



# Steve Bell INSIDE

This Guardian cartoonist  
Steve Bell spilt joosay goss. M6-7

Travel  
supplement



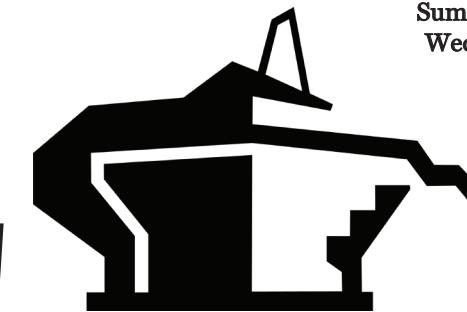
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# NOUSE



## Inquest rules drugs as cause of student death

Martin Spurr  
NEWS EDITOR

AN INQUEST into the death of a University of York student this week has concluded that he died because of a dependency on drugs.

The University has confirmed that it was aware of the student's drug problem and had provided support for him, but they were unable to do anything to stop the death.

However the University has refused to comment on the exact details of the level of support that it gave to the student.

James Matthews, 23, was a third-year Politics, Economics and Philosophy student and a member of Halifax College. The inquest was told that he hadn't taken one lethal drugs overdose, but that a combination of methadone and a number of other drugs, together, proved fatal.

Matthews had received support from his departments and the University support services before he died - as well as Compass, the local York drug support

agency. The inquest heard that Matthews was a frequent user of a variety of drugs and one of his housemates described how his recurrent drug use in the week before his death was apparent.

On the night before he died he was said to have come home shaking and sweating, and friends had to try and restrain him from leaving to buy more drugs.

However, Matthews was said to have gone out and returned with Oxley blue Valium tablets and ketamine, despite their efforts.

York Coroner Donald Coverdale commenting on the dangers of taking drugs, stated: "It is an unhappy story of a young man who was thoroughly enmeshed in the drug culture."

"He was habitually using a variety of drugs in combination and that effect alone - combining various substances - can be very dangerous."

David Garner, the University Senior Press Officer, stated that: "The University was greatly saddened by his tragic death

and our thoughts are with James' family at this time.

"James did receive considerable support both from his department and from student support services, the details of which remain confidential."

Matthews was pronounced dead at 2.01pm on 4th August last year at his house near to the University.

One friend spoke about the night that he died, describing how Matthews couldn't keep his eyes open and that he was afraid of falling asleep.

The inquest also heard from a fellow housemate who found Matthews lying, but not breathing, on a sofa in their student house.

The University's Student Welfare Policy on Substance Use and Abuse states that: "Support should be available for those concerned about substance use and abuse by others and how they should act upon their concerns."

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, would not comment on the inquest, simply saying: "James's presence will be missed on campus."



Campaign faces legal battle >>**Page 6**

### Further decrease in York graduate jobs

York has performed even worse in this years graduate employment prospect surveys, figures worsened by the fact that there is a predicted 33 per cent increase in graduates nationally in search of jobs in 2011. York now has an average of 68 per cent graduate employment

### Students lambaste new biology course

First year students have spoken out en masse against the Biology course, which was newly implemented this year. They have criticised the disorganisation of the course, with work and assessment concentrated into a very short period



**Switching between art forms**  
**MUSE >> M17**

### York placed bottom of national sex survey

University of York has come 59th out of 61 in a recent survey of the most sexually active Universities. Students at York have an average of 3.4 sexual partners, in contrast to those at the University of Glamorgan, who came top of the table with a 10.8 average

### Sri Lanka's Ajantha Mendis interviewed

*Nouse* sports talks to mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis as he undertakes his first tour of England. With the likes of Muralitharan having retired, Mendis discusses the new-look Sri Lankan side and the prospect of replacing the great Murali

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# York graduate prospects plummet

Rose Troup-Buchanan  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

WITH NATIONAL graduate employment research indicating a 33 per cent increase in graduate job applications this year, it is feared this will have a detrimental affect on the already poor graduate employment statistics at York.

In the recent Guardian Good University Guide, employment post-graduation at the University of York fell by four per cent to just 64 per cent in 2011. This is in comparison to Universities such as UCL, who had 77 per cent of graduates gaining employment, and Durham, who achieved 76 per cent.

Similarly, in the Complete University Guide, where York was ranked 12th, it had the lowest graduate employment prospects out of the top 25 Universities in the table. It fell this year from 71.5% to 68.2%, continuing what one student termed "an alarming per cent of unemployment."

In a survey conducted by High Fliers Research, it shows that the average number of graduate job applications made by finalists nationally has increased from 5.7 applications per student in 2009-2010, to 6.8 applications per student this year.

With the career statistics at York falling continuously over the past three years, and with the



**The careers service faces criticism as York graduates struggle for jobs**

University dropping out of the top ten in both the Guardian and Complete University Guide, third year students have expressed increasing fear that the careers service is not doing enough to equip them for the "tough environment" of the graduate job market.

While concerns were raised last year, many have remarked that there has been no noticeable difference in careers assistance.

One third year student commented: "I am staying at York to do a masters because, to be honest, I really don't see myself with any real prospects for getting onto the

employment ladder. The careers service seems to exist just to send emails, and do little else. If you want help for a career in anything other than banking or law, their use is pretty limited."

Ben Humphreys, YUSU Academic Officer, spoke out on York's continually poor performance in the graduate market.

"It's ridiculous to say that somehow last year's graduate employment stats means that this year's graduates can't get jobs" he said.

"Our external examiners (who judge student "quality") say that

York produces some of the best students in the country, but historically York students apply too little too late to hit the 6 month grad data collection. Of course we need those stats to improve, but don't make the mistake of taking them as a ranking of student quality."

The High Fliers survey also showed that for the first time in

"The careers service seems to exist just to send emails, and do little else"

**Third Year Student**

three years, graduates' expected-salary have risen to an average of 22,600 pounds - with students at LSE, Cambridge, Oxford, Warwick, and UCL anticipating starting on above 25,000 pounds.

Furthermore, a sixth of those interviewed expect to be earning in excess of £100,000 by the time they are 30.

Ali Prince, third year, said: "I'd expect to be earning around that, for my first job after university. But I'm very dubious about the percentage of students who think they are going to be earning over £100,000 at thirty."

47 per cent of interviewees believed they will either start a graduate job or be looking for a graduate job after university, compared with 36 per cent in 2010.

## York Scientist wins Royal Society Award

Professor John Goodby, a lecturer in the Chemistry Department, has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society. The Royal Society is recognised worldwide as one of the highest scientific honours. Professor Goodby's research has focused on the use of liquid crystals in a range of high technology applications, including, amongst others, large area flat panel displays. Goodby thanked his friends and family, as well as his research student and post-doctoral fellows for their support, saying: "I am indebted to them and hope they will share in the pleasure of this award."

## University and College Union to strike again

The University and College Union (UCU) have held talks at the Cabinet Office, in conjunction with other Union leaders regarding the possibility of strikes targeting university exams in the continued row over pensions. Both the National Union of Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers began balloting members for strikes last week. A motion was backed at the UCU annual congress to ballot for industrial action. Lecturers previously went on strike in March, in protest about potential changes to their pensions. According to the Union around 10,000 dons protested causing disruptions across the country.

## Vodafone users lose signal for three days

Students on Vodafone have been without signal for up to three days. The disruption was caused by a technical fault, rectified by Vodafone after it received a large number of complaints. The majority of people on the Vodafone network across the Yorkshire and Humber area have been affected by this fault. Users were told to switch their network coverage from 2G to 3G, whilst the fault was being repaired by Vodafone.

**Reporting by Rose Troup-Buchanan**

# Students start up ethical campus shop

Hoagy Davis-Digges  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A GROUP of students have started up Scoop, a food cooperative on campus, selling a variety of grocery items such as locally sourced organic vegetable boxes.

It is about to be ratified as a society by YUSU and will then gain the financial support accorded to all societies.

However, members of Scoop say that it took a long time to gain recognition from YUSU. Phoebe Cullingworth, a heavily involved member of Scoop, said that origi-

nally they "dismissed" the idea and said "we're not the people to ask, there's not much that we can do."

Cullingworth explained that "we just went along and started it without any help from YUSU or the University, started it in somebody's house, advertised it and got some people down to buy things, got our local veg boxes and proved we covered all the health and safety, that we were legal, that sort of thing and that there was a demand, and then approached the university directly."

However, she said that YUSU had offered an increasing amount of support as the project became more successful.

"Initially they weren't very much help but recently they have been helpful in many different ways, really trying to support us in anything we do, which is great to see, but it was quite difficult to start off with no help."

Another key member of Scoop, Alexandra Peck, explained that the project had been almost two years in the making. "We've been trying to get a location on campus and there was a lot of reluctance to give us space."

She went on to say that "now they've trusted us and they've taken us really seriously, they've given us funding and support."

Dan Walker, YUSU Democracy and Services Officer, said: "It's an example of a great student led initiative. I'm looking forward to seeing them flourish as they move towards being a full student society. Functioning as a co-op removes a certain degree of financial risk when compared to a market stall, and as a student led endeavor it benefits from passionate and reliable."

To shop at the Scoop supermarket, one must become a member for a one-off fee of £5, which is repaid in stock when members decide to leave or at the end of the year.

June 1 2011  
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Jake Farrell meets the five student journos whose documented trials and tribulations have led to a success that no one could have anticipated.

WANNABE HACKS>>M4-5

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## NOUSE

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# Biology students described as “guinea pigs” in course changes

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

**Martin Spurr**  
NEWS EDITOR

FIRST-YEAR Biology students have criticised the way the new Biology course has been set up, with the majority of the module being examined in the space of four days.

Students have complained at the overload and concentration of work in a small period of time. In some of the exams 90 per cent of the module is being tested in one go, and with six exams over the space of four days, students have voiced their concerns.

In addition, two practicals are due in on the first day of exams but with only one being actually marked.

One first-year student criticised the Department's lack of flexibility regarding the deadline for practicals coinciding with the first exam.

“Everyone in the first year is furious and although we have gone through the correct channels to ask for an extension, through our course reps with everyone supporting them, it was refused because there's an issue with University policy because of the new modularisation of courses.”

“It would make far more sense to be doing this after the exams as far as we, and actually most of the staff we've spoken too, are concerned.”

This is the first year of the new course structure for many Departments, including Biology,

and students have expressed concern over the way it has been structured and feel that the Department have made a mistake in the construction of the course.

Tom Smallwood, one of the first-year course representatives, commenting on the new course, said: “Unfortunately for our year it is a work in progress and we are kind of the guinea pigs.”

“The arrangement with the exams and deadlines is already being looked at [for next year] and how this term can be improved for next year,” adding that “we don't want to face the same problems ourselves.”

The first-year student continued, describing the struggle she has been facing to revise and complete the assignments at the same time commenting that: “Obviously we knew we'd have to work hard at university, especially with the subject that we all chose, but this just seems a little ridiculous.”

“There's nothing we can do now that the extension has been refused apart from try and get them and our revision done on time, but

“Unfortunately for our year it is a work in progress and we are kind of the guinea pigs”

First year biology course rep.  
**Tom Smallwood**

maybe next year first years won't get the same problem.”

Calvin Dytham, the Chair of



Biology students have not been happy with the way the department's new first year course has been structured

the Biology Board of Studies, commented that: “We think it's too early to tell how the first year of the new programme has gone. We've heard from our supervisees and through the course reps that there is a lot of anxiety about the upcoming exam period.”

“We appreciate that having several exams in one week can be stressful and we are considering the exams timetable for next year, we may request that exams for stage 1 are moved to week 7 or to spread them through weeks 6 and 7 to give more time for revision.”

Alice Garcia-Melgares, the second year Biology course repres-

ntative, added that: “They don't really know what they are doing and it has affected our work and our degree.”

“To hand the practicals in on the day of a exam is ridiculous, they should have postponed it.”

But in an email to Biology students, Calvin Dytham and Richard Waites, the Associate Chair of the Board of Studies, reassured students taking the exams by stating: “We are expecting very few students to need to re-sit any exams.”

“The stage one exams give you a good benchmark of your progress in your first year of university and they are very useful additions to

your CV for students wanting to go on a year-away schemes, but remember that they do not contribute anything to your final degree.”

Ben Humphrys, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, told Nouse: “Whilst heavily bunched assessments aren't new to York the new modular scheme was intended to address them, not make them worse. We can deal with these issues for the future, but only if departmental representatives are working together with us to deliver that change.”

**LEADER >>** Page 10

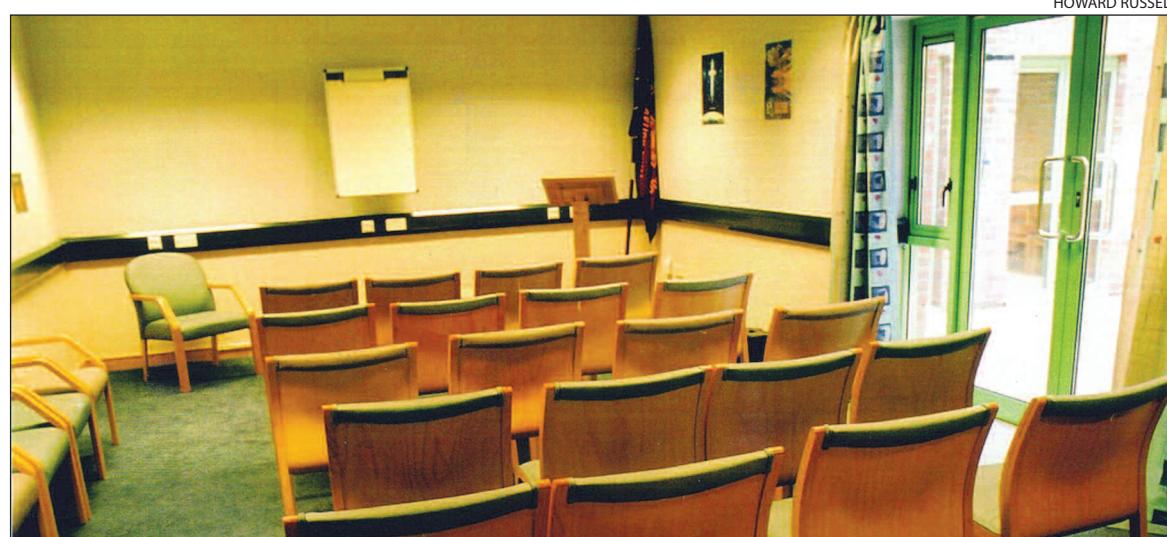
# Future of Societies Committee in question

**Hoagy Davis-Digges**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE NEWLY-FORMED societies committee has been left completely empty after no students ran for any positions on the committee.

The Societies Committee was a fundamental component of the new structure of the Student Union following the Democratic Review. Its role would include the major responsibility of approving the funding of any society whose budget is over five per cent of the total budget for societies.

It would also be charged with mediating disputes between societies and arranging collaborative



it's disappointing nobody stood.

“All societies were informed of the elections and there was a decent level of pre-election interest. Unfortunately that didn't manifest itself into candidates.”

He added “In terms of the next step, it's something I'll be consulting with James [Croydon] on, to see the best step forward for next year.”

“The new bye-laws passed add a better structure to the societies committee, with representatives elected internally within the individual societies forums, making them more representative of their cohort. Hopefully the lack of anyone running under this old system can be an opportunity for the societies committee to finally take proper shape.”

However, Dan Walker indicated that the positions might be by direct application, saying “As the positions remain unfilled we'll open them up for co-option.”

But he added: “If they're contested at this point we'll likely proceed with an election.”

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“There was a decent level of pre-election interest. Unfortunately that didn't manifest into candidates.”

YUSU Societies Officer  
**Nick Scarlett**

efforts between different societies; as well as deciding upon any disci-

plinary measures to be taken against members of the committee members of individual societies following breaches of YUSU bye-laws.

Outlining the role of the members of the committee Nick Scarlett, Student Activities Officer, said that they would need to: “Chair meetings of Society Chairs in your category, and be involved in setting society based policy and

working to develop collaborative events between YUSU Societies.”

The committee, which was formed after a study of societies published by YUSU in January, was originally intended to take important decisions regarding society finances away from the role of Student Activities Officer and make the process of allocating funding more democratic and

accountable, although it would still be chaired ex officio by the Student Activities Officer.

It was supposed to be made up of eight members drawn from the different groups of societies on campus, as well as three ordinary members.

Commenting on the lack of applications, Scarlett stated: “In terms of the societies committee,

# College chairs' relationship with

Martin Spurr  
NEWS EDITOR

SEVERAL COLLEGE JCRC Chairs have spoken out against the University for its lack of communication with the student representatives at college level and the way it has managed their problems.

Important issues such as security and portering, social spaces and college bars are not being adequately addressed or recognised by the University according to some college Chairs.

Kallum Taylor, Vanbrugh JCRC Chair, described York as being "a poor-events company rather than a University."

Taylor says he has been frustrated at the way the University has failed to support his college over issues such as portering and V-Bar.

Lizzie Bartholomew, Alcuin JCRC Chair, also described the problems she has faced regarding college bars commenting on the situation with B-Henrys.

"Currently I feel that we are not being communicated with at all by commercial services regarding issues concerning our college bars."

"Furthermore I feel that the attitude with which issues such as the partial closure of B-Henrys has been dealt with has been poor and at times, inappropriate."

As reported by *Nouse* in March this year, James JCRC have felt sidelined in the recent planned demolition of McQ's bar and the new bar being created in the Roger Kirk centre over the summer.

Alcuin has also had continued problems with the University over threatened closure of B-Henrys in the last few years.

Bartholomew added that: "I feel like some members of commercial services talk to students such as myself in a way that they would not speak to their colleagues."

Taylor agreed with this sentiment, stating that: "I've been told that some staff don't even know why colleges need their own bar."

"To this end, I have found it difficult to maintain a working relationship with them [the

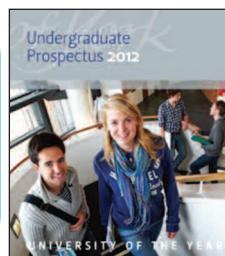
## THE VIEW FROM THE COLLEGE CHAIRS



"It seems like the collegiate system is just a marketing ploy to put in the prospectus"

**Kallum Taylor, Vanbrugh JCRC Chair**

"Living in a college means you are an important part of your college community"



University] when communication is made about our own college bar, above my head."

Jane Grenville, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for students, stated

"At the end of the day we are a university and it should be centred around the students"

Vanbrugh JCR Chair

**Kallum Taylor**

that: "It's true that I haven't seen the college chairs together since a 'get to know you' lunchtime meeting in February, as my diary has been crazy. Normally I would expect to visit each college JCRC once a term to discuss their specific issues rather than hold meetings with all the chairs together.

"However, I would stress that

just by having me at meetings won't mean all the issues can be sorted out instantly. I am a strategist, I can't micro-manage."

Commenting on the strengths and weaknesses of York's collegiate system, Taylor stated that: "I am trying to improve the college but just get palmed off week on week. It seems like the collegiate system is just a marketing ploy to put in the prospectus."

"Durham and Oxbridge colleges have more autonomy and power, but we get very little support."

However Grenville refused to comment on this assertion.

Students at Oxford and Cambridge live and are taught in their colleges, while at Durham there is a long tradition of college history and spirit.

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, said: "College chairs and their JCRCs are elected to repre-

sent the students from that college, and in essence are the primary representatives for students in that college on all issues relating to the college."

He added: "However when it comes to representing these views YUSU and colleges have to work together given the governance structure of the institution. You must not forget that a lot of issues that affect students don't always sit within colleges."

Nonetheless, many of the chairs feel that the University could use them more to address students' needs and tackle issues at colleges quickly and effectively.

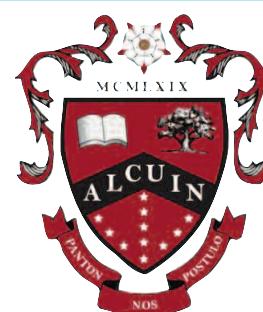
Matt Jenkins, Derwent JCRC Chair, bemoaned the fact that: "We [college chairs] spend 30 unpaid hours trying to get ourselves into meetings rather than spending that time in them."

"YUSU can't be expected to deal with every single issue. We

**Vanbrugh**



**Lizzie Bartholomew, Alcuin JCRC Chair**



genuinely do care about the University."

Grenville stated that: "YUSU brought this issue to my attention on behalf of the College Chairs. I don't view it as a structural issue: it is entirely possible to sort it out."

However Jenkins also said he believed the University was beginning to recognise and respond to their needs, following the theft from the Derwent JCR three weeks ago.

"Even though they were slow to communicate with me, there have been really positive steps."

Taylor concluded that: "People in offices are faceless, obviously they are professionals who could be in their jobs for 20 years but at the end of the day we are a university and it should be centred around the students."

"They don't even know what the problem is, they just sit in their offices."

## A look at collegiate systems: Is York's the worst?

### Durham



"People go to the college bars to support their college"

Second-year Durham student

→ An independent college day

→ University type events but on a smaller scale

→ Castle college has two formals each week

**£20 million**  
to be spent over the next five years on Durham's college accommodation



### Cambridge

At Oxbridge students apply to the colleges rather than the University



→ Oxbridge colleges have the most autonomy  
 → But Durham students also apply to a department and a college together  
 → Most of Durham and Oxbridge's colleges are in the city unlike at York

### Oxford

# University strained

UNIVERSITY OF YORK



Many colleges have had confrontations with the University over the price of drinks and success of the bars

## College funds suffer without Grenville grant

FACEBOOK



Club D events were indirectly affected by the lack of the Grenville fund

**Martin Spurr**  
NEWS EDITOR

COLLEGE JCRCs have been left without cash after an £800 a term grant was not available in the first two and a half terms of this year due to a "technical fault".

The grant from Jane Grenville, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students, was only permitted to be spent by the colleges on non-alcoholic events.

This had left many colleges having to divert money to accommodate this loss; whilst also trying to save enough for next year's Freshers' Week as the future availability of the grant was uncertain.

Many colleges had been left with limited funds and Matt Jenkins, Derwent JCRC Chair, described how, "we had to print in black and white rather than colour because we couldn't afford it."

Jenkins continued by saying that with the loss of the grant for most of the year, "we couldn't even buy prizes for our bar quizzes."

"We would have liked to have subsidised Club D events throughout the year but they have had to

come out even – with some making a profit while others making a loss [because of the confusion around the grant]."

Grenville blamed a technical fault for the reason the grant had not come through.

"There was an admin error – I thought the money had been released earlier in the year and discovered that it had not gone through a conversation with a JCRC Chair.

She added that: "It was brought to my attention by a JCRC Chair during a college visit with the Vice-Chancellor earlier in the month that the money hadn't been sent out. I quickly rectified the situation..."

Kallum Taylor, Vanbrugh JCRC Chair, commented that events such as a "beach trip to Scarborough" are being planned with the extra cash they now have available.

However, Vanbrugh College have fared better than some of the other colleges in coping with the lack of funds. This is due to the large amount of external funding they have been able to source and receive this year.

Deals with the 659 Taxi com-

pany and the bar Monty's have brought in additional revenue which they have been able to use to cope with the £2000 deficit over the last two and a half terms.

Taylor stated that Vanbrugh was the "first college to look at external funding sources."

Vanbrugh received £1,500 from 659 Taxis this month, while also taking money from Monty's

"We had to print in black and white rather than colour because we couldn't afford it"

Derwent JCR Chair  
**Matt Jenkins**

through a range of advertising.

Damian Allinson, the Sponsorship representative on the Vanbrugh JCRC, commented that: "This is the way forward, when I first came to the committee it was only drinks deals, but I think the current situation is better."

"There is so much potential and it is not all about finances, we do get a lot of benefits from Monty's as well."

## COMMENT & ANALYSIS

**Hannah Ellis-Petersen**


than a University that exists en masse. Yet we cannot continue in the purgatory system that embraces the concept of the college on a symbolic level, without providing JCRCs with full resources and independence to operate with some measure of autocracy.

Students at York will never fully engage with their college, or embrace their college spirit for their full three years if it is clear they are to simply remain as a small cog in the strikingly lacklustre University wheel. The struggle for communication that college chairs are currently facing illustrates how little colleges are taken into consideration in the making of overall University policy.

It is about time the University fully committed to this collegiate system, pushing it beyond a gentrified banding of accommodation. Indeed, as much as I am loathe to put this in writing, there is much we can take from our fellow collegiate institutions.

While I don't advocate the isolationist attitudes the colleges at both Oxbridge and Durham seems to breed, the distinct identities, college orientated spirit and significant financial independence are all qualities universally lacking within the York collegiate system.

While this is hardly a call to arms for students wanting independence for Vanbrugh or autocracy for Alcuin, it highlights how the collegiate system cannot continue to just flaccidly exist, pulled in opposing directions by students and the University. It needs to find its definitive place, position and authority as part of York student life, or it is essential rendered pointless; as one Chair boldly put it, "just simply a marketing ploy."

I am not criticising colleges themselves; in truth I think they can promote a much stronger sense of belonging and community

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, praised this new funding initiative: "I think it's key for any college to adopt a broad range of funding sources to resource their activities. It only stands to make sure the events are sustainable in the near and distant future."

Grenville has now promised that this year's grant will be in place very soon and also in future years. This has left the College JCRCs with an unexpected surplus of cash to spend in the last half of this term and following into next year.

Taylor added that this was a "safety net" for them and emphasised that "for the first time in three or four years, Vanbrugh events are making money."

Jenkins concluded by saying that: "We now have a freshers' week that is not financially constrained and we are able to reimburse the JCR from throughout the year – something we weren't sure about before."

Ngwena added: "The University has to make sure that the colleges who don't have this ability due to their size or available resources are given support either through financial support or cost savings which the University has access to."

# York arms trade campaign retract petition after possible legal action

**Hoagy Davis-Digges**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE YORK Campaign Against the Arms Trade have been advised to withdraw a petition which they launched against the University over comments about BAE systems.

The national campaign informed them that the claim made in the preamble of the petition that BAE Systems are "infamous for extensive corruption" was a dangerous one.

It emerged that CAAT had advised them that whilst BAE had been dogged by allegations of corruption, the petition's preamble could be taken to suggest that they had been convicted of such claims and was therefore potentially libelous.

The petition called for the University to cease accepting any funding from British Aerospace Systems, MBDA, Rolls Royce and QinetiQ for research projects pending further legal advice.

The petition had been signed by over 800 students, after they were contacted by the national Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT). However, the National CAAT have refused to comment on the situation.

Alexandra Peck, a campaign coordinator for CAAT York, spoke about the concerns which have been raised in the past about BAE's business practices.



Students have protest against arms company BAE systems across the UK

"BAE often neatly sidesteps corruption allegations. In 2006 Tony Blair quashed the investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into BAE's multi-billion pound deals with Saudi Arabia."

Peck explained that the petition had been suspended pending further legal advice from the national offices of CAAT, though she said that she expected it to be "permanently withdrawn".

The petition was launched following a Nouse investigation that revealed the University had received over £4 million in research grants from the arms companies.

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, said: "The wording on the petition seems to be an issue of semantics and the law which

although is serious, shouldn't take away from the concern that 800 students have shown about the way research funding is obtained. I'm sure this campaign will continue."

Peck added that she plans to meet with them next week to ensure that similar mistakes are not repeated in the future.

"Whilst the wording of our campaign message will be tweaked it is simply to be clearer about the activities of the arms manufacturers which sponsor research at this university."

"We decided to stop collecting signatures until we had the opportunity to rewrite it in a clearer format. However, the message will remain the same."

**COMMENT >>** Page 10

# University to increase overseas student intake

**Martin Spurr**  
NEWS EDITOR

THE NUMBER of overseas students attending York will increase by 13.4 per cent over the next four years which will see the proportion of international students as a percentage of the student body rise.

Overseas students already make up 17 per cent of the student population at York, with students from the EU accounting for nearly 6 per cent and the rest being Home students. There is also a projected increase of 8.4 per cent in the number of Home students in the next four years according to the University.

Although the University receives higher fees from international students, York has insisted that this is more to do with internationalisation rather than a boost to their income.

David Garner, the University Press Officer, stated that: "Internationalisation is one of four strategic objectives of the University Plan, and increasing the number of overseas students reflects that."

Since 2005 the proportion of overseas students at York has increased by three per cent while the number of Home students has decreased by four per cent over the same period.

Students coming from outside the EU are charged a variable fee which is a lot higher than the stan-

dard home tuition fee due to no official cap being in place. The amount can be anywhere over £10,000.

The average overseas student fee this year nationwide was a considerable amount higher than current home level tuition fees at £11,435.

The government has said it plans to tighten the restrictions on student visas for overseas students in the near future. However despite this, York is still looking to increase its international student population.

Garner added that: "Our continued success as an institution depends on recruiting the best students and staff worldwide, delivering world-leading research and providing an excellent environment in which students can learn."

Other universities are drastically increasing their intake of international students with Durham increasing this by 97 per cent over the next five years; however, the proportion of overseas students at Durham is currently only nine per cent which is eight per cent lower than at York this year.

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, said: "As the university expands, it's crucial that it maintains the current mix of home, overseas and EU students. Having a diverse international community is an important part of the educational and social experience here at York."

# Catered accommodation prices to drastically rise

**Rose Troup-Buchanan**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ON CAMPUS accommodation fees are set to rise by five per cent next year, across all rent bands, with catered accommodation seeing a dramatic increase.

In real terms catered accommodation prices will increase by an average of £10 a week, taking figures from 2010.

Students have complained about the imminent rise. Fiona Kitchingham, a first-year Sociology student, said: "It is because it's university halls, you will pay whatever they ask. As long as the loan covers it you don't really think about it."

David Garner, the University Press Officer, said: "The University's proposed rent increases are broadly in line with inflation. The cost of catered accommodation has been increased to reflect the costs of providing food following the initial trial in the current academic year."

Charlie Barrington, a first-year Environmental Science student commented: "The rise is going to put even more stress on students and their families, and mean less available money for joining clubs and societies. As well,

there is an increase in pressure to have to find a job."

The estimated average price of catered accommodation in York will be just under £110 for the years 2012/13.

The accommodation for Band 1 (catered) for the year 2010/11 is at £99.82, however, in the following academic year rent will rise to £109.90 – which means that the cheapest catered accommodation will rise by £10.

Ben Humphrys, now YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, last year

"It is because it's university halls, you will pay whatever they ask"

First-year Sociology student  
**Fiona Kitchingham**

stated only the "cheapest rent band" would be subjected to rises, inevitably meaning students less financially well-off would be hardest hit by the increase. Humphrys claimed the university would be "increasing revenue" at the expense of students.

James College's cheapest accommodation is also set to become catered next year.

Investment towards a refurbishment programme, including Le Page court, Vanbrugh, has been



Students in the Derwent and Langwith colleges next year will be paying £10 per week more for meals in D-bar

cited as another reason why the University has made this increase.

However, this refurbishment is over the next five years, rather than the following year, meaning most students will pay an increased rent with no tangible benefits.

Those most affected will be students arriving in the year 2012/13. These students may also be the first wave to pay the full £9,000 tuition fees, should the University decide to follow the

trend set by other similarly rated institutions.

As yet, the University has refused to comment on how much they plan to charge for 2012/13 when Langwith move to Heslington East. The cheapest room in the current accommodation on the new campus development next year will cost £111.86 per week.

The rent increase between rent bands has also raised concern

that this will increase segregation between richer students and those who are less well off.

Laura Borisvaite, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented that: "The University should ensure that students receive value for money and those with financial difficulties have easily understood access to grants and bursaries to ensure that they can attend University."

**LEADER >>** Page 10

# York at the bottom of university sex survey



York was ranked in the bottom three for the average number of sexual partners at universities across the UK

**Celia Scruby**  
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS AT the University of York have ended up at the bottom of the league for the average number of sexual partners they have had at university.

In a survey carried out in universities across the country, York was ranked 59th out of 61 universities named, with an average of 3.4 sexual partners per student.

Liam O'Shaughnessy, a first-year Physics and Philosophy stu-

dent, speculated on the results of the survey commenting that maybe York has such a low average because, "it's such a small University and everyone knows each other."

Described as the "essential website for university life," studentbeans used data from 2,284 sexually active students from 61 universities in the UK.

Universities in the top three of the league table were the University of Glamorgan, with an average of 10.9, University of Wales

Institute, Cardiff, with an average of 10.6 and University of Brighton, with an average of 9.5.

The only two universities to rank below York were Swansea University averaging 3.3 and City University London with an average of 3.1.

One third-year Economics and Management student also suggested that it may be due to the fact that "York itself isn't a big city and aesthetically its really traditional...maybe the surroundings here just don't incite promiscuity?"

Adding that: "Maybe it's because of work as well, I've heard York is known for being a bit geeky."

Oliver Brann, editor of the studentbeans website felt that the location of Universities had some correlation to the results of the survey, as he remarked that Brighton being in the top ten didn't surprise him because, "there is something about the sea air [there]."

The results of the "Sex League" made up part of a wider Sex Survey carried out by the website, claiming it to be the "UK's very first student sex survey".

The 2,818 students that took part in the Sex Survey were asked about their sex worries, what forms of contraception they use, how

"Maybe the surroundings here just don't incite promiscuity"

Third-year student

many times a week they were having sex, where they were having sex and "which celebrities they'd most like to shag."

Some have questioned the accuracy of the results, with only 38 students from each York itself participating in the survey

Top of the list of national student worries was concerning performance while a quarter worried about pregnancy. The survey said that 40 per cent of students wor-

ried about what they looked like but only three per cent stating that they worried about what their partner looked like.

One second-year Economics student commented that he was surprised by the greater number of students worrying about what they look like.

"Surely it matters more about what the other person looks like?" He added that the survey was interesting as it made "students look a bit desperate and insecure."

Technology was ranked above sex in terms of significance at university as, 24 per cent of students admitted that their mobile phone was the most important thing in their lifestyle.

This was followed by 11 per cent of students who "couldn't live without Facebook". Though ten per cent of students surveyed did say that sex was more important than both.

Russel Howard and Emma Watson were also named as top secret sex symbols for students.

The survey was carried out between 20th April and 3rd May of this year in an effort to get down to the "nitty gritty" and lift the lid on student sex life.

**COMMENT >>** Page 9

## New ISA committee results announced

**Isabelle Wynne**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE RESULTS of this year's International Student Association (ISA) elections have been announced with Lewis Yingwei Chen beating En Shi Teoh to become the new committee Vice-President.

After winning the post, Chen thanked those who, as he described, had provided "support and courage" during his campaign.

He added that he saw his election win as creating "plenty of opportunities for representing the international students at York."

Other contested position included the Events co-ordinator, which was won by the team of Nathalie Czarnecki, Xiaodan Sun and Artur Safiullin, while the Marketing Representative was taken by Karolin Wnuk and Ruth Mukembo.

