

“The New Oxbridge”

AC Grayling >> M6-7



NOUSE



Spring Term Week Four
Tuesday 31 January 2012
www.nouse.co.uk
Est. 1964

Sponsored by



Emerging disparity between University employee salaries

- V-C's pay now 16 times higher than the lowest wage
- YUSU question merit of increase

2006

£14,014

Lowest bracket

14:1

£2,149 increase

16:1

£16,163

2011

Vice Chancellor
£204,910

15.3% increase
26.1% increase

Difference of 10.8%
over 5 years

Increase of £53,563
£258,473

JONATHAN FROST

Martin Spurr
Alex Osborne

THE DIVIDE between the highest and lowest pay brackets at the University is growing. The lowest paid employees have seen a 15 per cent increase in total emolument over the last six years, whilst the Vice-Chancellor's pay has risen by almost 26 per cent.

Including benefits and employers' contributions to the USS pension scheme, Brian Cantor, the University Vice-Chancellor, was paid £258,473 in 2011, up from £204,910 in 2006, whereas the lowest bracket was paid £16,163 last year rising from £14,014 in 2006.

Cantor's pay is now 16 times higher than the lowest at the University. Six years ago the ratio was 14:1, however the increase seen in

the last few years has moved the Vice-Chancellor's pay above the median average difference in the sector.

The University has defended the greater increase in pay for the Vice-Chancellor, compared to the lowest bracket, by stating: "The Vice-Chancellor's pay has for years been below the average of our competitors in the university sector."

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, questioned whether the Vice-Chancellor has warranted the greater increase over the last few years.

"The high level of pay that our Vice-Chancellor receives is very worrying and shows an insensitivity to the financial difficulty that many students are currently facing, as well as many departments. While it is important that we attract the best candidates from the field to the top jobs at York, it is

absurd that individuals should be getting paid such huge salaries and unfortunately this is a sad reflection of the environment across the Higher Education sector."

Higher Education was recently identified as the sector where the gap between the highest and lowest paid staff was the greatest in a recent review of public sector pay by Will Hutton. The government-commissioned report stated that the median for Vice-Chancellor's pay was 15.35 times that of the lowest paid staff.

Figures obtained from an FOI request by the York Labour society also show that the number of University workers being paid below the Living Wage of £7.20 to be 154 in November last year. These are defined as 'temporary' or 'casual' workers that the University does not acknowledge as full employees.

The Living Wage is calculated from a family of four consisting of two adults, each working 40 hours a week, and two children. This amount has been identified as £8.30 an hour in London and £7.20 elsewhere - a significantly higher figure than the National Minimum Wage. These wages have been calculated by UK think tanks to provide an hourly sum that enables employees to supply the necessities for their families, and also to allow them to afford recreation.

Although the Living Wage is not a legal obligation, a campaign by Labour students has been increasing pressure upon institutions and businesses to look at paying a

Continued on page 2

COMMENT >>> Page 12

LEADER >>> Page 14

University research funding income falls

>>>

Societies speak out on YUSU election plans

>>>

Nouse speaks to the Nightline volunteers

>>>

>>>



News

Continued from front

higher wage for their workers. In a recent visit to the University, last year, David Miliband spoke to the Vice-Chancellor about the payment of a Living Wage for all its workers.

Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the University and College Union, on the issue of executive pay stated: "All the main political party leaders are making strong arguments that executives' pay should be subject to proper scrutiny, including by employee representatives. UCU sees no reason why this should not extend to higher education."

Ellis added: "Furthermore, with such hefty pay increases year on year, I would ask whether the performance of our Vice-Chancellor has merited the increases? With higher fees and a student body that is quite rightly demanding more and more from our University, I would like to see much more money being put into the areas that need it, the areas that affect the students that make the University of York what it is."

"With such hefty pay increases year on year, I would ask whether the performance of our Vice-Chancellor has merited the increases?"

YUSU President
Tim Ellis

However, a University spokesperson outlined how the Vice-Chancellor "voluntary gift aids" a proportion of his pay back to the University: "The rates of pay for staff in grades 1-8 are determined by national negotiations over which the University has no direct control. The Vice-Chancellor's salary is determined by a Remuneration Committee comprising lay members of the governing body. The Vice-Chancellor's pay has for years been below the average of our competitors in the university sector."

"The Vice-Chancellor also voluntary gift aids part of his salary back to the University; if this were taken into account, the comparison between his salary and that of the lowest paid member of staff would



CARLOS62

The gap between the highest and the lowest paid at the University has been widening over the last six years

look different."

Other universities such as Queen Mary's in London, however, have joined the Living Wage campaign. Professor Simon Gaskell, the Principal at Queen Mary's, stated: "Paying the living wage and bringing the cleaning service in-house has brought dividends to Queen Mary. The college is cleaner, staff



feel rewarded and the wider community - both on and off campus - have fully backed the idea."

Rhián Davies, York Labour Society Chair, explained the Living Wage movement: "The campaign comes from the Labour Students Organisation but the campaign we want to run is more focused on the ethicality of the wages of the lowest paid on campus."

LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

- 25% fall in absenteeism following the introduction of the Living Wage into contracted-out services
- 66% of employers reported a significant impact on recruitment and retention within their organisation
- 75% of employees reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage
- 80% of employers believe that the Living Wage had enhanced the quality of the work of their staff

These Principal Partners work with the Living Wage Foundation and now pay a Living Wage for their workers:



University events mark Holocaust Memorial

ON FRIDAY, to mark Holocaust Memorial day, the University's Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past, launched a York Jewish History Trail. The inaugural walk which began at the Yorkshire Museum was led by Professor Helen Weinstein and City Archaeologist, John Oxley. They have produced an illustrated map of the Trail with accompanying podcasts. On 30th January, University of York Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Jane Grenville, whose father escaped from Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport will give a talk in the Ron Cooke Hub, during a multimedia presentation entitled 'Remembering the past: Protecting the future'.

Scientists uncover cholera bacterial mystery

UNIVERSITY BIOLOGISTS, led by Dr Gavin Thomas, have discovered how Cholera bacterium gains a foothold in the gut, furthering scientists understanding of the way cholera attacks the body. It is hoped this knowledge will help scientists target new treatments for the disease, which kills more than 100,000 people every year. Cholera is caused by the bacterium Vibrio Cholerae, which colonises in the intestine usually after consumption of contaminated water or food. The research has been published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Nightclub Gallery faces Council licensing review

A LICENSING review into the nightclub 'The Gallery' in Clifford Street will be held on 16th April by the City of York council. The review, originally set for earlier this month, comes in response to cheap drinks promotions, which reportedly led to a 1,050 per cent rise in crime linked to the venue. The review has been postponed to allow the club's new owners, Ranimul 2 Limited, the chance to improve and assess previous incidents compiled by the Council and North Yorkshire Police.

Reporting by Laura Hughes

In this edition

News	1-11
Comment	12-15
Politics	16-19
Sport	20-24
<hr/>	
Guantánamo	M4
AC Grayling	M6
Therese Kerr	M8
Supplements	M10
Into the Wild	M12

Tuesday 31 January 2012
www.nouse.co.uk



David Hockney, Yorkshire and his iPad >> M17

NOUSE

Est. 1964

- EDITOR**
Martin Spurr
- DEPUTY EDITOR**
Rose Troup Buchanan
- MUSE EDITOR**
Sophie Walker
- TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**
Andrew Ryan
- WEBSITE EDITOR**
Jonathan Frost
- MANAGING DIRECTOR**
Hoagy Davis-Digges
- MANAGING DEPUTY**
Alice McCormack
- CHIEF SUB-EDITOR**
Rachel Banning-Lover
- PHOTO EDITOR**
Philippa Grafton
- PHOTO DEPUTY**
Aggie Torrance
- NEWS EDITOR**
Laura Hughes
- NEWS DEPUTIES**
Ross D'lima
Neil Johnston
- COMMENT EDITOR**
Josh Boswell
- COMMENT DEPUTY**
Alex Slingsby
- FEATURES EDITOR**
Tom Witherow

- FEATURES DEPUTY**
Bella Foxwell
- SPORTS EDITORS**
Dan Holland
Jack Bradshaw
- SPORTS DEPUTIES**
Luke Gardener
Will Light
- POLITICS EDITOR**
Harry Lambert
- POLITICS DEPUTY**
Sam Shepherd
- ARTS EDITOR**
Mary O'Connor
- ARTS DEPUTY**
Celia Scruby
- FASHION EDITOR**
Paris Bennett
- FASHION DEPUTY**
Andrew Adenmosun
- MUSIC EDITORS**
Alex Swadling
Sam Briggs
- MUSIC DEPUTY**
Rory Foster
- FILM EDITOR**
Elle Hoppe
- FILM DEPUTY**
James Tyas
- F&D EDITOR**
Hana Teraie-Wood
- F&D DEPUTIES**
Liz Cahill

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

Letting signs make students target to thieves

Celia Scruby
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS HAVE raised concerns that letting signs and the information published on the letting agents' websites are risking their safety, in areas already susceptible to crime.

On 22nd January, a property on Nicholas Street had £1,500 worth of electrical items stolen. P.C. Farrar inspected the property and stated that, "the theft was not carried out by professionals because the thieves didn't take their shoes off before they entered the property" adding, "they took some things and not others which may have been more valuable."

Adam Bennett spoke to *Nouse* about the potential danger of putting up letting signs in popular student housing areas. Bennett said that he had approached the other large student letting agents, such as Sinclair Properties, AP York and IG properties about "running with zero boards this year" but that other landlord agents weren't in agreement.

He added that boards were in reality a "marketing tool" and that if he didn't advertise with letting signs when the other letting agents would lose business.

Robert MacMahon, from APYork, said that: "Though I honestly doubt it would make much difference, APYork would be more than



Compromising information published on letting agents websites may be leaving students vulnerable to crime

happy to consider a proposal to stop using boards if this was supported by all of the other three of the largest student agents"

However Neil McTurk, from Sinclair properties, suggested that they already had, "comprehensive information on security, more than any other agent."

Another student, who had her bike stolen, has called her letting agent, Sinclair Properties, "irre-

sponsible" for putting letting signs up outside her house before Christmas as it is well known that students leave their houses then. The Police Officer who investigated this theft said that it was an "organised crime" and that the thieves "probably knew there were bikes there".

Bennett has also called Sinclair Properties "irresponsible" for "publishing the full address of the property, with photographs and some-

times floor plans" which meant "anyone could just sit at home on the computer and gain vital information to student properties".

But McTurk claimed that Bennett, "would say that because we give our tenants as much information as possible and he doesn't, and stated that "we put our letting boards up after Christmas" because of students going home for the holiday period.

McTurk added "we provide floor plans but there is no evidence to show that this is dangerous" and MacMahon played down the association between crime and the letting agents' signs outside students' houses, stating: "It is far too easy and too tempting to link a theft to a letting sign."

"Anyone could just sit at home on the computer and gain vital information to student properties"

York letting agent
Adam Bennett

Bennett also mentioned that, many "letting sites advertise flat screens, DVD players" as well as listing that there are bike sheds and car spaces; which he added "made houses more vulnerable" because thieves have a prior knowledge of specific valuables and can plan a robbery accordingly.

But Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, commenting on the situation, stated: "Landlords need to be careful how they advertise their properties publicly, particularly as a lot of students find properties through landlords and/or online rather than by spotting the signs in the street".

Hughes went on to add that he would "raise [this issue] with the York Landlords Association."

Research funding income falls by £6 million

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is considering using student fees to supplement its research funding after it saw a £6 million drop in the last year.

Research income from grants and contracts has fallen from £57.4 million in 2009/10, down to £51.2 million in the year 2010/11. Grants from UK charitable bodies fell from £9,884 to £7,696 in the same period. In 2008/9, York received £55.2 million but the University's Director of Finance has warned this year's figures won't bounce back to previous levels soon and that it will be necessary for the university to rebuild its research income trajectory because of government cuts.

However *Nouse* has been told that the University is currently reviewing the use of student fees, to compensate for the decline in research income.

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, emphasised that it is imperative, "undergraduates see the benefits of their extra fee income next year. York needs to be on top of its game to continue to compete in the Higher Education sector."

Ellis added: "It is very disappointing to see this decline in research income and I would urge the University to continue to demonstrate that York can continue to be a strong-research intensive Uni-

versity."

The University has stressed its commitment "to support applications for larger scale and collaborative projects to all major funders", as the University expects that competition for research funding will be "fierce over the coming period."

York prides itself upon its research-intensive ethos, and a University spokesperson sought to reassure fears, stating: "It should be noted that most research income is ring-fenced and does not support the wider academic infrastructure.

"Consequently, the decline in research income which is shown

"[University should] show strong leadership in maintaining the high standards that students and the academic community expect"

YUSU Academic Officer
Graeme Osborn

in the annual accounts should not have an impact on the academic experience of undergraduate and postgraduate taught students."

The recent £6 million investment into postgraduate Bioscience, between the White Rose universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, according to the University, is a "very important step in this direction."



York students protested in 2010 over increasing the fee threshold which has created a surplus for the University

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, has called the announcement "disappointing," and especially so, in the light of the falling league table positioning over the last couple of years. As a research-led institution, Osborn has called upon the University "to show strong leadership in maintaining the high standards that students and the academic community expect from York to protect the very

good and very important reputation of the University as a whole, including its research and its teaching."

Professor Paul Clarke, a synthetic Chemist at York, has also written a letter to David Willetts, the Science Minister, requesting an inquiry into how the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) operates. Clarke expressed outrage at the council's

decision to change the way projects are assessed, with administrators, rather than scientists, deciding which research to back. The EPSRC's budget is set to fall by 12 to 15 per cent, due to the freeze on science funding which ends in 2014. The Council is also set to cut the number of PhDs it will fund by 30 per cent.

Proposal to streamline all society elections provokes critical reaction

Neil Johnston
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

SOCIETIES HAVE reacted negatively to YUSU plans to streamline elections. The proposals discussed, last week, at the Student Development Assembly have been heavily criticised and were branded “unrealistic” by one society chair.

The proposals mean societies must have a chair, secretary and treasurer elected annually. This has brought criticism because of the proposal to have a three to four week window for elections that would take place in all societies. It has yet to be decided when this window will be but weeks six to nine of the Spring term have been suggested.

The new format could work in a similar way to JCRC elections, but numerous societies and some members of the Assembly have concerns. Critics of the proposal argue that JCRCs all have similar roles compared to societies which can vary greatly.

It is hoped that the new proposals would allow a more structured handover period with guidance and support from the Student Activities Officer and the Societies Development Coordinator. This would also enable a structured process for development meetings.

A handover template is to be produced and distributed to all societies at the same time.

Not all societies agree with the proposals, particularly the University media and drama societies.

Jamie Riley, the York University Media Chair, outlined the view in the Assembly that all of the media societies elect at different times and are well managed.

Several drama societies have also expressed concerns over the proposals which they believe could seriously interfere with their purposes as societies.

John Askew, Dramasoc Chair,

is against the idea, commenting: “There are so many unwritten rules, traditions, and daily problems that handovers are simply not enough, you need experience on the committee as well as fresh faces.”

He added: “You can’t run a venue and produce a show every week of the term as well as develop the society when you hardly know what you are doing having just taken over your position. It’s just unrealistic. DramaSoc is particularly vulnerable to this action because of the heavy scheduling, constant development and the amount of unwritten rules which you only learn by being part of a committee with some experience at least.”

“We think societies should be allowed to hold elections whenever they like”

Fusion Chair
Bex Hiscocks

For sports clubs, the new proposals are less of an issue as they already elect at the same time making it easier for clubs to deal with issues such as sponsorship. After the elections the new committees then have a training day so they are prepared for the work that comes with their positions.

YUSU believes streamlining elections could be beneficial for all societies for similar reasons. YUSU are seeking society wide agreement rather than a constitutional change so societies do not have to comply with the proposals.

Other members of the development assembly suggested more training sessions instead of the current proposals but logistically YUSU believe this isn’t possible.

James Croydon, Students Activities Officer, stated: “The proposal is a suggestion that it would be beneficial for societies to move their elections to a similar period of the



Societies are being given the option to hold elections at the same point each year in order to centralise training

year. This was not a constitutional amendment, so will not be forced but it is hoped that societies will see the benefit of the system and move to it themselves. It will mean staff time [is] better utilised for you.”

Within the development meetings re-ratification will take place and there will therefore be no need for the re-ratification period and admin that societies had to go through during last summer to complete this.

The proposals also aim to introduce a better and more structured training programme. This training is to be relevant to all societies.

Among the benefits for YUSU administration are that it would be easier as all of the elections would be over a short time period. This could avoid lost forms and ensure signatories are all in place as well as general admin being completed and processed early. This means ratification would be faster and “pointless” admin would no longer be needed.

Under the proposals there

would be a transition period facilitated by YUSU. These measures could help save time meaning staff could put themselves to better use according to Croydon, who is put-

“This will not be forced but it is hoped societies will see the benefit of the system and move to it themselves”

YUSU Student Activities Officer
James Croydon

ting forward the changes.

Croydon adds that this idea has been discussed in NUS meetings and has been successfully implemented by seventeen other universities including: Bath and Birmingham.

Croydon argues that another benefit would be that all societies would move through the process together and this would get the University community more involved.

As well as aiming to improve handovers and give out more de-

tailed information on what societies are allowed to do, Tim Ellis, YUSU President, believes the changes will be beneficial because of the sheer number of societies - 160.

There are many societies that believe this is not beneficial and even those who support the proposal have concerns over the timing of elections.

Kris McGee, Law Society President, said: “While I think it’s a good idea, I’m concerned as to when the election dates might be fixed.”

Others are more sceptical of the changes. Bex Hiscocks, Fusion Chair, complained: “We think that societies should be allowed to hold elections whenever they like - as long as an elected committee only holds office for approximately a 12 month period.

“I know I can’t speak for all societies, but I believe the consensus is pretty strong among the performance ones, that this suggestion from YUSU wouldn’t work for us.”

LEADER >> Page 14



“I believe the consensus is pretty strong. The introduction of streamlined elections seems slightly like arbitrary bureaucracy, with little to no gain for the societies themselves.”

Bex Hiscocks,
Fusion Chair



“We have no issues with streamlining election dates especially if it makes things simpler. While I think it’s a good idea, I’m concerned when the election dates might be fixed.”

Kris McGee,
Law President



“It isn’t YUSU’s place to tell us how to run our society, especially when their changes would be incredibly detrimental and stunt development. It’s just unrealistic.”

John Askew,
Dramasoc Chair



“At a time of particularly shameful apathy, YUSU meddling with our electoral calendar is unnecessary, illiberal and tends to hinder rather than help us attract new members.”

Chris Wells,
Lib Dem Chair



“[We] have concerns over timing. Our elections are always later than other societies because we have to have the committee in place for our summer concert.”

Dan Plewinski,
Concert Chair

COMMENT

Rachel Banning-Lover



mance, volunteering, media, enterprise and those societies based around degree subjects all carry very different needs and require individual approaches to their management. While some are suited to holding elections earlier in the year to get more freshers involved, others require a delay to ensure they elect those with more specialised experience.

Societies are also constrained by a time frame of when they can hold elections by the activities they host each year. History Society organises an annual trip to a European city each Easter, but the detailed planning required for this requires that a new committee must be elected before Christmas. Media societies' agendas are also set by which weeks they go to press.

Most importantly though is understanding that this potential change affects all ordinary students, as ultimately, this change could affect how your society has to be run. Yet, it is only the outgoing older members, who sit on society and YUSU committees who kick up a fuss.

It should be recognised that having society elections at different times allows students to run for multiple positions at relative ease, allowing a provision for those who fail to get a position in one society in the Autumn, to go for a position in another society in the Spring. Those students who particularly like 'to have their fingers in many pies' (and we all know one

of those) and want to run for positions in multiple societies, would face scheduling conflicts.

Furthermore, whilst annual elections would solve some logistical problems, they would also initiate new ones. Under YUSU regulations, all elections are monitored, ensuring that they have been carried out in a democratic manner - however, if a larger number of societies hold their elections at the same time, there may be some instances where election malpractice slips through the net.

Finally, there's also the consideration of some societies' decisions to run termly elections rather than annual ones.

Termly elections allow more people to get a crash course in a society's management, development and any equipment they use, allowing for a more developed society. The freedom to be able to only hold a position for a term allows students to change positions more easily, get elected as an exchange student, or leave when they face a busy exam period.

Ultimately, while many societies would also cite termly elections as disruptive, the current system where societies can have annual or termly elections, at the point of the year they choose, respects that decisions on how a society should be managed should lie with the society itself. YUSU cannot be expected to understand the intrinsic daily workings of the numerous and varied campus societies.

York has over **160** student societies.



These range from regular societies to the more inventive.

The variety of societies means that any YUSU changes to the way society elections are run could have a large effect on all students at the University.

There are **59** sports clubs in York ranging from mainstream sports to more obscure, but still popular, sports such as Ultimate Frisbee.



Intelligence Officers

£24,750 + benefits UK based

Analysing information. Spotting connections. Making decisions that really matter. This is what MI5's dedicated and focused Intelligence Officers do every day. Working together, we help safeguard the security of the nation.

This is challenging and vitally important work. If you enjoy solving problems, becoming an Intelligence Officer is one of the most rewarding and interesting career paths you could choose. Make sense of it at www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/intelligence

To apply you must be over 18 and a British citizen. Discretion is vital. You should not discuss your application, other than with your partner or a close family member.



SECURITY SERVICE MI5

News

Archbishop of York criticised for “outdated and homophobic rhetoric”

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

YUSU HAVE published an open statement condemning Dr. John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, after he stated that ministers should not overrule tradition on the issue of same-sex marriages. In the open letter, YUSU stated the views of Sentamu were “extremely disappointing.”

Dr. Sentamu, who is the second most senior cleric in the Church of England, gave an interview to *The Daily Telegraph* in which he said that marriage should only be between a man and a woman.

YUSU have outlined their support of same-sex marriages, in the open letter, and expressed disapproval over Sentamu’s views. The letter went on to state that: “It is not the place of the church to use outdated and homophobic rhetoric to deny citizens of their right to marry.”

Cem Turham, LGBT Officer, said that he was “extremely disappointed” by Sentamu’s “both reactionary and out of touch” views.

He was supported by Tim Ellis, YUSU President, who commented that he: “would hope the Archbishop of York and the Church of England recognise that they are behind the times when it comes to their stance on same-sex marriage.”

Ellis also expressed his concern that Sentamu used arguments of tradition and language in attempting to legitimise illegal discrimination.

Sentamu equated ministers’



YORK MINSTER

YUSU have published a statement condemning Sentamu’s views

move to legalise gay marriage as that of decisions taken by dictators.

Turham further stated that: “I feel that calling the consultation that the Government is begging in March ‘dictatorial’ is just wrong and offensive to all those who have suffered under brutal dictatorships of the past.”

YUSU LGBT are to hold a protest outside of York Minster. The Facebook group states the protests will “show our anger in the comments made, and the unified belief in equal marriage for all people.”

Same-sex marriage is not currently legal in the UK. In 2010, the Liberal Democrats became the first major party to endorse gay marriage, and the government expressed its intention in 2011 to consult on legalising both religious civil marriage and ceremonies for same-sex couples. Last September the government announced its decision to introduce same-sex civil marriage by the next general election.

COMMENT >> Page 15

York students to launch mobile phone application

Andy Davis
NEWS REPORTER

UNIVERSITY OF York students have been showing their technical prowess by moving into the world of mobile phone apps. The newly formed company, Divisi, will be launching their first app within a month, bringing York residents deals at bars and clubs to their mobile phones.

A different group - Team Banter - has also defeated competition to win the York prize for best concept app.

The website and phone app company, Divisi, is putting the finishing touches on its first app ‘Eventzu’. This software will allow students to see what deals bars and clubs have on, special events and even get special discounts when you show your phone at the bar.

The app could replace scouring Facebook pages and websites to see what club has the best prices or events that night.

The co-founders, Mark-Ross Smith and Sam Rowley, both did placements with software development companies giving them the skills to step out into making their own business.

The idea struck them after enduring nights out where they walked from club to club because there were no events but still long queues.

Divisi aims to make this a thing of the past. Rowley claims “Eventzu allows you to plan your night, see what’s really popular.”

The app will be free for cus-



EVENTZU

tomers to download and use, allowing for no added expense in making nights out easier. The company’s chief software designer said that the app may expand into other events like cinemas and theatres.

Another group of University of York students recently snatched the York Prize to have their concept app ‘Photo Diary’ developed and produced for mobiles by digital marketing agency, The Distance. This app will allow users to create

“Eventzu allows you to plan your night, see what’s really popular”

Co-founder
Sam Rowley

a mobile diary using photographs taken on their smartphone.

Team Banter beat six other teams in the York competition when they pitched to a panel of software experts their idea. The software experts on the panel judging the ideas consisted of senior Microsoft officials and the chief of Revolution - the software company that develops mobile games such as *Broken Sword*.

Further delays for new YUSU Student Centre

Ben Bason
NEWS REPORTER

THE COMPLETION of the new YUSU Student Centre, which is currently under construction in James College has once again been delayed until mid - March of this year.

Originally, the centre, which will house the YUSU Sabbatical Officers, reception, and assorted meeting rooms was due to be opened at the start of the Autumn term 2011, but the completion of the project was put back until after Christmas.

The University has confirmed that the scheme to create a new YUSU centre is progressing, despite encountering “a number of unforeseen issues,” which has meant an adjustment in the completion date.

A University spokesperson added that builders have: “Carried out a substantial piece of work to re-align a gas main in the building footprint and a number of other structural works have been required to the YUSU building.”

The five Sabbatical Officers have been temporarily placed in offices above the James Upper JCR while the building work is carried out,

but concerns have been raised over the lack of a centralised presence of YUSU, especially after such a long delay in the completion of the building.

As stated in one of the YUSU Sabbatical pledges of 2011, the aim of the construction is to ensure “your elected representatives are making you aware of what we’re doing.” Tim Ngwena, former YUSU president said the building would make it “easier [for students] to see their officers both part time and full time.”

The refurbishment will provide a new students’ union reception and new student social areas. The project, along with the building of the new YUSU bar, The Lounge in the Roger Kirk Centre, is part of the University’s “investment in a 21st Century Campus.”

Changes to the JB Morrell Library and the Harry Fairhurst building, also part of the University’s “investment in a 21st Century Campus,” are set to be completed in March 2012 along with the Student Centre.

Andreas Boedt, a first-year Sociology student from James College, walks past the construction



ANDY DAVIS

The opening of the new Student Centre has been delayed for the second time due to ‘unforeseen issues’

area every day, and says it’s not a pleasant sight.

“I feel like it’s been going on forever,” he said, “It’s annoying for students because the image given to newcomers is not very welcoming.”

But Tim Ellis, YUSU President, confirmed that “the building, when eventually completed, will stretch on to the the unloading bay and occupy the space that formerly belonged to the college bar Mc Q’s.”

Last year it had been suggested that the building would be ready in time for the start of the 2011/12 academic year, but this was later revised to the start of 2012 and now not until the end of Spring Term.

University sees sustainability as just “eco-bling”

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

ONE OF the main aims of the University’s long-term plan has been criticised by an Emeritus Professor for Sociology in a study comparing the University’s sustainability credentials.

Professor Colin Campbell, in conjunction with the University’s Sustainability Forum, has criticised the University’s record on sustainability and suggested that York is “so far behind the curve”.

Professor Campbell says he was told the University see sustainability as just “eco-bling” and that it is something “they don’t go into”, whilst also being dismissive of York’s drop to 83rd in the Green League last year.

Although sustainability is cited as one of the four key aims for the next ten years in the University’s 2009-2019 plan, the Sustainability Forum’s study states, “the University of York lags behind the best performers in the sector” and suggests that an “ambitious programme of action is called for”.

Elizabeth Heaps, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates and Strategic Projects emphasised that: “The University Plan gives equal prominence to sustainability, excellence, inclusivity and internationalisation.”

“As always, universities are at different places in their evolution on sustainability as in other areas,

such as excellence and inclusivity where we are highly regarded.”

The University has appointed two Sustainability Champions – Elizabeth Heaps and Alastair Fitter – to help implement sustainable action; however, Professor Campbell has questioned the determination for sustainable policies as “Elizabeth Heaps already has a job as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates and Fitter is semi-retired.”

“This does not show the greatest commitment to sustainability by the University. It needs the Vice-Chancellor to kick-start it [sustainability], but it can’t happen without resources being allocated. Other key aspects of the University Plan

“The University is a laughing stock because they don’t seem to see it as important, whilst students do”

YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer
Phoebe Cullingworth

have a dedicated office – but not sustainability.”

