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Nouse



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Tuesday 08 March 2016



Holmes away from home: Dame Kelly, Olympic gold medalist, to open new athletics facility on Heslington West

More than 1/3 of students have been offered drugs on campus

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A SURVEY conducted by *Nouse* into drug culture at the University has revealed that 66 per cent of students at the University of York either disagree or mostly disagree with the statement: "The University does enough to raise awareness about the effects of drug usage."

The survey, in which 101 stu-

dents took part also shows that 37 per cent of respondents answered that 30 to 100 per cent of their friends and acquaintances that study at the University of York, use or have used drugs while at university. The largest college representation of this group was Vanbrugh, who accounted for 39 per cent.

The University currently offers support for drug users through its Open Door Team, whose insufficient provision of services was criticised during the Vice Chancellor's

Question Time on 29 February. The Vice Chancellor Koen Lamberts, acknowledged that there are currently not enough appointments to meet demand.

In response to the statement: "Drugs are a problem at the University of York," 89 per cent of student replies mostly disagreed or disagreed with this statement.

David Duncan, Registrar and Secretary, commented: "I think

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Colleges and Socs could be missing out on thousands in YUSU rebates

YUSU's charity tax status not extended to these groups

Ben Rowden and Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR AND REPORTER

QUESTIONS ARE being raised over whether YUSU are missing an opportunity to use their charity status to claim back money which belongs to colleges, societies and their members following investigations by *Nouse*.

As a result of their charity status YUSU is able to claim VAT relief meaning they pay a reduced rate of VAT on a number of different products and services, including venue costs, catering costs and merchandise. As a result of this, when a society or college organises an event, YUSU could be able to claim back a VAT rebate of up to 15 per cent on certain items.

If colleges and societies were included it would mean that every time YUSU pays a bill on behalf of college JCRCs or societies, they can claim back a proportion of the VAT. This is because charities are taxed at a reduced rate of 0 or 5 per cent. This means that a significant amount of money could be reimbursed to colleges and societies if YUSU treated them as linked for financial purposes. As YUSU holds all college JCRC and society money, it is unclear why this is not the case already.

However as YUSU states that colleges and societies are financially separate for tax purposes, despite all money being held by YUSU Finance, no rebate takes place. If YUSU were to claim this then potentially thousands of pounds could

be saved collectively on the societies and college grant budget.

For colleges and societies the impact of this potential rebate is highly significant. If a college or society holds an event, then a proportion of their costs could be reimbursed by the VAT rebate. For example, in the case of Vanbrugh College's Winter Ball, which cost nearly £9000 to host, up to 15 per cent (£1350) of that cost could have been returned in the form of a rebate.

YUSU President Ben Leatham said that: "Clubs, colleges and societies each have their own governing documentation and or constitutional independence and can spend their finances how they wish within that framework and therefore are financially separate from YUSU. YUSU is partially exempt for VAT and only certain elements/activities fall under this category. Expert VAT advice has been taken to ensure the most tax efficient structure is in place to benefit members and YUSU with the VAT treatment for clubs, colleges and societies being regularly reviewed."

An independent expert, approached by *Nouse*, was consulted as to whether it is feasible that colleges and societies could be linked to this VAT relief system. The expert stated that as YUSU controls the finance of the societies and colleges, despite being independent for tax purposes at the moment, he could see no reason why this could not happen in the future.

Based on this information, the question has to be raised why

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A NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY EDITOR...

As of tomorrow, *Nouse* will set up camp in a new – albeit temporary – office, just above the porters in Vanbrugh.

Since building work is to be done here at Grimston House, the concrete eyesore whose essence is all in the name, we'll be packing up shop to start again somewhere different. And I'm not entirely sure how I feel about that.

These last few days in the office have got me thinking about the value of spaces. We've learnt this week that students will have to make their case to YUSU if they're to save the Arts Studio in Wentworth (p. 6) and Kelly Holmes will be opening the brand new, state-of-the-art sports buildings in April (p. 4).

There are certain rooms and buildings that we pass through every day and five years down the line can't remember the colour of the walls. But there are other places which resonate, not necessarily because they're beautiful, or interesting, or particularly distinctive in any way; quite the contrary – because they're familiar and ordinary, and it's in these spaces that we're most at home.

The *Nouse* office is an ordinary space. But it's also a place of chaos: of clutter and commotion and confusion, and equally genuine serenity in a kind of cloud cuckoo land.

One of my favourite features of the room is the collection of quotes from various editors plastered across the walls, left as their legacy. "I'm not on the ball with culture." – Jack Richardson, Muse Editor, one reads.

Here we watch the sun rise after an 18

hour shift, grab a blueberry muffin from V Bar, and get back to work. It's in this room that our most exciting pieces start to take shape, and we argue over how in God's name we fix the body text. In our little office that's never a comfortable temperature, with past editions dating back decades lining the walls, swept under the furniture and spilling out of the filing cabinet, we do our absolute utmost to make a paper we can all be proud of.

It's also a space that's almost impossible to define. Today, on being irritated for the umpteenth time by our Comment Editor Ciarán Morrissey, who's taken a liking to winding me up, I told him he was causing me grief at work. To which Ciarán replied, and quite rightly: "This isn't your workplace!"

A little indignant, I retorted: "Well, what the hell is it then?"

I think this office is a place of community. None of us have to be here and quite often very few of us want to be here, but something makes us all come back, and it's very rare that I'll end a shift regretting my experience.

We may be moving out of this particular space tomorrow, but I hope we'll carry something of its essence to our new home in our own affections for the paper.

In any case, given any luck with the building work, we shouldn't be homesick for long.

Amy Gibbons

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Nouse would like to state that the article "Multiculturalism failed in Britain?" published in last edition's Politics section was written with no intention to imply that the York Union is a partisan organisation.

IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK



Society members will distribute flyers on campus to prospective offer-holding students to “raise awareness”

Socialist Soc to canvas Visit Day with mock University flyer on mental health funds

Chris Owen
EDITOR

UNIVERSITY OF YORK Socialist Society is planning a “publicity stunt” at this Saturday’s post-offer visit event to raise awareness for the need to improve the University’s mental health provision, Open Door, and to condemn changes in higher education funding.

According to Chair Jack Chadwick, society members will be handing out flyers in fake ambassador shirts to prospective students at Saturday’s post-offer visit event, in order to “raise awareness of the lack of sufficient student support and the University’s reluctance to condemn the recent changes to higher education”. These are things Chadwick believes have “exacerbated stress and competition among students and are negatively impacting our levels of mental health”.

The flyer, which is written like a parody of an open-day information document and which will be given to out to offer-holding pro-

tential new students, opens with the line: “Our innovative new programme, the BA (Hons) Leave of Absence offers an unparalleled level of efficiency for the £27k of debt we hope to collect from you over the course of your three years.” The flyer carries the University’s name and its official logo, as well as those of Socialist Society.

It continues “And with just six mental health practitioners servicing 18,000 students, the programme is proving more popular than ever. While students across England and Wales struggle to cope with a tripling in the rate of depression, anxiety and psychosis since the introduction of tuition fees five years ago, at York we aren’t far behind, having seen a 46 per cent rise since 2011.”

The stunt comes after Socialist Society conducted an investigation earlier this term into the increased pressure placed on Open Door. The society’s data found that increases in funding had not kept pace with rising demand.

University management has condemned the planned stunt. David Duncan, Registrar & Sec-

retary, commented: “It is in everyone’s interests that York is able to attract able students from all backgrounds, and that we make them feel as welcome as possible. Leafleting prospective students with messages of this sort would be completely contrary to this.”

“If any student society would like to raise an issue with the senior officers of the University, our door is open - we would be happy to meet with representatives of this society and discuss these matters in a constructive and positive spirit.”

The flyer continues with the assertion that “The BA (Hons) Leave of Absence is a favourite of the many students struggling with the pressures you’ll find at York: a maintenance loan barely covering rent, the declining student-staff ratio leaving you to fend for yourself academically, and the intense stress of securing a stable career path.”

It concludes that, with “chronic oversubscription for the NHS” students are reliant on universities for mental health support. “Raising awareness is not enough,” the flyer says. “We need to start raising budgets.”

York Islam Soc says Prevent is creating a ‘hostile’ environment

Chris Owen
EDITOR

THE CHAIR AND Vice Chair of the University of York’s Islam Society have spoken out against the Prevent Duty, claiming that it feels like “a direct attack” on Muslims on campus.

Soon to be fully implemented at York, the Prevent Duty is a statutory obligation placed on workers in public bodies - including doctors, teachers and lecturers - to report suspicious behaviour that may be an indicator of radicalisation. The scheme has been criticised by those who believe it leads to racial profiling and enables everyday surveillance, though others see it as essential in tackling terrorism.

Saher Ahmed, a second year PPE student and Chair of Islam Society, told *Nouse* that the Prevent Duty is creating a “very hostile environment” on campus for Muslim students, calling the issue a “social welfare concern”.

“Some people are introverts,” Ahmed said. “Some people might have mental health issues, and Prevent would target them as well because they have suspicious behaviour. That doesn’t have anything to do with them looking at how to join jihad or something.”

Prevent, she believes, is blurring the line in public perceptions between Islam and jihad, and the recent introduction of mandatory Prevent training for certain staff at the University of York, sent out “in error” and later retracted, makes her want to “limit [her] own freedom of speech”.

“It makes me want to just be quiet and not say anything in the fear that something might be taken out of context, or they might

York. He believes it could lead to fewer students applying to English universities from overseas.

The University has released a statement about how it intends to safeguard students and ethnic minority groups against discrimination under Prevent, which appears today in an article on the *Nouse* website. The University’s strategy has four main aims: safeguarding anyone at risk of radicalisation; avoiding stigmatisation of any particular group; ensuring academic and speech freedoms are protected; and meeting its legal obligations under the Act.

University Registrar and Secretary David Duncan commented, “As the article indicates, we will not target the implementation of Prevent on particular groups or societies, and will do everything we can to reassure students about our proportionate and sensitive approach to this legal duty. To this end, at the suggestion of the GSA President, Rasha Ibrahim, a meeting has been arranged for next week with representatives of the Islamic Society.”

“As covered in the last edition of *Nouse*, the email message you refer to was retracted because it erroneously indicated that individual members of staff had been identified to complete the awareness raising module. In fact, we would invite all staff and students to access it - it is available via the VLE (for students) and the LMS (for staff). The module stresses that we should not make assumptions about people because of their religion or the way they dress.

“As indicated in the article, we will make other packages available to staff and students as and when they are available.”

YUSU President Ben Leatham told *Nouse*, “The comments from the Islam Society are very concerning. The Prevent duty that universities have to legally implement is fundamentally flawed and can easily lead to racial profiling as well as censorship.

“Although I do think that compared to other institutions this University is approaching its implementation in a more measured way, transparency has to be a priority. It needs to be clear to students exactly what is happening with regards to Prevent on campus so concerns can be eased or questions can be asked.

“I will continue to push the University to both communicate to students about Prevent as well as implement it in a measured way. I will also continue to lobby nationally against the duty as well as offer support to Unions across the country whose institutions have taken a far more targeted approach.”

26 Feb 2016
The date the University’s policy on Prevent was approved by the governing body

think that I have these certain views,” Ahmed said. “I just feel like it restricts me from expressing my faith. And I know a lot of people, especially Muslim females, who would probably end up taking their headscarf off, just so they aren’t as identifiable as Muslims.”

Ali Umbetov, a second year Politics and Philosophy student and Vice Chair of Islam Soc, raised concerns about the impact that Prevent on campus may have on international students coming to

Colleges and societies could be missing out on significant VAT reimbursement



The HM Revenue and Customs headquarters in Westminster, London

Ben Rowden and Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR AND REPORTER

>>> **Continued from front**

colleges and societies are treated as financially separate for tax, when the administration of finance is handled by YUSU.

As YUSU's charity status means it does have the privilege of VAT relief, it could mean that thousands of pounds of unclaimed VAT money goes to the tax office every year instead of being repaid to colleges and societies.

Following *Nouse's* findings, a number of college JCRC sources have expressed their concern with this news, with one claiming that if this was possible then, "the potential rebate money would actually fully pay our subsidy for certain events". Another JCRC source pointed to the fact that "nobody in the colleges knows what happens to the VAT re-

bate money".

It is not only college JCRC sources who are concerned about this news. Students and society heads have also expressed their concerns about this situation, with one telling *Nouse* that "If this is the case then I want to know why we as fee payers don't receive a reduced cost; YUSU are supposed to be on our side."

This is the latest concern to emerge regarding YUSU Finance and follows the news that this paper broke in a previous edition that YUSU often fails to pay societies on time, often nearly costing societies whole events.

One college source pointed out how YUSU failed to pay a YUSU approved company (one on a list which colleges are limited to hire from) on time, and so the company has refused to work with the college again in the future. This left the college with even fewer options for 'YUSU approved' services should they decide to run a similar event again.

Students do Jailbreak

STUDENTS FROM the University will be trying to get as far away from York as possible in 30 hours without spending any of their own money on Friday 11 March. The 'Jailbreak' challenge is all in aid of charity Kidscan which raises money for research and treatment of childhood cancer. 72 students will be taking part, split into 24 teams of 3. Prizes will be given to the highest fundraising team, highest earning fundraising individual and the team that gets the furthest away from York. Previous 'Jailbreak' teams have reached locations such as Germany, Poland and even as far as Hong Kong.

Microwave at library

FOLLOWING suggestions from students, the University library is to have a microwave. The building which is available to use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week will provide the appliance free for all students to use. Students requested the microwave in response to a question put forward on Facebook by Chris Wall, outgoing YUSU Activities Officer, asking what students would find useful to help them cope during exam season. Other suggestions included cheaper and healthier snacks more readily available at or nearby the library and tea and coffee sold in YUSU Shop, as well as better Open Door and Nightline services and improved support for disabled students.

Agreement on porters

AN AGREEMENT has been reached between the University and Unison, the Porters Union. The current contracts will remain and have a 12-hour shift roster. New staff will have shifts reduced from 12 to 8 hours. There will be seven 24/7 porter locations at the University: Information Centre, James College, Alcuin College, Derwent College, Halifax College, Ron Cooke Hub and Langwith College. There will also be three daytime only locations including Wentworth College, Heslington Hall and King's Manor. This new system will come into action in mid-July 2016, according to a statement issued by Ben Leatham.

Daily FOIs sent to Uni

DAVID DUNCAN, University Registrar and Secretary, has told *Nouse* that the University receives 1.4 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests per day. This volume of requests means that there is a delay in responses to the requests. There have been discussions as to whether universities should be subject to FOI legislation at all as many are private organisations and not public bodies. This came after a letter was leaked from Warwick University, stating their opposition to FOIs. Koen Lamberts, Vice Chancellor of the University, agrees with the government green paper on the issue, believing that universities are left at a competitive disadvantage to private institutions that are exempt from FOI requests.

Kelly Holmes to open sports centre

Luke Rix-Standing
NEWS REPORTER

ON 16 APRIL, double Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes will be coming to campus to open a new athletics stadium situated next to the Sport Centre on Heslington West. Jointly funded by the City of York Council and the University of York, the new facility features a high-standard eight-lane running track, with pavilion and 500-seat stands.

Dame Kelly is no stranger to the York athletics scene, having used an old University cinder track to train on while based at the nearby Imphal Army Barracks.

"I'm delighted to return to a city I have affection for" she stated, "and to open new athletics facilities that have now changed beyond recognition from those I once ran at."

"It is great to promote state-of-the-art athletics facilities like this, especially one designed for the community. Schools and clubs in the area will really feel the benefit and hopefully inspire a whole new generation of athletes."

"I am also grateful to the University of York and its students, City of York council and City of York Athletics Club for their support around this opening and in assisting my marathon efforts"

Dame Kelly will be taking a break from her training for the London marathon, which she

hopes will raise £250,000 for five charities. The charities include the Dame Kelly Holmes trust, Hospice in the Weald, Myeloma UK, Pickering Cancer Centre and Mind UK. Attendees will be encouraged to donate to one of them to assist her fundraising efforts.

Besides the opening of the new facility, the day will boast a "Run with Kelly" community fun run, a community Q&A session and the conclusion of a 12-hour fundraising relay by the York Sport Union, as well as a meet-and-greet with members of the City of York Council and the York University Athletics Club.

Grace Clarke, current York Sport Union President, said: "It certainly has been a year of success for Sport at York and I am absolutely delighted to welcome Dame Kelly Holmes to the home of the York Sport Union on behalf of the students."

"Having Dame Kelly on campus; inspiring and literally running alongside our student community, is such a special occasion and one that I am sure will go down in the University's sporting history."

Dame Kelly herself is enthusiastic: "I look forward to taking part in some of the events planned on what will hopefully be a fantastic community day showcasing some fantastic facilities for the people of York."

After Dame Kelly's departure there will be 'come and have a go' sessions hosted by the York Athletics Club, so that members of the



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

Holmes is an Olympic gold medalist and Sports Personality of the Year

community can come along and try out different athletic disciplines. People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to take part.

University Head of Sport Keith Morris, stated: "we have already hosted regional events at schools and other clubs within the city. As

is the case with all University sports facilities, this stadium is open to everyone regardless of ability and can be used individually or on a session by session basis."

The opening by Dame Kelly Holmes will take place on 16 April, at 10:00am.

YUSU may hold vote on whether to take a stance on EU ref

Felix Forbes
NEWS REPORTER

PLANS HAVE BEEN made to make the University of York Students' Union hold a referendum in Week Two of third term this year, on whether it should have a position on the nationwide European Union referendum. The motion is being proposed to YUSU by York members of the pro-EU campaign group Stronger In.

YUSU President Ben Leatham said: "A group of students have submitted a policy proposal relating to the coming EU referendum. As the referendum is taking place in June we are currently exploring options on how best to consult with students in a timely manner."

"This may well be through an extraordinary referendum, although nothing is confirmed yet."

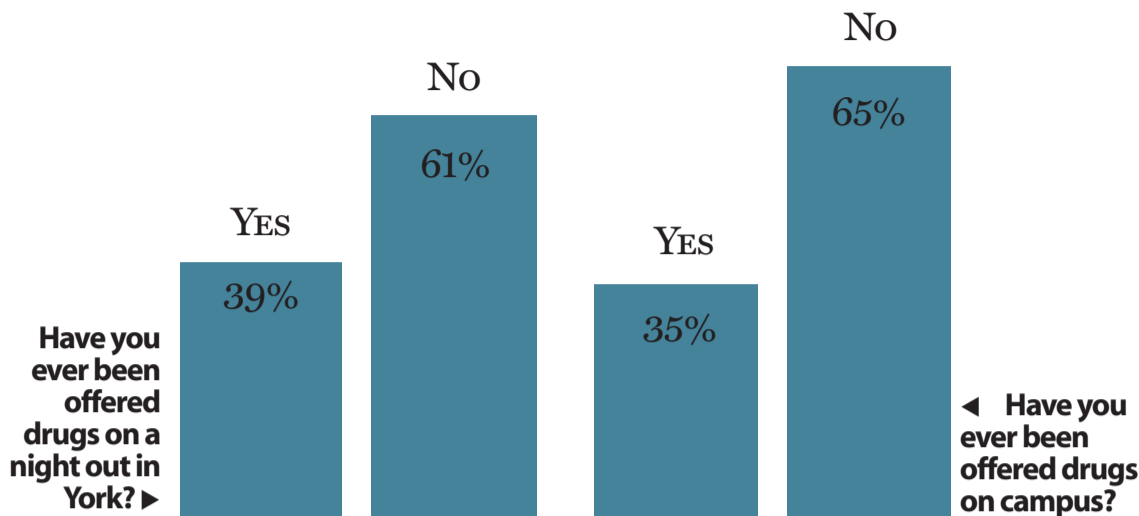
An extraordinary referendum is one that happens without the context of a prior timetable. The motion for the referendum, if passed, would commit the representative body for students to favour staying in the European Union (EU). This would give pro-EU groups the right to campaign on campus and would enable YUSU to campaign on behalf of staying in the EU (and also potentially fund campus campaign groups).

Mike Green, a member of York's Stronger In, said "We at

York's Stronger In Europe think our continued membership of the EU is vital to York remaining a top-tier university and a world leader in research. Our membership of the EU brings in millions of pounds of funding, enables international research collaboration, and assists European students in studying here. We hope the student body will clearly demonstrate its support for Remain in the upcoming referendum."

The referendum would not commit the University of York itself to favouring membership of the EU, due to it being separate from YUSU. The University has decided not to take a public stance on the referendum, though at his recent Vice Chancellor's Question Time event, Koen Lamberts said he believed the prospect of Britain leaving the EU poses a "great risk to this University". University Registrar David Duncan, when asked for comment, said that "All shades of political opinion are represented in the University community, and while it is right that we provide a platform for debate and discussion around the issues, the University Council felt that it should not take a formal position on the referendum (similarly, we don't take a position in general elections)."

"The potential impact of Brexit on the University is hard to assess at this stage, but it is true that it could have a profound effect on access to research grants, access to capital and development funding, recruitment of students and staff and career opportunities for graduates."



Students say Uni not doing enough on drug awareness

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

>>> Continued from front

your survey is right in concluding that there isn't a significant drug problem at York.

"However, working with the student associations and external agencies, we will continue to try to raise awareness of the risks associated with drug taking and to support those affected by it."

A student from Derwent College said: "I don't think the University do enough to address the issue of drug awareness. York isn't one of the worst universities for drugs but usage is still quite potent among some areas of the student population and the University should do more to ensure that people are being safe."

"The first step undoubtedly should be to encourage people to say no and the second should be to offer advice to those who for whatever reason say yes, on how

they should monitor their use and look after themselves and others around them. Advising people to say no is one thing but not recognising the needs of those who say yes is negligence."

According to findings from the 2014/15 crime survey for England and Wales, drug usage among 16 to 59 year olds has decreased, when compared to 10 years ago.

A foreign student from within the EU raised concerns about the use of the class A drug ecstasy in the UK, which they allege is far more common and 'mainstream' when compared to their country of origin.

35 per cent of students claim that they have been offered drugs on campus and a greater 39 per cent have been offered drugs on a night out in York. Between January and December 2015, 255 drug-related crimes occurred in the York City and East region, which encompasses Heslington and the University of York.

Scott Dawson, YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer stated: "I welcome Nouse's research.

While drug use might not have been identified as a major problem at York, research suggests that many students may decide to experiment with illegal drugs while at university.

It's important that students have the right information to be able to make informed decisions and YUSU recognises the need for improvement with awareness-raising and information about support services.

"YUSU is working with the University to improve links with drug and alcohol service providers in the city to both develop our own resources and information on this issue and to ensure students have access to specialist advice and support when they need it."

94 per cent of respondents were undergraduate students, 3 per cent were Masters students and 3 per cent were PhD students.

For support with addiction, contact the University's Open Door Team at opendoor@york.ac.uk or on 01904 322140. Alternatively, FRANK offer confidential drugs advise on 0300 123 6600.

College chairs deny Westival is competing with Big D

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

COLLEGE CHAIRS have denied that 'Westival' aims to compete with Derwent's annual Big D event.

The chairs of the colleges behind the planned summer event 'Westival' have told Nouse that the event in no way seeks to compete with other events, namely Big D, and that YUSU specifically changed the date in order to avoid competition with the Summer Ball, which is set to take place on 7 June.

The event, which will seek to replace 'Woodstock' during the day and then transform the Roger Kirk

Centre and The Lounge into a club with a headlining act performing on the night, will be run in order to support four college charities.

The colleges behind the event hope to raise a sizable sum of money for their respective charities: York Mind (Halifax), SASH (Vanbrugh), The Island (Alcuin) and Age UK (James).

The event also hopes to have a number of other supporting acts performing throughout the day, which are expected to be confirmed shortly.

YUSU will assist in the running of the day event, however questions have been raised over why YUSU changed the original date of the event from 29 May to 11 June, by which time it is expected that many

students will have gone home, and to what extent YUSU should play a role in college planning.

Commenting on the date change, YUSU President Ben Leatham stated: "The number of student led events that take place after exams finish next term is staggering. Four Colleges have come up with a fantastic idea for a large scale event to add to the mix."

"When looking at dates for events of this nature we have to consider whether YUSU will have sufficient resources available to support the student groups so they can run a successful event. The confirmed date for Westival is 11 June and we are working closely with the organisers to ensure it is the best it can possibly be."



Chairs confirmed that Big D and Westival were never meant to compete

Students plead with Uni to save Studios

Elliott Banks
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS WHO WANT to save the Wentworth Art Studio have been told to make their case to the University, as the Studio's future still remains in doubt.

Kate Dodd, Academic Registrar, told *Nouse*: "The University is having to make some significant cost reductions and is looking carefully at where these can be found. The studio space will remain available for use and there are no other plans for the rooms.

"A variety of different parts of the University, including History of Art, the Centre for Lifelong Learning and YUSU are considering ways in which the Studio can be managed on a more sustainable financial footing in future.

"Increasing the usage of the Studio and making them more accessible to other groups doing art, like the YUSU Art Society, would seem like an essential element of a

more sustainable financial model."

This dialogue between the University, YUSU and individuals connected to the Arts Studio is currently underway. Campaigners hoping to save the Arts Studio are set to continue lobbying the University to maintain the service, and are currently working on a YuFund application should it be necessary to raise the money independently of the University and its affiliates.

Kenza Auniere, the student behind the initial petition to save the Studio, told *Nouse*, "we are heading to 400 signatures soon, but we are at a tricky point".

YUSU President Ben Leatham said: "Having met with the organisers of the petition it is really obvious how beneficial the Wentworth Arts Studio and the tutor positions are. A meeting to discuss the proposal with the relevant University staff is taking place after the end of term.

"I am determined to ensure the views of those who use the space are represented and that a model is devised that enhances the Studio and encourages more to use it, as opposed to compromising it."



The Arts Studio is valuable to many

New consent talks 'not only for men'

Jessica Taylor
NEWS REPORTER

THE NEWLY elected Women's Officers Mia Chaudhuri-Julyan and Lucy Robinson are currently pressing forward to implement compulsory consent talks for first year students in line with their manifesto's aim to promote health and safety across campus.

The policy has, however, seen some slight backlash.

Ben Froughi, a student at the University, wrote an open letter to the pair, suggesting that the consent talks may be "demeaning and patronising, [...] painting all men as rapists".

The officers have since stated that the classes are entirely gender neutral and will be compulsory for all students, presented in a similar format to the fire safety talks at the beginning of the academic year.

The pair clarified, "We disagree wholly with the manner in which [consent classes] have been

conducted elsewhere in the past, such as directing the talks at men, as we recognise that anyone can be an abuser or victim. We want to introduce the talks because we feel consent is an important topic, but one that is still not properly understood."

Commenting on the matter, YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer Scott Dawson stated that, "The new Women's Officers are developing an ambitious range of plans to respond to challenges that students at York regularly face. We've had a real body of evidence develop at the University in recent years on the need for clearer action on issues like consent and sexual harassment.

"Mia and Lucy's election has given them an exciting mandate to respond with a range of inclusive policies that will benefit all students at York, regardless of gender. They're developing an innovative range of talks that they're hoping will follow the same model as Fresher's Fire Safety talks in Colleges. I am looking forward to working with them."

College Sport safe for another year

Ben Rowden and Elliott Banks
NEWS EDITOR AND REPORTER

INVESTIGATIONS undertaken by *Nouse* have revealed that the future of College Sport was seriously under risk due to significant opposition from colleges and the Graduate Student Association (GSA) over the increase in the college fee.

Until 2014 College Sport had been funded through a three year one-off grant provided by Sport England, with this year's being funded by the University. Prior to this YUSU had provided funding for College Sport.

However, due to opposition within College JCRCs and the GSA in consultation stages, the proposed increase in the college fee designed to help finance College Sport was in significant doubt.

The University has since stepped in and agreed to another one-off payment for 2016/17 to rectify this situation. As of yet the exact amount of this grant is not known, however, it is likely to cover the cost for 2016/17. It also remains unclear whether this year's planned increase in the college fee of £5.00 will go ahead.

Commenting on this issue

YUSU President Ben Leatham told *Nouse*, "It is fantastic that the University has listened and agreed to fund College Sport for another year, especially in light of College Sport's unique offer and York's success at Varsity.

"College Sport was funded by a three year Sport England grant which came to an end at the end of the last academic year. We have since been trying to establish a sustainable funding plan. College Sport is vital, it's growing, which is great but it's expensive to deliver.

"At first, funding direct from the University was not forthcoming so YUSU, along with the University, explored a number of alternative funding options. One of these options was an increase to the college fee.

"This proposal was in its infancy and was intended for student consultation; this consultation told us an increase in the college fee was not the right solution. Over the next year we are going to consult heavily with students and work closely with College representatives to solve the issue of College Sport funding in a sustainable and fair way."

However, with the potential suspension of the college fee rise for next year, the long term future of College Sport funding still remains in doubt.

York researchers discover how Zanzibar was formed

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR



The Island of Zanzibar, situated off the African coast, is 11,000 years old

THE FORMATION of the African island of Zanzibar has been uncovered by researchers from the University of York's Environment Department as part of a collaborative effort between environmental scientists and archaeologists.

The island's 11,000 year history has been mapped since its formation, charting a series of extinctions from a variety of species. It has been discovered that mammals such as zebra, buffalo, waterbuck and gazelle lived on the island from its creation and then disappeared following rising sea levels. Dr Robert Marchant, Reader in the University's Environment Department, said: "An understanding of the long-term history of faunal change allows us to identify patterns in the interplay of natural and anthropogenic factors that have shaped Zanzibar's ecosystems today.

"Such long-term insights are crucial in helping with current conservation efforts, laying a foundation for future research on impacts of island formation, climate change and human occupation on animals and their habitats."

SOC BOX

Women's comedy

YORK COMEDY Society hosted a Women's Show on Wednesday 2 March, with a line-up of all self-identifying women. There was also a ladies only sketch show.

Eleanor Mason, Chair of Comedy Society, commented saying: "I think the Women's Show was wonderful. I'm extremely proud of the women who performed and all the rest of the women in ComedySoc."

"I've been Chair for a year now and in that time a number of ComedySoc members have told me about the sexism they experience outside of University that makes it unpleasant to perform. This was about celebrating them as well as showcasing the incredible talent we have on offer here."

"In terms of future events, we are hoping to run some more workshops next year with the BME, LGBTQ, Women's and Disabled Students' Officers, but that will be for the new committee to organise."

Comedy Soc will be hosting another event featuring student group The Shambles on Wednesday 9 March in V/045.

Tickets will be £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

DramaSoc showcase

THIS COMING Wednesday 9 March sees DramaSoc host 'Writer's Showcase', a platform for aspiring student writers to have their work performed.

The short plays to be featured are all written by University students, and similarly produced by a student team of directors and actors.

This term's showcase has been organised with the theme of 'Fear and Wonder' in mind, purporting to look specifically at "the frontiers of our moral and scientific knowledge and the horror and joy that can be found" there.

The plays to be showcased on the evening deal with diverse topics, ranging from the issues associated with playing God, to the dangers of the 'Asockalypse' - an apocalypse brought on by knitwear.

The Writer's Showcase debuted during the Autumn term of 2015, and due to its success, features again this Spring. It is one of many student-led events

run by DramaSoc alongside their popular weekly productions and Open Drama Nights, such as 'Play in a Day'.

The Drama Barn will play host to the showcase, which is due to begin at 7.30PM and cost £2 for entry.



Changes made to essay submission

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THERE ARE plans to change the assessment submission policy at the University.

Currently if you submit an assignment late and it is due in paper form on a Friday you would need to wait until the Monday to submit it, resulting in three days worth of penalties. However if you submit an online piece late you can do this over the weekend, resulting in fewer marks deducted. Students who suffer from these further penalties can lose 30 per cent of their marks due to the delay in being able to submit work.