The remaining positions were uncontested, with the Treasurer going to Jeongho Andy Park, Welfare representative going to Joy Yixin Zhang, Charles Mcswiggan was elected as the UK Integration



FACEBOOK

Chen was elected Vice-President

representative.

Trips Co-ordinator went to Karl-Axel Lindgren, Sports Representative to Mikala Louise Sørensen and finally the position of Secretary went to Aleksandrs Cudars.

However, there will be a by-election for the position of Campaigns Representative in two weeks time as nobody stood for it in the elections this time around.

This year there were new positions, including the Sport Officer and the UK Integration Officer representative - which was the only position Home students could vote for in the elections.

The President of the ISA, Leslie Tay, was elected in the the YUSU elections last February.

## Students' rent collection failure

**Rose Troup-Buchanan**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE COLLECTION of 2400 students' rent and some students' tuition fees by the University has been delayed for the second time this academic year, for students who are part of the direct debit scheme.

A technical fault has been identified as the source of the problem, according to an email sent out Wednesday last week. In a later email "delays in processing" was listed as the factor.

Payment was supposed to be taken on the 16th May, however, in an email sent out on 27th May students were informed the new collection date will be 15th June and that no late fees will be incurred.

Scott Simmons, a first-year History and English student, complained at the University's inability to take the fees.

"It is just a bit of a nuisance when you're trying to sort out where your money is going and when, and making sure you leave enough to pay for your other bills. The length of time they took to get back to us was really bad."

This is not the first time problems have emerged with this system. In November of last year, Nouse reported on the University's failure to take the required fee from students with many overpay-



Accommodation fees have not been collected on time for a second term

ing as they were told to just pay themselves.

This led to a massive financial shortfall, forcing the university to move large amounts of money to cover the loss.

A similar solution may have to be found to cover the repeated shortfall this term, which is likely to stretch into the millions.

Given the chaos caused in the first term, many students have questioned how this was allowed to happen again.

Some students have expressed annoyance, given they were under the impression of having budgeted successfully in their summer term

with their finances.

The University released a statement last week citing that there had been, "unexpected delays in making direct debit collections during May."

Laura Borisvaite, YUSU Welfare Officer, stated that: "I would encourage all students to ensure that they do not spend the money that has failed to have been collected from them and include the money owed into their budgeting for next term."

David Garner, the University Press Officer, commented: "We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused."



International Students' Association

# From quick thinker to fast mover

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# Comment & Analysis

Rose  
Troup-  
Buchanan



## Sex or study: Do we need to sacrifice one for the other?

Students at York should not feel ashamed, or even take notice, of the outcome of the student sex survey, it may even mean we are studying more.

**A**pparently we are students at a university nicknamed "the University of Dork", so it is hardly surprising we're at the bottom of a recently released survey on studentbeans.com. York University students have an average of 3.4 sexual partners during their time at university, or roughly one per academic year. Compared to Glamorgan University, who appear to be sleeping with around ten people during their time at university, we're positively old-fashioned.

Given the survey approached just under 3,000 students, and as there are over 700,000 higher education qualifications achieved each year, the survey is hardly conclusive. Very roughly speaking they used data from around 35 students per university. York has 13,263 students, including postgraduates. This makes me wonder, who were the golden 35? And where did they take the survey? I am sure a survey taken in the Tokyo toilets would reap massively different results to a survey taken at 8am in the library.

So we shouldn't take the survey as representative. But even if it is, what's the big deal? Why should we care how many people the average university student sleeps with? I'd suspect the average student is often far less than truthful when talking about previous conquests, especially as one participating individual claimed to have had sex in the Oval Office.

A survey like this does little to dispel the negative image of the stereotypical student. Concerned with little but drinking, having sex, and generally doing everything

humanly possible to avoid the responsibility of the real world; it is hardly surprising the local population of university towns are not overly fond of their student neighbours.

Objections to the reasoning behind the commissioning of this survey aside, a closer look at the results reveals a trend. Of the top ten universities (in the sex survey) only UCL is rated amongst the top in academic league tables. So whilst the academic universities might be sitting smug at the top of the education league the reality that their sexual encounters are minimal may wipe that smile off their faces.

I'd like to suggest that Glamorgan students obviously have too much time and aren't stretched by their degrees and

that, here at York, we are so busy studying at the library we haven't noticed the attractive student on the opposite desk. But that isn't true, if the creator of the survey had been to York University library and seen the amount of kissing that goes on in there they might have doubted their results.

The results of the survey arguably could be celebrated as an example of the intelligence of the average York student. By choosing not to sleep with someone who looks like the back end of a camel, (never mind a lovely personality and imminent first), are we not demonstrating the kind of critical thinking which has placed us among the top institutions of the country?

This argument falters only when considering another facet of

the survey. It seems that the average student is unconcerned with what the other person actually looks like: only three per cent worried about the appearance of their sexual partner. I can't imagine how 97 per cent of people don't care how the other person looks... however important personality undoubtedly is. Does that statistic suggest students are less superficial or downright desperate?

So what is responsible for our low score? The cold and windy weather? The lack of decent clubs? Our status as a "dork" university? Personally, I really don't care. The appearance of a survey such as this is of little interest beyond offering a confirmation of the continued stereotyped image of what it apparently means to be a student today.

CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOUGH



Nina  
Pullman



## Summer events are a credit to the University

With the end of exams nearly upon us, people are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel in the form of hot, lazy days lying in the garden, and drunken, exciting nights at the end of term events. Those freshers with STYCs or house parents in the know will have perhaps heard that third term can be pricey. Because with nothing else to do except party and enjoy the, hopefully warm, weather, weeks eight, nine and ten are packed full of events – but how to choose which one?

As a fresh eyed first-year the line up can be somewhat daunting. There are the individual college formals, ranging from standard sit

down meals to the notorious heights of Big D, then there are society socials and finally YUSU's summer ball extravaganza. Besides the day time events of Woodstock and York Carnival, there is plenty to choose from.

As student budgets can be tight at the best of times, and as many of the events are at minimum £20, missing one or more of the summer shenanigans may be sadly inevitable, and financially unavoidable. This means the decision as to what events to embrace or avoid is one to be carefully pondered.

But perhaps, with a little research a decision is easier to come by than we realise. Reports

reaching our ears suggest that the YUSU ball may be aimed more towards graduates. And the YUSU events reputation is still suffering

**"missing one or more of the summer shenanigans may be sadly inevitable"**

from fiascos such as the fresher's week Big Bang and the repeated disappearance of the main act at

previous balls. Although they are providing such delights as a pianist, free candyfloss and a fun fair, it might still be safer to stick closer to home with college based events where the attendance (of bands as well as guests) is more reliable.

Although a member of James College, Derwent seems to have provided the best party offering in the form of Big D. A combination of last years success stories, student word of mouth and the fact Derwent events publicity is almost impossible to avoid, has resulted in Big D tickets "flying" off the YUSU online shop shelf. Where number of heads equates to a successful event it is clear that this will not be a

waste of money and may be the reason so many people have already opted for the "party college's" summer event. So, in the end it wasn't too hard to pick Big D.

Despite the difficulty in deciding on my event of choice, the diversity and breadth across York's summer calendar is something that fundamentally should be celebrated.

It is a credit to our University and a reward for working hard all year. Although the YUSU ball remains a tempting reward on the horizon of graduation, the college and society events seem much more grounded with their promise of a good night for all.

## Backwards reform

Improvements are usually seen as a positive step; changing the way students are taught for the better is something that everyone welcomes. However, when improvement is badly thought through – then it becomes detrimental to the course.

It is not good enough to just excuse the problems with the new first-year modules because they are just that – new. Structuring the examination period in Biology so there are six exams within four days causes a hectic schedule. Furthermore, with two practicals due in on the first day of examination, even though only one is being marked, surely the Biology Department could have moved this deadline back?

The way that the organisation and structure of the deadlines around this period has been constructed is simply flawed. The Biology course representatives are right when they say many students feel like guinea pigs and although the Department have said that they are going to look at this situation next month – it is too late for those taking exams this week.

Although the first year in Biology does not count towards the final degree, students naturally want to do the best they possibly can and the department's job is to facilitate that. But in this instance the Biology Department has failed to provide the best examination schedule and then compounded it with two practicals due in as well.

Students should be marked on the best possible work they can produce, rather than just a poor, tired piece of writing that is not a true reflection of their abilities; the crammed scheduling of these exams is helping no one.

## Society silence

YUSU's Societies Committee has hardly hit the ground running. Hailed as a key part of increased representation, the golden phrase of the recent Democratic review, it now stands as an embarrassing symbol for the lack of interest and notice the student body has taken of these laboriously laid-out reforms.

The planned responsibilities of the committee were not without their controversy, with a number societies fighting against the role the elected members would be given in granting funding for the largest and most expensive societies on campus. The complete lack of any even tepidly interested students in running for any of the eight positions serves again to highlight how flawed it was to give this committee, which had yet even to be trialed, anything other than temporary responsibilities.

Yet it reveals an even more serious flaw in the system. Even societies, who tend to come into much closer contact with YUSU than most, perceived Societies Committee so irrelevant or separate from them that none felt it necessary to run. Blame lack of publicity, blame essays, exams or the weather, it shows an inherent problem with communication between YUSU, and the students and societies it is there to represent.

And what of the Committee? After all, it is rendered useless if it doesn't fully represent all sections of society. It appears, for the time being, the Student Activities Officer will have to bear the burden on their own.

## Aiming for autonomy

Looking at how the University's collegiate system is structured it seems entirely understandable that the College Chairs have found themselves in a position where they feel decisions are being taken without them being consulted. A significant part of the problem is that the centralised decision making on how money is distributed means that JCRCs are kept at arm's length by simple logistics.

While it is certainly a worrying sign that the College Chairs have felt unable to communicate and effect change, it is also a sign of the times that when £800 failed to appear in the accounts of their respective JCRCs they did not feel that anything needed to be done. It seems remarkable that Jane Grenville only discovered that money had not gone out whilst chatting to a JCRC Chair, over two terms after the money was supposed to go out. It seems to suggest that the Chairs have somewhat lapsed into a posture of supplication that in over six months it did not occur to one of them to pick up the phone and ask the obvious question: "where's the money?"

The problem is that without any direct link to the people who control the majority of the university's spending, the effectiveness of the lobbying done by the College Chairs is always diluted. It seems possible that with greater financial independence greater autonomy might naturally evolve, breaking away from the artificial and centrally funded nature of the colleges and progressing towards the kind of loyalty which might loosen purse-strings a few decades later.

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## Contrasting agendas must be met with compromise



Hannah Brearley

In the increasingly hush-hush no man's land where the boundaries of media and law meet, home of back-room deals and cheating footballers, it has become unsurprising that headlines and stories are batted between the two factions until a mutually acceptable "truth" is agreed upon.

We all know now that Ryan Giggs slept with Imogen from Big Brother, shocking I know, a footballer and an over-endowed D-list "celebrity". But things have reached a fever pitch when the wording of a petition against the University being funded by companies engaged in arms trade (morally bad, yes?) becomes legally objectionable.

Even writing this piece has become a minefield; constantly checking for libellous statements (can I call Imogen Thomas a D-list celebrity?) rather than perpetrating an honest opinion. Clearly, there are significant issues with certain university departments being funded by companies with some morally and ethically dubious business contracts, but what is more disturbing is that these issues cannot be

addressed by concerned students, because of the oily legality of the companies in question.

BAE have never been convicted in court of corrupt practices, but the fear of legal action is still nonetheless potent in national protest groups. Somehow the wording of a petition, which captures the essence of the problem, if not the legally acceptable phraseology, is

denied normally; a protest of over fifty thousand students in November 2010 against a rise in tuition fees received political lip service, with no impact on governmental plans to increase fees.

So why has a petition by a few students in York managed to induce such a severe response in BAE? The petition was generally well received, but the opposition to BAE's funding was nowhere near fifty thousand strong; evidently, it's not what you say, it's who you say it about.

Regardless of what has officially been said in court, any organisation receiving a \$400 million criminal fine from in the US cannot hope to succeed in the whiter-than-white morality play. Nonetheless, a rewording of the petition; a reconfiguration of the truth of the matter which is amenable to protesting students and corporate lawyers alike; will surely put the protest back in motion.

The question is how to reach that compromise, with one side wielding terrifying legal power, and the other wielding an incorrectly worded petition.

**"Clearly, this petition has hit a particularly potent chink in BAE's legal armour"**

enough to provoke BAE into potentially suing the students behind the petition. Methinks the vast multinational doth protest too much.

Clearly this petition has hit a particularly potent chink in BAE's legal armour. No-one listens to stu-

## Overseas students stand to become a monetary import

Hannah Clugston

Comment Editor



There's quite a lot of confusion over the new tuition fees scheme. One minute the government are saying you can only charge the top fee in special circumstances, next (when a high number of British universities somehow fit into the special circumstances category) they announce universities overcharging will be disciplined and finally it is suggested you will be able to buy your place at university, providing you have enough money. Of course, it turned out the latter was a load of nonsense- or was it?

Certainly in the case of home students it is. Even if there is a loophole that might allow universities to boost their student numbers through keeping their outright fee paying students off the official student count, we still have to go through UCAS and earn our place based on our academic achievement.

While foreign students subscribe to the same process, it cannot be ignored that overseas students bring extra monetary value with them, making them undeniably more financially lucrative applicants.

Between 2010/11 and 2014/15 the University of York is set to increase its overseas student population by 13.4 per cent. It is not just York though; Durham University is increasing its intake by 97 per cent. Durham are claiming, "All of our students benefit from the diverse educational environment which produces global citizens." They neglected to mention that this increase would be a financial goldmine as overseas students yearly fees are

currently averaging at £11,435. We all applauded as LSE announced it was keeping its fees down at £8,500. But what we didn't take into account was how it was legitimately able to do so. LSE has the biggest population of overseas students in the world, with only a third from the UK. The uncomfortable truth behind their lower fees then is that they can afford to keep them down because the mass of overseas students makes up the loss. LSE stands as an exaggerated version of what all other universities are doing too; foreign students are paying for the British to be educated around.

The increase in international students at York and across Britain at this time of severe university budget cuts should be questioned. The danger is, if it hasn't already happened, that foreign students will just become a sum of money. Home students could end up being overlooked for financially attractive foreign students, whilst overseas students end up burdened with rescuing British universities from financial shortcomings. Mr Cameron might state that you can't buy your way into university but has he forced universities to rely on overseas students to do just that?



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There is no point in students voting for motions to be passed if they are unwilling to put them into practice.

Democracy is at the heart of the society in which we live. It seems obvious; the more people involved at decision making level enables a greater number of views from a wider cross-section of interests to be taken into consideration, leading to a more balanced and more representative decision.

This was the attitude at the heart of YUSU's democratic review at their UGM. They sought to reorganise the democratic structure of the organisation after they deemed it to have become "fragmentary and [...] out-dated." It was one that met with approval, as the new societies committee was born. Designed to fundamentally alter the way money is dished out to societies, it is an eight person committee comprising members from all different types of on campus groups, to help ensure that grants are evenly distributed between them. Just one problem; despite an electorate keen to back its creation, they appear to have been less keen to back it in practice, as the committee is yet to see the appointment of its first member.

The lengthy "notice of co-option", listing a whole series of unfilled positions, serves more to undermine YUSU's democratic review than it does lead the way to an era of reform. It would appear to be a question of responsibility. It is far easier to tick a box on a piece of paper than to engage in long hours of service to support the idea that seemed so convincing to begin with. Those who are prepared to advocate something on paper need to be

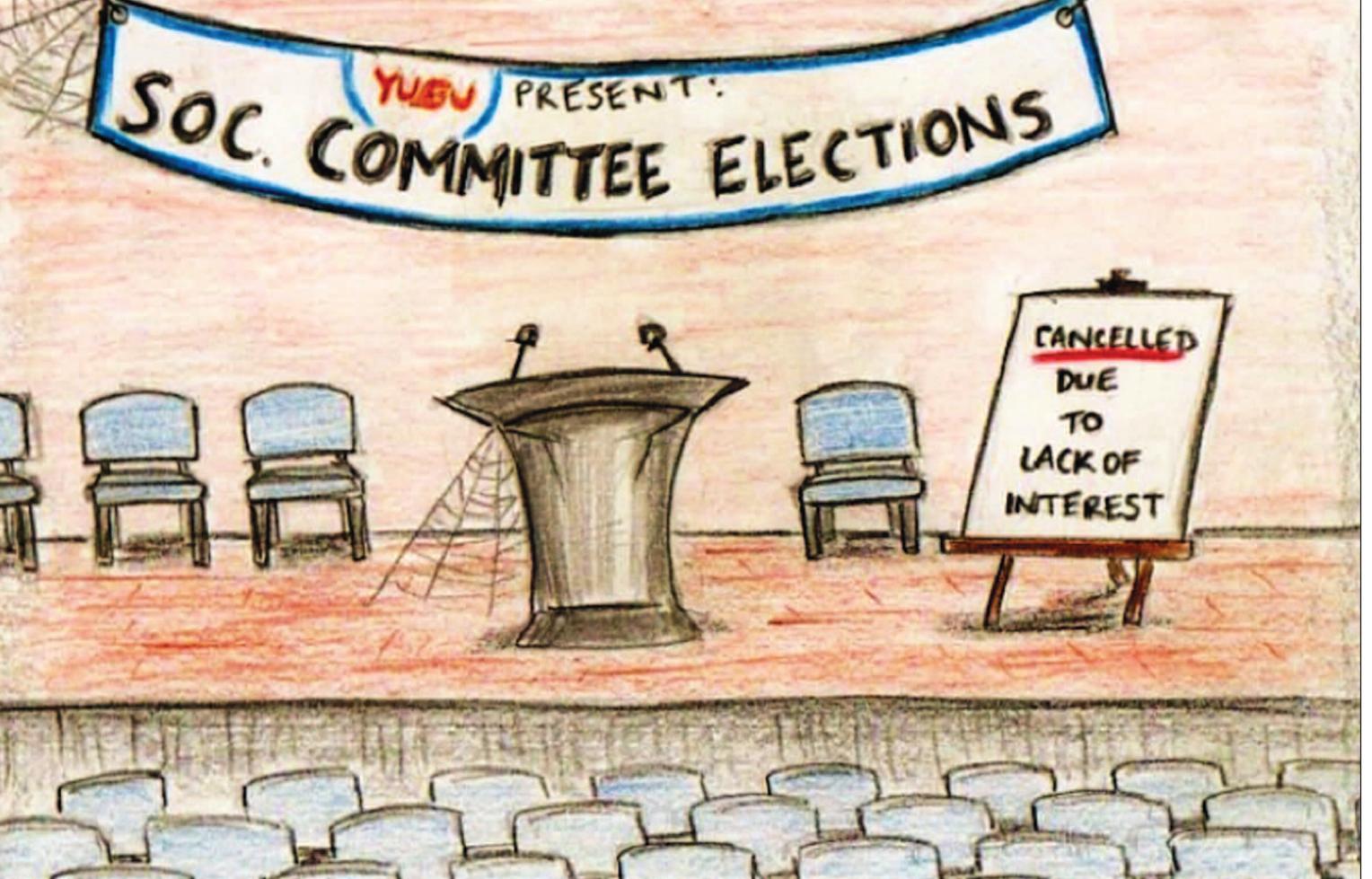
equally prepared to support it in practice. Any sort of structural reform is meaningless without the commitment to take on the new roles and see them become something more than titles on a page.

Yet the lack of information surrounding these elections could just as well account for the extensive list of vacancies surrounding the new positions. There appears to have been strictly limited information regarding when they were to take place, while even the knowledge of

**"any sort of structural reform is meaningless without the commitment to take on the new roles"**

their existence may not have reached many would be candidates around campus. Regardless of the reasons for its less than spectacular creation, the situation needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency. It is ironic, that a motion designed to improve the distribution of grants for societies could leave them in an extended limbo. Under the new regulations, grants of over five per cent of the overall budget will need to have express approval from the societies committee. Without an uptake in

SAMANTHA STRONG



## Uganda must be permitted to develop

James Harle



Recently, a petition swept the social networks, in opposition to a new Ugandan bill further impinging on the rights of homosexuals in that country. It garnered virtually unanimous support, a true credit to the open-mindedness of our country, and our generation. I'm pleased to say that the hateful bill has not been passed, in part because of these commendable efforts. I must make a confession, however: I didn't sign the petition.

I didn't sign the petition because I see Uganda as a younger England. The Roman Empire withdrew from Britain in 410 CE. 1550 years later, the British Empire withdrew its hold on Uganda.

By forcing Uganda to comply with our culture, we deny them one and a half millennia of development which we made use of ourselves. Over those years, our country has had the liberty to exercise and eventually exercise its religious fanaticism; we have the privilege of looking back at the crusades and feeling shame, safe in the knowledge that we have learnt from our shared history and know better now.

This is what has made us the strong, moral and open-minded country that we are today; the country whose citizens so readily responded to the suffering of homosexuals abroad. We deny that opportunity to Uganda by forcing their actions. As Anthony Burgess illustrates, a person who is forced to act morally is not acting morally at all. Why should a country be any different? What right do we have to make Uganda our 'Clockwork Orange'?

Another issue is the methodology of the petitions, which I find to be flawed. Many versions of the petition, for example, proposed to deny aid to Uganda, should the bill be passed. If the UK stopped financial aid to Uganda, this would represent a loss of £70 million annually, in a nation which already has an infant mortality rate of 79.4%.

Further, I would suggest that the repercussions of such a move would only foster greater hatred against homosexuals in Uganda, who would inevitably be perceived to be at fault for the reduction in international aid.

Ultimately, we have two choices: we can force Uganda to act in the way that we consider to be right, as we did for 74 years, or we can allow the Ugandans to make that choice for themselves, in the knowledge that they could act with sickening hatred. I couldn't make that choice; I couldn't sign or oppose the petition.

While I am happy with the outcome, I can only reflect that this issue was a lot more fraught than people gave it credit for; the road to hell is paved with good petitions.

# MUSE.

01.06.11

## Sensory steps

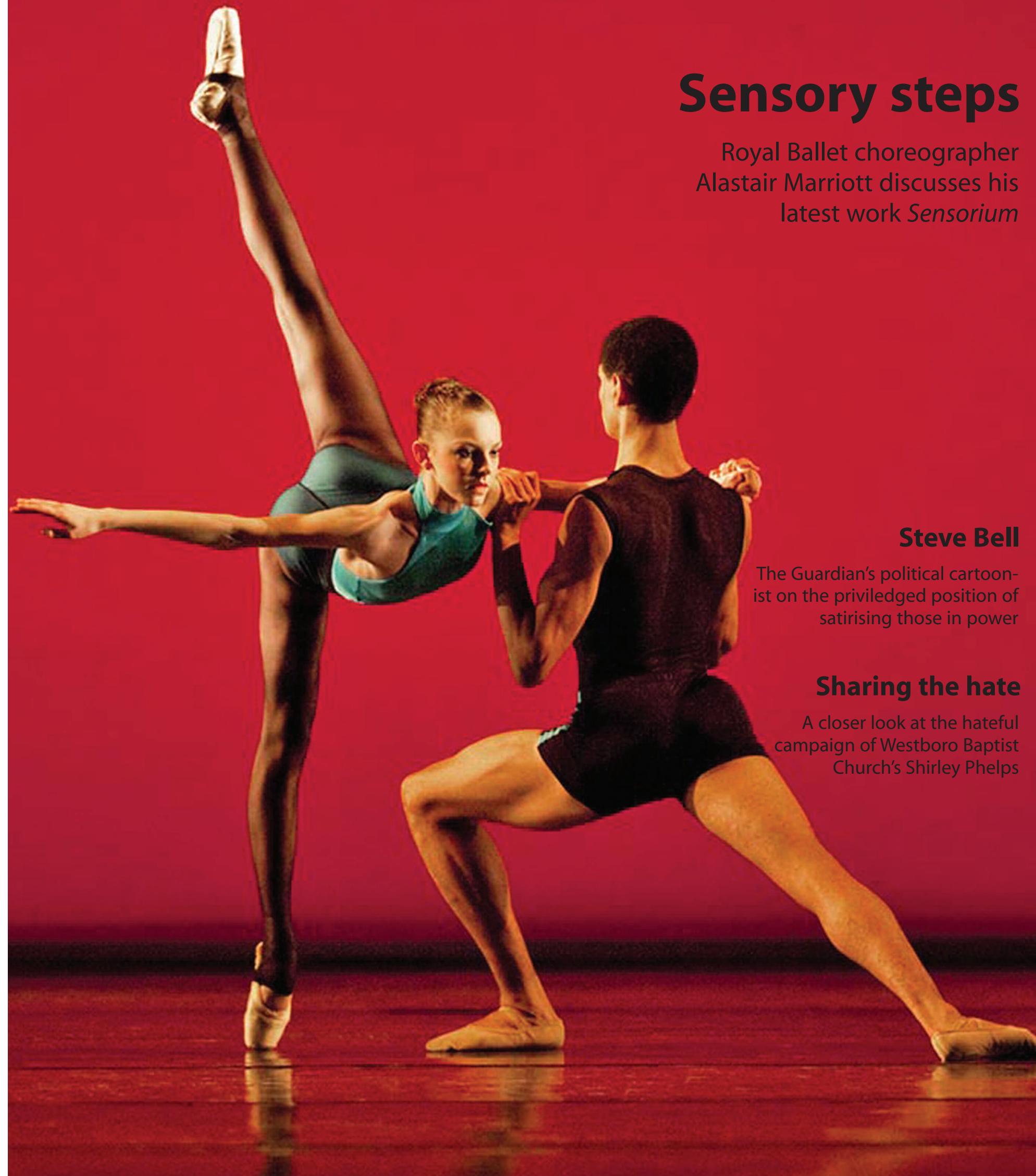
Royal Ballet choreographer Alastair Marriott discusses his latest work *Sensorium*

### Steve Bell

The Guardian's political cartoonist on the privileged position of satirising those in power

### Sharing the hate

A closer look at the hateful campaign of Westboro Baptist Church's Shirley Phelps



# MUSE.



M10



M16



M19

## FEATURES.

### M4. Wannabe Hacks

Jake Farrell meets the team behind the blog that took the journo world by surprise

### M6. Sharing the hate

Louis Theroux's subject Shirley Phelps discusses her hateful campaign with James Dixon

### M8. Taking the piss

The Guardian's lead cartoonist, Steve Bell, talks "Condom Cameron" with Hannah Ellis-Petersen

### M10. It's just not cricket

The IPL has long been shunned, but that doesn't have to be the case, argues Sam Lawson

### M12. New kids on the block

Your guide to colour-block clothing this summer



## Tom Killingbeck.

I was mid-way through a dance move that succinctly crossed the intangible borders between crunk and tango on the sweaty carnival of the Willow's dancefloor when I received a panicking text from a housemate. 'GUYS THERE ARE ONLY 36 TICKETS FOR SUMMER BALL LEFT. WE NEED TO BUY THEM TONIGHT'. The urgency of the message struck icy fear into my tender heart, and I immediately felt desperately in need of a laptop with access to the YUSU website. But then I overcame my idiotic excitement and thought for a second. Was I really that crazy about going to the Summer Ball?

Sure, I've always kind of wanted to go to a Prom. Hollywood taught me that these sort of events are either preternaturally cool coming of age experiences (*The Virgin Suicides*), full of ostentatiously choreographed dance routines that everyone innately knows (*Grease*), or excuses to play Chuck Berry songs to adoring crowds before almost getting off with your mum (*Back To The Future*). Big end-of-era summer events like this have been sold to me since I first turned on a TV. I'd quite like to end my university

experience doing a choreographed dance in front of an assembled throng after smoking a joint with that guy from *Dazed and Confused*. I'm sure anyone would.

But coming back to earth for a second, I remembered that the Summer Ball costs thirty odd quid. It's got to be a pretty scintillating happening for that kind of money. I mean, for thirty quid you could drink six cocktails in *Evil Eye*. Or buy a replica

Lord of the Rings sword from that medieval shop opposite it. Or rent three pedalos. The infinite possibilities of the things that I could do with thirty quid that would be more enjoyable than a Summer Ball crippled my enthusiasm. As I thought about it more, the faded memories of a hundred campus events came crawling back to me like the tortured, moaning souls of Hades.

Having been at York for three years, I

can announce that in my time here I have been to precisely zero good events. Yes, I've had a shit ton of fun at campus nights, not because they were in any way technically good, but because my friends were there and the drinks were cheap. I would have had the same fun drinking a three-litre bottle of cider

and throwing plates at geese. Or by dropping acid and trying to balance some corks on a table in Tang Hall Working Men's Club. Let's just

have a think back to the YUSU-organised events of the last three years. Oh, the horror, the horror.

I know we British like to queue, but these events are designed for boredom masochists. As well as this, whenever I've been asked to DJ at, say, Access All Areas, I've been greeted with an obese, uncooperative sour-faced man telling me there are no decks or equipment available. This may

explain the quality of the music. The nature of the union's events can be summarised by the time I went to interview Dappy before N-Dubz played the Summer Ball last year. Disturbingly hyped to chat to the diminutive hat-twat, I was sorely disappointed as I headed to campus to learn that the turdawful trio would not be appearing.

Pretty much every headline act booked by YUSU in my time here has pulled out. Wiley, The Noisettes, and Noah and the Whale all pissed off at the last minute. The ones that did turn up – Scott and Abs from 5ive, for example – made me want to do a Travis Bickle. Secondly, YUSU are musically illiterate. Why N-Dubz, in the name of all that's holy? Why anyone in the union would think that a bunch of people graduating from a university would appreciate watching an act that appeals only to children who've overdosed on *Sunny Delight* is beyond me. Thus, instead of getting into my prom dress and whirling down the stairs on June 22, I'll be chasing geese with a replica sword on a rented pedalo. I bet you thirty-five English pounds that I have a better time than you.

## FASHION.

**M14.** Serena Kalirai revisits the old but timeless trend of florals for its comeback this year. Plus: how to do Ray Bans your way, and footie meets fashion.

## ARTS.

**M16.** Alastair Marriott of the Royal Ballet explores his latest work, while we debate two hot topics: the eBook and the musician-turned-artist.

## MUSIC.

**M18.** Sam Briggs meets Slow Club. Plus, plagiarism royalty: tribute bands.

## FILM.

**M20.** Gareth Davies talks *Julia's Eyes* with Guillem Morales. Plus: top five Terence Malick films and our pick of what to see this week.

## FOOD&DRINK.

**M22.** This week's recipe is fish pie with glazed carrots. Plus, Henry Cowen recounts a tear-jerking trip to The Three-Legged Mare, and to eat: El Piano.

## IMAGE CREDITS.

**M4-5.** Wannabe Hacks

**M12-14.** Peter Iveson & Lucy Dixon

**M8.** Steve Bell

**M19.** Peter Iveson

# Quirks: Famous Affairs

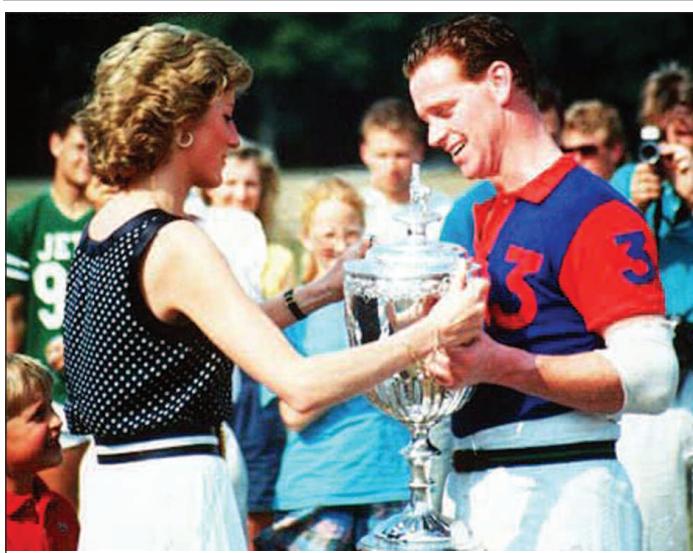
The 'dirty little secret' has long been something of a craze in celebrities' lives...



Mrs Robinson &  
Benjamin Braddock



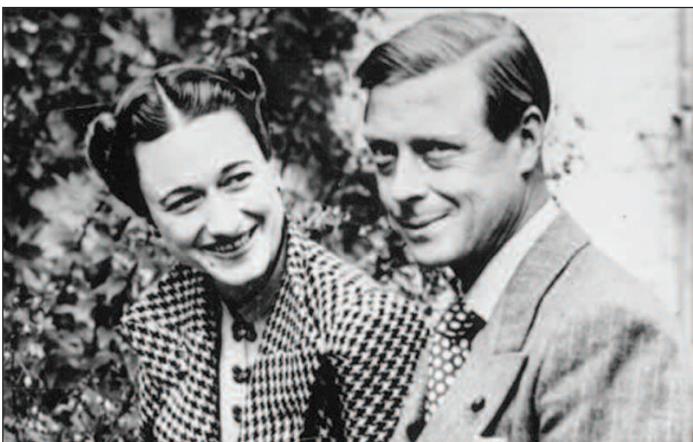
John Major & Edwina Curry



Princess Diana & James Hewitt



Ronnie Wood &  
Ekaterina Ivanova



Wallis Simpson & Prince Edward

# To have and to have not finished

## Champagne Charlie.



I've never really considered myself much of a gloater. Up until now in fact, I'd like to have thought I was a gracious and considerate opponent. When I won the year eight I.T. prize for example, (yeah that's right BIHATCHES) I modestly insisted that everyone else's websites were as good as mine. I quietly maintained that charlottesweb.com was just the same as everybody else's project, and that I had simply got lucky. I hadn't actually. My site was amazing. Fact. Similarly, when I told my brother not to stick his foot on our fire because his sock would melt, he ignored me. And yet when the polycotton blend was firmly smelted to our sitting room stove, I helpfully detached it, peeling off pieces of his scorched and blistered toes without so much as a wry smile. See? Nice. Not gloaty.

Recently however, I seem to have had somewhat of a lapse. Since I finished my degree, I have gloated outrageously, hideously, and without restraint. I have literally laughed in people's faces. I have asked pedantic and irritating questions that I well know the answer to. I have danced around the kitchen in my pants and played 'WAG Anthems' at obscure and inscrutable times, with max volume on my speakers. My respect for other people's work ethic is, I would say, minimal at best. Its not that I think I'm going to do exceptionally well at my degree - I don't. I just know that I have finished, and some people haven't. Some people, when this is published on Wednesday, will be queuing outside the library at 9am and praying not to have to sit on a FatBoy beanbag. I won't though, I'll be asleep. I'll get up later, have an elaborate and unnecessarily large breakfast like pancakes, maple syrup and bacon, and then get back into my unmade bed to play diner dash for another four to five hours and drink strawberry Frij. And that, my friends, is why I cannot help but be so repellently smug.