Phoebe Cullingworth, YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer, commented that she felt “angry” at the University’s approach to sustainability.

“The University is missing a great opportunity to advertise themselves as green and be a role model – but they are not and it is such a waste.”



Coventry’s Hub is similar to York’s but has more sustainable features

The comparative study of universities and their record on sustainability states that the best opportunity for York to become ‘greener’ was in the building of the new Heslington East campus. But according to Professor Campbell, “Goodricke [College] wanted a green roof and solar panels but was told no because of finance” and no building has achieved an environmental assessment rating above

‘very good’, even though universities such as Lancaster have “nine excellent ratings and one outstanding”.

Heaps claims that the University was not able to achieve an ‘excellent’ assessment rating because: “Developing on a green field site with no existing infrastructure makes many renewable targets unachievable and some are outside our control.” However the sustain-

able study states that an ‘excellent’ rating “can be obtained under these [Greenfield site] circumstances.”

The study has come under criticism from Heaps who claims: “It was produced without consultation with key departments and sections in the University (such as the Energy Management Group and Campus Services) whose day job includes delivering improvements in reducing our carbon foot print (for instance), and contains many factual inaccuracies.”

However the study outlined that it only examined published data in order to fully compare all institutions and Professor Campbell suggests that because: “[You] can’t find any information on the website; they don’t regard it [sustainability] highly.”

“Other universities are advertising themselves as ‘green’ to attract students, but York needs a huge effort to catch up – the bar is being raised all the time.”

A University spokesperson added: “A draft new sustainability strategy for the University was approved in principle by the Senior Management Group earlier this month.” However, Cullingworth stated that while the University has approved the draft plan, “they keep putting the formal meeting about it back.”

“It is all hot air and waffle. The University is a laughing stock because they don’t seem to see it as important, whilst students do.”

£250,000 Computer Science robotics laboratory unveiled

Tim Wingard
NEWS REPORTER

THE DEPARTMENT of Computer Science celebrated the official opening of its new £250,000 robotics laboratory on the Heslington East campus last Wednesday.

The laboratory, which forms part of the University’s £21 million investment in Computer Science over the last year, specialises in swarm robotics.

This groundbreaking field involves utilising groups of robots to perform tasks more efficiently than individual units.

Professor John McDermid of the University explained that swarm robotics “could potentially play a vital role in future planetary and deep sea exploration, as well as search and rescue operations.”

To mark the occasion, Professor Jon Timmis, who leads swarm robotics research at York, gave a lecture to members of the public and specially-invited guests. The event was heavily oversubscribed.

The University received funding for the new laboratory from the European Regional Development Fund as part of the Science City York initiative to improve Yorkshire’s international reputation for innovation in science and industry.



The laboratory will provide a facility for the early stages of research



The Nouse YUSU Election mini-site

Keep up to date with all the latest news, comment and speculation with the *Nouse* YUSU Election mini-site

www.nouse.co.uk/elections

Follow all the speculation about this year’s potential election candidates on:



The Race

Win prizes for you and your university

The Ernst & Young University Prize-Tagging Competition

Visit our facebook
page for the chance
to win great prizes
for you and £10,000
for your university.

[facebook.com/
EYUKcareers](https://www.facebook.com/EYUKcareers)



 **ERNST & YOUNG**
Quality In Everything We Do

 **TOP 100**
GRADUATE EMPLOYERS

 **Stonewall**
TOP 100
EMPLOYERS
2012
Employer of the Year
Ernst & Young

YUSU accused of profiting from 'lads mags' York heads influence on Twitter table

GEORGI MABEE

Ross D'lima
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE ISSUE of whether selling and displaying 'Lad's Mags' in YUSU-run Your Shop is acceptable, has been brought into contention once again.

The question was raised at the Liberation, Diversity and Welfare Committee meeting on the 26th January by the Women's Officers and other members of the committee.

Union members present at the meeting argued that the sale of the 'Lads Mags' in Your Shop should stop on the grounds that it equated to YUSU profiting directly from the objectification of women.

Other members of the committee disagreed however, expressing the view that the sale of the magazines did not constitute profiteering and that it should continue.

Criticism of the committee's position soon emerged on social networking sites. Nell Beecham, one of YUSU Women's Officers, tweeted that by supporting the sale of the magazines, the Liberation, Diversity and Welfare Committee appeared, "in favour of [the] objectification of women." Beecham also added that members of the committee's defence amounted to them suggesting that "YUSU profiting from the objectification of women's bodies is okay because guys can't be arsed to walk to WHSmith."



Union members have argued YUSU profits from the objectification of women through 'lads' magazine sales

Women's Officer Nell Beecham believes the motion is necessary, and told *Nouse*: "This is not a debate about whether or not an individual should buy these magazine, we believe if an individual so desires they are perfectly entitled to walk to a local newsagents and purchase such material.

"But in an institution which aims to value each student for their mind and intellectual capability, we must then ask why it sees fit to profit from the sexualisation and objectification of 50 per cent

of them."

The issue of whether 'Lad's Mags' should be displayed is long contested, dating back to 2006.

In that year a motion was proposed for the movement of adult content, specifically publications such as FHM, Nuts and Zoo, to the top shelf. The motion failed to meet the quorum, and was defeated.

In the following year, a new motion was submitted by the Women's committee, prompting Your Shop to agree to the concealment of adult content. Over time

however, the agreement was not effectively upheld, prompting a new motion in May 2011. The motion, attempting to re-establish the agreement of 2007, failed, being defeated by 496 votes to 412.

Neil Webb, a first-year History student, said that he did not view the sale of the magazines as a problem: "The women featured in the magazines have consented to their image being sold in that context." He added that: "It is not just women who are 'objectified' in magazines."

Thomas Cox
NEWS REPORTER

IN A 2011 survey of the top UK universities' Twitter usage York maintained its first place position for the second year running. Close behind in the rankings were the universities of Edinburgh, Warwick and Birmingham.

Results were based on findings by the Klout and PeerIndex indices, two websites that attempt to enable users to discover what size, type and value of influence social sites have on their lives.

The survey implies Twitter is solely utilised by current students, which David Duncan, the University's Academic Registrar, has refuted, believing that the results "are an indicator of the strength of the wider university community. Many of the tweets are generated by alumni [over 80,000], students and staff who re-tweet on stories about the University. We are working hard to build up a vibrant alumni community who can support each other."

Duncan added: "The Twitter Influence rankings are perhaps not the most important league table, but they are an indicator of the strength of the wider University of York community."

Turnitin does little to tackle plagiarism

Lizzie Lynch
NEWS REPORTER

A RECENT study has found that the Turnitin software, used by the University, has little effect on the extent to which students are willing to plagiarise.

The software is well recognised and is used by over 10,000 educational institutions and 20 million students across the world. Departments at the University encourage students to attend workshops and learn how to use the Turnitin software to help cut down cheating.

However Dr Robert J. Youmans of California State University analysed two groups, telling one group that the software would be used and the others that it would not. Youmans found that there was very little difference between the results.

Although the results of the survey suggest the software does not make a significant contribution to combating academic plagiarism and cheating, YUSU still believe it is a useful tool.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, stressed: "Turnitin by itself is not the solution to plagiarism; the only way to prevent plagiarism is to make sure that students are aware of exactly what plagiarism is, and the reasons for it being considered academic mis-

conduct."

Turnitin has been employed by the University of York since 2010 and Simon Ditchfield, Chair of the Board of Studies for History at York, argued that it is important to continue to use the software, "as a diagnostic tool to assist students in being more self-aware and self-critical writers."

In a piece in the Times Higher Education supplement, Dr Howard Fredrics commented that the study showing that Turnitin is not

"[It] is not the only solution to plagiarism; the only way to prevent plagiarism is to make sure that students are aware of exactly what it is."

YUSU Academic Officer
Graeme Osborn

fully successful in counteracting plagiarism necessitates the need for "strong sanctions" and a "zero tolerance policy".

Though he argues this is not likely because: "Universities are afraid to fail students or to kick them out of their courses because that would have a financial impact on the university."

York research gives origins of life clues

Ross D'lima
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

RESEARCHERS AT the University of York have made significant progress in understanding how the necessary conditions for life may have been possible.

The research led by Dr Paul Clarke of the Chemistry Department, re-created a chemical process which is expected to have occurred in the pre-biotic world. The investigation looked at the relationship between amino acids and the formation of sugars, finding that the use of the former to catalyse the production of sugars can explain the origin of carbohydrates; necessary building blocks of Life.

Dr Paul Clarke explained the significance of the research: "For Life to have evolved, all of the building blocks of Life must have been present on the prebiotic Earth. This research provides one possible explanation for how certain sugars [threose and erythrose] could have been present on the prebiotic Earth and be available to form the molecules suspected of leading to early Life."

Dr Clarke suggested that this research may explain the relationship between the "handedness" of natural amino acids and natural sugars.

Nouse Film Season mini-site

www.nouse.co.uk/muse/film/film-awards



Join us for Awards Season 2012.
Watch with us,
Write for us,
Rate with us.

Get in touch to get involved at:
muse@nouse.co.uk

News

Alcuin

Alcuin by-election results are due to be announced later this week. There are ten positions including: Treasurer, News Officer, Ordinary Officer, Student Action Officer, Environment and Ethics Officer, and Social Secretary.

Derwent

The following positions have been filled following Derwent's by-election: Ellie Burch, Ollie Harrison, Jack Bradshaw and Lucy Dixon will take over the position of Bar Reps. Visual Entertainment was won by James Wallace and Hugo Marino. Derwent's remaining Ordinary Member will be Rosie McClusky.

Goodricke

Goodricke college announced the results of their by-elections on Sunday night. There were fifteen positions up for election, including the position of Campaigns Officer, which was won by Farah Padmanabhan and Chrissie Baker, and Disabilities Officer, won by Amy Spencer and Jonny Gilchrist. Volunteering was won by Lunette Wieland, and Goodricke's new Sports Reps will be Conan Osborne and Greg Walsh.

Halifax

Halifax college by-election results are to be announced tonight at their Mr and Mrs Halifax event. Positions that were available included Vice-President for Welfare, Male Welfare, and Sports Officer, plus a number of Court Representatives.

James

James are to announce the results of the by-election filling the final positions on their JCRC. The positions of Services Vice-Chair, and Web, have been filled. The position of LGBT Officer was contested, and will be announced this evening.

Langwith

The by-election results have been announced last night, with the positions of Sponsorship Officer, Newsletter Officer and four other Officers filled.

Vanbrugh

Vanbrugh have filled the final position on their JCRC, with the results announced last Thursday. The positions filled were the Eric Milner Block Reps, which went to Alex Ferguson and Chris Robert. Wentworth E Block elected Katherine Tabor. Over 21 Rep, Student Action, and Ordinary Members were also elected.

Wentworth

Wentworth Senior Common Room members are invited to try some of the best Spanish wines at the upcoming Rioja y Jamón event on Monday 13th February. Spaces are limited and tickets are priced at £1.00 for members.

Reporting by Neil Johnson, Laura Hughes, Alex Osborne, and Rose Troup-Buchanan

RAG Week commences with 'Lost' challenge

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

RAG WEEK starts tomorrow, beginning with the 'Lost' challenge. From Wednesday there will be a range of events, each raising money for a number of chosen charities.

The 'Lost' event challenges students to hitch-hike back to the University after being driven to a random location at 4 a.m. 50 students are taking part.

Jamie Criswell, a third-year student, is one of those involved and said that: "I'm nervous and excited to see where they drop us off."

RAG Week will officially commence at quarter past midday on Wednesday at Vanbrugh Paradise. A representative from one of the chosen charities will be present to give a speech.

The charities selected are Martin House Children's Hospice, Refugee Action York, Alzheimer's Society, Teenage Cancer Trust and War Child, alongside the Student Union's own volunteering projects in the local community.

Events will include Blagathon, which last year raised £1,500, and RAG 'Take Me Out'. The week will culminate in the RAG Parade

through the city centre.

The RAG Parade is seen as the pinnacle of the week. Involving 500 students and live music throughout the city centre, colleges compete to raise the most money whilst marching into town.

Baxter Willis, YUSU RAG Officer, commented on the huge effort made each year by volunteers, and expressed his excitement for the coming week.

Last year RAG Week raised over £7,500, making it the most successful to date. In total £40,000 was raised by RAG for charity in 2011.



James College volunteers in town during the culmination of the week's fundraising events, the RAG Parade

Volunteers attend Ground Force challenge

Rose Troup Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

YUSU RAN a volunteering College Challenge last week in conjunction with York City Council.

Students were invited to tidy and "revamp" gardens along Heslington road for two days. Around 20 students removed rubbish, weeded, and planted bulbs. The action was in conjunction with York City Council and the local Safer Neighbourhood Team of North Yorkshire Police.

Volunteers earned points for

their individual college, which will contribute towards the their college's total for the College Cup.

Hannah Brearley, YUSU Volunteering Officer, commented: "We're pleased to be part of such a great initiative."

The College Cup, supported by Dame Judi Dench, is awarded in the summer term and is an initiative to encourage student charitable participation and volunteering action.

The College Cup was won last year by James College and Vanbrugh College.



Volunteers from various colleges clean up the area along Heslington road in exchange for a system of points going towards the RAG cup competition



Nudity to be shown in Fusion once again

Nicole Sorlie
NEWS REPORTER

FUSION'S PRODUCTION this term is expected to be "controversial" because of its topics of homosexuality, gender, equality, as well as a nude scene being incorporated.

Mollie Liesner, Creative Director, said: "You can't tell history without being controversial. We want people to come and see it and enjoy the usual fashion, dance and music, but we want to utilise it to make people think about deeper issues."

Interest has been piqued by a lingerie scene. Based around 17th century France and the French Revolution, it addresses the debauchery and consumerism of the time.

Using Rococo art as a starting point, which depicted the artificial and indulgent lives of the aristocracy and instead showing the contrast of the real issues at the time, using some nudity.

The theme is the Story of Man, aiming to display how man has changed from living alongside animals to becoming materialistic consumerist animals themselves. The production will move through history showing the Aztecs, Egyptians, gender and equality in the medieval period, the French Revolution, the World Wars and more.

Even though the show is addressing controversial topics, this has been justified by the aim to give people the chance to enjoy the fashion, dance and music, and think more deeply about serious issues.

The Kindness of Strangers

As the latest statistics reveal university students are suffering increased levels of anxiety, **Laura Hughes** talks to the voices listening to the loneliness, isolation and doubts of the 21st Century student

ROBBOPHOTOS



A recent study revealed that 35,000 students in England each year fail to complete their degree course, throwing the stresses and strains of university life into the national media spotlight.

Nightline is a student-run, confidential listening, information and sexual health supplies service, aspiring to reach out to students suffering in isolation. York's Nightline is an internal affiliate of the Students' Union, funded by YUSU but run internally by volunteers. Andy Pickard, a Nightline volunteer and the public face of the project, revealed that whilst volunteers, "can't offer anything in the way of advice, the main aim is to help people consider their problems first and then their solutions." He went on to stress, "that it's a very friendly service, with an unlimited supply of tea and biscuits, [and] we're also open to people just coming in for chats about anything, not just their problems. A variety of information, from takeaway numbers, helplines, leaflets about mental health issues, sexual health, drugs, housing, pregnancy, money issues and many more topics are available."

Pickard emphasised that the most important aspect of Nightline is its availability and accessibility to absolutely any student. All Nightline volunteers leave their personal opinions and problems at home when they volunteer for a night. Subsequently students can approach them about anything without judgement or instruction. Andy stressed Nightline's volunteers are one hundred per cent confidential, never divulging any secrets of any kind about the volunteering that they do. Students have to trust the service if they're going to use it, information is never disclosed and no records of details discussed are recorded.



For Andy, Nightline is an opportunity to give something back to the University. "So much is on offer here, and it's a shame if people miss out because their minds are on other things and don't have anyone to talk to. Someone there to purely listen goes a long way to making someone feel better."

For one of York's volunteers: "More than anything, volunteering with Nightline gave me a massive boost to my confidence and shaped my personality. Before joining Nightline I was very shy and quiet, whereas after Nightline I was able to chair meetings, give input into discussions, and talk to anyone. In a way, Nightline gave me courage, and confidence to know that I can handle more than I ever thought I could."

Last year, York's Nightline unleashed their mascot, 'main man' and promotional cow, "Kevin", who can be added on Facebook and found performing his famous Dubstep video on Youtube aptly named: "We need to talk about Kevin." The new initiative is a means of providing Nightline with a public and recognisable face within the York community. Spreading the service across campus, Nightline confirmed, "he will only get busier as the year goes on."

Results from a three-year study being carried out at Leicester University which recently appeared in the *Guardian*, revealed many students were suffering from post-Christmas blues after

"Kevin is our main man. He gives us a recognisable face within the University community, and makes the name Nightline more widespread. He will only get busier as the year goes on"

falling back into their second term of University. The team's leader revealed in the article that: "One student talked about leaving her boyfriend at home, and when it got to Christmas she was nervous because of going back to a life she'd moved on from. Once home, it

was hard getting back into the relationship with her boyfriend. When she arrived back at university, it was difficult to get back into friendships there because they hadn't been made for very long."

Nightline are confident that their volun-

teers don't necessarily mention that there are a lot of highs and lows at university and that the transition can be difficult. Fortunately, there are people there to help and fantastic services like Nightline, who you can talk to about your fears, worries and stresses so that you don't have to suffer in silence."

Students contact Nightline with varying degrees of concern, discussing a vast range of topics including academic stress, depression, loneliness, eating disorders, self harm and debt.

Pickard explained the great expanse of problems that people come to Nightline with: "Every person that comes to us is different, therefore we cater for almost any conceivable problem; all the standard sexual health supplies, condoms, lubricants, dental dams, chlamydia and pregnancy tests."

The University experience is unique, students are thrown into a half-way house between adolescence and adulthood. For many it's not 'the time of their life', and for those times students need a source such as Nightline for empathy and refuge.

The World Health Organisation estimates that by 2020 mental illness will be one of the top five causes of death in the young.

Young people between 16 and 24 are more likely to attempt suicide than those in older age groups.

One in ten young people have self-harmed at some point. The UK has one of the highest rates of self-harm in Europe.

nightline


 Lyndsey
 White


Land of the Free, Home of the Detained

Guantánamo makes a mockery of progress in securing human rights, and shows that national security is now an excuse for removing common freedoms.

On 21st January 2009 the world's eyes were turned to the White House. It was Obama's first day in Office, and what a productive day it was. In a flurry of activity, a number of jobs were ticked off the Presidential list. Obama followed up on his campaign pledge to shut Guantánamo Bay, by signing an executive order to close the detention centre by January 2010. And yet, three years on, it has become tragically clear that this celebrated signature deserved as much veneration as a two day old Willow stamp. On your forehead. Guantánamo Bay remains open, continues to symbolize a decade of damage to human rights.

Since Guantánamo Bay opened in 2002, 779 detainees have been held within the 45 square miles of land and water which make up the US military base. Of that 779, the majority have been released with only 172 remaining in the camp. This figure indicates that the majority of men detained were not only cleared of terrorist involvement, but deemed safe enough to be reintegrated into society.

Indeed, exposure of the 'Guantánamo Files' in April last year confirmed the flimsy nature of the evidence on which many of the captives were initially detained. Amongst the innocents transferred to the camp was a 14 year old victim of a Taliban kidnap. An institution which has repeatedly been proven to disregard fundamental civil liberties cannot continue to remain open.

I believe that it is the right of an authority to detain an individual suspected of criminal action. And

there are men held captive in Guantánamo Bay who should be brought to justice for their participation in extremist organisations.

However after ten whole years, out of the 172 prisoners that remain, 167 are still being held without a trial and many have never even been charged with a crime. Yet there is an entire law enforcement system in the United States that has essentially been ready and waiting since September 2001 to bring those individuals to justice.

So why is it that, after a decade of detentions, only six detainees (one less, by the way, than the number of prosecutors who have resigned over the system's unfairness) have been transferred to the USA for prosecution in a normal federal court?

It is, ostensibly, in the name of intelligence gathering – something which has an essential role to play in the war against terror. However,

“neglect will produce enemies or disconsolate victims who are unlikely to comply”

the shameful methods which officials have previously used at Guantánamo to gather intelligence are not only a deplorable blight against humanity, but an ineffective method. Previous torture allegations in-

clude perverse techniques such as the smearing of detainees with the fake menstrual blood of female soldiers. It takes only common sense to realise that torture and neglect will produce enemies or disconsolate victims who are unlikely to comply.

Yet there is no end in sight for any of the captives. On 31st December 2011 Obama signed The National Defence Authorization Act, under which certain provisions allow for indefinite military detention and torture. If Obama wants to salvage anything left of “the most important values and traditions” of his country, he must put an end to the perpetual violation of civil liberties which Guantánamo Bay has come to stand for over the last ten years.

RAYMOND LI


 Rose Troup-
 Buchanan


Increasing salary discrepancy is unacceptable

Lurid headlines have shouted for the past weeks about bankers' bonuses and excessive salaries. As a nation we appear focused on bashing those at the top. Little attention is paid to the individuals at the bottom of the pile, scraping minimum wage.

The “Living Wage” is a term only now achieving national interest, thanks in part to Boris Johnson's and the Labour party's campaigning efforts. The reality of what it means to earn less than is required to live on is far removed from our comfortable bubble of university life, and unlikely to trouble a student mind preoccupied with seminars and parties.

It's too easy a cop-out to blame decisions, such as the one to pay 154 people below what is deemed a “living wage”, as contingent upon the state of the economy and the University's beleaguered budget, recently revealed by *Nouse* to have a funding gap totalling millions of pounds.

According to a survey conducted in October 2011 24 per cent of Yorkshire's population is earning less than the living wage. Our University might contribute just a fraction of that total, but why should we settle for it contributing anything?

Tied into the issue of living and minimum wage is the complex issues of the widening gap between

our Vice-Chancellor's salary, and those on the lowest level of employ-

“The Vice-Chancellor's wage is unacceptable because of the inequality of his increased salary”

ment by the University. Why is it that those workers have seen their pay increase by 15 per cent, and our Vice-Chancellor by 26 per cent?

Obviously, the Vice-Chancellor of our University, representing us as he does on the national and international stage, is expected to earn significantly more than the average worker on campus.

Brian Cantor's net pay is not the question here. What is questionable is why his pay has been disproportionately increased.

The University's defence that he returns some of his wage to the University and that he is paid below the average, does not explain why his pay has continued to rise, and in a circle of prosperity, serves merely as a vehicle for him to regularly make a point of donating even to more to the University out of his

rising funds.

University senior officials are an amorphous and often absent presence at our University, and dodging the question of the widening gap between the two levels of pay does nothing to improve understanding between them and the student population.

We should not dismiss the increasing disparity in the amount paid to university employers as a hyperbolic inflation of the figures, or as an invalid comparison to be ignored as over-zealous journalism.

Our Vice-Chancellor's wage is unacceptable because of the inequality of his increased salary, not because of his salary.



Ten Years On

Human rights lawyer Clive Stafford Smith on why Obama's dithered.

Protein Shakes

Are workout supplements just an ego-boosting myth?

AC Grayling

On secular bibles and the new Oxbridge

Muse.

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



M10



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

M12



M21

Features.

M4. Clive Stafford Smith has every reason to be annoyed about Guantánamo still being open ten years on, **Sophie Walker** discovers.

M6. Philosopher AC Grayling talks to **Mary O'Connor** about his secular Bible and the new Oxbridge.

M8. What is organic beauty all about? **Bella Foxwell** asks Therese Kerr.

M10. Are protein shakes good for you? And do they really work? **George Leidig** finds out.



Sex, food and rock 'n' roll

The definition of 'sexy' is "an impact one has on the senses – visually, audibly and tactically." The 'sexy man' is "physically able", "confident" and "sultry," with the apparent ability to impregnate any woman of his choice.

Welcome to the fore, Michael Fassbender – a man who many are lauding as said sexy specimen. Writing for *GQ*, Olivia Cole voiced what many people have been muttering and mumbling over the past few days: "will everyone just shut up about Michael Fassbender already". Though not quite trumping Ryan Gosling in the ridiculous-rate-of-films-per-week stakes, he's slightly unavoidable at the moment. And I am not complaining (though I do think my Year 10 portrayal of Bobby Sands had the edge on his stint in *Hunger*. But that's a battle for another day).

The first five explicit minutes of *Shame* mainly consist of his bare naked crotch advancing towards the screen, turning as his admirable bum swaggers away, only for the shot to be repeated again soon after. Watching this with my youngest sister and parents

opened my eyes to the aptness of the phrase "stony silence". My housemates were rather more animated – looking repeatedly from the screen to their own crotches and back again in muffled disbelief. One compared it to an arm. I think that was a stretch. But he is most certainly packed.

Peculiarly, however, what 2012 has so far shown us is that this is not exactly where it's at. With the start of the latest *Masterchef* series has come a new wave of appreciation – ney, adoration – for greengrocer, judge, and self-professed "cooking woman's crumpet", Gregg Wallace. This is a man that defies all progress the poor psychoanalysts thought they'd made with that 'sexy man' definition. Hairless as the night is dark, with a penchant for puddings, and a severe lack of self-control (as we saw in a recent episode where he ate an entire pigeon...with his bare hands), this man has been deemed "the most probable Guilty Crush of 2012".

Though TVScoop.com back-handedly described him as having "that kind of sex appeal that makes you feel ashamed of yourself,"

Fashion.

M14. We head out into the Wilderness for our shoot, and we look at the Hot Looks for Spring 2012 with **Paris Bennett**.

Arts.

M16. David Hockney combining iPads and Yorkshire landscapes by **Celia Scruby**, and psychic mediums.

Music.

M18. Hip-hop veteran DJ Shadow speaks to **Rory Foster** and Napalm talk to **Ally Swadling**.

Film.

M20. **Elle Hoppe** speaks to Hollywood sound-mixer John Ross. And what's up this film season.

Food & Drink.

M21. **Hana Teraie-Wood** does The Experiment - this time it's Cinnamon and Chicken Stew.

Image Credits.

Cover: Flickr

Wilderness photoshoot: Philippa Grafton

Mia de Graaf

the doubtless shaking cameraman to whisper into our screens: "I am what you'd call a domestic slut" (verbatim quote). She has no qualms musing with us that she's sure "most women simply have a fantasy about having sex, in a non-defining, non-exclusive way, with other women," or revealing "I don't wear anything in bed" as she folds egg whites into chocolate ganache, threatening to "dive right in there myself". It's only since watching *Babestation* has become something of a regular post-night-out pastime (if only after the novel experience of stumbling across a 'babe' that looks the spit of our landlady), that I've truly come to see how explicit Nige is. Did anyone else catch that cover of the *Stylist* where she smeared caramel all over her face?

But it's is neither her nor *Babestation* that gets every member of our house – both male and female – rushing home on a Monday to Thursday nightly basis, and much as we enjoyed *Shame* no one seems to be in a hurry to watch it again. Perhaps the face of 'sexy' is changing. And Gregg will be the man to do it.

Gregg certainly has his pick of women – his current and third wife (17 years his junior) is a flame wooed over Twitter, though he has been known to gush to interviewers about his previous conquests: "I'm seeing a 29-year-old but some of them have been as young as 21!"

Psychoanalysts have debated Gregg's appeal. One thinktank has put it down to the fact that women experience the same pleasure when thinking about food as when they're having sex, but more and more, women associate food with Gregg. Indeed, it's not Michael Fassbender or his 'arm' that leaps into my mind at the mention or sight of a chocolate fondant but that euphoric toothy grin, eyes squinting through glasses that threaten to burst off his head at any given moment, before he dives towards the bowl.

I'm pretty sure Nigella was the first to boldly tender family-viewing-time TV with the whole food-and-sex thing. It was she who so seductively lured viewers to watch her squeeze, mix, twist, and ooze ingredients into something edible, all the while licking her fingers and chucking a cheeky glance at

Quirks: Famous Bodybuilders

Using protein shakes in the gym is debated this edition. Whatever these guys took certainly seemed to work...



Ronnie Coleman:
Heavyweight Champion



Oldest bodybuilder?
Grey but game



Arnie Schwarzenegger
Muscle means power in California



Vegan bodybuilder
Who needs meat?



The little Hercules:
Youngest bodybuilder



Women body builders?
Is that sexy?

