

York's Homeless Teens

"My parents were more interested in eBay than me"

>> M4-5



NOUSE



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YUSU and University clash over enforcing policy

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Role of College STYCs to be reconsidered

THE COLLEGE STYC system is being reviewed there have been a number of alcohol-related injuries and incidents which have cast doubt upon the system. There have been calls to redefine the role that STYCs should play during Freshers' week.

NEWS >> Page 3

Alcuin students face freshers chaos

FIRST-YEAR students in Alcuin have profited from a mix-up in the delivery of fresher week wristbands. This has meant that students without a ticket have been able to attend some events without spending the money of the Freshers' week ticket.

NEWS >> Page 5

Nouse talks fees and the future with VC Brian Cantor

VICE-CHANCELLOR Brian Cantor talks to *Nouse* about how York will adjust to the changes in higher education funding, and talks fees, feedback and how the University will be expanding in both Heslington East and West over the next five years

NEWS >> Page 8

Extra £2,000 allocated for York Sport

YORK SPORT have had an extra £2,000 added to their budget so they can train students to become qualified coaches. The scheme is designed to improve volunteering and links to the local community

SPORTS >> Page 20

Emmy the Great

>> M21



Hoagy Davis-Digges
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A RIFT has come between YUSU and University officials after the Union has decided to go against policy and is refusing to support the ban on putting up posters around campus. The Student Development Assembly, which met last week, was unanimous in its opposition of the University ban.

Whilst it has long been University policy to disallow all posters being put up around the University, there has recently been a campus wide crackdown on societies using posters to publicise their events.

During the assembly it was explained by James Croydon that the University felt that the ban was necessary because it was a fire risk. However Tim Ellis, YUSU President, spoke out against the

ban, commenting that "there's no real justification for it," and stating the Union would support any societies who chose to defy the University over the issue as much as they could.

Croydon explained that the University has decided to ban the posters because of a problem with mess.

He added: "What I always get annoyed about is that they complain about societies postering but if you ever walk past one of them it's purely random club nights in Leeds that are actually doing the messy postering."

It is rare for the student union to not unanimously comply with University policy, and the two usually work in conjunction. It is unclear what the repercussions of this divide over policy will be.

The University approached YUSU at the beginning this academic year, asking for their assis-

tance in upholding the postering ban, but Ellis told *Nouse* that YUSU had refused to take a role in enforcement.

David Duncan, Registrar and Secretary, the most senior non-academic post in the University, was firm on the subject, telling *Nouse*: "It's in the interests of all members of the University community that we look after our facilities and maintain them in the best possible condition. To this end, we require all students - and staff - to follow the rules on postering and not to fly post in inappropriate locations".

Whilst it is not possible for the University to fine societies with any currently existing mechanism, students will still run the personal risk of being subject to disciplinary action by the University if they are ever caught putting up posters on behalf of a society.

Sam Asfahani, York Sport President, was keen to stress the serious implications for YUSU in their decision to defy the University, highlighting: "Don't forget the University do control our budget, so they can go to us 'right, next year your budget is cut by four grand."

Numerous societies have spoken out against the ban, arguing that is difficult to publicise events around campus without using posters.

Louis Luntz, Press and Publicity Officer for Dramasoc, has said, "as a campus performance society we need posters to advertise our shows.

"While Dramasoc has a standing audience who will go

Continued >> page 2

LEADER >> Page 10
COMMENT >> Page 10

>> Continued from front

every week, being unable to poster prevents us reaching a wider audience across campus and makes the performances exclusive rather than inclusive."

He also went on to add that: "Until we face the threat of actual fines there are no plans to stop postering." Continuing: "Dramasoc will protect any of its members who are postering in a responsible fashion," since, "if someone is putting up posters on behalf of Dramasoc then it is wrong that only they should be punished."

Gemma Egan-Perkins, Chair of the York Labour Club, has also spoken out against the ban, saying: "The poster ban is detrimental to campus activities and should be reversed in order to allow societies to connect with all students." She also added that: "The ban is completely disproportionate to the so-called problem of postering; there are other ways to go about it"

Ellis was adamant that

"YUSU will not be fining or imposing any punishments on societies that continue poster in a responsible manner", adding that he was working to find an alternative solution to the current divide between Union and YUSU wishes.

The renewed enforcement of

"The postering ban is detrimental to students and should be reversed to allow societies to connect with all students"

Chair of York Labour Club
Gemma Egan-Perkins

the ban has also sparked an online petition, created by the anonymous campaign group Creativity on Campus to repeal the ban. It argues that: "Student societies provide outlets outside of academic study. They not only attract students to the University, but provide vital intellectual, creative and physical pursuits in and around campus."

The group claims to have been started by: "People from both the student and staff body who want to ensure that York does not continue to remove the freedoms of the people who make up this University and its reputation as a world-class institution."

The group has not affiliated itself with any campus societies, although members of the Dramasoc committee have moved to give them access to society minutes concerning their response to the ban on putting up posters.

In a statement, however, Dramasoc have said if: "DramaSoc supports YUSU and cannot support Creativity on Campus because we have a responsibility to our members to support YUSU. We will continue to poster in accordance with our own and YUSU's policies. We recognise the importance of postering both financially and creatively."

A University spokesperson has commented: "The University does not fine societies for putting up posters without YUSU consent, nor

are there any plans to change this policy. The agreed protocol covering posters on campus remains unchanged.

"There is nothing new in the removal of posters that are not on designated notice boards where they might create a fire hazard or are unsightly. This rule is relaxed during elections as long as posters do not cause damage or create a fire risk. Additional notice boards have been provided at the start of this term for YUSU."

The University has also faced widespread criticism after students noticed that Santander, who recently opened up a branch in Market Square, have been leaving promotional materials around campus where societies are not allowed to publicise their own events.

The spokesperson continued: "Unsurprisingly, Santander wished to publicise their new service to students on campus, but they do not enjoy any sort of exemption."

Gallery's owners go into administration

The future of York nightclub Gallery is in doubt as Britain's largest nightclub operator was forced into administration on Thursday. Luminar Plc own Gallery and 75 other clubs across the UK, including Oceana and Liquid chains and the Lava & Ignite club in Northampton where student Nabila Nanfuka was crushed to death last week. The chain is unable to meet its debt obligations having recorded losses of £198 million in the last year. Sales dropped by 19 per cent to £137 million and shares were suspended after falling from more than 600p over the past five years.

Professor of English at York passes away

Jane Moody, Professor of English and Director of the Humanities Research Centre passed away on Friday morning, surrounded by her family, after a three year long battle with cancer. Jane was an academic of the highest calibre who both helped the English department earn the high status it has now and won the love of all her co-workers and students. Her passion for humanities was reflected in her multiple TV and radio appearances, and her borrowed phrase 'Democracy needs the humanities'. Bill Sherman from the English department paid tribute by praising the "courage, intensity and sense of pleasure she brought to life during her last year."

RateMyProfessor site improves standards

UK universities have been included in the free website, RateMyProfessors.com, which researches and rates university professors, provoking controversy within the British academic community. Tutors have complained of unconstructive feedback, prompting the site to introduce a video forum enabling tutors to defend themselves. A report conducted by the journal 'Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education' stated the potential of the site in improving university standards.

Reporting by Laura Hughes and Andy Davis

Fall in application numbers to affect York

Stephanie Milsom
NEWS REPORTER

UNIVERSITIES ACROSS the country have suffered a 12 per cent drop in applications for the next academic year as York departments are facing unpredictable figures.

The Biology Department has already confirmed they have experienced a drop of 12 per cent in applications for next year and Brian Cantor, University Vice-Chancellor, has confirmed to Nouse that many departments have seen a fall in the figures this year.

In the face of next year's rise in fees, UCAS are already reporting lower early application figures for 2012 entry.

While 14 universities have bucked the trend, reporting higher figures than last year, the majority have witnessed a significant drop in applicants. UCAS have revealed that some 52,321 students have sent their university applications in already, compared to 59,413 this time last year.

Despite various claims that there has been an increased interest in open days, it would seem that A Level students are being dis-



The York biology department is one reporting decreasing applicants

suaed by the prospect of £9,000-a-year tuition fees - the level that the University of York will be charging.

Additionally, while figures for 18-year-old applicants have dropped, more students over 19 are applying than last year, suggesting that students are taking a year, or more, out to consider their options.

Online surveys have revealed that an average of one in ten A Level students are put off by the competition for places, and the 300 per cent rise in fees.

The Times Higher Education

supplement have also recorded a 40.6 per cent drop in applications for 'soft subjects' such as media studies and creative arts, while more 'serious' subjects such as maths and languages have come off comparatively better, suffering only a 3 per cent drop between them.

The trend for taking a gap year seems to be becoming even more appealing to students; approximately 160,000 A Level students take a year out after their exams, to work, resit exams, or travel the world trying to gain some experience.

Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of Universities UK, commented: "Historically, the application figures at the end of October have proven to be unreliable indicators of the final numbers. It may also be that students are taking longer this year to consider their options."

Monica Bandiera, University of York Biology admissions tutor, took a similar stance. She was keen to stress that, while the departmental admissions figures are down, "last year we saw a huge increase in admissions figures which is why it is difficult to make a judgement on the figures this year, and to make an accurate comparison. It is too early in the admissions process to make any definite conclusions."

It would also seem that this drop in figures was predictable, given that the last time fees trebled - in 2006, jumping from £1,000 to £3,000 a year - applications were down 4.5 per cent.

It also appears that only British students are being more careful this year: applications from outside the EU have risen 8.8 per cent.

LEADER >> Page 10
COMMENT >> Page 9

In this edition

November 1 2011
www.NOUSE.co.uk

News	1-8
Comment & Analysis	9-12
Satire	13
World & Politics	14-16
Sport	17-20

Homeless in York	M4-5
Billy Bragg	M6-7
The opposition U-turn	M8-9
The great escape	M10-11
Let the dark in	M12-15



Singer songwriter and activist Billy Bragg has been making music for over thirty years. Sam Briggs hears a passionate man's story.

BILLY BRAGG >>> M6-7

NOUSE

Est. 1964

Grimston House (V/X/010)
Vanbrugh College
University of York
YO10 5DD

contact@nouse.co.uk

Contribute:
editor@nouse.co.uk

EDITOR
Hannah 'Indie Kid' Ellis-Petersen

DEPUTY EDITOR
Camilla 'Kardash' Apar

MUSE EDITOR
Mia 'Cher' de Graaf

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Andrew 'Suave' Ryan

CHIEF SUBEDITOR
Hannah 'Brillo Pads' Brearley

GRAPHIC DIRECTOR
Jonathan 'Ice Man' Frost

PHOTO EDITORS
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NEWS EDITOR
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Increase in alcohol-related incidents sparks review of college STYC system

FACEBOOK

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE COLLEGE STYC system is being placed under review. Although the system is reviewed annually, there have been a number of incidents during Freshers' Fortnight which have placed the system in a harsh light.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented that: "We are trying to address this within the STYC system review by making the STYC role clearer, providing more support and training, and making the consequences of breaking the responsibilities of being a STYC more apparent."

Hughes went on to talk about the need to make the role of STYCs clearer, and concern over the prevalence and pressure to partake in drinking games during Freshers' week.

Cassandra Brown, Langwith STYC, commented on the way some STYCs perceive what can and cannot be done, stated: "It's part of the whole thing - I went to University expecting it." She finished by saying: "It is what Freshers' week is about, whether YUSU wants to admit it or not."

Jane Grenville, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students, voiced her concern over the drinking culture which has emerged in parallel to the introduction of university life.

"Alcohol is a poisonous element to anyone, and excessive consumption often results in questionable behaviour."

However, she was keen to emphasise that the STYC review happened every year, and the increased incidences this year had no effect upon their decision to look at the current system.

Ambulances have had to be called onto campus on at least five different occasions, often in conjunction with college fresher events. These events are generally regarded as some of the "messiest" nights on campus.

Goodricke's first night of Freshers' Fortnight was titled, "Baptism of Fire". It was during this first night that a student fell over and broke his ankle, resulting in an ambulance being called out.

Derwent's events have become synonymous with excessive drinking. During the Slag and Drag

"I went to university expecting it. It's what Freshers' is about, whether YUSU want to admit it or not."

Langwith STYC
Cassandra Brown

event, on 12th October, ambulances were called by the First Aid staffing the event as a result of students having had too much to drink.

One first year student became so intoxicated he tripped and seriously cut his head, resulting in stitches. Upon waking the following morning he had no recollection of the following night and his visit



The role of the college STYC system is being placed under annual review in the aftermath of Freshers' Fortnight

to the Accident and Emergency unit.

In another incident, a student was required to down drinks, resulting in his near choking on a bottle cap, which was part of a drinking game, organised by his college STYCs.

Hughes continued that: "the drinking games and social pressure this freshers' week has been a large concern." He went on to say that YUSU is planning a strategy of combatting the "potentially damaging culture of drinking games and

pressure to drink heavily."

There have been five ambulances called out during the period 8th October to 22nd October. This is in comparison to only two being called out during a similar length of time at the beginning of the summer.

However, the NHS Ambulance service does not distinguish between ambulances called out for injuries caused by alcoholic events, or injuries caused when not under the influence.

Jane Grenville, University Pro-

Vice Chancellor, was keen to stress what a success this Freshers' Fortnight had been. She stated: "I think that it has gone better than in previous years."

Grenville continued that there had been no student deaths as a result of alcohol, unlike in the previous five years. She emphasised the negativity of the drinking culture which has emerged in conjunction with Freshers' week at universities.

LEADER >> Page 10
COMMENT >> Page 10

Complaints raised against LGBT Officer

Martin Spurr
NEWS EDITOR

AN ANONYMOUS complaint has been made against another YUSU Officer this term, making it the second complaint against an officer since the beginning of the academic year.

The complaint was made against Emma Brownbill, YUSU LGBT Officer, regarding her political stance and alleged bias in emails as an elected representative of the LGBT community. However, as the complaint was anonymous, it cannot be taken in a formal capacity by YUSU.

An email had been sent to Brownbill last term by a member of the LGBT community setting out concerns and objections to Brownbill's political bias and the way she conducts herself.

Concerns have also been raised to Nouse about her comments on certain people's personal pages on Facebook and the way Brownbill has thrown "with relative ease these very serious accusations", which were not representative of the LGBT community.

Brownbill spoke with Tim



Members of the York LGBT community have expressed dissatisfaction

Ellis, YUSU President, to discuss the complaint against her in a meeting last week, though due to the informal nature of the initial complaint, no action is to be taken at the moment.

Nonetheless, it appears the author of the anonymous letter of complaint is not alone in their issues with Brownbill's conduct as

LGBT officer. One member of the LGBT community, who also wished to remain anonymous, commented on Brownbill's conduct in LGBT meetings and as an elected Officer.

"I went to one YUSU LGBT meeting last year and she made me want to never go to one again."

Describing how they felt her behaviour was not fitting with her

Officer role as an elected Officer and representative of the LGBT community, they continued: "I felt Emma was pathetic, she would cause so much unnecessary drama to get her own way, she literally burst out into tears over the most pointless things, whether for attention or not. She was just unstable and rude."

"I went to one YUSU LGBT meeting last year and she made me never want to go to one again"

A member of the LGBT community

Nouse contacted Emma Brownbill about the complaint but she refused to comment.

Hannah Brearley, YUSU Volunteering Officer, stated: "Of course every officer has an agenda and a plan for their year in office, however that should not come at the detriment to those they represent."

"The LGBT community should feel that they have elected an officer who will ensure that their views are put forward alongside her own."

Last month there was a formal complaint made against the YUSU Racial and Equality Officer by a York Labour Councillor which resulted in the YUSU part-time Officer resigning from his position.

However Ellis stated that there would be no similar repercussions currently in this case because the complaint submitted against Brownbill was against her conduct rather than as her as a YUSU part-time Officer, and because the complaint was made in an anonymous capacity to YUSU.

Due to the unofficial nature of the complaint, Ellis would not give a clear comment, simply stating: "Any student is able to make a complaint about an officer to myself. It is important that they leave their name and contact details, but the complaint will be dealt with in absolute confidence if that is what is required."

Brownbill will hold her position till the next elections in March.

LEADER >> Page 10

Problems hit refurbished accommodation

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Laura Hughes
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS HOUSED in some of the most expensive accommodation on campus have endured repeated incidences of flooding. The students, housed in Derwent's D Block, pay £136.29 per week and moved in just days after the block's completion.

The contractors who carried out the repair and maintenance work had said that they had "resolved the problems with D block plumbing". However, the ground floor corridor continues to flood and all three floors currently have at least one unusable facility.

A University spokesperson confirmed that there had been plumbing problems, but refused to comment on why or how the problems had emerged. They stressed that: "alternative shower facilities exist elsewhere on the floor."

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, has revealed he is worried "that the problems are taking longer than they should be sorted" and that the "University needs to act swiftly to ensure minimum discomfort and inconvenience to students."

The University is compelled to employ external contractors to undertake building work. Residents have been told their plumbing issues are "not due to any fault in the fitting of toilets and showers."

It stated that the problem on

the ground floor was, "due to a hairline crack in a shower tray in a shower cubicle on the second floor," continuing that the causes of which remain "unknown". They stated their intention to fit a new shower in the immediate future.

However, many discontented inhabitants believe the contractors are at fault.

On arrival, one resident claims she watched maintenance remove an Aqua Hoover and was informed by a member of maintenance staff that due to deadlines, the contractors had handed over the facilities straight to the University, without a full inspection from Estates. Derwent's Provost Rob Aitken refutes this claim and the University's Estates manager was not prepared to com-

"[the] University needs to act swiftly to ensure minimum discomfort and inconvenience to students"

YUSU Welfare Officer
Bob Hughes

ment.

Matt Jenkins, Derwent College JCRC Chair, commented that he, "was reassured that everything had been fully checked" and has resolved to support any, "problems that were only discovered once people moved in."

The students involved in D Block wish to remain anonymous,



D-Block in Derwent was refurbished over the summer, however, residents have complained about flooding

for fear of impeding any possible future repair work. However, one student maintains her "accommodation has great potential" but has "too many problems" at such an early stage. She was locked in her room for two hours until the lock was broken with a crowbar.

This has happened to students in D block on five separate occasions. Building work continues as the roof is finalised, which for many D block residents means noise "every morning." One resident stated that "I feel like I am paying to live in a building site."

Students were informed by email that the blockage of one particular shower was "caused by the misuse of facilities, presumably a resident" who "had been sick in the shower, urinated into the shower tray and tried to wash away the debris by turning on the shower."

However the residents insist this particular shower was already blocked by a "yellow liquid" when they moved in and "don't understand" why they have been accused of misusing facilities as the problems emerged "the first time they were used."

One resident has been forced to shower in C Block as her own shower "never gets fixed." This is despite several visits from the contractors.

Additionally, radiators on the third floor have only been functioning since Thursday and many residents have complained about the lack of insulation caused by ill fitted windows.

The University is in the process of evaluating whether the problems are "purely down to student misuse."

COMMENT >> Page 9

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



The University has still yet to supply CCTV cameras in Derwent despite the thefts from Derwent JCR last year

Derwent security concerns for JCRC

Nicole Sorlie
NEWS REPORTER

THE DERWENT JCRC have expressed repeated concerns over the level of security around Derwent as it plans to move thousands of pounds worth of equipment back in.

Nouse reported in May about the theft of expensive JCR equipment from the Derwent common room earlier this year, however there hasn't been an increase in the number of CCTV cameras in the area, despite promises from the University.

The JCRC are concerned about the lack of CCTV around Derwent College because of the several thefts that took place during Easter this year, which included: a plasma screen TV; Nintendo;

and the projector from the cafeteria ceiling.

Refurbishments during the summer meant that bottom floor windows in D block were re-secured, but security failed to install more CCTV. There are very few cameras working in the nucleus of the college and the quality of the footage produced is very poor.

However, promises to install more CCTV were made back in April, but nothing has still been done about it despite plans to bring in an estimated £2,500- £3,000 worth of consoles and TVs back into the JCR.

Despite this, the University has taken a dismissive attitude to the security breaches, stating "there are no plans to increase CCTV in and around Derwent. It was as a result of review of CCTV

footage generated by the existing cameras that the culprits from the last incidents were identified and apprehended."

They added: "While the thefts were unfortunate, they are unlikely to have occurred had the JCR been left secure."

One student from Derwent said that she hasn't seen any cameras and another in Derwent D block described the security as, "pretty flawed" due to the poor quality magnetic doors.

Many college chairs have expressed worries over security in their college and especially in regard to CCTV cameras. The University has also come under criticism for the lack and quality of CCTV cameras around the off-campus Vanbrugh accommodation, Fairfax House.

Compost machine to cost the University £20,000

Celia Scruby
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY is considering spending £20,000 on a 'Rocket' automatic composting machine for waste.

The machine would be able to process all types of food waste, including bones and cooked waste as well as raw food and green waste and produces low grade young compost "perfect for the extensive grounds of the campus," according to Phoebe Cullingworth, Chair of York's People and Planet committee and YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer.

It would also avoid the University's current system of disposing of food from residential accommodation as general waste and discarding it in landfill sites.

The project has the support of YUSU, with a motion having passed in the last few months about the improvement of food waste on campus in which 900 students voted in support of the project.

The proposal, put forward by the People and Planet committee for the composter, suggested that the project appealed to the University because of its ability to remedy York's low position on the Green League; an award-winning

league table that ranks all UK universities according to their commitment to reducing their environmental impacts.

Nouse reported on the University's poor position last year as it is currently ranked 83rd out of 142 universities for its environment and ethics performance and has a high carbon foot print.

By introducing the compost bins it would raise York's reputation amongst other institutions of Higher Education and for fill the University's 2009-10 plan to "take proactive measures to minimize environmental impacts and, wherever possible, enhance the environment."

However the University is not willing to "spend any extra costs on employing someone to maintain the collection scheme," as the YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer stated.

This role is essential for the project to succeed as it enables collection bins round campus to be taken and emptied in to the central composter machine.

A current possibility is to incorporate students from the Environmental Science departments in maintaining the compost collections or Environment and Ethics reps from each college around campus.

Freshers' week mix-ups angers students

FACEBOOK: ALCUIN COLLEGE FRESHERS

Alex Slingsby
NEWS REPORTER

FIRST-YEAR students in Alcuin College have complained about the way freshers' tickets were handled after they did not receive wristbands for the tickets they had paid for.

The wristbands for Alcuin's Fresher's Fortnight went missing just as the new students started to arrive this year, provoking questions over whether the tickets were worth the £25 most had paid to gain entry into the college's events that week.

Along with the red and black Alcuin t-shirts, the wristbands were used to gain free entry into all of the fortnight's events, both on campus and in the city.

However, without a wristband, the students who had paid were asked to wear their t-shirts for three consecutive nights to allow them entry into events such as Prehistorical.

Annie, one of the students who bought a ticket and received a t-shirt said: "The fact that we had to wear the t-shirts meant that we weren't able to wear our fancy dress that we had bought for the fortnight."

The package containing the wristbands was signed for by one of the porters on Wednesday 5th October, just in time for the first year students to arrive.

However, the box was mislaid in the porter's lodge and was never found. The JCRC searched for the wristbands until it was decided that the t-shirts would have to suf-



First-year students in Alcuin College were given t-shirts instead of wristbands during freshers week this year

...fice as proof of purchase.

Nightclubs in the city centre such as Tokyo and Salvation were informed and students were still



...granted free entry into them on the allocated nights, providing they wore the t-shirts.

Alcuin events had to be open to everyone, regardless of whether they were wearing t-shirts or not, to ensure that everyone who had paid was able to experience the fortnight.

However, this meant that events including the pub quizzes and pizza nights, which were paid for by the online sales of the tickets, could be attended by everyone because nobody could prove they had paid.

One Alcuin first-year student

was delighted at the mix-up, commenting: "I never bought a ticket and the only thing I missed out on was a t-shirt."

"It seems a little unfair that we were made to pay £25 for something other people got for free," commented Emily, another first-year Alcuin College student, "and none of the other colleges had this problem."

Lizzie Bartholomew, Alcuin College Chair, made it clear that the committee "worked tirelessly to

put on this year's Fresher's Fortnight" and reiterated that the wristbands are still beneficial to have, "we will continue to run as many free nights as possible for the foreseeable future."

The money made from the sales was spent on providing free food, Q jumps, free entry into night clubs and additional events such as the free ghost walk which over 100 people attended.

Despite the lack of wristbands, Alcuin College's freshers' week went ahead as planned.

"It seems a little unfair that we were made to pay £25 for something other people got for free"

Alcuin first-year

The wristbands were ordered again by the Alcuin JCRC and a second batch arrived on Thursday for Alcuin students.

The last collection available for students and STYCs to get the wristbands will be today at 6pm.

These wristbands will continue to give students discounted entry into York nightclubs on certain events listed on the Alcuin College website and Facebook group.

Alcuin's Fresher's events included: two bar crawls into town; a sports night at Motey's bar in the centre of York; a caveman themed party and a 'back to school' themed quiz presented by RAG.

Elections

Tonight. Tuesday Week 4.

P/L/001 - 6.15

Want to know more? Email editor@nouse.co.uk



Drink spiking provokes YUSU Campaign

Rachel Banning-Lover
NEWS REPORTER

TWO STUDENTS have ended up in Accident and Emergency after suspected cases of drink spiking. The rise of drink spiking has provoked an anti-drink spiking campaign from the YUSU Welfare staff.

There have been several suspected cases of drink spiking in York bars and clubs in the last two weeks, which have led to further investigations. The students involved have been both male and female, and have included first and older years.

A second-year student, who wished to remain anonymous, said "I've never had a night like it, suddenly I could not feel my legs and I had lost all control of my body." The student in question did not report the incident to the police, despite having to be taken home.

Many College Chairs are aware of the emerging problem. Lizzie Bartholomew, Alcuin College JCRC Chair, has expressed concern about a noticeable increase in suspected drink spiking incidents over the last year.

She commented: "The number of incidents [reported] in Alcuin has however been very low." However, she didn't want to name



A number of drink-spiking cases have been reported in recent weeks

specifics as investigations are still ongoing and I wouldn't want to jeopardize this."

In previous years there have been cases of drink-spiking. However, the drugs used to spike drinks are notoriously difficult to trace, and are usually expelled from the system within 24 hours.

Consequently the crime is notorious for its low rate of report and conviction.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, stated that the number of suspected spiking incidents have emphasised the need for a bigger focus on alcohol awareness.

YUSU are to work with the North Yorkshire Police on a campaign to raise the issue of drink spiking during alcohol awareness week starting November 14th.

"We're currently planning a series of events together around

understanding alcohol limits, and about safety on nights out," Hughes said.

"We are also carrying out surveys on students' attitudes to alcohol so that we know which key areas to target."

Hughes continued by adding that: "The University and the Students' Union are working together to promote responsible drinking, with bars, clubs and stu-

"I could not feel my legs and I had lost all control of my body."

A Vanbrugh Second-year student

dents," he said.

Alongside actual reported incidents of suspected spiking, Hughes also said that he had heard from a number of students who had concerns about spiking, especially related to the safety of them and their friends on nights out.

"The incidents don't appear to be limited to any specific bars or clubs, and so we're working with the local police to ensure that this message is widespread, and that we are both aware of any incidents going on."

York lecturers support rival white paper

Neil Johnston
NEWS REPORTER

ACADEMICS FROM the University of York have signed a white paper challenging government education reforms and labelling them misguided.

Professor Peter Biller and Dr Mary Madden are among hundreds of academics from across the UK who have signed the Alternative White Paper.

The document criticises the government for having no separate vision of higher education and its benefits to students and wider society.

The publication also argues that the Browne Report completely ignored the public value of education, focusing on financial benefits to individuals such as high earnings and contribution to economic growth.

The new document focuses on the benefits to society of public higher education rather than fees or caps. It also argues the government's policy is founded on ideology rather than financial reasons and that it will make no long term savings.

Plumbing problems in Halifax unresolved

Tim Wingard
NEWS REPORTER

HALIFAX RESIDENTS have expressed discontent as maintenance issues with their accommodation remain unresolved.

Residents from several blocks in Halifax have discovered problems with the plumbing in their houses.

In one instance a house has been left without usable shower facilities for over a week, despite having reported the problem, and another house has been without central heating since the start of term.

One Halifax student commented on the plumbing issue saying: "Given how much we pay for a room here, it's pretty ridiculous."

Students living in the houses say that they reported the problems with their accommodation long before any attention was paid to their breakdowns. This length of time has been attributed to the need to call in outside contractors by the porters and University.