Those of you who are reading this though, are not revising. Therefore you too are a gloater like me, and we can gloat

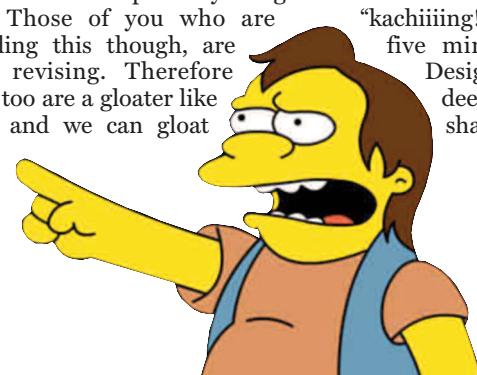
together. So, in culinary terms, here's how to make the most of your new found freedom and your housemates irrepressible doom in the most irritating way possible.

**Fry things.** No one can really ignore a frier. The sound of vegetable oil firing off like an AK47 in the kitchen should be enough to disturb any hardened student, locked away in their bedroom. If not, the yelps of those foolish enough to enter in will surely do the trick, as they leap in extravagant and outlandish movements to avoid the pellets of boiling hot fat. Fry tempura, fry fish, fry chips or mars bars, but just remember that if it isn't pinging against your ceiling, it's not nearly lethal enough. For extreme frying and extra fun, pretend you are doing shot put: swing a slotted spoon of recently fried food and fat above your head, before suddenly releasing and watching its elegant and deadly flight elsewhere.

**Space invasion.** Nothing says "I've finished and you can't ignore me" like an entire kitchen dripping with fresh pasta. Hang spaghetti from the most invasive places possible: other peoples clothes airers, a shower or your front door are all good starting points. Remember that everytime anyone has to move any of your cooking, they'll get annoyed and will eventually have to ask why you did this. Then you can tell them that you've finished your degree. If you want you can combine it with some kind of YES! Airpunch or lower body thrust. Either way, you win.

**Micro-wahey!-ve.** Put something in your microwave and listen to the ping. Sounds almost exactly like "woop! I've finished!" doesn't it? Microwaving anything and everything is a sure fire way to expressive your positive and upbeat mood, without actually saying anything annoying. Externally, you can say "oh yeah, your revision sounds really difficult, not long to go though, want me to test you?", while all the while the microwave haunts

"kachiiing! I don't care! In five mins I'll be at the Designer Outlet wrist deep in Cadbury misshapes! Wooooop!"



## The United States by numbers

**1/3**rd of Americans don't believe in evolution. In some states, it's taught alongside Darwinism as another 'option'. Taking the land of plenty thing a bit far, no? Greedy yanks.

**22%** of New Yorkers said they would fire a good friend to get ahead. In England the number is less than half that. Does that make us noble? Or just lazy? Answers on a postcard please....

**58%** of Americans will never read another book after graduating high school. We can't blame the success of the Twilight trilogy on them alone, can we?

**15** percent. The number of brides who are virgins. 11% the number who walk down the aisle pregnant. Guess purity rings aren't 100% effective after all.

**1830** The year ketchup was created as a medicine. Factoring in Americans' obsession with over the counter drugs, 30.5 tons a year seems pretty reasonable. Or maybe that's just their love of all things fried.

**50%** of young Americans cannot locate New York on a map. Perhaps that's why we end up with so many bermused American tourists around here.

# Wannabe

## Hacks



**Jake Farrell** explores the extraordinary movement sweeping the journalist scene; the hacks are a new breed of legitimate reporters.

In the crush of one of the most competitive graduate markets five young entrepreneurs are steadily making a name for themselves.

Wannabe Hacks is the brain child of Ben Whitelaw, Nick Petrie and Tom Clarke, all formerly of Birmingham student newspaper Redbrick, a website entirely devoted to the intricacies of trying to break into student journalism. Started under a year ago the site now boasts an impressive online presence and a dedicated twitter following. It is clear why.

With clarity and energy the five "Wannabes" are forging the identity of the modern student journalist in the heat of the myriad of new tools and

technologies available to the everyday hack.

"Wannabe Hacks was born out of a frustration with what was on the web in terms of journalism advice" says Whitelaw, whose online alias 'The Student' is rendered in a slick Mad Men-esque silhouette online, just as are those of his colleagues. "Everything was written by people who were already journalists and who had got a job in the media at a time when things were very different. With the five of us planning on pursuing a range of routes (interning, freelancing, newspaper MA, investigative MA) in London, we thought a collaborative blog would be an interesting way to track our progress

into journalism."

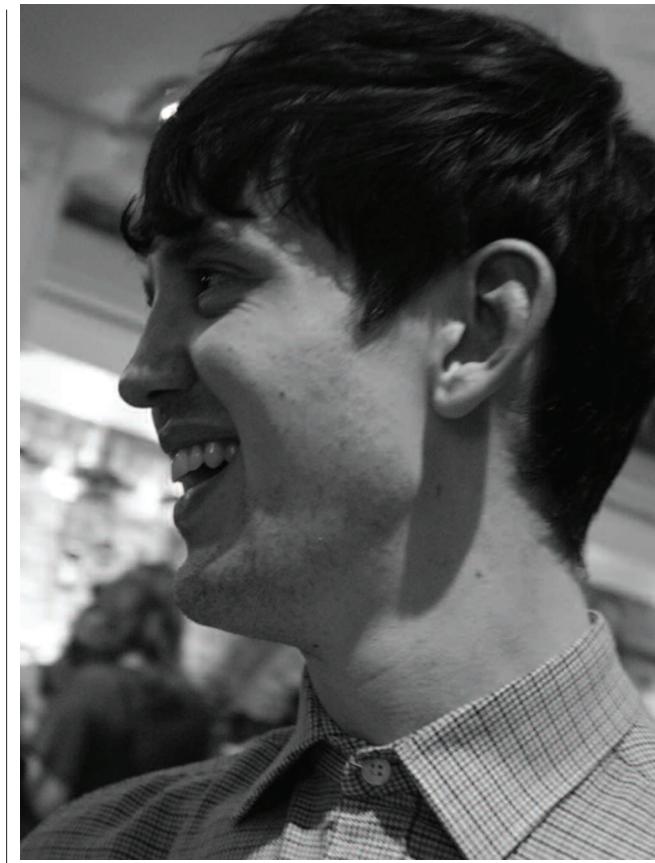
What a journey it has been. Through work experience placements, being interviewed live on BBC Radio 5 about entrepreneurship and speaking at media conferences, the Hacks have chronicled just how far a good idea can get you with enthusiasm and humour.

They may not have known what they had on their hands when they started but others saw its potential immediately and, as Whitelaw describes, on a shoestring budget they've created an authentic and recognisable identity: "When seeking advice, we were told by Martin Belham, Lead User Experience and Information Architect at the Guardian, to 'Get start-

ed. Tomorrow'. So we did - with a Wordpress site and then after a few months with a neat personalised theme coded by Cameron Drysdale, a student web designer and coder. We've spent £30 on hosting and about the same on a few business cards."

This fierce ambition and independence typifies much good student journalism today. There is a wealth of opportunity to get your name and work out there in a constructive manner and it is this quality in the modern information market that Wannabe Hacks has tapped into with such razor sharp acumen. Not that they want to stop there though, as Tom Clarke, former Redbrick Sports and News editor and

**"No-one has a god-given right to go straight in as a trainee reporter or an editorial assistant, those days are long gone."**



'The Chancer,' details: "I know it has potential but like Ben I think we are miles away from what we want to be and, more importantly, what we should be. We need more distinctive content and a better site but just the interest we have had and the acknowledgement from others shows the potential. But that's all it is at the minute: potential."

This perhaps underestimates the stir that they've already caused; at least in their field. Wannabe Hacks is a site utilised to the fullest by an engaged and passionate audience; the numbers may be still growing but those in the know care and enjoy the site.

When people are bombarded by information and content from a plethora of sources how do you keep them coming back? "At the heart of Wannabe Hacks is the fact that it doesn't preach. It's for wannabes and it's by wannabes," says freelance journalist Matt Caines.

"Well we're a little fed up of older journos out of touch with social and new media telling us how to get a job in an industry they knew 20 to 30 years

ago. Instead, we wanted to be our own experimental guinea pigs and let others in on it. If I had a good pitch accepted, here's how and why; if I cocked it up and it was for this or that reason. I can tell the readers what went wrong and hopefully they won't follow suit. At the same time we want others to come in and advise each other - Hacks is a forum and community space for aspiring journalists to share their own experiences."

Now though the project has taken on a life of its own and become a part of the world of journalism. Its writers are not simply kids with their noses pressed against the sweet shop window, they are journalists in their own right.

As the site has morphed from the beginnings of a set of career journeys to a source of content about the processes of journalism in itself, with a still weighty slant towards helping out aspiring hacks, it has really come into its own. Voted the number two blog in Fleet Street Blues top ten list of Journalism sites for 2010, alongside

writers like Roy Greenslade and John Slattery, the Hacks are not the anarchic urchins storming the well defended battlements of paid writing; they are getting a bit of respect from their peers: "At the moment the influence it's having is huge - it was directly responsible for me getting a job at the Guardian and it has played a fundamental part of the experience that has helped me get a move to the Telegraph" says Nick Petrie, former Redbrick editor.

Despite this there is a patent sense that this is a happy by product of the venture rather than the intended outcome: "We never set up Hacks to get a job per se, the hours we've spent on it have been for the sake of it" says Whitelaw "I think it just goes to show the power that a self-starter project like Wannabe Hacks can have, especially with the rise of online journalism. I have no formal training in the area that I'm going into and yet because I've worked hard in my spare time as part of a site that is based on a decent idea, I've got a full-time position from it."

The idea that a similar fate awaits every student who is tempted by the allure of Fleet Street is not a myth that the Hacks like to perpetuate though. Numerous blog posts have been about dealing with the inevitable rejections of journalism (both Whitelaw and Clarke have written about not getting on to graduate schemes) and the site is focused on providing people with the edge to get ahead in what can sometimes be a cut throat industry. They are pragmatic about the difficulties that people leaving University, as they were not too long ago, face. "It being difficult isn't going to change," says Alice Vincent, whose dedicated work for student papers and then on magazine placements landed her her current position. "If you want to get into journalism, you've got to be prepared to give your all to it, but that shouldn't really be an issue because if you're going to make it then that's all you'll want to do anyway. The current industry demands a creative approach, even more persistence than usual and giving people a reason to take notice of you."

This seems to be the over-riding ethos of Wannabe Hacks. Providing yourself with a fresh angle on well trodden career path, giving CV weary employers something to get excited about – and not in a showy, preening way but in the manner of someone hungry for a chance to do something they love. "Once you're finished, don't expect to walk into a job" is Ben Whitelaw's take on things "No-one has a god-given right to go straight in as a trainee reporter or an editorial assistant, those days are long gone. Go out of your way to do something different and innovative - with the amount of people you'll be competing with for jobs and even work experience, you'll need to stand out." Solid advice it would seem, that typifies the verve with which he and his colleagues are attacking a difficult challenge. Their advice is being consumed by a grateful, willing audience and it's helping them achieve their personal goals at the same time. Perhaps Nick Petrie's advice on how to become a journalist crystallises their reams of writing and tips into one commonly held value: "Have no fear." **M**



**Above:** Ben Whitelaw; **or,**  
**'The Student,'** and one of  
the five Wannabe Hacks.  
**Left:** Wannabe Hacks and  
friends at a recent event.



# Sharing the Hate

**James Dixon talks to a woman who hates soldiers, fags and the Japanese; all with the security of God behind her.**

When I phone, the family are painting the church. They're usually picketing funerals somewhere across America, garnering media attention and spreading the word of a hateful God. The subject of Louis Theroux's BBC documentary, "America's Most Hated Family", the Westboro Baptist Church sees it as their duty to rejoice in all of God's judgements, including earthquakes, cancer and war.

Famous for their signs - "THANK GOD FOR DEAD SOLDIERS", "GOD HATES FAGS", "THANK GOD FOR AIDS" and others - they have become sorry circus animals, paraded on shows like Jeremy Kyle, mocked and spat at. Shirley Phelps is the spokesperson for the family, and although years of defending the church's views have

made her rhetoric angry, snappy and reactionary - almost mechanical - it doesn't take much probing to find an interesting underbelly.

Her dad was an outspoken civil rights lawyer with high-profile cases to his name. "When we were little, before we went to law school to help him at work, the phone would ring and somebody would be on there screaming - 'nigger-lover'. And they would shoot at our cars and shoot at our windows. It was just...it was just kind of brutal, but it was okay. When you're little and things are happening and you're not conscious of danger then you just go along and trust your parents. By and by, I realised that that's the way you have to approach God. You have to trust God - like a little child."

It's wrong to assume that

**Above:**  
**Shirley Phelps**  
**at her**  
**protests.**

America's religious right always overlaps with the racist legacy of the Confederacy. Fred Phelps grew up in Mississippi. "He saw up close how they treated black people; he saw the whole separate but equal myth and it resonated with him. The Bible never says it's an abomination to be black."

This strong sense of equality seems to jar with her extreme homophobia and anti-Semitism, but Shirley has a strict set of views, each with a basis in her dad's reading of the Bible. "This nation went over to Africa and dragged their people over here. One law shall be - that's what the Scripture says. Who maketh thee to differ from another?"

The Westboro Baptist Church has been picketing for twenty years now. For the first seven or eight years much

of the media wouldn't speak of them - "it was all mocking and scoffing". Then a gay student from Wyoming was tortured and killed. The church went and picketed his funeral. According to their website - godhatesfags.com - "he lived a satanic lifestyle".

"That's when we first got really high profile in this country. Then 9/11 came - we said thank God for 9/11. This nation is going to be Japan on steroids. It's going to shake and quake and sputter and spew. The very land is going to vomit the people out - it's going to be beautiful."

I'm always alarmed by the power of indoctrination. When I ask Shirley about her childhood she mentions her mum - "a stabilising soul" - but quickly moves on to her dad, the pastor of the church. "I remember when I was little I



would listen to him talk about anything and everything. Don't tell my kids this, but I didn't like school. When I realised I could learn skills and help my dad in his law office I started doing that. So I would walk home, I would miss school - that was my favourite time, when I started to feel like I had control over my own life."

She grew up in a busy home, one of Fred Phelps' thirteen children. She now has eleven of her own. They read Harry Potter and Twilight, but every day they also read the Bible. "These kids don't roam the streets; they have chores to do and their first priority when they get home is their homework.

"We don't leave them floundering around in darkness to raise themselves. That's what my generation does - as fast as they can do it, they turn their children over to the internet, to the fags, anyone and everyone because these lazy brutes don't want to be bothered. They're self-centred, egomaniacal, drug using, alcohol abusing rebels against God, and they didn't want those kids in the first place."

This is one of many bursts of anger, and during our conversation I get the impression that she interprets everything in a way that will fuel her belief. One of her sisters handles a lot of cases dealing with what she calls "CINC" - children in need of care. "She came in yesterday to my office in distress - she's thick-skinned after everything she's seen, but in this case the dad had punched the baby in the face because it was crying in the night, and its brain started bleeding. That's happening all over this country - they kill their babies, they eat their babies. They eat them in so many ways."

By "eat", do you mean metaphorically eat? "I mean that too, but there was a woman in San Antonio who took her three week old baby and used a couple of big knives and a sword and she ate him. It's just awful. And months later there was a little boy in California - they didn't kill this little guy, but he said "daddy ate my eyes". It's horrible,

but it's the curse of God. And you may wonder, why is this nation getting all these curses? Isn't that a big question?"

I remind her that these kinds of things happen in other countries. There are cases of cannibalism and extreme child-abuse in countries all over the world, but in general, it's a small proportion of parents that eat their babies.

In the past two years, several of Shirley's children have left the church as a result of its closed views. "If you're going to be living in this neighbourhood, in these families, the house policy is that we're going to serve the Lord our God. If that gets in the way of your idols, and your life is going to be "I'm

## "We said thank God for 9/11. The very land is going to vomit the people out - it's going to be beautiful."

going to play my videogames" or "I'm going to fornicate" or "I want to have my hair cut", for the girls, or in the case of one of those young ladies, "I want to have breast enhancement surgery" - you're going to pack your bags. Those girls make their own path. We are exactly where we were before they left. We're not chasing the rebels - life is too short."

Despite what seems like a cold outlook, Shirley sounds upset. She's usually happy to preach, but when talking about her departed children she gives increasingly short answers. I ask if she hopes to see them again, but she's quick to say that she has no interest in seeing the girls. "I'm ashamed of them. Don't you understand? What would I tell them, except - you're in so much trouble. And they know it."

After watching Louis Theroux's documentary I'm interested in finding out how many people they've had joining the church. She tells me there are people coming from everywhere. "We've had a guy come from Scotland,

we've had a guy come from somewhere else in the UK, and another one says he's coming shortly. There was a lady who turned up at 1:30 in the morning from Nashville, Tennessee."

"We have only hope that everyone will hear these words. Wrath is coming down on this generation - wrath! The way it is described in the Bible looks just like what is happening in Japan. If you didn't get it with the earthquakes you might have got it with the tsunami, and if you got away from both of those then you might get it yet from the radiation. They just had another earthquake yesterday. It's a nation of idol worshipping, filthy people. Those are some filthy people. You just look a little

bit at that culture."

Puzzled by this disgust, I check one of their many websites - [whygodhatestheworld.com](http://whygodhatestheworld.com) - to find out the church's position on Japan: "it's just disgusting what this government has allowed their children to become - filthy whores as young as eleven. It doesn't matter if their math scores and education exceed that of the USA. They are dumber than a box of baseball bats when it comes to their duty to fear God and keep His Commandments!" But it's not just Japan - the website has a page for every country in the world.

There are some statistics in the sidebar: 5979 - soldiers that God has killed in Iraq and Afghanistan; 45,511 - pickets conducted by the Westboro Baptist Church; \$14.12 trillion - national debt of doomed America; eight - people that God saved in the flood; and a counter - people who God has cast into hell since you loaded this page. I loaded it in the morning and it's now on 115,355.

You can find the address of their

church online. Publishing it could be seen as an admirable commitment to spreading their word - they must receive threats of violence, but Shirley says they can't hide. "We've got a big banner across the front of the church that says [godhatesamerica.com](http://godhatesamerica.com). It's huge - it covers the whole front of the building."

Have they been attacked? "There have been many, many efforts to try to burn the church down. They set off an IED twenty feet from where my baby was when he was four. But the promise from God is that no weapon that is formed against us will prosper, so we've got no worries. Sure they've tried. There was a guy sitting outside the police department when we were in there, and he was outside with three guns - a military assault rifle, an M4 with 90 rounds of ammunition, a Glock with a .38 threshold, and he was sitting there by his car ready to ambush us."

"We're having a meeting in there, and here comes the police chief. "Do you guys hire security?" No, we don't hire security. He says, "well there's a guy sitting out in the parking lot and he's all freaked out. We've arrested him, but he said he was your security - that you hired him." We don't hire security, and we never have. We've got the best security there is. His name is God."

Later, she recounts a story in which somebody tried to burn her hair; another man spat in her face. It seems to me there are better ways to protest the appalling practice of the Westboro Baptist Church - good-humoured demonstrations with absurdist signs: "GOD HATES FIGS", "I HAVE A SIGN", "DOG LOVES FAGS" and "I CAN'T BELIEVE WE STILL HAVE TO PROTEST THIS SHIT." It's sad to see a family become willing victims of their own hate, and to think of a life built on devotion to a twisted notion of God; a God who couldn't save Shirley Phelps from 90 rounds of ammunition, and who didn't save her from the indignity of having to wipe spit from her face. M

Above:  
**One of Shirley's children being snapped by paparazzi whilst on a protest.**

# Taking the piss

Politicians have long been the subject of ridicule. **Hannah Ellis-Petersen** talks to Steve Bell, *The Guardian's* political cartoonist, about the power and influence his pen has held over Thatcher, Major, and the rest of the motley ruling crew.

**A**listair Campbell, he is a twat and a liar." Meet Steve Bell, arguably the most opinionated man in journalism. Yet it is not his brutally honest words he is famous for, though he is not a man afraid to hold back, but instead has made his name as one of our generation's most cutting and brilliant cartoonists.

A towering presence, and with a beard to rival Rasputin, Bell is an embodiment of the left wing politics that inescapably permeate his work. Yet, in many ways, his carefully crafted and ideologically driven works have come to define our perceptions of mod-

ern day politicians. Working at the *Guardian* for the last thirty years, the mad eye of Thatcher, the over-accentuated teeth and ears of Blair and the lubricated face of Cameron have all stemmed from the unforgiving pen of Bell.

He stresses the strong British tradition of being "extremely offensive about politicians," dating back to Hogarth, and cartoonists are perfectly poised at the centre. "As a cartoonist, you are incredibly well placed to talk about image and to get underneath the whole business of image driven politics," he says. "Politics is completely

driven by image these days so it's got that advantage. You can sort of influence people's perception but you have to be accurate, I have to have an element of truth about what I say. While my characters are in some way a distortion, they are also based on a true element of that person; that victim if you like."

Victim is certainly a good way to describe the subjects of Bell's art. Very few politicians have escaped without their images, and reputation, tarnished for good. While he is happy to concede "maybe my attitudes are a bit too entrenched for some people", he also

revels in the knowledge that "I annoy all kinds of people - liberals, Tories and the rest of them. Which I'm quite pleased about really."

He is a man who has built his life on creating controversy, and the novelty of stirring the political pot has clearly not worn off. Notoriously anti-Thatcher ("I hated Thatcher and wanted her to die"), his career flourished from his cruel observations of her "weird left eye". "She was a self-created cartoon character in many ways" he adds. "Watching the downfall of Thatcher was like watching a slow death, and it was quite good fun really."



Some of Bell's highlights (clockwise from left):

'Condom Cameron' starring in a cartoon ridiculing NHS reform; His signature cartoon strip 'If...', that launched his *Guardian* career; Edwina Currie a "a crap superman", i.e.: John Major. Steve Bell; Margaret Thatcher being escorted out of Downing Street in a straightjacket



In the current golden age of political correctness, it comes as a refreshing relief to find someone willing to be brutally honest about their views on the current state of British politics.

Yet it appears that with ConDem rule over Westminster, in his eyes, politics has done little to progress since the days of the Iron Lady. "With the current political situation, with the coalition, I've got this sense of history repeating itself" he tells me. "It is Thatcher all over again, but it is a weird rubbery Thatcher called Cameron, who is getting away with murder because of his strange kind of body shield in the form of Clegg, who has signed himself up for this suicidal policy as far as I'm concerned."

Having observed, through an eye more incisive than most, a political era that has fluctuated from Thatcher to Major to Blair and Cameron, Bell has used his cartoons as a way "for me to express disgust, to show the mess, the shit of politics".

His disgust with Cameron and Clegg becomes increasingly evident. Having started out relatively reserved, he becomes increasingly animated at the mention of the Downing Street duo.

"The problem with recent politics is there has been a kind of drive, and I remember Thatcher was like this, constant polity, constant innovation, constant bringing in of new initiatives, bringing the axe down on this, that and the other; an attack on all fronts. You just look at Clegg now and he is like a wisp, like a leaf, drifting about and badly damaged. He is, as they say, fucked."

He laughs good humouredly. Having originally thought he would provide a simple retrospective on the importance of cartoons, I now found myself the audience of some of the most acerbic political analysis I could ever have hoped for.

"Us cartoonists lately are having a great time describing just how fucked Clegg is" he says. "Clegg is like a poor clone of Cameron. There's nothing really to define him. He is just a 2D cardboard man. I've been doing him as a bit of soggy cardboard, Martin Rose has been doing him as a Pinocchio who has been ground up into sawdust; we are all having great fun with it. Cameron is a lucky sod, completely unprincipled. He is essentially a public relations man. He is getting away with murder at the moment."

Despite making a career out of satire and spoofs, his motives are by no means lightweight. Discussing heatedly the absurdity of our bumbling politicians, he conveys a clear drive, and a despairing sense of injustice at the state of the current political arena.

speech before the invasion of Iraq 'my fellow Americans I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, shock and awe.'

"That is one of the most sickening phrases I've heard in contemporary politics," he says. "What does shock and awe mean? It means terrorising, bombing the fuck out of a city. It's a kind of marketing strategy for war, and it is sick and we accept it. This argument for a humanitarian war is nonsense, it has always been nonsense; just a recycled gag from the first gulf war. And I'm driven to fight back at this crap."

Interestingly, for a cartoonist, rather than picking apart the policies of our leaders, he revels more in picking apart the way that *they* express themselves. With a keen ear for rhetoric, it is the politicians speeches that seem to help him flesh out his caricatures: "If

worth Bell's anger. On the topic of Tony Blair he describes him, in a tone of sheer condescending mockery, as "the only man I've ever seen move themselves to tears on the flood of their rhetoric." Bell really isn't one to be fooled by these staged monumental facades, and this anecdote just serves to illustrate how he is one of the few who can look beyond the performances so integrated into modern day politics.

His recent illustrations of Cameron 'the condom' have proved particularly popular, and I am keen to find out the thought process behind such an idea. He laughs again at the mention of this, and is evidently proud of this particular caricature:

"What particularly interested me about Cameron was his skin. It was uncommonly smooth, like a baby's bum. I just think Cameron is just an angry bladder. He is rubber, like a balloon who bounces up. You look at the pictures of him, he is bursting and he is pink. That is where the condom comes from. Though it obviously has other rude connotations..." he trails off, still smiling.

While he is keen to stress he gets almost completely free reign with his cartoons, he admits the 'Condom Cameron' proved less than easy for *The Guardian* to swallow: "I originally got into terrible trouble with the editor who thought it was too rude", he says. "Mercifully he eventually came round, which was nothing really to do with me. I just got an email one night from him saying, 'I'm at a dinner being trashed for the condom ban. The condom ban is hereby revoked.'

Courting controversy at every turn, Bell has few qualms over the less-than-benevolent nature of his cartoons. For him they act as a kind of justice.

"It's not very nice to people really but then you are doing them of politicians who aren't very nice to us, so I get my own back." M

## "Watching the downfall of Thatcher was like watching a slow death, and it was quite good fun really"

"People are being buggered across the board by this bunch of idiots. And they are selling it somehow under the banner of fairness, it is beggars belief, and just very frustrating to behold."

Yet, while he mocks Cameron and Clegg as upper-class toffs, it seems he reserves the overt viciousness of his tongue and of his pen for Thatcher and Bush. Mention the war at your peril.

"Bush and Blair engendered a nasty, spectacularly vicious, dirty war in Afghanistan" he says bluntly. "A pointless war of vengeance." Yet again focusing on the rhetoric of politics, he expresses particular disgust at Bush's

nothing else, politics is about language, and the way you use language and you give your word. The way politicians are always interviewed in radio and TV they are always incredibly careful about the way they use language. But when Clegg comes along and junks his entire integrity saying one thing and immediately doing the precise opposite, once you're in office - you can't get away with it, and especially not in the timescale he has tried to do it. You can't pledge to get rid of tuition fees and then increase them, it is just stupid."

Perhaps this is why one such political figure does not even seem to be



# It's just not cricket



Four years on from the creation of the biggest Twenty20 cricket league in the world, **Sam Lawson** looks at the pros and cons of the IPL and whether expectations of its success has marred its development.

Cricket has redefined India, and India has redefined cricket. But this hasn't exactly been a harmonious relationship from the start. Whether you like cricket or not, the intricacies of this extraordinary cultural and sporting phenomenon are shaping the future more than we think.

For the average English schoolboy, cricket moulds itself into a musty stereotype. Middle aged men, the occasional crack of leather on willow, and hours, several long, long hazy hours of pointlessness have a tough time fitting into the world of dynamic modern sports. Today we want our afternoons faster, brighter and filled with up-to-date analysis.

For fans and critics alike, 2008 saw the solution: the Indian Premier League (IPL) cast away the dreary stereotype with an explosion of noise and colour, passion and pace. It reflected a perception of the vibrant Indian subcontinent, bright and bustling. A country that easily accommodates teeming crowds and infectious energy.

The new league, with its 20 over, one innings format meant a shorter game, where a bigger score meant big-

ger hits, more dismissals, more risk and more running. It saw the creation of franchises owned by Bollywood stars, the inception of major city based teams with cricketing heroes from all over the world. Cricket was re-born out of its tame ashes into a searing spectacle.

The IPL's launch saw a fit of blog writers, each optimistically claiming with more patriotic gusto than the next, that the IPL would act as 'a goldmine' for investors, skyrocketing the country's economy. They lauded the capitalistic success of India, and its ability to find a way to make money. It would seem they were premature in their buoyancy. Under the direction of former chairman Lalit Modi, 'cricketainment' infected India.

After reaching the end of the fourth season, many would argue that the IPL could very easily be considered an enormous success. Whilst not an original concept, by blanketing the Indian subcontinent with an annual source of intense entertainment, it has re-invigorated the image of cricket; it has broadcast the IPL as a shining light in a dull and dusty world.

Yet equally compelling was the rejuvenated debate of how much longer the IPL can be sustained for. Though this speculation is nothing new it remains a hot topic.

"It's a carnival," says Aditya Varma, manager of a New Delhi sports bar, "it's a soap opera more than a sport."

Founded on a premise of immediate performance, rather than long-term engagement with the sport, the league is, by definition, a show. The inaugural year saw advertisers rush to sponsor every inch of space. Cricket in India adopted the commercialized, gladiatorial nature that has worked so well for the American sports leagues like the NBA and the NFL. It even adopted the cheerleaders.

Money poured in. After only four years, the IPL brand is valued at \$3.67 billion. Compare that with counties in England charging £10 on the door for the stereotypical old man with his flask and you begin to see the contrast between the two worlds.

Varma stresses, however, the transience of these figures: "It's just not sustainable." This year the brand value saw an 11 per cent drop, down from

\$4.17 billion, whilst by the 49th match of the 2011 season, television ratings dropped a monumental 25 per cent from the same point in 2010. Many teams are yet to break even after four years, while investors and sponsors also continue to lose money.

Fundamentally, their need to harness such an unstable income means the IPL is not accessible to everyone. "I watch the matches when I can on the television, but the tickets are much too expensive for me to go and see it in the stadium," says Kaushik, a rickshaw driver from New Dehli. Indeed, the only winners seem to be the players and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Ramesh Ramanathan of Live Mint.com noted, quoting a reader of the Hindustan Times in 2008: "How is it that in a democratic and socialist country, a few, in the name of cinema and sports, can earn disproportionate amounts of money while thousands of farmers commit suicide for want of patronage?"

Hailed as the Don King of Cricket, former chairman of the IPL, Lalit Modi's dismissal last year over accusations of mismanagement, impropriety



**"The IPL occupies just a few weeks every year and I wonder if it actually helps develop cricket in this country"**

players to national teams and died an early death.

For many, perhaps, as the IPL started to betray signs of instability, it merely harked back to the failed ICL, conjuring belief that such an endeavour is not, in fact, viable at all. Indeed, Varma worries about the real impact of the commercialization of the game: "The IPL occupies just a few weeks every year and I wonder if it actually helps develop cricket in this country."

"There is so much cricket on television now I think it might damage the support for the national team. You only have to see how many Indian players are not available for the West Indies tour because they are too tired or have injuries from the IPL. It's not right; the schedule is too crowded."

But why should the IPL have a responsibility to all people of India? Football leagues across the world have

never had such a problem. Ticket prices will always be high, sports will never be completely accessible. It seems that expectations and the relative youth of this league have caused this problem.

India won the World Cup this year, and it seems that the famous national fervour for the sport lives on. Cities across India partied for days; a whole country laughed and smiled. Yet in the IPL this year, we have seen half empty stadiums. When the Chennai Super Kings won the tournament last Saturday, celebrations petered out within hours. Four years on, in light of its expectations, it seems as if the IPL is stumbling. Expectations can be a terrible thing.

Amidst worries over the evident economic failures of the franchises, concerns begin to emerge over the future of the IPL. But the IPL is still

**Opposite:** Kevin Pietersen for Royal Challengers Bangalore.  
**Above:** Though not the national sport, cricket fever has a hold over all of India.

young. Indeed, during the off season, the league is looking to concentrate on its brand and continue promotion. The Delhi Daredevils for instance, will be working with such giants as Coca-Cola, Adidas, and Panasonic.

The IPL is not a dead horse yet. Its longevity should not be questioned so soon. It may not have arrived to be immediately profitable and usurp national cricket altogether. It may never have aimed to 'fix' India.

If, more likely, it was there to entertain, then the IPL has succeeded. If it was there to rejuvenate cricket, the IPL has achieved what it wanted to.

Indeed, as Varma says, in spite of its flaws, "it's highly entertaining cricket to watch, and the format undeniably works, and has grabbed India's attention.

"IPL has made India famous as a very spec, and obviously made the cricket authorities here very rich. It also makes more and more children want to be cricket superstars." A strong foundation it may not have, nor a clear future, but a spectacle it remains, which will, as long as it lasts, continue to attract a broad audience. Ramanathan comments: "In one stroke, it has moved the theatre of action on free markets from the chandelier-tinkling conference rooms of Delhi to the galis and nukkads of every town and village in India. Millions of Indians will now, forever, engage viscerally in a manner that no trickle-down process could ever achieve."

Beyond its short-term problems, the IPL has set the standard for sport catering for the masses in countries where the entire demography can be changed as a result. Further, it has encouraged the youth with such shining role models as MS Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar. In Britain, cricket will likely always remain the same. But the tangible nature of a phenomenon as complicated as the IPL being sustained in a country as sporadically dysfunctional as India, is an inevitable recipe for an unpredictable future. M

*Additional reporting by Henry Foy in New Delhi*

# New kids on the block



# the block



OPPOSITE  
**Hana wears:** Cardigan, Jelly Beans, £22; Dress, Holly Fulton @ASOS, £150; Tights, Primark, £1; Glasses, H & M, £5.99.

THIS PAGE  
**Andy wears:** Shirt, £14.99, and trousers, £19.99, both H&M; vest, Primark, £4  
**Hana wears:** Jacket, £40, H&M; underwear set by Violet Wilde; skirt, £29.99, River Island; tights, £1, Primark; Earrings, 14.99, and necklace, £12.99 both River Island, bracelet, £5.99.