Thinking Inside the Box



Camilla Apcar

I have a wrinkle. Actually, two wrinkles – one for each decade I have been alive. Apparently women start losing their looks at 28 (or so once said a study in the *Daily Mail*). Should I be alarmed? What does this mean? In my opinion, I haven't even got my looks yet, never mind losing them. I look exactly the same as when I was 14, and when I was 14, I was told that I looked 12. But these wrinkles... they're not those cute crow's feet found decorating the eyes of beloved grandparents, or the smile lines that grace the faces of those who laugh a lot. They're simply emblazoned across my forehead.

Apparently stress makes you get wrinkles. I would imagine having a baby to be quite stressful. In fact, I know it – I've seen, all without having to go through childbirth myself. *One Born Every Minute* is back and so are a bunch of screaming mothers-to-be, fathers-to-be, and (soon enough) babies. Having missed the bandwagon for the first two series, no one had warned me how graphic it would be, but that doesn't matter in the end. Thankfully there's another forty-five minutes of quips from the northern midwives – and as champions of childbirth, how they aren't more wrinkly is beyond me – to distract you.

Enter, Danny and Heather: who describe themselves as "a real life walking Disney" sweethearts. They met at fashion college at sixteen and now they're having their first child, embracing the water birth trend while they're at it. The only thing that would possibly stress them out is if their iPod ran out of battery while they were both listening to it as Heather's on all fours having a silently "perfect" labour.

Maybe concentrating on the task at hand was a bit too 'real' for them, so a distraction was necessary. The real question that plagues me is: what were they even listening to? My bets are on *A Whole New*

World – the Katie Price and Peter Andre duet album. The lead track is a Disney song and the ex-happy family couple are quite likely Danny and Heather's idols.

The most stressed I've been in the past few weeks is – dissertation woes and impending graduation fears aside – a food-related situation. Specifically, a meat-related situation. I'm a carnivore: eating meat is a daily joy for me. I buy it in bulk and freeze it like bread, just so I know I'll never suddenly run out. On this particular occasion I'd been looking forward to a steak all day, having put my portion in its plastic freezer bag out to defrost that morning. Returning home to find not a steak, but two rashers of bacon waiting for me... imagine the disappointment. Bacon in no way equates to steak.

Father-to-be Paul would understand. Whilst his heavily pregnant wife bounces on one of those big exercise balls looking like a constipated hippo trying to relieve the pain in any way possible, he's got other things on his mind. "Just look at it, then taste it." He waves a crisp in front of her face, which she reluctantly accepts. "Tell me – is that a Frazzle? What a pathetic excuse for what used to be...I mean...I'm sorry. But they're just not Frazzles." It's these times of distress, frustration and confusion that you wonder why the world seems set against you. Paul, I feel your pain. I really do.

'First World Pains' these may be, but when you're living in the First World they're valid wrinkle inducers. I have, however, yet to invest in any form of anti-wrinkle product. No one seems to like talking about wrinkles on TV programmes so I'll stick out a few adverts and see whether Jane Fonda (pre-facelift, I hasten to add) can convince me to buy L'Oreal Age Re-Perfect. My forehead is not ready to accept its fate just yet.



Chinese New Year by numbers

4710 years dating from the beginning of the Yellow Emperor.

2012 is the year of the dragon, which is a powerful, benevolent creature.

9 is a special number associated with the dragon. With 117 scales, 81 are of the yang essence (positive) while 36 are of the yin essence (negative).

376 is the average number of fire-crackers used by a family. They are used to scare away evil spirits.

15 day is when Chinese people traditionally release red lanterns into the sky.

6 pounds is the money given in red envelopes. The money is used to suppress evil spirits for the coming year.



Tim Winn-Folk Devils illustration

Ten Years On: Guantánamo

British lawyer Clive Stafford Smith is a notorious freedom fighter. He defended Saddam Hussein and has freed 66 Guantánamo inmates. He explains to **Sophie Walker** about the impact of Guantánamo ten years on.

Are human beings better than the worst fifteen minutes of their lives? Clive Stafford Smith thinks so. And he's not an optimistic hippy. He is the legal Director of not-for-profit charity, Reprieve, and has represented 83 prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, freed 66 of them, and been there 20 times (6 months spent accumulatively). His most recent visit was in November 2011 to see the last British prisoner held there, Shaker Aamer.

January 2012 is the ten-year anniversary of Guantánamo Bay taking its first inmates in 2002. But without looking at the statistics of what has changed since then, what does being ten years on really mean for the progress of human rights, and our views on terrorism and detention without trial?

"Just as it is absurd for the UK and US to think that terrorism has made the world a suddenly dangerous place (it has not, certainly compared to other challenges we face), so the mistakes of the Bush and Blair era have not made the world vastly more horrible", says Clive. "If we look back 50 years, the world has come a long way. Bush and Blair were, I hope, just a brief trough in the general march along the path to a fuller appreciation of human rights."

It seems like we aren't so much marching along that path, more reluctantly plodding. I wonder whether Westerners aren't more confused about public security than ever. Society places an extraordinary stigma on racial stereotypes of those more likely to be a threat, and what distinguishes Stafford Smith's legal and moral approach from his interpretation of the law is that he sees the average notion of prejudice and fear as scarring the judicial system. And he isn't shy about proselytising it; the video on the Reprieve website called "Why I

defend guilty people", says it in no uncertain terms. Not to mention his simple, comprehensive and perfectly executed columns in the *New Statesman* and the *Guardian*.

But he doesn't think that Westerners are more scared and stupid than ever before. "I think they have been scared for a long time and their politicians have worked hard to make it so. Whether it is fear of black people, the Soviets, of crime, or whatever, it was ever thus, and ever a way to ensure that people do not (a) criticize their politicians, and (b) focus on how their lives could be made better."

I suggest that one of the reasons the public remain scared or confused is because of hype, and an explicit lack of understanding of political jargon. This year is the start of the run-up to the US presidential election campaign, and the onset of the 'promise-making season' looms again. President Barack Obama pledged to close Guantánamo within a year of taking office, and it was a defining aspect in his differences to Bush and his administration. The strong reaction to him not keeping his promise is perhaps indicative of the complexity of administrative constraint in actually carrying out political intentions.

"It's not entirely Obama's fault", he explains, for not closing Guantánamo yet, "and I don't see a whole lot of point in yelling at him. It's not as if he is the bad guy here - there are a number of Republican candidates who want to enlarge Guantánamo and use waterboarding (referred to as torture by the Spanish Inquisition, if not the Bush Administration). But that does not mean we are not morally obliged to press all the harder for the place to close." Having said that though, it appears to boil down to the fact that "it's simply because Obama

dithered, and allowed the other side to turn it into a political football. A shame, but there we are."

I begin to wonder where this relative apathy originates; severe exhaustion of a relentless legal career, or just an understanding, unlike his hippy counterparts, that the reality of shutting down Guantánamo isn't really affected by protests at the White House and the public's reaction.

Not only is the US administrative situation not transparent, but neither is the judicial system. Clive's book, *Bad Men* (2007), which was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize, describes in detail his visits to the detention centre and the experiences he had there with his clients. One assumes that such intense, personal involvement constitutes a long-term relationship with the men he meets. I ask whether he feels only half the job is done, to release the innocent prisoners, whilst the remainder is to seek legal compensation and recognition once they are free.

"Of course they should be compensated," Clive says without hesitation. "In the US, one is compensated if the supermarket leaves water on the aisle and you slip over, so how can it be that they are not compensated for a decade of unjust imprisonment?"

"But for reasons that I fear are rather complex, albeit dealt with at some length in my upcoming, 'best-seller' (my mother will at least buy a few copies) *Injustice*, they will get no compensation and the US judicial system will continue to insist that the Emperor is well-clothed."

But Clive says defiantly that regardless of whether compensation is sought and achieved imminently, there is definitely life after Guantánamo for the freed men. "Of course

“You get compensation for slipping over in a supermarket in the US, but not for being unlawfully imprisoned for a decade”



there is. Some have made something very positive out of their ghastly experience, the same as people exonerated from death row often have.” I am somewhat surprised that he says this. Indeed, although they return to families and resume contact with Facebook (clearly, the paramount of liberty and autonomy), the psychological trauma inflicted hinders the extent to which a normal life can be resumed.

And that trauma inflicted is the still, ten years on, the subject of continued heated debate. The illegal use of interrogation methods such as waterboarding to obtain classified information from the prisoners is one of the greatest objectives against which Clive campaigns. Although, he says, “people generally understand that torture is not a reliable way of obtaining the right information, if any at all, unless they are total idiots. But that is not the real challenge of the ‘War of Terror’ (as Borat calls it). Rather, the real danger is the rapid encroachment of secrecy, where the powers that be have conflated national security with political embarrassment in order to cover up their sins. That runs through the political system, to the extent that Tony Blair thinks that the Freedom of Information Act was his biggest mistake – he clearly cannot spell I-R-A-Q, and he should be touting it as one of his greatest contributions.”

I want to laugh. But not being able to spell is no laughing matter. And neither is waterboarding. The rate of error with the US arresting potential terror suspects and then releasing them due to lack of evidence is bigger than in any other area of law.

Clive admits that he can’t speak for other areas of law. “But again, (horribly self-advertising) my book will explain

why we make so many mistakes in the judicial system generally. Actually, thinking about it in the context of one case where I have lost for 19 years (the poor chap is totally innocent and yet will die in prison) has made me think about why we make so many mistakes, but there are so many reasons (permeating every aspect of the process) that it will take the whole book to go into them, I am afraid.”

If it is frustrating for a lawyer to not be able to straightforwardly explain how and why so many mistakes are made with false arrests, then it only perpetuates the notion of secrecy that Clive talks about. It’s no wonder that the public perception of what actually constitutes ‘intelligence,’ that elusive term used to describe the information gathered about a suspect, is somewhat shrouded. Or is the reality that ‘intelligence’ isn’t complex code, but habit; errors have been recorded of Muslim family names being mistaken for forenames, and of inferential links between suspected terrorists being based on cultural habit.

The Tipton Three are three young British men from Tipton who were arrested in Afghanistan under unusual circumstances, even though they said they were just travelling. Claims that they had come into contact with weaponry were falsely linked to terror training, they say. So, it seems, even to Clive, that what is gathered from intelligence is not arbitrarily collected information.

Clive disagrees that the whole concept of ‘intelligence’ is just a myth promoted by governments to merit arresting innocent bearded men. “Intelligence is generally a notion that is used to keep secrets, which is a shame, as most intelligence does not need to be secret. Indeed, we would all be a lot safer

if there were a whole lot fewer secrets.” Clive’s involvement with the Wikileaks scandal was testament to his mission to expose secrecy. But that said, he continues, “we have to obey the laws rather than merely violate them because we disagree with them – albeit constantly working to change those that are unwise.”

So he’s not a lawbreaker. But Clive certainly bends, twists and weaves his way through the legal system, to almost redefine the human rights of those he defends. Unsurprisingly, his principle of ‘people being better than the worst 15 minutes of their lives’ is not well regarded by many lawyers. “Sadly most lawyers enter the profession for all the wrong reasons – wealth and all that nonsense. So it is not surprising that most of them do not focus on the needs of those who are most unfortunate. But that does not matter, as it only takes a small group of people to change the world, and there will be enough people dedicated to justice to carry us forward.”

What carries forward into the next ten years on that high security island in Cuba is unknown, but what is for sure, is that Clive Stafford Smith will fight to the bitter end. Some ends are not quite so bitter though; a poignant Youtube video of two former inmates, Shafiq Rasul and Ruhul Ahmed, reuniting, and meeting for the first time since being released with former guard, Brandon Neely, who initiated the contact via Facebook, to apologise for his treatment of them. They accept his apology, and are now friends in the virtual world at least. How surreal, twisted and utterly humane; perhaps it is testament to the fact that true dedication to justice can’t be implemented by lawyers, but by the villains and victims themselves. **M**



The 'Velvet Atheist'

The renowned philosopher AC Grayling talks to **Mary O'Connor** about the new Oxbridge, the Good Book and his perfectly bouffant hair.

If you're the first person to jump over the parapet, you're the first person to get shot at."

Almost overnight, A.C. Grayling's announcement of his intention to establish the first independent, 'New College of Humanities,' in addition to the publication of a secular Bible earlier last year, sparked a debate of tempestuous proportions among students and journalists alike. One can imagine why I was a little apprehensive about speaking to such a public figure so admired and yet so controversial.

To be attended by the best applicants to Oxbridge, and other Russell Group universities, including our fair York, the Oxford academic's liberal college provoked controversy when it was revealed it was to be financed by colossal student fees of £18,000 a year. Grayling himself admits: "It does sound a lot, because it's double what the government say people should pay at other universities." Some would think that this is the end of the story, but the lion-maned philosopher proves to be un-phased in his compelling explanation of his reasons for spear-heading such a momentous undertaking.

Drawing on the wide scope of study available as part of the liberal arts model in the United States, Grayling emphasises the need for a more comprehensive foundation in the UK. "What we really need is a broader education so that people have the one thing which will be obsolescence-proof as they go through life and careers. That is a good, broad understanding of the human story and a real ability to think and to be able to change, when necessary, with new ideas, new technologies." With Oxbridge and the universities of London being very much set in their own ways of teaching, Grayling recognised "it's really hard to get that kind of line of argument accepted, so I thought I'd have to step outside and do it independently."

Additionally, huge cuts in government funding have been a crucial *raison d'être* of the new college. "Our society has made dramatically different choices about how it wants to spend its money. It wants to spend £20 billion on a weapon we're never going to use as a nuclear deterrent, and not on universities." Cuts like these, in Grayling's view, are almost lethal to what he calls the already existing "artificial limitations" on universities. "But even £10,000 is not enough for the universities. It's about half of what the really top universities need to educate a student." Grayling makes some ominous conjectures about the future of universities if cuts to higher education continue to be made.

"One thing is that they're going to force the top end universities to go private eventually. And the worse thing is that they're encouraging all these private providers like BPP and Kaplan to come in offering two-year degrees very cheaply. A two-year degree is not a degree, it's not higher education. Also with those levels of fees, they're going to undercut many of the lower-tier universities in the country and drive a lot of them into nonexistence." Although a long way off, Grayling has high hopes of being able to provide accessible education for all. With what can only be described as a tone of child-like optimism, Grayling excitedly anticipates "sometime in the future when we've been able to raise in our charitable trust a really big endowment, we could educate our students for free. We might be the only place in the country doing it, but wouldn't that be fantastic?" This selfless attitude seems to be a far cry from the media attacks of hypocrites like Terry Eagleton, who castigate the 'private elitism' of the New College as funded by the 'disgraceful' student fees. And yet, the plot thickens. For those of us at York frantically applying for study abroad schemes, we know only too well the huge expenses involved, as Grayling notes: "If you think about what the true comparison is: US universities charge on average US\$40,000 a year for four years - it's a real whack of a fee. Independent schools in this country charge about £30,000 a year, Oxford charges about £20,000 a year for BAs [for international students]. When you look at the actual cost of a good tertiary level education, it is pretty high."

Grayling is anxious to correct any misconceptions, expressing particular uneasiness about the rather debasing phrase "private, for profit education." His left wing politics seem to greatly shape the reasons why he finds this expression so personally offensive: "I don't like the word private at all. I prefer the word independent. But on the word profit, this new college is not-for-profit, it's a not-for-profit college, and it's got a charitable trust alongside to raise money for student support."

Indeed, the New College endeavours to offer a munificent scheme of financial support for students. "Money shouldn't be the final determiner. We've got scholarships and exhibitions. Scholarships, you don't pay anything at all, and exhibitions, people pay about £6,900 a year. It is one out of every three students who are going to be helped financially by the college, and that is right, that is how you should do it."

But the question on everyone's lips is...what is this money financing? Opulent chandeliers and champagne fountains? Not a chance. Student fees will fund a dazzling intellectual entourage composed of the shrewdest minds of our age, including Richard Dawkins, Lawrence Krauss, Steven Pinker, Peter Singer and many more. "You need really good communicators who are passionate about their work and who can explain it more deeply, so we've got fantastic people on the faculty to do that."

Led by these academic giants, students will participate in a rigorously enriching programme, which is "much more than just a degree" encompassing a blend of intense study and personal enrichment: "Every student has to do three compulsory modules in addition to the standard twelve, and they are: Logic and Critical Thinking, Science Literacy, and Applied Ethics" in preparation for a University of London degree. And this is not all. Students will study a compulsory module of professional skills to set them up for life in the world of work.



The New College will be based around the University of London

“I don't like the word private at all.
I prefer the word independent.
But on the word profit, this new
college is not for profit.”

As with most things, it's not all work and no play, but at the New College of Humanities, there is a twist. Grayling replaces the stereotype of the perpetually inebriated student, the nocturnal party-animal, with something more culturally enriching. "Because we're here in one of the great cultural capitals of the world, we've got a full time member of staff who we call the 'Minister of Fun.' Her job is to tell the students about everything, from opera, ballet, theatre, concerts, exhibitions, pubbing and clubbing." And if this wasn't enough to mesmerise you, "we've got a really beautiful place in France where all the reading parties, summer schools and the students can go to do their projects." Ambition is certainly at the heart of this project.

Described by others as Grayling's 'Manifesto of Rational Thought,' *The Good Book*, was published in April 2011, adding to Grayling's already bulging authorial roster containing works like 'Ideas that Matter' and 'To Set Prometheus Free'. Pre-ambulating the UK riots, as well as numerous natural tragedies in following months, the Secular Bible properly surfaced at the right time, when the challenge of engaging with the vicissitudes of the modern world couldn't have seemed any more insurmountable for leaders and citizens alike. "This is a book that says here is a distillation of the best we've tried to do and ways of thinking about things, and it's not trying to

tell you what to think, but just giving you materials for making your own mind up. People will see and hear things taken from some of the greatest minds, the most sympathetic souls, the most experienced people in our great human story, and they can get something rich out of it."

Having come up with the idea for his own Bible, thirty years previously, during his graduate studies, Grayling recounts his ravenous anticipation of the task. "If only they had gone to the philosophers and the poets. As soon as I thought that, I realised, oh heck. I've got to try and do it." The humanist philosopher felt that an alternative way of approaching ethics was needed as a means of departing from the unhelpful Divine Command theories, which in his view "always seems to end up saying that the fountain of all wisdom is to submit your intellect and subdue it, and submit to the idea that there is a more powerful being in the universe who rules your life" fostering a kind of 'slave morality', as put more forcefully by Nietzsche.

Perhaps the chief irony of the book is that it is compiled in a similar fashion to that of the religious Bible, into fourteen books with component chapters and verses. Nonetheless, Grayling is adamant that his work is not an attack on religion, but rather an alternative to it: "Well, quite deliberately of course, it's got nothing to do with religion...If there hadn't

been a religious bible, but instead people made a book that we have lost, a book of those other writings and nonreligious writings, then there would have been actually something deeper and more helpful than the religious books are, because they say you've got to do this and you can't do that."

Naturally gravitating towards the religious question, Grayling's capacity as a member of the 'Unholy Trinity' of Dawkins, and the late Christopher Hitchens comes to the fore. "Now I'm sometimes described as the 'Velvet Atheist'" says Grayling coquettishly. A Supernumerary Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford, and until 2011, a Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck College, Grayling's soft-spoken conversational manner leaves one feeling completely at ease, but at the same time, in marvellous anticipation that he is just getting going. He fails to disappoint when he forcefully defends his philosophical comrades-in-arms: "I don't describe Dawkins and Hitch as aggressive, I describe them as robust." Going on to make a goose-pimple inducing comment about the man affectionately known as 'Hitch': "He used to get his sharp mental sword out and slash about to very good effect. It was very difficult for anyone to stand up against Hitch when he was in full argumentative mode, because of course he had right on his side." Stepping out of his 'velvet' appearance for a moment, Grayling makes a shocking, yet compelling observation of the religious reaction to Dawkins and Hitch. "Theists and religious folk were terrified of them both and ran as fast as they could in the opposite direction, claiming they were being aggressive. Well I say, to those people who were complaining about Dawkins and Hitch, that when they, the religious people, had the upper hand, they weren't aggressive, they just burned us at the stake. They didn't argue against us. It's a terrible irony when you think about it, but they used to kill people for disagreeing."

Having heard the reverential tones by which fans speak of his brilliant locks, one could not help venturing into the predictable. And yet, Grayling dashes my own speculation about ludicrous amounts of hair-spray, and meticulous salon attention, when he chuckles, saying that his famous 'lion-mane' is quite simply a matter of luck: "I think we're just lucky we've got it. And you know what they say if you've got it, you might as well make some sort of use of it!"

It is indisputable that Grayling has achieved almost everything one could dare to dream of: academic and authorial success, a wonderful family, as well as the ultimate opportunity of envy, the chance to shape the future of humankind for the good of humankind. One wonders what is still on the horizon for such a respected leviathan of man: "Well you can expect that I'm not going to stop, I'm not going to give up any of the things I do, writing or teaching, or trying to be part of the great conversation of mankind." **M**

Under a supermodel's skin



Therese Kerr, mother of super model Miranda Kerr talks to **Bella Foxwell** about her passion for organic skincare.

“My New Year’s resolution is to touch someone’s life in a positive way, every day.” Miranda Kerr’s effervescent beauty, both inside and out is why she is known the world over. It is what catapulted her to fame at the age of 13, when she won a nationwide model search run by Australian magazine, *Dolly*. Ever since then it has been a seamless rise to the top of the fashion world, peaking with Miranda being chosen as the first ever Australian Victoria’s Secret Angel in 2007. Major campaigns such as Jil Sander and Prada have sealed her status as a high fashion model. Not to mention the fact that she is married to one of the most gorgeous men in Hollywood, Orlando Bloom, and last year gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Flynn. Jealous? Well, actually no. Because Miranda comes across as such a lovely person that you cannot help but imagine that if you were lucky enough to meet her, she might just be an irritatingly gorgeous best friend. One only needs to remember how she helped to save banker David Kiely’s job by signing a petition, after he was caught viewing racy photos of her on his computer in the background of a live television interview. It resulted in a 100% increase in the number of Google searches for Kerr’s name. Enough said.

To talk to the woman that raised Miranda should, then, be a delight. I wasn’t disappointed. Therese Kerr is a woman who looks scarily similar – and close in age – to her daughter. Both have radiant complexions, great cheekbones and exude health from every pore. This is all down to a venture completely separate from the modelling world: their family-run business, Kora Organics. The name comes from Miranda’s belief in the importance of nurturing your ‘core’ self, and it’s also a form of Buddhist meditation. This is why I wanted to speak to Therese. To find out about a company that is offering people skincare that harnesses the power of botanical extracts, with hundreds of testimonials waxing lyrical about the healing effects of Kora Organics. Up to six testimonials a day claim that everything from severe eczema to scarring has been cured. What makes Kora Organics so very successful is that behind the scenes is a loving, ordinary family who care so much about what they are creating. At the helm of the business is Miranda Kerr: a model with a conscience.

Trying to get hold of Therese Kerr was no mean feat. Ten thousand miles and a lot of Christmas hullabaloo separated us, but when we finally did speak it was worth the

wait. Apologies were abundant as she shared with me the reasons for our delay in correspondence. “I have been travelling and am on my way back from Coff’s Harbour, on the coast of New South Wales, after Christmas. Most Christmases we spend together as a family and this year was special because Flynn and Miranda’s cousin’s babies were all celebrating with us. We are like this big, Italian family when we get together. It is a cook-fest morning, lunch and dinner with great music, incredible food and amazing company! We all chip in and do what needs to be done so that we all get to enjoy our holiday.” I smiled at hearing about the magical normality of a family Christmas, forgetting momentarily that it involves two of the most talked about people on the planet.

Therese raised her family in the small country town of Gunnedah, about 450km north west of Sydney. She speaks fondly of the place she grew up in. “Gunnedah is interesting and the people are wonderful. I was born there and lived there until I was eight years old, when my parents bought hotels in varying parts of Australia. In 1981, at 16, I met Miranda’s dad, who is still my husband after 30 years of marriage.” Life in the country sounds pretty sweet. Miranda, too, has stated that her ultimate goal for the future is to move

back into the Australian outback and live a simple life with her family, a veggie patch and lots of animals. A nice idea, although one wonders if a 'simple' life is ever truly possible once you've reached the dizzy heights of stardom that Miranda has.

Life up until the age of 13 was similar to just about every other normal kid growing up in the Australian countryside. What changed the course of the Kerr family forever was the illustrious *Dolly* competition, which Miranda won after friends sent in photos of her. I ask Therese whether she was at all worried about the kind of lifestyle that winning such a competition may bring to her only daughter. "It is interesting. I had preconceived ideas in relation to modelling and in fact when her friends entered her into the competition, I purposely included a couple of photos showing Miranda's crooked teeth. Yes, like most young people - Miranda needed braces!" Phew! The supermodel did need a little help to look this good. Therese expressed her spiritual outlook on what happened to Miranda, saying "if the universe wanted this path for her, it would happen regardless, and our jobs as parents, was and will always be, to guide and be there for her. To support, love and nurture and we have done that".

You might think that after *Dolly* came magazine shoots, catwalks, Victoria's Secret and big campaigns. That did happen, but what most people don't know is that during that time Miranda studied Nutrition and Psychology in Australia (even though she was living in the US) and recently became a Registered Natural Therapist. Health and wellbeing was a part of her life before any of the modelling fame came along: Kora Organics didn't spring from nowhere. What kick started its creation, however, was Therese's health scare in 2002 when she discovered she had tumours on her spleen. "That was the catalyst for both myself and Miranda to research alternative medicine and to lead an extremely healthy life. Health happens by choice, not by chance and living a healthy, balanced life has become a passion for both of us."

Ever since then, mother and daughter have pioneered the campaign for skincare that doesn't contain 'the nasties'. Therese reels off a whole host of weird sounding chemicals: "TEA's, DEA's, Glycols, Parabens, Sulphates, artificial and synthetic flavours and colours, Formaldehyde." I certainly wouldn't want to put any of those onto my body - and since Miranda's mantra is 'What you put on your skin, soaks in' - I wouldn't want them in my body either. The benefits of the toners, cleansers and moisturisers are never-ending. They contain extracts of Tahitian Noni Juice, which Miranda swears by as it is meant to boost the immune system and increase energy

levels. "They are certified through Eco-Cert (an organic certification body) and are formulated to be transdermal, which means that they penetrate the different layers of skin to effect and bring about real change. Most traditional skin care is low active, high preservative but Kora Organics products are high active, low preservative yet still have a shelf life of two years when unopened" says Therese. A walking encyclopaedia for her company, it is clear she is passionate about Kora Organics.

But Kora Organics is not just a skincare company - it is a lifestyle choice. This can be seen in the blog, which is a great platform for Miranda to share everything she knows with her fans and is extremely popular because it is so personal. Therese tells me that one of Kora Organics key values is "to educate, and we do that by bringing specialists in their fields from all over the world to contribute. Leading nutritionists, natural therapists in all modalities, healthy chefs, spiritual leaders such as Deepak Chopra, Wayne Dyer, Louise Hay and others share their secrets and health recipes in the hope of providing information to enable people to make informed choices as to their health and what they put in and on their bodies." It's true. As I scour the blog, I find posts about exercises that will help you get the body of a supermodel, candid shots of Miranda backstage at fashion shows and positive affirmations aplenty to help enforce a positive frame of mind, which seems to be the most important thing to Miranda. One of her favourite affirmations is "I give myself permission to be authentic. I am fully self expressed and never afraid to be who I really am."

Philanthropy is the name of the game. Especially since the Kerrs set up the 'Too Many Too Soon Youth Suicide' initiative, which was created to bring people awareness of 'Kids Helpline' in Australia. "Too many young people feel it necessary to take their own lives and most often they don't know who to turn to for help. Our goal is to show young people that it is OK to ask for help and to take any stigma away from doing so." All I can do is marvel at Therese Kerr and her husband, son, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, who are all pulling the strings of this fantastic, educational, big-hearted puppet. It isn't just skincare - it's a wealth of life-changing knowledge with a kind and positive ambassador in Miranda Kerr.

I feel compelled to ask Therese, as the beacon of all things health, what on earth are we university students supposed to do to live a better lifestyle when Costcutters' chicken dippers and £1 shots at Willow are calling? "Go to the markets and buy fresh, certified organic fruit and vegetables." Well, York has a great Farmers' Market so I'm going to try and follow that

tip. "If the University provides your food, ask them to buy certified organic and get your friends to ask too as the higher the demand, the more likely you will bring about change." Well, I'm not so sure the hung over, eternally exhausted Freshers will want to wage a campaign alongside me for better quality of food, since quite frankly food of any standard will do when you've drunk six treble-vodka and Vimtos at The Nag's Head. But Therese's last nugget of advice is valuable: "Most of the time at uni, you're sitting in lectures, so choose low GI foods as opposed to high GI. Drink filtered water and use certified organic body and skincare products. Your body and general health will thank you."

