff at the venue
- If you believe your drink has been spiked always seek medical advice



Untended drinks left are open to potential spiking

fears with awareness campaign of campus drink safety concerns

in order to “encourage students to take responsibility for making sure that they don’t put themselves in a vulnerable position”. However, he added “I don’t want to scare students into thinking that it is rife because it is still relatively rare, campus events are still much safer than bars and clubs in the city”. This claim was backed up by our survey which showed that 70% of students feel safer on campus than at venues in the city centre.

Despite Barnes’s attempts for colleges “to take some responsibility of raising awareness at their own events”, it has become clear that not enough action has been taken by some JCRCs to combat the dangers of drink spiking. During a recent interview, Dave Jones the Chair of Derwent, has admitted that after last term’s alleged drink spiking “there were no extra measures that I can think of that were put in place for drink safety”. He added, “in retrospect that was probably something we should have got on the ball with”, blaming the oversight on it being “everyone’s first event” after the JCR handover.

The aftermath of such revelations may have repercussions on the popularity of campus events. For students who may be more wary of

drinking on campus Neil Barnes commented “I don’t want this to be a knee-jerk reaction that ends up giving events a bad name...two alleged incidents in a year is not a disaster, however it is a cause for concern”. Yet Derwent chair Dave Jones admitted “there is a danger” of events such as Club D being affected by such bad publicity.

In order to combat the lack of awareness among students the Welfare Office are aiming to increase the frequency of drinking campaigns at large events. This will involve SU officers placing stirrers warning against the dangers of drink spiking

into the drinks of unsuspecting students. However Barnes criticised the proposed introduction of the confiscation of unattended drinks by Derwent JCRC members as “a step too far” adding “we are not the parents of students”.

When the Welfare Officer was asked whether he felt the SU were inadequate in their response to the current problem he said “I don’t think I have been slow at all, I held my first campaign in week 6 of Planet V last term”. “My actions were pre-emptive not reactionary and everything I am doing has been part of my plan for the whole year”

What the students said

1. Are you aware of the drinks campaign the SU is running?
Yes: 33% No: 67%
2. At campus events do you think you are at danger of having your drink spiked?
Yes: 20% No: 80%
3. Do you look after your drinks at all times at campus events?
Yes: 51% No: 49%
4. Do you feel more safe at campus events than at bars or clubs in town?
Yes: 70% No: 30%
5. Are you aware that incidents of drink spiking have occurred on campus recently?
Yes: 39% No: 61%



Drink spiking hits Derwent

By Jamie Merrill and Daniel Whitehead

ANOTHER undergraduate student has allegedly had her drink-spiked at Club D in the first week of term, following a similar event at the same place in December last year.

The undergraduate, who has declined to be named, had to be taken from Club D within 45 minutes of arriving, with a headache and nausea.

The student had only two glasses of wine before entering the event. She bought a drink from the bar, drank half of it then went to dance and left it on the side unattended. She was aware there “was a group of guys there” but thought nothing of it. After dancing for 30

minutes, she returned from dancing nearby and finished her drink.

The student said she would not leave a drink unattended in a bar or club in town. “It was just because it’s a Club D, adding “It’s not something I would assume is going to happen to me at York University. There are a lot of smart people around, why would they do this?”

The student reported that within 15 minutes of finishing the drink, “I started feeling really crap and my legs felt really weak, the room started to spin and I thought I was going to faint.” At this point several of her friends helped her upstairs to her room where she was violently sick and passed out.

The student was not

admitted to hospital but her friends suspected her drink had been tampered with. “I actually didn’t drink that much compared with all of my house mates”.

The following morning, the student continued to suffer from headaches and nausea. Despite the incident, she said “I was just glad that nothing major happened to me, I was so lucky, I could have had an allergic reaction”

The student did not contact the police but brought it to the attention of the Derwent JCRC. She said “I thought that its something that everyone needs to know about”. However, she has criticised the SU for not doing enough to raise awareness on campus.

Scam sites link with student house

By Toby Green
EDITOR

TWO WEBSITES, apparently run by Neil Entwistle, which operate in the sale of pornographic domains, have been linked with a student house in York.

Entwistle, the York graduate who remains a “person of interest” in the murder case of his wife and daughter, appears to have had two websites www.millionmaker.co.uk and www.srpublications.co.uk registered in his name at 10 Heslington Road, an address only minutes from the University of York.

The websites are among those being investigated by American authorities. The Deephotsex.com domain was also registered to the same address, under the name Mark Smith.

Police have revealed

that they are investigating the possibility of a vendetta against the Entwistle family as a result of the various internet businesses. A related Ebay account, under the user name SRPublications, had been the recipient of various threatening emails in the past.

One comment, now taken off the internet auction site, read “Rachel Entwistle is a thieving liar”. Other comments warned users off buying the products, which



The Ebay website was used by Entwistle in his dealings

included expensive software and guides on internet businesses, again involving pornography, after claiming that they weren’t received. Many comments have now been removed.

10 Heslington Road is currently occupied by students at the University, who have rented the house as tenants. The landlord of the property was contacted but was unavailable for comment, and it has not been confirmed whether Neil Entwistle was ever a tenant at the address while he was a student at York University. However it is believed that he never was the owner of the house.

The investigations were started after questions were asked on how the Entwistles could afford to pay £1,534 rent on their detached house in Massachusetts. It was revealed that neither had employment, with Neil

Entwistle not having held a job for five months.

There has been speculation that the internet businesses financed their apparently lavish lifestyle, although it is not known whether Rachel Entwistle was aware of the schemes despite being named in relation to the Ebay sales.

One neighbour of the family said “What were they doing for money to pay the rent and why had they only just moved to that house – were they running away from something?” Another neighbour said “You do wonder if someone else came to the house, someone Rachel and Neil knew, looking for revenge over a debt.”

Currently Neil Entwistle is in England, but has not been arrested by police as he is described by the authorities to be “not a suspect” in the case. Police confirmed investigations will continue.

Campus focus of media attention

By Toby Green
EDITOR

YORK CAMPUS found itself the centre of international media attention after the murder of a graduate was revealed.

Rachel Entwistle, who was murdered with her baby daughter in their home in Hopkinton, near Boston, USA, met her husband whilst both were members of the University’s boat club. Adam Roney, the current boat club president, said “We were told by the University to refer all enquiries to their press office, but the BBC in particular were quite forceful about coming down and shooting footage of us rowing. We didn’t know anything about these people and it’s a situation we don’t want to be involved with.”

He revealed that the Boston Herald had been in contact but was more surprised “that people like Radio 1 and the BBC News team had bothered.”

Mickey Armstrong, the SU President, was also approached by a “number of organisations” but again refused to comment or answer any inquiries.

Roney raised questions about the role of the Press Department in assisting the Boat Club. He said “People like myself don’t deal with the national press and I didn’t feel like we had a lot of guidance. I felt like we were on our own.” He also revealed that despite the BBC spending a whole day filming, only four seconds of footage was used, “which wasn’t a particularly great use of time or of license payer’s money.”

Car thefts lead to security concerns

BY Daniel Whitehead
NEWS EDITOR

A RECENT OUTBREAK of car break-ins on campus has led to fears of car safety among students and staff at the University.

Inquiries into the extent of car related thefts have revealed that the Innovation Centre (Science Park) and Halifax College car parks were some of the worst hit. Neither have been provided with CCTV coverage by the University.

Josie Williamson, a resident of Langwith E block, was the victim of a break-in towards the end of the Autumn term. She said that in the same week as her car had been broken into she had been aware of 10 other similar thefts, and 3 in the same day. She and her housemate, Frieda Gray, have both had their cars raided since moving into Langwith in September.

Williamson reported that, after parking her vehicle behind her house over the weekend, she was informed by a friend that her side window had been smashed by thieves who stole her CD

Gray had a similar experience in which her side door was burnt off only a fortnight ago, and her CD player removed.

Since the rash of break ins, some students have reported that they may reconsider their use of car parks on campus. When James student Richard Green was asked whether he would consider parking on campus, he replied "probably not...because of safety".

One Halifax official said "why would you need a car when there is such a good bus service?" I wouldn't park my car here".

Henry Ho, a resident of Halifax College, also expressed his concerns at the amount of car break-ins; calling for "more security to protect cars". In response to these fears, the security department stated that they "the University is always looking to improve the CCTV coverage on car parks" and that patrols are carried out at night on a regular basis.

Further incidents have been reported across campus, including burglaries at Halifax College and James College. Rob Little, the



The Halifax car park is poorly lit and lacks CCTV coverage, causing a target for thieves. Photo: Georgi Mabee

Security Operations Manager of the University confirmed that three vehicles between Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd of January were broken into on the West, Chemistry and Innovation Centre car parks. The incidents, which are believed to have been related to one another, involved the breaking of side door windows and the stealing of expensive electronic equip-

ment, such as satellite navigation devices.

CCTV footage on one of the main car parks indicates that two male occupants driving a small hatchback may have been involved.

However Little added that due to the "poor images" it is not clear what the suspects look like.

He confirmed that "local police are investigating the matter".

Staff admit high chance of asbestos find during survey

BY Joe Surtees
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY HAVE admitted an asbestos survey is currently taking place in Vanbrugh B and C blocks, as University staff admit a "high possibility" of the dangerous building product existing in the buildings. If asbestos is found, the University is committed to undertaking the long and costly process of its removal.

There have also been concerns that asbestos may be present in other older campus buildings such as Langwith and Derwent, where it is expected that surveys will also take place.

Jane Whyman, the facilities manager for Zone 6, confirmed the high likelihood of the carcinogenic product existing in college buildings, but moved to reassure students that "there is absolutely no danger to any pupils presently at the University or to any who have left previously".

However, according to the HSE website, "at least 3500 people in Great Britain

die each year from mesothelioma and asbestos related lung cancer as a result of past exposure to asbestos. Annual numbers of deaths are predicted to go on rising into the next decade".

Asbestos, mixed with cement, was widely used as a building product up until the 1980's due to its resistance to fire or heat.

However it was banned for use in construction in the mid 1980's due to the discovery that the inhalation of certain types of asbestos fibres (mainly from the Amphibole group) could cause certain serious illnesses, including some forms of cancer.

The survey, which will continue into week four, is being carried out by Durham based firm MIS Environmental Ltd.

Whyman assured any worried students that the buildings will be subject to airborne monitoring whilst the work is being carried out and if any amount of asbestos is detected it will be dealt with immediately by a licensed contractor.

However, one Vanbrugh

student who cannot be named said "there are all these men walking around in full protective clothing, and students wandering around them in dressing gowns. It's a bit unnerving".

This is not the first time staff have faced an asbestos scare in university buildings. In October 2004, officials admitted having "known for years" that potentially lethal asbestos existed in the Bleachfield Residences, in which families with small children are housed.

Speaking at the time, Steve Adamthwaite, the principle Environmental Health Officer for the City of York Council said, "I am aware that many of the University buildings will contain asbestos. It goes with the age of construction".

In November of the same year, a Breakz events in Vanbrugh was forced to close after another asbestos scare, when an organiser broke through the protective sheeting on one of the walls. Students were immediately evacuated from the area.

However, questions



Full protective clothing as worn during a recent college asbestos survey

have recently arisen about whether the degree of danger posed by asbestos has been overstated.

When the material is only present in small amounts it is very unlikely that the fibre could be dislodged and subsequently inhaled.

According to the HSE website, most serious illnesses and deaths related to the product are due to past heavy exposures in industries like shipbuilding and railway engineering.

Student apathy stops recycling in colleges

BY Nick Dingwall
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

CAMPUS RECYCLING has been brought to a halt in some colleges because of a lack of student volunteers. The news has been met with disappointment by many students, and some have been quick to blame their colleges.

However, Charlotte Bonner, an SU Environment Officer, pointed out that no college takes responsibility for the emptying of recycling bins; "without student volunteers, recycling on campus would grind to a halt".

This has been the situation in both Alcuin and Wentworth, where the lack of Environment Representatives on the JCRCs has led to cleaners removing recycling boxes in all kitchens.

Tom Stratton, the recently appointed JCRC Chair for Alcuin College, has assured students that after the forthcoming by-elections, where the position of Environment Representative is contested, "the bins will be re-instated in order to let the new reps sort the situation out."

Sue Lister, the Wentworth College

Secretary, said residents had been invited to "take responsibility for clearing [their kitchen's recycling box] on a regular basis. So far only one student has responded".

The University is paid by York City Council for every tonne it collects and last quarter raised £300.

Despite this, the University won't allow the money to be used to supply Environment reps with essential items such as gloves, which have to be bought with Junior Common room funds.

James Hyde, a Music Technology student, said "The University shouldn't be allowed to keep that money - it should be put back into recycling, perhaps publicising ways to recycle on campus".

The news comes in Think Week - a week of events designed to promote environmental awareness on campus.

YUSU Environment Officers have been giving out postcards at their events, addressed to Brian Cantor, the Vice Chancellor.

It is hoped this petition will force the University into action on their environmental policies.

Battle of the Bands heats show off new talent



Make It Better Later, playing in the third Battle of the Bands heat on Thursday 26 January. The heats were held throughout week three of term. Semi-finalists on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 February in Vanbrugh will feature The Moguls, Mitus, Fenna Rhodes, Chieftain Tayto, Lowground, Conceptual Misfire, Love Apples, The Memos, More Addiction and The Shocks. Last years final winners, The Morning Thieves, went on to play at Woodstock and in Leeds. Photo: Georgi Mabee

Tony Banks: from campus to cabinet

BY Jamie Merrill
POLITICS EDITOR

YORK UNIVERSITY graduate and former Government Minister, Tony Banks died earlier this month at the age of 62, whilst on holiday in America. The former Labour Member of Parliament for West Ham, later Lord Stratford, collapsed due to a stroke during lunch on Sanibel Island, Florida on the 5th of January 2006 and died three days later.

The popular MP, who was briefly Sports Minister, has been mourned by colleagues across the political spectrum, including the Prime Minister and former Conservative MP David Mellor; a close friend and fellow avid Chelsea fan.

Anthony Louis Banks was born in Belfast in 1943, and started his political career early. He was amongst the first intake of students to study at York and graduated in 1967 with a 2:1. His time at York was not that of an average student. The former politics stu-

dent climbed the campus political ladder, first by becoming Langwith J.C.R.C. chair and then Student Council President in 1965.

Whilst S.C.R. President, Banks had good relations with the founding Vice-Chancellor, Lord James of Rusholme. They disagreed on one point - Lord James boasted that his wife, an Oxford graduate, still darned his socks. Banks took offence at this, becoming one of the first MPs to campaign for women's rights upon entering Parliament.

Aside from arguing with the Vice-Chancellor as S.C.R. President, Banks ensured the survival and independence of Nouse, which had been established in 1964, but by 1966 was suffering financial problems without any University or Student Council funding. President Banks agreed to provide Nouse with an annual grant as well as guaranteeing no S.C.R. interference with the paper, except financial control.

This ascent to the heights

of student political power was not mirrored by his career in national politics. Tam Dalyell, veteran Labour MP and Banks' close friend said of him: "he wanted to do something in politics, rather than to be someone".

After starting his career as a trade union researcher, Banks entered electoral politics when he became a member of the Greater London Council in 1970, three years after graduating from York. Then, after initially struggling to win a seat, the former student politician became a Labour MP for Newham North West and then later West Ham. He remained an MP for 20 years until unexpectedly accepting a working peerage as Lord Stratford in 2005. Yet he called his title a "nom de politics" and still expected to be known as Tony Banks.

Starting out on the far Left of the Labour party, Banks had moderated his views enough to be made Sports Minister in 1997. As an avid



Tony Banks MP was one of the first students at York

Chelsea fan, he saw the job as a place in "heaven". However, Banks was never fully comfortable with front bench politics and often got himself into difficulties. He once described the then leader of the Conservatives, William Hague, as "a foetus", dismissed the Liberal Democrats as "woolly-hatted, muesli-eating, Tory lick-spittles" and called the Canadians "dick-heads" for culling baby seals. Banks resigned as Sports Minister in 1999 to concentrate on the unsuccessful bid for the 2006 football world cup.

Once out of Government, the vegetarian Banks was able to campaign for improved animal welfare from the backbenches. He became Vice-President of The League Against Cruel Sports and spoke frequently for the Anti-hunting Bill.

Tony Banks is survived by his wife, Sally, who has initiated a campaign in his honour to halt the culling of seals in Canada.

Tension grows over Iran's opaque nuclear intentions

James Best examines the global implications of Iran's nuclear weapons policy

On the 2nd of February, the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will convene to discuss the implementation of safeguards with respect to Iran's nuclear energy programme, as requested by the permanent missions of France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

On the 12th of January, British, German and French Foreign Ministers announced the end of negotiations over Iran's suspected nuclear weapons programme and that Iran would be brought before the UN Security Council. The decision was supported in an address by Condoleezza Rice, in which the US Secretary of State said that Iran's "rejection of diplomatic initiatives offered by the EU and Russia" and "its dangerous defiance of the entire international community" had brought international condemnation upon the government in Tehran and the necessity of UN action.

The present situation dates back to September 2002 when Iran informed the IAEA that it was building new facilities in a move towards developing the nuclear fuel cycle. This was followed by a visit from IAEA Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei who was "taken aback" by Iran's nuclear programme. Iran, in a joint statement with the UK, France and Germany, agreed to cooperate with the IAEA. This began the long series of negotiations, restrictions, political wrangling and evasions that culminated with the removal of IAEA seals at Narantz on 10th January 2006 and the resulting international protestations and appeals to adhere to the agreements made with the IAEA, Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

Iran's Deputy Secretary for International Security Javad Vaidi claims that Iran wants "reasonable, constructive and bilateral negotiations" but that this is jeopardised by Europe "threatening to refer [Iran] to the Security Council which [Europeans] think hangs over Iran like a sword of Damocles". He goes further to threaten the termination of all voluntary measures agreed

The IAEA could not conclude that Iran's nuclear programme was solely peaceful

with the IAEA and begin enriching uranium, the process needed for both nuclear energy and weapons, immediately should they be referred to the UN Security Council.

Iran is a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and is thus under an obligation to make its nuclear programme transparent to external independent observers. In



The Bushehr nuclear power facility in Iran

September last year the IAEA concluded that Iran had not complied over issues of transparency and that therefore they could not conclude that Iran's nuclear programme was for solely peaceful purposes.

In an interview on the 12th of January, Mohammed ElBaradei points out that Iran has "a right under the treaty to enrich uranium" and is not in fact in breach of the treaty. However, he claims that, "if they [Iran] have the nuclear material and they have a parallel weaponization program along the way, they are really not very far - a few months - from a weapon". Furthermore he says that the IEAE have "information about some modification of their missiles that could have some relationship to the nuclear programme".

Critics of the moves to bring Iran before the Security Council have pointed out that sanctions were neither threatened nor imposed upon India or Pakistan, both of which have declared the possession of nuclear weapons. Also Israel does not confirm nor deny the existence of its nuclear weapons, despite allegations made to the *Sunday Times* by Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli nuclear technician. None of these countries are members of the NPT and Pakistan was involved in the

sale of black market nuclear technology to North Korea and Iran.

There are many possible outcomes of this situation. Initially sanctions are most likely and would probably start small, such as travel bans for government leaders and Iranian sports teams. This could escalate to economic sanctions, but this would be difficult as Iran has important energy contracts with Russia, China, Japan, India, South Korea and others. With a large amount of money in the bank from recently high oil prices Iran may be able to afford sanctions more easily than those countries involved in the decision to impose them. This was illustrated by Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's comment that "You [the west] need us more than we need you".

If these were the only considerations then the situation would be less explosive but they are not, for President Ahmadinejad threatened to "wipe Israel off the map", predictably provoking an equally confrontational response, not just from Israel but also from President Bush and others within the US. Mr Bush announced that the US will not be "blackmailed" by an Iranian nuclear weapon and that the US is "committed to the safety of Israel". Israel's response has been to threaten mili-

tary action and the use of bunker busting bombs, supplied by the US, to attack Iranian nuclear facilities.

The Middle East has not been this unstable in a long time and the outcome of this conflict is anything but certain. The effects of a conflict, violent or peaceful, will be felt across the globe. The direction will be clearer after the 2nd of February but the end is a long way from sight.

Coca farmer sweeps Bolivian elections

Bolivia joins the leftward shift in Latin American politics. By **Ellen Carpenter**

Bolivia inaugurated its new president amidst hopes for an end to the turmoil it has suffered under previous leaders. Evo Morales, the indigenous leader of the Movement Towards Socialism party (MAS) was voted in with a decisive majority on the 8th of December 2005.

As Bolivia's first indigenous president and a former coca farmer and llama herder, Morales has great support from Bolivia's two-thirds indigenous population. Journalist Rene Barcena says, "as a Bolivian I am really proud to have voted for him".

Morales' election campaign was based around the reform of Bolivia's natural gas industry, an issue which has resulted in violent unrest in recent years. Bolivia's previous elected president, Carlos Mesa, was forced to resign after weeks of mass protests and blockades surrounded the de facto capital of La Paz.

Elections were called earlier than usual by the interim president, Eduardo Rodriguez, in order to prevent further disorder.

President Morales was inaugurated on the 22nd of January. The official ceremony was preceded by a religious ritual at the Tiahuanaco, a pre-Inca ruined city in the Andes, in which Morales made offerings to Pachamama, or Mother Earth, in tribute to the country's indigenous population.

Fellow left-wing leaders Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva were present at the official inauguration at the Palacio Quemado, La Paz's seat of government.

Evo Morales' policy is predicted to meet with opposition from Washington and international business. Morales has vowed to redress the inequalities of Bolivian society, and in particular to create a fairer hydrocarbons industry. While the landlocked country has the second largest natural gas reserves in South America, the vast majority of profit goes to foreign exporters. Morales plans to follow Hugo Chavez's approach of nationalised exploitation of natural resources to fund social spending.



"All of our action is a war cry against imperialism" - anti-American feeling at La Paz University, Bolivia

Several international companies have already attempted to sue the Bolivian state for breach of contract after Mesa's government raised export taxes on hydrocarbons in 2005. Morales has attempted to soothe investors with promises of maintained profits, but insists that he will take steps towards nationalising the industry.

Morales may also encounter opposition from the gas-rich departments of Santa Cruz and Tarija in the east of Bolivia, populated largely by non-indigenous European Bolivians. Morales' opponent in the presidential elections, Jorge Quiroga, drew his support largely from these areas.

Morales's policy on coca farming will also potentially bring Bolivia into conflict with the US government. The coca plant, the raw material for cocaine, is an integral part of Bolivian life. Consumed as tea or chewed raw, coca acts to suppress hunger, raise the body temperature and combat the adverse physical

effects of altitude, all vital in the impoverished altiplano lifestyle of many indigenous Bolivians. While Morales has proclaimed his dedication to fighting the production of cocaine, his refusal to cooperate with America's coca eradication schemes has raised questions regarding continuing aid from the US government. The new president has already demonstrated his socialist convictions by halving his own pay to little over £1000 a month, a cut of 57%. Evo Morales's victory in the recent elections, in which he gained the largest majority of votes since the reintroduction of democracy in the 1980s, is evidence of the overall leftward shift in Latin American politics. As a close friend of Hugo Chavez, the leftist leader of Venezuela, and Fidel Castro, Morales has claimed to be part of a growing 'axis of good' in the region in opposition to Washington and its allies.

Chile has also joined the emerg-

ing trend, electing its first female president, socialist single mother Michelle Bachelet, in early January.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is a more moderate example of a left-leaning Latin American leader, considered by Washington to be an ally against the more radical governments. Some commentators have suggested that Evo Morales will have to lean towards Lula's style if he is to balance his domestic goals with international pressure.