Vicky Eades, a resident of Ingram Court in Halifax, criticised the "slow response" of the University authorities.

"Not being able to have a shower for a week was simply unpleasant," she added.

Davedass Mootanah, President of Halifax College JCRC, expressed his surprise at the importance attached to the issue of faulty plumbing.

He stated: "The porters are

there for students to go to if such cases arise." However he regretted that, "in hindsight, students should have been made more aware of this during these first couple of weeks."

The college accommodation was refurbished over the summer, with an emphasis on improving the kitchen facilities. Some students have suggested that this renovation is responsible for the plumbing faults.

A University spokesperson commented on the ongoing problems with plumbing in Halifax, but denied that residents had been making "major" complaints about

"Given how much we pay for a room here, it is pretty ridiculous"

Halifax First-year student

the accommodation.

"There is some routine maintenance as well as 'snagging' on refurbished buildings and we have had no major complaints from residents."

All rooms are categorised as Band 3 or 4 on the University's pricing scale, with students paying between £111.86 and £118.02 a week. This makes the accommodation amongst the most expensive single-occupancy accommodation on-campus along with rooms in Derwent who have also had problems at the start of term despite being refurbished over the summer.

Law Department rivals Cambridge in the Sunday Times League Table

Nina Pullman
NEWS REPORTER

THE SUNDAY Times has ranked York Law School above Cambridge in its 2012 League Table despite being only four years old.

According to the National Student Survey, York Law School was rated as 1st for overall teaching quality; and the department gained an average of 86.1 per cent for Teaching Excellence, coming in just behind Newcastle which received 89.3 per cent and above Oxford which scored 82.8 per cent.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, said that he was "delighted with the continuing excellent performance of York Law School."

"Their outstanding performance in this year's National Student Survey (NSS) in what was their first year in the survey was very encouraging."

York Law School was set up only four years ago and is the first of its kind in its vocational style of teaching through PBL (Problem Based Learning) sessions. Students are put into 'firms' and deal with realistic cases.

Despite being a relatively young law school, York has exceeded expectations and won higher ratings than its more traditional counterparts, such as Oxford or Cambridge, through using new teaching style.

Satisfaction ratings have contributed to the Department gaining such a high level of recognition.



The Law Department has been successful even though it is four years old

Lucy Williams, secretary of the Law Society, said she could easily account for law students at York being so satisfied: "The best thing about York Law School is the unique relationship between students and staff."

She added that she would be "surprised if you found another department within the University with staff as supportive, approachable and helpful as the staff at York Law School."

Kirryn Mountford, a second-year law student, reinforced this view, commenting: "People feel like they are listened to, all the problems we have raised have been dealt with fairly quickly. People feel like they can get what they want out of the course."

He also suggested the reason for such high levels of student sat-

isfaction is a result of the "large amount of effort put into the application and interview process."

Georgia Neblett, another second-year law student, commented that York deserves its high rankings because, "it is a really active course which prepares you for real life situations."

Osborn continued: "In a year when the University as a whole performed relatively poorly in the NSS and is slipping down all of the major league tables, it is great to see departments such as the Law School performing to the excellent standards that students at York expect."

Nouse reported last month on the poor assessment and feedback figures that many departments had seen from this year's National Student Survey.

Council direction described as “discriminatory”



ITSPAULKELLY

Areas like Osbaldwick and Tang Hall have voiced concerns about the number of houses occupied by students

Rose Troup-Buchanan
 DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK CITY Council is putting forward legislation that would severely limit the location of student housing.

The Article 4 Direction, if achieved, will affect both University of York students and York St. John students – a population conservatively estimated at 15,000 students.

The decision, which is to be taken at a meeting today, will limit student housing as residences will have to pass planning permission in order to be occupied by stu-

dents. This means that local areas could effectively block the planning application of a homeowner seeking to convert their property for use by students.

A University spokesperson commented on the planned change to legislation, stating: “We do not believe the proposal would be in the interests of our students, many of whom prefer to live in and be part of the local community for part of their time while studying at the University.”

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, also commented on the Council direction jointly with the President of York St John

Students’ Union in a blog post.

“We believe an Article 4 Direction will be extremely damaging for our off-campus students who are likely to be forced further away from the university and also that this is a discriminatory piece of legislation that is detrimental to students and York as a whole.

“We also firmly believe that it will not address the issues that are being used to justify its’ implementation.”

In the past student housing, more commonly known as House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) was only defined as a habitation in which five or more people lived,

using shared facilities, and over three floors. This meant that few properties were caught in this classification, and as a result owners could convert residences into student housing without applying for planning permission.

Changes in April 2010 meant that smaller houses (that were being converted for, or from, student use) were defined as ‘small’ HMO, therefore requiring planning permission. However, an amendment in October 2010, called Permitted Development Right, resulted in owners not having to gain planning permission.

The legislation currently being considered will override these amendments. An Article 4 Direction allows York Council to request planning permission for any change in occupation use.

“This is a discriminatory piece of legislation that is detrimental to students and York as a whole”

YUSU President
Tim Ellis

The council is trying to pass an Article 4 Direction over the entire York-city area, however, the properties which it applies to appear limited to student accommodation. This would mean that in order to convert a house for stu-

dent rental, the owner must first apply to the council for an HMO license, and planning permission.

This move by the council has been linked to a number of complaints from local communities about the presence of students in their area. These communities allege that the perceived presence of large numbers of students raises the crime levels, late-night disturbances, and littering in their area.

The University spokesperson has refuted this allegation, claiming: “We believe that City of York Council already has sufficient powers under the 2004 Housing Act to tackle problems caused by the very small minority of irresponsible landlords, tenants and/or mismanaged properties.”

In addition the passing of a Direction 4 would not act retrospectively, so those residences already housing students would not be required to seek planning permission.

This would nullify the local communities aim to lower anti-social behaviour as although there could be no new student housing, those already there would remain where they were.

Nathan Marks, a third-year student currently living in the Hull Road area, said: “one possible outcome is that they will be more susceptible to burglaries - especially in the holidays when the students go home.”

Social media use under review

Martin Spurr
 NEWS EDITOR

YUSU IS set to look at guidelines surrounding the use of social media in response to several incidents this year.

There are currently no rules or guidelines regarding what Officers or societies can and cannot write on social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter.

The issue has arisen following racist comments on the rugby team’s official Twitter account at the end of last term; and the resignation of Lawrence Binitie, the Racial and Equality Officer, over alleged anti-Semitic remarks during a private Facebook conversation last month.

Basim Al-Ahmadi, now the sole Racial and Equality Officer, commented that: “You have to uphold certain standards of decency regardless of whether you are a YUSU Officer or not. If you are going to say something on Facebook it should stay there.

“[But] it is worrying when a private conversation goes public. When is someone allowed to make it public? Even if it goes to the complaints commission it should still stay private.”

Confusion has especially been centred on Part-time Officers and how they can use their personal social media pages; however, issues of accountability have also been raised.

Al-Ahmadi continued that in



PSHAB

There are currently no YUSU guidelines on the use of social media sites

regards to the rugby incident: “Whether it was the club or individuals who were responsible, there needs to be a contract with clubs and societies on how to use Facebook and social media. If it is only one of two people who are allowed the password then they are the ones you can be held accountable.”

“The line between public and private is a very grey area, particularly when it comes to social media”

YUSU Women’s Officer
Nell Beecham

Nell Beecham, YUSU Women’s Officer, commented: “We’re currently facing problems that a previous generation would not have had to consider. The line between public and private is a

very grey area, particularly when it comes to social media.

“It’s a dangerous issue as has already been shown, and one that could have profound impact not only for officers whilst in their university position, but one that could map their career and restrict later options.”

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, stated: “Currently we do not have any formal advice for officers regarding the use of social media. This is an issue we are currently looking into with a view to establishing a clear set of guidelines for all officers. However, officers are reminded that as elected representatives they are accountable for their words in any public forum both online and offline.”

This issue was brought up at the Welfare and Liberation Assembly two weeks ago.

COMMENT >> Page 11

James JCRC spend

£4,000 on one event

Martin Spurr
 NEWS EDITOR

THE JAMES JCRC spent £4,000 on Reggie Yates for the Thursday night of Freshers’ Week, raising questions over the impact this expenditure will have on future events.

James College had booked The Maccabees to do a DJ set in the Lounge bar; however they pulled out from performing and when a second act was unable to play as well, Reggie Yates was booked as a last minute alternative.

Elle B, one of Katy Perry’s backing singers, also performed before Yates on the Thursday night.

Although the night was a success, there are worries about the amount of money spent.

Colleges spend the profit that they make from Freshers’ Week on subsidising events throughout the year – which usually make a loss – and any fall in the revenue will subsequently have an effect on those events.

One James College student commented on the night saying: “It was really good night, I had a lot of fun. But £4,000 does seem a lot to spend at the last-minute for a freshers’ night.”

Emma Bartlett, James College JCRC Chair, commented on the

impact the night might have: “The decision to book Reggie Yates was for several reasons. We had advertised the night as having an act and wanted to make sure the freshers got the full value of their tickets.

“We also wanted to create opportunities for future JCRCs to use the Lounge and the Roger Kirk Centre for acts; its a fantastic space

“We had advertised the night as having an act and wanted to make sure the freshers got the full value of their tickets”

James College JCRC Chair
Emma Bartlett

and the night was a huge success, and my decision was designed to facilitate future JCRC’s ability to put on act nights throughout the year.”

Freshers’ tickets were charged at £30 this year with an on-the-door charge of £10 - originally because of The Maccabees’ performance.

However, Bartlett added that she wanted to set a precedent for the James JCRC and its use of the Lounge bar as a venue.

“On-campus college events need to be really exciting to get involved, and we definitely achieved that with Reggie Yates.”

The view from the top

With higher education having undergone the biggest shake-up in years, **Hannah Ellis-Petersen** talks to Vice-Chancellor **Brian Cantor** about what the future holds for the University of York

GEORGE LOWTHER

TO THE outside eye, it has not been the rosiest year for the University of York. Having slipped down the ranks of every newspaper league table, out of the elite top ten into the ranks of the masses below, and with our position in the world top 100 now a thing of the past, one might think Brian Cantor, our now infamous Vice-Chancellor, might be a little sombre. But it couldn't be further from the truth.

"I don't think it is an issue about the top 10. As far as the league tables are concerned, York is still in the top 10 in teaching quality and research quality" he says, confident in his assertion of York's continued excellent reputation nationwide.

"The newspaper league tables tend to bob round a bit, and we have always been, for the past 20 years, in the top 10- 15 universities, fluctuating sometimes from 12 or 13 to as high as four or five. We generally move around within that range. We are one of the best universities in the country by all those standards and we give one of the best educations in the country and we are very proud of all that. We think students will want to come here."

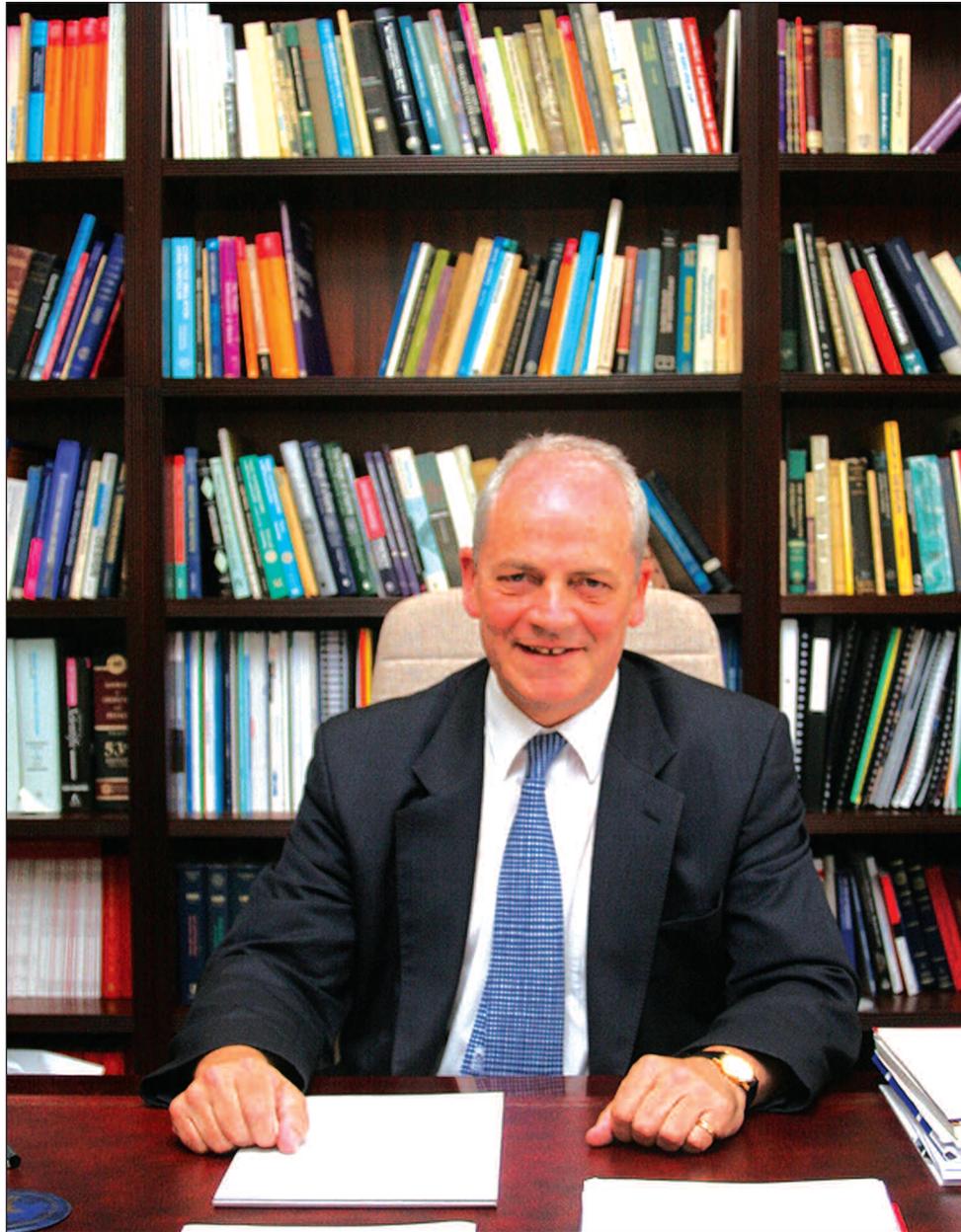
"With regard to our performance globally, the world has woken up to the fact that Universities matter and countries across the world such as China are pouring millions into their Universities, whereas the British government has different priorities. The competition on the world stage is getting very tough" he added.

Sitting in his Heslington Hall office, Cantor is something of a smooth operator, answering questions in a well-rehearsed tone. Certainly he snidely dismisses any questions on his role to fight higher fees ("Are you sure you want to ask me about what happened a long time ago. I don't think it is helpful to look back at things that happened a long time ago"), and skirts round my questions on the recent accusations in an alternative White Paper signed by over 400 academics that the 1994 group, of which York is a key member, failed in their "lack of leadership...their defensive approach to financial cuts has meant that by failing to contribute on the values of higher education they have not met one of the vital functions of a university".

"The government decided, rightly or wrongly, to have an austerity programme, across the whole of the public sector. I don't think the outcome was going to be different whatever Vice Chancellors said at the time, and I was very much opposed to some of the implications of the proposals and was very vocal in saying so at the time" he says simply. "I think we now look to the future given the system."

Despite being more familiar to most for his six figure salary and penchant for first class travel, Cantor has in fact overseen a huge expansion of the University since his appointment in 2003, and it is undoubtedly his proudest achievement.

"We did need to grow as we were in danger in some of our departments of collapsing. The Heslington East program, which was critical to making that happen, was a very difficult project to oversee and bring to fruition and I am very proud that I helped to lead that. I played my role by setting the ideas and helping to shape the ideas a little bit. I know that through that, the University is bigger and better, with some great new facilities, because of all the work my colleagues and I put into the project over so many years."



Vice-Chancellor Cantor is adamant that York will continue to attract top students despite its falling position in this year's league tables

Yet with the whole face of higher education funding shaken up this year, I put to him that this must have quashed any further ambitions to expand. As with most of his answers, he is reluctant to be definitive, and gives answers worthy of our most slippery of politicians.

"In 2003 we devised a long term plan for the university, which was a 10-20 year plan and our objective was to grow our small and medium sized departments so they were on an even footing intellectually and financially. We had departments like Archaeology, like environment, like Maths, like Physics, which

"There is potential for growth but can we afford it is the question?...I think we will find out over the next year or two"

needed to grow to be in a firmer position. But we always said the first 10 years we would be able to grow based around how we were doing, and we would get through the first phase of Heslington East. But we always said the second stage of growing would depend on whether the funding arrangements would be beneficial to continued growth."

"We have lots of growth opportunities,

but in broad terms the rate of growth may slow down, now student numbers have grown and the campus has been expanded."

"We now have between 14-15,000 students coming to York, when in 2003 it was 9,000" he continued. "There is potential for growth, but can we afford it is the question? It is hard to be sure, it depends how these new funding arrangements from the government work out. I think we will find out over the next year or two."

Nonetheless, despite assuring me "there is no harm in pausing for the time being while we observe the impact of recruitment and funding changes", there seems to be no stopping of the Heslington East expansion for the next few years at least.

"We will almost certainly be building a new college" he tells me animatedly. "We haven't committed to it, but it is hard to imagine we won't need another college on Heslington East after we complete Langwith College next summer. We are also rebuilding Chemistry and we have committed to a new environment building on Heslington East."

Yet with every newspaper plastered with headlines about this year's application figures dropping by 12 per cent and higher, is such expansion still wise? He shakes his head in disagreement, clearly riled at mention at the mention of the figure.

"It's a slightly sabre rattling story as it's such an early stage" he says, insistent that it is



not worrying at this point in the game. "I think one has to be very careful about it, it is very early in the recruitment round as anyone involved will tell you. At this point it is a notoriously bad predictor of the final outcome as the last two years prove, because it is too early in the round."

He continues: "Even if they are, it may well be that we have higher quality and we may end up taking more than we want. Application figures are not well correlated with intake. Some of our departments are doing worse in applications, some are doing better, some are up; the spread from one department to another is very variable, which is another issue which is not obvious. It is very dangerous to make predictions at this point, and I don't think I really want to comment too strongly on those figures."

And so, while students continue to fight against fees, and academics rail against the 'commodification' of universities, Cantor may be the most optimistic person in higher education. As I leave, I ask him whether he ever considers jumping ship to a university that is on its way up, rather than on its way down the league tables.

Shaking his head, he tells me "No way. There is no other university with such a community, and with such a great mix in both our staff and in our students." It may be the only definitive answer he gave me all evening.

Comment & Analysis

Jonathan Frost



The drop in applicants signals an alarming elitist trend

The decline in UCAS applications is indicative of the future loss of diversity at The University of York and other leading higher education establishments.

With the fee hike now coming into effect for prospective students across the UK, the results can already be seen in the drop in applicants. The Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) have released their initial statistics for the year; applications are down 12 per cent on figures from this time last year, with a decline of over 7,000 students who consider higher education to be unfeasible.

Although the application process is still in its early stages, the decline in early applications, which are necessary for Oxbridge and courses such as dentistry, are indicative of what's to come. It's inevitable that fewer students will apply, as fewer can afford to do so.

At York, applications to the Biology department are also down 12 per cent, thus far. While there are no other figures available for the University itself yet, I see no reason why York should differ from any other university choosing to charge £9,000 tuition fees. Collectively, the universities charging the higher tuition fees have opted to exclude those of lower social class.

The University wins though, that much is clear. With an increase in fees of 300 per cent, and only a drop in applications of 12 per cent, the University is obviously more than happy to exploit the new fees limit for its own gain. It has no interest in the fact that we are excluding academically gifted students from less secure financial backgrounds, but is prioritising the financial security of the establishment instead; for the

University, it's all about the cash.

Yes, there will always be bursaries and grants available through various benefactors, philanthropists, and even the university itself. However, they will never exist in a large enough quantity for all those who would thrive in higher education, but are now no longer able to even consider an application. And for the bursaries and grants that are available, competition will now be fiercer than ever.

These latest UCAS figures should be a concern. As York and other universities across the country, enter into the application process, they will be dealing with fewer applications, of which a greater percentage will be from secure financial backgrounds and the upper classes. Social mobility

and integration have been disregarded by the fee hike, and sidelined by the university. Thanks to the University creating entry requirements other than intelligence and determination, we're to become an exclusive clique. As applications fall, I fear we'll see York become progressively more elitist. The typical student will become well off, supported by a wealthy family.

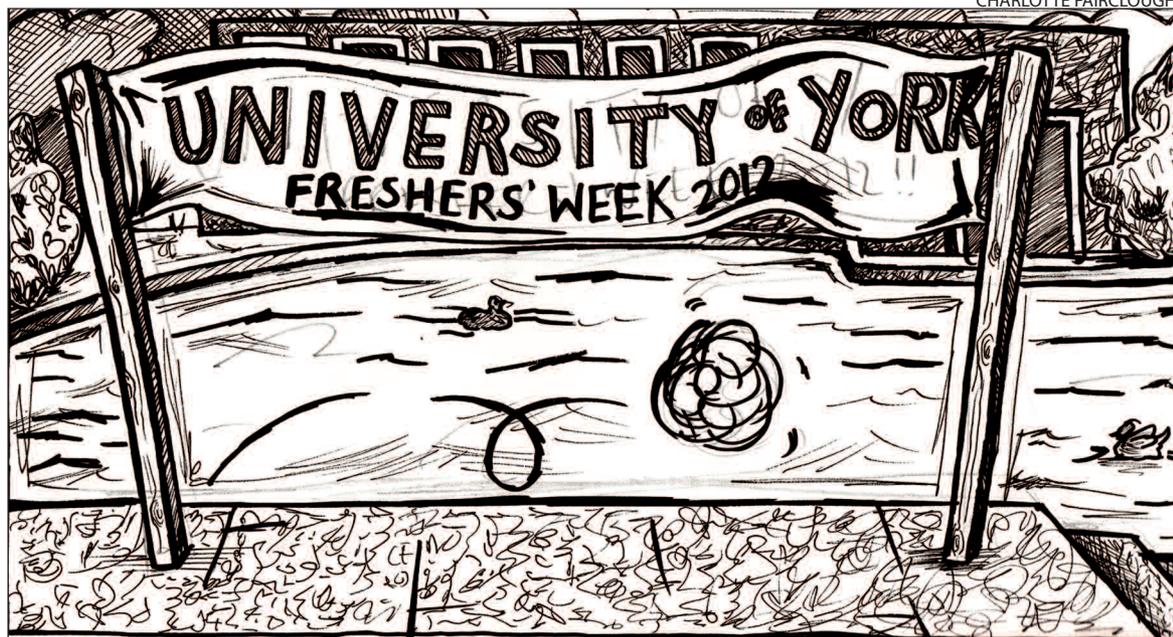
As the University skew our society towards those of a higher class, we'll lose what makes our student body so excellent and interesting: diversity. By driving up the cost of education, we're destined to lose that element, as those who can't stump up the mounting costs are turned away. The resulting student body is not one I'm

interested in being a part of, and certainly isn't one I'd be proud of.

Ultimately, the university won't lower its fees, and the student body will change for the worse. It is sad that we'll lose what I believe to be such an important aspect of university life, but the real losers here are the 7,000 students (a number is already dramatically increasing) that have chosen not to apply.

These would-be students will go on to flood the low-skilled job market with their A-levels, and grapple with mass unemployment problems that they simply haven't been prepared for. And as they sign up for job seeker's allowance, I wonder how many will wish that they could have afforded a chance at higher education?

CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOUGH



Matthew Mannix



Derwent residents have no right to complain

Campus residents do have some right to be angry. £136.29 a week is not cheap for the residents of Derwent's D-block (where renovations took place). Moreover, the accommodation they actually received didn't meet the standards that the website suggested.

On the Halifax College website, the grand "artists impressions" of modern rooms and spacious kitchens shown were no doubt persuasive to many prospective students. I can sympathise to some extent. Everyone despises those episodes where they feel they've been misled and are paying over the odds for something they

thought was going to be better. However, the renovations - at least in Derwent - have tried to focus on its advertised "sociability". The installed larger kitchens with sofas and dining tables are a far better place for social dinner parties and just convening with friends. These are good intentions and certainly worthy of some praise.

First years will be wondering why the renovations were only completed just before the start of the academic year? I suspect it's due to the sheer scale of the job that had to be done. One D-block resident revealed to me that walking from D-block into the connected C-block "is like walking into a third

world country!"

This gives some idea of the extent of the building work. The quality of facilities in D-block is far

"University halls are never going to match up to much-loved home comforts"

greater than that other Derwent blocks. I'm in Derwent B-block. The over-head cistern of my near-

est lavatory spits toilet water at your face every time you have the decency to flush it.

Whilst it sounds patronising to say it, freshers critical of the renovations expect too much. Our living standards at home may have skewed the way we perceive our accommodation, as generically grim, but let's be honest, it's the same throughout the country, university halls are never going to match up to much-loved home comforts. Whilst it's annoying for students to have had some frustrating experiences, first year is just what it says on the tin. Only a year.

People in far worse circumstances than ours must put up with

greater problems for considerably longer out there in the real world.

There's a more important lesson to be learned here. A survey conducted by YUSU in May discovered that only 65 per cent of Derwent residents were satisfied with their accommodation. Perhaps the timing of the survey and renovations indicate that the University is really trying to respond to dissatisfied students. The recent battle won - by YUSU - to have the library open 24-hours is further evidence of this.

In the end, accommodation should not be our primary concern. The primary purpose of a university is to educate its students.



Admissions blockade

Whilst newspapers have been keen to highlight the falling admissions figures, it is hardly surprising. After all, it is exactly what the hundred of thousands of students who took to the streets to oppose the rise in tuition fees warned against. It is simply confirming what we feared. Yet it is alarming that even departments at York are seeing the same levels in the drop in admissions; after all, as a top institution surely we should be relatively impervious to a national downturn in applicants? It raises concerns that with our falling position in the league tables nationally, we may not be as attractive to prospective students faced with the burden of £9,000 fees.

It also shows that students across the board are hesitating to click that button that sends their UCAS form into the hands of those ever-keen admissions tutors; finance now has to be factored into the decision to come to university, and it is unsurprising, though no less disheartening, that this is actively discouraging potential applicants. Of course, it is early days, so the picture is not completely bleak. But for the time being, we take no satisfaction in showing the government that, as we so predicted, university is now simply less inclusive.

A sign of the times

The stance that YUSU are taking on the issue of postering around campus pitches themselves in the direct opposition to University policy. By opposing the ban (that the University has suddenly now decided to enforce after 10 years of relative inactivity) they have closed off the main avenue for the University to fine students. While they can punish individual students if they are caught putting up posters; this non-enforcement by YUSU effectively means that societies can, and many have said will, continue to put posters up around the campus.

Surely this will be too much hassle for the University to go round campus constantly removing posters that are supposed to mess up the appearance or present a fire risk? Although through the use of social media the impact of posters may be in decline; the lack of on campus advertising will hit performing societies the most who, while having a set of core followers, rely on posters and advertising to sell their tickets and fill their audiences.

The University has accepted that it will have to relax its rules during the YUSU elections in the Spring Term; but surely this contradicts its reason for banning on the grounds of a fire safety risk? If it were such a risk, would a blanket ban not be the better solution rather than a two-tiered system of hypocrisy?

YUSU are right to oppose University policy, support students and to reject University calls for fining students on this issue. Senior figures within York would be better served concentrating on enhancing the student experience instead of arguing over petty concerns that are a detriment to it.

Crossing the line

The main and vital function for any YUSU Officer, as with any politician, is to stand primarily as a representative for those who elected them. Whilst it is a system sadly abandoned in most of Westminster, here at York we have a better ability to hold our elected officials to account. Emma Brownbill's actions, as the major LGBT representative in campus, have instead evidently proved alienating and militant to the very people she is supposed to speak for. Her overt political opinions are aired very much in public, which is laudable until they start to impede upon her role as Officer. As she will testify more than anyone, the issues handled by the LGBT Officer are extremely sensitive, yet her actions have appeared to drive a chasm into the LGBT community at York.