As the interview with Therese draws to a close, I ask her a personal question, away from Kora Organics. What was her proudest moment in Miranda's career? It was something as small as reading an interview her daughter did. "The question asked of her was: 'Out of all the people, alive or dead, that you would choose to have dinner with, who would you choose?' I was expecting the answers Prince William, Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, but her answer was 'my grandma on my mothers side. She died when my mum was seven and a half months pregnant with me and I would give anything to have met her and never did.' That's when I knew, even after all of Miranda's incredible successes in life, I had raised the most beautiful girl in the world - both inside and out."

Once again, I am touched by the great friendship and love that holds this family together. When you see Miranda's big blue eyes and mane of dark hair in the magazines, you undoubtedly see something special, but it isn't until you get under her skin that you realise what it truly is: her family, her beliefs, her spirit. All of which is bottled in Tiffany-blue packaging, and printed with four little letters: Kora. I feel like I've been let into the home of a great group of people, famous or not, and I am completely privileged. But just before I finish, I am offered one more moment of honesty.

"By the way, Miranda and I have the same sense of humour. We see the funny side of things. We dance around the house together, sing, laugh and have so much fun when we are together that our cheeks ache from laughing. Neither of us takes life, things, or ourselves too seriously. We are here to live in the moment and be the best we can be now and hopefully make a difference to other people's lives in the process. Life is for living now and for being continually grateful for everything that befalls us, good or bad. For without every experience, we wouldn't be who we are." M

Photos left and opposite courtesy of Therese Kerr
Below: Flickr



"Health happens by choice, not by chance and living a healthy, balanced life has become a passion for both of us"





Photos above and first right: Tom Witherow

Finding Strength

Do workout supplements and protein shakes do what they say on the tin? **George Leidig** investigates the science behind the substance.

“**Y**ou get more blood to your muscles. I had a Nox drink before this. I can feel my chest now. It’s bigger.”

20 minutes previously, with over 200kg of metal held firmly above his chest, the 2010 winner of the UK National Amateur Bodybuilder’s Association competition was training his now heaving pectorals. With an on-season weight of over 250lbs, in which he considers himself to be in “ripped to the bollocks mode,” plus over 10 years of competitive experience under his belt, Stuart Garrington, owner of Ebor Fitness Gym in Fulford, is a serious contender for the Mr Universe title.

Afterwards, as he sips on his post-workout recovery drink, I ask him about a relatively new product on the supplement scene called the Pre-Workout Shake, an impressively complex cocktail of stimulants and proprietary blends. At first glance the supplement company’s sales pitch certainly seems convincing enough. Pictures depicting renowned bodybuilders almost bursting with muscle provide an appropriate background for the bold claims all over the packaging, apparently backed up by studies and testimonials of remarkable efficacy from professional bodybuilders. They are now more popular than ever: the UK supplement industry alone grew almost 50 per cent between 2004 and 2009.

“I take it for the energy. I know it’s got its benefits of delivering increased nutrients to the muscle you’re training and stuff like that but that’s not the main reason. Sometimes I’m training five times a day when I’m coming up to a show – three cardio sessions and a couple of weights sessions as well. I can’t even move without getting a scoop of Nox”.

Nox is short for Nitric Oxide. In the body, Nitric Oxide acts to open up the blood vessels, increasing the flow of blood to the muscle and delivering more of the good stuff like sugar and oxygen. Rick Miller, a UK registered dietician, agrees that improvements in blood flow are definitely of benefit to the athlete.

But in a recent study, researchers tested three dietary supplements containing a common concoction of pre-workout ingredients and found the increase in blood flow to be ‘negligible.’ In fact, the supplements didn’t register any increase in the body’s Nitric Oxide levels. Although previous research has indeed suggested a positive effect, this is often when injected straight into the vein at dosages as high as 20-30 grams – an entirely different league to the dosages found in supplements that are taken orally. In addition, there is even some evidence to suggest Nitric Oxide results in the formation of Peroxynitrate, a very harmful chemical.

But some in the bodybuilding community think otherwise. As Stuart tells me, “I’m talking to those guys at the top level of bodybuilding. They’re very knowledgeable and they’re



“You don’t just start chucking anything into your body when you don’t know what it does”



Above: Stuart Garrington

trying things out and that’s more important to me than the science and stuff behind it. Just testing it. Seeing if it works. You read up on it, of course – you read packets and websites. You don’t just start chucking anything into your body when you don’t know what it does.”

In one particularly audacious claim, a supplement manufacturer, Gaspari, claims on its website, that its product, SuperPump 250, would cause ‘astronomical’ increases in muscle mass. Long hours in the gym? Apparently not, for they claim that one workout, one dose, is sufficient to benefit from up to a “947 per cent greater increase in lean mass.” Rick is cynical of companies’ aims. “Since consumers are easily swayed by ‘scientific proof’ and continue to buy the product, manufacturers will continue to sell it in this way.”

Taking a closer look at this study reveals that the actual lean mass increase experienced by the subjects taking 2-3 scoops of SuperPump 250 over a month was the somewhat less astronomical 2.1 per cent. Whether this is worth the £40 price tag, roughly a month’s supply, is of course up to the buyer. To Stuart, it is essential and easily comparable to buying a sports drink each time he trains. To others, perhaps not. “You need a base really. Getting the basics of training – getting the movements right. These supplements are designed to take you to the next level but if you don’t have the foundation right you’re not going to be able to push on. I’m talking six months to a year before you need to start looking into it. Take it before and sure you’ll get a better pump, but what’s the point? You’re gonna get a pump on anyway.”

As Rick points out, “There are some genuine performance-enhancing aids contained in some formulas that can benefit performance to varying extents. There is definitely strong evidence to suggest that Creatine, Beta-Alanine, Sodium Bicarbonate (baking soda) and even Caffeine aid performance in certain cases.”

It seems that irrespective of whether the shakes are used in the right way, it is counterproductive unless implemented in a sensible routine. Jamie* is a student in Halifax College, and is just about to graduate. “I go to the gym a lot and have quite a heavy routine in order to cope with the stress of finals coming up. I do take shakes, but I have started getting really hench on my shoulders and my legs just couldn’t keep up. I didn’t really have time, money or any particular will to look into exactly what workout would sort me out and make me look more in proportion.”

The website and magazine *Men’s Health* promotes workouts alongside high protein diets and different supplement brands to try. Whilst there is much less of a niche carved by the supplement market within women’s fitness, it seems even if people don’t know what the active ingredients are, the im-

age and the lifestyle sold alongside the supplements are important.

Whatever image is lusted after, is the branding backed by science? SuperPump 250 has over 40 ingredients plus the ‘proprietary blend.’ Each scoop contains twenty times your recommended daily allowance of Vitamin B12. Why? A recent study on Vitamin B12 supplementation showed that in a pill given to healthy people, only about 0.02% was actually absorbed.

Sean Carmody, medical student and Ireland international rugby player, is sceptical. “I’ve taken NO Xplode myself, and I did notice a huge energy boost (which is to be expected from all of the caffeine, taurine and sugar in it). However, I’m not sure if it is worth the extortionate price, or if it is more effective than ProPlus combined with an energy drink like Lucozade.”

A number of commonly marketed additional ingredients have failed to convince the scientific community too. According to a study that compiled data on over 250 substances commonly found in gym supplements, only two had data to support their ability to increase lean mass and strength. Rick tells me that most ingredients can be purchased separately rather than as part of a combined formula in order to sidestep consuming the ‘proprietary blends’.

In the UK, a variety of Acts dating back to 1968 help to prevent manufacturers from making false claims about their products. Despite this, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency is currently in the process of fining and potentially even imprisoning individuals who sell supplements with false claims to their efficacy. “For many, it is only a matter of time before they are investigated and removed,” says Rick.

But despite the inconclusive scientific evidence, a variety of casual gym-goers continue to spend considerable amounts of money on supplements and shakes.

“For me it’s all about the recovery time. If I don’t have a shake after a hard workout I’ll be stiff for three days. It completely throws my workout schedule out of sync. I mean I’m no gym monkey, I just like to keep myself in shape – even without stiffness it’s hard enough to motivate myself to go to the gym three times a week.”

It’s possible that Jack*, a first year student in James College, represents the views of many users of these products. As long as your student budget can bear the strain of what is essentially quite an expensive luxury, then, even without the full force of the benefits thrust at the consumer in the advertisements’ bold claims, the psychological boost alone may be worth it.

Pete*, a second year student, has a similar opinion: “I use

them to speed up recovery times, especially if I’ve been doing a muscle-building session. While you could get the same amount of protein from an omelette or some such, in protein shakes, the protein gets into your blood stream much quicker due to how they’re designed and this of course hastens your recovery.” When quizzed on the nature of the latest products on the market Pete is clear on where he stands. “I only use neat protein ones, rather than ones containing Glucose or Creatine – because I don’t trust what they could do to my body. We’ve haven’t had them long enough to know what the long term effects are.”

High protein foods - think fish and meat - are generally expensive. Unless you are a great devotee of lentils and pulses, protein shakes might possibly provide good value per gram of protein consumed, especially if it’s getting into your blood quicker.

But all these products are marketed as ‘supplements’, not ‘substitutes.’ It is important to remember no pre or post-workout shake can replace a healthy and balanced diet. And although many would respect the resolve and drive in crafting the kind of body necessary to compete at the top level of bodybuilding (last week even saw Stuart commenting on Twitter that he’d had three marriage proposals at his last show), it might be an idea to exercise a few brain cells too when deciding how much weight to give the claims made by the supplements industry. M

*Names have been changed.



Where the Wild Things Are



Splash on some colour, wrap up in prints and go wild in Versace for H & M. Just because the sky is grey does not mean your wardrobe has to be drab during the chilly season.

Photographer -

Philippa Grafton

Assistant - Tessa Barratt

Director - Paris Bennett

Models:

Francesca Martin

Erin Cork

Cameron Lange



Francesca
Dress, H & M, £34.99
Jacket, Versace for
H & M, £74.99
Glasses, Primark, £2.50
Earrings, Primark, £4.50

Erin
Coat, Primark, £14.99
Top, Primark, £9.99
Shorts, Deep, 24.00
Boots,
Hawkshead, £25.00
Earrings, Topshop, £7.50

Cameron
Shirt, Deep, £18
Sweat shirt, Deep, £19



Fashion.

About a Boy.

One of the beautiful people, Brit model Caleb, talks to **Paris Bennett**.



“...I loved playing football and just thought modelling was gay but it's not.”

Beautiful clothes must be worn by beautiful people, and rising star model, Caleb, is making waves in the industry in a very Westwood fashion. Nouse talks to Caleb about stereotypes, rejection and height **Was modelling always a dream job for you?**

I always wanted to be a footballer growing up, I tried hard at it for a while but if I had a choice now it would be a model for sure. I don't even keep up with football now, they way the game has gone made me lose interest. They're just money hungry 90 per cent of the time and there's no loyalty towards the clubs,

they just jump if someone offers a bigger pay cheque.

Who do you feel are currently the top models in the world? Do you aspire to be like them?

There are a few I really like at the moment that people keep comparing me to, big names in the industry like Dudley O'Shaughnessy at Next Models and Sebastian Sauve at Premier. It is nice to be compared to them but I don't think I'm anything like them, not yet anyway.

How did you get into modelling?

I sort of fell in to it as my girlfriend, Ursula, suggested I do it, but I loved playing football and just thought modelling

was gay but it's not. I have loads of gay friends now and I've modelled for *Attitude* magazine a couple of times. I started modelling properly by the age of 23 so I arrived in the industry really late. My aim is to try and become a model that is known as a really good one, I'm not bothered about earning loads of money and I would happily quit modelling being the most well known model from just doing editorials as some things are more important than money. I always wanted to be with D1 models as I've always rated their models as they have such a cool mix of male models but they rejected me in February last year. I was devastated but I kept in touch with one of their bookers and ended up joining them in October. I was over the moon!

Who have you been most star struck about meeting in your modelling career?

To be honest with you I haven't met anyone that famous since I have been modelling, I just look at people as equal. The only difference is that they're in the public eye and we are not it makes them no better than us.

What has been your favourite modelling assignment?

It has to be shooting Vivienne Westwood's collection last year celebrating her 40 years in the industry for *Disorder Magazine*. I'm meant to be going on the cover of June/July's issue this year with the pictures from the shoot. I was unsigned when I got it and was making my own contacts in the industry.

Models are sometimes unfairly labelled as being 'dumb'. Have you come

across this stereotype?

Yeah, some models are dumb or just pretend to be like the *Only way is Essex* lot saying stupid things — I've seen it, but some are students at uni and just do modelling to make money on the side so

so they can't all be that stupid.

Where do you see yourself working in 10 years?

I would like to think I'd have achieved everything I wanted in the modelling industry by then. I would like to become a booker at D1. I think I would be good because I know what it's like to come from the bottom to the top. I remember signing on at Peckham Job Centre, thinking I hope one day modelling works out for me, I've been rejected, gone away, come back, been rejected again, I've been dropped. It's a tough industry to do well in but if you look after yourself and listen to advice people give you, you're halfway there. A lot of people ask me for advice now, which is nice to think they rate me enough to ask for my help. I just always say take a break, a step back and look at who's doing well then, think what can I do to make me be different to everyone else, that's what I did and I like to think my look is unique now.

If you could work with any designer or wear a certain designers clothes who would it be?

Well I've worn Vivienne Westwood's clothes for *Disorder Magazine*. Everyone keeps saying I have the Vivienne Westwood look so hopefully that can happen, I just love her clothes the way

Men's.

India Block

FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

Whilst his red carpet outfits have always shown that he knows the importance of a well-cut suit, his stunning songstress wife, Alexandra Edenborough, usually outshines him. This has been the case in Gary Oldman's career too; it seems shocking that at the age of 53, and with a career spanning over 30 years, it is only now that he has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. With an Oscar nomination under his belt he'll be making waves at the awards ceremonies this season, but he's also been stirring the waters in Men's Fashion. Oldman was one of several notable actors who walked for Prada's A/W12 Collection, looking every inch a model in the Eastern Bloc military inspired coats, despite being only 5'7" and clearly decades older than the average model.

It is perhaps not much of a surprise that Oldman played the part of a clothes horse so well. A consummate actor known for his ability to 'disappear' into a role with incredible skill, he has been described by fellow celebrity Ralph Fiennes as a 'genius' at his craft. Clearly he approached this new role on the catwalk with similar verve. Sartorially, Oldman's roles have always had something of a flair for fashion — he made his name playing Sid Vicious in the 1989 film, *Sid and Nancy*, wearing the now-iconic Sex Pistols uniform. In 2004 he experienced something of a career renaissance, starring in the role of Harry

Potter's godfather in the Box Office smash Warner Brothers series. As Sirius Black, he had a fantastic wardrobe of crushed velvet suits in beautifully muted shades of rich purple sloe and olive green pinstripes, paired with contrasting waistcoats.

His latest Blockbuster roles have been perhaps less flamboyant in the costume department, but no less trend setting. In his Oscar nominated role, as secret agent, George Smiley, in the 2011 remake of *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, he appears in some seriously covetable 70's suits, often paired with every sleuth's best friends — the beige mackintosh and a hidden revolver. This summer he will be gracing our big screens as Gotham's eternal good guy, Commissioner James Gordon in the final instalment of the Batman trilogy: *The Dark Knight Rises*. Despite a questionable moustache, trailers show him reprising the familiar wardrobe of understated yet authoritative suits.

Oldman takes on the roles that all men dream of playing — from the bad boy punk rocker to the suave super spy. This 'Oldman aftershock' has been felt in men's fashion. Having the ability to dress up, of taking on a new identity is something that has been explored in new depths in the latest rounds of Ready-to-Wear collections. The Hollywood Heartthrob look is out, this Autumn/Winter it's all about the mysterious and discreetly sexy. Prada gave the look an extravagant twist

with flashes of mustard, purple and deep orange peppering the sober blacks. Fur collars and rose tinted circular spectacles (modelled by another Actor-turned-Model for the night, Adrian Brody) added a fantasy element to the line of sleek double-breasted long coats. The over all effect was one of discreetly veiled

masculine authority. None of the outfits would have looked out of place on the set of a sophisticated spy film, perhaps why Oldman and his fellow actors added such gravitas to the catwalk performance.

Other designers such as Raf Simón's for Jil Sander continued the spy thriller fantasy with sophisticated greatcoat. Neat accessories gave a sleek and highly imitable edge to the collection, with many of the models clutching in their leather gloved grips discreetly monogrammed black paper bags. Rolled like an old fashioned lunch bag they glamorised the mundane in a bizarre way that really worked. The effect was as if last season's *Mad Men* Don Draper-esque chap had undergone espionage training in a top-secret location behind the Iron Curtain.

In this context, Prada's invitation to acting royalty was a stroke of inspiration, reinforcing the sense of simultaneous fantasy and reality — of amazing clothes allowing you to not only play a role, but to become that person for a night — or day. It would seem an exciting new door has been opened; allowing men to assume the dramatic costume or disguise usually reserved for women's fashion. A walk to the shops or the pub will transcend the mundane if you wear one of these incredible spy coats, and it's safe to bet the High Street will soon follow suit. Whatever the case, I predict both Gary Oldman and Men's Fashion are in for a very exciting year.



The Hot List

Embrace the Rainbow! Colour is having a real fashion moment this season, so the fashion-conscious amongst you should look to the likes of Lauren Conrad and Nicki Minaj for the ultimate in hair inspiration. Not experimenting quite so far as Julien Macdonald and his army of rainbow-haired models, these two style icons have embraced the tie-dye tip trend instead. It looks certain that tie-dye tips will be the IT summer festival hair of choice.

Jess Holland



This season the catwalks were awash with our feathered friends. Whether bright and brash, or simple and sophisticated, bird print is the next hot ticket. In their first collection for Kenzo, Humberto Leon and Carol Lim introduced a hint of the exotic to Paris, alongside bold colour-blocking and a nod to American Sportswear. Joining the flock were Carolina Herrera in New York and Giles in London.

Tessa Barratt



One of the main trends evidently seen on the runways was the 'Wet Look', which despite sounding unfinished and seemingly like the models had just had got out the shower and onto the catwalk, actually looks slick and surprisingly classy. Whether hair was oiled back into a sleek ponytail or styled in a messy chignon, this look was featured heavily by Chanel, Bottega Veneta and Donna Karen, staking its claim as one of the most popular styles for summer.

Charli Rose Lees



The Spring 2012 runway shows featured everything from pastels to paisley, but when it came to this season's silhouette, many designers thought alike: peplum! Peplums are a short flared fabric that accentuates the waist, creating the perfect hourglass figure.

Nina Ricci and Alexander McQueen went all-out romantic with layered lace and pretty frills. One step ahead of the trend was Michelle Williams and Emma Watson, who have both been seen wearing the latest feminine, peplum adorned collection from Jason Wu. Cate Blanchett, recently wore a Givenchy black dress, showing peplums also have a darker edge with black lace and feathers. So, this season don't shy away in the crowd!

Alissa O'Malley

Ralph Lauren 1 bestows a playful spirit through sharp zests of lime and grapefruit, inciting a taste for performance and victory. With the Ralph Lauren collection becoming such a huge hit, it is difficult to stop at just one fragrance. Ralph Lauren 3 radiates a thrilling scent of crisp mint, aromatic ginger, and has been described as the ultimate male fragrance with an air of aristocracy, enjoyed by Prince Harry. Ralph Lauren 1 & 3 - £38 for 75ml or £15 for a 200ml body spray.



Emily Woods

Campus Style.



How would you describe your look?

I wouldn't really say that I have a defined look. I tend to alternate it, depending on my mood for that day. One day I feel like Converse and boyfriend jeans and the next day I might feel like a dress and heels. My outfits reflect my need to change things a lot including different hair styles which I think also is a reflection of my fashion sense. I think my variation in outfits reflect the fact that I'm open minded to fashion and don't like being predictable.

Do you tend to choose clothes dependant on whether they are in the current season or not?

Not necessarily, I don't tend to buy items because they are in fashion or the current season. Also if something is no longer in season, I wouldn't stop wearing it just because it's no longer mainstream, which is an important part of showing individuality.

What would say is your favourite element to your fashion sense?

Definitely my hair! I feel as if it is the main feature that gives me my personal edge.

Andrew Adenmosun
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Robyn Adayear, English student

Fashion
taxidermy?



Paris Bennett
FASHION EDITOR

Fashion should push whatever boundaries it debatably has left to strain. In order for clothing to shock, it must be quite the innovative design. Madonna has become respectable, Pete Burns looks plain weird and Gaga is rather stagnant. Where art thou amazement? But there is a subject matter that flirts with the border of what is a line you may fear to tread.

Jean Paul Gaultier's latest collection, seen just days ago was received in horror by many onlookers. There was an unmistakable silhouette being trotted down a rich purple runway in Paris, the centre of the fashion world. It was an oversexed, over the top and ooh so Winehouse collection. The models, all with varying degrees of the intensity to the 'Amy Winehouse look', were aesthetically stunning. An icon, a figure of excess, a fearless yet fragile character that died long before her years, now a theme for a high fashion collection?

Firstly, ask yourself if you would like to dress in identical clothes to a tragic figure that recently died? Pretty much walk in their shoes, potentially promote a lifestyle that can kill and ultimately be a bizarre ghost to their look. Although one could argue that we all wish to have Marilyn's sex appeal or choose to smoke through a Hepburn 'esque telescopic holder, there is no problem with this form of homage. Certainly, time has numbed any upset that could be related to Monroe's early death and turbulent love life, or Hepburn's painfully thin appearance, so was Gaultier's mistake just bad timing?

Although it could be said not all of Gaultier's Spring Summer 2012 designs were 100% Amy, there were some absolute hardcore imitations. The beehive, black flicked up eyeliner, wine stained lips and Black to Black style veils, had definitely been seen before. In actuality, rather than look at the disrespectful side to the collection, we really should judge it on its lack of any originality. The Winehouse family were soon to make comment on what had been showed. "The family was upset to see those pictures, they were a total shock," Mitch Winehouse said. "We're still grieving for her loss, and we've had a difficult week with the six-month anniversary of Amy's death. To see her image lifted wholesale to sell clothes was a wrench we were not expecting or consulted on. We're proud of her influence on fashion but find black veils on models, smoking cigarettes with a barbershop quartet singing her music in bad taste. It portrays a view of Amy when she was not at her best, and glamorises some of the more upsetting times in her life."

One fan of the collection, *Vogue's* Harriet Quick said: "Couture gives him the space to really explore all the details and let his imagination run riot. It was Amy's diva, rockability, and Camden girls' sensibilities all brilliantly mixed." But it must be remembered that this industry that now celebrates her and almost in a rather taxidermist fashion shoves her back into the limelight, was ultimately the thing that killed her. The love, sex and rock 'n' roll side to the music business, which always flows with ease into the fashion world can be a stage in which icons can stand. However, Gaultier in his latest look has failed to include the eating disorders, heartbreaks and drug taking that are too often glamorised and tucked into a puffy hairstyle in the name of 'fashion'. Bad taste in this collection is an understatement.



Arts.

The Bigger Picture

David Hockney takes on the Yorkshire landscape with his iPad, **Celia Scruby** investigates.



Photos above and right : Flickr

David Hockney's blockbuster exhibition, 'The Bigger Picture,' has been described by the Royal Academy as "boldly moving into artistic territory that no one has explored before." The demand for tickets to see these epic Yorkshire landscapes caused the Royal Academy's ticketing website to crash in the week leading up to the exhibition and with tickets being auctioned on Ebay, but for almost double their original price; critics are calling it Hockney-mania.

But how have Hockney's landscapes managed to receive so much attention, when our contemporary art establishments-museums, galleries and Art schools - seem to be so utterly dazzled by the diamond encrusted ambiguities of conceptual art? Indeed, Hockney mentioned in an interview with Will Gompertz that "people told [him] that the landscape genre was worn out and no longer fashionable." So, it seems the attention his landscapes have gained is a result of a more subtle innovation.

Though some of the most striking paintings in the exhibition, such as 'Winter Timber' and 'The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate' are obviously impressive due to their size, there is a compelling quality in his landscapes which lures you towards them like a moth to a flame, but what exactly this essence is, is hard to put your finger on. Until, however, you are told that Hockney made the studies for these vistas with a controversial new medium, the iPad. Hockney says "the landscape genre might be worn out, but the landscape

itself can't be, it needs re-looking at" and by using the tablet the 74 year old artist goes one step further. He recaptures the Yorkshire Broads crystallising his home county in the high resolution pixels of the ambient iPad screen. What the iPad lends to Hockney's work is an emanating luminosity.

Hockney comments that the fact that the iPad is "illuminated" allows you to see that same quality as in his paintings. And you really can see this in his grasses and leaves, alive with layers of artificially bright greens. Rather than create a paradox between the natural subject of Hockney's pieces and the technology he uses, the iPad draws attention to living quality of the landscape through Hockney's attention to the light in his colours.

Hockney started drawing on his iPhone in 2008 using an app called Brushes, sending images he had created to his friends, very literally with the touch of a hand. One of the things Hockney enjoyed about working with this technological medium was the opportunity it gave him to distribute his work which was so profoundly new. He could make a drawing of the sunrise he saw from his bedroom window at six o'clock in the morning and an hour later send it out to people, Hockney

remarked how his friends "got a very fresh picture of the sunrise two hours earlier and they all loved it". The immediacy of being able to capture a moment and exhibit it is thrilling, like being presented with freshly-picked flowers which grew in a garden just hours earlier; the instantaneity of recording the subject allows a vivacious quality to remain intact. Hockney adds that "if I had a pencil and paper by my bedside the sunrise wouldn't be that interesting." Once Hockney mastered drawing with the Brushes App, he began to see that the iPad was a terrific new medium and a very clever tool he could use.

The accessibility and speed of which you can draw with the iPad is something Hockney found very useful in capturing his landscapes. He mentions that "The

surface with unrestrained freedom. According to the speed to which Hockney's finger moves over the screen dictates the weight of the mark he makes, a quick stroke leaves a wispy strand while a more deliberate jab creates a thick smear. The sensitivity of the gadget is remarkable and the intimate relationship between the physical human touch and the iPad's technical response to it makes it unsurprising that Hockney admitted "to getting so carried away sometimes that I wipe my fingers at the end thinking that I've got paint on them."

However, there has been criticism of Hockney's touch screen revolution, and some accuse him of effectually cheating by using the iPad as a means of "painting" because it removes the need for paint brushes, canvas and even paint itself. And, there have been claims that this negates the skill needed to accomplish the interplay between the artist, the paint and the tools. However, Hockney makes the very good point that technology affects things all the time and especially art. He reminds critics of the iPad that "you couldn't have had impressionism without the invention of the collapsible tubes so you could take paint outside". In the same way painters manipulate paint to convey an image, Hockney manipulates the properties of the iPad to the same effect. For him painting is about three things: the hand, the eye, and the art, and to him, the iPad is a direct point conglomeration for this trio. For Hockney it's a no brainer: "who wouldn't want one? Picasso or Van Gogh would have snapped one up."

"People told him that the landscape genre was worn out and no longer fashionable."

paradox of East Yorkshire is that the landscape is essentially unchanging but its weather is very changeable, altering the light and colour as the clouds pass over head." With the iPad, Hockney found that he could establish the basic colour and the tone of the sky in two seconds and put in some faint clouds in three seconds. Watching Hockney 'paint' on his iPad is fascinating; in the interview with Will Gompertz, Hockney is filmed earnestly making deft marks on the screen, his finger skating on the

Da Vinci in Pictures: Painter at the Court of Milan (National Gallery until 5th February)



Madonna and Child



Portrait of a Musician



Lady with an Ermine



Leonardo Da Vinci



Virgin on the Rocks

Derek Acorah: The Art of Unlocking the Mind

James Harle caught up with the psychic during a brief rest from his busy tour.

Derek Acorah is one of the leading names in British mediumship, and he's currently touring a show in which he does what he does best - contact the spirits of the dead; with the help of his Ethiopian spirit guide, Masumi. Realising his gifts at an early age, Derek became a full time medium while he was still a young man. His career in the public eye began with Granada's magazine show 'Livetime,' and Acorah soon set off for Los Angeles to investigate paranormal activity in Hollywood. Today, Derek is one of Britain's best-loved mediums, and arguably the most notable male medium in the UK.

