



"I actually think WAGs are a good thing for feminism: they empower women."

Here come the girls>> M12-13



Summer Term Week Three
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Levene's campaign methods criticised

THE NEWLY elected Labour councillor and his campaign team have been criticised for entering accommodation and leaving campaign material in houses without permission. Questions have also been raised over YUSU's appeared endorsement of his campaign.

>> NEWS P2

First-year LFA dropout rate 47%

NOUSE HAS revealed that 47 per cent of first-year students that applied for free LFA classes at the start of the year have only attended five times or fewer. Students have questioned whether resources are being allocated properly.

>> NEWS P3

Acts for the Big D event announced

THE ACTS and theme for the Big D this year have been announced. The "Come Fly with D" theme plans to take the audience around the world with Sub Focus and Basshunter headlining the event and Lethal Bizzle, Crystal Fighters and Itchy Feet also performing.

>> NEWS P9

Local election analysis

NOUSE POLITICS round-up the recent election results, looking at Labour's crushing victory over the Liberal Democrats, and talk to ex-York student and new Heslington councillor David Levene

>> POLITICS P17

Ginsberg and Dylan

>> M10-11



Arms trade "blood money" funds University research

Hannah Ellis-Petersen
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has come under fire from both student and national campaign groups, after it has been revealed they received over £4 million from arms companies, to fund research since 2008.

In data uncovered by *Nouse*, four major arms companies- BAE Systems, MBDA, Rolls Royce and QinetiQ- were named as substantial research funders across three departments at the University.

BAE systems, the world's third largest trader in arms and the subject of several corruption investigations globally, provided £1.24 million in research support this year alone.

Speaking to *Nouse*, Abi Haque, a national spokesperson for the 'Campaign Against Arms Trade' (CAAT) called the receiving of arms investment, the "accepting of blood money."

She continued: "To accept large sums of money from arms companies like BAE Systems, the University is associating itself, and therefore also its students, with the grave human rights abuses like those seen recently in the Arab Springs where BAE's armoured vehicles were sent to suppress peaceful protests in Bahrain."

The figures show that between 2008 and 2010, BAE Systems has provided the Computer Science department with £2,890,336, and the Electronics Department with £234,691, towards projects such as

those titled "Wireless Aircraft"

Professor John Robinson, Head of the electronics Department, described it as a projects "to understand the behaviour of wireless systems within vehicular environments so that they might be used more effectively."

"BAE directly and additionally funded the manufacture of some wireless systems to be tested in a real aircraft, and contributed towards attendance at meetings to discuss the technology."

Similarly, Rolls Royce, the second largest engine maker for military aircraft and tester of Nuclear reactors for submarines, has given the Computer Science department £571,203.36 for "submarine" research.

This has raised concern from

arms protest groups that these University projects are directly related to the arms trade and manufacture of weapons.

BAE systems is Britain's only manufacturer of warplanes and submarines, and is a major producer of tanks, guns, mortars and ammunition. Since 2003, it has faced a series of ongoing allegations of corruption and bribery, and late last year admitted guilt, paying out £300m over a corrupt arms deal. They are known suppliers of arms to Saudi Arabia, as well as the Israel Defence forces.

Haque spoke on CAAT's own

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Levene criticised for invasive campaign

Hoagy Davis-Digges
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

DAVID LEVENE, former Union Council Chair, has come under criticism for violating University policy on campaigning which specifically bans any posters within student halls of residence.

The newly elected Labour Councillor for the Heslington Ward, and those campaigning on his behalf, gained entry to houses in Goodricke College, where they pushed campaign materials under the doors of individual student bedrooms.

It later emerged that the campaigners had been able to gain access to the Goodricke accommodation through the use of a keycard which had been given to them by the Goodricke Chair, Nacho Hernando, and YUSU President-elect, Tim Ellis.

However, both Hernando and Ellis have said that they only gave campaigners permission to go into student kitchens and Hernando has said that he explicitly forbade them from going door to door.

Whilst many students have expressed concerns with the way

He commented: "I can't see how trying to engage people in the democratic process is an invasion of privacy."

"It is the same campaign that has been run in previous elections and is run for student politics."

Upon questioning about the breaching of University rules, Levene stressed that: "There's clearly been some sort of communications breakdown. We take engaging student residents in local democracy very seriously and made all legitimate efforts to involve them in the local election."

However, some students voiced their unhappiness with this approach to campaigning. First-year English and History student, Rachael Venables, recounted that "they just walked into our house with no concept that this was our private space."

Responding to questions on why he allowed campaigners to be given the keycard, Ellis admitted: "David asked me if he would be able to have access to Goodricke blocks and I spoke to Nacho, who was prepared to give all candidates access to the kitchens in Goodricke to talk to students."

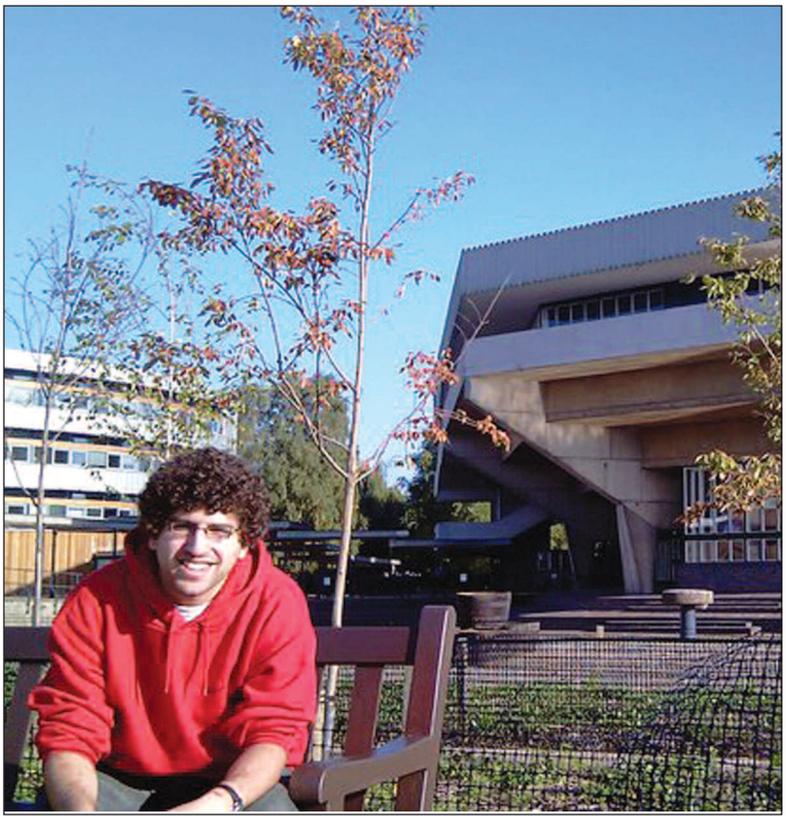
"When myself and Nacho signed the keycard out, however, we were both unaware that there was going to be any interaction with bedroom doors and we apologise to any student that was upset by the leaflets that were put under doors by David and his team."

"Flyering is banned because it's an invasion of privacy and this was no exception - the fact that it was for political purposes just makes it worse," added Venables.

Concern was also raised over the numerous YUSU Officers and College Chairs listed as supporters of Levene on his campaign material, leading some students to raise-questions over YUSU's political neutrality.

Over 10 past and current YUSU officers were directly quoted on Lavené's campaign material, including YUSU Student Activities Officer Nick Scarlett, Academic Affairs Officer Ben Humphreys, and Welfare Officer elect Robert Hughes.

Ellis is also cited saying: "I'm going to be voting for David because, quite simply, he is the best



Levene's campaign used his College connections to gain access to halls

choice to speak up for students. He has the knowledge, the experience and the passion to ensure students get a fair deal, and would make a fantastic councillor for Heslington."

However, on the day of the

"I can't see how trying to engage people in the democratic process is an invasion of privacy"

Leader of City of York Labour group
James Alexander

elections, YUSU President, Tim Ngwena, released a statement addressing the complaints over Levene's campaign leaflets saying: "The individuals who endorsed the candidate did so in a personal capacity as the rather small disclaimer states on the publicity that was printed. Some were not aware that their position as YUSU officer would be used in the publicity."

Speaking to *Nouse*, he continued: "It's apparent that the David

Levene's campaigners failed to clearly communicate their full intentions to Tim and Nacho and they too like many on the printed publicity, were portrayed in a bad light."

A University spokesman said that the University was not aware that Levene's campaigners were given access to houses in Goodricke college.

"Students are advised to not allow anyone who they do not know into accommodation blocks. If students did not wish to engage with them, they do not have to."

Ngwena added: "I can only hope David has apologized on behalf of his campaign. As YUSU President I will be in touch with the Labour party leader James Alexander to voice my concerns and the complaints I have received from students. Beyond that I can only call out to those who do have access to be more vigilant regarding access even if intentions of those requesting seem to be genuine."

LEADER >> Page 12

University to take fee decision on 24th June

The University will finalise its decision on the level it will set as tuition fees from 2012 on 24 June at a meeting of the University Council who have the ultimate decision on the subject. The University has confirmed that it has submitted draft proposals to the Office For Fair Access for its tuition fee level, which was compulsory if universities wished to charge above £6,000. All of the leading universities from the 1994 group, of which York is a part, will be charging £9,000 fees according to a survey conducted by the BBC.

Fee increase would have deterred students

A recent survey has suggested 51 per cent of third-year students would have been deterred from studying at university had the fees been at £9,000 when they applied. Students with three Bs or less, or those studying humanities-based subjects, were most likely to be affected. Record numbers of students are applying this year - thus beating the fee rises. The estimated 14,000 more applying may mean around a third lose out on a place, research by Universities and Colleges Admissions Service reveals. This follows the government decision to increase the cap on fees from £3,290 to £9,000.

York chef listed for prestigious award

A University of York chef has been shortlisted in the Cost Sector Chef award category of the Craft Guild of Chefs Awards -the largest UK chefs association. Andrew Wood will attend the ceremony on 2 June in London. Wood commented that: "I was thrilled to have been shortlisted for such a fantastic accolade. It's great to have your efforts recognised, especially though something as well respected as the Craft Guild of Chefs Awards, and for me it is a huge honour." The theme for this year's Awards is 'Bursting with Talent' which aims to reward chefs from a range of different industries across the country.

Reporting by Hoagy Davis-Digges, Rose Troup-Buchanan and Martin Spurr

Who is backing David?

David Clarke YUSU Environment & Ethics 10-11
"David sees environmental and social justice as top priorities for campus, which is why they're at the heart of his manifesto. I can't think of anyone who would be a better champion of green issues."

Ben Humphreys YUSU Academic 10-11, YUSU Welfare 09-10
"From his first term, to being YUSU Chair last year, David has dedicated himself to improving the experience of students here at York - I hope you give him the opportunity to keep doing that."

Nick Scarlett YUSU Student Activities 10-11
"York students do amazing work in the local community. I'm supporting David because, as someone who so recently played such an active role in student life here, he would be a great advocate of those activities, helping to raise awareness of the positive things students bring to the city."

Tim Ellis YUSU President 11-12, Goodricke Chair 10-11
"I'm going to be voting for David because, quite simply, he is the best choice to speak up for students. He has the knowledge, the experience and the passion to ensure students get a fair deal, and would make a fantastic councillor for Heslington."

Robert Hughes, YUSU Welfare 11-12, James Vice Chair 10-11
Lydia Bianchi, Halifax President 10-11
Luke Sandford, YUSU Chair 11-12, YUSU Campaigns 10-11
Suzie Dodd, YUSU Campaigns 10-11
Neil Beecham, YUSU Women's 11-12, YUSU LGBT 10-11
Charlotte Phillips, YUSU Women's 10-11
Mandi Madava, YUSU Racial Equality 10-11

All endorsements are made in a strictly personal capacity, and it is emphasised that they are not intended to indicate or imply the support of any organisation.

YUSU officers named on leaflet

the campaigns were organised, the Leader of the Labour Group on the City of York Council, James Alexander, did not believe that there was anything inappropriate in the methods of campaigning used.

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America have killed Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted. Reactions came in thick and fast; damning and celebratory. **Mia de Graaf** explores the aftermath
SUSPICIOUS MINDS >> M5

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Free LFA classes suffer 47 per cent dropout rate with first-year students

Martin Spurr
 NEWS EDITOR

THE FREE Languages for All (LFA) classes for first-year students looks set to be reviewed after *Nouse* has revealed almost half of first-years have attended their class five times or fewer.

A Freedom of Information request has disclosed that a total of 1,542 students applied for LFA classes at the start of this academic year but by the beginning of March 46.8 per cent had failed to regularly attend their weekly courses.

With less than a third of classes attended by almost half of the students, the University has admitted that there are "a number of logistical issues that need to be addressed in future years."

There was an increase of 1,232 students from 2009/10 due to the waving of fees by the University. However, class sizes have dropped by half on average over the course of the year creating questions over the actual number of language teachers needed.

Many students appear to have underestimated the amount of time and commitment the LFA classes demand.

One first-year student commented that although it was a good idea, perhaps many didn't understand the level of time it would take up.

"I think that it's brilliant but as it's free no one gives their full commitment."

Of the first-year students, 17.5 per cent have written to LFA to formally stop taking their course with the vast majority citing the lack of time as the main reason for quitting. While only four per cent of second-year students, over the same period, have stopped their course.

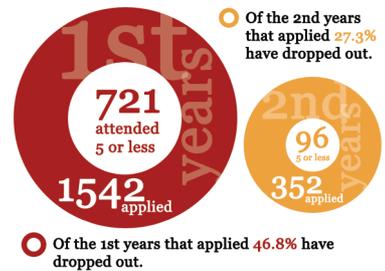


LUCY DIXON

Nearly half of first-year students have stopped attending their LFA class despite the University waiving the fee

Ben Humphrys, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, has suggested ploughing some of the wasted money into free courses for second and third years getting tuition."

JONATHAN FROST



second and third year students as well. "It's clear that the implementation needs review, too many students have dropped out and that represents a waste of resources that could pay for a big chunk of our

second and third years getting tuition."

A University spokesman commented that: "The LFA scheme in its new form has encountered some teething problems this year, but a substantial number of students have praised the quality of the teaching."

He continued: "It is possible that some students may have misjudged the level of commitment required to study a language. Nevertheless, the teaching on the courses has been independently appraised to be of a high order."

Liv McAlister, a first-year History student who started studying level one Spanish, commented that, "two hours a week was just too intense for me."

She added that throughout the time she went to the classes the

number of students dropped from approximately 20 at the start, to about 10 or 12 in the Spring Term.

"I think it's great that it is free and the options and the range of classes are there ...it is good that the University does this for first years, but I do think it is a bit unfair for

"Too many students dropped out and that represents a waste of resources"

YUSU Academic Affairs Officer
Ben Humphrys

second years."

Many other students have cited the fact that the classes are two hours long and often late into the evening as the explanation to

why they have stopped attending.

One second-year student, who has only been to three Spanish classes, complained that: "The classes are too big and not frequent enough. If you ask a question you feel like you are halting everybody else's learning."

"I would be much more willing to pay for private lessons or smaller classes than for learning in huge groups."

Humphrys added that the reasons why students have become disinterested with the courses "will vary from student to student."

"Although, the difference between first and second years suggests that the lack of financial commitment plays a part.

"All the feedback from the course will need to be considered carefully in the review so that we can make improvements for next year and target a much lower dropout rate."

The number of second-year LFA students attending five classes or fewer in the same time period was much less at 27 per cent.

This has been attributed to the cost of the classes persuading students to continue and not give up so easily; but there are still 565 more students in the first-year who still go to their LFA courses showing a clear appetite for languages.

Humphrys stressed that: "There are big elements of success [to the free LFA course]; there's been a massive take up and a fair proportion of those will go on to gain new language skills."

The spokesman for the University added "the scheme has gone some way to redress the loss of language teaching in UK secondary schools," despite high levels of students dropping out.

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More PhD students to take on teaching roles

Celia Scruby
 NEWS REPORTER

DEPARTMENTS AT York are planning to hire more PhD students, rather than permanent staff, as a budgeting measure in the face of a future reduction in the teaching grant distributed by the government.

Heads of Departments at York have had to combat increasing financial pressure by creating new teaching strategies.

It has become evident that for some courses these strategies are likely to involve taking on a greater number of PhD students to cope with rising student numbers rather than expanding the number of teaching staff.

Andrew Jones, Head of the Economics Department at York, commented that the way his department would respond would



UNIVERSITY OF YORK

PhD students used in Economics

be by "increasing the income to the department rather than making cuts." This would involve supplementing income by expanding the amount of postgraduate places next year.

Jones also mentioned a "shift in the balance" between PhD students and teaching fellows, suggesting that though Economics lectures would remain being led by members of staff, more tutorials would be conducted by PhD students.

While PhD students undergo specific training in order to teach, many students have raised issues over the decreasing lack of contact with the departmental experts.

"You come to a University like York to be taught and lectured to by experts and world-renowned academics" commented one third year Politics student. "What is even the point if, in our already limited contact hours, we never get the benefits of their expertise?"

In response to hearing about the change in teaching structure Finn McGuire, a first-year Economics student, commented that with the increase in PhD stu-

dents "the quality of the feedback in tutorials will obviously be affected."

She added that "it may be detrimental to the course if students don't have adequate access to permanent members of staff."

"It could compromise York's prestigious reputation for academic research and teaching"

First-year History student
Katy Gibson

Jones also spoke about "increased financial pressure" when discussing his strategy and following his decision not to expand his department despite only retaining one research member of staff at present.

David Atwell, Head of the English Department, said that

within his Department there weren't any similar plans, only that "very occasionally PhD students do take lectures, but only in the field they are researching in."

Government plans to cut the teaching grant by six per cent next year have already been announced, with an increase to 16 per cent the following year.

However, it will be a year before universities receive the income from the rise in fees, consequently leaving universities with a gap in funding.

First-year History student Katy Gibson remarked that "it would be worrying" if the decision not to expand research members and permanent staff is a widespread decision among departments saying "it could compromise York's prestigious reputation for academic research and teaching."

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£4 million arms trade funding

CONTINUED FROM FRONT >>

experience of the company: "Having just returned from BAE Systems annual general meeting it is clear from the statements made by the Chairman Dick Olver, that the company is not interested in commenting on arming regimes that have been found to be lacking in human rights. There was also a refusal to apologise or express any remorse for the innocent civilians so often killed by products made by the company or for their appalling record on ethics and corruption."

Alexandra Peck, a member of the York branch of CAAT, voiced similar concerns over York's association with BAE Systems whose international sales "are steeped in scandal."

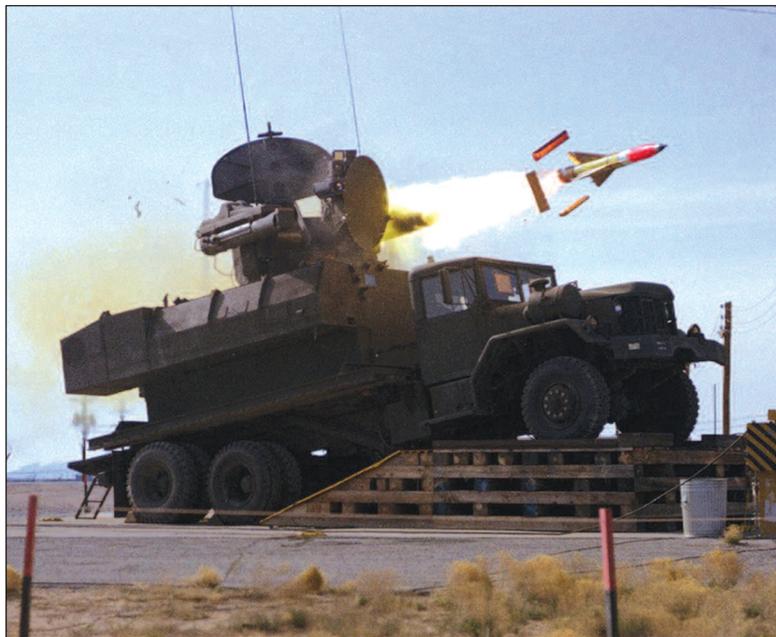
"These companies are built, if not entirely, on the profits of corruption, destruction and war," she added.

"British arms manufacturers have put weapons in the hands of the Middle-Eastern dictators and arm regimes all over the world known to commit human rights violations. The University of York should consider these factors not just financial ones when deciding the extent of its associations with these firms."

However, Professor John McDermid, Head of the Computer Science, defended his department's influx of arms funding, calling it "ethically justified."

He said: "The work the Department does for BAE Systems and QinetiQ is largely if not entirely concerned with improving safety, e.g. developing techniques to seek to prevent aircraft accidents such as the loss of the Nimrod. Indeed we are referred to in the Haddon-Cave report on the accident."

As well as BAE Systems and Rolls Royce, the figures shows considerable funding research from QinetiQ, an international defence technology company, and MBDA, a missile developer that produces both surface-to-air and air-to-air



missiles, as well as missile systems. Since 2008, QinetiQ has provided £237,009 for research, while MBDA has given £22,238.

MBDA was recently embroiled in scandal, after it was revealed they sold £147 million worth of anti-tank missiles, and a

£112 million related communications system contract to Colonel Gaddafi and the Libyan government in 2007. They are also the main deployer of weapons to Afghanistan.

However, both John Robinson and Richard Taylor, Heads of the Electronics and Chemistry, respectively, stressed their departments had a "rigorous" ethics procedure in line with the University ethics procedures, and that each has a member of staff on the Physical Sciences Ethics Committee, to fully evaluate the ethical implications of each funding source.

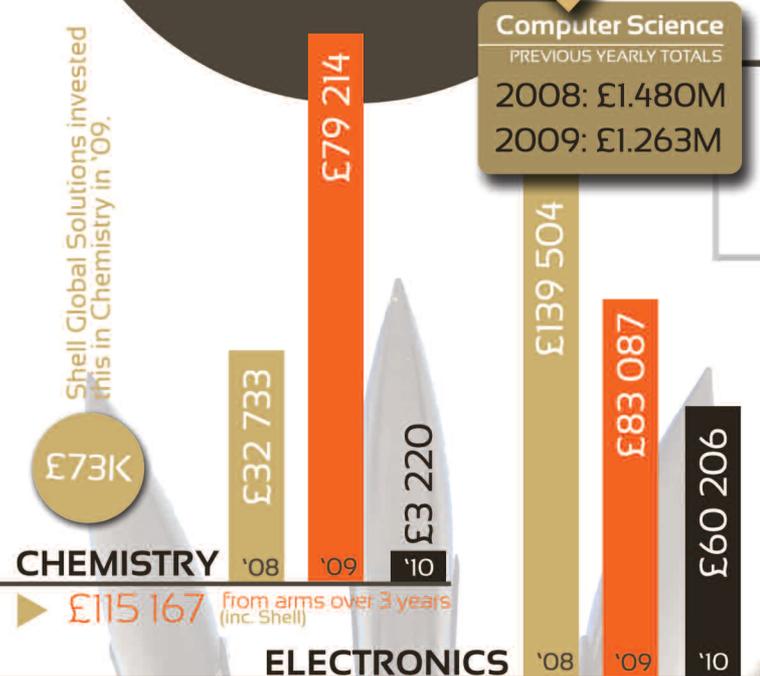
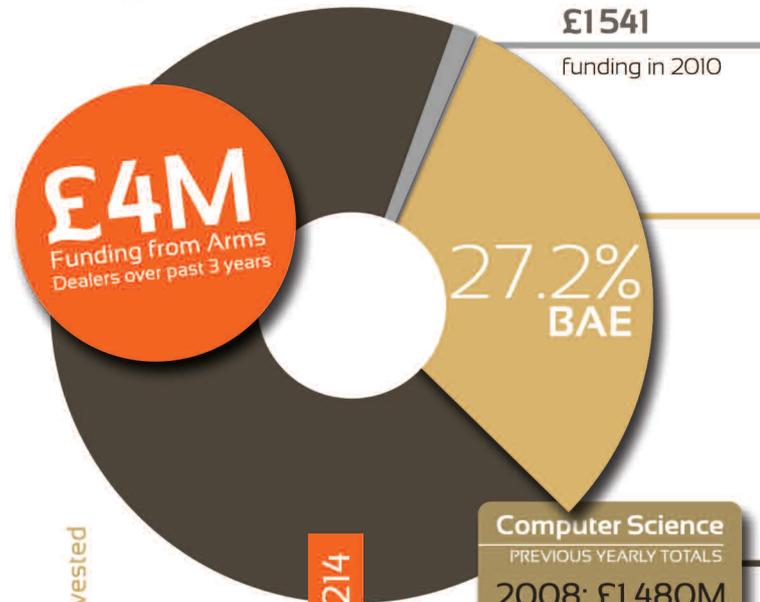
Chris Venables, another CAAT activist at York, spoke to *Nouse* on the complexity of the issue: "Companies involved in the arms trade have for a long time invested substantially in Higher Education. Whilst understanding the need for private sector involvement in STEM subjects, we should not accept funding blindly, pushing aside morality for

University Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

COMPUTER SCIENCE

▶ £1 185 466 from Arms in 2010.