There have been calls to change this so that it is fairer to

students and there is not a disparity between those submitting online and paper copies, making penalties in each case the same.

Thomas Ron, Academic Officer, commented: "I believe this policy will benefit students as it will ensure that no one is being penalised for their department's choice of hand-in method. Therefore, all work is treated equally and no one feels left out. We reacted to the issue due to student feedback on our surveys and feedback to our student representatives and I am happy to say that the University has seen the need to tighten the policy and I hope it will be passed at the Standing Committee on Assessment."

It is yet to be seen when these changes will take place, but the University is considering how to implement the policy.

Women's mentoring success

Amy Gibbons
DEPUTY EDITOR

A DOZEN undergraduates at the University of York have participated in a very successful women's mentoring scheme, teaming up with secondary school students and Hiscox and Aviva to encourage girls to broaden their career outlooks.

The Girl's Enrichment Mentoring Scheme (GEMS) ran weekly meetings between the undergraduates and Year 10 pupils, culminating in two 'Women in Business' days of workshops and professional talks at Hiscox and Aviva.

The response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive. Molly McGrellis, a third year Maths undergraduate and volunteer for GEMS, said: "I clearly remember being 15 and not sure of myself and my abilities. I would have loved a scheme like GEMS at school to

help demonstrate that the world of work isn't that scary!"

"The day at Hiscox was a great success. One of the pupils couldn't believe how much she enjoyed the day and she is now considering insurance as a career - she's even got some work experience lined up for



The percentage of women who are CEOs of Fortune 500 corporations (those with largest revenues in the US)

Easter, and I might even apply for the graduate scheme myself!"

David Duncan, University Registrar, also had high praise for the project. He told *Nouse*: "The GEMS mentoring programme - aimed at girls of secondary school age - has proved very popular with pupils and teachers."

"Run by our business volun-

teering charity York Cares [...], it provides opportunities for students to give practical help to young people who might not otherwise aspire to higher education.

"We are really grateful to Aviva and Hiscox for supporting the GEMS programme by hosting 'Women in Business' days at their York offices. The feedback from the Millthorpe and York High School pupils involved could not have been more positive."

"The GEMS programme is an excellent example of how York Cares brings together businesses and students in projects that make a practical difference in our local community. These initiatives also provide a great opportunity for students to develop the employability skills that will mark them out in the jobs market after graduation."

He added: "It has been such a success that there are now plans to extend it to boys and to involve a wider number of student volunteers."

Vanbrugh College has highest turnout in YUSU's Elections

Amy Bishop
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE STATISTICS from the YUSU elections 2016 show that Vanbrugh had the highest voter turnout at 44.5 per cent. This was followed by Derwent at 41 per cent and then James with 39 per cent. However in terms of actual numbers of voters, more people voted from Halifax than Vanbrugh with 838 people voting from Halifax and 835 voting from Vanbrugh.

The three colleges with the lowest voter turnout were Wentworth where only 5 per cent voted, Constantine with 23 per cent, and Alcuin which had a turnout of 23.7

per cent. However due to the number of people in each college Alcuin actually had nearly double the number of people voting compared to Constantine with Constantine having 299 voters and Alcuin 592.

In terms of subjects there was a considerable difference between the voter turnouts of those in different departments in the University. The subject area with the highest voter turnout was Social and Political Sciences at 53.5 per cent. History followed closely with 52.5 per cent, and Politics, Economics and Philosophy had the third highest turnout at 51.7 per cent.

The areas with the lowest voter turnout were the Centre for Lifelong Learning with only 0.2 per cent and Postwar Reconstruction and Development which had 1.2

per cent.

There was also a difference between the number of people who voted for the different officer positions. The position with the most votes was Academic Officer which saw Tamaki Laycock win, followed by YUSU President, won by Millie Beach.

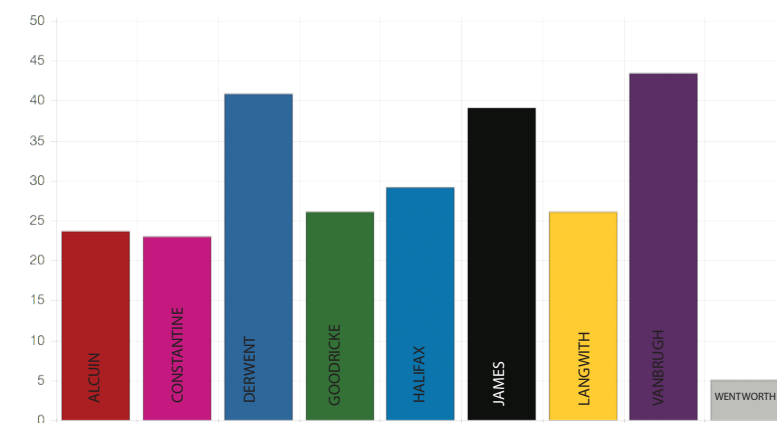
York Sport President had the third most votes to put Isaac Beevor in the position, the fourth most voted for position was Student Activities Officer which saw Alex Lusty replace Chris Wall and the fifth most popular position to vote for was Community and Wellbeing Officer in which Dom Smithies won.

Overall in this election 5097 students voted which was slightly up from 2014 in which 5065 people voted.

Ben Leatham, YUSU President, told *Nouse*: "Ultimately, I'd like to see every student use their vote. Elections offer students a real opportunity to get their voices heard and make changes."

"As a Union, we work hard to represent students, provide opportunities to get involved with a wide range of activities and deliver fantastic venues and services across campus."

"All of this has a direct impact on students and so while the turnout rate is respectable, I'm determined to ensure the organisation doesn't become complacent. Boosting the rate has to remain a priority for future years."



The percentage turnout overall of each college in the 2016 YUSU elections



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New study into worst uni gender pay gaps

James Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

AN INVESTIGATION into pay inequality at British universities by the University and College Union (UCU), has placed the University of York as the fifth worst Russell Group University for gender pay inequality. UCU represents 110,000 university stakeholders.

This status is calculated by assigning points to universities for each salary category. The method ranks Higher Education Institutions "according to the combined total for all academic staff, early-career, mid-career and two methods of measuring the gender pay gap for professors – the pay gap and the ratio of male to female professors, designed to capture the disproportionate number of male professors in UK universities".

The University of York was also ranked third worst Russell Group University for the gender pay differential between professors, with

women earning 8.5 per cent less than their male counterparts.

16 out of the 24 Russell Group Universities made it into the 87 institutions with the largest gender pay gap, with the London School of Economics having the worst combined gender pay gap ranking for a Russell Group University, at third overall with 68 points.

St. George's Hospital Medical School is ranked as having the largest pay gap with 93 points, 25 points ahead of the next highest ranking university.

According to the Times Higher Education pay survey 2015, during the year 2013/14, the overall academic staff average pay was £7,747 less for women at York, £2,095 more than the average gender pay gap in English universities. The University of York's Equal Pay Review 2013 shows that there was an average pay gap of 20.6 per cent.

This pay gap experienced a constant reduction between 2008, and 2013, although it remained higher than the national average between 2008 and 2013 respectively.



IMAGE: YORK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

British universities were ranked according to inequality in gender pay

No master at Harvard

HARVARD UNIVERSITY is the most recent of several Ivy League Universities in the United States to remove using the word master in the title of people working at the University due to the connotations it has with slavery.

Lead advisors in dormitories are to now be called "faculty deans" rather than "house masters".

Michael Rosengarten, Harvard's Mather House faculty dean, commented on the change saying "We've opted for what we feel is a more appropriate title for this time and place. And it's mainly because a lot of people do associate 'master' with a master-slave relationship, which we don't feel comfortable with."

"We're very sensitive to racial diversity at the University. Anything that could be considered to be disrespectful of minorities becomes a problem."

Lecturer in porn chaos

A LECTURER AT the University of Manchester is being investigated after it has been discovered that he has led a double life as a porn star. Nicholas Goddard, a chemical engineering professor who has a career in academia spanning 35 years has said he has since quit his life in the porn industry where he was known as 'Old Nick'.

The Oxford graduate is still awaiting to find out what his future at the University of Manchester will be following this leaking of information. University chiefs are carrying out an internal investigation into what has happened.

It is believed that the father of three began his career in porn following a divorce and has since been having sex with dozens of women on film for money.

New EU students face an extra two year wait to obtain financial support



IMAGE: DAVE KELLAM

New changes will make it harder for EU students to obtain financial help

Ben Rowden
NEWS EDITOR

THE UK GOVERNMENT has announced plans to make it harder for EU students to gain access to financial support for living in England.

Under the current rules students from any of the 27 other EU member states can apply for a maintenance loan after living in England for 3 or more years.

However, as of Autumn 2016 this will be extended to five years in order to ensure greater sustainability in the funding for higher education as well as bringing the UK's policy in line with other EU states, according to a spokesperson from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

Jo Johnson, the Universities Minister, said that the change would bring the UK into line with rules in Germany, France and other EU countries.

He went on to say in his written statement to Parliament that "the higher education student support budget is under pressure

from increasing numbers of applicants from the EU".

The move comes as a series of changes to student finance are already planned for next year, including the scrapping of maintenance grants and nursing grants.

An increase in the maintenance loan for those students from low-income backgrounds is also planned to come into effect at the

The number of EU students who applied for academic support in the UK in the year 2014/15

35,000

start of the next academic year. The new maintenance loan will be means-tested and will go up to £8,200 for full-time students.

The year 2014/15 saw around 35,000 EU students applying for academic support in the UK, according to the National Union of Students (NUS).

Current EU students will not be affected by the change and the government have denied that the changes are in any way linked to the upcoming EU referendum.

More student suicides

FEARS RISE AS the fifth student suicide at a Sha Tin institution in China has occurred since the start of the academic year.

According to previous data there are on average two suicide cases at the University each year. The increase in student suicide rates has possibly been linked to a change in the education system, meaning that students enter universities a year earlier than was previously the norm.

Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai, director of the University of Hong Kong's Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, said that "These students may not be as well prepared for university life. Universities should be more aware of this and enhance their counselling support."

A spokeswoman for the University pointed out that the University had noticed an increase in the number of students that had symptoms of anxiety and depression when entering the school and that they had hired more staff in order to deal with this.

The emotional argument behind the EU

Putting the economics momentarily aside, the 'In' campaign really ought to battle for British hearts as well as for British minds



IMAGE: DAVID ILIFF

IMAGE: MEG RUTHERFORD

Luke Rix-Standing



There seems to have been some inexplicable shift in the past few years that has brought nationalism into the political mainstream. In America, Donald Trump's isolationist populism is scorching through the presidential primaries, while in France the Front National is polling consistently well. The media have broadly condemned these two phenomena, but domestically the SNP and UKIP have taken Nationalist agendas into the realms of social acceptability. Even Yorkshire has an independence movement these days.

In the UK, it is surely naïve to think that this has nothing to do with centuries-old enmities: the Scots don't like the English, and the English don't like the French. Without a pretty serious *raison d'être* (like say, despotic foreign occupation), nationalism is an ugly ideology. Defined by the OED as "an extreme form of patriotism marked by a feeling of superiority over other countries" it is usually a product of intensely negative emotion. It was bad in Napoleonic France, it was bad in Bismarckian Prussia, and it's bad in 21st century Britain.

With this in mind, I find it troubling that the emotional side of the EU debate – the hot-blooded speeches and fiery populism – seems to be entirely dominated by

the 'Leave' campaign. Slogans like 'Believe in Britain' are intended to enflame people's passions, while subjects like immigration and sovereignty are often extremely emotive. All the while the 'Remain' campaign calmly trots out trade statistics, small-business petitions and job figures; all very important but unlikely to be heard above the massed ranks of isolationist middle England, screaming to anyone who'll listen about how "Brussels has taken all our fish".

For me this is the wrong way around; my feelings on the EU are profoundly emotional, but they fall

The key should be in the word 'Union'

”

firmly on the side of staying in. The EU stands alongside the UN as an international symbol of co-operation, solidarity and shared philosophies, and now perhaps as much as at any time since the war we need to promote these ideals both at home and abroad. The key should be in the word 'Union'; it is to this concept that we should be emotionally attached, while the burden of statistical proof should lie with Eurosceptics. Even if you disagree with the EU's current direction, the principle of a united Europe is surely a more worthy receptacle for our emotional commitment than nationalism.

There's a victimhood issue here too. It's noticeable that every

time the 'British sausage' comes up on the campaign trail it is prefixed with the word 'humble'. 'The humble British sausage'. We're the fifth largest economy in the world; our sausage is not, and has never been 'humble'. The whole thing smacks of the kind of post-colonial inferiority complex that creates slogans like 'make America great again'. Perhaps if UKIP et al. were less insecure about the humility of their sausages, they'd stop being so angry all the time.

My arguments here are not intended to be statistical or empirical – you can find all the economics online – but with anti-migrant fences peppering Eastern borders and the latest Eurozone crisis still largely unresolved, an 'Out' vote in June could be one more step back towards a fragmented Europe. Consider whether we want that.

What's on the line here is not just the economic future of one country, but an entire post-war philosophy that unity and solidarity are better than division and mutual suspicion. If there is an emotional argument to be made here it should surely be to stay in. So God save our gracious trade bloc, and let's put all this needless nationalism to bed.

One big European family: where baguettes and frankfurters abound, daddy gives Greece its monthly allowance and nobody, but nobody, mentions the war.

If you're still not convinced, then google UKIP's 'Out campaign' parody of the Baddiel & Skinner classic 'Football's Coming Home'. You want to let that win? Didn't think so.

Children need to understand 'gay' words

Removing homosexual results from a search engine is unpleasant and unnecessary, hurting the very same kids it seeks to 'protect'

Dom Smithies



Fear of a name only increases fear of a thing itself. Or, to paraphrase everyone's favourite witch (perhaps more tailored to this article), fear of the queer only increases queerphobia, systematic oppression and discrimination, while being ultimately harmful to children.

The cause of concern and the reason for this piece is that a child-friendly search engine - Kiddle - has recently been called out for blocking words including 'gay' and 'lesbian'. Charities such as Stonewall have

condemned it, as it denies access to young people seeking information about LGBT issues.

Stonewall's 2012 School Report has bundles of incredibly worrying statistics highlighting the issue of LGBT bullying in schools and lack of education about LGBT identities and issues.

There have been suppositions that these words are too closely associated with sex education and they're therefore not age appropriate for under-10s. There's also been the bizarre complaint that such 'material' is inappropriate for 'impressionable youths', which is quite frankly laughable.

It's undeniable that the concept of love is not hidden from children. In all sorts of media everywhere couples, relationships and love are presented in a child-friendly man-

ner, with no mention of sex. It's not only accessible to children but presented to them in books, on TV and they can see it in the day-to-day goings about of their lives.

But what's changed recently - for the better, if I may add - is the representation of LGBTQ individuals in various forms of media. This concept might be complicated for a child to process if they're only allowed to be exposed to the traditional heteronormative structure that is modern society.

So, overall while this is the norm I certainly don't think it's healthy. It leads to bullying, it leads to ignorance and it stops people being able to confidently question their own sexuality without guilt and fear. In the long run, this measure that's been bizarrely introduced to protect children from this 'material' is actu-

ally harmful to them. For it could be their own lives or the life of a friend they want to better understand.

I have a niece who's now four years old. She's very talkative and curious as many spritely toddlers are. I have made a conscious effort as her uncle to drop feminist messages and try to counter any 'material' I believe to be harmful - the generic prince-saves-princess attitude bores me and I'm going to take credit for the fact that Elsa is her role model because my niece don't need no man to save her.

But I also tell her that I'm gay. She used to ask me if I had a girlfriend and it took me less than five minutes to explain I don't have one, I don't want one and that who I love is different. The concept of love is probably better understood by young children than it is by most

adults, so introducing them to the entire spectrum of love can only be a healthy thing. Blocking them from learning about all the kinds of beautiful, wonderful, special and colourful ways of loving is abhorrent and cruel.

If teaching my four year old niece the simple idea that love comes in many forms and each is deserving of respect is seen as taking advantage of an impressionable youth, then I would readily be prepared to retort with the dangers of talking politics or religion in front of children before they're ready to think for themselves and decide their own identities and standing.

And to end as we began (with an obscurely placed Harry Potter reference): "HOMOPHOBIA! ON THE INTERNET! Thought you ought to know..."

IMAGE: UNITED STATES AIRFORCE



Dodgy arms deals have no place at universities

York should stay away from unethical arms companies like BAE systems

Dan Sweeney



Depending on your participation in campus politics, you may have heard of the partnerships that the Computer Science department has with arms companies. The main focus is on BAE Systems, the country's largest arms company and one of the biggest in the world.

First, I should acknowledge that there have been plenty of accusations and misunderstandings around this subject in the past, and I would like to clarify some of these issues throughout the article rather than propagate more misinformation.

The Department of Computer Science makes no secret of its relationships with arms companies including BAE Systems. This is a cause for concern for some of us as BAE have had allegations of corruption, bribery, spying on anti-arms trade activists, and supplying human rights abusing regimes with weaponry. According to a professor in the Computer Science department who has worked on defence

projects with BAE, they fund PhD programmes, commission research projects (although there are no ongoing large projects at the moment, there have been in the past), and advertise their company to students at careers fairs in return for funding.

What the department doesn't do is develop technology that will be used to harm anyone. The professor I spoke to insisted that almost all of their projects are intended to minimise loss of life by focusing on safety-critical systems, and that they also work on safety-critical projects for cars, hospitals, and civilian aircraft. My concern, however, is that even though their contributions are intended to stop what's referred to as "unintentional harm", the final piece of technology can still be used to cause destruction.

The department is also quick to insist that it follows the government's line on working with these companies, which is that it's okay. While this may be the case, by today's standards the government has at some point in history been wrong on almost any moral issue you could name.

The government also has other interests at stake; the arms trade is one of the country's biggest industries. Shutting down arms compa-

nies would be hugely detrimental to the economy, at least according to David Cameron, and so they're in favour of keeping the arms trade going for as long as possible. I would argue that the law is not and has never been a code of ethics. The government has never represented the height of morality.

The University also has its own ethics committee, who for whatever reason have also decided that this is acceptable. If either the University or the government were to change their positions, the department would cut ties with arms companies, but this is an unlikely scenario for the near future.

Some would argue that the funding we receive from arms companies is used to improve education and reduce costs for students. While this is indisputable, it is an easy position to take for people so far removed from conflict zones.

In the Yemeni civil war, Saudi Arabia, the world's largest arms importers who buy equipment from BAE and possibly some of our other research partners, have ruthlessly killed thousands of civilians including hundreds of children.

It is therefore my firmly held belief that the University should ditch funding from the arms trade and instead work with more ethical research partners.

Clean for The Queen: Sweep, peasants, sweep

Litter initiative hypocritical and condescending

Richard Crawshaw



Clean for The Queen is the latest campaign by Keep Britain Tidy. The aim is simple, recruit volunteers to clean the most neglected streets of Britain. The reason; to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. What's wrong with that you ask?

It's not the aim, that's noble enough. We should keep our streets clean and tidy. We shouldn't live in squalor and we shouldn't litter. More concerning is the reason and the messaging. A master class in pompous paternalistic patriotism. The campaign demands 'CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN. VACUUM YOUR VILLAGES. SPRUCE UP YOUR CITIES. DE-LITTER THE LAND.' Don't clean the streets for your local community. Don't do it out of good nature. Don't do it to brighten up your local area.

No, instead, Clean for The Queen. A national figure who, wherever she goes, has freshly swept streets, a red carpet and an extensive barrier between her and the 'riff raff'. The slogans are a reminder that some in society pride themselves on being subjects rather than citizens. Clean for The Queen. It's a tag line which could only be more patronising if it was 'Sweep the streets peasants'.

Now, you could throw out my arguments as the moanings of a disgruntled republican, so bitter about the Monarchy that I'd rubbish a suggested street cleaning, and you might be partly right.

However, you'd be missing a more important point. Clean for The Queen highlights growing litter, graffiti and vandalism in some of the UK's most deprived areas: a

problem that the government has failed to tackle and in some cases have exacerbated. Freedom of Information requests to 326 councils in England have found that, on average, local council budgets have been cut by 16 per cent since 2010. Street cleaning budgets in

many councils had been cut by up to 80 per cent.

On top of the statistics on broader cuts, the most reductions in local government have hit the most deprived areas. A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that the poorest English authorities had seen reductions of £182 per head more than the most affluent councils. It's not a case that Britain has become more prone to

The aims are noble, but the reasoning is wrong

litter, it's that local authorities have fewer and fewer resources to combat dirt and to sweep streets.

Here is where the hypocrisy of politicians backing this campaign is exposed. The hypocrisy of the 100 odd MPs who have backed the campaign and urged their constituents to grab a bin bag and sweep the streets, while implementing widespread cuts. In an age of austerity, we're being told by leading politicians such as Michael Gove and Boris Johnson to Clean for The Queen while council budgets are being cut.

Further hypocrisy can be seen when you look at the major sponsors of the event. McDonalds, Greggs and Costa Coffee, whose products can frequently be found among the litter. Is it really right that companies whose produce litters the street are asking good natured volunteers to clean up on their behalf? All masked in a cloak of patriotism?

Clean for The Queen's aims are noble, but its reasoning is wrong and its messaging is rooted

in a pompous patronising form of patriotism.

We should clean the streets, we should keep our villages and cities clean, but not for the Queen, for ourselves, our communities and neighbours. We must also confront the bigger issue. The litter and dirtiness of British streets is partly related to deep spending cuts to local councils which have fallen on the poorest areas of the UK.



IMAGE: POLICY EXCHANGE

EDITOR'S OPINION

The cult of anti-humanism

Ciarán Morrissey



After finally receiving what must be the most-anticipated Oscar in the Academy's history, Leonardo DiCaprio took this opportunity to lecture his audience about climate change.

Call me a cynic, but I'd have preferred the usual; thanking the fans, thanking your co-stars, thanking the crew, and thanking your mam. There's at least a veneer of sincerity in stuff like that (and watching people be nice to one another is nice in itself), whereas celebrity evangelism is a realm of faux, forced, phony displays of faith.

It's faux because it's just so obviously not believed in. An unfathomably rich man, commuting globally via private jet, is not really concerned about climate change. I also don't understand this notion of raising awareness. What person, in the western world, hasn't heard of climate change? Al Gore won a Nobel Peace Prize and an Oscar for a powerpoint on global warming back in 2007, and we already have a whole cottage industry dedicated to 'debunking' climate change, for a variety of motives.

Climate change is a profound-

ly important social issue, and one we should be taking seriously. But we are not taking it seriously if the fight consists of wealthy celebrities lecturing the little people, telling them to live simpler lives.

It's depressingly defeatist, this notion that humanity is a cancer upon the planet and we ought to forfeit all the progress we've made in order to live sustainably, in communication with Mother Gaia and tripping balls on shrooms at our weekly drum circle.

Thomas Malthus was wrong in the 18th century, and his ideas are wrong now. You can look at humanity as a burden on the planet, or as a group of seven billion people, who've risen up out of nothing and created everything worth caring about.

It is an extraordinarily anti-humanist attitude to give into climate change alarmism. Only a truly-believing misanthrope would have the gall to tell those in the developed world to give up on their standards of living, and tell those in the developing world to give up on their hope of affluence and a decent life.

Of course we should be taking climate change seriously, but if in that process we identify ourselves as the problem, then we more resemble a set of self-flagellating, virtue-signalling cultists than we do a group of serious individuals looking for a viable solution.

IMAGE: ROBERT SCOBLE



IMAGE: ROLENSFX



Petitioning for democracy

Give petitions a chance: they should be a really valuable asset to society

Julia Guy



In September 2015, Lee Booth, a father from Gateshead, set up an online petition to campaign for children to be vaccinated against meningitis B, after his daughter aged six months was denied the vaccine. Children can only be vaccinated in the first two to five months of birth in current legislation, despite under-fives being the most vulnerable group for contracting the disease.

The petition, which aims to change medical legislation to allow a wider age-span of children to be vaccinated on the NHS, originally gained only 900 signatures. However, in February the petition recirculated when a family from Kent released shocking images of their young daughter, Faye Burdett, fighting the disease. These images and her subsequent death led to over 800,000 signatures, making the petition the most signed in parliamentary history. Now the petition has been rejected by the government, as the change would 'not

be cost effective'.

Many have questioned if petitions really have a place in politics today. They're often dismissed as trivial and ineffective but roughly 1,500 online petitions are set up on Change.org every month. With more and more people turning to them to champion causes and campaigns, online petitions have a growing prominence.

Petitions are a tool to get the public voice heard and hopefully stimulate change or debate. If a petition gains 10,000 signatures the government will respond, and if a petition has over 100,000 signatures the issue will be debated in Parliament. The fact that the government considers petitions is telling of their potential importance.

However, the success rate of petitions getting through Parliament and leading to change is minimal, and it's possible that Parliament's flippancy about online petitions is more telling. Online petitions have also been dismissed as a form of 'clicktivism', a reductive form of online activism. Online petitions run the risk of reducing issues to a narrow online platform, condensing global issues to a mere click. It is questionable as to whether online petitions are the result of

people campaigning about issues they are passionate about or a place for the bored to click away.

Movements like 'Stop Taxing Periods' have been enhanced by an online presence that saw over 310,000 people campaign against the taxing of sanitary products, but it's important not to conflate the success of a global campaign with its popularity online.

Petitions spread awareness worldwide and connect people who've been denied the chance to campaign. A petition is a way for people to act together and a way for

Petitions are a tool to get the public voice heard

more people to voice their opinions, and the internet is an easy platform to do this.

In a world that's constantly evolving both on and off line, and with the internet an increasingly important part of society, should we really dismiss all online petitions? Petitions are a long process for change, maybe the best is yet to come.

Seven Jewish Children isn't anti-Semitic

The Carol Churchill play was an intelligent and complex exploration of the issues, and should not be conflated with anti-Semitism

Josh D'Arcy



Since its first performance at the Royal Court Theatre in 2009, Churchill's *Seven Jewish Children* has been a topic of critical debate. The joint production of the play staged by Palestinian Solidarity Society and The Antigone Collective has sparked a similar discourse here

on campus. Several Israel supporters condemned the staging, issuing flyers asking if the University of York supports anti-Semitic culture. However, the allegations are misguided and reductive.

The literature distributed by the dissatisfied students focused on a quotation from the play's final scene which they described as a "monologue of genocidal racist hatred". This accusation of anti-Semitism requires a wilful misreading of the text and an irresponsible disregard for the play's other voices.

No single speaker claims to homogenise and represent the views of the Israeli government or Judaism. The play does not stage a univocal perspective - instead a cacophony of interlocking and unassigned voices depict a multifaceted and fragmentary image of the crisis.

To argue otherwise is disingenuous, and yet the flyers condemning the play actively misrepresent this monologue as a solitary voice speaking on behalf of the entire text. The two lines following the outburst contradict such an interpretation,

reading: "Don't tell her that. / Tell her we love her." Rage and fear are overruled by tenderness, empathy, and love.

Their version of the play was not anti-Semitic. It did not assign responsibility for the conflict. Instead, it was a highly nuanced production which framed the issue as a collection of complex, contradictory, and yet legitimate narratives.

A group of Jewish students - several of whom were involved in the play's production - have responded to the allegations of anti-Semitism

and the play's depiction in the media. In their statement they defended the production, and expressed their belief that their "support of an occupied, oppressed people is often mistakenly perceived, particularly by those Jews who identify as Zionist, as anti-Semitic sentiment". They also expressed concerns that this kind of conflation is irresponsible, and can have an adverse effect on "Jews who do suffer actual intolerant, anti-Semitic abuse". One can only hope that their voices will be heard among the clamour.

Debunking student debt

Why do we lie to the most disadvantaged in society about tuition fees?

Ciarán
Morrissey



Being a student isn't all it's cracked up to be. Endless deadlines, monotonous modules, petty campus politics, and the ominously looming spectre of tuition debt.

Except that last one simply isn't true. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that the last government should have changed its tuition fees policy. It shouldn't have, and it's perfectly consistent to agree with this article while at the same time thinking that education should be fully publicly funded and fees abolished. But education is still free at the point of contact, and the debt is a largely arbitrary figure.

When you go to university for a full-time undergraduate course, the government will pay the institution £9,000 per year on your behalf. When you graduate and begin earning over £21,000 per annum, you will start paying back a higher rate of tax to the government until you've paid off the debt from your fees, or until 30 years after you've graduated. That's how the process works. The more you earn, the more you pay, and the vast majority will never pay back the full cost of their fees anyway.

The principle here is that those who take out three years of their lives to delay entering the workforce, and massively increase their lifetime earning potential, should have to pay the bulk of those costs

themselves.

It is difficult to see how anyone could deny that this is pretty progressive, especially as your funding is guaranteed by the government, and so nobody's going to be left in the lurch trying to find a private creditor who'll lend them 27 grand without collateral at the age of 18. But again, I'm not defending the current model; for what it's worth, I think we should scrap the pretence, scrap fees altogether, and bring in a full-blown grad tax. Again, that's neither here nor there.

What I do take issue with is the £27,000 figure being trotted out as a political point, because it is dis-

There are lots of improvements we can make to our higher education system

honest and it is damaging to those unfamiliar with the fee repayment system. Telling people from disadvantaged backgrounds that going to university is going to tie a £27,000 weight around their neck is a fantastic way of convincing them that they probably shouldn't go. This just discourages those from disadvantaged backgrounds who are told lies about their student debt.

There are lots of improvements we can make to our higher education system. The scrapping of maintenance grants and the steady

upward march of campus rents nationwide are financial issues that are causing real harm to students. These are all issues that need to be tackled in order to ensure that access to higher education is determined by merit rather than one's social or economic background.

Yet such things are overlooked or sidelined in favour of fruitless marches and politically motivated smear campaigns by the NUS, such as last year's 'Liar, Liar' campaign, which targeted the Liberal Democrats, mainly in marginal, Tory-facing seats.

We've seen larger numbers of students from disadvantaged backgrounds going to university in the last five years. Why isn't this something we are celebrating and encouraging? Why are we instead telling people from poor backgrounds that they'll find themselves buried under piles upon piles of unfathomable debt?

You'd have to be extremely politically motivated - as well as breathtakingly dishonest - to point at this system, fiddle around with the numbers, and lie to the poorest in our society about the risks they'll take on from trying to improve their lot in life. You don't have to agree with my views on a grad tax or education reform. But it is an outright lie to claim our system benefits only the rich and condemns the poor to debt slavery.

We have a progressive system of university funding in which education is free at the source and where those who pay the most towards its funding are those who have already benefitted the most from it. Isn't that something we should cherish?

EDITOR'S OPINION

Stop dehumanising the vulnerable

Sam Lees



Last week, we heard that two of those responsible for the death of Aylan Kurdi had been sentenced in a Turkish court.

Aylan was a toddler from Kobani, Syria, immortalised in the photographs taken of his corpse after it had been washed up on a Turkish beach.

The traffickers had been charged with two crimes; human trafficking, and causing the deaths of five of their clients through deliberate negligence. They were sentenced only for the former, receiving four year sentences.

This result is a clear message that the Turkish government, for all its other faults, is accepting that it has a problem with people smugglers, and that it should hold its citizens responsible.

However, it also shows that the Turkish courts believe that abandoning refugees in an overfilled,

unsafe dinghy in rough seas without any sort of safety equipment does not constitute deliberate negligence.

If those being carried in the dinghy had been anyone other than refugees or migrants, then the court would doubtless have found the traffickers guilty of murder.

Yet because they were refugees engaged in an illegal activity, the traffickers are being held to entirely different standards.

Sure, refugees know that their actions are dangerous, and that they are acting outside the law.

But why are their lives being held to be worth less or to be of less importance than any other person's? We see this sort of behaviour time and again.

We see it in the treatment of refugees in the 'Jungle' camp in Calais.