As always with student politics, a fine balance needs to be kept between pushing your own forceful political agenda, without forsaking the very people you represent. Overreacting to all issues big or small, of which Brownbill has been accused, will simply serve to undermine all the work the LGBT community do across campus to promote inclusivity, promoting rather than undermining narrow-minded stereotypes. Militancy will get you nowhere, and whilst Officers should be free to express their opinions, they also need to be aware of the line. It was one that Lawrence Binitie crossed, and his dismissal, be it right or wrong, proved that such actions are not without consequences. It is a line that Brownbill, in her role as Officer, is apparently drawing very close to crossing. As soon as you lose the confidence of those whom you represent, your role becomes essentially annulled.

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Humour could be an added bonus to lecturing methods



Josh Boswell

As the University of York slides down the league tables more inexorably than a greased-up koala on a fireman's pole, my cohort of second-years grumble on into their third week of the academic year. Apparently, York's relative decline is mostly due to the weight given to student satisfaction in university rankings and cuts to departments, which I hear is causing a lot of students a lot of problems.

On the other hand, I'm having a great time. Moving from first year I've seen nothing but improvement - as a fresher my lectures were about as dynamic as a turnip. The endless PowerPoint slides after PowerPoint slides, each one a glut-ton for the fashionable use amongst lecturers of bullet points as sentence connectives, sucked the life out of the subject and students faster than the lovechild of a Dementor and a Dyson until our fruits of knowledge were all but jaded, shrivelled little raisins.

Most of them (like most of us) seemed to not want to be there too, the disdain for the first year syllabus being almost palpable. If you

were on the front row you could sometimes make out an audible sigh as they entered the room to find, despite hoping against hope that no one would turn up and they could crawl back into their academic lairs to nestle amongst the journals, that at least one disgustingly keen fresher had arrived, bouncing on his seat simply bursting with pointless and rhetorical post-lecture

“we need more of the happiness and dynamism I'm seeing in my lectures this year”

questions that will inevitably eat into their lunch break.

So starting my second year it is a wonderful surprise to find that my new set of didactic pedagogues do not endeavour to make the phrase “death by PowerPoint” a reality, but I feel that they are talking to me

and engaging me in the discipline, arousing such strange sentiments as an actual desire to do the wider reading.

If we want to hose down that koala and get her climbing up the league table pole again, we need a little more of the happiness and dynamism I'm seeing in my lecturers this year earlier on, and across the board. You can research 'til the cows come home but without enthusiasm in communicating your passion for the subject no one will want to follow in your footsteps and continue the practice.

And a word to all the teaching staff; students can seem a bunch of moody, disinterested layabouts, more interested in checking Facebook updates than listening to your wise, wise words of wisdom - but please, give us a chance. Look up from your notes, smile; maybe even crack a joke once in a while (don't worry if you're the only one who laughs whilst you push your glasses back up your nose). We will appreciate it no end, and who knows? You might enjoy it a bit more too.

Rachel Banning-Lover



The ban on postering silences the student voice

Take a walk around campus. What do you see? Well, really it's a case of what you won't see. Campus today is looking more and more like an empty, industrial space - void of any personality, character, or indication that our University is a thriving cosmopolitan place, full to bursting of student events and campaigns.

Last year, a simple spread of colourful, vibrant campus posters could have told you that. This year you'll have to go elsewhere. After ten years of inactivity, the University has decided to crack down on student postering - once and for all.

I do not need to tell you that campus postering is the lifeblood of many student performance societies who depend on it, both for advertising their auditions and finding an audience. Financially, postering increases members and, in turn, revenue for York societies. It allows them to become a real campus presence, and on a frequent basis, to appeal to students who may have bypassed them in the overwhelming crush of people that is Freshers Fair.

Though the argument can be made that societies still have the option of storming social networking sites and mailing lists (and maybe even utilise YUSU's resources) to send out frequent reminders about their events, the limiting of marketing events to a purely online format, while more environmentally friendly, significantly undermines the true power of campus posters.

The thing about posters is that

they always appear in the places you're most likely to read them - whether you're queuing for the cash point outside Vanbrugh or hoping for something to read on the back of the toilet door - they're always there to provide a brief aversion from boredom, they may even plant a desire to join a new society or encourage you to take up a previously unexplored hobby.

However, for me, the biggest unanswered question remains that considering this ban has existed for the last ten years, why is it now that the University is suddenly pressuring to enforce it?

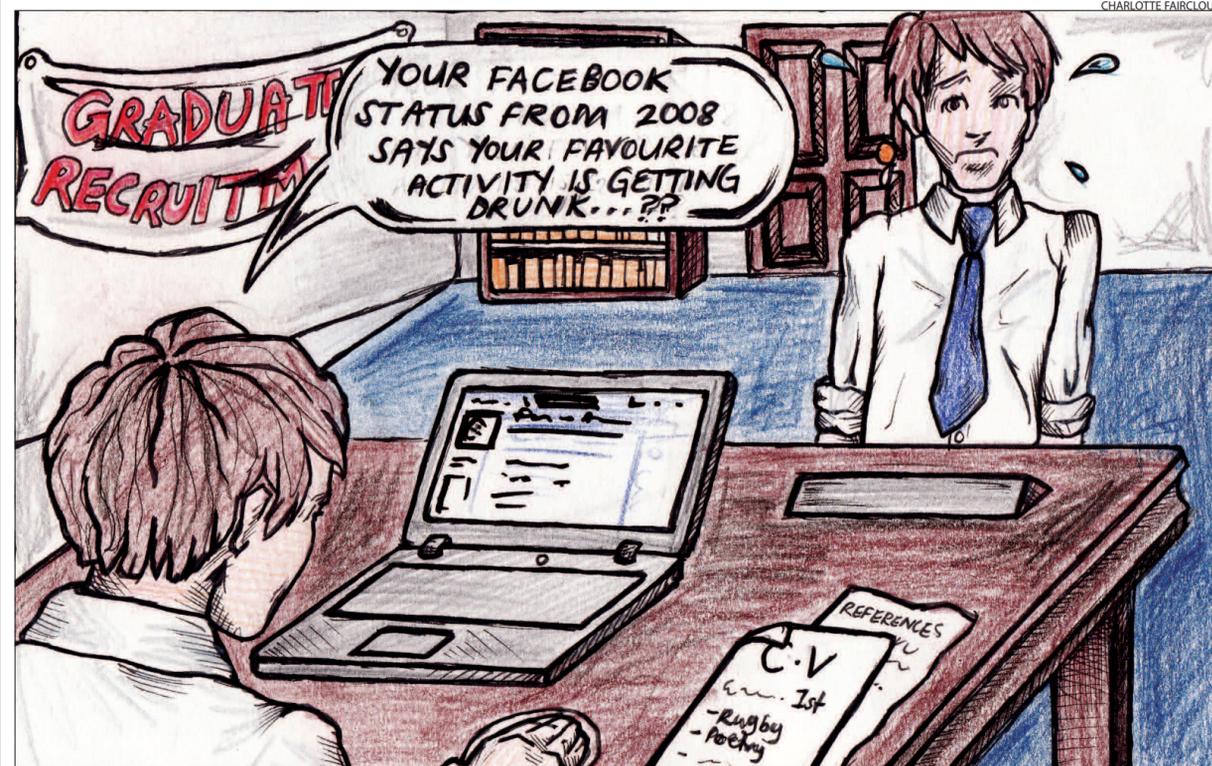
Ultimately, the university is alienating some of its most dedicated students: those who put an incredible amount of time and effort into providing an environment where students can follow their passions and gain those much needed transferable skills. That might be honing their employability skills at a Law Soc career event,

representing the University as a volunteer in the local community, or just being the back end of the Panto horse in PantSoc's Christmas performance because a good sense of humour and experience in working with a variety of people will be essential given the uninviting job market.

Furthermore, while the University may be hoping to gloss the buildings over and glitz up campus for the prospective 'nine granders' coming to have a poke around, it seems they've forgotten what really draws students to a University - a sense of community.

In the past, posters have told prospective students of the huge variety of events and groups on offer. From Dubstep to KnitSoc, from DramaSoc plays to debating, a brief walk from the library to Vanbrugh is all that would be needed to showcase to prospective students how much, beyond their course, the University has to offer.

SARAH JILANI



CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOUGH

Hannah Clugston



Comment Editor

YUSU need to reign in on careless social networking

Anything written on the internet will be saved forever, so it's about time we took a more considered approach to online ramblings.

How much thought do you put into what you write on Facebook? Not much, I reckon. Most of us use social networking sites to communicate with friends, laugh at photos and sometimes promote events, but by and large they are used for mind-numbing nonsense and term time procrastination. We visit these types of internet sites to relax and socialise; after writing a 5,000 word essay the last thing you want to do is spend an hour intrinsically crafting a message to a friend just to say “hi”.

And why should we? Social networks are a great example of freedom of speech. Both Twitter and Facebook allow us to share and express opinions openly. In the past, if you wanted to promote an interesting article you'd have to print it out and distribute it by hand. Now, with one “like” all of your friends can debate over articles, events and music. But such ease of communication has brought up its own problem: Facebook flippancy.

Our “liking” generation has become so used to being able to express opinions we often forget to monitor our social interactions, leaving us making flippant and sometimes offensive remarks. Arguments are worsened on networking sites not only because of the risk of miscommunication but also because of our inflated sense of power; detached from the person at hand we can fire off all sorts of insults that would never usually make it out of our mouths.

Imagine if someone put a dictaphone next to your mouth every

time you had a rant about someone or something. That's basically what happens when we explode on social networking sites, every word you say is recorded and can be used against you.

It's a bit odd, therefore, that we often prefer to overtly express ourselves through this medium even though the consequences could be much more damaging.

And what if the person ranting is in a position of authority or a level of responsibility? This is an

“such ease of communication has brought up its own problem: Facebook flippancy”

issue our University should have come to terms with a long time ago. Even after the furore with the University rugby club blasting off racist remarks on twitter the union still resisted making any formal ruling on social networking principles. Since a YUSU Officer has had to resign over a private conversation on Facebook, it is about time YUSU made some decisions.

The disastrous consequences of what happened to Binitie - the Officer in question - would not have been half so dramatic if there had

been clear regulations. Either Binitie would have been dismissed straight off, or he would have been protected from blackmail and public misrepresentation. Whatever the outcome, it would have been better than a YUSU scandal and concern over the behaviour of the local Labour Councillor.

Of course, it is very difficult to make any clear-cut ruling on social networking sites when they constantly balance the private-public line. Binitie's conversation was private, but it didn't take very long until it became public. Likewise, the public University rugby Twitter account was abused to express some very disturbing private views.

YUSU needs to make some decisions on how these accusations and problems are dealt with because as it stands they are potentially in a dangerous situation themselves. How many more private conversations are going to come crawling out of the woodwork? YUSU need to make a clear stance, not only to implement the correct discipline of comments, but also to protect themselves.

As much as it's easy to lay back and continue to type away internet gibberish without a care in the world, this messy affair should be a lesson to us all. We are responsible for our words and actions, whether that is on a social networking site or on the University campus.

So, next time you lift your finger to type, remember that whatever you say next will be saved in the archives of internet history. Use your words wisely.

The legacy of black history month

Basim Al-Ahmadi



It is a month of reflection for many around the world, those who have stayed positive and principled through the most adverse and uncertain of conditions. It is a time when peoples from all cultures and races commemorate the symbols of this progress, from Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks to Nelson Mandela. This month is known as Black History Month.

Initiated in the United States in 1926 by the “father of black history” Carter G. Woodson, it has been a source of inspiration for many ever since. The idea of positive recognition and reflection is what motivated Akyaba Seboato to instigate Black History Month in the UK in 1987.

This event is based upon the healthy expression of black culture and history, a demonstration of its rich contributions to society and an opportunity to collectively undergo the African process of “Sankofa”. This process encourages people to learn from the past, to seek new ways to better oneself and to embrace a positive and tolerant manner when treating others.

And this is a process we could all benefit from. This month is not intended to exclude others whom are not black or do not share their cultural tastes and history. If celebrated in the right way, it is based upon a wider and more inclusive message of common struggles and values.

Reflecting upon the Civil Rights Movement in the USA or the racism of the 60's and 70's towards Afro-Caribbean's in the UK is an experience that transcends racial and cultural boundaries. It is one that expresses the values of perseverance and faith in the face of difficult times. We have all faced at a certain time in history forms of oppression or a time of restricted liberty. Thus, this month does not consist merely of celebrating the great people whom have characterised black progress but rather, a recognition that their determination in the face of adversity is one which can be related to all cultures and their historical struggles.

Understanding this power of culture and history and its effect in shaping a person's character and outlook is the first genuine step forward in respecting and tolerating those whom differ from you.

Considering this, my view on the nature of this event is that this time of reflection and unity should not be restricted to this month alone. The ultimate aim of this event should be to reach a point in time when its message, based upon Helen Keller's view that “the highest result of education is tolerance”, will not need to rely on an annual event to provide it with moral force or legitimacy.



MUSE.

01.11.11

Oppression U-Turn

Is the future of South Africa
looking like the past?

Winter looks

PVC, towering heels, and gothic tones:
here's your fashion lookbook for
the next few months

Billy Bragg

The Essex-boy rock musician and
veteran activist talks riots and
songwriting in a candid interview

MUSE.



M10



M21



M25

FEATURES.

M5. Homeless in York

Teenage homelessness in York has rocketed.

Hannah Ellis-Petersen investigates

M8. Billy Bragg

The singer, songwriter and activist shares his powerful passion with Sam Briggs

M10. The Oppression U-Turn

Segregation in South Africa is being dragged back from the past, discovers Tom Witherow

M12. The Great Escape

Roslyn Walker is the best Brit at getting out of things. Sophie Walker finds out why and how

FASHION.

M12. Channel this winter's darkness with looks from our four-page gothic shoot. Plus crossdressing is trending...

ARTS.

M18. Newcastle's Turner Prize is coming up - we take a look. Plus: did Shakespeare really write those plays?

MUSIC.

M20. Emmy The Great talks myths and fairytales. Plus: exclusive cat playlist

FILM.

M22. We headed down to the London Film Festival, and have the full scoop. Plus: 1331 has a new cinema...

FOOD&DRINK.

M25. Hallowe'en has gone, but Bonfire Night is fast approaching. Check out our festive recipes to celebrate with

IMAGE CREDITS.

M12-15. Lucy Dixon and Karolina Laigonaite



Gaffa tape, mini bottles and jorts...it's Halloween

Mia de Graaf

"I think gaffa tape and cut up tights...I could buy mini bottles and hang them—no, gaffa tape..."

And so persisted the rotund woman ("Karen") sitting beside me in what Specsavers proudly deemed their "waiting room" (two chairs on the shop floor) describing her Halloween outfit plans to an unsurprisingly unconvinced "Kez" down the phone. Poor Kez was getting an earful. I finally (reluctantly) came to the realisation that Karen was intending to go dressed as a Jack Daniels bottle.

I felt like I was sitting in an American optician's waiting room (/shop with chairs). I've never been to America but I've watched enough 'Friends' and 'How I Met Your Mother' - and it sounds like Karen has too - to know that Americans step it up at Halloween. Here though, as all Brits will know, this plans of Kar's is just unrealistic, not to mention with two days to go.

I'm not a celebration or fancy dress cynic, but I think Karen's got a bit too whisked up in the Yanks idea of 'anything goes' - (a) taking things too far, (b) something frankly irrelevant (why not dress as Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz* on

Halloween? Tobias from *Arrested Development*, anyone? I'm sure she'd look dashing in a pair of jorts...)

As you could see on the taken aback and pitying faces of the other customers and staff floating uncovertly around the stacks of glasses, this kind of gusto just isn't kosher around these parts. You could see it in their faces: they definitely had their yearly fail-safe black-dress-and-whiskers combo ready and waiting back at home. Or they'd simply be planning on turning the lights off at home and retreating to an un-trick-or-treat-able corner. Either way, each slightly magnified pair of eyes were rolling and squinting as Karen invested yet more time, care and thought into this car crash of a concept. You can dabble with the radical if you want, and maybe succeed, but as a nation the black-dress-and-whiskers demographic is just fitting.

"This year I'm expecting a Gaddafi or two, hopefully no Jimmy Saville's but it's not unimaginable"

Once fresher week/fortnight/nine days/month/whatever is over, shops start to pile up with pumpkin and ghost-related titt-bits in a bid that maybe *this* year we will be seduced into embracing the tradition with gay abandon. I write this on Monday - perhaps tonight I'll bear witness to an unprecedented cultural turn. I doubt it.

I'll concede, it is tempting - why not throw caution to the wind. Indeed, as Karen threatened dear Kez - who I grew increasing sympathy for - "if we're going out on a Monday", we're going out on a Monday. Yes, Karen, yes you are - we all acknowledge it, but we're stuck in a UK-US limbo.

We are getting there though, as we've taken on the American-originated 'bad taste' look. A famous tradition at the Stephen J. Baum eviction firm is to dress up as homeless people. Goes down a storm with

investors apparently. This year I'm expecting a Gaddafi or two, hopefully no Jimmy Savilles, but it's not unimaginable, and definitely a few using this Celtic-Catholic superstitious tradition to get sexy (a jump from 1840's get-up).

For reasons I can't explain, as we sat there in semi-darkness ("relaxes the eyes") surrounded by mirrors and timid assistants, the occasional Halloween-apparalled Yorkling would parade past the window. The costumes very rarely varied beyond Harry Potter and Alan Carr, and if they did, I'm not sure what they were.

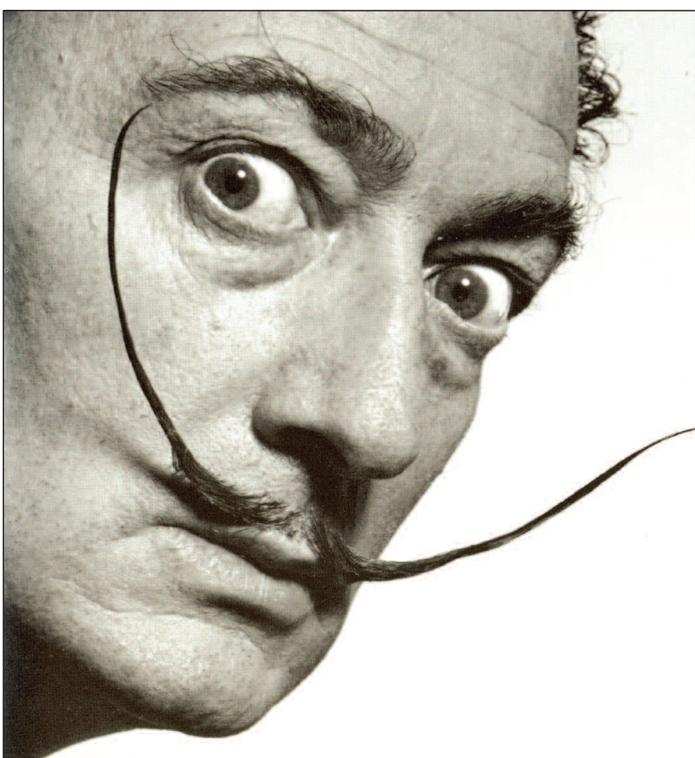
I didn't feel like one to judge Karen's ambition, or the futile and obliviously premature fancy dressers to be honest. I'd just been doled out some glasses myself, which, much as my cousin insists will bring out a whole new 'sexy librarian' side to me, frankly just tops off my abnormality (the only ginger child of five, I have managed to move past buck teeth, scrawniness, and an awkward middle parting phase, but shortened eye sight seems to just be something of a u-turn. I can only be thankful that my eyes held out as long as they did). So, if Harry and Alan are in, I'm sorted.

Quirks: Movember

November is here and upper lips are about to get a touch more cosy. If you're jumping on the Movember bandwagon check out our lookbook...



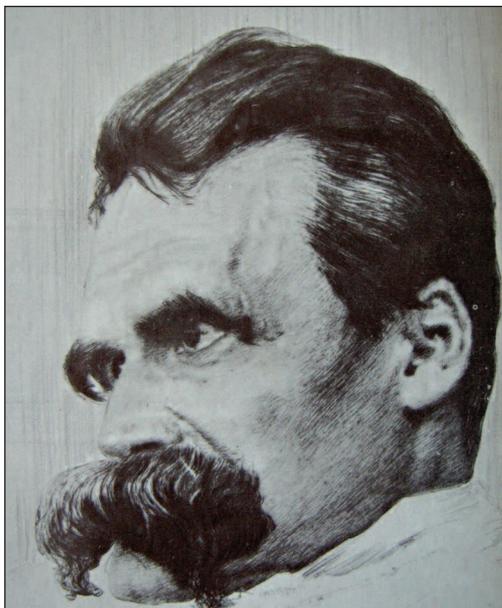
The Handlebar: Hulk Hogan



The Eccentric: Salvador Dali



The Fu Manchu:
Jimi Hendrix



The Bush: Nietzsche



The Imperial: Aaron Johnson

Thinking inside the box



Camilla Apcar

Marry *Watchdog* and *The Magician's Code* and the resulting television offspring is *The Real Hustle*. Five fake con artists inflict scams on unsuspecting members of the British public, only to give back any loot afterwards and get the victim's consent to broadcast their gullibility on BBC3. Then, they explain how it was done and tell a reprimanding moral tale about being on your guard for hustlers. Entertainment and justice. Bingo.

It's ideal for amateur con artists wanting to learn a new trick. In fact, it even convinced me that I could pull off a similar scam. A small flaw in my hustling career is that the closest I've come to organised crime is accidentally taking an extra ketchup sachet for my chips or leaving the library without having checked my book out. I'm more likely to be the mark than being the hustler. Strike one.

I have no qualms about extravagant disguises as last week I donned a neon pink wig as Nicki Minaj for a fancy dress party. I'd been very attentive to the details of the *Superbass* video (I was devastated as I couldn't find a pastel pink wig but I blame this on York's limited fancy dress outlets) and I was ready to crack out my rendition of Nicki's verse of *Monster*. This would, naturally, spark my rise to fame beyond that of Sophia Grace Brownlee.

To my dismay, no less than three people failed to recognise who I was dressed as. I gestured wildly to my hair, my bare midriff and leopard print tights - wasn't it obvious? Their excuse: "you're just not 'G' enough". Apparently I don't have enough 'swag'. A diva might be a female version of a hustler, but I'm no diva to begin with. Strike two.

The Real Hustle's presenter-actors are actually an ex-Playboy model, a stage magician and a former IT consultant who has undertaken life-long studies in sleight of hand. Plus,

in each episode they're joined by select celebrities to add an extra dose of BBC3 style exhilaration. Big names including Caprice, Gareth Gates and Brendan Cole (that limber fellow from *Strictly Come Dancing*) have all previously taken part in hustles, all more G-list than 'G'. Surely there might still be hope for me yet.

Although elaborate plans and costumes give me a great joy, creating a foot and mouth quarantine tent in order to run off with ten television sets is too convoluted an effort to take seriously. The hustlers didn't even snigger. I don't know if I inwardly possess that sort of stoicism. I cracked up at the advert for Cadbury's with the crazy eyebrowed kids every time. Strike three - I'm out.

Perhaps the other side of the law would suit me better since I've been told more than once that I would be an ideal candidate for MI5. People justify this conclusion because I'm small. I am admittedly a first class Sardines player, able to fit into covert hiding places. But even if I did miraculously get employed by MI5, the quick getaway concept would not suit me well.

Despite my passion for driving through roundabouts at 30mph, I'm not well rehearsed in racing starts. Some might say a bicycle would be the ideal alternative to auto-mobiles. But no, it turns out that you can forget how to ride one in the space of four years. Colliding into the wall of Costcutter helped prove this revelation.

On the bright side, I can walk at 5.4 miles per hour according to my friend's speedometer. Perhaps I should put that on my CV and apply for the MI5 grad scheme after all. If they want me to take up professional speedwalking, I'll definitely have to consider rescinding my application. Unfortunately I hear that you're not meant to tell anyone if you're applying, so as a graduate option...I've probably blown my chances already.



Treason by numbers

2003 When the House of Lords rejected a challenge to the Treason Felony Act. Apparently punishable treason includes sticking a stamp with the Queen's head upside down. Who said Britain wasn't keeping up with 'the times'?

3 The number of ingredients you can buy from your local gardening shop to make your own gunpowder. We won't tell you which cause we don't advocate that kinda thing...but we can let you know that there are sieves involved in the

gunpowder making process. Exciting.

17 years. The age of the chap who fired blank shots at Liz during the Trooping the Colour. He penned an apology to her during his five-year sentence...but she never replied. Dep Numbers always thought she liked to keep a very good public correspondence. What a let down.

1605 The year of Guy Fawkes' treason plot. He was from York, which is also the reason why York Council won't put on a display. Something about "disrespectin'", but we think they're just a bunch of grumpy old men. Hmph.



“Look at all my piercings. I started doing them all in January and now I’ve got 8. I’m off to get my tongue done after this.”

Gary, 17, sits sprawled on a chair opposite me, proudly showing off the new metallic additions to his ears. To an outsider, an ordinary teenager. Yet his swagger disguises a boy to whom life has not pulled any punches, and since the age of 16 he has been part of the faceless hundreds of homeless teenagers that haunt York’s streets and hostels.

“I first went onto the streets when I was 16 after family breakdown situations. I couldn’t live with my dad, so I ended up on the streets, an alcoholic, sleeping on market stalls” he says, matter of factly. “I spent four months from September last year, on my own, sleeping on the streets before I got into sheltered accommodation.”

His honesty is disarming, talking of his experiences without any sense of self-pity.

“I just dealt with it. I took each and every day as it came and tried my best. Some nights I would get about 2 hours sleep, depending on what I was doing. I was on my own but I was a full time student and I had a job at Budgens, I also had a job at Currybox on Mickelgate and I was saving my money on not paying for a bed at night-time. Sometimes I would work at Budgens till 11 at night and then I would just help out at the Kebab shops round York, help them close up about four o’clock, then get about two hours sleep on market stalls.”

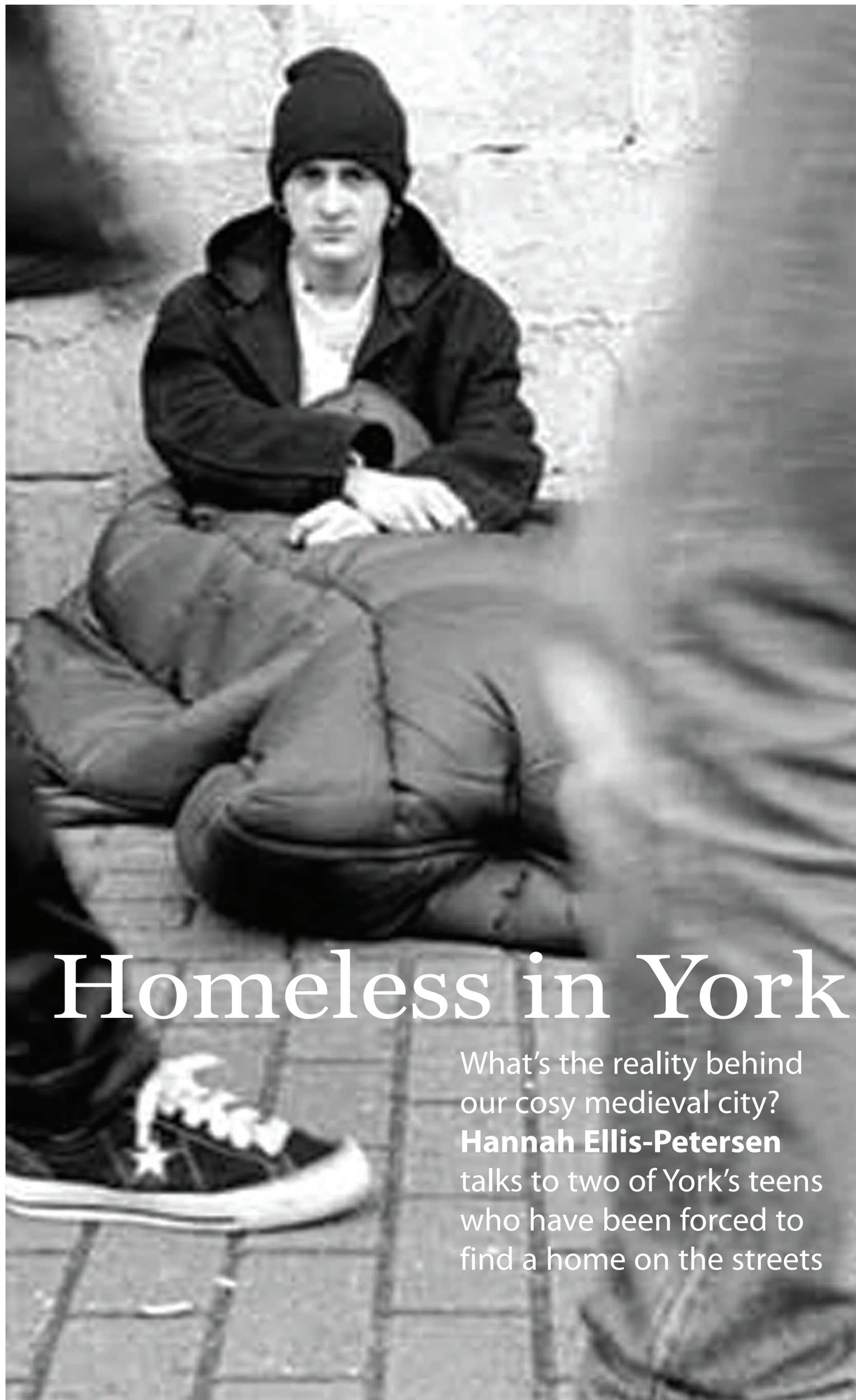
Drugs and alcohol are commonly misconceived as the main causes of teenage homelessness, yet most is in fact precipitated by family breakdown and disintegration; the young people who fall through the cracks of countless divorces every year. In 2007, statistics show that over 75,000 teenagers in the UK experienced homelessness; and it is a problem that lies closer to home than most of us realise.