▶ £282 802 from arms over 3 years

"ACCEPTING arms company investment and/or involving the University with developing products or technology is accepting BLOOD MONEY"

- Campaign Against Arms Trade

our own personal gain."

"These arms companies are built, if not entirely, on the profits of destruction, corruption and war"

Campaign Against Arms Trade activist Alexandra Peck

Accusing the arms trade of being "the most corrupt and dam-

aging industries that operates in the world today", he called on the University to "recognise the link" created by accepting such funding.

Venables continued "Over the last 20 years there have been countless examples of defence companies selling weapons to countries that have appalling human rights records as well as numerous instances of bribery and corruption. These are the same companies who today invest millions of pounds at the University of York."

Arms trade and University of York: A retrospective

The University's relationship to the arms trade has always been a somewhat murky business. Since *Nouse* revealed in 2005 that York held almost 150,000 shares in arms company BAE Systems, the ethical implications of such a monetary involvement has been a point of controversy between student campaigners and the University administration. In 2008, York was listed as the sixth largest University investor in the arms trade, with shares in both BAE systems and Rolls totalling over £1 million. After mass student protest, an ethical investment policy was

finally passed in 2009. Nonetheless, this policy has not prevented the same arms companies considered "unethical", investing in York research themselves, meaning that University involvement in arms trade is as solid as ever. With the University Super Annuation Scheme also reliant on arms investment, it seems the campaign against York's dependence on arms and defence companies is far from over.



for York research

JONATHAN FROST

funding from Arms Dealers 2008, 2009, 2010

£109 010

funding in 2009

QINETIQ



BAE FUNDING IS INCREASING

2008: £724 086
 + £252 044

2009: £976 130
 + £213 990

2010: £1 190 120

BAE



ROLLS ROYCE



2008: £495 728
 2009: £75 474

2008: N/A
 2009: £22 238

MBDA



£1.5M

£1M

£0.5M

£0M



TOTAL FUNDING

DESPITE the recession, investment from arms companies has never fallen below

1 MILLION GBP per year

TOTALS

► £4.2 MILLION from arms over 3 years

Arms Company profiles

BAE SYSTEMS

- The world's largest arms producer. Their 2010 profits exceeded £22 billion
- Products include nuclear submarines, tanks and armoured cars, guns, ammunitions and fighter aircraft
- The company has been the subject of several global investigations over allegations of bribery, corruption and unethical practice, particularly in Saudi Arabia.
- Last year, they were found guilty of fraud and made to pay £268 million in criminal fines



MBDA MISSILE SYSTEMS

- MBDA is a world leader in missile and missile system development- works with over 90 armed forces worldwide
- Develop air-to-air missiles, such as Meteor; surface-to-air missiles, such as Mistral and anti-ship missiles, such as Exocet
- Clouded in controversy after they signed an £147 million contract for anti-tank missiles, and £112 million communication system contract with Colonel Gaddafi and the Libyan Government in 2007



ROLLS ROYCE

- 23rd largest defence provider in the world, mainly developing military aircraft engines
- Rolls Royce Marine Power Operations tests nuclear reactors for Royal Naval submarines and powers all the UK's nuclear submarines
- Makes engines for warplanes, ships and submarines that are sold to 109 countries around the world. A famous example is the Hawk jet



QinetiQ

- QinetiQ is defence and security technology company. It develops and tests new weapons and 'future concepts' in defence technology including ballistic missile defence
- 80 per cent of QinetiQ sales are military and the MoD is its largest customer
- Also develops surveillance and security technologies, weapons nanotechnology and 'energetic materials' (i.e. explosives)



Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, spoke of his "lack of surprise" over the findings.

He said: "the issue here is the ethical conflict they cause. You have to be careful with research funding and the tracks you leave. Nearly all research funding may come from countries or companies with either no ethical policy or share in a stake of a company that transports arms to a country or regime."

This information follows on from a previous controversy over

the University's own investment in the arms trade, which led to the passing of a University ethical investment policy in 2009.

It states that "the University will not knowingly invest in companies whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the mission and values of the University."

However, this policy does not apply to companies themselves investing in the University, or

University research. The ethical guidelines and code of practice for research funding is based solely around the criteria of potential disrepute for the department, and University, and whether the research results will be used by the funder to "enhance unethical practices".

Student groups say that these are not sufficient to prevent unethical funding, and allow too much "room for manoeuvre."

The ethical funding issue has also raised further questions over

the implications of accepting research finance from oil and energy companies, such as Shell Global solutions; a key source of York research finance. Shell have faced ongoing criticism for their mass leaking of oil, which has led to the destruction of natural habitat and local livelihoods in the Niger Delta. The company is currently the subject of a million dollar lawsuit due to these "devastating" oil leaks for which they are being held culpable.

However, despite these ongoing ethical allegations, the data uncovered by Nouse showed that Shell Global Solutions have given £107,601 in research funding for the Chemistry department alone,

since 2008.

York Students Against Cuts have spoken out against findings, and their fears over the adverse affect education cuts will have on financial support from the arms trade.

"We fear that cuts to higher education funding will lead to greater dependence on private funding from corporations and an increased emphasis on meeting business needs over the development of knowledge and learning" said a York student spokesperson.

"Arms manufacturers and corporations should not be afforded the power to set the parameters of our education."

York Rugby team's behaviour questioned during Easter tour

Hoagy Davis-Digges
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE RUGBY team have come under pressure following criticism of their behaviour whilst on tour at Saloufest during the Easter break.

The *Sun* newspaper explicitly names and describes the antics of York's rugby team in their article on Saloufest, saying: "A rugby team from York University are already completely smashed."

The sports team are reported to have participated in what has been described as "four days dedicated to booze, parties and casual sex," in an article condemning the behaviour of the students from various universities that descended on Salou between the 9 and 15 April.

Saloufest is a five day university sports event, however, many students go for the cheap alcohol as much as the sport.

The University rugby team were said to have performed acts "too graphic to describe in a family newspaper" and were alleged to have exposed themselves whilst performing dares.

Rory McGregor, the President of the rugby team, described *The Sun's* article as "trying to 'sex up' a story that really isn't worthy of print."

He added by saying that despite the reports the "tour is well and truly behind us."



Saloufest is a five day sports-party event which the rugby team attended

Billed as "The essential life experience" by the tour organisers, much of the Spanish media see it differently, with the newspaper *El Mundo* calling their activities "a whirlwind that would shame any parent."

McGregor stated that it was "all in good spirit, and more importantly no offence was caused and no arrests were made whilst stu-

dents let off steam celebrating a hard season of sport before final exams."

Sam Asfahani, YUSU Sport President commented that: "There are certain tabloids that have a real grudge against sports tours and often exaggerate. Saying that, any complaints that we receive will be dealt with as all others are, swiftly and strictly."

Lack of online voting for RAG elections criticised

Camilla Aparcar
DEPUTY EDITOR

THIS YEAR'S RAG Committee elections has faced criticism from the candidates as the voting system was by paper ballot only, and not all were fully aware of the election rules.

Nick Scarlett, Student Activities Officer and Returning Officer for the RAG elections has confirmed that the online voting system was not "available" due to a technical fault.

Scarlett responded: "We could have waited until the other elections in Week Five, but it was felt by myself and the RAG Officers that that would be too late to elect a new Committee bearing in mind how busy this term was.

"The options we had were paper ballot across campus or voting in the same way as most society elections." RAG Officers Rebecca Irwin and Baxter Willis opted for the paper ballot voting system.

Rob Smyth, who ran for RAG Hitch Co-ordinator, commented that: "It's really hard to convince people to actually go to vote in person, and then to find that there might not have been anyone there to collect it is kind of ridiculous. It could have affected everyone's chances."

The times that students were able to vote in person were changed on the week of the elections itself, in order not to clash

with the AV National Referendum.

"It wasn't an issue of confusion, more that resources have been dedicated towards the Council and electoral reform voting, and it was felt that running a YUSU Committee election on the same day wasn't prudent" said Scarlett.

While some candidates were unaware of how long they would have to speak until the night of the election Hustings, Scarlett has responded to criticism with an admission of faults made during the election period.

"Candidates were informed of the rules upon handing in their nomination forms. I agree these things should have been made clearer in advance though."

Smyth continued: "It was disappointing that the voting system wasn't online, the whole election was poorly organised. The time that the nomination form had to be handed in kept changing.

Chris Lodge, who ran for RAG Week Co-ordinator with Hugo Hill, spoke about the difference in this election's campaigning, commenting: "We think that the paper vote will, without a doubt, have an impact on the numbers of votes, with less students getting involved

"However, we have thoroughly enjoyed going around campus speaking 'one-to-one' with people, encouraging them to go and vote.

"It has made the RAG committee elections less of a facebook popularity contest."

Derwent security to be reviewed after JCR theft

Jonathan Frost
NEWS REPORTER

THE THEFT of a flat screen TV and a Nintendo Wii console from the Derwent JCR in the early hours of Saturday morning has triggered a security review for the college.

The items were discovered missing at 2am by College Tutor Tom Penkethman, and have a total value in excess of £1,000.

Penkethman described the night's events saying: "Myself and another member of Derwent College entered the JCR just after 2am on the Saturday morning to wait for a takeaway delivery.

"Upon entering the room we found the TV to be missing and,

upon further investigation, discovered that the Nintendo Wii wasn't there either." He added that there were no signs of a break in.

"The main entrance was locked before we entered, as was the sliding door onto the patio, as this door was checked by myself and then the duty porter."

Penkethman then contacted security, and left the matter in their hands.

Derwent Provost, Rob Aitken, has appealed to students living in Derwent accommodation to come forward with any information about people they did not know or recognise in the area around the time of the incident.

In an e-mail to all those living in Derwent accommodation, he reassured students and said: "I will be asking the Head of Security to conduct a review of security."

Police have been informed of the theft, and a Crime Scene Investigation unit arrived to inspect the JCR at 10am on the Saturday morning

Since the installation of the key card lock systems on all Derwent blocks, including one on the JCR, there has been an increase in doors being propped open, which it has been suggested, may be the reason the theft occurred.

Indeed, on the night of theft,



Matt Jenkins, the Derwent JCR Chair, had raised the lack of security around Derwent at the last JCR meeting

five doors around Derwent were found on the latch."

However, one block resident, Amelia Allen pointed out that "none of the porters or security have said anything so far, and the doors are still getting propped open."

In his email, Aitken continued: "I would ask all residents to be careful not to leave doors wedged open or to allow anyone to 'tailgate' through doors after you."

Matt Jenkins, Derwent Chair, blamed the limited college security

for the burglary.

"We have 400 students and only 2 CCTV cameras that are so poor they couldn't even work out who people were from the footage. It's a joke" he said.

"[The stolen equipment] was not insured. As far as I've heard it will be the JCR covering the cost, unless we get some sort of external funding."

Students have also recently been expressing concerns over the lack of 24 hour portering in colleges, including Derwent.

First-year student Sophie Gorman, expressed her annoyance at the situation, commenting: "24 hour portering should be in place anyway, if only for student security alone, regardless of our stuff."

"No measures were taken to prevent theft; the TV wasn't tagged, and the windows are often left open. The CCTV needs to be improved. We're a big college and our security is a joke."

The University's security services will be conducting a full review of the college.



Student voting turnout only 37 per cent

ALEXANDER PROWSE

Jack Barton
 NEWS REPORTER

FORMER UNIVERSITY of York student and YUSU Council Chair, David Levene, has successfully garnered the student vote to win the ward of Heslington, containing the main campus of the University.

However, the turnout was only 37.8 per cent even though the polling station was on campus in Vanbrugh Dining Hall.

This result was a turn-around on the previous election where the Liberal Democrat candidate was elected in Heslington and they had control of the York Council.

Levene, who ran as the Labour Party candidate will now take a seat on the borough Council alongside 25 other Labour Councillors, who now have a majority in the 47-seat council.

Levene commented that he was "very proud, and very excited about the task ahead." While the result was unexpected, it has taken Labour from third place in the 2009 local elections to a first place win of 670 out of 1,477.

The Lib-Dem candidate Christopher Wiggin garnered only 358 votes, beaten by the Green Party's Caleb Wooding who received 449 votes.

Like Levene, Wooding and Wiggin are a current and former student at the University, demonstrating all three parties' desire to garner the vote of students who make up the majority of the ward's population.

Despite this, only 37.8 per



The three candidates hearing the local council election results despite the low voter turnout of 37 per cent

cent of potential voters turned up to the ballot. In York borough as a whole 44.7 per cent of people voted

"I had no idea who the candidates were or what they were trying to do locally"

First-year student

-which is up three per cent on 2007. In the Conservative stronghold of the Derwent ward 60 per cent voted and 58.5 per cent in the safe Lib Dem seat of Heworth Without.

Since the majority of Heslington's voting population are students and the ballot was in the

centre of the university, this suggests a remarkable amount of apathy on behalf of the student population.

Questions over whether the low turnout was due to a lacklustre campaign on behalf of all candidates or general disinterest in local - or indeed national - politics remain.

Many students who neglected to vote said that with the overwhelming focus on the referendum on the Alternative Vote system, the local elections failed to register as an important issue.

Hannah Macdonald, a first-year History student admitted why she didn't vote: "I just wasn't convinced they mattered at all."

Others say they took a con-

scious decision not to vote, believing that these elections should be about local issues - which they felt uninformed on.

"I had no idea who the candidates were or what they were trying to do locally" said another first-year student.

After the results Levene was keen to emphasise how his win, which alongside other Labour victories around York have given them control over the Council, is indicative of the direction in which the country is going.

Levene's win was reflected across England where Labour gained 800 seats, well above their official predictions.

POLITICS >> Page 17

Self-funded students not to be counted

Martin Spurr
 NEWS EDITOR

PROPOSALS BY the government could see universities being able to accept more students above their enforced cap.

Universities may be allowed to exclude those students who do not take out a tuition fee loan from the government in their total number of students at the university. This would therefore give room to increase the student population above the projected level.

However, this may mean that universities will target wealthier students a lot more in order to increase numbers and receive a greater amount of revenue and base their decision on student's ability to pay.

Nationwide, 14 per cent of students currently do not take out a tuition fee loan.

David Willetts, the universities and science minister, first spoke about this option in February this year.

However, the University are reluctant to take a stance on the "still emerging policy".

They added: "We would not expect such a development to have a dramatic or immediate effect on our planned student numbers relative to those expressed in the University Development Plan as there are other natural constraints such as teaching and accommodation, preserving and improving quality of experience."

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Student evicted from halls in "disproportionate" punishment

Martin Spurr
 NEWS EDITOR

ONE FIRST-year student has spoken out about how she is now better off living in private accommodation, after being evicted from Goodricke College for breaching her accommodation contract.

Zoe Christo was ordered to leave her first-year residence at the end of last term after smoking and covering the fire detection sensor repeatedly and for having unlit candles in her room.

The offences took place within a three week period towards the end of November and the start of December last year with unlit candles being found on Valentine's Day.

Christo has described how she feels the punishment was disproportionate; however, covering a fire detection system is a criminal offence and one that all students were informed about at the start of the year.

But Christo has said that she is actually saving a lot of money because of this, commenting: "Fortunately for me I was offered a student house nearby by one of the

Goodricke College staff...and I am saving myself over one thousand pounds."

Christo also suggested that: "They [the member of Goodricke College staff] understood the unfairness of the situation."

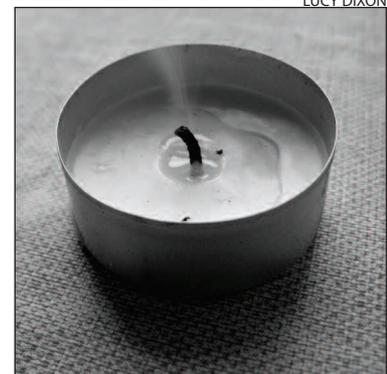
However, Laura Borisovaite, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented that: "Fire safety is paramount and concern is warranted when disregard to regulations puts not just one person but all residents at risk."

"I would encourage all to ensure their safety and security by being careful and to think about their friends living with them whilst making decisions that impact them through possible unwelcome consequences, whether it is by leaving the front door unlocked, your bedroom window open on your way out or covering up the smoke detector."

Christo added that: "I'm quite glad [overall], Goodricke was extortionately priced and we were paying high end rates for a site that wasn't complete with all the facilities that should have been made available to us. Absolute rip off"

A University spokesman said: "Fire regulations are in place in

LUCY DIXON



Candles are banned from halls

University accommodation to ensure the safety of all occupants. It was made very clear to students at the start of the academic year that smoking in University accommodation is unacceptable and is against University regulations.

"Students were also informed that interference with the life safety fire detection equipment is a criminal offence. Our action in this case was fully in accordance with the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement and with University's disciplinary procedures."

COMMENT >> Page 11

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Sub Focus and Basshunter headline Big D

Rose Troup-Buchanan
 NEWS REPORTER

THE ACTS for the Big D, Derwent's annual event, have been announced with Sub Focus (DJ Set) and Basshunter headlining. The night will also see Lethal Bizzle, Crystal Fighters and Itchy Feet performing.

Big D will take place at the end of the summer term on the 30 June across the campus with a variety of different themes.

The theme this year plans to take the audience upon a global journey across the world, entitled the "Come Fly with D" party.

Tommy Staite, an English and History of Art student, said: "It's quite an impressive line-up; Sub Focus should be good. I'm really looking forward to hearing Itchy Feet after what I've heard about their nights here."

Itchy Feet has been a particular success with University of York students, with their past two events selling out.

Most students appear pleased with the line-up, but some have complained that the acts chosen are too mainstream.

Tom Kelsey, a first-year student, commented: "I'm not that excited about the acts playing, and I think I'll probably not go to the event - it just doesn't sound like my kind of thing. The acts seem a bit dance music centred."



The Big D event will see acts Sub Focus (left) and Lethal Bizzle (right) perform on campus on the 30th June

However, Fi Stuart-Clarke, studying History, said: "I've only heard of Basshunter, but I'm excited about the event. I think it sounds like a really fun theme."

Sub Focus came to prominence in 2009, and has since collaborated with a number of artists, producing his most commercially successful track "Kickstarts" in 2010. Sub Focus will also perform at Glastonbury and V Festival this

year. Lethal Bizzle courted controversy in 2004 when he released the track "Pow (Forward)" which was banned from airplay by some mainstream stations. Crystal Fighters are a Spanish electric band who formed in 2007, and their debut album was released in 2010.

While Basshunter appeared on the scene in the UK with his

2008 album "Now You're Gone", he also featured in the Celebrity Big Brother series at the start of last year.

The theme "Come Fly with D" will consist of several different 'continents', ranging from the Thai Full Moon party to a Russian-themed vodka bar.

Commenting on the theme choices Scott Simmons, a second-year student, said: "It really suits

the 'Gap Yah' market - I reckon it'll go down well with students."

There have also been reassurances this year over the ability of YUSU to cope with the amount of students wanting to buy tickets for the event.

Many students were frustrated last year when the YUSU server was unable to cope with the demand for tickets, and crashed. But this year YUSU has told organisers that the servers have been expanded to cope with three times the demand.

In addition the capacity that the event will be able to hold has been increased to 1800 - making 300 more tickets available than before. This has pleased many students as last year many were disappointed with the number available.

The charities benefiting will include the usual RAG-affiliated charities: Macmillan Cancer Support, Candlelighters, Shelter, Survive, Minds for Health, and YUSU Volunteering.

In particular money raised will also go towards: Goedgedacht, a charity that promotes a humane, peaceful and democratic society in South Africa; Leeds Children's Charity; and Ghurka Welfare Trust which aims to relieve poverty and distress among Gurkha ex-servicemen of the British Crown and their dependants will benefit as well.

Tickets go on sale on Wednesday at 12pm via www.yusu.org/shop and cost £25.

Confusion over shortened Goodricke 51 week lets

Harrie Neal
 NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS IN Goodricke College have been left feeling confused after some students are being offered the opportunity to shorten the 51 week let that they signed up for at the start of the year.

Many felt that they had been forced into the longer lets when applying for accommodation last year, though not all have been given the opportunity to opt out, with students confused over the criteria.

In October *Nouse* reported on the number of students having to pay for 51 week lets which are best suited to postgraduate or nursing students and not undergraduates.

One first-year student described the situation they faced last year: "I really wanted a 39 week let and I wasn't fussy about which college I went to, but because I missed my grades for my course here I had to wait to see if the University would let me in.

"By the time I got confirmation there was nothing left but a 51 week let in Goodricke."

This has meant that students will be paying for their campus accommodation as well their sec-

ond-year houses as most off-campus lets usually start at the beginning of July.

However, last week the Accommodation Office started offering some of those students an opportunity to shorten the length of their let, and in doing so reduce the cost.

But this announcement has angered many students who apparently do not "fulfil certain criteria" or do not qualify for a rebate.

The announcement has led to confusion over the ambiguous "certain circumstances". An Oliver Sheldon Court student remarked: "I tried contacting the Office to ask

"I'm going to have to pay for two different rents over the summer - whilst others are allowed to get out of it"

Goodricke College resident

whether I qualified for the reduction, but was told I was bound by the contract I agreed last August.

"I know what I agreed to, I just think it's unfair that some people get a reduction and others don't."

According to an email sent round to occupants of the college,

the criteria is only applicable to first-year students who "applied online during the guarantee period" or "were forced to rent a 51 week let due to lack of availability of shorter lets."

Another Goodricke College resident said they felt severely let down by the University: "It feels like a double betrayal in a way.

"Firstly, the University sent me my accommodation email late meaning that I had to opt for a 51 week let in the first place. Even though there were places for a 33 week let, I live much too far away to be able to move out at Easter.

"And now I'm going to have to pay for two different rents over the summer - Goodricke and my house for second year - whilst others are allowed to get out of it."

YUSU Welfare Officer, Laura Borisovaite commented: "The University is trying to address the issues by allowing rebates to those who were eligible to apply for a shorter let length in the first place, regretfully not all were and it is unfortunate their contract puts them in that situation.

"The University should do its best not to let that happen in the first place. They have already made changes to try prevent a repeat next year."



BYRONV2 (TOP) and LOZ FLOWERS (BOTTOM)
 The Guardian cartoonist, Steve Bell (top left), is coming to speak about drawing politics and his life as a cartoonist at the James College Annual lecture on Thursday 12 May, at 6.15PM in ATB/056. Steve Bell's cartoons have been appearing in the Guardian for 30 years.

The York Files

Nouse reflects on a decade of scandal and memorable comments

Cocaine traced across campus

In **2008**, **24** campus sites tested **positive** for cocaine traces including **six Colleges** and **Vice-Chancellor's toilets**

A University spokesperson refused to comment when asked if cocaine use was thought to be a problem amongst staff. A statement was later issued by the University querying the methodology and equipment used to carry out the investigation; however, they did not ask to see positive swabs or details of the investigation. The swabs were purchased from Crackdown Drugs Testing Limited, which also supply surrounding police forces and prisons.



"It's like a gym membership. If you pay and don't go, you only have yourself to blame if you're still tubby round the sides."

Tim Ngwena, on YUSU's affiliation with the NUS

Ethical investment policy passed after student pressure

Following the campaign from **2,000** student signatures and **on-campus protesters**



CIA student agent employed on campus

In **1968**, one of the CIA's on-campus agents revealed themselves to be working at York as a political scout



"It was bloody awful, don't ever take a job when your first thought in the morning is 'oh no, it's today'"



Tom Scott, on being YUSU President

Welfare Officer resigns after attacking student

In **2008**, YUSU's Welfare Officer resigns following a **vote of no confidence** after **hitting a second-year student**

Grace Fletcher-Hackwood resigned as Academic and Welfare Officer of YUSU after a vote of no confidence after she attacked second-year Dan Taylor. She was forced out after Taylor tabled a vote of no confidence which she lost by eight votes. Fletcher-Hackwood assaulted Taylor outside a Chav D event after an argument about whether YUSU should use ethical merchandising.

After losing the vote she hit back at Taylor in an on-campus interview, saying that he and members of the campus right-wing body had used the incident for their own "political capital".



Vice-Chancellor's pay increase funds excessive expense claims

Cantor's salary rose **£50,000** over **three years**

Spent **£70** on a private chauffeur trip between Heslington Hall and Hes East

In January 2011 it was revealed Brian Cantor, Vice-Chancellor, had enjoyed a 24 per cent increase in salary since 2008. Although his basic salary was reduced by around £800, he still enjoyed a cumulative pay rise of £50,000. The news came at the same time as it emerged that the University faced 80 per cent cuts across the board.

