



“ They beat me up, thinking they could get rid of me ”

Ali Ferzat, Syria's infamous cartoonist > M6-7



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# NOUSE



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## No option but two semester year for York

■ International pressures negate student opinion

**Martin Spurr**  
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has signalled that a move towards the controversial semester system is not a question of if, but when.

The semester system would consist of two 15 week semesters instead of the three 10 week terms the University currently has. These 15 week semesters would be broken down into 12 weeks of teaching followed by a three week assessment period.

Sir Christopher O'Donnell, Chair of the University Council, told *Nouse*, “ultimately, we will have to move in that direction,” adding “there is a question as to whether it's when and when could be [a] very short or very long timetable”.

This contradicts the University's public stance that no decision has yet to be made and that student input will be considered.

In the last few weeks, members of the University have indicated they were only examining the possibility of replacing the current three term system with an academic year based around two 15-week semesters.

Professor John Robinson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, learning and information, commented on the proposal saying, the University Teaching Committee was thinking “more carefully about semesterisation” but there would be “student input [in the process] through the YUSU and GSA offices on UTC (University Teaching Committee)”.

But the comments made by the Chair of Council suggest that student input may be worthless.

O'Donnell said the change to a two semester system would benefit the University because it would put York in line with other international institutions, making it easier for international students to visit for a semester: “particularly from places like the US and in many parts of Asia”.

The majority of universities in England do not follow the semester system, though some Scottish institutions do.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, highlighted many of the main issues about switching to this system in a blog post last week. Osborn asked for student feedback on these, which included: an earlier start and end date; a very short Easter break; and whether 15 weeks without a break is too long. Following O'Donnell's comments however, there will be questions as to whether any feedback can be fed “into the discussions” as Osborn wishes.

The earlier start would impact students in a number of ways. Freshers' week could start several weeks earlier, while the present Easter break might be replaced with a long bank holiday weekend.

The impact upon societies and sports clubs has yet to be considered, although it is thought that performance societies and sport clubs would be the most affected. Sport clubs could benefit from the earlier start, allowing them more pre-BUCS training, however, different breaks would disrupt the fixture list. Performance societies would also be affected, having to reconsider the number of performances they put on throughout the year.

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## News

# Extra VC consultation scheduled

**Josh Boswell**  
NEWS REPORTER

AN EXTRA Vice-Chancellor consultation meeting has been arranged for Thursday week six.

David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, has agreed to meet interested students in an extra students' consultation at 6.30pm on Thursday 15 November. The provisional venue is Yourspace in the new Student Centre, although this is yet to be confirmed.

Nouse was informed of the new consultation in an interview with Josh Allen, outgoing Community Chair, who has been involved in securing the extra consultation.

This meeting will be the third arranged for the whole student body, making a total of eight consultations run by recruitment firm Odgers Berndtson, who were employed by the University to assist in finding the new Vice-Chancellor.

In an interview, Duncan said, "The consultation went very well. The advert and person spec undoubtedly reflect the things people said in the consultation round.

"Among other things, we are

looking for someone with a strong interest in student experience, an understanding of research strategy, an excellent track record as a leader, someone with first-class ambassadorial and interpersonal skills and a team builder."

"I'm reassured and delighted with the university's decision to increase the students' involvement in this process."

YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor

The initial plans were for five staff consultations throughout August and September, and only one for students at the beginning of term, attracting criticism from students including Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, who described it as "a joke worthy of any YUSU Freshers' Comedy Night".

When it emerged previous ne-



The extra consultation will help decide who will occupy Heslington Hall

gotiations with the University on the matter had failed, Taylor said he "revisited the relevant people and made the same points perhaps a little more emphatically."

A further meeting was then arranged in the second week of term, giving a total of 231 seats for York's 14,000 students to attend a consultation. On his blog, Taylor said, "I'm reassured and delighted with the University's decision to increase the students' involvement in this pro-

cess. Students' ever increasing ownership of their institutions should naturally be welcomed over the next few years, rather than feared. Whilst these sessions are indeed 'extras', it's vital that we make this kind of thing the norm.

"If we get the wrong person, we'll be kicking ourselves! If they cannot make [the meetings], then they're more than welcome to pass their thoughts onto myself or the other Sabbs."

## Chemistry research at York enters new phase

The second phase of a new chemistry research building for the University of York was opened on 31st October. Costing £9.4 million, the building will accommodate 100 scientists who will be conducting research into medicinal chemistry, materials/liquid crystals, organometallic chemistry and energy conversion. The building is named after Dorothy Hodgkin, Nobel prize laureate.

## Stereo in Gillygate banned from playing

A York nightspot has been banned from playing copyrighted recorded music by one of the country's top judges. London's high court saw Nicola South, the proprietress of Stereo in Gillygate, banned after she was caught playing tracks such as *Let's get tattoos* without a license. South was neither in court nor represented. The court heard how solicitors sent letters to South inviting her to acquire a license after music was heard being played by a PPL inspector on 21st April, but South refused to do so. Mr Justice Warren extended the ban to cover any other premises South runs until her license is brought up to date.

## Your suggestions: Names for the new Heslington East college

### Cerilais

Recognises the military and administrative feats of Quintus Cerialis, the founder of the first Roman fort at York.

### Clifford

Might be a sport team's favourite, even though its name would be taken from the eleventh century Norman keep.

### Eboracum

Was the Roman name for the fort and barracks, around which the town originally grew in the first century BC.

### Fawkes

Remembers an infamous York born and bred Guy whose plot 400 years ago to blow up parliament ended in him being tortured and executed.

### Hadrian

Would mark the visit that the Roman Emperor made on his way to building a large wall to keep out the Picts.

### Hardrada

King of Norway before briefly claiming the English throne in 1066. He died at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, less than 10 miles outside York.

### Rowntree

Would give a nod to York's chocolate heritage. Somehow Terry's college doesn't quite have the same ring.

### Russell

Is a nod to the University's recent entry into the Russell Group, as well as the formerly prominent York family.

### Wulfstan

Celebrates one of York's Archbishops, who held his role from 931. He was known for his pragmatic swapping of allegiances.

## University celebrates internship success

A celebratory event was held to mark the success of this summer's student interns. Held at the Ron Cooke Hub, the event was attended by local businesses, University staff and students. 66 summer interns worked with local businesses and organisations on a range of projects from web design to bee-keeping. This summer's scheme also attracted double the number of internship projects compared to last year. Camilla Dutton was awarded 'Intern of the Year' for her work with Law Wizard. Camilla designed and implemented a market research campaign for the company.

Reporting by Amy Blumsom

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Illuminating York

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# Unistats reflect poor student satisfaction

● 39 per cent of historians said library resources weren't "good enough" for their degree

**Laura Hughes**  
NEWS EDITOR

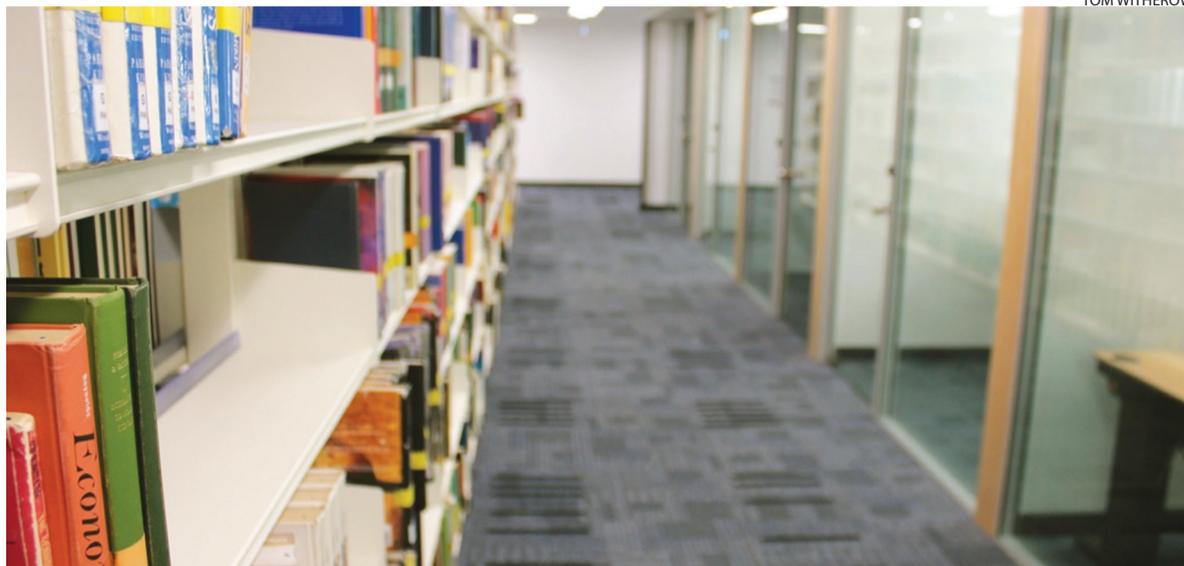
RECENT STATISTICS released from the National Student Survey (NSS), have cited poor levels of student satisfaction in various departments, including History, Economics, Psychology, and Film and Television Production.

The NSS results have been published on Unistats as well as on individual departments' websites. The site draws on official data on higher education courses provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), universities and colleges and Ipsos MORI (National Student Survey). These recent figures are based upon the NSS of 2011-12.

Professor John Robinson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Information, said overall the University was, "very encouraged by the 2012 NSS results. Although we have also improved on the assessment and feedback dimension from 45th to 33rd, this is our area of biggest concern, and there are a few particularly low scores."

"I have initiated consultation on the improvement of assessment and feedback with departmental responses due on 30 November. When they come in we will be taking a hard look at our policies and processes to improve assessment and feedback across the whole university. This is a priority."

"Meanwhile, satisfaction with learning resources has improved, with us moving from 61st to 19th nationally. In most departments this is because satisfaction with library resources has increased substantially, probably because of the completion



TOM WITHEROW

The University was encouraged by the 2012 NSS results and have recognised there are subjects needing attention

of the library refurbishment. But we know that in this area, as in others, there are outlying subjects, and we are following up closely with the relevant departments to make sure that satisfaction continues to improve across all our programmes."

According to student feedback on the Unistats website, 56 per cent of students said feedback "helped clarify things," in the Economics Department. Andrew Jones, head of this department at the University, told *Nouse*: "While we have been encouraged to see substantial improvements in the scores for many of the questions in the NSS between 2011 and 2012 the scores for feedback and assessment are a particular concern for us. Feedback and assessment will be the main focus of our department's teaching action plan in 2012/13. This has already been discussed at our Board of Ex-

aminers and Departmental Teaching Committee this term, and will be a priority for the Board of Stud-

"We will be taking a hard look at our policies and processes to improve assessment and feedback across the whole university"

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Information  
**John Robinson**

ies. We will ensure that our newly elected student representatives play a role in these discussions." The figures in the Psychology and Maths departments were 55 per cent and

58 per cent respectively.

The survey found that 39 per cent of historians said library resources weren't "good enough" for their degree. Dr Simon Ditchfield of the History Department emphasised: "This was a period of high anxiety for all third years preparing for their final exams. It also came at the end of a period of almost three years during which time the library had been undergoing a £20m refit. Unfortunately, this had a negative impact on this cohort of students, so their relatively low rate of satisfaction, although regrettable, is hardly surprising."

Rachel Banning-Lover, a history degree graduate, revealed: "After studying abroad for my second-year, I found York just couldn't offer me the same variety of resources that I'd had access to whilst at a US institution."

In the Film and Television department, 55 per cent of students said feedback on their work had been prompt, and 59 per cent said feedback helped clarify things. Andrew Higson from the Film and Television Production department said he was keen to see next year's data, but that these recent figures "are actually generic, rather than specific to that particular degree, which is a new degree and hasn't yet graduated any students. Our first third year cohort has just started this term, so we will get our first NSS scores at the end of this academic year."

"The figures provided on Unistats are therefore not actually specific to the BSc, but are an aggregate of NSS scores for other subjects with the same generic JACS code, which at this university means Music (a separate department, of course) and Theatre (the BA Writing, Directing, Performance). For better or worse, this is how the Unistats data is generated for all new courses across the country. It wasn't the department's decision to present this data."

"With this new BSc, we've been very pleased with the way it has developed over the last two years. Our sense, from the feedback that we solicit from our students at the end of each module, through APR and Periodic Review, and through student reps at our Board of Studies, is that the degree is going well and that students are generally satisfied with the way things work. We have also listened carefully to the feedback we've received and worked hard to rectify things where they don't seem to be working as we had planned."

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# Community Chair quits Union "clique"

**Josh Boswell**  
NEWS REPORTER

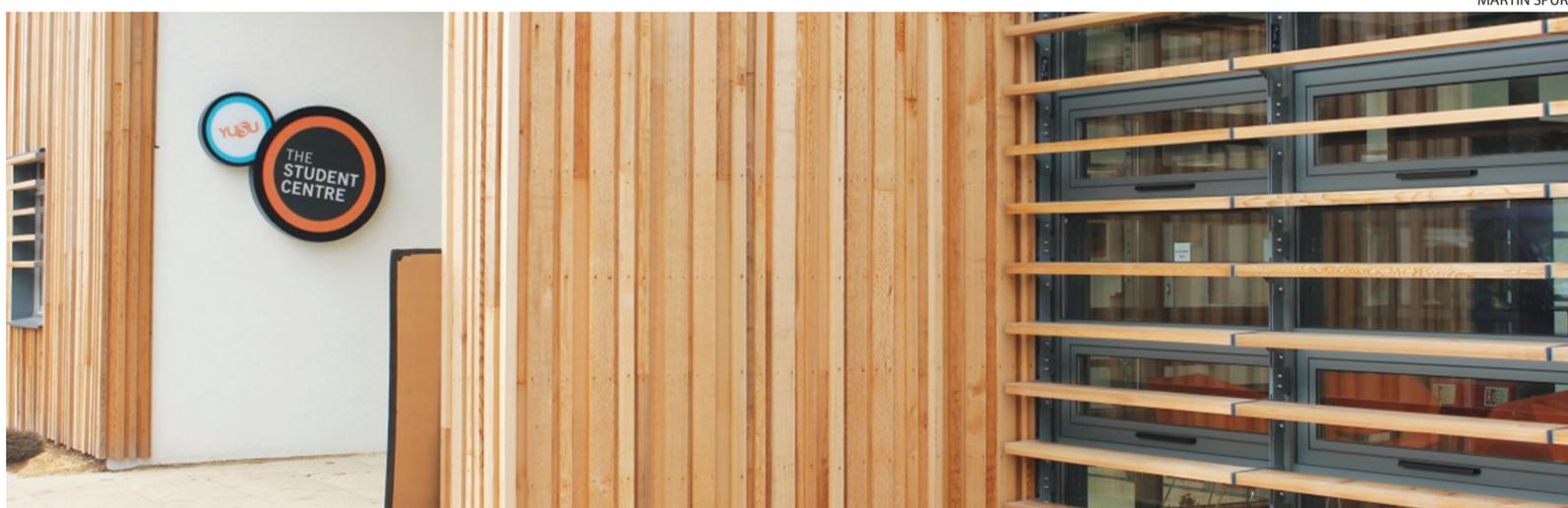
JOSH ALLEN, YUSU Community Assembly Chair, has stepped down from his position, describing the Union as a "clique".

Allen's decision was announced on 30 October in Kallum Taylor's YUSU Blog, although Allen says he made his decision almost two weeks ago. Allen told *Nouse* he resigned due to concerns that YUSU officers were becoming "professional student politicians". He commented, "I don't want to be part of that culture, because it is not what I aspire to."

"I'll be candid, I think a lot of our current system, new as it is, needs to be rethought and reformulated. The basic premise, which is very participatory, is sound. Sadly everything isn't. I have felt quite frustrated these last few months".

Taylor said Allen's resignation was "for certain a loss", and described him as "massively proactive in YUSU and College matters".

The YUSU president described the role of Community Assembly Chair: "for someone who wants to help ensure that YUSU gets messages across clearly, that the 'aver-



MARTIN SPURR

Josh Allen, the former Community Assembly Chair, has stepped down after explaining to *Nouse* he has felt "quite frustrated these last few months"

age' student is represented, who'll hold YUSU Officers to account and make sure there isn't a 'clique' running the show."

Allen said, "It seems that after a brief opening up, YUSU, despite the rhetoric, is becoming more of a clique... as soon as we get uninvolved people - we either make them involved, by getting them on a committee or whatever, or they don't come back."

A former YUSU Union Chair candidate, who lost by just 19 votes to Nick Hall in the March elections, Allen helped organise events such as 'Celebrate York' in Hull Road Park earlier this year. Allen championed the creation of the Neighbourhood reps, a position that he will be taking up after stepping down from the Community Assembly. In his time at YUSU he has also been involved with the Democracy Committee.

Allen said, "What we seem to be ending up with is professional student politicians. Which is absurd, because even with the quite new trend towards rerunning, unless you go down the NUS route, the longest you can last is five years (assuming you don't do a masters at some point)... for my own part I don't want to be part of that culture."

Concerns have been raised previously about the existence of a

"YUSU clique", with other elected officers describing Josh as a "balancing factor".

Allen commented, "It's a feeling I have formed by talking to others and it's something I don't want to be seen to be complicit in."

Taylor has since stated four students have expressed an interest in the position.

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## News

# Semester changes to fundamentally reshape

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



A congestion of shows at the end of the semesters by performance societies could be one of the consequences

**Martin Spurr**  
EDITOR

THE MOVE to two 15-week semesters, instead of the current three 10-week terms, would have a significant impact upon the way both sports clubs and societies operate.

Sports clubs in particular would see a considerable change, due to an earlier start in September and a shorter Easter break.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Aca-

ademic Officer, commented on the plans saying, "This would impact every aspect of the student experience at York, from teaching and assessment to all the extra-curricular activities."

The Chair of University Council told *Nouse* that the University will have to go down the direction of semesters in the future. This could mean term one starting at the beginning of September, with three weeks of assessment following 12

weeks of teaching before Christmas. After Christmas, there would be a further 12 weeks teaching and three weeks of assessment, finishing in early or mid-May, without a sizeable Easter break.

Many sports clubs use the Easter holidays to go on tour and Meg Phillips, President of the Women's Football Club, suggests that under the new plans, "taking one [week] off to travel abroad isn't as much of an option and would probably not

be as successful or popular". Sport clubs' tours might have to take place in the summer holidays, if one were available, or not at all.

However, Phillips cites a bigger issue: Roses - the annual sporting competition between York and Lancaster.

"If it's kept at a similar date, this would be just before or during exams which, let's be honest, is an unlikely option. York Sport Union would also be faced with two big tournaments in one semester as Varsity is normally in February and that may need to be looked at."

“If exams are during the last few weeks of term this hard work earlier in the semester could be wasted”

Women's Football Club President  
Meg Phillips

Abisola Barber, the Performance societies' chair, raised concerns over scheduling issues and access to Central Hall if the University switched to a two semester year.

"As things currently stand, yearly timetables for performances are structured in order to accommodate - as best as possible - the wishes of all societies who request to perform in the auditorium.

"This does require some sort of spreading out of performances across the current academic terms we have in place now, both to enable students to participate in more than

one show, and to allow societies access into the building without having to share the space with another."

Barber highlighted the issue that most performance societies will want to have their shows at the end of each semester. According to Barber, this would be in order to give them, "more time to cast, rehearse, fund-raise etc, leaving very little time for all performances to be squeezed into what would already be a chaotic end of semester and a sparse amount of regular performances during the semester itself."

Another hurdle to be overcome with this change would be the college sport leagues. Currently, both the football and hockey college cups take place in the third term of the year. "It would be very disappointing to lose any of them", adds Phillips, "particularly given the huge success of the football college cup, with many, both players and spectators, seeing it as the highlight of the college football year."

In the past, York's late starting time compared to most English universities has been cited as the reason for slow starts in BUCS matches at the beginning of the season. This year, there was a York Sport pre-season week and most clubs have so far seen an improvement in performance.

While Phillips emphasised that "three weeks when everyone is in York and able to attend would undoubtedly give us an even stronger start." However, she cautioned the impact of the change because, "if exams are during the last few weeks of term this hard work earlier in the semester could be wasted if students

## “I think everybody wants to see and touch

**Martin Spurr**  
EDITOR

If you ask students what the vice-chancellor of the university does, many won't have an answer. It is a peculiar role that jointly looks both internally and externally at what the University is doing.

Sir Christopher O'Donnell is the Chair of the University Council and the man tasked with leading the recruitment process for York's next vice-chancellor, a role O'Donnell describes as being, "the ambassador for the University at the highest levels in the UK and overseas".

Brian Cantor, the current vice-chancellor, has been at the top for almost ten years and is leaving York at the end of 2013. Many students have criticised Cantor's approach to managing the University and questioned why he hasn't been more visible on campus.