Whilst the image of homeless youths lining the streets is somewhat incongruous with the postcard image of York, its pictureque streets hide a mounting social problem often invisible to the ignorant eye. Safe and Sound Homes (SASH), a charity who give shelter to homeless teenagers, reported this month an alarming 40 per cent rise in young people cast out on the streets looking for shelter through their services over the past year.

Clare Usher, a coordinator at the organisation, lamented that while they were expanding their services, the number of volunteers to take in the vulnerable teenagers and cope with the rising demand is far from adequate. “We do the best we can” she said “but without more people willing to volunteer their homes to shelter these teenagers, we have to turn young people away.”

I meet Hannah, 17, on the same day. Quiet and downcast, she looks more world-weary; she too has been on and off the streets for the past year, finding herself outcast from a fragmented family life.

“I was 17 when I was first chucked out” she says. “I had problems before because I tried to kill myself, and my parents didn’t understand so we would just argue. My brothers and sisters are older, so they have moved out and they have kids. I thought my parents liked my sister Cassie more than they liked me, because they always wanted to go out with Cassie but they would never go out with me. I’d always felt like Cassie was the favourite.”



Homeless in York

What’s the reality behind our cosy medieval city? **Hannah Ellis-Petersen** talks to two of York’s teens who have been forced to find a home on the streets



She laughs grimly “My parents were more interested in Ebay than me.”

Rather than permanently leaving home, Hannah has been disjointedly drifted on and off the streets, depriving her of any sense of stability. Whilst she still sees and talks to her parents, she describes her own vulnerability in the face of her family.

“When I left home the first time, and moved into sheltered housing, my parents were a bit shocked, they didn’t think I would actually do it. My mum was crying, which made me cry because my Dad wouldn’t look at me. Since then sometimes I decide to leave, and sometimes my Dad gets angry with me and tells me to pack up my stuff as they don’t want me in the house. I’ve been in and out for the last few months. Especially when my brother and sister are home I don’t feel like I am part of my home, I’m never included, they all just ignore me.”

Like Gary, she rationalises her situation almost to the point of cold fact, yet pervades more of a sadness, sitting hunched over her chair as we talk. Despite never having slept rough, she has spent many nights wondering the streets of York without anywhere to go, waiting for a friend or boyfriend who can take her in for the night.

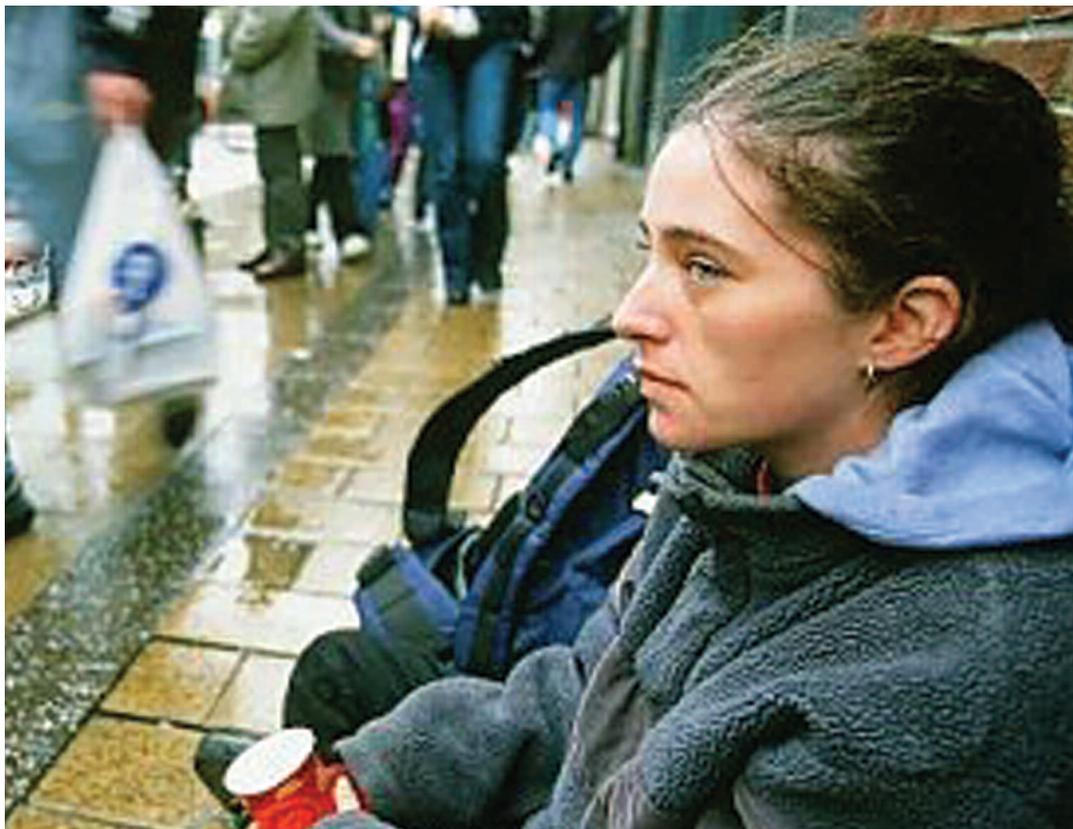
“It can be really hard” she concedes. “I’ve got depression at the same time and it gets on top of all me all the time. I broke down in front of my boyfriend yesterday when we were at the doctors. It’s very hard. It’s overwhelming, so I just don’t deal with it.”

As well as facing the daily difficulties of life without a stable home, the stigma of being homeless is one that both encounter on a daily basis. Hannah tells me, having always shied away from the spotlight, how difficult she finds being branded as ‘homeless’ by those around her.

“Most of my old friends don’t even bother with me. People think I just do it for attention, when actually I don’t want any attention” she says. “I’d like attention from my parents obviously but I don’t care what people think. I don’t do it on purpose.”

For Gary, the reaction has been even more pronounced. “When I was on the streets I did get my head kicked in by 16 lads, and that was my ex-girlfriend who set me up. I realised from then on you know who your friends are, because you know they aren’t your friends if they are going to get you put into hospital and things like that.”

“I do see some of my old friends now and again, but some of them won’t talk to me due to my circumstances and



“People think I just do it for attention, when actually I don’t want any attention from anyone other than my parents”

what I’ve been through, just judging me basically. But I live with it,” he added.

Gary describes how keeping yourself to yourself is the only way to cope on the streets, “helping myself as best as I could and try and get through it as best I could.”

He gives away little of the danger he put himself in as a 16 year old exposed and unprotected on the streets. As a relatively quiet town, a sense of safety on the streets is clearly much more pronounced in York compared to other cities where the demographic is very different. Whilst it is crude to describe Gary’s situation as lucky, homeless teenagers are some of the most vulnerable to social problems in these bigger cities, where the streets aren’t as safe after dark and more often than not a dangerous gang culture dominates.

Indeed, it is easy to forget I am

talking to a 17 year old. Brash and loud he may be, but he has a distinct astuteness that goes beyond his years, no doubt picked up from months spent sleeping on the cold York pavements. It is hard not to like this tough, piercing-clad boy, as he proudly describes his life’s ambitions.

“When I was first on the streets I did get kicked out of college because obviously I wasn’t settled,” he tells me.

“I’m back in College now doing a different college completely which is Painting and Decorating so fingers crossed I will one day own a big business of my own, help out, get around, and get well known for my work. That’s what I want.”

Hannah is less forthcoming. Asked about what she want for her future she initially looks a little bemused, just shaking her head. “Don’t know really, just see what happens I guess.” It is the answer of someone who

isn’t used to being asked about their future, or even thinking that far ahead. It is only later she tentatively tells me that she is saving up for “a camera, a really good one. When I’m older I would actually like to be a photographer.”

To be without a home at 16 is undoubtedly a harrowing existence, yet neither seems willing to acknowledge their vulnerability, defiant in the fact they can look after themselves.

“The whole experience of losing my home has made me so much more grown up. I learnt I couldn’t always rely on people, that I couldn’t rely on my parents,” says Hannah frankly. It is a sentiment echoed closely by Gary, who mulls over the impact his experience living on the streets has had on the way he views his life.

“I don’t think living on the streets has held me back, it has just made me more determined and prove people wrong who say to me, oh yeah you’re not going to get out of this” he says. “My dad knew I was sleeping on the streets and he did nothing to help me. You just learn to rely on yourself.”

He continues, bleakly “From being on the streets you just see most people keep themselves to themselves without keeping an eye on what is happening around them. They are all busy, getting to work, and they don’t stop to take notice of us on the streets, just carry on with what they have to do.”

They are indeed almost an invisible stratum of society, shunted to the unseen margins. For some it is a temporary situation, drifting in and out of a fraught and broken home, and for others the street is forced to become a permanent way of life.

It is a vicious circle for many, switching between the streets and temporary shelters, yet both Gary and Hannah are adamant to assure me it will not define them.

“I see things more clearly now, I know what people are like and how they are going to treat you” says Gary just as we part ways. “You really just need to get on with your own life and if someone wants to be there for you, then fine, prove it. With me I take seven steps forwards and then fall 10 steps back but I keep pushing myself forward to try and come back to the best I can be.”

Homeless they may be, but neither justifies the close minded stigma cast upon a street tramp. Simply they are fighting against a world that insistently shuts them out, and be it in a hostel or on the streets, they are ultimately just looking for a place of their own. **M**

Images are not of the individuals interviewed to protect anonymity.



Billy Bragg

The singer, songwriter and activist has been making music for over 30 years. Sam Briggs meets a man of resilience

“I’m great, you’re shit, do you like my socks?” As summations of pop music today go, few cut through the superficiality of the mainstream quite so effectively. But over nearly three decades, Billy Bragg has established himself as a folk troubadour for the everyman, an active bastion for left-wing politics and of the most highly renowned songwriters of his generation, consistently challenging of the failings of the establishment. Lauded and lambasted in varying measures, Bragg’s devotion to socialism and his punk rock ethos have remained constant through changing governments and political agendas. Despite his unfettered commitment to change since the release of his first album in 1983 in a period of Conservative austerity (ring any bells?), Bragg still has

plenty to be angry about.

His recent article, “Why Music needs to get Political Again”, written in the aftermath of the August riots, calls for music as a means for young people to “start spreading their anger in a positive way”, as Bragg puts it. “The problem we had was a real lack of communication. People may have just wanted to go out and nick stuff, but until we hear from that generation, we won’t know if there were any other reasons”.

Referring to the 1976 Notting Hill riots as another event which “seemed like society gone mad”, which Bragg sees as the “stirrings of what became our multicultural society”, his urgency to engage with the youth of society in order to establish what was stirring in August is understandable. “We need them to start talking to us”, Bragg

insists, “we need to hear from those under 24 years old who have the highest unemployment out of any group at the moment, the highest it’s been for 15 years, from the first generation to grow up worse off than their parents”.

For Bragg, music is the solution to this communication breakdown. “Music inspires people, legitimises people, gets them out in the crowd”, he says, his unwavering faith in the power of music as a medium for expression endearing. Although recognising the role of the internet in the providing of a platform for new musicians, and allowing anyone to engage in political activities like the global Occupy protests, the London incarnation of which the singer appeared at to show his support, Bragg criticises the passivity of some social media when compared to the

community of music:

“Music strengthens your own convictions. Rather than just sitting at home clicking a like on Facebook, you’re actually there with your neighbours, or the people you go to work or college with. It makes you realise you’re not the only person who gives a shit about this stuff”.

However, the musical climate for new politically minded artists is undoubtedly different today than in the 80’s. Fresh from the anger of the punk movement, engagement with music, and politics was more visceral for young music fans. Bragg acknowledges that “a young Billy Bragg wouldn’t come through in the same way now – so I’m not worried that there isn’t some little Herbert out chasing me around trying to replace me”. Indeed,

the singer's first radio play, on John's Peel's show, resulted from Bragg rushing to the BBC with a mushroom biryani in hand for the DJ, having heard he was hungry. His first successful contact with the record industry came after pretending to be a television repairman to gain access to the Charisma records offices.

To try and reignite this devotional punk spirit, Bragg will next month embark on a national tour of student towns, entitled *Leftfield In Motion*. Borne of the Glastonbury tent that the singer has curated in recent years, the tour will attempt to recreate the fusion of music and politics that the tent encourages on a national scale.

"We have to encourage people to engage in the process...and not be passive," says Bragg of his ambitions for the tour. "That's why we're going to dominantly university towns, speaking to the people who are most conducive to the message we have, to not give into cynicism, and do something about the situation – not just waiting for David Cameron to sort it out." His irony is evident, but his vigour makes his ambition all the more enticing.

It is part of Bragg's charm, and potentially the lasting power of his career, that for every revolutionary political polemic he pens, a love song is not far behind the barricades. Asking him about whether he has ever felt written off as a political musician, Bragg is clear – "all the time. I'm proud of my convictions, but people seem to think, oh I know all about Billy Bragg, I know what he's got to say, and that really annoys me. There's more to me than just the politics." However, "the producer of *Strictly Come Dancing* won't have me on", he jokes.

"Music becomes political when it speaks to power", says Bragg, when I ask him what defines political music as a genre. "It could be about government or capitalism, or about parents, teachers, or schools and bullying", he continues. "Although I don't believe all music should be political, I think there has to be room for music to be able to do that". His approach to songwriting encapsulates his political stance perfectly – the angry egalitarian.

The implied dichotomy between political music and popular music is one that could have clouded Bragg's career. However, asking him which of his personas he is more suited to – the romantic "Milkman of Human Kindness" or the political "Bard of Barking", he laughs. "I'm Mr. Love and Justice", he says, clearly unfazed, "that's what it says on the tattoo on the back".

He does agree that a tricky inherent link exists, however, in the problem that "people think music should just be entertaining, but politics can be entertaining." Referring to the public interest of popular political events, such as the News of the World scandal, Bragg recalls the first time he played "Never Buy the Sun", and the audience "cheered every verse. There was an opportunity there for people to articulate their anger and express their revulsion publically". Though, referring to the "dilution of mainstream politics to a group of centrist parties" since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union, the increasingly neutral opinion of Britain's youth seems normal to Bragg. "When you live in a political atmosphere where the boundaries are so narrow, you can understand why kids don't want to engage with it. It doesn't speak to them about their lives", he says.

Having grown up in Barking, as the son of a hat maker, Bragg has since

moved to Dorset with his family and "middle class missus who is always taking the mickey out of [him]" – admittedly a "completely different life from the one [he] was brought up to." However, Bragg describes the 25 years of his life spent there as his "formative years", that "the values of that experience are still the values that shape my view of the world".

Although disagreeing with a specific association between genre and class, short of a mild jibe at the excess of "floppy haired boys with guitars", the nature of Bragg's working class upbringing has clearly "shaped [his] world views", as he puts it. "If I was born in France, lived there for 25 years, moved to England, had an English wife, English kids, spoke English, it wouldn't make me English. I'd still be French. In some ways your class remains, whether you manage to suppress it or not. You have a choice whether you want to be true to it or not". However, his approach to music remains unprejudiced, as he adds that "I think music at its best transcends class, race, gender, your surroundings. I'd keep class out of it if I could".

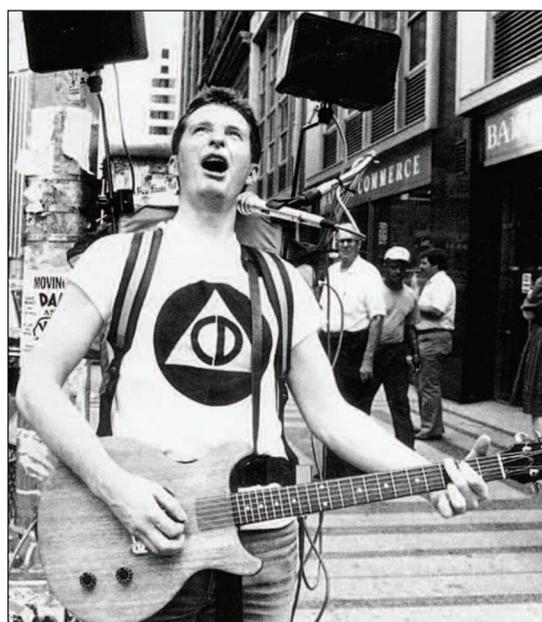
This discussion sparks a debate that has driven much of Bragg's activity in the last decade. Notably with the release of his 2006 *The Progressive Patriot*, Bragg has strongly advocated his belief in a multi-cultural Britain, and his recent "Battle for Barking" campaign represents a peak of his attempts to combat any fascist party attempting to appropriate an English national identity for their own gain. As he puts it, "anyone who tries to wrap themselves in the flag is dangerous. The flag belongs to everybody, or nobody, and I for one refuse to stand idle while people try to intimidate others with my flag". Bragg's belief in the "vibrancy" of an English national identity stems from the elusive, ever-changing nature of its definition.

"It's a hard thing to define, it's not just a list. Top of mine would be Marmite, which excludes half the population immediately – which obviously isn't right. If it's anything, it's where you are rather than where your grandparents are from. Englishness has to be about place, rather than race. I think it's more England-ness than Englishness", Bragg cogently argues.

However, his opinions on the future of progressive politics lay north of the border. Clearly invigorated by the success of Scottish liberalism, Bragg calls for an "independent Scotland" and a "progressive form of civic nationalism" as the only way to "beat the Tories".

When asked about his opinion on the biggest failing of the coalition government, the socialist in the singer rears, referring to a "broken world system,...that needs to be reset so it's not based on the globalisation agenda, where capital has no borders or loyalties, so we can change it into a more sustainable economy". And the Liberal Democrats, who Bragg tactically supported in the last election? "I'm as pissed off as everyone else, trust me."

Throughout, Bragg is as convincing as he is charged, and whether his punk spirit provides a practical solution is yet to be seen. But we need people like Bragg – a talented songwriter and musician, committed to making the world a more equal place through communication. His music and activism provides a voice for the everyman, touching people's minds and hearts. But the last word on who Bragg is should fall to him, in the way he traditionally ends his live shows. "I'm Billy Bragg, I'm from Barking, Essex". **M**



"In some ways your class remains, whether you manage to suppress it or not. You have a choice whether you want to be true to it or not"



The Oppression U-turn

The rise of the African National Congress is marginalising white rights. Is the future of South Africa looking like the past? **Tom Witherow** investigates

The African National Congress (ANC) has been thrown into turmoil by the controversial youth leader Julius Malema. But could this have some troubling consequences for the rest of South Africa as a whole?

The history of the ANC up until the events of 1994 which put them in power is well-publicised. Mandela's autobiography *The Long Road to Freedom*, written while in prison on Robben Island, has seen to that. However, what has happened after Mandela's sweep into power has gone largely unnoticed. The euphoria accompanying his success has died, as ANC led governments fail to deal with South Africa's problems. Fifteen years of power has seen both inequality and the rate of HIV infection increase.

This has left South Africa in a tenuous position. The extreme factions on both sides of the racial divide are sensing an opportunity. Zuma's continuation of the moderate 'conciliation at all costs' is beginning to look weak. The man who looks set to exploit this is Julius Malema. He joined the ANC at the age of just nine, taking part in an illegal campaign to remove National Party posters, before rising to the position of chairman of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) in his home province, Limpopo, at the age of seventeen.

However, it wasn't until 2009 that he was elected president of the ANC Youth League. Malema later admitted that the elections were characterised by "unbecoming conduct"; his time at COSAS too had been associated with dishonesty and incessant power grabbing. Since becoming leader of ANCYL Malema has been a controversial figure. He has had to be disciplined by his organisation's mother party on two occasions. April 2010 saw him suffer a mere 10,000 Rand fine (£780) and a slap on the wrist. Kali Simba, an ANC member was outraged: "a fine is not a three weeks of political re-education. He has brought the party into disrepute". Now he is back in front of the disciplinary committee. However this time, if found guilty of sowing divisions in the party, he could be suspended or expelled.

Zuma was once Malema's mentor. "We are prepared to take up arms and kill for Zuma," he told reporters in 2009. Times change and now Malema commands the faction containing Zuma's strongest critics. All the familiar battlegrounds are being brought out, and not without good reason. According to the World Health Organisation HIV now affects 11.8 per cent of the general South African population, and almost 30 per cent of pregnant women. Zuma can by no means be

exonerated of blame, alongside his infamous polygamy, he has also been slated for saying that showering after intercourse prevents AIDS. This coupled with endless papers discussing, for example, how a virus can become a syndrome has subverted minds away from the issue at hand – that of contraception and increased testing.

So he represents a new generation entering the political arena. But the political currency Malema has gained through criticism of Zuma's more centrist policies is a concern. He even visited Mugabe's Zanu PF. To the delight of the Black Nationalists he has advocated the expropriation of white-owned land without compensation. And here we see why this latest disciplinary meeting is so important: Malema's expulsion could lead to South Africa's disaffected black youth crowding the streets in violent protest. His acquittal would leave him in the running to fulfil Zuma's prediction that he will be South Africa's future leader rather sooner than he had hoped.

This could drive South Africa back into the dark ages of Apartheid, but this time with blacks at the tiller. Malema has all the rhetoric of an Africanist leader. He talks of Libya as proof of Neo-Imperialism and only last month he was found guilty of hate speech after singing *Dubula I'bhun*

(Shoot the Boer) at a rally. He seeks to polarise society, opinion has certainly parted in the aftermath of this stunt. Alexander Joe writes in his blog: "It makes it easier to encourage the destruction of people if you can portray them as not really human. I wonder how many whites have been killed to the echoes of that song." Malema was found guilty, by an Afrikaner judge, of hate-crime; "this is a revelation that minorities continue to control our lives in every way," wrote Sakant Chandan on his blog 'The Sons of Malcolm X'; "even the songs we should sing." These sort of fears on both sides of the racial divide, rational or not, are bringing the bitter issue of race to the foreground of South African politics.

The politics of race and nationalism have been brewing for some time. The elation of the black majority on being able to vote their first black president in brought a real sense of hope that life.

Education opportunities for blacks remain poor, especially in cities where poorer blacks are yet to move back from the Apartheid township communities. Policies designed to restore economic balance have merely served to enrage whites. University entry is a particular sticking point – for example, Cape Town University requires exam results of 90 per cent



“Whites feel just as disadvantaged as blacks of a similar income, they are discriminated against in education and the workplace.”

from White applicants, but only 60 per cent from blacks. It takes strong convictions to back this level of positive discrimination.

The recession has hit the poor hardest in South Africa and it has hit the young disproportionately. According to a Treasury discussion paper youth unemployment (under thirty years old) is at 42 per cent, these are the core of Malema's support. Although alive at the time of Mandela's inauguration, they did not see the struggle – they feel little loyalty to the generation of political prisoners that now constitutes the ANC's senior leadership. And why should they? Corruption and patronage are still rife – this month saw the announcement that 30bn Rand (£2.4bn) goes 'missing' from the South budget every year. This figure represents up to 20 per cent of the national budget. And this indeed speaks nothing of Mbeki's placement of ANC supporters in key positions; this kind of sleaze is unlikely to go unchallenged for long.

And this is one of Malema's trump cards. "He calls a spade a spade, no beating around the bush. He says what he thinks," says Kris Reddy, a construction worker from Johannesburg. "Malema's attack on Pandor [Minister for education] was completely justified. He doesn't deserve to be on a fat

salary while millions starve." It doesn't seem to matter that Malema has been embroiled in allegations of misconduct, frustration at the black political class makes him a popular alternative. But his lack of education and his calculated controversy means that opposition is just as vehement. "He's just embarrassing," a check-in assistant told me as I passed through Cape Town airport, "he's rude and has no respect for the senior members of his party."

If nothing else, Malema certainly divides opinion. However, the rise of the black right is only one side of the story. Policy which discriminates in favour of historically disadvantaged blacks is drawing criticism from poor whites. They feel just as disadvantaged as blacks of a similar income, and yet they are discriminated against in education and the workplace.

The white minority stood shoulder to shoulder with the ANC in the 1990s, but this support was not rewarded as Mandela's wish for power to be shared with the National Party was trampled down by the consolidation of a black political elite (particularly true under the rule of Mbeki). This feeling of betrayal has played into the hands of hard-right political parties, which have existed under the separatist umbrella organization Afrikaner Volksfront (Afrikaner People's Front). One of these

parties, the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), like the black right, is appealing to 18-30 year olds. Facebook has become their main recruitment tool.

Rallies in the northern provinces are increasingly common. Reporters were present at a farmers rally in Ventersdorp, North West Province. One protester spoke to the BBC: "The blacks want everything. They've already got the country, what more do they want?" Comments such as this may seem extreme but with ANCYL gaining influence perhaps their fears are justified. "They don't care about us – about the white guys – and that makes me very angry," he complained. 'Race hate lives on' cried the BBC headline.

Emily, an international student here at York, lives in Pretoria. "Affirmative Action means my brother and sister can't find jobs in South Africa," she told me, "the policy has gone on long enough, blacks have been pushed into jobs for twenty years. It hasn't solved the problem and it creates resentment." When I suggested that impoverished blacks ought to be prioritised she said "yes, the level of poverty is not ideal. But what doesn't always make the news are the white squatters camps on the south coast. Zuma visited and promised to set up a charity for

them but this is side-stepping the issue." There is certainly a suggestion that black poverty is self-inflicted; a stereotype endures.

The major issue in much of African politics is that, unlike in England, voters do not think of themselves as part of a mobile economic group. South Africa is a little different as the Boers and the 'Coloureds' are significant minorities alongside the black majority. Even without settler 'tribes' there are still discrepancies between blacks: for example, the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party (Zulu). The lack of tribal parties is easily traced to the anti-Apartheid movement – tribal differences couldn't be allowed to get in the way of fighting a common (foreign) enemy. But what this means is that whoever commands the largest race wins the election, hence why parties look to merge with the ANC.

There is also the age-old African problem of the 'feeding trough'. Throughout Africa, parties who gain power believe that their victory constitutes the go-ahead to raid Treasury accounts. Without strong leadership, extreme factions (currently most credible being the Black Nationalists) are only going to gain more influence. With Socialists and Nationalists under his roof, Zuma needs to tread on some toes to break the deadlock. **M**

Above: ANC supporters at Siyangoba rally in Nasrec.
Left: Campaigners in Zuma T-shirts.

The Great Escape

Meet Roslyn Walker, the UK's leading Escapologist. He gets out of stuff for a living.
Sophie Walker finds out why

It's not your average day job. "I love it when I go to the bank, and they ask if you've got five minutes to talk about insurance. Then they ask what you do, and the realisation that they can't offer you life insurance is hilarious."

Well, to be fair, it's no surprise. Roslyn Walker is an escapologist, which means that he escapes from handcuffs and straitjackets to crowds all over the country with his Vaudeville sideshow. He is not a magician, or an illusionist. He really does, genuinely, escape. But sometimes it doesn't work. He laughs sheepishly, "yeah, I've almost drowned in an underwater straitjacket escape, and that wasn't great. The canvas jacket got way too heavy in the water, I had weights round my ankles, and I just sunk. I also almost suffocated in a stunt with a plastic bag taped to my head, but luckily someone popped a hole in the bag." You can see the difficulty Lloyds TSB face.

It all started with the circus. But a 21st century circus is not a bunch of deformed creatures and freakish acts, it's now a rather cool, creative gypsy way of life.