We see it in the treatment of those fleeing from conflict in Darfur; refugees and migrants are being treated as less than equal to other humans, purely because of their status.

This should clearly never be the case.

EDITOR'S OPINION

Prosperity or equality? Neither

Luke
Rix-Standing



In 1990, during Margaret Thatcher's final address to the House of Commons, she was attacked over her record on financial inequality. "How" she was asked, "can she justify many people...being relatively poorer, much less well-housed, and much less well-provided for?" Thatcher was on the button: "all levels of income are better off than they were in 1979" she rallied, "this man would rather have the poor poorer, provided the rich were less rich". To give the tabloids their 'Left Shark' moment she proceeded to demonstrate the difference: "here" she said, holding her fingers far apart, "or here", holding her fingers closer together but much lower down.

Tory cheers shook the House, but putting aside political rhetoric there remains an important question: are we better off with equality or prosperity? In an article entitled 'Be happy, pay more to the taxman', Professor Richard Layard argues that it is the income gap, rather than total wealth that is most pertinent to people's happiness. Studies show, writes Layard, that we are no happier than we were 50 years ago despite "unparalleled economic

growth". Though richer individuals are generally happier than poorer ones, richer societies are not. Whatever this may say about the petty jealousies of man, it would appear that we define our wealth by the people around us, and our happiness alters accordingly.

There are many real-life examples; researching a trip to Central America last Summer, I glanced through statistics for Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua. It was noticeable that Nicaragua, which due to its communist past has had almost no US investment, is financially poorer but safer and happier than its more illustrious, crime-ridden, and unequal neighbours.

So, is redistribution of wealth the answer? Sadly it just isn't that simple. According to Layard one of the greatest contributing factors to public happiness is perceived personal freedom (note it's the 'perception' that matters). In other words, forcing equality on people (high taxes, controlled industries etc.) to too great an extent can be just as bad as not having it in the first place.

The best-case scenario for national well-being seems to be a form of benevolent capitalism which structurally ensures that the gap between rich and poor never gets too wide, without too much intervention. So, yes. Thatcher was probably wrong, but so is rigid socialism. Political centrism anyone?



IMAGE: MICHAEL JAMES



Bernie Sanders @SenSanders
The bottom line is, it's more expensive to throw people in jail than to provide them with the training they need for a decent paying job.
4 Mar 2016

North Yorkshire Police @NYorksPolice
See how easily we can detect drug driving #overthelimitunderarrest
5 Mar 2016

Stephen Harper @StephenHaarper
I keep forgetting 2016 is the year we live in and not just a number we append to someone's name who we think should be president
5 Mar 2016

Gregory Waddell @UncleWabisuke
So many messages from home, and I hope each one is a heartfelt sentence, but it's just more pictures of mice my dad has killed.
5 Mar 2016



There are two types of people at York: people who have horses and people who use horse tranquilisers. **23**

When you put 2 springs in a pen and make a better missile than North Korea **17**

People who wear caps or beanies in night clubs really need to be told to leave **14**

Can someone please tell the guy in the library who is walking around with bare feet to at least put some socks on **4**

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Were the refugees right to batter down the Macedonian border fences?

YES.

Elliott Banks



Last week, the human misery of the migrant crisis once again manifested at a border crossing in the Balkans. The Macedonian government have re-introduced border controls with Greece, its southern neighbour, leaving thousands of refugees stranded.

Most of these people are fleeing the various conflict zones of the Middle East, whether it be the turmoil of the Syrian Civil War or ISIL in Iraq. They are the dispossessed, they have left all they know behind and travelled thousands of miles risking their lives to reach this point on the Macedonian border. However, now the Macedonian border is closed - only a few lucky souls are let in each day.

The reason for this, from the Macedonian perspective, is to discourage these refugees and maintain the border integrity of Macedonia. Unsurprisingly, all the tensions these people have faced have boiled over into direct action by these refugees trapped in Greece. A group attempted to charge the border fence with a makeshift battering ram to enter Macedonia illegally.

Now the hard nosed bastard in me wants to rant about not giving migrants a carte blanche to do what they like but my humanitarian side says stop and think about what these people have faced.

Many are fleeing for their lives and are genuinely unsafe in their countries of origin. If we look at the Syrian War or ISIL's hold on cities such as Mosul, the untold horror is plain to see. ISIL fighters forcing gay men to jump from roofs because of their sexuality, young women - particularly of minority communities - are sold into sexual slavery, and summary executions. Some of these people stranded in Greece, wanting to head to northern Europe, will no doubt have seen the horrors I describe above or stories which are even more harrowing.

This, coupled with weeks of travelling across this fractious region to reach the safety of Turkey and Europe, means the frustration of these 13,000 people sitting at the Macedonian border

is bound to escalate.

Unfortunately, Macedonia is merely a microcosm of a wider issue of what Europe is meant to do. Border controls are being reintroduced across central and eastern Europe, even in Germany. Once a safe haven for migrants fleeing the chaos of their homelands, they've reintroduced checks.

French authorities in Calais have cleared a large part of the jungle, leading to even more misery for this already desperate lot. Instead of a coherent response from European leaders we only have border controls, migrant camp clearance and bickering. Until Europe decides what to do, more migrants seeking sanctuary within Europe's borders will resort to the acts

Ciarán Morrissey



Europe is failing its refugees. With the exception of Germany, governments in the region are content to shift from foot to foot, staring at the floor and waiting for the problem to go away. It's going to get worse before it can better, and the least that we can do is provide shelter or safe passage to those fleeing one of the most brutal civil wars in a generation.

Europe and its constituent governments are stretched to breaking point, and the trail of destruction left in the wake of refugee movements last summer had a devastating effect on parts of the Balkans, Hungary, and Greece. Italy has been quietly left to deal with a problem that it has absolutely no means to quell. All the while, refugees have been dying en masse and left to the mercy of people smugglers and quasi-failing local governments.

If there was any proof that the Dublin Agreement was an incredibly shortsighted piece of legislation that could only have been dreamed up on the edge of western Europe, surrounded by nothing but a wealthy neighbour and a vast ocean, this is it.

But arguing against the upholding of European laws is going to make this crisis worse, not better. No, the refugees shouldn't be forced to be processed in Greece (a country where they largely do not want to settle, and that largely does not want them to settle), but we are deluding ourselves if we think turning a blind eye and telling them to

NO.

make it to Germany through sheer plucky determination is a good idea. The destruction of the border fence between Macedonia and Greece is a prime illustration of this.

Nobody benefits from the suspension of the rule of law in this manner. Refugees face being arrested, beaten, or deported. They are unable to settle in European countries other than those they initially arrive in. They have no real legal protection against abuse from the authorities, and risk being interned, sometimes indefinitely, if arrested.

Meanwhile countries that cannot cope face an increasingly uphill battle to prevent transitory refugees from passing through. Their relations with other countries within the EU are becoming strained, and free movement within the Union as a concept is under threat.

Even if we ignore this situation and pretend it is transitional, even if we pretend that countries like Hungary are not erecting border fences and turning to nationalist politicians, we still cannot justify what is happening.

The refugees who are not lucky enough to make it to Europe are just as worthy of our sympathy and help. How can we possibly claim it is moral to allow civilians fleeing warfare to rely on people traffickers and that we have no responsibility for them until they arrive on our shores?

The suspension of the rule of law and the destruction of border fences are fundamentally wrong. Our approach to this crisis is fundamentally wrong. We should be taking in refugees at the source and offering them safe passage to countries who have agreed to take them in.

Standing idly by and wishing them good luck and hoping they get

#minstergram

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



@roberts.beth Hes East sunset #heslingtoneast #uniofyork #nofilter

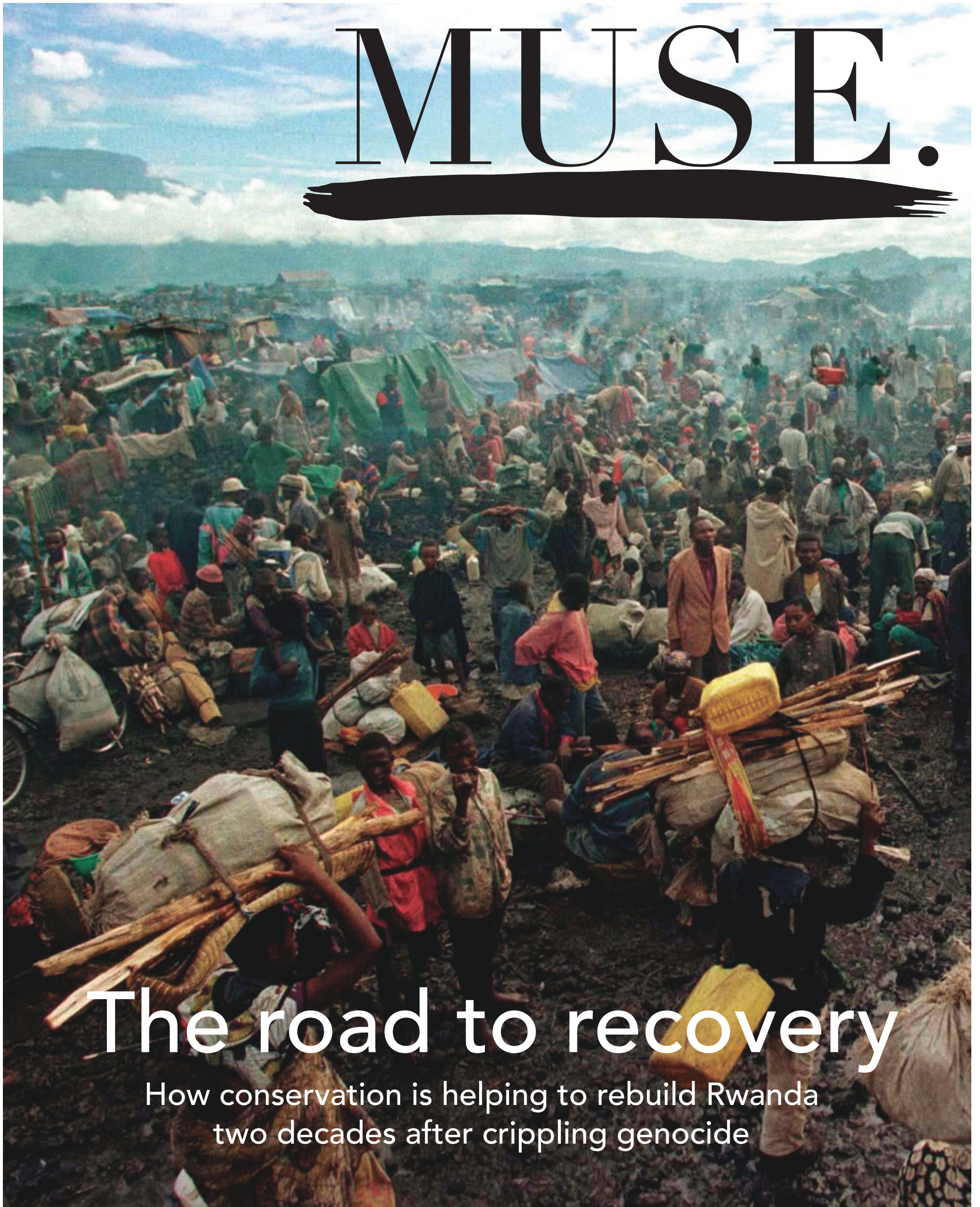
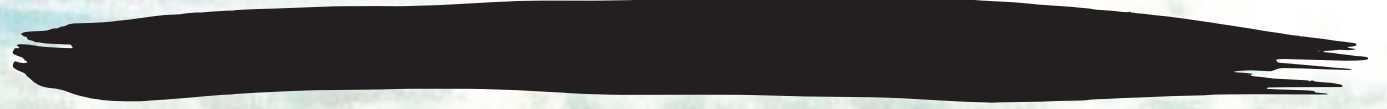


@thisissamuell when the city you live in is gorgeous af... #York #uniofyork #unilife #lifeinyork #toyshades



@pelindincer #uniofyork #uoy #york #yorkshire #uk #england #britain #green #campus ...

MUSE.



The road to recovery

How conservation is helping to rebuild Rwanda
two decades after crippling genocide

13

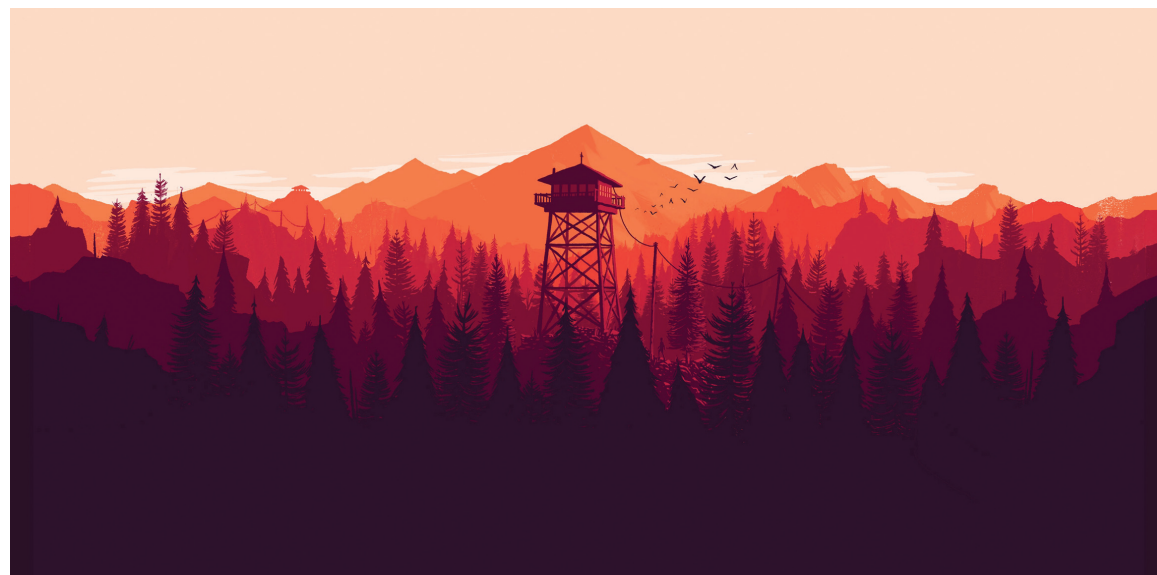
FILM & TV

M13 An opinion piece of Biblical proportions from the Film editor, who looks at why the Bible is such an enduring source of inspiration for Hollywood

MUSIC

M14 Fresh from their five-year hiatus, near-uncategorisable band The Coral talk to Jack Davies about their musical perseverance

M15 A battle of wills over the positive and negative qualities of two of the biggest music awards as editors and writers alike go head-to-head



12

GAMING

M12 Naveen Morris invites us to lift the curtains on the theatre of gaming while Adam Koper adopts a pedestrian pace to review walking simulator *Firewatch*

FEATURES

M4 93 years after its first trip the most famous train in the world pulls in to York

M16 Emily McDonnell looks at how Rwanda has used tourism and conservation as part of its recovery

M18 The director of Human Rights Watch tells Munisha Lall about fighting for level playing fields

08

FASHION

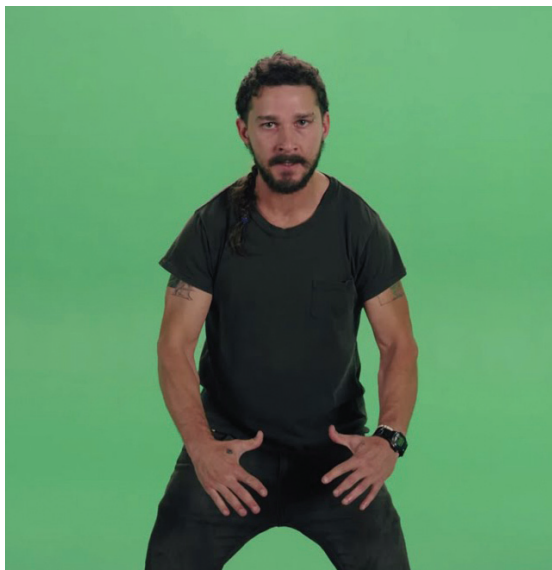
M8 Alongside their London Fashion Week supplement, Fashion takes a look at makeup alternatives and brings a report from New York's own LFW equivalent



06

ARTS

M6 The Muse editor looks at the changing definitions of art and artist, while the Arts editor talks to local slam poets about the nature and significance of their craft



FOOD & DRINK

M17 Is the battle against the saturates based on one fat lie? Should we be afraid of avocados? And what is York's chocolate story? Turn to Food to find the answers



*“A Yorkshireman
is always working...if
I stop moving I think I
might freeze to death”*

Street performer and stalwart of York’s busking scene **Steve Bullen** talks to Nouse about being the Magic Ball Man

How did you become the Magic Ball Man?

I’ve done just about every job under the sun, from bar work to welding, but decided to do performance as a living about seven or eight years ago. I was on holiday in Barcelona and saw someone else perform using balls. On Las Ramblas they have a lot of living statues and performers. I saw that, liked it, and decided to start doing it.

How does one start? There must be a pretty significant gap between seeing something like that and being in a position to do it yourself.

I’m quite good at doing physical things anyway. I used to do a lot of karate, and I had already done some basic circus skills like juggling and unicycling. All of that was really just messing about, though. I bought one of these acrylic balls, and I had no idea how to start. So I just began moving it around on my hands. To tell you the truth, when I started doing it on the street I was rubbish! It was only two or three years into it that I started getting to any sort of standard, really. It definitely takes a lot of practice.

What do you think is necessary to become a good street performer?

Well, there’s all sorts of street performers, so that’s a difficult question. My sort of work is very different from those performing in King’s Square, who really need the gift of the gab, and need to act like a bit of a salesman. I don’t really have conversations in my shows, it’s much more about the skill and performance. So for people like me, patience is probably best.

Was it a conscious choice to avoid conver-

sation in your work?

I like contact juggling as an art form. It’s one road to go down to try to start a conversation with an audience before you start doing anything, and building interest, but I’m not really much of a spokesperson. I didn’t even give a speech at my own wedding! I don’t really like talking in public. My first speaking part was at a gig at The Basement in a show based on *Labyrinth*. That was absolutely nerve-wracking. Performing in front of people and doing the balls, I can do that with my eyes closed now. But speaking in front of people...Well, that’s not really for me. I prefer just to do it, and people get attracted when they see the skill in it. I think the majority of people think I’m cheating. I hear them talking about magnets or wires, but I just take that as a compliment.

What’s the best thing about street performing?

It gives you the freedom to get outside and do it, and advertise yourself. It’s not an easy job, though, by any stretch. A lot of people seem to think it’s quite easy, but I get up very early to get my pitch. But it does give you freedom, and the reality is that’s the only way to get into that sort of work. Working in the city out in the open means that you really feel part of the city and the street scene.

What’s the worst thing about it?

The cold! I can get up early to get to my pitch and I can just be starting to get warmed up, it can be a busy Saturday on half term, and I’ll be really ready to make some money, and it will start raining. I can come home and I’ll be cold and wet and will have made nothing. I can be out there for hours hoping it will clear

up with no joy. That is, in a very British way, probably the worst part of it all.

What is the scene among street performers in York? Are you friendly or competitive?

We’re both competitive and friendly. We all know each other and cooperate. There’s usually a pitch-sharing scheme where if I get up at a certain time I can guarantee that I’ll stay on that pitch until a certain time. If somebody comes along and asks me if anyone’s due to come on next and no-one is, I’ll tell them that they can go next, and they would do the same for me. We generally manage to work things out between each other. There have been a lot of problems with the Council in recent years, with busking activists trying to change how things worked. There used to be a busking and performing scheme but that got overturned and shown to be illegal. We generally just try to cooperate, taking a pitch for two hours at a time then moving on.

What else do you do, when you’re not working?

It’s sad to say, actually. If I’m not performing I’m practicing new things. At the moment I’m doing a lot of things that don’t involve balls, so it’s a bit annoying that I call myself the Magic Ball Man! I’m starting to spin fire, and use fire balls, as well as poi work and hoops. Then it’s just tidying the house, and general jobs. A Yorkshireman’s always working! I certainly don’t stop moving when I’m on the streets, because if I stop moving I think I might freeze to death!

Editor’s note



Deputy Muse Editor Joel Down on bros, big names, and boring us all

In our long-distance Whatsapp relationship, my homeboys and I (for want of a *less* appropriate phrase) have reached a new level of terrible chat, the equivalent of a 365 day river cruise around a duck-pond in East Anglia. Amid the updates from bro #1 about being banned from his favourite club, offset by the often repeated ‘I’ve got another match on Tinder’, I’m still reeling from the loss of bro #3, who stormed out of the group after bro #2 scandalously decided to exclude him from his birthday party. As for me - inspired by our front-page feature (M4) - I like to interject with the occasional comment about my newly found passion for world-famous steam trains. If this isn’t the tale of the modern-day ‘Lad’ and his squad of highly adept wingmen, I have no idea what is.

Rather appropriately, I spotted an ad on the underground that read, “boring is the new exciting” during London Fashion Week, shortly after being asked if I was wearing the same trousers as the day before. I wasn’t; they were actually a very distinctly different shade of grey. Fortunately, however, the motto rang true, I got papped at least twice and featured in the *Daily Mail*. On the downside, excessively good looking people in designer clothes happened to stand directly in front of me in each shot, so I’m not entirely sure it qualifies. I’m proud to say that our coverage makes up for that fact in a stunning 20-page supplement dedicated to the catwalk culture and street style of the most important week in fashion, featuring big names such as Alexander McQueen, Topshop and Gareth Pugh.

Outside the world of contouring and couture, Niall briefs you for your future graduate interview, Harriet Chesire plays a drug-infused game of monopoly, and Deborah Lam admits to avid readership of Thought Catalogue (M20). In one of this edition’s more informative enterprises, Munisha Lall talks to an optimistic Minky Worden, the director of Human Rights Watch (M16) about fighting for equality in time for International Women’s Day. ‘Rwanda Reborn’ (M18) additionally provides an insight into the rejuvenating effects of tourism on a nation scarred by conflict. So while this week might find you (or me) sat in a humid library eating stale pizza while staring at the carpet for inspiration, we bring you stories to distract from dull Whatsapp chats and essays and meandering editor’s notes.

Image Credits.

Cover: Reuters
Opposite, from top: Jonathan Worth, Campo Santo, Jenny Cao, Steve Bullen

Interview by Jack Richardson

Great Scot!

Katy Sandalls takes us on a worldwide trip following the history of the Flying Scotsman, which returns to York after more than 150 years



IMAGE: PAUL KINGSTON

The Flying Scotsman is an evocative name. When you think of Britain's most famous train you think of a bygone age; locomotives steaming down the track with well to do passengers gliding down the corridors clinking glasses and laughing loudly. A pocketed memory of a world that no longer exists and an age that has very much passed. Except now it has returned – and it's in York.

The Flying Scotsman is set to become the jewel in the National Railway Museum's collection as it arrives this month fully restored and in working order. The Museum had previously bought the train in 2004 for £2.3 million when its future looked in danger and has spent the intervening 12 years and around £4.2 million to restore it for the general public to enjoy.

The Scotsman was built in Doncaster in 1923, an age of opulence and expression of wealth, but was in fact part of a longer tradition of trains running the traditional East Coast Line (now run by Virgin) from London to Edinburgh. The first trains run by the then North British Railway, North-Eastern Railway and Great Northern Railway were called Special Scotch Express services. They took 10 and half hours to reach Edinburgh Waverley from London King's Cross in the 1860s, even stopping in our own fair city for a half hour lunch break. By 1875 the journey took eight

and half hours and Special Scotch Express had started to be known as the Flying Scotsman (for comparison modern trains take around four and half hours to do the same route).

It wasn't until the introduction of the most famed locomotive in 1924 that the London North Eastern Railway (LNER) decided

“ A hairdressers, a newsagent and an opulent dining carriage were stalwarts of the Scotsman

to adopt the name that the public had started to give it. From then on the public seemed to take the Flying Scotsman to its heart with the locomotive making its first public appearance at the British Empire Exhibition. It had the

leading role in one of the first British speaking films in 1928 and was the first steam train to reach the speed of 100 mph; the Scotsman was a celebrity in a way that no other train was.

The LNER were very aware of the train's marketing potential. “The LNER undertook frequent publicity stunts to amplify the Flying Scotsman's brand and illustrate the service's impressive high speeds,” explains Jamie Taylor, Interpretation Developer at the National Railway Museum. “In 1932, crew members on board the Flying Scotsman train conversed via telephone with the crew of the Imperial Airways airplane ‘Heracles’ while both sped northwards alongside each other at 90mph” – a feat that would surely seem impossible today.

The 20s and 30s were the high point in the Scotsman's career. The train had become more than simply a way of travelling from A to B; a hairdressers, a travelling newsagent and an opulent dining carriage were stalwarts of the Scotsman experience with extra luxuries such as a cinema carriage being added for a short time. The Flying Scotsman simply had no comparison.

Yet even celebrities couldn't avoid war work, and the Scotsman found itself pulling heavy loads and being repainted black to avoid enemy fire during the Second World

War. It was during this time that the locomotive began to fall into disrepair for the first time. After the war steam trains came to represent the past rather than the future for British Rail, and the Scotsman lost much of the prestige that it had spent so many years building up. As a result, it was turned away from centenary celebrations in London simply for being too old fashioned.

For the next 20 years the Scotsman did what many of us hope to by middle age and started to travel the world in private ownership after British Rail threatened to scrap it. It spent the 60s swinging in the US dressed up as the epitome of Britishness, complete with a Winston Churchill impersonator, dancers clad in miniskirts and a carriage that was redesigned to look like the inside of an English pub.

Before long, however, its new owner became bankrupt and the train was near abandoned in the US where it had been running tourists around for four years. The Scotsman's next destination was Australia where it spent the majority of the 1980s breaking the world record for the longest journey for a steam train – a trip of 442 miles. In 1988, it also participated in Australian Steam celebrations alongside some of the country's best trains. The Scotsman finished its impressive expedition by circumnavigating the globe on its trip

It spent the 60s in the US dressed up as the epitome of British-ness

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home, travelling via Cape Horn.

Following its return to the UK it passed from one private owner to the next – music producer Pete Waterman had a 50 per cent share in it at one point. By 2004 the train's future looked doubtful once again and so the National Railway Museum, along with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, successfully bought the locomotive and set to work restoring it back to its former glory.

Paul Kirkman, Director of the National Railway Museum, believed that it was important for the NRM to take on the project: “As a national museum, we are committed to ensuring that as many people as possible can learn about the impact of the railways on the people of Britain,” he explains. “The LNER purposefully linked the locomotive and the service in the spring of 1924 and now our Museum is helping unravel these two great stories for new generations.” With these restorations now complete the festivities have begun, welcoming the Scotsman to York before it continues on its travels, taking a nationwide tour.

As part of the celebrations the National Railway Museum has organised a plethora of events and exhibits to highlight the importance of the Flying Scotsman in British railway history. The Scotsman is currently on display in the NRM where it will stay for the public to view, photograph and admire until 6 March. After a brief spell on the tracks to highlight its extensive restoration the Scotsman will return to the NRM from 25 March.

Exhibitions will include ‘Service with Style’, where visitors will be able to walk around three carriages similar to the Scotsman's original style, complete with a 1920s cinema and 1930s cocktail bar, all on display until 8 May. If cocktails sound like a good idea, then the NRM is also hosting a late night opening on 28 April for the Scotsman's return celebrating all things 1920s including cocktail making and Charleston dancing.

The NRM has also created a gallery display to celebrate its most famous collection piece named ‘Starring Scotsman’. Running until 19 June, this charts the history and celebrity of the train alongside some of the most important memorabilia from its past. Finally, the intriguingly titled ‘Stunts, Speed and Style’ exhibition, running from 25 March to 8



IMAGE: THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

May, will follow the history of the glamorous East Coast Line from its 19th century roots to the present day, exploring the luxury and absurdities which made it such a magnet for press attention.

The NRM is free to all, but if you have a little cash to spare there are still a few tickets left to travel on one of the Scotsman's many trips up and down the country this year. When it's not being admired by the thousands of visitors to the Museum the locomotive will be fulfilling its duty as the oldest working steam engine by journeying along its traditional east coast haunts, and also around the country as far as Bristol and Holyhead. However, with tickets starting from upwards of £275 this may not be an option for the average student.

This mixture of exhibition and working life seems to be the new norm for the Flying Scotsman, but questions of its impact and legacy remain. No matter what seems to happen to the Scotsman – whether it's stranded in America or falling apart at home – there always seems to be someone who wants to pick it back up again, restore it to its former glory and put it back on the tracks. Even during its time out of service it has had a lasting impact on British culture and the British psyche, appearing on everything from £5 coins to the children's television programme *Thomas the Tank Engine*. The desire to save the Scotsman is clearly a strong one.

Perhaps this shouldn't be too surprising; in 2015 a YouGov survey carried out in India, Australia, the US and the UK found the Scotsman to be the best known train in the world – beating both the Orient Express and the Hogwarts Express

to the top prize. The Flying Scotsman's celebrity seems to be an enduring and palpable one. Maybe it's because the Scotsman represents a glorious past for travel that we simply don't or can't experience anymore; a time when there was joy in simply travelling and not having to worry necessarily about getting to your destination quickly, because the journey was half the fun. Maybe it's the steam that enthuses people; it's a way to link ourselves to a time that has very much passed. Maybe it's the quality and value of its construction that is so essential to the locomotive's success.

Whatever one considers to be its most important and charismatic feature, one thing that cannot be denied about the Flying Scotsman is that it has succeeded in preserving a specific period of history that cannot be accessed in any other way. With this in mind, it feels highly appropriate that, at least for the time being, the home of the Flying Scotsman will be York, a city which itself preserves history in a way that no other location can lay a claim to.

What will be the future for the Scotsman? A train that has already experienced and endured so much in its near-100 year history can surely have no further to go? It's hard to say exactly but it would be difficult to see it leaving the National Railway Museum any time soon; surrounded by adoring fans and more railway memorabilia than you can imagine there cannot be a more appropriate home for one of the world's most famous locomotives. That, coupled with the upcoming centenary of its construction means that tourists will surely be flocking to see it for years to come.