# NOUSE Travel



# NOUSE

## Travel



EUROPE:  
 $6^{\circ}W, 7^{\circ}E.$

MOROCCO:  $5^{\circ}N.$

HAND LUGGAGE:  $11^{\circ}W.$

FOR A PURPOSE:  $8^{\circ}S.$

ECONOMY  
VS. FIRST  
CLASS:  $9^{\circ}N.$

THE UNITED  
KINGDOM:  $3^{\circ}E.$

CAPITAL CITIES:  $4^{\circ}S.$

CULTURE:  $10^{\circ}E.$

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### PHOTOGRAPHY

COVER: Lucy Dixon ~ Page Three: Douglas Brown, Hannah Clugston, Justyn Hardcastle ~ Page Four: Lucy Dixon, Rosa de Graaf ~ Page Five: Lucy Dixon ~ Pages Six & Seven: Lucy Dixon, Caitlin Green, Justyn Hardcastle, James Harle, Emily Heggadon, Jennifer Hooton, Brina Tan ~ Page Eight: Rachel Brown, Hannah Clugston, Matthew Dixon, Gilchristof, Justyn Hardcastle, Frank Kovalchek, Aaron Smith ~ Page Nine: Liv Plant, Trish Scurfield ~ Page Ten: Lucy Dixon, Mollie Liesner. Page Eleven ~ UNLV Libraries Digital Collections ~ BACK COVER: Justyn Hardcastle.

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# THE THINKING MAN'S RAILWAY: DEVON Escape

Hidden in the vast greenery of Devon's valleys at Christow Station, a railway reclamation project lies dormant on rails scabbed over with rust. Overseen by an eccentric train fanatic, a guard's van built in 1949 stands in a silent yard littered with old carriages which will "eventually become tea rooms".

Complete with 'mood lighting', radio, gas cooker and two single beds which can be pushed together, it's a perfect 15 by 7 foot compartment escape from motorways and modernisation. Surrounded by miles of walks and nearby waterfalls, the carriage provides a cosy return from exploring the countryside. If you can survive without running water (outhouse and churn close at hand) and are seeking solitude, this unspoilt hideaway with novelty value is refreshing. [JS](#)

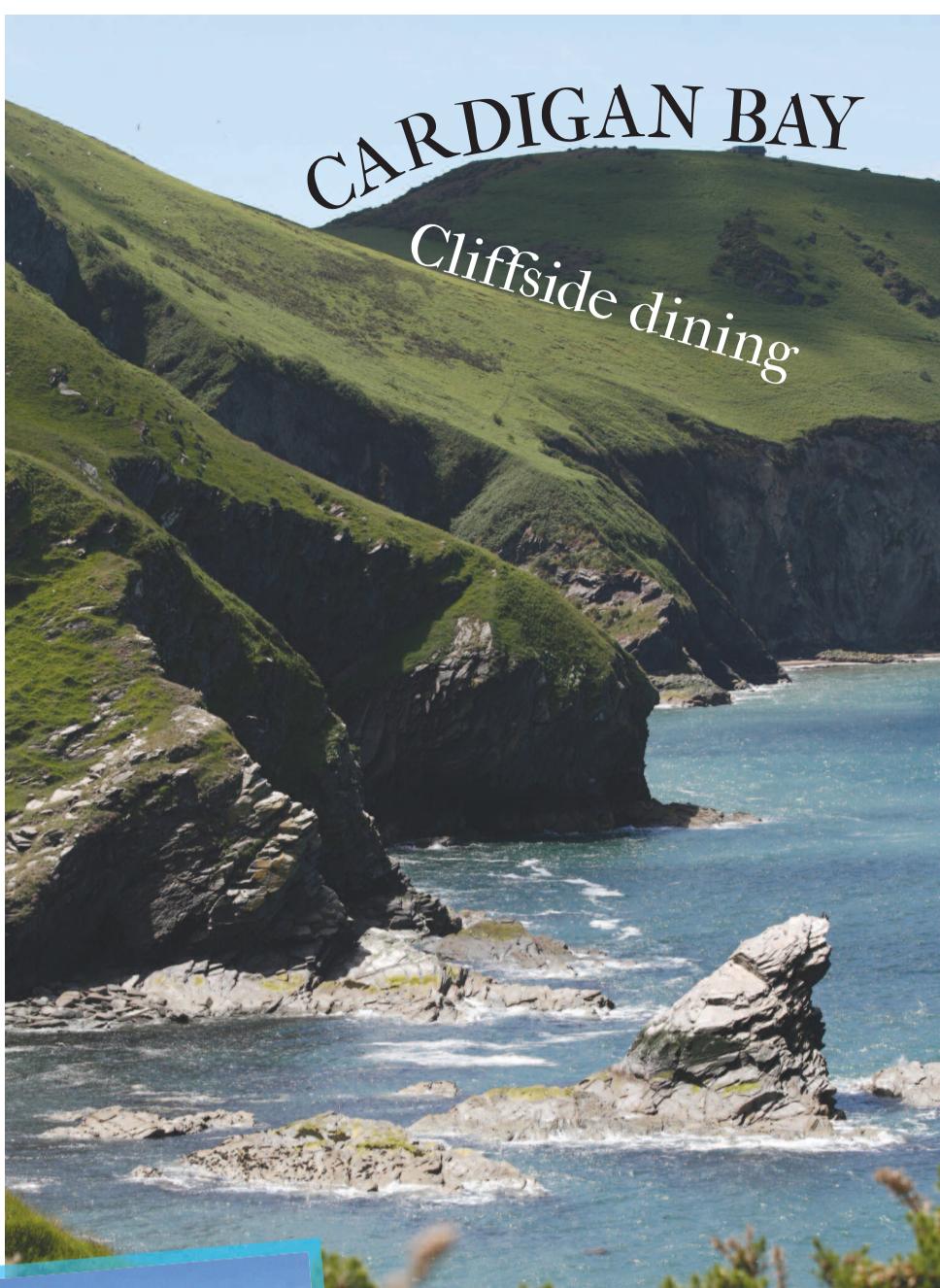
Value: £20 per night for those with cars (£10 pp)/ £17.50 for foot travellers.  
Contact: 01647 253108.

The Gwbert Hotel and Flat Rock Bistro in Ceredigion offers cliffside views, and if you're lucky, a dolphin or two grazing the horizon.

Visit the bistro in the early evening from 6.30pm to watch the sun set over an uninterrupted skyline. Pay attention though, as the sky can completely change colour within a single minute. Try the breaded scampi served with tartare sauce for £8.50. If it's not too cold, there are many walks or hikes along the cliffs with viewpoint stops along the way.

Embrace the wind and let your hair get ruffled - you've really got no other choice anyway. [CA](#)

Three courses: Sunday roast, £11.95.  
Visit: the Honey Farm, at little further north in New Quay.  
Rest: hotels in the area can be pricey, head for a campsite instead.



## BRIGHTON Experience

It's got all the  
fashionable people of  
London but with a  
beach!



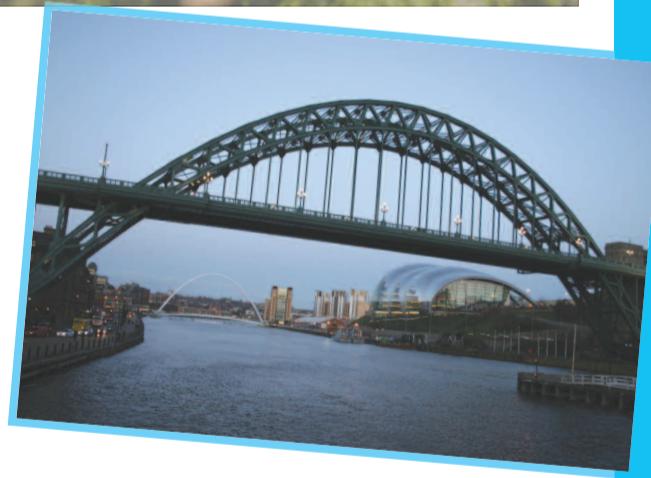
Travel: York - Brighton, £53.50  
Stay: Baggies Backpackers Hostel is friendly and  
only £13 per night.

Romantic sunsets, first class seafood,  
dolphin spotting - what's not to love?

Brighton beach might not be comfy underfoot, but slip on a pair of flip-flops and it's perfect. The sea front combines typical seaside arcades and trendy bars. The Royal Pavilion stands as the remains of the Regency era. This oriental palace makes a Brighton visit a bit more exotic.

The city houses streets of up-market stores, including Jamie Oliver's shop, Recipease. But The Lanes are a unique shopping experience; rows of tightly packed shops housing quirky one off items.

With the Greens as the largest party on the Council, the city maintains genuinely clean sea air and vibrant political activism. Brighton is a city of huge diversity and as the centre of Gay Pride it's at the forefront of radical change. [HC](#)



## NEWCASTLE On the town

Nightlife is Newcastle's biggest selling point. You're spoilt for choice with five clubbing areas, including the gay 'pink triangle' area. Shopping opportunities have recently been extended in Eldon Square and the Metro Centre, Europe's biggest shopping complex, is just a short bus ride away.

The Baltic Art Gallery (entry free) showcases contemporary art that even gallery-phobes will appreciate. Music is big with two amazing music venues. The city is full of restaurants, with the Gate complex, which has a cinema, being particularly popular. A £3.80 bus from the centre can also take you to seaside town of Whitley Bay. [RB](#)



## DALBY FOREST Explore

£100 here can cover camping, caravanning, B&Bs, or isolated self-catered farm houses. Open expanses of heather, tumbling streams, and thick forest dominate the Moors, making it ideal for families.

At Hutton-le-Hole, legend has it a giant scooped up the land - and you can assault some of the country's best mountain biking trails at Dalby Forest. Relish in Yorkshire pub lunches of spectacular proportions, and be prepared to lose your phone signal. [JF](#)

Ride: the Trails. Jumps, steep climbs, and breakneck speeds compulsory.  
Conquer: the Bridestones. Giant natural rock formations sprouting out of the moors.  
Guest Ales: The Blacksmith's Arms, Lastingham.





Palace Gardens, Fes

# Morocco: from souks to the seaside

Charlotte Lyons

**N**estled in the North-Western most tip of Africa, Morocco undoubtedly offers something for everyone. Due to its rich and varied history, the scenery, culture and infrastructure alters dramatically depending on region. Be it the traditional Berber dynasties, the arrival of the Arabs, or the French colonisation between 1912 and 1956, Morocco bears the scars of a dynamic and ever-changing past.

The tourist industry is still in its youth, reflected in the cost of travel and leisure. Currency is in Moroccan dirhams, and there are approximately 12.9 dirhams to one pound. Nothing in Morocco has a set price, so a holiday here will be sure to increase anyone's ability to strike a bargain. Along the streets and winding corners of the medina, refuse to eat at a restaurant for above 40 dirhams, as it is almost guaranteed the waiter will give in.

Spend nothing above 60 dirhams for a four person taxi, where luggage will be precariously balanced in roof baskets. For the female traveller, be warned of any offers of camels proposed to your male friends in exchange for ownership of you; they will be numerous. Ideal for a group (although not if you are intending to drink as Morocco is a Muslim country, so alcohol is scarce), Morocco is diverse, inexpensive and culturally rich.

**"Be it the traditional Berber dynasties, the arrival of the Arabs, or the French colonisation between 1912 and 1956, Morocco bears the scars of a dynamic and ever-changing past - but the tourist industry is still in its youth."**

**T**he most common city to fly to, **Marrakech** can be quite overwhelming on first impressions. The main square, Jamaa el-Fna, exudes an atmosphere reminiscent of an annual street festival rather than an everyday market place. It is one of the biggest of its kind in the world, and features everything from monkey trainers and women sitting on stools selling henna tattoos to caleches (horse-drawn carriages) and orange juice stalls.

By night, the square transforms into a bright and fiery hub of burning incense, coloured lanterns and dancing. Temporary stalls line part of the square and are erected each evening to form mobile restaurants, where the customers watch food being cooked on open air barbeques, the steam billowing up into the night.

The best place to stay is as close to Jamaa el-Fna as possible; again, there are endless guesthouses, or riads as they are called, but staying so close to the main square in the main city of the country drives the rates to between £17 and £40, depending on the level of luxury you are seeking. Situated north-west of the medina, these are a must see, and entry is 30 dirhams.

Marrakech is also the best place to organise excursions into the tip of the Western Sahara, with numerous companies offering trips of between two days and two weeks into the desert. These can cost anywhere upwards of £50 including food – make sure you browse websites and pre-book to find the best prices. With traditional Berber camps housing you overnight, local men teaching ancient songs on drums around a warming fire, steaming delicious tagines and lying on the sand dunes spotting constellations in the clearest night sky you will ever see, these trips are not to be missed. Of course, the camel rides usually included add to the enjoyment, even if they are painful in the following days (especially for the men).

The coastal resort of **Essaouira** is a perfect getaway from the bustle of Marrakech. There is no train line as yet, so the best way to get there is either by coach (about 70 dirhams one way, and be sure to book in advance as they fill up quickly).

Relatively unspoiled by tourism, Essaouira is ideal to experience authentic Moroccan culture in a relaxed, seaside setting. The architecture blends French style and Moroccan colour – whitewashed buildings with bright blue shutters line every street up to five storeys high. Essaouira is also known for its art scene, with

several small galleries through the town.

You're likely to spend time strolling leisurely through the souks passing donkeys carrying goods, or browsing ornate teapots, Berber carpets and spices such as saffron. You can walk along the old ramparts which used to form the port in the sixteenth century, when Essaouira was a key stop off in Atlantic trading. The current port is a hub of activity, with all kinds of seafood being sold along the harbour-side. Whole fish can get quite expensive, but a dish should cost around 40 dirhams after some healthy bargaining.

The beach is just along from the port, stretching for miles around the bay. Although lovely to walk along, be warned: Essaouira is not called the windy capital of Africa for nothing, as howling gales driving in from the Atlantic causes the sand to blow horizontally for a large proportion of the year. Essaouira may also be a good place if you want to try out a hammam - the public baths for

Moroccans - separated strictly by gender. Usually organised through your hostel owner, tourists have to pay a premium to be allowed in, but an hour's massage and wash should cost around 70 dirhams and involve a full body massage with a local expert. This is definitely an experience you may not ever get (or want) to repeat, as the partial nudity means you'll become a lot more acquainted with not only your friends, but many other Moroccans too.

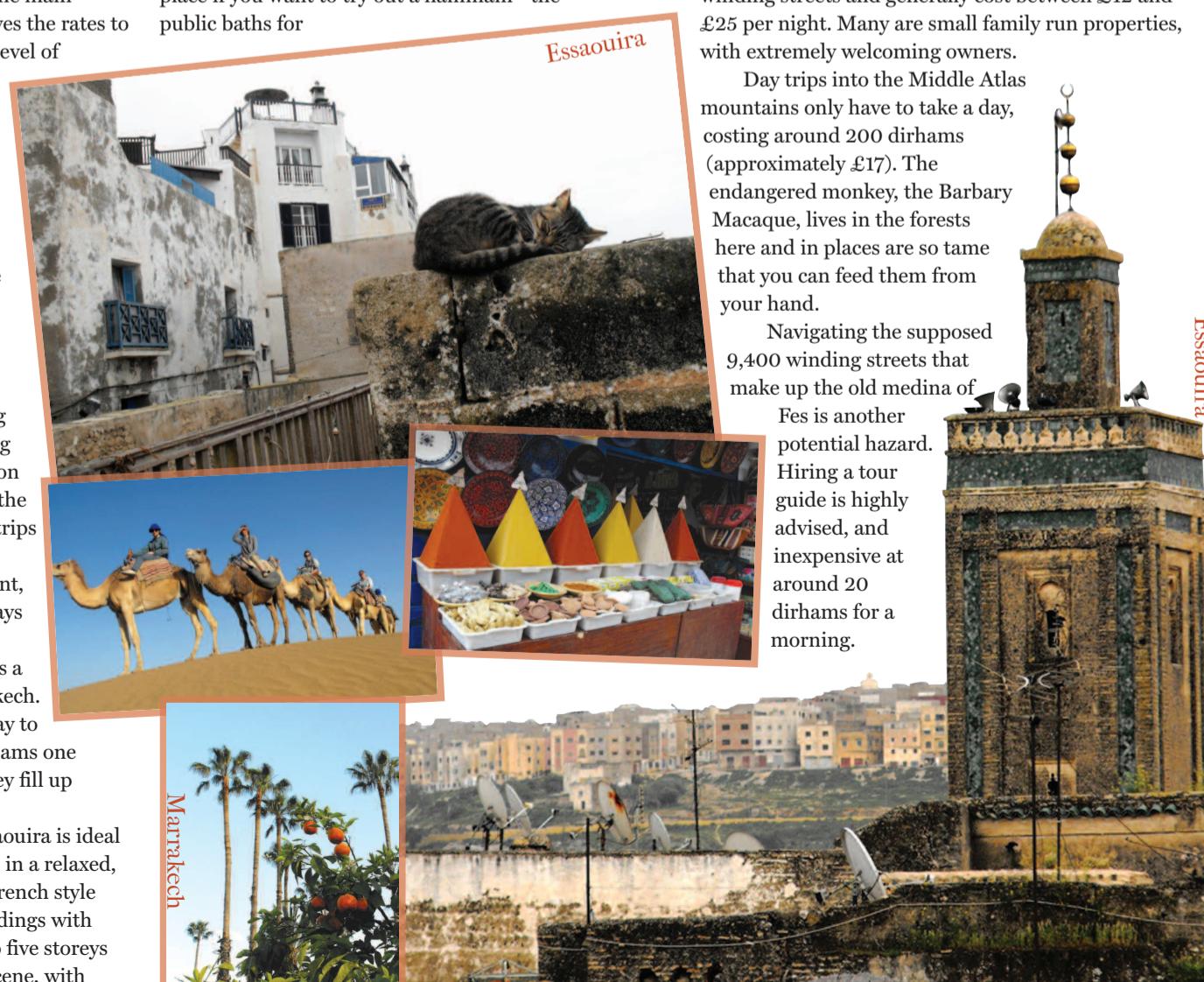
Seven hours by train from Marrakech, the city of **Fes** stands inland in the north of the country. With an approximate population of one million, it consists of three main parts: the old medina inside the ancient city walls, new Fes containing the Jewish quarter (the mellah) and the Ville Nouveau, created by the French.

The old medina is by far the most charming and beautiful part of the city. Endless riads line the narrow winding streets and generally cost between £12 and £25 per night. Many are small family run properties, with extremely welcoming owners.

Day trips into the Middle Atlas mountains only have to take a day, costing around 200 dirhams (approximately £17). The endangered monkey, the Barbary Macaque, lives in the forests here and in places are so tame that you can feed them from your hand.

Navigating the supposed 9,400 winding streets that make up the old medina of

Fes is another potential hazard. Hiring a tour guide is highly advised, and inexpensive at around 20 dirhams for a morning.



MOROCCO

# COSTA BLANCA

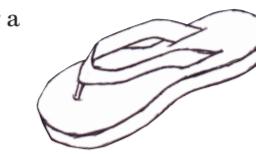
## Coastal Sands



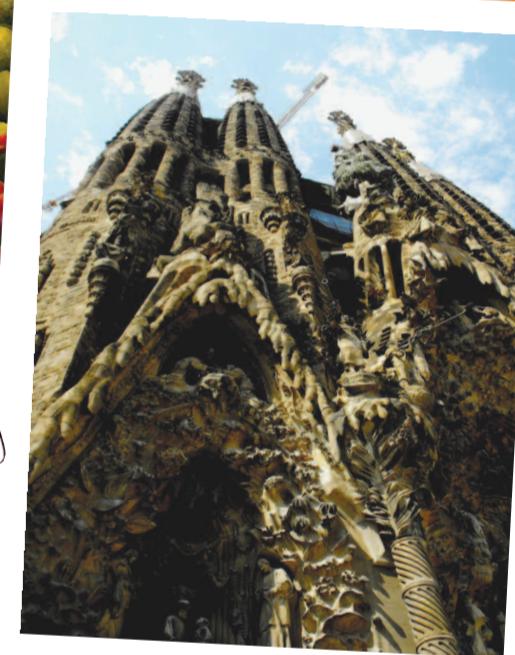
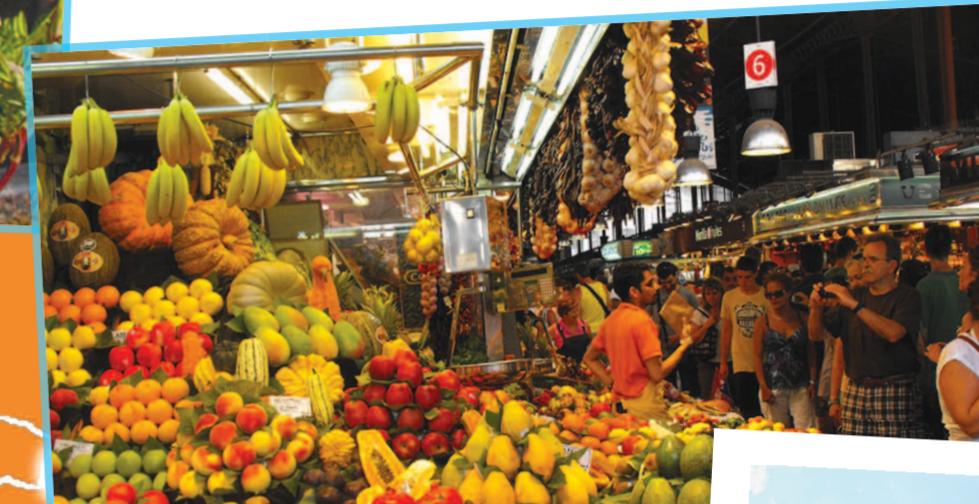
The Costa Blanca is one of the most maligned holiday destinations in Europe, bringing to mind images from the sitcom 'Benidorm'. But behind the mask of the Costa lies a region blooming with culture and character.

The historical city of Elche, for example, is a jewel in the crown of southern Valencia: ringed with a forest of palm trees, it is the home of no less than 17 separate botanical gardens, and plays annual host to its own Mystery Play, the only European city other than York to still observe this tradition.

Elche is a million miles from Benidorm - without being a million miles from Benidorm. **JH**



Fly: £27 - £89 each way, EasyJet.  
Nature: Fonts d'Algar, Orihuelan lakes and Mountain Range, Flamenco Bay.  
History: Mount Segura, Guardamar.



Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

# BARCELONA

## Youth Hostelling



Recently voted the best city by the sea, being on a limited budget won't limit your experience of this vibrant city. Barcelona is awash with cheap hostels. Kabul Hostel is fairly basic - no marks for interior décor - but is cheap, clean, and located just off Las Ramblas, right in the heart of the city.

The English-speaking staff organise events and bar crawls every night, which is a great way to meet other travellers, and gets you access to clubs at discounted rates. Prices are under €20 per night, including a large breakfast and internet access.

Spending a day on the beach is also absolutely free. Although these beaches can get very busy, the further away from the centre you walk, the less crowded it gets; but don't stray onto the nudist beach! **EW**

Fly: September, £63, EasyJet.

Panorama: Gaudi's Parc Guell (entry free).

Art: Picasso Museum and Museu Nacional d'Arte de Catalunya (free entry on the first Sunday of the month).

Travel: T-10 ticket gives you ten journeys on the bus or metro and costs €6.65. More than one person can use the ticket at the same time as well.

# ITALY

## Island Hopping



To avoid the typical itinerary of a Roman Adventure and explore lesser known parts of Italy, the islands are a great place to start. Visit in September, when the tourists have departed but the sun has not. Sardinia is full of white beaches and hidden creeks set against a mountainous background. Stay in one of Cagliari's many campsites virtually on the south coast beaches.

For a faster paced, Mafia-tinted experience, take the ferry to Sicily. Palermo boasts Capuchin Catacombs, the Teatro Massimo and Porta Nuova gateway.

Take a short train to Cefalù to climb La Rocca for stunning views over the island. Budget travellers will find it easy, with arancini (delicious Sicilian fried rice balls) for around two euros; however there are a vast array of delicious outdoor fish restaurants that will serve three courses for around €15-20. Take advantage of this, as it would seem the mantra of Italian life is 'to eat'. **EH**

Two locations, 6 nights: £187. **Chub**

Fly: London Stansted - Cagliari, £34 one way, EasyJet.

Rest: Cagliari - Camping Pini e Mare €9 ppp night.

Ferry: Cagliari - Palermo. Every Friday 7pm, 14 hours. €55 pp one way.

Rest: Palermo hostel Ai Quattro Canti, €18 ppp night, inc.: breakfast, internet, tour.

Fly: Palermo - London Stansted, £36 one way, RyanAir.

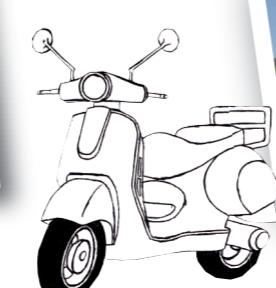
Old turn of the century buildings, pedestrianised cobbled streets and towers and churches on every corner characterise the medieval city of Lucca, within an hour of Florence and Pisa. It began as a Roman settlement where two main roads crossed at the forum which is today's Piazza San Michele.

Shops in this bustling town shut between one and four in the afternoon for a traditional Italian lunch break, during which cafes and restaurants hum. They re-open from four, and the streets are crammed until late. It is a walled city and biking or walking the perimeter is a real pleasure.

Spend time in a cafe in one of countless Piazzas enjoying a cappuccino and tiramisu. Be sure to try a local Macchiato - short black coffee with a little milk at the bottom. **CG**

Fly: London or Stansted - Pisa, £50, RyanAir.  
Eat: Buca di San Antonio on Via della Cervia - c.1782, the oldest restaurant in Lucca. It is moderately priced with wonderful food. Always full, so make a reservation.

Travel: bikes or Vespas.



# BAVARIA

## Scenic



Bavaria is a place known for its snowcapped mountains, grassy valleys, lederhosen and timbered houses - and a holiday here can cost just over £200 for a week's stay.

Munich is an obvious tourist destination, but for a more out of the way rural hit, Berchtesgaden lies north of Lake Königssee. The Bavarian Alps surround its clustered shop-fronts, and the people of the region are friendly and welcoming with a fierce pride of Bavaria as a place unlike any other in Germany.

Lake Königssee itself may be explored by boat, and is surrounded by National Forest land and a variety of hiking trails. **CG**

Fly: Stansted - Munich, July, £21, RyanAir.  
Stansted - Karlsruhe-Baden, £12.  
Regional travel: [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com) - €29 for a regional ticket for up to five people travelling anywhere for a day.  
Camping: a cheap, safe and sociable option.

# BRUGES

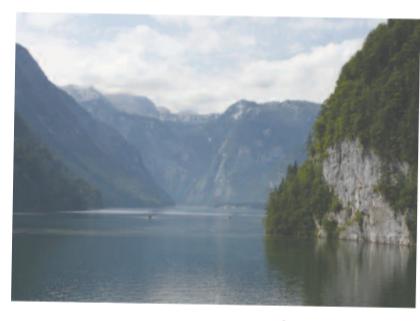
## Enchant



Bruges is often regarded as the 'Venice of the North'. Best accessible by foot, there is much to see in this perfectly conserved medieval city. Must-sees include the Flemish Primitives, Michelangelo's Madonna, and the Belgian Fries museum.

Little bridges and parks dotted around the city add to the romantic feel of Bruges, and amazing views can be seen from a boat tour. Minnewater park, a very charming park, the Lake of Love, is a lovely place for picnics, dates or to bask in the sunshine. **BT**

Fly: £51, EasyJet.  
Save: for groups of under 25s, the Go Pass 10 is a good way to travel within Belgium, allowing you ten trips within cities for £50. It does not have an expiry date, and can be used by an unlimited number of travellers.  
Rest: Passage, a hostel-cum-hotel-cum-restaurant, offers rooms for €16 per person per night. Passage is also famed for its mussels-and-frites dish, which although steep at €19, is well worth the price.



Lake Königssee



Fly: Faro, September, £85, EasyJet.

Eat: at Alvor harbour, a small fishing village dating back to Roman times, you will find arguably the best seafood restaurants in the region.

Drink: of the two local beers, Sagres and Super Bock, pay the premium and buy Sagres.

Fly: Stansted - Munich, July, £21, RyanAir.

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# MONTMARTRE

## Creativity



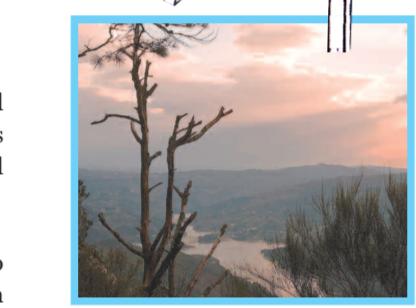
Montmartre plays host to an eclectic mix of tourist hotspots, at the heart of bohemian Paris. Climb to the top of the hill and you will pass through French Place du Tertre: home to artists who line the square with their easels and harmonicas. Linger, and you will be sitting for a portrait before you can say 'Monet'.

The Basilique du Sacré-Cœur lies at the summit. Venture inside and let the singing soothe your stresses before descending towards Montmartre's bustling red light district, home to the infamous Moulin Rouge. **AK**

A week for two: £250.

Stay: Hotel Des Arts is a perfect base to explore the area from, affordable, clean and quirky - each room is named after a famous artist!

Cabaret: Lapin Agile - haunt of Picasso, Modigliani, and Apollinaire.



# ALBUFEIRA

## On the town



While Albufeira can offer the Magaluf 'experience', the Algarve has a whole host of things to offer than just a piss-up abroad.

Nevertheless, Kadoc, a taxi ride from the main strip, is one of Europe's biggest clubs with seven floors. If you prefer to stay by the strip there are still plenty of bars and clubs to choose from, such as Kiss and Matt's bar where the mechanical bull sets the standard.

Albufeira's main beach is only a short walk from the strip and for the more adventurous, Aqualand water park is a short bus journey away. **AM**

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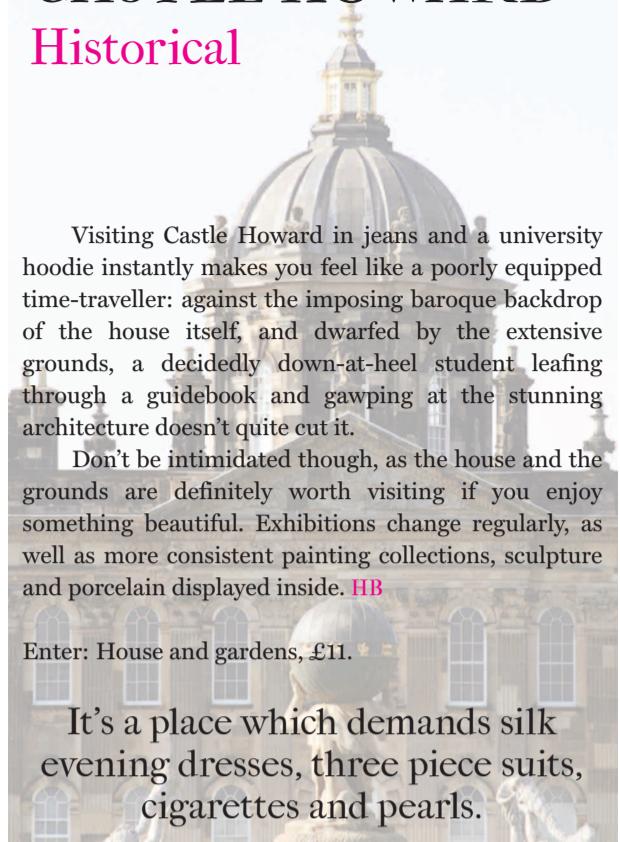
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## CASTLE HOWARD Historical



Visiting Castle Howard in jeans and a university hoodie instantly makes you feel like a poorly equipped time-traveller: against the imposing baroque backdrop of the house itself, and dwarfed by the extensive grounds, a decidedly down-at-heel student leafing through a guidebook and gawping at the stunning architecture doesn't quite cut it.

Don't be intimidated though, as the house and the grounds are definitely worth visiting if you enjoy something beautiful. Exhibitions change regularly, as well as more consistent painting collections, sculpture and porcelain displayed inside. **HB**

Enter: House and gardens, £11.

It's a place which demands silk evening dresses, three piece suits, cigarettes and pearls.

## BRONTE PARSONAGE Literary

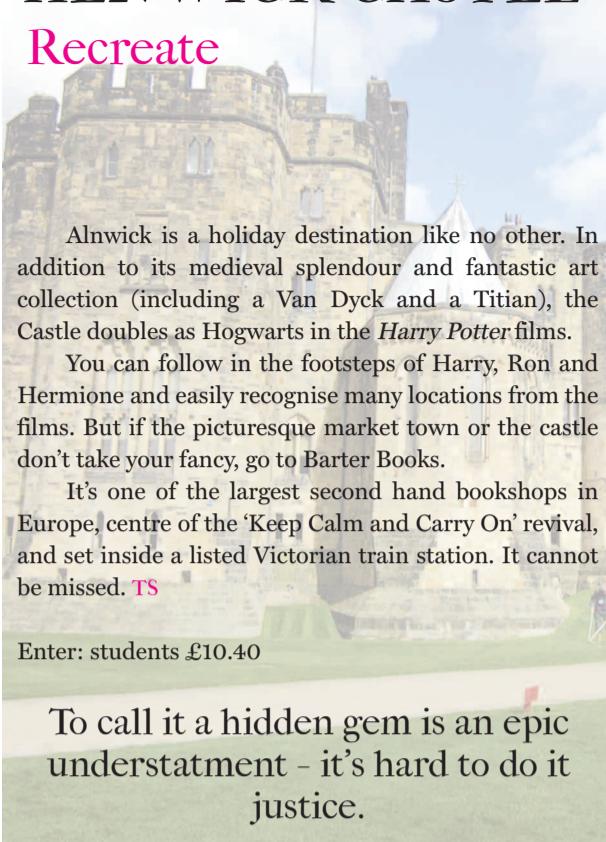
Out on the wild and windy Yorkshire Moors, the Bronte family lived, married and died. Getting to Haworth - a town with a huge number of bookshops itself - might not be easy but is well worth the trip if you have any literary interest. Touring the Bronte Parsonage and graveyard opens up the domestic affairs of the infamous family in a way that no guidebook can. After touring the house where literary classics were written, you can step into the museum and brush up on Bronte trivia. Outside, the Yorkshire Moors stand as the biggest inspiration. **HC**

Travel: York - Keighley station, £17.30

Enter: students £5.20

Read a Bronte novel before you go, it really brings the Yorkshire moors to life.

## ALNWICK CASTLE Recreate



Alnwick is a holiday destination like no other. In addition to its medieval splendour and fantastic art collection (including a Van Dyck and a Titian), the Castle doubles as Hogwarts in the *Harry Potter* films.

You can follow in the footsteps of Harry, Ron and Hermione and easily recognise many locations from the films. But if the picturesque market town or the castle don't take your fancy, go to Barter Books.

It's one of the largest second hand bookshops in Europe, centre of the 'Keep Calm and Carry On' revival, and set inside a listed Victorian train station. It cannot be missed. **TS**

Enter: students £10.40

To call it a hidden gem is an epic understatement - it's hard to do it justice.

## TOMATINA FESTIVAL Bunol

"A war where there are expected to be no winners, but all have fun"



has continued annually but for a brief ban under General Franco's regime.