"I joined a circus school in Bristol in my teens, having taught myself how to juggle and do card tricks. We learned trapeze, unicycling, handstands and all that rubbish and it just went from there really. I liked magic but I didn't like the fake-ness of it and the idea of the audience not knowing what I was doing."

"When I left circus school I didn't want to be a juggler and I didn't want to be a magician so I hit the streets for a bit as a street performer to figure out what I wanted to do." Roslyn in fact has a degree in journalism but he's never really had a proper job, other than a glorified, slimy stint as a burger flipper at Burger King when he was 14.

"I went to Berlin where I was living out of a suitcase, so I couldn't really take a unicycle round with me. I needed a finale and I needed one that fits in a suitcase so I bought a straitjacket. With no practice, I just took it out onto the street, got strapped in and just had to work out how to get out of it! It was really just a case of needing to pay my rent and feed myself."

Most people, I point out, would be mildly horrified at the prospect. But Roslyn says he wasn't scared, "when you've been sleeping in a doorway for two days you think 'I need to sort this out'. It was out of necessity and it worked." We both have a giggle when we realise, that quite literally, Roslyn



was escaping the everyday problems of reality. How ironic.

"Then I had to make it entertaining. Essentially, it's just a really boring strip show, you just see a guy get put in something, and then you see the same guy take it off. On the street, people leave the house to buy bread, not to watch someone get out of a straitjacket. They just walk off if you're rubbish, so you get good quick."

It may not be a monotonous 9-5, but performing on the streets for your livelihood must be a tough thing to do. "Actually, because I started out with the circus, which is full of people for whom that way of life is perfectly normal, I knew it was possible. The difficult thing was finding my show. It sounds all arty, but it's got to be from the heart, from inside. Only Derren Brown can predict the lottery because that's his thing."

Roslyn's show is very different from other artists on the scene. He has created a Vaudeville phenomenon of the 'Original Gentleman Escape Artist' with Victorian theatrics. He says he wanted it to be "clean juggling rather than razmattaz, where he looked like a kind of clown. I've only recently met other escapologists but seeing their shows using shock on the more alternative club scene, made me realise I didn't want to be associated with the bondage side of restraints."

I can't help but agree. To be honest, most people think of escapology as macabre or kinky. But Roslyn's act is different; it's clean and family friendly. This all sounds a bit weird. Who is he trying to kid- chains and handcuffs? That's nothing but kinky shit.

"That's what I wanted to avoid. I actually do an educational show for primary school children, which teaches about forces, Newton and Galileo. I do a straitjacket escape for six year olds. I explain Newton's three laws of motion using a straitjacket, and when I whip it out, the teachers' faces are horrified, but the kids absolutely love it- they literally love it. My show doesn't come across as anything that a family audience wouldn't want to see."

Even if this is clean bondage, I begin to wonder how clean bondage can be, until Roslyn makes a sharp and rather sad point. "Shows for four-year-old children are wacky and colourful, but you can't show that to a 10 year-old, they're just not interested. Kids these days have grown up with Facebook and YouTube, and they have access to everything. They are much more intelligent than adults give them credit for and they need intelligent entertainment."

"Everyone wants to be amazed, it's a very basic thing inside everybody, that the same kind of stuff amazes us, whether you're five or 105 years old, seeing someone doing something usual or not normal. As long as it's not gory, or over the top, there's no reason why it can't appeal." He chuckles, at the bizarreness of what he's about to say, "it's like extreme family entertainment."

Now I'm actually starting to pity this nice guy. "I was just fed up with when I say I'm an escapologist, people would make reference to bedroom stuff, but on stage and off stage that just isn't me. It's not crass. I'm also very open about what I do."

Unlike the famous Godfather of Escapology, Harry Houdini, escape artist during the 20's and 30's, who used to perform his escapes concealed in a cabinet or behind a curtain, Roslyn prefers transparency. "The interesting but is how you get out, no one wants to watch a curtain for three minutes." In



Roslyn performing a straitjacket escape for Fanfarlo's music video

"It's essentially just a really boring strip show"

fact his transparency has earned him two World Records. In 2010 in Llandudno, he achieved the most handcuff escapes in a minute and in an hour. The Mirror Cuff Challenge, consisted of an exact replica being made of the cuffs used in Houdini's famous Mirror Cuff Challenge in 1923. Usually Roslyn studies his restraints before, but he wasn't allowed to see these ones, "Not many escapologists accept the challenges, except Houdini, but I wanted to show that it's real." People generally don't seem to be so sceptical, even though they can get on stage and inspect the restraints.

"People know they're not being tricked, they just want to see if you can do it. I'm not a magician, they watch me for the same reasons they watch someone on a trapeze, pushing what's physically possible. Also, I'm not scared of failure. I'm quite happy to accept the fact that I won't get out, and sometimes I won't. We're just here to have a good time." I start to wonder why on earth you'd want to do another stunt, if you've nearly died on the last, but he explains, almost obviously, that it's the adrenalin. The search for the next big kick takes control, like it would for a racing driver who drives even faster after a crash.

"There are two types of escapology", he explains, "One is for an audience, for them to have a good time, that's my job. The other side is the stuff just for me. My brother is a scuba diver, and if we both have a day off, he has access to quarries, so we find some stuff to put me in and throw me in and see what happens."

"I don't want to know how other artists do their stuff because it wouldn't be amazing any more. The method is actually quite ugly. If I do reveal a method, the method has to be as beautiful as the trick. A card getting lost in a deck, then a wave of the hand to find it is rather a beautiful concept. You have to present it in a routine which is captivating. A non-performance analogy could be a building the process of building isn't beautiful, it's dirty, noisy and sweaty. But the finished product is beautiful."

"Whether it's on a conscious or a subconscious level, it's seeing someone in trouble, and I resemble everything that traps them. Whether you're a kid at school with an exam, or trying the pay your rent, everyone is physically or metaphorically trapped. Watching my show where I literally free myself shows that no matter how desperate your situation appears on the surface, if you work at it, you will be able to free yourself."

Indeed, being trapped is a fundamental part of the human struggle, there is a huge sense of liberation and relief in the resolve. There is that sinister curiosity we all have inside us which escapology seems to satiate. Houdini once said 'people don't want to see a guy get killed, but they want to be there when it happens', which, says Roslyn, "is sort of spot on."

It seems the likelihood of Roslyn following in his dad's footsteps is slim. He now has set his sights on Vegas, the Mecca of variety performance. "I'm in the process of writing a new school show for children, and there's a show coming out on MTV in January where I train kids to walk over broken glass", he says of the future. But actually, what he really wants are bigger stunts, like setting myself on fire, hanging from a crane over a river. Can't say that's exactly what's on my Wish List, but as I can now fully appreciate, what makes us all tick, ain't necessarily the same. **M**

Let the dark in

Go to the dark side this Winter and try out every daring trend in the book. Black lipstick, stripper shoes and PVC are the future

PHOTOGRAPHER: LUCY DIXON - STYLIST AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR: PARIS BENNETT - STYLE ASSISTANTS: RACHEL MCIVER, DIANA BOCH, AND KAROLINA LAIGONAITTE - MODELS: WILL WESTERMAN, CATHAL BROPHY, NICOLA BANKS, RACHEL COLE, AND LYDIA MILLER - MAKE UP: PHOEBE RILOT AND EMILY WOODS

Nicola wears:
Trousers,
Topshop, £30;
Top, charity
shop, £6; Coat,
New Look, £35



Lydia wears:
Dress, Primark, £12; Jacket, Topshop, £35; Necklace, Miss Selfridge, £10; Eyelashes, Poundland, £1



Lydia wears:
Dress, Primark, £12; Jacket, Topshop, £35; Necklace, Miss Selfridge, £10; Eyelashes, Poundland, £1

Fashion.

One To Watch

Rising star in the design world, Trine Lindegaard, caught up with **Paris Bennett** to discuss Butterfly collections, 90-year-old men and womenswear.

The Royal College of Art's MA graduate show has a real buzz about it, unlike any other graduate fashion show. This is due to the clothing being rather avant garde and conceptual, with the connection of art in fashion really shining through to produce walking masterpieces with more depth than a trend silhouette.

In 2010, first out for the show was a very colourful menswear display from Danish born designer Trine Lindegaard. Since then this 'One to Watch' has continued on her path of success, showing her first vibrant collection at London Fashion Week, selling her garments on ASOS marketplace and now a new T-shirt range at the Tate Modern.

Trine's latest juicy collection is eccentric, scrumptious and although being for spring/summer '12, has a great range of lime, navy and burnt maroon that fits autumn with perfect ease. Her clothes are somewhat playful and made from a plentiful mix of fabrics including corduroy and waxed cotton. The look is a cross breed of geek chic chewed up with jelly babies, producing some cartoon-like garments including shirts, polo necks, baggy pants and boxed shouldered overcoats. The clothes include fabric enhancements such as applied crosses, ribbon stripes and floppy layered fringing.

Her fearless colour combinations and experiments certainly pay off, and she has already a trademark look firmly established. All potential rough edges of a fresh faced designer have been smoothed out with the carefully considered shoes choice and neat bowl haircuts.

I have read that throughout your childhood you were surrounded by weird and wonderful eccentrics and collectors. How has your childhood reflected in your design style?

I was quiet and very shy as a child, and really loved listening to people. When my parents were having dinner parties I



would much rather sit at the table listening to all the parents rather than playing with the other kids. There would always be plenty of characters around the table, and it is these kind of people that still inspire me today.

What was the most inspirational or prominent item you saw being collected in Denmark when you were a child?

Butterflies. My upstairs neighbours had them hanging in frames on the wall everywhere. And my dad collected dead insects for a while. He has always been extremely interested in biology. He would just stick pins through flies and spiders and leave them on the notice board. He would also collect flowers whenever we went on holiday, and he would then dry

them in the phone books when we got home. He is really disorganised though, so I don't think he ever got around to take them out. I would imagine they are still laying in there today.

Coming from Denmark, how has London and England effected you as a designer? Do you like the London look?

Being in London has pushed my designs further and made them bolder. London is huge compared to Denmark and there are so many diverse people here. Today I met this 90-year-old man in a fabric shop who has taken up sewing.

I love the London look, but must say living in Hackney it does become a bit boring that everyone tries really hard to look different but ends up looking really similar

in the end.

What has been your career highlight so far? Launching your brand?

Having my first proper show this season as part as Vauxhall Fashion Scout's Ones To Watch was a fantastic experience. Also I have got a range of T-shirts that has gone on sale at the Tate Modern this week. I am really excited about selling there as it will allow me reach a much wider audience.

Describe the Trine Lindegaard look in five words.

Bright, bold, playful, eccentric and colourful.

Did you always know you wanted to specialise in menswear rather than womens?

I have known for a while now. I started out (like most others) doing womenswear, but I mainly designed clothes that I would like to wear myself, by swapping to menswear I took the focus away from me and was forced to look at it in a different perspective. I find it a lot more challenging as well. Saying that, I would love to be doing unisex in the future.

What advantages and disadvantages are there to designing menswear?

For me it is really important to keep my clothes wearable. So I am always aware of functionality when I design but I try not to be boring. I guess it is always about keeping the balance. And I think that is why I enjoy menswear so much, it is somehow more challenging than womenswear.

What kind of a man do you want to appeal to?

I am trying to be realistic here. I would like to think I design for fairly normal man, with an interest in what he wears and who doesn't take himself too seriously. Also my clothes fit in well in the Asian market, as they are generally more open to what they wear.

What celebrity would you love to dress?

Jay-Z or Woody Allen.

Mens Corner. Wild boys

Callum Woodall
FASHION WRITER

Boys, adolescents, men - all love clothes associated with animals. There is an obsession in brands to link men's clothing with the wildlife. The trend starts young; boys clothing is full of dinosaurs and monkeys, as seen in household favourites such as Next. And it does not stop there, menswear on our high street and down the catwalk is just as influenced. Every man will be able to mention a few garments they own with the print of say a reindeer on a Christmas jumper or even that classic Topman abstract animal sweatshirt. You cannot escape.

What is it that makes men love the cute, the scary and the something bizarre silhouette of an animal? Recently fashion designer Adam Kimmel showed his latest collection on magician David Blaine. His concept of 'dressing for dinner' takes animals in men's fashion to a whole new extreme. It sees the pair go out to sea, just off of Guadalupe, in

which Blaine jumps into shark infested waters, holding his breath and lowering his heart rate, floating amongst Great Whites dressed in a tuxedo and a Cuban outfit in this epic marketing stunt.

Innovation is at the heart of fashion and this differing take on the idea of a catwalk actively entices male attention. In doing this, Kimmel is widening his male audience, appealing not only to the fashion orientated modern man, but the gender at large by switching away from the likes of a pretty Chanel catwalk.

But would this have stunt have worked if it were aimed at women? Probably not. The stereotype of men preferring the outdoors, and getting their hands dirty as opposed to women seems to be true here. If an advert like this was to work for the female audience you can forget sharks, the preference would go to house kept pets like cuddly puppies or a micro pig, which are so human-

ised they risk losing an 'animal' classification. Therefore, it does seem to be the danger that is alluring. Has the concept of animals being wild and free to roam strike a chord with the masculine?

It is not just the design of male clothes or in these stunts you see animals, look at the logos of Lacoste (crocodile), Lyle and Scott (eagle), or Abercrombie and Fitch (moose). Some of the strongest competitors within menswear have animals at the core of their designs.

Seemingly, animals do appeal to the modern man. They stand for freedom, a universal value that is enticing, and untamed, a feeling that men thrive under in an attempt to constantly find new challenges and test themselves. It is this which men find so attractive. In the future expect more animal prints, logos and stunts like Kimmel and Blaine's, as it is a successful tool for attracting the male gaze.





Not as good as the real thing

Paris Bennett
FASHION EDITOR

We all love a good biopic that sheds new light and over dramatises the goings on of a celebrity's life. These celebrity tell-tale movies are often about some of the most stylish people to ever walk to Earth. Think back at all the old Hollywood legends and there will most probably be some sort of re-enactment, using some present day rising actor or actress to portray a star of the glittery past. But I feel the phrase 'They don't make them like they used to' really fits the issue with whether or not a modern actor can do justice in pretending to be an icon of yesteryear. How can we 'fake' a Jackie Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe or James Dean? Their clothes may be highly accurate copies, but what bothers me is the credibility of the new age 'star' that tries to pretend they could pass off as the original they dress up to be.



The most recent biographical movie to be announced will be on Princess Grace, aka Grace Kelly. It is said to be described by insiders as similar to *The King's Speech* "in scope and tone. But who shall place one of our most loved Princesses and actresses of the past century? The potential candidates include Carey Mulligan, Blake Lively, January Jones and Elizabeth Olsen. Wow. It just seems in such bad taste to even speculate using these fairly nothing women to embody one of the most beautiful women of all time. It seems so insulting.

It really brings it into a harsh light when you are confronted with the prospect of having to view 'Gossip Girl's' Blake Lively, who although is very pretty, faking it as her Serene Highness, The Princess of Monaco. As you compare in your mind Miss Lively to Princess Grace, style appears to be really be skin deep. The 'X Factor' as we know it in modern terms is not something you can buy in a bottle or dress yourself up in.

But this is not always the case. There have been many ideal, or just equal leveled biopic choices that fit snugly into the shoes of yesterday's stars. For example Gucci ambassador and Oscar nominee James Franco channels his inner James Dean nicely for the 2001 film. Another, just about passable, style icon of past meets present is Sienna Miller as Warhol's beloved factory girl, Edie Sedgwick. These choices seem pretty evenly weighed. But both Dean and Sedgwick had a short life, in which they sparkled brightly, but left a short legacy. This could be perhaps why Franco and Miller only just pass off as a worthy modern day mimic.

With mighty style icons such as Marilyn Monroe now being brought back to life on the screen by the undeserving talents of Michelle Williams, you do not need to visually compare the two, a mere glance at a filmography says it all. The first image that springs to mind is Jen from *Dawson's Creek* compared to Sugar Kane in *Some Like it Hot*. The weighing scales when measured in style, talent and 'X Factor' topple with loud crash to Monroe's side.

This winter's Must Have Items

THE ROLLNECK



As the days grow shorter and the cold sets in, it seems crucial to find clothes more amenable to these increasingly hostile climates. So let's consider the much reviled turtleneck. An item of clothing mostly associated with a disagreeable overhang from 70's ski "fashion". But this piece of bonafide mountain gear is enjoying something of a

resurgence on the runways this season, being showcased by the likes of Calvin Klein and Roberto Cavalli. Wear under tailoring or tweed for mock sophistication, big and baggy for new grunge, such as this McQueen knit for £522, or with high waisted trousers and trench coats for a stab at MOD revival. *Will Westerman*

THE BOOTS

This year all things sparkly are in, and this pair of disco ball Chelsea boots might just be the most versatile thing in your wardrobe. Try out these beauties from Tophshop for £80. Whilst Dorothy may have gone for cherry red, the deep navy blue brings a level of sophistication that counterpoints the glitter nicely, making it more of a sexy shimmer. Wear them with absolutely anything - though

they may not take you back to Kansas, with three clicks of your heels they'll take you effortlessly from day to night. Wear them out completely during the next six months, and then you have the perfect pair of festival boots for the summer! *India Block*



AZTEC PRINT

Influenced by the ancient artistry of 16th century Mexico, Aztec-print clothing is a great way to add a little vibrancy to your winter wardrobe. Though first resurging in Matthew Williamson's 2009 collection, the look's versatility truly became apparent in the astonishing spring/summer collections of Missoni and L.A.M.B. Both shows, alive with eccentric and vastly ranging colours, demonstrated the print's unexplored scope. Since the wrongful, mainstream slating of Zoe Kravitz in February 2011 (who sported a brightly-coloured winter jacket incorporating the print), celebs such as Gwen Stefani and Rihanna have donned garments with indubitable elegance. Now available to high-street shoppers at affordable prices, the print has made its mark upon this season's H&M, River Island and ASOS collections. Excitingly, the print is not limited by gender; trendy bags, T's and hats are available to guys whilst girls have free-range on leggings, bodycon dresses, skirts and shirts. *Jonjo Lowe*

Trending. Cross Dressing

Designer. J.W.Anderson

Disciple. Julie Andrews

DIY. Butch up

In the words of J. W. Anderson, "Things that can be borrowed from a man to a woman and from a woman to a man." This philosophy was embodied in the designer's A/W '11 menswear collection as men strode out in skirts and heavily sequined knits. The interchangeable nature of both Anderson's men's and women's collections means inspiration can be drawn from both by either gender to create a genuinely androgynous look. To counter the skirts and sequins, men were sent out in DMs and tailcoats - perfect accessories for the androgynous woman, along with a hell of a lot of swagger... *Jessica Holland*



Carefully slicked hair, a kooky tie complete with tie pin and a distinctly masculine knitted tank... This could only ever be the extraordinarily talented Julie Andrews performing in *Victor and Victoria*, transgressing all fashion boundaries and showing women that dressing in clothes inherent to the male species can look fantastic. Note the turned back cuffs of her formal shirt and the hands-on-hips stance. It's plain to see that this lady means business and extreme male style gives her maximum confidence. What are you waiting for then ladies? Embrace all that is male, à la Julie Andrews and let the power dressing begin. *Louisa Harr*



For a crowning feature, go for a Brixton Bison Trilby for £55 available from ASOS. What better way to get to grips with your inner gentleman than to invest in a classic trilby. Keep your hair tied back though. Try this Pins & Needles Faux Leather Collar Coat for £120 from Urban Outfitters. This double-breasted coat is the ultimate statement piece if channelling extreme masculine style. The faux-leather collar keeps the look edgy. Team these bowling shoes for £35 from vintage store Rokit, and slim corduroy or tweed chinos for a fuss free solution. For added pizzazz slide in your own coloured laces or wear patterned socks for eccentric chic. Anything goes - this isn't a restricted trend.

Arts.

Heading North

The contemporary art scene is moving away from the capital.
Martin Waugh investigates



The Turner Prize has travelled north. The BALTIC gallery, Gateshead is the first non-Tate venue to host the prestigious contemporary art award; 2011 marks only the second time that the prize has been held outside London since its creation in 1984.

Such occasions may become more frequent, as suggestions have been made to host the prize outside London every other year. This move away from the capital is unprecedented and it brings about the ques-

“The lack of a previous major art scene now plays to its advantage: there are no creative boundaries”

tion: what has changed in the British art scene to trigger this change of venue?

For some, it is a comment on how the focus on London as the UK's cultural capital has reduced. Godfrey Worsdale, Director at BALTIC, argues that “the Turner Prize is a national prize” - hence, “there's every reason why it ought to move around the country”. Similarly, James Beighton of MIMA recognises London as a “very important capital for the art world” but agrees that culture should be more widespread: “there is a greater spread and a greater understanding that it

doesn't have to be focused in London”.

Speaking on the merits of the Turner Prize in the north east, Godfrey Worsdale explains that “the whole region is becoming enlivened” by art. And the merits are not solely cultural. Matthew Cain, Channel 4 Culture Editor, has begun to talk of the region seeing “enormous economic benefits in arts-led regeneration”. That is something often overlooked: the ability of art to attract attention to an area. So far there have been over 30,000 visitors to the exhibition in

Gateshead, and for a region in a poor economic state, the extra custom is much welcomed.

According to Matthew Cain, the Turner Prize can also benefit from being hosted by BALTIC. “Tate Britain brings with it a weight of tradition which could be suffocating for several artists... a move up north might re-invigorate the award”. Northern England is relatively unexplored in terms of artistic influence.

Unlike London where it may be argued that due to the intense focus of art there,

original influence has been exhausted. And as Cain argues, there is the restrictive barrier of tradition in between London artists and free artistic expression. Whereas, up north the lack of a previous major art scene now plays to its advantage: there are no creative boundaries.

The role of art within in society is a debate which has run alongside artistic creation itself for centuries. Some argue whether its role is merely recreational. Yet, even if it just brings visitors to an area, it is already having a positive economic impact, with the potential for much cultural impact following close behind: for instance, a gallery opening or an exhibition coming to the area. The wider impact has already started to be felt: the North East has seen art schools open, galleries built and artists flooding into the region. If art is drawn to original influences then the move northwards could be explained by the region's contrast to London. It is not entirely different, but in terms of artistic and cultural influences, there is a lot of untapped material still to be explored.

Extreme social and economic conditions are what characterised northeast England in the 80s; the situation is much improved but is still comparably worse to the south. There appears to be an interesting relationship between these conditions and art. In extreme social and economic times, extreme thinking is required; and as a result something innovating, original emerges - a thought, a product, a need to communicate. Artists and musicians often cite their harsh upbringing or deprived hometown as influential on their work. Think of James Joyce's

novels: shocking, controversial and highly innovative, they portray the facets of Dublin better than any other fiction. One of Joyce's many talents was the ability and conviction to represent desperate social conditions. And since the days of Joyce and Modernism, British art has continued to push boundaries. Art certainly plays a role in questioning and representing the extremities of society: and it is often considered the best art that which does so.

This year's Turner Prize finalists were all born outside London: only one lives and works there now. This is a potential indication that the locus of art is moving away from London. The Turner Prize was originally created to celebrate new developments in contemporary art and some may view the diversification of the British art scene as an important development. This diversification - brought on by an exhaustion of original influence from the capital, recognition that the north is rich with potential artistic subjects, or both - can only be a good thing.

The Turner Prize is set to bring cultural and economic improvements to the region in the short run, but in time many feel that the north's art scene will continue to flourish. Abandoning the prestigious Tate institution as host for the prize may seem like a risky endeavour at first, particularly in relation to the memory of its past successes. Yet art needs new avenues of creative nourishment; this is a positive turn which can yield new, not exhausted, forms and subjects. Given the potential benefits to a region with persistent social and economic problems, there seems no more fitting a venue than the BALTIC.

Kafka's Legacy

Emily Steinhauer finds the joint international venture to secure Kafka's letters bodes well for the decline of the private buyer

In an unstable world, anticipating a war that would leave its mark on a whole century and in the dusk of an intellectual class struggling to express itself, Franz Kafka seems the most prominent writer to convey the zeitgeist. This uneasy feeling is probably best described as "kafka-esque". It is therefore astonishing to read his private conversation with his favourite sister Ottilie, where he pens trivial lines about luncheons and price of hotel rooms, sends his love to mother and father, and encourages them in their business ventures. These pieces stand in distinct contrast to his literary works including "The Metamorphosis", "The Trial" and "The Castle".

For the first time, two international institutions have joined forces to beat the open market and secure literary heritage for the general public. The joint acquisition of Kafka's letters to his sister by the Bodleian library in Oxford and the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach earlier this year is a dream realised for literary scholars.

As the Golem is to old Jewish mythology, private investors are the demonic forces in an open market that weigh down national institutions when it comes to the auctioning of documents and subsequent deprivation of society's communal heritage. In 1987 this was the case with Kafka's letters to Felice Bauer, which were lost to the public as they disappeared into the hands of a private buyer.

It is due to careful negotiations between two national institutions, financially supported by both public and governmental funding, that the letters to Ottilie were saved from the same fate and remain accessible for a wide readership. The purchase is duly celebrated by an exhibition both in Germany and in England, as well as in the launch of related literary projects which will further investigate Kafka's writing and his personal background.

However, international scholar-



ship should not rest on its laurels.

Capitalism is a system that shows no mercy to human heritage unless it can turn it to profit. We have to acknowledge that in our globalised age, national cultural institutions have lost their power to private, multi-national investors. Their only chance of survival is to become global players themselves - hence, the cooperation between Oxford and Marbach could be taking a step in the right direction.

There is an increasing need to establish international networks to protect and share common literary legacies; however, this incorporates a wider problem of modern historiography. In our Postmodern world, we decipher the past from a multitude of angles using a wide range of sources, whose character has greatly changed over the past two centuries. Whilst 19th-century scholarship heavily relied on official documents and statistics, historians in our age have begun to explore private life more closely. Letters are one of the main resources which give us an insight into everyday life in the past. They are one of the multiple gateways into the hearts and minds of other generations

because they present the most private thoughts and secrets of these people.

Great knowledge can be extracted from this study but at the same time it presents one of the most problematic aspects of modern scholarship. Today, our generation tear down the boundaries of privacy by making our lives public on television or the internet, whilst past generations considered their intimate communications, such as letters or diaries, as untouchable. This is especially the case with an author like Kafka. His literary works only survived because his friend Max Brod disregarded his wish to destroy all of his writing.

By studying Kafka's letters, we penetrate even further into a strange and private world which some people might consider a "forbidden fruit". We might be tempted to eat from the tree of knowledge but we have to be aware of the consequences: The way we read people from the past, future generations will read us.

"Liebe Ottila" is at the Bodleian Library until 30 October 2011

De Vere or Shakespeare?

Lulu Smyth
ARTS WRITER

"Illiterate", "drunkard", "fraud" - not descriptions we would usually apply to the world's most prolific writer, yet this is how Shakespeare is portrayed in the new film *Anonymous*. Roland Emmerich's latest creation is based on the idea that William Shakespeare's works were actually penned by Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford. According to the film, while Shakespeare (Rafe Spall) was opportunistic, thuggish and vain, de Vere (Rhys Ifans) was suave, modest and supremely intelligent. He was apparently also the illegitimate son/lover of "Virgin Queen" Elizabeth I.

While the plot is evidently largely fictional, the theory that Shakespeare's a fraud is not a new one. In the early 20th Century, 'loony' scholar Thomas Looney put forward Edward

questioned the authorship of Shakespeare works could be hoodwinked," worries Paul Edmonson, head researcher at the Birthplace Trust, adding: "we hope [the campaign] will remind people of the enormous legacy we owe to Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon."

But is this tempest justified or is it simply much ado about nothing? Is *Anonymous* really that much of a threat? Although figures such as Mark Twain, Orson Welles and Sigmund Freud may have been 'Anti-Stratfordians', most people agree that Shakespeare actually did write the texts. Arguments to the contrary are largely discredited - and rightly so - because they focus not on historical documents but the potential authors' biographies, ignoring the possibility of social mobility. Shakespeare's contemporary Thomas Kyd did-

"The authorship conspiracy is clearly a case of intellectual fraud"

de Vere as the possible author of Shakespeare's work. Like all authorship conspiracies, the Oxfordian theory springs from disbelief that a country bumpkin from Stratford could have written such intricate works without a university education or ever having travelled. Apparently, it's far more likely that a snob who was renowned for being incredibly vain would publish a few mediocre poems and cover up writing the best plays of his time for no reason.