Although O'Donnell agreed that this was true, he said the lack of presence of campus is, "a bit unfair to Brian because Brian has been asked by me and the previous council and chair of council to actually focus on internationalisation, which means he has spent a huge amount of time on aeroplanes and out of the country.

"He has been very visible in

China, India, Singapore, Korea, the US and Brazil, more so than he has been on campus."

Yet, O'Donnell accepts that there is "an opportunity to rebalance" and indicated that the next vice-chancellor would have to be around campus more just to learn about York, its students and how the University operates.

“We need to have some institutions or departments that are really global level players”

O'Donnell is no stranger to hard work; he tells me that when he was in his third year at university he juggled his degree with playing for the football team, as well as being president of his students' union. Equally, the next vice-chancellor will have to take strong measures to combat the decline in rankings that has been experienced under Cantor. York's highest national ranking among British universities over the past ten years has fallen from 6th to 11th.

"I don't think we should suggest for a minute that the rankings

are wrong", admits O'Donnell, "York was fairly early on in saying we are a new university, we have a point to prove, we ought to put some effort into the themes that drive reputation... there has been some catch up play by the [other] universities. But you can't use that as an excuse in my opinion. That's what's happened, so therefore we need to focus on things that enhance the reputation further and hopefully that will drive the rankings."

"[Yet] there are still a couple of quite sizeable universities who are saying, rankings 'we don't give a shit about those, we just ignore them, they are irrelevant to our universities."

As well as an improvement in national and global rankings, O'Donnell puts forward three priorities the next vice-chancellor should have: a focus on student experience, re-building of research income; and acting as an ambassador.

The candidate briefing that goes alongside the vice-chancellor advert has a distinctive international feel. Throughout our conversation, O'Donnell stresses the importance of York's place in the global rankings and global reputation surveys, "the theme of the next ten years," he says, "will be continuing internationalisation". The outlook for the University and the next vice-chancellor is more outwards, than inwards.



The next vice-chancellor will have to decide if more expansion is needed

"My view is that it's jolly important where you are in the UK, but actually, universities are a global business and it is where you are globally, in the global rankings: your ability to attract students; your ability to attract funds; your ability to attract top staff - which are all very good at the moment."

"But you need to be positioned internationally to do that and because [of] increased specialisation, apart from anything else, the top people can be almost anywhere in the world. So, if you want to get a really top research and teaching recruit you need the ability and reputation to get them from wherever they are in the world."

This continued internationalism could hit home very soon. Commenting on the proposals to move away from the current three 10-week term system to a two 15-week semester academic year - the norm of many international universities - O'Donnell revealed: "ultimately, we will have to move in that direction."

He adds: "Now the question of what's the priority for that needs to be sorted out among the other priorities... there is a question as to whether it's when and when could be very short or very long timetable."

Those other priorities include: the improvement of the student

# student activities

feel they can't make matches and/or training due to a heavy revision and exam schedule."

**“The larger production societies will greatly suffer”**

Performance societies chair  
Abisola Barber

Barber added, "Of course, societies like Comedy Soc and Drama Soc who are able to create and produce weekly shows and sketches may not be so adversely affected; but the larger production societies like Central Hall Music Society, Fusion and Happily Ever After will greatly suffer - especially as the reduced holiday time they will face will adversely affect time to plan ahead, secure

sponsorship, and so on."

Celia Scruby, the Media Chair, however, commented that although it would be "hard to predict too much until the changes actually come into place", she didn't foresee that there would be too many fundamental changes needed. The main issue, and one that is apt for most societies, could be, "the prolonged time in which students involved in the editorial team would have to juggle their academic work and their commitment to their media society."

Osborn, in a blog post last week added: "Semesters are widely used internationally, and would certainly make it easier for students wishing to visit York from abroad. They are also used by some other UK institutions, with a variety of interpretations."

AGATHA TORRANCE



Sports clubs would see a limited Easter break available for their tours

## COMMENT

Josh  
Boswell



Right now, it's all about value for money. Suddenly our degrees have become three times more expensive, and we're scrutinising from every possible angle ways to irk out a few more benefits here, a little freebie there. Some of us are content with the 659 keyring. But some of us have paid nine grand for this barrel, so we'll be damned if we're not going to scrape it with a toothpick.

Inevitably, the sights of the Advisory Board have turned on our term structure, and have keenly spotted that we actually get very little for our money.

Unless you do a subject with abundant teaching weeks for the full trimester of autumn, spring, and summer, the take home figure for contact time is embarrassingly low. Week one is always a write-off for a start, and many departments or modules take a lack lustre approach to week 10 that proves to be tokenistic at best. You can always count on a liberal smattering of 'reading weeks' thrown in there. Though technically a teaching term, most arts students will be lucky to get a lecturer-led revision session in summer, bringing a more realistic estimate of teaching weeks over all down to somewhere in the region of 20.

It's clear that the current system does not maximise our exposure to our learned tutors. Apart from any-

thing else, it makes learning via osmosis, the preferred method of students, rather difficult.

The semester system that is the proposed solution to this calendared conundrum would give us a burgeoning 24 weeks of teaching time, split into two 12 week terms, each with an extra three-week assessment period. All the rage in 50s America, this system is becoming increasingly popular with UK universities in a curiously 'vintage' form of administration.

**“It is clear that the current system does not maximise our exposure to our learned tutors”**

This is quite appealing, given the modular structure of our degrees. An advertised 10 weeks, which is actually nine weeks, and turns out to be more like eight, is simply not enough to cover a topic in depth, learn the nuances of both its content and its form of assessment, and allow the material to sink in. Yet this is exactly what we are expected to do with single-term 10 or 20 credit modules.

An extra three weeks would be a godsend to catch up if you're behind, or really get involved with the module if you're on top of your work. What's more, when setting assessments, they'll be able to give us something more substantial to get our teeth into, rather than a couple of thousand words rustled up and reheated from last term's leftovers.

At first, the plans around

Christmas may seem a little messy for a system designed to make things simpler and easier, especially for foreign students. At the end of a thirteen-week autumn term comes three weeks off, then three weeks of assessment, a week off again, and then the spring term.

The argument is of course is that we get time to consolidate a long, full term's learning, with the week after exams acting a bit like a reading week, but where no work gets done. So exactly like a reading week.

As you can see, it is easy to get bogged down in the nitty gritty of whether Christmas comes before or after exams, and how important Easter really is to us. What is more important is the fundamental question this proposed shake-up raises about the way we learn.

If the university is going to impose a modular system on our degrees, that system needs to be fully embraced. Modular learning is wholly geared towards short blocks of intensive work, punctuated by periodic assessments, which can then be discarded into a corner to gather dust until Judgement day, and the Weighing of the Averages.

But a semester system is much more suited to a longer form of cumulative, constant assessment that takes growth and development of ideas into account as the course progresses, closely mirroring how we actually work as human beings.

It is only worth the University's effort of adopting a new system to divide up and define our time, if it is combined with a radical overhaul of the way we are assessed that truly fits their semester system. Otherwise, it's only a matter of time.

# the vice-chancellor”, says Chair of Council

GEORGI MABEE

experience; new building developments; and perhaps bigger departments or cross-departmental institutes. O'Donnell goes back to his theme of internationalisation, stating, "We need to have some institutions or departments that are really global level players. The University is a global level player; some of our departments are very, very good and certainly top departments in the UK. But some of those need to grow into really significant global players."

In order for departments to achieve this, it is the vice-chancellor who must take the lead role. O'Donnell sets out: "If they had no experience of the UK system, no I don't think we would [appoint them]."

"They have got to have some experience of it... but I think there is evidence that people who come in from overseas with no prior experience of a UK system find it particularly hard to hit the ground running. We want some who can hit the ground running."

Similarly, the international experience is one of the reason it's "unlikely" the next vice-chancellor will be an in-house appointment. "There's a bit of thing about every so often a university needs to have an extra stimulus of an additional



Brian Cantor, York's vice-chancellor, is stepping down in December 2013

change and so somebody coming in from outside brings that with them."

Change is often hard to find and slow moving in institutions such as universities and an external appointment is one way of firing new ideas and priorities into the system. Yet, change can often be expensive. The candidate briefing states the salary of the new vice-chancellor is "negotiable" and will reflect the "calibre of the successful candidate". I asked O'Donnell if there was an upper limit to the salary the University would offer?

"Ideally we'd like it to be in the same ball park as Brian's current salary, but we've got to be realistic in how we think about this... we want to try and get the right person, we're mindful of the need to give the right signals from a salary point of view and it's something we will have to balance up at the time we interview the shortlist of candidates."

Whoever is appointed in Spring next year will have an exciting, but worrying, five to ten years ahead of them. York has developed and expanded considerably in the last ten years - with the new Heslington East and Sports Village - but as O'Donnell pointed out, "particularly in Asia, very substantial investment is going on in universities and it's showing in their results. There is

also big investment in Germany and in the US."

"We have a big challenge, we are not as well funded as those universities. But York isn't alone, it is a British problem; which is one of the reasons why we need the ambassadorial level issue to actually make the case consistently to government, to ministers, to research funders etc."

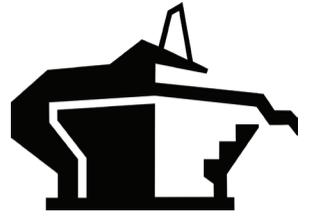
**“I think everybody wants to see and touch the V-C”**

Internationalisation is the buzzword around the University at the moment, the next vice-chancellor must have the qualities to ensure York is promoted on the global stage. From the students' point of view though, this might not be the right priority to have. As O'Donnell states, "it's going to be very tough", not just to enhance York's standing internationally, but balance the competing interests of students, staff and council members who all think they know what is best for York. "I think everybody wants to see and touch the V-C", O'Donnell says, and rightly so many people will say.



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# Struggle for student housing applications

• Future of student housing causes concern as council crackdown on granting planning permission

**Celia Scruby**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE COUNCIL are making it harder for private landlords to get planning permission to legally permit students to live in their houses.

The moves have been made, amongst other reasons, in response to an increase in complaints against a number of students from residents living in areas such as Tang Hall, Badger Hill and Fulford.

Landlords now have to submit a planning application to rent out a property as an House in Multiple Occupation, (HMO). This is in reaction to the council's decision to implement Article 4 across the City in April 2012 in an effort to control the "studentification" of residential areas.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, told *Nouse* that YUSU strongly feels that this Article is targeted at students, calling the Article "the wrong solution to the wrong problem."

"What this means for students, and what this has already meant, is that there is a potential increase in prices, making it is harder for smaller letting agents to get into the market, and it means that landlords are disincentivised from renting their houses to families, as doing so would mean they could not rent their house to students again as it would change license."

"What it has also meant is that some landlords haven't gone through the correct procedures to



The student housing service UniLiving's prices range from £130.00 for 45 weeks to £165.00 for 51 weeks

apply for their house to be an HMO, whether through misunderstanding or otherwise, and as a result, they have been under investigation."

The Council and YUSU have been in close contact over the issue in recent weeks.

Dave Merrett, the council's Cabinet Member for transport, planning and sustainability, said an increase in HMO cases was to be expected. The City of York Council has revealed it is currently involved in 72 new investigations about houses in multiple occupation in the eastern area of the city alone"

However, many private landlords are finding that their applications to register their properties as HMOs are being rejected.

Adam Bennett, letting agent, told *Nouse*: "This is more complicated and has a lot of factors involved, in my opinion the main factors are:"

"The person who is thinking of applying must know how to go about it correctly. You must get the support of as many people as you can before you apply."

This calls into question the future of student housing, if we are to see a decrease in the number of

properties available to students in York while the University is rapidly expanding its intake, where will students live?

Whilst new accommodation has been built on the Heslington East campus, the University has catered for freshers and a smaller proportion of third year students wanting to move back onto University accommodation, leaving second years and the majority of third years to find accommodation off campus.

UniLiving is a company, which buys accommodation suitable for students on behalf of the Armstrong

Residential High Yield Fund. Their property, newly built in York, is a block of apartments called 'The Boulevard' on Hull Road, calling itself "the first of its kind in York".

Although UniLiving boasts that the apartments are, "high quality purpose built student accommodation within walking distance of the University of York's campus and the city centre", their prices range from £130.00 for 45 weeks to £165.00 for 51 weeks which is increasingly higher than the average amount that students currently pay.

Cecily Walker, a first year English student, voiced her concern about 'The Boulevard' saying "they seem to be like off-campus halls and I hope I don't have to live in them because they sound really expensive and the students I have spoken to seem to pay much less for their houses. I am really looking forward to living in a student house next year, living independently is part of student life."

There is also a worry that the decrease in student housing will push house prices up as they become more desirable alternative to "off-campus halls".

Anna Lewis, a third year History and Politics student said: "The problem is that our loans won't cover these higher rent prices so, either YUSU needs to speak to the council about reducing student housing or Student Finance, to increase loans for students in York to deal with the situation, like they have done for students in London."

## Kuda license causes concerns

**Neil Johnston**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS HAVE raised concerns over the official YUSU Tuesday student night at Kuda.

Students have complained of high drink prices and limited capacity. Several students have spoken to *Nouse* with some claiming they are "missing out" on the official student night.

Kuda's license stipulates that the club is only allowed to hold 775 people. Luminar, the club's former owners, agreed to stricter conditions to help curb the crime rate at the club which had soared by 1,050 per cent in a period of six months.

While feedback for the club itself appears to be positive, some students are worried they can't get into the student night, and some have commented that they feel they have to be there at the opening time in order to get in.

The license is also largely the reason for the higher price of drinks at the club.

Part of the conditions agreed was that the club could not sell drinks for £1.20 or less if they only allowed more than 500 people in to the club, meaning that they effectively cannot do drinks deals as this would not be profitable.

In comparison to some other



Some students waited nearly an hour to get in while others just gave up

clubs in the city, Kuda has a smaller capacity; Tokyo for example can take around 1200 people.

Benjamin Ainsworth Taylor, first-year Economics student, commented on the club's higher drink prices, "the drinks prices and more specifically the deals don't give value for money as the other YUSU club nights do."

He also added that he felt the student nights had a particular problem and that they had struggled to get into Tokyo when they had their recent Dirty Sanchez event.

However, YUSU have praised

Kuda for the importance they have place on the welfare of students at the club. Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, stated: "The welfare provision in Kuda is second to none and they've done a fine job in turning around the reputation which its former self had years ago."

Ben Rout, also a first year student commented on the queues and drink prices: "Kuda is a great club but the high drink prices and long queues make me think twice before I go there. When we are waiting for so long it feels like we are missing out on the student night."

## Council support student Living Wage campaign

**Alex Osborne**  
NEWS REPORTER

YORK COUNCILLORS are urging the University to implement the Living Wage.

Councillor James Alexander, Leader of the City of York Council, and Councillor David Levene, who represents the Heslington ward, said that they intended to write to Brian Cantor, the Vice Chancellor, encouraging the University to take steps towards introducing the Living Wage.

This would mean ensuring the wage of all University employees is at least £7.20 an hour, a figure which research has indicated would enable families to support themselves while also allowing time to spend time with each other and to prevent adults from having to work multiple jobs.

Councillor Alexander commented: "The City of York Council has announced it will work towards implementing a Living Wage for our staff. The implementation of this wage level by organisations in and around York was a key recommendation of York's recent Fairness Commission Report, sponsored by the Archbishop of York."

"Research suggests that paying

Living Wage rates is not only good for the individual employee, but also good for employers. Existing Living Wage employers report that the quality of work is enhanced, and absenteeism reduced, when compared to paying the National Minimum Wage."

Councillor Levene added: "In a modern, wealthy society, nobody should get paid less than what it costs to live. The University is one of our city's biggest and most important employers, and it's "Our Vision" statement talks about "the health, prosperity and well-being of society". Working towards the Living Wage for all University employees should be a part of that."

The Living Wage Campaign at the University was established by the York University Labour Club, but, was ratified this year as a separate society without specific political affiliations.

The Living Wage is a calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK and employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis.

So far, the campaign has managed to achieve a campus-wide petition, with over 1,000 signatures as well as having the Living Wage adopted as YUSU policy.

## News

# Nearly 50 per cent of catered students dissatisfied

● 44.8% of catered students placed in catered halls through lack of options ● 30% of students surveyed overall lacked choice of accommodation

**Amy Blumsom**  
NEWS REPORTER

JUST UNDER 50 per cent of first-year students living in catered accommodation did not have a choice about their living accommodation, as it was the only choice available.

A staggering 44.8 per cent of students were placed in accommodation that was not their first choice - primarily catered accommodation.

The results come from a YUSU survey, released last week, examining factors that affected students' choice in accommodation, and exploring how improvements could be made. The survey ran from the summer term of 2012 and over the summer holidays. Opinions were collected from first year students, who were living in both catered and non-catered accommodation.

“It seems unfair that the kitchen facilities here are so mediocre”

First year Derwent Students  
**Ed Woolcock and Paapa Mills-Bampoe**

Further concern was raised about the cost and inflexibility of the current system. 30 per cent of those students surveyed were unable to choose the accommodation that they were to live in during their first year. One respondent stated



Catered accommodation at the university has been calculated to be significantly less in terms of value for money

that, “there was an extremely limited choice of three options; my decision was based on a ‘best of a bad bunch’ outlook rather than any real combination of factors”.

Catered accommodation has been calculated to be significantly poorer value for money. Under the current system, those in catered accommodation receive breakfast and dinner in the weekdays. Catered students currently spend £30 per

week for 10 meals a week as part of their accommodation fees, having to spend extra at weekends and purchase their own lunch. By comparison, students in self-catered accommodation spend on average £24.50 per week on food.

One student in self-catered accommodation stated that they wouldn't have chosen catered accommodation because the “£30 per week on food is just too expensive

on top of paying extra for lunches and weekend meals.”

Many students complained that the short length of the catering hours meant that they missed meals. Under the current scheme, this means that students have effectively lost money since there is no way of reimbursing students for meals which were never received.

Other universities, such as Leeds, have a more economically vi-

able system where students can purchase meals at a later date.

The quality of food in self-catered accommodation was also a major concern, with one respondent complaining that, “the food quality was appalling”. The nutritional value of the meals provided was also questioned, with students describing the food as “mostly unhealthy and not fresh (fruit, veg) food”.

Ed Woolcock and Paapa Mills-Bampoe, two first-year students living in Derwent catered accommodation, told *Nouse*: “The quality of the catered food in Derwent is good, particularly dinner, however, it seems unfair that the kitchen facilities here are so mediocre considering that, if you eat three meals a day, you actually cook for yourself more than you are catered for.”

Students of James College were the least satisfied with the quality of food, with 50 per cent expressing their discontent.

Not all feelings surrounding catered accommodation were negative. 66.9 per cent of students in catered accommodation felt that it was the right option for them. One student commented, “I liked catered dinners. The staff were nice, there was no effort required on my part and the food was good.”

However, the high levels of dissatisfaction are still apparent, with nearly one quarter of those in catered accommodation saying that in retrospect they shouldn't have chosen catered.

## PhD's 'Movefellas' Movember

**Rafaella Oploupiou**  
NEWS REPORTER

TWO PHD students and three alumni members of the University of York, have formed a team to raise money on behalf of Movember, for Prostate Cancer UK and the Institute of Cancer Research.

The team is called 'Movefellas'. Koulla Mikellidou, the 'Mo-Sista' of the team told *Nouse*: “Our names are Nikos Yfantis, Kleanthis Malialis, Spiros Tsitsilianos and Koulla Mikellidou and our slogan is ‘We're on the move..fellas! How about you?’”

“For the whole month we are going to become walking, talking billboards and through our actions and words we will raise awareness by prompting private and public conversation around the often ignored issue of men's health.”

The team's aim is to raise at least £1000 by the end of the month. By Mo Day three they had raised £125 and had recruited one more Mo Bro, Dimitris Klimis, also an alumni member of the University of York.

Movember is a global movement to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

It begun in Melbourne, Australia and until now it has more than 1.9 million inspired people who have the same goal.

Everyone can participate and is encouraged to do so. The way to



RAG currently raising money for Movember which any York MoBro can join

engage in the community is by registering on the official site and then by joining or creating a Movember team of people with the same goal.

The men, which are called Mo Bros, have to grow moustaches all over November after they have

shaved on the first of the month.

At the end of the month, all of those involved celebrate their Movember journey, throwing their own Movember parties, or attending one of the Gala Parties held around the world.

## Disruption at new York Sport Village

**Alex Osborne**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE YORK Sport Village's water systems underwent serious disruption last week.

Taps, toilets and showers were left without water for around two hours on both Saturday and Sunday. Problems began at approximately midday on Saturday, 27th October, as users noticed that multiple showers were not working.