While the highlight of Tomatina is the food fight, the range of other entertainments which have sprung up and lengthened the event to cover a whole week qualify it as a major food festival which draws tourists in. These include street dancing, fireworks, parades and a paella cooking contest.

The population of Bunol during Tomatina swells from 9,000 people to 30,000, making accommodation scarce.

Festival participants are advised to find lodging in Valencia which is a two hour bus journey away. **JB**



**B**erlin is far from ordinary, and the same can be said for White Trash. A quirky restaurant found in the centre of the capital, White Trash has a lively atmosphere and serves a variety of fairly-priced and 'exotic' food.

Starters such as the 'Valley' Porno-Nachos and their own classic mains like the 'Marquee de F\*\*k' Burger accompanied by 'F\*\*k You Fries', make the eccentricities of this restaurant clear.

With punk waiters, there is no need to dress formally as any style goes - jeans and sneakers are perfectly acceptable.

Music plays a big part in the restaurant's experience since between

## WHITE TRASH Berlin

"Smoking cinema and tattoo parlour can be found in the basement"

five and seven live bands play a week; musicians from the subway are invited to play in the busy Diamond Lounge.

Not only does the building's decor deliver a shock, with fairy lights entwined in plastic arms and skulls alongside tropical fish tanks, but a tattoo parlour and smoking cinema can be found in the basement. Entry to the smoking cinema is free.

Due to its popularity, bookings need to be made well in advance, but don't let this put you off, as the restaurant is recognised as Berlin's offering of delicious food complemented by a real portion of rock 'n' roll. **RB**

## CARNEVALE Celebrate

The Venice Carnival is an annual celebration of history, food and revelry, to welcome the spring.

The week flies by in a blur of colour, costumes, and a fountain which runs with wine instead of water.

Events include a celebration of traditional food at the Festa Veneziana along the Grand Canal and the historical act of paying homage to the Doge.

But it is not until the Grand Masked Ball that the clock is turned back, and is transformed into the sparkingly romantic world of luxury, Casanova and parties until dawn. At Carnivale, Venetian tradition mingles happily with modern fun. **HB**

Fly: Stansted - Venice, £53, RyanAir.

At Carnivale, Venetian tradition mingles happily with modern fun.

## MILITARY TATTOO Tradition

The Edinburgh Tattoo is a military display, performed by British Armed Forces, Commonwealth Soldiers, and international military bands. Don't be put off by the overtly martial sound of the event.

What this boils down to is a spectacular show, with the backdrop of Edinburgh's floodlit Castle, showcasing pomp and style from all over the globe.

Tickets usually sell out incredibly quickly, but if you are lucky enough to snag one remember to bring layers and layers of warm clothing. Even in August Edinburgh is certainly not known for having any sort of temperate climate. **RTB**

Travel: York - Edinburgh, £40, National Rail.

See if you can spot the Queen, who always attends the annual Tattoo.

## REYKJAVÍC Expressive

The Reykjavíc Arts Festival at Harpa, Iceland, has been held biannually since 1970. The festival itself showcases music from new composers as well as spoken word performances; visual art exhibitions; contemporary dance; poetry; talks from a number of writers and even French puppet shadow theatre.

Other than the Arts Festival, Reykjavíc offers some of Iceland's best nightlife - although alcohol is generally very expensive.

While in the city, don't forget to check out Hallgrímskirkja: Iceland's largest church. **HDD**

Fly: £236, Iceland Express.

Don't doubt - it's your chance to sample the Scandinavian art scene.

# Routes less travelled Couchsurfing

When thinking about travelling abroad, accommodation inevitably makes a dent in your overall budget. Although it is easy to be put off by grisly possibilities couchsurfing is in fact a rewarding and enjoyable way to travel. Couchsurfing implies a grungy, dirt-cheap way of passing the night, but more often than not, surfers get their own bed in a guest room which surpasses a night at a three-star hotel. You could even wake up to a spread of local food.

Maybe this sounds too good to be true? The website [www.couchsurfing.com](http://www.couchsurfing.com) advertises couches, beds and floor space. Generally, the network attracts students who have experienced couchsurfing themselves and want to offer up their 'couch' as a manner of thanks to previous hosts. There are also older hosts and families who support the idea and atmosphere, often having travelled themselves in bygone years.

**"more often than not, surfers get their own bed in a guest room which surpasses a three-star hotel"**

Couchsurfing is a way of engaging with local, often like-minded, and interesting people. It not only provides a free place to stay, but adds to the overall understanding of life in that country. Thanks can be as simple as a meal cooked by the surfer.

Although there seem to be more couches in cities, many still exist in rural locations. The network has its obvious risks; however, pairs of girls can safely travel to couches all over the world. The more cautious traveller can specifically choose female or family couchsurfers as well as ones that have had a background check.

Get over any misgivings about sketchiness, always keep your caution radar on and enjoy an unconventional avenue of travel. CG



## Breaking the bank Burma

First off: ignore the 'Gap Yah' video. Very few 'Gap Yahs' actually make it to Burma. Tourists are still a rarity here, so expect a warm welcome from everyone.

Flying with British Airways offers a London to Bangkok return at £477, but once in South-East Asia look no further than AirAsia, Bangkok to Yangon return is 1,190 Thai baht: just £26.44. You will need a visa, but organise it once in Bangkok as the process is easier and cheaper than doing it at home. It'll cost you 810 Thai baht (£16.48) for the maximum 30 days.

The currency is the Burmese kyat, but it's so devalued dollars are widely accepted and infinitely preferred. There are no ATMs in Burma, so get dollars out whilst in Thailand. The best time to visit is during the Festival of Thingyan (Burmese New Year, 13 - 16 April) which is celebrated with a national

water fight. Most adults retire to a temple for contemplation, whilst Yangon's younger generation enjoy the fun.

The Burmese are generally some of the politest people on earth and, despite an incredibly repressive regime, most will delight in talking to you about anything and everything. Yangon is an echo of lost colonial power, the streets reminiscent of a verdant Pall Mall. Stay in Golden Smiles for \$12 per night. Mandalay is a whirlwind of scooters and smoke, but home to some of the best cuisine in Burma. The Royal Guesthouse (\$7) has the perfect rooftop terrace to escape Mandalay's dusty streets.

One of the best places to eat in Burma is Lashio Lay, Mandalay. Tucked away – asked locals for directions – fixed price for a massive all you can eat buffet of delicious traditional Burmese food. Arrive around 11pm

for the best atmosphere.

Inle Lake and Bagan are 'big' (expect to see a few other tourists) hotspots, but are tightly controlled by the regime.

If you want to see temples older than the famed Angkor Wat, minus the tourists - go here.

When visiting Inle Lake, stay on the river front at Gypsy Inn (\$5), and enjoy a huge included breakfast. Bagan is deluged with places to stay, but New Park Hotel (\$4) is more than adequate more the price. Cycle out to truly explore the temples and countryside. RTB



Yangon Harbour



Monastery outside Mandalay



## Breaking the bank

### China



Terracotta Army, Xian

China is a world within itself, home to 1.3 billion citizens, where each location has something new to offer. Although it is not a cheap destination to travel to, with flight prices averaging £600 to £2000 for a round trip, food and accommodation are relatively cheap when booked through agencies such as Gap Adventures.

Although a tour will not suit every traveller, the language barrier is a huge factor that could cost you money when eating, sight-seeing and travelling within the country. Eating under the recommendation of your tour guide will often cost no more than ¥10, with the exchange rate of the Chinese Yuan being ¥9.8 to one pound.

Beijing boasts historical landmarks such as the Forbidden City, Summer Palace and home to

many of the entry points to the Great Wall. Entrance fees to the Great Wall will cost you around ¥30.

While rich in history, Beijing is a fast-growing cosmopolitan metropolis, boasting some of the country's best restaurants and shops. Beijing is also home to an enthusiastic younger generation, often keen to practise their English with you. If you are in the mood for more exotic delicacies, such as starfish and scorpions on sticks, head to the Dong Hua Men night market.

Yangshuo is as far from Beijing in terms of scenery and lifestyle as it is in distance. Nestled on the west bank of the Li River, Yangshuo is a county in Guilin, an area famous for its Karst Hills and relaxed atmosphere. You can cruise down the river in a traditional

bamboo boat, take early morning Tai Chi lessons, learn how to make traditional Chinese food or take off in a hot air balloon. All of these activities will cost you between ¥50 to ¥150.

Home to the Terracotta Army and one of China's oldest cities, Xian has much to offer. To see the unearthed army, you will need to catch a local bus or travel to the outskirts during an organised day.

Other attractions include the chance to hire a bike and cycle around the city walls for ¥20 to exploring the Muslim quarter, the old starting point of the Silk Road.

Any food fanatic should not miss the chance to eat the local speciality, mutton paomo, pancake slices in a delicious and filling soup. LP



Local Xian seahorse delicacy

## Routes less travelled Tour Britain by the roads

For the cash-strapped student there aren't too many holiday options available. However, the best holiday you will ever have could also be the cheapest and it is the one type of holiday ideally suited to the terminally short of cash.

Just gather a few friends, pile into a car and hit the road. Ideally pick somewhere at the other end of the country and weave your way across Britain camping and visiting places along the way. The more adventurous you feel, the more epic your journey.

A decent tent doesn't cost much and if you are really trying to save cash stock up on tinned food, buy a camping stove (usually about ten pounds from any camping shop), and go self-catered. Another good idea is to join the Camping and Caravan Club. It may sound like it's geared towards OAP's but membership is only

"pick somewhere at the other end of the country...the more adventurous you feel, the more epic your journey"

£39. This grants you the cheapest access to thousands of campsites all over the United Kingdom, plus a directory so you can compare prices and facilities. It is very rare for any of them to be booked up, even in the summer, so you can literally choose on a whim.

Some of the best campsites include: Rose Farm, Westhay, on the outskirts of Glastonbury (four pounds per night); the spectacular Heathy Roods Farm perched on a hill in the Peak District village of Butterton; and Rosedale Abbey in the North York Moors.

Most cities will have campsites on the outskirts so you can turn it into a city break. Share the driving, the cooking and discover your own 'Best of Britain' locations. Just keep an open mind and don't make too many plans. All you need now is a great mixtape. TS



Budapest Parliament Building



Bratislava Castle



Split, Croatia



Ponte Vecchio, Florence

## EUROPEAN ADVENTURE In photos



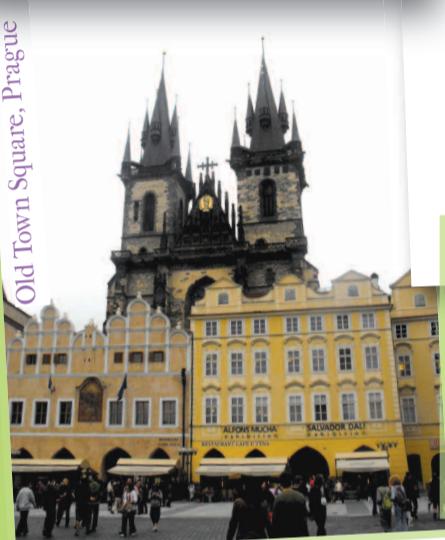
Place de la Comédie



Duomo di Milano



Nice



Old Town Square, Prague



Hvar Island, Croatia



Hvar Island, Croatia



East Side Gallery, Berlin



Old Town Square, Prague

## NICE Retreat

Fancy some down time satisfying your cultural taste buds? Having a history of occupation by Spain, Italy and France, the fifth largest city in France is the place to indulge in art, history, food and architecture. The relative lack of expense that the experience costs, making it the ultimate holiday location for any budding 'culture vulture'.

Initial costs, flights and accommodation, are easily minimised by travelling towards the end of the summer holidays. The best deals for travel are found with EasyJet, who fly from both London Stansted and Gatwick. In September prices range between £66 and £160, the higher of which tend to be on routes involving departures on either Mondays or Fridays. Similarly, September makes for very reasonable hostel fares, depending mainly on location. Hostels such as Hostel Smith in the Vieux Nice (Old Town) will cost £30 per person sharing a three bed private room whilst those in the newer areas of the city (further away from prime attractions) cost £20 per person sharing a three bed private room at Hostel Belle Meuniere.

As a city, Nice leaves little unwanted. The suburbs are leafy and quiet, the industrial areas neatly tucked away, and the centre fuses of cosmopolitan France and the atmosphere of the Riviera. Narrow cobbled streets turn off high streets with all the big high-street names. The many town squares give a sociable vibe to Nice and help this modern city retain its traditional French edge.

The museums which Nice plays host to are not to be missed. The top three - Musée Matisse, Musée Chegall and Musée d'Art Moderne - are all free. Whilst the Musée Matisse is a fair walk from the city centre, it is well worth it. It not only exposes you to the suburbs, but the Musée is situated in an olive tree park,

perfect for a chapter or two of a holiday read, and next to the city's Roman ruins (entry free).

The bulk of the ruins are scattered around, making it not an uncommon occurrence to stumble across an ancient wall as you pop to the boulangerie. Accompanied by a map, from the entrance to the archaeological Musée, stroll along grass footpaths in and out of what was once a city centre and bathhouses.

Another unexpected experience surrounding the museums is the courtyard outside the Musée d'Art Moderne which regularly hosts a low key display of local break dancers. Whilst the exterior of the museum is an unfortunate sample of 1960s architecture, the museum itself hosts a mixture of multi-media installations, contemporary pop art and Expressionist-inspired pieces.

Old Town itself is a wealth of beauty due to the many hidden Baroque churches and Nicoise locals, the latter best observed from a corner cafe behind a good novel and a strong espresso. The area is riddled with narrow streets lined with shops, eateries and surprise frescos. Don't miss Fennochio's, the ice-cream parlour which provides 94 flavours of the finest, or the multiple sweet, biscuit and chocolate shops which are more than willing to give out free samples. The 'gem' of



this area is the market Cours Saleya which by day sells local produce and by night is lined with the best bars and restaurants.

The seafront can be traditionally enjoyed by a stroll along the Boulevard des Anglais or from one of the beach cafés. The beaches themselves are pebble, but

not too uncomfortable as long as you bring something to sit on.

Further along, the harbour is worth a visit, despite a slightly grotty atmosphere. The main attractions here are the delicious seafood restaurants, the stunning

Église Notre Dame de Port and swanky yachts.

With so much to offer and much to be discovered at a reasonable price, Nice is the perfect destination for any student wanting some quiet time, good food and a grand dose of culture. ML





## Kelly

Grace Kelly's matching red lips and picnic blanket makes the beach a more glamorous destination.



## Fawcett

The original Charlie's Angels sex symbol, Farrah Fawcett, made the red swimming costume iconic before we even heard the *Baywatch* theme tune.



Brad Pitt's nomadic *Thelma and Louise* character is carefree and dressed ready for anything.

## Pitt



Relaxing in the garden a favourite summer pastime; here Brigitte Bardot suns herself at her home in La Madrague.

## Bardot

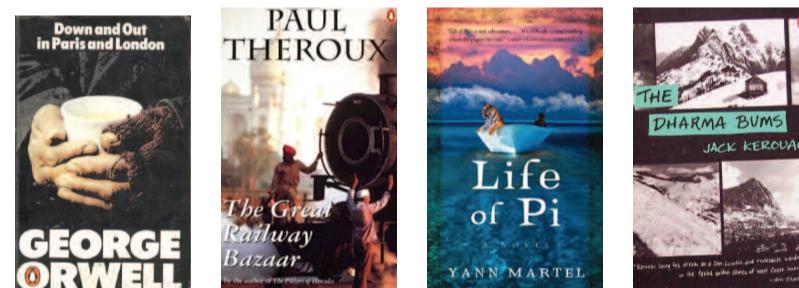


Casablanca's Humphrey Bogart was dressed for all weather in his trench coat and fedora, but is the epitome of suave.

## Bogart



## TRAVEL ICONS



## READ ON THE ROAD

## FASHION COMEBACK The bathing suit

**W**earing a swimming costume just hasn't been classed as socially or fashionably acceptable since the age of 13.

But the bikini was once a symbol of womanhood, and grown-ups wore them. Although redundant for several years, replaced by the bikini and then tankini, the bathing suit seems to be making a comeback.

The new form of suit is not as simple as its predecessors though. We now have the option of halter necks, cut out midriffs, supported busts, stripes of block colour and floral prints. In a season where patterns are a must and outrageous colours are popular, the more material the better. The skimpy bikini is having a difficult job carrying off statement prints.

Or perhaps, we have just decided we want a change. After all, being impatient human beings, we can only go for so long following a certain trend. Who knows, maybe swimming caps will be back in fashion soon as well. HC

## PLAYLIST

From Paris to Berlin, *Inferno*.  
A Thousand Miles, *Vanessa Carlton*.  
When You're Smiling, *Michael Buble*.  
There She Goes, *The LA's*.  
Bibo no Aozora, *Ryuichi Sakamoto*.  
Ça Plain Pour Moi, *Nouvelle Vague*.

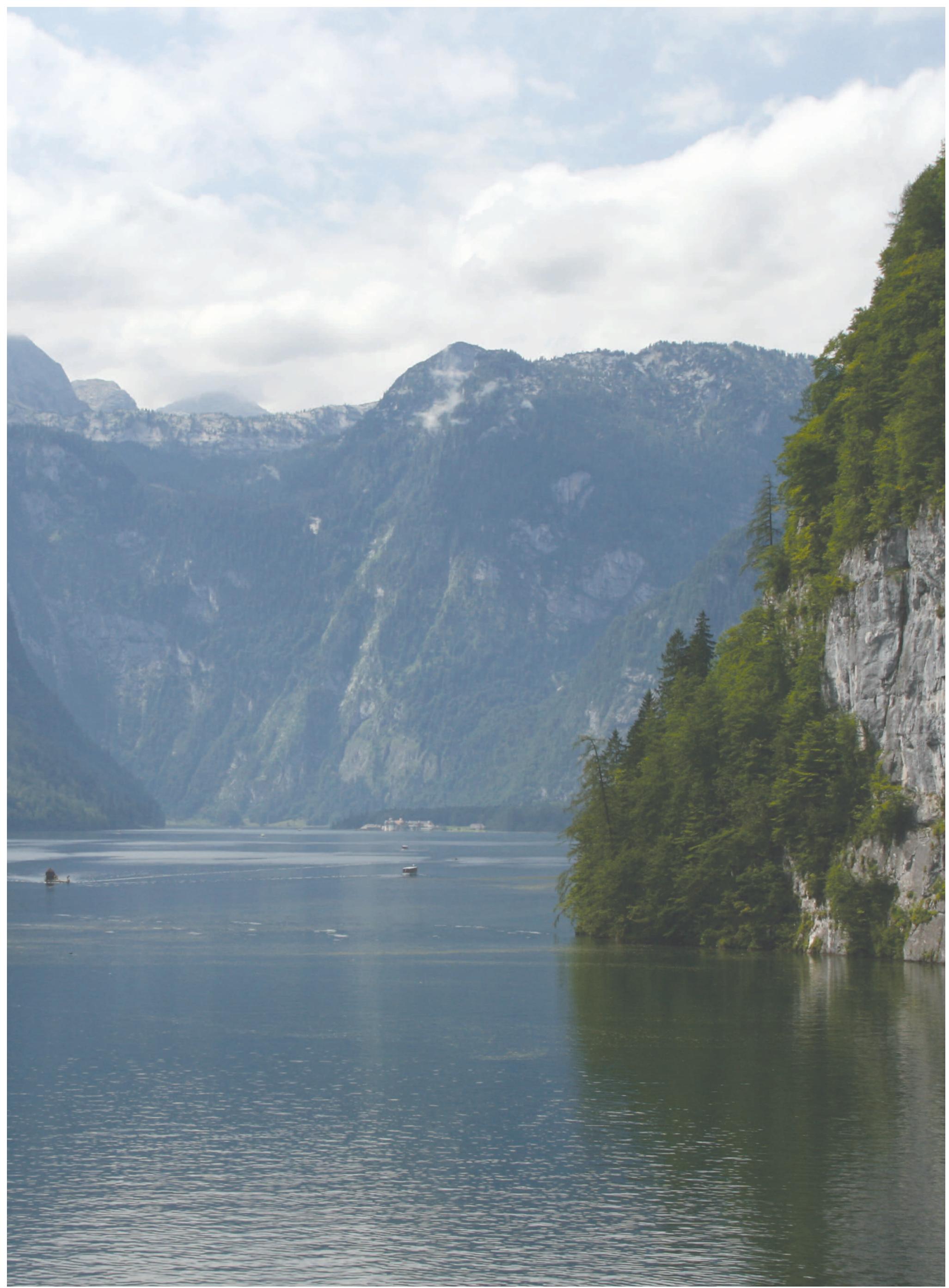
## PACK: SUITCASE ESSENTIALS

Malibu suncream, £4.79.  
Bare Escentuals, foundation SPF15 free sample.  
Vaseline SPF15 £1.99.  
Naughty Alice Vivienne Westwood Perfume, £53.  
Simple Radiance Brightening Moisturiser SPF10, £6.99.  
Dove Summer Nourishing Glow Body Lotion, £5.10.  
Lonely Planet Encounter Guide, £7.99.  
TRESEMME Minis, £1.32 each. HC



## HAND LUGGAGE







**Andy wears:** Cardigan, H&M, £7; T Shirt, Zara, £9.99

**Models:** Hana Teraie Wood and Andy Baillie

**Photographers:** Peter Iveson and Lucy Dixon

**Stylist:** Paris Bennett

**Make-up Artist:** Melissa Gatesee

# Fashion.

## Flower Power

Cliche though it may be, florals are a big yes for this summer's wardrobe. **Serena Kalirai** takes you through how to do it this time round.

**S**ummer has truly arrived for fashion this year kicking off with an all-so-familiar, but all-so-welcome trend: florals. Prints and patterns seem to be most popular for dresses this year. A take on Stella McCartney's fruity prints can be seen at a steal for just £25 in Dorothy Perkins. Accessories also continue to make a statement, with block wedges becoming an essential part of any summer ensemble - ASOS now stocking over 100 different variations on the style.

This year, though, the flowers are less 'sweet daisy maid on a hilltop,' and more vivid, bold, electric. With high profile celebrities attending the Chelsea Flower Show from all over the world, they premiered summer's trends, and complimented florals with inventive attire. Zandra Rhodes showed Chelsea how to colour block to the extreme, with her fluorescent pink hair acting as the perfect accessory.

Colour continues to be a big deal for summer, shining not just through the flowers in Chelsea, but also on our ever stylish monarch, the Queen's, aqua blue over-coat. Tangerine, coral, and the brightest of blues are the colours to represent summer 2011. Even colour blocking make-up has been spotted - you can now go and buy that temptingly wild colour at Mac's make-up counters. The simple elegant pieces 'with-a-twist' choices reflected this seasons catwalk foresees of simple but effective shapes that



allow their colours and patterns to do the talking.

With these shades in mind, head to the high street, where the electric Prada, Holly Fulton, and other such high and pricey designs have been adapted to pocket-friendly prices. *Nouse*'s favourites are Reiss' Frannie holiday dress and River Island's red print waisted sun dress, both of which can be found in their York stores. If you'd like a more traditional, girly scattering of flowers on your dress, get Topshop's cream floral

meadow print sleeveless dress (£29)

For accessories this summer, textures also continue to flood in from London Fashion week, as silk and knitwear hold their ground in stores. *Nouse*'s one to watching is the new-comer crochet - as makes its way onto your bags, jewellery and even shoes.

All that's left is to pick your dress cut, and here at *Nouse* we have a new-found romance with 'midi' skirts and dresses. For ideas see our picture gallery at [nouse.co.uk/muse/fashion](http://nouse.co.uk/muse/fashion)

## Designer. Ray Ban

**W**hen we think of summer we think of sunglasses. When we think of designer glasses we turn to Ray-Ban. Heritage with a twist, dating back to the 1930s as binocular designers and later sunglasses specialists distributing to the US Armed forces, they managed to branch out into the consumer and fashion industry and have kept up with the modern market, offering a never-fading, super-chic classy style of frames. Signature designs include Aviator, Clubmaster, Jackie Ohh and Wayfarer, ensuring any shade-less person wanting something to protect their eyes in style will find a pair of glasses to suit them.



## Disciple. Tom Cruise

**D**ate: 1980. Icon: Tom Cruise. Film: *Top Gun*. A sign that Ray-Bans look good when paired with an aviator jacket. Cruise plays the high-flying fighter pilot 'Maverick' well, acting both rebel and charmer behind a pair of black Aviator style Ray-Bans. The black lenses are worn not to simply block the sun from Cruise's eyes, rather more to project an image of macho coolness that causes females to swoon and males to be left in awe and empty their wallets. Cruise's wardrobe of Levi Jeans, simple white V-neck and a flying jacket topped off with short windswept hair gave the casual-sleek look a timelessness, as appreciation for both the actor and, moreso, the brand, have not faded.



## DIY. Folli Follie

**I**f shading the sun rays from your eyes with a pair of Ray-Bans isn't on the cards, Folli Follie offers a pair of green lens Ray-Ban Aviator style lookalikes for £45. Topshop offer glasses in black and cream in Ray-Ban's iconic Wayfarer style and a leopard print design in Clubmaster style for a mere £16. If you still need some glasses to match your bikini or trunks you could always pick up a pair of Ray-Ban copies at Camden Market in London for less than £5. Watch the UV protection mark though- when the rays get bright it's best to shade in a safe screen of style.

## The Beautiful Game



Paris Bennett  
FASHION EDITOR

**D**id you watch the football? It was a healthy competition, full of talented young men at a peak of physical fitness. We all remember David Beckham, Freddie Ljungberg and, my personal favourite, Didier Drogba posing in their tiny briefs, just bulging with style. Fashion and football have a relationship often overlooked. All the macho men out there might be thinking 'yeah but I don't go around in my tighty whiteys,' however I will suspect many of these men have helped in making footie chic by sporting a team shirt.

There are so many links the nation's number one game has to high end fashion. To label but a few buzz words, we live in WAG culture with Cheryl Cole stamped on the cover of Vogue; Puma during the 1970 World Cup paid Pelé \$120,000 to wear their boots and specifically requested that he bend down and tie his laces on the pitch. He might as well have swung his head around to the nearest camera and proclaimed: "because I am worth it!"

But the fashion focal points that show the strongest link to the beautiful game are, firstly, the shirt designs and, secondly, the footballers that become muses to designers.



One of the greatest footballing talents in the world is also now the creme de la creme of the body beautiful. Cristiano Ronaldo is perfection. He is made to model. When looking at his Armani campaign, one must remember he is a sportsman first and clothes horse second.

But beauty has to be adorned in worthy attire, and wearing their kit has just as much aesthetic significance, if not more than when, for example, Rooney tries to scrub up well in civilized a suit.

For a focus on the best team attire, firstly there is Coventry away kit 1978. It was brown two piece with vertical curved stripes extending from the shoulder, making the leap from shirt to shorts, and then finishing at the thigh in a united line. The look was the male equivalent to a woman's matching shoes and handbag. The second look is the Arsenal away kit 1991 which certainly fits the new rave euro pop trends. It is very disco looking with the zig zag fading black pattern over a canary yellow base. The completely unmatched silky sapphire shorts combined to the top just further distance to look from it being a supposed uniform.

But footballers clothing will always walk to line of the good and the very bad. One major attire nightmare occurred in the Manchester United away kit 1994, when Sir Alex Ferguson claimed that their grey kit was causing players to not see each other, and therefore the team quickly changed into their third kit at half time. For the future of the football industry and fashion industry, we cannot predict where the styles of the two will go, but the relationship between them both will certainly last longer than some players fidelity.

# Arts.

## Sensory Steps

Choreographer at the Royal Ballet, Alastair Marriott, talks to **Sarah Jilani** about music, movement, and the creative process behind his work *Sensorium*

Watching dance can be akin to listening to a form of speech that has more components than just sound; in fact, many consider it a form of language where meaning lies in movement, gesture and form in fusion with music. The curtain rises, the first chords are struck, a figure dashes on stage in a flash of limbs - the audience witnesses, essentially, the voice of the choreographer, speaking through a medium understood by all.

"I am always inspired by the music," says choreographer for the Royal Ballet, Alastair Marriott, whose ballet *Sensorium* had its first revival at the Royal Opera House last month. It comes as no surprise that music was a starting point for this piece; the idea for *Sensorium* was born of Claude Debussy's piano preludes, orchestrated by Colin Matthews to their full potential as ballet music.

Literally meaning the part of the human brain which deals with sensation and the processing of the five senses, *Sensorium*'s selection of preludes have been chosen with attention to a sound translatable onto the physical plane. The choreographer dwelled long upon the sequence of the music, searching for a pattern that organically quickens and slows whilst retaining the seamless coherence of sensory perception. Indeed, Marriott emphasises the interconnectedness of sound to movement, and his choreography has a distinctly music-based quality to its inception:

"I think ballets work best when music and choreography are treated with equal importance. My choreography is always a response to the score."

In its cool pastel-toned leotards and a set of simple but abstract shapes reminiscent of a Japanese aesthetic, the movements of the dancers and the expressive music itself has time and space to unfold in a synergy of the senses. The stage design follows closely in level of importance for Marriott within the creative process.

"Design should be of equal importance to music and choreography," he says. "Busy or minimal design depends



JOHAN PERSSON

"I welcome feedback from my dancers but I am very conscious of sticking to my own vision, so that it is my voice"

on the effect you are aiming for. Even no set can say something."

Indeed, the origami-inspired stage concept serves to highlight the firm footing of this choreography within sensory storytelling. Despite retaining a classical feel in style and form, it demonstrates ballet in its intense con-

nection to the flexibility of expression that can be derived from the human form. Reviews have particularly voiced their praise of the emphasis on leg and torso extension, its haiku-like choreographic language and a reoccurring sense of mysterious patterning.

However, is the creative burden fully on one person? It certainly seems so, although there is still room to manoeuvre during rehearsals: "I welcome feedback from my dancers," Marriott explains. "This is usually while mapping out the steps."

Choreographers need a good working relationship with their

dancers in order to meet the stressful demands of creating and performing under pressure. As every dancer has their individual strengths and weaknesses, this calls at times for some tailoring on the choreography itself once dancers have learned it.

At the end of the day, however, Marriott emphasises: "I am very conscious of sticking to my vision of the piece, so that it is my voice."

A singular tone to a ballet creates a unifying thread that can help maintain a certain coherence to the choreography, as well as provide the means to tell a story without stylistic disturbances. *Sensorium* has been specifically likened to having a ritualistic atmosphere; this suggestion of the ceremonial and logical can only be established by retaining singularly unifying characteristics in the choreographic vision.

Yet there are always practicalities the choreographer needs to work around, and the success of the art form often depends on these considerably less exciting but necessary elements.

"The worst thing," Marriott says, "is working within the schedule. There are many more performances and a wider repertoire each year to fit rehearsals around."

The Royal Ballet employs approximately 100 dancers, many of them in a few different roles each season; unsurprisingly, Marriott feels that sorting out the logistics and the availability of his dancers are possibly the worst aspects of being a choreographer.

Nevertheless, on the other end of the spectrum, he is quick to add that which forms the enriching elements to his career path:

"The best thing is having an opportunity to express yourself, while collaborating with some of the best performers, designers and musicians around," he assures.

Indeed, it is true that stress accompanies any job, but when the result is seeing what once began as a few pieces of music and some promising ideas become a fully-fledged artistic celebration, it seems rather a small price to pay.

### In Pictures: Lady Macbeth

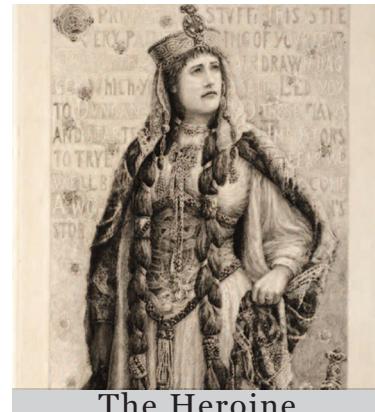
Macbeth has recently come to the Royal Opera House: we take a look at portrayals of the ill-fated Lady Macbeth through the ages.



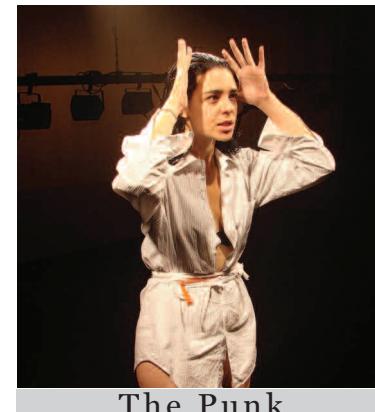
The Queen



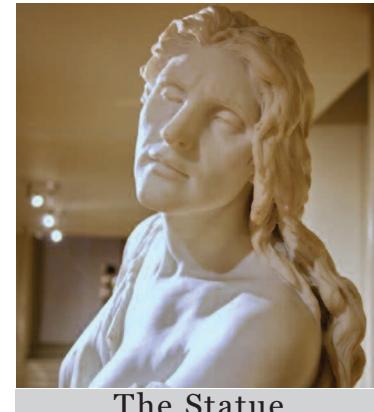
The Gothic



The Heroine



The Punk



The Statue

# Natural Progression

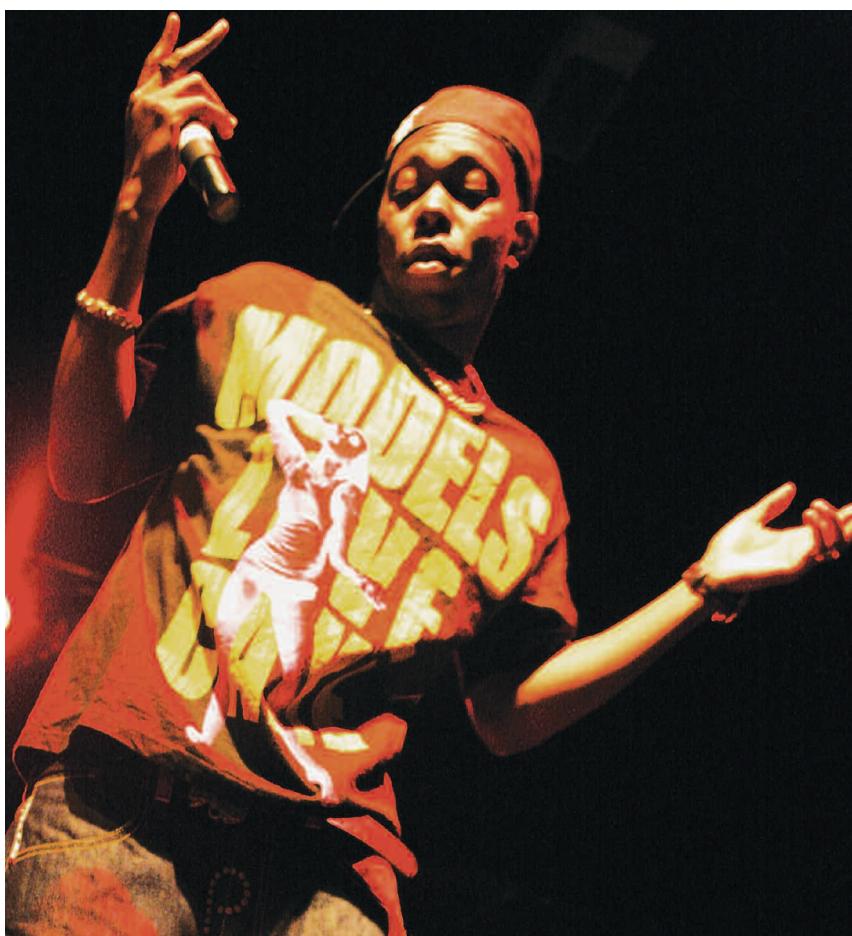
Musicians have recently more than ever been jumping from one art form to another. **Emily Heggadon** explores the rate of success and failure amongst our daring songsters

**E**verybody wants to be famous, nobody wants to be nameless, aimless, people act shameless, try'n'a live like entertainers", and in an attempt to highlight the truth in these lyrics, not content with making millions from music, Dizzee Rascal wants to be a photographer. Rascal's photographs are inspired by things he has seen as a touring musician. "I've travelled around a lot since my first album and I've seen so many mad, different, interesting things, and I always took pictures along the way." Mad and different are apt descriptions for his works, some of which include a fishing net against a cloudy sky, and a ripped leather chair. It would be difficult to argue that they show real ingenuity, as his subjects are fundamentally mundane, and sadly without the aid of an expensive lens, they could only be described as decidedly ordinary.