While Morales's presidency is widely seen as a victory for Bolivia's indigenous majority and a chance to end the huge inequalities in Bolivian society, many are unsure of his ability to overcome the country's deep-rooted problems. NGO worker Alix Shand says, "if Evo fails and we are subjected to social upheaval during his presidential period then we will know that this truly is an ungovernable country and maybe it should be divided up among neighbouring countries".

The Campus Soap Box

Nouse invites campus political groups to vent on an issue of their choice. This edition, the Lib Dems reflect on the campaign for party leadership

By **Adam Hewitt (member of the Liberal Democrats)**

The Liberal Democrats have had more press coverage in the past three weeks than they have had since the General Election, so the only sensible thing to do seems to be to add a tiny bit more.

Most recently, Mark Oaten resigned from his position as Home Affairs spokesman, admitting to a six-month affair with a rent boy. I think I stand with a lot of Liberal Democrats and liberals generally when I say that unless this affair compromised his ability to do his job, his private life (which can be as 'bizarre' as he wants it to be as long as it stays legal, despite what the tabloids say) is his own. He didn't lie to the public, and accusations of hypocrisy are ludicrous - we want to liberalise prostitution and, on top of this, are absolutely committed to gay rights and diversity. Oaten wouldn't have made a good leader for the party, so I'm glad he's stepped down from the leadership race, but that's a different matter - one concerned with his performance as an MP and a party spokesman, on which it is vital he is judged.

With the leadership campaigns, much of the national media are having their usual caricature festival, pulling and poking the issues so they fit through easy-to-report holes, even if that means ignoring the truth. In most reports, the three candidates are simply the "left-wing one", the "old one" and the "no-one". When reporting gets slightly more in-depth the usual talk is of huge ideological splits, sometimes even along a Liberal/SDP fault line as a hangover from the 1980s.

This is almost entirely nonsense.

All three are gut liberals and approach issues from a liberal perspective - even if a left-wing or right-wing perspective would be easier to stereotype. They are equally committed to supporting human rights and civil liberties and thus fighting the authoritarian Labour government over ID cards, 'extraordinary rendition' and detention without trial. They are all committed to constitutional reform, including a fairer voting system. All are committed to fighting climate change in a more effective manner than the current government or the Tories. All are committed to liberal policies on drugs and crime. Chris Huhne and Simon Hughes, say, are much closer to each other philosophically and policy-wise than to any other party.

I'm still undecided, and am choosing between the candidates based on how well I think they'll lead the party (remembering that it is the Party Conference that sets policy) and how they will come across to the public. All three are committed to the same brand of liberalism as I am and any great left/right splits between them exist in the media rather than reality, if you look into what they've each written and proposed. I can see any of the three making a good leader and fully hope that the two runners-up stay as important members of the Shadow Cabinet - which is bad for a rant, but good for the Liberal Democrats.

Contact the Liberal Democrats on campus: socs359@york.ac.uk

The political career of one of the Middle East's most controversial figures reaches its conclusion



Above: Ariel Sharon

By **Michelle Norfolk**
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

With ill health forcing the Israeli president from office, we ask what his legacy could mean for the region

Ariel Sharon, the 11th Prime Minister of Israel since February 2001, is a long-serving Israeli political and military leader. Tragedy struck at the 77 year old's political peak, when he suffered a major stroke on the 4th of January this year. He was a founding member and former head of the Likud party, and previously served for 30 years in the Israeli Defense forces, rising to the rank of Major General. Sharon changed the history of the Middle East, by withdrawing from Gaza and building a barrier in the West Bank, effectively killing the dream of a Greater Israel, incorporating captured Arab lands. However, this Middle Eastern figure has been shrouded in controversy

for the majority of his professional life. Referred to by many as "the Butcher of Beirut" from being found indirectly responsible for the massacres of 'Sabra and Shatila' of 1982 in the Lebanon war by the Kahan Commission, to the brutal reprisal raids he held against Palestinian infiltrators in the 1950's, it is no wonder why people compare him to a terrorist and war criminal.

However, within his own country, there has never been a leader accepted with such devotion. He is known as, "Arik, King of Israel", and former peace negotiator Amos Guiera, doubts Sharon's political successors will ever be embraced as warmly. At home, Sharon is a war hero, who strove to establish peace

without sacrificing Israel's security, as in the 6 Day War in 1967, and in 1973 in the Yom Kippur War. Both left and right Israelis - even those who reviled him as one of the chief architects of Israel's greatest folly; its programme of settlement building - had come to see him as the only politician capable of leading the country in any direction.

Having successfully pulled off the Gaza withdrawal and founded a new Centrist party, Kadima, that looked poised to win elections on 28th March, what is the future for Israel? Nobody knows who will carry on Sharon's unfinished mission of drawing Israel's final boarders, especially as his political heirs lack the strength and popularity to

uproot Jewish settlers from the West Bank. There is no denying that Israelis will find it hard to adjust to life without a larger than life leader, with no one quite sure what is coming next.

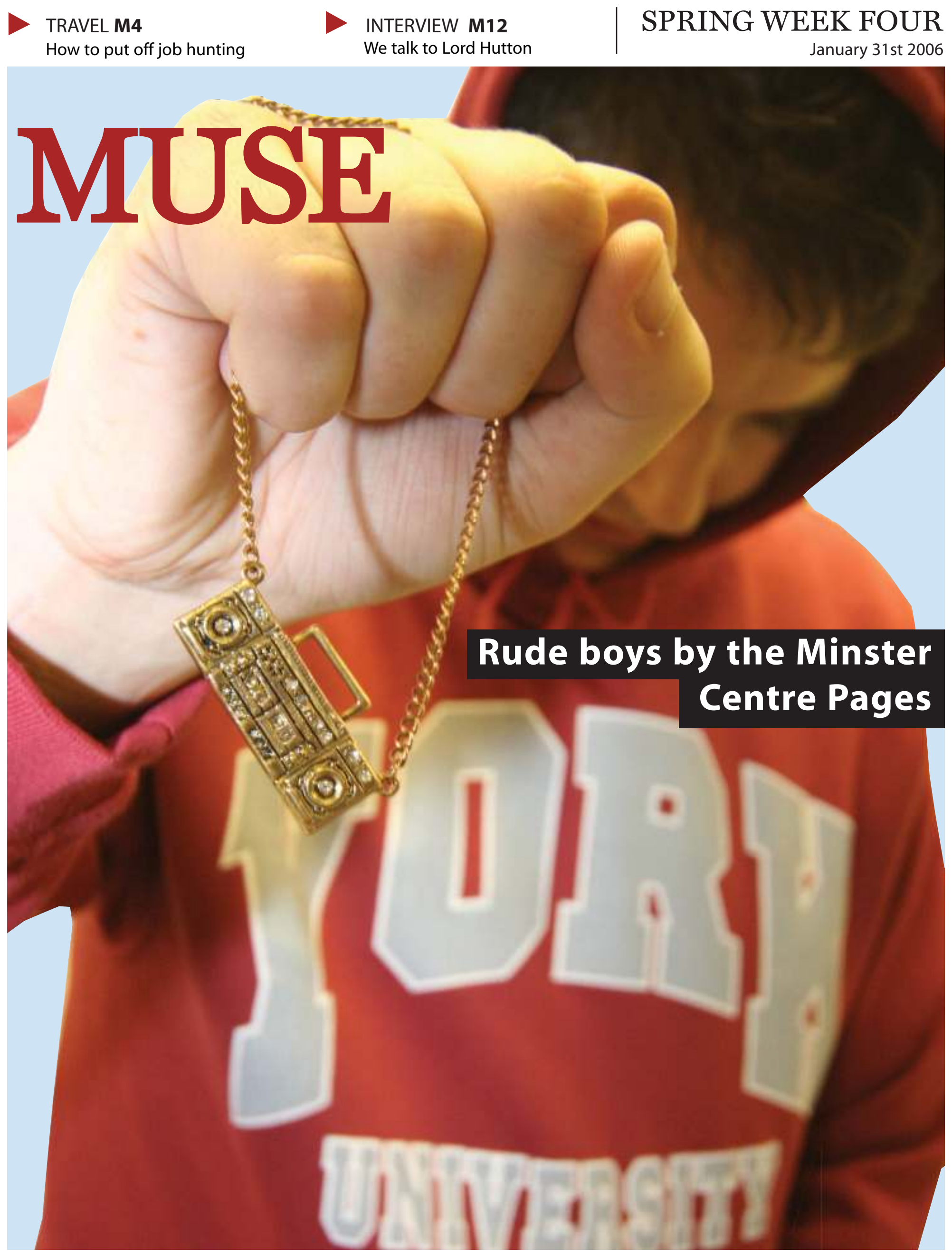
One thing is for sure, Mr Sharon's departure from politics will be bad for peace with the Palestinians. Until his stroke, a party of the centre, ready for a two-state solution but tough on security, was just what secular Israeli mainstream seemed to want. But with no clear or strong heir, Kadima isn't as powerful as was thought. Even if they were voted in, Israelis know the best they can expect is for them to carry on with the disengagement plan, the very plan that, although

praised everywhere else, has added to the lawlessness and impoverishment of Gaza. Olmert, Kadima's new leader and acting Prime Minister, lacks a natural following, Peres, a new Kadima supporter and past Prime Minister, is a serial loser of elections and widely distrusted, and Peretz, the Labour Party leader, stands little chance of winning with the political mood in Israel.

Thus, whether you consider Ariel Sharon to be a war hero or a bloody tyrant, you cannot deny he has been present at or involved in nearly every seminal moment in modern Israel's history, and with him gone from the political landscape, the agenda for the Middle East seems even more uncertain.

MUSE

**Rude boys by the Minster
Centre Pages**



Boris Johnson: on politics, the media and the good old days

Toby Green talks to the newly appointed shadow Higher Education Minister about his turbulent political career and his plans for the future

Five minutes into our interview, and already Boris is into his stride. "I'll tell you the difference between our lot and your lot. When I was at University we were very sharp elbowed. We were all little Thatcherites and there was a real sense that we had to get out there and kick butt. I think the generation of today is generally nicer than we were, they seem better balanced and more passionate about things. There was something quite hustling about us and we were very much encouraged that we had to go out there and kill. Get on and kick ass."

Boris Johnson, MP for Henley-on-Thames area and now shadow Higher Education minister in David Cameron's new look cabinet, has always been the subject for conflicting views. On one hand he is seen as one of the greatest assets of the Conservative party, a gifted public speaker and politician who has been earmarked by many as an eventual leader of the party. He enjoyed a meteoric rise in his career as a journalist, named Political Commentator of the Year in 1998 and becoming editor of *The Spectator* at 35, before switching to politics. On the other side he has been labelled the nation's 'favourite fogey' and in November 2004 was a casualty at the hands of the tabloids when he was dismissed from the Tory front bench and his position as Vice-Chair of the party, after lying about allegations that he had a four year affair with Petronella Wyatt, a journalist at the *Spectator*.

The first impressions seem to confirm the second view: coming into his office I find him on the phone, looking perturbed. A high profile policy clash, perhaps, in the Tory's new team? Or perhaps another media appearance offer, to add to his already bulging CV? In fact it is an automated voice, telling the politician he has only 8p left on his pay-as-you-go phone.

He quickly gets over this setback as he has done many times before, and settles down to answer the inevitable question of why the Conservatives have performed a U-turn over their top-up fees policy. "Let me first say I was never one of those Tory politicians that thought our opposition to top up fees was very sensible. In the 1960's about 4% went to university, now the figure is about 43%, which means there are currently 2.3 million students." Surprisingly for a politician, he comes across as incredibly gen-

uine about the issue, someone who obviously enjoyed their time as a student.

"Yes, I had a great time. Back then we were much luckier because of the financial situation. Higher education was only available to a small percentage of the population so spending by government per student was much greater, plus we got a big grant." He reels off statistics with impressive precision, a surprise perhaps for those that have only seen Boris Johnson in his entertaining but shambolic position as *Have I Got News For You* chair and the various tabloid scandals that ended his first era in the Conservative cabinet. "The amount per head paid by the government was about 8000 quid per head in the big universities, whereas now all universities receive about 4,900 per head. The sheer success of higher education has created a problem that can only be solved by giving the Universities the ability to charge what they like to those that can afford it."

I ask him whether he had always had lofty political aspirations. "While at Oxford I got myself very involved in the politics side, not in party politics but in all the debating and electioneering. I was a Tory as I always have been, never really seen the point of Socialism, but I wasn't part of any Tory machine and I don't think the Conservatives there voted for me." He looks rather wistful at this recollection, but gathers himself when asked about what he was debating about.

"While I was president of the Union (highly prestigious debating society at Oxford) Regan bombed Libya, and that was huge. Leading up to that you had the whole fear of whether Ronnie Regan was going to blow up the world, we were asking whether we were all going to get blown up by this mad Texan warmonger?" (He gets confused, and temporarily loses his train of thought) "Although he wasn't Texan, he was Californian, that was the other guy..." Despite the temporary brain freeze, he rallies himself together and pulls out the commanding voice of a seasoned debater that often fails to come across through his TV appearances.

"This was the height of Thatcherian imperium: she had just won for the second time, which was the Falklands election I believe, and the support for her was tremendous. It was a very interesting time and it was still really the cold war. The female students used to go off to Brize Norton in dun-



I asked the vital question; will we ever see Boris in Number 10? "Well I'm not going to give up: put it this way, not in the next five years."

garees where the American planes were flying in and campaign there."

As he pauses to answer his ringing phone, he calls the girl on the other end by the wrong name, but recovers with great charm. He apologises for his rudeness, but keeps straight on topic. "Music is an obvious contrast: in the Thatcher era you had rock stars like Sid Vicious and The Clash and the lyrics were all about riot, rebellion, throwing TVs out the window and vomiting over your girlfriend before slitting your wrists. Nowadays it's all James Blunt and (he

attempts a nasal falsetto) 'you're beautiful'. It's all sitting around in a beanie hat and having a cup of coffee and talking about your feelings. But who's to say that is wrong? I guess that's progress, isn't it?"

"But nowadays there are difference issues, like the environment and social justice and all sorts of things that matter deeply to students. But while I was an undergraduate and at school we were always looking down the great gun barrel of nuclear war, and we were always living with the possibility of a nuclear bomb being dropped, and I think that's gone. That very oppressive threat doesn't exist anymore." I suggest to him that the war in Iraq came close. "Yes, people's feelings have been passionately engaged by that. It was a huge event, probably the biggest event of my lifetime. It was a (a wry chuckle) disaster in many ways, and I think people were right to get worked up about that."

I move the conversation back onto the ground covered by his recent promotion to shadow spokesman of Higher Education, and ask him whether more students should be aiming to do vocational degrees. "Yes of course, but I want to get one thing straight. I'm not one of those Tories that believe everyone is doing Mickey Mouse degrees, going to University is a wonderful thing and it's a great way to get on up."

"I don't like the idea that people are against that. Of course people should be doing more vocational degree because there has been an excessive drift and people will have to start moving back. Higher education makes your brain turn over in a different way, and there's no reason why people in all walks of life shouldn't benefit from it. I don't want a quota, but I'm not against targeting people into it."

Of course this has brought its own drawbacks. "I do think that the sheer success of it has caused a problem that can only be solved by giving the universities the freedom to charge those who can afford it, we've got to move to a system where those that can afford to pay will pay, and we help those who are in financial need. That's the important thing."

"The history of higher education in the last twenty years has been a brilliant evasion by the middle classes, by not paying for this thing that gives them a great advantage and they still stubbornly resist increases in their



Boris Johnson has now appeared on Have I Got News For You twice as a host as well as appearances as a guest and fulfilled a promise to give Paul Merton a coconut

tax. The most equitable solution is to recognise that there is a premium deriving from people's life at university, which is up to 30% for women and 15% for male. There's a big benefit to you, and to society. You've got to look at some way of making the beneficiary of this economic advantage contribute. I'm not suggesting that the top up fee system coming in October is perfect, but you have to start somewhere."

First impressions of the system don't look good, and Johnson declines to comment on NUS claims that UCAS figures set to be released in February show the first drop in University applicants for eight years, as he "wants to see the figures in detail before I comment. However if people are being deterred that would benefit from university, that's wrong and that's bad." He uses the same tactics on the subject of degree reclassification in the wake of criticism that it is getting easier to achieve a high level degree, claiming "I haven't yet formulated big ideas about it."

We move onto his high media profile, another mixed blessing for the politician who admitted while on Have I Got News For You that he attempted to try cocaine, but ended up sneezing and blowing it everywhere. However he claims "In some ways a strong media profile is a good thing", before adding, somewhat incredulously considering his past that "it certainly doesn't do you any harm. Have I Got News For You is great because they pay you as well, so it's got to be

done. I would definitely go back on, but I don't think they're likely to ask me again!" In fact the only media appearance he seems to have misgivings about is Desert Island Discs, when I remind him that on the Radio 4 show he was quoted as saying: "My ambition silicon chip has been programmed to try to scramble up this ladder". He looks embarrassed: "I was under heavy pressure from Sue Lawley, she was like a puck zooming at me, and I was like 'Get the puck out of here.'" I asked the vital question; will we ever see Boris in Number 10? "I'm not going to give up, but I think it's unlikely in the next five years, put it that way."

Diplomatically avoided, and that is seemingly the key to Boris' recent success: that behind his appearance as a bumbling loveable aristocrat, lies a sharp and attentive political mind that, after being burnt a few times, knows how to play the media game. Only once do I catch him flustered and unsure of what to say, when I inform him of the existence of a Boris Johnson Appreciation Society at York. He looks confused and asks me to repeat myself: "Really? That's... that's hilarious". Again, the lost look. "It's a privilege, a great honour. I don't deserve it, but my message to them is" he looks around, scrabbling. "My message is vote Conservative!"

Top-up fees: the views

NUS

"We have launched a campaign group to fight against tuition fee increases in the run up to a review planned for 2008. The coalition, backed by teaching unions from the schools, college and university sectors, aims to highlight the negative impact of fees on increasing admissions to Higher Education.

"UCAS figures due later this month are predicted to show the first drop in university applications in eight years despite government plans to get 50 per cent of 18-30 year olds into Higher Education by 2010"

YUSU

"I am seriously disappointed by the announcement by the Conservatives. As always the Union is very much against

top-up fees and it deeply concerns me that the Conservative party has taken this massive u-turn." - Micky Armstrong

Labour

The government's much criticised plans for the future of higher education in England involve, for full-time undergraduates, fees of up to £3,000 a year. The poorest students are eligible for non-repayable support of up to £3,000 year.

Liberal Democrats

The only major party who have remained opposed to top-up fees, they once promised to put an extra penny on tax to fund education. However the issue has not yet become high profile in the leadership race, although it is not expected to change.

Re-adjustment before taking

Harriet Bingley shows how working abroad not only delays entering the adult world



A place in south africa thats very south african and has lots of south african people, its a lovely pretty lovely desert lots of sand sand sand sand sand sand

An uneasy lull has descended upon my third and final year at York. Until relatively recently, I was in a healthy state of excitement about the rest of my life; then I foolishly began investigations into my future 'options'. This now appears to have been an ill-advised pursuit. After a few trips to the careers centre and an innocent browse of those infamous graduate recruitment schemes, I descended into increasing confusion. I am now convinced that the only way for me to manoeuvre my way through all this so called 'advice' is to take another degree in JARGON. Is this stuff meant to be useful?

Since this first venture, my current path has become somewhat of a haze. And now, in hindsight, my past few years seem totally insignificant and virtually barren of any useful reference. However much I slag off the elusive Curriculum Vitae, though, it has entered my very being and is with me at every waking moment. I am programmed.

'Over the last few months I have hurled myself desperately from whim to whim, a bucking bronco of occupational prospects'

The instinct to assess all potential activity for CV worth is now firmly embedded in my soul. I must base myself in 'skills', somehow.

After reconciling myself to this inescapable fact, I then decided to moor myself to any possible career path that I came across. Over the last few months I have hurled myself desperately from whim to whim, a bucking bronco of occupational prospects. Alas, I sprung off each in turn and have now landed back in reality again.

My disposition tends to expect the worst and, with no plan, I am suffering from mild and sporadic heart palpitations; I cannot seem to shake off this disconcerting feeling that something slightly nasty is lying in wait for me at the end of June. In this state of lingering anxiety, I am also inclined to blame other people. Am I simply overreacting, or is something amiss with the barrage of helpful information intended to ease us into the workplace? Those overzealous friends embarking on ready-made and highly competitive placements appear to have reacted well to this 'useful data'. Am I destined to be an over-educated dropout because I can't be decisive enough to commit myself to one of the schemes available in the careers centre?

Whilst in this slightly embittered haze, I stumbled upon a temporary and constructive opt out clause (N.B. not a drop

out clause!); work abroad. Why not mull over my 'options', add to my CV, and exist somewhere entirely new for a while? I suspect that once plunged over the edge of the precipice (June), my murky perspective will clear and immediate reality will strike (i.e. a selection of scrappy choices will materialise). But why should I not, with a bit of organisation, have some CV friendly fun whilst, no doubt, agonising over the gaps in my CV? Is this an option? Do these countries not have their own wandering students struggling to grasp an apparent direction? A scattering of countries and suggestions offer hope.

SOUTH AFRICA: VOLUNTEER PROJECTS IN ENVIROMENT, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Visa requirements: These schemes allow you to conduct either voluntary or paid work anywhere in the country for up to a year. The current cost of this special permit is £40.

Language requirements: English is, again, becoming the language of business, and is also spoken by many people.

Finding work: BUNAC schemes can help you find your own work for the duration of

your stay. Other useful sites include www.africajobsite.com, www.bestjobs.co.za and www.findajobinafrica.com.

MEXICO: WORKING ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND TEACHING ENGLISH

Visa requirements: Standard tourist visas must be renewed every 90 days but, by applying for a Tourist card, you can extend this to 180 days. A special visa is available if you want to teach for a year, but you are required to submit a CV in Spanish, pay a fee and have both a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate, and a valid tourist visa.

Language requirements: English is being increasingly used in business (which is creating a demand for teachers). Bearing in mind that the South American version differs to European Spanish, teaching yourself the basics beforehand is definitely advisable.

Finding work: Useful websites include the Mexican Yellow Pages, which can be searched in English, and local newspapers online. Specific teaching opportunities may be found at www.teaching-abroad.co.uk and at www.britishcouncil.org. Mexico is

your next step

but also give a boost to your CV

JAPAN: TEACHING ENGLISH, TRANSLATING, MODELLING AND THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Visa Requirements: If you have already secured a job before arriving, your employer will apply for a certificate of eligibility on your behalf from the Ministry of Justice in Japan. If you don't have a job before arriving in Japan, you will have to obtain a visitor's visa and change your status when you become employed. For more information, contact the Consulate General (Visa section) at the Embassy of Japan in the UK.

Language requirements: For non-skilled work and teaching, a knowledge of Japanese is not a requirement.

Finding work: The Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET) is the most popular work experience programme with UK graduates, placing around 500 a year in short-term teaching placements.

AUSTRALIA: HOSPITALITY AND RETAIL TO FRUIT PICKING AND FARM WORK

Immigration/Visa requirements:

Students can obtain a 12-month working holiday visa which covers many types of temporary work, full details being available on the web from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs - www.immi.gov.au

Language Requirements: Mild concern if this is a query...

Finding Work: There are many organisations (including IST Plus, at www.istplus.com, AIF, at www.workinaustralia.net, and BUNAC, as before) which can help you find part-time work before and on arrival in Oz, and include perks such as a network of 'fellow travellers' and 'orientation'. These do charge however and some may find them a 'bit of a rip-off'.