Research by Hoagy Davis-Digges, Celia Scruby, and Rose Troup-Buchanan

Comment & Analysis

Increasing PhD led seminars will hamper undergraduates

Camilla Apcar

Deputy Editor



Undergraduates and PhD students alike will suffer from inevitable department cuts, requiring more PhD students to teach seminars and tutorials.

Logging onto e-vision to find that your seminar tutor for the next term will be a PhD student is a time of mixed emotions.

On the one hand, you'll be getting a younger, perhaps more technologically aware tutor, who might be a bit more progressive with what you contribute to discussions every week. Excellent – the potential of putting less brainpower into your Friday 4.15 is always welcome news.

Yet, at the same time you won't be entering a discussion with a world-renowned subject specialist and all of their brilliant thoughts on an obscure and somehow inexplicably fascinating topic. Without insulting PhD students across the board, the simple fact here is; in academic circles, age does often equate to wisdom.

Wanting to have the most experienced tutors isn't an unreasonable request. Especially if their area of expertise is why you've chosen a particular module. As much as you might desire to give an aura of disinterested flippancy about your degree, by applying to York we were all aware of the high quality teaching standards. We weren't aware of who, in reality, would be providing them.

The University's website boasts lecturers who are at the top of their academic fields. There's only so much genius to go around, but need PhD students be the middle ground answer?

Surely it's not just undergraduate students who might be dissatisfied with this arrangement. PhD students primarily choose to undertake a doctorate in order to

further their own studies for three or more years, not to gain teaching experience. Teaching is actually most often a way for PhD students to fund their course, alongside their own academic work.

Some would (albeit melodramatically) term increasing the employment of PhD students as 'exploitation'. It's an easy way out for Departments – employ less expensive tutors, save money.

The national budget cuts to education have meant that departments at York are having to reconsider where they spend their money. For some, this means putting the PhD brigade into full force. Of course it's not easy to decide where to make a loss of some sort. Understandable and inevitably necessary as cuts are,

need they be made to the one area which students flock to York for – the teaching?

With the teaching system being changed for first-year undergraduates, advertised as a glorious revolution of teaching and examination methods, prospective students suspect the realities of York academia. They're already on the case, it would seem. They've been asking campus tour guides about how many PhD students the University employs. The future are onto the departments: maybe they won't be able to get away with this for long.

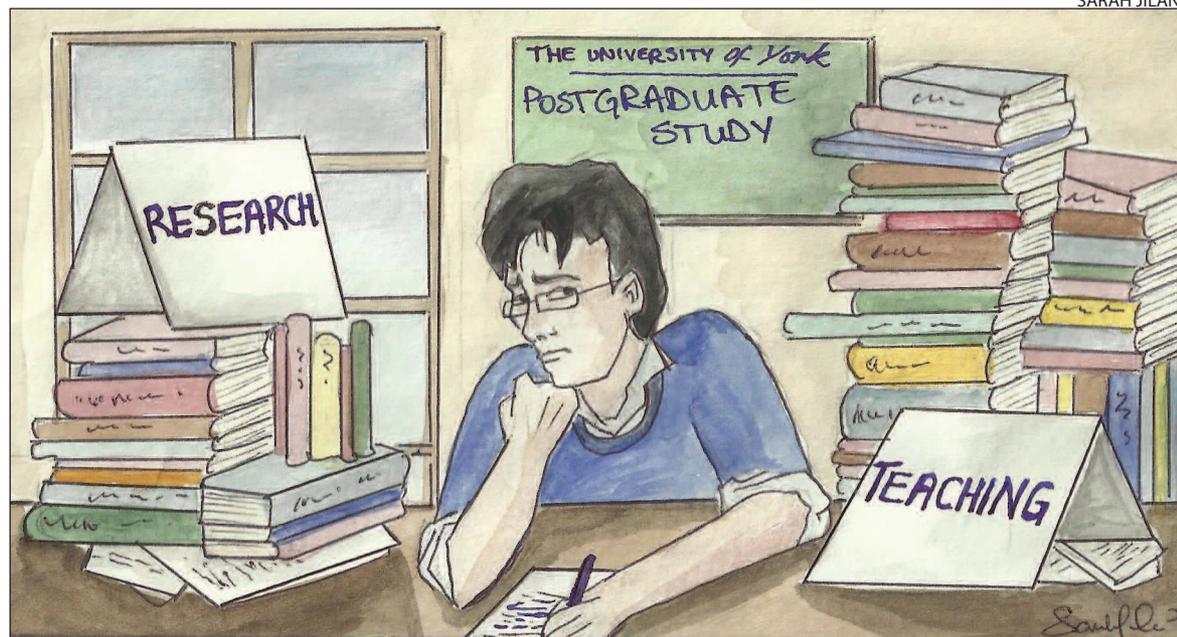
It's hard to offer alternative solutions to departmental budget cuts. We can hope that the use of PhD students as seminar tutors will be made clear to prospective

students. We could also hope that we won't be among those getting a PhD seminar tutor for three terms in a row.

Perhaps these departments could bring in a system whereby PhD students are employed largely for first-year seminars, giving second- and third-years with more weighted workloads the most experienced tutors.

In the end, for undergraduate students it's not about whether your seminar tutor is young enough to be using Facebook proficiently. Geeky as it sounds, it's about what they can bring to your academic environment. The highest standards can hardly be expected from those who are still undertaking their own academic journey.

SARAH JILANI



Isabelle Wynne



Student eviction should be the last option

Evicted is a strong word. It paints the picture of nightmare neighbours, impoverished families with crying children, and unreasonable landlords demanding rent. Think of it how you like, it's not a pleasant image.

Which is why the University's decision to evict a student from accommodation in Goodricke College for covering smoke detectors and having candles in their room can seem like a hefty decision, causing legal and financial problems for both parties.

On the one hand, it was an understandable decision. The student was warned after each of the cases and the fire safety rules are

explicit. Besides the fact, covering a fire alarm could endanger both the student and others in the building.

The University has followed the procedures to the book and this eviction is entirely legal. The student has also known about the eviction since the end of the autumn term, meaning they would have had plenty of time to sort out alternative accommodation.

But on the other hand, it cannot be underplayed how much of an upheaval this will be for the student. They will have to leave behind not only friends but the atmosphere of being in a college. And it is the proximity to student life and events that are so important for

establishing ourselves at university in our first year.

Fortunately, the student already has alternative accommo-

“to go straight to evicting the student is perhaps too severe”

modation which was actually provided by a college administrator. But does this not point to some form of sym-

pathy from others in the college and recognition that it is providing real difficulties for them? It seems almost hypocritical of the college to go to such lengths to “punish” someone to then go on to support them.

Eviction is a bit of a serious punishment after a few instances of smoking. True, there was justification for the University's actions but its decision to go straight to evicting the student is perhaps too severe.

A more logical step might have been to try a lighter punishment first to act as a stronger warning; some sort of community service is a possibility to act as a deterrent

while giving something back to the college. Even the simple prospect of a fine would act as a good form of dissuasion to us cash-strapped students.

Which ever way you look at it, what should be called into question here is not the University's desire to protect students but the way it does it. Obviously their main motivation was the protection of the rest of the college from a serious fire but did they need to respond in such a dramatic way? While it may be cold comfort for the evicted student, this case may at least highlight the need for arbitration between the students and the University before such a step is taken.



All fired up

In these turbulent political times, the revelation that the University of York, this hallowed institution of moral superiority and the high pursuit of intellect, has accepted millions in arms trade funding carries powerful impact. Our headlines are dominated by the horrors of ongoing wars in the Middle East, yet this financial connection brings the ethical implications alarmingly close to home.

A University, no matter how hard Cantor tries, should not operate solely as a business. By establishing an interdependence between York, and an arms company known to be in deals with Colonel Gaddafi and the Libyan government, it draws not just the administration, but the whole student body into an ethical landmine. In allowing research funding to come in its millions from businesses charged with bribery, corruption and breach of human rights, it essentially nullifies the heralded ethical investment policy that York students in their thousands fought for.

Regardless of the nature of the research, to be associated with such morally dubious companies is to advocate their dealings; we cannot distance ourselves from the immoral baggage this money carries. While the arguments for and against the arms trade are complicated and convoluted, it comes down to a simple matter of ethics, something this University seems to be notably lacking.

While profit is prioritised over principle, the University stands as a beacon of hypocrisy, compromising all values in the face of lucrative "blood money". The real conflict, it seems, is yet to come.

Invasive politics

As vital as it is for every student to use their vote wisely, recent events concerning former student, David Levene, have highlighted that politicians are always somewhat too keen to take their agendas that one step too far.

The political activism of York's own students is fantastic - kudos to those involved. Yet Levene's electioneering tactics were somewhat underhand, showing almost an abuse of position. He did not make it clear to those at YUSU that he was collecting their endorsements as a member of the Union's 'ruling body' rather than as politically aware individuals.

While YUSU can't be entirely to blame for Levene's printing fiasco, certain individuals - who gave the political hopeful access to College accommodation - can. When entrusting a former student with access to first-year accommodation, it might have been prudent to accompany Levene whilst he was 'posting kitchens'. Instead, students could arguably have been left vulnerable to any form of harrasment, and certainly the pamphlets shoved under their bedroom doors could be construed as such.

In order to win any campaign, of course you must be persistent. To some extent, annoyingly so. But there's a boundary that should be taken into account: politics should never be invasive of personal space, or of an individual's right to refuse 'public access' to their own home.

Languages for abandoning

Although the University was right to waive the fee on LFA classes for first-year students at the start of the academic year, there needs to be a rethink about how the resources are distributed so that the money isn't just going to waste.

If the University is happy to have class sizes of around 20, then a significantly fewer number of staff are needed to teach.

However, perhaps there needs to be a further review because many students have complained about the classes being too big in the first place. Therefore, the money might be better spent in having a certain number of free one-to-one classes or at least class sizes of less than ten -before anyone drops out that is.

Having only one session of two hours each week is perhaps not the most conducive way to learn a language and more frequent, shorter classes would be better and would probably keep more students interested in the course.

The free LFA classes are a good idea and we would not want that investment to stop, but wasting students' fees needs to be stopped just as much.

Moreover, with the likely increase of tuition fees to the full £9,000 at York, investment in projects such as LFA should be expanded and it would provide a clear selling point to prospective students if they knew that for their fee they would have the opportunity to either learn or improve a language as well as studying towards a degree.

Targeting where resources are going would improve the University's image while also providing better value for money for students.

Super-injunctions leave the media suffocated by the rich



Rose Troup-Buchanan

I really couldn't care less whether a premier league footballer might be having an affair with a page three girl. However, the ability of the footballer to prevent all media coverage of his illicit alliance is a provocative issue.

The emergence of the super-injunction has allowed the wealthy to decide what the media can cover. What this essentially means is those with money can muzzle our free media as and when they see fit.

An injunction is a court order, obliging or preventing actions by a certain party. A super-injunction is essentially a "gagging order" of the press and even prevents mention of the super-injunction.

The defence for super-injunctions is the protection of the families involved. Andrew Marr, a BBC journalist, was revealed to have had a super-injunction placed on the media preventing disclosure of his extramarital affair with a political journalist. A person renowned for scrupulously holding politicians to account for their misdemeanours has been exposed as thwarting his own profession in holding himself

to account. Hypocritical? Never. What fails to be observed when claiming that super-injunctions protect families is the damage they wreck on the "other woman". These women are not protected by the money which surrounds the men they sleep with. The actions of the courts (by allowing anonymity to one party, but not the other - as in the case of Imogen Thomas) place

them far beyond the reach of the average person and the realms of national papers. Ian Hislop, editor of Private Eye, recently fought Marr on his injunction and won. On his success he commented he would be unable to continue fighting all injunctions, as he simply did not possess enough capital. It is not economically viable to take those with super-injunctions to court however hypocritical their position might be.

Our media is being suffocated. Whether anyone actually cares who a celebrity is sleeping with is moot. But the media now cannot reveal (for example) the name of the entertainment company who sacked a female employee after a senior executive ended an extramarital affair with her. The injunction prevents anyone being held to account.

This system, where the Royal Court of Justice is essentially dispensing injunctions to those with the largest wallet, is not right. It goes against every principle of free press, freedom of speech, and basic accountability this country is supposed to stand for.

"those with money can muzzle our free media as and when they see fit"

them in a situation where they can neither confirm nor deny the speculation, only endure the hounding of a sometimes vicious celebrity media.

The average cost of objecting to a super-injunction can stretch above 30,000 pounds. Thus placing

Farrak Kelly



Free LFA courses for first years are a stroke of genius

This year, Languages for All (LFA) courses were offered to first year undergraduates for free. Despite this being a positive thing, the students of York still found a way to be riled by this at the beginning of the year.

Understandably, some people were annoyed that it wasn't being offered to all undergraduates, and there were a few disgruntled second and third years who had to pay for the same courses back when they were in their first year. Next came the reports of overcrowded classrooms and timetabling issues, and it all seemed like a bit of a mess.

The shame here is that there doesn't seem to be much recognition given to this initiative, which I personally think was a stroke of genius, and has worked brilliantly. Offering a free "taster", hooks students, giving them a chance to try before they buy. A Nouse poll showed that 65 per cent of students agreed that free LFA courses are a "worthwhile incentive".

As a first year student of linguistics, it made sense that an LFA course would suit my degree perfectly. But in saying that I am not the most motivated person, had the language course not been free (and if it weren't so easy to register online), I probably wouldn't have bothered. I have had all the best intentions of starting the course, but it would have gone down in flames. It seems many other first years had similar thoughts; over 1,500 applied, a massive increase from the meagre 310 who applied last year, when the course wasn't

free.

After a bit of research and a couple of life decisions, I opted for Level One Mandarin. I understand that many people have had problems with the standard of teaching but in my own experience, I've found the teaching was of brilliant quality. My classroom isn't overcrowded, and the whole thing has been enjoyable. This is a language that I have come love, I even find myself doodling characters on my notes during lectures.

Aside from enjoying languages, learning a language is also becoming increasingly vital in today's fierce job market and in a world that is more and more connected. It's such a shame that many students gave up; this year, over 1,800 students began a course, and around 720 haven't continued.

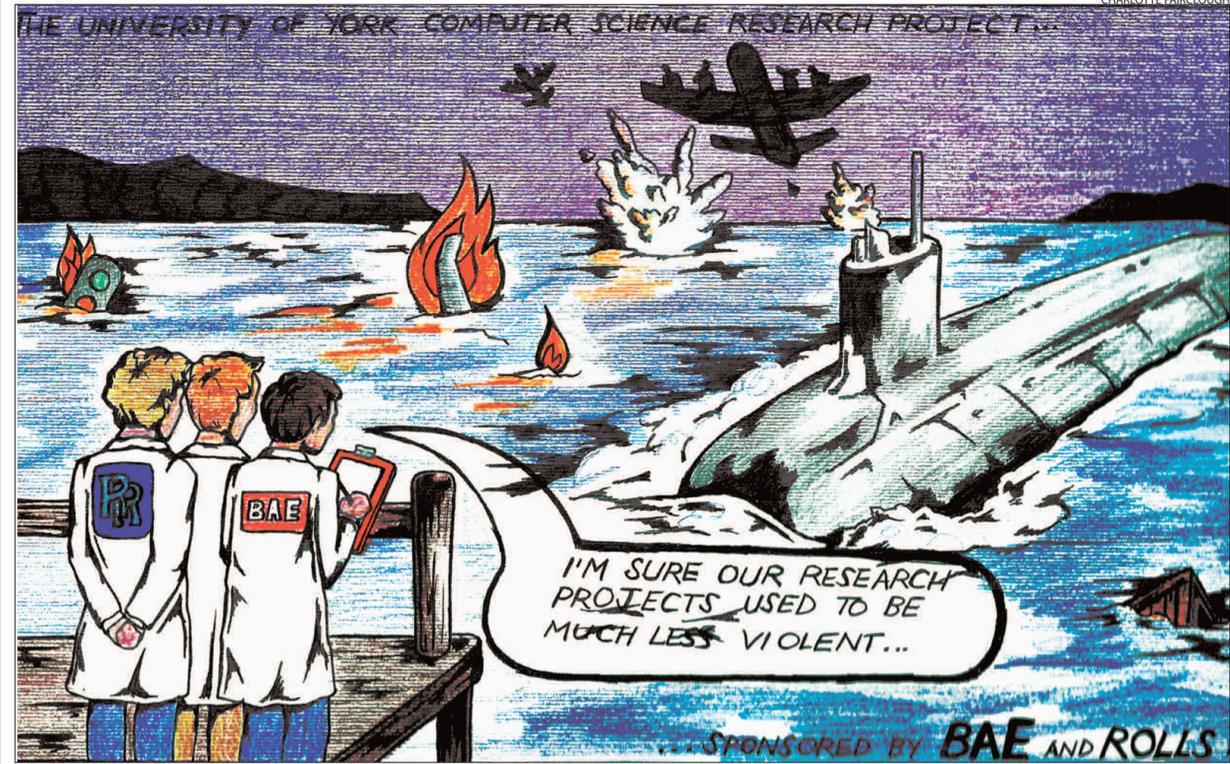
Regardless of this, that still means that there are around a thousand students who have stuck at it, which is a massive achieve-

ment for the scheme. And even though 47 per cent of first year students dropped out, it is not a reason to scrap the scheme all together. There is certainly room for improvement, for a start off they could consider offering free options for second and third years. It would be a shame to just abandon it.

The enticement of a free language course in the first year has clearly encouraged so many more people to get involved. Chances are, having seen how worthwhile the courses are; many students will continue their chosen language into their second and third years. I know I will, and I'm more than happy to pay.

It's a killer addition to any CV and it's proof that students are capable of doing something more interesting than sitting on Facebook all night. Plus, it's a great conversation starter, even if all anyone ever wants to know is whether you can order from a takeaway fluently.

MILLIE JONES



Mia de Graaf

MUSE Editor

Departments should not be tempted by unethical funding

The University should support forward-thinking research rather than depending on corrupt funding.

On Friday 6 March 2009 the University made a choice. By signing a policy to say that they would "not knowingly invest in companies whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups," that day was the end of our involvement in the development of firearms. It had been a long time coming, but finally the Council promised the 2,000 protesters that they would detach themselves from their arms trade investments. The purpose, they said, was to uphold "the University's value system."

Two years later and here we are again, as the arms trade companies funding the University's Chemistry, Electronics, and Computer Science departments "pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups." Granted, it is not a violation of the recently agreed policy - York has indeed ceased investing in unethical firms. However, by failing to sever ties with these institutes altogether it denotes a worrying readiness to place financial requirements over ethical standards.

Investment in these firms was not the sole reason for condemnation; a major factor was the direct relationship between an educational institute, whose mission is "to provide an intellectual...environment in which scholarship and learning may thrive," and companies who provide dictators and human rights abusers with the means to control their civilians using brute force. Last year, according to CAAT, the UK sold tear gas, crowd control armament and sniper rifles to Libya and

Bahrain. Worse still, since conflict broke out in Libya earlier this year protesters have been stifled using UK-supplied armoured carriers.

Such abuse of human rights needs to be recognized beyond an attempt to empathize with the TV updates that cram onto our screen. Even in York, a northern English city, we cannot fail to acknowledge the sheer magnitude of the Middle Eastern conflicts. The least we can do from such a distance is to be uninvolved. The nature of the

"We should not need to egg our University on through this transition to assume a moral stance"

University's involvement in the arms trade research matters little: though X insists the research is for safety purposes only, we are involved nonetheless.

Now, beggars can't be choosers, and as universities reach a crossroads where impending cuts loom, we are not in a position to lightly dismiss an offer of funding. For York, research funds are of particular concern. Consistently one of the top 10 universities ranked for research, this is something that underlies a vast proportion of York's

marketing. Understandably there is a fear that the decline in government funds will be severely detrimental for the University on this front. As reported by The Guardian, "the UK...spends a smaller amount of its GDP on R&D than other advanced countries," which is not set to be helped by the fact that, in this government, "research is simply not valued." For the involved departments it is an almost irresistible offer - wealthy companies offering funds at a time of need.

This route cannot be accepted as a viable option. We already made a step in the right direction, and there is no sign of it having caused a detrimental effect on the University. We should not need to egg our University on through this transition to assume a moral stance that they themselves dictated.

To remain in keeping with the University's "mission statement," they must ensure that we do not permit discrepancies in value. We must establish ourselves as an institution dedicated to education and research rather than a business dedicated to income. While the arms trade investors provide a short-term support system for York's highly esteemed research, it simultaneously acts to harness it. As BAE, Rolls Royce, Quintetiq, and MBDA subsidise research departments, we are contractually bound to work on their own projects, when we have the potential to look beyond these. We have the capacity to really allow learning to thrive; we cannot let our investors act as an obstruction.

Royal wedding wrongly stole focus



Sam Burgum

The UK is one of the most unequal societies in the industrialised world with four million children living in conditions of relative poverty, did you know that? Also, did you know that everyday globally 22,000 people die from preventable diseases? But in England we are more bothered about watching Kate in her fairy tale McQueen dress and Will in his spiffingly grand military costume. So grand, in fact, that we all forgot that this ceremony cost £80million.

Many people choose not to think about the probability that the outpouring of money on the Royal wedding will have denied money to those suffering elsewhere. This wedding was literally a reverse "Robin Hood" - taking money from the poor and giving it to the rich. It was all hidden very well by the BBC coverage that seemed to suggest the entire nation were in support of this event: waving their union flags like good little subjects.

The Royal Family is an extremely out-dated and unfair institution in what is supposedly a meritocratic society. William didn't earn enough money to give his beloved a fantastic wedding like everyone else: he was born into it. Something the rest of us miss out on because we are in the wrong gene pool.

However, even our "representatives" don't help. Instead of spending tax-money on education, health, social housing and other public sector aid, they give it to those already in the elite class.

During a period of time when people are concerned with how they are going to survive public spending cuts, it seems almost offensive to then present them with a spectacle of over-indulgent spending.

Whether it's banker bonuses or royal weddings, the point needs to be made that public funds are being spent on the private elite rather than the public and that is obviously not just.

Is this really the "land of hope of glory" when the "land" is privatised; the "hope" is genetic; and the "glory" is for the elite few given the right opportunities? Perhaps that is why these words are set to "Pomp and Circumstance": bringing new meaning to Elgar's original message that it is naive to believe that splendid shows of military have no connection to the drabness and terror they cause - it's all a spectacle.

We should congratulate Kate and Will on their marriage as we would any newly-weds: it's not their fault that they are part of such a corrupt system (although you don't see them complaining). But we should also take this opportunity, with all eyes on Buckingham palace, to recognise the blatant unfairness and inequality that a monarchy represents.

10.05.11

MUSE.

My inner child

Michael Morpurgo discusses the art of storytelling

Here come the girls

The glossy finish to a footballer's image: his WAG

Suspicious Minds

Probing the conspiracy phenomenon surrounding Osama bin Laden's death



MUSE.



FEATURES.

M5. Suspicious Minds

In the aftermath of Osama bin Laden's death **Mia de Graaf** investigates the conspiracies.

M6. Cinema and the city

At the 30th Istanbul film festival **Sarah Jilani** explores a legacy in film

M8. 21st century habits

Camilla Apcar has a cuppa with York nuns to see how religious life works in a secular world.

M10. Passions of poets

James Dixon discovers Bob Dylan and Allen Ginsberg's special and little exposed relationship

M12. Here come the girls

Henry Cowen meets today's football stars.

ARTS.

M14. Emily Heggadon meets Michael Morpurgo, we look at royal portraits through history, and Sarah Jilani questions the quality of the Turner prize.

FASHION.

M16. With an exclusive men's page we bring you comic strip style and a how to guide on pastel colours. Plus our pick of this summer's smells.

MUSIC.

M18. We catch up with Times New Viking and new artist Ghostpoet.

FOOD&DRINK.

M20. In a two page special we bring you cupcakes and curry recipes with Henry Cowen's esteemed pub column and Will Wade visits Mumbai lounge.

FILM.

M22. Gareth Davies is not impressed with the unanimous move to digital. Plus the team review *Thor, Farewell*, and list the Top 5 Samurai films.

IMAGE CREDITS.

Cover. Harper Collins	M16-7. Lucy Dixon
M6-7. Sarah Jilani	M20. Lucy Dixon
M12-13. Rick Elmes	M21. Olivia Waring
M14. Michael Morpurgo	M23. Philippa Grafton



Tom Killingbeck.

I've never been any good at library-based learning. At school I was once thrown out of the library for public gambling, and banned from using the printer after wasting paper on photocopying a funny photo of Michael Winner multiple times. In the first week of term I wrote the final and only exam on my course (English Literature, obviously). Despite averaging an adequate mark thus far, I have barely used the much-touted J.B. Morrell, preferring instead to get all my referential material online in the comfort of my dearly beloved bed. In that very bed I recently clicked on Evision; where there's the option to check just how many books you've taken out in your time at the University. I've taken out five. Five books. Four of them on voodoo which I got out during a phase in First Year where I became obsessed with West African religion and one a Viking text that I got out for an hour or two after not buying or reading it as I ran to a 9.15 seminar.