It would seem that many high profile musicians of our time are intent on broadening their horizons and critical reception in a variety of genres. Kele Okereke, lead singer of Bloc Party, announced earlier this year that he has been writing a book. Believed to be an "erotic memoir" of short stories, it would seem that the singer has been focussing all his attentions on literature, rather than progressing with the band. Storytelling is a natural progression for the lyricist, a good song is inherent on the fact that it effectively tells a story, and therefore the fact the Okereke should want to write does not seem to be out of the ordinary. He says that: "there's just nothing to do when you're on the road all the time, so it's good to do something to engage my mind."

What is difficult, however, is to discover whether the uptake of a different artistic medium is based purely on vanity - the vehicle of fame catapulting them into the public domain regardless of their talent - or motives?

It is not a trend confined to the young and fresh: Madonna's *The English Roses* became the fastest and largest selling book ever by a first time children's author. It's printing in 40 languages and availability worldwide is



surely undeniably linked to the singer's massive status as a musical icon. Bob Dylan, who could arguably be deemed the forefather of this monopolising of the artistic market, wrote literature that is well known worldwide.

Clearly success breeds success. Musicians are special in that they evoke an almost idol-worship culture within their fans and listeners; they are boundless and the opportunities they are given outside the musical sector reflect this golden lifestyle.

Although undoubtedly linked, skills are not necessarily transferred and we mustn't forget to filter the "shameless" efforts of some musicians in favour of those with a real interest and talent. Whilst Dylan's this has been highly successful - probably due to his

status as one of the greatest lyricists of all time - his painting and artistic endeavours are somewhat dubious. *The Drawn Blank* series is painted by what appears to be an unaccomplished hand and would arguably not be half as popular had they not been his. It is almost a right of Dylan's to be able to occupy all spheres of expression.

Alex James, Blur bassist, Doctor of Arts at Bournemouth University, and Artist in Residence at the Department of Astrophysics at Oxford describes the relationship between his three passions, music, art and science in a differing way and with enviable succinctness: "Art and science are both methods of approaching truth. They meet somewhere and in that place, there is music."

**Emily Heggadon**  
DEPUTY ARTS EDITOR

22ND JUNE, YORK MINSTER, 19.30

**York University Symphony Orchestra and Choir** combine forces to perform Beethoven's Symphony no. 9 in D minor (Choral) and the 'Great' Mass in C minor. In such a spectacular setting, I urge you to take this opportunity.

23RD-26TH JUNE, YORK UNIVERSITY

**Samuel Beckett: Out of the Archive** international conference comes to York and looks set to be a feast of modernism. Guest speakers include J.M. Coetzee and John Banville. See website for more details. [outofthearchive.com](http://outofthearchive.com)



Turn the page: we should embrace eBooks

**Edward Grande**  
DEPUTY ARTS EDITOR



exist, forcing an ever-widening void into the publishing market.

There are huge practical advantages though, which are not to be sniffed at. Instead of carrying your single scruffy paperback, your entire library can be at your fingertips. If you also decide, many miles from a Waterstones, that this really isn't your favourite Dickens, then downloading one which will suit your mood better - even for a few chapters - is a genuine option.

Yet I find nothing troubling in the huge growth of sales of eBooks. In 2009, eBooks only made up 1.5 per cent of total book sales in America, while in the first quarter of 2010 that figure had surged to five per cent.

**"The invisibility cloak of the Amazon Kindle helps us to do away with intellectual snobbery"**

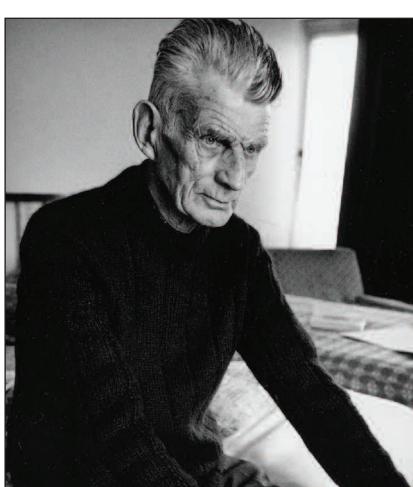
Similarly, in the four weeks of July 2010, Amazon was selling 180 ebooks for 100 hardbacks. The march of digital literature, therefore, is unrelenting.

And there are inevitable downsides to this readership revolution. On the whole, eBooks are more expensive, less accessible,

and could be subject to technical malfunction at the worst of times, such as your cross-country train deciding to make one of those hilarious unscheduled stops in the depths of the Lancashire countryside.

One inevitably feels they look really very high brow reading an archaic copy of the *Baghavad Gita* that had been bought in musty second hand shop, from someone that one felt looked the spitting image of their very own Mr Micawber.

The invisibility cloak of the Amazon Kindle therefore helps to do away with this intellectual snobbery. Dismiss me as the self-conscious one by all means, but books have undeniably always been symbolic. Here's to the eBooks march keeping its momentum.



## Deputy Editor's Picks

3RD-5TH JUNE, DRAMA BARN, 19.30

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* comes to the barn this week. Directed by Rosie Fletcher, this iconic and much parodied tale of love, deceit, fairies and asses, faces the challenge of creating something innovative.

17TH-19TH JUNE, VANBRUGH PARADISE, 18.30, 15.30 SAT/SUN

**Treasure Island** is this years summer pantomime, to be performed outside, it comes complete with the promise of a pirate ship. A fresh student reworking of the well known swash-buckler, it is perfect for the enjoying on a summer evening with a glass of something cold.

# Music.

## Master of Puppets

**Alex Swadling** investigates cover bands and talks to all-girl Metallica tribute *Misstallica*.

Rumour has it York isn't renowned for its buzzing and original music scene. Looking at a Fibbers listings poster, I beg to differ – York has a fantastically unoriginal music scene. "York is so coooool!" enthuses Misstallica's Teddi Tarnoff, bassist of the only all-girl Metallica tribute band, "on the East Coast [Pennsylvania] where we're from, there are hardly any tribute bands [...] but over here it's huge". It's true. It's not just York's unfathomably flat planes riddled with some of my least favourite 'C's — cobbles and cyclists — that attract tribute bands, but in Britain we just can't stop eating that tribute shit up. Starting out in the 60s with Elvis impersonators and Beatles tribute acts, the cover scene has evolved and morphed into an ever familiar-sounding mega-group of everyone's second favourite band. In fact, the UK now hosts festivals solely dedicated to tribute acts; the uncanny 'Glastonbudget' which takes places the last weekend of every May and is now in its 7th year has been headlined by the likes of Guns N' Roses, Blings of Leon, The Fillers and Green Date for a spot of guess-the-original-band-name. Also, a more recent addition to the scene is the mind-perplexingly named 'Fake Festival' which tours round UK towns and cities over Spring and Summer supporting local tribute and original bands.

Despite the fate of many of their inspirers, the tribute scene has definitely not had its heyday (and this truism is not just based on my one-woman KISS tribute of demanding every DJ in York to play 'Crazy Nights' on repeat). Proving this fact more than ever are Philadelphia's Misstallica – four girls aged from 19 to their early 20s and graduates of Paul Green's infamous School of Rock, they are set on rekindling the old-school Metallica flame, but with less facial hair and more breast. "Who likes old Metallica?" growls Gina-James Gleason-Hetfield to the Fibbers crowd. Well, most fans, and I don't think I stand alone in saying that most new 'tallica is a thing that should not be. Fortunately, Misstallica also concur – only playing Metallica tracks from the first four albums, Gina, Teddi, Courtney and Kaleen illustrate both their good taste and insane musical prowess. Friends of the all-metal Bee Gees tribute act 'Tragedy', Misstallica were picked up by the O2 Academy group and are now already on their second UK tour, quite easily heading for the dizzying heights of tribute-fame (which is not to be underestimated –



"When Metallica fans come out and go ape-shit everyone has such an awesome time"

look at The Australian Pink Floyd Show, Dread Zeppelin and Limehouse Lizzy, to name a few). Talking to them it seems like their reception in the UK has been good and is rapidly getting better. "I've got so many Facebook friend requests" laughs lead Gina, "when Metallica fans come out and go ape-shit everyone has such an awesome time". Equally, watching four Metallica fans play with such

**Above:**  
**Misstallica**

Misstallica's reception is a massive credit to them, despite this Gina assures me that they "don't have rivalries". When I ask what their favourite 'tallica album is, the indecision (which eventually swings towards *Ride the Lightning*) is an easy reminder of why tribute bands can be so ace – the collective admiration for music which translates so seamlessly to performance is generally what makes a band worth paying to see. More than that, tribute bands hark back to their original's less commercial roots, consequently avoiding the soul-destroying stadiums tours plagued with impersonal big screens, the sickening smell of a sell-out and most unforgivably seating. "This is like a fun thing that we do, coming to the UK doesn't make any money," Teddi reiterates, who is also the lead singer of King Diamond tribute Queen Diamond, "but it is a fun thing that does help pay the bills a little and it also helps us to meet really cool people and pass our sound along."

"Fun". That's exactly what tribute bands are – fun. As drummer Kaleen rightly points out—"people are more likely to come see music they know"—but I've always wondered why good tribute bands, like Misstallica with admirable influences and extremely talented musicians, aren't playing original music. Luckily there is no need for stern words and probing questions – as soon as we sit down Gina sheds some light, "we've all got our own things going on [...] we've got our new band Christ, with me, Kaleen and Teddi which is an original band, we'll be recording in the summer". This cheers me up. As much as I love a good tribute band and the opportunity they provide to listen to big bands in a small environment with a fresh perspective, any big name could probably do without the ego massage; even if they did deserve it once upon a time. Besides, without trying to excuse mediocrity or sound like a mother, if a band's original music is crap, at least they did it themselves.

Having said that, the tribute scene is showing no signs of slowing, and as long as York is on the map Britain will always take you. But where does the future lie for Misstallica? "Most festivals in America, even in Europe are just not interested in tribute bands", Teddi shrugs, "this is what we do, you know". "We'd love to meet Metallica, so if you know them..." smiles Gina, "or Slayer! (gesturing at my shirt) if you know Slayer we wouldn't say no". Well, if I did I now know what I'd ask them – "what tribute band would you be in?"

### REVERB.

"For a broad historical view of what the Queen is and how she 'rules', examine Gaddafi or Mubarak, and see if you can spot any difference. You won't be able to."

# Two's Company

## Sam Briggs talks band politics with Slow Club

The pitfalls of being in a two-man band are apparent. From the musical restrictions of a limited limb count, to the tendency towards a tense personal dynamic, most duos are inherently faced with a career lacking in variety, and overwhelmed with White Stripes comparisons. It requires a spark of originality (and preferably a half-decent drummer) to overcome such musical hurdles.

However, speaking to Charles Watson, the guitar-playing half of Sheffield-based duo Slow Club, he seems blissfully uninterested in the pressure of these stereotypes. Having met Rebecca Taylor, his female counterpart, through music days at school, the ethos of the band has remained focused on enjoyment and friendship. They started playing together through a local community of musicians, before "forming Slow Club on the side". Despite finding a wider audience, Watson still admits that "Sheffield still definitely feels like home", and that Slow Club still feels like an extension of "friends that we've been playing with since we were 13". For Watson, "music makes a lot more sense when you know where it's come from", and the series of bands that he refers to as friends suggests that Slow Club's outlook continues this sense of community. He doesn't believe in people who take themselves too seriously - "music is supposed to be fun!" - and his friendly manner is instantly infectious.

Asking him about the possible limitations of being in a duo, Watson admits that "it's all we've known". However, through glimpses of other bands on tour, the personal dynamic seems far more manageable for him and Taylor. He compares seeing other bands out of the spotlight to "going to a friend's house and seeing what the family are really like. We avoid all the politics of that! And bands behave much better when there's a girl in the room".

The subject of touring brings up another different element of being in a two-piece. Watson sees Slow Club as producing "two dif-



ferent elements", in their live and recorded manifestations. "We don't really have any thought out set ideals on tour", says Watson, and admits the duo prefer "just to wing it!" "We seem to start and stop in the same place", he jokes, adding that "I think we might have a reputation for being a bit shonky". Melding elements of folk, rockabilly and jangly pop with a sense of dry humour, Watson and Taylor buzz off each other, creating an irresistibly endearing ramshackle affair. Owing to Taylor falling ill, their last show was a now traditional Christmas celebration. In a suitably festive atmosphere, the event seems impossibly heartwarming as the middle aged group next to me break into a synchronised dance routine. It would, however, be unfair to assume from moments such as this that Slow Club can be dismissed for being overly saccharine. Although early gigs featured Taylor playing household items for percussion, from bottles to chairs, and videos were punctuated by cupcakes and bunting, meant that the band were quickly tarred by the "twee" brush, debut album "Yeah So?" deserves further consideration. Ranging from the garage-pop of "Giving Up on Love" to the melancholic "Come on Youth", the whole album is tied together by strong melodies and harmonies, and an overwhelming sense of fun. As Watson testifies,

Asking about the development of their sophomore album, Watson gives a different approach to songwriting as the major development. Watson describes his attempt to use "different keys, different aesthetics, and different instruments - drum machines and keyboards" as the album's musical basis. "I've stopped playing guitar really. I love picking up something you don't know how to play and writing on it - there are no boundaries". However, he remains of the belief that "the best songs are the ones which take 15 minutes to write." Songs seem to come naturally for the duo, with both members of the band contributing. "We both work in different ways, but it just happens. There's no formula! We just write about what we know". Watson admits that he is happiest when the Slow Club numbers two, and that touring makes you "really enjoy there just being two of you".

On the basis of tracks aired live, the band will soon be even more deserving of transcending the "twee" tag. With their second album and a national tour approaching, Slow Club membership seems to be growing, as the band comfortably sidestep any preconceptions of being pigeonholed as either twee, or a two-piece. Two's company indeed.



Shabazz Palaces

## Future Sounds.

**M**ystique must be top of every new band's playbook by now. But there's cultivating hype and then there's being a tad standoffish. You could probably accuse Shabazz Palaces of latter, which till recently was only known as the project of one Palaceer Lazaro. What Lazaro hasn't been eager to reveal is his previous work as Ishmael "Butterfly" Butler, one third of the boho-rap trio Digable Planets, a Grammy-winning hip-hop act. Since signing to Sub Pop late last year, the first hip hop act to do so in the label's history, Shabazz Palaces have been quietly releasing records without giving much away, much less an interview or a MySpace page. All

this elusive behaviour is strangely fitting for the band, whose experimental approach to hip hop is difficult to describe. Track titles such as "32 Leaves Dipped In Blackness Making Clouds Forming Altered Carbon" are an indication of the weirdness inside. At times Shabazz Palaces shares the cosmic jazz oddity of Flying Lotus, or the malignant rattle of El-P. Sometimes beats have an almost recognisable Eastern influence, but more often instrumentals take the form of unsettling synth backed by heavy bass. Lazaro, in his own words, "raps order into this madness" with his air-tight rhymes and often enigmatic lyrics. Unusual, eerie and highly promising.

## Reviews.

ARTIST: NOAH AND THE WHALE

DATE: 7TH MAY

VENUE: SHEFFIELD LEADMILL

REVIEW: SAM BRIGGS



From the moment the band first walk onstage, it is obvious that this is Noah and the Whale Mark 2. Following the release of new album *Last Night on Earth*, which saw the band embracing synthesisers, showmanship, and stadium sized choruses, the five piece tonight are dressed in matching sharp suits and waistcoats. Gone are the ukuleles of the band's first incarnation, to be replaced by big Gibsons and racks of keyboards.

Unfortunately, the widescreen intent of the new tracks comes at the expense of what made them charming in the first place. Insisting on reinterpreting older tracks comes at their detriment, as songs lack all the endearing quality that initially sold them. When they allow their acoustic roots to shine the band are at their most impressive. It also doesn't help that no new tracks hit the emotional intensities of "First Days of Spring", the set's highlight. Although there is merit in the band's new direction, the nature of their songwriting eludes a one size fits all policy.

ARTIST: FLASHGUNS, LOW DUO

DATE: 15TH MAY

VENUE: STEREO

REVIEW: ADAM BYCHAWSKI



Stereo has recently showcased a number of new talented new acts and tonight is no different. Opening the evening is Bewilderbeast, the project of one York student, with a set of aural pleasuring summer-evoking tones and breezy vocals, performed as well as more popular peers Washed Out and Neon Indian. Filling the gap between the headliners, are Low Duo, a pair of Sheffield brothers whose set consists solely of guitar and vocals. Usually the minimal stage presence of this acoustic duo might be intimate, but in the slightly oversized Stereo it looks a bit awkward, more like a busk than a gig. Unfortunately it is difficult to grasp the lyrical content of the duo on first listen, and Leigh

Greenwood vocals don't have enough presence to hold the room in thrall. Minimalist singer songwriters might well be in vogue, but Low Duo are perhaps too conservative with their sound, relying too much on uninteresting guitar backing in vein of Miles Kane.

Topping the bill are Brighton four piece Flashguns, who have no trouble filling out the room with the passionate cries of "Come and See the Lights". But there is a softer side to the band as well with the more subdued bluesy "Racing Race" that builds and falls with both soft and throaty tearing vocal backing. This is a far more interesting side to the band than the at times formulaic indie-pop, hopefully they won't succumb to it too often.

## Nouse Playlist.

R.I.P. Gil Scott-Heron

Adam Bychawski

A playlist tribute to the recent passing of the Godfather of Rap.

"Home Is Where the Hatred Is"

Dealing with addiction and domestic violence, one of Heron's most arresting songs.

"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"

His most well-known song and one of the greatest political songs.

"Pieces of a Man"

Deeply moving and soulful standout track narrating his father's breakdown.

"Storm Music"

A song celebrating a tradition of black music, which Heron himself significantly contributed to.

"Me and the Devil"

A distinct change in sound, from first new material recorded in 16 years.

# Film.

## There's nothing beautiful left to see

Guillem Morales talks to **Gareth Davies** about his latest film, *Julia's Eyes*

**L**osing something is always terrible. Sometimes you lose material things, people or feelings. But losing one thing always implies gaining something else. And that's where we have to concentrate. Going blind isn't pleasant, but it doesn't mean that everything ends there. It means transformation."

Such grand transformations are not just evident in the content of Guillem Morales' new movie *Julia's Eyes*, but in the man himself. Shuffling out from the dusty crevices of amateur film-making, Morales has taken centre-stage this month in the world of foreign film.

The movie, which has been produced by cult Spanish director Guillermo Del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *The Orphanage*), tells the story of Julia, a young woman suffering from a degenerative eye disease which threatens her with blindness. Discovering her twin sister hanged in the basement of her own home, common sense points to suicide, but Julia, unable to quell her suspicions begins to entertain the possibility of murder. Just as Julia begins to uncover the horrific truths behind her sister's death, her vision deteriorates leading her on a journey of psychological, emotional and optical darkness.

Casting thoughts back to *See No Evil*, *Blind Terror*, and *The Eye* (amongst others), one can see that over recent years, sight and the loss of vision have become fairly common tropes in the horror genre. Morales admits that yes, a number of films have been made about blindness, but assures me that his is different. "*Julia's Eyes*, isn't a film about a blind woman," he states. "It's a film about a woman who's going blind. But before losing her sight forever, she'll have to see things, important things; that she'd never seen before, and these can be either beautiful or terrible..." As with the best of Shakespeare's plays it becomes apparent that those who cannot see at all are often those who see best. As Julia loses



her sight she learns to see differently. The film, he says, "is structured around seeing. Of what it means to see but also what it means to be seen." Making a movie about seeing is distinctly meta. Morales places into question the veracity of the very sense we rely on to experience and orient ourselves in relation to film.

Yet it is precisely sight and its erasure which become a way for Morales to drive his plot forward. Julia must race against a clock whose midnight hour signals blindness for her. In this formal respect *Julia's Eyes* is a movie which often bears as much resemblance to a thriller as a horror movie. Morales' debut film *The Uncertain Guest* stuck closely to an established thriller framework. *Julia's Eyes*, however, sees him marry horror with the thriller form with a deft touch. I wonder why he feels that this thriller-based form works, and he tells me that

"although there are some people who think otherwise, it's a genre that doesn't impose limits. A thriller", he adds "can be horrific, humane, exciting, emotional and can harbour all kinds of stories, but due to this form, you know that they'll be told in such a way as to grab the audience from the start." This creation of a plot which can grip straight away is no doubt something which is becoming more and more important in our culture of immediacy. He tells me: "A story can be good. But if it's told with suspense and tension, then it's twice as good."

Tension and suspense may be key issues in Morales' film-making, but he states that his ultimate goal is to entertain his audience. He tells me that he seeks "to leave the viewer breathless, so that they embark on a roller-coaster of emotions that doesn't stop until the end of the film." *Julia's Eyes* carries the narrative itch of Hitchcock and the

dark horror of Argento, synthesising such influences into a form of volatility. I am intrigued to know what inspired Morales to fashion an aesthetic which seems in such close conversation with its filmic ancestors, within both the horror and thriller genre. Instead of reeling off a list of movies as expected, Morales states that he drew greater influence from video games: "I wanted to impregnate the whole creative team with the influence of my favourite games," he states, in order to give birth to something fast-paced and suitably dark. Morales, seems to struggle in defining the style of his movie, denying its often gothic aesthetic, he instead claims "diluted European influences" which "perfectly describe a world in which there's nothing beautiful left to see."

At the heart of his movie, however, is not tension, suspense, horror, or gore, but the importance of transformation and adaptivity. Whilst *Julia's Eyes* is a horror-thriller, it carries a deep message regarding the nature of human perception. Morales explains: "Transformation is a painful but incredibly positive process if we take it for what it is: an evolution. Going blind," he states, "isn't as important as the attitude we have towards this change." Embracing change and transforming our perceptions is as much *Julia's* goal as our own. Morales encourages us to change and adapt to new filmic surroundings and situations. To transform the way in which we perceive and interact with film because there is no training, no paper trail, no tax forms, you run into a lot of ex-cons, druggies and other musicians so you get some interesting stories out of that."

James is restless in his work, whether in constantly writing new material or, as I suspect, doing odd jobs out of a compulsion to be always doing something. Even having suffered the odd disaster hasn't stopped him, hopefully this much deserved spate of good luck will hold out this time. M

## Top 5 Terence Malick Movies

Having just won the Palme d'Or at Cannes, here's our pick of this 67-year-old American filmmaker's best offerings to the silver screen



Badlands (1973)

Days of Heaven (1978)

The Thin Red Line (1998)

The New World (2005)

The Tree of Life (2011)

# Movie piracy: on stranger tides

The movie industry isn't expendable, argues **Christopher Fraser**, but neither are those targeted for illegal movie downloads.



**H**ow much would you pay to see *The Expendables*, the awful Sylvester Stallone-starring carnival of testosterone that garnered critical opinion as diverse as "unnecessary", "junk" and "not having the integrity to do anything of value"? The price of a cinema ticket? Maybe you're weird, and you bought the full-price deluxe DVD. Let's round this up, and say that the most you could ever expect to pay to see this over-hyped piece of trash would be around £20.

Now contrast that with the 23,322 Americans who have been ordered to pay a \$2,000 settlement for downloading the film illegally.

Let's not underplay it: movie piracy is huge, but it's not going to go away. This lawsuit comes from the legally murky US Copyright Group, known for defending more low-budget fare in the past (their biggest suit to date was the Uwe Boll directed adaptation of *Far Cry*), and it's the latest in a long line of lawsuits intended to scare filesharers. No-one ever mentions that of the thousands of defendants sued by USCG or its clones, no-one has ever appeared in court.

When it comes to digital film piracy, there is next to no precedent in either the US or UK courts.

A similar company to USCG, the UK-based ACS Law, shut down this February after a string of controversies

and one judge in particular who called their behaviour "mind-boggling". Successful cases have been brought against music pirates, even if it's just a handful. As scare tactics, however they still haven't worked.

In the UK, it appeared for a while that things were going to change. Last year, Parliament passed The Digital Economy Act, which works on the basis of removing internet access for repeat offenders rather than using copyright infringement as a shady basis for generating extra revenue, but you won't see its effects for at least another year because the government agreed on the principles a long time before they thought about how their ideas could actually be enforced. There's also the fact that two ISPs (BT and TalkTalk) successfully managed to get a judicial review as to their own liability, its compatibility with EU law and a hefty chunk of privacy concerns. Things might get more complex in the future, but for now piracy seems to have an open channel in the UK.

We seem to have hit a catch-22 when it comes to the movie industry. Lagging sales have led to more and more hesitancy from abroad to distribute films in the UK, meaning that quite often movies that don't even have a theatrical release over here are online in DVD-quality rips months or sometimes years

before they appear in any legal format. The fantastic Edward Norton-starring *Leaves of Grass* (pictured) was leaked by one of the crew, even before it began its incredibly limited US run. There are currently a plethora of small-budget films circulating the American market that we should at least expect to see in independent cinemas in the UK. Yet it's the increasing reality that these kinds of films simply vanish.

That might be the pirates' fault to an extent, but it's not the whole picture. Movies are surviving the digital age a lot better than most other entertainment industries. DVD sales might be down, but cinema ticket sales are up, much in the same way that live music has taken off again in recent years.

The hesitancy of distributors to spend money on bringing films to the UK is stifling, and while that might mean we see more homegrown brilliance (like the recent *Attack the Block*), it means that UK residents steal the films that don't deserve to be stolen.

When we look at piracy, big-budget huge-grossing blockbusters like *The Expendables* shouldn't get a say, considering that they're proud of being commercial; that's a bit like asking Lord Voldemort about the ethical ramifications of murder. It's the smaller films – the ones that already don't stand a chance – that we need to look out for.

## Reviews.

FILM: HANGOVER PART II

DIRECTOR: TODD PHILLIPS

STARRING: BRADLEY COOPER,

ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

RUNTIME: 102 MINS

REVIEW: JAMES TWEDDE

★★★★★



The *Hangover*: Part II is very similar to its predecessor. It starts half-way through the story with the same "we messed up" phone call before skipping to One Week Earlier. There's a bit of build-up before the bachelor party, and then suddenly the morning after hangover is here, requiring the rebuilding of the previous night, which then makes up the majority of the movie.

Most critics have hated this. Not only have they accused the film of being unthinking, uninspired and crude, but most of all they felt it was the same film in a different part of the world, i.e. Bangkok instead of Las Vegas.

I couldn't disagree more. Whenever yet another cheesy rom-com falls out of Hollywood, no-one ever complains that the guy and the girl usually end up together. So why complain about a comedy with a familiar plot? Part II's strength is that it not only emulates everything that was good about the original, but that it uses the formula in a self-referential way, with a knowing wink to the audience and several occasions of "I can't believe this is happening again!"

You don't watch a comedy for the

plot progression; you watch it for the laughs, right? And thankfully, this is a very funny film. Zach Galifianakis returns as Alan, the worrying but enjoyably insane man-child, whilst Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms are his fellow misfits. Ken Jeong's Mr. Chow makes a welcomingly degraded and disgusting return, but the scene is always stolen by a chain-smoking monkey wearing a Rolling Stones denim jacket.

Along the way, the Wolfpack encounters ladyboys, Russian gangsters and partying Buddhist monks, all while trying to find one of their lost friends. It may not be original, but this film will have you rolling in the aisles from start to finish. Prove the critics wrong: go and see it.

FILM: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4

DIRECTOR: ROB MARSHALL

STARRING: JOHNNY DEPP

RUNTIME: 137 MINS

REVIEW: SARAH JILANI

★★★★★



Just when you thought a storyline had finally been milked of all its worth, Disney reminds us all yet again that if it makes money, it can also make as many sequels as it wants. This is the vague feeling one gets when watching *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, although it cannot be denied we're kind of secretly gleeful at seeing more swash-buckling, maritime mayhem and nonchalant one-liners.

Johnny Depp's perpetually swaying Captain Jack Sparrow is determined on finding the mystical Fountain of Youth. However, the notorious pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane) and his daughter (Penelope Cruz), the Royal Navy under Geoffrey Rush's Captain Barbosa - who's recently turned to king and country - and even the Spanish are all searching for the very same thing.

With a memorable guest appearance by Judi Dench, eerie mermaid battles, and many improvised evasions of capture à la Jack Sparrow, the 4th installment has lodged itself on middle ground. Funnier and better paced than *Dead Man's Chest* and *At World's End*, yet with poorer CGI and an even heavier dependence on Depp's screen presence, the film seems to have accepted the

fact that it cannot surpass *Curse of the Black Pearl*, and will not try to compensate by bumping up the epic-factor: emerging all the better for it, really.

The performances of Depp and Rush are fully in character as usual. Cruz is easily overlooked, failing to hold her own within a male cast; the new starstruck lovers, a hunky priest, and an angelic mermaid are little more than eye-candy for the audience. Overall, though, all of this is held together passably by Hans Zimmer's great score, the straightforward plot and fresh humour, making for a thoroughly entertaining but rather forgettable addition to the franchise.

## Coming Soon

### X-MEN FIRST CLASS

**Release: Wed 1 June**

It explores the relationship between telepathic, paraplegic Professor X and metal-bending Magneto.

### SENNA

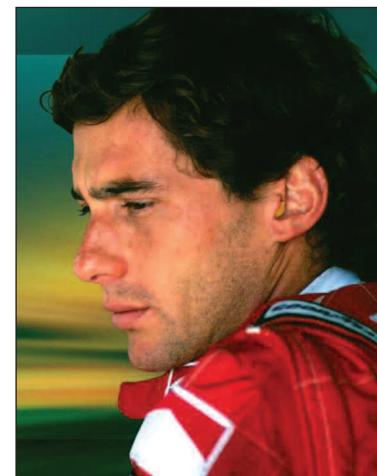
**Release: Fri 3 June**

This documentary tells the story of Formula 1 legend, Ayrton Senna's life, culminating in his '94 crash.

### LAST NIGHT

**Release: Fri 3 June**

A group of very different individuals with very different ways of admitting mistakes.



### YORK STUDENT CINEMA:

**WEEK 6:**  
**Thursday** - Submarine  
**Friday** - Rango

**WEEK 7:**  
**Monday** - Rocky Horror  
**Thursday** - Killing Bono  
**Friday** - Battle: Los Angeles

**WEEK 8:**  
**Monday** - Red Riding Hood  
**Friday** - Source Code

For more info visit:  
[www.yorkstudentcinema.org](http://www.yorkstudentcinema.org)

# Food & Drink.

## Restaurant. El Piano

Being a vegetarian in a meat-eating world is tough, but thankfully there are quaint little restaurants that cater to everyone's needs - carnivores included. El Piano, just in the centre of York is one such place.

Inside, rustic fiesta-style decorations adorn the quaint restaurant, emphasising the southern Mediterranean theme of the place. It boasts plenty of seating; downstairs, upstairs and even outside for those beautiful summer days (abundant in our dear England). Nevertheless, no matter where you sit you feel like you could be anywhere but York. The music sets the scene, combining Latin music with jazzy blues giving it a relaxed but cheery atmosphere. At night it does get busy and the vibe gets even more lively.

The food is varied, though not necessarily taste-bud heaven. It combines Greek, Turkish, Mexican, and Indian recipes; well seasoned, and not too spicy. There are different menus according to the season - always a good thing as every visit is different. The best dish on the menu is the vegetable fritters, served with an array of mouth-watering sauces.

All meals are served tapas-style with offers on for those of limited funds. It's not the cheapest place to eat, but it is well worth the money. Tapas is the way to go for anybody who may be a bit wary about trying



ADDRESS: 15-17 GRAPE LANE

PRICES: £12.95 FOR 3 TAPAS

REVIEW: EMMA JANE TILNEY



new foods, especially vegan food, as it gives a varied selection.

There are no table settings as such. The plates are piled on the table with the cutlery on top contained within a mug - very rustic, but it enhances the chilled-out feel of the place.

There is a good drinks menu, but if you're looking for a wide choice of spirits and wines, El Piano isn't the place to go. They do serve alcohol, but it feels more appropriate to select a drink from the multitude of soft drinks, coffees, teas and non-dairy milkshakes. Coming from someone who is picky about her coffee, El Piano's is pretty darn good, especially the Cowboy one - strong and bold. And if you order tea, it arrives in a beautiful beaten-silver teapot reminiscent of a Moroccan lantern.

For those with room after main courses, there is an assortment of deserts. If you see vegan and vegetarian desserts as boring and unappealing, think again! Highlights are the rich chocolate brownies, a delectable sticky toffee pudding, spicy carrot cake, and a rather interesting "cheese-cake" for those searching for something unusual.

Recipe books are available to buy, so you can give it a go yourself at home. If not, you can grab a take-away at any time of day - better than a kebab from some suspicious place.

All in all, if you want to try new, tasty cuisine in an unpretentious and exciting atmosphere, El Piano is a place to try. And when you go, order the dhal: it's incredible.

**RECIPE**  
BY KATE BULL



### FISH PIE

#### Ingredients:

"Fish Pie Mix" (from any supermarket - I find you need two)

1 or 2 fish pie mix boxes

#### FOR THE MASH:

4 large potatoes - peeled and chopped into chunks

A pinch of salt

Butter/cream to make it really yummy

#### FOR THE PARSLEY SAUCE:

1 tbsp plain flour

1 tbsp butter

2 mugs of milk (you may need more for a larger pie, obviously)

Parsley - about a handful, chopped

Nutmeg (optional)

Salt and pepper for seasoning

You can easily prepare it beforehand, and then lob it in the oven to cook - it's worth it, it tastes so much better than microwavable ones! Two boxes give you a substantial amount of filling for your pie. Also, be creative: feel free to pick and mix: add mackerel, prawns or whatever you fancy.