It is very possible to set up work independently and sometimes before your trip, through websites (e.g. The Sydney Morning Herald, The West Australian for Perth or The Age for Melbourne, which are all online) or through online directories. Particularly suitable for casual, backpacker-style work is www.traveljobs.au. This provides specific information on vacancies in the travel and tourism sector.

AUSTRIA: SKI-RESORTS, AU-PAIR PLACEMENTS, FARM AND HORTICULTURAL WORK

Immigration/Visa requirements: British nationals can live and work in Austria without a permit (EU perks), valid passport and proof of sufficient means required

as well.

Language Requirements: A basic understanding of German would be useful, even for temporary work.

Finding Work: On arrival check out the local job centre as they stock a brochure dedicated specifically for casual and seasonal employment.

The European Job Mobility Portal (EURES) online will give you extensive information and links to the European job market situation (<http://europa.eu.int/eures> will take you straight there).

AgriVenture offer placements spanning a year designed for 18-30 year olds in orchards, greenhouses, farms and with livestock. You will stay with others in a host family and receive an allowance and holidays for your labour.



NORWAY: AU-PAIRING AND UNSKILLED LABOUR WORK

Visa requirements: As members of the EEA, British nationals can live in Norway for up to three months without a work permit, which can be extended to six months (full details are available either from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in the UK).

Language requirements: Most Norwegians speak very good English and English is okay for temporary work.

Finding work: Atlantis Youth Exchange specialise in long term work experience programs for young people between 18 and 30, the idea being that you work for free in return for accommodation, board and some pocket money (full details from atlantis@atlantis.no). The National Council for Work Experience advertise summer vacancies, which can be found on the AETAT website - enter the word 'summer' into the search facility.

Maybe with a little cultural adjustment, a change of scenery and new challenges I will gain some perspective. Until then, armed with a plan, I hope to rest easy, put the looming (no longer leering) future to one side and treasure my last year in this mighty institution.

The scientific briefing with Luke Boulter

Facing an uncertain future



In 1996 a farmed goose in the Guangdong province of China was isolated as the first death from the highly pathogenic Avian Flu virus H5N1 strain. Now this has become synonymous with death, but at the time it was just another virus to be monitored. One year on, the same viral strain infected 18 humans in Hong Kong, 6 of these cases proved to be fatal. Suddenly and quite unexpectedly the virus stopped and for 5 years the H5N1 lay dormant. It is unlikely that it totally died out; rather it probably continued to be transmitted through bird populations. February 2003 showed the re-emergence of H5N1 (commonly known as avian flu type A) when two members of a Hong Kong family contracted the H5N1 strain during a recent stay in China.

This was the start of the first H5N1 wave. The World Health Organisation (WHO) suggests that between mid-2003 and 8 January 2004 there were regular outbreaks of avian flu throughout Asia. This climaxed with reports of sporadic human infections in Vietnam and Thailand - it was shown that in most cases, the H5N1 virus was contracted from those who work alongside poultry. However there was some evidence to suggest that limited human-to-human contact could result in the transmission of the deadly H5N1 virus. Of the few cases that were recorded, about half of them were fatal.

Viruses can quite happily lie within a host without killing it; an animal acting as a host is known as a reservoir. The normal reservoir for H5N1 was wild waterfowl, however in April 2005 thousands of migratory waterfowl (the natural reservoirs for H5N1) died due to the virus. This suggested that the virus had changed to become more virulent, killing the host in which it can normally hide.

Over the proceeding months the virus swept west and in July 2005 was shown to be in both Kazakhstan and some provinces of Siberia. In these regions, large numbers of dead migratory birds were found, confirming the worst fears of global health organisations that the H5N1 virus could be carried along routes of migration. In October 2005 Turkey reported the presence of H5N1 in poultry. January 2006 saw Turkey confirm two human deaths due to H5N1 and another 14 cases of infection. These were the first reports of human fatalities in Europe.

So what is H5N1? It is a virus which consists of a genome (in this case of RNA), which is housed in a shell known as the capsid. It has a membrane coat with about 500 protein spikes sticking out of its surface. About 400 of these are known as Hemagglutinin (HA) and the other 100 are known as Neuraminidase (NA). It is these two molecules which allow the virus to link with cells and hijack the cell machinery in order to recreate themselves. HA and NA change quite rapidly from one viral generation to the next, thanks to mutations in the RNA. This is also due to

two different viruses mixing sections of their genetic material - (this is what the numbers proceeding the H and N correspond to; they have type 1 NA and type 5HA). It is because of these rapid changes that a vaccine against flu may not always be successful.

There is a Flu pandemic every few decades. The last one, in 1918, was known as "Spanish Flu" and reconstructions of this virus have shown a remarkable similarity to the H5N1 strain. Spanish Flu killed between 40 and 50 million people (3 per cent of all those infected) before it was contained, with most deaths occurring in slightly more than a year. H5N1 has been around for a while now and recorded cases only total about 150 humans, with only about 60 fatalities. Whilst this suggests that H5N1 has about a 50% fatality, there could be thousands of people not showing symptoms, meaning the actual rate of fatality is considerably lower. To put these numbers onto a scale: 36,000 Americans die from normal human flu each year. In the grand scheme of things, H5N1 is a relatively small killer - it is the future virulence that is to be feared.

There is evidence to show that H5N1 will be less deadly than people presently fear. Scientists in Vietnam, one of the key places infected with the avian virus believe that if the virus begins to spread throughout the population at a slow rate, then the death toll will not be as high as initially predicted. However if it infects large numbers of people who fail to display symptoms, then H5N1 is given a chance to mutate, thus becoming more harmful. There are now reported instances where people who have come into close contact with H5N1 sufferers or those culling poultry are producing antibodies to attack the H5N1 virus.

So, if there was a pandemic of H5N1, what would our options be? Well, initially there are antiviral drugs such as zanamivir, which would prevent the virus from spreading through a population. However, there are reports of antiviral resistant H5N1 strains, which means that this option may not be wholly feasible. If the infection was brought to the UK, some bodies suggest enforced quarantine for those who refuse to take medication or those who fail to respond to treatment. This method has been used with great success in the containment of antibiotic resistant TB in various parts of America. It does, however, result in the removal of choice and invasion of individual human rights.

Ultimately, with \$1.9 billion worth of money being put into containment there is little chance that this Flu will strike in the same way the Spanish Flu did in the early 1900s. If all else fails, it has been shown that Sauerkraut and Kinchi (effectively fermented cabbage) can treat H5N1 flu in birds... who knows, maybe it will work for humans too?



The Minster has allegedly been the backdrop for many a ghostly phenomenon.

Ghost Town

Ben Toone speaks to the guide of York's (and most likely the world's) first ghost tour, Mark Graham, and delves into York's sinister past and spiritual activity

In 1953, 18 year-old Harry Martindale was working in the basement of the Treasurer's House when he witnessed a troupe of Roman figures, complete with badly-dyed green tunics, spears and armour, who were seemingly walking on their knees through one wall to the next.

No one believed him until some years later when archaeologists began digging around the Minster and found remains from Roman occupation, including the great North Road- the route of which ran exactly where Harry had seen the apparitions. Not only were there signs of Roman occupation, but the road ran one foot lower than the basement's floor, where the soldiers' feet would have been.

This world-famous story of the Roman soldiers in the Treasurer's House was the foundation of what was supposedly the world's first ghost walk, right here in York. Despite there being a graveyard-to-graveyard bus tour in the late sixties, called 'Ghost Tours Incorporated', which looked for Gangsters' graves in Chicago, Mark Graham, guide and owner of The Original Ghost Walk, assures me that his tour is "definitely an original creation" as far as they are aware. Tours have been running since 1973, but Mark himself has been a guide since 1982 after being "poached" from being a voluntary guide, and took over the business in 1987.

We chose to meet in the King's Arms, Mark's pre-tour haunt (excuse the pun). A witty Yorkshire man, he enthuses about the tour and York's history, occasionally lapsing into his story-telling persona. The use of suggestion with a monotone voice for the grisly detail has caused problems in the past. "We have had people who have claimed to see things on the tour, people who've fainted as well. We have to alter the stories now because

so many people have fainted," explained Graham. "It was on executions. I'm not sure whether it was the story itself or the way it was delivered. I think it's a technique, we did it by accident. So much so that you could almost guarantee someone fainting per night if you wanted to. I wouldn't, because it's no fun".

Much of this fainting occurred in one of the most haunted areas of York (along with

Mark Graham - 'It is the element of doubt that gives life purpose'

the Treasurer's House) which is on the castle green near the Castle Museum, where public executions took place. There aren't any places in York, though, where Mark wouldn't go to due to spiritual activity. "There are only one or two pubs where people feel a tightening of the throat and collapse at the bar. Whether that's the supernatural spiritual, or spirits of another kind I'm not sure!"

Although unsure that York is the most haunted city in Europe, he admitted that as a tour operator he should say that he does think the city's size and history mean that people are more aware of the possibility of ghostly goings-on. "I think the reason why York has so many ghost stories is because it's so old; it has lots of history.

"But I also think when people come to York (often from big cities) they haven't really thought about the depth and history. When they come here, their minds open, if you like, they are suddenly in awe... they realise for the first time that their blood runs very deep.

"People are more perceptive, more open, more in tune and in feeling with the place. But I also think that, because it's not a big city, people can relate anything that does happen to something that happened in the past because the documents are there. Whereas if you live in a big city - a modern city, if something unusual happens you start thinking it's an aircraft going over and so forth. You start thinking of other things, whereas in York there are past experiences to look back on."

The walks are extremely popular. They run every night of the week from the King's Arms pub and there have been visitors from almost every country in the world. A vicar from Whitby and the author of *Shadowmancer* has been on the tour as well as the Church of England's exorcist, Reverend Willis, "he said that he had done 150 exorcisms in Yorkshire. For eighty percent there could possibly be an explanation other than supernatural, but for twenty percent there was something else."

Mark has also been on *Most Haunted*, UK Living's ghost hunting television programme, with a spin-off soon to visit York. "They try their best to be genuine but in the end they are entertainment. A ghost story, as far as I'm concerned, or at least the most interesting ones [...] don't have a beginning or an end, [it's] just an event that's happened. For people like me, that event can be really interesting, but for TV it could be boring, so that they have to razzamatazz it up. But it takes away from people who are a bit more serious. I think they do a good job and they've opened the door for a lot of people."

After the interview I went on the tour, which was excellent. Unlike some of the more theatrical tours, The Original Ghost Tour is all about the story-telling, but the lack of gimmicks makes them no less entertaining since Graham captivates his audience. The tour covers a large part of the city centre, moving from Clifford's Tower (named after John Clifford who was hung there from a gib-

bet for a year) and ending by the Minster, with the stories varying from the strange to the humorous and gruesome. They included the cheating ways of the Witch-Finder General with his retractable knife and the subsequent spiking alive of witches, bad smells connected with ghostly activity, and children's laughter and poltergeist activity on the site of an orphanage by St Williams College where many orphans had died from maltreatment.

Mark weaves these with traditional favourite ghost stories, such as the wandering hand of the 2nd Duke of Buckingham's ghost in a York pub and the ghostly goings-on in The Black Swan and Golden Fleece, alongside newly found tales to keep the tours fresh and exciting.

"It's like theatre, we find new stuff and bring in new stuff. It helps the guides and the audience. Recently we've been doing quite a bit of work in the Viking Museum [Jorvik] and we discovered that there's a lot of poltergeist activity there. I like that one because some of the stories we've been telling there have actually manifested themselves in the museum."

The museum had been a hotspot for activity since they discovered the site in the mid seventies. "In one particular room in the museum, which is the last room before you go up to leave, there are human remains-relics. Staff claim that they have seen figures, felt a presence- felt something cold- and I've got letters from people who describe what they've experienced as being spiritual, and that they have been in the presence of someone they once knew."

Although he received many more stories of ghostly goings-on from members of the public, they could not be told on the tour due to being "too personal". He did tell me, though, about three Yorkshire teenagers one of whom worked in a shop in The Shambles and was warned of ghostly footsteps following him down to the basement. Laughing this off, initially, he was terrified to find that the warning rang true.

Earlier I had asked Mark why so many people are fascinated in ghosts. "It's a question I've often been asked and it's an answer I don't really have. I guess everyone's got their own reasons. But I think it's the unknown, basically, I think it's something you can never [pause]... end. You kind of wonder. I think that's what it's all about: to wonder. We're all going to die and we wonder what it's going to be like."

He himself has never actually seen a ghost, "I've seen shapes and shadows that people claim are ghosts, I've also heard voices that people claim are ghosts, but I think you've got to want to, and I don't want to". Mark does, however, have celestial dreams, or out of body experiences, something he brings into the walk; something he has experienced from an early age. He also believes in the possibility of a multi-dimensional universe being the reason for ghosts, "If that's the case, there are probably these things everywhere." He did insist, though, that first and foremost he is a story-teller, not a psychic investigator. "If there is such a thing as a ghost, judging by all the evidence I've had and from what people have said and what I've read, I tend to think it's how perceptive we are of the things around us, but I think that there's a law about the afterlife, and that is that it can't ever be proved. Because if it could, life would be meaningless... so there are messages for individuals to help them through." "It's the element of doubt that gives life purpose".

The Original Ghost Tour runs throughout the year, leaving from outside the King's Arms pub at 8pm (up on the bridge when it's flooded).

There's a concessional rate for students of £3.

Faster Than A Speeding Bullet

As Welsh metal superstars Bullet For My Valentine round off their latest sell-out UK tour, **Aaron Carey** and **Gemma Day** talk to drummer Moose about fans, family, and a certain feud...

The past three months in the lives of South Wales' most famous sons, Bullet for My Valentine, has been the stuff of dreams. With their faces gracing the front cover of every metal magazine on the planet, a silver disc to mark admirable sales of their November release 'The Poison' and even their own BBC tribute site, the stage is set for BFMV to take over the world in 2006.

On a tour bus in the car park of Leeds Met Uni's Refectory venue, drummer Moose (real name Michael Thomas) modestly accepts the praise, "We hoped it would do well, in the back of our minds we wished it to do this well, but it's going really good, it's gone silver already. It midweeked at number 10, which is good to know, and we beat HIM, which was nice!"

Although 50,000 copies in three months might not sound a tremendous result to a James Blunt or Coldplay fan, for a hitherto unknown British metal band to break into the mainstream in such a way is no mean feat. This is especially true when one considers the heaviest thing to come out of the top 10 in recent times has been the Foo Fighters or Blink 182; American imports with a publicity team bigger than BFMV's sell out crowd tonight in its entirety.

Fame and fans clearly have not affected Moose to any great degree, however: "To be honest with you, I don't get recognised because I don't get to walk the streets much except when I'm home, and then I have my two children with me, so I think that people would be very rude to come up to me. When the record came out, I saw a guy fall over a curb looking at me, which was funny."

Although the other members of the band may be able to step back from the limelight once the show is over, such a luxury is not afforded lead singer Matt Tuck, who has become something of a teen heart-throb in recent months, often gracing poster spreads in metal and mainstream magazines alike.

But what do the rest of the band think of his new-found status? "I suppose I just let it go over my head really, it's just weird! If it's gonna sell a magazine for them let them put it in; fair play to them. I know I couldn't get up at the front and sing."

With Wales' reputation for rather a softer approach to rock music, embodied in

'There's a band called Arctic Monkeys? Never heard of them.'

Catatonia and Stereophonics, Bullet for My Valentine have emerged as one of several edgier, more ferocious bands to emerge from the country in the past few years.

Indeed, as a metal band they are something of a rarity in their UK origins, which is something that the band are all too aware of: "There hasn't been a really big British metal band for, what, 20 years? There should be more real British metal bands, and that's a strong point my band are really annoyed with."

When the subject of BFMV's rivals and fellow Welshmen, crossover rockers



The men in black: From left - Jason James, Michael 'Moose' Thomas, Matthew Tuck and Michael Padgett

Lostprophets is brought up, things start to get a little heated on the tourbus. "You said good metal bands! I got told off for the last comments I made about them, and all I'll say is that I heard the lead singer was asked by a magazine what made him laugh in 2005, and he said Bullet for my Valentine...I just retaliated. What's funny is we now rehearse with their old drummer in Pontypridd, he's a good guy."

"Would I buy a Lostprophets album? F**k no! It would be Judas Priest, early Metallica, Iron Maiden, Funeral for a Friend, Still Remains (support on the Kerrang Tour), Cradle of Filth's new album I'd buy, I really like the songs I've heard off it so far. Mostly old stuff really."

An interesting moment arises when the most successful band around at the moment is raised in conversation. "Who the f**k are they? There's a band called Arctic Monkeys? Never heard of them."

As unbelievable as it sounds, of the recent bands that have graced the charts, it is noticeable that Moose only has good things to say about another Welsh band, Funeral for a Friend, whose album 'Hours' was something of a surprise hit last year. Having toured with the band around the time of that release, Bullet are used to playing to sold out venues, but tonight it is all about them.

"Yeah, it's good to be packing them out ourselves. We just love the energy off the audience. When a crowd sings your songs back to you it's a great feeling. Even though I'm at the back of the stage I feel like I engage with them. I walk on stage first, that's my moment!"

Being able to enjoy touring is a necessity for Bullet for My Valentine. The band are rarely off the road, promoting their current album across the continents, and have admitted that if they are invited, they will play the festival circuit this year (after their opening set on the main stage of Reading/Leeds 2005). We asked Moose if the band ever got tired of their gruelling

road schedule.

"Well it's what we wanted to do," he sighs. "I mean, if we knew what we were letting ourselves in for...I haven't been home for...I don't know, I mean we just came back

'It's written into our contracts that we have 100% control over our music'

from Japan. It's difficult, I've got two children at home and I never get to see them."

"After we finish this tour, we go to Germany. That's great, European metallers don't listen to crossover metal, we're bigger than Lostprophets in Germany! We get some time off after that. Well it's not actually time off, it's to write and record. Hopefully the new album will be out the beginning of next year. We're trying to get them out as quick as we can. We'll keep it up five years, no, 20 years! I f**king hope it lasts! If Maiden can do it we can, hopefully we're following in their footsteps."

It is clear that Bullet have set their sights a lot higher than most metal bands would dare to tread. Talk of stadium tours, platinum sellers and a US tour with American industrial metal giant/film director Rob Zombie are not far-fetched ideas; these are achievable goals for a band whose reputation and fanbase grows in stature by the day.

Although Moose is in no doubt that these things are possible, he is somewhat less enthusiastic about the 'riches' that come from the band's fame. "We're two million dollars in debt from the last album!" he admits, grinning.

"We're not going to make any money off this record. We get £150 a week to live on and the money from the t-shirts we sell. We'll eventually get money for the gigs and

things, but right now we're all skint. It's not as glamorous as people think!"

"I think we'll pay it all off with the next record, but we're not rushing it out. We'll tour this one till November and then concentrate on recording the new one. The label wanted us to have it out this year, but we said no, we wanted to take our time."

Indeed, Bullet have earned themselves something of a reputation for making completely independent decisions within the band whilst still retaining the support of their record label. Having shunned Roadrunner records for Sony in 2003, the band insist on doing their own thing, whatever the cost.

"The record label got us together with the guy who produced Rage Against The Machine's first album, in America", Moose admits, "but he wanted such control over what we were doing, we just said 'No, thank you'. It's actually written into our contracts that we have 100% control over our music. It's nice for such a big label to be completely at ease with what we are doing."

You can be sure that nobody is going to tell Bullet for My Valentine what direction to take with their next record, or for that matter, their career. Being one of the few bands determined not to succumb to commercial pressure has ironically made this band all the more successful.

Although Moose admits that chart success is "nice to know", it seems that Bullet make music which they enjoy, and which they are proud of. If it sells well, if the critics enjoy it - so much the better.

After shaking hands with Moose and leaving the band preparing for another blistering live show, I can't help but feel that a lot of today's critic-orientated rock acts have much to learn from this band, and that maybe, as BFMV's status grows, they will do exactly that.

Bullet for My Valentine's first album *The Poison* is available now on Visible Noise.

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York graduate steals £30,000 from professor in campus identity fraud

- Former student given four year sentence
- Credit card and loans run up huge debts
- Six month drinking and gambling spree

By Lauren Carter
EDITOR

YORK PROFESSOR Sultan Barakat unknowingly funded the extravagant lifestyle of a former student who stole his financial details and defrauded him of £29,000 to spend on drinking and gambling.

Joseph Ashby, a graduate from the University, received a four year prison sentence during the Easter vacation for running up debts of over £40,000 in other people's names, including the substantial sum stolen using Professor Barakat's identity.

York Crown Court heard how Ashby drank and gambled away most of the money in venues around the city in just six months. Andrew Kershaw, prosecuting, explained: "People who knew him when he was in York say his life was simply a party. He lived in hotels and bars."

Professor Barakat, a Politics academic at the University, was a close neighbour of Ashby and living in the same building in Melrose Court when he was targeted at the end of last year. Ashby applied for a £20,000 loan in the Professor's name and also set up two credit card accounts, running them both to their limits. Professor Barakat, who had been away from home, realised what had happened when he returned to find a "nightmare postbag" of payment demands and letters from solicitors regarding credit agreements he had never made.

When Ashby was finally caught by the police in October, he had nearly £10,000 in cash as well as a list of personal details and credit card numbers for 140 people in the York area. Defending, Simon Waley claimed Ashby had been given the list by a stranger and had only used some of the details to feed his alcohol and betting addictions.

However, when passing sentence, the Honorary Recorder of York, Judge Paul Hoffman, told Ashby: "I have no doubt that had you not been apprehended when you were, you would have gone on to use the full extent of the list."

Ashby pleaded guilty to seven charges of deception and four of transferring criminal property. His defence requested a further nineteen offences to be taken into consideration on the basis of his addiction. "He was continuing to lead a completely fake life", Waley said.

As well as spending excessively on nights out, the Court heard how Ashby ran up further debts buying computers. Detective Constable Pete Bentall, one of the police officers investigating the case, revealed that they

found two rooms full of computer equipment at one of his home addresses in York.

Bentall has confirmed that the police are currently trying to reunite Professor Barakat and the other victims of Ashby's fraud with their money. The fraudulent accounts that Ashby created have all been frozen and he will learn at a hearing on July 15th how much of his illegal goods will be confiscated.

Recent police reports reveal that identity theft and large-scale fraud of this nature is becoming an increasing problem in York and as many as three cases are seen each month. Bentall also explained that many incidents are left unreported because credit card companies offer insurance and regularly write off debts.

Ron Johnson, spokesperson for North Yorkshire Police, warned students to be particularly vigilant and be aware of how easily these crimes are perpetrated. He commented: "the recent government campaign offers sound advice. People need to be careful and keep their personal details secure."

Johnson explained students should be aware



Joseph Ashby starting his four year term for fraud. Photo by York Evening Press



HESLINGTON EAST

Exclusive interviews with the York academics leading the fight against the University's development plans

Pages 4-5

Rebecca Gower



Career prospects of an English student: Is tea-making a transferable skill?

It's a terribly stressful experience being in the third year, especially if you're an English student. Almost everyone I know has exams, or a dissertation (or, in some unlucky cases, both); while I don't actually have either. Well, I have a solitary exam at the beginning of next term (which I prefer not to think about), but otherwise, it's all about the assessed essays. Perhaps I ought to be grateful, but I'm not, as I seem to have to spend half my time defending my degree, and that's stressful enough in itself. The feeling amongst many of my friends seems to be that English students just can't understand what work is.