Anonymous has indeed ruffled a few feathers. Last week, residents of Stratford-Upon-Avon taped over signs with Shakespeare's name and covered statues of him in protest against the film's release. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has also set up an online campaign, *60 Minutes With Shakespeare*, where you can hear prominent figures - including Stephen Fry and Prince Charles - give their views on the Shakespeare authorship controversy.

"There is a risk that people who have never

n't go to university; Ben Jonson was a stepson of a bricklayer, Christopher Marlowe that of a cobbler. In the face of a wealth of historical and literary evidence, the authorship conspiracy is clearly a case of intellectual fraud, motivated by insidious jealousy and snobbery. Despite this, I can't help but think that Shakespeare himself - who frequently distorted historical characters - would somehow approve of *Anonymous*. Like many of Emmerich's films, this comedy of errors is so extravagant that if anything it's negative publicity for the Oxford theory.



Editor's Picks

Sarah Jilani
ARTS EDITOR

4TH - 6TH NOVEMBER, DRAMA BARN, 19.30
Week 4 at the Barn has **A Day in the Death of Joe Egg**, a 1967 play by Peter Nichols. A couple struggle in their marriage raising their daughter with cerebral palsy. It came back into the spotlight as Glasgow's Citizens Theatre, where it premiered, staged it again.



10TH OCT - 12TH NOV, GAGOSIAN GALLERY LONDON
The **Andy Warhol - Bardot** exhibition showcases bold and iconic canvases that are surprisingly less well-known in comparison to Warhol's Monroe ones, but from the looks of it they are just as captivating in their vibrancy.

18TH NOV, LEEDS COLLEGE OF ART, 10.00 - 16.00
An exhibition of work from a three day staff/student workshop exploiting the creative clash between digital, analogue, people, machine, materials and mark-making. Processing: Analogue/ Digital Material Surfaces is based on pieces cut, ground and drawn on materials to raw effect.

3RD NOV - 5TH NOV, CENTRAL HALL
Set in 1920s New York City, Thoroughly Modern Millie tells the tale of Millie Dillmount, who has just arrived in the city in search of a new job, a new man and a new life.

Music.

Irregular Shaped

Oblong tell **Alex Swadling** about bourbon, dogs and trying to be the world's greatest.

Oblong's first rehearsal took place in guitarist Steve Genn's attic. Bit creepy? "Yeah." I am informed however, that in spite of the unnerving connotations of loft spaces, Genn isn't Fagin and apparently no one was trying to escape a workhouse. Although, lead singer Tracey is apparently quite small. "She really is, she's got an amazing voice and when you see her you think how did she do that? Where did that come from?" marvels Hugh.

With the youthful Tracey Deakin and the recent addition drummer Ally Fraser teamed up with self-confessed "oldies" Hugh and Genn - Oblong are a bit more... well, irregular. So if it wasn't entrapment how did such a matrimony of faces occur? "Everyone sort of already knew each other, but we were watching Death Proof with a bottle of bourbon and it just seemed like more and more a better idea as we went along. And with Tarantino soundtrack behind it was like - 'Fucking yeah! Let's do that! Brilliant!' So, it was a lot of how brilliant we all were then and yeah, here we are." Even sober? "Yes, even when sober. Not in an arrogant way, but we are the best band in the world and it's about time the world bloody knew!"

The Oblong idea has been stewing for long time. Both Genn and Hugh having been playing in bands for over 20 years—from a 10 year old Hugh playing his wannabe bass/cello on its side to Genn writing the band's track "String" in 1988—so it's a wonder why no one fed them bourbon and Tarantino sooner. "I think the concept of this band has been in Genn's head since he was about five, I think. And oblong's a word you're not allowed to say after you're 11" laughs Hugh. "But no, the concept was always there, then much bourbon later, we were like, let's call it oblong. obLong. It looks good!"

Despite Genn's enduring love of punk, it hasn't stopped the band's natural progression of sound. Or, just a loud difficult bassist. "Genn's a prolific song writer, he sort of vomits out songs constantly. Originally, he would come up with the song, quite sort of safe so to speak, then we'd fuck up with the rhythm section using strange rhythms, which you wouldn't expect to go with the chords



"We are the best band in the world and it's about time the world bloody knew!"

originally," Hugh laughs. "Being normal is dead easy, it's more interesting to play stuff that isn't."

It's true, Oblong are unique. They have an eclectic mix of tastes with Hugh claiming "no one loves the Beatles and Van Halen as much as me", so naturally their sound is layered with influences from all over the place. "A lot of Black Sabbath has been listened to" I'm proudly informed. Well, good. Listening to Oblong, it's easy to hear the Gang of Four inspired syncopated rhythms, heavy groove-laden bass lines, big Rush-style guitar licks and that frustrated punk ethos which Tracey's

intense and grungy vocals capture so effortlessly. Yet, their sound is always evolving.

"We've become much harder I think - more metal sounds and rock really" Hugh adds. "We've got a brand new track called "Mothership", it's an angry song about life and relationships and stuff."

This kind of progression is exciting - listening to their 2009 and still gig-favourite "I Am The Noise", is an entirely different experience to the more recent heavier and angrier likes of "You Should Be Mine". "Frustrations of life being turned into song you know?" says Hugh, thoughtful for once. Consequently, Oblong become very difficult to define. Even so, calling themselves "genre-less"? What a cop out. However, I don't get very far with my accusation, as Hugh cuts me off. "We're the opposite of jazz". Gotcha. "It allows for every-

thing and it says exactly how it is."

"Here's a thing", he continues excitedly, "Russell (Senior) from Pulp, we're good friends with him, said to Genn 'I love your guitar sound - what do you use?' and he was like, 'oh we've got these pedals' and he went out and bought the pedals apparently. There you go, straight from Russell's mouth, he rang up and said 'I wanna have the Oblong sound'" Better start bottling it then! "Yes! Can I have a glass of Oblong, please? Haha"

The Sheffield music scene has churned out a huge amount of varied sound and talent... and the not so varied. So it's interesting to see how these irregular shapes fit. "The Sheffield music scene is so lovely" Hugh pauses, thinking. "People like us. We're not Arctic Monkeys are we? There's a lot of that kind of stuff around. We just are."

He continues, "We're loud. We're fucking loud. In fact, last night (at The Great Gatsby) the sound police came down twice, saying, 'You're too loud! You're too loud! Stop it!' We were doing a sound check and we were told to turn it down, because you could hear us from the other end of Division Street. I don't think we're that loud!" Maybe because you're going deaf? "Haha, maybe. I am a bass player." Oblong do work hard in the music scene—regularly hosting the Oblong Club at the Washington where they put on unsigned acts, and also having just finished their mighty tour de Division Street (2 venues, 2 consecutive nights, one street)—they deserve more credit. "Genn thinks it's hilarious - 2 nights on the same street, we're going on tour!" Hugh chuckles.

So what are the future plans for Oblong? "We're recording with a guy called Ross Orton (drummer on Jarvis Cocker's 2006 and 2009 albums and M.I.A. mixer) we're looking forward to recording with him because there's new stuff that we've not recorded yet is much more in your face. Much more angry, attitude, arggghh" Hugh explains. "But we wanna play in the States. The ultimate plan is to do the band 100%. I've been playing music for too long - it's my passion" Hugh continues. "We never have things easy in this band. We seem to hit a lot of brick walls, but we're not fazed by this - we just hit them back harder!"

REVERB.

"I've been asking to play on Jools Holland for years to no avail & now that fool invites Lana Del Rey instead. Yo, you fucked up Jools"

Emmy the Great

The anti-folk singer gets personal with Mia de Graaf

Emma-Lee Moss is notoriously penickety. Interviews often betray a persistent character, contesting definitions, questioning questions, and assuring you've got every last bit of info she has to give. This interview wasn't a whole lot different.

The 26-year-old folk singer had originally trained in commercial music, with an aim to become a journalist. As her own career took off she put journalism (bar blogging on her website) to the side.

It was a casual, almost subdued "hello?" that answered my call, but this didn't mask what was certainly a defiant streak. It's not so much the same defiance as the 2009 Emmy The Great, fighting what was an almost instant pigeon-holing into the 'anti-folk' genre as she was really at the beginning of establishing herself. Tackling what was certainly an obstacle creatively, Moss doesn't hide her indignance: "There are so many complications when the press decide that something is a scene, it's just so much hassle. I just want them to all get in a group and say that they're a scene and then for someone to take a picture."

Now, however, since personal crises hit (having been jilted by her long-term fiance who turned devout Christian), and Moss found she had bigger fish to fry than her critics, Moss is mellow and pensive, and very open. She removed herself from the music scene to reassess herself and her work, and, in the process, created her second album, *Virtue*: "I gave myself a blank slate to start with. I was like, I'm not going to be judgemental, I'm going to find out everything I need to find out about this particular niche and decide what I think. I realized from writing that song that I wasn't just upset by what he does, going around the street and trying to convert people in foreign countries, but I was upset about the original missionaries."

Yes, she gets quite deep. Candidly recounting her abandonment in a brief phone chat to a student journalist ("he went ballistic,



I didn't know how I felt about anything") I felt slightly on edge. She drops in that he left her suddenly and without warning. This is what her latest album's all about: a break up. Not solely - she grappled with the hurdle by "throwing herself" into fairytales, philosophy and folklore, and it's these archetypes that pervade the tracks. "This was a really soul-searching record. I actually did it to get over something and in the process of that I discovered what I felt about things."

She's certainly helped herself in the pigeon-holing situation - *Virtue*, regardless of the change in

tone, and sparing down of the band, is lyrically very fairytale-like - something that the rest of the folk scene has passed by.

Moss insists the 'scene' is not something she clings to: "The best you can hope for when you make an album is that someone will listen to it, with a friend, or while they're cooking, or while they're driving, and that's what you've done, you've given them 45 minutes of music for their day."

But with a welcome reaction to *Virtue*, and another album on the cards, the anti-anti-folk, or "digital medieval" singer may have to set her sights just a bit higher.

Reviews.

ARTIST: LAURA MARLING

DATE: 22ND OCTOBER

VENUE: YORK MINSTER

REVIEW: SAM BRIGGS



"Don't tell the others - but this one's the biggest", Marling whispers mid-set. At the peak of a national cathedral tour, the sounds of her latest top 5 album, "A Creature I Don't Know" booming around the intricate stained glass cavern that is the Minster, this certainly represents a career milestone for the folk songstress who released her first EP at 17.

Taking our seats in the ever-so-slightly middle aged audience, trying to establish any tracks requiring religious censoring in this unique gig venue (I doubt Kunt and the Gang's request to play will be granted any time soon), Marling steps out, and seems tiny compared to the grandeur of the venue.

However, as she breaks into "The Muse" with the gusto of her



backing band, any hints of being outdone by her surroundings dissipate, as the power of her vocal asserts who the real star of the show is. After a swelling crescendo to end "Ghosts", the band hit their stride with a majestic "Salinas", segueing into "Don't Ask Me Why". Although occasionally some parts threaten to be lost in the reverb of the cathedral, tracks like these show off the complexities, both lyrical and musical, of her recent album.

The highlight of the evening comes with the central part of the set, when Marling is left alone on stage to display her masterful songwriting, and a far cry from the timidity of her early days. As the band return, Marling closes her sermon, leaving fans captivated and doubters converted.

ARTIST: BEN HOWARD

DATE: 18TH OCTOBER

VENUE: BRUDENELL, LEEDS

REVIEW: LAURA HOWARTH



Against the bespangled cosmos of the Brudenell Social Club, Ben Howard played and sang his heart out to an enthralled intimate gathering for what was a truly memorable evening.

Howard's rip-roaring lightning fingers and raw vocals for such anthems as 'Keep Your Head Up' and 'Only Love' inspired much singing, dancing and merry-making from the crowd below and were greeted with raucous applause. His performance was also peppered with the tender chords and vocals of songs such as 'Old Pine' and 'Diamonds' which captivated and entranced his audience, casting a haunting silence. The intensity and emotion of these intimate snippets was at times overwhelming and although

credit should be given to Howard's talented band, they sometimes seemed to fade away as one became lost in one man and his guitar.

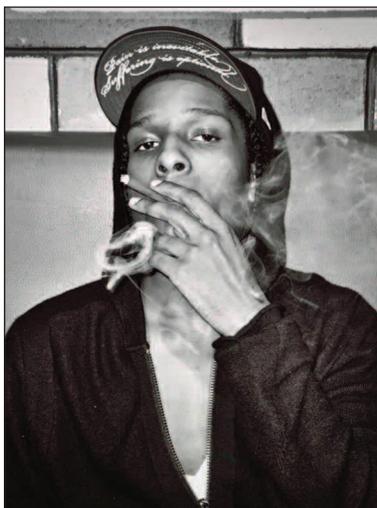
The set literally left the crowd howling for more as an already dedicated following commenced a rendition of 'The Wolves' which Howard eagerly responded to. Howard's sheer passion for his craft and humble nature shone through in his playful banter and interaction with the crowd, a crowd who was rewarded with the first live performance of 'Bones.' Howard and his band wrapped up proceedings with the lively 'Move Like You Want To' which further showcased Howard's versatility and manipulation of the stage.



Future Sounds.

There isn't much that qualifies me to make football metaphors, but to me hip-hop mixtapes have always been a bit like friendlies. Both are usually not that big a deal, and so I'm told, offer some breathing space for experimentation before the next album release/"big" game. There was a time when mixtapes could be quietly snuck out between albums. Not anymore, in 2011 the mixtape seems to have trounced the album as the definitive hip-hop release format. Artists like Lil B and Curren\$y have been putting out mixtapes quicker than you can listen through. If there's one artist that sums up

this triumph of mixtape over album, it is probably **A\$AP Rocky**. His mixtape, *LIVELOVEA\$AP*, out on Halloween, might be his debut release, but he has already been signed to Sony/RCA subdivision Polo Grounds Music for a ridiculous \$3 million sum. That alone has been enough to assure him blog buzzword status. Some have suggested that A\$AP is somewhere between Tyler the Creator and Lil B - as he fashions himself "a pretty motherfucker". But it's the rather brilliant production, courtesy of an Odd Future styled crew, that has set him apart so far. **AB**



A\$AP Rocky

Nouse Playlist.

Cats Alex Swadling

To mark the final edition of the current Music Team line up, it's high time to honour editor Adam Bychawski's slightly unnerving adoration of cats. [*Ed* - I just love cats.]

Alley Cats - Hot Chip

"He is restless, needs attention, loses patience, seeks affection". He does.

Purr - Sonic Youth

Preferable to wailing and hissing. Sonic make none of these noises.

Back By My Side - David and the High Spirit

Taken straight from the album 'Love Songs for Cat Lovers - "the joy of having a pet pal"' I'm really not joking.

Prowler - Iron Maiden

It does sound a bit like a cat could have been used in the opening of Maiden's classic debut.

Film.

BFI London Film Festival 2011

From Michael Fassbender spanking Keira Knightley, to Ralph Fiennes and Madonna directing films for the first time, **Michael Allard** surveys the highs and lows of the UK's biggest cinematic extravaganza.

Having started with the Oscar-glory of *The King's Speech*, and set to end with Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes: a Game of Shadows*, 2011 is turning out to be an immensely successful year for British cinema. The biggest commercial hits over the summer were the *Harry Potter* finale and *The Inbetweeners Movie*, whilst *Johnny English Reborn* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* are both riding high in the current box office. Critics too have been delighted by the talented local directors behind *Senna*, *Kill List*, *Archipelago*, and many, many others.

This could only mean good news for the ever-expanding London Film Festival, which ended last week as the Best Film award to **We Need to Talk about Kevin** (here reviewed by Christopher Fraser). It's an intense, provocative movie by Scots director Lynne Ramsay, who has now announced that her next picture will be an adaptation of *Moby Dick* set in outer space.

Appropriately, the other Brit sensations of the fortnight were similarly non-traditional versions of classic novels: Andrea Arnold's **Wuthering Heights**, featuring a black actor in the role of Heathcliff, and Michael Winterbottom's **Trishna**, substituting Hardy's Wessex of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* for present day India.

Other British offerings at the LFF received less praise. Closing film **The Deep Blue Sea** failed to live up to the hype behind Rachel Weisz, rising star Tom Hiddleston and legendary auteur Terence Davies, with plenty of voices saying that its Terence Rattigan source play was too old-fashioned. The festival opener, continent-crossing ensemble drama **360**, was also disparaged, despite a stellar cast that includes Weisz, Anthony Hopkins and Jude Law.

No movie has been attacked as much as though as **W.E.** Directed by Madonna, it tells the story of Wallis Simpson (the woman for whom Edward VIII abdicated the throne) seen through the eyes of a modern-day, romantic New Yorker. Disregarding the film's faults, you can't help but detect a misogynist tint in some of the language



Ralph Fiennes in *Coriolanus*; Rachel Weisz and Tom Hiddleston in *The Deep Blue Sea*; Keira Knightley in *A Dangerous Method*

that has been aimed towards a film made by and about women.

Despite such starry duds, the LFF hosted over 200 films from all over the world. Foreign-language highlights included **Miss Bala**, a brutal drama about the Mexico drug wars seen through the eyes of a smart, aspiring beauty queen, and **Las Acacias**, a love story whose Argentine director won the Sutherland Award for best debut feature. Hit documentaries included **The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975**, *Dreams of a Life* and Werner Herzog's Best Doc-winner **Into the Abyss**, at screenings of which industry and press delegates were turned away due to unexpectedly high demand for tickets.

At the awards ceremony, BFI Fellowships were awarded to Ralph Fiennes, whose modern-dress film of

Shakespeare's **Coriolanus** was given a last-minute extra screening due to its popularity, and David Cronenberg, who came to the festival with **A Dangerous Method**, the story of Carl Jung's relationship with fellow psychoanalysts Sabina Spielrein and Sigmund Freud, played respectively by Michael Fassbender, Keira Knightley and Viggo Mortensen. Fassbender also made a spectacular appearance in **Shame** alongside Carey Mulligan.

The festival's highest-profile attendee, however, was George Clooney, supporting Alexander Payne's *Sideways* follow-up **The Descendants** and **The Ides of March**, a political thriller which he starred in, directed and produced, shrugging off all suggestions in interviews that his was a vanity project. The festival has been criticised

THE AWARDS

This year's jury included *X-Files* legend Gillian Anderson, Daily Telegraph critic Tim Robey and *Shakespeare in Love* director John Madden.

Best film

We Need to Talk About Kevin
Director: Lynne Ramsay

Best British Newcomer

Candese Reid (pictured below)
Actress: *Junkhearts*

Best Documentary

Into The Abyss
Director: Werner Herzog

Best Debut Director

Pablo Giorgelli
Film: *Las Acacias*

BFI Fellowship

Ralph Fiennes and David Cronenberg



though for including Clooney's film, since it already premiered at Venice and Toronto earlier this autumn, and has now been released in regular cinemas just as the festival has come to an end;

The selection arguably amounts to little more than extra publicity for the filmmakers and a sneak preview for a limited audience, as do the appearances of **Anonymous** and **50/50**. It's telling though that this view is rarely directed towards the more arthouse/independent selections about to appear in UK cinemas, like **The Artist**, a stylised tale of/homage to 1920s Hollywood, and Miranda July's **The Future**, which turns the story of a couple adopting a cat into a surprisingly brave and inventive drama. Their nationwide releases might be imminent, but it doesn't make their inclusion at the LFF any less essential.

Top 5 Tilda Swinton Movies



War Requiem (Derek Jarman, 1989)

Based on the work of Benjamin Britten, this film stars Laurence Olivier in his last onscreen role.



Orlando (Sally Potter, 1992)

Arguably her best performance, as the androgynous, time-travelling hero of Virginia Woolf's celebrated novel.



The Chronicles of Narnia (Andrew Adamson, 2005)

Swinton came into the spotlight as C.S. Lewis' legendary villainess, in the only franchise on her C.V.



Michael Clayton (Tony Gilroy, 2007)

In her Oscar speech Swinton thanked George Clooney for being "inspirational" in *Batman & Robin*



I Am Love (Luca Guadagnino, 2009)

A stylish turn as the mother of a large upper-class family, performed entirely in Italian.

Brandy Brown's Cinema

Having opened earlier this year in the attic of the eclectic 1331 bar, **Henry Ward** reports on the newest hotspot for film fans in York.



My last seminar of the day ran over time. With ten minutes to cycle from campus to town in torrential rain, I was not particularly enthusiastic.

Drenched from head to toe, Sam Robinson of 1331 greets me with a smile and offers me a drink. We take a seat next to two budding filmmakers to chat a little before the evening screening of *The Exorcist* in the bar's attic, where he has recently opened Brandy Brown's Little Cinema. Sam fills me in on the history of Brandy Brown's, describing his disdain for the usual cinemagoing experience: the rustle of popcorn, the slurping of straws and the general disrespect of fellow audience members. The ultimate experience that Brandy Brown's tries to offer, Sam describes, is one of comfort.

One look around and you can see what he means. A room of 20 reclining seats, arm rests on each side and a miniature table for bar bought drinks and food; a veritable first-class cinema experience. But wouldn't the chomping and crunching take away from Sam's goals? Not so much. Each meal has been designed for minimal disruption - I indulged myself with a delicious bowl of vegetable chilli with a wooden fork causing next to no clatter. For a top-up, by just putting up your hand you can get a

new drink instantaneously.

Offering classic films and ones that might have passed you by in the cinema, the variety is truly eclectic. But does Sam really feel that York needs a cinema like this when going up against cinematic mainstays by the likes of City Screen, Vue and Reel? Absolutely. York is a quirky city with a great deal of history, which he sees the building as encompassing, having once been a potter's and dressmaker's on a street that, Sam gleefully imparts, was once named "Grove Cunt Lane" after the kind of trade that one could expect to find there.

The quirkiness is certainly maintained through the big events. "Big Lebowski day" involved a game of bowling followed by White Russians at the bar before the screening of the film, whereas a showing of *Happy Gilmore* had half the audience dozing off, having already played nine rounds of golf. Additionally, the cinema has been booked out with sporting events for American clients missing a little taste of home, as well as catering for stag and hen nights. Coming soo, the cinema hopes to introduce gaming nights to fans of FIFA 11 and Call of Duty wanting to play on the three metre wide screen.

Despite the successes of Brandy Brown's, it is difficult for

them to predict the level of interest in the films on offer. Only two people turned up to a screening of *Raging Bull* last week, and yet a Halloween screening of *[RECEIVED]* speedily sold out. Having paid for screening rights, there's next to no budget for publicity, leaving it up to the bar's window, Facebook and word of mouth to do the work. I ask Sam what's kept him going. "Perseverance."

On a wider scale, Robinson is a believer in York's potential as a creative force. He introduces me to Tony and Miles of York based production company Milestone Films, with whom he is working on a collaboration for a feature-length film. We move on to the subject of the Aesthetica Short Film Festival that will be taking place in November, and why something of this scale has seldom been attempted before. Sam feels the council is too strict on what can and can't happen in the city, that it should just sit back and let things happen. York has the same charm, albeit on a smaller scale, that Edinburgh has to attract thousands to its festivals each year.

But regardless of just how much a Little Cinema can bring to the creative life of a city, Brandy Brown's is a delightful treat for a quiet night out, making for a truly unique cinema experience in York.

Coming Soon

STRAW DOGS

Release: Friday 4 November
Remake of the infamous thriller

THE RUM DIARY

Release: Friday 11 November
Johnny Depp-starring adaptation of the Hunter S. Thompson book.

THE TWILIGHT SAGA:

BREAKING DAWN - PART ONE
Release: Friday 18 November
Yep, it's finally breaking down.



YORK STUDENT CINEMA

WEEK 4:

Thursday - The Hangover: Part II
Friday - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II

WEEK 5:

Monday - Arrietty
Thursday - Cars 2
Friday - Captain America

www.yorkstudentcinema.org

Reviews.

FILM: WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

DIRECTOR: LYNNE RAMSAY
STARRING: TILDA SWINTON
RUNTIME: 112 MINS
REVIEW: CHRIS FRASER

★★★★★

Not many actors can pull off appearing in almost every single frame of a film. Especially when not much happens in it. Thank goodness, then, for Tilda Swinton, who turns an already brilliant premise (from Lionel Shriver's novel) into a tour de force.

The film charts the relationship between Swinton's Eva and the titular Kevin, a sneering and ever-so-disturbing teenager with an obsessive fondness for archery and a near-sociopathic attitude towards his parents. If Swinton carries the film (and she does), relative newcomer Ezra Miller gives the film an extra shine, striking fear into the hearts of the audience even in his first appearance as a 15-year-old Kevin.

Everything in this film is very tightly packed, despite sprawling over 18 years. No scene feels superfluous, each one building both Kevin and Eva to breaking point. The father in the film, Franklin (played by John C. Reilly as not much more than a compelling section of the wallpaper), becomes more and more distant as



the film progresses, as mother and son begin to exist in a sort of vacuum, where neither can see beyond the other for some sort of resolution. The conclusion of the film becomes to feel more and more inevitable, but everything is taken slowly; the tension builds and builds until something snaps, and all the viewer can do is watch the catastrophe unfold.

We Need To Talk About Kevin is by no means a cheerful experience. However, against all odds, it might just turn out to be a film with a great, big, beating heart at its centre. Considering that this is a story that may as well be considered a treatise on how to practise hostility, that's a remark-

FILM: THE HELP

DIRECTOR: TATE TAYLOR
STARRING: VIOLA DAVIS
RUNTIME: 146 MINS
REVIEW: RACHEL BANNING-LOVER

★★★★☆

Based on the popular novel by Kathryn Stockett, *The Help* crafts a delicate balance between a poignant look at racism in 1960s Mississippi and a selection of comic anecdotes. It tells the stories of a dozen black maids, delving into their complex relationships with white mistresses via sympathetic society girl Skeeter Phelan's attempts to break into journalism.

This performance by Emma Stone is probably the weakest of the cast compared to the stunning turns by Viola Davis, as Aibileen, and Octavia Spencer as Minny (pictured). Jessica Chastain and Bryce Dallas Howard also provide wonderfully wacky characters. While some have criticised the film for taking too shallow an approach to the race issue by making these latter white characters look more ridiculous than cruel, *The Help* still provides a distressing look at how people's lives can be closely intertwined and yet completely different.

For once, men have little screen time, and the emphasis is thoroughly on the female experi-



ence; the dominant role of the woman in the home sphere is perfectly personified by one husband decisively leaving the room when his maid asks for a small loan to send her boys to college.

Overall, the film weaves its tales of trauma and triumph together fairly successfully, producing a plethora of emotions in the viewer as they watch an unlikely friendship unfold following the hardships of miscarriages and domestic abuse. One cannot fail to be touched as podgy toddler Mae Mobley Leefolt bangs on the window, screaming as her beloved maid Aibi leaves her mama's house for the very last time.

Food & Drink.

Bonfire Night

Hallowe'en is past, but you've still got Bonfire and Fireworks nights to come, so tuck into **Hannah Clugston's** festive recipes to celebrate

Party

Toffee apples

Ingredients

150g caster sugar
75ml water
2 apples
2 tbsp yoghurt

- 1) Heat the water and sugar in a small saucepan over a low heat until the sugar dissolves, then simmer for 12-15 minutes, or until the caramel is a deep amber colour. (Do not stir during the cooking process as the caramel will become grainy.)
- 2) Thread each apple onto the end of a wooden skewer. Dip the apples into the caramel until coated evenly, then set aside on greaseproof paper to set. Pour any remaining caramel over the apples.



Dinner

Bacon and pumpkin soup

Ingredients

1 whole pumpkin
2 onions
1 tablespoon curry powder
400g bacon, cut into small pieces
salt and pepper to taste
400ml double cream
1 tablespoon garlic, crushed or kept whole
1 to 3 heaping tablespoons sugar

- 1) Cut pumpkin into small wedges (discarding seeds and skin) and add to large pot of water. Dice the two onions and add to pumpkin and water and cook until tender and soft.
- 2) Whilst the pumpkin is cooking, fry the garlic along with bacon pieces. Set aside when browned.
- 3) When pumpkin and onion are cooked, drain and mash or use a food processor. Add salt and pepper to your taste and curry powder. Mix well. Slowly pour in cream. When mixed, add bacon pieces. Consistency should be thick. Stir in sugar, to taste.