1. Preheat the oven to 200-220C.
2. Boil the potatoes with the salt for about 20 minutes until soft. Put a knife in to check they are ready. Drain and set aside.
3. While the potatoes are boiling, make the parsley sauce: melt the spoonful of butter in a pan, then adding the flour. Mix until blended, then gradually start to add the milk, keeping on a medium heat. You MUST stir this continually, otherwise the milk will burn and you'll ruin your sauce. It should gradually start to thicken - be patient, it'll be worth it! Add the parsley and grate some nutmeg into the mix. Keep stirring. When the sauce is suitably thick, turn off the heat.
4. Mash the potatoes, adding 1tbsp of butter or cream to make it luxuriously smooth. Season generously with salt, pepper and nutmeg.

5. Place the fish mix at the bottom of an oven proof dish. (The high quality ones are expensive, but you can usually get some good oven dishes from supermarkets or even charity shops!) Pour the parsley sauce over it, then the mash on top. Add butter if you want it to be really delicious and aren't in the mood to care for your waistband. Yum.

6. Bake in the oven for 40 minutes, checking from half an hour to make sure the mash isn't burning. Change the temperature accordingly.

7. Serve with peas, or a spinach salad.

### HAVE WITH



#### Ingredients:

5 carrots (peeled & chopped)

1 tbsp honey

45g unsalted butter

1 small bunch of thyme

Sea salt and black pepper

#### Method:

Place carrots in a pan. Cover with water. Add honey, thyme, butter and salt. Cook on medium heat for 2 mins. Bring to just under the boil until carrots are tender.

## Pub. The Three Legged Mare

As I sat in the Three Legged Mare, my friends around me, listening to a pianist play a Lady Gaga medley it struck me that there is a fatal flaw to pub reviews. No matter how horrible the bar staff are, how pricey the beer is or how piss-addled the carpets are - it's all about the company you're with.

My housemates Stu, Talf, Emma and Keith made sure Friday night was immense fun, something that probably would have been the case even if we were sat in a grotty pub going by the name of The Rippled Sphincter, or something else equally grim.

For what it's worth the Three Legged Mare (named after a special type of gallows, don't cha know) is another lovely York pub. It's a York Brewery pub so you know the offerings



ADDRESS: 15A HIGH PETERGATE

PRICES: JUST OVER £3 A PINT

REVIEW: HENRY COWEN



will be enjoyable, I did run out of new drinks to try though which led to an overly-fizzy Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. Steer clear of American beer would be the advice on that score.

The Centurion's Ghost Ale, Guzzler, Yorkshire Terrier etc were enjoyed by all around our table, which incidentally was very kindly donated by a generous man who witnessed our plight of standing awkwardly in a corner - a fact that goes to show the atmosphere in the pub; even by York standards, it was a real treat.

Two small negatives; it was fairly pricey, over £3 for a pint (but well worth it) and the pub is fairly cramped. Despite this, walking out of the Three Legged Mare in full view of

the minster, with your friends all slightly tipsy, reminds you how lucky you are to be in York.



# Camilla Jenkins investigates: New York

We've all heard the stories about the streets of New York being paved with gold. When I first arrived at the ripe old age of four, I thought they were true. Considering, in the early 90s, the streets were more likely littered with used condoms and dirty needles, my naivety was admirable.

Eighteen years later, post-Guliani clear up, post-9/11, and post-credit crunch, the city is a different place. Before, tourists were warned to keep their belongings to themselves and avoid most areas below 59th street after dark. Now, the majority of areas are safer than London and flashing your cash is positively encouraged. At least on the Upper East Side.

Gentrification (the movement of white, middle class families into areas that previously housed bohemian artists and musicians; read drug dealers and prostitutes) has become the buzz word for lamenting indie kids everywhere. They killed the music, man. But is it really a bad thing?

Culture is impressive n'all but it comes at a price. When we were younger, scoring the next joint or having a free ticket to the edgiest party is thought to be paramount. However, there comes a point where a safe post-drinks trip between tube and front door seems more important. Perhaps it's possible to have both but, much like organised and scheduled fun, it never quite measures up to the experiences you have when you really shouldn't.

There's one aspect of New York that hasn't changed and that's the intensity which is both stifling and incredibly stimulating. Its not only the city where you can do anything but, more temptingly, be anyone. Walking into a downtown bar the other night, we came across a group of sailors (Fleet week - see Sex and the City) who claimed to be part-time Navy SEALs, naturally. After a few margaritas, Phil from Louisiana admitted that him and his buddies used that line to deter-

mine the IQ of their various conquests. Despite being chauvanistic and slightly immoral, it's surprising how many people believed them.

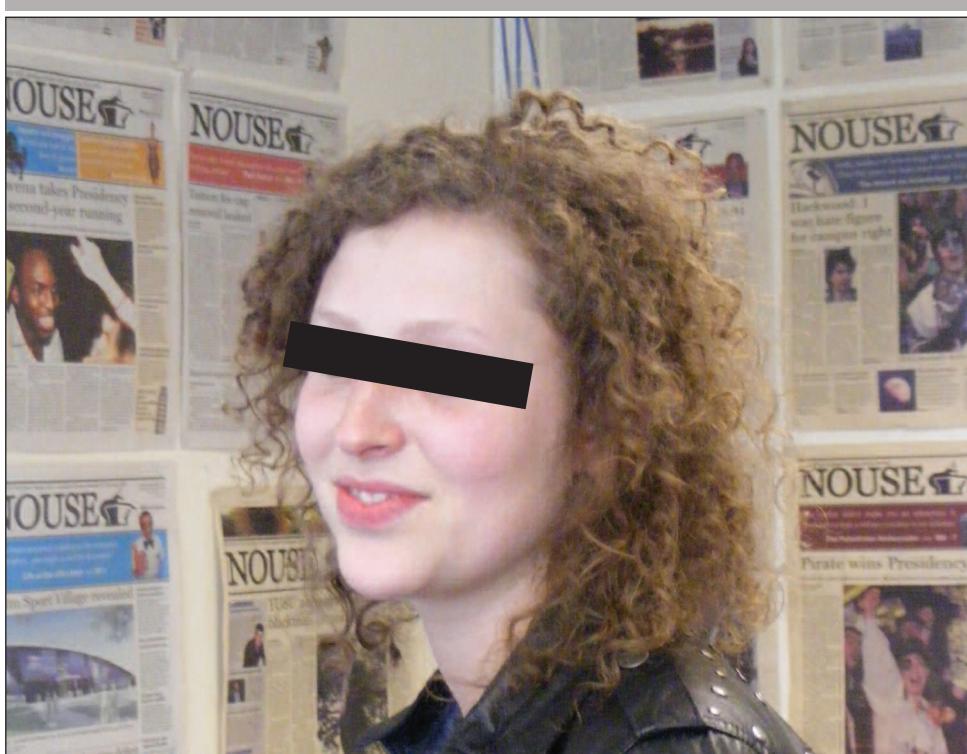
What fun! I hear you (and the Famous Five) shout. What jolly japes! It can go to your head, though. Considering I consider myself quite straight less, I was surprised when mere days ago, I found myself being called India, gyrating with some Americans on a bar called McFaddens. I didn't intend to get that drunk, you see; I couldn't believe that a \$1 beer called Nattie Lite could possibly get you drunk.

We'd all like to believe that the reasons we behave the way we do is because of some fixed inner compass. Something that will guide us. No matter what the situation. However, if lads on tour teach us anything its that annomynity can be an intoxicating drug. And if its not our morals that keep us on the straight and narrow then its the fact that we might get caught. And if that's true, then who knows what we might do given the right combination.

Any city almost entirely consisting of people coming from somewhere hoping to make it has a certain status about it. We may worry about not fitting in but these people gave up on that ideal a long ago. Think of the woman we saw time ago. On the subway the other day. Wearing a t-shirt that said "Seriously man, don't fuck my Mom" (but without the grammar), she was willing to tell everyone and anyone that she was out of work and looking for business. That girl was almost definitely not a cheerleader in high school. And neither were most of us.

So, what's the lesson from a city like this? Well, in the words of Elle Woods and optimists everywhere, be yourself. Not necessarily for any more fundamental reason than the fact that you'll never be convincing if you pretend you're anything else. And, at the end of the day, that's all you've got.

## STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.



**"I slept with Ryan Giggs too"**

**"Gentrification has become the buzzword of the lamenting indie kids. They killed the music, man"**

## MUSEINGS: the nation of desperation

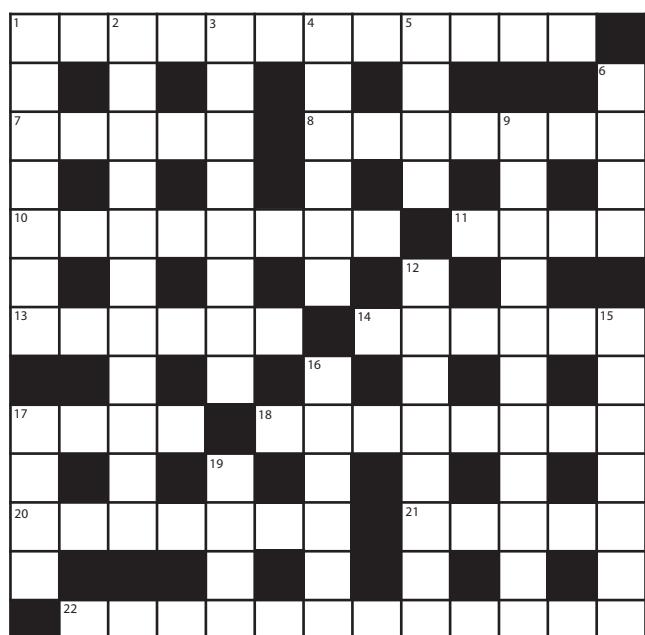
The past couple of weeks our primary concern as a nation has centered not on the economic crisis, no protests, no international crises, but sex.

The steamy trend started off, predictably, with the superinjunctions. Once out in the open, however, the secret seemed to lose its flavour, and we knew exactly where to look next: "Baz" (a.k.a. Barack Obama). But Baz came and went, unsurprisingly, with Michelle still firmly attached to his arm. The nation moved on: Rob Lowe. Talking at Hay Festival in North Wales, Mr Lowe was hounded by giggle-snorting women (and men) to the extent that the festival had to hire even more security than the Hollywood star requires normally.

Clearly we were punching above our weight. But as became apparent yesterday we are more than happy to settle for less if needs must. Sexsymp.co.uk, published yesterday, saw an insurge of visitors picking which, out of two randomly selected MPs, they'd want to bed.

Consulting the table shortly before this edition went to print, the women currently ranking in top are plain at best, and the man planted firmly at the bottom is extremely unfortunate looking. To fully epitomise the dire state of our supposed lewd- and crudeness, Alistair Darling's menacing, multi-monotone face leers out of the screen at number 94. Out of 648. For me this merely proves the absolute desperation of our nation.

## The Nouse Crossword



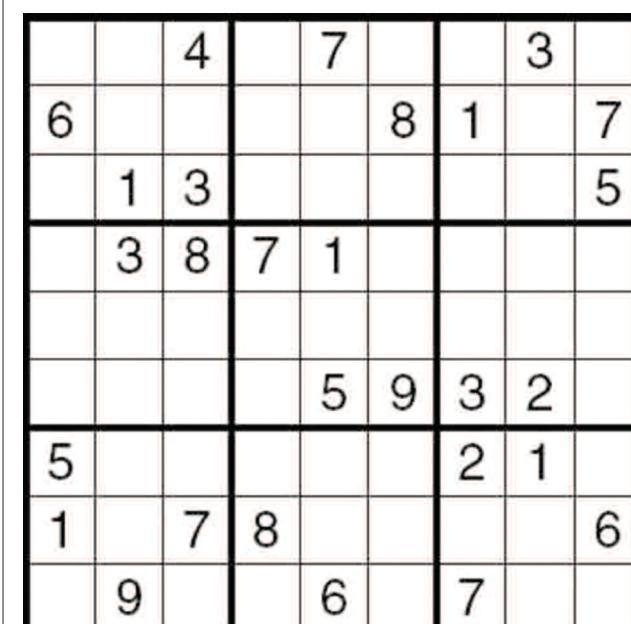
### Across

- Not promoting health; unwholesome (12)
- Not intoxicated (5)
- Tense, concise (7)
- One-armed hooked militant (3,5)
- Islamic leadership position (4)
- Great Western deal with these (6)
- American actress, \_\_\_\_\_ Dee (6)
- Water from a tap (4)
- Genus of plants in the cashew family (8)
- Creates difficulty for someone (7)
- Lack of good sense (5)
- Colourless gas used in disinfectants (12)

### Down

- A moment (7)
- Placing someone under your control (11)
- French region borders Alsace (8)
- British Honduras (6)
- Peruvian civilization (4)
- Con someone (4)
- Homeless groups move in this way (11)
- Moliere's comedy (8)
- Examine in detail (7)
- Christmas decorative item (6)
- Author of The Twits (4)
- Micro-organism (4)

## The Nouse Sudoku



### Last edition's answers

**Across:** 1 Michael Caine 7 Niter 8 Wrought 10 Tortoise

11 Bled 13 Rained 14 Tactic 17 Ahoy 18 Commando 20 Piscine

21 Suzie 22 Vicissitudes

**Down:** 1 Monster 2 Coterminous 3 Aureoles 4 Lowest 5 Avon

6 A tad 9 Gelatinized 12 Marmoset 15 Clovers 16 Boreas

17 Alps 19 Fiji

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THURSDAYS

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Sun

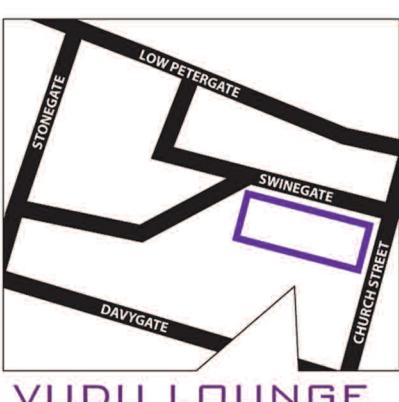
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Isabelle  
Wynne

## Student examination methods need future reconsideration

If results are not considerably affected by open examination, perhaps there is little to be said about the use of closed exams.

We all dread exams with the same trepidation as a visit to the dentist or the first day of school. For the lucky few, learning facts and figures comes easily, while the rest of us struggle to cram enough information into our heads for those few hours that count so much.

What a stroke of luck, then, if what you thought were sample questions on the VLE are labelled "2011" and might just be the very questions you were dreading. That was the case for some second-year Politics students this term.

While this may be perceived as an unfair advantage by some, the Board decided to let the results stand. Strangely enough, there was no dramatic difference in marks between those who had seen the questions beforehand and those who hadn't.

What does this show then? The futility of revision or the inefficiency of the closed exam system? With

all this extra time to revise, how was it that there was not a group with higher marks than those unfortunate not to have seen them.

The answer, of course, is that the nature of exams

**"the question remains as to what place closed exams have in some subjects"**

in arts subjects like History and Politics have changed. They are now a test of how students structure their arguments, think in a logical manner and even, dare I say, their originality.

Are we therefore forced to question the effectiveness of assessment in this manner? For arts students, assessed essays or open exams can be argued as

being a better system, as they allow students the opportunity to present their own arguments without the constraints of memory or time. For historians, trying to recall facts from memory is an artificial way of writing an essay; real historians constantly consult both primary and secondary sources to construct their piece.

This may not be the right option for all subjects. For instance, in the sciences building up a base of facts is probably more helpful to their work, while medical students may only have a moment to recall information when working in the future with patients.

While for many departments both open and closed exams remain in operation, the question remains as to what place closed exams have in some subjects. This example shows that there is only so much you can learn before sitting some exams, and it is more talent and essay writing skill that will get you through.

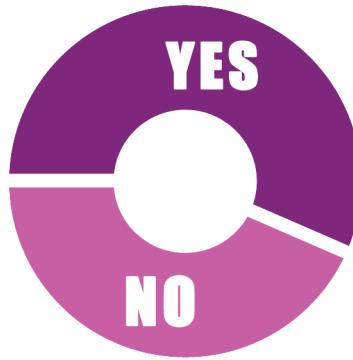
179 people voted Yes  
(56%)  
  
140 people voted No  
(44%)

### The Burning Question

This edition, Nouse asked:

Do you think the Harry Fairhurst building is an effective study space?

319 people voted, with the majority stating YES



Sam  
Shepherd

Free speech is a right for all

Another term, another UGM and one of the motions particularly caught my eye. As I'm sure most of you are aware, a motion was tabled to force YUSU to have a clear stance on invited speakers, and more specifically on controversial speakers.

Having looked at the motion itself, it appears to me that those tabling it had clear and well-founded concerns about some speakers that have been invited to the university in past years. Notably, they point to the Islamic society's invitation to Mufti Muhammad ibn Adam al-Kawthari to speak on "Misconceptions of Islam."

**"comes down to a paternalistic concern"**

Because Mr al-Kawthari had advocated a "threat to the freedoms and well-being of our student body," it was felt by some that a clear stance from YUSU was needed in order to combat such threats.

Interestingly, the motion was rejected by only a single vote with over 210 choosing to abstain. It shows that amongst those who voted, opinion was very much divided.

However, I, for one am relieved that the motion did not pass. It is quite frankly ridiculous to stop someone

from speaking just because they have an alternative view of society. Indeed, that would send York into a sort of purgatory in terms of obtaining good speakers. The University has always aimed to get speakers akin to that of Oxbridge. I feel that a consequence of this act would send York further down the pecking order in terms of attracting the best speakers.

What annoyed me most about this motion, however, is that it was an attempt to force the university into being a touchy-feely organisation, one which doesn't want to offend anyone. If you think you are going to be offended by someone's argument, then don't go to the talk. It is that simple.

What this idea comes down to is a paternalistic concern that there is a slight possibility that someone, be they in a minority group or part of a larger collective, will be offended by what a speaker has to say. If said person is offended then let them argue against the speaker in their own way, do not preempt offence when none may occur. York's students are intelligent and capable of independent thought. The act would have diminished the right of free thinking. Fortunately, it remains on the sidelines, where it should stay.

I'm sure with these words I've offended someone. But it is a free university, and that is how it should remain.

Nouse welcomes your letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication.  
 Email [letters@nouse.co.uk](mailto:letters@nouse.co.uk) or write to:  
 Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

To join the latest debate and read exclusive web content, go to [www.nouse.co.uk/comment](http://www.nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Letters

### PhD tutors write back

Dear Nouse,

Your comment piece on the potential increase in the numbers of PhD seminar leaders sparked a number of discussions amongst Sociology postgraduate seminar leaders.

The piece seems to be premised on a misunderstanding of the process through which valuable tutoring experience is gained. It is clearly not the case that being handed a doctorate endows tutors with the ability to control, engage and stimulate a group of undergraduates. Instead, these skills are developed through leading regular undergraduate workshops, seminars and practicals during the course of the doctoral study.

It also assumes that experience equates to quality. We think most would agree that it is simply untrue that every senior member of staff delivers consistently excellent seminars due to their wealth of experience and PhD students deliver consistently poor seminars due

to their comparative lack thereof.

What such an argument does is construct a division between PhD seminar leaders on the one hand and post-PhD seminar leaders on the other around the axiom of experience. It assumes that the 'academic journey' that the author talks about starts with the first day of an undergraduate degree and ends with the final day of a doctorate. In reality, 'academic journeys' never end; every undergraduate, postgraduate, postdoctoral fellow, lecturer and professor at the University is on their own academic journey and high standards of teaching are not contingent on being at a given stage.

Postgraduate seminar tutors can be hugely beneficial; more approachable and less daunting, particularly for first years. Finally, thank you for amusing us with the idea that PhD teaching is undertaken to fund postgraduate study - trying to fund your way through a PhD on a PhD tutoring wage would be a fascinating economic experiment.

Sociology PhD Tutors

### Benefits of the Harry Fairhurst building are clear

Dear Nouse,

The Harry Fairhurst building does contain many desks and chairs for those students who find studying sitting at a desk in a quiet or silent space to be the most appropriate way for them to study. I believe YUSU also has a list of study spaces across campus where it is possible to find desks and chairs and most study bedrooms contain desks and chairs. If that is the best way for you to study then good for you, there are lots of spaces on campus where you can.

However, the quiet solitary desk-and-chair approach to studying just isn't appropriate for some of our students, especially those of us with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD and autism.

Whether due to disability or just personal preference, some students like to work in groups and discuss, some of us need to be able to move around while we study, some of us find it difficult to sit in chairs for long periods of time... and the Harry Fairhurst caters to us too. I'm personally really excited about using the whiteboards to draw out spider diagrams and have never worked so hard on an essay as on the one I completed while sitting on a beanbag in the Harry Fairhurst.

There are now more desks and chairs than before and more alternative spaces for those of us with different needs. I really recommend the Harry Fairhurst as a study space.

Liam Smith, YUSU Disabled Students' Officer

## Nouse reads: Blogs of the BNOCs



## The campus activist

**G**ot to confess, I've been feeling a little stiff of late, having spent the last week sleeping on the pavement outside of Heslington Hall to protest the University Administration's investment in the arms trade/failure to provide comprehensive recycling facilities/lack of soy and tofu based-catering on campus. My hemp sleeping bag can also get a little scratchy.

However, I console myself that my suffering is nothing compared to those in Africa, as my hero Bob Geldof so often says. There are so few beings that compare to his selfless and humanitarian character; it makes me so angry sometimes I am driven to submit countless UGM motions in an attempt to combat the unbelievable student and worldwide-apathy that haunts my existence.

At least I have the York Action Revolutionary Society in which I can vent my frustration at the world, particularly as our ranks continue to expand. The Leninists weren't too happy since the new recruits turned out to be Anarchists, but it's just nice to get a few new faces.

Daddy also said he would increase my allowance so we can finally fund the posters and die-in we have planned on Vanbrugh bowl! He may work in investment banking, but he has the heart of a revolutionary.

We will bring this University to its knees with our harshly worded petition. We have a midnight vigil planned as well. I fully intend to do a reading of my modern reinterpretation of Allen Ginsberg's Howl, inspired by Brian Cantor himself; powerful stuff if I do say

so myself.

I have found myself increasingly distanced from my housemates after they ignorantly refused to swap all meat products to soy. We also all got into something of a conflict after I cleansed our house of all products that I deemed morally dubious. While this may have included many items of their wardrobes (made in sweat-shops) and make-up (tested on animals), I really fail to comprehend how they aren't grateful to be free of such unethical ties.

My facebook status's have also sparked something of backlash of late. I really don't understand how my friend list diminished so dramatically, after I only suggested many of my peers are superficial morons, slaving away to the capitalist man. People just can't handle the truth.

## Library talker



I really don't understand what all the fuss was about! I was just talking to Christine on my phone while I looked for a few books, and the grumpiest guy ever came over. He was all like 'be quiet please, this is a library' but I was having none of it. I turned round and told him straight up that it's a free country and I'm entitled to freedom of speech. I went down to a whisper. Christine really couldn't hear or anything, but it was a burden we had to bear for the sake of manners.

But apparently that's not even good enough! He came over again and asked me to stop talking again, but it was all serious sounding this time. Well that really hurt me. Tears welling up, I stormed downstairs, and resumed the chat. Christine had no idea what was going on. It was so annoying, we were just trying to sort out our holiday plans.

Anyway, skip forward a few days and I'm back in the library. I gave Christine another call, and we're just chatting away for about ten minutes when the guy is back again! He told me I had to either put the phone down or leave the library. It was so embarrassing, everyone in the room was blates sympathising with me. I can't believe they hire staff so rude, he was just so bossy! I wasn't really hurting anyone.

I came back the next day and wrote in one of the comment and suggestion boxes. I was all "you should hire some staff who aren't sooo rude!" Hope that terrible man gets sacked, you just can't treat people that way. What do I pay my fees for anyway?

## Wannabe BNOC

**I**'ve been spending a lot of time in the library recently. Not doing so much for my degree, but I've heard it is the place to go to cement your social status. My brief spell as a Fusion model has, I feel, put me on a good path for campus-wide recognition but it really is quite hard to climb the society ladder here at York.

Fortunately I started with a leg up, having taken a gap year. I find I'm much more savvy to social situations, unlike some of the people that live in my halls, who, bless them, are really quite awkward. I knew this girl back home who had gone to primary school with that guy who was my college's ents rep last year, so I face-booked him and we're like really good friends now and he introduced me like to all his friends so I've really flown the nest, so to

speak. I can safely say by the end of this year my reputation will be secure, and anyone who is anyone will know my name.

Admittedly, yes, my own ents rep bid was unsuccessful but to be honest I was only really doing that for a bit of a laugh. Now I'm setting up my own society, which really is far more important. No I didn't join any societies myself because, to be frank, who wants to start as the bottom rung of the ladder? Also none of them really sound that exciting, I don't think there's really one for me at all. But I've met so many people in the short time that I've been here - in fusion, Ziggys, mainly in house parties as well - and they're all really up for joining the society I make, so it's going to be sick.

It's all about appearances you see, that's the ultimate way to establish your status. I see

my fellow freshers rambling scruffily across campus in pyjamas and University hoodies- do they really have no shame? It takes me hours to pick out the perfect casual-smart outfits in which to stroll down the catwalk of the Reading Room. I have even recently started taking a change of clothes for midway through the day- always prepared, that's my motto!

I've also sort of maybe been seeing this third-year guy. We meet at all the same parties and he complimented me on my new super-indie outfit. Haven't you heard, all the biggest names on campus are all really alternative now? I have decided I so much prefer the company of third years anyway; so much more sophisticated and at my level. I'm really hoping they all join my new society- my social legacy would finally then be secure.

Submit your entries to:  
[photo-competition@nouse.co.uk](mailto:photo-competition@nouse.co.uk)  
Deadline: Thurs Week 8 (June 16)



Nouse  
Photography  
Competition  
2011

# Global Focus



HAITI - American Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has given her backing for new Haitian President, Michel 'Sweet Mickey' Martelly, to lead the country out of humanitarian crisis. Martelly, a former pop star, has aimed to rid the island of cholera.

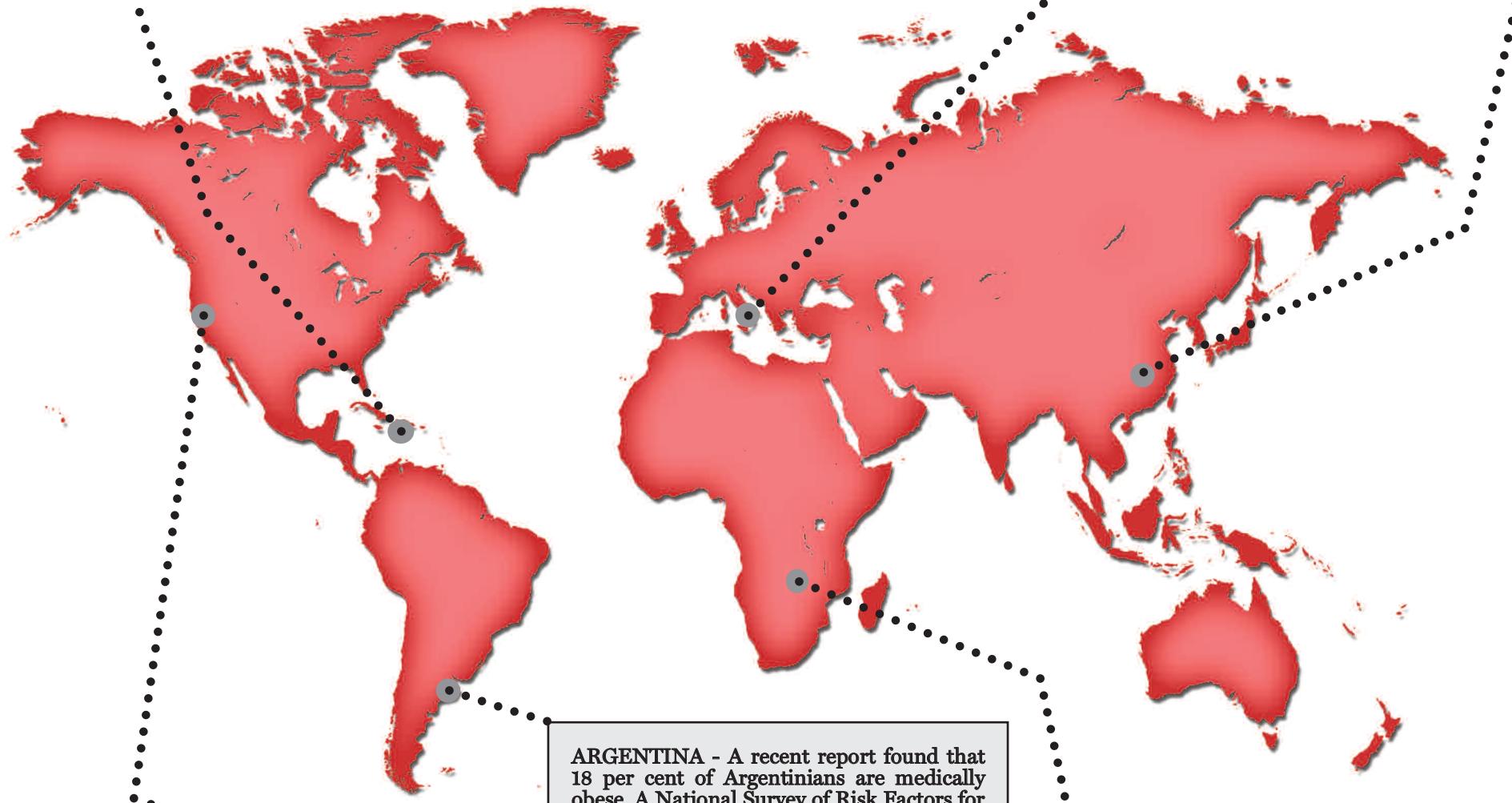
ITALY - Pope Benedict XVI has shut down a monastery in Rome because of a lack of financial and moral discipline. It is alleged that the monastery's abbot, a Milan fashion designer, opened a hotel and held regular concerts, including a televised bible-reading marathon. One of the nuns, a former lap dancer, reportedly performed dances during religious ceremonies.



SAMUEL BELKNAP



CHINA - Need a room? Lodging Econometrics declared that China has the largest number of hotel construction projects underway than any country. Its 1,182 projects currently dwarf all those of European countries combined. Only 10 per cent of the developments represent the 'economy' class.



AMERICA - The Crystal Cathedral in Orange County has announced its bankruptcy and declared that it owed its creditors over \$50 million. The church has failed to garner the kind of support one would expect from the God-fearing, but it has also been subject to the corruption of its officers, who treated themselves to generous pay and tax write-offs. Cathedral officials are now selling the complex in an effort to pay back its lenders.

ARGENTINA - A recent report found that 18 per cent of Argentinians are medically obese. A National Survey of Risk Factors for obesity found that the amount of people working in sedentary jobs had increased from 46.2 per cent in 2005 to 54.9 per cent in 2009. Currently the country seems to be closing the gap between itself and America, where 32 per cent of the population are clinically obese.

NICOLAS LEVINTON



SEVEN MORRIS

ZAMBIA - Between April and May 2011, inflation rates increased from 8.8 to 8.9 per cent in the country. The acting director of the Central Statistical Office, John Kalumbi, declared that rising food prices were the major source of the country's increased inflation. While there had not been a significant drop in the quantity of exports exiting the country, the value of those exports had fallen.

# Twitter renders the injunction obsolete

APASCIUTO

**Sam Shepherd**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

PRIVACY IS a right to all, including the famous (and infamous). It is argued however, that celebrities waive that right when they commit an infidelity, or a crime, or do something which casts them in a negative light.

To get round this, the rich and famous use legal loopholes to protect the greater public from knowing their misdemeanours. The injunction and super-injunction appear to have been handed out to all comers over the past few years. It was beginning to irritate the public, not to mention the media.

Yet, social media sites appear to have been able to circumvent the law, with one Twitter user naming several celebrities who had taken out injunctions and super-injunctions to prevent the media from reporting the issue.

Indeed, when John Hemming, Liberal Democrat MP, announced

Ryan Giggs as the footballer who had an affair with model and Big Brother contestant, Imogen Thomas, the British public weren't exactly shocked by the news.

The fact that 75,000 Twitter

## "The rich and famous use legal loopholes to conceal their misdemeanours"

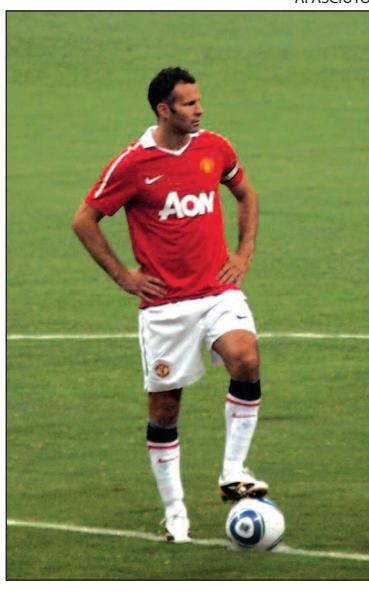
users had released the details meant that the injunction was essentially void. It is, therefore, time to dispose of a law, which, due to circumstances beyond the law's control, does not actually prevent details of celebrities' private lives from being published.

The public will not mourn the death of the injunction, should it occur. The fact that it has been used to cover up illicit acts of those in the higher echelons of society has

only made the public feel more alienated from those that many look up to. As the privileged have used the injunction for what many would consider personal gain, the public are no longer sympathetic as whistle-blowers reveal the dirty details.

Those who like to flaunt their lives in the media run the risk of allowing such misdemeanours to be reported. A problem does arise, however, when there are those like Ryan Giggs that don't thrust themselves into the limelight in the way that others, such as Wayne Rooney do. In these cases, are there arguments in favour of injunctions? In a word; no.

Those who don't use their fame for fortune, such as Mr Giggs, should recognise that they are, whether they like it or not, regularly in the public eye. Therefore, they should not engage in activities that will inevitably cast doubt on their reputation. The issue is not therefore the injunction itself, though this is indeed complicated; it is the



A tweet exposes a twit: Giggs

celebrities themselves who take too many liberties with the reputation they have garnered over their lifetimes. It is time to start behaving.

Fortunately, with various peo-

ple on social networking sites naming and shaming those who don't behave like normal people, it is hoped that the age of the injunction is coming to an end.

The fact that MPs can use the much lamented Parliamentary privilege to reveal identities of the fouling famous means that from most people's perspectives, injunctions, super-injunctions, and the even more ridiculous hyper-injunction, will surely be consigned to the history books.