Libraries, to me, have always been

places that it's all too tempting to dick around in. A bit like church, there's a hallowed, hushed atmosphere that begs to be desecrated by loud noise and buffoonery. Where in church I might draw a penis on the prayer sheet and show it to my sniggering brother, libraries are simply too full of attrac-

"It shows me up for the Nintendo-playing, cider addicted bum that I am."

tive people and respectable campus personalities to warrant exposing oneself as a belend. There's an unspoken seriousness about, with people frowning above textbooks and folders at the slightest noise; a fortress of academic decency and conscientious self-education. This is exactly what sends me packing – it's too depressing to see rows and rows of studious types showing me up for the Nintendo-playing, cider-addicted bum that I

am. Walking into the upper reaches of the library I start to panic not only at the notion that I might be crucified for breathing out too loudly, but also because all the people around me are obviously more clever than me, more hardworking than me and less hungover than me.

It means that when I go to get a job, ten of these uber-students will outclass me in every facet. Leaving me collecting change outside the Hansom Cab for an afternoon pint as a full-time career. I won't even be able to squat in the Barbican because it's being renovated. With these fears in mind, it was a good two years before I returned to the academic Elysian fields of the J.B. Morrell. Over the course of this final year, as I have popped in every now and then more frequently, I've begun to regret my self-imposed exile from the building. Every time I scamper in, the layout seems to have completely changed due to renovation, meaning I have no idea where anything is, leaving me flummoxed.

Obviously, I'm sure all the books and

things might have helped me get a better mark on my course, but it's the social ecosystem of the library that makes me most remorseful. The building is an ant's nest of academics, with student gangs stalking its corridors. Some seem to be full-time residents there, taking a packed lunch everyday and making new acquaintances daily, compiling daunting Facebook friend numbers. It's a pick-up hotspot; who knows how many coffee dates have been arranged in that foyer or amid cigarette smoke by the automatic doors. Then there are the library anecdotes for dinner parties; rugby teams running amok, awkward lovemaking against the biology journals, drunk students leaving turds in the computer room. It's a whole world in there, a members only club, where the only initiation requirement is frequent attendance. If you're a fresher who's yet to step inside that pantheon of learning, it is time. Don't end up like me, drunk in bed, dreaming about what life might have yielded were I to have become a library guy.

Quirks: Religion

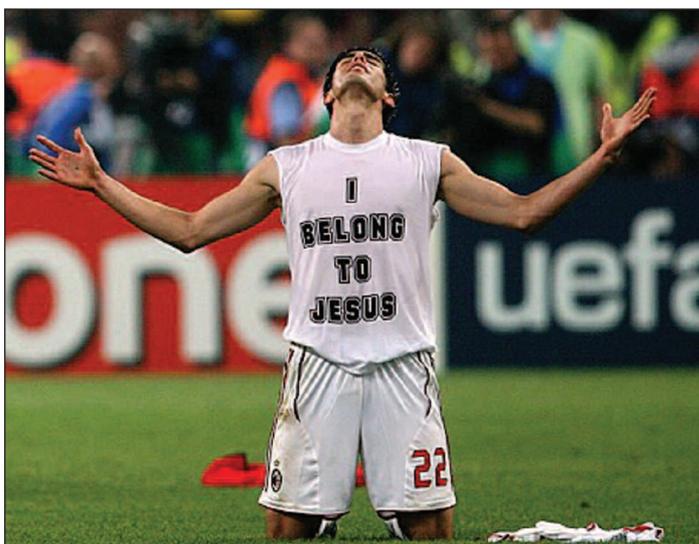
It is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, and religion is still a hot topic...



Angelina Jolie



Lady Gaga



Kaka



Madonna



50 Cent

Time consuming

Champagne Charlie.



In delay there lies no plenty” once quipped William Shakespeare. What an idiot. For all of us, I am sure, can recognize the delights of excessive procrastination. I for one will never regret those hours spent playing Diner Dash, creating microwave fireworks with tin foil, and cleaning piles of coal. And yet, even for the most professional and adept time waster, third year has become something a struggle. Signs of looming deadlines are unavoidable, present everywhere in the ghostly expressions of our shriveled and translucent course mates. First-year friends who used to always have time for a quick game of living room ‘slug wars’ now shake their heads. They have work to do, and so do you. Even Facebook, the waster’s comfort blanket, has turned against us. An endless assault of word counts and hysterical hard-drive related stati leave us yearning for a little Keyboard Cat to take the reality away...

But my friends, it is at times like these where one must employ the secret of the world’s best and strongest procrastinators – the slow cook. Because thankfully, no-one can deny you your right to eat. Not only to eat in fact, but to cook. Follow these three simple rules and not only will you never have to hand your essay in, you’ll never even need to take that bothersome trip to the Harold Fairhair building. After all, you have beanbags at home...

them. They will not dare approach you again.

2. The Long Term Project

People admire persistence and stamina. That’s why you have to do stupid, crap things when you’re younger, like go to Brownies or be a Prefect whose sole job is to try and stop people from setting light to other peoples rucksacks (true story). Those things are good things because they show that you are committed to a cause. And being committed to something, especially something involving old people or children I think, is very good for your CV. Therefore no one can judge you for being committed to some kind of long term, coincidentally time intensive food project. For example, the vodka watermelon needs to be ‘fed’ with vodka every day, before its tasty demise in week 10. Christmas cakes too need to be pricked all over and ‘fed’ with sherry, or cheap sherrytypiestuff every single day. If you set up enough of these little projects, you will soon have a lovely, delicious, time consuming menagerie where you can happily while away the majority of the morning, before the good Jeremy Kyle comes on. If people ask you why, tell them that you’d really like to stop, but it would be a shame to now since you’ve been cultivating that special slow gin for two whole years...They will have to agree.

3. Feed The World

However hard you try, it is difficult to make cooking for one person last over three hours a day. People will soon see through your lazy, despicable ploy and frogmarch you back to the library. For some reason however there is a loophole, as feeding 20 or 30 people is suddenly seen not as excessive or moronic, but as worthy and even heroic. People are begrudgingly impressed with hilarious scale cooking, and as it obviously entails a LOT of hard work, no-one can mark you out as a slacker. Hold street parties. Invite extended family, and estranged relatives from all corners of the globe. Seek out large scale community projects and then repeatedly suggest a morale building barbeque consisting only of suckling piglets. They would be fools to refuse and once again you can sleep soundly, safe in the knowledge that you have avoided another days hard graft. Do not be depressed when you get a 3rd. Rejoice. For you have beaten ‘the man’.

1. The Exotic Lunch

Buying food on campus is expensive, and rubbish. Therefore if you must go, you must make your own lunch. “A sandwich?” you suggest. I laugh in your face. Sandwiches are for the dull and the mediocre. Did Oscar Wilde ever proclaim the merits of the “Big Fill”? Exactly. Successful people have exotic, exciting lunches that stimulate the mind and the senses. Think bento boxes. Think handmade sushi complete with intricately carved carrot ornaments. Think homemade lobster bisque made with homemade stock, served with a freshly baked, homemade roll. Spread it with home churned butter (shake cream in a jam jar...apparently) and then you’ll have the lunch of someone who deserves to be at university. If people challenge you, tell them that you’re just trying to embrace other cultures. Question why they themselves always eat white bread, arch an eyebrow, and try hard to look disappointed with

Extra Terrestrials by numbers.

51. As in area number. People are particularly concerned about the underground facilities at Papoose Lake. Sounds awful fishy.

2004. The year Dan Burisch claimed to be cloning alien viruses at Area 51. He’s also a ‘telepathic’ translator. Impressive considering he was a policeman in Vegas while ‘earning’ his PhD in NY.

2025. When two astronomers predict we’ll exchange pleasantries with aliens. No need to crack out the cucumber sandwiches just yet, it’s unlikely they’ll visit. Radio signals more likely. Much cheaper in these times of austerity.

2. The number of eyes aliens are likely to have. Apparently, all life-forms on a planets circling a star do like Earth and, um, possibly some others?!

10 to the 40th power. The speed at which a flying saucer moves; twice the speed of gravitational interaction. A chap called Nikola Tesla invented them before 1900. Piece o’cake, he said.

1957. The year Antonio Villas Boas was abducted by aliens, resulting in him having sex twice with an attractive female alien, to take his sperm. Apparently, she had DYED hair. Collar didn’t match the cuffs, if you get what I’m saying.

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Suspicious minds

Osama bin Laden's death was pounced on by conspiracy theorists within minutes. **Mia de Graaf** follows the reactions.

Area 51 is not just a place in Nevada. Nor is it simply that Nevada place where aliens supposedly landed. No, it is now playing host to the world's deadliest terrorist mastermind. Apparently.

With claims that "9/11 wasn't actually al Qaeda, it was George Bush", and even, "#obl never existed," the death of Osama bin Laden was never going to be the clear cut triumph his enemy leaders may have anticipated. True to form, once it occurred, questioning came in thick and fast.

However, last week the conspiracies circulating came to a head as al Qaeda publicly acknowledged his death. Surely, argued Jason Burke, South Asia correspondent for *The Guardian*, this was the final straw: "The most obvious effect of this statement from al Qaeda is to kill off some - if not all - of the rapidly multiplying conspiracy theories claiming Bin Laden is not dead...Now, the only way to maintain that belief is to dismiss the al Qaeda statement as false."

Marcus Andrews*, however, does just that: "Something is just not right. I am still just puzzled as to why they didn't release a photo of him dead? Why the rush to put him to sea? Very convenient, burial at sea. No body to examine..."

Andrews first aired his own version of events to the world via forum, in which he exposed the lauded operation for what he felt it truly was: a hoax.

"He was actually taken alive, and any witnesses to that fact were killed on the spot. He was evacuated, he did have his DNA taken and proven, but someone else's body was dumped in the sea. Obama will be keeping him in an extremely secure location, Area 51, where he will squeeze him of every little secret. he has as regards al Qaeda and, once he is done with him, will simply bury him out in the desert, and everyone else will be none the wiser."

"Obama will be keeping him in Area 51, and, once he is done with him, will simply bury him out in the desert"

Though not quite in concurrence with Obama's take on the American mission, Andrews' perspective is hardly a radical one. His theory petered into relative non-existence amongst the array of outbursts that swamped the internet. They generally filter into the fields of 'he is still alive,' 'he never existed,' and 'he died years ago' - although one school of thought that gathered quite a following was that of Obama holding back the troops so as not to clash with the royal wedding.

Now, conspiracy theories have always existed - you're taught at school to bear in mind that Shakespeare might not be Shakespeare, and man may not have actually reached the moon in 1969. But Neil Armstrong wasn't sub-

ject to the hash tag. The viral reaction that saw '#obl' trending within minutes provided a platform for dubiousness that Chinese Whispers could never achieve.

"It was strange," says New Yorker, now York student, Caitlin Peters*, "on the day he died my friend's view was that it was selfish of the Americans as it would give the Taliban renewed justification to bomb us. She didn't care that people had already been hurt."

For the Americans it was a personal triumph. Regardless of the ethical debate that surrounded their emphatic reaction, the teeming crowds that filled up the streets conveyed the desire for a sense of union, and self-control that they felt purged of in 2001. "I can't describe to you how invincible America was," says Peters, who was at school in New York at the time of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, "I remember looking up at the black cloud of smoke that came up the day after and thinking, will we ever feel safe again? Suddenly, the world wasn't safe."

Yet as the rapidly multiplying Facebook groups confirmed, with personal verdicts smattered all over, bin Laden had become anyone's hot topic.

The reaction had been electric. As quickly as Americans took to the streets in celebration, tweeters took to the the web with vim and vigor - though many, like Peters' friend, to voice criticism.

Andrews applauds the cyber reaction: "Look around to the calls in the street all over the world of 'Obama got him'. Not one word about high gas prices, unemployment, failing economies. But he got Bin Laden. Thing is, Bin Laden hasn't controlled the group for several years. Command and control is very much in place. And we just handed them a rallying point. All that remains is how much of rally will it be. People online are questioning this dodgy business and showing that we won't be duped."

Yet with growing fears of an al Qaeda retaliation, surely this kind of doubtful speculation against the government cannot be conducive to building strength. As *The New York Times* reported last week, "more than six in 10 Americans said that killing bin Laden was likely to increase the threat of terrorism against the United States in the short term. A large majority also said that the al Qaeda leader's death did not make them feel any safer."

"Were you in Pakistan, a witness to Osama's so-called killing?" Andrews asks me, "If not, then your opinion, however sophisticated, is mere conjecture." M

*names have been changed

Cinema and the City

Sarah Jilani talks cinema, its plight, and its explosion onto the streets of Istanbul every April, in continuation of a valued tradition.



The bell of the historic tram rings as it tries to urge hundreds of pedestrians out of the way; the smells and yells from street vendors infiltrate the senses; a few students try to waylay the crowd with flyers courtesy of the Turkish Communist Party; all kinds of music blends with the chatter flowing out of street cafés. This is the district of Beyoğlu, a hub of activity on any given day or night of the week, and its numerous cinemas are

hosting, as always, the annual Istanbul International Film Festival.

Taking place over the course of two weeks every April, this year's film festival marks the 30th time that both world and local films have been presented to the public, devotees of the industry have been awarded, newcomers have been encouraged and guests ranging from Emir Kusturica, Theo Angelopoulos to John Malkovich have been hosted. Although going from

strength to strength in terms of scope, variety and numbers (the last few years have seen an audience of almost 100,000), on its 30th anniversary it seems all the more disappointingly clear that the festival hasn't remained unaffected by the tidal wave of consumerism, the private business ventures and globalisation sweeping its way up this historic district.

"When the festival - then called The Istanbul Film Weeks - first began

in 1981, the yearning for artistic cinema within a certain slice of society was positively tangible," says Atilla Dorsay, one of the founders of the festival and a celebrated film critic today. "We could never have dared to imagine, in those times of scarcity, that what began with seven would in 30 years be 230 films. From the very start, it gained a momentum of its own. I remember, one day, we were discussing the possibility of introducing film awards to the

Above: For two weeks every April, the Istanbul Film Festival hits the streets of historic Istanbul.



“We could never have dared to imagine, in those times of scarcity, that what began with seven would in 30 years be 230 films.”

festival agenda. I popped out to the loo, and by the time I came back the Golden Tulip Awards had been established.”

What was obvious from early on, however, was keeping this event in what was one of the oldest and most culturally rich districts of the city:

“It was apparent that, only a few years after the festival’s inception, Beyoğlu was its heart and soul,” Dorsay adds. “Guests would come for the city as much as for the films. The festival was so under-financed that there were times we paid for the guests’ dinners out of our own pockets or thanks to the easygoing kindness of the local restaurant owners.”

As Dorsay recalls 1988’s closing ceremony, spent on a protest walk against a wave of censorship with friend and celebrated Greek-American director Elia Kazan, he is unable to hold back his tears.

Undoubtedly, the emotional investment in this cultural venture is very high for those who have followed its progress from the start. Yet it is also the intangible aura surrounding the festival that - no longer in any organisational position - he is finding hard to let go of. It is a sense of shared interest, enthusiasm and belonging, which you are immediately a part of no matter how later on in life you’ve decided to participate. Complete strangers strike up conversations out of mutual love for a particular director’s work; veteran festival-goers reminisce; a feeling of locality is fostered, which is no small feat considering the usual anonymity felt in a city of 15 million.

Despite these strong social ties to its location, last year saw the closure of the foremost host of the festival, the Emek Cinema, which has stood in all its art nouveau splendor since 1924. A reaction of outrage followed the news that a complete knock-down of the 1884 building and the subsequent construction of a shopping centre were being planned. Walks were organised and petitions signed, yet when the 30th Film Festival rolled around, Emek’s doors were still boarded up; it seems as soon as media and public attention dies down the original plans shall commence. Istanbul, which already boasts the largest shopping centre in Europe, is gaining its 112th shopping centre whilst losing a legacy. Two more festival-hosting cinemas have since shut their doors. Cevdet

Pişkin, the manager of a third cinema that is in danger, believes the portion of blame that should be assigned to the public is no small one:

“People no longer treat the experience of going to the cinema as one where you dress well, build a rapport with other movie-goers, and grow familiar with everyone from manager down to the ticket boys. Old-school values and one festival a year doesn’t fill up your seats. Take the Emek Cinema for instance; it seats nine hundred people. Do you think a quarter-full film showing covers the heating bill that big old room racks up in an hour?”

He has a point indeed; festival-goers forget that these cinemas are open and running all year. Staying afloat depends on sustained public interest, not a sudden overflow of people for two weeks out of fifty-two. It seems the “yearning for film” Atilla Dorsay speaks of with such nostalgia has been overtaken, like much else, by the global yearning for goods, brands and mainstream culture.

Indeed, although today the festival itself has a strong foundation, it is largely kept alive by private organisations. The contributions of Akbank, owned by one of the most powerful mercantile families in Turkey, and the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), have been very beneficial. However, there is a glaringly obvious lack of government involvement, despite the festival’s contributions towards tourism, international recognition and cultural growth.

The private sponsors are standing firm, but it is disheartening to find the government so disconnected from the needs of this outnumbered but rooted handful within modern Turkish society. Yet this was not always the case; those like Dorsay who remember the festival’s past have oftentimes had to deal with a not-so-welcome degree of government interest too.

“We are a nation of rather, ah, sensitive souls,” Dorsay says with the hint of a self-mocking smile. “Every other thing seems to be considered an ‘insult

to Turkishness”

In the early 80s, the festival managed to continue despite a nationwide military coup and its resulting clamp-down on freedom of expression. In those years, journalist Mehmet Öztürk writes, it was a “window opening onto the outside world”, even though the number of films featured were pitifully few.

In the late 80s, it had to struggle to provide the kind of variety it wished to due to the continuously heavy-handed government approval process. Festival films would have to submit to the same kind of assessment that blockbusters underwent before meeting approval, thus stripping the festival of its platform for independent, experimental cinema.

“Communism and nudity were the big no-nos,” Dorsay explains. “It frustrated me so much to see films which were real gems being cast aside by a panel of government officials who didn’t know or care to know the first thing about cinema.”

In fact, Gönül Üsnet, a local and a film enthusiast who hasn’t missed the festival for the last 25 years, believes this is the only manner in which the government has ever noted the festival’s existence:

“The only so-called ‘contribution’ the government has ever made to the festival in its thirty-year-long duration has been to look on with a continuously suspicious eye,” she recalls.

At times, it was almost entirely down to the respect owed Şakir Eczacıbaşı - a long-time benefactor of the Arts and patriarch of an old bourgeois family - that some films ever had the chance to greet an audience.

“Where the entreaties of us ‘left-journalist-types’ fell on deaf ears, Şakir became our advocate and spokesperson,” says Dorsay.

“In ‘89, our predicament was finally resolved. Festival films were no longer required to submit to a process of approval, and with this freedom we were able to expand to include ever more films and nurture many up-and-

coming Turkish filmmakers.” Indeed, the “Meeting at the Bridge” category of films are reserved particularly for the promotion of joint productions, most of which are Turkish-German, French-Turkish and Turkish-Armenian films.

Azize Tan, director of the festival today, says that one of their key missions now is to ensure the festival remains loyal to its original aims: “The festival is still the place to go in order to discover what’s happening in Turkish cinema. We have now increased the number to 50 domestic films and around 150 international.” Yet how this hope for growth is going to be sustained when, simply, the number of screens available for the festival’s use are decreasing, remains without a viable answer.

Istanbul is an impossibly diverse city that today holds more immigrants from all corners of Turkey than it does those who are second or third generation locals. The level of education, cultural awareness and the income to pursue these things vary enormously across the population. Hence, it may not be such a bad thing for the festival to try and retain a manageable scope and remain in its characteristic surroundings.

Indeed, Cevdet Pişkin the cinema manager believes this is already the case, arguing it is the same demographic that keeps the festival upright:

“It is the same people who comprise the audience - parents start to bring their older children as aging followers of film begin to stay at home. It’s mostly students now; but I think students are this festival’s future.”

Perhaps, despite raising a generation of film enthusiasts, the Istanbul International Film Festival will never even be noticed by the majority of Istanbul’s population. Yet if it wants to expand the variety and quality of films it chooses to present, it surely should be able to do this on its own terms and not because the unstoppable momentum of globalisation is on its doorstep.

As a society we can’t afford to realise, only too late, the futility in searching for the kind of intellectual and emotional nourishment we find in an hour and a half of cinema in absurd substitutes like shopping centres. Here’s hoping that this festival, with such strong roots and unwavering public interest, will see another thirty years’ worth of obstacles overcome. M

Above: Ancient Istanbul fills with dedicated film-goers every April.



Twenty-First Century Habits

Camilla Apcar speaks to some of York's most empowered women.

York's Bar Convent is a Grade One listed building, and boasts a museum, café, and 18 guest rooms. It is the oldest living convent in England. But behind the public façade live 23 women leading a religious life. In the community sitting room five of them chat over a cup of tea, sporting knitwear and caring smiles that can't help but suggest friendly wisdom. These are five nuns of the twenty-first century – and they've watched Sister Act.

Sisters Margaret, Agatha, Louise, Cecilia and Ann have all lived at the Bar Convent for over twenty years, but they've had – and want – to adapt to the demands of modern living. Until thirty

years ago each was involved in education, teaching across England in five convent schools: London, Shaftsbury, Ascot, Cambridge and York.

As new entrants weren't being ordained, the 1980's saw the running of the schools handed over to the government and lay management. Without their educational responsibilities, the nuns were forced to retrain and re-evaluate their lives. Their individual talents and capabilities now determine their work. For some, retraining meant shattering the stereotypes of what a nun 'does'.

Sister Louise was Headmistress of the Shaftsbury school. After its closure, she studied Theology at Heythrop

College. She then worked at an alcohol and drug addiction treatment centre in Cambridge. "I just saw people, one by one, whether they wanted help for their addiction or whether they wanted 'spiritual counsel.'" However incongruous it might seem for a nun to be working with recovering addicts, this is where Louise's religious life led her.

The convent's founder, Mary Ward, died in Heworth in 1645. Her founding members were young women, and due to the persecution of Catholics in England during 1609, Mary Ward had to go abroad to found the Congregation of Jesus. "I think her passion was not to be locked up," says Sister Cecilia.

"She wanted people to be ordinary, to live among the ordinary people and do what was needed. Her drive was, in those days, to educate women and the poor. She founded the school, and that's how we got into education.

"They also had Sisters living alone doing catechesis and helping priests. From the beginning there was a diversity of work." A living testament to the fact, Sister Bodana is visiting the Bar Convent to learn English with a purpose. She's part of the Slovakian Congregation of Jesus, working to help young women who have been victims of trafficking.

Faced with popular preconceptions about what nuns do, and should do, the Congregation's ethos is to adapt with the needs of the time. The community sitting room banishes outdated assumptions itself, furnished not only with a historic painting of Mary Ward, but with a television and a hefty supply of books. There's not a bare wall in sight, nor is it cold, and there's certainly no shortage of lunchtime sandwich

triangles.

'Doing good' has actually made it more complicated for the Sisters to establish their place in twenty-first century society. After speaking to the Census Office during this year's survey, Sister Ann describes: "we just didn't fit into any of the categories at all, and the woman at the office couldn't believe what was going on here. People have just such weird ideas."

Involved in the handover of the schools to lay management, Ann didn't leave Shaftsbury until 1997 when she took a sabbatical year to her home country, Ireland. She then worked in London before returning to York, giving breakfasts to the homeless.

Geographically, the five Sisters' lives have been nomadic. Yet they speak as if they have known each other since childhood. Their understanding of one another, and their open-minded nature, stems entirely from their religious belief.

The nuns undertake about eight years of 'formation', a process by which they begin to realise what life as a nun will be like. They take vows for two or three years until certain of their choice – and go into apostolic work. Ten years after their final vows, the Sisters take a year of spiritual renewal. "I think that was my turning point," muses Sister Cecilia. "Having been plunged into apostolic work, I think it's quite good just to stop and think, 'Well, what am I here for?'"

From that period of reflection, Cecilia went on to work in a crisis centre for alcoholics and drug addicts, as well as a homeless centre in London.

The group are well aware of what others might think of their lives. "The ordinary person has a stereotyped idea

Above: Nuns meet a local woman in the streets of York.

of what a nun is," explains Louise. "First of all, she spends most of her day in prayer, in chapel, cut off from the world – in what we would call a very monastic life.

"But when Mary Ward was led by God to something completely different, it took some time for us to be accepted. A missionary spirit took root on the continent, persecuted and underground. 1829 was the first time since 1686 when we could first be in the open."