Added to that, the whole career issue is currently rearing its ugly head. The festive season was utter hell: everyone—each of my relatives in turn and people I didn't even recognise—wanted to know what I plan to do with the rest of my life. My stock reply was "Oh, I don't know, but I'm sure I'll think of something eventually", said as cheerfully as I could manage. It was a bad answer which always got the same response: a look of pity, which suggested that by now, I really ought to have a graduate job lined up. After a while, I abandoned the fake jollity, and just mumbled, "I might go travelling". It's a patent lie—there's no way on earth I could be bothered to organise myself to go off on a gap year—but it seemed to satisfy people.

According to one careers talk, the best thing to do is work out what you want from a job first. Well, that's easy, as I have no ambition whatsoever: I want maximum job security, minimum responsibil-

ity, and I'm not really bothered about money. (Yes, yes, it'd be nice to be wealthy, but not so nice that I'm prepared to sell my soul. I'm simply too lazy.) Oh, and I don't want to fight off hundreds of other people in order to get a job, I don't really fancy my chances. In fact, if I could get a job without having to have an interview, that'd be perfect. Unfortunately, there are no graduate jobs answering that description (as far as I can tell, every graduate job involves 'fierce' competition); and, having had a ridiculous amount of money shelled out on my education over the years, I don't think my family would take too kindly to me wanting to work in a book shop.

No, my parents have other ideas. When I was about 13, I was foolish enough to announce that I wanted to become a lawyer (it was around the time *Ally McBeal* started), and my father has always loved the idea. I finally convinced him that law was not where my ambitions lie, whereupon he said, "You've got a great business mind". I have no idea where he plucked that from, and everyone I've repeated it to has laughed uproariously (and, I might add, tactlessly) at the notion. My mother, meanwhile, is a teacher, who hates her job and is counting down the years to retirement. Her suggestion? "Why don't you become a teacher?" I told her I'd think about it.

So, none of that helped me. Undeterred (well, quite deterred, actually, but driven along by a considerable measure of panic), I took stock of everything I've done in my life, and how it could help me in



Legal firms in the real world require more than a nice mini-skirt and volumising hair mousse

'If I could get a job without having to have an interview, that would be perfect.'

the future. Previous employment? A chambermaid, on and off; a job from which I was fired for being so appallingly bad. I did manage (after weeks of trying) to learn how to do hospital corners, and I quite enjoyed polishing brass, but apart from that, the only thing I picked up was a real loathing of anyone prepared to spend several hundred pounds on one night in a hotel. I don't think that counts as a 'trans-

ferable skill'. However, I did learn a few Polish phrases from a fellow chambermaid. That probably counts as 'conversational Polish', so I can stick that on my CV.

As for university, my extracurricular activities don't amount to much. In the first year, I devoted a lot of time to making tea, and I slept quite a lot. I didn't involve myself in any societies. I did hitchhike to Dublin for RAG, but that was less about philanthropy than the prospect of a weekend in Dublin with friends. In the second year, I perfected the art of tea-making. Now I've reached my final couple of terms, the fear has taken over, and I'm actually getting more involved: this, for example. Only, I don't want to be a journalist.

I swear, the whole career industry is just a giant meat market. After much thought, I've decided that I might want to be a librarian. Possibly. And my friends seem to think it would suit me. So I'm sorted. Or at least, I was, until someone told me that being a librarian is more stressful than being a fire fighter. I really, hope they were joking.

The comfort of being 20 going on 45

In terms of my aspirations to become the most boring person I know, 2006 had an auspicious start. While my brother celebrated in Edinburgh and my parents were out getting drunk with the neighbours, I sat at home and dithered at length over the programme with which I should usher in the new year. Should it be the BBC extravaganza, presented by, among others, the incomparable Andrew Marr? Or would it be better to watch *The Year We Won The*

Ashes? In the end, I went for the latter. It was only right, given that the cricket was pretty much my highlight of 2005. So, when my parents staggered in some time after 1am, they found me cheering loudly at the television as Andrew Strauss reached his century in the fifth Test. Oh, the memories. When I finally went to bed, I was still so overjoyed that England had won that it took me ages to get to sleep. Honestly, it's pathetic.

Well, I say pathetic, but I

don't mean it. This is the year that I turn twenty-one, after all. It's therefore entirely appropriate that I should embrace the middle aged person inside myself. Laundry is the closest thing I have to a hobby; I quite want to take up knitting, if only I could find someone to teach me. My favourite part of the day is when I sit down in the evening to watch the Channel Four news, to see what tie-and-socks combination Jon Snow is sporting.

My friends keep telling me

that I need to break out of the 'comfort zone'. Many seem to think I should feel ashamed. "You're not even middle-aged," exclaimed one housemate, "you're more like... approaching retirement!" "Ah well," I replied, waving my hand. I have no problem admitting it. My days of careless hedonism (was I carelessly hedonistic? I don't remember) are behind me. From now on, I'm a committed Radio 4 listener (average age: fifty-four), and proud of it.

Straight outta Tang Hall: the rise of York Hip-Hop

Nan Flory explores the recent explosion in York's hip-hop scene. Talking to York's own Mad Science Project, and to London-based Fenna, provides an insight into this growing subculture

Traditionally, hip-hop belongs to New York, people who can spell their names with their fingers, poverty, graffiti, tracksuits: pretty much everything York is not famed for. With the Jorvik Centre and Betty's as cultural landmarks, it's easy to question if York has anything to offer your discerning b-boy or girl looking for a bass heavy fix. But hip-hop is a strange and multi-faceted animal. Originally, hip-hop was a term used to describe a social movement that sprung up in 1970s New York amongst the African American and Latino communities, based around rapping, DJing, break dancing and graffiti. A community developed, with their own fashions, slang and, of course, their own music.

These origins lead to complications when you start talking about hip-hop scenes. A scene implies hip-hop's cultural structures, something that York just doesn't have. It is a rich, middle class town, officially a city because of the Minster rather than its urban edge. York just doesn't have the infrastructure to support the type of hip-hop community you get in New York, Compton or London, and any attempt to start pretending it does just becomes farcical. What it does have, however, is people who love the musical side of hip-hop culture. Hip-hop

'With the Jorvik Centre and Betty's as cultural landmarks, it's easy to question if York has anything to offer your discerning b-boy or girl looking for a bass heavy fix'

music is one of the most widespread genres of popular music. Since its beginnings in 1970s New York with Kool Herc & the Herculoids, it has spread across the world, existing independently from the culture it began with, constantly reinterpreted and reinvented. As any quality practitioner will tell you, when it comes to hip-hop music, it's the beats that matter, not

the bling or the size of your trainers.

This is what Lady Sovereign, one of the UK's most feted hip hoppers, scouted by the likes of Jay-Z and celebrated by Vice magazine, appears to have forgotten when she visited York last November. In what may well have been York's first ever mention in dirty gossip mailer, Popbitch, the November issue reported: 'Lady Sovereign turned up to do a gig at Fibbers in York Sunday night last week, took one look at the venue, and went straight back to her van.' Perhaps not massively surprising; York is hardly the kind of town you associate with a grimy little bad ass like the 'ess oh vee' and you can understand her being a little put out by the gates and Vikings. If you were going to ban youth culture's favourite item of clothing in this city, you'd probably have to go with the polo shirt over the hoodie. Still, you'd hope her credentials as a talented MC would entail an ability to overlook York's cream tea factor and deliver to her fans.

If Lady Sov had been willing to delve beneath the surface, she might have discovered that York hides a thriving little musical hip-hop scene, if not a cultural one, as I found out when I spoke to Andy, aka Dave Junior, and Louis, or Bad Dallas. They are the two halves of York hip-hop outfit, The Mad Science Project, who picked up the pieces when Lady Sovereign skipped town, and gave all the grime fans who turned up the hit they were looking for. A high energy band, they proved York capable of putting on a pretty grubby night, even without its big name headliner.

Andy came to York from Burnley to study at York St. John's ten years ago, while Louis is York, born and bred. The pair eagerly admit to respective day jobs within 'engineering' and 'retail'. It is easy to see that it is the project, not the daily grind, which they like to spend the majority of their energy on. The Mad Science Project, active since June last year, is a fluid collective, headed by Dave Junior and Bad Dallas, who describe themselves as the 'directors of songs'. They are the creative forces, drawing on the talents of musicians in their circle to bring their tunes to life. They cite the likes of George Clinton, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, De La Soul and Dr. Dre as influences.

Dave Junior explained that, in York, hip-hop fans are less visible precisely because they are music, rather than scene-focused. Emotional, indie kids do have a scene in middle class England. Musical taste is one part of

a currently dominant youth culture, which also incorporates other values, fashion for instance, and modes of socialising. The hip-hop scene is less rigid, Dave said 'people that are into it exist, but are not as obsessive or scene-based'. Bad Dallas thinks York has potential for hip-hop heads and says it's better than it used to be. Nights have sprung up locally and it's also a good travel centre, close to Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield; cities that are on the tour map for every major act. York is a refreshingly less intense city to come back to when you need a breather.

The Mad Science boys' favourite venue in York City Screen's Basement Bar, which hosts what they say is probably the best hip-hop night in town, Vinyl Frontier. Run by local MCs, ABD and ID, the latest instalment on Wednesday 25th provided a varied showcase of what York has to offer. A mixed bag of acts, the highlight was York University student Fenna Rhodes' band, The True Ingredients. A slick group, featuring two MCs, Haiduru and Jamal, two vocalists, Grace and Bex, trumpet by phil, guitar by dan, halb on the bass and steve on the drums. They were serious crowd pleasers. Despite their thesis about beats over image, enjoyment of their performance was not hampered by the fact one of their rappers, Haiduru, was probably the coolest looking guy in the room, sporting turned up, indigo levis, a paisley shirt (tucked in), round, Posdnuos-style glasses and loafers. Nice.

Fenna Rhodes, producer and writer, founded the group and has been performing live music for the past four years. Recently based in London, he has a big collective of musicians and vocalists. "London is the centre of hip-hop in the UK; about 80% of artists are based there". The band that played in city screen were put together in the last few weeks, the entire eight piece band all live and study in York – testament to the fact that they are really dedicated to their art.

Fenna said the scene in York was more intimate than the one in London, and that there is a great deal of interest in the music amongst students, with Platinum Society organizing some of the most accessible campus events. Another impressive act that night was female MC Angel S. With a distinctive, fast paced style, she stood out amongst some mediocre, rapping-over-a-beat performers. York is only now beginning to develop some more innovative acts. That's right, despite hip-



Vinyl Frontier, held on the last Wednesday of the month in the City Screen Basement Bar, continues to be a success, playing host to York's up-and-coming talent in an intimate, relaxed venue. Photos: Georgie Mabee

hop's increasingly vigorous presence in York, it has some way to go before it can compete seriously with scenes in other UK cities.

Some of the rhymes employed that evening were rather suspect. It made you realise that there really is no logic to words that rhyme in the English language. Just because two words rhyme, it doesn't necessarily follow that they should be squashed into the same sentence. Proof comes in the evening's odd coupling of 'pasty' and 'nasty' (an inside joke, I hope) and in the fact that cool words like purple, with all its battle potential in its connotations of sexual frustration, doesn't rhyme with anything at all.

In the same vein, the line "I coming straight from York City/ Up north it's all gritty" rang false. Can "gritty" be used to rhyme with "city" when that city status comes purely as a

result of the Minster, hardly a gritty building: it's not too hardcore is it? The point is that the English language is full of words that rhyme out of pure coincidence, which can trick rappers into being a little lame: you can distinguish the good from the average when they choose their words a little more wisely. However, these debates are proof, more than anything, of the health of hip-hop in York. At least, there's enough going on that some sort of hierarchy of talent is emerging.

Mad Dallas and Dave Junior, like Fenna Rhodes, were broadly positive about York hip-hop, but explained that local musicians sometimes limited themselves by containing themselves within the city. The Mad Science Project aims, like hip-hop itself, to expand beyond its origins and avoid becoming 'Yorkcentric'.

Dave Junior explained about his experi-

ence of musicians who, successful in York, found it hard to move onto a bigger stage because they were used to dominating a smaller one, but stressed that the move is possible.

Bad Dallas and Dave Junior point out that there is an independent internet radio station broadcasting out of York; freakin.org. Admittedly not purely a hip-hop affair, the station promotes local DJs and artists, providing a platform for local acts. It's a place to get some early exposure for the EP Mad Science Project are planning to record with their collaborators, including technician, engineer and DJ, Redeye, and vocalist, Stacy Pips.

As well as the vinyl frontier, there are plenty of other events and venues in and around York that the Mad Science Project rate. There is an upcoming night on February 10th at Certificate 18, where you can catch Bad



Dallas and Dave Junior if you haven't already. There is Fibbers, which, despite being marketed as more of a rock and indie venue, has a steady trickle of hip hop gigs in its program. Dave and Dallas spoke in glowing terms about the summer time Moors Festival in Ilkley, run by York locals.

The basement bar also hosts Superfi, run by another York resident, Duke Dylanger. The pair also said they enjoy playing on campus, although, interestingly, they likened it to playing in Leeds rather than playing in town. They premiered in Vanbrugh bar at the end of the summer term, last year, at an event that was unfortunately (but not unusually) cut short by a fire alarm, and hope to play on campus again. Dallas and Dave also revealed that they are hoping for Lady Sovereign when she returns to play an as yet unscheduled make-up

set in Fibbers.

So, she's coming crawling back, presumably unaware of the less than savoury freestyle performed at her expense when she abandoned the stage back in November. She's doubtless unaware that York, as unlikely as it may seem, plays host to a range of hip-hop talent, from grime to funkier, jazz inspired sounds. In a genre where the ethos is all about "keeping it real", perhaps the unlikely location is a demonstration of York's commitment to the music over its trappings. If a town can convincingly entertain hip-hop fans even when it's crippled by knitwear and a rowing team, then it must have its priorities in the right order. Anyway, if you can go out and be met with dudes the likes of Haiduru on stage, you really have nothing to complain about, even if you are the lady herself.



Haddock and leek risotto

Risottos are a useful way of using up spare vegetables whilst at the same time feeding a family of housemates who are all craving winter comfort food. It is also fairly cheap, since you can get by with a few store cupboard essentials- rice, stock, herbs, even cheese. It's your choice; strive for Italian authenticity in an effort to impress, or use it as a filler meal for when you've run out of inspiration and haven't quite got around to a grocery shop...

Haddock and leek risotto
(serves two)

Ingredients:

2 haddock fillets (smoked is best)
3 leeks
a knob of butter
1 tbsp of olive oil
a handful of chopped fresh parsley (or a dessert spoon of dried)
700ml liquid vegetable stock made with two stock cubes.
approx. 150g arborio or other short grain risotto rice
fresh parmesan to serve (or a sprinkling of dried)

Cooking time:

approx. 30 mins

Directions:

1. Top-and-tail the leeks. Cut them into 1cm sections and soak in cold water.
2. Skin and roughly chop the haddock.
3. Drain the leeks and fry in a large saucepan in the butter and oil until soft.
4. Add the rice. Stir so that it's coated in the fat.
5. Add one-third of the stock and stir thoroughly. Leave until all of the liquid is absorbed, ensuring that the mixture does not stick to the bottom of the pan.
6. Add the second third of the stock

and stir thoroughly. Again, leave until all of the liquid is absorbed, making sure the mixture does not stick to the bottom of the pan.

7. Add the final third of the stock and the roughly chopped haddock. Stir carefully so that the haddock doesn't flake into smaller pieces. Leave until all of the liquid is absorbed and the rice is fully cooked. Stir occasionally.

8. Stir through a generous amount of parsley (you might want more than the handful suggested) and some grated parmesan and serve.

9. Grate or shave some extra parmesan on the top of each serving at the table, and season according to taste.

Variations:

For a bit of variety you could add some quartered mushrooms at the same time as the leeks.

A chopped onion would also work if you'd like some extra flavour. Again, add at the same time as the leeks.

An interesting option is to add a tablespoon or more of mild curry powder and some slices of hard boiled egg- a cheat's version of the Indian classic, kedgeree.

Fish not your thing? You can use chicken instead. Just dice some chicken breasts and fry the pieces at the same time as the leeks, onions or mushrooms. In this case you may wish to substitute the vegetable stock for chicken stock.

For a vegetarian option, omit the fish and add any vegetables you have in your cupboard.

If you don't like parmesan, (or are vegetarian), replace it with another flavoursome hard cheese.

Cheap and nourishing!

The most judicious of Law Lords

Toby Hall speaks to Lord Hutton, the Baron, Knight, QC, and former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland about his controversial judgement on the war in Iraq that left York Chancellor Greg Dyke out of a job

Lord Hutton pauses and looks at the floor. "No, no, I've never had any political aspirations I'm afraid. I've simply concentrated on being a good barrister, and then on being a good judge." It may seem that the man who held the fate of Tony Blair and the Labour government in his hands is being overly modest about the role he has played in modern politics. He was involved in rejecting the 'public interest' defence for MI5 spy David Shayler, overturned the judgement to extradite General Pinochet to Argentina, and most recently absolved the government of blame after the death of weapons expert Dr David Kelly. The consequences of his report into the matter left York Chancellor Greg Dyke unemployed, yet when talking to him about these it soon becomes clear to me that Lord Hutton is honestly surprised and disappointed that so many people have felt let down by his judgements. "It's simply the duty of the judge to apply the law fairly, to try cases fairly and I think not to concern oneself with the policy underlying those laws, which is a matter for Parliament."

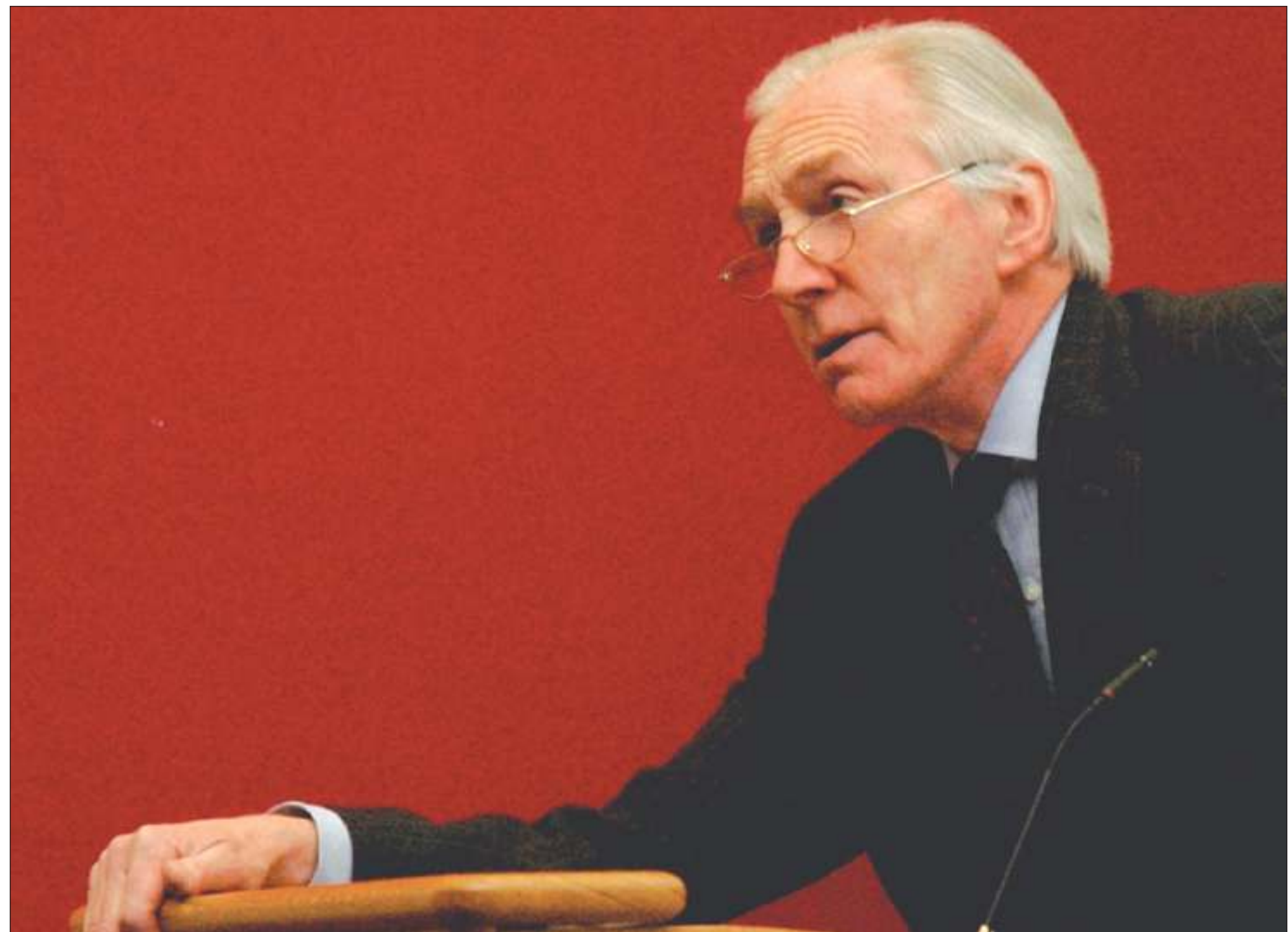
Throughout our talk he returns again and again to this faith in an objective and independent judiciary, however, despite his powerful rational arguments and examples of impartiality - always eloquently phrased and supported with case law - I felt that there were stronger reasons for this belief than the polished arguments he presented. As I tried to push him on formative experiences at university or the bar that could hint at some hidden ideological streak, the impression was always of a diligent student who did not identify with student politicians or parties. He does not remember the fifties at Balliol College, Oxford, as being a particularly radical time: "I think that a large number of people had little interest, and person-

Lord Hutton has some veiled responses to the media accusations of bias in the aftermath of the Dr Kelly report

ally, I wasn't active in politics at all, and was really just concentrating on reading law, enjoying myself and seeing friends." This refusal to be labelled has continued into his career, in his home town of Belfast. He was called to the bar in 1954, and practiced law throughout The Troubles, rising to become a High Court judge and later, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland. Faced with providing practical resolutions to the divided city's problems with law and order, rather mere political rhetoric, Lord Hutton developed a respect for those who could apply the law evenly despite personal allegiances. "I think, hopefully, that the entire judiciary in Northern Ireland demonstrated [this] over many years, because there were judges in Northern Ireland from both sides of the community. Some were Protestants, some were Roman Catholic but it never influenced the way they decided their cases. There was a very good feeling of comradeship between all the judges."

This ability to apply laws where the political and even ethical consequences are uncertain seem central to Lord Hutton's philosophy, and he has some veiled responses to the media accusations of bias in the aftermath of his report into Dr Kelly's death. "Commentators are too ready to attach labels to judges. The duty of a judge is to decide fairly on the facts in accordance with the laws ... That doesn't mean one favours the government, it doesn't mean one's a liberal or a conservative or a socialist. It simply means you're deciding the case fairly on the law."

I feel slightly nervous pressing the issue of his involvement in the case. Even wedged into a small pink seminar chair he is an imposing figure, and at the speaking event organised by the Union earlier there were rumours that he wouldn't be willing to discuss his most controversial work. Only one student mentioned the Hutton Report, and he observed afterwards that people seemed "afraid" to raise the issue. However, Lord Hutton treats my next question with the careful consideration he showed the others, even if the pauses are a little longer. I'm trying to understand how he views his relationship with the consequences of the report, and run through Greg Dyke's argument that



Lord Hutton: 'The reputations of politicians are important. It's part of democracy that they should not have them unfairly impugned without justification.' Photo: Toby Hall

his ruling could profoundly affect the relationship between confidential sources and the press. His reply is unsurprising, even if there are words of praise for the "distinguished" and "interesting" Mr Dyke: "I was not concerned with wider issues relating to journalism and I simply applied the law as laid down by the House of Lords in the case of Reynolds against the Sunday Times which was emphasising the importance of a free press in a democracy ... I simply made no new law, I simply came to the decision against that legal background on the facts of the case." By contrast, he pulls few punches when discussing the BBC's failings and I get the feeling that he considered the corporation's mistakes a kind of dereliction of duty. "The reputations of politicians are important. And it's part of the maintenance of democracy that they should not have their reputations unfairly impugned without justification and that whilst investigative journalism is extremely important, it's part of the life-blood of democracy, it must be done in a responsible way."