Notices were placed above all water outlets in the centre, including water fountains and toilets, noting that there were issues with the water system that would be resolved shortly with apologies for any inconvenience caused.

An emergency callout was made to a serviceman who was able to temporarily fix the problem, but similar issues recurred on Sunday morning with notices again being placed by all water outlets.

As on the previous day, a serviceman was called and within an hour and a half the problem was resolved.

Commenting on the disruption, Keith Morris, the University's Head of Sport said: “With the opening of any new building you anticipate some teething problems and this was the case last weekend.”

“What has been encouraging

was how the staff dealt with the unforeseen circumstances professionally and effectively and the feedback from village users inconvenienced at the time has backed this up.”

A student who was at the Sport Village over that weekend added: “I had to wait a bit longer to shower but they seemed to deal with the problem pretty quickly. The facilities here are much nicer than the ones on main campus and the issues wouldn't put me off using them again.”

“With the opening of any new building you anticipate some teething problems and this was the case last weekend”

University's Head of Sport  
**Keith Morris**

No further problems have been reported since and staff members consider them to be resolved.

Student membership is £29 per month. The complex includes a free weights gym, sports halls for badminton, basketball, 5-a-side football, volleyball and 49 acres of grass playing fields.

# YUSU supports National Student Demo

Anwen Baker  
NEWS REPORTER

PLANNING IS underway for the upcoming '#Demo2012: Educate, Employ, Empower'.

The demonstration, organised by the National Union of Students (NUS) and supported by YUSU, is to be held in London on November 21st.

The demo is being held to protest the changes that the government has made to the education system, such as the cutting of EMA and the rise in tuition fees, and to highlight the levels of youth unemployment.

The demonstration will involve a march through central London and will feature several high profile political speakers.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented: "The planning for the Demo is going very well - tickets are on sale now via the YUSU website for only £5, and we are speaking to students about the reasons we are marching on the Demo, and how it affects them."

"We think Demo 2012 is important because there have been a great number of changes and challenges to further and higher education in the country recently that affect every stage of being student: from a students' ability to stay studying at college, think about accessing University, being priced out of University by hidden costs and rising debts to the knock-on effects of the £9,000-a-year fees on postgraduate



The University has granted an 'amnesty' to students who have academic commitments on the day of protest which is happening in London this month

fees which are due to rise.

"It is vital that we demonstrate that we are not going to stand for it, and that education is a right that we must fight to protect."

This is a sentiment which is echoed by many students. Caitlin Dyde, a first-year student, told *Nouse*: "I'm going because I want the government and the politicians in Westminster to listen. The problems facing the youth, in education and employment, are serious and real. I want to see solutions."

The University has granted an 'amnesty' to students who have academic commitments on the day

of the protest. Demands include a properly funded tertiary education system, accessible to all, in which all

“It is vital that we demonstrate that we are not going to stand for it and that education is a right”

YUSU Welfare Officer  
Bob Hughes

students are properly supported and encouraged - so that anyone with

the ability and aspiration to study has the opportunity to do so.

Many feel betrayed by politicians who altered their stance on tuition fees when they took power.

Following the announcement of the demonstration in June, Kallum Taylor, YUSU president, told *Nouse* that the Union would "lead the way" in the national protest, adding, "it's the right time, and about time, that we made an active stance on our own accord and agenda."

YUSU says that students who attend will be "demonstrating against falling funding for Higher Education and spiralling fees, to

demand more for the degrees that we're paying for".

Taylor has previously said that the increase in fees risks "detering able-minded people away from further and higher education," or making their time during it "a damn hard struggle."

He added, that the issues mattered both nationally and locally, claiming that "the scary rise in rent" and "the horrifying state of some of our halls" show how changes to Higher Education are having an effect in York.

The NUS announced plans for '#DEMO2012' in June.

## Health Centre suffers appointment backlog

Thomas Cox  
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY'S Health Centre has been inundated with student appointments since the beginning of the year, leading to a backlog with waiting times of over two weeks.

Two students who booked an appointment for minor health issues that needed a Doctor's attention on Friday 26th October were told the earliest available slot at any of the clinics was November 5th.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare officer commented saying, "We have been working with the campus Health Centre and its partner centres to push for reduced waiting times, and this is something that we will soon have data on from the most recent Health Centre Survey, which we hope will give us information about what has changed in the two years since our last findings."

"It has been something that we have raised with them before, and they have been working hard to reduce them, but there are still moves to be made to reduce them further. If any students wish to raise concerns about the waiting times, they can get in touch with me."

A nurse explained this jammed bottleneck is expected every year due to the abrupt lifestyle upheaval freshers' experience on coming to

university, combined with intimate living conditions of halls having widespread detrimental health effects.

There is a nurse-led walk-in clinic where waiting times are usually only half an hour and they can tend to slight health issues, but being a walk-in it is not possible to book a slot. For potentially serious maladies you are told to make an

“We have been working with the campus Health Centre and its partners centres to push for reduced waiting times”

YUSU Welfare Officer  
Bob Hughes

appointment for over two weeks time. A secretary at the NHS clinic told *Nouse* that students frequently say "if I die its your fault," when booking appointments.

Students can be referred to the Wenlock Terrace Surgery, off Fulford Road, and Hull Road Surgery, the latter of which students are sometimes subsequently referred, to lighten the load of the consistently crowded campus centre.

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## News

AGATHA TORRANCE



AGATHA TORRANCE



AGATHA TORRANCE



The tea dance was the culmination of YUSU Volunteering Week and one of the mega college challenges

## In Pictures: Tea Dance

Agatha Torrance  
DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR

WITH CAKE, tea and 50s style dress in abundance, last Saturday's Tea Dance, the culmination of last week's Volunteering Week, was a great success in Derwent's Hendrix Hall.

The highlight of the week was the 'Tea Dance' with elderly members of the local community, many of whom attend the volunteering project, Tea & Coffee club.

The elderly participants joined an enthusiastic group of York students and waltzed the afternoon away with the help of some dances-

port teachers.

The event was the best-attended mega college challenge on record with 69 volunteers helping out. It also involved collaboration with societies, such as dancesport.

YUSU Volunteering said on their website: "One of the elderly members said, 'thank you so much for this, you have really cheered our day up' so that should make it worthwhile for everybody!!"

"Everyone who came said they had a great time, and it was wonderful forging further links with the local community."

**COMMENT >>** Page 17

# YUSU RAG raised over £80,000 last year

Lizzie Lynch  
NEWS REPORTER

RAG HAS announced that students raised approximately £87,129 last year, £84,000 of which was from charity events held during the academic year 2011/2012.

Last year's beneficiaries voted for by students included, YUSU Volunteering, Alzheimer's Society, War Child, Teenage Cancer Trust, Refugee Action York and Martin's House Children's Hospice. £43,471.59 was raised across the University in support of these charities.

£37,658.25 was also fundraised by students taking part in a Kilimanjaro Trek in support of Child Reach International.

And near to £6,000 was fundraised for Japan in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

Erin Cork, current RAG officer, said that, "Last year's committee, headed up by chairs Rebecca Irwin

and Baxter Willis, should be really proud of this fantastic figure as it does justice to the amount of hard work and dedication that went into RAG for 2011/12".

YUSU has also announced the University's five external beneficiaries for this academic year. Students voted to support two regional, one national and two international charities.

Independent and Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) and The Sick Children's Trust received the most votes for the regional beneficiaries. Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research won as the national beneficiary, and WaterAid and Medecin Sans Frontiere were chosen as the two international beneficiaries.

The RAG officers commented that "every single one of the charities who applied, whether local, national or international, are amazing and worthwhile causes, so of course, we and the committee are very happy with the ones which received the

highest votes."

The shortlisted charities are nominated and voted for by the students, and RAG were happy to receive votes from over 1,300 students.

Thanking all who took the time to vote, Erin Cork explained, "it means that it is the students who are having their say where the money from events such as Woodstock, RAG week and Winterland goes."

In addition to the popularity of the charity expedition trips to Kilimanjaro and China for next summer, Becky Mursell, the second RAG officer, and Erin stated that they have "some very exciting plans in the works, which support a whole range of causes, not just the beneficiaries, we're looking to another huge year for RAG."

Adam Seldon, Derwent Rag Rep, told *Nouse*: "This is a spectacular total which thousands of students played a part in contributing, be they committee members, volun-



YUSU RAG

The RAG 2011/12 committee raised around £87,000 from events last year

teers or those that donated.

"The target of £100,000 for this year is definitely an achievable

goal- we're doing better than we were at the same point this time last year."

# The students who never left

Many a student may fantasize about student life with no end, but hidden in the fabric of University and Union administration are those who might just be making this a reality, as **Tom Witherow** finds out

A short conversation with any second or third year student will reveal that most are dreading entry into the real world. The metronomic nine to five day, the onset of tangible responsibility and the sad farewell to Wednesday nights is enough to make any enjoyer of student life go cold.

But a growing group of alumni show that one needn't leave your university days behind. A scan through the names of university services reveals a number of people who have taken entry-level jobs in university admin.

One of the more notable names is Tim Ngwena. From his position as Fusion chair in the third year of a management degree, he ran and re-ran for YUSU President before taking a job in the alumni office.

Or take some other examples, Sam Bayley was the Chair of Halifax, before being elected into YUSU as societies and communications officer, and now he can be found in the timetabling department of the University. Kate Harper has been here over ten years. Having done a BA, MA and PHD in English, she got a job as an officer, and then manager of the University Community and Volunteering unit.

And the story doesn't end there, with graduates littered throughout the careers, alumni and student services departments. What is it about the University of York that makes people want to stay? Is it mere convenience that they are already well qualified in the areas for which they're applying, is the town simply a great place to live, or can they simply not let go of their glory years?

For Tim Ngwena it appears to be a mixture of the lot. Each step of the journey towards a career on campus was made independently of the last: "I ran for YUSU President because I enjoyed being part of the student movement and wanted to stay involved. I felt I had more to offer than just being a sports or society rep so ran for president."

Matt Burton, who works in the accommodation and timetabling office, sees movement into University administration as a natural progression from student politics: "I was heavily involved in student politics in undergraduate life, given my two-year sabbatical in the students' union, and I really got a kick out of improving the student experience."

Two years at YUSU left Tim Ngwena seeking not election but employment. "I spent July and August unemployed and not working. I wasn't in a rush to go into anything - particularly after two years at YUSU. It takes its toll."

From there it was a couple of quick hops through jobs to his current role as a communications manager, but Ngwena



CARTOON CREDIT: ALICE BROOKSBANK

admits that leaving his time as a student behind wasn't easy: "York was a great experience while I was a student. If the opportunities continue to exist, living costs are reasonable and you like the city, why leave? I guess a part of me still likes being part of the student community directly or indirectly."

Burton disagrees saying that although he enjoyed student life, it was time to move on: "I wouldn't say it's anything about leaving the student union years, I really enjoyed my time here as an officer, as college chair, I really enjoyed the committees and everything, but I knew it was time to take the next step."

But then Tim Ngwena and Matt Burton are people who have made moves up the University ladder on the back of Union success, which isn't true for all graduate staff, with two current members of YUSU staff being former YUSU election candidates.

However one could say on balance that graduates from the University are better qualified for the roles they undertake. Jobs in the careers or alumni office, for example, would benefit from an understanding of the University, gained while they were students here.

With the alumni office this appears to be particularly acute, as having been to York, it must be easier to promote alumni networks and networking events. And indeed David Garner, the University's Senior Press Officer, pointed to graduates' institutional knowledge as highly valued when staff positions are appointed.

Burton sees the student perspective as all important: "I wouldn't say I'm more qualified, but having those links from the student body has certainly enabled me to take another perspective on the role, and be really student focused."

And then perhaps York is simply a great place to live. Surveys consistently place York near the top, with good wages, reasonable living costs and a lively town. Indeed the latest survey from *Bing* last week placed York at number one, and all those we spoke to emphasised the good work-life balance in York. Which may be why it's not only University staff positions that the old campus bigwigs seek to fill.

Further afield there are some notable names floating around the local area too. Former sociology student and Union Council Chair, David Levene has been the councillor for Heslington since the summer of last year, and former YUSU president, James Alexander, having failed to enter parliament two years ago, has remained leader of the York City Council. But then who can blame them - York isn't really such a bad place to live.

dent and Union Council Chair, David Levene has been the councillor for Heslington since the summer of last year, and former YUSU president, James Alexander, having failed to enter parliament two years ago, has remained leader of the York City Council. But then who can blame them - York isn't really such a bad place to live.

"York was a great experience while I was a student. If the opportunities continue to exist, living costs are reasonable and you like the city, why leave?"

# Comment



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

Rose  
Troup Buchanan



## York's scientists one step closer to breaking the glass ceiling

York is leading change, providing aspirational female role models, but there is still much to be done before we can call ourselves equal

A man and his son are driving along a motorway when there is a horrific car accident. The father is killed instantly, but his son survives in a critical condition. Upon the arrival of paramedics the boy is rushed to hospital where the surgeon on call declares: "I cannot operate on this boy because he is my son." How is this possible?

For all those who have not heard the riddle, the boy's mother is the surgeon. The riddle ably demonstrates that despite the progression of women in the workplace, there are still arenas where traditional thinking does more than limit female progression. Fortunately, at York we seem to be one of the leaders in change – at least in terms of female aspiration. Professor Pratibha Gai, York JEOL Nanocentre Founding Professor of Electron Microscopy and a member of both the University's Chemistry and Physics departments, has been at the forefront of this change. She recently became only the fifth female to receive the prestigious L'Oreal UN-ESCO European Laureate for 2013.

But we still need to question why the distribution of female-male models at the top is not more equal. It is not a case of education: in 2009 statistics showed that 49.2 per cent of girls between the ages of 17 and 30 were in higher education, compared to just 37.8 per cent of boys of the same age bracket. Last year, of 2,600 undergraduate students, 1,400 of these graduates were female. Two hundred more women departed our university than men last year, with high but fluctuating

performance in the league tables. If you examine the statistics of previous years the story is repeated. So, why is it that only 5.7 per cent of the executive, board-level directors of FTSE 150 companies are women?

Obviously, just because an individual has a degree does not mean that they are suitable or even able to rise to the top of a global company. However, there are clearly bright, articulate, and highly educated young women entering the workplace each year. Yet the media is still discussing female aspiration and debates still rage about the existence of a glass ceiling.

The answers are often touted: girls tend to do better in education, where 'learning' is usually a matter of jumping through hoops and learning a set pattern, whereas boys tend to perform well in initiative-based assessments. Returning to the university statistics above supports this claim as if you look closely an interesting angle appears: men tend to get the better degrees, graduating, by and large, with a greater number of firsts than their female counterparts.

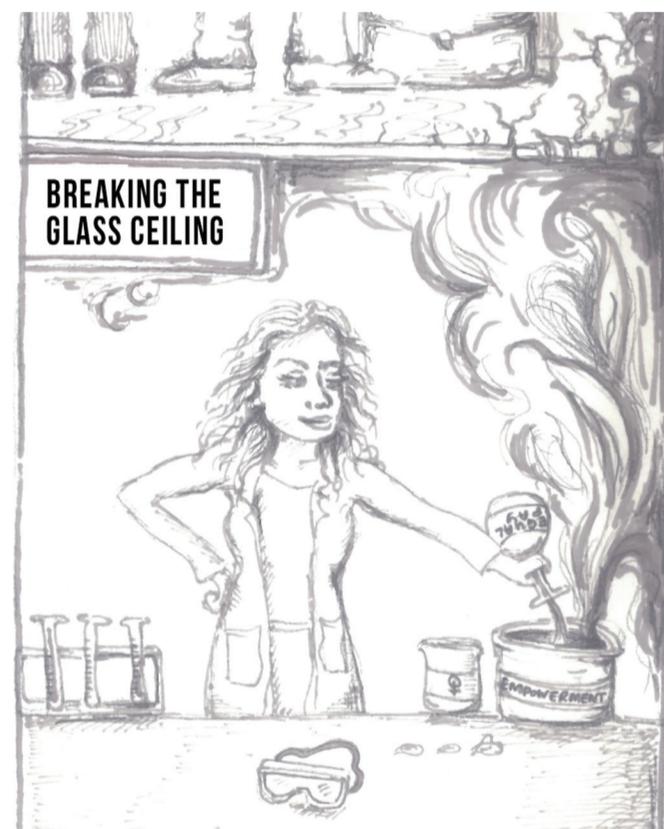
Many women do not make it into the boardroom. Is it because of the existence of a negative patriarchy, or perhaps because women have babies, and companies see that as a liability? Women do have children, and yes, that can hold them back, but equally Britain's laws are changing in order to facilitate both maternity and paternity leave to both genders' advantage. That excuse is falling by the wayside.

So why, why, are only 15 per cent of directors at top British com-

panies women?

It is the attitude of business, the corporate culture. But it is not our attitude. As a generation we've grown up with empowered, purposeful women, but the group of men (and the minority of women) who presently sit on the boards of large companies have not. The *FT* recently discussed the increasing age of board members – in the US over 50 per cent of board directors retire aged 72.

The attitudes and the make-up of the boardroom will change, and are changing. But this article doesn't call for complacency: we must continue to celebrate and encourage aspiration – as we have for Professor Gai. Her achievement should be noted, not because of her sex, but because of her intellectual ability. When we can acknowledge that, and not her gender, it is then that boardrooms will cease to be the near exclusive preserve of men.



Rob  
Thomas



## Are you not satisfied?

Satisfaction with feedback is worryingly low in several areas, with little care in the degree treadmill

The Higher Education Policy Institute's disturbing report of a £1 billion "black hole" in university funding has foreshadowed further rises, or deeper cuts. Undeniably, there has been a critical shift in views of higher education. No longer is it seen as a right, socially just, or even a way to expand your horizons. Instead, it has become a commodity, and we have become consumers. But we are happy with our purchase?

With no money back guarantee unless you emigrate for five years, the only way to improve customer satisfaction is to bolster our grades by helping us where possible.

Yet according to Unistats, which publishes those tiresome student feedback forms from the previous year, many departments are failing at just that.

Feedback in Economics and Psychology have been rated amongst the worst in the University. Over half of Economics students reported a lack of detail in assessment responses; 50 per cent of Psychology students felt it was not returned promptly; and only a slight majority of both found comments on their work to be actually helpful overall. This is versus the Archaeology department for instance, which boasts over 90 per cent satisfaction across all areas.

Even courses with relatively high scores have problems. One student told me of her frustration, shared by many, of being informed that her essay did not receive a 2:1 for omitting an argument that the same lecturer previously told her was not relevant to her answer. This indicates either a curious blend

of sadism and academia, or sheer indifference and ineptitude in improving a student's grade. I regularly perform translation services for my friends in deciphering their su-

“Are we happy with our purchase?”

pervisor's hurried scrawl of a comment, whose five lines usually manage to detail just one point. With experiences like these dotted across the University, it is no wonder that many are left with the feeling of trundling along a conveyor belt towards graduation.

Of course, the requirement for office hours and email questions mean that anyone who is unclear or unhappy over the comments they received can ask for more detail.

With such systematic dissatisfaction, however, students would have to be queuing round the block after every assessment piece. Improvement, as always, is on the horizon. Andrew Jones, the Economics head of department, acknowledged student feedback as a "particular concern", and have accordingly prioritised improving it this year by more greatly involving student representatives in this process. Student participation will either do one of two things.

If the problem rests on mere misunderstanding over what is and is not good feedback, it will solve the problem overnight, as well as give us a feeling of actually getting our voice heard. If there are more fundamental differences in the student-supervisor divide, though, then it seems that it will just be business as usual.



BRANDON SEAGER

Neil Johnston



## Educate, Employ, Empower

We've now got the perfect opportunity to make a change, if we rally together and protest in force

**E**ducate. Employ. Empower. These are the three words the National Student Union (NUS) have put as key behind Demo 2012. If you don't already know, Demo 2012 is taking place in a few weeks time and is the biggest opportunity of the year for students to influence the government on how they treat us.

YUSU have already said they want to lead the way in these protests and they are quite right to do so.

The tuition fees are in place and unfortunately there is nothing we can do about that. However, what we can do is try and make sure we all get value for money, especially those paying the new fees.

The Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) report, which suggested the government may have got their sums wrong and that there could be a £1 billion pound black hole to fill a year, is yet another cause to worry about whether we are really getting value for money.

Ensuring we get quality teaching is just the first aim: to educate. This is the best chance of persuading this government to take a more reasonable stance on higher education. They didn't listen before, but perhaps, given their weakened position, now they will.

The government is in desperate need of support and the Liberal Democrats in particular need to regain the student vote. With tensions already high in the coalition, perhaps they will try and regain support by listening to us - but only if we turn out in force.

This government has already done plenty of U-turns, and while

they won't turn back on the fee increase, they might give us something back if the demonstration makes an impact.