When the five Sisters entered the Congregation, they all wore the monastic widow's dress of 1609. But the reevaluation of Mary Ward's words actually meant wearing ordinary clothes instead. It took a while to accept such revolutionary change; Sister Agatha didn't change her style of widow's dress until 1985. In Korea, the nuns of the Congregation wear a plain grey dress and veil because it's suitable for their work. At home in Slovakia, Sister Bodana would ordinarily wear a habit.

Tradition has not been lost in England, though. Two symbols still set the Sisters apart: a silver wedding ring on the wedding finger – "it corrodes when you swim" – and a cross worn around the neck. The cross is from the nave of Ripon Cathedral where the Ward family coat of arms lies. It distinguishes the group, but it's not compulsory; the Sisters choose to wear the symbols which identify their faith.

In the past, the early morning hours meant that the Sisters would meditate in the chapel before going to the same Eucharist. Now they have adapted their way of living to suit the demands of modernity in their own daily routine.

"We are free to meditate and do our spiritual reading when our own personal timetables can fit it." The Sisters use their bedrooms to pray, and have the Eucharist four times a week. "If we are able, we are always present at it. But sometimes we can't be because of the nature of our work."

In many ways, it has taken greater self-discipline and strength to align religion with the pace of the twenty-

"It has taken greater self-discipline and strength to align religion with the pace of the twenty-first century"

first century. But they've been successful: at face value the five women are indeed 'ordinary'. They enjoy a cup of tea, and are not detached from the 'outside world' in any way. In fact, there is no 'outside world' – the Sisters are fully part of it.

The convent doesn't have Sky services, so Ann goes to a local pub to watch her nephew play professional rugby. "One evening all these men came in and I think they were a bit mesmerised by an elderly woman sitting on her own. First of all they said: 'Where's your husband?' I said: 'I don't have a husband'. 'Who are you then?' 'I'm a nun.' They couldn't believe it – the chap beside me wanted to have a religious conversation. I just replied: 'Well actually, I've come to watch a rugby match!'"

Whoopi Goldberg's portrayal of Sister Mary Clarence in the 1992 film *Sister Act* failed to impress the group. "We have to laugh about it," says Margaret. "In a sense, our lives are pretty ordinary, so it wouldn't make very good television."

Sister Margaret leads the life most similar to the stereotypical preconception of a 'nun'. After the schools closed, she trained for parish work. It's far from just coffee and lunches; Margaret is also one of the chaplains for York's hospital. One of a team of 30, she makes regular weekly visits to patients who are often in critical condition.

Margaret's work demonstrates the most front facing aspect of a nun's life. What the rest of the world doesn't see is the strength of religious belief behind it, which reveals a life less than 'ordinary'. The three vows that the nuns abide by are crucial to their lifestyle.

Poverty means that the nuns must be ordinary and live simply. All the money they earn is collected as common profit amongst the community at the convent. The vow of celibacy means that none of the nuns are married, or have been but are no longer. "It keeps God as first and foremost our greatest love."

"Today I think the vows are seen as to be for giving us a freedom for greater life in God's kingdom. They're not negative, they enable us to live as generous a life as possible in the ways that we're asked to."

Yet Cecilia describes obedience as the most difficult vow to keep. "We have a big variety of activities. We might be doing very valuable work that we love, but we might be asked to leave it and go somewhere else. We're not free to run our own lives."

The nuns lead hectic lives that would rival high-powered businesswomen. Sister Agatha relates to the difficulties of being too busy in marriage and losing the romantic spark. "You can be in danger of losing it if you don't really do your bit to bring yourselves in union. Because you feel you've been so absorbed in everything – you've got to do something about keeping these things alive."

"You can be so busy and have so many demands on you that the centre of our lives must be between ourselves and God. If that isn't the centre it's very difficult to be happy in this way of life."

Agatha is in charge of the elderly

Sisters residing at the convent. Her experience of the Bar Convent is different: she was one of the architect's behind its transformation in the 1980's.

Despite the Bar Convent being a Grade One listed building, the Sisters genuinely did not want "the part that costs the earth." They used their million pounds from the listing to construct the museum, shop, and café. The opportunities it has brought are endless.

The Congregation run their own centre which holds conferences for voluntary groups and charities. Cecilia is the Director, overseeing its workings. Education is still second nature to the Sisters. They run two-year courses for those who want to go on to accompany others spiritually. "That pays, as it were, our roof and our bread and butter."

There doesn't seem to be an end in sight for any of the Sisters' work – nor do they have any desire to stop. "Nuns never retire. It's just like the Queen."

The worldwide Congregation of Jesus community has spread to approx-

imately 2,500 strong. When Agatha led world prayer during the Chilean mining crisis, she "only had to look through what our 55 Sisters working in Chile do, and say this is what is going on there, through our Sisters."

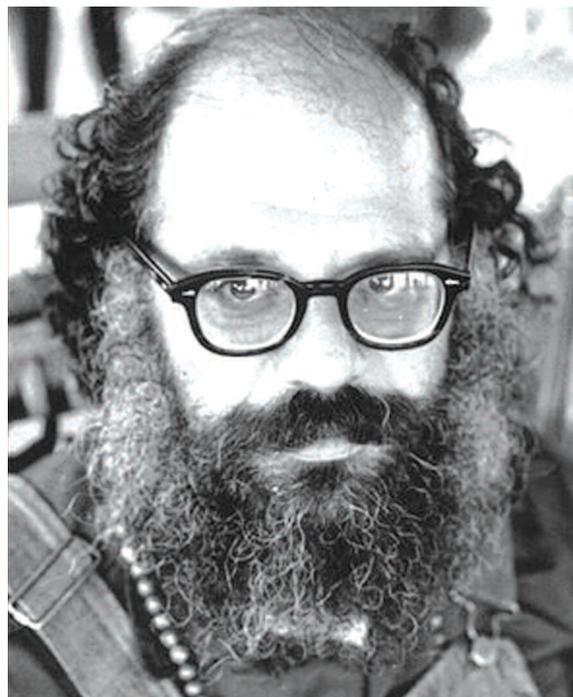
"Our prayer life is the absolute heart of it, and you really have to take personal responsibility for preserving it," explains Louise. "There is variety in our life, but we all follow the same the constitution which dates right back to Saint Ignatius. We do not say the Divine Office except privately if we wish to – people can get a bit shocked by that."

"They ask, 'when are you praying?' They've got this idea that the chapel bell rings and you go – but not here in England. We're very privileged."

Adapting to the needs of the time has revolutionised the Sisters' work and daily routine, but the strength of their faith remains untouched. "Our way of life doesn't make any sense without the spiritual; it'd drive us all mad. But if the reason for our life is God, then anything is possible." M



Passions of the poets



Leaders of the Beat movement Bob Dylan and Allen Ginsberg fuelled each others' inspiration and a new liberal generation. **James Dixon** explores their relationship and how their legacy has changed the way we howl and harmonize now.

Bob Dylan and Allen Ginsberg met in Greenwich Village - "a whole network of friends and lovers mixing with older artists and activists: painters, poets, filmmakers, jazz people, theatre folk, young fashion designers, dancers, avant musicians, and many future pop stars of the late 60s, all drinking cheap beer at Stanley's Bar on Avenue A and dancing to the jukebox; a pressure cooker for the counterculture."

Ginsberg entered in the late 40s, having been suspended from Columbia for various small offences; Dylan in the 60s, a young man from Minnesota with a passion for Woody Guthrie.

"Labour unions and a relatively enlightened mayor's office had pushed regulations to keep rents low to accommodate soldiers coming back from the mid-century wars - cheap rent meant

that you could work a few days a week and afford to spend the rest of the time making art and talking about it in cheap downtown bars, and that's what happened."

Steven Taylor worked with Ginsberg for over 20 years, at one point living in his New York apartment, a tiny room with just enough space for a piano and a single mattress - "filmmaker Harry Smith later occupied that room, after Allen rescued him from starving to death in a flop house." They recorded an album together with John Hammond soon after they met, but it had to be released on Hammond's own label because Columbia executives complained of Allen "shaking his ass around". Taylor explains: "they didn't like the references in some of his songs to homosexuality."

This attitude is a reminder that

while Greenwich Village may have been a hothouse of progression, mainstream America was still very much conservative. When Bob Dylan was sixteen, Ginsberg's definitive Beat poem 'Howl' became the subject of a high-profile obscenity trial.

It was on the basis of one line in particular that officials seized copies of the poem while on their way from London: "who let themselves be fucked in the ass by saintly motorcyclists, and screamed with joy". At the trial, literary experts were called to defend this line and the poem's various references to illegal drugs, sex and homosexuality.

It turned out to be a landmark case in the defence of free speech - Judge Clayton Horn dismissed the charges, later writing that "the authors of the First Amendment knew that novel and unconventional ideas might

disturb the complacent, but they chose to encourage a freedom which they believed essential if vigorous enlightenment was ever to triumph."

The trial spurred Ginsberg on into the plains of political activism - he became a willing figurehead for the global youth movement, somewhat unlike Dylan, who increasingly tried to distance himself from politics.

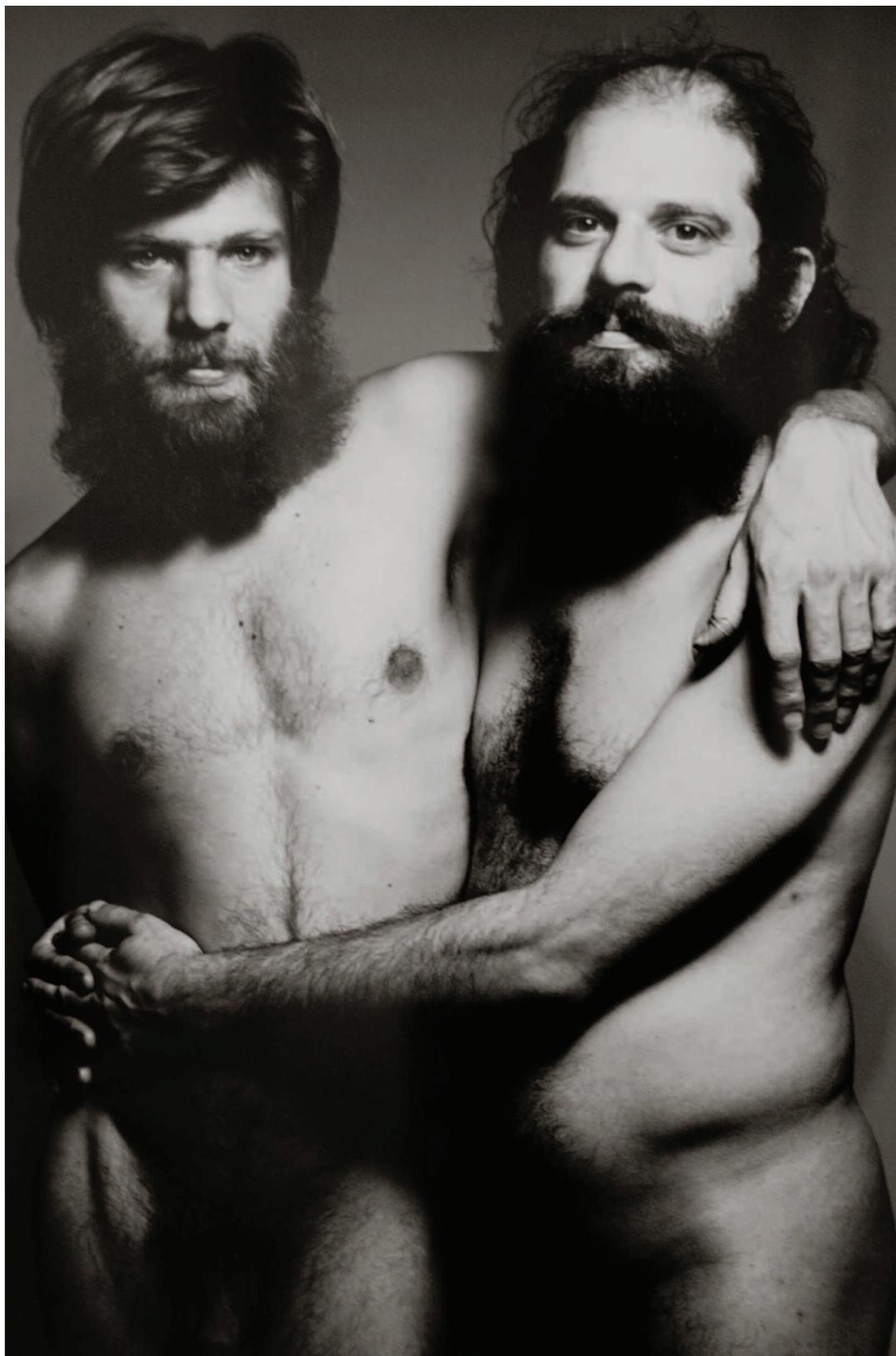
Dylan had come from a small, failing town in Minnesota with the intention of singing folk - his first album contained only two of his own songs - but when he arrived in Greenwich Village he soon became subject to a great mix of influences. It was there that the tail-end of the jazz and beat poetry scene overlapped with the folk revival.

"There's an old cliché - a true villain never goes north of Fourteenth

Above: Dylan famously resented his exposure, with Ginsberg, Greenwich Village.

“I saw the best minds of my generation

starving hysterical naked”



Street. Once you have the rent looked after, everything else is, or was, relatively inexpensive, nearby, and accessible. That's a big part of why everybody wound up there. The poets all know each other, and they knew the folk singers. I seem to recall Allen telling me he'd seen Bob at poetry readings around the village.”

In 1963, Ginsberg first heard 'A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall'. According to historian Sean Wilentz, on hearing the song he wept with "illuminated joy" at what he felt was a passing of the bohemian tradition to a younger generation.

Back in Minneapolis, Dylan had read Jack Kerouac's writing. He also had a good sense of the surreal and the same adverse relationship with society that characterised the beats. On Desolation Row he sings of "the motorcycle black Madonna two-wheeled gypsy queen", and his own surreal writing on the sleeve-notes for Highway 61 Revisited takes the shape of free-form prose:

On the slow train time does not interfere & at the Arabian crossing waits White Heap, the man from the newspaper & behind him the hundred Inevitables made of solid rock & stone - the Cream Judge & the Clown - the doll house where Savage Rose & Fixable live simply in their wild animal luxury . . . Autumn, with two zeros above her nose arguing over the sun being dark or Bach is as famous as its commotion & that she herself - not Orpheus - is the logical poet "I am the logical poet" she screams "Spring? Spring is only the beginning!"

The famous Elsa Dorfman photo shows Ginsberg staring down at Dylan's left hand as he plays the guitar. Dylan showed him how to harmonize a tune using three chords, and he immediately began writing songs. He got a whole body of work out of that tip, and would end up recording with Dylan on a number of occasions, and with both Dylan and Taylor in the early 80s.

"Whenever we arrived anywhere, like London or Los Angeles, Allen would immediately get out his phone book and call everyone he knew in town to arrange too much activity. He couldn't sit still - workaholic, funaholic, pathologically gregarious. We arrived in LA and he called Dylan right away. Dylan said he'd been recording and Allen said where and Bob said at my studio, and Allen said, can I borrow the studio, and Bob said, who's going to pay for it." They worked out that Dylan would provide the studio and Ginsberg would pay the musicians.

"If this had happened earlier, when we first started playing together, I might have been pretty nervous. I can recall at the '76 sessions at Columbia, I was talking with Arthur Russell, the cellist and composer who played the session. He said "I hear Dylan might show up," and I said, "if Bob Dylan walks in here, I'm going to faint." Later, after touring for a few years and meeting and working with a lot of people, it wasn't so fraught."

In the July of 1966 Bob Dylan crashed his motorbike when he was blinded by the sun. He spent six weeks recovering. It was a great relief - an escape from the pressures of touring, hostile crowds and the productivity of methamphetamine-fuelled writing and recording sessions. Ginsberg brought him a box full of books while he was in hospital

His generosity was famous. "People don't generally understand that most of the money he made over the years was given away, either in the

form of grants to various poets or to help with people's legal bills - that sort of thing. Allen's secretary, Bob Rosenthal, said "Allen was a cottage industry." It's true."

Steven tells a story to illustrate the point. At one time he had a series of recording sessions in Chelsea after which he would take the subway late at night to his apartment uptown. One night he was on the train in the early hours of the morning when two men stole his guitars. "They came out of nowhere, from opposite directions, grabbed my gig bags and were gone. When I told Allen about it he said, "the only way you're going to get over this is to replace your instruments. What'll it cost?" I told him, and he wrote me a check." The money was equivalent to his quite generous week's pay at Brooklyn College, where he was teaching at the time. "He didn't think twice. This was a guy who didn't have money in the bank, but he just gave me his packet."

There's a video online, footage from Renaldo and Clara, a film Dylan worked on with Ginsberg. It shows the two standing over Kerouac's grave. They read poetry and talk about the graves they've visited, then Ginsberg laughs, points to the grave and asks "is that what's gonna happen to you?"

"No, I want to be in an unmarked grave."

Unlike Ginsberg, who was always very open in everything he did, Dylan was and still is a private man. To him the media is something "you lie to".

Critics who expected him to make a political statement on his recent trip to China evidently don't realise that it was a long time ago that Dylan declared his independence from politics, describing himself as more of a song and dance man.

But he did talk about religion with Ginsberg, who was always eager to criticise "theism", a term he picked up from his Buddhist teacher. "If he thought you were a Christian, or in some way a believer in God, he would try to pull that apart. He didn't push the issue so much with Dylan, but he wanted to discuss it. In his memoir, Dylan refers to himself in passing as "a praying man." I think that came across in the studio conversation."

Former Oxford Professor of Poetry and Bob Dylan scholar Christopher Ricks recalls meeting Ginsberg at the Roundhouse in London. "He was very perturbed about Dylan having become Christian. I said, "what do you think it is?" And he said - "despair". He talked about Dylan and despair in one of his earlier poems. I don't myself believe that - I'm not a Christian, I'm an atheist - but I think Dylan's Christian songs are not songs of despair. They're actually some of his finest songs. But it was interesting to me, that for Ginsberg - only despair could drive Dylan into being Christian."

"The really interesting question about Dylan and Ginsberg is why Ginsberg doesn't reprint the three poems which he wrote to and for Dylan. Ginsberg has lovely invocations of his voice - "that long vowelled voice", he says, "angelic Dylan singing across the nation" - not just singing to the nation, singing across the nation."

It's hard to see why he didn't reprint the poems - on and off, the two were friends for decades. They loved one another in a strange way.

On the day after Ginsberg died in 1997, Dylan dedicated a performance of Desolation Row to the poet. He told the audience that it was Allen's favourite song. **M**

Here come the girls

Primmed, perfect, rich and raucous; WAGs adorn our glossies. **Henry Cowen** asks: why the bad reputation?



In the summer of 2006 England's football team slumped to a predictable Quarter-Final World Cup exit against Portugal. It was the same old story; losing on penalties, a player dismissed for ill discipline and a nation's hopes dashed for another four years.

But something was new. Waiting on the tarmac, poised for the return flight from Germany, the paparazzi were not waiting for just Beckham, Gerrard, Rooney and their colleagues, they were waiting for their other halves. They were waiting for the wags.

Since then wags have become a part of football. The 'wives and girlfriends' are a symbol of the game's changes. Their faces have become engrained in the national psyche; splashed over the pages of Hello and Heat, wags have become every bit a part of football as the half-time pie. But is our view of them correct? Are they just ladies of leisure with an abundance of free time who spend their partner's well-earned (well-earned...?) money on fake tan, hair extensions and a wardrobe purchased solely in Cricket? I spoke to Queen of the wags and presenter of Wag Boutique, Lizzie Cundy, to find out if being a wag is as glamorous as it is often made out to be and whether they are perhaps more

normal than the media might suggest.

One of the most striking elements of headline-grabbing, attention sapping wag-ism is that many people don't like being called a wag. Having emailed the representatives of such cultural luminaries as Gemma Atkinson and Ellen Rivas and, despite receiving many polite rejections, one or two suggested I was being incredibly rude even suggesting they were a wag. With that in mind I asked Cundy her thoughts on the term and what it meant to her: "I actually think it's quite endearing. I don't take offence in any way. I know some of the girls do, I've heard Coleen Rooney doesn't like being called it, but it's tongue in cheek, it's all a bit of fun and I think some of the girls get far too sensitive about it all."

It seems then, that for many wags the term itself is disrespectful? All those things that come implicit within the word; the shopping, the glamour, the fixation with image - these are the things that many of them rile against, and yet this is exactly what we think of when we think of wags, as Lizzie explained: "Well, I think a lot of members of the public think they are girls who don't do anything. They give them lots of money, they just shop and have lunch and get their nails done and I think sometimes it's not really fair

Above: What a load of bitches.
Centre: Lizzie Cundy.
Right: David and Victoria Beckham, the most famous WAG of them all.



“They’re great for the economy, I mean look at how much they spend.”

because there's a lot more to the girls than that; Graeme Le Saux's wife is a lawyer - a lot of them have their own businesses, do a lot for charity but that doesn't make headlines so the press aren't interested."

Perhaps the public view of wags

entirely is a media construct; remember these are, after all, just normal people. Have the red tops set them up to be something they're not? Perhaps Alex Curran only nips into Cricket once she has completed a shift at her local Oxfam and sung to local schoolchild-

ren. Maybe in the ideal world of Carly Zucker she'd wear a shapeless sack at all times but she's forced to buy Lipsy dresses just to please the press. We'll never know, but for Lizzie "it's a two way street. The portrayal in the press caters for the stereotype, but they don't



look into the reality."

So at the root of the issue is the media. They saw the likes of Coleen Rooney, Melanie Slade and Victoria Beckham in Baden-Baden in 2006 and the proverbial dollar signs appeared in their eyes. Wags sell papers and they sell papers because they are two things; glamorous and accessible. It sounds sad and is perhaps a damning indictment of the way many people think but, in theory, any girl in the UK could become a wag. "Alex Curran sells more copies of Hello than Angelia Jolie" was the way in which Lizzie explained the appeal of wags. They're everything the average girl reading these sorts of magazines is not, but they are not the impossible dream. If a girl wanted to bag a footballer they would know where to go.

This kind of power for women is what the likes of Emmeline Pankhurst fought for our generation, to be able to choose the man and the life you want to lead. Whether Ms Pankhurst would approve though is unsure. Lizzie however, is emphatic in her belief that it could only be a positive thing: "I actually think wags are a good thing for feminism; they empower women. Behind every successful man there's a strong woman and, believe me, to live with a footballer you've got to be

strong. There's a lot that we don't hear about how wags live but also they're great for the economy, I mean look at how much they spend - they keep businesses running!"

So there you have it. Being a wag appears not to be all that different from being a student.

We both have a lot of free time, we both watch a lot of football and we're both quite unpopular in the eyes of the general public, unfortunately we only get the student loan to fund our shopping whereas they get John Terry's credit card. The general negativity towards wags is understandable but it seems unwarranted; they are just people involved in an industry where image is all-important.

But perhaps the most important point, is not whether the public approve, after all they aren't spending their MP husband's expenses, but whether they actually proud of who they are. "I'm not sure whether I'd say proud but I am happy. I'm very happy to have been involved with football, it's given me a lovely life. I've met people I would never have met, I've got a huge passion for football. I love going to football, still do. It has many ups and downs, being a footballer's wife, but there are lots of great things and I feel very blessed". M

“ ”

Rebecca*, 25 year old psychologist, girlfriend of professional cricketer.

"The media seems to focus on what sportsmen's partners look like, what they are wearing, their weight etc, as opposed to their careers or past achievements." Argues Rebecca, girlfriend of a professional cricketer. Rebecca is just a normal person and proves exactly why wags are no different from any of us. Her partner may be a cricketer and not a footballer but as seen with Andrew Flintoff's wife Rachel the media is quite happy to attribute the wag tag to different sportsmen's partners as well. She spoke of her pride at watching her boyfriend's team do well and her delight at his individual successes ending with the phrase "Home is home, and work is work", demonstrating just how normal it all is.

Hannah*, 19 year old student, girlfriend of League One footballer.

League One might not have the same glitz and glamour of the Premier League but a wag is a wag. However Hannah, like Holly before her, doesn't do much to prove the image of an image-obsessed, constantly shopping socialite. "I love to watch the games, I get properly into it. It's just great to see him play in front of so many people. If he scores I just sit there thinking that's my boyfriend!". The trappings of football are yet to really affect Hannah with her main source of frustration being time away from her partner, especially at the weekends when his job dictates a fair amount of travelling.

Holly*, 20 year old student, girlfriend of international cricketer.

"The worst thing is when he's away. I can see how he's doing on TV or the internet and it makes me feel like I'm near him for a bit but then I switch it off and he's not back again for two months!". Holly is a student who met her boyfriend before leaving school. University students are used to managing long distance relationships but it must feel slightly different when the other half is representing their country around the world. "I feel on a different planet from Coleen Rooney!" said Holly when asked if she believed herself to be a wag.

*All names changed to protect anonymity.

Arts.