But it is hard to draw him into personal opinions on the subject, and throughout the evening he has proven adept at guarding his own views on political, or even legal issues. During his address to the Union on human frailty in criminal law the emphasis was always on cataloguing and explaining the progression of judicial rulings which had developed the law into its current form. I noticed only one instance where he expressed his own perspective on the debate,

and that was to suggest that there should be no knee-jerk change to certain aspects of the law due to political pressure after the Tony Martin case. And he didn't explicitly name Martin, referring instead to a hypothetical householder with a shotgun. At another point, he discussed his most influential judgement – in the case of the Crown against Private Clegg in Northern Ireland – yet did not mention his own involvement. Even for a judge, his reticence seems undue, and I ask about his reputation for following, rather than setting precedents. "I think it's part of the duty of a judge to follow precedent because our law is based on precedent. But equally, part of the duty of a judge is to interpret the law and apply it to new circumstances as justice requires, and that is what I sought to do" he pauses... "There have been cases, I think, where I've extended the law, I can think of one in Northern Ireland: If a person had been arrested to be questioned, and if it were established that in questioning him the police had ill-treated him, the ill-treatment made his detention invalid and he should be released. I think was an example of making new law but within precedent."

This may not initially sound like the most radical proposal, yet Lord Hutton later recalled the specifics of just such a case. "I remember trying a person accused of terrorism who was charged with having reconnoitred the homes of judges for the purpose of assisting in attacks on them, but I acquitted them because I thought that there was a possibility that they had been ill-treated by

the police." It is this dedication to the law, above all else, which Lord Hutton represents. Even so, there does seem to be an in-built desire to protect the status quo, and as he steps back from full time work on the bench, Lord Hutton admits that "I think it's perhaps inappropriate when one retires, to concern oneself with criticism. By and large I think the law works fairly in this country and I'm happy to have been a part of it."

It seems to be modesty for him to talk of his involvement in the law in the past tense. Despite being 74, he still sits in court, and a member of the Union told me how difficult it had been to bring him to York – "His diary's booked up well into 2008". And it's no surprise. He is energetic and enthusiastic, regarding even somewhat impertinent questions as interesting problems or challenges. When my interview draws to a close he hops up sprightly and holds out his hand, calling "cheerio" and smiling benignly. Yet I'm less sure I'd find him as genial in his official capacity, there is a fearsome dedication to justice here, and in what appears to be its most restrictive, legal form.

Maybe it's because of this highly principled approach to the law that so many of us were disappointed by the Hutton Report. If it truly had been a whitewash, then there would have been real cause for outrage. But Lord Hutton is not a government stooge or enemy of the free press as some have tried to claim, he simply applied the law exactly as he understood it, without fear of the consequences – whether they were good or bad.

The cases which have defined Lord Hutton

1994. Dismissed Private Clegg's appeal against a disputed murder conviction in Northern Ireland.

1999. Campaigned to stop Augusto Pinochet's extradition to Spain after discovering a potential conflict of interest with one of the judges in the case. "Justice must be seen to be done" he said.

2002. Was one of four Law Lords who rejected David Shayler's 'public interest' defence when publishing MI5 secrets.

2004. Published the results of his public enquiry into the death of Dr David Kelly. His narrow interpretation of the terms of reference contributed to what many called a government whitewash.

Thanks to the York Union and YSTV for all their valuable assistance

2005: A Film Odyssey

In 2005 **Adam Hewitt** made a New Year's resolution to watch a film a day for the entire year. How did he cope?

In the dark days that saw out 2004, I made my first ever New Year's Resolution. In 2005, I would watch a new film every day. Amidst howls of derision from my peers ("It's impossible", "You're wasting your life"), I firmed up my plans for this odd challenge and waited for January 1 to roll around.

A 'day' would end when I went to sleep for the night, and a 'film' would be anything which had a theatrical release, or that potentially could have done. 'Feature-length' television episodes wouldn't qualify, although 'feature-length' documentaries would be fine. If it proved really hard to decide whether something was a film I'd invoke the famous U.S. Supreme Court judgement on what constitutes 'obscene' pornography – "I know it when I see it" – and just ask myself whether I thought it counted. Getting hold of enough films would require the most efficient possible use of Blockbuster's Unlimited DVD Rental scheme, combined with the library, the cinema and (when times were lean) television. All seemed set for a great year, even though I knew I would be spending an eighth of my total waking hours of 2005 glued to a screen.

After a shaky beginning – having spent New Year's Day in Edinburgh hunting through the DVD collection of a friend's housemate for anything that looked half-decent and ending up with the decidedly half-decent *The Good Girl* – the year got off to a good start. January saw recent brilliance (*City of God*, *Shaun of the Dead*) mixed with absolute classics (*Chinatown*, *The 39 Steps*) and the frankly unclassifiable *Eraserhead* (David Lynch's oddest moment, and that's saying something).

My first real challenge came in February; after a night out, very drunk, very tired, and in no mood for spending three hours watching *The Godfather*, I scoured a housemate's DVDs for the shortest film I could find...*Garfield*. Not my finest hour, in any sense; but I think that spending the entire afternoon of the next day with Brando and Pacino made up for it in the eyes of the

Cinema gods.

Happiness gave me my first taste of the controversial genius of Todd Solondz so I hunted down everything else he's made – disappointingly, only three other films. His Palindromes was an absolute highlight, as was discovering two true auteurs who helped make my year: Mike Leigh and Akira Kurosawa. Of thirteen Leigh films over the year, *All or Nothing* was a favourite – a deeply British and deeply brilliant drama. Twelve Kurosawa films likewise peppered my 2005, all chosen by Kurosawa's biggest fan, the crossword compiler for this very publication.

After much consideration, I have decided that *Before Sunset* was my favourite of the year, edging out strong competition. The thirty or so masterpieces which I do not have space to mention more than make up for the few duds and stinkers which I will; *Garfield*, *Slugs*, *Dune*, *Anger Management* and *Doom* were the most egregious sinners against cinema of my 2005. *Troy: A Documentary* was by far the worst 'feature-length' documentary I have ever seen. I thought it might provide some useful background information for my Homer module, but in fact it left me slightly stupider than I was before – they seemed to have got most of the details from the film of the same name, for one thing.

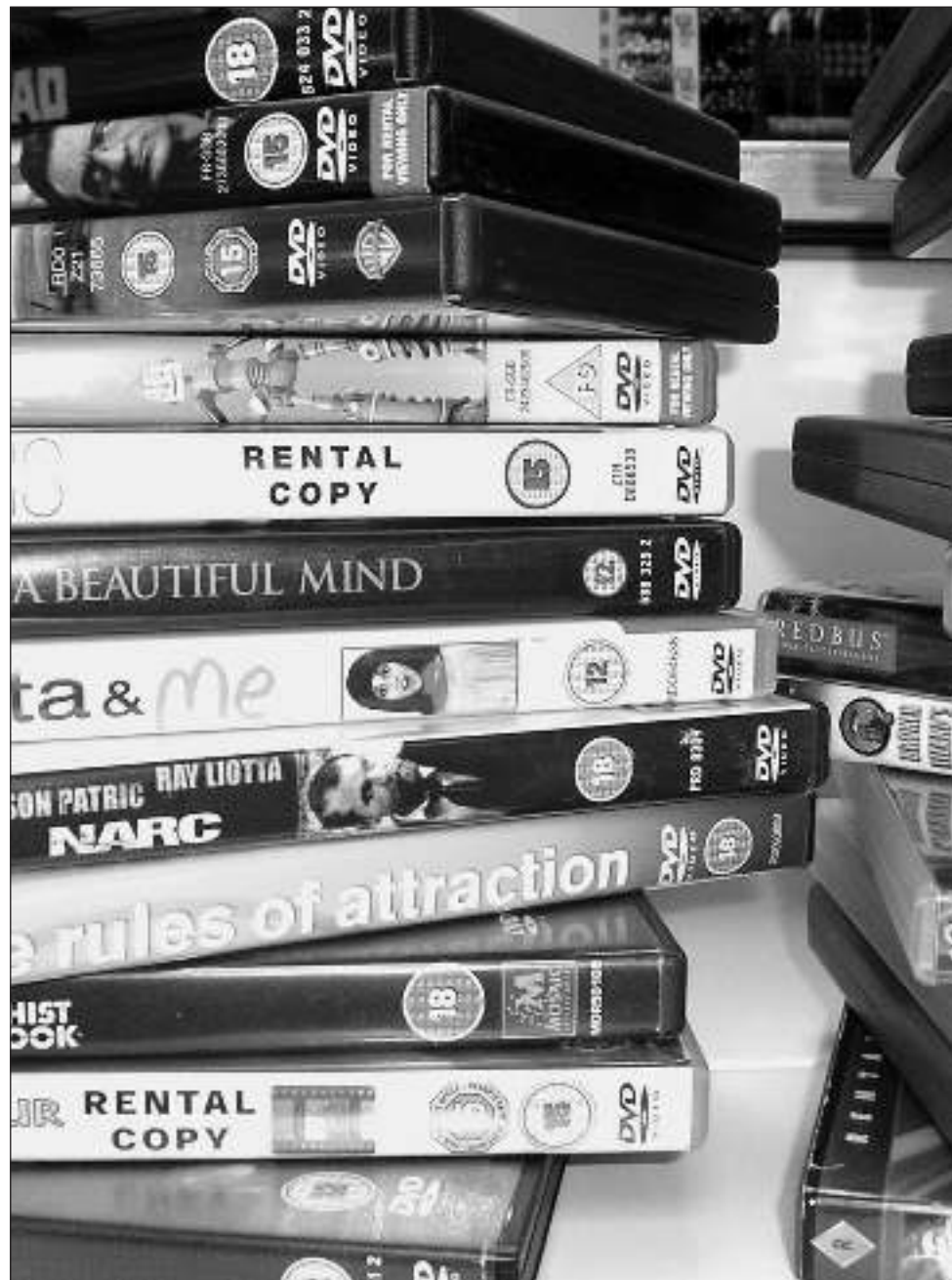
Finding the time to watch a film a day was often difficult (I've never been more thankful that I do an Arts degree) and sometimes required planning, such as remembering to take my laptop and *Nosferatu* to London on a day-trip. Power cuts, for most a minor annoyance involving candles, turned for me into desperate attempts to prise DVDs out of the machine and hopeful prayers that my laptop had some battery left. Time constraints once even forced me to drive to Manchester halfway through *The Searchers*, and watch the second half when I got there.

Shamefully, my film year challenge may have even played a part in my decision not to make it up to Scotland for the 'Make Poverty History' march. Fortunately, my year was

life. Though some may dismiss this biopic as a cynical Oscars bid, there are good reasons why it is tipped for nomination.

Good Night and Good Luck tells the story of Edward Murrow, a '50s TV journalist who, with his team, stood up to Senator McCarthy's communist witch-hunt. This is George Clooney's second film in which he stars and directs, and he has so far proven himself in both fields. The actors that helm it, also, are not shy of controversy. Clooney, Robert Downey Jr. and David Strathairn have all dipped into the truth-telling, stuff-politics melting pot. So there are few fears that this will be dogged by censorship; this film is out to tell the truth.

This is an intelligent period piece: neither action nor intrigue. There is plenty of tension, but the film looks set to entertain informatively. It also stands out as one of the first Oscar-seeking films of the year, which some might say takes away any genuinely artistic motive for making a film. While its reception may be dominated by taste, the sheer acting talent present marks



exam-free and planning around normal work and essays was easy enough; I refuse to correlate my general downward shift in grades during 2005 with anything but my course getting harder. I guarantee that having spent two hours a day watching a film will, ultimately, prove more useful to my life

than if I had spent those hours working. As fun as the year was, watching *Night of the Living Dead* on December 31 I could not wait for the lead character to die so I would finally be free. Freed from the time-sapping, life-wasting, totally worthwhile 'Film Year'. At least I will not forget 2005 in a hurry!

Coming Soon

by Tom King and Dan Kipling

The first week of February sees the release of **Walk the Line**, the story of country legend Johnny Cash. From humble Arkansas beginnings Cash signs with Sun records and begins touring with the likes of Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis. Success seems within his grasp but will he lose it all to the drink, the drugs and his own inner demons?

Joaquin Phoenix IS Johnny Cash in manner and in voice, even capturing Cash's unique singing style, as well as performing all his songs live. Cash's life-story is interesting enough for the film not to have to rely on conjecture, and Reese Witherspoon is excellent as June Carter, the love of his

it as worth watching.

Julian Noble is an amoral contract killer on a downward slide: still able to do his job but hard-drinking, and starved of human contact. So when he strikes up a chance conversation with a travelling salesman in a hotel bar, it soon grows into an unexpected friendship as each offers the other a way out of their problems.

Brosnan claims that his role in **The Matador** is not an "anti-Bond", but if he was looking for a role to revive him after 007 he couldn't have chosen better. This film sees him stride across a hotel lobby in nought but a pair of cowboy boots and white briefs, and even disguise himself as a cheerleader (with a fine moustache), all the while maintaining an air of suave panache and a certain twisted pathos.

For the second film in our spring term preview to feature George Clooney we turn to **Syriana**. The film is based on the (fictional) statement of Max Baer, a CIA insider, who uncovers a conspiracy by his own agency to destabilise the Middle East in

order for US interests to thrive; and is summarily turned on by the CIA. Bottom line? Plot like *The Constant Gardener*, structure like *Traffic* with a healthy dose of action thrown in. A good prospect.

Set in a totalitarian England, **V for Vendetta** has all the promise of a great graphic novel adaptation; and it has Sin City to beat. Judging by the trailers, it probably won't disappoint. Cool and dark, the film is a typical Wachowski production. Director J McTeigue has been involved with *The Matrix* and *Star Wars*, and even Hugo Weaving is along for the ride. The latter looks brilliantly sinister as freedom fighter 'V': he's good with knives, has a new accent, and is even bulletproof!

There may be some worries: this is McTeigue's first directorial outing, and big-budget action is the order of the day. He is, though, supported by a tried and tested team in that particular genre; and the addition of Natalie Portman can only bolster V's chances of success. Stylish and well-acted this could be one of the big films of the year.

Film Reviews



Munich

Director: Stephen Spielberg
With: Eric Bana, Daniel Craig

Runtime: 160 min

Reviewed by
Tom King

★★★★★

In 1972, in the midst of the so called 'Serene' Olympics in Munich, a tragedy occurred. 8 Palestinian terrorists, going by the name of 'Black September', scaled the walls of the Olympic village and took 11 Israeli athletes hostage, eventually butchering them before being killed in a shoot-out with the German police. The attack struck right at the heart of Israeli society and caused a tidal wave of rage. *Munich* tells of the Israeli government's channelling of this rage into the creation of a revenge squad tasked with the assassination of 11 Palestinians linked to the planning and carrying-out of the Olympic attack.

This squad, officially unconnected to and unsanctioned by the Israeli secret service, is led by one of its young officers, Avner (Bana). A young man very much in love with his wife and a soon to be father, his iron sense of duty still cannot allow him to refuse this service to his people. He is joined by a group of similarly motivated specialists (Robert, the bomb specialist, Carl, the 'cleaner', Hans, the forger, and Steve, the slightly overzealous driver). Together they set off on their quest for vengeance with a feeling of righteous fury, but in the course of the operation they sink further and further into the immoral mire of the contract killer.

The above synopsis might suggest to you that this film is a political statement; Spielberg's *Schindlers List* for the 21st century, but you'd be wrong. Although *Munich* is about politics, it is not political and is very careful to remain impartial. The Israelis are the protagonists but they are by no means squeaky clean and they cheerfully engage Avner to do their dirty work before treating him as something below their notice. In a similar vein, the Palestinian targets, though guilty of planning an atrocity, are portrayed as outwardly sympathetic men.

What this film is about is the subject of terrorism in general. Every target that the group kills is succeeded by an even more hard-line and dangerous replacement; and while the group starts out with a 'no collateral damage' policy, they soon expand their mission into killing these replacements and even individuals only loosely associated with them. The driving force behind this film is not the issues involved but the characters. Avner is mesmerizing: a man of honour whose rigid moral code is slowly warped by the terrible deeds he must commit; and it is by him that we are taken through the story.

As you might expect from Spielberg, *Munich* is fantastically shot with loving care and an attention to detail. The screenplay is engaging and the performances are generally excellent. However, all these factors cannot save *Munich* from its one flaw; it is almost three hours long. While this is a weighty subject, one cannot help but think that Spielberg has indulged himself with a couple of unnecessary sideplots. Excellent, but perhaps in need of a shorter director's cut.

Jarhead

Director: Sam Mendes
With: Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard

Runtime: 123 min

Reviewed by
Steph Crewes

★★★



lence of Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*. Though *Jarhead* has scenes of the aftermath of violence, with bombed out cars and the like, the most violent feature of the film is arguably verbal. After all the hype, however, nothing much happens. Far from the typical military jargon back at the base ("Without my rifle I am nothing!"), Swofford and his partner Troy (Peter Sarsgaard) ironically never get to fire their rifles in combat. They never come face-to-face with the enemy, a factor that imbues their purpose with a sense of false hope.

Mendes juxtaposes the morale-boosting playfulness of the Marines with expansive shots of barren desert, disconcertingly hazy in the harsh sunlight. One problem with this film is Gyllenhaal's character. 'Swoff' is not particularly likeable, due to a lack of emotional depth, yet we are forced to accept his flaws because they are human. Indeed, here the Marines are typically sex-crazed, with obscure alpha-male membership rituals and a penchant for swearing. In the second half of the film, Mendes interestingly focuses on the soldiers' desire for normality, as, in a horrible scene, one feverishly holds on to the charred corpse of an Iraqi girl, showing it to his comrades with poignant desperation. The timing of *Jarhead*'s release, amidst America's current war with Iraq, was undoubtedly intentional.

Indeed, the film emulates Mendes' most famous film, *American Beauty*, as an examination of the destruction of the American dream. Here it relates to the young American soldier's ability to 'serve my country', which is repeated throughout as a justification for war. Yet the emotional breakdown of Sarsgaard's character, when his commander tells him he cannot fire his rifle, is one of the most touching examples of the warped sensibility a soldier is forced to embrace at the brink of combat. It is a virtual apocalypse of permanent darkness, a web of oil. Ultimately, *Jarhead* gets straight to the point.

"Every war is different, every war is the same." These words, spoken by central character Anthony 'Swoff' Swofford (Jake Gyllenhaal's brilliant, multifaceted performance), form the core of Sam Mendes' slightly unconventional war film. Based on the real-life memoirs of ex-marine Swofford's experiences during the second Gulf War in the late 1980s, the title refers to the character of the US Marine Corps. *Jarhead* is a universal comment on the mundane futility of war.

British-born Mendes is able to achieve an objectivity that is absent from the romantic patriotism of *Platoon* and the brutal vio-

A Cock and Bull Story

Director: Michael Winterbottom
With: Steve Coogan, Rob Brydon

Runtime: 94 min

Reviewed by
Rob Perkins

★★★



Before I saw *A Cock and Bull Story*, I had never heard of its 'source' novel, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*, by Laurence Sterne; a book famous within certain circles as being 'unfilmable'. Certainly, the title character's attempts to relate his autobiography while interrupted by so many random diversions that he never gets past his own birth, does seem unnaturally poor material for a movie.

Such an unusual subject was never going to produce the most conventional of films, and indeed prolific and divisive director Winterbottom has created an utterly

polarising movie. It is a multi-levelled film-within-a-film, as the story switches between the actual adaptation of Tristram's story and the behind-the-scenes bickering, bantering and petty feuding between 'Steve Coogan' and 'Rob Brydon', each playing brilliantly subtle caricatures of themselves; perfect for those who love the awkward comedy of Alan Partridge and David Brent.

Admittedly, it is a thoroughly puzzling film if you try to focus on the narrative, as the continual flitting between realities and its many layered (and slightly wearing) in-jokes create quite a bit of confusion. What *A Cock and Bull Story* is really about, once its 'plot' is dispensed with, is the relationship between its co-stars Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan. The film is at its best when it is just these two, which isn't often enough. On the whole the comedy is spread too thin for my personal taste, but the film is book-ended by brilliant, seemingly improvised, discussions between the two stars in which they discuss such subjects as the precise Dulux-coded shade of teeth, and Brydon's description of himself as a cross between Al Pacino and Barbara Streisand. The stand-out moment, and one which is destined to become a cult favourite for reasons I won't mention here, is the achingly funny 'hot chestnut' scene. Coogan particularly is exceptionally good throughout, especially as he is playing a vain and venal version of himself, dangerously close to his true persona in parts.

At one stage, Coogan mentions how the 'film' was originally considered as a sitcom, and to be honest, one cannot help but wish that this had actually been so, as there are times when it does just feel like an episode of 'Extras' stretched out to an hour and a half. However, this doesn't stop it from being the best British comedy film of the year, and while that may not sound much of a compliment in late January, it may still be true in December.

Music Reviews



Editors, The Kooks, Kubichek

Fibbers, York

Reviewed by Gemma Day

17/12/2005

★★★★

As the Levis 'Ones to Watch' tour hits York, the showcase debutantes Kubichek are a pleasant surprise, offering a knee bouncing, foot shuffling romp of a set that sounds very much like the Arctic Monkeys on acid. Although the band can't rely on catchy choruses to get themselves noticed, as might be said of the two bands who follow them tonight, their delivery is something special, and a clear enjoyment of playing live simply adds to the Kubichek experience - even if it is for a mere 20 minutes. An aural pleasure.

Unfortunately, it becomes painfully obvious tonight that indie-infants The Kooks are, regardless of the hype, just a deceptively haired school project - unfortunately coming across as less power pop, and more the bastard offspring of The Charlatans and Gomez. Not so much a disappointment as a 'work in

progress', tunes such the jaunty 'Sofa Song', and 'Too much of Nothing' show potential that is certainly not realised in their live performance, although recent release 'You don't Love Me' certainly got the heads of the crowd nodding towards the close of the set. However, this did conveniently coincide with the bar having been open two hours, so I wouldn't read too much into it.

Headline band Editors can certainly thank absent friends Interpol for their rise in popularity over the past few months. Indeed it has been quite phenomenal, but any sceptics, trust me, believe the hype.

Every song they play tonight, from the subversively catchy 'Blood' to the latest re-release, 'Munich', are delivered with intensity, precision, and integrity. Tom Smith's blunt, throaty vocals captivate, with angst and anger overlaying the passion that comes through in the lyrics of each individual masterpiece from their essential album, 'The Back Room'.

Anyone who has not bought their tickets for this year's tour should do so now - such an intense, hypnotic musical experience is rarely found in rock/indie music today. Superb.



Singles list

Moby, *Slipping Away*

There was a time when I quite liked Moby. Maybe it was because I was 14. *Slipping Away* sounds just like Moby looks; bland, lonely, self-pitying. Like all of his recent singles, it replaces any kind of emotion or energy with a canned electronic drumbeat. It is contrived, formulaic, and yawn-inducing. If this is the best he can muster for a single, listening to the album must feel like being banished to the surface of the moon.