Desert

Marshmallow Brownies

Ingredients

240g butter
150g dark chocolate (a spicy one works well)
60g cocoa
150g plain flour
500g caster sugar
5 eggs, beaten
150g marshmallows, chopped

- 1) Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Line a 30cm square tin with baking parchment.
- 2) Melt the butter and the chocolate together very gently.
- 3) Mix the cocoa with the flour and the sugar and, off the heat, mix this mixture into the butter and chocolate. Mix in the eggs and fold in the marshmallows.
- 4) Turn the brownie mixture into the tin and bake in the oven until the surface has set but still feels squidgy underneath. This will take about 20 minutes. Allow to cool and slice.

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

November's a great month for comfort food. With cold nights creeping in **Anna McKay** suggests a few quick recipes that'll keep you cosy and contented.

Pumpkin



Try roasting peeled chunks for 45 minutes with olive oil, dried chilli and garlic to serve alongside bonfire night sausages and baked potatoes.

Chestnuts



The perfect autumnal snack. With a sharp knife cut firm chestnuts in half and roast in a hot oven for 25 minutes. Peel whilst still piping hot and savour the creamy, nutty flavours.

Plums



Just going out of season, so grab them while they're at their best!

IN SEASON RECIPE

PLUM CRUMBLE

Ingredients:

1 large cooking apple
500g plums
½ cup of fruit juice
100g sugar
½ tsp mixed spice.
For the crumble topping:
100g butter, cut into cubes
100g plain flour
100g caster sugar
2 handfuls of oats

Method:

- 1) Peel and chop the apple into chunks. Stone and chop the plums.
- 2) Put prepared fruit into a large cooking pot and add the fruit juice, sugar and mixed spice.
- 3) Bring to a slow simmer, cooking for about 7-10 minutes until the apple begins to turn soft.
- 4) Taste the fruit mixture. If it's too sour, add another spoonful of sugar. Set aside.
- 5) To make the crumble topping, put the cubed butter and flour into a mixing bowl and rub together between your fingertips until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
- 6) Stir in the sugar and the oats.
- 7) Tip the fruit filling into an ovenproof dish, then top with the crumble mix.
- 8) Bake in the centre of a preheated oven, 180°C for 35-45 minutes, until the crumble is golden on top. Serve with cream or custard.

How to... Spice

Want to give your homecooking a facelift with some spices and herbs?

Ginger- great for stir-fries by grating fresh ginger into a stir fry with bean sprouts and lemon.

Oregano/Thyme- for stuffing inside a chicken for roasting.

Paprika- for meaty casseroles, or stews (chicken and chorizo). Amazing red colour and adds Spanish warmth to winter dishes.

Nutmeg/Cinammon- for stewing or roasting fruit like apples and plums, serve with cream or creme fraiche.

Cumin- for Curries. Marinade meat (chicken, lamb or prawns) in cumin glaze before sealing in a frying pan.

Rafi's Spice Box on 17 Goodramgate offers amazing ranges of spices, and they create you a bespoke spice box. Just add liquid and meat, and hello Bombay.



Elections

Are you a budding journalist, photographer, cartoonist or keen proofer? Want to try your hand at web design and editing, or advertising and marketing?

We are looking for a whole new team, and everyone, at every experience level, is welcome to run.

Tonight. Tuesday Week 4.
P/L/001 - 6.15

Want to know more? Email editor@nouse.co.uk



The Final Say

Identity crisis

Hannah Ellis-Petersen



“Your score is 11 out of 24. You have insufficient knowledge of the English language and of life in the UK to remain.” And so it was, last Thursday, that this crushing blow was delivered to me by an interactive quiz on the middle-class Zion that is the Guardian website, confirming that A) nothing good ever happens on a Thursday and B) that my entire heritage/nationality to date has been a fraud. Well, according to the UK citizenship test, the modern day 'barometer for Britishness', anyway.

Whilst I cannot proclaim to know much about the complexities of the immigration argument (my knowledge of the subject is level with that of crocheting and golf), I do remain dubious that someone's ability to adjust accordingly into British society is judged by questions of school uniform, quangos and the proper decorum for trick-or-treating at Halloween

But this aside, I actually found myself oddly offended that my pseudo-Britishness was being called into question. The humiliation of a score lower than 50% still stings; it was like Year 9 Geography all over again (oxbow lakes were never my strong suit). While there may be a noticeable absence of flagpoles in my garden-cum-concrete driveway, I would like to think, if push came to shove, I could burst into the national anthem whilst whipping up a Victoria sponge any day. I may be a little short on the KateandWills memorabilia tea towels, but I do still own a Martine McCutcheon album on CD. I passive-aggressively elbow people who push in queues and really like fig rolls. If that isn't bloody



British then I don't know what is?

Yet my saviour from something close to an existential crisis has come in the unlikely form of Steve from Norfolk. Upon stumbling on his alternative citizenship test, a place of solace for those who had experienced similar failures on the Guardian quiz, I found I was not alone. Suddenly my union jack bed sheets (admittedly, an accidental Argos purchase) no longer seemed like a fraud.

The first patriotically skewed question, “St. George is the patron saint of England, but was he A) A racist from Luton? or B) A Palestinian soldier?” had me right on the money. Now here was a real, albeit very politically incorrect, test of being British. And it only got better. Never have I felt closer to my heritage than when contemplating “which of these people is so integral to British politics they enter No. 10 through the back door? A) Simon Cowell B) Rupert Murdoch C) Lord Sugar. Similarly, I think most would find it hard to dispute that knowledge of whether Theresa May is A) Alarmingly, the Home Secretary B) A distant relation of Erwin Schrödinger or C) Secretly the Cat Bin Lady, is far more relevant to British life and sanity than memorising the timetable of training opportunities offered in local libraries.

Whilst it is sadly only a great and impossible dream that the Citizenship Test will ever include such gems as “Which of these countries will the UK illegally invade next?” (Yemen? Pakistan?), I can be assured that at least in the dark and dubious corners of the world wide web, my British heritage still stands up to the spotlight. It is as the great Henry James once said “however British you may be, I am more British still.” A man after my own heart.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL



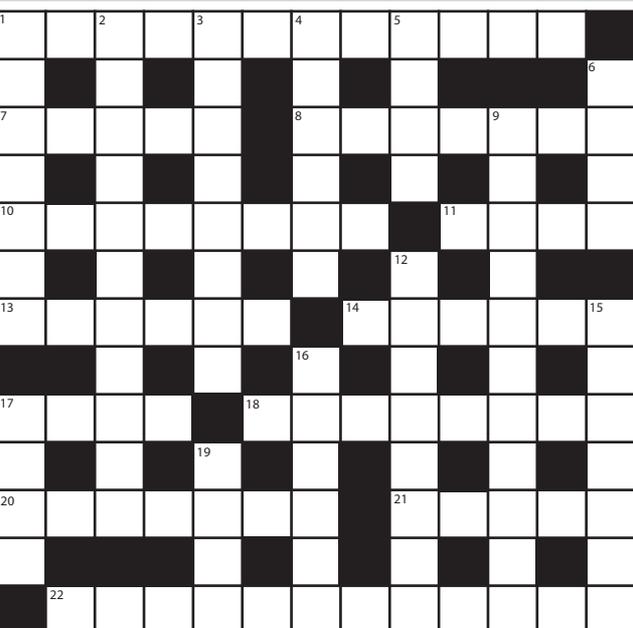
LAST WORD

This is not an exit

-Bret Easton Ellis,
American Psycho (1991)

THE NOUSE CROSSWORD

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



Across

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

Down

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

THE NOUSE SUDOKU

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

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



Agnes
Chambre

Freshers' drinking will not be removed by new STYC contracts

The decision to leave freshers responsible for their own drinking is one that protects STYCs and encourages independence.

University: sitting around with forced-upon-you flatmates, searching for that mutual subject that quickly and solidly cements your three year contractual friendship. I, for one, found that the drawn out silences and forced smiles only really evaporated once the evening had begun and the drinks were poured.

The connotations linked to Freshers' Week of drinking games, alcohol poisoning and "the most fun you will ever have" all begin and end in the same glass. Therefore how would you abolish the awkwardness and quickly forge those loving friendships if, say, alcohol played no role?

This year, STYCs were made to sign contracts negating responsibility for any inebriated fresher. Encouraging drinking games and "downing pints" was strictly forbidden to avoid finger-pointing after an "epic" night turns into an "epic" fail. Talks of long-

term effects of excess drinking such as liver failure and heart disease seemed to be absent in this week in the same way that cigarette packet warnings are irrelevant to the young.

"university also teaches you to take responsibility for your own actions"

And the short-term effects? The vomiting, the one-night stands, and the tattoos. STYC instructions were to avoid freshers getting too pissed, but failing that to make sure, when they inevitably were, that they had been under no pressure. Therefore these "second and third-year contracts" had no accountability for this short-term damage.

An example of this damage is hospitalisation. The amount of ambulances called to the University of York during the first week was worryingly high, mainly due to alcohol-induced injuries. Bad as this sounds, university also teaches you to take responsibility for your own actions. The STYC contract ensures that when freshers drink themselves into a hospital bed, they know that it is their mistake they will learn from.

Sex, drugs and the Willow are all part of Freshers' Week and separating STYC responsibility is no bad thing. The necessary boozing allowed everyone taking part in Freshers' Week to avoid too many uncomfortable moments. Until the morning after that is. Alcohol was the best ice-breaker and an essential part of starting university. Despite the scorn of health boffins, drinking games allow students to bond, especially when these games are initiated by freshers.



Brandon
Seager

JCRC's must think long term

Students are known for being thrifty with money. Masters in the art of bargain buying, we learn to make our pounds – or, more commonly, our overdrafts – stretch. Buy-one-get-one-free deals and cheap nights out are the norm when that student loan has to see you through until the next payment.

In light of this, therefore, it was surprising to learn that the James College JCRC spent £4,000 on a single night during Freshers' Week. Thursday night of the schedule promised a welcoming gig at the new James College bar, headlined by indie rock group The Maccabees. But when

"every college places trust in the JCRC"

they, alongside a second act, pulled out beforehand, the James College JCRC was forced to produce a replacement and, ultimately, Radio DJ Reggie Yates was booked for the full £4,000 – a night saved, but at a hefty cost.

It would be a Scrooge move to begrudge the James College JCRC for going that extra mile to ensure their new arrivals enjoyed their Freshers' Week, however, it begs the question: how does the budget look for the rest of the year?

Unfortunately, the financial implications of

spending £4,000 on a single evening may well stretch into the future, and James residents may find their JCRC fails to deliver. After all, one night of Freshers' Week is just one night during what should be an enjoyable and comparatively carefree first year – the Quad Dash and Bash, the Summer Formal, the Christmas Ball. All events could suffer from the cost of repairing a single night.

What particularly concerns me is the concept of consistency. Applicants choose colleges for a number of reasons, one undoubtedly being the events it has to offer throughout the year. Once Freshers' Week fever has worn off we look to yuletide and summer events to satiate our hunger for the university experience before reality strikes in year two.

From a personal point of view, I would be happy to settle for one less-than-perfect night during Freshers' Week if it guaranteed a decent budget for the rest of the year's events. After all, every member of every college places trust in the hands of their respective JCRC – money matters included. And, from the point of view of a spectator, £4,000 on one night seems like a fairly frivolous spend, even for an elected official.

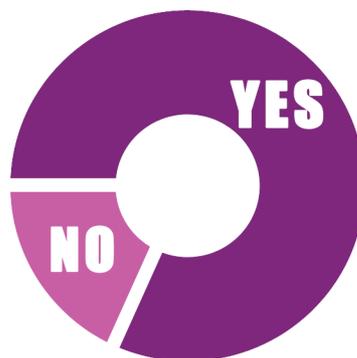
Members of James College may well argue that Yates' fee was money well spent. Though if the fun ends with Reggie Yates, the year ahead looks bleak.

The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

Would you consider moving abroad after University?

70 people voted, with the majority stating YES



59 people
voted
Yes
(84.3%)

11 people
voted
No
(15.7%)

To join the latest debate and read exclusive web content, go to www.nouse.co.uk/comment

Letters

Nouse welcomes your letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication.

Email letters@nouse.co.uk or write to:

Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Problematic printers are consistently an issue

Dear *Nouse*,

As ever, the "improvements" the University have made are causing problems. I returned from the summer holidays to find the printing system completely transformed. Now from the outset it looks like a change for the better but there are numerous teething problems that need to be smoothed out.

For a start off there are no clear instructions on how to use this new system. The fact we now have to use our cards is certainly a good idea but arriving at the printer and realising that my one year old university card has secret "swiping" power was somewhat surprising. And some of the printers don't need cards, the straight forward computer password system was much easier.

After getting over the initial printer confusion there was the fact the printer now automatically prints double-sided. This is great

for the environment but very annoying when you don't realise and then you have to print your essay off multiple times.

Also, as usual the printers don't always work. I had very little time to hand in an essay and spent five minutes trying to fight with the printer as it kept asking me for a code I didn't own. I only just managed to hand it in on time after wasting tons of paper and printing credit.

As much as I fundamentally like the improvements the University should at least provide us with some guidance about how to use the new system.

Carl Johnson, James College

Uni building nightmare

Dear *Nouse*,

As a joint honours student, I felt I had to write in and complain about the constant disorganisation of my course. I am now in my third year of doing English and History, and I can safely say that doing joint honours has been one of the worst decisions I made. Neither of my departments have any coordination, and I am constantly forced into 60 credit terms- it is like I am basically ignored by both.

If the University doesn't have any communication system in place, they just shouldn't offer joint degrees. I really feel like my degree has suffered due to the lack of communication. My supervisors aren't even any help as they can only help me out with their own individual subjects, which was no help for my bridge module. It is frankly just unfair.

Sophie, Third Year

Classrooms are too small

Dear *Nouse*,

Why does the University seem so completely inadequate at timetabling appropriate rooms? One of my core modules has a lecture that is compulsory for all single honours students; we then have our ranks bolstered by those joint-honours students who have opted to take the module.

The rooms we have timetabled always end up over capacity, too hot, and would be a nightmare to evacuate in the event of a fire, thanks to the bags all over the isles. Sitting on the floor for two hours isn't fun. I thought the tuition fees might have included seating.

It can't be hard to give a big class a big room, and if there isn't enough to satisfy demand, then the University should be building more.

Tom, Derwent

Campus Wildlife



The Sciences: *Nouse's* intrepid explorer discovers rare new species

The Physics terrapin



A creature which rarely ventures into the wider world. When occasionally glimpsed they have a tendency to retreat fast into a shell made of complex equations. Possessed of a surprisingly vicious bite, mostly employed against animals professing ignorance of the importance of latest breakthrough in CERN, they can be obsessively friendly – usually when sighting an elusive female turtle.

The Electronics penguin

Pale through lack of exposure to light (natural rather than artificial) by their third year they will have developed a distinctive waddle through repeated consumption of late-night snacks. Devout FRAG Soc members, they distinguish themselves from the other members through their distinctive plumage, often hand-coded in the early hours of the morning, and are creatures to befriend. A tendency to huddle when exposed (rarely) to the elements give them an overtly cliquy first-impression.



The Mathematic porcupine

Generally male, this creature really doesn't know what to do with itself. Predominantly male, when a female turtle is sighted. mating is often prolonged and difficult. Their spines are less of an obstruction than their inability to talk to the female sex about anything other than the anything other than the equation recently discussed in their seminar.

The Bio-Chemist badger

Often assumed to be cute and cuddly, their stereotype as friendly woodland creatures should not deceive you. Omnivores, they have a preference for meat (usually in the form of small unsuspecting first-year mammals) and are generally nocturnal. Once they have decided you are inedible, they can be both friendly and maternal influences. They become semi-homicidal around exam period, whereupon all campus wildlife is fair-game.



The Chemistry terrier

Their outward appearance suggests a kind-hearted, gentle interior. The reality could not be further from the opposite. Stereotypically small, terriers compensate for this by attempting to explode anything they can lay their paws onto. Often militant, terriers are involved in some of the more fringe political societies on campus, often with semi-disastrous consequences for their future careers. Avoid when on heat, which can have violent consequences for anyone in the vicinity.



Nouse reads: Blogs of the BNOCs



A linguistic liturgy

uber schon convo with my Swiss-German Supervisor. Definitely planning that Europe tour to go through Altenberg. Can't believe I've never been. Then again I only went to Frankfurt, Munich, Hanover, Jever, Pfungstadt and Plettenberg the last three times. I really love Petershagen.

Time for an après-midi aperitif methinks. Luckily I had packed my quinoa and Indian spice mix – actually what's really lucky was that I knew the local dialect last time I was in Bengal so I managed to sweet-talk one of the locals into giving me their best selection.

Feeling stuffed, I decided to make that call to the UN I'd been putting off for ages.

Since I did my internship they've emailed me trying to get me to broker some peace talks between two warring Eskimo tribes as apparently I'm the only neutral third party that knows both their languages and cultural idioms. Or something.

Chilled out in the evening with my Japanese anime collection. I was watching with Yuri though so I had to switch on the subtitles, but it was okay cause I entertained myself telling him how they were actually quite inaccurate given it was set post-twelfth century.

Now I'm going to bed - got to be up in time to catch the Finnish shipping forecasts! Schlaf schon darlings!

Chakras aligned



Aaah yoga. The feeling of the mat beneath my perfectly-turned-out lotus position, the deep breaths filling my body with inner calm and peace. I love it.

I pity the clearly inferior yoga newbies in their gym-perfect workout wear, desperately trying to grasp the fulfilment that only hemp sweatbands can achieve. Amateurs. Their idle chatter before the class begins fills me with anger; they do not, cannot, appreciate the beauty and poetry that their bodies are about to undergo.

No doubt next week they will be at cheer-leading or zumba, and as far as I'm concerned that is where they belong. They probably don't even eat granola. They wouldn't know a handwoven headband if it did pose of a mountain in front of them. As I feel my chakras aligning, I realise that I am clearly superior to them since my intellect is as flexible as my spinal column.

The knowledge that constant bending is allegedly a form of exercise fills me with a smugness that only those with an insufferable sense of self-importance and a health-food induced social ostracism can achieve. Yoga is my life; it's all I need. Leaving the yoga haven of James Hall, I feel within me a sense of completion, my spirituality has reached a pinnacle of elation from which I will float on high until next Wednesday.

You know, the word 'yoga' is actually derived from the Sanskrit word, 'yuj' meaning to join or unite, and yoga does exactly this – to unite one's body, mind and soul with the express purpose of ultimately merging into the divine consciousness. And I'm uniting a quick fag, a triple-stacked burger and a hefty bout of pre-drinking, then hitting Ziggy's with my divinely conscious, yoga-toned arse. Yoga definitely qualifies you for sports-club kudos, right?

Old rivalries die hard

and selling the gaudily repackaged contents as our own hard work. But clearly bright colours and a certain pizzazz mean more than well-researched stories and unbiased perspectives....just look at our awards wall!

Spell checking? Necessary? I don't think so. Serious journalists simply don't have time to dot every 'i' and cross every 't'; it's a frankly unnecessary conformation to hoity-toity and unrealistic standards of journalism. Sensationalism sells; this focus on 'factual correctness' is tedious and sooo 'I-did-an-internship-for-the-Guardian-

after-my-gap-yah-trekking-across-South-America'.

Rather than an office strewn with Jack Wills gilets, falafel and self-importance, we tend towards a more down-to-earth approach. Now that the News of the World has folded, our career options have significantly decreased, but we live in hope that our strenuous efforts in the field of tabloid journalism will eventually be recognised and rewarded with the highest honour available. One day, they will shut us down too.

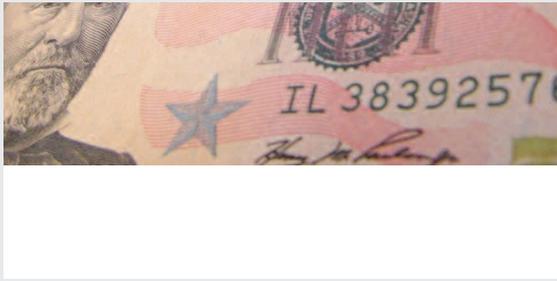


Another week, another story waiting to be blown wide open by the inquisitive campus journo. Puns, fun and a bigger office than the other campus newspaper; what's not to love about campus media? A rollercoaster ride of stereotypes and dodgily replicated quotations from university officials. I love every minute of it.

Listening in on the section meetings of that other paper is a profitable pastime; we are the News International of campus, casually ripping off the BBC's news stories

GlobalFocus

TENACIUSME



AMERICA: Obama has already raised \$155 million for both his campaign and for the Democratic National Committee (DNC), which will help run his re-election campaign. Between April-June this year, the Obama campaign took in more than \$47 million, whereas Republican front runner Mitt Romney raised a relatively meagre \$18.25 million.

TUNISIA: In the first free election of the Arab spring, the recently revived moderate Islamist party Ennahda have won a landslide victory in the Tunisian election, claiming 41 per cent of Tunisia's constituent assembly. The EU and US have given their support to the election result.



BELLYGLAD



WONDERLANE

NEPAL: The country's Home Ministry has initiated its arms control project by banning the sale, production and transportation of small arms. The plan is to go into immediate effect and security agencies have been directed to implement the ruling as soon as possible.



MARIANO PERNICONE



ARGENTINA- Current President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has won a second term in Buenos Aires, with a landslide victory. Remarkably, Mrs. Kirchner recovered from a low poll rating of 23 per cent in 2008, to secure a massive majority of 54 per cent of the vote. Analysts attribute the turnaround to solid economic growth, and sympathy for Kirchner following the death in October last year of her husband, Nestor, who was President from 2003-2007.

ZIMBABWE - President Robert Mugabe has flown to Singapore for medical treatment and is believed to be quite frail. Mugabe's most recent trip, his eighth this year, may signify that his time in office is limited. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has enjoyed ever-increasing support and the future of Mugabe's party is in question.



BEGGS



GWYDION M. WILLIAMS

RUSSIA - The former cellmate of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a Russian billionaire serving a prison sentence for tax evasion and fraud, is requesting asylum in Britain, claiming he was forced to assault Khodorkovsky and falsely accuse him of homosexual advances. Alexander Kuchma was released in February this year and cites coercion by prison guards and concerns about his general safety as reasons for his asylum request.

Demonstrations signify widespread disillusionment

Tom Witherow
 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

LAST AUGUST, the UK made headlines around the world as protests and riots rocked London and other major cities throughout the country. Today, hundreds of people occupy Wall Street, Indignados are protesting in Madrid and a further 3,000 demonstrators are camping in London's Square Mile. In the last week, unrest has erupted in 900 cities in over 80 countries.

Politicians have shrugged the protests off as unrepresentative of the opinion of the greater population. However, despite the incongruous messages, there is a central chord being struck among demonstrators. A typical slogan reads: "The 1 per cent have gained at the expense of the 99 per cent".

It is clear that the financial crisis is biting: inflation far out-passes bank saving rates, youth unemployment has skyrocketed into the double figures and the spectre of future tax increases looms over an already struggling economy. People have sought a source of



BOGIEHARMOND

Global demonstration represents something greater than a 'sick' society

blame and the oft-chosen targets are bankers.

Not since the 1930s has global economic ideology been challenged on such a scale. Social democracy in Europe has proved too expensive and the free market has not fulfilled the promise of

continuously improving living standards. While living standards have seemed in a perpetual spiral upward since the mid-1980s, this generation of students fears the lack of employment prospects facing them upon leaving university. Politicians would do well not

to ignore the ever-increasing indignation displayed in the streets, which reveals a stockpile of deep-seated grievances. Ed Miliband spoke of 'predatory businesses' at the Labour Party conference and the moderate French socialist, François Hollande, is finding anti-rich rhetoric increasingly alluring.

America faces an even greater issue. With an election next year and its two parties drifting further from the centre, fiscal policy is becoming a no-go area. A form of 'obstructive nihilism' has taken over in Washington, the Economist writes, which has led to a virtual moratorium on taxation legislation.

Moving forward, the European crisis must remain the focus of the international community. However, actions demonstrating longer-term intent might reveal a deeper understanding of people's difficulties. In the UK, where the government has demonstrated to the market its willingness to implement austerity

measures, there is an opportunity to trade short-term spending for medium-term austerity. It is clear that the state cannot rely on for-

Politicians would do well not to ignore the ever-increasing indignation displayed in the streets

eign demand from the EU. Such a shift in focus will require strong leadership and great flexibility amidst an ever changing and evolving economic environment.

It may be unwise for politicians to pass off recent demonstrations as evidence that areas of society are 'sick'. These largely peaceful protests reveal that real issues must be addressed. Continuing to sweep these movements aside may only lead to further disillusionment.

Libya after Gaddafi Clegg in reform reversal

Alex Osborne and Marta Riska
 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTORS

THE RECENT death of Colonel Gaddafi brings about a new dawn for Libya. However, as political unrest still wages, the future of the country has yet to be determined. Libyans first challenge was to usurp the dictatorial head of state, but the violence with which this aim was realised is far from the ideal beginning for a democracy hoping to uphold law and order.

So far, international reactions to Gaddafi's death have been triumphant and celebratory. US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, spiritedly stated: "we came, we saw, he died". This sense of victory has dominated media reports and little attention has been paid to questions of the incident's legitimacy.

The ambiguity surrounding Gaddafi's death is not dissimilar to the defeat of Osama Bin Laden in late spring. In both the cases, seemingly vengeful actions have undermined the rule of law. Adherence to international law required Gaddafi to be taken to the International Criminal Court. Human rights groups deemed this a necessary course of action, but other analysts argued that such a move would have been difficult, especially considering potentially embarrassing implications.

The NTC has announced that a democratic election is expected in 2013. Between now and then, there is much work to be done before stability is secured in Libya; weaponry needs to be collected from civilians, an infrastructure for supplying electricity must be established, running water and medical supplies must exist within the state and a state police force will need to be reinstated to replace rebel factions.

Oil production is steadily increasing, but overall output is still comparatively low. Armed militant groups are known to be causing trouble at refineries; these will need to be disbanded in order to restore confidence in Libya's oil industry. It is also likely that some workers will face harassment for supporting Gaddafi's regime, and this intimidation must be kept at a minimum.

Labeling citizens as either pro or anti-Gaddafi serves to undermine state order and such distinctions must cease if Libya is to avoid civil unrest. While schools begin to reopen, issues of discrimination and a considered curriculum need to be addressed in order to secure a united and unbiased educational system. The path to democracy will be a long

Labeling citizens as either pro or anti-Gaddafi serves to undermine state order



one for Libya, and its people must ensure that their euphoria does not interfere with the methods in which they reach their ultimate goal. Gaddafi's shooting was questionable, and the killing of 53 of his loyalists last week demonstrates that authorities need to swiftly push forward with implementing fair trials and sentencing in order for Libya to progress with a firmer awareness of human rights. At the very least, however, a foundation has been laid that promises the possibility for future change.

Tom Witherow
 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

DEPUTY PRIME Minister, Nick Clegg, has been forced to reverse a planned change to the electoral registration system, which experts have warned may remove millions of voters - including hundreds of thousands of students - from the voting register.

The Independent Electoral Commission, the Labour Party and various pressure groups have attacked the plans. The proposals were designed to make registering to vote a voluntary matter, removing the current maximum £1,000 fine for those who did not comply with electoral officers.

The Labour Party declared that the plan could deny millions of working class people the vote and might disproportionately affect younger voters. However, Cabinet Office Minister, Mark Harper, accused the Labour Party of hypocrisy after backing Individual Voter Registration while in office.

Clegg's move came before the second reading of the bill after pressure from members and independent groups. Supporters of the pro-reform pressure group, Unlock Democracy, delivered over 2,000 letters to MPs. Shadow Lord Chancellor, Sadiq Khan, warned that the changes would lead to the "mass disenfranchisement of some of our already most marginalised citizens".

Among the plans were further proposals for a partial 'registration canvass', which would be instated before the 2015 general election as part of the Government's cost-cutting program. Figures estimate that alongside the removal of the fine



38DEGREES

Clegg is forced to abandon electoral reform plans following criticism.

for not registering, between three and ten million voters could be dropped from the list as a result. In addition, the Electoral Registration Bill would switch from the current 'family' registration system, in which an entire household is registered under one family member, to a system based on individual registration, a move that is hoped to increase the register's accuracy. Students may comprise a large number of those who register, but the NUS has yet to comment on the matter.

Some have noted that the subsequent redrawing of boundaries may slash the number of Labour seats, making the Conservatives' chances of achieving a future majority more likely. Journalist Mehdi Hassan has dubbed such a move as a prime example of 'gerrymandering'.

Though the plans are aimed at saving money, the Government's own White Paper states that 'the estimated cost for

implementing [individual registration] is £108.3m'. Another criticism of the reforms has been that voting will seemingly become viewed as a choice rather than a civic duty. In a statement to the current affairs website Politics.co.uk, Shadow Justice Minister, Wayne David, spoke of the new system: "Sorry, you're a citizen of this country, but you are not able to vote".