"It's all about energy and reading-energy - and it's called psychometrising, on programmes like the 'Antiques Ghost Show,' when I'm reading residual energy left on objects" says Acorah, concerning his ability to explore the paranormal through other things, like objects and buildings. "When I hold such an object, that energy comes to the fore, and gives me an insight into the history of that object. The more objects, or the more personal the objects, the greater the energy, the more accurate the reading" he goes on to explain. The leading medium elaborates on the information that can be extrapolated from personal possessions: "If I could get all of someone's possessions together, I'd know almost



them than perhaps other mediums are. But whoever you are, your life will be enriched by surrounding yourself with animals - I know mine is."

In his first book, *The Psychic World of Derek Acorah: Discover How to Develop your Hidden Powers*, Acorah discussed how we all have some sort of dormant psychic ability. It is clear he still main-

in fact, if anything, it strengthens me sometimes. There are times when I can really get the bit between my teeth and say 'Really? Is that really what you say?' because it means nothing." In the face of criticism, some of it bordering into the ridiculous, Acorah continues to do what he does best: "Onwards and upwards- I will not stop working.

"Sensitivity is not a closed shop for a select few - it's open to all, to everyone, Everyone has latent psychic ability."

everything about them - you can pick up health conditions, emotions, important times for that person - there's a huge amount of information forthcoming with psychometry."

Acorah is not just interested in human spirits however. Animals also feature in his study of energy: "My belief is that, very often, domesticated animals such as dogs and cats which people take into their homes and look after, and love- they've also got spirit within. And after death, they're transported to the animal kingdom in the world of spirit. They can and do come back, in their numbers, just as any other family member would, and when they do it's a visitation just like any other" the medium comments. His childhood was shaped by a love of animals: "I was brought up from an early age with animals all around me, from a very early age - so I've always felt a real kinship with animals. Maybe that's why I'm more interested in

tains this belief: "Yes, without question. Everyone is born with this facility, this talent. I've always said, that sensitivity is not a closed shop for a select few- it's open to all, to everyone, because everyone has latent psychic ability." In fact, having animals around is a good way to develop that; animals, unlike us human beings, don't have intellect - they work by instinct" he explains.

Although, psychic powers may be available to all, Acorah has encountered his share of sceptics throughout his career; yet he remains unfazed in his work: "I believe there is an arrogance in people who are sceptical-minded, and cynical-minded. I'm sorry to say, James, that a lot of them are journalists. But I've lived with sceptics for so long, I've realised that in order to do my work and stay committed and vocational, I have to deal with this sort of thing like any medium. It doesn't alter my attitude, my actions, my thought- it doesn't alter me.

It's amazing to me - for example, I've had write-ups of my stage show where a journalist has come along and written something totally, totally, totally different from what went on during the evening. They've made rude, arrogant, horrible statements, one even said he'd seen my dressing room; he said it was all dressed up, full of flowers and chocolates and lights - he made out that I was a bit of a diva. And the truth of the matter was, it was actually a very bare little room, very minimal. I don't know what he was talking about- it didn't even have a carpet," says the personality.

Derek's new tour 'True Vision' began before Christmas and comes to York on 3rd February.

Editor's Picks.

Mary O'Connor

3rd February- 5th February

The Drama Barn 19.30

Dorian

Will Self's adaptation of the timeless classic transports Gray and his comrades to the 1980s and 1990s. Depicting these characters as exaggerated forms of drug-taking homosexuals; the adaptation nevertheless still retains the witty repartee and irony of the original novel. The Barn will be transformed into Basil Hallward's studio, where viewers will be thrown into the brutally hysterical world Oscar Wilde crafted for his readers, but in a modern arena.

11th February

Space 109 Community Arts

Walmgate, York 18.00-22.00

Action Art Now

Action Art Now is a series of performing arts events, curated by O U I Performance, York, UK. Bringing together over 25 artists, Action Art Now presents new work by visionaries whose work speaks against the institution and the commercial art industry. Initially disconcerting, Action Art Now is rich in intellectual exploration, and well worth the visit.



Best Book

Lucy Dickens

The Marriage Plot

By Jeffrey Eugenides

Eugenides had a lot to live up to in publishing his third novel, *The Marriage Plot*. The highly acclaimed *Virgin Suicides* and Pulitzer prize-winning *Middlesex* were published 18 and 10 years ago respectively; with critics and readers alike clamouring for *The Marriage Plot's* release. Having had mixed reviews, ranging from the scathing to the gushingly complimentary, *The Marriage Plot*, nevertheless, delivers an immensely enjoyable read.

The plot details about a year in the lives of three college students, having just graduated from Brown University. Madeleine, the English graduate, is in love with the idea of 'romance' and the brilliant, but deeply troubled Science major, Leonard Bankhead. Mitchell, the Religious Studies graduate is perpetually perplexed about the meaning of his existence and the nature of his unrequited and 'secret' love for his friend, Madeleine.

The story starts the day the three graduate, and after hearing their back-stories, we follow them on their first year as 'mature' adults.

Madeleine leaves with Leonard for Pilgrim Lake Genetics Lab, and although she has habitually avoided the company of the mentally ill and socially marginalised; she marries her manic-depressive boyfriend and re-applies to graduate school. Leonard's character in these pages is infinitely more developed than Madeleine's, unfortunately, and I was left always desiring to hear more of Madeleine than Eugenides gave. Saying this, however, she becomes slightly grating at times, lacking Leonard's charisma and depth. Madeleine remains slightly two dimensional compared to Leonard and

Mitchell for the duration of the novel; and Mitchell's love for her is never fully comprehensible because of this.

Mitchell travels to Europe with his best friend Larry to 'find himself' and forget about Madeleine. He cannot make up his mind about whether he is in love with Madeleine or in love with the idea of being in love; and somewhere between Paris and Calcutta makes his conclusion. The self-reflective and self-deprecating wit Eugenides weaves into Mitchell's character warms the reader to him, much more so than to Madeleine or Leonard.

Mitchell is the character who, while rather unsure of himself, is the most open and honest, perhaps displayed by the fact that Eugenides reveals much more about him than Leonard and Madeleine. Leonard remains quite mysterious and Madeleine, passive and dull.

The novel's strengths are in Eugenides' beautiful writing style and character-led plot. The under-development of Madeleine may not be a weakness as many critics have asserted, but merely the embodiment of the fact that she is, fundamentally, a boring person. In spite of this perhaps intentional lack of depth in her character, it is impossible not to feel disappointed with the lack of a strong female protagonist. The complexity and mysteriousness of Mitchell and Leonard, however, more than make up for this short-coming.

Although not raucous, the humour in Eugenides' writing is frequent and entertaining. Teeming with references to all manner of academia, ranging from literary theory to molecular biology; *The Marriage Plot* will not disappoint those looking for a "serious" read; while remaining immeasurably readable with its fluid prose and engaging plot.

Editor's Favourites.

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

(January 2012)

Some may think this is simply a love story, but upon reading it, you discover it is so much more. *Me Before You* traces the story of Lou Clark, a disillusioned young woman who loses her job, and at the same time questions her love for boyfriend, Patrick. Her path

intertwines with the life of Will Traynor, a man who has a motorbike accident, leaving him severely disabled. What neither of the characters realise is that they will soon be shaping each others' worlds impermeably. Jojo Moyes' beautifully crafted writing presents a heart-breaking issue with humanity and dignity.

Warhorse by Michael Morpurgo

(Republished November 2011)

With its magnificent stage production and recent film

adaptation, the story of Albert and his loyal horse, Joey, continues to warm hearts, with the endurance of man's spirit; and the fortitude of friendship during one of the most horrifying epochs of our history.

Music.

Endtroducing.... DJ Shadow

Spheres, shadows and creating 'Instrumental Hip Hop': Rory Foster is told all by the veteran DJ.

The warm reception and complementary bottles of water on arrival at Leeds' O2 Academy did nothing to stop me nervously screwing up the first question I gave to my favourite artist with a 'DJ' in the name. I was, however, somewhat relieved to find myself talking to a sombre and thoughtful 30-something without feeling too belittled by him.

California-born Josh Davis has been creating albums under the moniker 'DJ Shadow' for the best part of 15 years, and is best known for his first, the genre-creating *Endtroducing....* Cited as the first 'instrumental hip hop' album, its genesis is from samples and samples only, for which it holds a Guinness world record as the first to do so. However I'm sure Davis is fed up of being asked too much about an album that came out a decade and a half ago, and so instead I start by attempting to enquire about the title of 2011's *The Less You Know the Better*, before my tongue decides it's going to do its own thing.

Luckily my interviewee is much more relaxed and immediately sets the tone; providing sagely answers to my questions, followed by much head nodding from me. After reeling off 'Brain Salad Surgery', 'Automatic for the People' and 'Nevermind' as examples of "classic" titles that are "open to interpretation", he explains how his latest album title is based on the distracting influence of having too much media in your life. Much like his musical approach, DJ Shadow prefers to take a step back and reflect on the bigger picture rather than getting swept away in the latest fads.

"It's better to hover above rather than walking in the crowd - I want to see how all the chess pieces move."

DJ Shadow isn't easily swayed by musical trends, but instead likes to pick and choose his favourite samples from a wide variety of eras: "I definitely would not suggest listening to less music" is one of the many guiding principles he hands down to me in the 15 minutes I have with him; and he sticks to this maxim with great vigour.

Reported to have a record collection numbering in the tens of thousands, (everything from hip-hop to metal to 50s' crooners fuels his five LPs), it's no surprise that pinpointing his musical style tricky. So people decided to invent a new one up for him: Instrumental hip-hop. Instrumental hip-hop is effectively hip-hop without the rapping on top, and many hip-hop producers and electronic artists have added to and been influenced by what DJ Shadow started with *Endtroducing....*; RJD2, part-time collaborator U.N.K.L.E and Madlib, to name a few, have carried the sound forward.

The latter also carries over to the gig itself, which I'm here to see later the same evening. An ageing crowd enthusiastically greets someone who, for them, probably released one of the most important albums of the '90s. But this doesn't mean DJ Shadow caters just for them, and the set is a mix of his own material and others. We are treated to a whole range of his five LPs, most of which have been tweaked for the dance floor. A particular highlight was a ridiculous out-of-nowhere remix of Lil Wayne's 'A Milli' but the music was almost eclipsed by the frankly incredible mirage of the 'Shadowsphere' - a now iconic feature of his live sets. A giant white sphere effectively functions as a film screen onto which a spectacular array of animations, images and messages are projected during the show.

I'm curious to find out more about the inspiration behind this 'Shadowsphere', and he seems proud to talk about it; he lets out a brief chuckle as I recall his Glastonbury set last year - an

"It's better to hover above rather than walking in the crowd - I want to see how all the chess pieces move"

event which caused a friend of mine to be quite overwhelmed by the visual ecstasy that ensued. I am also treated to a brief history of DJ Shadow in live form: from supporting Radiohead to playing Glastonbury with nothing but his own DJ turntables as a show and a one story high platform with nine screens in the tour prior to this. "I could have either gone bigger or more flash or more conceptual," says DJ Shadow, and whilst my opinion is that it seems both of these are true, he sees it as more conceptual. When I finally get to see the magic globe it does not disappoint. One minute being cut in half with a saw, the next flying over cities and forests, then a death star; the sphere could have been synced to *JLS* and it probably would have still impressed the ageing crowd.

Shadow's diverse and sharply synced music however, takes the experience to new heights. Shadow spent half



the time hidden within the sphere, the other half swivelled round and viewing his audience as he played with the wide array of equipment: ranging from typical record players to a miniature drum kit hooked up to the visuals. DJ Shadow explains to me how he puts as much energy into his live performances as he does his albums, and I believe him; despite angering the crowd near the end by mistakenly thanking Birmingham, rather than the Leeds crowd who he was actually playing to.

Above: the sage DJ Shadow.

By the end of the night my most vivid memory of the interview, is one of the last anecdotes of many that DJ Shadow left me nodding away to: "When you listen to music for a long time you realise that it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to just blow with the wind, nor does it make sense to close your ears off." Coming from the man who's been a DJ for longer than I've been alive, he imparts a final piece of wisdom: "I try to find a middle ground where it can be inspired by an artist...but not imitate someone."

REVERB.

"It's concentrated. It's raw emotion. It's almost like a scene from her diary - she seems to be in love like a motherfucker."

Napalm Death

Frontman Barney Greenway talks to **Alex Swadling** about their latest album, angry music and frustrated thoughts.

Brummie accents usually make my teeth grit, but frontman Mark 'Barney' Greenway's is treacle. Napalm Death aren't treacle. Napalm make my teeth grind and spit out frustrations not just felt by me, but fucking everyone. Even that metallor kid in *Skins* with bad hair. Barney used to have terrible hair – maybe this connection explains their cameo on the E4 show last February. It doesn't explain Barney's more recent appearance in a *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*' line-up in November though.

"We're obviously a serious band, but we're not just gonna stand around po-faced" Barney smirks, as we sit discussing the guy who looked like Wolverine from the line-up, but nothing about interesting hair choices. TV appearances like these are usually symptoms of a past-it band, but Napalm are far from it. Thirty years down the line, Napalm are easily one of the most influential and best British grindcore bands with 15 studio albums and numerous world-wide tours to name. A month after returning from their tour across Canada, Napalm are in York to kick off their European tour.

"You're used to touring in unusual places aren't you?" I gush, knowing full well that Napalm were the first band to play in South Africa with the ANC back in '91. "Yeah we do, the thing is, what a lot of bands don't understand is there are other things to do out there other than Europe [...]. Don't get me wrong, they're nice places, but part of being in a band is the experience of seeing the world and actually getting out there, because sometimes everyone can have a very blinkered perspective," Barney explains. "[Touring in South Africa], it was quite dangerous at points. There were couple of extreme Afrikaans who weren't at all pleased with the things that



Above: Napalm Death with frontman Barney in chains.

we were saying when we were down there, you know what I mean?"

Barney asks me if I know what he means a lot. That sounded flippant. What I mean is, he doesn't preach at me or lurk on doorsteps, he just simply spells out everything that is unfair. "I'm an observer" Barney clarifies. "You can be in a band and go through the motions and just not murmur." Murmur? Napalm do not. Relentlessly fast and chaotic and with the contradiction of their violent sound and peacefully themed lyrics, *Napalm* never allow their listeners a break. Life doesn't have breaks, duh. But that's important, because *Napalm* recognise how difficult it is to be heard. "People aren't listened to when they say, you know, life is fucking shit. My life is shit; those people's lives are shit; do something about it. Nothing gets done. They get ignored. I don't condone violence, but there is a pressure point," Barney states, as I ask him his thoughts on the summer rioting across the UK.

There are no lighters in the air at a Napalm gig – it's pretty brutal, you experience that pressure. Napalm don't just tell frustration, they make you feel it and be moved by it – often that movement is my head becoming

lodged in someone's armpit, but that's not the point.

Unsurprisingly, their latest album is no different. Barney tells me more about the album's title *Utilitarian*, which will be released later this month. "There are a couple different meanings to it actually, but [the album] is about the philosophical concept, which is actually pretty complex. What I'm doing is contextualising it and thinking about the effects of our actions. Like, when you go to shop and buy something, who's that gonna affect? Whose life is it gonna fucking ruin or whose is it gonna make?" He continues. "When you think about that sort of stuff, you do think are all my efforts making any difference? And you do become quite dejected at points. But, I guess the conclusion is that you should persevere, because every dissenting voice is one more dissenting voice; it's one less person who has been shaped by the government and a very conservative media. It's one more person saying, no, I'm not accepting this."

Napalm's voice can be heard loud among them – a voice which has travelled all over the world and deserves to be listened to. "We could've quite easily died a death but we stuck through it," Barney smiles.

Local Spotlight.

Part of a rapidly growing music scene in York, Ambulance are a refreshingly different outfit plying their trade across our fair city's music venues and across the York university campus.

Recently celebrating their one year anniversary, Ambulance first came to fruition from a late night D-bar conversation about The Smiths between bass player Andrew and energetic frontman Rich. After recruiting guitarist Tague from the crowd leaving a BandSoc meeting, halls of residence provided the rest of the line up with Han the keyboard player and Tom the drummer and technician completing the five-piece. The band are an entertaining live spectacle even

though their genre is quite difficult to place as bassist Andrew Derlien confirms, "our sets are unusual, aggressive, energetic fun, but no-one can seem to put their finger on who we sound like and what we are exactly – but we like this!"

After playing a headline gig at the Duchess to a sizeable crowd of devoted followers, Ambulance are set to play at Stereo on 25th February with a host of other York based bands. After this they go on to support the exciting new band Veronica Falls on the 11th March at Fibbers. Their popularity amongst York uni students means a whole host of other appearances can be expected with the band frequently playing at the campus

bars. Their EP entitled *Mother* is out now and is well worth a listen. *Joni Roome*

www.myspace.com/mother_ep



Reviews.

Artist: Slow Club
Date: 20th December
Venue: Union Chapel
Review: Sam Briggs

★★★★

Despite the release of critically acclaimed second album, *Paradise*, Slow Club's 2011 is again brought to a close with their traditional show in Islington's beautiful Union Chapel. However, the effervescent charm of the duo and their impressive songcraft stops the show ever being a case of stepping backwards. The dub-tinged soul of Psychologist served to open proceedings, who brought the tender emotional heart of his darkest tracks to the fore with a haunting piano-led set. Even the comedy in the bizarre dance moves and mistiming of the man on "electronics" failed to detract from the impressive vocals of Iain Woods, as his tender howl reverberated around the pews. Paying tribute to their Sheffield roots they open with a stripped back take on the *Pulp* classic 'Disco 2000', Slow Club which immediately conjures the intimacy and fun that make their live shows so endearing. "One day we'll be

Artist: Yuck
Date: 16th January
Venue: Leadmill, Sheffield
Review: Sam Briggs

★★

"Who are you going to see? Yuck?" My gran doesn't get it. From their blatant "borrowing" from the cream of various '90s alternative scenes on their fuzz laden self-titled debut to the regulation double denim outfits, Yuck's name typifies the attitude some might see in them – tongue firmly in cheek. When interviewing them on their last visit to York, our chat was based mainly around average cheese-based comedy and watching drummer Jonny play *Space Invaders*. If you ever need to lure a bear out of a cave – use Camembert. The '90s revival seems in full swing, as opening band Gross Magic manage to filter the glam era through *Nirvana's* grunge haze and the following Fanzine's syrupy jams. With the simple hand-scrawled logo plastered across the back of the stage, *Yuck* arrive to satisfy the Pavement t-shirt clad masses. As lacking as the band may appear



a serious band Charles", teases Rebecca Taylor, as the start of a song clunks to a halt. "We need to believe we'll be the Kings of Bloody Leon."

Marking the end of 2011 that could have boosted Slow Club into a new strata of popularity and exposure, with the tradition that they have ended the last few years on, might suggest a band waning. However, the night's focus proves it to be anything but – a celebration of new material, with a set consisting mostly of newly released, or yet to be released tracks, that are consistently promising. Their self-ironising even extends to the merchandise, and their "Happy Christmas Again" t-shirts. The greatest irony of the evening, however, is the real ambition, irresistible charm and sequence of polished pop gems that underpin the band's deprecations.



in the originality department, the tracks from the album played tonight defy any derivative jibes. 'Get Away' is euphoric, the melodies of 'Georgia' compelling, and the subtlety of 'Suck' worthy of any Red House Painters comparisons. The consistency of their output is reflected in the album-length disc of b-sides released in the latter half of last year, of which 'Milkshake' aired tonight is the highlight, boding well for Yuck's life expectancy. Unfortunately, the possible self-indulgence that the band enter into as the set draws to a close fails to engage the audience's attention. The anthemic dirge of 'Rubber' and less saccharine melodies of 'The Base of a Dream is Empty' lack the melodic pull of the set's earlier attraction.

Nouse Playlist. *Sam Briggs*

Happy New Year!

You may have kept up your resolutions, maybe not. Regardless, soundtrack your euphoric start to the new year, or more likely the failed February finish. You're not actually going to the gym again are you?

The Zombies - 'This Will Be Our Year'

Fingers crossed.

Bob Marley - 'Redemption Song'

"Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery". If Bob can do it, so can you. Best to aim high.

S Club 7 - 'Reach'

Climb every mountain higher. But

then don't find waking up everyday in self-loathing, then in a racism row following your appearance on a shit reality show.

Shane McGowan - 'The Donegal Express'

The soundtrack to a booze and fags free January.

Bert Jansch - 'The Bright New Year'

We hope yours is brighter than Bert's.

U2 - 'New Year's Day'

Bono continues being a good example and prepares for another year of tax dodging.

Film.

Sound Mixing

John Ross, one of the biggest names in the industry, talks to **Elle Hoppe**.

In our celebrity-obsessed culture, the awards season focuses on the beautiful and doesn't do justice to the people behind the scenes of the movie industry. The sound in films is hugely underestimated and rarely given attention. For example, *The Artist* is without dialogue but the subject of sound is pivotal and the flow of the film is so perfect due to the intricate editing. The same way it takes acting coaches and directors to make a picture, it takes a mixer to tie-in the sound.

Individual components are handed to the mixer and they make sure the whole film sounds seamless. These components include the Foley which is made in a studio where every sound made in a film is recreated with props; ADR – the locale for extras to devise lines of the characters on screen and the main actors to re-do every line; and the Soundtrack, which, if original, is created on a massive soundstage with a gargantuan orchestra.

John Ross works from home in his lavish Hollywood mansion that boasts the best view of Los Angeles (having retired in his old studio but got bored after three years) with his beautiful wife and three Labradors - his children. As we speak I imagine him in his 'happy place' surrounded by guitars (around 24) in his music studio.

John was born and raised in South Africa, playing in a band before and after serving his compulsory time in the army but always fascinated by sound. John started doing the live sound for bands in Sun City, South Africa, and was offered a job with Diana Ross, and made his move to the USA, aged 24, working on the road with many big names.

John was fascinated by emerging computer technologies, especially Fairlight CMI, which is "the first of what we know now of Digital Audio Workstations". It consisted of a sampling keyboard, which could emulate orchestras. "At the time it was ground-breaking but would seem crude by today's standards."

John ended up working with Thomas Dolby (a name you don't have to be a film buff to have heard of) and the two of them opened up a small recording studio, based on the technology available at the time. They worked



in the music business for about four years and had the idea to move into Post Production using those tools to revolutionise the motion picture. "Up until fairly recently the sound for movies was generated on film-style recording tape (reels) that was synchronised with film by a mechanical connection."

Thomas and John recognised that there was a way to record the same sounds but fire them out of a comput-

"It's pretty much like painting with sound."

er memory. "At that point in time they were totally random and nonlinear. You could put sound earlier or later in time, substitute sounds very easily and do all things that were difficult." Readapting what was meant for the music industry and making it work for motion pictures.

Many in the industry were heavily opposed to John's approach. The Studio System encouraged the traditional model, as the unions were very powerful in that environment. "The unions' goal was to employ as many people as they

possibly could and the older model was very conducive to that."

Thomas and John were still limited to small projects, as bigger films wouldn't go near them as a nonunion facility. As their new system grew, word spread and it became less of an issue – the studios began to understand how useful the new technique was. John recounts: "It changed from a singular sampling system dedicated to computers, to more of an environment."

John loves what he does. He described to me the process of sound mixing as "pretty much like painting with sound. You start out with a fairly blank canvas or uninteresting canvas and you start weaving these various layers in and out and it becomes very intriguing just as painting a picture would be."

I asked what his favourite film to work on was and he replied: "It was most intriguing working with David Lynch, he's fantastic because he's a very non-conventional filmmaker, he would do things that would be considered strange by other folk in his sound approach and I guess his films are fairly strange."

John continues, "I did *Lost Highway* with him and other projects. He'd bring in all these various pieces of music that he owned and I would put them up on the samplers and play them backwards and forwards, half-speed and double-speed, and we ran that on into the console with all these different faders, feeding totally random pieces of information into the fader and he would sit there and write it up against the film and create this very avant-garde, on-the-moment, in-the-moment score which was very intriguing. You would never see anyone really even attempt that." Recounting: "A creative accident."

John was revolutionary to the world of sound, still open to evolving it further. He offers an experience that trumps any studio, inviting you into his home and giving his innovative edge to any movie handed to him. The hours are long and it's his level of dedication that puts him above and beyond. John's modesty makes it sound like everything just fell into place but having seen him at work I can see why he is still considered the best mixer in town.

Going up



- Silent film
- Fassbender's bottom
- Our growing DVD collection with Ryan Gosling's face

- No Oscar noms for *We Need To Talk About Kevin*
- Katherine Heigl's one dimensional character profile
- *Harry Potter* not getting any recognition



Going down

Reviews.

Film: *The Artist*
 Director: Michel Hazanavicius
 Starring: Jean Dujardin
 Runtime: 100 mins
 Review: Hannah Wills



The plot centres on Hollywood filmmaking, opening with a movie inside a movie. We are transported back to the 1920s, a time when films were screened in picture houses and audiences respected viewings as an event to don their finest attire. The star of the show, George Valentin (Jean Dujardin), delights his audience with charming facial expressions and an alarmingly dazzling set of nashers. The story follows the life and acting career of Valentin and his descent at the introduction of 'talkies'. His stardom is overshadowed by new sweetheart, Peppy

Miller (Bérénice Bejo), who swiftly establishes herself in the Hollywood scene. The stunning actress takes charm to another level, alluringly flirting her way through the film and animating emotions with the most charismatic of expressions. It is no wonder these actors can pass on sound – it is a pleasure merely to look at them. *The Artist* defines Hollywood glamour with striking costume and set. There are plenty of twists and turns within the narrative that embellish the classic style of the film. The brave inclusion of modern-day stylistic devices detracts from an imposition to authenticate a 1920s silent movie. In other words, the film does not try to be something that it's not. Although on first impressions *The Artist* may seem targeted towards a specific crowd, but it's unpretentious and fresh take on silent cinema welcomes a wide range of audiences to delight in the art of film for how it first begun.

Film: *The Descendants*
 Director: Alexander Payne
 Starring: George Clooney
 Runtime: 115 mins
 Review: James Tyas



George Clooney plays Matt King, a middle-aged lawyer whose life is thrown into crisis when he finds out that his comatose wife was engaged in a long-term affair with an estate agent. While dealing with the fact that he is to become the single father to his two truculent daughters, he attempts to locate the man his wife betrayed him for, for reasons that aren't quite clear, even to himself. Alexander Payne's fifth feature impresses in patches: George Clooney is surprisingly convincing in the middle-aged loser role; it goes to show how effective an unstylish haircut and an array

of garish Hawaiian shirts can be in making even George Clooney look inadequate. The commonly-held idea of the island of Hawaii as an idyll is also blown apart: Payne shows that day-to-day life in O'ahu is just as mundane as in, say, Luton. Despite being firmly in the tragicomedy territory of Payne's previous work, dealing with issues of whether one can be angry with a dying woman and the possibility of reconnection with estranged family members, *The Descendants* lacks emotional pull. The loose ends are tied up too neatly and the central message that redemption can be achieved through tragedy seems rather too obvious. *The Descendants* is a perfectly enjoyable comedy drama, but one that has had its rough edges smoothed out. It is neither as funny nor as deeply melancholy as Payne's previous efforts and seems to be a disappointing step into the middle of the road sort of film.

Food & Drink.

The Experiment. Cinnamon and Chicken Stew.

Hana Teraie-Wood

A list of current in-season vegetables goes something like this: carrots, leeks, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts and kale. The early months of the new year are gastronomically bland. To combat this, spices should be used in their kilos to enrich the colour of dishes as well as their flavours. Cold weather makes the gormandizing of fatty meats both sanctioned and truly rewarding.

One of my ex-housemates used to cook with cinnamon in almost every other meal. Two of my choice favourites were his "cinnamon with mussels" (mussels) and cinnamon in bolognese, mixed up in spaghetti one day, then shoved in a pasta bake the next. The warmth of its flavour, as well as its heady sweetness makes it a forerunning contender as one of the unshakeable spices for winter.

Leeks are in season, chicken thighs are a cheap cut, and spices are a value-for-money investment. The dish costs little but the flavours are exotic as a cross between a Greek kapama and a North-African tagine. It'll keep you very warm inside.