My inner child

Emily Heggadon talks to author Michael Morpurgo on the power of children's literature, the success of *War Horse*, and the innate appeal of storytelling.



boy and a horse in war can resonate right across the generations, and that is certainly what I love; when stories can do that."

An interesting trend in Morpurgo's work is catastrophe: "I write about world events that trouble me; that is the way I deal with them." His alliance with the Devonshire countryside is clear, especially shown when writing *Out of the Ashes*, a narrative about the 2001 Foot and Mouth Crisis. He describes it as a paradise that "is misunderstood outside the rural community," and that "the idea was not to traumatise people, it was to tell people who did not live through it, what it was like to live through it. I didn't sit down to educate people; I sat down to write a story about it. And when it was finished, I thought maybe that it would wake some people up."

I speak to him about his most well known success *War Horse*, and he admits that initially the idea to use puppets as central to the show in the National appeared "absurd" and that they had to persuade him. He elaborates: "what came to my mind every time they said puppet, was to me, a pantomime horse. Then they showed me a video of the work of Handspring puppets; these extraordinary created creatures that simply live and breathe and simply have their being, and are utterly convincing and seductive."

I ask him of his input, and he remarks, "I certainly put in my two penny worth, and although I would love to say that the whole thing was just my invention, I was all too aware of the fact that these were the dramatists." He continues, "I write books on paper, there is no drama involved at all, but on stage it's got to be very cleverly arranged. I was left mostly gasping with admiration."

Things Are or Quentin Blake's *Mr Magnolia*, an adult will get an enormous amount out of them."

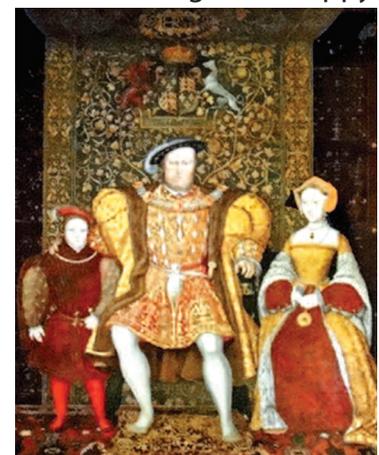
"If you think of what has happened to *War Horse*, the audience is 90 per cent adult, which is interesting as we are talking about a puppet and a horse. If something is done well enough, this very simple story about a

"I don't write for children," former children's laureate Michael Morpurgo adamantly tells me. As the creator of literature that many of us grew up with, stories like *Why the Whales Came* and *The Butterfly Lion* it seems a strange statement to make - especially given that he was made an OBE for services to this very genre. He

explains that, mainly, he writes for himself; "I write for the child in me, I write for the adolescent in me, I write for the adult in me, I write for the old git in me." He adds, "I think the best of children's literature always crosses any boundaries between childhood and adult, so if you are reading even a great picture book like *Where The Wild*

In Pictures: Royal Family Portraits

Immortalising one's happy little family, particularly if said family is royal and abundant in heirs, has employed many a painter for centuries.



King Henry VIII



Queen Victoria



Marie Antoinette



Tsar Nicholas II



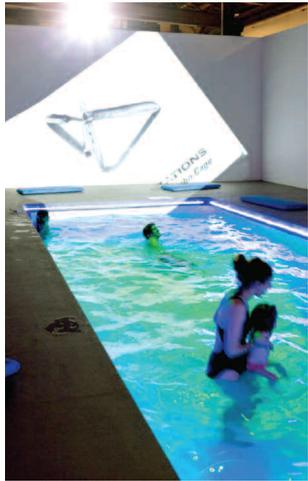
Sultan Suleiman

The Pitfalls of Safe Choice



Sarah Jilani

The shortlist for the 2011 Turner Prize has been announced, and one is left with a vague feeling of expectations dashed - or rather, dulled into indifference, which is considerably more alarming. Sculptor Martin Boyce, video artist Hilary Lloyd, painter George Shaw and installation artist Karla Black will be considered for the £25,000 prize at Baltic, Gateshead. While moving away from its usual London-centric location has many nodding appreciatively on the broadening of British art, the entries unfortunately seem to have left behind any vibrancy, innovation or aesthetics at the capital too.



Looking at the selection, there is little respite for the eye; we move from George Shaw's bleak and unremarkable enamel paintings of the concrete sheds of his childhood Coventry council estate to Hilary Lloyd's projection screens flashing gritty half-shots of cranes, futilely searching for something that grabs us. Indeed, in Lloyd's creations, set up in a clinical environment with all their wires and screens, the only artistry seems to be more or less that which might go into decorating a technologically forward, minimalist apartment. Shaw's pieces, on the other hand, do evidently demand artistic skill; whether the subject matter is, kindly put, "refreshingly honest", or a mild fascination with dilapidated tarmac, is less evident.

Although Martin Boyce's 'A Library of Leaves' has a harsh, masculine aesthetic to it, it is neither striking nor unlike anything the world of contemporary sculpture hasn't seen before. Among such competition, it comes as little surprise that Karla Black's suspended paper and plastic installations are a favourite to win this year. At best, they form a pale, ethereal presence of interesting organic materials - but are we expected to be blown away by the so-called "vulnerable beauty" of her precariously-perched plastic bag? It is not the highly concept- rather than skill-based nature of these entries that undermine them, but their failure to evoke any kind of strong response. "Humble" or "grounded" art is all well and good - yet surely, when it comes to the pioneers of any field of work, a mixture of risk-taking and skillful originality are the qualities one would rather find (and fund)?

Humility and passivity in an artwork are completely valid intentions; but one would be hard-pressed to harness them into a driving creative force that cuts a new path for contemporary British art to follow. Prizes like the Turner have started to get increasingly repetitive in their choices. Many unremarkable, unintelligible and unenduring pieces like this year's ones obscure their lack of verve behind simplistic concepts cloaked in a feigned significance.

There is much art out there of a similarly conceptual nature which nonetheless has immediate force and novelty, without all that mystification to compensate for their technical simplicity. American installation artist Anthony McCall, for instance, sculpts with light by projecting it onto the floor, creating simple but visually haunting conical 'tents' of light one can walk through. Earlier this year, Brazilian filmmakers Hélio Oiticica and Neville D'Almeida unveiled a psychedelically lit swimming pool as part of a literally immersive series of works. There is nothing about these innovative pieces that contemporary British art cannot match; perhaps prize-giving bodies would do well to step out of their own comfort zones before trying to make any value judgments.

“One would be hard-pressed to harness humility into a driving creative force.”



“Working intensively on the work of another forces you to reconsider your own work”

world: “there is absolutely no point in standing there and barking at it, wishing there were only books.” He says, “for me it is an add on; you will get more people reading this way; we should take the new technology as a wonderful opportunity.”

Morpurgo reminds us that by “leaving behind those iconic tales that

you grew up with, that are in your soul, those templates of fiction, in favour of literary criticism or formulae, we are selling ourselves short, for if you look at their depths, it is almost like a master class.” It’s a concept that is often forgotten in the realms of academia.

“After all, the whole thing is just storytelling.”

The forthcoming film adaptation by Steven Spielberg comes after a successful run on Broadway, followed up by five Tony nominations, one for best play. He laughs as he tells me that “in this category it is up against *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth, who came to Iddesleigh, Devon, to write the play, lived in the little cottage down the road, and wrote this play alongside *War Horse* in the very same pub.”

Any shortcomings that appear in the play, seem to have been smoothed out in the new adaptation: “there is a very important scene at the end of the book that is not even touched on, I missed it, I don’t criticise it, I just miss it. With the film, Spielberg went back to the book; you are going to get a much stronger connection with the book than the play has, because he has more space to do it in.” He continues, “I saw the script, and I went to see a big shot and made suggestions, some they listened to, and some they didn’t. I was conscious of the fact that I was working alongside people who were masters of their craft. And so when I ventured my opinions, I did so knowing full well that they knew their opinions.” He admits that “I’m sure I will have criticisms of the film, it won’t be exactly what I want, but I’ve got one of the great story tellers of our time telling it. To have the opportunity to revive a book has been wonderful.”

Morpurgo is still as busy as ever. When I ask him of his part in the Festival of Historical Writing, he asks, “how do you know about that?” It appears he seems to have forgotten the about the internet and chuckles: “thank you for reminding me, I’d forgotten I was going.” He has also been commissioned to write a new version of the nation’s favourite fairytale and is judging the Wicked Young Writers Award.

Regarding historical accuracy, he deems being “historically in tune” far more important than historically proven. “After all, history is a story; it is never the facts. The best stories do not jar against the facts, or stick so rigidly to them that they are dragged down by them. The facts must inspire you towards writing a story that lives and breathes off the page.” Despite embracing history, Morpurgo is aware of advancing technologies in the literary

Editor’s Picks

Sarah Jilani

11TH-14TH MAY, 41 MONKGATE, 19.30
Piggyback Theatre’s upcoming performances of brand-new comedy **Burgher Hall** will be showing at **York’s Upstage Theatre**. If those exams or essays are weighing heavy on you, a night of comedy may be just the thing.

7TH-28TH MAY, THEATRE ROYAL, 19.30.
Celebrated Twentieth-century American playwright Arthur Miller’s play **The Crucible** in on at York Theatre Royal this month, as part of its Round Ensemble Season. Allegorising McCarthyism, this play resonates today in its comments on group psychology, suspicion, and collective censure.



WEEK 3 FRI - SUN, DRAMA BARN 19.00
On at the Drama Barn this weekend is **Ten Days**, a student written play set centuries in the future east of what was once Berlin. It’s an exploration into the madness of love, despair, power and redemption - worth a watch.

14TH APR - 11TH SEP, TATE MODERN
Head to London’s Tate Modern to visit Joan Miró’s world of the surreal, abstract and expressionistic. This exhibition, **The Ladder of Escape**, is the first major retrospective in the last 50 years, and sheds particular emphasis on the political anxieties surrounding Civil War Spain present in his work.

Fashion.

Let's hear it for the men

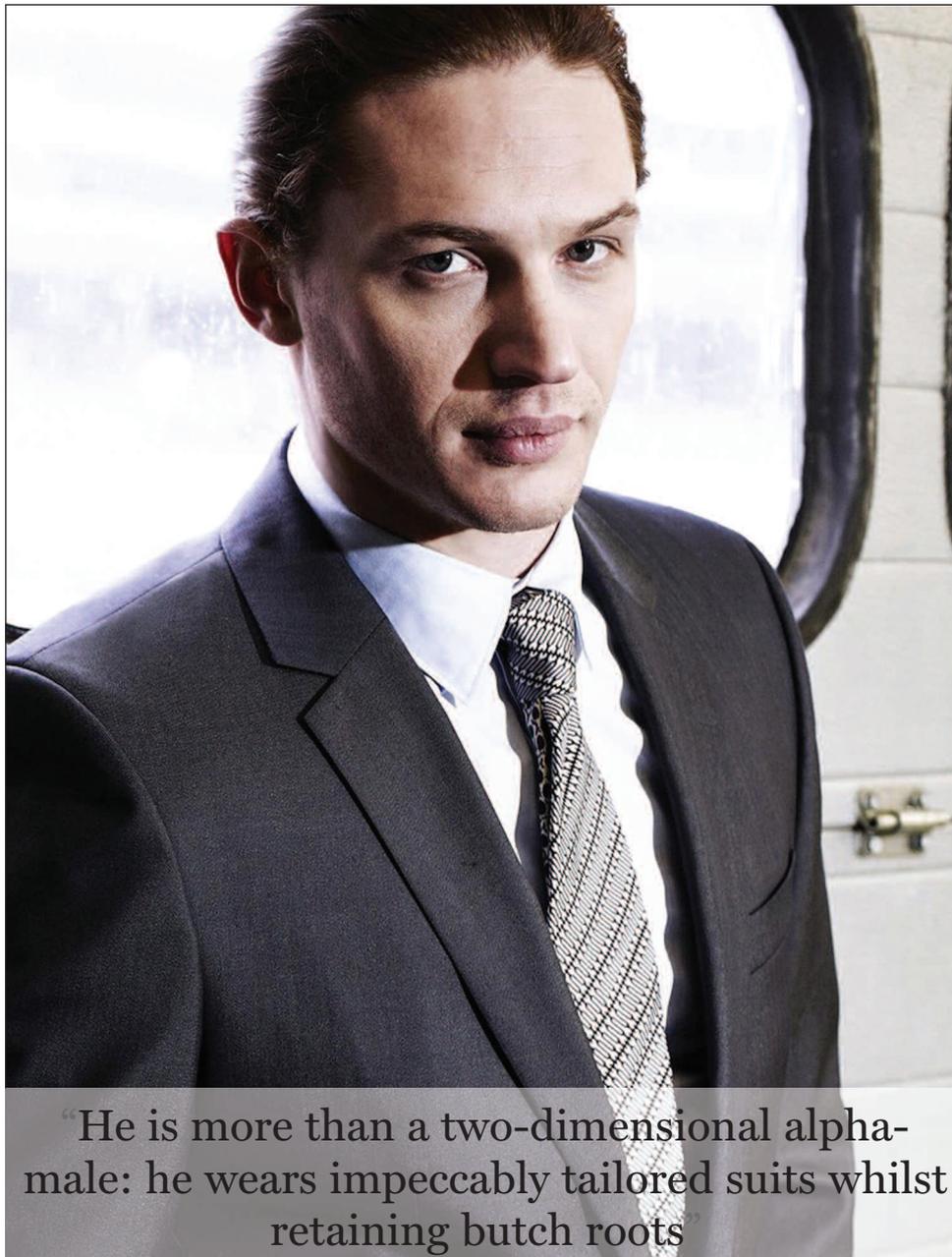
Tom Hardy is widely viewed as *the* male fashion icon. **Daniella Meaney** finds out why he's caused such a stir.

Tom Hardy is forging a distinct path for himself as one of Hollywood's leading men; but with an explicit difference. Hardy has distinguished himself both on screen and in real life from the clichéd metrosexual men dominating Hollywood's faction of rising stars: he is, like those he portrays, unforgivingly macho with an attitude and style that confirms his title as Hollywood's new rebel without a cause.

His style is simple yet effective, appearing casually in interviews with block coloured tees and straight-legged denim, Hardy emulates cool with no effort, frills nor fuss. For this he has been applauded by men's magazines noting him as one to watch; a style icon. *GQ* bestowed to him the comfortable position of no. 24 on their 2011 Best Dressed List. His lack of pretence appeals to a variety of men often eluded by the fashion industry's feminine exterior, and perhaps disconcerted by the androgyny of notorious male icons. Yet he is more than a two-dimensional alpha-male.

Spotted at Goodwood Racecourse wearing a dapper light grey checked suit, Hardy appeared the quintessentially English gentlemen. From then he appealed to a whole new audience of men. Impeccably tailored suits retain butch roots by adhering to muted colour palettes: *GQ* noted Hardy's ability to go from "Savile Row to streetwear" whilst maintaining a distinctive style.

It is his ability to be all things to all men, whilst portraying each role with equal conviction, that has secured Hardy's status as a style icon. His prominent online fashion following on sites such as Fashion Spot imply that there are greater things to come from Hardy, both on screen and in style.



"He is more than a two-dimensional alpha-male: he wears impeccably tailored suits whilst retaining butch roots"

This May celebrates the 76th birthday of superhero Batman. **Luke Cavendish** explores the evolution of his silhouette.



It also seems that Batman not only has a passion for justice but also for fashion, with an everchanging wardrobe since DC's Detective comic issue 27 in 1939, Batman has been making men jealous of his batsuit.

The most memorable bat on television is a symbol of the 60s, Adam West's batsuit in keeping with the campness of the show had a short purple cape and raised blue eyebrows on the cowl. Tim Burton's Batman played by Micheal Keaton gave us the all black suit with the striking yellow ellipse emblem and yellow utility belt. Director Joel Schumacher's Batman with Val Kilmer and George Clooney are notorious for their addition of rubber nipples.

Christopher Nolan brought the Dark Knight back to reality, or relatively close to it, with black eye makeup the batsuit is powerful and elegant all in one.

The fashion industry has taken note of Batman in the last few years with many designers using them as inspiration. The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art spring exhibit was entitled 'Superheros: Fashion and Fantasy' with work from such designers as Balenciaga, McQueen, Givenchy, Moschino, and Gareth Pugh.

The symbol can also be found on practically all clothing in highstreet fashion from baseball caps to socks.

Pastels

Designer

A simple side of chic and sexy was achieved by Italo Zucchelli, menswear design director for Calvin Klein, in his Spring 2011 collection. He expressed a clean but muted vibe through a palate of slate grey shades, turquoise, taupe and honey. Crucial also was his exploration of new proportions through carrot trousers, trunk shorts and cropped shirts, revealing the midriff, played on the reserved atmosphere of the show, expressing a sensual exposure of the body. Think Miami gym, sportswear, t-shirts and sleek outerwear as mellow faced models walked down the runway in tracksuit styled looks. The more sharp eyed observer would have noticed the subtle tracksuit detailing of zips, pockets and cuts which reflected away from the underlying design of tailored trouser/shirt combinations branching out from the typical Klein suit. Bold geometric patterns added structure and an illusion of texture to the otherwise simple tailored cuts and pastel hues.

Disciple

Jude Law's sleek image encapsulates the Spring/Summer 2011 simple tailored monotone pastel trend. Like many high profile actors Law has landed modelling jobs including becoming the face of Dior Homme and has been voted one of the 'GQ's 50 most stylish men'. Law looks smart yet chic in cream blazers and soft pebble grey suits,

pairing them with basic white t-shirts, topping of the look with a light straw trilby. He shows simple cuts and a pastel colour pallet doesn't have to reflect a monotonic feeling outfit with crisp white shirts and light grey t-shirts that emphasise the contours of the body, projecting a seductive and effortless image.



DIY

Key pieces that capture the monotone trend include a pale blue linen blazer by Zara retailing at £89.99 which can be jazzed up with a patterned pocket scarf for £9.99. A choice of dark blue or ivory white chinos, priced at £39.99, can be paired with this look to create an ideal outfit for the summer climate. ASOS again deliver to their faithful followers with a fine knit scoop neck jumper in sea blue for £30. They also offer a pair of French Connection tailored shorts in off-white priced at £37.99. Prefer a more unique piece? Pop down to Deep vintage clothing in York and pick up a blue and white striped pastel shirt for a mere £18.



Paris Bennett



Pretty on the inside?

We investigate whether perfume bottles have any reflection on the scent.

On the 29th April of this year the world witnessed the birth of a potential fashion superstar. She is classy, elegant, young and very British. The gown she wore was white and she did walk down the aisle of Westminster Abbey. However, it was not the bride, Catherine Middleton, making her way to marry Prince William, but her younger sister, Philippa. With all weddings the bride should traditionally be the refined cherry on the top of a colourful and vulgar garment cake (cough, Princess Beatrice, cough) but did Philippa manage to outshine our future queen at her own wedding?

Within hours of the royal wedding broadcast, viewed by over 24 million people across the world, the first real sign of Philippa's after effect was felt on Facebook. 'Pippa Middleton for Rear of the Year', 'The Awkward moment when Harry dumps Chelsea to get with Pippa' and 'The Pippa Middleton is smoking hot society' are all groups on the social networking site with thousands of people joining them hourly since her soon-to-be legendary appearance.

“Both dresses were white, a well known taboo in wedding tradition.”

Both Catherine's and Philippa's dresses were designed by Sarah Burton under the label of Alexander McQueen. Both the garments and their creator were unanimously viewed as being the perfect choice, but to have two dresses competing against each other on Katherine's big day, perhaps not the best idea?

Both dresses were white, a well known taboo in wedding tradition. Both, in different ways, displayed the faultless figures of each of the Middletons. But Philippa's dress took advantage of her maid of honour freedom, which saw the gown skimming across her body as if it were a second skin, leaving nothing to the world's imagination. Another measurable feature that highlighted Philippa's triumphant success was the demand for copies in Bridal stores. Manhattan dressmaker Faviana is also cashing in on Philippa's success.

"It almost looked like a bridal gown," said chief executive Omid Moradi. He remarked that "...before she even walked down the red carpet, we were getting calls from customers and consumers [asking], 'When can we get it?' and 'I have an event next month, can I have it then?'"

Philippa, like Kate, does have a traditional English Rose look. Their chestnut hair, fresh face and make up radiate a healthy beauty. Philippa's look is subtle sexiness with her favourite garment appearing to be a wrap around style dress that she has in two different colours. All of her casual or evening looks draw attention to her chest. V necks, sweetheart necks and cowl necks are just some of the dipping down styles she tends to wear.



1. Marc Jacobs, Daisy ★★★★★
2. Marc Jacobs, Lola ★★★★★
3. Viktor & Rolfe, Flowerbomb ★★★★★
4. Jean Paul Gaultier, Le Male ★★★★★
5. Paco Rabanne, 1 Million ★★★★★
6. Katy Perry, Purr ★★★★★
7. Britney, Circus Fantasy ★★★★★
8. Sarah Jessica Parker, Covet ★★★★★
9. Vivienne Westwood, Boudoir ★★★★★

Music.

Noise Rock Pillagers

Adam Bychawski talks to lo-fi trio Times New Viking about their change in sound.

In 2007 a number of bands taking inspiration from 80s and 90s noise scenes found themselves gaining wider recognition. A sub-genre created from taking an obvious flaw, feedback distortion and reverb, and turning it into a virtue is bound to cause some objections. Although many of its bands come from divergent scenes and disparate locations, they have been often mercilessly grouped together. Times New Viking, a trio from Ohio made up of art graduates Adam Elliott, Beth Murphy and Jared Phillips, have for better or worse been labelled as one of those bands. Formed spontaneously while hanging out in a local gig venue in 2004, they've since then spent the last seven years recording albums in most lo-fi way possible: on 4-tracks with bad mics in basements and garages.

As with any music scenes there are perils to being associated with other acts, one or two bands bad reputations are mistakenly attributed to every other similar band. And perhaps the most common connotation of lo-fi bands is how effortless it is to make music that sounds *that* bad in quality. "It takes a lot of effort to sound that shitty", quips guitarist Jared Phillips about lo-fi bands, "if we were lazy we'd go to some shitty studio and just say record this all the same way, record this as quick as possible I don't want to spend any time on it or we'd do it all on GarageBand. That's lazy to me, making every song sound the same, and not really thinking about the artwork or lyrics or anything or the flow of the record." "I think we're probably the opposite of lazy," adds drummer Adam Elliott, "we put a lot of effort in to what we do. Part of it is to know when to stop as well though."

"We didn't go to great lengths to make us sound that way, but we also didn't go through great lengths to not sound that way," continues Elliott; "although I think we went a little overboard with *Rip It Off*." Fidelity as you would expect isn't an exact art form, and has varied in each Times New Viking album, with third album *Rip It Off* being the most noise submerged so far. When trio met they had few of the requirements needed for a band, not to mention both Murphy and Phillips were lacking in any musical training. Naturally, recording equipment wasn't something easy to come by either, and as for many other local bands lo-fi was a necessity. "Recording ourselves came out of what we knew. My brother was in bands and all our friends and older people that we knew were in bands. It was like 'Oh you guys started a band,



here's a 4-track go to the basement and make some songs', it was very normal sounding for us."

With every Time New Viking record since the band have been dogged by one question, what would they sound like without the noise. Five records on they've finally gone and done it by recording new album *Dancer Equired* in a studio, a first for the band. I asked whether this odd curiosity for unveiling the pop behind the noise was what it inspired the change. "It was more a challenge for ourselves," says Elliott. "Not being the greatest singers in the world, I guess it was really easy being at your house, recording it with this mic and

Above: Times New Viking in Noise Valhalla.

turning the distortion up, kinda of blanketing yourself. So on this one it was kinda hard at first, the first day listening back and thinking 'Oh my god that's how we actually sound' but we got comfortable with it." Like many other lo-fi bands, the noise was an aesthetic they learnt to adopt as their own. "I think we always wanted to make a record like that from day one. We wanted to make a record that was normal sounding for the most part, the more we played together and the more we recorded at home we sort of fell into this thing that sounded really blown out and we liked the way that sounded."

So much critical attention has

been fixated on the fuzzy veneer of noise of Times New Viking that often the brilliance of their songs are neglected mention. Underneath all the distortion, Elliott and Murphy's vocals and well-crafted lyrics were mostly inaudible till their new record. But for Elliott they were always of importance: "I think our aim is make memorable songs that matter, that we don't play songs just because we can, that's always what we've been about. Even though we write a lot of songs, every song we actually think about."

Part of the Times New Viking aesthetic is brevity; most songs last two minutes or less and typically their albums have a breathless fifteen or more tracks. "Simplicity is our big thing" explains Elliott "if a song doesn't need to be any longer then we won't make it any longer. If a song is not going to be on the radio there is no point making it three and half minutes long, that is I think a pretty stupid standard for music."