The Private Members' Bill, which has the backing of the Government, follows controversial legislation that will cut the number of MPs by 50, as well as redraw constituency boundaries. A parliamentary motion condemning the changes recently garnered over 100 parliamentary signatures.

Clegg's about-face may be perceived as a concession to an increasingly disgruntled party base, but the next few weeks will be pivotal in defining what the future bill may become.

Age divide in EU debate

Neil Johnston and Emilia Poizi
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTORS

THE CONTENTIOUS topic of a referendum on European Union membership recently came to the fore following MPs' debates. Though the movement was stopped in its tracks, many Conservatives favoured putting forth a referendum, as their constituents clamoured for a reconsideration of Britain's European ties. Highlighted in several headlines, a number of polls showed that most Britons favoured a referendum, and a large number sought to pull out of the EU altogether. Interestingly, however, young voters overwhelmingly supported continued membership in the EU.

An ICM poll found that just 28 per cent of the youngest voters, aged 18-24, would choose to leave the EU. This compared with 63 per cent of those aged 65 and over who would vote to leave. The views of party members further reflect the

"Membership in the EU has allowed young people the freedom to travel, study and work in unique and fascinating areas"

notion that a significant difference of opinion exists between the two age groups. A majority of Tory voters - 56 per cent - would vote to leave the EU compared to 34 per cent that would prefer to stay in. Among Labour members and Liberal Democrats, a majority of voters would choose to remain within the EU.

Older voters may be more resistant to continued membership

in the EU since they remember a time in which Britain was not shackled by its agreements with other EU member states. However, most young people have only known Britain in its role as a member of the greater European community. In addition, many young Britons have benefited from EU grants and embraced the benefits of the European community. According to



Generational divide on EU ties.

a recent report by the European Commission on Young People, younger voters tend to be more optimistic about the European Union's future than do older generations.

Membership in the EU has allowed young people the freedom to travel, study and work in unique and fascinating areas within the region. These opportunities have helped many young people enhance their career prospects and gain a more holistic understanding of the dynamics of the international community. Many programmes and grants currently available to British students may disappear if Britain were to extract itself from the European Union.

Though the motion was ultimately rejected, support for a referendum appears high, and the generational clash of opinion surrounding Britain's membership in the EU will greatly affect future movements to bring about a referendum on the issue.

Obama confronts Assad tyranny

WATCHSMART

Kieran Lawrence
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

THE CIVIL resistance and unrest in Syria continues to rage on this week, following the death of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya. President Barack Obama has commented on his grisly death as a "strong message around the world to dictators that people long to be free."

The Syrian National Council, in Turkey earlier this month, has reported to have said that his death means that there is now "more confidence than ever that their struggle will lead to the results that they are expecting." However, it is now clear that his death has not been overlooked by President Bashar al-Assad. A number of towns and cities, particularly suburbs of Dasmascus, have seen security markedly stepped up the day after Gaddafi's death. Reuters has interviewed an activist in the Damascus suburb of Saqba, who claims that "there is an unprecedented security presence today with snipers on rooftops and roadblocks inside suburbs."

In the wake of Gaddafi's death, the U.N Human Rights Commission has reported that the death toll in Syria has now reached over 3,000, following a week of intensification of the military crackdown. Despite Assad claiming that his nation is "immune to the type of protests" that were experienced in Egypt, earlier this year, the opposition continues to protest. The armed wings of the opposition show no signs of ending the conflict.

The U.S President's comments came at a time when a delegation of the Arab League met with President Bashar-al Assad. The delegation has arrived with the intent of setting up a forum for a dialogue between the authorities and their opponents. It hopes that the "violence will end, a dialogue will start and reform will be achieved." The head of the delega-



President al-Assad is still stepping up the fight against the rebellion

tion, the Qatari Emir Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, later said of the meeting on Wednesday that it was "cordial and frank" and intends to meet the President once again on the 30th October.

The President did hold an organised rally in central Damascus on Wednesday to support his name and regime, in an effort to impress the delegation and prove that the "situation was under control."

However, the delegation met the President at a particularly embarrassing time for the authorities, with a general strike held in the north-western city of Homs. Reuters has reported that this is the "first time that general employees have participated." They pointed out that there were a number of streets with shuttered shops and that many people stayed at home. It was claimed that nine soldiers and 11 civilians had been killed across the country.

There were a number of other hotspots of opposition on Wednesday. It was reported that businesses closed and streets were abandoned in the southern province of Deraa. Hama is a traditional opponent to the Ba'ath regime and continued its protests.

Perhaps an element of revenge plays a part, due to its scarred memories of the 1981 and 1982 Hama Massacres.

President Bashar al-Assad has tried to convince others that he desires political change.

However, the Syrian National Council is dismissive of his efforts. The continued use of snipers and tanks in assaults against protestors are cited as their evidence. They also continue to refuse negotiations on the basis that torture and assassinations are on the increase.

Economic turmoil seems to be the meal of the day. On Sunday, EU leaders threatened to "impose further and more comprehensive measures if the regime continues to repress its civilian population." The EU introduced an embargo on crude oil imports from Syria in September.

The French Foreign Minister, Alain Juppe, was reported to have said on French radio, "there is the risk of civil war and that it will almost certainly fall under the pressure of sanctions and protests", but it would take time. In this context, the chances of the conflict deepening in the coming weeks and months seems higher than ever.

Will Clare's law help protect vulnerable women?

POLITICAL EDGE
Lisa Camps

A TWELVE week consultation began on Tuesday over the proposed legislation that would give women the right to know whether a new partner has a history of domestic violence. This follows a campaign by the father of Clare Wood, a 36-year-old mother who was strangled and set alight by her abusive boyfriend. Unknown to her, George Appleton had three convictions under the Protection from Harassment Act 1987 and had previously kidnapped an ex-girlfriend at knifepoint.

Home secretary Theresa May has announced she wants to prevent a similar case reoccurring by introducing 'Clare's Law', modelled on 'Sarah's Law' which gives parents in England the right to investigate the background of any adults who come into frequent contact with their children, and prevented around 60 potential

incidents of abuse in its trial period alone. May added that ending violence against women and girls is a priority for the government.

Advocates of a national domestic violence disclosure scheme hope that it will act to empower women when getting

"The administration of the law could put pressure on the police, adding to an increasing workload, and potentially jeopardise civil liberties"

involved with a new partner. Michael Brown, Clare's father, feels that her life could have been spared under the proposed law- "She was an astute young lady and had she known what he was capable of, I think she would have beat a hasty



May speaks on violence prevention

retreat".

The implementation of the legislation will be considered during

the Home Office consultation, with 'Right to Know' and 'Right to Ask' schemes being discussed. The former will involve giving the police powers to approach the partners of past-offenders and actively offer the information, with it only being disclosed upon request under the latter.

Critics argue that with either system, the administration will fall to the police, adding to an increasing workload in a period of cuts to the force.

Other criticisms assert that the legislation would jeopardise civil liberties, with many Conservative back-benchers, including MP Robert Buckland, concerned that there would need to be strict controls to protect privacy. He said "We're all in favour of curbing violence against women but we have to be certain this will not lead to fishing expeditions by women demanding confidential information about potential boyfriends without proper justification".

Although the protection of

women is emphasised in the proposals, the law would also apply to men and same-sex couples.

Whether this has been made explicit enough is dubious, with concerns being raised about the exclusion of male victims of domestic violence from the headline statements of the proposal, potentially exacerbating the stigma surrounding the issue that so often leaves men feeling unable to speak out against their female abusers.

While May's aims to protect women are admirable, many feel this attitude isn't being applied to all policy areas after the report earlier this year that the government's programme of cuts has hit the female population disproportionately hard, with unemployment in women rising at a much higher rate than in men.

However, it's undeniable that the new legislation would be a huge step forward in the prevention of domestic violence and a concrete acceptance of the seriousness of the crime.



TheMixer

“From the brim to the dregs, it poured sweet and clear. It was a very good year.” - Frank Sinatra

TOM SPOCKLEY

IT'S BEEN a long and fruitful year; a year of Roses victories, big claims about penalties, missed penalties, hours of podcasts, thousands of tweets and the blood sweat and tears of, what feels like, a million BUCS Wednesdays.

The Mixer wouldn't change it for the world. Sure, it can get a bit wearing seeing the cogs turn in a loyal team member's head as they think of a suitably banal reason why they can't possibly cover the lacrosse seconds on a freezing December afternoon.

Sure, having to passively-aggressively coerce said team member into knocking up 400 words on such a fixture doesn't always feel "moral" especially when they have a degree to do - but The Mixer was doing God's work.

Speaking of God's work, there is an element of fanaticism to editing this beguiling, beautiful beast of a section.

Normal people dance and chat and drink - The Mixer spent evenings debating the merit of David Ambrozejczyk moving back into net for Alcuin firsts with a brilliant man from Blackburn.

Students eat pizzas and get

sick on the dance floor of an odd Chinese restaurant marshalled by a rounded up bouncer with minimal respect for the rule of law.

The Mixer extolled the virtues of the woman's basketball team, wondered whether a fencing promotion was possible and found solace in the company of committed band of people whom we could never thank enough.

They know who they are and, knowing them, they probably want a shout out so that everyone else knows as well.

It would, however, take many more words than this to properly thank them all. They are all tireless, hardened hacks capable of sniffing out a story like an Italian pig searches for truffles.

If there was a picture to be taken they would be there, if graphics were needed they'd turn up flawless and informative and if the Nouse server needed re-starting from a Rugby League ground on a Nokia 3210 then it would get done - just don't ask us how.

Getting a response to your work is an incredibly gratifying experience, one that reminded you there was a world out there and made it all worthwhile.

The Mixer has been lucky enough that the sporting community at York is one of the most encouraging, engaged and gracious groups of people in this twee little chocolate box town.

Every so often there were negatives ("You know nothing you stupid ginger twat and you wear weird jeans. And shit t-shirts. And you can't take penalties") but for everyone of those there were kind words about podcasts that we didn't even know people listened to and sentiments of thanks for meticulously updated Fantasy Football leagues (Cheers, Fairbs).

In short; it's been a pleasure. A monolithic, knacker and all-consuming pleasure. Now, thankfully, it's time to hand on the baton.

There were times, when the Yorkshire rain hammered on our notebooks and the inky tendrils of our writing mixed with the salty pools of our tears and we thought about jacking it all in.

We thought of leaving the consistent glitz and glamour and the crush of groupies. And we resisted.

Because, as Dolly Parton once said; you can't have a rainbow without the rain. And people said she was just a big pair of tits.



Dolly Parton: Although she may not look it she's actually quite the philosopher

York student on international duty

EMERALD RUGBY

Dan Holland
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY OF York student Sean Carmody says it was a "great honour" to represent his country, after he earned a call-up to the Ireland Rugby League side.

The 21-year-old, who is studying Medicine at the Hull York Medical School, made his international debut last month, coming off the bench in Ireland's recent loss to Scotland and played again a week later in a friendly defeat against Wales.

However, Carmody is hoping to force his way into the starting line-up against France this Saturday in his home province of Munster.

He said, "It was a great honour, although we haven't got a win yet, and I'm hoping to start against France. If I can get into the squad for that match it would be unbelievable and one of the best achievements of my life.

"I grew up near Limerick and went to primary school in Limerick and always grew up being a Munster fan so to get there would be a huge achievement."

The half-back is the only player to have appeared in all interna-

tional games involving Ireland this season, having played in Philadelphia against the USA Tomahawks in March, before returning to represent Ireland Students in the Students Four Nations tournament in Glasgow.

He also took part in all three of Ireland A's games in the Amateur Four Nations. He believes that his performances in those games are what caught new Ireland coach Mark Aston's eye when selecting his squad.

"I managed to play well out in America and OK in the Four Nations so the natural progression was to get a senior cap but whether I had the ability to make that step up - because it is a huge step up - was always going to come into question, but thankfully Mark Aston has given me that opportunity and I really appreciate that."

And having impressed at all levels of the domestic and international game, Carmody now has his sights set on playing in the 2013 World Cup. "Competing with professionals has been a learning experience for me. We're building towards the 2013 World Cup - playing there is the ultimate aim.

"I've got a long way to go yet and I've got a lot to work on."



In a league of his own: Sean Carmody in the colours of his country last year

Carmody started his career with Limerick's Treaty City Titans, and signed for the York City Knights after moving to York two years ago.

Though he is full of praise for the Knights' players and coaching staff, Carmody has also paid tribute to York University rugby club for allowing him to train with them and play when possible, saying,

"They're an excellent club and a great bunch of lads and I think their insistence on inclusivity has a lot to do with their success."

Carmody is not the only rugby international around the University of York rugby set up.

Charlie Simpson-Daniel, brother of England international James Simpson-Daniel, joined the University this year but has reportedly opted not to play for James Faktor's firsts side.

He has been capped by the England sevens side, along with another member of the Hull York Medical School Uche Oduoza who turned out on a couple of occasions last year but similarly struggles with the time restraints of his degree.

Oduoza played for Leeds Tykes last year after recovering from a major knee reconstruction and trained with them regularly.

Last-minute winner seals the points for Derwent in seven-goal thriller

PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Sam Morgan
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER LOSING to Halifax in the final of last year's College Cup, Derwent exacted revenge when substitute Jake Farrell dealt the decisive blow in an epic 4-3 battle.

Open and fractious from the kick off, it seemed a game certain to contain drama and to keep both goalkeepers Jonny Sim and Seb Treasure busy. Treasure's first test came from Halifax forward Hamish Denham who got his head on the end of a cross from John Lord but the man at the back dealt with it comfortably.

The deadlock was broken after ten minutes when a nice dink from the boot of David Kirk produced a scramble that Sim couldn't contain. Alex D'Albertanson pounced on the loose ball and drove it home to give Derwent first blood.

A lack of discipline from the Derwent back line helped Halifax equalise at the twenty minute mark. Dan Jones caught Derwent napping and latched onto a huge Sim kick that was put away when Jones lobbed Treasure to make it 1-1.

The goal spurred Halifax on and they started to assert authority in terms of possession. The busy Matt Mawdesley had ample time to deliver a beauty that found Gio Pilides at the far post but he couldn't direct his header past Treasure. Mawdesley was in the thick of it again when he drew a foul in a promising spot but failed to raise his free kick over the wall.

Still around the Derwent box, Halifax could easily have grabbed the lead were it not for a well placed Joe Boughtflower who

repelled both attempts on goal. A confident Halifax nearly snuck ahead just before the half time whistle when another sumptuous ball from Mawdesley found the unmarked Tom Patrickson who should have headed home.

Halifax started the second half as they ended the first by stringing together passes and not allowing Derwent any time in their half. Threatening to put their foot on the pedal, Halifax's Elliot Ragan nearly put them in front but his driven shot was deflected over by Jacob Tapper, and an ambitious long range curling effort from substitute Craig Dean went inches over.

It was against the run of play that Derwent seized the lead. Ollie Harrison proved a handful in the second half and it was his cross that met Kirk who finished the job with a great header from the right to make it 2-1 to the boys in blue and black.

It was Harrison who almost single-handedly brought Derwent back into the game. Another blistering run down the left flank saw him unleash one that went beyond Sim but also wide of the post. Then after dispossessing John Lord he struck one across the face of the goal.

Just when it looked like going Derwent's way Halifax drew level courtesy of a Tom Patrickson header following a ball in from Ragan. It was all to play for with fifteen minutes to go and the game maintained its ebb and flow nature.

Halifax substitutes Conor Meckin and Luke Stevenson combined well on the edge of the box to set up Denham who skied his shot. He nearly made amends when one of his signature throws was collect-



Hamish Denham shoots for goal in his side's loss to Derwent, a reversal of the College Cup final last year

ed by Craig Dean but he failed to muster enough power to trouble Treasure.

Then back up in the Halifax box Tom Brandeth headed in a Ollie Harrison corner to make it 3-2 to Derwent. There was no time for Derwent to catch their breath, however, as just seconds after the restart Halifax were awarded a penalty for Harrison's foul on Patrickson. Mawdesley side-footed it past Treasure to again bring it level at 3-3.

In a match that had just about everything, it was perhaps fitting that the winner should come from probably the only pattern throughout. A signature Derwent break was spearheaded by Harry Bradshaw who, with the choice of Williamson on his right and Farrell down his left, chose Farrell who drilled it home to give Derwent the 4-3 win.

Derwent captain Joe Boughtflower was "really happy" with the result, saying: "We played

really well and kept battling. We're the two big teams so it was great to come out on top".

It left a bitter taste in the mouth for Halifax skipper Jack Beadle, however, as he was left to rue a start to the winter league that no one could have predicted for his team. "It was the same as last week. The end product wasn't quite there", he said. "It's never easy to come away from a game like that on the wrong end of the score but we'll recover from this".

College sides fight to keep pace at the top

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



The world's nicest man, Samik Datta, and Luke Gardener go head-to-head

Nouse Sport Team

WENTWORTH FACED Langwith in the second college football match of the season with the game ending in a 1-1 draw.

As the half progressed the quality gradually improved with the best chance of the half coming just before the break. Keiran Hazel

looked certain to score for Langwith but the ball was cleared off the line.

In the later stages of the match until Wentworth finally got the breakthrough. A scramble in the box led to the keeper fumbling the ball and alert Tom Contrell knocked it in while the Langwith defence stood still.

Langwith wasted no time in equalising as Luke Gardener scored from a great volley. Bruce Starkey had found Matt Jones on the right who then crossed it to Gardener for the expert finish.

Strikers Elliot Rous-Ross and Adam Lewis shared four goals to lead Vanbrugh to a convincing 4-1 win over Alcuin. The pair struck two goals each to give Vanbrugh their first victory of the season and leave Alcuin pointless.

Vanbrugh started the brighter and took the lead after only eight minutes when Lewis neatly headed in a pin-point cross at the near post. James Wilson's side came out firing after the break and doubled their lead when an attempted cross from Rous-Ross inadvertently sailed over Damien Pickard in the Alcuin goal.

But Alcuin fought back and reduced the deficit when Alex Brown rose to head home Charles Pickering's well-placed cross just before the hour mark.

And almost immediately after,

a controversial handball decision gifted Alcuin a golden opportunity to draw level from the penalty spot. But Will Taylor was denied by a brilliant save from Vanbrugh skipper James Wilson, diving high to his left to push away the spot-kick.

Instead, it was left to Rous-Ross to double his tally with a neat finish only five minutes later and effectively seal the win for Vanbrugh. Lewis added the finishing touches to a comfortable win, grabbing his second late on with a calm finish.

Goodricke managed to pull off an astonishing comeback, fighting-back from a three goal deficit against a strong James side.

The point was secured in the latter stages in part by an inspired performance by Luke Gutteridge, whose two goals and incisive running meant that Goodricke did not return to Heslington East empty handed.

After an energetic start, in which Goodricke had twice rocked the frame of the goal, it was James

who netted first, with Ben Cooke sliding home after a mistake by Ed Foster. James then doubled their lead before the half time whistle after the impressive Nick St. George headed home a corner.

After an evenly balanced beginning to the second half, James ruthlessly increased their lead further through Josh Brownlow.

Finally Goodricke kicked into gear, with an instant reply to this score through a superb half volley by Sam Lewis.

Even into the latter stages it looked like a consolation goal, until a Goodricke penalty was won, duly converted by Luke Gutteridge. Was the comeback possible? Yes, said Gutteridge, as his running again caused havoc, leaving him with the simplest of tap-ins to inspire euphoria and gain an unlikely draw.

Reporting by Will Light, Neil Johnston and Jack Bradshaw

YUsnow members in team GB

IMAGE COURTESY OF YUSNOW

Neil Johnston
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO YORK students are representing Great Britain at Snowboardcross. Thomas Farrow and Marlies Neuner are competing in boarder cross competitions throughout Europe this season.

They will be racing in France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy and are also planning a race in Canada. Over the season Farrow and Neuner will be competing in around ten races.

They are aiming to reach World Cup level and their ultimate goal is the Winter Olympics in 2018. The students are part of a team of eight and will be attending training camps throughout the season.

The camps range from one to three weeks long with a week off in between. This is the first time both Farrow and Neuner have competed at international level.

However they have plenty of competitive experience. Over the past three years the duo have been taking part in University competitions across the country and abroad.

These ranged from dry slope competitions in Edinburgh, indoor tournaments in Castleford to real snow competitions in Tignes, France.

Whilst at the British University Snowsports Championships in the French Alps the two students took part in try-outs for the British snowboard-cross team.

In early October Farrow, a Philosophy student and Neuner, a Psychology student received the news that they had made the team. On the thought of boarding for Britain Neuner said, "This opportunity gives me the chance to do what I love, whilst representing my country. It's fantastic being able to take a passion and develop it to a professional level and compete for Great Britain".

He added that he was looking forward to getting started, "I'm so happy to be here and I'm excited about the upcoming competitions and enjoying being able to snowboard full time!" The two have just been in Zermatt, Switzerland finishing their first training camp.

This session aimed to develop riding technique and improve rac-



Marlies Neuner in snowboarding action for the University last year

ing ability as well as improving their skills on on halfpipes and jumps. The next camps will focus on specific racing technique and will involve training on race courses.

It will be an intense experience for the snowboarders with early starts, a full day of snowboard training and fitness training

in the evening. The talented pair are home this week before heading off to their next camp at the end of November for two weeks.

After that their busy schedule takes them to the French Alps where they will be staying over Christmas and they will be using the mountains as a base until the end of April.

Women's cricket appeal for numbers

WITH THE England men's side collapsing to another heavy ODI series defeat on the sub-continent the women's side have slipped under the radar, whitewashing South Africa to continue an impressive run of form.

Starting with Ashes success in 2005, the first time in 42 years, the women's team have been in fine fettle, including a World Cup victory and a World T20 success.

Why not see if you could become the next Isa Guha or Holly Colvin and join the University of York's Women's Cricket Club.

Training takes place on Fridays and Sundays and matches take place in the summer term, so plenty of time to get into form.

President of the club, Kathryn Young, said: "Reasons not to join UYWCC? We're stumped! All abilities welcome, come try something new."

People can email the club on womenscricket@yusu.org, or find them on facebook, twitter or at their website (www.yusu.org/womens-cricket).

Alcuin and Derwent find top gear to run in the tries during high-scoring day of rugby

Simon Bromley
Henry Cowen

ALCUIN ROMPED to a 41-0 win against an injury plagued Vanbrugh side as the College Rugby season got underway on Sunday. After a tight opening, Alcuin imposed themselves, a flurry of second half tries giving them a well earned bonus point.

A scrappy yet competitive first half saw a Joe Cooper try eventually break the deadlock for Alcuin, outside centre James Evans then added another five points on the half hour mark with a weaving run through the Vanbrugh defensive line, with Marinus Marin putting over the conversion. Vanbrugh still had reason for optimism at half-time, the score line still at 12-0.

However with injuries hitting hard and Alcuin going up a gear, Vanbrugh began to struggle. Marin made a clever line break before releasing Andy Thompson to swan dive under the posts. The game started to be played almost exclusively inside Vanbrugh's half, the Vanbrugh men doing well on one occasion to prevent a mighty Alcuin maul from crashing over the try line.

It actually took a gift from the Vanbrugh backs for Alcuin to score again; when Vanbrugh tried to run the ball out from their own five metre line, they calamitously knocked on; allowing Muzzy Foley to pounce on the loose ball and dive over.

The game now looked firmly won at 26-0, but credit must go to Vanbrugh for soldiering on. They did look to be building a period of

pressure in the Alcuin 22 midway through the second half, only for fantastic work by Alex Wilson to produce a turnover which quickly turned into a counter attack as Marin once again ran at the Vanbrugh defence.

Sam Asfahani reeled off from the subsequent scrum and offloaded to Aidan Woodcock who dived into the corner. Further tries from Foley and Asfahani completed the route.

Alcuin can be pleased with a dominant performance and an impressive score line, meanwhile a Vanbrugh team attempting to deal with incorporating a great deal of new players is clearly left with a lot to work on, but they can take heart from their first-half competitiveness. Foley, the Alcuin captain, stated simply "we're very pleased with the win".

Another captain who would have been impressed with his side's performance is Derwent's stand-in skipper Freddy Harris. With regular leader Tolga Nekar sidelined due to illness Harris saw his side to a 51-0 win over Goodricke.

A hat-trick from Will Hardwick, braces apiece for Josh Clewes and Daniel Corne, and tries from Charlie Clark and Seb Cowell de Gruchy were more than enough for the side in blue as they eased to a comfortable victory.

Hardwick was the first to cross the whitewash, following a good break from Charlie Clark and soon after Clewes and Corne had added tries of their own.

Second row Cowell de Gruchy then showed a turn of pace, allied with a display of strength, to add

five more points and before the whistle was blown for the end of the first half there was time for Corne's second try, going over in the corner after more good hands by the Derwent backline.

Goodricke had enjoyed very little of possession or territory in the first period and as soon as play resumed it was clear the pattern wasn't going to change. Hardwick

went over for his second and his side's sixth before winger Charlie Clark got his name on the score-sheet.

Will Hardwick's hat-trick made it 44-0 to Derwent before Clewes bundled his way over for the ninth try of the match, following some strong work from prop Rob Johnson.

Captain Freddy Harris was

very impressed with his side's performance: "I'm really happy. Technically, it was one of the best performances I've seen from any College Rugby side. The freshers we have were absolutely outstanding; I was blown away by the quality on show. We've got James in a few weeks and that's going to be an absolutely huge game."

AGATHA TORRANCE



Vanbrugh make a rare run forward in a game that Alcuin dominated, the side in pink conceding 41 points.

SPORT

UYRUCF and York City Knights star represents Ireland

Sean Carmody, a medical student at Hull York Medical School, speaks of his pride at being selected to represent the Irish national Rugby League side >> PAGE 17



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

York Sport budget gets £2,000 boost

Henry Cowen
SPORTS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is to provide a £2,000 cash injection to York Sport so that they can train students to be coaches, in exchange for clubs going out into the local community, or coaching freshers, and putting their newly learned skills to good use.

David Duncan, Registrar of the University, and John Greenwood, Head of Commercial services have created a grant to get students qualified in coaching. In return they will be asked to volunteer on or off campus after they have qualified.

The University administration are said to be very keen on the plan as it impacts on a number of key action areas. It is hoped that the newly allocated funds will lead to improvements in volunteering, employability, development and links to the local community.

In previous years York Sport's budget for such programmes approached £10,000 but the in recent times the purse strings have been tightened, which makes the new grant more impressive.

The funds will be placed under the budget of newly appointed Head of Sports Keith Morris but clubs will be able to ask the York Sport committee for the funding with the committee's decision being based on how beneficial granting them money will be to all parties in the long-term.

York Sport President Sam Asfahani has reacted

positively to the news saying: "It's great to see sport high up on the University's agenda and a real desire to push sports at York."

Third year Badminton player Talfryn Provis Evans concurred with the YUSU sabbatical officer saying: "I love playing badminton and it would be a great experience not only to learn the fundamentals of coaching my sport but to then put those skills to a positive use with freshers or the local community."

"I think it's a real step forward for the University and in a time of recession it's comforting to see that schemes such as this, that much such a difference, can still thrive in the current climate."

Hannah Brearley, YUSU Volunteering Officer, has also responded to the prospect of increased finances by saying: "this initiative is a fantastic opportunity for student volunteers to do something new and exciting in a field which they clearly love to participate in."

"A recent volunteering survey shows a lack of diversity in the volunteering community, and this is something we have been working hard to remedy, but this initiative is a massive step in the right direction."

"Volunteering is getting more important in terms of CV bolstering, as is involvement in sports teams and gaining extra-curricular qualifications. This initiative will create incredible opportunities for York students, and I am excited to watch its inevitable success."



Derwent enjoy Sunday's College Sport action: The footballers celebrate a winner over Halifax while Freddy Harris makes some yards in the rugby team's 51-0 win against Goodricke >> P18 & 19

AGATHA TORRANCE



Women's cricket

At the risk of coming over all Lord Kitcheneresque the women's cricket club need you. Become the next Clare Connor and join the club.

CALL TO ARMS >> P19



YUsnow in team GB

Two members of the University of York YUsnow team, Thomas Farrow and Marlies Neuner, have been selected to represent the Great Britain Snowboardcross team, with the aim of making the 2018 Winter Olympics

YUSNOW WHAT I'M TALKING 'BOUT >> PAGE 19



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