The leftovers:
Cinnamon and chicken in pancakes



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

*Ingredients: 6 chicken thighs
Tbsp oil*

Can of chopped tomatoes/plum tomatoes

Can of chick peas

1 leek, chopped

Half an onion, sliced

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 chilli, finely chopped

1 tsp cumin seeds

3 - 5 tsp ground cinnamon

250ml red wine

500ml chicken stock

Seasoning

To serve: 2 lemons; couscous

The Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large pan on a high heat. Once hot, add the chicken skin down. Season with salt and pepper. Brown the chicken on both sides.
2. Drop the garlic, chilli and cumin seeds into the oil until aromatic.
3. Add the leeks and onions, and mix the cinnamon in. Fry until the leeks and onions are soft.
4. Pour in the chopped tomatoes, chicken stock and red wine. Season with salt and pepper once more. Add in the chick peas.
5. Cover the stew and leave to simmer for an hour.

The Couscous:

1. Five minutes before serving, squeeze a lemon's worth of lemon juice over 300g (or however much you want) of couscous into a bowl.
2. Pour boiling water over the couscous, to about an inch of water above the couscous. To be safe, go for less water rather than more because you can always add more water later if the couscous hasn't hydrated enough.
3. Cover immediately with a plate, leave to steam for about 3 minutes.

Serve with lemon wedges and red wine.



PHILIPPA GRAFTON



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

The Review. Harkers roast

It's Sunday afternoon. The extravagances of Saturday night still course mercilessly round your veins. Until now, the thought of eating anything has been a mere fantasy, foiled at each attempt by overwhelming nausea. But then, suddenly – a hunger pang. Finally, it's time to placate your war-torn insides with some good wholesome grub. But what? And where?

This is the position my housemates and I found ourselves in on one such Sunday. Having decided that a roast dinner was the only viable option to cure our tender tummies, we decided to make the lengthy journey into town to seek out a suitable lunch purveyor. We settled on **Harkers**, a pub housed in an elegant building on St Helens Square.

With surroundings that were perfectly warm and cosy for our fragile selves, we quickly settled in and made our choices from the various roast dinner options available. Having selected chicken, lamb and beef respectively, we sat back and waited for our meals to arrive. Despite the restaurant being relatively busy, they were brought out in good time – and what meals they were. Plates piled high with meat, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables and a huge Yorkshire pudding were set out in front of us,



Address: 1
Saint Helens
Square
Price Range:
£8-12



much to the delight of our eyes and our appetites. Our already lethargic conversation halted completely as our attention was diverted entirely to the veritable feast before us.

The pièce de résistance of the meal, it must be said, was the Yorkshire pudding. Enormous and delicious, it certainly achieved its full Yorkshire potential, and proved very helpful in mopping up any leftover juices at the end. The meat was similarly satisfying; my chicken was succulent and well-seasoned, and they didn't skimp on quantity – the portion was huge. I was assured that the beef was likewise tasty and filling. One

criticism was that the lamb was somewhat fatty, but on the whole was still judged to be well cooked and seasoned, and generally very enjoyable.

The accompaniments were also a great success. The roast potatoes were crisp on the outside whilst wonderfully fluffy on the inside, and very flavourful. The mashed potato was creamy and salty to exactly the right extent. The stuffing was unremarkable, but still pleasant, and complemented the rest of the meal well.

My main criticism of the meal concerns the vegetables. Paying attention to the way you cook vegetables makes or breaks a roast dinner – getting inventive can completely transform a meal. Disappointingly, whilst the vegetables at **Harkers** were fresh, they were plain and a little boring. Roasting or frying some of them would not have gone amiss.

Overall, I would highly recommend a roast dinner at **Harkers**. The quantity and quality of the food served provided excellent value for money. With cosy surroundings and friendly staff, **Harkers** made for a very pleasant dining experience – and I can vouch for it being perfect for those inevitable Sunday hangovers.

The Experiment.

Gin & Juice:

Pomegranate cocktails

Hana Teraie-Wood

Gin & Juice is currently in season. Pomegranates are at their best around January to February; alcohol never goes off. As well as being one of the oldest recorded fruits, pomegranate is also one of the most beautiful which makes it well suited as an ingredient in a cocktail. This is one of the most frivolous ways of enjoying fruit.

*Ingredients: Half a pomegranate
Syrup (tbsp. sugar mixed with 2 tbsp. boiling water)*

*A lemon, cut into wedges
4 shots of Gin. Or more, if you fancy.
Pomegranate juice*

Ice cubes



1. Break apart 1/2 pomegranate in a bowl of cold water. Pour contents into a sieve.



2. Put 1/2 of the pomegranate seeds, 2 tsp of syrup and lemon wedges into a jug. Crush with a pestle or rolling pin.



3. Pour into a thermos, if you have one. If not, keep the mixture in the jug.
4. Add ice. Pour in gin and juice. Mix (or shake, if using a thermos)
5. Pour into cocktail glasses.



Photo credits (above): Philippa Grafton



**KEEP
CALM**

WE'VE GOT

**HUNDREDS
OF
HOUSES**

- ADAM BENNETT

300+ houses available near the Univeristy of York
Sizes to suit everyone from studio apartments to 10 bed houses
Rents to suit all, and discounts available on some study bedrooms.
Visit our offices above Costcutter, beside Santander in market square

The Final Say.

The fittest nominee Hannah Ellis-Petersen



Republican nominee and everyone's favourite philanderer, Newt Gingrich, recently proposed that, if elected, he intends to "arm space with lasers". Now that, my friends, is what I call a real new year's resolution. Forget losing those nightmare love handles or finally stroking a giraffe (apparently more common a desire than you would think), 2012 is apparently the year for thinking big. Galactically big.

Whilst I cannot advocate following the example of a man who thinks volleyball is an appropriate analogy for freedom, and believes America's greatest threat are the "homosexual fascists", it certainly seems he is not alone in his ambition. I mean, you just have to look at the facts. Croydon recently launched a bid to become a city in its own right (God forbid). Liam Neeson is converting to Islam. And I have joined the gym.

I will concede it is hardly the most revelatory of resolutions. Indeed, to those insufferable people who do things like play squash on Sunday mornings before a casual 15km power walk across the Yorkshire moors, this may seem like an innocuous and frankly necessary move. But to me, it is the equivalent of building an entire galactic missile system, by hand, out of Morrisons value tin foil.

After all, I am the person who feigned a sprained ankle for 14 years in order to get out of P.E., and who was banned from playing tennis at school after a miss-aimed ball led my teacher to term me a 'hazard' to my fellow students. Yes, the relationship between me and exercise has always been turbulent (think Sonny and Cher in their twilight years), but as Dylan so wisely said, the times they are a'changing. After all, if Adrian Chiles can hold the world record for the greatest number of kisses received in 60 seconds (78- true fact), I sure as hell can do ten minutes on the cross trainer.

Yet whilst there were certain things I promised myself not even my new-found athletic enthusiasm could ever entice me to do (wear Lycra, buy Ryan Giggs' new fitness DVD), I found myself having something of

an existential crisis last week. Whilst walking past the gym reception, I casually picked up an exercise class timetable. Harmless enough you might think, but the rush of excitement I got from the prospect of Aerobics classes on Wednesday evenings was unfathomable. Since when have I become a person who's heart is sent racing at the prospect of a workout with York's bulging middle-aged? I can scarcely recognise myself.

But my main qualm lies in the fact that by joining the exercising masses, I am somehow becoming incorporated into the Olympics hysteria gripping the nation this year; a subject on which I am struggling to raise any kind of emotional response. But despite a friend's recent assertion, I feel I must contest this makes me "dead inside". It's not the ever-expanding budget which would now happily feed a small country and all their livestock, or the fact that people have convinced themselves that synchronised swimming and ping pong will simultaneously rescue the economy and the East End from the seventh level of Dante's Inferno; it simply boils down to my general failure in the realm of sports. Indeed, aside from an embarrassing aesthetic affinity with Carlos Valderrama, my emotional involvement whilst watching football is similarly sadly lacking. And don't even get me started on darts. In fact, my gym membership may be the first investment I've made in sporting activity ever.

Yet I can console myself in the fact that I have not become a Davina McCall-esque exercise dick just yet. I do not own any kind of yoga mat, or Pilates ball-come-space hopper. The first and only time I went into Sports Direct, I ended up buying the first pair of trainers I came across (a horrendous concoction of purple and silver stripes that would be at home in Carol Thatcher's wardrobe) in order to end the ordeal as soon as possible. And I would rather strangle myself with a feather boa than take part in any of the 'burlesquerise' classes.

Have I become who I've always despised? Well, maybe. But at least I don't do Zumba. Now that would be bad.

The Muse Moment



"A lady in a wheelchair couldn't get up the steps to Market Square, so some passing Rugby boys picked her up and carried her across"

Ben Rander, 3rd year history

Write in with your *Muse Moment* at York to muse@nouse.co.uk, and see it posted here in the next edition.-

The Nouse Crossword

Answers available on www.nouse.co.uk/muse/columns

Across

1. Deficient in courage (12)
7. A room's furnishing (5)
8. North American bandit (animal) (7)
10. Highly pleasing to taste/smell senses (8)
11. Ancient Egyptian goddess (4)
13. Actor turned President (6)
14. The centre vein of a leaf (6)
17. Daintily attractive (4)
18. Three wheeled vehicle (8)
20. ___ Home, goose film (3,4)
21. Popeye's girlfriend (5)
22. Stingy (12)

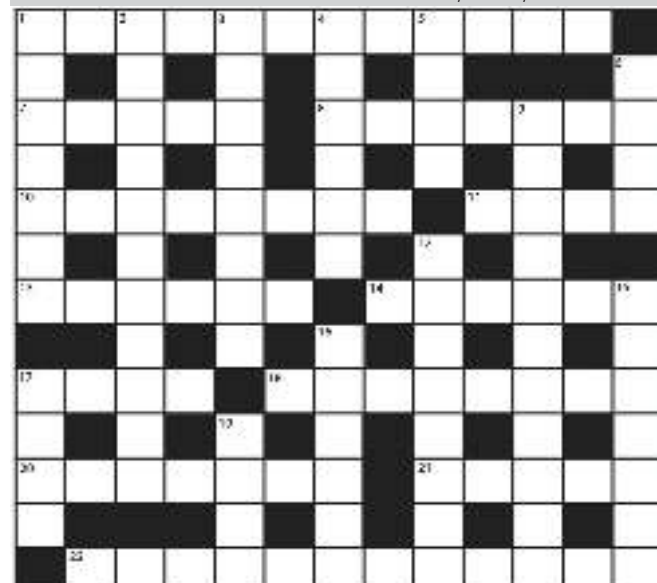
Down

1. ___ On The Roof, musical (7)
2. Ceaselessly (11)
3. An airport building (8)
4. A scolding (6)
5. Great accompaniment to curry (4)
6. Films about an insect colony (4)
9. Something in the way (11)
12. Reveal (8)
15. Alcohol manufacturing house (7)
16. Unwoven fabric (6)
17. Coffee house (4)
19. Movement in water (4)

The Nouse Sudoku

Answers available on www.nouse.co.uk/muse/columns

	9							7
	5	4		7	3	9		
8		3	1	9				6
					7	5		
4				1				3
		5	4					
7				8	1	3		2
		8	6	3		7	9	
5								6



VUDU LOUNGE

Cocktail Bar and Club


2-4-1 COCKTAILS SUNDAY-THURSDAY
FREE ENTRY • OPEN TILL 4AM

Mon

**Jäger
Mondays**

£2 Jager Bombs
Free entry 

THE BEST IN COMERCIAL RNB & HIP HOP
DJ MIKE BROWN (THEBOYWONDER)

 facebook.com/iamtheboywonder


Tues

HEAD2A3H

DJAMES VS ERIKA
MASHUP OF RNB & HIP HOP AND GRIME
£2 SELECTED BOTTLES

Weds

ZIGGYS
AFTERPARTY

FREE TAXI FROM ZIGGYS TO VUDU
FREE SHOT 
ALL FOR JUST £2 - TICKETS AVAILABLE @ VUDU

Thurs

 **TEQUILA
THURSDAYS**

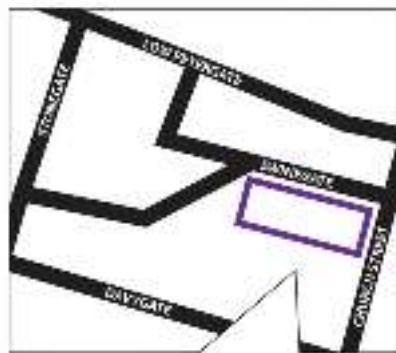
TEQUILA - £1.50 A SHOT
DJ NAV MIXING THE BEST RNB & HIP HOP
FREE ENTRY

Sun



JED 104'S SUNDAY NIGHT PARTY
SELECTED BOTTLES £2
 facebook.com/vudulounge

2-4-1
cocktails



VUDU LOUNGE

From 7pm - Licensed till 4am

Selected bottles £2

Free room hire*

20% off spirits and beers

Free VIP room hire*

For reservations call Maria on 07746185777
or 01904 627627

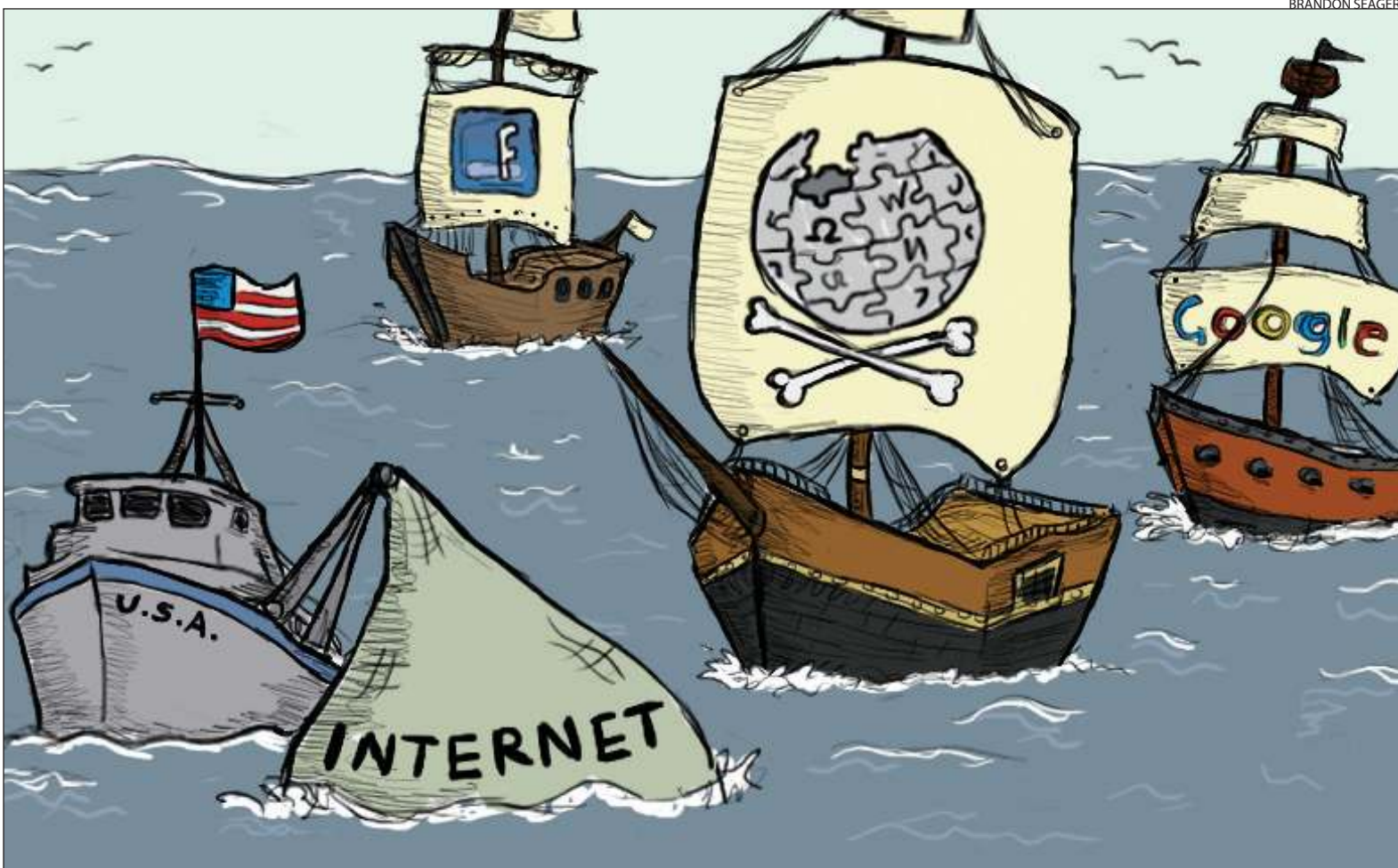
Alcohol Delivery

LAST
ORDERS

07949229532

 facebook.com/Vudulounge

Vudu Lounge | 37-39 Swinegate, York | T: 01904 627627



BRANDON SEAGER

Honorary Degrees are unnecessary

Stephanie Milsom



As of last week, the University can now hold to its name four new doctors: Lyce Douset, Dr Thomas Brewer, Professor Dame Sally Davies, and Sir Mark Walport. Honorary doctors, I should point out - 'doctors' who have never slogged for a PhD or equivalent, at least not at this university. They are becoming something of a trend these days, especially among celebrities, which raises a few questions; what the hell is an 'honorary' doctorate? and what's the point?

Essentially, it's an acknowledgment of success and achievement. In the case of York, three scientists who have dedicated their life to extensive research in their respective fields, and one news reporter who has spent years reporting in war-torn countries such as Afghanistan, Tehran and Jerusalem. She has more balls than me.

On the other hand, Kim Cattrall and Orlando Bloom have been awarded honorary degrees by other universities because they grew up in a particular city.

Of course, generally, honorary doctorates are awarded to worthy candidates. The title qualifies the holder to teach in that specific field - so it's extremely beneficial to have such giants as potential lecturers, so that they can impart their wisdom and experience onto our eager students.

I can't help wondering though, if this is the only motivation for universities to award these doctorates. There's no denying that each time one is awarded, the university in question benefits from extensive publicity. Take Dr Brewer, for example. According to the University's website, Dr Brewer's support of York's bid to "improve the supply of a key anti-malaria drug through molecular breeding" resulted in a huge flow of research funding from the Government. Perhaps, then, 'doing a good service to the University' could be translated as 'raking in loads of cash'. Without this money, the Science Departments would be considerably worse off, so I can't complain too much, as I would like my University to be worthy of some recognition. And, of course, Dr Brewer ought to be thanked most graciously for his help.

But perhaps the crux of the problem is that we should recognise achievement and reward help in a different way; for example, UCLA have suspended their bestowing of honorary degrees and doctorates in place of the 'UCLA Medal'. Maybe something similar would be a more fitting recompense, and it would retain the integrity of those doctorates that have been realised through hard graft. Universities should promote themselves as centres for academic achievement, not collections of celebrity.

Anti-Piracy Law a Danger for Freedom to Share

James Harle



US piracy prevention legislation, though defeated, is just one part of a global offensive on creativity and sharing.

A number of notable websites including Wikipedia recently conducted an 'internet blackout' protest in order to raise awareness of two bills moving through US congress: PIPA and SOPA. The acronyms stand, respectively, for Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect IP Act.

There are a number of websites explaining the two acts in detail, but in essence they are intended to allow the US government greater control over what content is available on the internet. Under the new laws, the government would aim to prevent internet piracy, potentially making changes which would affect the web worldwide.

Many are saying discussion of these bills is now academic, after the decision to indefinitely postpone them last week.

However, this delay in a congress vote on the US government proposals is only until February, where a further decision will have to be made on whether to shelve the bill in the long term or reopen debate.

The short-term defeat of SOPA and PIPA has been met with jubilation amongst the sites that participated in the demonstrations - the most notable of which was Wikipedia 'blacking out' for a day. It seems internet-based opposition has been strong enough to overturn the propositions - for now.

Don't be fooled. SOPA has died, but another identical act will be along in two or three years, if not sooner, to take its place. Why? Because the two bills are only a symptom of the underlying problem: the

conflict of web freedom and media giants.

With the amount of content freely shared on the internet (music, video and pictures) the creative industries (music, television and film) can't continue to make the kind of money they used to in the past. One of the two has got to give: their profits, or our freedom to share.

The problem is, we no longer live in a world where these kinds of media are in short supply. In fact, there's an excess of them - everyone

"I hope that SOPA and PIPA are just the tip of the iceberg as far as legislation restricting freedom"

wants to be creative, so most people create. It's the most basic rule of economics: supply and demand. We're used to having that kind of freedom, and I think that taking that freedom away will prove too hard. Salaries in the creative industries will fall.

And I think that's good. I think the people who work in these industries have had a free ride for too long - and it's about time their bubble burst. They won't lose everything - CDs, DVDs and Cinemas will still be sought after, just not in the

quantities they once were. There is still an intrinsic value to having the physical product - the special edition album or director's cut box set. And people who work in music and film and television will still make a living - but perhaps that will be closer to the literal sense of the words. I think that's healthy.

The other thing about web sharing that the industries don't like is the fact that it raises the bar for quality. Take film: without the internet, your choice is between the few mainstream films in your local cinema. At best, between the 50 films in your local rental shop.

To make money, all a film has to do is be mediocre. With the internet, your choice of films quite literally includes every film ever made. To be significant, a new film must compete with all of them. The same is true of music and television. And I firmly believe that this is a healthy thing for the industry.

I think piracy is coming out of the closet, because we all do it. I don't know anyone who doesn't. And when it's out, there's going to be a revolution in the concepts of copyright and media distribution.

I hope that SOPA and PIPA are just the tip of the iceberg as far as legislation restricting freedom to express and share goes, so that we as an internet community can prove our strength time and time again.

The creative industries cannot exempt themselves from laws of supply and demand - like all industries, they must bend to accept it, no matter how hard it is to come to terms with that.

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

Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964



The pay differential matters

The Vice-Chancellor's pay has been a continuous discussion point over the last few years. It isn't the highest paid in the sector, but that doesn't mean that it is therefore justified. The angry public attitude to executive pay in the private sector is primarily targeted at those in the financial sector earning figures four or five times that of Brian Cantor's; but the relationship between the highest and lowest pay in a company or institution is an important one. This ratio at York has been increasing over the past six years at York and this serves to reinforce the notion of a distant Vice-Chancellor at the top of the University hierarchy.

Universities such as Queen Mary's in London have also joined the campaign and now pay a 'Living Wage' to all their staff. The answer isn't that nothing should be done about the Vice-Chancellor's salary because it is lower than the worst in the sector, but what can York do to show its commitment to fair living and help lead the sector in changing the increasing gap that is opening between the top and the bottom. A 26 per cent increase for Cantor compared with a 15 per cent increase for the lowest may be as a result of some external constraints, but if the University is committed to showing its fairness to staff, it should look to address the ever increasing divide between the best paid and the lowest.

Confusion over society elections

Although YUSU's proposed streamlining of societal elections has been condemned by some prominent societies, this is not a reason to disregard it completely. There is merit in the idea of centralisation if it will help improve society cohesion and effectiveness. However, the proposal from YUSU does not seem clear enough in its objectives. The relaxed manner in which YUSU has allowed societies to approach the decision is indicative of its own confusion over the issue.

Although many societies will be able to weather this change with no major disruptions, indeed they may find the standardisation helpful when dealing with YUSU, performance and media societies have a very different interpretation of the proposal. Generally speaking, these societies are among the larger and better established and as a result have a system already in place. The unique nature of what many of these societies create, be it a play, paper, or performance, leaves little room for a learning process. These societies' election methods are by no means perfect, but because they are each uniquely tailored for the society, they are suited to purpose, and therefore effectively efficient. We are proud to boast one of the most vibrant societal landscapes in the country, and tampering with such a successful program is a recipe only for disaster.

Putting students above research

The University cannot control the income it receives from external organisations. However, to use student fees to plug the funding gap left by a drop in research funding is wrong. While students realise the need to pay fees for their education, the University should be sourcing money to replace this loss of income itself. The University claim the drop in research income will not have an impact on the teaching experience of students. If this is the case then students should not have to foot the bill for a drop in funding that does not affect their academic experience. The University will have to look for other ways to supplement this drop in research funding. There are plenty of other methods which can be used that don't involve students' money and the University should remember this, as their primary concern should be providing for students.

Correction: In the article entitled, "Disputes continue in Goodricke JCRC elections" in the 6th December 2011 edition of Nouse, it was indicated that Joshua Henning agreed that there had been bias displayed by some members of the Goodricke JCRC. We now accept that this is not the case.

NOUSE

Online: www.nouse.co.uk
Twitter: @yorknouse
Facebook: www.facebook.com/yorknouse

Letters and complaints:
Nouse, Grimston House,
University of York, YO10 5DD or contact@nouse.co.uk

Contribute: editor@nouse.co.uk



Now is not the time for expensive jubilee presents

Eleanor Dumbill

In a letter leaked to the Guardian, Michael Gove recently suggested that we, the taxpayer, should buy the Queen a yacht to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. David Cameron was quick to reject the idea that the yacht should be funded by taxpayers, however a string of leaked letters leaves no resolution to this issue, with Gove at one point stating that 'no money should be made available from the public purse' but later referring to the yacht as 'a gift from the nation'.

Regardless of whether the yacht, and the maintenance thereof are intended to be publicly funded, it seems anachronistic to spend such a large sum of money on an essentially frivolous item in the current economic climate. I'm not a republican myself, but the suggestion that the Queen should be given this kind of gift for the 'greater achievement' (as Gove puts it) of reaching her Diamond Jubilee is laughable.

Whilst the rest of us are having to both cut back and work more, one lady is deemed worthy of a present which would probably cost in excess of 60 million pounds (the estimated cost of replacing the Britannia in 1997) for the simple task of staying alive in our age of advanced medicine and continuing her job as a figurehead for which she's already been handsomely paid.

More so than this though, the mere suggestion that Michael Gove, as Secretary of State for Education,

and David Willetts, as Minister of State for Universities and Science, consider the proposal justifiable at all is ludicrous.

The backdrop is, of course, the massive cuts to education which the Tories have implemented which mean that those less fortunate than us will have to pay more than 3 times as much for their university education and, coincidentally far more than the MPs.

This is part of the austerity measures that the coalition government continues to peddle, saying that as a nation we need to cut back. But a 60 million pound yacht, which is nothing more than a frivolous present is completely out of line with the carefully cultivated message it tells the rest of us.

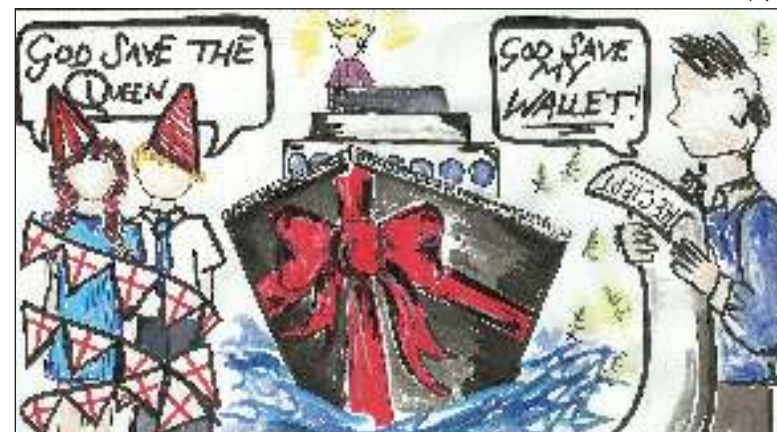
Surely, that sixty million pounds could be spent on schools

or helping lower income students through university. If rewarding the Queen for her 'achievement' is an issue of national pride, would it not be more effective to actually invest in the education of the nation's young people rather than indulging in a trivial waste of money.

Another question is even if the yacht itself will be privately funded, who will pay for its maintenance? The maintenance of the Britannia was paid for from the defence budget, it would surely be unwise to divert any of this after last year's Arab Spring.

On a slightly lighter note, picture an octogenarian and her ninety-year-old husband gallivanting around on a multi-million pound boat; it's ridiculous isn't it? And that is why we shouldn't buy the Queen a yacht.

Frances Sampayo



Jonathan Frost



Twitter censorship will impede freedom of speech

Twitter has connected hundreds of millions of people internationally, and hosts a billion new tweets every four days. A year ago, Twitter famously titled a blog post "The Tweets Must Flow", championing freedom of speech. The social network became a means of communication for the oppressed and the voiceless. Users in Syria, Egypt, and beyond have seized Twitter, and raised a collective voice. The result has been the ongoing Arab Spring; uprisings have taken place, and regimes have been toppled. But now, it seems, the tweets must stop flowing.