"It takes a lot of effort to sound that shitty"

Despite their success: being signed to legendary indie label Matador, touring with Yo La Tengo and making appearances at Coachella and SXSW; Times New Viking are still masters of no frills living. "It has gotten worst the last year and a half" says Jared "that initial buzz of 'Oh there's a band on Matador records, let's give them all this money to do a show' has gone". In Elliott's own words "we are very good at being poor".

With the band's staunchly DIY ethic it seems that they've avoided any financial catastrophes, being free to make records at their own relentless pace without any interference. "We like to pay attention to every part of our records. And stuff like how the spine is going to look." I ask if, as art graduates, there is anyone they would like to design a cover for them. "I'd ask someone's eight year old daughter to do it or maybe like a hundred people together" quips Elliott, "I'd ask my grandpa to do one, he's got Alzheimer's" responds Jared. After a slight pause Beth finally admits: "I don't think we would really to be honest, I think I'd always rather we do everything ourselves." **M**

REVERB.

So, it's like, I'm a faggot because I'm so not a faggot. I can say I'm a faggot. I can say I'm the gayest bitch on Earth. And I'm so not gay, it's obvious. I know from my deepest core that I'm very far from gay. So I can say I'm the bitch queen that fucks cows. I'm not."

Californian rapper Lil B explains his reasoning for naming his upcoming album *I'm Gay*.

Haunted Dub

Jai Jewtha talks to Ghostpoet about his debut.

Freddie Mercury. Bono. Marilyn Manson. It seems the case that to make it in music these days, a legitimate pseudonym is the deal breaker. For twenty-something Obaro Ejimiwe, Ghostpoet was the obvious alias that stood out. "It comes from a mixture of a past fascination of ghosts and trying to separate my mind and the listener from the idea of me being just a rapper". If Ghostpoet's intention was to distinguish his music by the current scene's standards, he has unquestionably made a commendable effort. His debut album *Peanut Butter Blues and Melancholy Jam*, released earlier this year, landed quietly but confidently on its feet, giving a knowing nod to a whole host of various music genres, at turns spoken word and rap, at other points borrowing from dub-step. "I guess it comes from embracing as many forms of music over the years, not wanting to stick to one particular genre and consciously not over-thinking things, just going with the flow, and letting the music decide what sprouts forth."

There's a kind of uneasiness and agitation in Ghostpoet's music. Like Burial before him, tales of too many drinks and cold loneliness direct the mood of the album, which he tells me is down to the fact that in his student days, "the ratio of studying to drinking was 1:3". The focus on the grim aftermath of the after-party places Ghostpoet's music well with his contemporaries, listing electro acts Bonobo and Mount Kimbie as significant influences, as well as James Blake, whose likeness of cover art is "similar, but pure coincidence", he assuredly explains. Ghostpoet's clear-cut spoken word delivery, as well as urban influences has also lead to inevitable references to the likes of Gil Scott-Heron and The Streets, two artists familiar with the do-it-yourself, telling it how it is, school of songwriting. "It's wonderful to be compared to such greats but hopefully over time, people will see me for



Ghostpoet, a new school of songwriter.

me."

Originally involved in a grime collective and gravitating in his early days toward a style characterised by a drowsy but unflinching flow and a minimal backbeat, Ghostpoet stumbled into music. "I think looking back my music was always well received by my mates but I felt personally that I needed to find my sound or the right musical path... I guess I'm closer to how I want things to sound nowadays but there's still work to be done". If Ghostpoet swears that progression is the key to his music, he certainly has time to hone his craft. Earning himself support slots with the likes of Jamie Woon and Metronomy, including a recent show at York's own Duchess, Ghostpoet is ardent that touring is the starting point of improving his music. "It's definitely been a learning process, it was hard in the beginning because I used to over-think things way too much and the live setup I was using back then wasn't amazingly easy to work... things are uber-bet-

ter now but there's always room for improvement". He promises me that the touring lifestyle, despite its challenges, has been great fun. I ask, have there been any interesting tour stories? Definitely. "The Woon crew once put my trainers on the wall-mounted head of a boar in Newcastle and filled them with bananas...I think they were jealous of my sneaks".

What then awaits the bespectacled University of Coventry graduate, who tells me his main inspiration is "life and the constant pursuit of its delights"? His single "Cash and Carry Me Home" featuring Kano has been exhaustively played by Radio 1 and his new record is hotly tipped by critics and underground garage fans alike. When I ask him what Ghostpoet's musical mission is in ten words, he ponders for a while and is both down-to-earth and mysterious in his answer. "Hmm... my musical mission? Just-trying-to-be-creative-and-buy-a-canal-boat". Word. M

Future Sounds.

It is difficult to approach the debut EP of a man whose success to date has been marked by producing videos for Taylor Swift and Katy Perry and an AIDS Awareness advertising campaign consisting of an animated penis drawing scuttling around a cubicle with a degree of seriousness. However, the initial offering from Woodkid, or French-born multi-talented Yoanne Lemoine, suggests a promise in a genre far removed from the focus of his earlier direction.

The title track of the EP in question, "Iron", opens with a tribal pulse and deep woodwind line that, along with the suitably epic video mixing gloomy post-apoca-

lyptic images with Agnès Dean attempting owl taming, is musically reminiscent of These New Puritans' recent output. The rest of Woodkid's output seems more suited to this element of their sound. The softer, delicately orchestrated "Baltimore's Fireflies" and "Brooklyn" conjure up a powerful sense of longing, blending perfectly with the depth of the vocal lines, melding Anthony Hegarty's passion with Fryars' clarity.

Although Lemoine's website suggests that his ego is not in need of encouragement, listing his extensive list of film awards, this initial EP suggests his music career could be just as promising. *Sam Briggs*



Woodkid

Reviews.

ARTIST: IRON & WINE
DATE: 17TH MARCH
VENUE: LEEDS MET
REVIEW: SAM BRIGGS

★★★★☆

As is expected on St Patrick's Day, Leeds is full with shamrocks, green-lit bars, and people quickly remembering why they don't drink Guinness all year round. However, Iron & Wine's rich folk proves to be equally as popular, with a crowd of all ages packing into the Met's SU eager get a good view of frontman Sam Beam's impressive beard.

Any fears that the subtleties of Beam's American writing would not be realised on a cold Yorkshire night, in a venue slightly less grandiose than others featuring on his tour, are instantly dismissed. Stepping onstage to an overwhelming reception, the band break into the complex rhythms of "Boy With a Coin", prompting as much foot-stomping as is acceptable.

ARTIST: METRONOMY
DATE: 27TH APRIL
VENUE: DUCHESS
REVIEW: ADAM BYCHAWSKI

★★★★☆

It's difficult to summon the atmosphere of *The English Riviera*, the title of Metronomy's latest album, in the cavernous Duchess but the band try nevertheless. At one point Mount request the lights be turned down for a more intimate setting for ballad "Some Written". With the stage dimmed, the glowing DIY lights attached to the chest of each band member becomes the focus, flickering on and off along with their tempo.

Every song has a similar live ritual, for the beginning of "Holiday" guitarist Oscar Cash and bassist Gbenga Adelekan point and face each other in a Mexican standoff breaking only when their respective instrument parts are required. Other songs have been given extra touches, like even more



Often a solo performer, Beam is here bolstered by an incredibly talented backing band. Strings, flutes, bongos and a freewheeling saxophone help complete the eight-piece collective, allowing the band to re-interpret the recorded tracks into new styles, building on different instruments and grooves.

However, it is Beam who is the star of the show, despite the attempts of the saxophonist's jazz solo. The moody lighting casts the backing band into darkness, highlighting Beam's intricate guitar work. On tracks such as "Walking Far From Home", his lyrical and songwriting abilities are placed centre stage, and judging from the applause as he leaves the stage, touching for an audience far broader than their Americana-tinged beginnings.



pulsating synth on "Heartbreaker" or better yet Cash's saxophone solo's.

If Mount had chosen to follow the wonky pop of "Nights Out" with a similar record its likely Metronomy's popularity wouldn't wane, such is the reaction to older material from the crowd. One diehard indie fan in particular spent most of gig yelling requests for rarely performed songs, before eventually being sated by a powerful rendition of Metronomy's most punk number "You Could Easily Have Me".

Metronomy have always been a band that has taken care to make their live performances as interesting as their music and for that they have been duly rewarded by a dedicated fanbase.

Nouse Playlist.

America Fuck Yeah Playlist *Adam Bychawski*

Got to hand to Obama he's been fucking badass of late, cussing Donald Trump, slam-dunking approval by killing Osama.

"My President is Black" - Jay Z
Lyrically awful but at least he admits "never thought I'd say this shit".

"Star Spangled Banner" - Jimi Hendrix
Hendrix shreds the national

anthem till it's more of a Star Mangled Banner.

"Ragged Old Flag" - Johnny Cash
Drawing tears from the eyes of American patriots everywhere.

"Don't Tread on Me" - Metallica
Bizarrely uses "America" from West Side Story as a riff.

"Real American" - Rick Derringer
Once the entrance music of Hulk Hogan, recently used by Obama for his own entrance.

Food & Drink.

Fake it or bake it?

Sophie Foot gives her take on the cupcake fever that is whetting everyone's appetite

It is no secret that cupcakes have become some sort of a phenomenon in recent years. You need look no further than your local corner shop and you will be bombarded with them. They're featured on magazines, birthday cards, tea towels and crockery. Hell, I've even been tempted to invest in cupcake-patterned underwear or even the latest fad in America...cupcake vodka. It's true, the world has gone cupcake mad. A symbol of decadence and beauty, the cupcake of today has come a long way from the simple 'fairy cakes' of our childhood and is now a hedonistic, Marie Antoinette-esque dessert.

The inspiration for this article derives from my upcoming challenge of baking 50 cupcakes for a 21st this weekend. I have decided to go for chocolate cupcakes with a 'duck egg blue' buttercream icing, and of course a sprinkle of edible glitter (**Imaginative Icing** in York has a good range of different food colourings and icings without the bitter flavour many of the cheaper supermarket brands leave).

I always use piping bags as I prefer the effect to frosting, but frosting is probably easier once you learn the technique and definitely takes less time. My advice would be to invest in a good piping bag, I have had horrible experiences with 'disposable' ones, which have a tendency to break after decorating one cupcake. Not good.

Whilst waiting for them to cool down, I'll give you a brief history of the cupcake:

The word 'cupcake' has two origins. The first relates to how they were baked - in cups or ramekins. The other is that the ingredients are often measured by volume rather than weight.

They used to be known as 'fairy cakes' in the UK, supposedly because of the size, and 'patty cakes' in Australia. We have only really been using the



word 'cupcake' in the UK since their comeback in the last few years. Offsetting the cupcake craze, which most cupcake fans will have heard of, was the rise of **The Hummingbird Bakery**, which has stores across London, and have now released a cookery book.

As I'm sure you are all aware, cupcakes are not the healthiest of snacks. Weight-Watchers have attempted to

reach out to the health-conscious with their range of mini cupcakes (only 56 calories) but I definitely would not recommend these. Lack of calories is directly correlated with lack of flavour. And surely eating a Weight-Watchers cupcake defeats the point of weight-watching, no? If you're really desperate you could head to **Accessorize** and invest in a cupcake car air freshener, not only coated in cutesy pastel hues,

but it is also cupcake scented. (I'm joking, and *Nouse* in no way encourages starvation or eating car accessories).

Try to avoid buying packaged cupcakes; they often taste processed, and lack the home-made warmth. **Waitrose** do nice cupcakes in their bakery section, but they are nothing on the beauties of Hummingbird Bakery cupcakes - bought or homemade. For a more local alternative, check out **Vanbrugh's**

Mumbai Lounge

ADDRESS: 47 FOSSGATE
PRICES: £20 - 2 COURSES
REVIEW: WILL WADE

★★★★☆

If you're feeling that maybe the UK went a bit overboard on the Britishness and the bunting with the recent royal wedding, and you remember that it wasn't so long ago that chicken tikka masala was Britain's favourite dish, then an outing to Mumbai Lounge might be in order. Such a visit would take you down Fossigate, arguably York's culinary super street, where Mumbai Lounge stands resolute in the face of powerful restaurant rivals such as Loch Fyne, The Blue Bicycle and J. Bakers.

My girlfriend and I decided to make the trip and, once inside, we were met with a warm welcome and an instant offer to take our coats - love it. We couldn't help but notice that the staff were all wearing a smile, along with their traditional attire.

Now like most males who find themselves in restaurants with their significant other, the layout and decoration of a table is normally something that passes me by, but I feel now is the right time to throw off these masculine shackles and enthuse about table layouts. A combination of scented candles, gleaming white table cloths and scattered rose petals really did generate a lovely atmosphere. In fact, the whole place had a modern and good-looking feel about it, with spiral staircases, low-hanging Indian lamps and an oak wine cabinet.

The menu is varied and adventurous, but perhaps too much so. It might be a personal thing, but I prefer smaller menus. Eventually, I chose balti garlic chilli duck, while the Mrs opted for butter chicken. However, there seemed to be some truly inspired dishes intermixed with the more standard ones, such as spiced crust seabass, and shorisha swordfish

The duck was enjoyable with a colourful and rich sauce, but I felt it lacked a bit of character and panache. The garlic and chilli

were strong, but didn't overwhelm due to the earthy flavouring of the duck and each mouthful had a slight after-kick of coriander. However, the duck was a little on the dry side and shouldn't have been so heavily doused in oil, considering it's a non-takeaway curry. It wasn't a bad dish, but I was so hoping for it to have that little bit extra, perhaps some unique flavouring or an unusual twist. In sum: 'nice but generic.'

Interestingly, the Mrs had the same opinion of the butter chicken. Good for the first five minutes and generally satisfying and filling, but nothing she hadn't had before. At least I think she was talking about the meal. Innuendo aside, there was also the fact that the butter chicken was served in a bruised and scarred looking Tefal pan, which for me ruined the beautiful table layout.

All things considered, Mumbai Lounge in York is definitely worth a visit. You can guarantee you'll be eating in a pleasant, easy-to-reach spot where the Indian grub has a student-friendly price tag and isn't half bad. There's also a 'no bunting' policy.



RECIPE

BY KATE BULL



LENTIL & AUBERGINE CURRY

Ingredients:

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion (sliced)
- 2 garlic cloves (sliced)
- 2 tbsp curry powder ½ tsp salt
- 1 diced large aubergine
- 175g lentils (about a mug's worth)
- 600ml vegetable stock

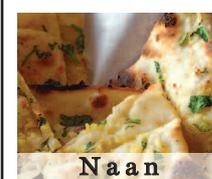
This is so easy. Really tasty and can last you for ages – it freezes really well. This recipe probably gives you about four portions, though watch out for stray housemates who may claim it for themselves... Optional ingredients are: ½ cup coconut milk, 2 tbsp coriander. It's pretty tasty with or without.

1. Fry the sliced garlic and onion in the oil in a large saucepan. To make sure the onion doesn't burn, add water. This keeps the onion soft whilst it's cooking.
2. Add the curry powder (Word of warning: put the extractor fan on, otherwise you'll stink).
3. Add the diced aubergine, lentils and sprinkle in the salt. It may seem that there's not enough lentils, but they'll swell massively when the stock is added.
4. Add the stock.
5. Turn up the heat – boil briefly then simmer for about 20 mins/half an hour. Taste the lentils – if they are soft, you're done. Make sure you stir every so often. If you don't, the bottom burns and that tastes awful. You might have to add extra water to keep everything moist.
6. If you're using the coconut milk and coriander, add now, and then serve.

HAVE WITH



- Ingredients:**
250ml natural yoghurt
½ cucumber, finely chopped
large handful mint leaves, chopped
½ green chilli, chopped (optional)
- Method:**
Mix together and serve on the side



- Ingredients:**
250g plain flour
2 tsp sugar
½ tsp baking powder
110-130ml milk
2 tbsp vegetable oil
- Method:**
Mix dry ingredients together
Make a well in it, pour milk in
Knead dough (8 min)
In oiled bowl cover dough (10 min)
Grill for 1-2 mins on medium heat



PEACHES AND CREAM CUPCAKES

Makes 12

- Ingredients:**
120g plain flour
140g caster sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
a pinch of salt
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
40g unsalted butter
120ml whole milk
1 egg
400g tinned peaches, sliced

- Icing:**
250g icing sugar, sifted
80g unsalted butter
25ml whole milk
a couple of drops of vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 170 C
2. Put the flour, sugar, baking powder salt and butter in an electric mixer and beat on a slow speed until you get a sandy consistency and everything is combined
3. Gradually pour in half the milk, and beat until it is just incorporated
4. Whisk the egg, vanilla extract and remaining milk together in a separate bowl for a few seconds, then pour into the flour mixture and continue beating until just incorporated and smooth
5. Divide the sliced peaches between 12 paper cases in a cupcake tray
6. Spoon the cupcake mixture on top, till two thirds full, and bake in the pre-heated oven for 20-25 minutes, or until light golden
7. Make the icing while cakes are in the oven, by beating together the sugar and butter in an electric mixer on a medium speed. when combined, slow it down and add the milk and vanilla extract a couple of spoonfuls at a time. then turn up to high speed till light and fluffy
8. Ice cupcakes when they are cool, and sprinkle with soft, light brown sugar



'Wicked' cafe cupcakes, which are yummy and cute, if a little top-heavy (there's probably more icing than actual cake). However at two pounds a pop you really are better off doing it yourself. They are simple and fun to make, and you can get the basic sugar, butter and eggs for a few pounds which will leave you with a batch of 12 as opposed to one, along with the obvious satisfaction of having made your own. If you're

short on time, feeling lazy, or just want to bake without the effort of switching on the oven, you can now get instant cupcake makers, giving you cupcakes in less than five minutes. Genius.

After a few hours of decoration I'm left with blue hands, sugar on my face, and edible glitter, well, everywhere. Now I just have to get them up to Durham on the train tomorrow. Wish me luck.

Ye Olde Starre Inne

ADDRESS: 40 STONEGATE

PRICES: 3 PINTS = £10

REVIEW: HENRY COWEN

★★★★☆

Being old can often be a good thing. You gain respect, power and importance and people begin to look on you fondly. Think of the way the press seem to love Bruce Forsythe despite the fact that he is incredibly annoying. However you can also lose your place in society with age, people can forget the respect you once warranted and begin to see you as a foolish irrelevance; think Lionel Blair. So it was with some interest that I walked into Ye Olde Starre Inn last week, York's oldest licensed pub.

The first thing to say is that it's had a facelift or two since 1644. The copper-

top bar remains and evokes memories of something cosy, familial and twee but I can't remember precisely what. The pub is now part of a chain, run by Punch Pubs, so immediately it loses out on authenticity. When a pub is a chain it feels a bit wrong, the unique pub experience swapped for lowest-common denominator tawdriness, but Ye Olde Starre Inn is acceptable. The bar staff are friendly and the beer tasty – albeit once again formed of a very small choice.

There is many an alcove to base oneself in and the clientele seems generally studenty. I happened to wonder in on an evening when live music was playing and it was thoroughly enjoyable, although the lack of seats meant I had to enjoy the music from a different room. The pub is fine, nothing more, but it loses out in terms of price where three pints will leave you with very little



Film.

16mm: An Economy of Negatives?

As 16mm film is discontinued in the UK **Gareth Davies** looks at the fragile future of celluloid film, in an industry increasingly dominated by digital technologies.

In the late 1920s, as the first few movies managed to successfully synchronise sound and image, there was suspicion, and even outcry in the world of film. Silent film was seen by many as a pure visual medium which, uninhibited by sound, offered a unique aesthetic virtue, for it ascribed a primacy of expression to the muted body, which had to convey meaning through dumb mime, gesture, touch, and even dance. Film was an art of the body, to be undercut, diluted and radically altered by the new-found opportunity to express meaning through speech. Many asked themselves: of what interest was a form which synchronised sound and image? Which reflected reality so intimately?

Of course with any technological or cultural advance, there are those who embrace change and evolve, and those who cling to what they cherish and know best, despite what the status quo may dictate. Silent films are made today, but when was the last time you saw one? The times change, and the sad fact is that certain media forms are overtaken by others, and find themselves lingering on dusty archive shelves. But does this really have to be the case? The old debate between the silent film traditionalists, and the advocates of the 'talkies' is not mentioned in vain, for we find a similar debate at play in contemporary society, regarding what is often referred to as the 'digital revolution' in film.

Three months ago the UK's last professional lab to be printing 16mm film, based in Soho, was sold. Its new American owners say that they will discontinue 16mm. Within a couple of days of this announcement thousands of signatures had appeared on the 'Save 16mm' petition, and a number of artists faithful to the medium spoke out against the development. As the grip of the digital age tightens, could the death of 16mm in the UK signal the start of a more widespread and damaging revolution, involving celluloid en masse?

Despite 16mm's status as a growing medium for artists in recent years, it is becoming less and less economically viable to produce, the cost of shooting a DV film and using digital post-production software pales into insignificance when put in



contrast with the time and money involved in preparing celluloid. But doesn't celluloid have a certain inimitable warmth? Doesn't it carry an aura of sorts? Isn't there something comforting about its grainy texture, something vaguely nostalgic, something soulful? Isn't that alone something worth fighting for?

Advocates of digital film will no doubt tell you that it's cheap, quick, and offers brighter and clearer images, but isn't the artistry of using celluloid bound up to a certain extent in its preparation? In cutting the film from the rush print, sticking the shots together with tape, spooling, splicing, colouring each individual image in a transformative, alchemical process. Working with super16 requires the film-maker, as Tacita Dean has stated, to become both artist and artisan, in a hands-on creative process which requires more than just the clicking of buttons.

There have been claims that 16mm is an 'outdated' medium, which few use. Contrary to popular belief some of the most successful movies of the past few years have been shot on super16, including Oscar winners *Black Swan*, and *The Hurt Locker*. But as digital begins to take over, we find ourselves more and more concerned with clarity, high definition, 'quality', and the ability to shoot, produce and edit

films to short time frames.

Far from stating that celluloid is *better* than digital it is clear that both mediums have their unique benefits, but why should we have to compromise one for the other? Celluloid finds itself at increasing danger of being trampled under hoof by digital. Digital film seems more and more to satisfy a dominant cultural mode of transparent mediation, allowing for a crispness and clarity of image which celluloid could never attain. But just because celluloid offers a different aesthetic effect to the consumerist norm doesn't mean it should be cut. In fact this is precisely a reason to fight for its longevity. But as HD and 3D become increasingly desirable and profitable, celluloid's downward spiral seems set to continue.

The ascent of one form of film-making shouldn't mean the destruction of another. As a progressive society, and patrons of art, we should be encouraging and incubating open-mindedness in the process of filming and editing, and this should include protecting celluloid from extinction. However, the form can only be protected so long as there are people willing to fight for it. Like the transition from the silent films to the talkies, there is no doubt that digital is the way forward, but the ability and opportunity to experiment with celluloid should not be denied anyone.

Reviews.

FILM: FAREWELL

DIRECTOR: CHRISTIAN CARION

STARRING: GUILLAME CANET, EMIR KUSTURICA

RUNTIME: 113 MINS

REVIEW: LEAH MITCHELL

★★★★☆

Loosely based on the actions of KGB official Vladimir Vetrov, *Farewell* has the potential to shed light on this little-known piece of Cold War history. Emir Kusturica gives a convincing performance as Sergei Gregoriev, a disenchanted Soviet colonel who leaks KGB secrets to "amateur" emissary, Pierre Froment (Guillaume Canet). The film follows the convoluted channel of this information, from Froment in Moscow, to François Mitterrand (Philippe Magnan) in France, finally reaching Ronald Reagan (Fred Ward) at the White House.

However, such ambitious scope is perhaps where this film falls down. Depicting the burgeoning relationship between Froment and Gregoriev allows director, Christian Carion, to develop a more domestic portrait of the Cold War. As the stakes get higher, Froment and Gregoriev become increasingly alienated from their families, provoking each to evaluate his ideals. Carion is compelling in this portrayal of moral complexity; however much of the intimacy is forfeited by jarring satirical cutaways to Ronald



Reagan onanistically poring over his own performances in old cowboy movies.

In general, the portrayal of Americans seems a rather snide aside in the film, resulting in Ward coming up with quips such as "Feeney's the boss of the C.I.A., but I'm the boss of the United States", which clash with the otherwise serious subject matter of the film.

Overall *Farewell* makes for gripping viewing (particularly if you have no more than a rudimentary knowledge of the Cold War). Its integrity is compromised to an extent by Carion's sheer range of subject matter; however, performances by Kusturica and Canet more than make up for this. As an espionage thriller it really comes into its own in the last 25 minutes, arriving at a tense denouement.