At a university where the graduate employment rate often lets us down, the second aim is possibly even more important than the first. Even if we do get value for money on our degrees, what's the point if you can't get a job at the end of it?

With a solid degree from a top university you would expect to get

“With a solid degree from a top university, you would expect to get a job once you're finished, but sadly this isn't the case”

a job once you're finished, but sadly that isn't the case now. And it's not just for us. It's for thousands of students across the country.

This is why it's so important to turn out in force for this march. If we can make a point, hopefully the government will actually listen and put in place new measures to help graduates into employment.

Finally, we need to empower ourselves. With the fees being forced through, students could be forgiven for being disillusioned with democracy. Now is our chance to reclaim our say.

The government are suffering and really can't afford to lose much more support. If students make a statement, not only will it embarrass the government, but they will be forced to act or risk losing a generation of votes. It's their choice, but we can force them to make the right decision.

Last time the protests were undermined by the violence of a few. The NUS have taken all measures they can to try to prevent this happening again. If the protests are to be effective they need to be peaceful. We should show just how responsible students are and why we all deserve the quality higher education we are paying so much for.

Yes, it's going to be a long day, leaving at 5am. And while many of us are used to staggering back from Willow at that time, it is important that we make the effort to turn out - even if you arrive fresh from the joys of that magical place, it's sure to be worth the trip.

How many chances will we get to really put pressure on the government? Very few - so set your alarms and make the most of the opportunity to avoid regretting it. A year down the line, wouldn't it be great to say we all made the government listen?

YUSU have done all they can to try to get students here to go to the Demo. What's more, the University have agreed to let you miss your lectures and seminars to go to it. For a cost of £5 it is worth it; if this is successful it will be an investment in your future.

Anyway, it'll be far more fun than that tedious Wednesday seminar.

## Dnruk Txeting

Rohan Banerjee



**W**e've all been there, a few more drinks than we'd planned, sitting on either flank of a depleting dance floor, nursing the shards of what little dignity we have left. Crestfallen and stranded on an uncomfortable Willow chair, we take out our phone and in a drunken haze start to scroll through our contacts list.

Whether it's emailing an ex in some half-arsed attempt at reconciliation, sending some sultry SMS to someone in your seminar, pushing that pull from the other night for a repeat performance, or just deciding that one of your friends is in dire need of an impromptu alarm clock; however candid these confessions are in the cyberworld of university, the chances are they are unwise.

A barrage of grammatical gobble-dy-gook, cringe worthy mawkishness or an unnecessary running commentary of your night out, can only lead to one thing - embarrassment. Yet come Tuesday, Wednesday, or Sunday night, or whenever York students go out these days, we still find ourselves, phones in tow, voicing our innermost thoughts to anyone we think might care.

Of course, some drunk texts are worse than others. Short texts allow for plausible deniability, while the overuse of LOL or exclamation marks can usually cushion most falls, but anything longer and you find yourself redrafting your apology several times the next morning. "Sorry I drunk texted you last night. I assure you I didn't mean what I said... unless you feel the same way."

This brings us to the worst sort of drunk texts - the ones we can't get back. One shot too many, straying away from your house mates with no one to talk you out of it, you draft a multimedia mess that deep down you know is wrong. But before you know it, you've already hit "send".

Panic consumes you as you are faced with a club night conundrum - delete or deny? The rest of the night is spent preparing for a tumultuous tomorrow and rehearsing the inevitable awkwardness with the recipient of your nonsense.

Worse yet though, is drunk texting's logical progression - drunk calling. A succession of no replies (most likely because they've fallen asleep) is all it takes and you start to dial.

Drunk calls are usually an emotional experience regardless of the subject. The queue to Willow, striking out, or the taxi taking an unscrupulously long time - all understandable cases for tears.

So what can we do to spare ourselves all this embarrassment? Whilst nursing a hangover that is the result of enough alcohol consumption to kill a small horse, I've been doing some thinking.

Invest in a temporary phone, just for nights out, with only the numbers of your company that evening. Or you could just stop getting abominably drunk. But where's the fun in that?

Follow the debate:  
 Comment online at  
[nouse.co.uk/comment](http://nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Comment



Kate Mitchell

## Protecting the “Jewels in the crown”

The Russell Group believes that greater funding is needed for its universities in order to stop British institutions from falling further in world rankings.

Both the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and QS World Rankings published in the last month have shown a fall in the number of British universities in the Top 100, compared to Asian universities which have continued their inexorable rise.

The root of the problem is the lack of concentration in funding towards the most prosperous institutions, as a recently released Russell Group report, “The Jewels in the crown”, shows. Concentrated funding is a feature of higher education in countries such as Germany and China, the latter spending £7.2 billion of its higher education budgets in the past year on only 100 out of its 3,000 universities.

Under this concentrated funding, Tsinghua University rocketed from a ranking of 71 to 52 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings in the past year, putting it above prestigious British institutions Durham University and King’s College London.

As Britain has no official hierarchy of universities, the self-designated Russell Group is the only de facto indicator of superiority, and as such, represents the clearest channel for more concentrated funding.

It’s not as if York, child of the 60s, is supported by a centuries-old reputation, but it’s an especially strong example of the adaptability of the group to reflect where the best research-led education can be

found.

Critics are concerned a higher funding concentration would be detrimental to the learning of students at other British universities. They seem to forget that the unique selection process in Britain is entirely based upon meritocracy. This system is perfectly suited to a hierarchical system of universities as those admitted to most selective universities are both the most able and most willing to learn. They would be most likely to use superior learning facilities to their full potential, reaping the best benefits for Britain.

The report addresses the idea that the same fees should not be paid for different standards of education, by suggesting that the cap on fees should be removed. Even more income could be generated for Russell Group universities without having any impact upon other universities.

But here, I diverge paths with the report. In the wake of the current debacle regarding the Government’s struggle to deal with loans after the recent fee hike, it is clear that the removal of a fee cap should be considered carefully, and separately, to increased public funding.

The importance of having world-class universities to a state is a vital argument in defence of increasing funding for top universities. Universities foster the knowledge that leads to scientific breakthroughs, which are essential to innovation, and this underpins economic growth and wellbeing.

The U.S., which has the highest number of universities in both top 200 rankings, has proved, like

China, that a more diverse system is a positive. There, community colleges do not claim, or wish to, offer the same benefits as top researched universities.

It is far more effective to concentrate development in institutions where better quality research already exists rather than try to improve all universities to keep them on a theoretically equal standing, when the whole institution and sys-

tem of higher education pushes towards a hierarchy.

If we are to trust the assertions of the report that securing the world-class quality of British higher education would “boost our economy and prosper in ways that will benefit everyone,” then surely the best way to do this is emulate the methods that are currently succeeding across the world, and concentrate our efforts, and our funding.

KATE MITCHELL



Gary Holland

## No more bunga bunga

In the late 1920s, Al Capone was universally known to be the leader of the Chicago Outfit, a gang that concerned itself with bootlegging alcohol and killing people much more than it concerned itself with following the law. But when he was convicted in 1931, it was for tax evasion and failing to file tax returns.

This is because just about everyone who would have been of any use to a prosecution was on his payroll and wanted to stay there. He used his position in the underworld to manipulate others to allow himself to maintain his position. For Capone, it was a ‘virtuous’ circle. Unfortunately for him though, governments really like getting their money. So when he got lots of it and didn’t pay his fair share, it was only a matter of time.

Fast forward 81 years, and, in Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, the ex-prime minister famed for holding bunga bunga parties and the breasts of underage girls, is sentenced to four years in prison for tax fraud related to Mediaset, his creatively named

set of media companies.

He’s been in court on numerous occasions previously on many and varied charges, but has never been sentenced before because of laws which his majority government passed while he was the Prime Minister of Italy, which limited the amount of time a case could go on for without reaching a verdict.

So while Berlusconi’s own ‘virtuous’ circle was going on, he passed laws that kept him in government to pass more laws. And even though he’s been sentenced to gaol time, it was almost immediately cut to a one-year stretch in virtue of a 2006 amnesty law. No prizes for guessing who was Prime Minister of Italy in 2006.

Of course, Berlusconi is extremely unlikely to ever see the inside of a prison cell as the Italian legal system allows him two appeals, and he will definitely drag them out long enough for the case to be dropped again.

But despite that, the fact that the crime for which he was finally sentenced was tax fraud, seems tell-

ing of the way the Western world works: if everyone else will keep quiet about your bootlegging (and there’s money in it for us) then so will we.

Give us plausible deniability about your sex parties with underage girls and we’ll claim ignorance and leave you to it. But don’t pay your bills, and you’re getting punished.

Capone provided ‘20s Chicagoans with the alcohol they couldn’t legally obtain, so maybe that’s why people were so keen to have him around. Or perhaps, they just didn’t fancy handing over information to the police and being killed for their trouble.

But why do we humour Berlusconi? Even if you don’t believe the allegations of sex with minors and the like, he has been convicted of illegal financing of a political party, and with perjury; he just wasn’t sentenced for either of these crimes because of particular peculiarities of the Italian judicial system.

Even if you don’t think he’s committed the crimes with which

he is most often associated, he is a criminal.

Maybe it’s because he united the right wing of Italian politics and the government now depends upon his party, or maybe it’s because everyone loves his soirées, but either way it looks like there are people with information who aren’t giving it up.

Capone was brought down by the “Untouchables”, a group of federal law-enforcement agents who prided themselves on being incorruptible and fearless in the face of Capone’s threats.

I quite like the idea of the ideological descendants of the Untouchables, somewhere in Italy, refusing Berlusconi’s invitations to bunga bunga parties, working out of a cramped, dank office, and hunting down any evidence they can find against Berlusconi.

Unfortunately, the reality probably isn’t that romantic and until people become more talkative, anyone smart enough to manipulate the system won’t go down for anything other than tax fraud.

## Living Locally



Sofia Geraghty

It can be very easy to forget that humans outside the age range of 18-30 actually exist. On the rare occasion that I have come across such beings I have found myself doing a double take: wondering what could have happened to that student to give them such white hair or make them so short and loud. It is easy to become very quickly adapted to student surroundings.

As a result, problems are bound to arise when students find themselves among strange people who do odd things, like get out of bed before midday and go out on Friday nights.

To the locals, the arrival of large hoards of newly-released students is less than welcome. Many residents have complained to YUSU and local council regarding issues such as noise pollution. It is not that students are necessarily selfish or inconsiderate, but rather that it is a different kind of consideration that comes into call when among locals. On campus, consideration may take various forms, such as ensuring you have asked all your neighbours round when throwing a flat party and not taking alcohol that isn’t yours. With similar interests, lifestyles and budgets it is not too difficult to act in a way which won’t make everyone in your immediate surroundings regret your existence.

The fact of the matter is that the life of the student and the life of the locals are perhaps not as compatible as most would like to believe. There are obvious precautions that students can take, such as keeping the volume down to a slightly reasonable level and recycling every so often, but the root of the problem of student-local integration perhaps lies far deeper than a few over-spilling bins. Student housing is just that, housing. A building in which to inhabit for a year, maybe two and nothing more.

Although having good relationships with neighbours undoubtedly has its benefits – it is simply not of much importance or significance. The University provides a sense of community for its members, whether that is through sport or simply through spending so much time together in the first year. For residents, however, there is a much greater need for a sense of community. Young families with children may look for similar families, while older residents may rely far more heavily on a sense of community.

I am by no means suggesting that communities be ordered in respect to age and interests, but the ideological difference between students and locals is one that needs to be addressed. While both universities undoubtedly bring great economic benefit to the city it must be questioned as to what cost this comes to the city’s community spirit when students are concentrated in certain areas. In some streets in York, up to 50 per cent of the houses are occupied by students. With such high percentages it may be that students are leaving far more problems in their wake than sore ears and a few too many black sacks.

# NOUSE ELECTIONS

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Here are a few brief descriptions about some of the positions available at elections. For more information about positions not mentioned, email [editor@nouse.co.uk](mailto:editor@nouse.co.uk)

“The **News Editor** scours the campus for the latest stories. It’s a position that needs good people management and a finger on the University’s pulse.”



“The **Features Editor** brings stories to life using layout and pictures. You set the tone of articles, as well as organising a team of writers.”

“**Sports Editor** organises coverage of all the campus sport, making it a job for an organiser. You’ll also be leading at Roses, a weekend of live-blogging and reporting that culminates in a paper supplement.”



“**Digital Editor** manages the website, and website content. Taking the paper’s content into new areas of digital and social media.”

“**Photo and Video Editors** support the news and sports teams in getting media to support their stories. They need to be innovative, finding new subjects, and ways of editing and presenting them.”



“**Science Editor** is all about bringing the latest ideas to a broad campus audience. Layout and pictures are key to pulling attention to research going on at the University and around the world.”

“**Technical Director** takes charge of the management and programming of the website. It’s a crucial job that ensures the smooth running of both print and online content.”

“**Chief Sub-Editor** plays an important part in keeping the paper looking professional, organising the team that proofs the paper. Previous chief-sub editors have also been known to provide cake.”

“**Advertising Director** helps get ads and sponsorship for the paper, helping to fund print costs, and the **Events Director** will help to pioneer the new events programme.”

**WHEN:** 6.30pm, Thursday Week 5

**WHERE:** EXHIBITION CENTRE P/L/001

**FORMAT:** You’ll be asked to make a thirty second to one minute speech, answer a few questions and then votes will be counted using the first past the post system

## Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964



## Stop pretending, start listening

The issue at stake here is not the fact that our University may be changing to an entirely different system of timetabling. That's big news in itself. The difference here is that it appears what students have to say on the matter has already been disregarded as irrelevant to the decision.

Ignoring the fact that this timetabling change will impact upon our extracurricular life in a manner reminiscent of King Kong ripping down skyscrapers and trampling on the small men underfoot, this change is indicative of the University's attitude to students. It is not, nor has it ever been, about us. This change, as has been admitted, is being put upon the University because of international pressure.

What this brings into harsh relief is that we as students are increasingly pawns in a greater movement of change regarding education. Our university experience is no longer focussed upon learning, although (of course) the University would be quick to deny such a statement, but instead intent upon obeying the market and tailoring the higher educational process to better compete upon the world economic and educational stage. Education is not about the state of economy, and should never be. However, with the economy in the state that it is, and our learning experience dependent the direction the wind is blowing, we should not be surprised at such a decision. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't look to YUSU to help us make sure the University stops pretending to listen, and actually starts to pay attention.

## YUSU is not for a careerist clique

The Community Chair has stood down saying that our Union is a clique, full of career politicians. He is certainly right to think that York's representative body is not a place for professional politics, as students we should be seeking officers with a passion for local issues – those directly impacting the students on and around this campus. To think of positions such as the presidency are mere stepping-stones to council and national politics is wrong and damaging for the students who have placed their trust in him or her.

The primary issue remains here are the allegations that YUSU is exclusive, and based on who you know. If there were evidence that your friend network is significant when the votes are counted then this would be immensely damaging to Kallum Taylor, after his campaign rhetoric of openness and accessibility. In addition, if the peripheries of the Union are unable to put policy ideas forward then this would clearly be an issue – it is this that Josh Allen appears to be alluding to. Taylor needs to heed the advice of his outgoing assembly chair and assess the situation, whether it has come about through laziness or apathy, and quash any sniff that friendships are getting in the way of YUSU's function. The officers aren't at uni any more – despite the impression they give in clubs, on the sports field and in their blogs – they're in a full time job. It may be just be time

## Feedback holds the Uni to account

Recent student feedback has forcibly flagged up our desire to better our learning experience at university. Students' expectations and fees have simultaneously risen. If we want to compete with our international competitors, and rise in the global league tables, the university needs to read between the lines of these statistics. Students are less concerned with our new 21st century, fabulously designed building, and more concerned with the books that line its shelves.

The university library stands as a symbol of the century; signals the growing student body and our expanding campus. But this is irrelevant if we can't work to the same level as our peers because we don't have the resources required of us. YUSU need start working with the library to actively incentivise more students to trade in their old books as a means of paying off our library fines. Use the results to ask our university institutions what exactly they have done to improve our situation since the last NSS results were announced. And if they haven't; well, we need to ask why.

NOUSE

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## The Trident debate isn't rocket science

Alex Slingsby

Deputy  
Comment  
Editor

The time has come again when a couple of guys with over-inflated egos, more money than sense, and far too much power, argue over the dilemma of our nuclear weapons system and what to do with it.

'Trident' is the name given to our current system, presumably because the operation consists of up to four submarines, each with enough nuclear bombs to repeat the 1945 attack on Hiroshima eight times over, strutting around the UK's ocean floor like an alligator trapped in a moat.

Whether the real purpose of this system is to deter any surprise attack from a fellow country who just couldn't handle its nuclear power, or simply to show off the amount of money our country will gladly throw away, I will never know.

What I can say, however, is that the recent proposals for a revision of the system, with estimated costs reaching well into billions of pounds, are about as helpful as a chocolate teapot.

Fair enough, when the country decided to jump on the nuclear bandwagon we were in a very precarious situation, fresh out of the Cold War, and in the middle of an arms race.

However, with no foreseeable threat to the UK (unless you are particularly concerned about how we fare in the next Olympic Games), and Obama's constant reiteration of America's 1949 treaty about Uncle Sam jumping to our rescue if we were ever in trouble, the rationale our country clung to at the start of the 1990s doesn't mean anything now.

After all, what purpose do these nuclear weapons even serve? You could say that we haven't been direct-

ly involved in a war since some idiot decided that nuclear weapons were a good asset to have, but try telling try telling that to the residents of Baghdad and Kabul.

And while you're at it, try telling it to Canada, Norway, and Ireland, who have like Britain managed to avoid invasion by nuke-toting, trigger-happy aggressors, but without all of the expense.

And what would happen if the Russian government turned power-hungry overnight? Would Britain be expected to jump into action, press a button, and flatten Moscow just to prove a point? I can't see that being part of the plan. These missiles might as well have been made out of Play-doh for all the help they're going to be when push comes to shove.

We're not fighting each other on such a grand scale anymore, and it's about time the British government

realised that, and opened its eyes to the real issues we are going to have to face in the next few years. Climate Change and World Hunger can't just be erased with the push of a button when they get too irritating. No amount of nuclear arms are going to save the polar bears, or rid the World of HIV, but the money we will waste on it could leave a mark.

Every six minutes, the UK spends £22,000 on enhancing its global extermination toys, while elsewhere in the world, sixty children die of malnutrition and water levels rise. If we want to prove to the rest of the world just how big our little country can be, then we have to lead by example, not by submarines.

We need to address our modern-day enemies with warfare of the non-nuclear variety before we invest any more money in colonial power play, because otherwise there won't be



## Fear and self-loathing in James College

Sean Malkin



The majority of people living in my block have taken gap years, some out of choice and others out of necessity. I am one of the latter. After failing to gain a place in 2011 I was thrust into a disorganised year filled with jealousy, part-time jobs, and endless Facebook stalking. I felt immobilised on the sidelines, my friends reveling in university life while I stagnated at home, sifting through hundreds of new photos of nights out and new relationships. I told myself it would be all right and that I would soon be enjoying these similar tastes of freedom.

As I return from smoking my nth cigarette today I can tell that I am stressed. I've had the nights out and I've met the girls and I've joined the societies. But I don't feel as content as I thought I would. If you are also someone who can find something out of nothing to worry about then you will understand where I am coming from: if I am not worrying about writing an article for the student newspaper then I am worrying about whether I'm going to spend my entire overdraft on buying these course

books, or whether I made too much of a fool of myself in Kuda last night (my dance moves were horrendous).

“Anxiety and depression can ruin lives”

When you feel like this, those anxieties may feel similar to the anvil of psychology books I carry around on my back each day, and they are nothing to turn a blind eye at. Anxiety and depression can and do ruin people's lives if not addressed soon enough. At university, where your social life seems to be just as important as your academic one, these poisonous feelings will grow quick and fast and could turn what are said to be some of the best years of your life into some of the worst.

It is stated that one in four young people will suffer from mental health issues each year. For a first year feeling like a small fish in the big campus lake, or a third year troubled over a

lack of job prospects outside of university, it is not hard to see why this statistic is so relevant. Don't make life any harder than it already is. Firstly, you are unlikely to be the only person worrying about whatever it is you are worrying about. Find solidarity in this fact and focus on the positives. Secondly, the university provides a number of services to facilitate the sharing of these problems. Use them. Do not be an idiot and think you are above such help.

When it comes down to it, as much fun as drinking so many Kryptonites in Rumours that you pass out is, it is vital that you also spend some time taking care of yourself. Between socialising and working, making time to simply chill out is just as important. If you don't then you might lose track of the things that really are important in your life.

You can arrange to see a counsellor via the information provided on the 'Support, welfare and health' subsection of the university's website, or you can call Nightline on 01904 323 735 to talk in confidence about your problems.