Or rather, they should flow, but through a controlled and censored channel. Twitter has announced that, in some countries it will begin censoring certain tweets in an effort to navigate differing national legislation, as it pushes to expand its user base. I understand this as a business decision; to any business growth and income will always be priorities, and this country specific censorship means that Twitter can avoid being sued by abiding with local laws in a local way.

But which honest, moral government would impede upon its electorate's right to speech? In their announcement, Twitter use the ex-

ceedingly convenient example of it being illegal to make pro-Nazi statements in France. This isn't what the censorship will be used for though. Twitter hasn't become a platform for uniting the raging pro-Nazi French, it's become the platform for cyberdissidents to assault corruption and bring it into the public eye. Only these corrupt dictatorships, which Twitter has been so instrumental in shaking, will be

"Twitter became more than a business, it was the thorn in the side of the corrupt"

set to benefit from this change in policy.

When Twitter first championed freedom of speech, it took on a moral obligation. Now, in handing the reins back to the law-makers, Twitter is selling out, and robbing its desperate users. It shouldn't be shirking its moral obligations, especially now that we have seen what freedom of speech and easy access to uncensored information

can do. Most galling is the fact that Twitter knew it could be sued before, and yet maintained its stance. Why should it cave to the threats of fraudulent politicians now?

A censored Twitter is just another way for governments to manipulate the opinions of the masses, pump propaganda, and remain in a position of power. It's not unusual for businesses to sidestep politics and comply with local law: Google, Yahoo, Facebook and many others have all been threatened with legal action and had to comply with legislation. Google's image is now permanently stained as a result of its questionable dealings with China.

But we expect these businesses to let morality sail down the river if the price is right. Twitter, on the other hand, set itself apart, and with incredible results. Twitter became more than a business, it became the thorn in the side of the corrupt, helping democracy on its way to success. It became a platform, a means of mass communication and coordination, and a necessity for the oppressed. To back down on issues of human rights now would be immoral and irresponsible. You shouldn't put a price on freedom of speech, but that is what Twitter seems to have done.



Josh Boswell
Comment Editor

What does marriage mean to gay couples?

The Church of England's attitude towards gay marriage should make us think twice about the form of partnership we choose.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has held an interview with *The Telegraph* and issued a statement expressing his opposition to the legalisation of same-sex marriage, preceding the government's consultation on the issue beginning in March.

The way I see it, the scope of the controversy between the state and the Church on this question is rather more limited than most people regard it to be.

There are three types of partnership legislated for in this country. Firstly, Civil Partnership, open only to homosexual couples, taking place in licensed registries and religious institutions that give their consent (which the Church of England has not done). Second is Civil Marriage, the institution now under review. This is currently open only to heterosexual couples given the consent of the religious institution giving the ceremony. Third, Religious Marriage, which is outside the remit of the government consultation and remains legally restricted to heterosexual religious couples.

So, the people really affected by this decision are those gay couples

that want to get married rather than enter into a Civil Partnership, either for religious or sentimental reasons.

There is no practical difference between a civil partnership and a marriage. Couples get the same property rights, exemptions on inheritance tax, pensions, and social security benefits as married couples. They have the same access to parental responsibility of a partner's children, and the same next-of-kin rights in hospital.

There should be no secular sentimental difference either. A Civil Partnership, just like a Marriage, is an expression of love and a commitment to exclusivity in a long-term relationship. Dr Sentamu argues that a key part of marriage is procreation, which defines the difference between Marriage and Civil Partnerships. But the implied link between Marriage and parenting is just as valid with Civil Partnerships as well.

A married couple that choose never to have children, or use other methods to become parents (artificial insemination, surrogate mothering, adoption) still maintain all the status of their marriage. And

so civil partners who choose to have children, of course using these methods, are in exactly the same situation.

In all but religious aspects the two institutions are equal. The only reason, then, a gay couple might want to get married as opposed to entering into a Civil Partnership is for religious reasons. And it is natural that two religious people might want to enter into an important partnership in a religious ceremony rather than in a purely secular one.

"A Civil Partnership, just like a Marriage, is an expression of love and a commitment to exclusivity"

But it is also clear that the underlying reason for the Church to resist gay marriage comes not from any practical respects like procreation but from interpretation

of scripture and religious attitudes towards homosexuality.

And because of this fact I would ask gay couples that wish to get married: why do you want to associate your partnership with this institution? The church respects and supports the right to Civil Partnership, but cannot accept you on religious grounds that have not shifted for over 2000 years, and will not budge now regardless of legislation allowing them to. If your faith leads you to wanting a wedding in the sight of God, I would suggest that God might be able to see outside of your church walls.

There is a strong case for the legalisation of gay civil marriage on the grounds of human rights that supervene religious denomination. But if you are in the group affected by this - in a gay relationship and wanting a marriage on what must be religious grounds, I believe it is important to first consider how relevant the institution of marriage is to you. And to do this you must evaluate - quite separate from your faith - your adherence to a religious institution that is fundamentally prejudiced against your natural and perhaps God-given sexuality.

Nouse welcomes your comments and letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication. Email letters@nouse.co.uk or write to: Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College. Alternatively, comment on www.nouse.co.uk

Comment Bites

The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

Do we spend too much money on Christmas presents?



69% voted yes
91 votes

31% voted no
40 votes

Comments from the *Nouse* website:

Political Correctness Gone Mad

394838972 says:

I had to read this three times just to get the general jist of it, and I'm a Humanities student.
January 9, 2012 at 3:30 pm

394838972* says:

Sorry, *because I'm a Humanities student.

January 10, 2012 at 6:56 pm

New LGBT Officer Elected

Langwith lad says:

Turhan won't put on larger events for the LGBT community. He didn't even deliver XL let alone XXXL despite the promise of such events going a long way to getting him elected.

December 22, 2011 at 2:02 pm

Scottish Independence

David Adamson says:

Scotland contributes 9.4% of taxes and receives 9.2% of expenditure - a higher contribution to expenditure ratio was present the previous years. For 4 of the past 6 years Scotland has had a budget surplus - the UK government hasn't had a surplus in over a decade.

January 28, 2012 at 9:22 pm

Dear Nouse,

I was heartened to see Anna Carling's piece about Canada's oil sands development and the UK's support for the project. As a Canadian living outside of the Great White North, I am always amazed at how little notice the world pays to events in Canada. My homeland must be the least scrutinised of all the G8 countries. A quick look at the BBC News' "US and Canada" section rarely yields a single story involving Canada. The oil sands development is an embarrassment and a clear indication that Canada is not the nation of environmentalists that the world sees us to be.

Leaving aside oil production,

have people forgotten the seal hunt? The fact that Omar Khadr, a Canadian, remains the only western prisoner held at Guantanamo Bay? In the last few weeks, the deplorable state of housing on aboriginal reserves has lead the Red Cross to intervene in the community of Attawapiskat, where many residents are forced to live in tents on the edge of the Arctic. Canada isn't moose, maple and Mounties (who are also, by the way, being rocked by scandal), yet that is what the world sees.

Canada has the second largest reserves of oil after Saudi Arabia. It's time that the world scrutinised my country's behaviour and forgot the clichéd lumberjack.

My final thought is given over to our famous maple syrup, an industry currently in crisis due to warmer winters. Ironically, Canada's trademark commodity is being damaged by our government's ignorance of climate change.

Thomas Blampied

Dear Nouse,

I was wondering if anyone had recently highlighted the ironically named Costcutters and the fact that their prices are more expensive than Waitrose?!

I live off campus and therefore do my shopping in the local

supermarkets but this morning I popped in to grab something I had forgotten to bring with me and was shocked. A bag of satsumas for £1.89 (2 bags for £2 in the supermarket) and £1.30 for a bottle of diet Coke? No way. Especially as Your Shop, practically next door, is cheaper.

I know that Costcutters is meant as a convenience store and as such prices are generally higher, but to be higher than one of the most expensive supermarkets AND most of the convenience stores around where I live is a little bit on the ridiculous side, especially as they are situated on campus and most students have little money as it is.

Given the snow last year, it made Costcutters the only accessible place to get groceries, and it feels like they are just cashing in on students. Particularly since there has been a definite (and in some cases, substantial) increase in prices since last year.

Supposedly their profits are going back to the university, but I wonder how much of this is true, and just what profit they're making out of student?

Regards,

Natalie Barclay-Klingler



UK:



Israel:



Libya:



Syria:



US:

NUS calls for walkouts over 'under the radar' reforms

Josiah Mortimer
POLITICAL REPORTER

LAST YEAR'S student protests appeared to have paid off last week when David Willetts, Universities Minister, in a dramatic policy reversal, withdrew from Parliament the Higher Education Bill.

The surprise move came just a day after Mark Bergfeld, who sits on the National Union of Students (NUS) Executive, launched a petition calling on the NUS to plan a national demonstration in the autumn term against the bill.

The petition had already gathered support from other NUS executive members, notably Aaron Kiely and Ruby Hirsch.

Despite the withdrawal of the bill, the NUS has called for a 'Week of Action' over fears that major reforms will still go ahead without legislative scrutiny. In a statement, the NUS said it fears the expansion of private sector involvement in education will be "implemented under the radar."

Liam Burns, NUS President, said "students will not stand idly by as their education is diminished... without any Parliamentary mandate."

The NUS suspects sweeping education changes, like the rise in tuition fees, could be passed without primary legislation.

However, speaking to *Nouse*, Bergfeld said "the government has clearly lost confidence" in its reform plans, but the main changes "are



BISGOVUK

Despite withdrawing the Higher Education Bill David Willetts is determined to see some reforms through

still going to go ahead." He praised the NUS' decision to organise a week of action saying "it will enable the student movement to get back onto the streets" after the NUS had originally "positioned itself to be the broker of the [HE Bill's] regime."

The 'Week of Action' is set to run from the 12th to the 16th of March and action across campuses

nationwide is expected, although the date of national student walkouts is yet to be confirmed.

Anti-fees groups cautiously welcomed the abandonment of the bill, with the Education Activist Network calling it a "partial victory" though claiming "the chaotic and haphazard dismantling of the existing university system continues."

The government has found itself under increasing pressure recently to abandon its most radical plans for the NHS, welfare reform and higher education, much of which seeks to expand the role of the market in services.

David Willetts' short-term defeat in the withdrawal of his HE Bill may not be reflected in the long-term decisions taken by ministers.

Hungary taken to court by EU

Marta Riksa
Daniel Pinfold

THE EUROPEAN Commission has started legal proceedings against the Hungarian government over sweeping changes made to its constitution, which it claims violates EU law. Punishments may go as far as taking Hungary to the European Court of Justice, imposing fines and stripping the country of some of its voting rights.

The Hungarian centre-right party Fidesz introduced a new constitution that came into effect on 1st January. Changes include increased government control of the Central Bank, the data protection agency, the judiciary and the media.

The government's moves have provoked hostility from the international community, which fears the new laws threaten the independence of some of the country's major institutions. EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "We do not want a shadow of doubt on respect for democratic principles and values to remain over



JRMURRAY000

Hungary's European future is in doubt after the EU imposed sanctions

the country any longer". It has been made clear that the heavily indebted nation will not receive financial support from the IMF and EU unless Central Bank independence is restored. Meanwhile credit-rating agencies have added to the pressure by downgrading Hungarian debt to junk status. Amnesty International

has raised issues regarding the sections of the new constitution that ban gay marriage along with the removal of other LGBT protections.

The conservative party came to power in 2010 securing a two thirds majority in Parliament. Since then it has used its mandate to push for radical changes in the country's le-

gal structure.

Relations with the EU were already strained since the beginning of last year when a controversial media law was implemented, which the government was forced to scale back. Hungary's economic outlook is precarious with debt levels reaching 82% of GDP.

Protests have increased in the last month; early January saw tens of thousands of anti-government protesters taking to the streets in opposition to what has been seen as a slide towards authoritarianism. In response there has been a demonstration supporting the government against the perceived bullying of the EU and the IMF.

The government has defended its actions by claiming it is sorting out an economic mess left by the previous government.

Government representatives also say its actions are supported by the public, that they have consulted with European agencies and that the new constitution is finally fully replacing the previous communist constitution.

Government forced into rethink after Welfare Reform Bill defeat

Alex Osborne

Monday evening saw the UK government suffering defeat at the hands of the House of Lords, as a £26,000 household benefit cap was quashed by 15 votes. The amendment passed excluded child benefit from the cap.

With debate and disagreements between the Commons and Lords over the Welfare Reform Bill ongoing, particularly with regards to the Child Support Agency (CSA), the reforms remain in political limbo between houses, and the road ahead is unclear.

The successful amendment passed on Monday was put down by the Rt. Rev. John Packer, who claimed that child benefit was “universal” and should not be tampered with. Downing Street has already announced its intention to reverse the amendment, meaning that the reform bill will likely continue to move between houses until a mutual ground is reached.

Perhaps more significantly, Tuesday saw Lord Mackay of Clashfern, a Conservative peer, leading a rebellion against the proposed implementation of charges of up to 12 per cent for single parents attempting to access the CSA. In support of Lord Mackay, fellow Tory peer, Lord Newton, deemed the proposition as “bordering on the indefensible.”

While clashes such as this are common between Houses, the divide in public and political opinion over the Welfare Reform Bill implies that further difficulties are soon to follow over the issue.

The government argues that placing a cap on all household benefits would fight unemployment and save around £290m in the next year, and that their policy falls in line with public interest.

However, Baroness Tonge, a Lib Dem peer, retorted that public opposition to the amendment was



UK PARLIAMENT

The Welfare Reform Bill, rejected in the House of Lords, is certain to generate more controversy in the future

“whipped up by the tabloid newspapers.” Equally, while Lord Mackay said the coalition’s proposals

“Cuts must be made, but they should be made elsewhere”

regarding the CSA were “unfair,” some critics call into question the legitimacy of the House of Lords having authority on matters of such social importance and magnitude.

Ultimately, the issue places all

political parties under considerable strain. The manner in which the bill is floating somewhat unproductively from chamber to chamber runs the risk of the Conservatives appearing indecisive.

The Lib Dems are caught in the compromising position of having the duty of ‘watering down’ the Conservatives’ more drastic welfare reforms.

In the same right, the Labour Party is under pressure to offer a more concrete opinion on the bill as a whole, as their reaction thus far has been somewhat mixed.

It cannot be denied that the welfare reforms have the potential to hit the poorest families of our society hardest, and during a re-

cession this attitude seems all the more harsh. BBC figures estimate that 67,000 families would lose £83 a week if the household benefit cap was implemented with no restrictions; a considerable sum that could make a significant difference to the families affected.

What is important is that some sort of consensus is reached. If the Welfare Reform Bill continues to ping-pong between chambers, it will become increasingly difficult for changes to appear credible and mutual. It is time for the coalition government and the Lords to make a decision: cuts must be made, but it would likely be in the best interest of the people that they were made elsewhere.



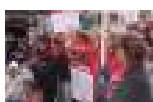
46% think Cameron/Osborne are the best pair to manage the economy, 28% favour Miliband/Balls.

ICM/Guardian, Jan 22



39% blame the last Labour government for current spending cuts; only 22% blame the Coalition.

YouGov/Sun, Jan 23



69% think that Labour should retain its strong links with the trade unions.

Populus/Times, Jan 22



68% think the UK is stronger together.

ICM/Guardian, Jan 22



74% support the Coalition’s attempts to impose a welfare cap of £26,000.

YouGov/The Sun, Jan 26



21% think ‘crime’ one of the biggest issues facing the UK, down from 48% during the August riots.

YouGov, Jan 17

Tweets



@Peston
Robert Peston,
BBC Business
Editor

“Five EU countries are less competitive than Iran, says Cameron. He is really cosy up to the rest of Europe.”

26 January



@BillGates
Bill Gates,
Founder, Microsoft

“My message at #Davos: Even in tough economic times, there is no excuse for cutting aid to the world’s poorest.”

26 January



@Nigel_Farage
Nigel Farage,
Leader of UKIP

“I am sure that Tory MEP Martin Callaghan knows that to withdraw from the ECHR and remain in the EU is impossible under the Lisbon Treaty.”

23 January



@10DowningSt
David Cameron,
Prime Minister

“PM: we want consensus on strengthening subsidiarity – the principle that final decisions should be made nationally. #ECHR #pm-speech.”

24 January

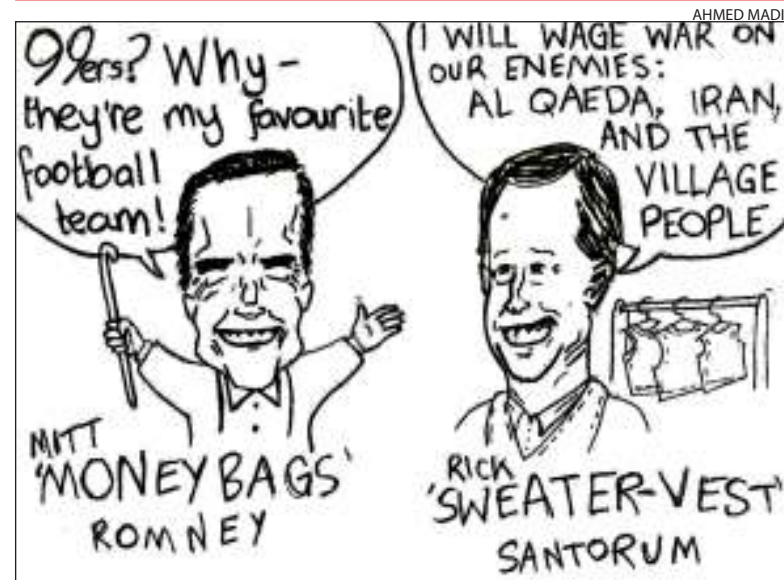


@SarahBrownUK
Sarah Brown

“Gordon Brown - global financial system created new problems that needed bold action to prevent repeat of Great Depression #davos.”

26 January

Politics



Daunting electoral map awaits Romney

Harry Lambert

With such attention focused on who is the least unappealing Republican presidential candidate, it has been easy to forget that whoever wins faces an increasingly formidable challenger in incumbent Barack Obama.

As *RealClearPolitics*' poll shows, the President's approval ratings have improved to 46 per cent, from 42 per cent in September – a sizeable gain. Unemployment has fallen from over 9 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Moreover, a close look at the maths shows a tough electoral map for the eventual Republican nominee.

Nine candidates have tried to oust an incumbent President since the Second World War. Only two have succeeded, Reagan and Clinton were both natural communicators, orators and leaders. The latest batch of hopefuls are not.

After last Thursday's combative debate performance, Mitt Romney looks to yet again be favourite to lock up the nomination; Newt Gingrich's latest resurgence appears to have been short-lived.

Whoever the Republican presidential candidate is in 2012, they will have to overcome three electoral challenges. First, they will have to win back the three traditionally Republican states Obama stunningly won in 2008 – North Carolina, Virginia and Indiana.

Second, they must compete in the seven states the President turned from battleground states to reliably Democrat ones in 2008.

And third not only must they win both Florida and Ohio, the two largest swing states, but also one of the smaller ones – Colorado, Iowa or New Hampshire – all of which the President carried by at least 9 per cent in 2008. A quick look at Gallup's half-yearly state polls indicates that that first challenge – recapturing those formerly Republi-

can states – has not proven as likely as one might suspect. Only one of the three – Indiana – has clearly swung away from Obama.

Competing in the states which swung solidly Democrat in 2008 is imperative for the nominee, but the need to cater to the Tea Party makes it exceedingly difficult. The most moderate of the Republican candidates, the ever malleable Romney, is possibly being forced to position himself too far to the right to challenge the President in these states.

The need to compete with those candidates pandering to the Republican Right has forced Romney to renounce the moderate healthcare plan he passed when Governor of Massachusetts, and drop many other positions on social and economic issues which once endeared him to crucial independents.

Not competing in these previously battleground states both puts the Democrats on the brink of victory and allows the President to devote his funds elsewhere. This is crucial because elections are won in the US by outspending your opponent in the swing states.

Bush won in 2000 partly because he was able to outspend Senator Gore by more than 3:2 in such states.

“Elections are won in the US by outspending your opponent”

The glimmer of hope for those challenging Obama is the state of the economy. Of the seven incumbent Presidents to be re-elected only President Reagan won with unemployment higher than 5.4 per cent. If Obama was to win re-election with unemployment of 8.5 per cent it would be unprecedented. But there is a reason he is odds-on to do so.

Gingrich's hypocrisy no problem for GOP base

Chris Underwood
Kieron Hazell

After a comprehensive victory in South Carolina's Presidential primary, it appeared that former House Speaker Newt Gingrich was yet again resurgent in the race to be crowned the Republican Party's nominee. But a stumbling performance in last Thursday's Florida debate has left his candidacy endangered yet again.

Unlike perennial frontrunner, Mitt Romney, Gingrich has very few financial resources to support his candidacy. He has succeeded on the back of strong debate performances and Romney's woodiness, neither of which were on display Thursday night.

Regardless of whether Gingrich yet again surges back into the race, his candidacy has shown the Republican Right's acceptance of hypocrisy.

In their eagerness to find an alternative to Mitt Romney, and a truly socially conservative, pro-life, anti same-sex marriage candidate, those voters have stumbled upon Newt Gingrich.

Undoubtedly, he supports these positions, describing same-sex marriage as 'a temporary aberration', and endorsing strong family values throughout his career, but he has not practiced them. He is a thrice married man who left his first wife whilst she was recovering from cancer.

Such inconsistency has proven to be less of an issue for Gingrich than one might have expected. He

fine-tuned his ability to manage the gulf between his public rhetoric and private life whilst Speaker of the House in the 1990s. At the time of his affair with his future third wife, he was fervently leading the impeachment against Bill Clinton, partly over the Monica Lewinsky affair. So even if Republican voters appear to confirm the old adage tradition that Americans don't get irony, Gingrich's candidacy proves they are more than capable of hypocrisy.

Gingrich is not your average politician. As one Republican insider warned, his hand is "always six seconds away from the self-destruct button." Yet his volatility is also his greatest strength. In both the Iowa and South Carolina debates, Gingrich received standing ovations as he swatted away criticism of his provocative stance on both child labour and his extra-marital affairs. Outright hypocrisy and sheer condescension it may have been, but his sentiment struck a chord with those who came to watch.

Romney's tentativeness when under fire from Gingrich in South Carolina, over his stance on healthcare and his own taxes, have seen Gingrich firmly establish himself as the most charismatic candidate in the Republican field.

Romney's adoption of such tactics in Florida seems to be working; polls have him surging in Florida.

When placed on the spot, Gingrich's silence was telling; allow him to attack, and he will cover all manner of sins. Put him on the defensive, and cracks begin to show.



UK must remain together

Neil Johnston

The debate on Scottish independence has recently re-ignited, highlighting numerous burning issues that need to be addressed. While the SNP effectively began their campaign after last May's landslide victory, the unionist parties have been slow to react until now.

The Scottish Government published their proposed referendum question last week and even the day it was published highlights the elements of Scottish culture the SNP are keen to take advantage of. Released on Burns Day, a celebration of Scotland's national poet, the loaded question of "Do you agree that Scotland should be an independent country?" is hardly what Unionists had in mind.

Furthermore, Alex Salmond, Scottish First Minister, has outlined

“Unionists should be wary of the threat posed by the SNP”

his intentions for a second question on the ballot paper over 'devo-max', another ambiguous SNP concept. Branded as separation by stealth this option would give Scotland far more powers but significant details about this proposal remain absent.

Additionally, the nationalists plan to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the referendum. There are reasonable arguments for extending the franchise but this proposal is purely for political advantage, as support for independence is generally higher among younger Scots, as Alex Salmond knows.

Furthermore, there are questions as to why the referendum cannot be held in 2012. The reason is simply that this year doesn't conveniently coincide with the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, as well as the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, and the Ryder Cup coming to Scotland. This is an important decision that should be decided on real arguments not spur of the moment patriotism.

While the SNP do have a mandate for holding a referendum, there are still serious questions over the legality of the SNP's plans. David Cameron should be commended for stepping into the debate and making it clear Westminster has a say in the referendum. The Unionist camp needs some political heavyweights to overcome the charismatic Salmond.

Unionists should be weary of the threat posed by the SNP, who proved their capabilities last May. Support for independence has been growing, but if Salmond and the SNP are adequately challenged the UK will survive this historic test.

Can executive pay be curbed?

The Coalition is attempting to deal with an enraging issue, Tom Lubek looks at how successful they have been.

On 23rd January, Vince Cable, the Business Secretary, outlined measures designed to curb excessive executive pay in a speech to MPs. Cable said that there was clear evidence that businesses and investors recognise a “disconnect” between the performance of companies and top pay, and that something must be done to rectify this.

He also said that it is unacceptable to see chief executives’ pay rising at 13 per cent per year whilst companies continue to perform poorly on the stock exchange and that “we can’t accept top pay rising at five times the rate of average workers’ pay, as it did last year.”

Though Cable said that it is not the role of government to “micro-manage” company pay he subsequently unveiled a package of measures that will address what he has termed as a “clear market failure.”

These measures are as follows: “First greater transparency, so that what people are paid is clear and easily understood; more shareholder powers, such as the introduction of binding votes so they can hold companies to account; more diverse boards and remuneration committees; and best practice led by business and investor community.”

Cable concluded by saying that although no one of these proposals is a “magic bullet,” together they can “enable a major transformation.”

Chuka Umunna, the Shadow Business Secretary, said that he welcomed much of what the Business Secretary had said, but also

that “his proposals simply do not go far enough in promoting the transparency, accountability and fairness that people want to see.”

Umunna said that his party would make sure that lower level employees were included on remuneration boards, and that firms would be required to publish ratios between their highest paid employees and the average wage of the company.

Cable responded that he would like to see more employees on boards but there were problems in

“The proposals put forward thus far seem rather vague”

mandating their involvement and that it couldn’t be done in every company.

He also said that pay ratios were “a good idea” but misleading, an example being that a firm with a lot of low paid workers would not compare well with one that had out sourced all of its low paid work to other countries.

The proposals also received criticism from a number of MPs. Labour’s Dennis Skinner and Paul Blomfield suggested that the measures did not go far enough and the Tory MPs, Peter Bone and Phillip Davies, referred to them as “Liberal left-wing claptrap” and “drivel” respectively. They also cast doubts



VICTORY 15 M1NE

Public anger over bonuses has been directed at London’s Square Mile

over whether they would actually do anything to stimulate the economy.

The Prime Minister has said he does not believe that the answer involves putting more employees on boards, but instead it lies with greater transparency, empowered shareholders and making sure that

people are not rewarded for failure with “massive payoffs.”

Dr Roger Barker from the Institute of Directors said that the government is right to be considering ways to make boards more diverse so they do not incorporate only the views “of current and former executives in the setting of

CEO pay.”

By contrast however, Brendan Barber, TUC general secretary, said that it was “very disappointing” ministers have failed to make any changes to the status quo.

He talked of “a few welcome thinkers” to the current system, but argued that the Business Secretary “has shied away from the big decisions on all of the major proposed reforms, from worker representation to company pay ratios and open advertising for posts on remuneration committees.”

Any efforts to address the imbalance of executive pay are welcome, as it is an attempt to curb the culture of rewarding failure in business by executive pay-rises.

However, the proposals put forward thus far seem vague and it remains to be seen how well they will be implemented and whether any difference will actually be made.

Shareholders should be given powers to hold companies to account because after all it is in their interests, as well as the collective interest, to make sure that they are being managed effectively.

Joined with this is the pledge to diversify remuneration committees, such that any commitments to executive pay-rises they make will take into account wider views – but how exactly is this diversification to be implemented?

It therefore remains to be seen whether or not the proposals represent a serious desire to actually resolve the issue of executive pay, or are simply just a token gesture from the government.

THE LAST WORD



“The process is not the problem; it is the incomprehensible nature of decisions”

Sport

PARK LIFE

With today being the last day of the January transfer window, it seems unfair that when looking at the runners and riders for the York Sport Presidency, I am unable to stand in front of a large plasma screen, complete with a countdown clock, screaming fervently that the President of one sport or another has thrown their hat into the ring.

Alas, it is only within the confines of this very column that I am able to run the rule over those jostling for position to replace Sam Asfahani as York's sporting supremo.

Exactly who will put themselves up for election is unclear but a little bit of prediction, rumour and gossip never hurt anyone – unless those rumours turn out to be false and forever besmirch someone's name but hey, take your sob stories to the Leveson Inquiry.