However, that is not to say that it should become just an exhibit; its working element is one of its most enduring features and that

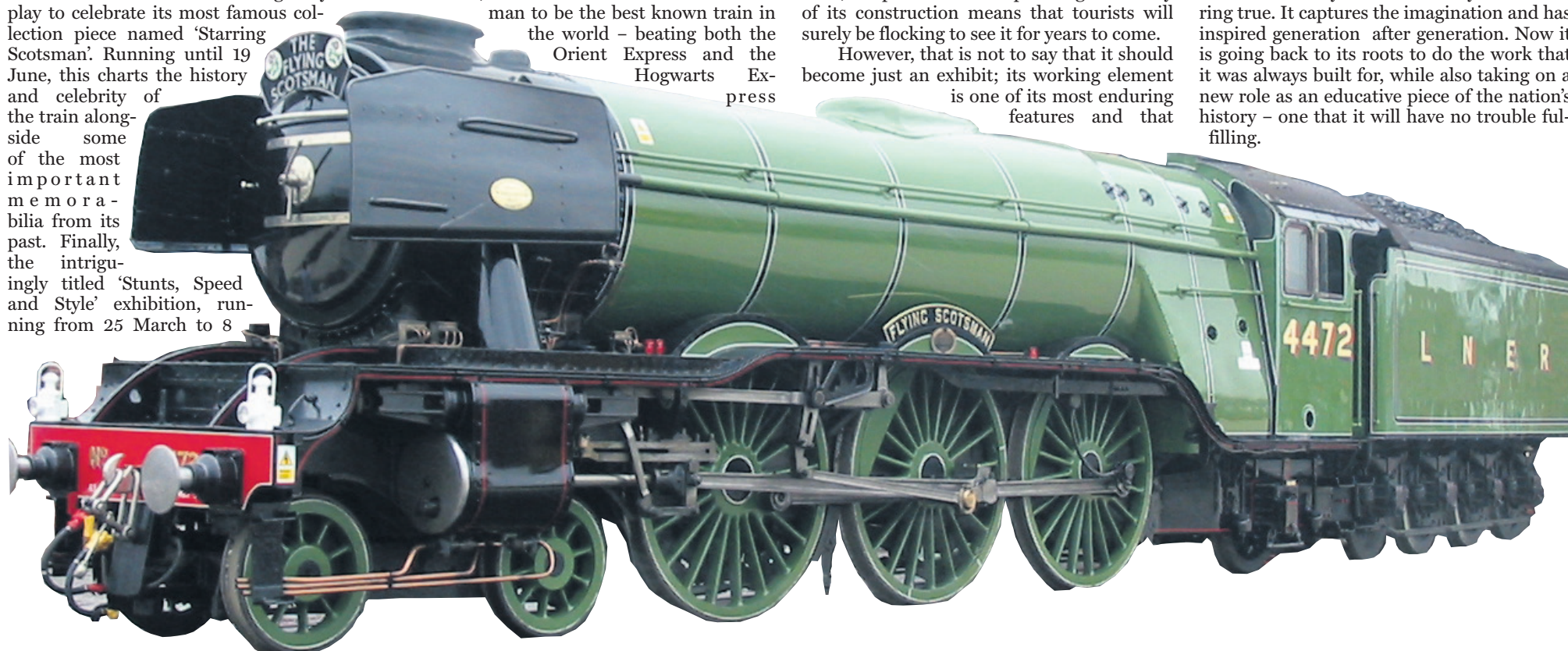
still has to play a huge part in its future. With age, though, comes responsibility, and the Scotsman has been plagued by running problems since its inception. It would be sad to see it forced to retire completely, but considering its age there will come a point in the future

A survey in 2015 found the Scotsman to be the best known train in the world

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where this may have to be the case. The tough decision between conserving the past and using objects for their intended purposes is a difficult one, and with such an iconic piece of machinery perhaps no decision will ever feel quite right. For now, though, the Scotsman can steam on into its future, knowing that it is in the most stable hands since its decommission from British Rail in 1963.

The Flying Scotsman is an individual, a character without compare, and a key to our past. It can have as many clichéd phrases thrown at it as you like and they would still ring true. It captures the imagination and has inspired generation after generation. Now it is going back to its roots to do the work that it was always built for, while also taking on a new role as an educative piece of the nation's history – one that it will have no trouble fulfilling.



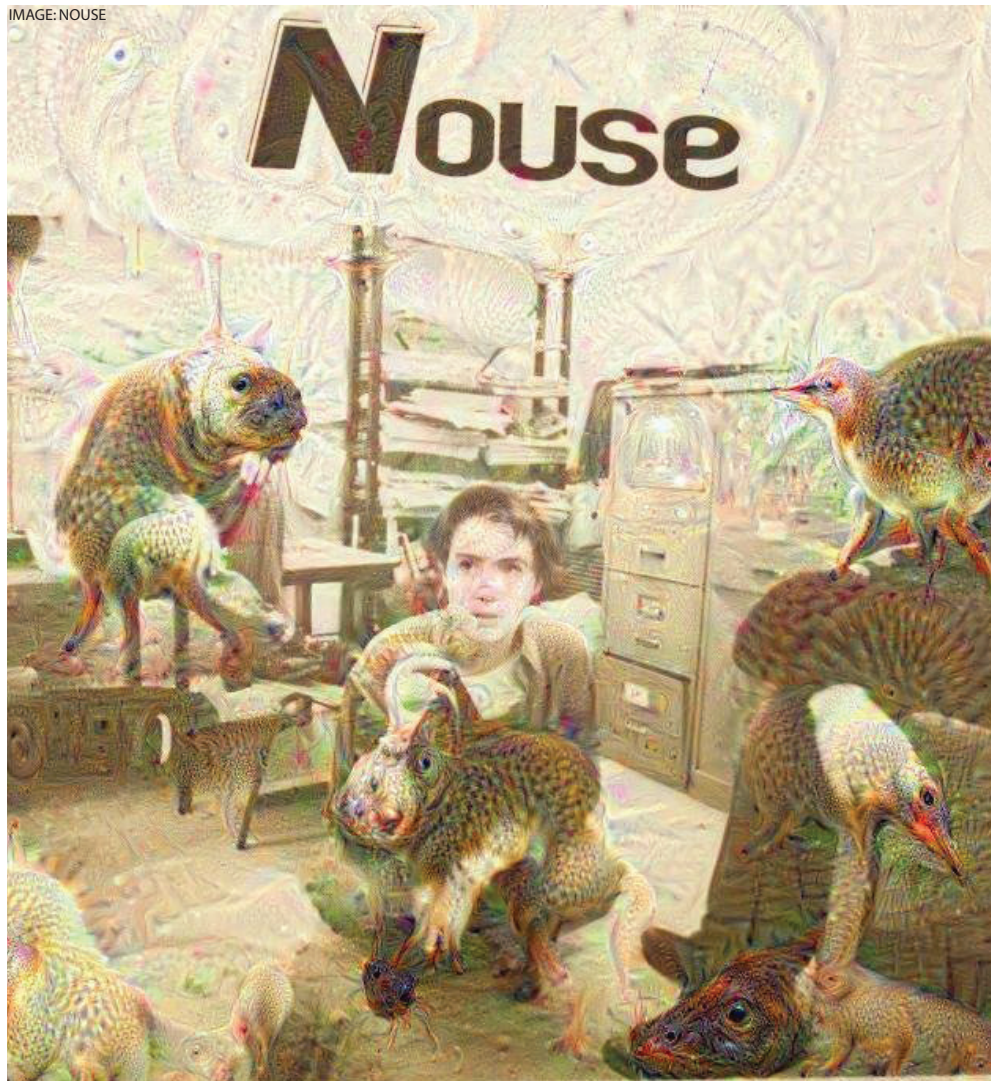
Electronic Arts

Jack Richardson treads the fine line between man-made and machine art

In his aptly named essay *What is Art?*, Leo Tolstoy proposes a definition of art as “a means of union among all men, joining them together in the same feelings, and indis-

pensable for the life and progress toward well-being of individuals and humanity”. A grand definition, to be sure, and one which attempts to pin down a famously nebulous concept. Art

IMAGE:NOUSE



exists in many forms, but it was the actions of a robot made by one of Google’s Creative Lab teams that provoked vitriol from Jonathan Jones in *The Guardian* after this year’s Mobile World Congress.

The robot is actually just an Android phone (the Nexus 6P, for those playing at home) connected to a microcontroller, which in turn controls a pen suspended by wires to ‘sketch’ a portrait from a photo taken by the phone. “Lo and behold,” Jones cries, “the art of portraiture has now been replaced by an app and a robotic arm.”

Jones’ statement is, of course, wrong, and he argues as such. In fact, I could find no evidence that there were any claims by Google or the team that their robot was indeed creating art, or doing anything more than using darkness and contrast to trace a line between points on an image which just so happens to be of your face. They could just as easily have taken a photo of a page of text, but that probably wouldn’t have been quite as exciting as photocopyers have existed since 1938.

But the very fact that Jones saw fit to argue against the idea that this robot is creating art raises several interesting questions about the nature of art itself, namely whether one needs to be human in order to create art.

Nowadays the answer to this question is far from clear-cut. On one level, this robot is little more than a glorified paintbrush: a tool used and created, fundamentally, by humans in order to produce an effect that would be laborious or impossible without it. This robot does just that, by taking an image (captured using another man-made tool) that has been human-composed, and translating it into a line by looking at contrast in that image. In this way, the robot is indeed just a “high-tech Spirograph toy,” as Jones puts it, and renders any sort of comparison to Rembrandt frankly ridiculous. After all, computers can only output based on their input, and for such a simple (relatively speaking) process as this, that

input is unavoidably human.

But what about more complex processes? My mind jumps to another project of Google’s, namely ‘Deep Dream’. Based on the company’s machine learning AI software, it takes a photo and analyses it to find similarities with other photos it knows, in the same way that Google’s ‘similar image’ search works. This works well when it is told to find a dog in an image of a dog, for example, but if the image has no dogs the program instead finds the most dog-like thing in a picture of, for example, the Manhattan skyline. Once it does, it changes that aspect to look more like the thing (in this case a dog) it looked like, and runs the image through again. Applied to every image the program knows (not just the pictures of dogs, although animals are common), and combined with a kind of feedback loop, strange and surreal images can be made, automatically, out of seemingly mundane pictures. Suddenly, decidedly un-artistic photos can be made into stunning psychedelic masterpieces, at once specifically computer-created and utterly unpredictable.

Now, arguably the programmers are the artists here. After all, they made the program, and ‘taught’ it to recognise qualities of different subjects by feeding it images. But the complexity of this process blurs the line significantly. We may afford great respect to the tutors and masters of great artists, but we still consider the artist’s work to be their own. Add to this the fact that the images Deep Dream creates are not only impossible for a human to accurately recreate in the same way, but are only possible for a computer to create, and the argument that art has to come from a human mind gets rather more shaky.

This is not to say that human artists will all have died out in the future, or that before long computers will be accurately replicating Van Gogh. But the potential complexity and processes to which computers are privy means that we are very close to being unable to treat them as just another tool in the artist’s studio.

Shia surprise

After his brief stint occupying the Oxford Union, Liam Mullally asks whether we should start to take Shia LeBeouf more seriously

Watching the livestream of Shia LeBeouf’s recent Oxford Union address, in which he spent 24 hours occupying a lift and talking to whoever queued up to enter, was an odd experience. At first, the fact that what is occurring is just conversation is slightly jarring. LeBeouf, along with his two collaborators, Nastja Säde Rönkkö and Luke Turner, just stand in the lift and talk organically; about how much he (LeBeouf) and one of the visitors both like Bill Murray; about the town in America one of the visitors is from, a place LeBeouf doesn’t hide his dislike for; about his dislike for the “cold and white and established” Oxford and its Union. At times he talks in vague platitudes and self-contradictions, describing how he is “a firm believer in... (and this is as a person who has no friends – other than two people), I do believe in quantity over quality with regards to family and friends”. When confronted about the contradiction he simply states, “I am not a believer in my own beliefs.” The whole affair is absurd.

At the same time, however, seeing LeBeouf just stand and talk has an odd habit of endearing him, particularly when set against the often obnoxious Oxford types who occu-

piated most of the stream. LeBeouf ultimately just comes across as human and vulnerable.

It is easy, and popular, to decry LeBeouf’s various attempts at performance art as the desperate calls for attention from a man whose celebrity is in its death throes. After his Oxford Union appearance, for instance, pa-

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LeBeouf sits between his celebrity status and his desire to create genuine intimacy

pers latched onto the headline: “Shia LeBeouf punches fan in the face”. The reality was, however, far less exciting. Watching the live feed reveals a slightly awkward interaction as Shia is forced to respond to a man asking Shia to punch him, as part of his own ‘performance art’: “I don’t want to punch you very hard. I

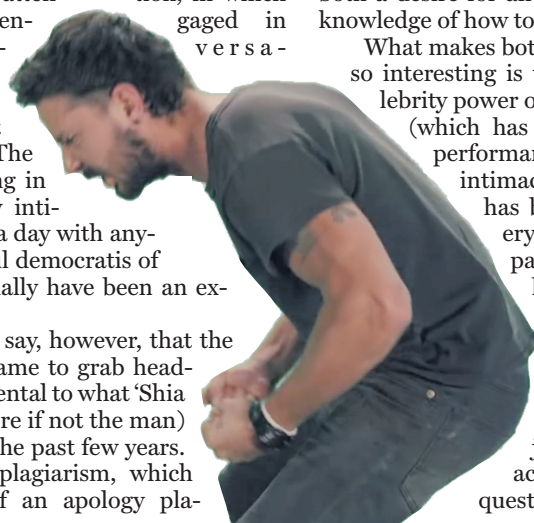
don’t like doing it to you dude. I just met you.” Eventually when he does concede, Shia gives what could at most be described as a gentle slap. It is an exercise in downplaying; this is not why he came to the Union, or why he decided to sit in a lift for a day straight.

The 23 other hours in the lift, generally given very little attention, in which the 3 activists are engaged in pretty inane conversation with whoever decides to queue are what they care about. The conceit of standing in an uncomfortably intimate location for a day with anyone is a purposeful democratisation of what would normally have been an exclusive event.

This is not to say, however, that the ability of Shia’s name to grab headlines isn’t fundamental to what ‘Shia LeBeouf’ (the figure if not the man) has become over the past few years. His apology for plagiarism, which took the form of an apology pla-

giarised from footballer Eric Cantona quite overtly courted the press’s attention, as did his following appearance with a paper bag over his head saying: “I AM NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE”. Even more recently, the meme ready, green screen backed and ready for manipulation, motivational video he uploaded showed both a desire for an internet audience and a knowledge of how to grab it.

What makes both the man and the figure so interesting is the gap between the celebrity power of his name and his desire (which has underlined most of his performance art) to create genuine intimacy. ‘Shia LeBeouf’, then, has become a strange mockery of celebrity culture; a parody of who the media have said he is. Whether this is purposeful, or just the result of someone attempting to reconcile the damaging effects of fame (or even just an increasingly vapid acting career) is a different question.



Get Owt

Say Owt organiser **Henry Raby** speaks to Liam Mullally about York International Women's festival, Sophia Walker and art's place in protest



If I cannot dance to it, it's not my revolution"; when asked about art's place in modern protest movements, Henry Raby invokes Emma Goldman. Taking into account the fact that the quote was actually the invention of anarchist Jack Frager in the 1970s, it is a doubly telling choice.

Protest movements, for Raby, require some performative element to remain compelling, and these performative elements hold in them some of the expressive resistance associated with Emma Goldman's early feminist and anarchist activities. For him, art "gives us something the oppressive powers don't have: Heart". It's a simple perspective (perhaps slightly too much so), but it does touch on an important point: artistic expression on all levels plays an important role in maintaining the vitality of any movement. It opens up discussion, helps to educate and inspire those new to the movement, and (perhaps more importantly when we're talking about events such as the York International Women's Festival and International Women's Day) helps older proponents from giving up to attrition or apathy.

Henry Raby, along with Stu Freestone, is the organiser of the York slam poetry competition Say Owt. As part of the York International Women's festival, they're hosting a selection of feminist spoken word poets. Set to take place in The Basement on 11 March, the event brings in guest poets, ranging from regulars of the local scene and past winners, to the internationally successful Sophia Walker.

There is a vigour to Walker's performanc-

es. Surprisingly large amounts of content are covered in short periods of time, with an impressive incessancy that rarely pauses. Raby insists that her talent relocates well to smaller venues and is "incredibly grounded in intimate performances". Say Owt have had her as a guest before, in their second slam, so his assessment of how she translates in a smaller

Art gives us something that the oppressive powers don't have: Heart

venue is likely accurate. Regardless, there is a passion to Walker's poetry that will leave an impression in any venue.

While this iteration of Say Owt will be departing slightly from their usual format, facilitating the inclusion of Walker's show, *Cult Friction*, it is clear that Raby sees slam as a form of protest performance. He describes how the process of boiling your message down to a three minute performance can help to refine it and make it more concise, and how the process of being judged by an audience forces one to consider their message before presenting it. The performance becomes a 'bite size chunk' of a larger argument, and (particularly

in a world of YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, where everything can be shared and anything too long is dutifully ignored) is an effective way of bringing someone into the fold of a certain perspective. Certainly, slam poetry is a very politically charged format, and one which has been associated with an anti-establishment sentiment since its genesis in the 1980s.

One of Raby's main points of praise for the York International Women's festival lies in its ability to connect the small scale to the large scale. The festival acts as a sort of two week extension to International Women's Day (which falls on 8 March), and as a result allows support for local women's groups and performers, while at the same time being part of international drives and causes. As he describes: "the local issues can feed into wider struggles across the world". This attitude has fed into the line-up for Say Owt's

York International Women's Festival event, with the likes of Sophia Walker performing alongside local performers, such as Marina Poppa and Rose Drew. More generally, Say Owt seem to have a commitment to local performance, bringing in performers from across the North of England, including Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester.

It seems to be important to Say Owt to create a platform that allows the voices of different genders and identities to be heard, and Raby describes his "excitement" at being able to present feminist poets who can "excite and inspire in this live format". Even in this YIWF event, however,

the stage is not locked to a single gender, with the open mic available to "anyone of any (or no) genders". Their commitment to acceptance of transgender voices is seen again on the event's Facebook page, which holds the note: "This event is to celebrate feminism, and is entirely intersectional. Transphobia and Trans-misogyny will not be tolerated." They also appear to commit to bridging the ever present student/local divide with, as Raby puts it, "Students from both universities rubbing shoulders with non-students of all ages". The priority is, above all, the integration of the voices brought in by the universities, with the perspectives of those who live in York.

There are some quite obvious criticisms which are often directed at slam: that its format can reduce the quality of its content; that the competitive nature of the event encourages playing to the crowd and not subtlety of argument; that it tends to give a platform to those who share political opinions.

However, one thing it certainly isn't, is pretentious. It can work, as a kind of rehabilitation of expression; free from the barriers to entry created by more conventional poetry. It is an accessible way to mobilise those broadly sympathetic to a cause, and pull them into a discussion without the air of intellectualism that 'political art' can often create. M



EDITORS' PICKS OF YORK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

//SCRIPT FACTOR: MONDAY 14 MARCH 7.30 AT THE BASEMENT, CITY SCREEN. TICKETS £4.50//

Script Yorkshire are hosting a series of readings of 15 minute scripts, all of which pass the Bechdel test. Performed by local actors, the audience will get to vote on the scripts.



//AMY HOWERSKA: WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 7.30 AT THE BASEMENT. TICKETS £6 OTD//

Observational comedy meets vibrant and energetic performance in Amy Howerska's stand up. Her sarcasm, sassiness, and stories will leave you in stitches.

//ELSA HEWITT + GUESTS: SATURDAY 12 MARCH 8PM AT THE BASEMENT. TICKETS £6 OTD//

Singer and producer Elsa Hewitt has been experimenting with different genres over the years. Currently performing as Blumenkind, she brings a synth pop sound and aesthetic.



//CARYS DAVIES AND CRISTA ERMIYA: WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 6PM AT YORK EXPLORE LIBRARY. TICKETS FREE//

Part of the Read Regional campaign, these two award winning short story writers invite you to listen, read and talk about their work.

Steven Tai: An old soul

Upcoming designer **Steven Tai** discusses his playful new collection with Grace Howarth



In the tucked away Elms Lester painting rooms, just off Tottenham Court Road, Steven Tai hosted his AW16 collection in the open, white walled, glass roofed, gallery. The inviting scene complemented the nature of Tai's designs. Inspired by the phrase 'an old soul', models were comfortably lounging against walls and sat gently swaying to and fro in rocking chairs, all carefully embroidering and darning. Steven Tai, famed for his quirky and awkward designs explains that, "his girls are always a bit silly, last season we did a set of young girls in their classroom", which, instead of being a contrast to this season, was actually still "to do with the same character of girl, but at a different age. We put her back at home, in this winter collection, so she's at home and doesn't really want to move, wants to stay cosy in her quilted pieces, with all the pillows, all the duvet looking garments. Quite a bit of which is inspired from old ladies, who stay home a lot and just chill."

This image is recreated by the way the room is decorated with a fireplace, framed pictures and the clothes, exaggerated in their 'old fashioned' style, with cardigans, stockings, glasses on a string as well as the palette he works with of unobtrusive lavenders, navys, beiges and olives.

When asked what are the main visions he uses to conjure his line, he explains "Most of the time when I do research, the people who really inspire me, that make me say 'Oh my gosh, you dress so nicely,' are usually the people who are actually ordinary and walking down the street. That's why I don't do my reasearch online, on Tumblr or Pinterest, but on the street. I am always on the street, taking pictures, so I think those women are actually my fashion icons." He goes into further detail explaining "During Christmas I was travelling in Chinatown, in San Francisco, the old ladies there, they go for their sun run in the community parks, those are the old ladies that I get inspired by, because for



me fashion icons have already been put together, they have already been influenced by trends, instead of actually being authentic." He jokes that that "these women, they always put on their sleeveless vests, no matter what kind of weather". This is prevalent in his collection; the voluminous, white silk quilted blankets constructed into vests, are a new vision to the Steven Tai line which as he says himself are "to protect and style".

When asked which his favourite design was, he answered that "we do feel really strongly about all the quilting pieces, that's one story that we feel very drawn towards, from a design aspect, those are the ones we feel most excited about, the printed pieces that Linda is wearing", gesturing to one of the models, and the "jacquard embroidery" that makes up her clothing, he finishes "is more relatable to girls". With this poignant remark, he brings up an idea which fashion should strive towards, inclusivity and accessibility, both of which Steven Tai's line is fulfilling season by season. **M**

Alternatives to high end makeup

Munisha Lall looks at beauty offerings that don't break the bank

Giving this cosmetic hoarder access to a Sephora store would not be too dissimilar to allowing a small child the freedom to run riot in a candy shop. High end makeup is alluring and gorgeous when applied, there's no denying it, but this comes hand in

hand with spending a small fortune. The budgeting student need not compromise on quality, however. With a little trial and error, there is a plentiful array of alternative drugstore products that retain the longevity and eminent characteristic of more elite cosmetic brands.

NO7 INSTANT RADIANCE HIGHLIGHTER VS BENEFIT HIGH BEAM HIGHLIGHTER

You might have heard: shine is in. You know the drill - cheek bones, highpoints and cupid's bow. Benefit's High Beam, a liquid-candyfloss creation packaged in a nail polish bottle, is great if you're after high drama glam, but for something more suitable for daily wear and a student budget, No7's Instant Radiance Highlighter is a nifty little stick that is small enough for any handbag and gorgeously blendable for any makeup look.

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COLLECTION CONTOUR KIT VS SMASHBOX CONTOUR KIT

There are some who swear by contouring as part of their makeup regime and others who loathe the bronze and highlight ritual. With contour kits currently being one of the dearer products on the drugstore shelves, Collection provide a staple alternative to high-end chiselling palettes. The kit offers a buildable contour powder which is impressively versatile and suitable for light to medium skin tones, with its undertone shades of chamoisee and chestnut. The highly pigmented highlighter powder is the perfect accompaniment for setting a liquid highlighter too - not bad for the price tag!

3

MAYBELLINE EYESHADOW PALETTE: THE NUDES VS URBAN DECAY NAKED PALETTE

'Half-baked' may be what dreams are made of, but it also requires taking out a small loan to purchase one of Urban Decay's esteemed eyeshadow kits, which are priced at the hefty sum of £38.50. Maybelline's The Nudes is the perfect alternative to getting those inner corner highlights, shimmery creases and outer corner dark points just right, with a dozen shades on offer ranging from ethereal ecru to charcoal tones, which are both buildable and blendable.

4

SOAP & GLORY SEXY MOTHER PUCKER LIPSTICK SATIN VS ESTÉE LAUDER HYDRA LUSTRE LIPSTICK

Mid-winter makeup at this time of year is suitably divided between team 'high-impact berry lip and cat eyes' (think Lily Collins) and team 'wet-look nude lip and smoky eyes' (think Kendall Jenner). A trusted lipstick that can battle frosty mornings and late night cocktails is therefore a worthwhile investment, and Soap & Glory Sexy Mother Pucker Lipstick Satin (£6.00) is an exquisite drugstore product that ticks all the boxes, much more affordable than the Estée Lauder Hydra Lustre Lipstick (£22.00).



New York's not so new fashion

Jaz Hayward explores the workings of the fashion world across the pond

New York is the self-proclaimed birthplace of the most popular fashion trends. It's where the haute couture of Europe finds a cosmopolitan vibe. It may not have the quirkiness of the London shows or the elegance of Paris but New York Fashion Week is edgy, it's cool, it's outrageous and it knows it. This February's fashion week looked to be no different and indeed many of the big boys of the fashion game lived up to the pizzazz of previous years, with Marc Jacobs wowing audiences with his haunting finale featuring pop sensation Lady Gaga and fashion houses like Alexander Wang bringing back street fashion in a vibrant modern way that looks to be here to stay.

Nonetheless, the mid-range fashion houses that were until recently biting at the heels of the likes of Jacobs appear positively lacklustre in comparison. The final night of the Couture Fashion Week, a three day fashion event created by Andres Aquino now on

its 23rd season, was evidence of this. The show starred designs by Aquino himself, as well as Dutch designer Addy van den Krommenacker, in a rather intimate and traditional setting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Broadway, a change from the cramped and intensely decorated rooms that have become the norm for Manhattan's fashion shows.

The crowds here were more likely to be made up of fashion bloggers and journalists rather than celebrities, but one glance to the crowded photographers' area, in addition to the formalities put on by the hosts before the lights had even shone on the catwalk, made it very clear that despite its informal atmosphere this was still very much a fashion show that meant business.

After a beautiful introduction to the show by opera singer Elizabeth Russo, van den Krommenacker's pieces were the first to be displayed, and they were easily the crowd favourites of the evening. Van den Krommen-

acker's style was consistent and safe; his penchant for designing flowing pastel coloured and mostly floral dresses obvious. Nevertheless, his lack of audacity was not so much a flaw in this instance as the dresses displayed had a timeless and elegant appeal to them that transcended the catwalk. The obvious showstopper of not just his line but the whole evening was a celeste blue dress half reminiscent of a Japanese kimono, half reminiscent of something worn by a pre-Raphaelite muse.

Aquino's own line, on the other hand, failed to be as creative or as delicate as that of his Dutch counterpart. He too was preceded by a soprano singer, this time the more dramatic Veronica Iovan, who rather fittingly also failed to live up to her predecessor. The start of this segment, however, seemed rather promising, beginning with a singular walk of the catwalk by a pair of models to dramatic Latin music. Oddly the rest of the show didn't appear to fit this initial theme nor did it spawn

a consistent theme at all, other than the fact that all these dresses featured were obviously for evening wear. The lack of innovation was most obvious here, in that although there were a few rare stunning pieces, even these were reminiscent of collections that were appearing on the catwalk over a decade ago. His reliance on bold colours and glittery beading meant some of the pieces felt borderline tacky.

Nonetheless, regardless of the lack of original thinking in midmarket fashion at this season's New York Fashion Week there was one aspect that seemed to go across the board: variety in its models. The designers showcased an array of diversity which was pleasing to see. There were models from every ethnicity starring in the couture shows and the growing flexibility in size was obvious too, indeed, van den Krommenacker's main model was East Asian and one of the shorter models. If lack of innovation is the price to pay for fashion to become more inclusive, it's worth it.

YORK STYLE ICON

Words: by André Garber
Images by: Ridhwan Rosli

NAME André Garber

YEAR Third year

COURSE I study Mathematics & Statistics

SOCIETIES I have to say dance and sports are definitely my thing, always love throwing some shapes on the dance floor.

I AM WEARING jeans from H&M, cardigan from H&M, boots from Topman, black shirt from River island and coat from Glenhusky of Scotland.

MY FAVOURITE ITEM has to be my jackets and coats. An outfit isn't complete without them!

MY FASHION ICON is Miguel. He definitely has to be my style icon, his dress sense is sharp and sophisticated!

THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN YORK is that York is distinctive. The rivers and city walls are the best to walk along. It's great having a lake on campus and the River Ouse in the city centre. It really adds a lot to the scenery of both the campus and York.





STREET





STYLE



The player's the thing

Naveen Morris looks at the relationship between theatre and gaming



Games are movies. At least this has been the traditional belief, that there is a kinship, games often taking the premises of movies and making them interactive fantasies. In *Red Dead Redemption*, you get to be a cowboy, in *Splinter Cell*, a spy, and in *Grand Theft Auto*, a criminal. Of course, this isn't always the case - there is no filmic genre that games like *Super Mario* or *Sonic the Hedgehog* are based on - but if you look at most modern mainstream games, that similarity exists. Yet while premises may be cinematically inspired, the intricate elements that construct games have a lot more of a heritage from theatre.

Whereas film is framed and has the capability to show you exactly what the director wants to show you, games and theatre don't necessarily have that luxury (at least during play of the game, rather than filmic "cutscreens"). This is because the spectator exists in the same three-dimensional space as the action, regardless of whether that space is a real one in front of you or a virtually recreated one on a screen. In a conventional play, if you're sitting in the audience, you make the choice to look at a certain part of the stage, to focus on one actor or another, at any given time.

Being a spectator in games extends beyond merely being guided around a world. In many games, the environment has lots of plot to non-verbally show to the player. These can be smaller, singular stories within that world, or larger sprawling stories told almost entirely through the environment. For example, in *System Shock 2*, a first-person shooter, the player can find a dead man with his back against a wall, a blood splatter near his head and a pistol by his feet. This small piece of narrative, the suicide of a guard, reflects the mood and tone of the main story back to the player, who becomes a spectator of the world that they can traverse and explore.

2013's *Gone Home*, which takes place solely in a family's house, takes this form of telling stories environmentally to new extremes. Each room is filled with objects of all kinds, which, when considered together in their context, tell the stories of the characters who lived in those rooms. *Gone Home* has a lot more in common with a play like *Sleep No More* than it does with most games, both giving the 'spectator' the freedom to explore their respective spaces and understand the characters and their stories through the rooms they inhabit.

Where games notably diverge from theatre is that in games, we are not just spectators of the action, but participants - or 'actors' - too. This is most evident in games where you get to role play - where you can choose what the character says and ultimately, who they are as a person. There is clearly an analogue between an actor in a play and the player-character in a game; both are participants in the act of

creation, speaking the lines or choosing which lines to speak. Take *Kentucky Route Zero*, in which - during the opening minutes - someone asks you what your dog is called. We get to decide between the male Homer, the female Blue, and a nameless stray dog. Each one reflects the nature and sensibility of our protagonist, Conway, who, through this act of play, becomes our version of Conway.

Of course, not all games are similar to theatre. These comparisons, while useful as a way to think about games in a new light, don't really apply to games with more abstract spaces, such as many strategy games. For something like *Civilization* or *Crusader Kings*, the only graphic we see is the world map from a

top-down view. Sure, we see these spaces - cities, counties, states - but they are abstract spaces: easy, simplistic representations of an actual city, an actual county, an actual state. It doesn't have the same 1-to-1 navigation through physical spaces that theatre does. However, it is not just 3D games that have a kinship with theatre - 2D games do too, of course, especially point-and-click adventures like *Monkey Island* and the aforementioned *Kentucky Route Zero*. They may not have a 3D space for us to move around, but we still get to be a spectator, viewing the environment side-on, and we still get to be a participant, choosing where our character goes, who they talk to, what they say, etc.

This idea of simultaneously being spectator and participant is perfectly summarised in *The Entertainment*. In it, the player takes the role of "bar-fly", a character in a play in the world of the game, giving us a view of the audience watching the play as well as the main characters of the play onstage. The player views the game through a first-person view, and so we can, whenever we want, choose to be a 'spectator' and watch the main characters perform the play (or watch the reactions of the audience), or be a 'participant' and say our lines and do our actions when it is our turn to do so. Representative of many games as a whole, as well as theatre, both from the side of performer and watcher, *The Entertainment* excellently collapses the idea of actor and audience. Because it is a game set within a play, it is able to clearly show the similarities be-

tween the two.

It's an odd comparison, sure, especially because theatre is thousands of years old, and videogames are decades old. Theatre is in-

“

The intricate elements that construct games have a lot more heritage from theatre

credibly well respected while videogames are largely not; if they are, more often than not it is because of how much money the industry makes, not because of any meaningful artistic capability of games.