Tom Witherow

# Vote in commissioners, vote out targets

A Police Commissioner is a politician, not an officer, but they can still have a significant and positive impact

The police have had a rough time of it recently. The Hillsborough investigation, accusations of institutional racism and not knowing whether to hug, hang or high-five passing hoodies has left the public unsure as to how to respond. And this is compounded by the fact that most of us probably only ever see our local plods while cycling on the pavement.

Based on this we might think that the police aren't really doing all that much to tackle real crime. But thanks to the election of police commissioners next week – we might finally get a say. I say 'might' because the elections have caused a lot of controversy. Lord Blair, in all his wisdom as an ex-public servant, has called for a boycott of the elections. Imagine if a permanent secretary decided that ministers were becoming a little bit bothersome, and encouraged us to boycott the general elections. Even Sir Humphrey wouldn't have considered it.

He claims that the constituencies are too big and that there's nothing to stop people running for more than one area. But, really he can't

bear the thought of policemen being told what to do by the public; it's a classic 'they don't know what's good for them' argument.

Well actually when there aren't enough police on the streets on a Saturday night, we do notice. Two weeks ago I went to the cinema and saw two fights. Two fights! And it was only half past eight. One man swung a punch, lost his balance, and fell back into a lamp post. It was really quite amusing.

“ targets beleaguer hardworking officers at every turn ”

When we see police on the motorway, which are by and large extremely safe, do we not wonder whether their time could be better spent? This is precisely where these elections can help.

They will cut red tape: targets beleaguer hardworking officers at every turn. Catching 85 mile per

hour speeders certainly recovers an officer's pay for the day, but he probably hasn't 'earned' it. Pursuing minor offenders will certainly chalk up the number of 'solved' investigations, but it doesn't take a sex offender off the streets.

Instead (we hope) commissioners will direct police time towards the areas that we the public actually care, and even worry, about. Muggings, theft and violent crime are things that people have to think about every time they toddle out for a pint of milk. If the adverts for election candidates deliver on these promising pledges, then they could make a real difference.

It's important that commissioners don't involve themselves with the nitty-gritty of individual cases. They should not seek to tread on the toes of senior officers, and instead focus on the broader allocation of police resources. They're still politicians, and mustn't over-step their area of expertise – representation is their remit and they must stick to it. But don't think I'm being romantic here – I've spent too much time tied up in YUSU red tape to not know what a

hindrance mediocre politicians are. But remembering how mightily efficient autocracy is can help you remember that the hard work is worth it. Although, as a note to any headhunters, they can sign me up in a benevolent dictator role any day.

Also, don't think that the cogs of Westminster have done a great job in designing the elections. Setting the deposit at £5,000 has pushed promising independent candidates with local interest out of the race. This has left some areas with city councilor dropouts – think James Alexander but worse – and MPs washed up from the shores of obscurity. A classic example of which is Mr John Prescott, who really can only be described as an oaf.

Fortunately, this is an election. If the chaff can be discarded into some dark corner of the ballot box then the full benefits of this plan will materialise. I personally can't think of any greater reason to get out and vote than to thwart the vanity of one politically correct, headline-grabbing former Met Police commissioner. On the 15th November, I'll be voting for democracy.

Rachel Thompson



# Volunteer for a career

Why is work experience so important? Is it because companies need to have a probationary, unpaid period to challenge an employee before committing to them, or is it in fact another hoop graduates must have jumped through in order to secure the lucra-

“ Volunteer- ing doesn't end once you've made it into Uni- versity ”

tive post university job? Companies place a lot of weight on the latter, and it is volunteering especially that sets a student apart from the rest of the pack; changing you from an application number into an individual. This is the reason universities iterate and reiterate that volunteering is beneficial socially, morally, and clearly financially.

Though some selfless souls jump at the chance to aid others purely for that warm, fuzzy feeling, the rest of us are invariably reticent about giving up precious sleep, work, or party time. But we need to take a leaf out of their worthy, worthy book. And what's more, we can remain purely self-interested egoists and still find the motivation to get up and do some good.

Studies have shown that companies look past the plethora of 2:1's and Firsts, and focus on what extra

circular activities individuals take part in. It's no longer about just getting the degree – so being holed up in your room for the next three years is ill advised. Rather the challenge is to establish yourself as a well-rounded, intelligent, outgoing individual, whose life doesn't begin and end in the library. Volunteering doesn't end once you've made it into York.

In fact, we've just had Volunteering Week. An opportunity for every student to get involved and raise money for worthwhile charities and give back to the community. A reminder that every college member can participate in activities ranging from working at the Kids Club, to becoming an EcoVolunteer, or even helping with the Theatre In Schools project. It is imperative to have all these extra credentials, aside from actually finishing university with a degree (and a £50k debt). Simply, these credentials will gain you the recognition you deserve for your time here at University.

Statistics are continually being released on how few students are entering into higher education because of the astronomical fees, it has not altered the intellect of graduates, and thus the competition.

The reality of the situation is that people are working harder, longer and with more determination to gain the top grades. In terms of the big picture this means companies will have to look for other ways to distinguish between Candidate A and B, both with History 2:1.

Once we leave the picturesque world of the University of York life the chance to trek the Great Wall of

China, or jump out of a plane in the name of Water Aid will seem like a distant memory. So grab these opportunities with both hands (and legs if you're some yoga god), establish yourself in the YUSU volunteering committee, or the RAG team who donate money to their cause. You could just dedicate an afternoon to collecting on our cobbled city streets, and still grab some of that fuzzy feeling for yourself.

So if you're a determined academic with a straight A record, I'd recommended broadening your horizons and taking on new challenges. Who won't want to don their vintage

“ These credentials will gain you the recognition you deserve for your time here at York University ”

gear and attend a Tea Dance to entertain the local elderly community?

Though one or two of you may cling to the belief that your job will be chosen on individual calibre and academic merit, but you'd be wrong. The world is changing and the requirements now incorporate life experiences, leadership roles and proof that behind all the grades, you really are a good person.

# Comment Bites from the Nouse website

I have nothing but bad advice for the young

Antioxidant says:  
October 25, 2012 at 5.58 pm

Ok mate, stop bragging.

Banter!

Anonymous. Obviously says:  
October 5, 2012 at 2:20 am

It's very easy to take apart the bone-headed proponents of banter, but they are in no way related to genuine comedy. "Banter" comedy is symptomatic of the whole LAD movement, and not most real performers.

## Top Tweet

Ben Vulliamy  
@bvulliamy

Follow

The tension in the @yorkunisu Courtyard as we approach the 50,000th burger is HUGE

Reply Retweet Favorite

## The Burning Question

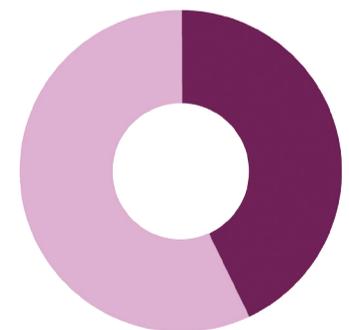
This edition, Nouse asked:

“Will you be applying for internships or work experience this term?”

186 people voted, with the majority stating YES

39 people voted Yes (54%)

33 people voted No (46%)





# Four years later, what went wrong for Obama?

Maisie Cook

Obama's landslide victory in 2008 promised to usher in a new era for US politics. The consensus was that change was imminent, whether they awaited or dreaded the prospect. On Obama's shoulders rested the hopes and dreams of the nation, and the world watched on with expectation.

The scene in 2012 is altogether different. Even if Obama manages to retain the presidency, the margin will be narrow, lacking the buzz of 2008. So where did Obama go wrong? Why did he fail to live up to the intoxicating hype of just four years ago?

Upon his inauguration, Obama set out to transform American society, his focus being on boosting growth, reforming healthcare and tackling foreign policy.

To some extent, progress has been made in these areas. Troops have been withdrawn from Iraq, although at a slower rate than first planned. Significant reforms have been implemented to provide healthcare to the poorest (changes which Romney intends to immediately repeal). Growth has risen in the US to 2% in the third quarter and the unemployment rate has dropped below 8%, although some still argue that this is insufficient in the context of the US's sizeable budget deficit.

Nevertheless, the country is faring well compared to others in the current economic climate; during the next four years, the IMF predicts that the US will be the strong-

est of the world's rich economies. Despite this, the perception remains that America should be in a stronger economic position now than it currently is.

Yet Obama cannot be held entirely to blame for the lack of change. A number of his economic reforms didn't make it past Congress after the loss of the House of Representatives in 2010, such as the 'Bring Jobs Home' bill which was blocked by the Senate. Although these measures

“ 31 bills were prevented from passing - no President can legislate like this ”

would not necessarily have aided the US economic recovery, without them one can never be certain of what Obama's intended policies would have led to.

A similar situation emerged with Obama's desire to shut down Guantanamo, again blocked by Congress, a setback to the president heavily ridiculed by the global press. Immigration reform, welfare legislation, lifting a cap on the amount oil companies must pay to families and small businesses affected by the BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the list goes on, with some issues not even coming to a vote.

In total, during the 2011-2012 session, 31 bills and resolutions were prevented from passing by



BARACK OBAMA

Much has changed since Barack Obama's jubilant election four years ago

Congress. No president can legislate effectively like this. Republican senators who have previously supported bipartisan policies, such as Olympia Snowe from Maine, have not upheld this cooperation during Obama's presidency, meaning that important measures have been delayed or rejected. Ironically, Snowe

herself commented upon resigning from her position that 'the Senate is not living up to what the Founding Fathers envisioned'.

Yet obstacles to change have not simply been caused by divisive partisan loyalties. Obama has been forced to face rebellion within his own party in addition to the expect-

ed Republican backlash. For example, Ben Nelson, the recently retired Democrat senator from Nebraska, only voted with the Democratic majority for around 81 per cent of proposals last year, showing a clear disunity for Obama's radical vision.

The president is too often criticised for losing his heroic status through his own mistakes. Critics assert that he never possessed any true substance behind the rhetoric. Those critics should give Obama a break. Not only is he dealing with one of the toughest financial crises of all time, but he has also had to navigate his way through the federal maze, a tricky task for the most skilled of leaders even in favourable circumstances.

The Republican Congress majority following the mid-term elections backed Obama into a corner. Though the mid-term swing away from him may have been an early retaliation at Obama for not delivering, this made it even more difficult for him to do so, an impossible cycle leading directly to the current position in which Obama finds himself.

Obama was never going to live up to the exalted opinion of the masses - no one could. He captured the hearts and minds of his citizens who in turn let their imaginations run wild, foreseeing revolutionary reforms that he was unable to accomplish.

If it was not for the Senate, his presidency might have turned out to be less disappointing. As it is, the people are dissatisfied, and this may well be shown through the ballot box.

# Business experience no qualification for office

David Atkinson

“Mitt has spent most of his life in the private sector, giving him an intimate knowledge of how our economy works,” holds the bio on Mitt Romney's campaign site. The Romney camp has always been keen to emphasise his sterling record as the leader of a successful international firm, and the Democrats have always been equally keen to refute it.

As Obama 2012's 'Truth Team' tells us: "Romney was not in the business of creating jobs." But however successful Mitt Romney was (and he was very successful), there is an unchallenged assumption here: that if he was a good businessman he will be a good President, and specifically a good steward of America's economy.

Many politicians in the past - usually conservatives - have had a track record in business, in the UK former prime minister John Major was an executive at Standard Chartered before running for parliament.

Few people, however, were singing the praises of Conservative economic policy after the currency collapse and ensuing recession following Black Wednesday. George HW Bush also had a successful career in the oil industry, founding a



MNASSAL

Mitt Romney at a campaign stop this year. His campaign have stressed his past as a private equity businessman

number of firms in Texas during the 50s before his ambitions became political. Again, his one term presidency was plagued by recession and successive deficits.

The debate in the current presidential race seems to stem from the misconception that business people must know everything about economics. They do not. A successful business leader needs to have an intuitive understanding of micro-

“ There is a misconception business people know everything about economics ”

economics (how firms and custom-

ers interact in a market) and the leadership skills to run a large organisation.

What they need not know much about is the kind of large scale macro-economic policy-making that a President does every day. Indeed, Mitt Romney would have employed a sizeable team of economists to advise him on this at Bain Capital.

On the basis of the race so far, Governor Romney promises to be

a very disappointing president. His much derided flip-flopping shows a worrying desire to please whomever's support he would most like. Financial markets would punish this harshly.

It has the effect that his approach to issues like international trade and industrial policy are unclear (and more than likely subject to change). Even before one takes an ideological stance on his policies, Romney looks likely to derail the recovery by sheer incompetence. He is a one term president if ever there was one.

The likely, and sad, reason for this assertion about the relevance of Romney's record in the boardroom going unchallenged is that it's simply unchallengeable. Barack Obama would be a fool to go against the grain of Americans' gut instinct in any election, let alone an uphill struggle such as this one - much better to question whether Romney was a good businessman than to question whether it matters.

If Mitt Romney wins today, he is liable to become yet another promising former businessman who fails to deliver in office. His record at Bain might win him some votes, but it's relevance is superficial at best. Intellectually, he should know better.

## Politics

# Foreign policy: the crucial divide

Jules Delay

Since the early 1990s, the US has been a hyper-power, the single most powerful actor on the international scene. Their hegemony, thanks to victory in the Cold War, led America to question its foreign policy and to ask themselves a question with huge future ramifications: what form should their internationalism take? The President at the time, George Bush Senior, had no doubts – an isolationist policy was rejected, and America would be strongly involved in international politics.

Since then the US has done precisely this. It has interfered far and wide in international affairs, and extended its influence over the UN. The questionable belief of the US in its right to do this is based on a sense of global responsibility, that they have the power to stop humanitarian tragedies from and that it has a responsibility to help those in need.

On a basic level, both Obama and Romney hold this view, and will react to major events in the same fashion – for a global disaster vast quantities of aid will be sent; for a terrorist attack, a violent retaliation will occur. The subtle differences between them however are more important than they first appear, perhaps because these differences could prove key to whether moments of conflict occur in the first place.

Obama's approach will no doubt be cautious, a form of pragmatic liberal interventionism. Obama however holds an ace for hawkish critics: the death of Osama Bin Laden. His supporters can point to his sensitivity to key regions and to differences both within and between various religions, as exemplified in his address in Cairo, shortly after his election.

Romney has been relatively quiet on foreign policy on the campaign trail, understandably given Obama's success as Commander in



The importance of tonight's election is underscored by the implications it will have for American foreign policy

Chief and the voters' focus on the economy. However if he becomes president, he will bring a more nationalistic flavour to the role, and one more distinctly Republican. Neo-conservative supporters from the Bush Administration lie in the wings for Romney, who will seek to establish US strength on the international scene after what he perceives as a lack of control by Obama, and increase defence spending by 4 per cent.

Romney's attraction is simple for the American people – he is a successful businessman, who has the credentials to get the economy back on track. Ultimately, 37 per cent of Americans polled put the economy as their main concern when voting, with unemployment coming second at 28 per cent. Romney, if elected, will not hold office for skill in foreign policy, but for his economic

plans. However, this could be a very dangerous concern for the international scene – the global economy is obviously the priority, but Romney must maintain good relations inter-

“ Neo-conservative supporters lie in the wings for Romney ”

nationally, and preferably not label China a “currency manipulator” on his first day in office, as he has pledged to provocatively do.

Romney and Obama are two very different politicians, who whilst holding central ground on foreign policy, will approach these issues in very different ways. Many foreign policy issues could boil to the sur-

face over the next four years: the war on terror, retreat from Afghanistan, Syria, and most worryingly, Iran's move towards nuclear capability.

Nuclear proliferation is a difficult thing to stop – with a careful hand on the tiller, a skilled politician could try and diffuse Iran's need for such power, primarily by holding control over Israel to appease the concern of the Middle East in general. Obama or Romney will have to show all their political expertise to manage an increasingly worrying situation.

The American people will have to decide carefully who they choose as their next president – his task is not simply the behemoth that is the economy, but also to be the Commander in Chief. At a time of change and uncertainty, America must tread carefully, and choose the right man to lead their country.

## Election recap

Adam Highland

**29 May:** Romney wins the Texas primaries to clinch the Republican nomination. Obama leads in the polls by 2 pts.

**30 July:** Romney refers to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel during a visit, only days after he criticises London's readiness for the Olympics, raising doubts over his aptitude for foreign policy. Obama still by 2.

**27-30 Aug:** Romney delivers a solid and heartfelt, if unremarkable, speech to the Republican National Convention. Talks at length about family but fails to offer an alternative economic vision. Obama's lead narrows to 1.

**4-6 Sept:** Obama is overshadowed by wife Michelle and Bill Clinton at the Democratic National Convention. In a pedestrian speech, the President attempts to frame the election as a choice between two economic paths, not a referendum on his term. Race tied.

**11 Sept:** A security breach at the Libyan embassy leads to the death of ambassador Chris Stevens. Obama is criticised for dismissing the attack as a backlash against an American anti-Islam film, but has benefitted from a post-Convention bounce. Obama leads by 4.

**17 Sept:** A surreptitiously filmed video from a private fundraiser is leaked to the press, showing Romney claiming not to care for the 47 per cent of Americans who pay no tax, because they will vote Democrat anyway. Obama by 3.

**4 Oct:** The two candidates go head-to-head in the first Presidential debate. Romney is adjudged to have won. Obama is criticised for looking detached and failing to address points directly. Trailing by 3 on the night of the debate, within a week Romney leads for the first time on Oct 9.

**16 Oct:** Obama narrowly wins the second and third debate, memorably mocking Romney's military policy in the final debate. But they do not have the same affect as the first, Romney still narrowly leads.

**29-30 Oct:** Hurricane Sandy hits the East Coast, cancelling campaigning on both sides and arguably helping the President.

**2 Nov:** With less than a week to go the race is effectively all tied - Obama leads Romney 47.4 per cent to 47.3 per cent.

# Sandy's electoral effect hard to gauge

Rosie Shields

Last week, Mitt Romney and Barack Obama were put to the test as Hurricane Sandy swept across the US. The storm caused massive devastation to America, with at least 48 people reported dead and over 8.2 million households left without power.

Before the hurricane, the lead up to the election had been in full swing, with less than 1 per cent between the candidates. The storm introduced a new dynamic to the race. Both campaigns ceased campaigning and early elections in many states were postponed. This could have affected Obama particularly, as his previous rallying had focused on securing gains in early voting.

As President, with the power to act, the storm was most testing, but also potentially most helpful, for Obama. US Presidents in the past have been condemned for how they dealt with natural disasters. Presi-

dent Bush was deeply criticised over Hurricane Katrina in 2005, with the administration seen as having done too little too late.

Sandy posed the same risk for Obama, but the President's smooth handling of the crisis gained him critical support from the extremely popular Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York, who in endorsing him cited the President's commitment to fighting the climate change he argued Sandy was a consequence of. The support of this independent leader could have proved invaluable, not in winning already-blue New York but in helping the President run the news cycle.

Praise has been wide-ranging, but perhaps no instance has been more critical than that from unlikely supporter Chris Christie, Governor of New Jersey. Christie, long spoken of as a potential running mate for Romney, and before that, as a Republican candidate, declaimed at one news conference with the Presi-



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has been in the spotlight since Sandy

dent by his side, “I cannot thank the President enough for his personal concern and compassion for our state and the people of our state.”

The true effect of Hurricane Sandy in the run up to this election is as unpredictable as the storm itself and perhaps the only solid answer we will get will be on the day.

Historically, natural disasters have been an occasion where the American people have been seen to come together with the government to help one another. The electorate want someone to turn to in times of need, and an incumbent President benefits from that. It looks like Obama has been no exception to that.

# Burmese conflict must cease

The Burmese authorities are thus far failing to deal with rising ethnic tensions in the Rakhine region. **Ellie Swire** investigates the effects this is having on minorities.

The recent images from Burma's Rakhine region present a shocking indictment of the state's failure to deal effectively with internal ethnic conflict. Whole villages and neighbourhoods burned to blackened wastelands; hundreds forced into makeshift tents, reliant on humanitarian aid from international NGOs.

In the coastal town of Kyaukp-pyu alone, more than 600 buildings were raised to the ground. Official estimates put the total number at around 4,600 houses destroyed across the region; at least 22,000 people displaced and more than 80 dead, as a result of clashes between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and the, predominantly Muslim, Rohingya minority.

It is believed that as many as 100,000 people have been displaced since the clashes began back in June, following the rape and murder of a young Buddhist woman.

As the violence has continued to escalate, Myanmar (the Burmese central government) declared a state of emergency earlier this summer, allowing security forces to take administrative control of the region. This state of emergency is still in place. Yet with suspicions that the security forces may also be participating in the abuse against the Rohingya minority, this is hardly a situation that is close to being resolved.