"I would be backing Charlotte Winter for the role."

The best place to start is the York Sport Committee; the inner sanctum of Asfahani's administration, his faithful cabal, similar in many ways to Blair's 'Sofa Government' but less powerful. Two people who seem set to run for the position are College Sport Officer Charlotte Winter and Tournament Secretary Ben McGladdery.

McGladdery has previously, he unsuccessfully challenged Asfahani last year before heavily implying he'd be back for another crack at the top job. Name recognition could be a big factor for the man who donned a Scooby Doo costume in the run-up to last year's election (as you do...) but Winter will pose a significant challenge. A Lacrosse player, she will be able to count on significant club support and her role within College Sport has certainly added to her exposure.

If I was a betting man, and I am, I would be backing her for the role. Unfortunately when I nipped into William Hill, I was met with looks of bemusement when I asked the odds for the York Sport Presidential race – amateurs.

To predict who else might run is less clear-cut but equally as fun. Other members of the York Sport Committee could all be logical bets, Netball president, Shadyn Nikzad, perhaps the most likely, team-mate Kay Masterson could also be worth a punt. The man in charge of the money, Andreas Papadolambakis, may also decide to chance his arm but he would probably need to improve on the election message he used in his attempts to become treasurer; 'being Greek' and 'good with money' might not be enough to catapult him to victory here.

Another group of people who may become runners and riders are the Presidents of Sports Clubs. If the whispers are to be believed – which they rarely are – then Sam Morrison of the Rugby Club could be a name to consider.

To use a sporting cliché, it could be anyone's.

NFL merits more than just Super Bowl hype

Alex Beazley-Long
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE SUPER Bowl is fast approaching and once again it is that time of the year when everyone pretends to care about American football.

The cursory patronising articles in the newspapers, bars begging you to give them some rare Sunday service and TV channels goading you into justifying the money they paid for the right to show the 'biggest game in the world'.

As a genuine fan of gridiron, I find this all to be rather annoying, as the sport is actually gaining in popularity in this country, and deserves more than the annual perfunctory hat-tip it currently garners.

As far as tangible evidence for this goes, there is the rampant success of the NFL International Series, which has sold-out an NFL regular season game at Wembley Stadium every year since 2007, and plans to do so until at least 2016.

The NFL itself estimates there to be around "11 million fans in the UK" and Sky Sports have seen their ratings for the sport increase by "91 per cent since 2006", all of which the NFL is using as support for a potential London franchise in the future.

In terms of less tangible variables, the advent of the internet has obviously made American sports much more accessible to the modern fan. Those who were interested in the sport only 15 years ago had to rifle through papers to find mini-



Super Bowl 46 will be a rematch between the Patriots and the Giants

malist box scores, whilst today fans can easily follow games as they happen on their phones.

Whilst the NFL has not embraced YouTube in the same way the NBA or NHL has (in fact they were one of the companies that supported the recent SOPA/PIPA bills in Congress), their website offers free highlights pretty much instantaneously, something the Premier League has failed to capitalise on in this country.

For the more dedicated, NFL Game Pass and Sky Sports offer high definition quality coverage of matches on their computers or televisions; and if they don't feel like

paying there are always the slightly more nefarious corners of the internet that offer alternatives.

Whether you are a diehard or not, this year's game promises to be special as it is a rematch of Super Bowl 42, one of the best Super Bowls in recent memory and all-time classic.

In that game four years ago the underdog New York Giants beat the previously undefeated New England Patriots, preventing them from completing a staggering 19-0 season, as Eli Manning led a game-winning drive in the fourth quarter.

Whilst the squads involved this time are admittedly noticeably dif-

ferent from their last encounter on this grand stage, the fans will not have forgotten.

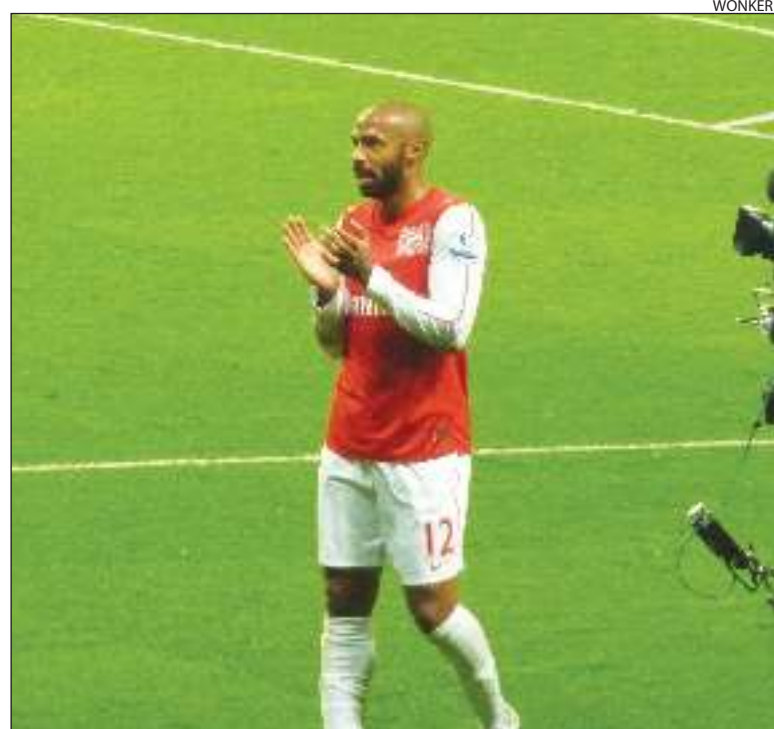
Some players and coaches may have moved on, but the head coach-quarterback combination for both teams remain, and once again New York's Tom Coughlin and Eli Manning will be attempting to out-duel their more illustrious New England counterparts, the three time Super Bowl winning duo of Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, who are appearing in their record-breaking fifth championship game together.

While all the headlines before and after the game will inevitably belong to the quarterbacks, I personally feel that they will not have that great an effect on the outcome of the game; instead the result will hinge on the performances of the Giants' defensive line and the Patriots' secondary.

The Giants pass rush is the best in the league, and if they can generate pressure on Brady and force him to make mistakes, they will be able to keep, and the score low, whilst Patriots' secondary on the other hand is the league's worst, something Manning and his receivers will look to exploit. An above average performance by them could well be enough though, whether they are up to this is debatable however.

History has already repeated itself to pit these teams against each other, and I suggest you tune in on 5th February to find out if we have another potential classic on our hands.

Lacklustre transfer window still draws us in



Thierry Henry has been one of the few big stories of the window so far

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

AS YOU sit and read this the January transfer window will be drawing to a close.

Jim White's eyes will be popping out of his head, Bryan Swanson's phone will be on the verge of meltdown, Harry Redknapp will

be conducting an interview in his car whilst holding up traffic around Spurs' training ground, and numerous footballers will be in helicopters hovering over various cities in an attempt to confuse us.

Or at least, that's how it normally works.

This year has (so far) failed to live up to the high standards set by

previous deadline days, most notably last season's when Andy Carroll and Fernando Torres were involved in two of the biggest transfers in English football history.

And that was after a month in which Darren Bent had already swapped Wearside for Villa Park (a transfer that still irks loyal Sunderland fans like myself), and Luis Suarez, David Luiz and Edin Dzeko had all completed big-money moves to the Premier League.

In comparison, this January has been somewhat of a let-down, though I am writing this a few days before the window slams shut (cue dramatic graphic on Sky Sports News) so there is still time for a bolt from the blue.

But all the important deals that have gone through so far have lacked a certain fanfare and excitement.

Gary Cahill's move to Chelsea was sufficiently protracted to make us all bored of the affair by the time it was concluded, and Papiss Demba Cisse was quickly whisked off to the African Cup of Nations after his move to Newcastle.

Even the two real shocks of the window have been somewhat tainted – Thierry Henry's return to Arsenal by the fact the great man is not his former self and will soon return to New York, and Paul Scholes' surprise comeback by the knowledge that he is not the long-term

solution to Manchester United's midfield woes.

All I can say right now is that I hope something stunning happens on deadline day; but if it doesn't, then we'll all probably be glued to the TV anyway.

Managers may be united in criticism of the January window, but for fans it has become a source of excitement and wonder, even when nothing is really happening.

Such is the draw of the transfer window, a lack of any genuine action cannot serve to dampen our enthusiasm.

Even if you think your club doesn't stand a chance of signing anyone, you never know, so we sit for a month with one eye firmly fixed on live transfer updates, constantly checking our Twitter feeds.

It may be filled with unfounded rumours, banal non-stories and pathetic acts of desperate panic-buying, but we endure it all in the hope of that one earth-shattering move.

Perhaps Carlos Tevez will finally find a way out of Manchester City, or Kenny Dalglish will finally bite the bullet and try to find Liverpool a natural goalscorer to supplement Suarez.

But if there is one defining and enduring feature of the window, it is that it captivates us all regardless of what is happening on the transfer front.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY FIRSTS

Record: P6, W5, L1

League Position: Second in BUCS Northern Conference 3B

The season so far: The women's Hockey firsts continue to go from strength to strength, enjoying a sensational first term in which they emerged as serious candidates for promotion, whilst also finding time to put a run together in the BUCS Northern Cup.

The cup saw them grind out wins against tough opposition in Sheffield Hallam and Leeds Carnegie, while Laura Welsing stood out last term as an exceptional talent.

They said: "We had a fantastic first half of the season in BUCS, going into the Christmas break joint top of the league.

"Credit to all the girls for such a brilliant performance, all their hard work paid off.

"Aims for the rest of the season? Double promotion and reaching the semi-finals in the cup would be lovely."
Hannah Gage, Captain



MEN'S RUGBY FIRSTS

Record: P7, W4, L3

League Position: Third in BUCS Northern Conference 1A

The season so far: They started the season with three straight wins, including a convincing defeat of arch rivals, Lancaster, and despite losing their last two games of term they are still in a great position to challenge for the league title.

With huge matches against Sheffield Hallam and Leeds at home, York will fancy their chances of climbing even higher in their league.

They said: "Some strong performances early on in the season put us in a great position to challenge for promotion, particularly against Leeds where Matt Pollen and Tom Chadwick shone in a cohesive team performance.

"Since then a shock loss at home to Leeds Met and a bruising encounter with Sheffield 1st XV have been set backs to our league position.

"But the quality of rugby being played in these games has surprisingly been some of the highest that we've played all season.

"These losses should be a lesson to us that it is always dangerous to look at the league table too much, and that we need to take each game as it comes rather than think ahead to what we perceive as the big games."
James Faktor, Captain

So far, so good... Luke Gardener and Will Light take a look at three York sides who are flying high as the BUCS season passes the halfway mark

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



MEN'S FENCING FIRSTS

Record: P6, W5, L1

League Position: Second in BUCS Northern Conference 1A

The season so far: The Men's Fencing 1sts maintained impressive form last term, suffering only one loss in the league and consistently maintaining good results.

They said: "We have been able to focus on the league to the extent that we have won five out of our last six matches, only losing to Keele who are currently top.

"Although we started off only winning by small margins, the team as a whole has improved throughout last term, and we have managed to win by some large margins.

"Keele have a very strong team and are currently unbeaten this season.

"However, this does not make them invincible; our current form means that we could probably have a good crack at them when we play in week five."

Thomas Jones, Captain



York rowers dominate local rivals in White Rose Head

AGATHA TORRANCE

Jack Bradshaw
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK PROVIDED a beautiful setting for the annual White Rose Head rowing event on a sunny final weekend of January.

Hosting the prestigious BUCS event for the second year in succession, York welcomed rowers from other universities across the county.

It was a highly successful day for the University of York Boat Club; winning every race they entered.

York's crews competed over the 3km course from the University boat house to the finishing line next to the Lowther, running upstream, against students from the University of Leeds, York St. John, Sheffield Hallam, the University of Chester, and Teeside University, but they dominated throughout.

The time-trial race was divided into two divisions, running at 10:30 and 1:30 respectively, with the Men's VIII, Women's IV and

Fresher Women's VIII in Division One, while Division Two featured the Men's IV and the Fresher Men's VIII.

The Men's VIII finished the first race in a winning time of 12:33, with the Men's IV also coming home fastest in their Division Two race; both teams coxed by Eden Sparke.

The UYBC fielded two Women's IV crews in the afternoon, with both finishing comfortably ahead of their Yorkshire rivals - with themselves, separated by only 13 seconds.

Both crews excelled and overtook boats from Sheffield Hallam and York St. John during the course of the race.

York's Men's VIII were the fastest crew on the day with the Men's IV, the third quickest, finishing in an impressive 13:51, while the Women's IV finished in a faster time than Hallam's Men's IV.

Lauren Stevenson, the UYBC Press and Publicity officer, said it



The University of Yorks Men's IV on their way to victory in Division Two at the annual White Rose Head meet

was a great day all round for the club.

"The day was a huge success for UYBC, with the day running smoothly and our squads winning three of the six divisions.

"It was also a great chance to

meet people from other Boat Clubs and give them the opportunity to row on the Ouse.

"While the success of White Rose Head was down to hard work by everyone at UYBC and outside the club, special mention must be

given to Alice Duston and Evelien Rutgers for organising the event so well.

"As well as ensuring that everything went to plan on the day they were also part of the Senior Women's IV that won their division."

Thrilling Derwent comeback rocks Halifax

AGATHA TORRANCE



Derwent staged a stunning second-half fight back to record a single point victory over an impressive Halifax

Will Light
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

IN AN exciting and enthralling battle that totally consumed all spectators present, Halifax produced a performance that can be described in only the highest terms, managing to run a previously rampant Derwent side ragged for over half a match.

This was matched by Derwent's equally astonishing second half reply, the team that has straddled the college rugby scene for a year showing a determination and

grit worthy of champions.

The opening stages saw Derwent apparently showing the same destructive intent that saw them beat Vanbrugh 62-0 the previous week. Flanker Freddy Harris scored early, reacting quickly to a misplaced pass by the Halifax scrum half to dive over. Although the conversion was missed, Oliver Wessley soon earned a reprieve by slotting over a penalty.

However, this story was far from finished. Halifax were playing enterprising rugby, a tactic that was offering Derwent a very real

challenge. Rishi Naidoo deservedly dashed through Derwent lines to score, his opponents unable to match his electrifying pace. This was the first time that Derwent have conceded points in college rugby since October.

Halifax smelt blood, and after the Derwent defence had pushed another try threat into touch, the next phase saw 'Fax's Tim Ross sliding over for his side's second. At this stage, Derwent were in disarray, their positional discipline gone and looking stunned at the display being produced by their opponents.

Halifax, on the other hand, looked a certain bet for victory after a brilliant third try, a scintillating chip finding Joe Turner ghosting behind the opponent defence.

After a fiery team-talk courtesy of Tolga Nekar, Derwent certainly looked more energised after half time. However, Halifax continued to match them.

After 'Fax again pushed their opponents to their try-line, they scored their fourth, the team grinding over the line after a line out, with Santiago claiming final responsibility.

At 24-8, Derwent had decided that enough was enough, and after a period of attacking possession they finally scored their second, Freddy Harris having grabbed the ball before rolling off a defender and ploughing over.

The Derwent threat continued, with Wessley knocking over a penalty in front of the posts. They were now within touching distance of catching Halifax, setting up a captivating finale.

The latter stages became increasingly frenetic, with both sides resorting to pressure relieving kicks from deep. Derwent looked the most likely to score, well aware that they enjoyed the momentum. They repeatedly smashed against the Halifax lines, but to no avail, until finally, a hole was ripped in their line, allowing Chris Judge to bar-

rel over the line putting the score at 24-23.

The all-important conversion fell to Wessley, who now had to convert from wide on the right wing. His kick swung in, the ball dipping deliciously over the posts and breaking Halifax hearts.

There was time for one final chance, for Halifax, who were granted a penalty well within Derwent territory. However, rather than deciding to kick for goal from a relatively simple distance, fly-half and captain James McNeill put his faith in his pack, making the unusual choice of a tap penalty.

With minutes remaining, Derwent dealt well with the subsequent threat, retaining enough discipline to claim a 25-24 victory in an exhilarating game.

A delighted Tolga Nekar was effusive in his praise for his opponents, stating: "Hats off to Halifax, they blew us off the park for 60 minutes, they were great. But the lads came back, they showed so much spirit, heart and determination. That shows what our college is about."

Halifax's James McNeill was also delighted with his side's performance: "I can't believe the first half performance, it was phenomenal. Most of the second half was as well, it was just 10 minutes where we gave away silly penalties. I can't fault any of the lads today."

Convincing rugby wins for Alcuin and James

AGATHA TORRANCE

Will Light
Jonathan Frost

ALCUIN PRODUCED an impressive performance against a much improved Vanbrugh, besting them 22-5.

Alcuin showed a cutting edge throughout the game that Vanbrugh failed to produce, but the defeated side have every right to feel pride at a performance against a team that had previously beaten them 40-0.

The early stages of the game generally saw Vanbrugh on top, as they had a try disallowed for a double movement.

However, Alcuin managed to score with their first attack of any real potency, a strong performance in the ruck allowing Henry Thompson to score, though it remained unconverted.

The second half brought an improved showing from Alcuin, with Vanbrugh repeatedly forced to repel their opponents on the line.

It seemed only a matter of time before a further Alcuin score, with Sonny Dewfall making the breakthrough at the end of a piece of running rugby.

The team in red soon scored their third after some excellent wing play allowed James Evans to squeeze home in the corner, despite Alcuin having only 14 men at this point.

The flow of the game was marred slightly by the number of sin bins seen on both sides, usually

a rare sight in college rugby.

Vanbrugh finally made a deserved impact on the score-sheet, courtesy of Toby Dyke.

However, Alcuin managed to sneak in a final score before the final whistle, with probably the best try of the match.

Liam Habburn-Little danced through the opponent line before strolling the ball home.

Alcuin captain Muzzy Foley spoke to *Nouse* after the match: "I was really happy with the result, but it was far more difficult than expected. Vanbrugh had some top guys out there today."

In the other game of the day James secured a convincing 33-14 victory over Goodricke in an entertaining match-up.

Using their superior forward strength, they suppressed the opposition, only allowing a couple of late tries to be conceded in the second half.

The Goodricke side played well though, showing a return to form and some real grit given their poor performances last term.

They exploited opportunities along the wings with some good runs, and even matched the bigger, heavier James scrum for the start of the game, but were eventually overpowered.

James opened aggressively, Anthony Matthews thundering through a gap in the Goodricke back line in the first ten minutes to score the first try.

Another followed from Tom



James' defence look to keep Goodricke out as they fight on their way to a hard-fought 33-14 victory on Sunday

Prifti, taking the score to 12-0, ignoring a promising Goodricke ruck that should have resulted in a try, but was disallowed.

After half time, the James forwards quickly shut down any hope of offensive play from their opponents, forcing them back in the rucks and winning nearly every scrum.

With stamina wearing thin on the Goodricke side, further James tries were delivered by Phil Clayton and the superb Matthew Collins,

who worked fluidly on the wing, turning past two men to take the score line to 24-0.

A superlative run from substitute Phil Scott brought James' domination to an impressive 33 points, off loading the ball at the last moment to Alex Muntis to avoid going into touch as the Goodricke team caught up with him.

James then sat back, game in hand, and lazily allowed Goodricke a couple of consolatory tries, the diminutive Alex McDonald smashing

through the James backs to claim the first.

The game ended a fair 33-14, with James a man down.

James skipper Ben Brummitt said: "I was happy with the second half, despite letting in two soft tries."

His Goodricke counterpart was equally pleased, considering his team's vast improvement in performance: "We put on a good display, and it was great to get points on the board."

Jubilant futsal firsts keep title hopes alive

Jonny Sim
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE FUTSAL firsts kept their title hopes alive as they secured all six points in the penultimate round of the BUCS league held at Northumbria University last Sunday.

A resounding 8-3 defeat of Sunderland and a hard-fought 3-2 victory over York's own second team means they still have a chance of securing promotion and qualification for the National Cup going

into the final round of fixtures.

The closest encounter was expected to be between York firsts and Sunderland, after an unconvincing 4-3 win for the boys in black and yellow in their other meeting this season. But the long-awaited return from injury of captain Tom Day seemed to revitalise his side, producing the best first-half team performance in a long time.

York hit the ground running, when Alex Reid latched onto an Ash Daly chip within the first two

minutes, and only moments later the lead was doubled thanks to a long range strike from Daly.

The fairy-tale start was shortly completed when Day added a third within ten minutes of his comeback, nutmegging the keeper after a one-two with Dom Hallas.

The floodgates remained wide open until half time, with the score reaching 6-0 following another Daly finish and two well-taken goals from Jonny Brown.

A performance of such qual-

ity and intensity proved difficult to sustain, and York's concentration seemed to slip in the second half. The break allowed Sunderland to regroup, frustrating York through a combination of petulant challenges and improved organisation.

A Sunderland revival seemed possible after some sloppy defending proved costly; three goals conceded despite little sustained pressure on the York goal.

Nonetheless, York continued to dominate possession and added twice more to their tally with Brown completing his hat-trick and Reid striking a sublime long-range shot into the top corner.

The result was never in doubt following such a superb first-half performance, though York might be disappointed that they didn't take the chance to boost their goal-difference, which could prove a deciding factor in this year's title race.

York firsts and seconds then found themselves in the unusual position of facing each other in a competitive game. An upset seemed on the cards when the seconds took an early lead thanks to Jimmy Anderton, but the firsts responded quickly and positively, equalising moments later through Reid.

Brown and Angel Sahi then poached two goals, as the firsts looked like taking control, but the seconds never relented and fought their way back into the game.

Anderton made the most of a

some lax marking to bring the game within just one goal, but the score remained 3-2 at the final whistle.

The fact that the seconds offered such stern resistance is testimony to the depth of talent possessed by the futsal club.

Unfortunately, they were unable to replicate this performance in the final game of the day when it was their turn to play Sunderland, as a combination of poor finishing, fatigue and bad fortune conspired against them.

Despite demonstrating great team spirit against the firsts and some impressive individual performances from Jon Purdie, James Briars and Freddie Robinson, the seconds will be disappointed to have returned to York without any points in the bag.

First-team captain Tom Day offered a fair appraisal of his team's performance, concluding: "As a team we looked composed and a strong force going forward. There were a few sloppy passages of play that we need to eliminate from our game, but nothing that cannot be easily addressed."

A successful day for the firsts leaves them with a chance of topping the BUCS Northern 1B league on 12th February. In order to leapfrog current leaders, Northumbria seconds, the firsts need to defeat both Bangor and Northumbria, and rely the seconds team to hold Northumbria to at least a draw.



The futsal firsts could gain promotion and qualification for the National Cup after two wins at Northumbria

Halifax secure victory over Derwent in closely fought college hockey encounter

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

HALIFAX RECORDED a somewhat unconvincing victory over Derwent on a frozen JLD on Sunday.

They ultimately ran out 4-2 victors, but were pushed hard by a Derwent side that lost 11-1 to Alcuin the previous weekend.

Derwent started as the brighter of the two sides, flashing a tempting ball across the face of the goal from a free hit.

But they soon found themselves a goal down against the run of play, as Alex Francis launched a superb break, bursting out of his own half, before passing to Rory Walker, who hammered his shot into the bottom corner.

Almost immediately, though, the scores were level once again.

Greg MacDonald picked up a loose ball and fired calmly into the empty net to put Derwent back on terms, though there were claims from the Halifax players that his shot came from outside the D.

Halifax reacted well to the setback and began to dominate possession, but they could have fallen behind.

MacDonald had another great chance, which would have given his side the lead, but scuffed his ef-

fort wide of the target after finding space for a shot.

Derwent were made to pay for that miss just a few minutes later, Graeme Osborn sliding a powerful shot past Allison Wise to make it 2-1 Halifax.

By this stage, Halifax were looking the much sharper of the two teams, their crisp passing proving too much for the Derwent defence.

And when Osborn was denied his second goal by the post after excellent control by Shin on the left wing, Derwent were glad to hear the half-time whistle.

Halifax's dominance continued at the start of the second half, Shin wasting their best opportunity as he miscontrolled at the far post when unmarked.

Derwent were unable to keep possession long enough to mount a meaningful attack, and the 'Fax pressure paid off when a long clearance sent Shin clean through on goal; he took his time and calmly slid the ball into the net, making it 3-1.

It seemed as though Halifax would go on to widen the gap between the sides, but some spectacular last-ditch defending prevented them from doing so.

Nicky Johnson and Simon Varley both cleared off the line, before

Varley did so again to deny Osborn.

And with five minutes left on the clock, Derwent clawed their way back into the game as MacDonald spun on the edge of the D and lashed a thunderous shot into the far corner to set up a tense finale.

Derwent's Jack Bradshaw smashed a shot just wide of the far post, but it was Halifax who had the last laugh, scoring with the final touch of the game.

As Derwent piled men forward in hope of grabbing an equaliser, Shin was again left in acres of space down the right flank.

His cross was inadvertently turned into his own net by the diving Chris Hopkins to seal a hard-fought 4-2 win for Halifax.

Afterwards, Halifax co-captains Helen Marston and Hannah Boyne had this to say about their side's performance: "We played really well as a team and battled hard.

"We're really proud of the result, particularly as they were difficult conditions out there with the pitch being frozen."

Derwent's Nicky Johnson was pleased with her side's performance despite the defeat, saying: "I thought we played well and were very unlucky.

"The new team is starting to settle in now and we're hoping that we can pick up as the season progresses."

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Halifax scored with the last attack of the game to clinch victory over a determined Derwent side on the JLD

Futsal title hopes alive

The futsal firsts recorded two wins to keep them in with a chance of promotion

SPORTS >> Page 23

College sport roundup

Reports on this week's college rugby and hockey action inside

SPORTS >> Page 22-23



Spring Term Week Four
Tuesday 31 January 2012
Nouse Est. 1964

sport@nouse.co.uk
www.nouse.co.uk/sport

AGATHA TORRANCE

SPORT

York Sport fee withdrawal in final stages

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

IT HAS been confirmed that the £40 York Sport membership fee is on the verge of being eradicated.

In the next academic year, sportsmen and women playing for teams at University level will only have to pay a fee to join their club of choice, rather than paying the extra £40 to become a member of York Sport.

YUSU are not including the controversial membership fees in their budget for next year, and the plans are now only waiting to be officially signed off on by the University.

Sam Asfahani, York Sport President, told *Nouse* that he was very happy to see the fees on the verge of disappearing, something that he and others at YUSU have been trying to accomplish for a number of years, only to see their proposals rebuffed.

Asfahani commented: "We've been working really hard over the last few years to get rid of York Sport membership and it's good to see that we are so close to getting it officially signed off, and that the University is positive towards the change."

Nouse first revealed in February of last year that the University and York Sport had combined to form a plan that could see membership becoming free by October 2012.

This was after the coalition government's announcement to rise the tuition fee threshold, with the University of York charging the maximum of £9,000. Increasing the funding for sport and extra-curricular activities has been seen as a way of reducing the financial burden placed on students.

At the time, Asfahani stated that he was "extremely optimistic" that the plans would come to fruition, but it has taken until now to confirm that the membership fee

is no longer seen as a necessary source of funding.

In November, it was suggested that the various clubs which do not use University facilities, such as sailing, should not pay for membership, but now the only major charge will be for individual club membership.

This is the latest in a series of positive announcements to come out of York Sport this academic year.

Alongside the opening of the new £11m Sports Village, which is set for 16th July, York Sport will receive £142,000 from Sport England over the next three years, with the University currently applying to receive the first instalment of the grant.

That money has been earmarked to "completely revolutionise college and participation sport, and the way it's delivered", with college rugby being moved on campus once the Sports Village is open and more college football leagues being created.

There are also plans to further promote women's football through more regular matches, and to also give additional funding to other sports such as badminton and squash.

In addition, colleges have this year been given an extra £900 to be spent on sport, money which was previously taken directly from the JCRCs' YUSU block grant to cover various costs associated with college sport.

That came after the £5 charge to play in college sport was removed last year, a move that Asfahani described as "just the first step on our drive to push college sport forward".

York Sport was also given £1000 by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to fund two projects as part of the National Union of Students' 'Be a Champion' initiative.



Derwent and Alcuin record victories on a memorable day of college rugby >> Page 22

AGATHA TORRANCE



31.01.12

Nouse is printed by Yorkshire Web Printers of 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS.
For back copies, contact the JB Morrell Library, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD.

www.york.ac.uk/webprinters
www.ey.com/uk/careers