Richard Hawley, *Just Like The Rain*

An unassuming ballad from Richard Hawley, a man who sounds as if he should be singing over the opening credits of a 1950s frontier film. Simple, country-ish acoustic guitar, strains of violins, a mildly upbeat double-bass line, and a deep, mellow voice. It's pleasant and inoffensive, and I'm sure Norah Jones fans and grandmas everywhere will love it.

Supergrass - *Coffee In The Pot*

Forget any idea you may have about Supergrass, *We Are Young* or *Moving* this ain't. A two-minute instrumental, this is an unlikely single, but it's all the more brilliant for it. Imagine three Mariachis, complete with sombreros, fake moustaches and cheeky grins, playing outside a bull ring to Butch Cassidy. It's so happy, and of such cheery comedic value, it'll make you want to whistle down campus corridors and wink at all the girls passing by.

Skindred - *Pressure*

Reggae - punk metal fusion: apparently it's going to change the face of rock music. Fortunately, this seems unlikely. *Pressure* sounds like it should be on a NOW album from 99, next to a song by the Offspring, and remind you of those hot summers spent lying in the park after school. As it is, *Pressure* is like Limp Bizkit trying to sound Jamaican; embarrassing and cringeworthy.

Idiot Pilot - *A Day In The Life of A Poolshark*

An intriguing single from this new band, which can only be described as eclectic. Opening on what sounds something like an electronic music box, the song moves into expansive verses reminiscent of OK Computer-era Radiohead. However the record is nearly ruined by the presence of ugly shouting and screaming purporting to be backing vocals. Nevertheless, this single remains worth a listen: promising stuff.

Singles this week were reviewed by Mike McGovern.



Morning Runner

Wilderness is Paradise Now

Reviewed by Robin Seaton

Out Now

★★

It is difficult to imagine why anyone would want to listen to this music, let alone buy it or record it. Morning Runner may as well have called themselves Thirteen Cold Snowy Starsailing Radiosenseplayers and have done with it. Naturally, they will be fantastically successful among those who consider shoegazing to be an exciting spectator sport.

Relief is intermittently provided by high points such as Work and Gone Up In Flames, whose jauntily bouncing tune is a definite possibility for the Toffs' dance floor this term. The good work is undone, however, by tracks such as Burning Benches, which clearly wants words such as 'haunting' and 'epic' to be applied to it, but somehow falls short. Be All You Want Me To Be comes a little closer to fulfilling Morning Runner's admirable aspirations, despite the considerable disadvantage of its impressively bland title.

While competent, Morning Runner is a band too much under the influence of early noughties indie to be of interest. Despite this, their potential flashes through intermittently. Congratulations must go to Kam Tang, however. His beautiful and intricate design is by far the best aspect of this album: the front cover.



Ryan Adams

29

Reviewed by Dante Smith

Out Now

★★★★★

Since the appearance of his debut album back in the year 2000, Ryan Adams has been an admirably prolific, if at times frustrating, solo artist. For every great song he's recorded, there have been three annoyingly average ones too and recent efforts such as the misguided Rock 'n' Roll have seen Adams' star diminish somewhat in the last couple of years.

29 is unbelievably the third Ryan Adams album to have been released in the last eight months and this LP sees a more pensive songwriter trying to make sense of the transition between his 20s and 30s.

The album's nine songs each represent a year in the past decade of Adams' life and while the opening title track suggests a raw bluesy energy, most of 29 sees Adams focus on what he arguably does best: melancholic introspection and deeply unhappy love songs. 'Starlite Diner' and 'Nightbirds', for example, are heartbreaking piano-led laments that allow his voice to shine whilst 'Blue Sky Blues' features lovely muted strings and a beautiful arrangement.

29 is, admittedly, a grower - it does require repeated listening, but nevertheless it is undoubtedly Adams' most consistently excellent work for a long time.



Beth Orton

Comfort of Strangers

Reviewed by Aaron Carey

Out 13/02/06

★★★★

It seems that not even musicians are immune to the ageing process, and neither is their music. This latest release from Singer-songwriter Beth Orton sadly lacks a lot of the indefinable edge and spirit that ran through her earlier albums, although is still a thoroughly enjoyable release.

'Comfort of Strangers' is a mellow yet surprisingly infectious affair; the kind of album you'd have playing in the background when sipping wine on a warm summer evening and watching the sun set over the hills. Admittedly the songs don't leap out and grab you straight away, but the more you listen, the more you will find yourself humming them unconsciously, when you least expect it.

Beth's voice is captivating as ever; her guitar work is simple yet effective and although the production on the album is very well done, it doesn't distract you from that sublime song-writing that Orton is famous for.

Certainly a beautiful album; you really need to allow yourself the time to throw aside your troubles and bask in its' lazy tunefulness in order to discover its' full potential. Full of credibility, soul and sunshine, with this release Orton is ready to take on the Meluas of this world and win with style.

Arts Reviews

Holly Williams had a good laugh in the Drama Barn at 'Only Joking'



'Hilarity Facilitator' Chris Bush

Open Drama Nights kicked off this term with a free comedy night, 'Only Joking'. A warm audience turned out to fill the Drama Barn and see just what York has to offer in the way of home-grown comedy talent. We were served up a variety of styles – from straight-forward stand-up to improvisation death-match, via some musical turns – to banish the January blues.

Our compere for the evening – or self-

styled 'hilarity facilitator' – was Chris Bush. Rising to the daunting task of being first up with apparent ease, Chris got things off to a comfortable start. His straight-up, chatty style – fitting thoughts and observation, set off with some sharp insights carried to surreal ends – was delivered in bite-sized chunks between the acts. While Chris kept things moving at an admirable pace, perhaps a lengthier solo slot in the future would allow him to really find his rhythm and develop his material.

The first full act was Adam Stevenson, who took the stage with a shuffling, self-contained confidence. Understated but controlled, his act told just one story. It was a slow-burning comedy, with laughs at the little, repeated details and his self-deprecating style. I rather expected a big punch line which never arrived, but there was some good stuff along the way, including a spirited, impromptu ninja impression.

Ian McClusky followed, as the first of two musical acts. His accomplished piano playing provided an overblown romantic accompaniment to his cover of 'Women Call it Stalking', originally by comedian Rich Hall's alter ego, Otis Lee Crenshaw. A mock-serious lament on how women misinterpret his 'romantic' attentions, this lively number was one of the highlights of the evening, with Ian's perfectly light delivery of lines like

'Tears fall down my face/ It might be love or it might be mace'. Next up for good-natured ridicule were the vertically challenged and their general pointlessness, in a cover of Randy Newman's 'Short People'.

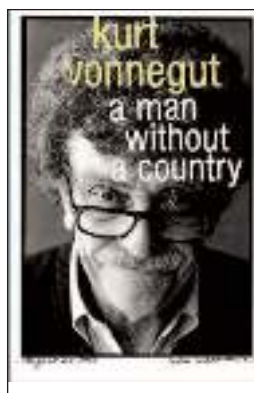
Fast-paced, foul mouthed and brimming with a frantic energy, Lewis Charlesworth provided the most theatrical entrance of the evening, bursting onstage spitting quick-fire expletives. An electrically charged performance, Lewis' physical presence (ricocheting around the stage, hair swinging and eyes wild) was strong enough to carry the audience through his frequently filthy material, which dwelt on parental sex and bodily fluids. Lewis leapt easily in and out of the characters that made up his sketches, including his brilliant portrayal of a subversively well-spoken, schmoozing toilet cleaner, who takes job satisfaction in the amount of excrement he ends the day covered in.

Thoroughly warmed-up and enjoying ourselves, it was time for a bit of audience participation with the second musical act, Jay Foreman. From getting us to shout out what Dick Van Dyke has been in (and yes, someone did say 'your mother') to a sing-along with the legendary 'Moon Chavs', Jay had the audience in the palm of his finger-picking hands. And it's not surprising – his witty songs perfectly suit student humour, with childlike/stoned meanderings about

balloons floating away or chavs mugging Clangers, as well as the brilliantly accurate 'Procrastinator' song. A particular highlight, and one he rightly asserts all students can identify with, Jay advises against the essay threat that is instant messaging, with doom-voiced warnings 'don't go on MSN!' over frantic guitar strumming.

Deathmatch improvisation further continued the audience participation theme, with us choosing settings, objects and animals for a crack team of improvisers to take as starting points for their sketches. Obviously these were more hit and miss than the pre-planned stand-up, but the on-the-spot, sideways thinking involved produced some very funny scenarios, from sawing gondolas in half with bananas, to llama golf and dogging at an archaeological dig. The four deathmatchers – Nik Morris, Tom King, Ollie Jones and Emma Miles – bounced off each other and the audience, with quick thinking and a willingness to look completely foolish, making the deathmatch a surprisingly successful way to end to the evening's entertainment.

Providing a chance for students to give various kinds of a comedy a try in a receptive environment, and for the rest of us to be suitably impressed at just how funny they are, let's hope 'Only Joking' becomes a regular event in the Drama Barn.



A Man Without a Country

Kurt Vonnegut

Reviewed by
Kirran Shah

£14.99
Bloomsbury

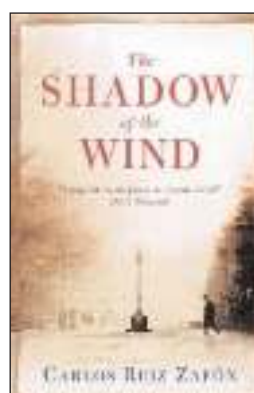
★★★★★

Vonnegut's surprise memoir – he claimed to have retired – is subheaded *A Memoir of Life in George W Bush's America*. In it, he draws parallels between the way the world now views America and the way the world viewed Germany during the Nazis' rise to power.

In this volume, Vonnegut, a committed humanist, appears to give up on the human race. Pacifism is the only solution he proposes to what he sees as a potentially very frightening future. He feels betrayed by the USA and is brutal in his pessimism, stating that the world's problems are due to people simply not caring.

Reading this book was like having a conversation with Vonnegut. He reacts to critics, and defends and explains his body of work and how he came to be a writer. Now past 80, he reflects on a long and rich career.

There are consolations in the book's humour and Vonnegut's characteristically brilliant prose, but it is a clear warning. Vonnegut is continuously negative about Bush and also about our outrageous abuse of natural resources. He foresees an epitaph for 'the good earth – we could have saved it, but we were too damn cheap and lazy'. A powerful read.



The Shadow of the Wind

Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Reviewed by
Kirran Shah

£17.99
Phoenix

★★★★

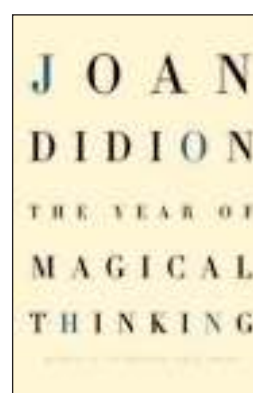
Set in 1940s war-scarred Barcelona, Zafon's novel is based around a young man, Daniel, and his interest in a mysterious novel, also titled *The Shadow of the Wind*. Daniel finds the book in 'the Cemetery of Forgotten Books', a bizarre library which houses neglected novels.

Daniel's interest in the volume verges on obsessive. When it emerges that a menacing individual is steadily seeking out and burning all the copies and is now after Daniel too, he turns to the biography of Julián Carax, the writer, to help solve the mystery. Events in Daniel's life oddly echo those in Carax's, deepening the intrigue.

The Shadow of the Wind tries very hard to be thrilling, but sometimes seems to be trying too hard. The coincidences (a staple of all thrillers) sometimes just happen too often.

In addition, female readers may not be too comfortable with the 'male gaze' which objectifies the female characters. The descriptions of women border on something from a Barbara Cartland novel, reminiscent of romantic, slushy literature.

A gripping read, set in a beautiful city, but perhaps a little condescending.



The Year of Magical Thinking

Joan Didion

Reviewed by
Amy Blackmore

£12.99
Fourth Estate Ltd

★★★★

Imagine the situation: the sudden death of your spouse, while your daughter is in intensive care as a result of septic shock and pneumonia. Although she looks as if she is recovering, three months later she collapses from a massive hematoma. This is the real life drama that Joan Didion faced and tackles in *The Year of Magical Thinking*.

Didion puts herself under analysis to expose the workings of the bereaved mind: the irrational or "magical" thinking, characteristic of mourning. She finds herself compelled to constantly relive the event, trying to get the sequence right and ultimately rewrite the ending. This is the "magical thinking" of the title; the irrational conviction that her late-husband's death can be undone. Didion gives away some of his clothes but cannot part with his shoes because he will need them when he comes back; she cannot read the obituaries because she feels she has somehow misled people into believing he is dead.

This story provides a thought-provoking analysis of bereavement. Maybe Didion's initial response to her situation should be taken as a warning – 'Life changes fast. Life changes in an instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends'.



Keeping Faith

Jodi Picoult

Reviewed by
Klara Bowman

£12.99
Hodder Stoughton

★★★★★

We live in a Godless society, or so the media would have us believe. So what relevance does Picoult's tale of a seven year-old prophet who is able to perform miracles and shows evidence of stigmata, have for the modern reader?

The Whites are the picture-perfect, All-American family, until seven year old daughter, Faith, walks in on her father having an affair. Faith becomes withdrawn and will only talk to her imaginary friend. This doesn't seem unusual behaviour until Faith starts to refer to her friend as 'God' and begins quoting passages from the Bible. In a secular household, her mother is astonished by her religious inclination. Faith's dealings with 'God' escalate until she is able to heal the sick and resurrect the dead.

A media frenzy grows around Faith and the question on the lips of every journalist, religious authority, and Faith's parents is: can Faith's claims be genuine? The focus for the reader shifts from the child, to forming a judgement of the mother.

Regardless of its religious base, *Keeping Faith* deals with the universal issues of belief, morality and parenthood and should appeal to all.

Food and Drink Reviews



Bobo Lobo
Little Stonegate

Reviewed by
Mark Zollner

★★★★

With the seemingly unstoppable Latin craze sweeping the nation, York has not been left untouched. To satisfy your taste for the Latin flavour there is the Latin American infused restaurant, Bobo Lobo. Tucked away off Little Stonegate in York's trendiest quarter, Bobo Lobo embodies the experience in York's blustery and cobbled streets.

The restaurant interior offers a haven from the cold realities of winter in Northern England and you could be forgiven for thinking you are somewhere else. At the front, there is a stylish bar serving a huge number of inspired cocktails. Meanwhile, the restaurant section at the back is by far the most remarkable. With its low-level red and blue wall-lights, slanted skylights combined with painted Cuban art, it offers a laid-back, yet cosy atmosphere. Whilst Bobo Lobo offers a

great atmosphere, what makes it stand out even more is the excellent food - just £8.45 for three courses if you're willing to come between 5-7pm on a weekday. While this means choosing from a set menu of three starters, three main dishes and two desserts, the choices are excellent and diverse enough that everyone should find something to their liking.

Of the starters offered, the empanadas (Latin style pastries filled with lamb, caramelised red onions & feta cheese) are particularly mouth-watering. Meanwhile, those with more of a nacho inclination are also very well catered for. The mains are equally first-rate with spicy crispy pork in tacos, Puerto Rican paellas and a variety of Cuban style burgers. Desserts come easily recommended when the choice includes strawberry daiquiri cheesecake, which tastes as good as it sounds. In all, Bobo Lobo provides an unbeatable combination of excellent food, low price and great atmosphere. If you wanted to make even more of a night of it with even better value, you could start by taking advantage of Oscars 5-7 happy hour drinks - just a quick salsa across the street.



Which Greasy Spoon?

January has seen some shocking trends in student behaviour. Queues in kebab shops are down and herbal tea consumption is on the rise. We have decided to beat the detox fascists and have significantly upped our calorie intakes to find the treats that will leave your spoon well and truly greasy!

The Full House, Cafe 38 £1.40

Surely the ultimate hangover cure, the full house is a perfect fry up- in a sandwich! Four chunky sausages, piles of smoky, crispy bacon and creamy scrambled egg tucked into a soft, white bap. It's ideal for the mornings when the alcohol won't leave your bloodstream and you need some serious artery-hardening action before you can see properly. This is not just greasy food, this is Micklegate greasy food!

Battered Mars Bar, Prices vary

This "health clogging catastrophe" has broken out of the Scottish border and is now served everywhere from Dublin to Bondi Beach. The extreme heat of the battering effect apparently releases "long chain sugars" into the already calorific chocolate caramel combo. Another result of the heating process means that the bar may disintegrate, although the melted chocolate taste sensation makes this no bad thing. Proceed with caution, though: The record number eaten at any one time is three, and all attempts to break this have resulted in copious amounts of vomit.

Vanilla Slice, Vanbrugh, 88p

Although most of this pastry ended up in crumb form on the Nouse carpet, our sugar high lasted for hours. The thick white layer of icing on top is so damn good we're not entirely sure it's legal. The velvety vanilla custard is cosseted by layers of no nonsense flaky pastry, making this literally the mother of all cakes - fabulously comforting, but sensibly robust.

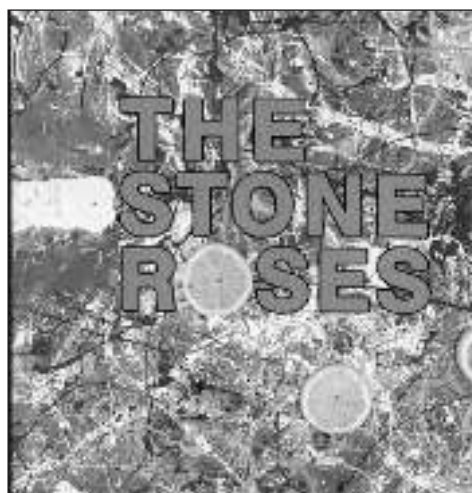
Donor Kebab, Micklegate Takeaway, £3.50

A notoriously drunken treat, the donor kebab can only be justified whilst under the influence. It claims to be meat, some sort of lamb concoction apparently! The 'meat' is shaved off the revolving spit and slapped into a pitta bread with a selection of salad things to disguise the fact that it is barely edible! You can also choose to have your kebab covered in chilli or garlic sauce, surely another masking device, which serves to give the only flavour to this fatty delight!

Stone Roses Bar
King Street

Reviewed by
Luke Abraham

★★



Hailing from the soggy streets of Manchester, I took a little offence at a bar in York naming itself after one of "our" bands. However, it's not the worst place I've been to, and it does have a charm all of its own.

The bouncers have a strange policy of letting people in, which is: they don't. Inside, it may be pretty empty, but there is still a large queue outside. It does have live bands, which is a massive plus, and they're not bad either. The music is what you might expect from the name of the place and it also has a small bandstand at the back which doubles as a dancefloor when there isn't a band on. The bar has a strange selection of drinks. Thwaites beer is the house bitter, along with some sort of European lager called Kaltenberg, which was quite nice (it did what lagers are supposed to do, anyway), and £6.70 for three pints is not bad for a late-licensed place in York.

Whenever somebody tips the bar staff they ring the bell, very confusing, at least, after that many Kaltenbergs, to know when last orders really has been called. About five minutes after the bar closed they started getting people to leave rather than giving twenty minutes drinking up time. Not a bad place to go for a few, but don't stay till the end.

Monty's Rock Cafe
Micklegate Bar

Reviewed by
Lucy Peden

★★★★



Monty's bills itself as "York's independent bar for independent people", which should be enough to encourage the more discerning student to stop following their housemates into cheesy chain bars and old man pubs. However, if any further persuasion is needed, the more reticent hipster should be charmed by shabby chic interior.

The menu features the full range of standards (including a margarita billed as 'a traditional Mexican drink that we're ALL REALLY BORED of making') as well as a funkier, more obscure set of drinks that allow the devastatingly beautiful bar staff to roll cocktail shakers along their arms like Tom Cruise before he discovered scientology. I urge everyone to go forth and discover their own personal favourite, but I love the ginger-beer and whisky based Gatsby, possibly for the literary reference as much as the retro-fizz, and the tooth-achingly sweet Cherry Coke, which should be served at Jack Rabbit Slim's. For those with speed-of-light metabolisms, or who are just too drunk to care, there is a whole section devoted to calorific drinks, but if you have to have something with a rude name, skip the Baileys and cream loaded Multiple Screaming Orgasm and go for the infinitely zestier Citron My Face.

The Plough
48 Main Street,
Fulford

Reviewed by
Claire Croskery

★★★



After visiting The Plough, I decided that its pleasant atmosphere would make it an ideal choice for a meal with a friend.

We ordered our slightly over-priced, drinks at the bar and chose a table in the non-smoking section to look over the menu. The Plough offers a range of food, catering for many appetites, from light bites to main meals. Likewise, the prices vary from £1.50 for a portion of chips to £13.95 for a large mixed grill. Our meals arrived, beautifully presented, after only ten minutes of waiting. The prices of the main meals reflected the portion size and overall quality of the food, making them good value for money. I had Hunter's chicken, a chicken breast topped with cheese and BBQ sauce, which came piping hot, served with a very colourful mixed salad which, sadly, I did not fully appreciate because I am not the biggest salad fan! For dessert, I chose one of the four homemade desserts on the menu, a treacle tart - very reasonably priced at £2.95. It was sweet enough to appeal to my sweet tooth, but not too sugary or sickly.

Overall, I got everything I expected from The Plough; good service, great food and a very relaxing atmosphere. It may be thirty minutes walk from campus, but it's worth it!

The last word

Andreas Masoura shows us the art of serious reporting

Children of the Revolution

As I was sitting down, consuming yet another stomach-churning Roger Kirk baguette (a chicken and bacon one), I witnessed a scene that would be more suited to a South American socialist revolution. A hoard of students abruptly burst through the Kirk's swinging doors in a manner that would have had Roger take note. Rather than passively ambling around campus with the usual care-free, indifferent attitude, these students actually got up before one o'clock to protest.

So what had caused such uproar? Could it have been the doubling of student fees? The closure of all campus bars? Tony Blair's military crusade widening, in order to incorporate Iran as well as Iraq? No.

Vanburgh's laundry room was due to close on Monday, leaving students with no other choice other than to make the arduous journey to Langwith or worse still, the demoralising walk of shame over the bridge to Goodricke. On hearing this, I genuinely felt pity for these people. How could these

freshers be forced to lose their dignity as they drag their post-ziggys stained pants and diesel encrusted shirts over the bridge, fully exposed to the elements?

This pity suddenly dampened as I momentarily recalled memories from last year of having to walk through pole soc sessions in order to get to the laundry room. Their lives would now surely be enriched. That aside, it was incredible to witness such a passionate protest from students who, God forbid, were faced with the prospect of attending lectures in a pair of grimy Levi's.

There is indeed an unexpected twist to this revolutionary tale. The protest worked. Fifty or so people armed with banners (they were probably made from items of clothing left in the laundry room for ages) and a petition actually made the university back down and leave Vanburgh's laundry room in place. I don't think this has ever happened before.

Perhaps the next step could be a round-up of about 500 rowdy Goodrickers, storm the Roger Kirk Centre, and demand that the toilets be dismantled and sold to provide funds for Goodricke's much-needed and long overdue refurbishment. Plaster on the walls would be nice. Even showers that don't resemble an over-flowing, open sewer would suffice. Alright, maybe I'm being unreasonable and pushing it slightly. The money should be used to install another lift in Derwent even though a ramp costing a fraction of the price would be adequate. I'm sure the sacrifice of the fountain sink in the Roger Kirk toilets would be a worthy one (the soap dispenser doesn't work).

The Daily Mail speak out...

Another Club D, another drink is spiked. Look chaps, why purchase expensive rohyp-

nol when an apple VK at £1.70 would do the trick?