Yet the connection is certainly there. As game designers like Steve Gaynor (*Bioshock*, *Gone Home*) and Tamas Kemenczy (*Kentucky Route Zero*) have said, the structure and techniques of theatre are a huge inspiration for their works. But beyond the side of developers and designers, this comparison is useful to us too, if only to give us a new angle to consider games.

Game Review: *Firewatch*

Platform: PC, Mac
Release date: 9 February

The walking simulator *Firewatch* is the first game to be released by the San Francisco based developer Campo Santo. It has been gathering a fair amount of attention in recent weeks, and rightfully so.

You play as a friendly chap called Henry, who finds work as a lookout in Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming. The job sounds simple enough - as the game's title suggests, it's up to Henry to prevent the outbreak of forest fires. He does this with the help of Delilah, a more experienced lookout working in another section of the forest. While you never get to meet Delilah face to face, she is ever present thanks to the nifty little walkie-talkie that Henry is equipped with at the start of the game.

By moving out to one of the most remote parts of the United States, Henry is effectively running away from his wife, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Throughout the game questions are raised as to whether the decision he made was the right one, or whether Henry is in fact running away from his own responsibilities. It's an interesting thought, that a person might want to drop their own responsibilities towards those close to them, in order to care for a small piece of mother nature.

I shan't go too deep into the plot, as so much of the game's appeal comes from its surprises that are gradually unveiled. However, I think it's safe to say that the story could have been longer - once that's complete there isn't much else to do.

The gameplay is a stripped back affair. As is typical of most walking simulators, *Firewatch* is played in a first-person perspective. Henry carries his walkie-talkie in his left hand, and can pick up items with his



right hand - a map and compass also come in very handy, especially when you stray off the beaten track. The most interesting feature is the ability to choose Henry's responses when talking with Delilah. Many other games have tried and failed to pull this off. While the choices you make have little effect on the game's overall outcome, the dialogue is well written and it's a pleasure to listen to the two characters getting to know each other.

You can tell that the developers have put a great deal of effort into the visuals. Different parts of the forest have a different feel to them - some parts are lush, with strong greens; other parts are burnt out, exposing the harsh red earth that lies below. The lighting is superb, and every now and then it's worth stopping to watch the sun's rays trickle down between the trees.

For airy-fairy, arty-farty types such as myself, *Firewatch* is just what we've been waiting for. It shows that gaming can present a decent story with nuance, complete

with all the trappings of a good movie or book. However, for others the focus on narrative rather than gameplay is precisely what is wrong with the game. I've had people ask me how *Firewatch*, or any other walking simulator for that matter, could possibly count as a game. It doesn't give you any room to make your own decisions, apart from selecting what to say when chatting with Delilah. There is no possibility of failure either - it lacks challenge, and the disembodied voice of Delilah is there to hold your hand right to the very end. Is it not the case that these games are trying that little bit too hard to mimic cinema or literature?

These are legitimate concerns, although I wouldn't let them hamper my experience of playing *Firewatch* if I were you. Regardless of whether or not walking simulators should be classified as some other sort of experience apart from gaming, *Firewatch* tells a truly enjoyable story.

Adam Koper

Can the religious epic be *Risen*...?

Andrew Kendall looks at Hollywood and the Biblical epic, then and now



Remember when Hollywood was obsessed with the Holy Bible? Probably not. If there's one myth that has persisted over the last few decades of popular cinema's relationship with the spiritual, it is the claim that Hollywood hates religious films. On a mere surface level, the statement is erroneous, but the idea of Hollywood as some insidious den of iniquity and liberal atheism maintains. So persistent is this myth that whenever a Christian film premieres (even if specifically Christian), observers and critics are thrown into a frenzy. "Since when has Hollywood been interested in God?" they wonder.

But God has never been *persona non grata* in the movies. In fact, one of the greatest filmic paradoxes of Hollywood's history centres on their unlikely relationship with Christianity. In particular, the decadent fifties stand out. Our immediate thoughts are of the goblets overflowing with bubbling champagne, the post-war sexual revolution, and general decadence. Except it was during these same decadent fifties that Hollywood was making millions of dollars (and that's not even adjusting for inflation) from the thing you might be least likely to expect – God.

God, and the Bible, have been a constant of cinema since the silent era but the interest turned into potent fervour in the fifties. The lavish costumes, the casts of thousands, the gargantuan sets – in typical form Holly-

wood was using whatever material available from the Bible to reiterate their point: good triumphs over evil. By the seventies the trend was waning, not necessarily because Hollywood had lost God. They had just moved on to different tools.

In mid February, *Risen* premiered to modest critical and commercial responses. Kevin Reynolds (most notable for *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*) directed the story of a Roman tribunal investigating the rumours of the allegedly risen Jewish Messiah. It could not be mere happenstance that *Risen* bore a curious resemblance to Richard Burton in *The Robe*, a classic example of Biblical era melodrama gone wild. Was religion in the water again? God, again?

To be clear, *Risen* does not really signal a new beginning of faux-religious epics – we've had *Kingdom of Heaven*, *Exodus*, *Noah* and they have all done reasonably well, but none of them gained even a third of the commercial and critical acclaim of the epics of old. But the reason for that is more nuanced than "new movies are terrible and old ones are better". And, neither is the explanation to be found in the much ballyhooed claim that movies can never do justice to religious texts because they only care about the money. Cecil B. DeMille, at the helm of the impressive *The Ten Commandments* owes much of his legendary prowess and success to his ability to mix the

fervently religious with the popular. But can that old fifties magic be struck again?

The geopolitical issues of the Cold War era have not dissipated; they have only mutated. Amid new global crises, Hollywood's own America has its political issues to deal with. In this vein, then, it is not unsurprising that

During the decadent fifties Hollywood was making millions off God

filmakers might be falling back (albeit lazily) on religion to epitomise the good vs bad struggle. Still, to consider the 21st century's take makes me wonder if this is a legitimate desire to replicate the bygone era. If they are intent on Biblical era films, they can do – and have done – much worse than the glorious spectacle of the epics of the 1950s.

The bizarre, alluring dance between true

religiosity, delicious melodrama and wondrous fantasy was something to behold. *The Ten Commandments* in 1956 is the quintessential one to pick, and in the long line of religious epics rises to the top as the easy favourite. It's a marvel of filmmaking in its own right, from its opening where Cecil B. DeMille emerges on screen to introduce the film as velvet curtains part to reveal the screen. The communal experience of DeMille at his glorious, shticky best is unparalleled. And it does seem unlikely to happen in quite that way again.

The problem today is less that we live in a godless Hollywood than we live in an oddly reverent one. The culture war of the 21st century isn't just a collegiate or social issue, it has seeped into pop culture. For the better in some cases, but for the worse in others. There are few things as frustrating in artistic renditions as solemn seriousness which veers into the humourless. It's why the decadent fifties were such a great time for the Biblical era. They were willing to wallow in the 'muchness' of it all. They also understood that the Old Testament made for much more delicious drama than the New.

The question isn't so much why religion seems to be back on screen. Art is cyclical. The bigger question is whether or not Hollywood can successfully harness religious threads to tell entertaining and popular films ever again.

The Great Yorkshire Bank Robbery

Lauren McNeilage previews a short film made in York

If you decide to catch a short film in March, you would do well as a denizen of York to seek out *The Great Yorkshire Bank Robbery*, an entertainingly nasty little film.

The soon-to-be-released film is a Malcolm McDonagh-esque black comedy featuring a cast of wonderfully horrid characters. And, it is shot throughout the city of York boasting an entirely local cast and crew. For easy access, it's also set to premiere at York's own Picturehouse cinema.

The director of the film Jack Spring is a 19 year old Londoner and at that tender age has become one of the first teenagers to direct a seven-figure budget feature film.

Currently running just over 30 minutes,

the comedy focuses on a group of York-based criminals. The six men involved are dramatically different, ranging in character from relatively relatable to violent and sadistic. With these volatile personalities involved, the biggest question is not whether they can pull it off, but whether or not they can actually trust one another.

The rough cut seen at the preview screening still has some editing to be done, which the crew were keen to stress to the small gathering in attendance. So, there were a few minor issues with colouring and audio that were evident at the time of the showing.

However, this did little to detract from the film's effect. It's clear this is a production

team who know what they are doing.

The camerawork and overall visual style are sharp, particularly in one memorable scene that takes place in a public bathroom.

The most essential aspect of the film, though, are its characters. The actors involved are all very talented, and do excellent work making their characters engaging and memo-



rable despite their small amount of time on screen. Look out, in particular, for the actor playing Fox. He is the cleverest and nastiest of the robbers and delivers an unnerving performance that pulls the focus each time he's on screen.

The black comedy tone of the film shines through and there are some very funny moments amid the threats and deception. One of the strongest sequences involves two characters arguing over a bottle of bleach, and the very different ways they each intended to use it. Another memorable scene involved a six pack of yoghurts, and may be the worst advert for Petits Filous ever.

I shan't give away more of the plot, but be assured that *The Great Yorkshire Bank Robbery* is an inventive, darkly funny film that showcases the sort of filmmaking talent that York has to offer. If you decide to head to the premiere, you will be in for a treat.

Return of the outcasts

Jack Davies speaks to Nick Power of The Coral about ending a five-year hiatus

“Early in our career, we were successful, but it was like ‘come and see this band who can play really weird music’. We never had that normal treatment most up and coming bands get today.”

It seems not much has changed for The Coral, and particularly pianist and joint lead-songwriter Nick Power, who I’m talking to today about their career, the state of the music industry and what lies in wait for the band in the future. The group from Hoylake, in Merseyside just outside of Liverpool, who Nick describes as “never having had a massively current sound”, have never quite run the normal trajectory of most bands that made it big in the noughties. They never seemed to be labelled with an easily-categorised sound or genre; they’ve been called everything from indie, to rock, to retro, to psychedelic via a catalogue of different misnomers on the way. This ambiguity in sound perhaps goes some way to explaining why the band have had a somewhat unorthodox treatment in the music industry from the very beginning; they never really fitted any sort of clearly-defined mould.

And yet, in spite of this, the band really did make it. Their first two albums, self-titled debut *The Coral* and barn-storming follow-up *Magic and Medicine*, spawned big-scale nationwide tours and garnered a plethora of awards and nominations, including a Mercury Prize nomination for the former, and a UK Number One Album status for the latter. Couple this with a bagful of Top Ten Singles and Albums, and it’s plain to see the successes of the Merseysiders.

“It was exciting” Nick concedes. “But I’m not that arsed about certifications from the likes of the BRITs and the Mercury Prize. Have you seen the kind of people they have on the judging panels for these things?”

This is in reference to the often ill-thought of decisions that prize-givers make in awarding accolades to various artists, with many feeling that judges stick to the safe-bets that top the charts throughout the year. Nick Power has a point: how else can you explain the likes of the mind-numbing Coldplay and chubby Take That dancer Robbie Williams being some of the most prolific winners at the BRIT Awards?

Admittedly, The Coral’s success seemed



to gradually dwindle after their first two or three albums, something Nick is readily willing to admit.

“You never want things to go stale, which we were on the verge of” he says, “after [2010’s sixth studio album] *Butterfly House*, we tried to record another album, and it just wasn’t happening. It was like a case of burn-out. Things just weren’t happening anymore at that time. I’d been in the band since I was 18, and it was a similar case for the other lads. After over ten years, we needed a break.”

And said break was not a small one: the band preceded to embark on an indefinite five-year hiatus that left many fans unsure if they’d ever be returning. But it seems this hiatus only facilitated further their making of a new re-

cord, entitled *Distance Inbetween*, due to be released at the beginning of March this year.

A number of factors have been at play, from having a new record label (“the new label has given us so much more creative freedom”), to having the chance to hone a new sound and have something different to say once more (“that hiatus has given us the chance to experiment a bit more and develop a more out-there sound”). But another big factor at play, Nick tells me, is one much more frank and honest than we are perhaps used to hearing in the music industry.

“I have to live off it. Music is my job at the end of the day,” Nick says after I ask what keeps the band’s productivity up after such a long time in the business, that has seen The Coral release more albums

even than British rock veterans and key influence, Oasis. “That financial incentive keeps the hunger up. It forces you to say something different with each album, y’know?”

And so to the new album – do they think it can compete with the success of some of their earlier releases? “Sonically, it’s a lot like [successful 2005 album] *The Invisible Invasion*. It’s full of like, weird ideas that have been put into four-minute pop songs.”

If they can emulate the successes of their earlier material, The Coral’s return to music is sure to be well-received – many prominent figures in the British music industry have gone on-record as being big fans, in no small part due to the high-calibre of their early releases. These names include Led Zeppelin legend Robert Plant, and Oasis’ songwriting chief Noel Gallagher, who Nick tells me “has helped out quite a lot off his own back” with the band.

In a case of the band returning to the energetic state of the younger days, the new material on forthcoming release *Distance Inbetween* certainly seems to have reinvigorated The Coral, even in terms of their upcoming first live performances for half-a-decade, despite the expected nerves.

“They [the nerves] will probably kick in about five minutes before we go onstage” Power says. “But the songs on this new album are so geared towards live performance that we’re just excited to get out there and play to an audience again.”

For a band that have been going since their formation in 1996, this seems a genuine movement towards breathing new life into an outfit that one might be forgiven for thinking dead and buried. But evidently not.

“You can’t fucking win in music” Nick says, “and we’ve never really been that much in fashion. But we’ve always had something, something that’s made us stand out.”

It’s rare that bands can return after such a long break and still retain a certain level of creative relevance. But Power’s confidence in The Coral’s special “something” might mean they can curb the common assumption that old bands can’t make a comeback.

And based on their current optimism, they could very well prove to be a success once more. M

“ I’m not arsed about certifications from the likes of the BRITs ”



IMAGES: THE CORAL

The BRITs vs The Grammys

BRIT AWARDS

THE GOOD

THE GRAMMYS

Despite not being a fan of the BRITs myself, there are undeniable positives that come out of it.

For years now the awards show has allowed itself to present popular and some alternative music to the mainstream public who may not be too involved in music in general. The BRITs openly put on a brilliant live show and usually host quality entertainment to the masses without the pretence that goes hand in hand with music and musical awards in general.

A perfect example would be Lorde's tribute to David Bowie. Although I am not a fan of Lorde herself, I appreciated the show's decision to choose her (seeing as she was a friend of Bowie's) and more importantly give back to Bowie in a respectable and mature way. Very unlike what the Grammys did with Gaga's shambolic performance to say the least.

The inclusion of Gary Oldman and Bowie's official band performing brought a bit of magic to the BRITs and for that, I'm pleased to not wholly hate the awards.

Ant Noonan

Both the Grammy and the BRIT Awards highlight achievement in an artist's career. Both these awards symbolise the pinnacle of their career and how much work they've done. The Grammys, which are determined by academy members, who are esteemed professionals.

This means that the winners are deemed talented artists as opposed to ones with the biggest fanbase.

For me, the Grammy Awards is bigger than the BRIT Awards. Perhaps it's the vast exposure I've had to it in comparison to the BRIT Awards. Growing up in Hong Kong, the Grammy Awards were shown on the larger networks and repeated more often than the BRITs so I've seen more of the Grammys and am more familiar with it.

Based on the viewing figures, it appears that I'm not the only one who watches more of the Grammys than the BRITs. This year, the Grammys drew in 24.95 million viewers in comparison to the BRITs' 5.8 million. While popularity does not mean quality, it gives a good indication.

Minal Daswani



BRIT AWARDS

THE BAD

THE GRAMMYS

As everybody's favourite annual musical shambles the BRIT Awards arrived in February, the music-buying population held their breath in anticipation to see who would win the coveted 'Best Album' award: cackling London songstress Adele, big-voiced awards-vacuum Adele, or loveably popular British singer Adele (It was Adele).

But aside from the massively predictable awards winners, the BRIT Awards just aren't interesting anymore.

There's nothing of the antics that you'd see in the 1990s. There's no Liam Gallagher figure to make a tit of himself in a cocaine induced haze. There's no Jarvis Cocker to invade the stage and bare his arse at Michael Jackson as he performed dressed as the Messiah surrounded by small children (it really is a wonder why those allegations even surfaced in the first place about the King of Pop).

2016's edition saw the usual array of mediocre artists (hello, Little Mix) performing mediocre songs to an audience of 16-year olds who view Coldplay as The Beatles of our time.

Is it really any wonder why people are losing interest in the BRIT Awards? It seems to me the only option.

Jack Davies

The Grammys has for decades been the best comedy show on television, and 2016 was no exception. This began with the nominations:

Slipknot and Death Cab For Cutie were going head-to-head over 'Best Rock Album,' while The Weeknd received a staggering seven nominations. Florence and the Machine managed to contest both 'Best Pop Vocal Album' and 'Best Rock Performance,' and Meghan Trainor was nominated for 'Best New Artist' despite the fact that it feels like decades since she pissed-off everyone with her saccharine wheezing.

However, the best gags came on the night itself. Muse beat the hilarious field to 'Best Rock Album' with their dreadful bore-fest, *Drones*; Adele proved that pop goddesses aren't industry robots after all by singing quite spectacularly off key and crying about it afterwards, and the world at large was given their annual reminder that Kendrick Lamar's real surname is, in fact, Duckworth.

Some people say that The Grammys is the most prestigious of the music awards ceremonies; I assume that the same people thoroughly enjoyed reading *Sister Carrie*. It's a laugh-a-minute.

Ben Phillips

Kanye West - *The Life Of Pablo*

Antonio Pinheiro

★★★★★

On 'Feedback', Kanye West raps that he is like "Steve Jobs mixed with Steve Austin". His frequent self-made comparisons to Steve Jobs are widely known, but to devotees, Kanye West is more like the Steve Austin of music.

The Life of Pablo is undoubtedly daring in its deliberate incohesion: songs end abruptly and samples are used unaltered. In 'Father Stretch My Hands,' "bleached as-sholes" and Kid Cudi coexist in a remix of underground trap hit 'Panda' by Future Disciple before concluding to a sound akin to a cassette malfunctioning mid-song.

At times, this scattershot approach lends itself well to displaying Kanye's insecurities. The braggadocio of 'Feedback' and 'Freestyle 4' are undermined by being cut short. They also make the most unforgiving lines even more pathetic than they need to be. When Kanye raps "I bet me and Ray J would be friends if we ain't love the same bitch" on 'Highlights', and that he feels that he and Taylor "might still have sex" on 'Famous', there's no sticking it to the man, only gross celebrity shock humour.

Thankfully, both songs are salvaged by impressive and dynamic sonic details. Lush strings, jazzy piano and woody synths elevate 'Highlights' to a perhaps undeserved grandeur, and a playful dancehall outro transforms 'Famous' to being the most carefree

Alestorm & Sabaton Live @ Manchester Academy

Sam Wallace

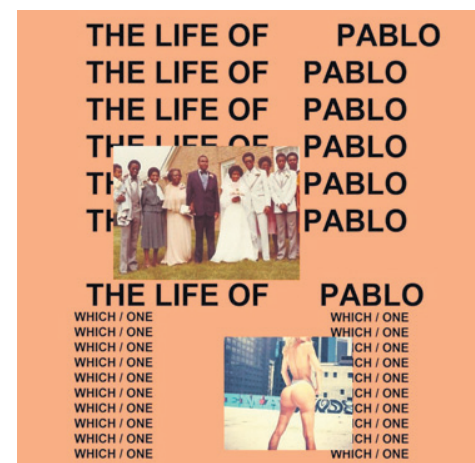
★★★★★

A double-billed concert is a rare occurrence, but when I spotted it was Sabaton and Alestorm playing at Manchester Academy I knew I had to go. Alestorm, a Scottish band best known for its hearty and somewhat silly 'pirate metal' sea shanties, as well as generous consumption of alcohol, were pairing up with Sabaton, Swedish power metal monsters who possibly surpass Alestorm's love of piracy with an even greater fondness for tanks and cheesy but powerful metal about various battles.

Alestorm bounded onto stage and we were treated to 'Keelhauled', which helped build the tempo back up into 'Magnetic North', which if someone looks too closely has the same progression and tempo as Lady Gaga's 'Telephone' (shhh).

Ever the consummate unprofessionals, Christopher Bowes and co. plowed through 'Drink, Wenches and Mead' (sensing a trend yet?), 'Nancy the Tavern Wench', and the 'Sunk'n Norwegian' as a rollicking middle to the set which, now well lubricated by pints from the bar, saw the crowd really get going. All in all a great set from the jolly pirate metallers.

Sabaton powered onstage with an incredibly powerful opening followed by 'Far From the Fame' and then 'Uprising', before the band halted to be greeted by raucous cheers of 'Sabaton!' Although great on record, it is on stage that the band really shows



that a Kanye West song has sounded since 'Watch the Throne'.

During the coda of 'FML' he attacks the toxicity of celebrity culture with an aquatic autotune wailing "they don't wanna see me love you".

West has likened his music to sonic paintings, and in this instance he sounds like Picasso's *The Old Guitarist* as his voice cracks, sounding aged, but the guitar is replaced with autotune, and the subject of the painting is himself.

If we are to take the title as Kanye's duality, part-Picasso, part-Escobar then it's evident that when the cover asks us "which one?", he doesn't pick a side. He's happy to play the role of both brilliant artist and the hateful figure simultaneously, and hence it's only fitting that the album is a stylistic mess which more resembles a mixtape.

It's a bloody good one though.



their talent.

'Resist and Bite', 'Carolus Rex' and 'Soldier of 3 Armies' rounded out a powerful mid-set before the band charged off stage, leaving only Pär, who led the crowd in 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life', before switching to the whistled intro to 'To Hell and Back'. The evening was finished with 'Night Witches' and 'Primo Victoria', with an encore of 'Metal Crüe', keeping the energy high, before letting us leave in a pretty euphoric mood.

Even after traipsing in at an ungodly hour of the morning, with my voice hoarse, my legs tired from jumping, and half deaf, I can't say anything more than I loved it.

Alestorm put on a good show, but there was perhaps less energy than I'd hoped, and the sound levels were pretty poorly done, but that just vanished when Sabaton showed up on stage, putting on one of the best concert performances I've seen in ages.

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Dave Grohl puts Foo Fighter rumours to bed

"For the millionth time, we're not breaking up and nobody's going fucking solo."

What women want

Ahead of International Women's Day, Human Rights Watch director **Minky Worden** talks optimistically to Munisha Lall about the position of women worldwide

“Gender equality is a realistic pursuit. It's a general principle that many people want to pay service to, but it's also something that many don't want the ugly truth pointed out to them about.”

Minky Worden is optimistic. There's reason to be optimistic, too. Globally, the rights of women are increasingly on the agenda, and it's no stretch to say that the intense campaigning conducted by Human Rights Watch (HRW) has gone some way to catalyse this. We need only look to Iran, where this month women will be able to watch beach volleyball for the first time, having previously been banned from sports stadiums since 2012. These women aren't asking for a revolution - they have a clearly-laid out, specific and achievable goal, and it has been through lobbying with the International Volleyball Federation that Iranian women will now not be excluded from a public space. This targeted approach to women's rights is central to the work of HRW, where campaigning is constantly seeking concrete gains and mappable results.

“Abstract principles are wonderful,” she says, “but I always ask: ‘what does this mean for women and girls on the ground?’ The fight for gender equality is not just about raising awareness, it's about reversing a specific attitude. Our work documenting and tackling FGM in Northern Iraq, for example, has required a sophisticated, multi-layered approach that involves the law, religion and cultural traditions. It takes listening to the experiences of the women concerned in order to understand just how stark the inequalities are.”

As HRW's Director of Global Initiatives, Worden has developed and implemented numerous international outreach and advocacy campaigns tackling women's rights and the rights of refugees. She previously served as HRW's Media Director, working with journalists across the globe to help them cover

whatever I wanted. For that reason, it never occurred to me that there were any obstacles in my way being a woman, but I think that's something many people take for granted. It took being in the working world to see that there are inequalities, be it paid maternity leave or women in senior positions. I've

“**Gender equality isn't going to happen unless we fight for it**”

been fortunate to teach at Columbia University where my students can major in women's studies or in human rights. These fields weren't available when I was in education, so that's real progress in the space of 30 years.”

Much has been anticipated since our last Olympic year, when Worden wrote and edited *The Unfinished Revolution* while in Egypt meeting women's rights activists and interviewing Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi. With Rio 2016 on the horizon, much that is discussed in her book couldn't be more pertinent today. “It's an Olympic year, and we're bound to read a number of inspiring stories of women athletes. What we won't hear of though is the stories of women who have been excluded from sports, or where men are provided with all the resources and beautifully manicured pitches while their female counterparts kick a ball around in the

and abusive. Sudan's ongoing war has led to women and girls becoming the commodities of an increasingly militarised society. Violence in Syria remains rampant and indiscriminate. Grappling with these harsh realities is both horrifying and disconcerting, and renders the work of HRW all the more vital.

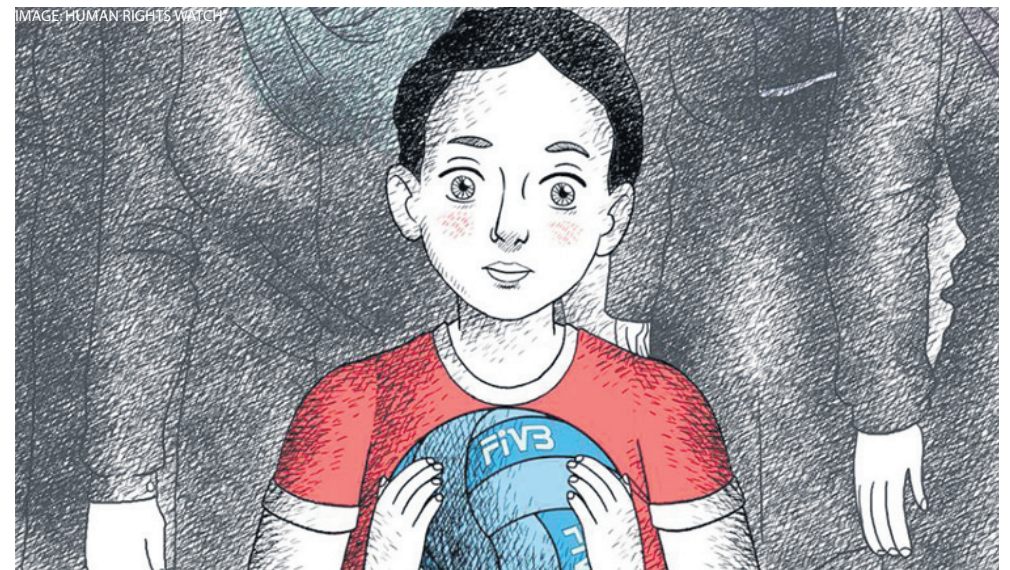
“There is a misplaced value on the honour of women and girls globally which leads to honour killings and a low value attachment. In Sudan, girls are traded like cattle to men who may have multiple wives, which sets up a detrimental domino effect. Girls that are married off as children will suffer from health complications after childbirth. One of our researchers interviewed a woman who was married in her late teens and had 15 children. As a result, her education ceased because schooling and mothering in unison was unfeasible.

“In China, moreover, the one child policy has resulted in two critical consequences. It has taken the reproductive rights and choices out of women's hands and put it in the hands

a crisis that has human rights at its root, and human rights are going to be the only solution to ending this catastrophe. The response from Europe has at times been uneven, and in places abysmal. When a person's life is at risk in their own nation, nothing will deter them from fleeing their home, and European governments need to urgently consider that.”

On resolutions to our global inequality crises, Worden notes that education is a solution to the inequalities faced by women, but it is not *the* solution. “The right to an education is essential, but if you're a girl and also a wife or a mother, continuing to attend school will become unviable. We are seeking empowerment, advancement, opportunity and choice, and it is education as much as it is health and sports that will get us to there.”

Worden and I both share the sentiment that advancing women's rights is indeed a laudable goal, and that looking forward, we have to consider just how this is implemented in practice each and every day. “Gender equal-



wars, human rights abuses and political developments in over 90 countries. Her career is rooted in the advancement of rights for the disadvantaged and the under-represented, but she acknowledges that, growing up, activism wasn't an obvious occupation.

“When I was studying at college and deciding what I wanted to do with my life, a ‘career’ as a human rights activist wasn't really possible. I was fortunate enough to have a mother who worked as a professional artist and who always told me that I could do

parking lot.”

The need to champion women's sport is paramount, but this becomes increasingly challenging when the very reason women are denied this basic right is inexorably linked to notions of ‘modesty’ and ‘decency’. How can women seek to participate in sport when it is considered ‘the step of the devil’? It's a problematic circle to square. An underlying factor to gender inequality, as Worden highlights, is the value placed on women and girls. China's family-planning policies remain coercive

of the state, which is always a bad idea. Additionally, there are millions of missing girls because of the preference for boys, and this has meant that many Chinese families only have a son. This is not only a demographic crisis but also a crisis of human rights. The policy has now been revised to a two child policy, but that's ultimately still the Chinese government dictating to women how many children they can have.”

Worden is a passionate and enlightening speaker, driven by the injustices faced by others and the inadequacy of our governments, to use her platform for raising awareness of the often overlooked inequalities. Conversation moves onto the refugee crisis, which has recently been catapulted from a subsidiary issue to a more dominant debate by the media. We both agree that the crisis has been appallingly confronted by governments globally: as of October 2015, the death toll of the Syrian conflict alone had reached more than 250,000 people including over 100,000 civilians, with barrel-bombing, chemical weapons abuses and ISIS all having a detrimental impact upon men, women and children.

“HRW has been working for decades now to tackle the human rights abuses conducted by the Syrian regime. It is crucial to remember that refugees don't just happen overnight. No one wants to leave their home and their livelihood. People are driven from their homes because of catastrophic human rights abuses, and that's what we're seeing in Syria. This is

ity isn't going to happen unless we fight for it. We also have to recognise that there are profound challenges to this principle. Over the course of my career at HRW, I've learnt that the most successful human rights campaigns take place with a research base. Understanding the situation, having good communication with the women on the ground, and recognising what their objectives and aspirations are is critical.

“There is a greater, ambient understanding of the rights and gender equality demanded by women, and it's more achievable to pursue these aspirations than ever before. We won't succeed without men, though. It is only with men demanding that women are given a seat at the table that we will see progression. International Women's Day is coming up on March 8th, and my birthday is March 6th. I've always thought of International Women's Day as my own personal holiday, and you could say it was my destiny to work on and advance women's rights.”

With exceptional people such as Worden working at Human Rights Watch, the potential of disadvantaged women is being tapped, and I end our conversation feeling both humbled and inspired by her visionary thirst for a world where women face fewer barriers. **M**

Visit the Human Rights Watch website to find details of the projects, reports and campaigns currently in operation.

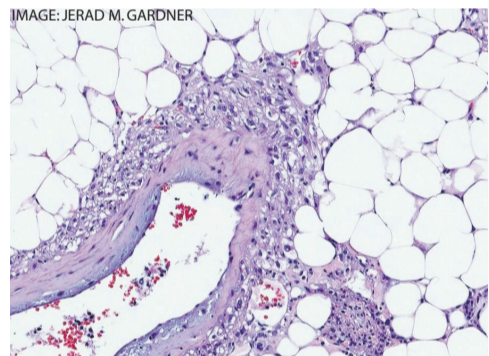
Fat-busting

In the battle against obesity, fat often gets demonised by the media. Lara Medlam investigates the science to find out the truth between the good and the bad fat

Fat is fat, right? Unfortunately it isn't quite so simple. Monounsaturated, polyunsaturated, saturated, transunsaturated. What's the difference between them all, where are they found, and does it even matter anyway? I'm not going to claim I'm an expert, or even a chemistry or biology student. However, when it boils down to it, you don't need hugely in-depth knowledge to help demystify (and de-clog) all the confusion surrounding fat in the diet. Humans have evolved to need and want fat. The fat you eat is broken down into smaller units called fatty acids, and any that is not used by your body's cells or to create energy is converted into body fat: the cushioning, insulating stuff.