The Rohingyas have long since represented an uncomfortable problem for Burma. Since the country's independence in 1948, they have been systematically involved in incidents of religious and ethnic persecution - incidents often spon-



Pro-democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi has been unusually and wrongly silent on this disturbing issue

sored by the state itself.

Denied the right to legal citizenship, the Rohingyas are officially classified as illegal immigrants in a country where hostility towards them is widespread and deeply entrenched. It comes as little surprise that the Burmese authorities have shown reluctance in dealing with the issue.

Burma's international neighbours are equally unwilling to become involved with the Rohingyas. Bangladesh recently cut its humani-

tarian aid to the 40,000 Rohingyas

“ President Sein has shown little commitment to introducing reform in the region ”

living in temporary camps in its

border areas, claiming that it did not want to encourage Rohingyas in seeking asylum there, while other Islamic countries have in the past expressed a similar lack of interest in offering aid to the Rohingyas.

However, international attention is beginning to mount with the extent of this year's violence. Given the Myanmar's relatively recent formation, having existed only as a nominally civilian government since 2010, it will no doubt be keen to propagate Burma's image as a mod-

ern democratic nation.

Yet, apart from publicly condemning the events in Rakhine, Thein Sein, Burma's president, has shown little commitment to introducing reform in the region, apart from the introduction of "tighter security" there.

Aung San Suu Kyi, a pro-democracy campaigner, has also been unusually silent upon the matter, a silence that has interred condemnation from senior diplomats and human rights groups.

Critics argue that Suu Kyi's reticence is motivated by a desire not to alienate voters as part of her election campaign. With Burma's general election in 2015, it is thought that Suu Kyi is unwilling to associate herself with the plight of the Rohingya people, a move that would undoubtedly prove unpopular with Burmese voters.

Yet the pressure exerted by a high-profile figure such as Suu Kyi is precisely what Burma needs at a time like this. Without decisive action towards a stable, long-term resolution to the conflict, the situation is likely to continue unresolved.

Disenfranchised, unendorsed, and lacking support from both the state and international Islamic communities, the Rohingyas have little opportunity to represent themselves or have their rights represented by others. Without the backing of the authorities - without someone to speak out in their defence, the situation for the Rohingyas is unlikely to change in the near future. One can only wonder how much more death and destruction is to be incurred until it does.

# The Coalition has failed to rule competently



THE LAST WORD  
Sam Shepherd

We are about half way through the government's five year term in Parliament. Depending on which side of the political spectrum you sit on, it has been two and a half years of unnecessary hell, or two and a half years of essential rebuilding.

Either way, it has been a mixed bag for the coalition, who came to power with a fusion of hope and apprehension. Indeed, for Labour, it was the perfect time to rebuild.

The brief was simple for Cameron and Clegg. They needed to turn around a flailing economy and reduce a deficit on a scale not seen for decades. Essentially, they were to take the country back towards where it had been going at the peak of the Blair and Brown years.

Alas, it has been somewhat harder than anyone expected. With Labour entertainingly leaving a note claiming that there was no money left, we have had two and a

half years of well-meaning but ultimately inept government.

The Coalition has happily placed blame on many others for its economic failings. Naturally, some of them do ring true. Labour did leave us in a jolly awful mess and

“ The Conservatives have much work to do to convince people ”

the Eurozone hasn't exactly been of sound stature in recent years.

Whilst these issues have indeed contributed to the slide into recession at the end of last year, you have to ask, where exactly are the policies? We have seen very little thinking outside the box from the Chancellor, something which must occur in times where austerity is necessary. Fortunately for George Osborne, growth returned and returned well in the previous quarter. However, the Conservatives have much work to do to convince people that they are the party to lead the country past the hard times.



It is unclear when or how the sun will set on the current government

The Lib Dems have come out of the first half of the parliament with questions to answer. We all know about the flack Nick Clegg has taken with his gaffes and his apparent inability to oppose David Cameron. However, you have to wonder why in recent months, they have not been in the news quite as much.

Indeed, all of the economic criticism has fallen squarely at the feet of George Osborne, rather than at Danny Alexander or Vince Cable, who as business secretary should

be scrutinised more than he is currently being.

All this poses the questions, are the Lib Dems truly a party of government? At the half-way stage, the answer has to be no. Dropping below ten per cent in the polls suggests that the 2015 election will be one to forget for everyone's second party. They may have more experience in power, but this will not translate into seats if they continue to be let down by their own inability to make an impact.

So what of Labour? Ed Miliband has improved significantly as leader, managing to forge a niche for himself in politics as a loveable geek who, when the going gets tough, can fight dirty. There is still a nagging feeling though, that the party has no real plan.

Labour will quite happily sit opposite the Conservatives and the Lib Dems and criticise; perhaps so much they are becoming ruthlessly opportunistic. However, despite the rhetoric coming from Miliband and Balls, many are still unconvinced that Labour has the recipe for economic success, with the events of the latter stages of the Brown government still fresh in the minds of the public.

Yet, Labour will have much success in 2015. Unless the coalition can turn the economic situation around rapidly, both parties will flounder. It is also essential for the coalition to combat the PR machine that is Labour; a battle that it is currently losing embarrassingly.

The first half of this parliament was tricky to say the least, for all parties. It would not be surprising to see the next two and a half years go exactly the same.

# Business



business@nouse.co.uk

## Losing Face

One law student is mounting an attack against the social networking giant Facebook, Tom Williams investigates

**M**ax Schrems, an Austrian law student, has started a campaign against Facebook because he believes they store users data in an unethical way, saying personal data is the “oil” Facebook is drilling for.

The social network, which attracts 2.7 billion ‘likes’ per day, is reportedly not compliant with the Irish Data Protection Commission – Ireland is the hub of Facebook’s data control for its European users.

Schrems founded the advocacy group ‘Europe Versus Facebook’ after asking Facebook for the data the site had collected relating to his own account while researching for his thesis.

“Companies could be fined up to 20 per cent of global annual turnover”

Facebook was “dumb enough”, in his words, to send him all his data in a 1,200 page PDF document.

After combing through the file he found that Facebook had kept records of everyone that had ever poked him, a complete record of his chat history, and all the IP addresses of the machines that he had used to log on to the site.

The document also lists details that he had deleted from his account, and included personal information about him that he had not supplied to the site, including email addresses that had been sourced from friends’ address books, an ap-



Max Schrems’ campaign has provoked over 40,000 people to ask for the data that Facebook keeps about them

proach coined as ‘Data Mining’ by other lobbyists.

‘Data Mining’, as activists describe, is Facebook’s way of forming a more complete picture of its users by gathering information from blogs, newspapers and other users profiles.

European Law states that personal data must be processed “fairly”, where users have access to comprehensive information on how the data will be used. Schrems argues that Facebook is in violation of this, and to date he has submitted 22 separate complaints illustrating how Facebook is not compliant. He argues that the privacy settings on Facebook are relaxed, and his site is

campaigning for greater transparency, where an opt-in rather than opt-out system is offered, though he admits that there are few social networks that do offer this.

After drawing up recommendations for Facebook to improve, Schrems’ next assault on the tech giant was to make it easy for others to request the data that Facebook stores on them. The site, europe-v-facebook.org, provoked over 40,000 people to ask for their data within weeks, and forced Facebook to develop an archive download tool.

On September 21 Facebook published a report illustrating changes they had made to data collection. While Schrems acknowl-

edged that it was a step in the right direction he felt more could be done.

Proposed changes to EU data protection law mean that companies could be fined up to two per cent of global annual turnover for breaches. Schrems supports the proposed amendments, arguing that currently ‘businesses calculate the cost of complying versus the cost of breaking the law’, with the least costly being the path taken.

He stated that “Facebook has a monopoly of Social networking”, and that its popularity has caused “everyone [to] get sucked in”, which “lets them do what they want”. Facebook are yet to respond to his ongoing allegations.

## A Chinese slowdown?

James Daveney

**W**ith most of the attention in recent years on the Eurozone crisis, perhaps it’s time we took a step back and had a look at what’s going on in other parts of the world. The People’s Republic of China, a country whose economy grew by an average of 10 per cent per year for fifteen years straight not too long ago, published their most recent figures of 9.3 per cent growth in 2011, compared to a predicted growth of 7.7 per cent for this year (Asian Development Bank).

If this slowdown continues then it is a cause for alarm, as China plays an integral role in many economies. This slowdown should be also considered if you think about how large their economy has become (it’s the second biggest in the world).

“The last several years, China’s service sector has been static”

Part of the blame lies on weak external demand, which has been caused by tighter fiscal policy around the world. The record growth set by China which came last decade was mainly driven by intraregional manufacturing linkages. Essentially, parts for goods were obtained from Asian countries and then put together into a final good that was then delivered to more economically developed countries.

Throughout the last several years, much of China’s service sector has been static, with the majority of it consisting of traditional services. If the country were to rapidly expand their professional services business then this could stop the slowdown. However, no one is saying that’s easy to do. It takes many years to develop the knowledge and experience that companies pay good money for.

In the short term, the US election is turning many heads around the world who eagerly anticipate the results. For me, the possibility of a prolonged slowdown from China and bilateral trade are lost on Mr Romney – he proposes that China be branded a “currency manipulator” as soon as he is sworn in.

Given the amount of imports to the US from China (\$400bn in 2011) it does not seem economically sound to be throwing statements like these around – commentators have said it could lead to a trade war between the two countries, which no one would win. In my view, Mr Romney would do well to have a less tough stance.

## Bitesize Business with Satnam Shergrill



**Sandy:** With the east coast of the U.S. just getting back on its feet, IHS, a global forecasting firm, has estimated the cost of the storm to be around \$60 billion. The loss of Business accounts for the largest chunk of the overall estimate – ranging between \$10 - \$30 billion. Property damage currently stands at \$8 billion, adding to the rising costs of the repairs to the water, electricity and gas utility damages. The firm claim that the storm will reduce the fourth quarters growth by around 0.6 per cent, only worsening the fragile U.S. economy.



**Comet:** One of the UK’s most renowned electrical retailers, Comet, is going into administration. It is just one of the long list of British based businesses buckling under the pressure of the economic downfall in recent years: companies such as JJB, HMV and Barratts have all folded in recent years.

It is feared that 6,500 employees risk losing their jobs. The company’s recent misfortune has been blamed on the firm not being able to compete with online retailers, and Comet’s failure to understand the online market.



**Manufacturing:** Economic growth has received a further blow with the recent poorer than expected Purchasing Managers’ index (PMI). PMI is an indicator which reflects purchasing managers’ acquisitions of goods and services. It fell from its initial figure of 48.1 in September to 47.5.

This data could signal more hardship for the UK economy, which already has to deal with sluggish growth and unwelcome budget cuts. The poor demand in the Eurozone area is targeted as a possible reason for this disappointing result.



**Tech giants:** Apple, HTC and Amazon have all experienced harder than expected third quarters. Apple Inc. failed to reach their profit targets due to the slow sales of the iPad. The Taiwan-based tech company HTC claimed that its fourth quarter profits will be lower than the previous quarter, dropping from 70bn Taiwanese dollars (£1.4bn) to 60bn (£1.3bn).

Amazon, the online retailer, has recorded a loss of \$170m from July to September this year, compared to a profit of \$63m at the same time in the previous year.

# Elevator Pitch

Abel Seow

An elevator speech, popularized on Wall Street, has become a popular short promotion of yourself, your company or the product you sell.

Whether you are looking for that next private equity job or preparing for a career fair, it is the one communication skill that any successful businessperson has to be equipped with at all times, allowing you to differentiate yourself or your product while capturing the imagination of your audience.

Such a skill is essential, especially as you never know when it may come in useful to reach new prospective employers or clients with a winning message.

Imagine how the late Steve Jobs would respond if asked about the next iPhone in a public restroom without his own elevator speech - named because it should last no longer than the average elevator ride.

The significance of an elevator speech has come a long way. In today's fast paced business environment, 'having that 10 minutes of your time' is sometimes too much to ask for. MIT has a \$100k Entrepreneurship Competition, which launched YouPitch, an elevator pitch contest based on YouTube, providing students the chance to present their business ideas and develop their viral marketing skills. Such initiatives come to show how vital and valuable a good pitch truly is.

A good elevator speech is designed to give your audience the right amount of information in order for them to have a good understanding of the message you are conveying, getting them to want to know more, without sounding too overzealous which results in them blocking you out.

Chris O'Leary, author of "Elevator Pitch Essentials" emphasizes the need for practice and experience

"Assume the first version isn't going to be perfect, but get it out there so you can start figuring out what needs to be improved," he advises.



NICKLAUS

So, what makes a good elevator pitch? Here are five useful tips when crafting one:

#### 1.) Good structure of story

Your pitch has to be in a logical order. You will lose your audience's focus quickly if your pitch is poorly depicted. Always begin by emphasizing what you can offer, followed by what you are looking for.

#### 2.) Brag - but do it subtly

"It's not bragging if it's true and relevant," O'Leary stresses. Your audiences are not interested in who you are, but what you can do. Selecting the right words to use is vital, and should be well thought out. Emphasize what you have already accomplished from your past experiences.

#### 3.) Customise your pitch accordingly

What you aim to achieve from the conversation are critical when tailoring your pitch to suit the occasion.

Constantly ask yourself "so what?" That question will help you to focus on making your solution meaningful to the listener," says Chris Westfall, author of the e-book Five Great New Elevator Pitches.

#### 4.) Practice and more practice

You get the point. Practicing your speech into a digital recorder and video with someone will help in gathering feedback on your tone and delivery. Two of The Nine C's mentioned in O'Leary's guide emphasise the need for being Concise and Clear.

#### 5.) Include Questions

Any good conversation is a two-way communication. Not only is it polite to prompt the other party to do the same, but more importantly demonstrates that it is not all about you. In the spirit of networking, an enjoyable conversation can be rewarded.



JADE ASHLEY

# Drug Money

Neil Johnston

Drugs. It's a huge and profitable industry and what's better for those involved is that it's recession-proof. People are always going to be ill and people are always going to need pharmaceuticals. However, could the industry be putting themselves at risk by breaking the rules, and is it time more was done to stop them charging so much for their products?

Profiting from people's illnesses is bad enough, and while it has become accepted, perhaps more scrutiny should be placed on these companies. Just like private health care they are motivated by huge profit. If the product is good then this can be acceptable. However there have been suggestions that these companies are not playing by the rules.

With the American election imminent, perhaps we might see a change in attitude towards these companies. In the debate on healthcare, it will be interesting if Obama or Romney make any suggestions for change in the drugs industry. In a society used to paying for their healthcare drugs companies have thrived and have produced some life changing products. But, despite heavy regulation, many of the claims made about the way drugs companies bend the rules are probably true, as it is difficult to keep an eye on every laboratory or research centre.

While these companies are needed to help medical advancements, if suggestions that they have been producing biased statistics are true then this is indeed something to worry about. These accusations include claims that they have been ignoring possible side effects and 'improving' the success rate of drugs.

Firstly the moral arguments, and the dangers of this, speak for themselves. But in a business sense this is risky as well.

Switch to another industry and you can see why. Staff at the News of The World didn't play by the rules and look what has happened there. The paper is no more and the wider

implications for News International are devastating. The prolific hacking has destroyed any reputation the company had as well as costing the organisation millions in legal costs. In a different industry is it really wise for drugs companies to break the rules in order to achieve that extra profit?

What about the way the industry works generally? GlaxoSmith-Kline recently upped their stake in a promising drug for treating HIV/Aids. In a business sense this is a smart move trying to get control of a product with a huge market. But what could and probably will happen is they will get control of the drug and sell it at extortionate prices. Fine - make a profit, it's a company and it needs to function. But deliberately selling drugs at outrageous prices is unfair. They know people will buy their drugs whatever the cost, and it costs everyone, especially health services.

Obviously in the real world, and in the business world, life isn't always fair, and it can be seen clearly in the drugs industry where companies profit from people being sick, but perhaps it's time the drugs industry took a look at themselves morally. Will they do this? Probably not, but maybe those in government will.

EPSOS.DE



# The fear of unemployment in today's markets

Amy He

What do you want to do after university? Have you applied to any internship yet? As an economics student in my penultimate year, these were the questions that I had been hit with upon my return to the University.

It is in no doubt that everyone is beginning to think of life after university and the fields of employment that are available to them. For the brave ones, the world is their oyster, yet for many of those who have been slightly threatened by the current economic crisis, their views on future employment are far less optimistic.

Ever since the industrial revolution we have feared the replacement of mankind with machinery, even though the on-going technological change has increased living stand-

ards in many parts of the world.

Then there was the vicious circle of unemployment during the winter of 1933, when workers feared looking for work as firms would not hire them; businesses would not hire them because there was a lack of demand for their output, and this lack of demand was caused by workers having no income to spend.

The simultaneous occurrence of inflation and unemployment during the 1970s introduced us to the fear of stagnation. Finally, back to the future, the late 2000s recession, not only do we fear unemployment but also the European sovereign debt crisis and the slowing of U.S. economic growth.

Although the UK unemployment rate has fallen by 0.2 per cent between March and May 2012, this fall may have been induced by the London 2012 Olympics. There have

been outrageously high youth unemployment figures across Europe, such as 20 per cent in the Eurozone collectively, and near 50 per cent in Spain and Greece.

“Ever since the industrial revolution, we have feared the replacement of mankind with machineries”

However, youth unemployment estimates can be surprisingly misleading due to the nature of its calculation, as the same number of unemployed individuals is divided by a much smaller number of the

labour force, because university students are not considered as part of the active labour force as we are neither employed nor searching for a job. As a result, the higher the number of young people attending university or vocational training programmes, the higher the youth unemployment rate. Therefore, as you have been warned, do not let these figures fear you.

Of course, we can also spare our fear of competing against foreign workers for low-productivity jobs since an increasing number of foreign workers are repatriating back to their own country due to the reduction of the gain in their wages from the exchange rate.

As for the problem of technology-driven unemployment, an alternative solution is work-sharing schemes, "lump of labour" fallacy, in which work should be shared out

fairly when there exists only a certain amount of work; this solution has been adopted by many European countries such as Holland and Denmark. The key element in any such approach is to separate work from income.

Fear not, for we can overcome barriers posed by information failure and continuing higher education to learn new skills whilst avoiding unemployment, and far more people make a living as professional chess players today than ever before.

Things look positive in terms of overall level of technology, global wealth and growth prospects in emerging economies. The only fear is that it is up to our generation to combat global warming, domestic income inequality and realise that unsustainable job creations can lead to moral, political and economic madness.

# Science



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## The secret of a successful internship

**Nicola Farthing**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

In light of Channel 4's Stand Up To Cancer campaign, we meet a York undergraduate who is really on the cutting edge of research underpinning cancer treatment. Oli Whear took part in a summer internship involving physics in industry. His paper is now being taken to Chicago to be presented. He tells us about his research into magnetic hyperthermia and what it's like to have your research published.

Oli, a third-year experimental physicist, describes his reason for taking physics as "shameless geekiness", admitting a love of technology steered him towards a physics degree. His motivation has always been the knowledge that working nine to five in a physics or technology job is something he would really enjoy. It seems, if you love your subject, getting research published isn't the intimidating task it might seem.

Each year, the Institute of Physics (IOP) runs its 'Top 40 work placement scheme'. This scheme is open to penultimate year undergraduates and is designed to encourage students to get practical work experience by providing each student with £2,000 for the eight-week placement to cover living costs.

This isn't your regular work experience though - to gain a place, you must come up with your own project which is applicable to UK industry, present your idea to the IOP and find a company that would



ROBERT CARPENTER

Oli Whear in the laboratory in which he spent a "cosy summer of tea drinking and physics" during his internship

be prepared to support your project. The IOP will then decide whether your project is one of their top 40 which are the most commercially viable.

Oli's research project was to investigate Magnetic hyperthermia (heating up magnetic nanoparticles). This is, essentially, when incredibly small iron fillings are placed in a large alternating magnetic field which causes them to heat up. This has applications in the cancer treatment industry since the technique can be used to heat up

cancer tumours. As a result of this treatment, cancer growth has been seen to slow down and, in some rare cases, the tumour has been killed all together. Not only does this kind of treatment decrease the reliance on harsh treatments, such as chemotherapy, but it is also a comparatively cheap treatment.

Although this process is currently used in Germany, too little is known about the science and risks behind it for the NHS to endorse it. The hope is that the research Oli and others are doing will industrial-

ise the process for the UK by making the underlying physics of the process more widely known. Oli's paper, on the effect of changing the viscosity of the fluid containing the nanoparticles, has been sent for presentation in Chicago along with the rest of the team's papers.

Now in his final year, Oli is staying within magnetic materials research but is now working on his dissertation, which is about a new kind of computer memory called racetrack memory. He hopes to be able to publish a paper on this and

then develop those skills on to a PhD.