On the subject of campus events, I hope everyone has seen the latest marketing genius from the ever-controversial Goodricke College. Although copious amounts of naked female flesh do not feature prominently, uproar is beginning to surface. Apparently it contains a dribbling pair of glossy lips.

Whether they belong to a male or female is uncertain at this time, although the nature of the dribble has been brought into question. I think it's quite straightforward. The person is clearly salivating at the prospect of a delicious bar of Fair Trade chocolate. Very un-sexual indeed. Sexuality is of course bad and degrading and should never be represented on campus in any way other than throughout the alcohol fuelled, drunken debauchery of a campus event.

Apologies

According to government reports, spelling is improving throughout the UK and this is why more people are going to university. Given this, it was no wonder that Goodricke Chair, Mat Burren, was outraged at the misspelling of his name in the last edition.

I'd like to take this opportunity to reassure Matte Berton that any spelling mistake was unintentional and probably due to the immense fatigue that the editorial team are faced with before the release of every edition. Matt Burron may have also noticed that in that same article my name was also misspelt too and all they had to do was copy and paste it from the by-line where it was correctly spelt. I think I'm going to start slapping people with dictionaries.

I'm an editor for God's sake, and they still don't even know my name. Alright, I know it's a dodgy sounding foreign one. You can call me Smith.



Damn those capitalist University pigs

Number 09, P.P.E.

Blag your degree



Gimme some Sugar: mmm... just management facial lustre

So you think you're cool. In fact so cool that that you can't even be bothered to say the name of your degree. You just refer to it using those famous (well, as far as you're concerned) three initials, PPE. As you sit, or rather pose in the Galleria sipping a large mocha whilst reflecting on your Oxford rejection, you spot the latest Club of PEP newsletter. Almost immediately, it has convinced you of your unconditional right to a cushy Deutsche Bank job and at least £100,000 a year before your 21st birthday.

The purpose of this article is to ensure you are equipped to get the job mentioned above. Only a 2.1 will suffice. I'm going to keep it simple. Three subjects require three methods of blagging. Firstly, the one vital thing to remember though is that it's not what you know that matters, it's what you can convince other people you know. The art to which I am referring to is bullshitting. Once fine-tuned, this becomes a powerful weapon at your disposal, allowing you to confidently explain Marx's Communist Manifesto in front of a seminar group full of geeks without ever having read it.

The technique is simple. Listen carefully to your fellow seminar colleagues, carefully spotting the keen ones who have done all the reading to the point of near perfect regurgitation. Reword what they say and add an intelligent sounding point. The tutor will then note your seemingly original contribution and general creativity. Minimum effort, maximum output. This is the ethos of the PPE student. It is no coincidence that social science students have the shortest life expectancy due to alcohol consumption.

When it comes to politics, don't be fooled into thinking you actually have to do any real reading; the introduction and conclusion will always suffice, provided you have the art of bullshit on your side.

Essentially for philosophy, all you need to remember is that there is never a right answer. Therefore there is no wrong answer. Everything is based on a series of value judgements that are valid as long as you give some sort of vague reason. Just remember not to laugh when your German lecturer mentions Kant and you'll be fine.

As for economics, two words encompass the whole subject. Supply and demand. Yes, it really is that boring. Just make sure you can stomach hours of Thatcher-adoring lectures. And yes that old hag is still alive!





Clockwise from top left: Joaquin Phoenix dons the cap as the 'Man in Black'; Isobel Campbell on tour after her collaborative album with Mark Lanegan; York Theatre Society stage Oscar Wilde's classic; York Theatre Royal's touring company, 'Pilot', bring their production of East is East to Leeds; Rough justice in Sympathy for Lady Vengeance; The Go! Team steal traffic control signs to promote their UK tour; The next big thing, Boy Kill Boy, play at Fibbers.

Live Music

Friday 10th February
Cardboard Radio, Fibbers
 York local boys, Cardboard Radio, embark on their UK tour after making numerous appearances at campus live events. Catch them here before they get big and leave the county indefinitely.

Saturday 11th February (Week 5)
Battle of the Bands Final, Vanbrugh, 9.30pm till 1.30am
 Goliaths of (rock/ indie/ space jazz/ insert your own genre here) fight it out for the ultimate accolade of 'the best band on campus' after a week of gruelling heats. Rest assured that Vanbrugh will have late licence.

Wednesday 15th February
Isobel Campbell, Brudenell Social Club
 Campbell of Belle and Sebastian fame comes to Leeds after her recent team-up album with Mark Lanegan.

Tuesday 21st February
Boy Kill Boy, Fibbers
 Courtied by every major record label, this is the next cool band for 2006. Addictive pop choruses with 80's electro, synthesisers and rocking riffs. Very likely to sell out.

Wednesday 22nd February
The Go! Team, The Plug, Sheffield
 Odd pop dance hipsters embark on their UK tour. Definitely entertaining.

Campus Events

Friday, Week 4
Planet V, Vanbrugh.
 In association with current campaigns on campus for student equality. Featuring more happenings from the Planet V dance crew, bringing equality through the medium of dance.

Saturday, Week 4
Playboy Mansion, Goodricke, 9pm
 A chocolate themed party with smooth R&B. Willy Wonka and his Oompa troupe would make an appearance if they weren't fictional characters. Check out the honeys on the dance floor or get fat on vast quantities of cocoa and vegetable fat. It's your choice. Bar open until 1am.

Monday, Week 5
AU Revolver in Derwent.
 Like sport? Like drinking? AU and YUSU join forces in combining the two in a huge sports social. Live music, raffle and late licence till 1.30am.

Thursday, Week 5
YUSU Comedy Night, Wentworth.
 Top acts put on for a snippet of the price that you'd pay elsewhere. Get your tickets soon. (You have been warned.)

Monday, Week 6
Traffic Lights Revolver
 Single? Taken? A shade between the two? Use tonight to show your true colours.

Art and Performance

Until 26th March
Spanish Masters Exhibition, York Art Gallery
 Showcasing the gallery's own small collection and those from Fairfax House in York and London's National Gallery.

Friday 10th - Saturday 18th February
The Witches of Eastwick, York Theatre Royal
 Hubble bubble toil and trouble? York Light Opera Company is producing this devilishly risqué musical comedy. Three modern day witches innocently plot and conjure until all hell breaks loose with the arrival of Darryl Van Horne.

Tuesday 14th- Saturday 18th February
East is East, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
 After previewing at York Theatre Royal in September, this new show of Ayub-Kin Din's *East is East* by the York Theatre Royal's in-house theatre group, 'Pilot Theatre', continues its nationwide tour. It has obtained rave reviews and sell-out performances so far.

February 17th and 18th (Week 6)
A Picture of Dorian Gray, The Drama Barn
 Oscar Wilde's novel adapted for the theatre. A rich man's life is bound to a painting that is a testament to his vanity.

Cinema

Walk The Line (15)
 Johnny Cash biopic following the most volatile period of his life, from self-destructive pop star to 'The Man in Black'.

Munich (15)
 Stephen Spielberg directs a tense thriller set in the aftermath of the massacre of eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Geoffrey Rush and Daniel Craig star.

The Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby (PG)
 The story of a faithful dog pining at his master's grave. The real Bobby has his own statue and grave paid for by American fans of the original Walt Disney film of his exploits.

Sympathy for Lady Vengeance (TBC)
 Completing the Korean trilogy of 3 similarly themed but completely different stories of revenge. A 19-year-old woman goes on a quest for revenge after being imprisoned by her accomplice in crime. She gains the trust of other in-mates through kind acts and uses them to put her plan into action.

Goodnight, And Good Luck. (TBC)
 George Clooney stars and directs this black-and-white drama about one journalist's attempt to stand up to Senator Joseph McCarthy and his anti-communist crusade during the '50s. With David Strathairn and Robert Downey Jr.



Local MP, **John Grogan**, looks at the history of Selby

History can be made in a moment

The University of York is currently in the Selby parliamentary constituency. Maybe it's because I studied history at university but I've always been fascinated by Selby district's place in the history of England.

Selby Abbey is obviously at the heart of this story as the first such to be built in the North of England after the Norman Conquest and also the birthplace of King Henry I.

I will be attending a lecture at The Guildhall in London on February 7 to mark the centenary of another more recent political event in which Selby played a small part in the history of our nation – the 1906 General Election in which the Liberal Party obtained a majority of 132.

A century ago Selby district was part of the old Barkston Ash constituency. The sitting Conservative MP Sir Robert Gunter died in late 1905, and so on October 14, the people of Selby had their only chance to date (and I hope it's a while before they have another one!) to vote in a parliamentary by-election. Although, in fact, only men who paid local rates could vote in 1905 since it was another couple of decades before the principle of one-person one-vote for parliamentary elections was established.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Barkston Ash was a safe Conservative seat where the Tory candidate had actually been returned

unopposed in the previous two General Elections. Nevertheless, in a remarkable result a young barrister from Leeds – Joseph Andrews – won the by-election for the Liberal Party by 228 votes over his opponent Conservative George Lane Fox. The result had a national significance as it pointed the way to the forthcoming Liberal landslide. Arguably 1906, 1945 and 1997 represent the three great progressive landslides in British political history.

Liberal leader Henry Campbell-Bannerman referred to the "voice of Barkston Ash", which had spoken for the nation. I feel a particular affinity with Joseph Andrews because he's the only other non-Conservative to be elected to speak for Selby in Parliament. Sadly, he never took his seat because as soon as he was elected, a General Election was called and he lost the seat to Lane Fox.

In 1997 I became the first ever non-Conservative Member of Parliament for Selby to take up my seat in the House of Commons, yet the honour of being the first non-Conservative to win a parliamentary election in the area will always belong to Joseph Andrews. In 1909 he died at the age of just 36, but on February 7 I will remember the contribution he made to our local and national life. Sometimes in politics, as in life, all you need is a moment to leave a lasting impression.

Comment



SU President **Micky Armstrong** appeals to students to get involved in restructuring the SU constitution.

The times they are a-changing. Hopefully. As you may well know by now there is a proposed constitution being taken to Tuesday's UGM, and it has been seen by some as controversial. Many of you may not care about strategic plans, governance reviews or democrati-

cally elected trustee representatives, but I do – it's my job to.

Everybody agrees that the structure of our Union needs to change. We have over a hundred different societies and over fifty sports clubs, yet many of their members would not

feel that they are part of the Union. Nobody seems to know exactly how much work is put in to allow opportunities for students to partake in activities during their university careers. Because nobody knows nobody cares and because nobody cares nobody gets

involved and if nobody gets involved we can't provide these opportunities nor can we act, as students want us to.

The proposed constitution put forward by this year's sabbatical team looks to address this downward spiral; our aim is to set up a Union Senate, which will run very much like the current Executive Committee does, but will include more officers and more students so the Union can be directed as our membership wants.

For years, apathy, inconsistency and bad press have hindered us; the new system will change this. It

will give MORE students a chance to give their opinion. You can decide who plays at gradball, you decide if we should campaign for peace in Iraq YOU can get involved with the running of YOUR Union.

"I am not asking you to simply agree with our proposed changes; I am not asking you to disagree with them either"

I am not asking you to simply agree with our proposed changes; I am not

asking you to disagree with them either. What I would like to urge you to do is get involved with this, the most important action the Union has taken in its history.

You can check out our changes at www.yusu.org; let us know what you think. Don't be fooled by what some posters may say, don't be persuaded by reading this article; read the summary of six months of hard work from your sabbatical team and make your own mind up.

If we do not change now we may never, we may lose out to top-up fees and future developments. Don't let this happen.

and Analysis

Structural reform is needed so the Union can operate efficiently and better serve the student body as a whole, says **Adam Sloan**

New YUSU Constitution is better deal for students

Next week the student body will have the opportunity to vote on proposals put forward by the SU for a new Union constitution. The new structure will result in a cull of executive positions and the introduction of a new Union 'Senate', the hope being more streamlined decision making and a more efficiently run Union.

Some of those opposed to the changes put forward have launched a campaign encouraging students to vote against the new structuring, claiming that the removal of liberation officers, such as women's, LGBT, racial equality and access, from the executive will reduce representation.

It seems to me however, as though they need not worry. Under the new system decision making processes will be far more streamlined and effective, allowing the Union to achieve more on a day-to-day basis, while not reduc-

ing student representation.

Currently, 54 members sit on the Union executive committee. When you consider that the UK cabinet, who have the job of proposing and executing policy on a national scale, has only 26 members, one can only imagine the difficulty of coordinating a body as large as the current SU executive. When you take this into consideration, there appears to me to be no point in having all of these positions on the executive committee if the decision-making structure is so inefficient that nothing gets done.

Removed from the executive will be the seven college JCR chairs. I can see a number of reasons why they should not automatically have seats on the executive. Firstly, they are elected by only a small portion of the university student body and charged with the role of administering their college. Having JCR chairs serve on

the executive committee would be like having the mayor of York serve in the cabinet at Downing Street. Secondly, we saw from the hilarity that was the JCR hustings that these positions aren't always decided on a rational basis, are you sure you feel comfortable with every JCR chair being involved in the everyday running of the Students' Union?

The Union Senate will comprise of the proposed 11-member executive, as well as the liberation officers, JCR chairs and numerous SU affiliates, as well as five 'ordinary members'. The executive will thus be hugely outnumbered in the Senate, so there can thus be no accusations that they will be able to dominate the body. It will be the Senate that takes the decisions directing the actions of the executive. In days of such chronic student apathy, the Senate will act as an independent representa-

tive body providing a good, new means of holding officers to account.

A new sabbatical position will also be introduced with the role of looking after "societies and communications". Considering the overwhelming number of student societies, a full-time co-ordinator has to be seen as a positive step. Permanent support for the societies will serve to increase the quality of activities that are offered and make the organisations run far more effectively.

Cynics might say that all this is merely an effort from the current administration to stamp their legacy into the university history books. Whether or not this is a motivation behind the timing of the proposed reforms, they seem to be clearly for the better, providing a far more efficient and effective management structure, which will better serve all students of the university.



James Coldwell suggests solutions to budget shortfall

Deficit reasons don't add up

Today it is reported that the university is facing a budget shortfall of up to three-million-pounds, if current spending trends continue. At first sight, this would seem like a significant cause for concern. Yet the figure of £3million is not as gargantuan as it first appears. Unpredictable things happen over the course of a university year, causing expenditure to rise or income to fall. However, there are people, clever people, who are employed to deal with just these unexpected occurrences.

We should be in no doubt that, probably at this very moment, the finance team are gathered together, crunching numbers, taking care to carry the ones and make the figures add up. A brief look at the university's overall financial situation (consolidated assets of "over £133m", according to the 2005 Treasurer's Report) reveals that while £3million is far from a drop in the ocean, it is hardly reason to panic.

What is interesting about this story is not the size of the deficit, but the explanations offered for its existence. Apparently, the new accommodation at Alcuin College or the considerable and ongoing development of the Sports Centre has had scant impact on the budget. The shortfall is being blamed largely on "higher than expected energy costs", arising from such

heinous deeds as students leaving on lights, or neglecting to turn off music when leaving rooms. It would seem that the intelligent people working in the university's treasury and finance offices have been staring at computer spreadsheets for too long.

The proposal, that by leaving my 20-watt mirror light-bulb on while I eat my Weetabix I am responsible

'While £3m is far from a drop in the ocean, it is hardly reason to panic'

for the university's financial problems, is almost as patronizing as it is ridiculous. There is more chance of George Galloway receiving a hero's welcome from MPs when he returns to parliament next week than this new information having any effect on student habits - or of having any effect on the costs of running the university, in the grand scheme of things.

It won't do to rant too much about this, but surely more creativity is needed if the university's books are to be balanced. Perhaps a weekend away will revitalize the overworked souls in the finance department, and they will come back with some innovative and workable ways of reducing the deficit. Then we will all be able to sleep easy, with or without a nightlight.

College commotion draws a tear to the eye of **Heidi Blake**

Vanbrugh protests give hope to all

If you passed along the Vanbrugh Walkway on Friday afternoon, you will have noticed something of a commotion. Chanting and carousing in the drizzling rain was a motley crowd of discontented residents, in various states of undress, making colourful protest against the imminent conversion of their laundry facility into yet more office space.

There was genuine camaraderie in the air. People danced under the gun-metal sky as crackling loudspeakers blared such crowd-rousing anthems as 'Children of the Revolution', amidst shouts of "we want a laundry, not another office!" and "help us, we want to be clean!" A large banner read "Business First, Conference Park Second,

Students Third". Protesters wore white boiler suits, emblazoned with slogans; one, who turned up in skimpy underpants, touted a sign that read 'I will not change my boxers until Vanbrugh re-opens our laundry'. A small pantomime horse even bobbed in the fray.

JCRC Chair Mickey Masefield's impassioned address on the subjugation of student need to corporate greed met with wild cheers and applause. In the fever of excitement that followed, one diffident, bespectacled chap, looked horrified when a semi-naked war-paint wearing youth clasped his arm, got down on one knee and begged "please sir - you have to help us save our

laundry!"

Standing in the midst of the throng, one felt validated as a political being. The infectious thrill of activism abounded - if I'd closed my eyes I might have been at Greenham Common in the eighties, or marching on London against the war. But within an hour, the crowds had dispersed; the music had stopped, the banners were gone and nothing but a few trampled flyers evidenced the afternoon's events.

The Provost of Vanbrugh, presumably in a state of panic at the uncouth behaviour of his vulgarian-subjects, had intervened, overruled the Facilities Manager, and assured residents that their laundry would remain open until fur-

ther review at the end of February. Naturally, he insisted that this volte-face had nothing remotely to do with the afternoon's protest.

But take heed - malcontents unite! In the consumer-driven corporate frenzy that is the twenty-first century, where even institutions of learning bow to mammon and place the demands of enterprise above those of education, it is possible to make your voice heard. So much for student apathy. Turn up in boxers, holler and scream, revel and carouse - do whatever is necessary to hold your institution to account. If nothing else, what Friday's events irrefutably prove is that it is worth kicking up a fuss to ensure that justice is done.

EST. 1964
NOUSE



Battling complacency

You've got to feel for Neil Barnes: barely a week after he starts his new campaign to raise awareness of drink spiking and York had its first instance for as long as anyone can remember on campus. Now it has come to light that a second occurred only a few weeks later. Many are seeing it as a worrying situation, but should we really be surprised?

Obviously a night out on campus remains much safer than a night out in town: Doorsafe provide more staff per head than any York club or bar and students, generally, tend to be a better behaved group than your average Saturday night clientele.

The worry is that these factors have made students complacent, unaware that the same risks that exist in the big clubs also exist, albeit to a lesser extent, on campus. As the recent incidents have proved, as long as drinks are left unattended then having something slipped into them will always be an issue, a fact that can't be changed by an increase in staff on the door or by how much you trust your peers.

Students are simply taking greater risks on campus than they would do in The Gallery or Toffs. This is why Nouse are standing solidly behind the SU's campaign, Drinksafe. Awareness is the only way in which this issue can be tackled, and Neil Barnes and the SU were rightly already informing students before the first incident had come to light. The key now is to continue as the fight against complacency must not become complacent itself.

It's time to conserve

It's amazing walking across campus to see the amount of lecture rooms and corridors that remain fully lit, especially in this supposedly energy conscious age. It must come as no surprise therefore to hear that the University is facing a massive deficit as a result.

It is heartening to finally see a concerted effort to stop students and staff wasting massive amounts of energy and money due to what can only be described as laziness. However it is less heartening to realise this action is only being implemented as a response to the realisation that they are about to lose £3 million, rather than from a discovery of an ecological conscience. It's a sad state of affairs, but expected, that this is what it takes to implement a policy that surely should be common sense considering the increasing awareness of the damage this kind of action does to the environment.

Letters

Please send your comments and complaints by email to letters@nouse.co.uk or by post to Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

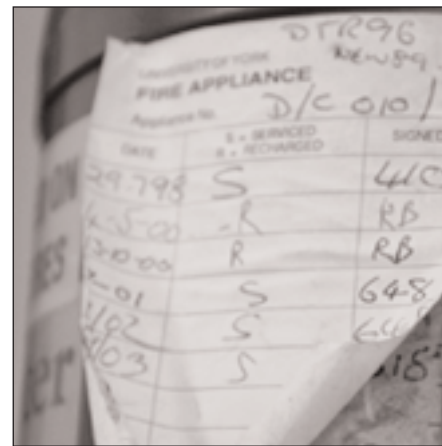
Star letter

Liberal-Dems speak back

I'd like to take issue with Greg Tibbs' take on my comments in his letter of the 12th December last. He accurately quotes me as saying, "the political system doesn't offer any real choice" a comment he counters by saying that people aren't interested in "choices put forward by the Lib-Dems".

This biased dismissal ignores an important issue that transcends party politics. Whether or not people are interested in the choices put forward by the Lib-Dems is not the issue. The fact is that Britain has a voting system that is demonstrably unfair, where many votes simply do not count and where realisation of this fact increasingly causes disenchantment with the political

Win!
Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps



No surprise

I am notably unsurprised regarding last term's fire in Derwent College. Numerous times when I walk around college I see cooking equipment left on, fire doors propped open and people smoking in kitchens. I know that the exact cause of the fire is still to be determined but surely the risk of similar outbreaks can be minimised were the college to be stricter regarding fire safety, and ban smoking in kitchens. In corridors as crowded as those in Derwent, all it takes is one drunken accident and an open fire door, and the whole block could go up in flames, taking every student's work and possessions with it.

Steven Baker
Derwent College

Library success

In response to the article regarding library opening times, I feel that the Educational Campaigns officers should be praised. For once, people on the SU have actually fulfilled their promises, and the library opening later is definitely a success for the officers. At a time when all social events on campus are failing, and promises made by previous presidents are not being fulfilled, we finally have people who are willing to make a difference. I see the change in opening times as the start, maybe in years to come we may see 24hr opening times, but for this we need to see people using the facilities.

With regard to the money from fines, I believe that this IS being well spent - I often find that I manage to pick up the last copy of a book in the library to find that a label in the front says 'bought from library fines'. If there aren't the books in the library, then why would people want to stay there all round the clock?

As a campus newspaper I think that

you are taking the completely wrong attitude on this, and should be promoting the fact that we should use it or lose it, as in reality, this is what will happen.

Paul
Comment left on website

Spending spree

Being a member of a number of student societies, many of which have had their budgets cut this year, I was concerned to see the amount that YUSU subsidised their Christmas party. I understand the need to say thank you to the permanent staff at the office but I still am not sure whether money that should be spent on students should be subsidising it. Also, does the new advertising board outside the student centre go down as a necessary use of funding? I certainly don't think so.

Sarah Burns
Goodricke College

Title question

It was quoted in your previous issue that I intended to follow James Flinders' legacy by insisting that I'm referred to as 'President'. As I said during my election campaign, I will listen to what Halifax students want and act accordingly. For the time being, it's correct that I'm referred to as President as that is what our constitution titles me. I think that my services to students are more important than my title, for that reason, I'll invest more time in helping our students than worrying about officers' titles.

Sam Bayley
President Elect, HCSA

Correction

In our last edition we referred to the chair of Goodricke JCR as Matt 'Buran'. The correct spelling is actually Matt 'Burton'. Apologies for the error. Ed.

Your: Platform

Enough of what our writers and editors have to say, we sent reporters to find out what York students think of today's issues

1. What are your thoughts on the new SU constitution?
2. Are you concerned over the £3m budget shortfall?
3. Do you worry about drink spiking at campus events?
4. How would you feel about a possible lecturer strike?