So where do the 'good' and 'bad' fats come into it? There's been a lot of varied reporting in the past few years, a reflection of the current health crisis gripping the UK. If only people knew the difference between their good and bad fats, the obesity crisis would be sharply averted! Well, although it's not that easy, forming a basic understanding is pretty simple.

All fats contain the same amount of calories, 9kcal/g, whereas protein and carbohydrates contain 4kcal/g. Therefore, highly fatty foods are referred to as energy-dense foods because they pack the calories in. This is why



whale blubber formed an important part of the Inuit diet, or why rich milk has been fed to growing children for centuries. For those living in naturally scarce environments, or if you're busy hiking up enormous mountains,

there's a great need for fat and the energy it provides. However, in this modern age of plenty, our ability to store fat for long periods seems counterintuitive.

With current worries about diet and health, and conflicting reports about different fats, it's difficult to know how to approach our instinctive need for fat with a healthy outlook. In such a context, it helps to break it down.

The good fats are the mono and polyunsaturated; the naturally occurring fats which your body actually needs. Monounsaturated

There was far more financial gain to be found in demonising fat than sugar. Hence the irresistible rise of the low fat option.

fats are found in oils, namely olive, peanut, and rapeseed. Avocados are full of them, as well as nuts and seeds. It's why these foods seem slightly contradictory. You go and buy some nuts as a healthy snack, and are aghast when you look at the nutrition values. However, since they're full of the good monounsaturated fats, are unprocessed and similarly rich in minerals and vitamins, it's not an issue.

Polyunsaturated fats contain those crucial omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids. The body is unable to produce these, making their presence in one's diet all the more important. And it's why your mum was keen to give you those manky fish oil capsules. Omega-6 is found in oils such as sunflower, flaxseed and walnut. These are the various interesting oils you find in fancy delis and health food shops (i.e. you can pay a lot for them, but standard, unrefined oils will do the job). Omega-3 is the preserve of oily fish: mackerel, trout, sar-

dines, salmon. Getting enough omega-6 isn't generally a problem, but current guidelines promote greater consumption of omega-3, by eating two portions of fish a week.

Saturated fat is a contentious one. It's found in its highest concentration in animal foods, such as milk, meat and butter as well as some plant foods, like coconut and palm oils and even lean meats, such as chicken, contain a small amount of saturated fat. For decades saturated fat was seen as evil, the root cause of our dietary woes. However, recent research has suggested that our pre-conceived notions are arguably misguided. In the 1970s, the rate of heart disease rose rapidly. While some researchers at the University of London found sugar to be the decisive culprit, this view was overlooked. There was far more financial gain to be found in demonising fat than sugar.

The common consensus is that trans-unsaturated fat is the one you want to avoid - it's the nasty one. Commonly found in processed foods, baked goods and snacks, it's made by heating vegetable oils in the presence of hydrogen, creating hydrogenated vegetable oil. When it was first created in the 1950s it was thought to be a healthy alternative to saturated fat, however it's anything but. Trans fat has become a modern food industry obsession, as partial hydrogenation not only makes oils more stable and less prone to going rancid, but the oils can also withstand repeated heating without breaking down, making them ideal for frying foods.

Trans fat is not only the greatest contributor to cholesterol in the body and increases the risk of diabetes but even a small amount can have harmful effects. For each additional 2 per cent of calories consumed daily from trans fat, the risk of coronary heart disease is increased by 23 per cent. Given that heart disease is the world's leading cause of death, this figure is both brutal but sadly unsurprising. It seems many don't realise quite how in-

sidious the effects of trans fat are. While the US Food and Drug Agency are working to eliminate partially hydrogenated vegetable oils from the food supply by 2018, the decision still only came after decades of lobbying by health advocates and scientists.

Realistically, we're not all going to stop eating chips and chocolate. However, a basic understanding of the effects of our food is a step in the right direction for our health. Recognising the necessity of fat, but being aware of its harmful forms is a good way of thinking about your diet as a whole. This is particularly relevant due to the fact that as we've become more modern and industrialised, so too has the food we eat. However, for every down there's an up - as proven by the growing concern in and awareness of the actual effects of what we consume.



The York Easter egg hunt

Leah Hulmes encourages students to explore the chocolate haven that is York

York is known for its rich chocolate history. Who can fail to notice the dreamy smell of chocolate which each week wafts across campus? York is of course the home of Rowntree's and Terry's, with Henry Rowntree establishing his business in the mid-nineteenth century in the city. The array of chocolatiers in York is testament to these claims to confectionary fame.

The city even plays host each year to the York Chocolate Festival. Running from the 25th to the 28th of March the festival offers chocolate demonstrations as well as various pop ups from the cocoa houses of York. With Easter coming it would be a real shame to miss out on some of these decadent delights. Rather than buying your standard run of the mill and often flavourless supermarket Easter eggs, treat your loved ones to some of York's finest chocolate works. Here we give a run down of the best chocolate shops in York to check out. Remember that while you're shopping it's always the rule to 'sample' as much as possible... just to be sure.

York Cocoa House

Situated on Blake Street, opposite Ask Italian, York Cocoa House is known for its quirky and alternative chocolate creations with a shop and café on its premises. From classic homemade truffles and praline to a chocolate infused Yorkshire rarebit, York Cocoa House is reputed for pushing the boundaries of cocoa. The standard of chocolate here is high and beautiful packaging ensures the quality of your gift will not be lost this Easter. While their Easter eggs are almost works of art, for a truly unique Easter present the shop offers an array of chocolate master classes. Workshops from truffle making to how to cook with chocolate, are perfect for chocoholic relatives or friends visiting York.

Monk Bar Chocolatiers

Monk Bar Chocolatiers are York's longest established artisan chocolatiers, and can be found tucked away on the Shambles. Stepping

into the Victorian themed shop is an experience in itself - bags of chocolate hang from the beams and there's an old fashion artisan counter where you can pick and choose from a wide selection of truffles. Their variety of Easter eggs is just as eccentric, as the chocolatiers make everything from your average milk chocolate egg to a passion fruit speckled egg. Although their handmade products are far from cheap, they do claim to have the best chocolate truffle recipe in Yorkshire and their Easter packages are a delicious alternative to your average Easter egg. However, if you're after an extra special egg, the shop takes custom orders up to two weeks before the festival.

York Chocolate Story

If you're after an educational chocolate experience this Easter, the York Chocolate Story offers a unique and insightful look into York's vast sweet based history. Perfect for visiting friends and family, the centre offers a chocolate slab workshop after the history exhibition

where visitors can turn their hand to making their own bar of chocolate. Even if you don't have the time, patience or resources to go through the exhibition or workshop, the York Chocolate Story offers a vast range of Easter eggs. Emphasising sustainability and welfare, the eggs are all made with fair trade chocolate. So if you're after a responsibly sourced egg this year, head to King's Square to solve your ethical chocolate dilemmas.



Rwanda reborn

More than two decades on from the Rwandan genocide, Emily McDonnell explores the legacy of the disaster and the country's growing tourist industry

When my parents told me that we would be having a 'different' Christmas this year, a Christmas that would mean no presents, no roast dinner, no champagne or family gatherings – a Christmas without cosy tradition – nothing would have made me think it would entail staring into the eyes of, and standing three metres away from, one of mankind's closest living relatives, a 400 pound Rwandan silver-back mountain gorilla. And indeed nothing could prepare me for such a moving and profound moment.

Rwanda is a lush, green, mountainous paradisiacal reality, located just below the equator, landlocked by Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Tanzania. It is the fourth smallest African country, but feels vast in its varying landscapes and sweeping scenes of natural majesty of rivers, huge hills, forests and lakes, and thriving wildlife.

This wonderland of exoticism relies mainly upon tourism, but also on its successful tea and coffee exportation, as well as banana, maize and potato plantations spanning a huge portion of the country's land. The constant battle between preservation of the country's precious forests (and therefore tourism), and the desperate need for land for food farming (mainly due to the fact that Rwanda is one of Africa's most densely populated countries per square kilometer) is obvious throughout the country, with farm boundaries reaching right up into the mountains before abruptly turning into untouched forest.

Through exports, the Rwandan economy

is slowly building itself back up after the brutal genocide suffered and endured by hundreds of thousands of civilians, from April to July of 1994. Up to 1,000,000 were killed

“ **The Kigali Memorial Centre serves as a shocking but important reminder of the genocide**

in a mass murdering of predominantly Tutsi (killing almost 70 per cent of the tribe's population) by the turbulent Hutu government which was in power at the time.

The Kigali Memorial Centre, which opened in 2004 and serves as a shocking but important reminder of the genocide, outlines how trouble between the two groups in Rwanda had stemmed from colonial times, with physical and cultural differences being pointed out between the then-peaceful coinciding tribes by Belgian, German and other

European influences.

These physical differences tended to be that of Tutsis being lighter-skinned, typically 'Ethiopian' in stature as that was where the tribe was thought to have originated, slimmer and with larger, more 'European' noses. Hutus, on the other hand, were identified as shorter, with darker skin and different shaped skulls. These physical differences would become vital in the 'classifying' of who was Hutu and who was Tutsi during the rampaging violence of the genocide many years later, drawing some comparisons to that of Hitler's differentiation between Jewish attributes and that of the typical 'Aryan' German.

Identity cards were issued by the colonialists, class distinctions emphasised, and segregation began. Europeans promoted Tutsi over Hutu and resentment slowly developed among the latter group. Nevertheless, marriages between the two groups still continued and peace was somewhat upheld. However, following the civil war between rebel groups and the governmental forces in the 1980s, there was a surge in Hutu power, with a dominant Hutu government taking charge and supporting the segregation of Tutsi and Hutu, in order to promote Hutu once again.

The genocide was triggered when the President of Rwanda's plane was shot down in early April 1994; there is speculation that it was carried out by those fighting against the President's pro-Hutu regime. Over the next 100 days, machetes were distributed and Hutu were encouraged to slaughter any Tutsi in sight and reach: neighbours, family, friends, and especially, their Tutsi husband or wife. If a Hutu was found to not have killed

their Tutsi partner or friend, they themselves would be killed. Babies' eyes were gouged out, their heads smashed against walls, with children as young as two or three being brutally raped and left for dead.

Hundreds of people were forced one on top of the other into huge pits, with boulders and rocks being thrown in after them, with perpetrators only stopping when the screaming had ceased. Horrifically, there was the rape of women and pregnant women by Hutu men who were known to be HIV positive; many continue to suffer with the disease today. These crimes against humanity were supported by the government through propaganda commanding all Hutu to lash out at anyone and everyone they assumed of Tutsi origins. One million people were slaughtered in 100 days, meaning that seven people were brutally killed every minute.

Eventually the genocide ran out of steam; the government collapsed and hundreds of Hutu fled to surrounding countries, leaving a destitute and wounded Rwanda in pieces. Although the country itself is currently civilly stable, tribal, rebel and governmental fighting has continued in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi where war and corruption is rampant.

Today, the atrocities that occurred in Rwanda seem distantly in the past; the country is brimming with smiling children, colourful outfits and positive prospects. However, there are reminders everywhere of the horror which appear sporadically and without warning – someone missing a limb or with amputated feet struggling to make do with large bits of wood as walking sticks is a





startling visual indication of the atrocities that occurred.

Similarly, nestled between a village and some stunning hillside landscape lies the site of the harrowing Ntarama church massacre. Hundreds of Tutsi and vulnerable members of society attempted to find refuge in Catholic churches across the country, hoping that they would be protected in a sacred space. However, on 7 April as thousands crowded into the building, they were discovered and, with the help of the Pastor of the church who had led militia to the site, shot or hacked to death by machetes.

Yet public attention has not been drawn to the Rwanda atrocities in the way that other genocides have been. Although not on the same scale as the Holocaust, for example, tragedies such as the Rwandan genocide, the Armenian genocide and even the mass killings in Cambodia (although the debate of whether this was technically a genocide, as it did not target a racial group, continues today), are not acknowledged in the way they should be. We do not learn about these horrific crimes against humanity and what these countries have endured in history lessons, yet to help prevent these atrocities occurring again it is vital that we recognise their devastating impact.

In many Rwandan villages and towns, however, there are memorial sites dedicated to the genocide in hope of preventing such an event from happening in the future. And indeed there is undeniably a sense of hope and steadily growing development in the country to keep peace, and to build economically and politically. One of the ways the country is achieving this is through tourism, especially gorilla trekking.

Supporting the gorilla trekking companies is extremely important for Rwanda's economy and ultimately its infrastructure, as well as conservation of the exceptionally rare and spectacular wildlife. There are two species of Eastern gorillas, Lowland and Mountain, found at varying altitudes. A male silverback mountain gorilla typically weighs 430lb (195kg) and stands up to 6ft tall. They are



the gorillas and actively punished poachers who were caught, making her highly unpopular in the local community and ultimately resulting in her murder in 1985, as many relied upon the capital produced by selling bushmeat and gorilla hands and heads as souvenirs. During her time in Congo and Rwanda there were only 260 gorillas left in the wild, but as a result of her work this number has steadily increased to a much less critical, though still endangered, state today.

Since then, tourism to provide preservation of the gorillas has been vital: when hiking to see the gorillas, tourists are encouraged to hire a porter to assist with their treacherous climb. Most of these guides are ex-poachers who are now working with the conservation team to help the gorillas and provide a steady income for themselves. Poaching is still a risk but has rapidly decreased over the last 10 years, meaning that habitation loss, warfare and unrest are the biggest causes of concern for the mountain gorillas, as they border both the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda and move freely between these countries, in and out of violence and peace frequently.

It was remarkable to be in the heart of a vibrant, bustling town, full of children playing, women selling vegetables on the market floors and chickens pecking at scraps, and then half an hour of hiking in the jungle later to be standing directly in front of one of the most profoundly human and highly endangered creatures in the world. Humans and gorillas live in such close proximity in Rwanda which can be difficult to comprehend, but this short distance highlights the battle between farmland and a home for these extremely important animals, particularly in an economic sense for the Rwandan population.

Seeing gorillas in the wild is unlike any other experience. It means a very early start and a somewhat clichéd all-khaki explorer outfit, and an hour and a half trek spent ducking under bamboo, avoiding stampeding water buffalo and a guide armed with a machine gun in case of any unforeseen dangers. Yet the difficult hike, complete with trip hazards, falling into muddy cavities in the ground and the furry poisonous caterpillars, is worth it when the gorillas are in sight.

The family consisted of a huge male silverback, mother, young adult, adolescent and very young baby, all sat in a pastoral, un-



Most gorilla trekking guides are ex-poachers who now work with the conservation teams

descended from the species that have been in Africa for approximately 24 million years, but are now officially critically endangered with just 880 individuals in East Africa.

Dian Fossey, an extremely important figurehead in the conservation of the gorillas, set up a research centre in the Congo in 1967, before moving to Rwanda to continue her work. She promoted the safety and preservation of

touched scene of serenity. Their eyes, their slow munching of bamboo and gentle grunts as they went about their daily business, as if they had no idea we were watching them less than three metres away, are entirely captivating. They are playful animals; the cocky adolescent male got up, banged on his chest in the most typically 'ape' way possible, then proceeded to run, bumping into trees and then cartwheeling back to his mother's side. Their humanity, too, is astonishing; the tiny baby, only four months old, carefully began to creep away from the matriarch, stumbling and attempting to find his feet just as a human toddler does, wide-eyed and inquisitive. He then tripped over, tried to bang on his chest like his elder male family members, and finally landed on the ground a metre from the onlookers, much to the distress of the mother who grabbed his arm and pulled him away.

The little ones are just as curious about visitors as tourists are about them; guides explain that they are definitely aware of how closely related we are to them and therefore do not feel highly threatened by the presence

of visitors. Yet this doesn't make the experience entirely safe; one bamboo tree slightly obscured our view, and as a guide began hacking it down a huge silverback, his lunchtime disturbed, rose up on his hind legs, furiously banging on his chest and bearing his enormous teeth, and came charging head-on.

Gorilla trekking is a complicated industry. It is hard not to be aware of how close these precious beings are to the unrest occurring in DRC and Burundi, and how oblivious they were to the danger which surrounded them. Knowing this can be distressing to tourists. Yet for the guides, the fight for conservation and for a future of peace and liberty to sustain among the Rwandan people and in the country did seem at the forefront of their agenda.

Tourism and conservation is thriving while unity, peace and recognition of the genocide are still prevalent today, in even the younger members of society. The positivity of this wonderful, beautiful country promises its great efforts of improvement and stability will continue for many years to come. **M**

Niall Whitehead: ANTHEM FROM A DOOMED YOUTH



Those of you who actually read this column – or at least spare it a cursory glance before grimacing and tossing it in the recycling bin – might have noticed I’ve been looking for a graduate scheme recently. Success has been limited.

It’s a case of “we’re sorry, we know you were able to get to the Moon by holding your breath and jumping, but you’ve only been Prime Minister twice so that’s a no from us. And anyway you had to go back because you forgot your Nobel Prizes.”

As a result, I’ve been navigating the interview scene about as well as a menstruating seal trying to make it through a shark tank. BUT, I think I’ve managed to pick

“ I’ve been navigating the interview scene about as well as a menstruating seal trying to make it through a shark tank

up a few entirely valid tips which I totally haven’t just made up in order to sabotage your job attempts on the off-chance you ever run against me. And I’ll share them with you now!

First up, the most important skill that interviewers are looking for is delegation. Demonstrate delegation by not showing up to your interview and sending someone else.

When the interview first starts, names are important. If you don’t know your interviewer’s name, feel free to assign them one: Jobbles, for instance, or the Notorious J.O.B. If they ask you if you have any convictions, explain that you believe that all people should have the right to live and work equally, and also that you are not a rapist. This will prevent

confusion.

Usually the first question you’ll be asked is “why do you want to join our graduate scheme?” Acceptable answers include “to fulfil the prophecy”, “because I heard you guys were handing out free money” or “because David Cameron told me to, in the secret code based entirely on blinks he uses to talk to me through the TV”.

There will be other questions. These are all designed to catch you out, so stay alert. If someone asks you how you like your tea, the correct answer is “with milk, two sugars and THE DETERMINATION NECESSARY TO ENSURE GREATER PRODUCTIVITY FOR THIS COMPANY”.

Body language is important. Avoid blinking. Blinking is the crutch of the eye. Whenever someone says your name, stare into their eyes while licking your fingers erratically. This will show your hunger for success, and also human fingers, which are both qualities that command attention.

If you are a woman, an additional obstacle for you will be the glass ceiling. Deal with this by yelling “take THAT, glass ceiling!” before punching the nearest piece of glass. If they ask if your hand’s OK, respond “I’m actually in terrible PANE!” Wink several times. Bleed strategically.

Getting into some jobs requires you to rear a puppy from infancy and love it before you’re eventually ordered to snap its neck. This might only apply to being a fictional spy, but pulling this off in your interview will show your commitment to a long-term goal, as well as your upper body strength.

These days, employers are likely to investigate your Facebook. To stay ahead of the game, replace all nouns in your statuses with the word “BUSINESS”. All pictures should be replaced with stock images of people in white dress shirts holding up a spreadsheet and grinning.

If it’s the boss himself interviewing you, that’s great! Remember to dodge the projectiles, before hitting his weak-point (the glowing spot in the centre of his chest). And if all else fails, remember the unwritten rules of passing a job interview. These are:

Following all these interview steps will make sure you have a long and healthy career in the police, or at least a long and healthy stay inside a police building. And that’s job-hunting solved forever. Next edition: Israel v. Palestine. Who’s right?

LAMENTATIONS

In which Deborah Lam bemoans seven things cluttering her newsfeed

1 What happens when you crossbreed BuzzFeed and a poetry slam poet with too many feelings? You get Thought Catalogue. With articles such as ‘5 Ways To Know If You Can Repair Your Broken Relationship’, I’m starting to think the only reason Thought Catalogue exists is to throw extremely pointed tantrums concealed as mature steps to self-actualisation. Stop reading articles from freelance hipsters sat at Starbucks because they can’t afford their own WiFi.

2 We all have that loosely-termed ‘friend’ who’s on a health kick at the moment and posts daily articles from websites like ‘Healthy CareWay’ boasting ‘10 foods that unclog arteries in a totally natural way’ [side note: even the headline has to assure you that it’s “totally” natural]. Don’t give me that “Oh I’m sharing them for my own future reference” bullshit. Internet bookmarks. Ever heard of them?

3 People, please for the love of God, stop with the food porn. You don’t have to tag your significant other in a video by Tasty to try to not-so-subtly hint that what you’d really like from them is pasta, not sex. Because honestly, it’s 2am, Facebook autoplay is my worst enemy and nothing I have in my fridge can even compare.

4 Quit your superstitious bull crap. Nobody needs to know ‘5 steps to take to check if your hotel room is haunted’ or that a ‘Man goes out for a walk one night – what he finds is more than he bargained for!’ Believing in ghosts is cute when you’re five, charming when you’re an emo at fifteen, but something that you should be a little bit embarrassed by when you’re older than twenty.

5 America’s Funniest Home Videos-type viral gif or clips. They’re never really that funny and it just reflects poorly on your sense of humour. There are only two age groups where it is acceptable to laugh at funny animals or people falling down: the I-don’t-know-any-better young and the I’m-on-the-brink-of-dementia old.

6 There is a reason why Instagram and Facebook are separate. So please don’t flood the latter with your selfies. I get that it’s called FACEbook, but there are more appropriate social media platforms for your narcissism. And the people who really enjoy your selfies are probably already glued to your Instagram to a frighteningly stalkerish degree.

7 People who post statuses complaining that they have a million and one things to do on Facebook – die. It shows that you’re either a) Not actually thaaaaaat busy, b) Suffer from “look at my stressful life and feel sorry for me” syndrome or c) Actually believe that people on your Facebook care that you’re busy.

HARRIET CHESHIRE ON HER EXPERIENCE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN CANADA

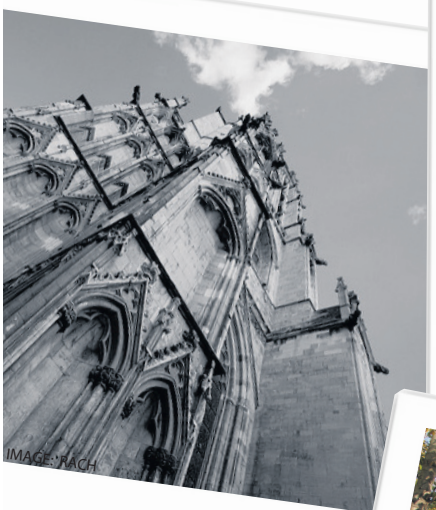
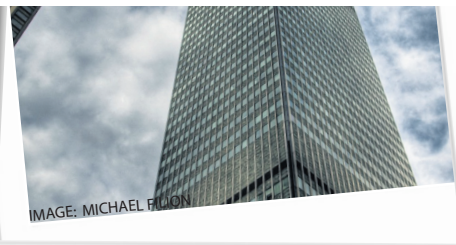




Nouse Photography Competition 2016

Our annual Photography Competition is back! This year the winner will receive two tickets to the Summer Ball, and the top six entries will be featured in the paper. Entries should be sent to muse@nouse.co.uk before 5pm on 22 April. You can enter as many pieces as you like, and they can feature absolutely anything - photos for this year should evoke one or both of these two themes:

“Chaos” & “Calm”



Labour conference “horrific”

Felix Forbes
POLITICS EDITOR

THE RECENT Labour Students and Young Labour conferences saw a series of slip-ups, allegations of bullying and entry problems mar a weekend aimed at picking a candidate for Labour’s 33-strong National Executive Committee (NEC).

A former University of York Labour Club (UYLC) chair was turned away on arriving at the Young Labour conference after being late due to illness, despite a conference the previous day being delayed due to the late arrival of a bus of students from Cambridge. Hearing loops meant to aid deaf students reportedly failed during the weekend, while caucuses for some elections took place after voting closed.

An open letter to the organisers and candidates condemned the problems at the conference, claiming that “bullying, silencing tactics, discrimination and fear” were the “overarching themes of the weekend”. The letter was signed by 120 individual delegates, the Unite and GMB unions, as well as Labour Clubs from York, LSE, London, Surrey and Brighton.

The Youth Delegate election for the NEC proved particularly controversial, as the body has gained a new prominence under Jeremy Corbyn. Jasmine Beckett (widely seen as the centrist candidate) defeated James Elliott (backed by the left of the party and the Unite union) by a margin said to equate to one vote.

Both candidates are now subject to investigations carried out by the Labour Party, due to events surrounding the election. Beckett’s supporters have been accused of harassing her opposition online and breaking election rules. Elliott, former youth policy coordinator for Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership bid, is faced with allegations of anti-Semitism at Oxford University’s Labour Club, of which he is a part.

UYLC stated that they had “full faith” in the candidates elected, but highlight that for three years running they were not informed about Labour LGBT officer elections, denying York students who identify as LGBTQ to vote for their representative. They also added that there was a “universal problem in youth politics with disenfranchisement of representatives”, particularly minority groups, stating that only open discussion could counter this.



By Rei Yatomi @esmirai

The Calais Jungle, for migrants seeking UK residency refusing to settle in France, was shut down forcibly by French police. Many shelters went up in flames

Calais Jungle camp burns as France asserts itself on the migrant crisis

Maria Munir
POLITICAL REPORTER

WITH FRANCE leading the way in calling for European solidarity in dealing with the so-called migrant crisis, pressure is mounting upon the European Union to deliver a solution. Countries such as France have taken the initiative to design ways to make Calais less appealing as a halfway house between France and the UK.

By destroying the ‘Jungle’, French police aim to restore structure to its migration policing, through increased monitoring to establish migration patterns and deter future arrivals.

However, the method in which France is dealing with what it identifies as a humanitarian issue is arguably less than humane. Pow-

erful images show the demolition of housing with dramatic scenes of migrants protesting against the upheaval in their lives. For those who have fled war or persecution, having already been evicted from their home countries by force of circumstance, this is undoubtedly a harrowing experience, and one which will provide them with anything but security or reassurance.

France’s disproportionate use of force has been heavily criticised. Migrants are desensitised to violence, as are those watching the scenes unfold within the comfort of their own homes. The use of tear gas, water cannons, and anti-riot police has been slammed by critics as evidence of harassment tactics to cause distress to those who are already losing homes.

Issued with one-hour ultimatums, migrants are forced to leave or face the prospect of injury through violent means. For a hu-

manitarian operation, the emphasis on treating humans as humans seems to have gone amiss.

The claim that there are shipping container shelters for those who have been forced to leave is an insufficient gesture. As few as 2000 migrants, mainly women and children, will be allowed to remain, with the rest being forced to either give up all hope of asylum, or move to reception centres elsewhere in France.

Fabienne Buccio, the Prefect of the Calais police prefecture, conceived the strategy of clearing the Jungle, to ensure migrants have their details recorded to process asylum claims faster. Since September 2015, there has been an almost 50 per cent drop in the number of migrants in the camp.

Large numbers are accepting financial help to return home; a practice which has increased six-fold. Buccio complains of violent,

closed-minded British activists; Shoreditch House was attacked with smoke bombs as a protest while the French Ambassador for International Investment, Muriel Penicaud, was reportedly inside.

The empathetic granddaughter of an Italian immigrant herself, Buccio insists that new arrangements such as razor wire fences will ensure security for both France and the Channel. However, she fails to mention that the humanitarian situation within the Calais Jungle will not subside with these measures.

It remains to be seen whether France will humanise its approach to an historically inhumane practice. The Brexit threat on the horizon means British campaigners are calling for dissociation with such practices, which they argue may drive more migrants to come to the UK to avoid inhumane treatment in Europe. That said, Britain can only be a backseat driver here.

News in Brief

Iran comes in from the cold

In Iran, elections have provided a massive boost to President Hassan Rouhani’s efforts to reconcile with the West and the world. The new representatives are scarcely moderate in a Western sense.

European referendum

Campaigners for the UK to leave the EU have attacked the ‘In’ campaign’s tactics as ‘Project Fear’. Boris Johnson and Michael Gove came out in favour of leaving, with Johnson accused of careerism.

Race for the White House

Democrat Hillary Clinton maintained her lead over Bernie Sanders in her bid to be Presidential nominee. Republican Donald Trump referred to his penis size in a debate, lately seeing his supporters wither.

Turkey crushes media

The Turkish state seized the best-selling newspaper in the country, which began publishing flattering stories about President Erdogan. His greatest hits include publicly praising Hitler’s Germany.

China cracks down on freedoms as world heats up

Geoffrey Glover
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

RECENT EVENTS have highlighted the increased assertiveness of China in maintaining control of its population. Four of five booksellers have resurfaced after five months - having disappeared between October and December - including a British and a Swedish national, after being arrested for selling "illegal books" critical of the Communist Party.

As of 1 March, the British passport holder has reappeared, denying that he'd been kidnapped by the Chinese authorities. In a statement released late on 29 February, Lee Bo detailed an account of his disappearance claiming that he'd returned to China voluntarily. Al-

though dubious, his story is being used by China to challenge claims made by the British government that China was attempting to undermine the "One Country, Two Systems" agreement made in 1997 after the United Kingdom returned Hong Kong to China. In an interview, Lee Bo has announced that he is renouncing his British citizenship.

State television interviews with the other four booksellers detailed their alleged crimes, and showed them expressing regret about having broken the law and having "generated lots of rumours in society and bringing bad influence". A number of countries have expressed concern over the disappearance, arguing that they constitute kidnapping. China has responded saying that police would never do anything illegal, and that other nations respect Chinese sovereignty.

To add to this, China has re-



cently announced three new laws - a counterterrorism law, a draft cybersecurity law to further increase state control of the internet, and a draft law on management of foreign non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to more closely monitor their activities.

What remains absent, not for the first time, is a clear definition of what constitutes terrorism, raising fears that China will crackdown on freedom of expression further.

These events come at a challenging time. As well as changes in Chinese economic fortunes, China has been flexing its muscles in the South China Sea, laying claim to a number of islands and building a number of artificial ones.

Unsettled neighbours, including Japan, Vietnam, and the Philippines have accused China of breaching their sovereignty and not respecting the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that details the limits of territorial claims nations can make to the ocean. The Philippines has accused China of deliberately blocking access to the Jackson Atoll in the contested Spratly Islands. The US has regularly sailed warships around the area in an effort to assert their right to navigate on international waters to which China has responded with veiled threats. The South China Sea is thought to be extremely resource rich, incentivising claims to the landmasses in it in an effort to gain control over valuable assets.

The Communist Party has historically shown a reflexive need for control over most aspects of Chinese life. Economically, China faces a slowing rate of growth, fuelled by a lack of investment. Its actions cracking down on freedom of expression reflect this reflexive need.

Irish Elections '16: The end for Kenny?

Alex Davenport
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

THE RULING coalition in Ireland has been roundly rejected by voters at the polls, leading to a period of great uncertainty as to the composition of the country's next government. The shares of the vote of the two parties comprising the coalition, Fine Gael and Labour, declined substantially, leaving the two parties well short of the 79 seats required to form an overall majority, leading Fine Gael's leader, and current taoiseach (Prime Minister), Enda Kenny, to search for workable alternatives.

The election on 26 February proved to be a chastening experience for Labour, whose support dropped drastically to just 6.6 per cent of first preference votes cast (down from 19.4 per cent at the previous election), reducing the party from 37 seats to just 6. Its senior coalition partner Fine Gael also suffered significant, if smaller losses:

the party lost 17 seats, leaving its total at 49. It is still the largest party in the Dáil, the Irish lower house, but its lead was narrowed to a mere five seats by Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael's traditional rival. Fianna Fáil's ability to genuinely threaten to overtake its old adversary marks a remarkable turnaround in the electoral fortunes of the party, which was heavily punished in the 2011 election.