If you're interested in the process of being published, you should know that it seems to involve the drinking of multiple cups of tea. Oli told me that, though he did work hard over the summer, he doesn't feel like he exhausted himself, despite being one of a very few undergrads who've already produced

“The best advice is to be proactive and not let the internships come to you”

a paper. He explains that working steadily, applying good lab skills and problem solving was all it took. But still, it's a little different to your average summer job. Just a warning if you want to follow in his footsteps though; Oli admits it's horrendous going back to lectures after what he describes as a 'cosy' summer of tea drinking and physics.

Regardless of your subject, the best advice is to be proactive and not wait for the internships to come to you. Oli got his by deciding what he wanted to do, then going to his supervisor and asking how he could get it done. It was through his supervisor's industrial contacts that he found his placement. If no paid opportunities are available, offering to do the project unpaid is a way of gaining skills and recognition which could be extremely valuable in the future, especially if you're interested in a PhD.

### Top Four: 'Dance Your PhD' Winners

**Bryony Prestidge** takes a look at the winning entries for this year's 'Dance your PhD' competition

To us outsiders, the world of science can seem inaccessible. We may vaguely remember some GCSE biology, but the significance of papers with titles like Dr Peter Liddicoat's 'Evolution of nanostructural architecture in 7000 series aluminium alloys during strengthening by age-hardening and severe plastic deformation' eludes us.

Thanks to Dr. John Bohannon, a biologist and journalist, work like Liddicoat's are being explained to laymen in more inclusive terms.

Since 2008, Bohannon has been running the 'Dance Your PhD' competition. Doctoral students or those who have completed their PhD within a scientific field use interpretive dance to explain their research. The competition rests on the idea that using too many words obscures the point which is being made. Bohannon has said that the idea is to take a theory and 'really capture its essence'.

The winners of each of this year's categories have been announced.

### Biology

This performance shows how normally, agonist muscles are most important to movement. Antagonist muscles are used when necessary.

After a stroke, the antagonist muscles dominate, causing movement difficulty.

The intervention of botulinum toxin, represented by a man in a silver onesie, disables the antagonist muscles, leading to better muscle function.



CHRISTIAN VOULI GAROPOULOS

### Physics

A Veech surface is created by joining two regular polygons. When the dancer (representing geodesic flow) crosses the surface, she crosses coloured edges in a sequence dependent on the shape.

When the shape is cut and re-assembled, if the dancer crosses the shape, the coloured lines are crossed in a new pattern. The ongoing study explores the relationship between the old pattern and the new.

### Social Science

The topic of the winning social science entry is concerned with how rural local governments can effectively organise the use of natural resources with consideration of the various stake holders.

Da Re looks at methods of or-

ganising local interests, concluding that this is of particular help in creating a 'harmonic dialogue'. He also emphasises that there is a need for the stake holders to assess the managing body through appropriate indicators.

### Grand Prize



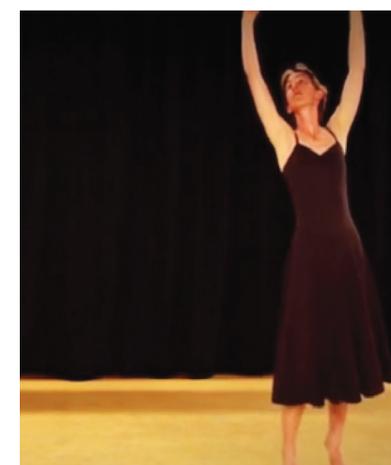
TRIXIE BARRETTO

Liddicoat's dancers demonstrate the problem that lightness and strength don't combine as needed.

When the dancers portraying the atoms of a light alloy with a crystalline structure are pushed, the rows slip past each other, representing a break.

The 'atoms' are subjected to torsion, which creates an irregular structure with new bonds and less slippage.

Liddicoat explains he has made an aluminium alloy as strong as steel.



TRIXIE BARRETTO

# Malaria combatted by York research

James Mcauliffe  
SCIENCE REPORTER

YORK RESEARCHERS from the Biology department's Centre for Novel Agricultural Products (CNAP) have placed themselves on the frontline of the global battle against malaria by successfully developing new high-yielding varieties of the plant *Artemisia annua*, which is currently the sole source of the highly effective anti-malarial compound artemisinin.

Malaria is a debilitating disease that affects about 300 million people per year, killing around 2.7 million. Two billion people are believed to live in areas containing a significant risk of contracting malaria. The economic effect of the disease is almost incalculable as it hinders development and is believed to cost Africa alone around \$12 billion annually.

Artemisinin is currently the most effective drug available to combat malaria. It is used in tandem with other drugs in artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs). Older, conventional treatments have recently lost their effectiveness, as the malaria parasite is able to rapidly acquire drug resistance.

Unfortunately, Artemisinin is a relatively expensive drug as the yield from the *Artemisia* plant is low, making it costly for farmers to produce. The quantity of *Artemisia* planted each year is also variable, causing further periodic hikes in the price of the drug as supplies often fall short of demand. To compound the issue further, demand for ACTs is soaring year-on-year raising fears that current artemisinin supplies will soon become inadequate. Global demand is predicted to increase from 250 million treatments to 310



Variants of *Artemisia annua* are genetically screened for traits associated with higher yields

million by 2015. Failure to meet rising demand could see a surge in the number of deaths from malaria in future.

Professor Ian Graham, the current director of CNAP and Principal Investigator on the project, has called research into improving crop yields as, "vital for providing more artemisinin for combination therapies and for helping stabilize supplies to reduce the cost of those medicines". The new varieties of the *Artemisia* plant, developed by CNAP, aim to combat this problem. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the researchers at CNAP have used novel and innovative science in the development of their high-yielding varieties.

The team developed and published the first genetic map of the *Artemisia* plant, allowing them to screen thousands of plants at the genetic level for desirable high-yielding traits in an effort to identify promising individuals that could be used to produce new plant hybrids.

Traditional plant breeding methods were then combined with the latest techniques in molecular biology and genetics to fast track the creation of the new varieties.

Importantly, whilst genetic techniques were used to produce the new hybrids, they are not genetically modified (GM). GM crops raise regulatory issues wherever they are grown, which would have delayed the project and further prevented much needed artemisinin from reaching market.

The new-varieties excelled in recent field trials in East Africa, India and China against other commercial hybrids and the best local varieties. The CNAP varieties gave significantly greater yield and were more robust, with greater resistance to pests and diseases. Following successful field trials, CNAP engaged in a partnership with a leading tropical seed company, East-West seed, to ensure the seeds produced from their hybrids could be rapidly brought to market in the quantities

needed for global cultivation.

The increased artemisinin production resulting from CNAP's high yielding varieties should help to meet the rising demand and make ACTs more affordable in the regions where they are most needed. It will also lower cultivation costs and benefit small farmers in less developed regions by providing them with a profitable crop that can be used to bring much needed income to their areas.

The project's success is a perfect example of the CNAP's Biology to Benefit Society ethos. Professor Ian Graham said about the project, "We have turned what was a largely uncharacterised crop into a robust and commercially competitive one and combined world class research with a commercial impact to bring a real benefit to society." CNAP is continuing to actively support their commercial partners by developing a second generation of *Artemisia* hybrids with further improved yields.

## 'Human-like' sounds produced by whale

Sara Farish

Researchers at the National Marine Mammal Foundation in San Diego, California, have found a whale capable of producing sounds very similar to human speech. The sounds are so similar to a human's speech that a diver in one of the tanks thought he was being shouted at to get out of the water.

NOC, a Beluga white whale, was trained to make these noises more frequently in order for researchers, led by Dr. Sam Ridgway, President of the National Marine Mammal Foundation, to study and record them. Although NOC died in 1999, the research of scientists working with him is now being released to the public.

When run through a spectrogram to gain a visual representation of the sounds, NOC's voice patterns look very similar to that of a human. The noises are two octaves lower than the whale's normal register and it has been discovered it was achieved by forcing air through nasal cavities at high pressure by over-inflating two air sacs. NOC's head was said to appear to bulge when he talked. He then moved muscles in his nasal passages to modulate the sounds he produced.

The huge effort required to make this means scientists are fairly certain it is an attempt at imitation of human speech. According to Peter Tyack, marine biologist at the University of St. Andrews, this is an important discovery because it shows that an animal can produce "completely new sounds in its repertoire just by listening".

Beluga whales are a member of the same family as narwhals and are typically found in arctic and subarctic regions. The sounds had been reported anecdotally before, but this was the first time proof had been recorded and documented by scientists.

It is suggested that Othis form of mimicry could be a version of how some marine mammals mimic each other. For example, dolphins can occasionally copy whistles and humpback whales have been known to learn each other's songs.

The story of NOC is similar to Hoover, a harbour seal from Maine, who was raised by a human family and was said to be able to mimic human phrases, reportedly even with a regional New England accent. NOC himself had had a large amount of contact time with human trainers, researchers and caretakers.

NOC was captured in 1977 in Hudson Bay, Canada, and was originally trained as part of the U.S. Navy's Marine Mammal Programme, where marine mammals are studied to see if they could be used for under-water scouting and torpedo recovery.

The sounds made by NOC never formed distinct words or phrases, as is claimed in the case of Hoover, remaining indistinct and muffled. They do however, sound eerily similar to a human shouting under water.

# Top award for female York scientist

Nicola Farthing  
SCIENCE REPORTER

When asked to imagine a scientist, chances are that you would picture the typical Einstein-esque, crazy-haired, bowtie-wearing, workaholic. More importantly, in this context, the figure would probably be male.

That's not your fault, historically, science is a field dominated by men, so obviously our stereotypes are going to draw from that. Though, I said 'historically' because times are changing, the trend is being bucked. Female scientists are becoming an increasingly common species and York is at the forefront of this revolution.

Enter Professor Pratibha Gai, JEOL Founding Professor of Electron Microscopy and a member of both the University's Departments of Chemistry and Physics. As head of the JEOL Nano centre in York, Gai has been undertaking fascinating research here since her arrival in 2007.

Recently, her research has received huge recognition when she was named as L'Oreal - UNESCO European Laureate for 2013, mak-

ing Gai one of only five women from around the globe to receive the prestigious award this year.

Reading about the double Nobel laureate Maire Curie inspired Gai's interest in science, and her decision to pursue a research career, focusing on electron microscopy.

It was her work in developing

and applying novel instrumentation to observe chemical reactions at their fundamental level for which her award was given. This promises to help researchers in the development of new medicines and clean energy sources.

The awards will be presented in Paris next March at the 15th annual

Women in Science Awards ceremony. Along with the award, there is a prize fund of \$100,000 which will help to promote further scientific research.

All this effort in encouraging women into science seems to be working.

In April of this year, three University of York departments received awards from the Athena SWAN Charter in recognition of their support for women in science. The Departments of Physics, Psychology and Computer Science have all been granted awards, which recognise and celebrate good practice on recruiting, retaining and promoting women in science.

Gai believes that women are under-represented in the highly competitive world of science due to a lack of encouragement. However, this situation is improving and increasingly there are more female role models whose research is internationally recognised.

Maybe that stereotypical mad male scientist will stay but, at least here at York, the amazing contributions women can bring to science are being encouraged and recognised.



The L'Oreal awards have been recognising women in science since 2007

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ELECTIONS  
2012/13

New talent required.

6.30 pm

Thursday 8th

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## Sport

## PARK LIFE

Dan Holland  
SPORTS EDITOR

Scandal is rife in the world of sport at the present time. Cycling's reputation has been tarnished once again with the doping allegations against its greatest hero, Lance Armstrong – now very much the villain.

In football, racism is once again the hot topic – from John Terry and Luis Suarez, to Mark Clattenburg, to hoards of fans in Serbia.

I could go on and discuss these and other such issues at length, but that has been and will continue to be done by just about everyone in the national media.

Indeed, after a summer of sport that saw us bask in the glory of a flawless Olympics (at least one that was presented as such), the miracle of Medinah, and the first British man to win a tennis major since 1936, we have very quickly descended back into the unpleasant, cynical, and cut throat realm we inhabited before.

“ Sadly, we have reached a situation where sport is rarely taken on its own merits anymore. ”

Even within the confines of our own university, scandal is the talk of campus, in the form of the ban handed out to Halifax footballers after the incidents on their World Tour social.

As far as the wider world of sport is concerned, I suspect there is little that we can do to stop the rot.

The overwhelming glare of the media and the absurd cash-laden alternate reality in which most modern sportsmen live would appear to be irreversible aspects of 21st century life.

Sadly, we have reached a situation where sport is rarely taken on its own merits anymore.

Instead, it has now become a series of narratives perpetuated by the media for us to devour as we would a particularly repetitive soap opera.

The fact of the matter is that we no longer just watch sport – we view it in the context of whatever subject the media is fixated on that week, be it scandalous or otherwise.

The real shame is that this is far from necessary – ask any true sports fan, and they will tell you that the action on the field of play is emphatically newsworthy in its own right.

Here at university we have the chance to enjoy sport at a more basic level, devoid of the ostentatious trappings of the outside world – and long may it stay that way.

It would be clichéd and ultimately meaningless to say that everyone should invoke the ‘spirit of the Games’ once again, harking back to those heady summer days when everything was right with the world.

But what we can do here is appreciate what we have – a semblance of normality. And that is something that is all too rare nowadays.

## Last-gasp James topple Collingwood

Titus Carey  
Jack Roberts

JAMES COLLEGE produced a dramatic late show to take the bragging rights in their annual contest against Durham's Collingwood College.

They came from 1-0 down to win 2-1 in the hockey, the last fixture of the day, providing the perfect end to a day of sport for the Swans.

James won the last four fixtures of the day (netball, badminton, squash and hockey) to turn a two point deficit into a 5.5-3.5 win.

Lacrosse kicked off Saturday's proceedings, as Collingwood ran out 11-8 winners, despite the best efforts from the impressive Joe Tebutt, who finished the match with five goals to his name.

James trailed 4-3 after the first quarter, but a hat-trick from Tebutt meant that they were still very much in the match, and they got their deserved equaliser shortly after the restart through Rohit Rana.

But they weren't on level terms for long as Collingwood scored three goals in quick succession to lead again. However, James kept themselves in touching distance thanks



James' hockey team celebrate their victory over Collingwood on Saturday

to a goal from Theo Paquet. James' spirited effort fell just short though, as the final whistle brought an end to a thoroughly entertaining match.

The rugby was a more one-sided affair as Collingwood finished 44-14 winners. Collingwood led 14-0 at the break after an error-strewn first half. James restarted the second half strongly, as they dominated possession and territory, but two quick turnovers proved to be their undoing as Collingwood added another 14 points to the score.

James, however, found themselves a glimmer of hope as Matt Collins burst down the wing to finish under the posts. But the joy was

short lived, as Collingwood turned over a line-out to score their fifth try of the match and went on to win comfortably.

In the Tent, James' netballers produced a fantastic effort to beat Collingwood 38-21. After a slow start, the York team edged themselves back into the game and were only one goal down going into half time, before coming out revitalised after the break.

The defence shut down the Collingwood attack and made key interceptions that led to important transition plays. At the other end of the court, Tessa Russell and Samantha Hall had a phenomenal game as

James outscored Collingwood 24-14 in the second half to seal the win.

The James girls deserve to celebrate in style after their victory in “one of the toughest games we've ever played”, according to captain Lauren Woodcock.

Earlier in the day, the two colleges clashed in the men's football on the 22 acres. A scrappy start to the game saw Collingwood take the lead after some miscommunication in the James defence.

However, striker Sam Taylor brought the home side level with a brilliant top corner strike, before captain Josh Spurling made it 2-1 going into half time with a drilled half volley.

The second half began just as the first had started. Spurling was again involved with an exquisite through pass to James Spillsbury who tucked one past the Collingwood keeper to make it 3-1. However James couldn't hold on and had to share the spoils in the end as two Collingwood goals made it 3-3 at the final whistle.

“It was disappointing to draw after being 3-1 up, but in the end our fitness cost us,” said Spurling after the game.

## Points shared in rugby thriller

PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Alcuin 22

Halifax 22

Beth Jakubowski  
SPORTS REPORTER

ALCUIN AND Halifax rugby teams were forced to share the honours in their fiercely contested match on Sunday.

A brace of tries from Alcuin's James Evans and Halifax's Rob Wallis saw both teams vie for dominance in a physical encounter where a lack of discipline proved costly for both sides.

The early stages of the match saw Alcuin pinned inside their own 22 by a series of probing attacks from the Halifax side.

But, after a brief burst of pace and creativity from Alcuin's Captain Muzzy Foley, both sides struggled to gain the upper hand.

The deadlock was finally broken with the first of Wallis' tries; he scrambled across the line after a frantic but determined effort from the Halifax team.

Halifax's lead of 5-0 was short lived after Alcuin applied consistent pressure inside their 22.

It was Evans who quickly brought Alcuin level after a brilliant run which saw him brush off several Halifax players on his way to the try line.

After the restart Halifax were dominant once more, Alcuin's defensive line proved fragile but Halifax failed to convert their pressure into a score.

A good clearance from Marinus Maris finally gave Alcuin some breathing space.

Evans' second try soon followed; after a great offload from Maris he broke through the Halifax defence to give Alcuin the score.



Alcuin and Halifax played out a thrilling college draw on Sunday morning, described as a “gruelling encounter”

But Halifax went into half-time level after Dave Sissons scored a fantastic try, skipping past the Alcuin players and running through their defence easily.

Alcuin started the second half in imperious fashion when their drive towards the Halifax line ended with a try.

Tom Lea then also scrambled across the line to put Alcuin in a strong position.

Halifax impressed with their fight back, however, a flurry of tries including Wallis' second brought them back level with Alcuin.

Despite some last ditch attempts to snatch a win, neither teams were able to break the deadlock, and they had to settle with a draw.

Halifax captain Andy Cox said he was “disappointed not to get the win” and credited his opponents saying they were “a good side.”

He was also pleased with his freshers, commenting, “they stood up.”

Alcuin skipper Muzzy Foley was similarly reflective adding that it was a “gruelling encounter” but spoke candidly, saying “we should

have won but we're not disappointed to draw, Halifax gave it their all and so did we.”

The result represents a step forward this season for Alcuin, who were forced to forfeit their only other match this season, conceding defeat to Derwent at half-time.

Halifax also fell victim to Derwent's monopoly of college rugby in their last fixture, but this match should serve to encourage fans of college rugby who have been left disillusioned by the one-sided scorelines and cancellations since rugby became an official college sport.

# York sides facing vital BUCS Wednesday

PHILIPPA GRAFTON

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

TOMORROW SEES a bumper day of fixtures for York's sides in BUCS competition.

With both Cup and League ties on offer it promises to be an exciting day on campus, and hopefully one that continues what has been a positive start to the year for the White Rose.

Few teams are in better form than the men's rugby firsts.

Despite being without injured skipper Sam Lord, and his predecessor James Faktor, the side are playing some of their best rugby in recent memory.

They sit second in the division after a convincing win away in Leeds last week, but the attention turns to the BUCS Cup tomorrow as they host Edinburgh Napier on 22 Acres.

The Scottish side have suffered

three defeats from three this season, and anything less than a win for York would no doubt be a bitter disappointment given their current form.

Both the men's and women's lacrosse sides will also be looking to continue their scintillating form of late.

The men are the league leaders in the BUCS Northern Conference 2B with a 100 per cent record, and come up against Varsity rivals Hull on the 3G tomorrow.

If previous encounters are anything to judge by, it will be incredibly close, the last two finishing 7-6 and 4-2 to the Black and Gold, so don't expect a repeat of last week's 42-0 demolition of Leeds.

The women's firsts are also top of their league after their 26-2 win last time out, but can expect tougher opposition in the form of a Newcastle side that beat York's second team 18-4 just a fortnight ago.



Men's rugby firsts fly-half Tom Chadwick in action against Leeds Met



The men's basketball team will be looking for a win against Newcastle

PETROC TAYLOR

The men's football team will grace 22 Acres looking to kickstart their league campaign.

Still adjusting to life after relegation, Matt Mawdesley's men bagged their first win of the season in the Cup last week and could do with a show of intent against Huddersfield to prove their promotion credentials.

The women's football firsts, meanwhile, will be expecting to take the bragging rights when they take on York St John.

The White Rose sit top of their league after two convincing wins from two so far, against Hull and Leeds Trinity, and face a St John side that are rock bottom with two defeats and a point deduction.

There's a double helping of basketball on offer, with the men's firsts side looking to banish the demons

of two agonising defeats already this season when they take on Newcastle.

They may have a win on the board thanks to a triumph over our own second team, but that could so easily have been three.

Twice they have lost by a single point, against both Sunderland and Sheffield, and captain Andreas Boedt will be eager to help his new-look team build some momentum.