Name: Felicity Fairchild
College: Langwith
Course: P.P.E.
Year: 3rd Year

1. The restructuring sounds promising although I do have concerns over the cutting of liberation posts from the exec.
2. I can't see it really having an effect on me as a student.
3. There should be more of an awareness campaign about it. Campus is somewhere that students should feel safe.
4. I would absolutely support the lecturers were they to strike. They are the most important people at this University.



Name: Toby Eyre
College: James
Course: History of Art
Year: 4th Year

1. Cutting liberation posts is a bad idea. The SU can be made more efficient without a constitutional overhaul.
2. Finances of the University are enormous so I am not overly concerned.
3. I think people should be made more aware that this is an issue on campus and not just at bars in town.
4. With the amount students are now paying I think a strike seems a little irresponsible and un-professional.



Name: Will Wright
College: Derwent
Course: English and Linguistics
Year: 1st Year

1. It seems a little bit dictatorial. It could make the organisation run better though.
2. My concern is where the money to make up that shortfall will come from.
3. I think people need to be more vigilant and mates should always remember to look out for each other.
4. The lecturers are the backbone of this University and everything possible should be done to appease them.

American dream?

By Ed Humphreys
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN SPORTS have never taken off in Europe, but the unconventional hours enjoyed by students makes them ideal late evening viewing. Next Sunday, Ford Field, Detroit, will host the pinnacle of the late night sport calendar and the greatest show on earth: the Super Bowl experience.

Super Bowl XL, (which contrary to reports does not stand for Extra Large), is the 40th annual championship game of the National Football League. Sunday 5 February will be the day when America stands (or sits) still, with the exception of regular visits to the fridge. Church attendances will plummet, deaths related to over eating and drinking will peak. Materialism will be rampant (this article is sponsored by Pepsi, incidentally). It is bigger than Christmas: this is the ultimate celebration of the American dream.

This year, in the now infamous half time show (see Janet Jackson's left breast), up and coming rock band the Rolling Stones will be performing. England will be further represented by Devon's own barefooted soul singer Joss Stone in the pre-game entertainment. Be warned, though: Aretha Franklin is scheduled to sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner'. This will probably last over ten minutes and the use of the mute button on your TV controls is highly advisable.

Sandwiched in between Aretha Franklin, the balloons the baloney is the main contest between the Seattle



Pittsburgh Steelers' danger man Antwaan Randle demonstrates his agility

Seahawks and the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Seahawks are one of only seven NFL franchises never to have been to the Super Bowl, while it will be the Steelers sixth Super Bowl, their first in ten years.

An intriguing dual within the match, will be between MVP Seahawk running back Shaun Alexander and the plump Steeler run-

ning back, Jerome 'The Bus' Bettis. At the beginning of the year, The Bus was coaxed into one last season and it should be an emotional day in his home town of Detroit. He may be built like a prop forward, but he runs unfeasibly fast, yet he will struggle to match Alexander's yardage: he rushed 1880 yards in the regular season.

Another player to watch

out for is Pittsburgh's safety, Troy Polamalu. He is easily recognisable with his mane of curly hair flowing out of his helmet. He seems to be involved in every play with his speed and sense of where the ball is going to go, allowing him to make regular, game changing tackles and interceptions. He may well be the difference between two evenly matched sides.

Professionalism at expense of English passion

By Rob Cantarero
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

EVER SINCE SKY bought the rights for Premiership and lower division matches, and thereby sparked a huge increase in players' wages, footballers have regularly been accused of greed, and of showing more interest in their lucrative contracts than in loyalty to their club. Who can forget the uproar caused when Paul Ince joined Man Utd from West Ham, Sol Campbell left Spurs for Arsenal or when Luis Figo switched to Real Madrid from Barcelona?

However, today's players can't seem to win. When a footballer shows his attachment and passion whilst playing for his club or country, it often results in condemnation. The latest demonstration of such passion was seen on 22 January at Old Trafford after Rio Ferdinand's late winner for Man United against Liverpool. United captain Neville ran the whole length of the pitch to the away stand and was seen grabbing his shirt and gesticulating at Liverpool supporters.

This sparked huge controversy after Greater Manchester Police immediately expressed concern over his behaviour and reported the case to the F.A. Because the case is not on the new disciplinary process, Neville might just escape with a heavy fine for his reaction,

but is such a response really necessary? Football is a game where winning a game or a league can have a big influence on a club's sporting and economic future and a great amount of pressure is involved. Surely one can therefore accept, or at least overlook, Neville's reaction to a last-gasp winner against one of his club's biggest rivals? After being subjected to taunts from Liverpool supporters throughout the game, his reaction, if not entirely justified, is at least understandable. As Neville responded: "This was a celebration: you are caught up in the moment and for a few seconds you go bananas. The stick is part of the game. That is how local rivals have always been - and always should be." He also accused the press and the public in general of wanting footballers to be "whiter than white". I can't help but agree.

Player passion is an essential part of the English game and was quoted by Newcastle's Michael Owen as one of the main reasons why he left Spain to return to the Premiership: he said that "the Spanish league is fantastic, but it has not got the passion the English Premiership has got."

Bearing this in mind, it might be wise to occasionally turn a blind eye and appreciate these demonstrations as a preferable alternative to a deadening of passion in the English game.

Search begins for new Sven

By Sean Henderson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IT'S BEEN AN interesting year for England in the run up to their 2006 World Cup campaign. I don't want to labour the overworked and over publicised allegations about our controversial manager's antics with a certain sheik. I would however point out that in England's two most successful campaigns of the past two decades (1990 and 1996), controversy similarly marred the run-up to the respective tournaments.

Further, I feel that the manner in which the information was uncovered by the News of the World will gain the sympathy and support of the players and ultimately draw them together to give

Sven a good send off. But what then?

Sam Allardyce, Alan Curbishly, and Guus Hiddink are the tabloids' favourite suitors for Sven's job. Sam Allardyce - 'Big Sam' has a reputation for being a no-nonsense, solid manager. His shrewd purchases and motivational tactics have helped lift Bolton from the yo-yo team of old to become serious contenders for European football. Although his vision in the transfer market may not help us on the international scene, his level headed simplicity and 'never say die' attitude could give some of our galacticos a well deserved reality slap. It would be good for the England team, and the

nation as a whole, to have a traditional, hardcore Englishman at the helm. A similar case could be made for the no-nonsense style of fellow-Englisman Alan Curbishly.

Guus Hiddink - 'The Rejuvenator' - managed to guide South Korea, to a World Cup semi-final for the first time in their history. He pulled the same trick again, guiding a troubled Australia side to the World Cup in Germany. He has an equally impressive resume in the domestic game, taking PSV Eindhoven to victory in the Champions League and to the Dutch league title. Are we too good for Guus? Perhaps a bit arrogant for a team who has not won a tournament since 1966.



Guus Hiddink: contender

At this point, I would like to also interject with my own suggestion. I feel that Jose Mourinho has been ignorantly overlooked. Think about it logically, he walked out of the stadium into the Chelsea job after just winning the European Cup. Chelsea are doing well

in both the FA and Champions League and, let's face it, have almost certainly won the league. A treble is on the cards. If this season goes to plan, what would be left for Jose at Chelsea? He is a real possibility for the top job in English football. He has worked wonders with Joe Cole, taking him from a timid, nervous young player bubbling with potential to a world-class player, an asset to any team. He has a unique ability to lift players and make them perform for him.

However, it was the action of a few weeks past that has had equal significance for my view of Jose. I admired Mourinho's tough decision to suspend Cole for four days after making a cru-

cial mistake through selfish play. He was brave enough to risk upsetting a big player to uphold the simple truth that is integral to the success of any football team: 'nobody is bigger than the team.' Jose can earn the respect and foster the skills of the world's top players whilst still keeping them grounded. We have all the players to win major tournaments for years to come and have up-and-coming talent that can sustain this success for a long time. What we need is a manager to pick up and use this wealth of talent to a positive end, something Sven has done with only limited success. Who knows what the Football Association will do but for me, Jose should be our 'Special One.'

York's lacrosse team dominate

By Edward Cassels
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YUSU PRESIDENT Micky Armstrong, the veteran goalie of the men's 1st Lacrosse team, claimed before the match that this year's team was the strongest side he'd seen York put out. The following 60 minutes of very impressive lacrosse, founded on this man's impeccable clean-sheet, seemed to reinforce his opinion, and reflected the way the team has improved since the start of the season.

York's dynamic attack and rock solid defence proved too much for an inexperienced Newcastle team. The York team has remained almost unchanged for the past two years, and it is really beginning to show in the way they worked together. Perhaps the key factor in York's fantastically successful season, however, has been the effectiveness of talented individual opportunism, playing off the support of

their team-mates. This week it was the turn of Rob Towers, who was outstanding with 5 goals, mostly running and shooting from an attacking midfield position. Perhaps the most satisfying goal for the attack, however, was Dave Mason's clean shot from a 'fast break' play, which finally came off after several attempts.

All four 15 minute quarters saw York entirely dominant, and as the game slipped away from Newcastle, frustration set in on their team. When captain Stevie Schumacher put their confident 'keeper, who was running up the field, on his back with a powerful body-check, the resulting stream of invective-laden threats from the recumbent goalie seemed to sum up the inability of Newcastle to affect York's game in any of the three areas of the field. This was a fine display from a very complete team, and can only bode well for the rest of the season.



Fencing focus

By Christopher Lowther
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

IF YOU THOUGHT fencing was just a couple of people with pretend swords, then think again. It is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK and gaining in popularity. The University's fencing club is no exception, with an active membership of around forty members plus beginners. At the end of the autumn term, the beginners' competition attracted thirty three entrants, all of whom were new to the sport. This term alone, the club has attracted another fifteen members.

Each new member must undergo an eight week training course. Three students at the club are trained to coach and an experienced coach comes every Tuesday. Now for an overview on the basics of fencing.

There are three types of weapons. These are the foil, sabre and the epee. Foil was originally developed as a training weapon and is a thin flexible point weapon (you can't slash with it) and the torso is the target area. The Sabre, which developed from the cavalry weapon, is very different. It is a cutting weapon and everywhere above the waist is on target. It tends to be the fastest of the three weapons. The Epee, currently a popular weapon in the club, is a stiff point weapon, and the whole body is a target. This leads to fights where many hits go to the wrists and feet. Both University teams are performing well in their respective leagues; the potential of the society is already being realised. So if you enjoy camaraderie and generally a good time to give fencing a go.



Central Lancashire's Caldron Hanson competes for the ball against his York counterpart. Photo: Georgie Mabee

Brave York fight to last

Continued from back page
goal and found the net after touching the inside of the post. York looked a different side as the game drew to a close, and very nearly equalised in the final minute

as Mark Redding failed to score from distance when faced with a virtually open goal.

Despite the drama of the final moments, Captain Ben MacPherson considered

the final score to be a 'a fair result'. He was disappointed however that York 'didn't have the fight they had had' in previous games, but blamed the score line on a failure to find 'that final ball'.

He did however single out Dave Robinson and Luke Baker for praise. Let us hope that 'that final ball' does not elude them in crucial BUSA league relegation battles in the coming fortnight.

York promotes awareness of disability through goalball

By Christopher Lowther
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

MY OLD SPORTS teacher used to trot out clichés and sayings like they were 'going out of fashion'. "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing", "second is nowhere" and a personal favourite, "don't just come to play, come to win". Without doubt a very powerful message to expose a group of thirteen and fourteen year olds to. We came to believe in the idea that winning was indeed 'everything'. However, years later I have to come to terms with the fact that she may have been wrong.

In 1946, to help rehabilitate blinded Second World War veterans, Austrian Hanz Lorenzen and German Sepp Reindle invented the sport of 'goalball'. Introduced to the world at the 1976 Paralympics, the sport has now become so popular that it is played in every continent across the world.

You might now be asking yourselves "what is goalball?" Goalball is a three-a-side team game played primarily by blind and visually impaired athletes. It is played indoors on a court with tactile markings to enable the players to determine where they are on court. All players are required to wear eyeshades to ensure that no advantage can be gained. Most important, though, is the ball itself. It has internal bells, which allow the players to hear the ball and to locate it during play. The object of the game is to score against the opposition, who are defending the width of the court behind them. The ball is rolled towards the goal (sometimes at speeds of up to 70mph) and the defence must attempt to block it. This is done by diving from a crouched position with arms out stretched and fingers pointed. Unsurprisingly, the team with the most goals

wins the game.

To highlight disability sports awareness day, the Student Union, in conjunction with the AU, have invited Kathryn Fielding, an officer with the Disability Organisations, to run a demonstration of goalball in readiness for the upcoming inter-college tournament. For the two or so hours that follow, fully sighted students are turned into bewildered and confused participants. Grasping for the tapered lines, throwing themselves in the opposite direction to the ball, it is all very amusing but this only serves to emphasise a very important point. "Sight is something that we all take for granted. For the blind or visually impaired, sport is something that only sighted people can participate in. Goalball helps dispel that myth. That's what I help to do."

Fielding also helps coach the England women's youth team who were semi-

finalists in a recent tournament. "We were unlucky, but that's sport" she says. "Goalball helps to build confidence. For a blind child or adult, coming to the realization that 'I can do that' is an empowering thing. It's a feeling that motivates and excites." Thinking about it, it does make a lot of sense. The thrill of being able to play a competitive sport on equal terms with their peers must be empowering.

This also brings us neatly on the biggest benefit, that of inclusion. "It is the best thing about sport, bringing people together, being able to meet people with the same problems as yourself. Realising that you're not alone". Ultimately that's what it's all about. It doesn't matter if you win or lose. It's all about coming together through sport, regardless of disability. Just being able to play is enough. And that's why my old sports teacher was wrong. Sorry Miss.



**AU
Edge**

**With AU President
Nik Engineer**

It is that time of the year when many of you will be starting to look for jobs, and facing the disconcerting truth of a life 'out there'. There are many so called 'transitive' skills that employers look for and value in potential employees, but perhaps the most prevalent of these is the ability of individuals to work with others towards shared objectives - to be able to interact and operate as part of a team.

This notion of what it is to be in a team, however popular, is flat and shallow, it's the reflection on the surface of the sea beneath. Being part of a team in the truest sense of the word is something very special, and something surprisingly rare.

To be part of a team means many different things to many different people, and its something that escapes accurate definition. It's something that's never explicit, something that can't be forced or taught, and something that happens regardless of the standards of players, where they come from, what they look like, or what language they speak. Being part of a team means that without knowing why, you're prepared to go the extra distance, to put yourself on the line for something more important than the glory of winning or the recognition of your achievement. It's about an unspoken bond between players that is only characterised by the selflessness of those around you and the recognition that the team can only succeed when the players realise that as individuals they can only fail - that the team is more than the sum of its parts.

It is this belief, this intangible feeling that leads teams to accomplish the impossible, to defy the odds, to succeed where there is seemingly only failure. Don't be mistaken, there is of course much more to it than this, but this is what sets the best apart. I've been part of many teams, competing at various levels in more sports than most, and I've only experienced this twice and on a very small scale, but I hope those who read this have been there and know what it feels like. It's something that helps define us as individuals, and something that never dies. So, what ever you end up doing, and wherever you find yourself, remember that a lot has been said of great teams and the philosophies that underlie them, but that in the end it all comes down to this. Where we go one, we go all.

can be sure. Nevertheless, it emerged last week that City's teenage winger Bryan Stewart had missed the games against Grays and Southport due to internal disciplinary reasons. Rumours that Bishop has also fallen on the wrong side of McEwan, allegedly due to an incident at the York City Christmas party, will add weight to the suspicion that morale within the playing and coaching staff could be higher.

In terms of player movement McEwan has been as proactive in the January transfer window as he is on the touchline. David McGurk has resigned - again on loan - from Darlington and he is joined by new recruits Darren Craddock and exciting French striker Tcham N'Toya, both on loan. Leaving the Minstermen are Graeme Law and Leo Bertos.

The number of loan signings this season at York again underlines the club's inability to compete financially in the transfer market and, as such, City have launched a 'Push for Promotion' appeal for transfer funds, with at least one local businessman having already parted with £5,000 for the cause.

Whether or not Nouse readers will be keen to part with their student loans to boost McEwan's transfer kitty is open to conjecture, so a more realistic way to boost both York City's finances and dwindling gates would be to attend the next home game at Kit-Kat Crescent, against rivals Aldershot Town on February 12th. A win is a necessity or this season's campaign will be as good as over.



York City striker Tcham N'Toya challenges Southport goalkeeper Steven Dickenson in a goalless stalemate

Inconsistent York City fail to make up ground on play-offs

By Ben Masters
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK CITY'S 2-0 away defeat at the hands of mid-table Conference outfit Woking on Saturday hammered another nail in City's proverbial promotion coffin. Thoughts of automatic promotion to League Two have long been but a distant memory, however now only a consistent run of good results would see the Minstermen finish the season in one of the four play-off spots available.

Following such a strong start to the season, the 230 strong away support would have had time to ponder on the return leg of the 450 mile round journey to Surrey what exactly has gone wrong over recent months at Kit-Kat Crescent. In many respects the old adage 'one step forward, two steps back' seems to fit nicely. Strong performances against Scarborough over the Christmas and New Year period and a good result away at Crawley a week into 2006 seemed to suggest an

upturn in fortunes, as did the performance - albeit in defeat - against Grays Athletic. But in that same two-week period in mid January, defeat against Stevenage and, perhaps more worryingly, a lifeless performance in a goalless draw against part-time bottom of the league club Southport has hastened the gathering pace of the backward march towards mid-table mediocrity.

With strikers Clayton Donaldson and Andy Bishop, the latter still occu-

pying a place in the top five Conference scorers, City should have the firepower to overcome most Conference defences.

But Donaldson has found the net only once since October and while Bishop has been scoring consistently, he was surprisingly dropped by City boss Billy McEwan for the game at home to Southport. Whether this indicates that the eccentric Scottish manager is having problems with his players, only those inside the Kit-Kat Crescent dressing room

The Quick Crossword

Tuesday 31st January, set by Cornius

Across

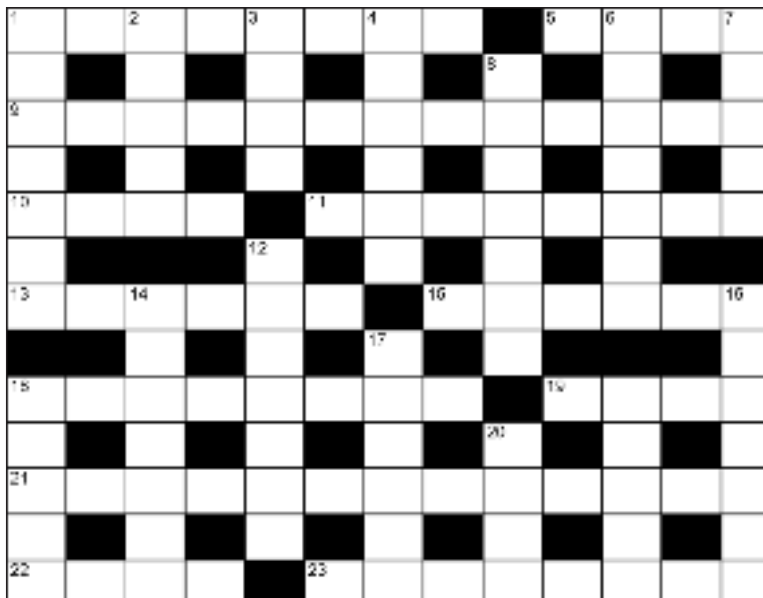
1. Drunk in the fish and chip shop? (8)
5. Classic shoot 'em up series (4)
9. Expecting - haggling (10, 3)
10. Cut (4)
11. Make hollow (5, 3)
13. Drunk in the torture chamber? (6)
15. Speak unrestrainedly (3, 3)
18. See 8 down
19. See 6 down
21. Feign disinterest - Confusing piece of theatre? (4, 4, 2, 3)
22. Meditational discipline (4)
23. Drunk in the workshop? (8)

Down

1. An animal with a shortened rear appendage (7)
2. Curt (5)
3. You should be spending the holidays preparing for this (4)
4. Castrato (6)
- 6& Drunk like John Travolta and Nicholas Cage? (3, 4, 4)
7. Deserve (5)
- 8& Fractionally drunk? (3, 4, 3, 5)
12. Flattened biblical city (7)
14. The whole ____ (7)
16. Folded, as a skirt may be (7)
17. Drunk to the ends of

- your fingers? (5)
18. Tibetan mountain guide (6)
19. A tiny quantity (4)

Stuck? Solutions for this edition's Quick Crossword can be found on our website at <http://www.nouse.com/crossword>. A full solution crossword will also be printed in the next edition



Super Bowl XL preview:
Will Seattle triumph
against Pittsburgh in their
first final appearance?



Disabled Sports Awareness Day on campus REPORT PAGE 14



Brave comeback attempt just too late as York fall to defeat at Central Lancashire

By Ed Humphreys
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

With two crucial games coming up in the BUSA league, York Firsts looked to the NUL match at home to Central Lancashire to instil some confidence into their team. Despite the eventual 2-1 defeat, York can take heart from what was, particularly in the second half, a well contested but ultimately unlucky result.

After a delayed start due to a shortage of qualified referees for the various Saturday fixtures, the away side started more positively. Some excellent defending from York's Luke Baker, and an impressive parried save

from captain Ben Macpherson to deny Lancashire's David Jenkinson, were all that prevented the away side from taking an early lead. York could only respond to this pressure with a succession of long balls that the lanky Lancashire centre back and captain Alex Bell easily dealt with.

The only first half exception to this trend came as a result of some determined attacking play from Joe Brennan, who held the ball up well to set up striker Ben Matthews, who hit cleanly, but wide, from just inside the area. Soon after this the momentum was back with Lancashire, and

moments later they took the lead, thanks to an easy interception on the halfway line. A good pass and an even better turn was enough to provide room for Lancashire striker Paul Roberts to find the underside of the crossbar and ultimately the net from the edge of the area. It was a fitting reward for a strong spell for the away side.

Minutes later, however, and York had what would have been a wonderful chance to equalise, courtesy of a beautifully weighted ball from Matt Martin to Mark Redding. Controversy followed as Lancashire keeper Chris Doran rushed out to close down Redding, only to foul him in the process. The

resulting free kick, considered a light punishment by the outraged home side, was deflected but fell kindly to striker Ben Matthews, who should have hit the target. The half ended with a comical miss from Lancashire's David Jenkinson drilled over an open goal to the bemusement of his team-mates.

The second half started much as the first began. Jenkinson, looking to make amends for his bewildering miss at the end of the first half, ghosted past an unusually disorganised York defence, only to be denied by the left post from five yards. This stroke of luck seemed to spur York into action, and a strong spell for the home

side followed, orchestrated by the creative number 9, Mark Redding. It therefore came against the run of play when Lancashire extended their lead in the 57th minute as goalkeeper Ben Macpherson failed to get his hands firmly to a Lancashire corner, leaving Keith Cowans to head unchallenged into the centre of York's goal.

Lancashire's Spanish winger Marcus Fernandes had the chance to end York's hopes of a comeback moments later when he somehow managed to blast over unchallenged from ten yards. This miss proved to be the end of the away side's dominance, their only chance in the wake of this

coming in the form of an unfortunate but deserved penalty in the final minutes. Caldon Hanson took the penalty, which was brilliantly saved by MacPherson. Minutes later, the home side's challenge was back on track as the superb Matt Martin created an opening and beautifully struck across *continued Page 14*

N.U.A. FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLE Current Standings:

	pld	pts
1. Sheffield	5	21
2. Leeds	6	19
3. Durham	7	17
4. C. Lanes	7	17
5. Manchester	6	15
6. York	5	14
7. Leeds Met	5	14
8. Hull	6	13