Indeed, with Prime Minister David Cameron expressing concern over the use of injunctions, such privacy laws are hoped to be one of the few things people want to see cut from public life.

The injunction was originally designed to protect families from the prying eyes of the media. However, it has been used by the rich and famous to protect their precious reputations. With a number of injunctions already broken, the art of the injunction surely been rendered obsolete.

# A not so special relationship

**Steven Hirschler**  
POLITICS EDITOR

LAST WEEK, British television viewers were subjected to a nauseating experience.

This pandemic reaction was not the result of the shocking news that Cheryl Cole was unfit to judge a Las Vegas-based X-Factor; nor was it prompted by the U.S. Senate's decision to renew the draconian provisions of the Patriot Act. This eruption of spew arose from images of Barack Obama and David Cameron high-fiving over a game of table tennis (and was not wholly due to the latter's poor performance).

As we laid down our remotes, we realised that world politics had sunk to depths far beyond those of Mars' Valles Marineris. Were we to be fooled that David Cameron was in fact hip, and 'down with the homies'?

As the American Midwest suffered another calamitous tornado disaster and Benjamin Netanyahu stood amidst uproarious applause from US congresspersons praising his obstinacy, were we to accept that Obama thought knocking a small plastic orb around a room was the most worthy use of his time? Those are trick questions. Inquiry is for the sceptics. Doubt is unpatriotic.

When Obama and Cameron slapped wrists together and awkwardly embraced, they looked like geeky teens trying to mimic what they had once viewed in a gangster film. Cameron's sycophantic ingratiating and his informal expressions ('I completely agree with Barack') did little to veil the reality that he and Obama are actually on opposite ends of the pitch.

While President Obama is pursuing policies that attempt to release private companies' stranglehold on America's health care system, David Cameron is instituting the largest countrywide cuts in



Obama and Cameron keeping up the facade of the 'special relationship'

decades. He is refurbishing Downing Street for £680m while slashing police budgets. The police offer Conservatives with that wholesome, secure image of a safeguarded Britain. Every anarchist seeks to combat the fascist strong-arm of state police. Why lower your

## "Their playfulness was about as convincing as two playground bullies"

defences, David?

When asked if he felt Cameron's cuts were too far-reaching, Obama diplomatically replied that there is a difference between the 'sequencing of pace' in the two countries. Presumably, this frees Cameron to pursue further cuts.

Cameron's approach toward foreign policy is no more revolutionary than that of his predecessors. Despite all of Cameron's grandstanding regarding Britain's

military and the independence of its pursuits, he is once again strapping the UK into a gimp suit and allowing America to take hold of the leash.

When Cameron and Obama engaged in a bout of ping-pong, it was difficult to discern the kind chemistry one would expect to find between bosom buddies. Blair and Bush managed that kind of Laurel and Hardy charisma, but what of Cam-bama? Their playfulness was about as convincing as two playground bullies desperately trying to maintain conciliatory expressions while awaiting punishment from the head teacher.

If our countries truly enjoy a special relationship - nay, an 'essential' relationship - why is it so damn difficult to get a work permit in the United States (and vice versa)? It would be easier for a UK citizen to find work as a street vendor in a rustic, post-soviet Bulgarian village than qualify for a green card. Is this how friends treat each other?

Dispense with the pleasantries, gentlemen.

# MP Johnson visits York

**Alexander Prowse**  
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE FORMER Labour Home Secretary Alan Johnson visited York on Friday for a talk to students, hosted by the York University Labour Club. Whilst he focused on social mobility, Johnson spoke on university tuition fees and the state of the economy.

One of the central issues regarding social mobility was the condition of the state schooling system, and the difference between private, remaining grammar schools, and state comprehensives. Johnson was open in admitting he went to a grammar school, albeit for only four years, and went on to say why he believed that the grammar school issue would resurface, with schools wanting to continue to select the top 15% of pupils at 11+.

A controversial question came from a student who asked why pri-

CATCH21PRODUCTIONS



Alan Johnson spoke on education

vate schools weren't abolished if they were such a barrier to social mobility. The MP for West Hull and Hessle jovially replied how he wished to replicate the advantages of private schools in the state sector, and believed that was well on its way with the opening up of these

schools as part of their charitable status.

"We can't do anything about pushy parents, but there are far too many failing schools out there, so we mustn't give up."

The only member of the

**Alan Johnson:**  
"There are far too many failing schools out there, so we mustn't give up"

Labour cabinet to not graduate from university spoke on university fees, stating that he still believed the views put forward in the Ron Dearing report in 2004, which were in support of fees. "Society is today grouped around universities and colleges, and students should therefore make a contribution to society, only - however - when they reach a certain income."

Whilst he did not say he was against £9,000 fees, Johnson did confirm the belief that he disagreed with the intricacies of a graduate tax, proposed by Ed Miliband. There is significantly "more work needed", Johnson declared, until it will become a viable alternative to the current proposals.

Johnson shared the opinion of many aggrieved students that bemoan the vast differences in tuition fees between England and other parts of the UK. Johnson felt it was "very unhealthy to have different systems in different parts of the UK", but failed to offer his audience with a plausible solution.

When Johnson arrived 25 minutes late, he told to the Labour-heavy crowd: "I blame the government transport policy"

# The end of sterling?

**Anna Clarke**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

WHAT DO alpaca socks, poker chips and pet food have in common? Answer: they can all be purchased with Bitcoin, a monetary unit within a digital economy that has no cash, cards, vaults, banks or governments. The premise is simple: after acquiring Bitcoins either through exchange sites, or by helping out the network, users are able to exchange Bitcoins, which then can be spent on goods or services.

HITTHATSWITCH



'Bitcoin' could signal end to cash

or saved up within a virtual piggy bank.

Existing within a virtual economy, Bitcoin boasts a number of unique advantages. Transaction fees are extraordinarily low. The algorithms are purportedly more complex than those used by online banking sites. As a virtual economy, Bitcoin can evade tax and tracking of expenditure. It's a peculiar product of a peculiar age, digital money for an increasingly digitalised world. It intensifies the blurring between 'real' and 'virtual' money. After all, our coins and our cash are intrinsically worthless, merely acting as physical signifiers for a collection of numbers on a screen. The premise behind Bitcoin is essentially the same, simply without the tangible item, such as a bill or coin.

While the notion of a completely virtual economy is more likely to provoke puzzlement than

panic, the implications of it are immense. It is governed by its users, a network made of millions of computers around the world in which money exists as strings of codes. It is the world's first international, wholly digital currency. It is completely decentralised.

With Bitcoin, control over a currency does not belong to a single state. A recent article speculates that Bitcoin may well be 'the most dangerous technological project since the internet itself', a grassroots, steadily growing movement that governments should be extremely anxious over. It is easy to see why. There is a finite number of Bitcoins - after a certain point (21 million) more cannot be created. The value of the Bitcoin is entirely dependent on its users (a seductive idea for anyone who has a distrust of the governmental monopoly over their currency).

The existence of Bitcoin forces us to consider some fundamental and compelling questions. What happens if we introduce a competing currency into a country? Would it be dangerous to do so? Should a centralised state body have sole authority over money, or should we be able to determine the course of currency for ourselves?

**"Bitcoin may be the most dangerous technological experiment since the internet"**

At the moment, Bitcoin will not likely become the dominant form of currency. It will take time for the wider public to adopt such a foreign notion, but this digital currency is fascinating in what it may indicate for the future: a possible evolution in economy, a shift from a centuries-old system into something strange and new with the potential to radically overhaul our conceptions of political economy.

# Mladic finally captured

**Francis Brown**  
**Joe Cormack**

THE FEARED Bosnian General Ratko Mladic finally found himself in the dock on Thursday following 16 years on the run for his part in some of the worst humanitarian crimes in European history.

This week he will stand trial with his former political master and ex-President of the Serbian Democratic Party, Radovan Karadzic, both men will stand accused of terrible crimes during the 1990s Balkan Crisis. These include the mass killing of 8,000 unarmed men and women at Srebrenica in July 1995 and the deaths of thousands of civilians, which occurred during the 44-month siege of Sarajevo.

Serbian President Boris Tadic stated that the capture 'closed a chapter in our recent history' and provided a further step towards 'full reconciliation in the area'. His words were echoed by President Obama, the EU and NATO who all who praised and expressed relief at the news.

The long hunt for the fugitive General ended in a dawn raid on his cousin's house in Lazarevo, a small village in the northern province of Vojvodina near the Hungarian border. Facial imaging and DNA tests were conducted before he was removed to a cell in the Serbian intelligence headquarters to wait for extradition to The Hague.

Last year the police discovered a cache of crucial information behind a false wall at his Belgrade house, a collection of notebooks, sound recordings and memory sticks that amount to 3,500 pages of war diaries that will be used in the court proceedings. General Mladic, 69, reportedly appeared frail in court, and the hearing was truncated due to his poor physical state. He was cleared for extradition however to The Hague on

Friday.

The hunt for General Mladic has been intermittent, in part a result of rumours that he was in a remote bunker or maybe even in Russia, but also due to the nature of his involvement in the Balkan crisis. In the later part of the 1990s General Mladic was seen by the West as essential to the stability of

**President Boris Tadic: "The capture closed a chapter in our recent history"**

the country, despite the fact that he was wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal. He was presented as indispensable, the man who could ensure the safety of NATO peacekeepers and fulfil the military requirements of the Dayton agreement concerning Bosnia.

The arrest comes just six months after a damning criticism

from the EU, which suggested Serbian authorities were not doing enough. The current Serbian Government had a serious vested interest in capturing Mladic, as his freedom has prevented Serbia's entry into the EU. Last week's events kick-started led to some early remarks regarding Serbia's possible entry into the European Union. President Sarkozy, after praising the actions of the Serbian authorities, also expressed that it was "one more step towards Serbia's integration one day into the European Union."

Mladic remained on the military payroll until 2002 and he remained untouchable while Slobodan Milosevic remained the Serbian President. Milosevic was levered out of power in 2000 and arrested in 2001 for war crimes.

Previous governments were undecided as to how to deal with a man simultaneously lauded by many Serbs as a hero, but on the other hand being a man condemned as a war criminal and a principal architect of the greatest crimes in Europe since World War II.

CVRCAK1



'The Butcher of Srebrenica' is healthy enough to attend war crimes trial

# Economic gain defies environmental sense

**POLITICAL EDGE**  
Alexander Prowse

FOR ONCE the world is concerned that democracy has been served. A large majority of the people in Brazil have had their voices heard, when last week Brazil's Chamber of Deputies passed a bill that would end protection of most of the Amazon rainforest from deforestation from farmers. The move could see a sudden surge in the amount of the 'lungs of the earth' destroyed, at a time when it is 20% smaller than in 1960.

The bill was passed due to the huge pressure from rising commodity prices on Brazil's valuable agricultural sector. Brazilain

farmers are desperate for more land. Brazil is the fourth largest producer of corn in the world, and hopes to increase that level of production. Self sufficiency during this economic period is seen to be very valuable.

More valuable than the unique ecosystem that is the Amazon rainforest. What is especially remarkable about this situation is that no fewer than ten former Environmental ministers fought tirelessly against the bill, but apparently to no avail. Alternatives were not seen to be as fruitful. Part of the bill will allow farming to be permitted on ecologically sensitive riverbanks.

Brazil recognises its chance to maintain its position as one of the fastest developing countries in the world, and ecological arguments are not going to stand in its way. Neither is income inequality, with



**The death of the Amazon forest**

Brazil's gini coefficient being one of the highest internationally. With the football World Cup coming in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016, Brazil has a chance to fully establish themselves globally. Any prolonged economic crisis caused from high commodity prices isn't part of the plan, especially if it can be averted somehow.

One section of the bill will allow the possibility of amnesty for those who illegally logged before 2008. This has been severely criticised, as many are concerned that these environmental crimes going unpunished sets the wrong precedent. The facts sound worse; illegally logging 990 acres holds no consequences according to this bill.

Despite this, how do we define a sufficient punishment? Previously fines were used to deter potential loggers, although I doubt this is justice for the irreversible damage caused to the unique ecosystem, which accounts for production of 20% of the world's oxygen.

President Rousseff has promised to review the Bill after the

mass international outcry from environmental campaign groups. She hinted she may veto the amnesty section, and any sections that encourage logging. Nevertheless, you don't really have to be a strong environmentalist to oppose this bill, just a compassionate human being.

The moral argument of increasing the pressure on the survival of over half of the world's species of plant, animals and insects living in the Amazon must surely be stronger than the economic one?

At a time when some small ecological progress internationally was gaining steam, environmentalists all over the world have had their dreams dashed. The economic recovery, once seen as a catalyst for environmental change for the better, has turned out to put a resounding halt to that.

# Come glide with me

IT STARTS with the sound of the winch reeling you in. Then, like you are being fired from a gun, you jolt forward and hurtle down the grassy runway before soaring into the air at a crazy angle. With a dull thud the metal cord pulling you into the sky detaches and, as though you are going over an impossibly angled hump back bridge, the feather light craft levels out and, slowly, the adrenaline subsides. This is the crazy, mystifying and exhilarating experience of gliding.

It's an experience provided to a sports writer more comfortable with notepad in hand and solidly on terra firma by the University of York gliding club and one that is pleasingly surprising in so many ways.

Firstly the alienating exclusivity that hampers so many minority sports is totally absent from the student society, and its public parent organisation The Wolds Gliding Club, located a short hop away from campus in the leafy suburb of Pocklington.

Having increased their membership from 21 members at the beginning of last year to 91 this year the club, headed by President Mike D'Cruze, is clearly intent on maximising their inclusivity.

"When you get to know the people here they are so friendly" says D'Cruze of the numerous students and non-students who use the club "You have to experience it to understand it. You become friends by all chipping in. People group together to make things work".

The sense of community runs through the very core of the sport. On a basic level it is impossible to go gliding on your own – at least four people are required to launch one of the sleek gliders used by the club.

**"When you get to know people here they are so friendly. You have to experience it to understand it. You become friends by all chipping in. People group together to make things work"**

**Mike D'Cruze,  
Club President**

More than that though, the gliding club are a compelling example of a profoundly welcoming, self-sustaining club.

Things for the club are improving rapidly. Having moved from their base at Rufforth Airfield to the more well provisioned Pocklington two years ago, which is now complete with a clubhouse that had a £300,000 refurbishment in 2006, the University club

Sports Editor **Jake Farrell** takes to the skies and goes behind the scenes of the University of York gliding club, discovering a society flourishing thanks to the dedication of its members

SARAH MORPURGO



The facilities and personnel at the Pocklington airfield , pictured above, have allowed the gliding club to thrive

have secured increased subsidies and cheaper prices to entice new members. Membership is now down to ten pounds and this includes two free flights, the first and the tenth, as well as a flat rate of five pounds for winch hire per flight and a low price of 31 pence per minute after the process of take off.

D'Cruze is the progressive force behind these changes that are making his club financially more accessible. The change in regime at York Sport has also helped widen the club's horizons, and D'Cruze is bullish about the support they were given: "Sam Asfahani has been considerably more helpful than Emily Scott. He helped out so much with props for fresher's week. We were able to get our simulator into the event which was instrumental in getting new members in"

The exposure of the sport has been half the battle. The allure of gliding is distinct and nowhere near as prohibitively expensive as one would anticipate. Coupled with the fact that this exhilarating and easy to get involved with form of aviation provides speeds of up to

## The NOUSE SPORT gliding pass notes

- Germany, the sport's birthplace, is still a centre of the gliding world: around 30% of the world's 116,000 active glider pilots reside there
- Hans-Werner Grosse has held 46 approved gliding world records. His free distance journey of 1,460.80 km from Lübeck to Biarritz was set in 1972 and remained unbroken for 30 years, until his compatriot Klaus Ohlman's flight of 2,247.6 km in Argentina in 2003

60 knots and, if the thermals are kind, pilots can reach heights of 3,000 feet at least.

Safety too is paramount. D'Cruze says that the airfield utilised by his society has "an impeccable safety record and they are keen to keep it that way". There is a strict curriculum for instructors and learners go through a rigorous process on their way to achieving solo pilot status.

D'Cruze had 84 flights under his belt before going solo and even now the safeguards in place at the airfield are stringent. Due to high winds on the day we are at the airfield, Chief Flying instructor John Norman makes the judgement call that less experienced solo pilots should have a more senior instructor with them. Luckily for me there was never any question that someone way more qualified would be sitting with their hands on the controls.

Dave Holborn accompanies me on the set of three flights that I undertake and is a cajoling, encouraging presence. On our first flight I barely want to open my eyes let alone take the controls but

Holborn's sheer affability and enthusiasm make it possible. He's a natural teacher; highly competent, patient and funny: qualities that are all essential with me at the controls of an aircraft in the windy skies above North Yorkshire.

The growing success of the club is heartening, especially when clubs from bigger Universities such as Leeds are plagued by the threat of extinction. They too use the Pocklington airfield and are lucky enough to own their glider but simply don't have enough members to sustain their running costs.

York are combating the issues that dog Leeds and could so easily trouble them with fierce commitment and acumen.

Rather than being content with a relative security that can easily lead to stagnation if left unchecked the club and its members are always progressing. The gliding club is a forward thinking organisation that typifies the best in attitudes towards the way sports clubs are run.

By the same token it undermines perceptions that sports clubs are self-contained fiefdoms that perpetuate a comfortable system of unchangeable cliques.

The manner in which they are trying to spread the word about the sport they love is heartening. Thanks to the facilities and dedication of gliders in the area it is in rude health.

"There is still a good amount of feeding through of members and instructors from promotional activities such as the voucher flights" says Mike D'Cruze "Wolds Gliding club and gliding in general isn't completely dependent on the younger generations for future survival – although it is certainly encouraged."

## The Difficulty of Minority Sport:

**"The growing success of the club is heartening, especially when clubs from bigger universities such as Leeds are plagued by the threat of extinction"**

Minority sports clubs can often fall on difficult times but with custodians as conscientious as Mike D'Cruze and his team The University of York Gliding club are unlikely to be one of them.

If you would like to be involved with The University of York Gliding club email [gliding@yusu.org](mailto:gliding@yusu.org). Similarly, if you would like Nouse Sport to run a feature on your club email [sport@nouse.co.uk](mailto:sport@nouse.co.uk).



## BY NUMBERS

**8** The number of games played - and won - by the women's basketball team who enjoyed promotion this season

**2.5** Average goals scored per game by the men's football firsts

**19** The number of goals scored by the men's hockey seconds in their last six games - five of which they won.

**111** Difference in goals scored between the netball seconds and the side who won their league

**2** York's cup final wins

**48** The overall BUCS position of the University of York

# Roses success caps a hugely successful YUsnow season

YUSNOW

**Lauren Seward**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

**YUSNOW** HAVE certainly made their presence known in the snow sports world with a roller coaster ride of results this year. The competitions ranged from the dry slope in Scotland to the snowy peaks of the Alps and throughout York put up a good fight and at times produced some excellent results.

With a new year brought a new group of boarders and skiers to the teams. The new additions to the teams were less experienced in the world of British snow sports competitions and to racing on dry slope. However, ably coached by all three captains, this fresh talent contributed to both teams and this reflected in the results as the year progressed.

The year began with BUDS at the Edinburgh dry slope in November. This proved to be a disappointing start for York with the best results including Dave Tee placing in 17th in the ski slalom and GS and Matt Cooke in 20th. The best results for



the snowboarders came from Marlies Neuner ranking 24th.

However York was not to be kept down. BUISCS North produced some fantastic results, in particular from Marlies Neuner, Tom Farrow and Dave Tee, placing first, second and third respectively in the slalom events. Steph Campbell-Woodward produced a good result placing 12th in the ski slalom and Paul Oates also placing 12th in the snowboard slalom. The snowboard team must also be commended for making the podium in third place in the team duals. The first ski team made the quarter-finals but were then knocked out of the competition.

Qualifying for the BUISCS Finals, YUsnow continued their successful snowboard victory streak with Neuner once again gaining first place and Farrow earning third place. The snowboard team were less lucky this time by making the quarter-finals but no further. The first ski team had a tough time but made the top 32 in the team duals and the best individual performance came from Campbell-Woodward making 20th out of the ski slalom.

BUSC Main Event in Tignes, France produced a variety of results. Ski GS saw Campbell-Woodward placing an impressive seventh place and the best of the male competitors came from Michael Perkins ranking 20th.

With more luck in the slalom course, Tee accomplished



**Michael Perkins and (inset) Marlies Neuner doing their thing for YUsnow**

fifth place alongside some impressive results from Campbell-Woodward in 12th and Kathryn Tracy in 14th place.

The skier cross had a dramatic run with four competitors, thankfully none from York, being seriously injured and therefore the course had to be completed individually as opposed to being in groups of four. Those who made the top 20 include Campbell-Woodward, Louise Cotrell-Gibbons, Tee and Perkins.

The star of the snowboard team, Neuner, once again proved her consistency in both the snowboard cross and the dual slalom and bringing home gold for York. Tom Farrow placed in fourth in the slalom and made the top ten in the snowboard cross.

The ladies ski team and the board team were both knocked out the first round of team duals whilst the mixed team reached the top 16.

Both Farrow and Oates must also be congratulated on their performance in the snowboard half-pipe with Farrow qualifying for the finals and Oates landing a McTwist on a broken snowboard.

Kings dry slope competition saw the boarders winning their league, the ladies team finishing in fifth place and the mixed ski team in 14th. The final competition of the year was Roses and York won the snowboard, ski firsts and ski seconds against Lancaster. Overall, gaining eight medals across the year, YUsnow have certainly impressed and had a wonderful year competing.

## Ajantha Mendis: Sri Lanka's new spin king

Sports Editor **Henry Cowen** talks mystery spin with the carrom-bowling enigma that is Ajantha Mendis.

SRI LANKA'S tour of England comes at an interesting time for the tourists; no Lasith Malinga, no Chaminda Vaas and, crucially, no Muttiah Muralitharan. Their batting has already impressed, 400 on a grey day in May, but – at the time of writing – their bowling is coming up short.

One man who might have to step up and impress now that Murali is gone is the mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis. Mendis, spoke to *Nouse* ahead of the series, to give his thoughts on what awaits

"Nobody can fill the void left by Muralitharan. Murali is Murali and there can never be another bowler of his class"

ed his side. The off-spinner, embarking on his first test tour of England, described it as "an exciting place to play cricket".

Perhaps it seemed less exciting as messrs Cook and Trott ground out another one of their welcome if not aesthetically pleasing partnerships in England's first innings of the series and with no Murali to wile away at the opposite end Sri Lanka may have to get used to life in the field, especially if Mendis' view on replacing the great man is true: "Nobody can fill the void left by Muralitharan. Murali is Murali and there can never be another bowler of his class."

Some would argue that Mendis is being harsh on himself, and his fellow bowlers, with this assessment. Muralitharan was certainly a once-in-a-lifetime talent, and losing a true great is never easy (just ask Australia post-Warne), but in time one would imagine that the side will rally. If this is to be the case then someone will need to fill in Muralitharan's rather sizeable shoes and Mendis could just be that man.

With 62 test wickets at an average of 32, after 15 matches, the mystery spinner has enjoyed a solid if unspectacular start to the five-day game. In many ways Strauss'



England – set on becoming the world's number one side – are Mendis' biggest test yet. Indeed, in his words, he couldn't pinpoint one individual he was looking to target: "There isn't anybody in particular, they are all good players."

Good players they may be but so is Mendis. His entry into the Sri Lankan side in 2008 was met with considerable excitement; a 'spinner' with the ability to take some of Murali's column inches. So what of Mendis' carrom ball? A delivery flicked out of the thumb and a bent middle finger and pioneered by Australia's Jack Iverson many moons ago, the Sri Lankan is nonchalant about his mastering of the skill: "That is an art I perfected from my school days, first with a tennis ball and then with a cricket ball."

With Mendis' many variations making him almost impossible to classify (Sky have plumped for 'Right Arm Slow Bowler') his armoury might just come in useful as Tillakaratne Dilshan's side aim to win a series in England for the second time.

Mendis played down his role,

stating: "Well each one of us has a role to play. I don't think there is a single player that can be considered more important than anyone else in the bowling department. All of us have to do our bit when the opportunity comes and with that we can end up on a positive note".

He continues: "I want to think that Sri Lanka can beat England as

**"I want to think that Sri Lanka are a good enough side to beat any team in the world"**

we have the players to do it, but it is how we play on the day. However, we are determined to do well; no questions about it".

Mendis will need first to conquer England's stubborn resistance and the weather before he can think about holding aloft the series trophy and indeed replacing Muralitharan in the long-term. Sri Lanka definitely have a long way to go, but Ajantha Mendis might just be the man to get them there.

# Group stages enter their final week with thrills and spills guaranteed

**Jake Farrell**  
SPORTS EDITOR

A WEEK is a long time in football. In the College Cup you can be staring down the barrel of elimination one day and staring down at your opponents from the top of the table the next, as the Vanbrugh first team will attest.

Their final game of the group stages will decide where they finish in the top three - and ultimately whether they qualify for the quarter-finals - given their superior goal difference, and their seemingly comfortable fixture against Goodricke thirds, they should go through.

Similarly Halifax seconds face the task of bettering the scores of their qualification rivals - no easy feat considering they have the hardest fixture of the three teams

in the form of Wentworth seconds. They will, therefore, most likely end the week in the plate, a possibility that will be galling to captain Harry Pearson considering his side started superbly, beating James firsts.

The permutations are myriad in each of the four groups but there is the scope for shock is limited. The fixture list has conspired to leave certain teams with the illusion that they are on the precipice of an upset; namely Kallum Taylor's Vanbrugh seconds who, after nicking a last minute draw against Alcuin firsts, go into their last game in a Cup spot, thanks to an unbeaten tournament.

In the way though are Halifax firsts who, bar a weather hit last outing, have looked the real deal so far. Alcuin will hope to pip them to the post by defeating James sec-

onds on Friday.

Elsewhere Langwith firsts will hope to avoid total ignominy and scrape into the plate. They hold fourth place as it stands but are in a fragile position, with only three points to their name. They face a Derwent seconds side who still have an outside shot at making the Cup, but look likely to miss out in the face of brilliance from Ruari Phillips' James thirds and Goodricke firsts, who are a force on the astro just as they were on the 22 acres.

With only two teams totally assured of their place in the latter stages, the final week of group competition will be anxious for many teams. We've had points deductions, phantom goals and violent storms - it would be a brave man who bets against there being one more twist in the tale.

Group One (all data correct on Sunday week 5)								
Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Vanbrugh 1sts	4	3	0	1	14	4	+10	9
James 1sts	4	3	0	1	13	5	+8	9
Halifax 2nds	4	3	0	1	12	4	+8	9
Wentworth 2nds	4	2	0	2	8	9	-1	6
Goodricke 3rds	4	1	0	3	7	10	-3	3
Vanbrugh 4ths	4	0	0	4	1	23	-22	0

Group Two (all data correct on Sunday week 5)								
Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
James 3rds	4	3	0	1	5	3	+2	9
Goodricke 1sts	4	3	1	0	10	3	+7	8*
Derwent 2nds	4	2	1	1	7	3	+4	7
Langwith 1sts	4	1	1	2	2	4	-2	4
Vanbrugh 3rds	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	3
Alcuin 2nds	4	0	1	3	1	6	-5	1

\* Goodricke 1sts docked 2 points for fielding ineligible player

Group Three (all data correct on Sunday week 5)								
Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Derwent 1sts	4	4	0	0	14	1	+13	12
Wentworth 1st	4	2	1	1	7	1	+6	7
Goodricke 2nds	4	2	1	1	6	6	0	7
Halifax 3rds	4	1	2	1	5	3	+2	5
Langwith 2nds	4	1	0	3	5	10	-5	3
Alcuin 3rds	4	0	0	4	1	17	-16	0

Group Four (all data correct on Sunday week 5)								
Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Halifax 1sts	4	4	0	0	13	1	+12	12
Vanbrugh 2nds	4	3	1	0	11	4	+7	10
Alcuin 1sts	4	2	1	1	14	3	+11	7
James 2nds	4	1	0	3	6	9	-3	3
Derwent 3rds	4	1	0	3	4	15	-11	3
Wentworth 3rds	4	0	0	4	1	17	-16	0

up the points should James progress to the Cup, but you can't argue with a return of 13.5pts per £1m of value so far.

**Worst Value – Tom Clarke (James firsts) and Jon Sharpe (Goodricke firsts)**

Both players came in with a lot of buzz surrounding them yet both have failed to make their mark, leaving those who picked them scratching their heads to what has gone wrong.

Sharpe, valued at £8.8m, came into the competition off the back of a stellar grass season but the switch over to the JLD has seen his form take a dive; his return so far a mere 0.9pts per £1m of value. Clarke has been overshadowed by strike partner James Offord and has found himself playing in a

wider role than he's normally accustomed. He showed flashes of his game-breaking capability with a mind-blowing strike against Wentworth seconds, but with a £9.6m price tag and the same return per £1m of value as Sharpe, he has disappointed so far.

**Honourable Mention – Simon Reiss (Alcuin firsts)**

Normally a defender, Reiss made good on Alcuin skipper Phil Bowers' gamble to start him up front against Derwent thirds, bagging four goals, man of the match and a clean sheet bonus for 27 points.

Reiss eclipses the previous fantasy football record set by former Halifax firsts defender Shaun Evans in 2009, who scored 22pts in a 9-0 demolition of Vanbrugh thirds.



to that of a first team defender.

Not only has McCusker kept opposing strikers quiet, his goal scoring touch is partly the reason why James thirds sit top of the topsy-turvy group two. His decisive goal in a turgid affair against Alcuin seconds sent the James faithful into raptures, securing their presence in the Plate and putting them in prime position for a Cup berth. You have to wonder whether he will continue to rack



PETER WESON

**David Ambrozejczyk**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

**Top Performer – Hamish Denham (Halifax seconds) – 32 points**

Halifax seconds were the team that everyone thought could crash the Cup party; going into the final week, they will be embroiled in a goal-scoring battle with Vanbrugh and James firsts. With the amount of footballing riches available to the college then, it's little surprise that one of the Halifax second team players has stood out as a fantasy football star.

Denham could well have been one of the worst-kept secrets coming into the Cup. As the fifth most selected forward in the competition he was in some illustrious company as a player many put their faith in. Only Phil Taylor, Jon Sharpe and Ali Prince were select-

ed in front of him and all of whom with a significantly higher price (or in the case of Graeme McSherry (£0.5m), someone to take a flyer on).

Even still, many couldn't have imagined the return Denham would supply; Now with six goals and two man of the match performances to his name, Denham is well on his way to replacing Conor Brennan, who also spent time as a cross over player in his first year.

**Best Value – Nathan McCusker (James thirds) – 27 points**

Those who took a gamble on the towering James centre back have been rubbing their hands with glee for weeks. Simply known by some as "Brede" after his likeness to Fulham's Norwegian giant, McCusker has been a slam dunk pick with a points total more akin

# SPORT

**Ajantha Mendis**

Sri Lanka's mystery spinner talks to *Nouse* about his country's tour of England and life after Murali.

SPIN DOCTOR >> P18



## Vanbrugh win crucial match to top group and James thirds all but secure Cup progress

PETER IVESEN



PHILIPPA GRAFTON



**Vanbrugh firsts celebrate during their 3-1 win over Halifax seconds while James thirds have shocked everyone to top their group going into week six**

**Jake Farrell**  
SPORTS EDITOR

LOOKING DOWN the four College Cup group tables one name sticks out with remarkable clarity. With one game to play and with one point in hand James thirds have been a compelling advert for the case that the gulf between first and third strings is narrowing, fast. Qualification is in their hands.

They face their Vanbrugh counterparts knowing that a win will secure top spot and the possibility of a quarter-final show down with their own college's first team. The chasing teams, Goodricke firsts

and Derwent seconds, play Alcuin seconds and Langwith firsts respectively.

Goodricke Captain Sam Lewis and his side, who would be top in James' stead but for a two-point deduction for fielding an ineligible player, will be expected to beat Alcuin who are rooted to the foot of the table and without a point.

Derwent seconds have a mathematical chance of sneaking into the top two but will need to defeat a wounded Langwith firsts and hope that other results go their way.

Should they win and Ruari Phillips' James lose then they will join their first team in the knock out stages, after they clinched second

spot in Group 3 with a game to spare.

The James thirds team's confidence is palpable. They have every reason to believe that they will be the only non firsts team progressing from the opening stages.

After a tight defeat to Goodricke in their tournament opener they have secured three consecutive victories, edging past Derwent and Alcuin seconds before recording an impressive 2-0 win against Langwith firsts in an encounter where an uneducated observer would have undoubtedly pegged them as the premier eleven in their college.

Players like Nathan McCusker have far exceeded

expectations; the centre back in question has notched up two goals and one man of the match award in three games.

Defensive stability has been the cornerstone of their success and since conceding three in their first game goalkeeper Paul Charnock has kept three clean sheets, two of which came in tight 1-0 scorelines.

Striker Tim Green has been a consistent handful for opposition back lines with his strength and willing running, whilst outgoing UYAFC President Sam Clitheroe has added some much needed steel in the middle of the park.

Their most impressive quality has been their togetherness. In games such

as the tight fought encounter with Alcuin, when the quality of football produced by each side was not too dissimilar, it was their sheer force of will that got them through. They simply wanted it more.

In a tournament that has placidly ebbed and flowed they have formed perhaps the most intriguing narrative. Now though things are beginning to reach a head.

With the tense week five face off between Vanbrugh and Halifax seconds JLD spectators were given a taste of the knock-outs early.

Both teams played with an urgency and purpose that a game of the significance they were involved in

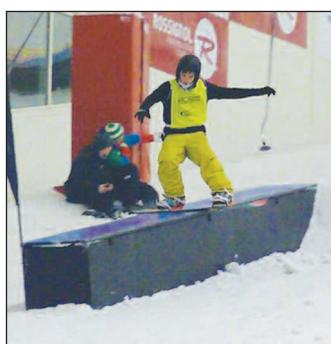
deserved. Hamish Denham firmed up his reputation as one of the most daunting propositions in the Cup this year with a confident finish and Ben Stanier and Ali Prince did something to repair theirs after a lacklustre start.

Vanbrugh will be a team reinvigorated if and when they get out of the groups. That their qualification is more precarious than James thirds is a testament to the less illustrious team's tournament campaign.

College Cup upsets are difficult to engineer for a seconds let alone a third team and, if they manage to close the deal in the final week, James thirds will have achieved a remarkable feat.

### YUsnow the score - A review of a year on the slopes

A comprehensive victory in this year's Roses topped off another successful season for YUsnow, they give us the account of the ups and downs



### The University of York Gliding Club - Club feature

Awash with Roses success *Nouse Sport* met up with one of York's highest-flying societies, the Gliding Club, to man the controls and learn everything there is to know about the sport.

COME GLIDE WITH ME >> P17



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