Such a strong recovery puts any questions regarding Fianna Fáil's ability to stay relevant and influential in Irish politics beyond doubt. The traditionally smaller political parties and groups also proved to be beneficiaries of the election, with Gerry Adams' Sinn Féin, the left-wing Social Democrats and AAA-PBP, and numerous independent candidates gaining ground on establishment parties.

As with so many elections, the economy appears to have proven a decisive factor in influencing support for the various parties. Although the ruling Fine Gael-Labour coalition appeared to have presided over a significant economic resurgence, as well as a drop in unem-



Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny's Fine Gael party saw its share of the Irish vote collapse, threatening his government

ployment, analysts argue that citizens' anti-government sentiment stems from the recovery's inability to coincide with an increase in standards of living.

While Enda Kenny continues his role as taoiseach on a caretaker basis, he and his party are conducting talks with various other parties

to attempt to form some sort of stable government. Fine Gael's coalition with Labour has been emphatically ended, and Kenny has refused to work with Sinn Féin, given its previous association with the IRA. Many have discussed the possibility of a grand coalition between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, an outcome

that would likely provide the most stable government. This would be a big step for two parties who fought a brutal civil war on opposite sides from 1922-23 and have directly competed against one another ever since. Fine Gael will likely run a minority government, the instability of which may force another election.



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

FREEDOM! We've almost escaped! We'll soon be running screaming from this concreted hellscape!

The world, as we all know, is still slipping happily into chaos. And yet there's always new depths to plumb! In America, Jeb Bush finally gave up on his dream of being

President, but only after tweeting a picture of a gun with his name on it. Watch out, schoolyard bully Donald Trump?

Speaking of which, did anyone really want to think about Donald Trump's penis? The orange-haired baboon was sure to bring it up when his tiny, stubby fingers were men-

tioned. Do you know how hard it is to write a single joke about it without vomiting your entire soul up?

Talking of wizened, hairless monstrosities, Iain Duncan Smith, government minister for kicking the sick into the workhouse, recently made a speech declaring that staying in the EU might mean our government enabled a Paris attack, and by inference were reckless, potentially blood-soaked fools. The truth of this statement aside, the poor man must be suffering whiplash after then making a speech requesting

an end to personal attacks.

Labour, continuing their bid to make all political journalists think they're on acid, have released an ad featuring various government ministers photoshopped into cartoon dodgem cars. As the days go by, it seems more and more like an abysmal piece of performance art, possibly titled "why even bother".

SNP MPs, long-term challengers to UKIP for swivel-eyed-lunatics of the year, have recently surpassed themselves by claiming that the curvature of the Earth is biased against

Scotland. It's really funny, until you remember that they did legitimately try to run their own country on its own. Still, the ensuing civil war might at least have been amusing, before the English invaded all over again.

As *Nouse* comes to the end of its production week, discussion in the office has centred around where in the world a few dozen over-caffeinated, career-less student journalists could actually take over. We've settled on a small Danish island. If you want to find us, you can't.

GOP economics: cuts, tax and no moderation

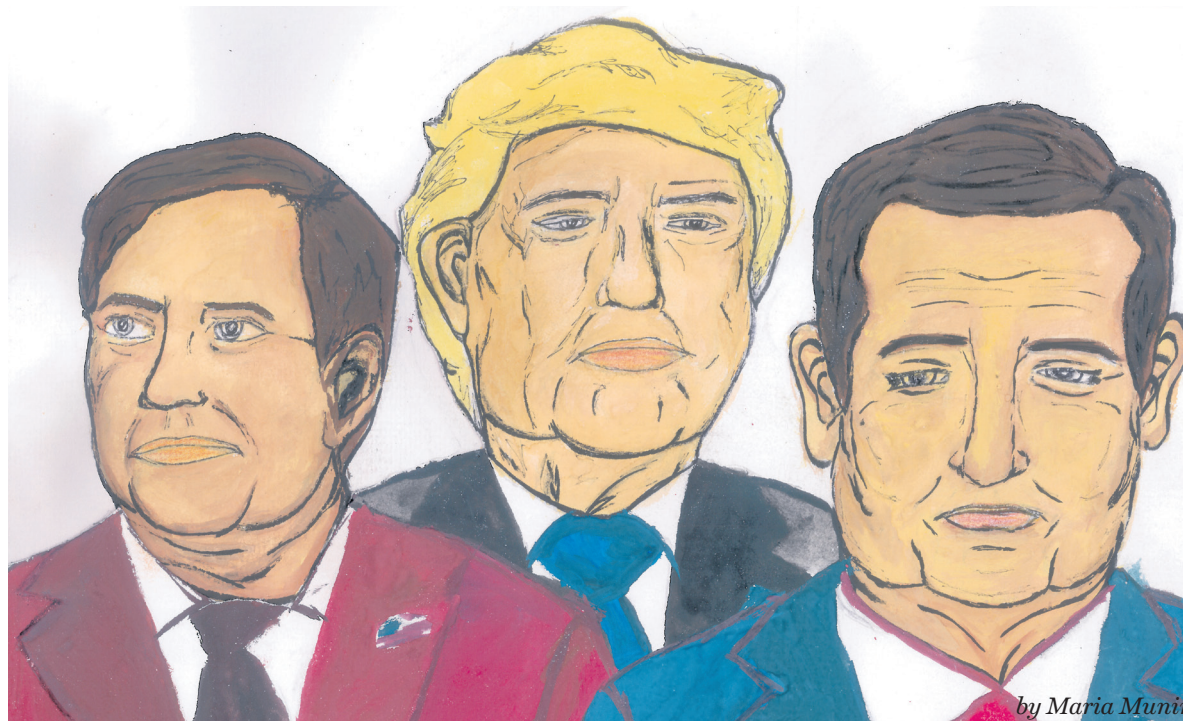
Luke Rix-Standing
BUSINESS ANALYST

LAST WEEK, Super Tuesday saw 11 states go to the polls over who they wanted as the Republican presidential candidate. Here at *Nouse* business, our analyst Luke Rix-Standing takes a satirical look at the three candidates who are most likely to gain the Republican nomination.

DONALD TRUMP It's hard to start with anyone other than the Charlie Sheen of US politics, Donald Trump. It's possible that I'm being a little irresponsible – it is now a widely accepted that, however scathing it may be, the oxygen of publicity always leaves The Donald sitting pretty.

Sadly, one look at 'Trumponomics' and it's difficult to see where his business success has come from. Setting his stall out early for "balancing the budgets" Trump claims he will "cut spending big league". Bafflingly he has never bothered to elaborate on what that means. He has occasionally mentioned "the education budget" and "the environment agency": to give some perspective, abolishing both of these entirely would wipe out under a fifth of the deficit. Given the vast size of his proposed tax cut, economists estimate he would need either a 21 per cent reduction in public spending or a reliable growth rate of 7 per cent per year to achieve his aims. This is about as realistic as the Michael Bay film *Armageddon*.

On top of this there are huge financial question marks over many of his other policies. What about



Which of these three is going to get the GOP nomination? left to right: Marco Rubio, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz

the \$12 billion Mexican wall which Mexico is *cough* totally going to pay for? How would consumer prices react if Donald does slap the promised "giant import tariffs" on China? How would the workforce handle the deportation of 11 million undocumented immigrants? As with most things Trump, it's all rather unpredictable, and largely complete bollocks.

Do say: "Make America great again!" Don't say: "How?"

TED CRUZ We now move on to Iowa's favourite Evangelical: Ted Cruz. An ultra-ultra-Conservative that in any other race would be the

protest vote, Cruz has made waves with his proposal for a 10 per cent flat rate income tax and the abolition of the IRS. Critics, and there are a lot of them, claim this will hurt America's poor while providing a massive tax break for the mega-rich. His buzzphrase is that he wants "all Americans to fill out their taxes on a postcard", although with no IRS it is as yet unclear where all these postcards would be going.

Like Trump, he's on the button about "balancing the budget", but, like Trump, he's made little effort to propose practical ways of doing this. His flat tax would blow a giant hole

in government revenue (\$11 trillion over ten years, and that's from his own statisticians) so cuts in public spending would have to be vast. His assertions that America has a "job problem" show a man desperate to justify his own radicalism (2015 saw America's highest job growth since 1999). His claim to work for the poor belies a man whose belief in the free market rivals only his faith in the Baptist Church.

Do say: "there are more words in the IRS tax code than there are in the Bible, and not one of them is as good!" Don't say: "Obamacare".

MARCO RUBIO Finally, we

have Marco Rubio, a man so young and slick that the oil in his hair could probably heat the Florida statehouse for a week. A poster boy for Middle America, complete with ex-cheerleader wife, four beautiful children and an upbringing soaked in the American Dream, one can only assume he quietly hosts Eyes-Wide-Shut style orgies to offset the extreme repression of his public image. One look at his smugly attractive college photos, and you instantly envisage a successful football player bullying freshmen in a frat house basement, while reminiscing about Spring Break in Cancun. OK, I admit it. I'm a little jealous.

Sadly, this obsessive perfection has not translated to his polling statistics or to his economic policies. As with his competitors, reducing the deficit is key, but once again he contradicts himself. The Rubio tax plan is projected to hit federal revenue by \$414 billion p.a while one of his flagship motions is to vastly increase the colossal defence budget. These are patently incompatible; his only targeted cut so far is "nondefense discretionary spending" (payouts determined by annual budgets rather than legislation; mostly centred on low-income welfare). Even if this were to be completely scrapped it would still leave Marco firmly in the red.

When Trump savaged him recently for repeating himself on live TV, it was easy to feel sympathy for poor little Marco, but overall beware. He's not nearly as moderate as you think he is.

Do say: "He's the Republican Barack Obama!" Don't say: the same thing twice. Ever again.

Argentina returns to bond market after 15 years

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS EDITOR

THE ARGENTINE government has negotiated a deal to repay billions of dollars in bond payments owed to several US hedge funds. A bond is government issued security in which investors receive interest, and essentially operates like a loan. The deal comes after years of refusal by previous Peronist administrations to negotiate with US hedge funds who purchased bonds during the country's default in 2001. This breakthrough is due to the new

president of Argentina Mauricio Macri, who vowed on his election in November to improve the economic situation of Argentina with the negotiation being a top priority for his government.

But why has it taken so long? The reason the negotiation has taken so long is because the old government under Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner refused to talk with the hedge funds suing the Argentine government. She referred to the funds as 'Vulture Funds' for demanding repayment on the bonds after Argentina defaulted on nearly \$100 billion of debt.

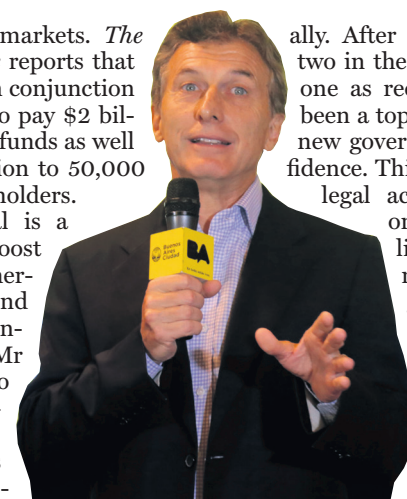
The funds in question only held

a small proportion of this debt, with the US court-appointed mediator Daniel Pollack hailing the resolution: "It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce that the 15-year pitched battle between the Republic of Argentina and Elliott Management, led by Paul Singer, is now well on its way to being resolved."

Macri's government has negotiated to pay \$4.65 billion, which represents roughly 75 per cent of the overall bill with interest owed to the New York based hedge fund Elliott Management. This deal follows a long string of settlements done by the new administration designed to bring Argentina back into glob-

al financial markets. *The Boston Globe* reports that this deal is in conjunction with a deal to pay \$2 billion to other funds as well as \$1.34 billion to 50,000 Italian bondholders.

The deal is a significant boost to Latin America's second largest economy, as Mr Macri tries to rebuild confidence in Buenos Aires international-



ally. After the previous defaults, two in the last fifteen years with one as recently as 2014, it has been a top priority of Mr Macri's new government to rebuild confidence. This is because while this legal action has been going on, the country has had limited access to debt market and has struggled to raise capital. On the news that a settlement had been reached, the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange's benchmark Merval Index was up by 3 per cent.

STOCK
BOX



FTSE 100
2.48%



DOW JONES
2.24%



NIKKEI 225
5.07%

Stock box takes the total percentage change this week of the major London, New York and Tokyo Stock Exchanges.

Stop the presses! Is print media dead?

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS EDITOR

PRINT MEDIA is dead, isn't it? That is a frequently asked question with people demanding more news and content faster than print can ever achieve. Online newspapers like the *Huffington Post*, social media and 24 hour rolling news has meant that the way in which we consume news has changed significantly. Few of us pick up the humble broadsheet or tabloid in print form as modern technology has made it easier for consumption of news. Earlier this month, *The Independent* newspaper announced that it was to cease print production and move online. Writing for *Nouse*, I was saddened to hear this as it seems the statement that print media may be dying was true.

However, a few days later the Trinity Mirror group, owners of the *Daily Mirror*, announced that they were to launch a new national newspaper, *The New Day*. Initially I was shocked by the announcement; with the Indy going online I thought that

the Mirror Group were taking a bold gamble. *The New Day* was launched last Monday to great fanfare and an advertisement campaign that reportedly cost £5 million.

But why launch a newspaper when circulation is declining. Simply put the declining circulation is not as bad as it seems. *The Sun* and *Daily Mail* both have circulations of 1.5 million copies a day, with *The Sun* reaching 1.7 million. The rest of the market ranges from between 900,000 to 400,000, while *The Independent* has a lowly 68,000 a day. Indeed, with figures like these it makes economical sense that *The Independent* moves online. However, the rest of the market is reasonably strong and historically Britain compared to much of continental Europe has often favoured print media. According to the European Journalism Centre 11 national newspapers have a circulation of about 75m every week.

Although it's true that print circulation has declined from what it was in the past, new technology has been embraced by our national newspapers. Many are pushing online versions of



the paper to keep readers abreast of development much faster than traditional print, while still maintaining print versions. *The Times* has a circulation in print of 404,155, but has over 400,000 members online taking the readership to over 800,000. This is a similar situation for many other papers, particularly in the 'quality' section of the market - *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times* and *The Guardian*. The *Daily Mail* is the UK's most visited newspaper site, with its infamous sidebar of shame and *The Guardian* ranking as the 18th most visited site in the UK.

Only time will tell whether print media can survive in the long term. At the moment, print editions benefit from online subscription as it allows print to continue. Despite *The Independent* leaving newsagent's shelves, the paper will move online, with a monthly subscription service app. However, as often is the case in business, as one door closes, another opens in the form of *The New Day*. I wish them luck in and hope that our great national newspapers continue in print as well as online.

BAD BUSINESS

by Elliott Banks

ANOTHER GLORIOUS tax deal has come to light and surprise, surprise a large, very profitable company isn't paying its fair share. Facebook paid an awe inspiring £4,324 to the Exchequer and the complexity of the tax system made Heathrow's air traffic control system look basic. The company, which makes \$1bn globally every three months, has promised to pay more tax. How benevolent of them. I wonder what emoji the tax department will use for this volte-face. I suspect it will be either the sad or angry emoji.

The EU referendum is in full swing and the business community is wasting no time in arguing between armageddon and paradise over a potential Brexit. Downing Street wheeled out 200 business leaders to say we should stay. The leave campaign dismissed this as propaganda while wheeling out a smaller group screaming to leave. Shame that we have another four months of this.

Liability definition changes with Supreme Court ruling

Laura Henrique
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

A LANDMARK LEGAL judgement by the Supreme Court has drastically changed a type of liability.

The law of vicarious liability - a legal doctrine which holds that employers can be held liable for omissions or acts performed by their employees - was significantly impacted after the Supreme Court ruled that a contract need not be present for vicarious liability to exist.

Amjid Khan - an employee at a Morrisons petrol station - carried out an unprovoked vicious attack on the claimant, Ahmed Mohamud, consisting of numerous kicks and punches. In an unanimous decision by the Supreme Court, Morrisons was held vicariously liable for their employee's conduct.

As the law currently stands, a close connection test exists in order to establish vicarious liability. First, there must be a relationship between the defendant and the offender and second, a connection between said relationship and the offender's conduct must be present. Mohamud deals with the latter question. Amjid Khan was employed by the defendant; therefore, the first stage is easily satisfied. The

IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA



The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the final UK court of appeal

second question, however, was the primary one at issue. Lord Toulson in giving the leading judgement reasoned that Khan did not metaphorically remove his apron once he stepped from behind the counter. Furthermore, when he trailed the claimant back to his car while using aggressive language to tell him to "never to come back to the petrol station", he was purporting to act on behalf of his employer.

Employers may have a tough time swallowing this decision as they will struggle to detach themselves from their employee's actions and consequentially, find it hard to

escape vicarious liability. As a result, employers may find themselves being more meticulous regarding who they employ. Moreover, training and model behaviour may be put on a higher pedestal.

Tim Forer, a partner at law firm Blake Morgan, stated "While the Supreme Court took care to say it has not changed the law on vicarious liability, in practice this ruling does extend its scope, as courts will be more willing to say that an employee's actions are 'closely connected' to his or her employment, even if the employer would not have approved of them."

Pound on the slide over Brexit fears

Laura Henrique
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE BRITISH STERLING has hit a seven-year low against the U.S. dollar which currently stands at \$1.4057 as Boris Johnson gave his backing to exit the EU. The credit rating agency Moody's are cautioning that this could have an overreaching effect upon the UK. As a result, the UK's credit score which currently stands at Aa1—which is one below the top rating triple A score—may be downgraded should the UK opt to exit the EU. This would result in the UK government having to pay more to borrow.

Investors have played a significant role in leading to the pound's decline as they worry about the impact that a potential exit from the EU will have on the UK's economic prospects. The referendum's effect may be seen before a vote is even cast as businesses do not like uncertainty. This could hamper potential investments by large corporations and the overall growth of the UK economy.

As a result of the deteriorating pound,

consumers will find themselves paying more for holidays abroad as they will receive fewer dollars and euros for the pound. The cost of importing goods from abroad will also see an increase. Unfortunately for consumers, should the pound continue to fall, the costs of goods will begin to rise in order to reflect this.

Businesses, however, will experience both the positive and negative effects as a result of a weaker pound. Those who export goods overseas will reap the benefits as they may witness economic growth in their sector. This is because a weaker pound helps them to compete in markets where the strength of the pound has, up until now, hindered their growth and rendered them unable to compete. On the other end of the spectrum, a weaker pound may mean that businesses who rely upon importing goods will suffer financially due to the increased prices.

Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that the decline of the pound will slow down anytime in the near future, as markets and businesses remain on edge about a potential exit and are gearing up for the inevitable sharp drop in the pound.



Climate change's hidden damage

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE EDITOR

LEONARDO DICAPRIO recently spoke of the threat of global climate change as part of his Oscar acceptance speech. In December of last year, the COP21 Climate Change Summit in Paris agreed to limit global temperature to less than a 2°C rise above levels of the pre-industrial era. Although there are still skeptics, it appears global acknowledgement and a cultural shift towards addressing climate change is a reality.

We know that each year massive amounts of carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere through anthropogenic sources. Cars, energy production and manufacturing all produce large amounts of the compound.

If you were to look into your carbon footprint, it is likely to be over 10 tonnes per year; this is equivalent to 24 million balloons. We are most familiar with the terrestrial effects: summer heat waves, warm winters and even more rain.

However, much less is known

about the impact on aquatic ecosystems. This is because they are harder to access for research.

Carbon saturation of marine ecosystems is a significant problem, due to increased atmospheric carbon dioxide from pre-industrial levels of carbon, although plastic pollutants and melting sea ice are much more high profile marine issues.

In an effort to sustain chemical equilibrium, more carbon dioxide is absorbed into water. This results in decreased pH, commonly reported as ocean acidification, and saturation state of carbonate minerals. Ocean acidification presents a major threat to marine organisms.

Calcifiers such as oysters, crabs and corals rely on a delicate balance of carbon minerals in order to survive.

Acidification results in their delicate shells dissolving, entirely destroying coral reefs and making shelled animals vulnerable. An imbalance of minerals means they cannot rebuild their shells after shedding, a necessary process for growth or after damage.

Corals are animals. They are classified as marine invertebrates



Beautiful coral reefs around the world are being bleached and destroyed due to ocean acidification and rising temperatures

of phylum Cnidaria, related to jellyfish and sea anemones. Coral reefs are regarded as one of the most vulnerable marine organisms. Their architecture is reliant on organisms that shed their carbonate shells. Corals can only thrive through a process of accretion. Small carbonate particles accumulate to form corals, attracted by gravity to the larger existing structure.

Nature reports that in this

century coral reefs are projected to shift from a state of net accretion to one of net dissolution. However new findings suggest this may happen much sooner.

Determining the contribution of acidification as the source of dissolution is difficult as other factors such as temperature, pollution, and careless tourism play a role in the health of these precious ecosystems.

Australian scientists have con-

ducted the first seawater chemistry manipulation of a natural coral reef community.

The One Tree Reef community was treated with alkaline solutes, which worked to restore ocean chemistry closer to pre-industrial conditions.

They found that net community calcification increased, indicating that ocean acidification may already be impairing coral reef growth.



nature
@nature

Anti-lobbying rule: UK gov't should reassure that scientists can still advise policy-makers

2 March 2016

NASA
@NASA

Undocking complete at 8:02pm ET! @StationCDR-Kelly is on his way home from a #YearInSpace

2 March 2016

BBC Science
@BBCScienceClub

Google donates \$1m to fight Zika

3 March 2016

Scientific American
@sciam

New research suggests autism manifests differently in girls

3 March 2016

Glowing bacteria lights up streets



Bacteria may soon power the lighting of many shop windows and street lights

Jessica Pound
SCIENCE EDITOR

DRIVING PAST the Vangarde John Lewis on a Sunday night, it is striking to see the sheer number of unnecessary lights left on to illuminate the car park and surrounding

shop windows.

Aside from light pollution problems, the cost of running these lights 24 hours a day must be extortionate. Never mind the fossil fuel consumption and carbon emission to power them.

With solar panels becoming as common as roof tiles, you would think there would be a more sustainable way to keep these centres

illuminated at night.

Well now there could be. A French company aptly named 'Glowee' is trialling bioluminescent bacteria to light up the streets. The *Aliivibrio fischeri* bacteria are usually found camouflaging the Hawaiian bobtail squid by counter-illumination.

The bacteria occupy the squid's light organ and produce the same amount of light on the bottom of the squid as that hitting the top so it is effectively invisible from above.

The bacteria has been isolated and colonised in gels with the optimum amount of nutrients to keep them alive. Culturing bacteria can be very difficult so the fact that the bacteria can be grown in vitro is a breakthrough in itself.

They can then bioluminesce for up to three days generating a calm blue-green glow to light up shop windows. This by-passes the French law which does not allow lights in shop windows between the hours of 1am and 7am. A similar law in the UK would help reduce consumption.

Bioluminescence is simply the production of light from a chemical reaction in an organism. It differs from other forms of luminescence such as fluorescence and phospho-

rescence which require light energy to initiate them rather than a chemical reaction.

For every bioluminescent reaction, two general chemicals are needed: a luciferin (the molecule that produces the light) and a luciferase. Luciferase is the enzyme required to catalyse the reaction.

The luciferase catalyses the oxidation of luciferin, producing an inactive oxyluciferin and light. Another mechanism for bioluminescence is the production of a photoprotein from the luciferin. In this process, luciferase and co-factor oxygen bind together. Upon adding an ion, usually calcium, the photoprotein is activated to produce light. Following the successful three day experiment with bioluminescent bacteria, now the challenge is to prolong the luminescence for months, making this a viable lighting option.

To do this, Glowee are investigating the optimal nutrient concentration and mechanisms to remove waste from the bacteria, providing living conditions for long periods of time. Research into the practicality of integrating these systems while keeping the mechanics aesthetically pleasing and discrete is necessary.

The accidental fatalities of Ebola

Aiden Heeley-Hill
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

IT WOULD SEEM that news of the Ebola virus epidemic is never far from the media. Its spread has been halted and many countries are now free from the virus.

However even last month it was reported that Scottish nurse Pauline Cafferkey had been readmitted to hospital for a third time following complications caused by the virus.

Ms. Cafferkey initially contracted Ebola while undertaking charity work in Sierra Leone during December 2014.

Ebola had caught the world unawares when it spread across Africa, and there were real concerns about its spread to Europe, the United States and further afield. Its horrific symptoms and the ease of transmission meant that the world took notice.

The rapid spread of the virus prompted Médecins Sans Frontières, the International Red Cross and other charities to provide emergency medical care and aid to the worst affected areas. Importantly there was and still is no known vaccine.

Current figures state that

11,316 people died during the epidemic. However, a further 10,623 died from other diseases attributed to the redistribution of healthcare resources to cope with the demand the virus placed on the existing health system.

This number was derived from a model developed by scientists at the Yale University School of Public Health. The model assumed that 50 per cent of resources designated to treat diseases such as malaria were diverted to cope with the outbreak.

The authors of the paper believe this to be an underestimate as in some areas there was only a 10 per cent attendance of those appointments booked prior to the outbreak. Routine childhood vaccinations would also have diminished, as would the distribution of regular prescriptions as people stayed at home to avoid Ebola.

The lack of a vaccine meant that trial drugs were used in the field, and the epidemic acted as a testing ground for experimental drugs and treatments. Since the outbreak, a number of previously developed vaccines have moved to the clinical trial phase.

Perhaps the most promising news in vaccine development is the Cytomegalovirus (CMV). The hope is to use CMV as a vector for delivering a vaccine for Ebola. This technique is already used for other

vaccines. The virus has the ability to target key sites that are also associated with the Ebola virus, such as the lymphatic system.

Once CMV reaches these sites, it is able to react immediately, making it effective against the rapidly replicating pathogens. CMV is seen as an effective vector as infection is asymptomatic in the body.

A promising development to tackle the virus by a different mechanism is the discovery of effective antibodies in the blood of an Ebola survivor from a 1995 outbreak.

The mAb114 antibody binds with the Ebola virus, blocking it from interacting with receptor cells. As the virus cannot bind to cells the spread of infection in the body is prevented. In trials the use of the antibody saved the lives of six infected Macaque monkeys, even five days post-infection.

2014 saw the worst epidemic of the Ebola virus in the world; the effects spread far beyond those infected as the redistribution of resources meant people succumbed to diseases they may otherwise have survived.

It is important to look not only at those that suffered directly from the disease, but also from the failure of provisions in general. There are, however, promising new treatments that will help us cope better with another outbreak.



Emergency crews fought virus outbreak

SCIENCE SNIPPETS

Apple vs FBI

Apple and US Justice Department officials are at legal logger heads over a ruling to allow access to iPhones. Apple suggests that allowing the FBI to access phones is unconstitutional and “chilling”, however the FBI claims the brand is more interested in their image and marketing than fighting terror. The case at hand involves a killer in the San Bernardino terrorist attack where 14 people were killed and 22 seriously injured at a County Department Public Health training event. A judge recently denied governmental access to a drug dealers’ phone. Apple’s general council and FBI director will testify in Congress in an effort to define boundaries between personal cybersecurity and national security.

Reactor rivalry

Nuclear fusion is a particularly promising energy production method. Practically inexhaustible and completely clean energy is produced by fusing two types of hydrogen together. However, the reaction is complex. Incredibly high temperatures are required to generate hydrogen plasma. Currently, Germany and China are rivals and the closest to actually being able to use this technology. They have both managed to create hydrogen plasma, achieving the extremely high temperatures 80,000,000°C and 50,000,000°C respectively. The countries used different techniques and didn’t manage to sustain temperatures long enough for a continuous reaction. We are a long way off, however both teams claim they are capable of achieving fusion technology. Read the full article at www.nouse.co.uk/science/

Asylum and healthcare

Across Europe there are different attitudes towards the welcoming of refugees. Outside the Minster stands a large “Refugees are welcome here” sign, while the Facebook group #YORKSAYNOTOREFUGES has over 3,000 members. In Australia doctors risk jail if they do not follow laws that damage the health of asylum seekers and go against medical ethics. This is very different from in the UK where people with outstanding application for refuge are entitled to use NHS services free of charge. An opinion piece in the New Scientist by David Berger claims this abolition of vulnerable people’s rights is under threat.

Future tech will allow a robot for all

Eleanor Mason
SCIENCE EDITOR

THERE IS no doubt that technological advances are accelerating at an unprecedented rate. Such advancements have the potential to create a world we can barely begin to imagine. It is possible that tomorrow’s world will be completely unrecognisable from that of today’s.

We are able to use technology such as the Fitbit are common place. GPS technology can track our every move and help us to get where we need to be. Technology has reached a tipping point; robotics to artificial intelligence, biomedicine, 3D printing and other

practices have allowed us to cross thresholds and cause significant change. All of which wouldn’t be possible without the acceleration of enabling technologies such as data storage and computing power. Although most of us are unaware of it, it is predicted that we will experience not 100, but 20,000 years of progress in the 21st century if we continue at today’s rate.

In the final quarter of Apple’s 2015 fiscal year, they sold 48.05 million iPhones and 9.88 million iPads. Mobile phones have become ubiquitous, which we seem to accept as innate.

But if we look at the bigger picture, technological advancements have been exponentially increasing over the past few decades, rather than in a linear fashion like in previous years. Many things that society now takes for granted were futuristic nonsense to our parents and grandparents.

Supercomputing performance is an indicator of incredible advancements across computing, and indicates that there’s more to come.

By 2020, supercomputers are likely to be 30 times as powerful as they are today, and the amount of data worldwide is predicted to reach 44 zettabytes (1 zettabyte= 1

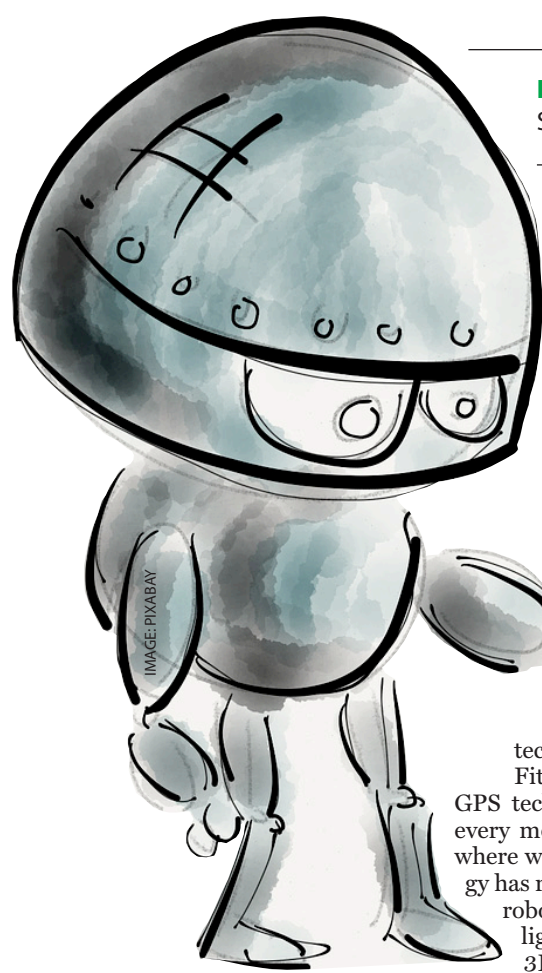
sextillion bytes). As robotic capabilities progress, and costs fall, purchases of robots are set to rocket. Robots can be used in the fields of childcare, farming, cleaning and exoskeletons, just to name a few.

But could you imagine owning a robot just 20 years from now?

George Church, a geneticist at Harvard University said “The promise for the future is a world where robots are as common as cars or phones, a world where everybody can have a robot.” Billions of dollars are fed into the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) from companies such as Google and Facebook.