Stefania Mataragka's women's side, meanwhile, face a Sunderland outfit that are rock bottom of the league; a second success of the campaign will be the order of the day for the White Rose.

The men's volleyball firsts are looking to secure their first win of the season, as they host Sheffield in the Tent.

After a tight defeat by Hull and

last week's whitewash against Huddersfield, they could do with a win to get their season up and running, but it will be no easy task against a Sheffield side with two wins from two already.

Finally, the women's hockey firsts have the perfect opportunity to build on a hard fought cup success last week.

They prevailed on penalty flicks against Durham fourths last Wednesday to secure their first win of the season, and now face city rivals York St John tomorrow.

Both sides are without a league win so far, and this could be the perfect opportunity for the Black and Gold to recapture the form that saw them promoted last season.

Full fixture list >> P30-31

# Roses rugby heading back to Huntington

PETER IVESON

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

IT HAS been confirmed that Roses will be returning to the Huntington Stadium in 2013.

The ground, home of the York City Knights rugby league side, hosted the men's rugby firsts match at the 2011 tournament and will do so again next May when the annual clash returns to York in what will be the 50th anniversary of the University.

Plans are already in place to hold the showpiece match there on the Friday night of Roses weekend, scheduled for 3-5 May, after the opening ceremony.

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, told *Nouse*, "We want to make Roses even more of a spectacle this year, especially as it's going to be the 50th birthday of the University."

"Last time it was held here it really opened with a big bang in the stadium and I want that to continue throughout the weekend."

The 3,500 capacity stadium played host to a convincing York win last time, in a night that also included an elaborate pre-match



York take to the field to face Lancaster in 2011's Roses clash at the Stadium, when York ran out 30-8 winners

showcase.

The 2012 tournament in Lancaster then saw rugby return to a Saturday afternoon slot on the University's own pitches.

After the Black and Gold's men's rugby sides completed a whitewash of their Lancastrian opponents last year, the home crowd will no doubt be expecting more success this time

around.

In addition, the Saturday night of Roses weekend will see water polo and darts as the highlights of the night.

Both events proved hugely popular in Lancaster, providing some of the most passionate action and raucous crowds of the competition.

The darts is set to take place in

Hendrix Hall (D/L/028), while the water polo will be held in the new swimming pool at the York Sport Village on Heslington East.

Rowing is the one event set to take place the week before the competition, as the rowing club have a separate regatta scheduled for Roses weekend.

Winter added, "The atmos-

phere that we experienced in the darts and water polo in Lancaster is what we want to replicate across the entire weekend.

"This year I'm sure Roses can be that bit more special than it has been before."

Last year's competition in Lancaster ended in a narrow win for the Red Rose on home soil.

## Sport

## Depleted James snatch point from postgrads



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

James and Wentworth go head to head in Sunday's college football clash on 22 Acres, which ended in a 1-1 draw

James	1
Wentworth	1

## Will Light

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

IN A slightly dour game on 22 Acres Wentworth were, on the face of it, unfortunate to come away without three points against James.

However, due to extenuating circumstances that forced the Swans to play with only ten players for the entirety of the match, James'

resilience to earn a point has to be applauded.

Under pressure for large periods of the match, Harry Woodman's equaliser cancelled out Parker's first half wonder-goal to break Wentworth hearts in the dying embers of the game.

On a chilly autumnal day, early skirmishes were even despite James' numerical disadvantage.

In a feature that marked the whole match, chances were extremely rare, with genuine goal-scoring opportunities rarer still.

Mutlu Cukurova attempted to guide towards the James net after some pinball in the area, but his hooked effort was high and wide.

Meanwhile, Dom Green chipped the ball on the edge of the area in an attempt to set himself up, but the resulting volley was skewed over the bar.

Again, Green carved his way through the James defence like a hungry Aslan on a young gazelle, getting on the end of a neat one-two.

Unfortunately for Wentworth, this chance was brought up imme-

diately for offside.

Up to this point, James had faced up to their difficult challenge with enthusiasm, but their efforts did seem to be waning slightly, tiring against the constant Wentworth presence in their half.

James Briars' isolation as the sole striker was also not helping matters, as the Swans struggled to work anything on the break.

The postgraduates finally broke the deadlock with a stunning bolt from the blue.

Wentworth's Parker took the ball from beyond the edge of the area before crashing the ball into the top corner.

This was their first shot on target for all their attacking presence, and they were able to take this narrow lead into half time.

Taira then fired a free kick on goal soon into the second half, but this dipping shot was well held by James' Rylan Gooch.

The postgrads were threatened again when Green was put through by a lofted ball.

Under pressure, he poked towards goal but his effort was just wide.

At the midpoint of the half, hosepipes were turned off all over South East England, such was the drought of chances on the pitch.

The game became completely bogged down in the middle of the park for a lengthy period of time,

until Gooch was called upon to pull off a fantastic save from close range.

Green attempted to follow up but his shot rose high over the bar.

Out of nothing, James were justly rewarded for all their battling strength in defence.

Finding space in the area after a quick break, the first effort was well saved by Mladen Sormaz, but Woodman was in the right place to curl beyond the stranded keeper into the corner to level up the game with mere minutes to spare.

Josh Spurling, James captain, was delighted with the result, telling *Nouse*, "Everyone battled so hard, and we could have nicked it in the end."

"I was impressed with everyone. It was probably the best performance I've seen from James College, given the circumstances."

Meanwhile, Andrew Sutton, his Wentworth counterpart, was equally pleased despite the late disappointment: "We played really well, and controlled the game."

"They didn't look like scoring, so that's a bit disappointing, but we're still undefeated."

The result represents James' first dropped points of the season after beating Goodricke last week, while Wentworth are in fine form having thrashed Langwith a week ago and drawn with College Cup champions Vanbrugh in their opening fixture.

## Delightful Derwent destroy lacklustre Langwith

Derwent	7
Langwith	0

## Tom Fennelly

SPORTS REPORTER

DESPITE HAVING to field a weakened team, Derwent put seven goals past Langwith in Sunday's clash on 22 Acres.

Langwith are yet to win a game this season and this is their second heavy defeat on the trot without scoring a goal.

Derwent began to show their dominance in the very first minute. Kris Cheshire, Langwith keeper, could only clear a cross to the feet of David Kirk, who fired his shot straight back at the keeper before pulling the rebound wide.

Langwith responded well as a few minutes later, James MacDonald darted through the Derwent defence, but keeper Franklin reacted quickly to block the striker's effort.

The powerful attacking partnership of Kirk and Sven Sabas continued to pester the Langwith defence. They finally forced a goal after 20 minutes; Sabas pushed

away his defender on the right-hand side and squared it to Kirk, who shrugged off his marksman to coolly stroke the ball home.

From then on, the game was very much one-way traffic. Derwent could have doubled their lead just a couple of minutes later when Harry Lambert's shot from distance was pointed into the goal by Sabas, however, the referee decreed that he had come from an offside position.

A second goal would have to wait but only for a minute. A deep cross from Jack Fisher found Sabas' head on the by-line beyond the far post, who headed down onto the goal line for Kirk to slot home for his second goal.

To add insult to injury, Derwent added a third just a few minutes later courtesy of a Sam Morley own goal. A corner was not dealt with by Cheshire, who claimed that he had been pushed, and the ball fell into the goal off the central defender.

The winning side could have earned a fourth before the half-time break. Kirk's cross into the area was deemed to have hit an arm by the referee. Kirk would have earned a first-half hat trick but Cheshire had

other ideas; he pulled out a contender for save of the season to keep out the spot kick.

The second half carried on in a similar fashion. Derwent remained dominant in their possession with clever passing coupled with vast amounts of pace on the wing.

This was shown in the fourth goal which came ten minutes into the half. Sabas chested a high ball into the path of Mike Whittall, who cut into the area onto his left foot and popped the ball neatly into bottom corner of the near post.

Ten minutes later came the fifth goal. Right-back Askham played the ball down the line to Whittall who again cut into the penalty area and squared the ball into the heart of the box. Cheshire tried to intercept the ball, but after a deflection the ball fell neatly for Sabas to put away from a couple of yards out.

Ollie Harrison's low cross from the left was met by Overo-Tarimo to make it 6-0 to Derwent.

A rare Langwith lobbed through ball fell to MacDonald, and Franklin darted out of the area, missed the ball, and consequently took out the player. It merited him



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Langwith captain Matt Jones closes down John Gow in Sunday's match

a yellow card.

The seventh and final goal came in the closing minutes of the game. Harrison provided a powerful finish from outside the area to beat a helpless Cheshire with a low shot into the bottom corner to round up a very successful win for Derwent.

Kirk, Derwent's captain, had this to say on his team's enterprising win: "The team played exceptionally

today. Langwith were pony. I'm really pleased with the result. We had five or six people come up from the seconds who fitted in well."

Matt Jones, Langwith's captain, stated that "this was a better performance than last week and we played a good team who knew who to pass to and how to play. Individually, we had a much better game but today as a team it's not really working".

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

## Wednesday 7 November:

**Badminton:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Durham 1sts - 1pm, Hall; York Women's 2nds vs Hull (Scarborough) 2nds - 1pm, Hall; (A) Durham Women's 2nds vs York 1sts; Huddersfield Men's 1sts vs

York 2nds; Leeds Men's 3rds vs York 3rds.

**Basketball:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Newcastle 2nds - 2pm, Tent; York Women's 1sts vs Sunderland 1sts - 6pm, Hall; (A) Bishop Burton Men's 1sts vs York 2nds.

**Fencing:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Keele 1sts - 2pm, Dance Studio; (A) Durham Men's 2nds vs York 2nds.

**Football:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Huddersfield 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; York Men's 3rds vs Sun-

derland 4ths - 2pm, 22 Acres; York Women's 1sts vs York St John 2nds - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) York St John Men's 2nds vs York 2nds; Richmond American International Men's 1sts vs York 4ths.

**Golf:** (A) Newcastle Mixed 1sts vs

York 1sts.

**Hockey:** (H) York Women's 1sts vs York St John 1sts - 2pm, JLD; (A) Leeds Met Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Leeds Men's 5ths vs York 2nds; Sheffield Men's 4ths vs York 3rds; Leeds Met Women's 4ths vs York

# Vanbrugh grab victory in Goodricke thriller

**Goodricke 3**

**Vanbrugh 4**

**Jamie Summers**  
SPORTS REPORTER

AN EFFICIENT first-half performance from Vanbrugh was enough to secure victory despite a late Goodricke comeback on Sunday.

The College Cup winners fielded a strong side with the likes of Jon Gill and Phil Taylor returning to the starting lineup.



An unlikely comeback wasn't enough for Goodricke to beat Vanbrugh

The game began at a fast pace as both sides attempted to get the ball on the floor; Goodricke had the first meaningful chance on 12 minutes, with a shot well-blocked by Rob Rix. From the resulting corner however, Rob Young headed well over.

Vanbrugh's first major chance came just a moment later, as an excellent save from Noel Rogers denied Elliott Rous-Ross when he was through on goal.

However, Vanbrugh didn't have to wait long for their opener, as Ki-

eran O'Dwyer stroked the ball home after a melee in the area two minutes later.

Following a well-defended Goodricke corner on 20 minutes, Vanbrugh rapidly counter-attacked, and a sublime cross from Rory Sharkey was met by O'Dwyer again to double his side's lead.

With Vanbrugh well on top, Rogers saved well from Sharkey on 23 minutes, and the game was in danger of becoming a rout as Phil Taylor burst through and smashed the ball home to make the scoreline 3-0.

Goodricke looked good value to get back into the tie, as successive shots were excellently cleared off the line by Matt Graham; some fantastic midfield play between Gaz Thomas and Dave Bullock then led to openings in the Vanbrugh defence.

Goodricke's pressure did eventually pay off in the 42nd minute; having been awarded a very soft free-kick. Thomas got on the end of Luke Inness' ball in to drag the scores back to 3-1.

A succession of poor free-kick decisions for both sides then led to nothing as Vanbrugh went in ahead

at the break.

Vanbrugh made one change at half time, with Harry O'Brien replacing Jon Gill, before captain Johnny Grout extended his team's lead; immediately after the restart, Grout took the ball from midfield and scored a fantastic solo effort, although keeper Rogers will be disappointed that he didn't get more on the ball.

Despite a disastrous restart, a scrappy second half belonged to Goodricke; Max Brewer found his way into the book after a reckless lunge on Joe Mann, although Goodricke failed to make the resulting free-kick count, before Brewer was lucky to remain on the pitch following another dubious challenge just moments later.

Mizan Ally then tapped an excellent cross from Thomas past Kallum Taylor in the Vanbrugh net to make it 4-2 with 18 minutes to play and set the stage for a potential comeback.

The men in green, with newfound momentum, then pressed for another, putting the Vanbrugh defence under significant pressure.

Bullock's 20-yard effort was well-saved by Taylor on 78 minutes,

before Mann worked the channels well to get balls into the box; it was through this method that he delivered a great ball in for Inness to smash home and bring the scores back to 4-3, setting up a tense finale to proceedings.

Having conceded their third goal, Vanbrugh were clearly rattled, but despite heavy pressure in the closing stages, they managed to hold on for a valuable victory, the first of the season for the College Cup champions.

Gooricke's Joe Mann said: "We had a five-minute wobbler where we conceded three goals, and that seemed to give them the momentum to win the game - but I can't fault the lads' effort. We were superb in the second half and could have got back into it. If we play like that next week, we'll get 3 points."

After his side's win, Johnny Grout, relieved Vanbrugh captain said: "It was a tough game today. That's probably the worst we've played so far this season, but we've got the victory."

"They held the ball better than us, but we took our chances and gave them too much to do to get back into it."

# Derwent rugby thrash understrength Vanbrugh

**Derwent 48**

**Vanbrugh 0**

**George Barrett**  
SPORTS REPORTER

DERWENT POWERED to a hard fought 48-0 victory over a spirited Vanbrugh side on Saturday.

Despite the heavy score-line, Vanbrugh put in a sterling effort and impressed in the first-half, going in at just 12-0 down at half-time.

However, Derwent were the far more clinical side, and superior fitness and team chemistry contributed to an impressive second half performance.

Fly-half Phil Hammick kicked off deep into the Vanbrugh half, and after a couple of scrappy phases from Vanbrugh, Derwent turned the ball over.

Those on the side-line were expecting Derwent, heavy favourites for this match, to score from the off; however, a knock-on on the Vanbrugh 22 meant a scrum to Vanbrugh.

Vanbrugh fly-half Joe Sherrington Scales received the ball from the base of the scrum and snuck a clever little kick over the top of the Derwent defence, and a good chase from Sam Thorpe-Spinks signalled their intent.

Despite having the majority of possession early on, Vanbrugh were unable to break through a fear-

some and well-organised Derwent defence, thus playing the majority of their rugby camped inside their own half.

After a brief stint of aerial ping-pong, Derwent scrum-half Cameron Strange broke up the right and showed excellent footballing skills with a cheeky chip over the top of the Vanbrugh full-back.

After a few more phases, second-row Luke Illing powered over for Derwent's first, an unlikely try.

A solid Vanbrugh restart to the Derwent pack led to Vanbrugh turning the ball over after some excellent work at the breakdown from captain Tom Frost.

However, yet again, the Derwent defence was impregnable.

Despite their solid defence, they lost a number of scrappy line-outs and could not compete at the breakdown as Vanbrugh threw in the numbers.

After finally having won a line-out, Derwent then proceeded to drive the ball up the field.

Strange picked the ball off the base of a subsequent scrum and ran a smart line through the Vanbrugh defence to set up Derwent's second try of the day.

A rousing half-time team talk from vocal captain Chris Judge meant Derwent came out in the second half with far more intent as they sought to further their lead.

Sam Thorpe-Spinks made some excellent runs for Vanbrugh



Action from Derwent's win over Vanbrugh on Saturday, as last year's champions ran out 48-0 victors on 22 Acres

at the start of the second-half, but after some scrappy play, man-of-the-match Ed Kemp, so impressive in the first-half for his excellent defending, broke through and scored Derwent's third try.

The flood-gates now opened, and Derwent hit their stride, running in tries from all over the pitch through Alex Sankey and Judge to name a few.

Vanbrugh did not give up, how-

ever, and put in a spirited performance throughout.

The final score line of 48-0 was emphatic, but it was a shame that Vanbrugh were unable to get on the score board after such an impressive first half.

Vanbrugh captain Frost said after the match, "Derwent were well drilled and very organised."

"This was our first match and I was proud of the effort from the

boys."

Chris Judge, Derwent captain, felt that it was a "physical game."

He said that "in the first half we didn't really do what we wanted to do, but we kept a tight defence."

"All credit to Vanbrugh, they played really well today."

Man of the match, Kemp, echoed the captain's words, declaring it a "tough match", but was happy with "a good end."

2nds.  
**Lacrosse:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Hull 1sts - 3pm, 3G; York Women's 1sts vs Newcastle 3rds - 1pm, 3G; York Women's 2nds vs Northumbria 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres.  
**Netball:** (H) York 2nds vs North-

umbria 4ths - 3pm, Tent; York 3rds vs Sheffield Hallam 3rds - 1pm, Tent; (A) Northumbria 3rds vs York 1sts.  
**Rugby:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Edinburgh Napier - 2pm, 22 Acres; York Men's 2nds vs Sheffield 2nds

- 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Manchester Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.  
**Squash:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Sheffield Hallam 2nds - 1pm, Squash Courts; York Women's 1sts vs Newcastle 2nds - 2pm, Squash Courts; (A) Sheffield Men's 2nds

vs York 1sts.  
**Table Tennis:** (A) Sheffield Men's 1sts vs York 1sts.  
**Tennis:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds 2nds - 1pm, Tennis Courts; (A) York St John Men's 1sts vs York 2nds; Northumbria Men's 2nds vs

York 3rds; Durham Women's 4ths vs York 1sts.  
**Volleyball:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Sheffield 1sts - 4pm, Hall; (A) Durham Men's 2nds vs York 2nds; Newcastle Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

## BUCS Preview

We look ahead to a vital week of matches for the Black and Gold

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All the action from the weekend's college football and rugby

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# SPORT

Autumn Term Week Five  
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# BUCS under fire after swimming teams are left without gala entries

■ Club left without tournament place after missing registration deadline by ten minutes

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

THE GOVERNING body for higher education sport in the UK has come under fire from the Swimming and Water Polo Club (UYSWC) after they were left without any entries in the first competition of the year last weekend.

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) refused to admit the UYSWC team to the Swimming Short Course Championships at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, after missing the registration deadline by just ten minutes.

This was the first of just three BUCS swimming galas over the course of the academic year, meaning the team have missed out on a significant chunk of their competi-

tive races this season, a serious dent to the promotion hopes of both the first and second teams.

With the team now training in the new pool at the York Sport Village as opposed to the substandard facilities at Archbishop Holgate's School, this year was earmarked as a chance for the swimming and water polo teams to progress significantly in terms of participation and performance.

The deadline to register for the Championships was 5pm on Friday of Week Two, with YUSU submitting their registration at ten minutes past the hour, suspected to be because of an internet connectivity problem.

The swimming team submitted their entry to YUSU the day before.

However, BUCS has decided on

a zero-tolerance policy on this issue, and thus would not accept the York teams into the event.

York is reportedly one of 14 institutions that have been denied entry for this reason.

Once again, the issue of sports clubs being affected by the late start to the academic year at York has been raised, with UYSWC forced to compile their entries list later than most other institutions because of the lack of time to conduct trials.

Chris Snowden, UYSWC President, told *Nouse*, "The BUCS zero tolerance attitude to late entries this year is very disappointing, as despite being only ten minutes late due to circumstances out of our control, they wouldn't let us in."

"We already struggle to get our entries in as we start so late yet they

won't show any leniency for us."

"Obviously with the new pool we were hoping for a really good year this year, with hopefully promotion for both of our swimming teams which will be incredibly hard to achieve as we are only in two of the three galas this year."

Snowden added that he expects the situation to improve somewhat next year, with the start of the Autumn Term brought forward to the 30 September, as opposed to the second week in October.

"Maybe with the earlier start date from next year, this won't be as much a problem in the future, but for this year it's incredibly frustrating," he added.

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, commented, "Although the BUCS ruling is harsh, I do think

it is understandable as they are having to deal with so many different institutions.

"However, in this instance it does seem a shame that BUCS didn't extend the deadline for this gala, with so many institutions reportedly missing the registration deadline."

Nevertheless, Winter is confident that the club can bounce back from the disappointment, which also represents a blow to York's chances of reaching the top 40 of the BUCS standings.

She added, "Obviously it's a disappointment for UYSWC."

"With the new facilities I know that they are very happy with their progression as a club, but I'm sure this will only spur them on to perform even better at the next gala."

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