We may be far from it, but the ultimate AI would be a man-made machine with all the qualities of a human: the ability to reason, think, learn and formulate original ideas. It could be that robots will gradually make their way into our daily lives, as opposed to scientific and industrial use only.

It seems that we should prepare for this new world - however, predicting the future can be difficult, impossible even, and not everyone is convinced that technological change will hit humanity quite so fast. Unrealistic expectations may bring disappointment, but only time will tell.



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Adam Johnson: How was he allowed to carry on playing?

Allowing Johnson to continue to play brings morality in sport into question

Rob Middleton
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SINCE THEIR ELEVATION to the position of outrageously expensive and revered assets, the interpretation of rules has become increasingly pliant with regard to footballers.

The mild discomfort many felt when Luis Suarez was ushered back into the Liverpool first team having sampled an opponent's shoulder has now been eclipsed by the utter disbelief that Adam Johnson was allowed to continue playing his sport, after having admitted to sexual activity with a 15-year-old girl.

However, whatever parallels you may choose to draw between the Luis Suarez case and Adam Johnson's, the latter is, without doubt, the vastly more unnerving of the two.

Obviously, Johnson's case takes this dubious honour given that the crime is immeasurably more heinous and toxic, but it also highlights a much greater problem with the atmosphere that surrounds the footballing community.

Such things make it incred-

ibly easy to demonise football and footballers, painting them as arch-corruptors of impressionable children. With every instance of them falling short of expectations in a societally-assigned position as

“
As a fan of the sport, I grow ever tired of hearing how toxic football is, how it sets an awful example

role-models, we can add a string to the bow of those decrying the sport as an institution.

As a fan of the sport, I grow increasingly tired of hearing about just how toxic football is and how footballers and other members of the community set an awful, abhorrent example to anyone who follows it, just

as I grow weary of hearing the latest scandal involving someone who I thought was a semi-respectable human being.

Aelfwynn Sampson, the lead detective in the investigation surrounding the Johnson case, said that Johnson took advantage of his position as a “local hero”. Unfortunately, as afore-

mentioned, the problem is a much larger one.

Footballers are axiomatically celebrities, thus they are elevated by the general public. It is the sanctity of celebrity created by this elevation that makes revelations about crimes and misdemeanours perpetually shocking, despite appearing in most realms of modern society - politics, sport and entertainment to name only a few sectors.

Where the problem may lie is, in the determination to preserve this sanctity, powerful people are more than willing to make indefensible and entirely questionable compromises.

We have seen such an example in Johnson's case, where Sunderland Football Club's chief executive Margaret Byrne allowed Johnson to continue playing for the team despite having irrefutable proof of his crime, rather than reporting him as we would expect that she would, were the perpetrator anyone else.

It is believed that Byrne - a former criminal lawyer, fans of irony may be interested to know - has fled the country, such is the extensive and vehement backlash towards her gross mishandling of what is a seemingly straightforward situation.

The shocking investigations into other celebrities who have in the last few years been accused of similar crimes, the most obvious being the extensively reported Rolf Harris or Jimmy Savile, show a similar pattern. I remain perplexed as to why, but what I am most amazed by is why these sorts of revelations continue to surprise and astound us.

Now, I have chosen my words carefully. What is happening is shocking, but the fact that it is happening to, and involves, those who are directly in the public eye is not surprising considering that it does also happen among “normal” people.

As the everyday viewing public, we have to remember that, if you strip away any athletic ability, sportspeople are just people, susceptible to the same - admittedly herculean - lapses in judgement as someone who can't kick a football with astounding accuracy and power.

They remain flawed, despite their talent. Often we take their expertise at face value, and choose to ignore their more human errors. It is easier to celebrate their prowess than it is to consider their mistakes with objectivity. What they are doing is shocking, but it is not surprising.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR



One of York's biggest sporting events has already been and gone. In fact, term two has also come and gone, with three editions of *Nouse* and a considerable amount of success in sport.

Starting with College Varsity against Durham - we won for the very first time. The whole day ran pretty smoothly, more so than I think any College Sport has ever been run before.

Perhaps it shows potential for the arguably crumbling system, perhaps it is testament to the character of the sporting community at York; it definitely captured the importance of team spirit and support, something that we shouldn't forget is prevalent.

In the continual push for inclusivity and equal opportunities it is easy to forget what the university already has. We shouldn't focus on what is lacking as opposed to celebrating the truly wonderful power of sport and the mentality it creates en masse.

Standing at the sidelines with friends or sitting at Courtyard

with a pint in hand, Varsity highlighted how sport is something everyone can enjoy.

This is also being celebrated at the Colours Ball. It is fitting that Women's University Football got Team of the Year. They have excelled themselves in more ways than one and exemplify success in every sense of the word.

As has our very own previous Sports Editor Rob Middleton. Now Sports Journalist of the Year, his passion for sport and dedication to its documentation through *Nouse* is highly admirable.

Instead of obsessing over tainted sports personalities, why not look to the successes that the Colours Ball promotes?

Roses is next on the sporting calendar as York prepares to rally its teams for Lancaster. It promises an extended version of Varsity on a much grander scale.

Hopefully York will also carry over their win from last year's uncompromising Roses performance, making it a clean sweep in the two major sporting events of the year.

Bevor too is set to make his debut on the sporting stage. If he puts the same level of dedication and effort into being York Sports President as he did into creating his campaign videos I am sure the handover will go well and sport at York will be in safe hands.

I look forward to seeing how he targets the issues of College Sport and continues to encourage inclusivity.

TEAMMATES

60 seconds with VX's Jack Brown

Name: Jack Brown

Role: President

Year: 3rd

Course: MEng Electronic Engineering with Nanotechnology (SW)

The practical joker?

Ørjan and Yi Jing - always causing mayhem in and out of training.

The strongest?

Matt. I wouldn't want to be on the other end of one of his shots.

A gym rat?

Not sure any of us go to the gym.

The dressing-room DJ?

Ranjeet and his speakers!

The most intelligent?

The engineers in the club, although the mathematicians would argue against that.

The best motivator?

Laura and her northern charm.

The best trainer?

Shaun and Miro, always showing 100 per cent effort.

The worst trainer?

Sadly, me. I've been on placement all year so not trained much.

The most hardened drinker?

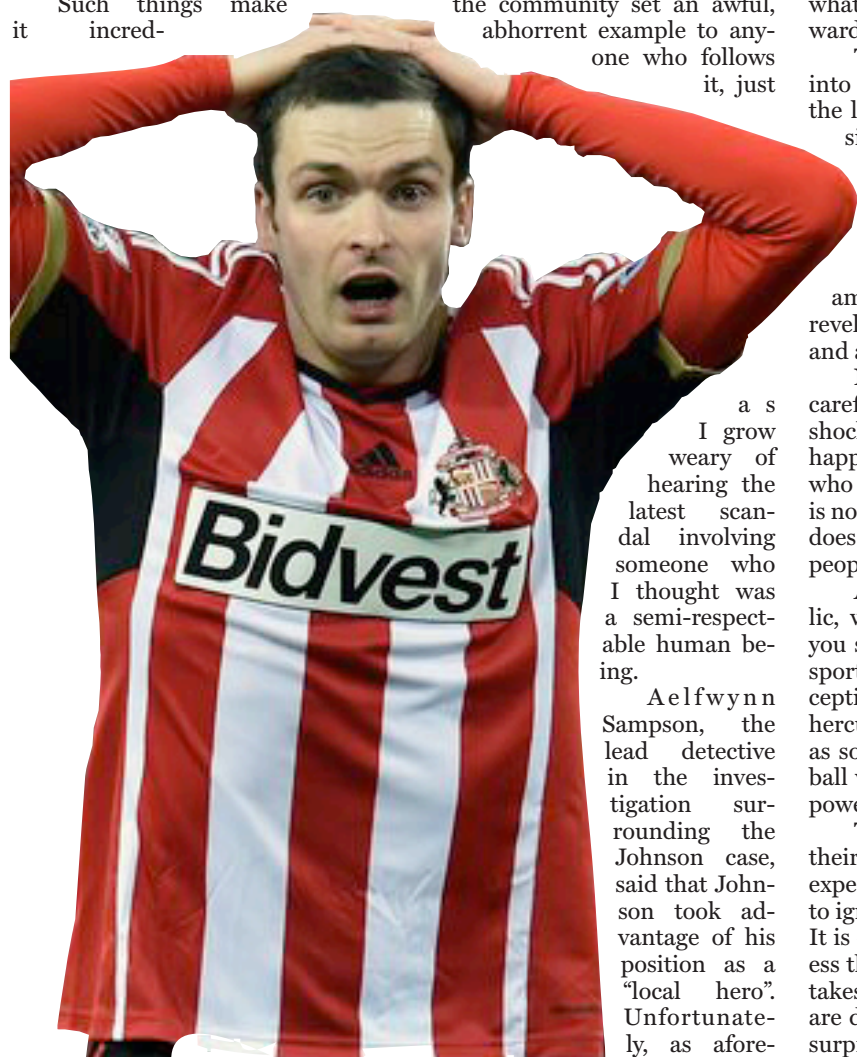
Matt - it's as though alcohol has no effect on him.

The biggest lightweight?

Me again. I'm known for ordering pitchers and being the first one drunk.

The longest in the shower?

Definitely Melissa and her endless amount of hair.



Springing to success: The Hockeyroos

Australian national hockey striker Georgie Parker talks small-town living, mental health campaigning, and the Olympics



IMAGE: FOURTHANDFIFTEEN

Tom Armston-Clarke
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Since Georgie Parker first played hockey on her eighth birthday her career has gone from strength to strength, culminating in winning a silver medal at the 2014 Hockey World Cup. I was fortunate to speak to her after she played in the 2016 Test matches against Great Britain in the lead up to the Olympics in Rio, which are just a few months away. She even managed to bag herself yet another goal in one of the matches, which culminated in Australia winning 2-1 in the series.

Georgie, who was born in Berri, a small town in Riverland in South Australia, tells me that it was love at first sight: "I fell in love with it straight away, and from then on I played as much as I could." It wasn't long before she gained her first cap at the age of 22. Georgie tells me how this felt: "Getting your first cap for your country is a dream come true. It's a whirlwind of emotions."

Yet getting to the high standard of playing for your country does not come without sacrifices, as she tells me. "You feel as though you're missing out on social situations like weddings, engagement parties, milestones etc." This sort of dedication however is what really does determine one's fate, "You have to make hard choices though, and those choices are what leads to success in

the future." And Georgie certainly has become successful, with 91 caps for her country despite only being 26 years old.

Australia is renowned for its sporting excellence, dominating the commonwealth games, Olympics and world cups in a multitude of sports, which is impressive when you remember that their population is much smaller than the UK's. Georgie tells me that sport in Australia is almost second nature and

“Getting your first cap for your country is a dream come true

that not even Christmas Day comes before sport, "Families will plan their Christmas day around their game of backyard cricket." Is it any wonder that they excel year upon year? Athletes in Australia are more like celebrities than sportsmen and sportswomen and "some of the most respected high profile people in the country with thousands looking up to them as role models", she tells me.

Georgie is a relentless striker

for the Hockeyroos with 27 goals to her name, and scoring must be an incredible feeling as she tells me how proud she is when she plays, "I was so proud to wear the body suit the first time, but I am equally as proud every time I wear it."

She has her sights set on Rio and no doubt will be aiming to add another medal to her collection. This will no doubt mean a great deal more to her after what she describes as the biggest disappointment in her career of not being selected for London 2012. "Being young I didn't handle myself coming back from injury well enough so never got back to full fitness or form. I know better than that now so with that disappointment comes some life lessons that I can bring in to this Olympic campaign!" It is evident that she has matured enormously since then.

That being said, her and her teammates always find time to have a laugh despite an intense training schedule. Sharing the same name as the Aussie actress gave her the perfect chance to be silly: her Twitter bio reads "Hockeyroo #19, but mostly known for my Gold Logie winning performances in All Saints, A Country Practice and Home & Away."

Over Christmas the Hockeyroos trained in Christmas fancy dress, in sweltering heat, and Georgie has posted several videos pranking her teammates including moving fellow Hockeyroo Anna Flanagan's car. "You still have to have fun in what

you do whether it's every now and then have a fancy dress day, or cancel training and go to the beach together, you have to have fun. If you dread going to training every day you're not going to get most out of yourself. In the end, it's a game and games are meant to be fun." The squad trains 49 weeks of the year, and with the aim of a medal in Rio, the women certainly deserve some light relief!

Fun and games aside, Georgie has a serious side, using her platform as a role model to address the much avoided topic of mental health issues. Depression

still has a lot of stigma attached to it, with people still viewing it as a weakness. "As soon as someone speaks up about finding it difficult it can often be shut down very quickly.

"In male dominated sports, such as footy and rugby, I think it would be even more hidden due to the egos that are in the locker room."

Whether this is true or not, there still isn't enough support for athletes. Georgie uses her social media to promote the issue of depression and mental health issues, no doubt helping hundreds if not thousands of people across the world.

The next stop is just a few months away as Georgie sets her sights on Rio. The squad of 26 will be cut down to 16 just before the Olympics.

"Hopefully I get to the final 16 that they pick in July," Parker said.

Based on her current, world-beating form it would be a surprise if she didn't make the squad, and we wish her the best of luck in the upcoming months.



Isaac Beevor: “At the moment College Sport is a problematic system”

The new York Sport President chats to *Nouse* about inclusivity in sport and Roses

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

Following his successful campaign run in this year's YUSU Elections, *Nouse* Sport decided to have a chat with the new face of the York Sport Union.

Currently Wellbeing Officer with the Union, Beevor takes over from Grace Clarke next academic year, and has some big shoes to fill. We found out what Beevor thought of the campaign race, how he feels about taking up his new role, and what he hopes to change in York Sport.

Why did you want to run for Sports President?

I took quite a while to make the decision to run as I wanted to make sure I had seriously considered every

I thought my campaign went quite well. It was a real slog for about two weeks

aspect. In the end I realised I was passionate about sport at the University and thought I knew how to improve sport here to push it onto the next level.

How did you feel your campaign went in the run up to the elections?

I thought my campaign went quite well. It was a real slog for about two weeks but fortunately I had some really good people around me who helped me so much. I had a really tight circle of friends who were with me every step of the way and I had to borrow the expertise of others, such as Dan Howarth who filmed my videos, in order to have what I thought would be the successful campaign. As everyone who ran knows you had to dedicate yourself fully but with all the help I had I thought my cam-

paign went quite well.

What was the message you wanted to convey?

I hoped I conveyed my passion for sport here at the University for all levels: college and University. Also I want to continue the push for greater inclusivity in sport which has been my role as the Wellbeing Officer on the York Sport Committee for the past year.

Did you expect to win?

I don't know if anyone expects to win but with all the help I had got and the support I felt I was getting from people that I talked to I went into the election night hopeful that I could win it.

How are you feeling now that you have got the position?

To be honest I'm quite nervous about the whole experience. It's a little bit of an unknown but I have already started thinking of ways to implement policies which is quite exciting. This can be quite distracting from the degree I am meant to complete.

What was the whole experience of running for Sports President like? Would you recommend it?

It was quite nerve-wracking having to speak to lots of people and try to convince them about why they should vote for me. But overall it was a positive experience for me and it was heart warming to see the amount of help that I got.

Has Grace given you any advice going into this?

Grace was really nice and I did put a few policies past her to see if they would be possible to do but apart from that I didn't get too much advice from Grace.

What are your main target areas for sport in York?

I think in terms of College Sport, funding has to be secured in order to put some money into a system which is desperate for it. I also want to give greater support to the College Sport Activators and Reps in order for them to feel confident to drive college sport on.

I also want to promote inclusivity at College and University level with the expansion of Equal Opportunities. I want to start up a York Sport Talks initiative to bring prom-

inent people from the sporting world to inspire and encourage everyone here.

And of course, with a home Roses, I want to make that weekend as big as it can possibly be!



IMAGE: YUSU



IMAGE: ISAAC BEEVOR/MATHAIS FILM

What will you be continuing from Grace's reign?

I think Grace has been really good in trying to involve everyone in the sporting world and I would love to continue that through promotion of all sports clubs. Having worked with Grace on the committee I have seen how hard she has worked.

Is there anything drastic you are planning on changing or bringing to the table?

I think where the biggest improvement can be made is with College Sport.

At the moment it is a problematic system and I think the biggest thing that needs to be improved upon apart from funding is that everyone - Activators, Reps and clubs - need to be on the same page in order to improve College Sport at the University.



IMAGE: ISAAC BEEVOR/MATHAIS FILM

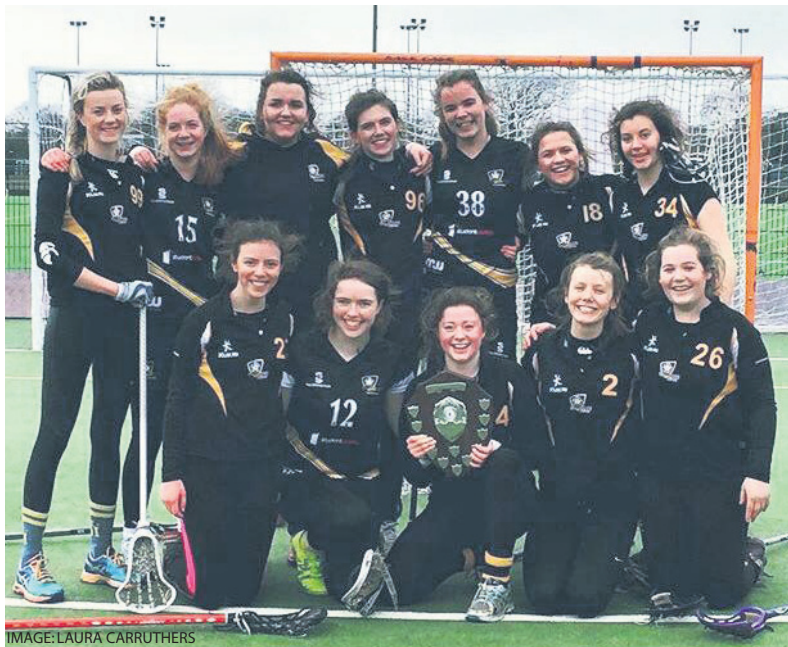


IMAGE: LAURA CARRUTHERS

York took a succession of victories confidently to emerge as the champions

Success for York in Lacrosse Nationals

Laura Carruthers
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

FROM THE 20th to the 21st of February UYLC participated in the English Lacrosse National Universities 8-a-side Tournament in Preston. The competition was held at UCLan's Sports Arena.

The Women's Firsts team stormed through the first day of the competition despite the howling wind, drizzle and somewhat dodgy refereeing. The girls powered through in games lasting 12 minutes one way, taking victories against UCL 1s, Sheffield Hallam, Nottingham Trent and UCLan.

The victory over UCLan is particularly notable for having an impressive score difference of 16-0 and a rate of two goals a minute. After an evening of recuperating back at the team's accommodation and a binding meal out, day two followed the success of the previous day. Games on this day were refereed by official umpires and consisted of eight minutes each way, with a straight swap at half time.

UYLC played three games in the playoffs in the morning against Southampton 1s, UCL 2s and Warwick 1s. Victories in all of these games meant that York drew an easier lot in the qualifiers, where they beat Aberystwyth 8-2.

This ensured a place in the semi-finals against Leeds 1s. This was not the first time that York has played Leeds, losing to them in a BUCs match back in November. Absolutely determined to make it to the finals, the girls really rallied around. The result was some simply stellar lacrosse from the whole team, anchored by two star midfielders Chloe Searle and Connie Shaw. Obviously the team were absolutely elated when the final whis-

tle went and the scoreline was 5-4 to York.

There was only a five minute turn around between the end of the semi-finals and the start of the final. UYLC were set to face long time rivals Leeds Beckett. Fierce competition for placement in BUCS league had resulted in a highly violent game of lacrosse for both sides as York narrowly beat them 19-17 back in December. This shines a slightly different light on the game being as much a grudge match with very high stakes.

Determined to keep the momentum from UYLC's earlier victory in the semi-finals going, Captain Laura Carruthers gave a rallying team talk before the start of the finals, ensuring that the girls went into the game with controlled determination.

It was a great final for the team, as you would expect; the two teams were well-matched in ability but York secured dominance fairly early on. They scored the first goal about two minutes into the game, which constituted a massive confidence boost for the whole team. York successfully held the Beckett attack unit out for well over five minutes of play before they scored. Our transitions up the pitch were fluid and graceful, as were the goals scored by our straight attack.

When the final whistle went, the final score was 8-4 to York.

Speaking to the team's Captain Carruthers she could share nothing but joy about her team's success saying "we genuinely couldn't believe it! We were national champions! Words cannot begin to express how immensely proud I am of my team, although I will give it a go! They trained so hard in the run up to the weekend, and gave their all in every single match that we played. Our win at Nationals was a real team effort, which made victory all the sweeter."

James Firsts take the lead against Derwent Seconds



James:
Balzan, Sangha, McCormick, Axford, Clarkson, Davies, Fox, Lawson, Martinez Bachofen, Houghton, Singleton

Derwent:
Aylett, Connor, Barker, Palfreman, Milton; Hawkins, Stones, Kirkum, Long, Gwinnett; Aughterson

Subs: Tuite Subs: Arulufela

Player of the match: Lawson

Tom Harle
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

JAMES FIRSTS eventually were simply too much for Derwent Seconds, winning 6-3 in a pulsating encounter in College Football's top flight.

Meetings of the Black Swan and the Men in Blue have tended to decide the destination of the Premier Division title but this was taken out of their hands thanks to Halifax's 10-0 demolition of Vanbrugh that handed them top spot on goal difference leaving both

teams with 18 points and just behind Halifax.

This one had it all though: thrills, spills, blood, thunder and refereeing controversy. There was little in the way of subtlety but both sides showed the necessary commitment to repeatedly pull themselves back into the game from losing positions.

James took the lead very early on and controlled the opening exchanges. Gwyn Davies, continuing his return from long-term injury, stood up a cross that found Matt Singleton at the back post. The striker laid off for Max Houghton who then pulled a left-footed shot wide. Derwent's Ryan Gwinnett, returning after his graduation in the summer, watched Joe Fox clear his powerful effort from the right wing off the line.

Gwinnett put the equaliser on a plate for Cameron Aughterson, who swept home a close-range effort assisted by an accurate driven centre from the byline.

It was 2-1 shortly after, thanks in part to an uncharacteristic error from UYAFC number one Andy Balzan. Balzan tried to clear a long ball over the top with his head but could only find Gwinnett, who hung back, and gave himself time to lift a lob into the vacant net to give the Men in Blue a lead going into half-time.

Gwinnett took the ball from Joe Hawkins and tested Balzan again after the break, but James

drew level quickly.

With the ball on the left wing, Martinez Bachofen cut in and whipped over a cross-cum-shot with his right foot that looped over Aylett and found the top corner.

James had some joy down the left in the second half and left-back Dave Clarkson, not typically given to forays forward, bounded in off the flank and arrowed a shot past Aylett's dive to make it 3-2.

At a subsequent corner, Aughterson made a nuisance of himself in front of Balzan and managed to earn a penalty after going to ground, which Gwinnett converted to equalise again. Singleton set up the crucial strike for 4-3, bounding down the right channel and squaring for Fox, who set himself calmly in the box and swept home from 10 yards.

It was five minutes later when Aylett's poor goal kick found Martinez Bachofen, who put Singleton through on goal. The striker made no mistake with a side-footed effort on the angle.

The game was wide open at this stage and both sides lost their tempers with some inconsistent refereeing and bear-baiting from the Derwent crowd.

James kept their cool to make it 6-3, as Houghton drifted a fine cross-field ball to Bachofen, who let it fly. Aylett parried straight into the path of Singleton who tapped in the rebound with ease to cap a remarkable game.



IMAGE: ANNA COUGHLAN

James took an assertive lead against Derwent in this game but the two colleges are still joint second overall



IMAGE: DAN POWELL

Vanbrugh Firsts fail to score one goal against Halifax Firsts giving them a 10 goal difference and securing their win of this term's premiership

Tent set for rebuild next term

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

IN 2010 THE LEASE on the Sports Centre Tent was extended by six years after a series of consultations with the Council that granted an extension to the existing planning permission.

When the Tent was initially opened in 2005 it was feared that the £800,000 structure was only going to be temporary. This was after it was recommended that the lease be rejected.

In 2016 the Tent is still standing and the hopes of former Sports President Sam Asfahani are finally going to be fulfilled, with the six year lease coming to a close and the new building plans commencing.

This year will see the construction of a new facility for York Sport to replace the tent.

Grace Clarke has talked of plans for a show court, drop down basketball nets, electronic scoreboards, brand new sports club equipment and York Sport Union branding, far better than current facilities available.

To add to this, any sporting individual at York can testify to the cold conditions of the tent so the new hall plans to be heat controlled.

This is all admittedly very beneficial in the long term as current Sports President Grace Clarke gushes "Although it is not ideal that some sports clubs will lose hours of training in the sports tent, the long term result will most definitely be worth it! It is a shame I will not be here for the final completed hall but I am so excited for years to come of fantastic sporting activity!"

However, in the short term the renovation of the York Sport tent is not so favourable for teams who use the current facilities on a regular basis.

Netball, for example, have been offered training on outdoor courts affecting not only training times but opportunities to train at all. Recent weather has seen detrimental effects to other sporting facilities at York and this trend sadly continues.

Harsh conditions will most likely lead to the cancellation of sessions also disturbing the ability of the team to play at its best.

That being said, the project is overall an extremely positive one. It will undeniably elevate sport at York even further and open up greater opportunities for the sporting community after its completion.

It is a shame that the standard of York Sport may suffer in the short term but overall the long term benefits of the renovation of the York Sport Tent take precedence.

Halifax Firsts storm second half in ruthless play-off performance



Vanbrugh Firsts 0



Halifax Firsts 10

Vanbrugh:

Carrutchers, Long, West, Adams, Aweida, Miller, Vyan, McAllister, Siddle, Wright

Halifax:

Girzadas, Marsh, Chasteauneuf, Jones, Thomas, Heath, Dunning, Hall, Nsoatbea, Johnston, Basu

Subs: Tester

Player of the match: Carrutchers

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

THE SUN WAS shining down on Halifax Firsts at the 3G as they won an impressive victory of 10-0 against Vanbrugh Firsts in the latest premiership play off.

One man down, one injured and one seriously hungover striker, it was almost expected that Vanbrugh would immediately surren-

der the ball in the opening minutes of the game.

However, the first half actually saw a fairly equal level of play from the teams. Both were privy to more than one high kick, manic tackling and strong play in attack and defence.

Halifax however continuously led the way in having a clear sense of direction and strategy. While Vanbrugh's Miller was making sure he was still standing, Halifax's Girzadas and Dunning continually potted the ball into the corner, in what became clear to everyone, was a continuous trend.

Repeatedly a small kerfuffle in the midfield usually involving Long and Marsh was followed by the ball being passed down the right hand side of the field, into the corner, then kicked back towards an expectant Heath or Nsoatbea.

That being said, Vanbrugh's defence in the first half was very strong. Before the first goal was scored, keeper Adams made several superb saves.

Heath very early on took a sweeping shot from the far left that was beautifully caught and immediately enveloped in the arms of Adams.

A similar standard of play was seen in West who not only made

a series of strong tackles guiding Girzadas away from the goal but also stopped one from occurring with a mean header.

Hitting the ball back to Carrutchers, Siddle then made a break for it down the centre of the field. Unfortunately as with all of Vanbrugh's efforts nothing came of this sudden reversal of the ball's direction.

In response to some of Vanbrugh's players' more passionate play, Marsh and Dunning very nicely set up a shot for Nsoatbae who sent a spinning shot into the left side of the goal just out of Adams' reach. Halifax's trail of play followed that of an arc shape circling in on the goal.

Despite Halifax being two up at the end of the first half though it did fleetingly look as though play had shifted slightly more towards Vanbrugh. Vanbrugh's captain even dared to say that another day, the game could have finished 11-10. The events of the second half certainly do not warrant that though.

Within moments of the whistle being blown, Halifax had the ball and in two minutes a sweeping shot from right to left landed in the back of the net.

The tenacity of Vanbrugh's Carrutchers really shined through

in the second half as it became very clear very quickly that his team had begun to flounder. Darting about the pitch he attempted to shift play away from the Vanbrugh end but was ambushed by two Halifax players at once.

Nsoatbea consecutively scored a further two goals within three minutes, the first being one that saw the ball stylishly tapped into the corner and the second taken straight down the centre.

Fellow high scorer Heath also slipped in a goal in the chaos of feet that saw Vanbrugh's defence cluster around the goal.

A more notable goal of his however was the seventh as he scored running across the box sending it diagonally across and straight in. At this point the most appropriate quote from Vanbrugh's captain would be "this is how you don't defend".

Such a goal difference sees Halifax win the title and leaves James and Derwent in second - both on 18 points.

Vanbrugh never got off the mark and never found a way to make an impression on a formidable Halifax, reeling from one of the most impressive seasons in years. They deserve their play-off victory, easily won but hard earned.

Johnson's disgrace

Why the footballer's shame is tainting the sport **P.23**



Beevor feavor

New York Sport President discusses his plans **P.25**



Lacrosse champions

York's Nationals win in review **P.26**



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York's Octopush take the plunge to host Nationals

Ever-popular underwater hockey club heads up tournament

Anna Coughlan
SPORTS EDITOR

OCTOPUSH IS A non-contact underwater sport based on hockey that made its way to York in 2006. The University of York Octopush club has steadily grown since competing in the Student Nationals for the first time in 2008.

The Student Nationals understandably play a major role in asserting the status of a team and so is a key event in the Octopush sporting calendar.

This year York had the honour of holding the event. Teams from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland came together to compete for title and trophy. Octopush at York therefore understandably spent many months training and planning in preparation for the event.

Vice-President Freya Phillips expressed her excitement at being the hosting team as "playing in the Octopush Student Nationals last week was a great experience".

Even in her time she noted how she has "seen us grow and improve over the last year and a half to become a team able to compete with the top student players around the country".

The team really wanted to give themselves the best chance possible when competing in this tournament. Training continued right up until the day before competition, with the team heading to Leeds on the Friday night for one last training session.

York was made up of two University teams, one being that of returning students and the other of current.

Phillips explained that they had "the opportunity to invite along the Heidelberg team from Germany, started by ex members of our own club, highlighting our links with new international teams".

This adds to the establishment of the Octopush club as even hosting places the teams in a "prominent position" in the landscape of an "ever

growing sport".

Games began on Saturday morning at nine AM sharp and as the hosting team, York was ready and waiting as early as seven.

Before lunch there were five games of twelve minutes each. The three York teams comfortably settled into a rhythm winning eleven out of the possible fifteen games.

Later on in the day it became apparent that one of the York teams had ranked in the top six at the event, the other two teams finding themselves suitably settled in the second league.

At this point the number of games increased and the teams had played five each, which as expected increased the intensity of play and strain on the teams.

Despite this the first York team qualified for the fifth and sixth play off, the second winning their league and finishing seventh.

Those returning to play won three out of their five games and performed exceptionally well, beating most other teams in their league, but were unable to place considering they were no longer students.

The final results of the event therefore put the two teams in sixth and seventh place overall. This was a great success for the team as it is the highest ranking ever for the freshers' team.

As well as being the highest average score across both teams, Phillips closed by emphasising how she is "so proud of both our teams". Although they did not come first she felt they "hosted a very successful tournament, leaving our club as one of the leading names within student Octopush".

Plymouth continued to be the leading team in terms of scoring though, continuing a seven year winning streak. They beat every team and so Stirling came second and Warwick third.

In relation to the club's success at Roses they beat Lancaster 8-0, instilling in the team the right attitude when approaching this event. We can hopefully expect therefore for York to do well in Octopush at the event.