FILM: THOR

DIRECTOR: KENNETH BRANAGH

STARRING: CHRIS HEMSWORTH, NATALIE PORTMAN

RUNTIME: 114 MINS

REVIEW: VICTORIA MORRIS

★★★★☆

Trying to incorporate 50 years of comic book history into a two hour film is no mean feat, even for Kenneth Branagh, who no doubt had a difficult task on his hands with *Thor* in attempting to please a long-standing fan-base whilst putting his own stamp on the character. Nevertheless, he has succeeded. Seeing the world of the Norse Gods brought to life on screen through a maze of special effects and a towering, epic soundtrack is nothing less than spectacular.

At the heart of the story is the tense and competitive relationship of two brothers, Thor and Loki, who fight against each other for the acceptance of their father, Odin, and with that the throne of Asgard. As Asgard sits on the brink of a war, the brothers have differing ideas on how to handle the conflict. Eventually Thor's arrogant, violent and disobeying nature result in him being stripped of his powers and exiled to Earth.

Chris Hemsworth's portrayal of Thor exudes an unprecedented humanity, as he is forced to change and make the transition



from being a fiery tempered God to a calm and kind natured character. Meanwhile, as Thor learns his life lesson on earth, a complete contrast is seen in Hiddleston's Loki who is deliciously deceptive, manipulative and mysterious. However, Thor's human love interest found in Jane Foster (Portman) leaves a lot to be desired. Their scenes together are rushed and the connection between the duo is dry and ultimately unconvincing.

Nonetheless *Thor* is a must see film, especially on the big screen where its effects and sheer magnitude can truly be appreciated. Oh, and a small hint. If you have learnt anything from previous Marvel movies, you'll know to sit tentatively and wait through the credits for a taste of what's to come.

Top 5 Samurai Movies

To celebrate the release of cult director Takashi Miike's new movie *13 Assassins*, **Nouse** look at the five greatest samurai films ever made.

Seven Samurai (Akira Kurosawa, 1954)

Widely considered the greatest samurai movie of all time, *Seven Samurai* is a 207minute epic of Japanese cinema.

Zatoichi (Takeshi Kitano, 2003)

'Beat' Kitano plays the mysterious Zatoichi, a former masseuse, whose secret identity is as a blind and sage samurai.

Harakiri (Masaki Kobayashi, 1962)

Set in 17th century Japan, *Harakiri* is a tale of rare power and humanity which focuses on the realities of samurai culture.

Kiru (Kihachi Okamoto, 1968)

An ex-samurai and an ex-farmer get unwillingly caught up in a web of murder and betrayal in this 1968 classic.

The Hidden Blade (Yôji Yamada, 2004)

Set during the final years of the shogun, *The Hidden Blade* is a eulogy for a culture eradicated by mechanical warfare.



Camilla Jenkins investigates:

The London highlife

There are certain topics that we who have been foolishly endowed with newspaper space feel we have to comment on I too was planning to hop on this media-bandwagon with a scintillating piece on revision pet peeves but it was not meant to be. The MUSE Editor called. Charlotte had written on exams, Tom had written on exams, Camilla could not write on exams. This happens a lot, actually, but is entirely my own fault. I really should get my columns in sooner.

And so, as only two really interesting things have happened to me in a while, I shall discuss those. Well, actually three interesting things have happened. Today, I saw someone READ THE NEWS on his ipad. Do you know how rare that is? Everyone says they're going to get an ipad to read the FT everyday but it never happens. Once you're on the Tube, you're too grumpy to care about the Greek economy. You want vengeance. You want entertainment. Family Guy it is.

This chap, in his crisp navy-blue suit with posh boy haircut and shined shoes looks so swish and competent. I'd trust him with my stocks (if I had any). I want an ipad! Oh wait, I have one. I was overcome with lust last October and, as my bank account bulged with post-tax internship salary, I gave in. Oh Apple, you took advantage of me. And like the iTunes slut I had become, my eyes said no but my mouth said "I'll have the 70gb one with 3G and throw in a screen cover."

My father, reminiscing over his first purchase funded by his own money, was in Seventh-Banker-Father Heaven. I was watching the Apple ads to figure out what to do with it. I ended up buying a marc by marc jacobs ipad cover to bribe myself to use it. It didn't work. Ipads and posh covers are a bit like the English-and-Philosophy degree of the technology world. Individually, they may have a point but together they're just an awful lot of money for no direction.

But the two cool things. And these are really cool, not passe like going to Boujis or cool but a bit grim like Glastonbury. Which, considering I had my cool peak at the age of 12 - we were mean girls with the cool boys - means that both were more luck than inten-

tion. I have been to Heston Blumenthal's new restaurant in the Mandarin Oriental AND The Box in Soho. Heston's (it may have an official name but apparently it's infra dig to use it), was delicious without the scary-scary-jump-out-at-you possibility of the Fat Duck. I had the chicken liver parfait with frois gras followed by the wing rib angus steak and a pineapple bunt cake with a pineapple that had been rotisseries for 4 hours straight.

Whilst the restuarant is very grand n' cool n' all, the real pleasure comes from the child-like delight of never knowing entirely what's going to end up on your plate. My chicken liver arrived looking and feeling exactly like an orange; it was the grossest and most amazing thing I've ever eaten.

Interestingly enough, The Box has a similar appeal. This isn't just Public with nipple tassels, this is full on sleeze. You don't pay entrance and no cameras are allowed; it's a licensed strip club. We've all heard the rumors; certain staff members give 'lessons', a full-on orgy was encourage on stage, and the club managers feed performers class-A drugs to get them in the mood.

The darkened room, close quarters and encouraging staff cultivate an environment where anything could happen and you feel vaguely disappointed when it doesn't. Dancers, wearing little more than spandex knickers, perform a routine more intimate and provocative than most of the relationship-sex in York; Alice (as in Wonderland) isn't just topless and kissing girls, she's being taken to the highest peaks of pleasure by at least four others writhing over, around and possibly in her. Once the club closes, you stumble into the darkness of Soho drunk, a little disorientated, and oddly unsatiated. Of course you'd never want to behave like those girls, not in public. Or would you?

Finally, two public service announcements: People complaining about stress and doing no work is annoying. Sink your degree ship because you're lazy but don't make me listen to it. Also, revision can be a group sport or an individual one. I'm happy to arrange my schedule but I expect you to do the same. Don't pretend to be part of the group if you don't uphold your part. That's just douchey.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.



MUSEINGS: power struggles

Power struggles are nothing new, they underlie politics and work as a driving force for social development. Stemming from David and Goliath, time has seen numerous pairs donate their own particular flare to the power struggle party.

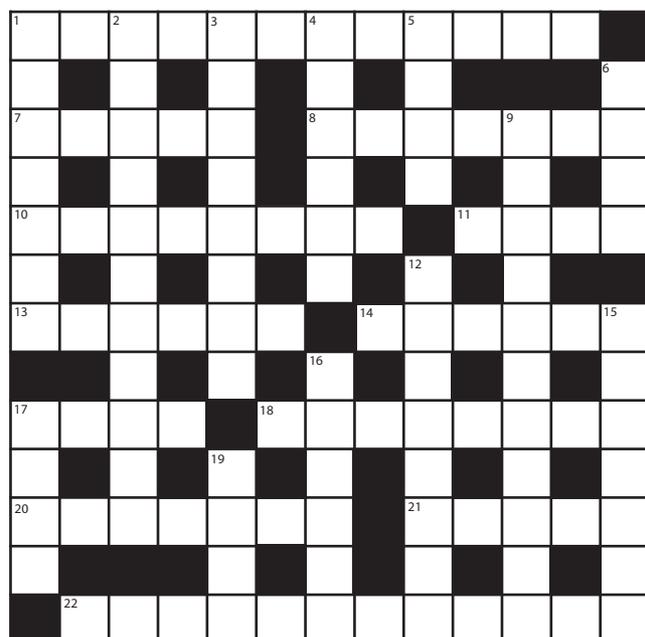
English politicians struck gold with the simple yet effective move of alliterating ones name with that of your nemesis. But now that Clegg and Cameron; Blair and Brown have somewhat exacerbated the skill, politics was in dire need of some fresh talent on the playing field.

Cue Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, supreme leader of Iran. Tiring of the old churning-out-policies malarky, he hit his opponent, the nation's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, where it hurts the most: his

magical powers. A number of Ahmedinejad's advisors and allies have been sentenced with the criminal offence of sorcery. Reportedly twenty-five people have been accused of using "black magic" to both influence the leader to usurp his rival Khamenei, and to increase the power in their own position.

For the Iranians this is a serious conflict; for Western readers the alien concept of sorcery as a criminal offence borders on comical. With the recent report by Reuters recognizing Osama bin Laden to bear "errie links" with "big bad Voldemort," perhaps they're all having us on. Or perhaps as the Harry Potter film franchise comes to a close we're finally beginning to realize just how seminal it is as a political discourse.

The Nouse Crossword



Across

1. Stage name of Maurice Joseph Micklewhite (7,5)
7. American alternative for Saltpeter (5)
8. Shaped by hammering (7)
10. Aesop's racing protagonist (8)
11. Slovenian lake (4)
13. Cats and dogs fell from the sky (6)
14. A manoeuvre or plan (6)
17. Piratical greeting (4)
18. Going without undies (8)
20. Fish0like (7)
21. Boy Kill Boy's first single (5)
22. Changing circumstances (12)

Down

1. What's that coming over the hill? (7)
2. Having the same boundaries (11)
3. Halos (8)
4. Look for the ___ common denominator (6)
5. Bristolian river (4)
6. Slightly (1,3)
9. It became jello-like (11)
12. Palm-sized New World monkey (8)
15. Lucky Irish symbols (7)
16. Greek God of the North Wind (6)
17. European mountain range (4)
19. Melanesian island republic (4)

The Nouse Sudoku

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

Last edition's answers

Across: 1 Machinations 7 Heist 8 Tangent 10 Paper cut
11 Afar 13 Yonder 14 Carafe 17 Seed 18 Hibiscus 20 Rescind
21 Alice 22 Infringement

Down: 1 Mr Happy 2 Chimpanzee 3 Internet 4 Artaud 5 Iona
6 Star 9 Enfranchise 12 Validate 15 Easiest 16 Hidden 17 Serf
19 Tier

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Cocktail Bar and Club

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Mon



Jäger Mondays
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Free entry 

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Tues

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£2 SELECTED BOTTLES

Weds

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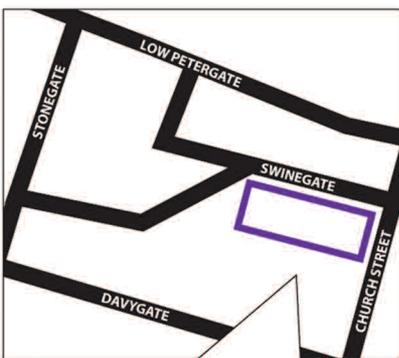
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Chris Underwood

YUSU need to support RAG elections to ensure students vote

If YUSU don't support the RAG elections it will only encourage voting apathy.

When it comes to the YUSU elections one can hardly avoid the posters and placards plastering the faces of YUSU candidates around campus. YUSU are in a special position: their elections have more impact upon the student body and receive far more publicity than any other university elections.

We may have our new sabbatical team but it is now YUSU's responsibility to ensure the smooth running of the RAG elections. But this seems to have been somewhat neglected, leaving candidates and voters in disarray. Although moving the RAG elections from the day of the referendum will likely boost eventual turn out and stop it from being overshadowed, YUSU have let them down in all other respects.

Voter turnout may be harmed by YUSU's failure to offer RAG an online voting system (which they themselves used), and instead conducting the elections by paper ballot. Even if people

know where to go on campus, how many will actually bother to go out of their way to cast their vote? Without the convenience and ease of being able to cast a vote on one's PC, only the most

“these elections can only be as successful as YUSU allow them to be”

committed will likely make the effort to vote under this format.

Campaigning is the key to winning elections, so the lack of election rules resulted in confusion and hampered the efforts of candidates. With little guidance as to what was permitted in an election campaign, how did YUSU expect RAG candidates to generate the nec-

essary publicity for both themselves and the event itself, with one wrong move potentially resulting in expulsion? We also have to ask why YUSU thought that the ideal time to inform candidates of the length of their speeches was right before they made them at the hustings. It is hardly fair to candidates to be forced to adapt their speech moments before they make it.

It is perhaps unfair to lay all the blame relating to campaigning at YUSU's door, given that they could hardly object to RAG candidates employing similar methods used in YUSU and JCR elections. But as RAG are part of YUSU, they need to be supported.

With RAG candidates having been frustrated by the lack of clarity from above, YUSU need to remember that these elections can only be as successful as they allow them to be, and need to show far more commitment in providing effective support.



Sam Lawson

Graduate cuts are damaging

Shrouded by a veil of uncertainty, jubilation and often confusion, the British public have quite enough to worry about these days. However, through the perpetual haze, a very vital piece of information looks to be tiptoeing by quite unnoticed.

Our government continues to work; changing, reviewing, and of course, cutting; yet again, students may be the ones to suffer. The discontinuation of the state funded graduate internship scheme offers us new concern.

The scheme aimed to aid graduates in obtaining employment. Indeed, by providing opportunities

“at York we are among the worst off”

through funding for 18,500 students at smaller businesses as interns, it led to at least a quarter being offered jobs upon completion.

Arguably nothing but a drop in the ocean in tackling the ever prevalent issue of record high graduate unemployment, it was certainly a commendable endeavour. However, beyond the actual opportunity loss, the message that the discontinuation sends is perhaps more concerning.

Our Deputy Prime Minister has piped up against the incestuous

nature of the internship market. Mr. Clegg dreamt of a country where desirable positions were not granted as the result of “connections”. Hypocrisy rings loud from the towers of Westminster. The end of the valuable scheme shows us that we've been misguided.

We need schemes like this; not just to help us gain actual employment, but to reassure us that we are still enfranchised, to reassure us that our dire situation as a hopelessly unemployable generation has not been left to fester on the landfill of student disappointment.

Here at York, we are among the worst off. Figures published by the Higher Education Statistics Authority calculated our graduate employment rate at 88.3%; below that of many other peer institutions. A 2010 *Nouse* study revealed that we are 11% less likely to achieve “graduate level employment” than the other top ten universities at the time. We have now dropped out of that top ten.

Whilst all this may be attributed to poor University initiative, our worries should be augmented by the ending of what could have been an extremely valuable government scheme.

I can't blame the government for its austerity measures, for they seem to be a necessity these days. Neither can I for its mistakes, its folly or its fallibility. But again, it begs the question, why us?

The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

Will you buy Summer Ball tickets before the acts are announced?

200 people voted, with the majority stating NO



54 people voted Yes (27%)

146 people voted No (73%)

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

Frustration with Tokyo

Dear *Nouse*,

Why is it that you have to have your university card to get into Tokyo? It causes numerous problems for forgetful students and wastes time whilst people argue on the door.

I understand that they are just trying to prevent lots of non-students getting in but it means actual students can't get in either. It is really annoying if you have a friend visiting and then you can't go out with them.

This week we went out for my friend's birthday and we spent ages trying to get her boyfriend into the club when he had specifically visited for her party. We eventually all got in, but if they hadn't let him in we would have gone somewhere else and they would have lost all our custom for the sake of one person.

It is really frustrating.

Victoria, James College Second Year

Harry Fairhurst is a waste

Dear *Nouse*,

The new Harry Fairhurst building is a waste of money. It is beautiful inside but it is useless as a study space.

Instead of filling the space with well needed desks there are sofas. For every one sofa there could be five desk spaces. As the library is already in a huge mess it's about time the University made up for all the study space we have already lost.

It is true that the sofas, beanbags and leather desks are comfortable but beyond that they are impractical and they hardly encourage intense studying. If anything, people now have even more chance of falling asleep but now on a comfy beanbag instead of a desk.

It is still nearly impossible to find a desk in the library if you arrive an hour after the opening time.

English literature student

Lack of security at University polling station

Dear *Nouse*,

I would like to issue a complaint over the way the on-campus voting was organised last Thursday.

I turned up at Vanbrugh JCR to pledge my vote as I hope many other students did too, went straight to the desk and fumbled for my student card. I was told; “oh no, I don't need to see your student card, just give me your name”.

If I had been so inclined I could have simply looked at her list, which she had displayed in front of me, and chosen a name at random.

It makes a mockery of the idea of “one person, one vote” when it seems to me that anyone could work their way round the polling stations, voting at each one under a different alias.

If I go to pick up post from Vanbrugh reception, they ask to see my student card. When I go to student nights in town, they ask to see my student card. Why then, when I wish to fulfil my right and responsibility as a member of the voting electorate, are the university perfectly happy to accept my word.

We need to start taking elections more seriously.

First Year, Vanbrugh College

Nouse reads: Blogs of the BNOCs



The Union WAG

This week has just been so tough for my man. I know that when my boy gets home from a hard day at the office he'll need his dinner on the table straight away. Everyone says he spends all his time on Facebook, but I know it's not true because he doesn't talk to me when it says he's 'online'. I know he's too busy booking in important meetings with the other Sabbs, anyway. He works so hard, I even had to book Snuggle Time into his work calendar last week - my baby is in just such high demand from everyone!

The girls and I were so sad that our last lunch date had to get cancelled because the boys needed us to make the tea for Officer's Coffee. We usually picnic outside the James computer room and talk about all the current affairs of the day - how the Democratic Review is coming along (it's all over my head, but I've

got to keep up with things), and we like to plan the next version of the Courtyard menu.

Instead we've had to create a private Facebook question (just like the team do up in YUSU HQ, how cool is that!?) to discuss our thoughts on our vision for the next menu. I'm so glad we introduced the BBQ chicken wings this time. They went down an absolute storm! Getting rid of the spicy chicken pakora was a huge error though, it really was the perfect lunchtime bite.

There's so much exciting stuff coming up this term. I'm most excited for the Summer Ball, I've got my dress picked out already. It's orange with a blue frill, but I still haven't found the perfect shoes yet. I really want to get them personalised like my YUSU logo tracksuit was. But apparently personalisation on leather is harder than when you get it on velour? Such a

nightmare.

We're having everyone over to ours after Roses weekend to celebrate. I might get white rose commemorative goblets for everyone. I think it'll be that extra special touch for the evening - plus they'll go perfectly with the mini chocolate eclairs and chicken goujons I got from Your:Shop. Such great value in there! I'm also planning rosettes for the party bags, just like the ones at the YUSU Awards.

The girls and I have got our own Awards Ceremony planned for the end of term. Last year I got nominated for WAG Performance of the Year, but I got beaten out at the last minute. I've managed to get my man's support to perform Sonny and Cher's absolute classic tune: "I Got YUSU Babe". We're filming it en locale in front of the Studio and the Student Centre this week - wish me luck!!

The gap year tragedy



I've been having what I can only describe as a post-ironic life crisis this week. As I sat pondering by the lake on campus, I could only think of that time when I was in India, sitting by a lake in Pushkar, when I just felt such a spiritual connection to the earth. I feel the concrete here at York is seeping into my soul, and I am losing that spiritual connection, which saddens me greatly.

I feel like other students here have so little appreciation for the inner spiritual self. I cannot help but scorn at everyone in my halls as they head out to Salvation wearing little but a skimpy dress and a vajazzle. I find my hareem pants to be much more dignified eveningwear.

I guess I shouldn't be too harsh though. After all, I was the same a year ago; but my whole outlook changed after my two-week meditation course in an Indian ashram. I felt the cloud of materialism simply lift from my eyes. I made such a point in my seminar yesterday, but my tutor dismissed it as irrelevant; closed-minded ignorance in my opinion.

I've found some kindred spirits who had similar experiences as me on their travels. We have started a weekly vietnamese street-food night, with traditional singing and chai. It also gives me a great opportunity to practice on the sitar I purchased; handmade by a Nepalese buddhists, it is my most prized possession. My attempts to bring it out at D-Bar open mike night however, did not go down so well. My fellow students are sadly such philistines.



The campus thespian

Darling sorry can't talk, I've got to be in the Barn - we've only got 200 hours, you see, to rehearse this rehearsed reading of my debut play, and I want to get there early to cram in a touch of training for the physical theatre montage in the fifth act. We're perfecting the levitation before my lift, so a series of games and a touch of jumping around should do the trick - it'll be alright on the night! It tells the tale of tales that have never been told before, touching upon the subplot of cannibalism. Not quite a musical, but there will be choral harmonized panting throughout, yes, to add that erotic touch to the strip scene.

My last play? Unfortunately it came under the petty wrath of the campus media, who clearly have no grasp of interactive theatre. The reviews went up well after midday though,

so thankfully that deems them irrelevant.

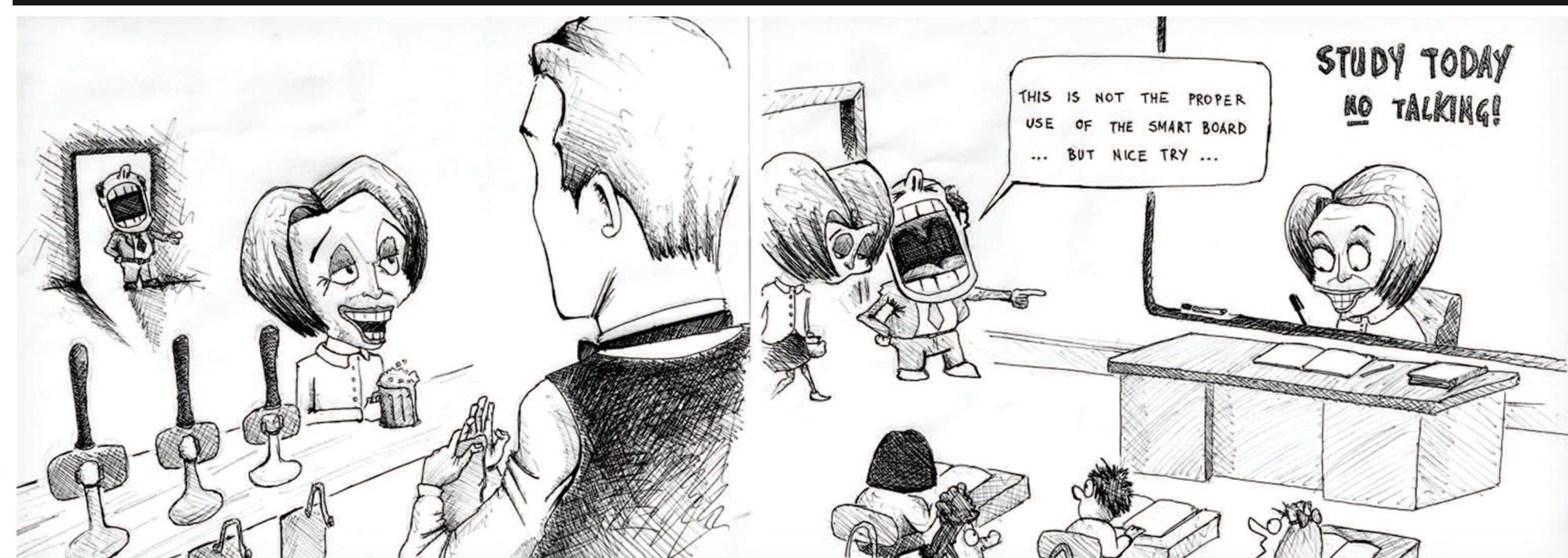
Anyway, my play: I have *the* best cast - the inside jokes are just rib-tickling, you should see my status updates, they really are a highlight of anyone's newsfeed. You should have come to the latest drama fest we all went to - can't for the life of me remember the name, I do so many, it was a punnet of giggles though.

Anyway, my cast. We have all been in things together before. Not many, no - 3 a term roughly. You missed the auditions? Oh not to worry, it was a small do at mine so you weren't to know. Do come and see it though darling, get your ticket now, I'm sure Friday's selling out already, really it is. It's reduced capacity due to the number of antiques I've staged rustically about the room, so only 5 tickets available per night.

Actually, now that you've got me talking - although really, I should rush off - what are you going for in the Barn next term? I'm pitching a new piece of my own; a reworking of something vintage - yet to reach the plot stage, but I can confirm it will be a first for the Barn involving live doves. No the characters aren't 'written' per se - you can establish that yourself towards the end of the rehearsal period, but I'd really rather work on casting my next play after that, so the rehearsals will take audition form.

But really, enough about me, let's hear what you're up to this summer - are you coming to see my show in Edinburgh? It really will be something new. No, not doves this time, eagles. More eye catching on the Royal Mile, you see. And yes, sorry, that one is cast already as well.

Hugo Brook.



GlobalFocus

DAVEDEHETRE



USA - Many sources, such as the Redemption Centre Church in Kansas, are providing the tornado-stricken American South with much needed aid and support. On 28 April, a series of tornadoes swept through several states leaving over 300 people dead in their wake.

HUNGARY - One of the most wanted Nazi members, Sandor Kepiro, has finally been tried at age 97 in Hungary. He was found in Hungary having previously been hiding in Argentina. He has been accused of killing 36 Serbs and Jews, 30 of whom were shot on his orders, and being involved in the massacring of Novi Sad in 1942. Kepiro denies the charges.

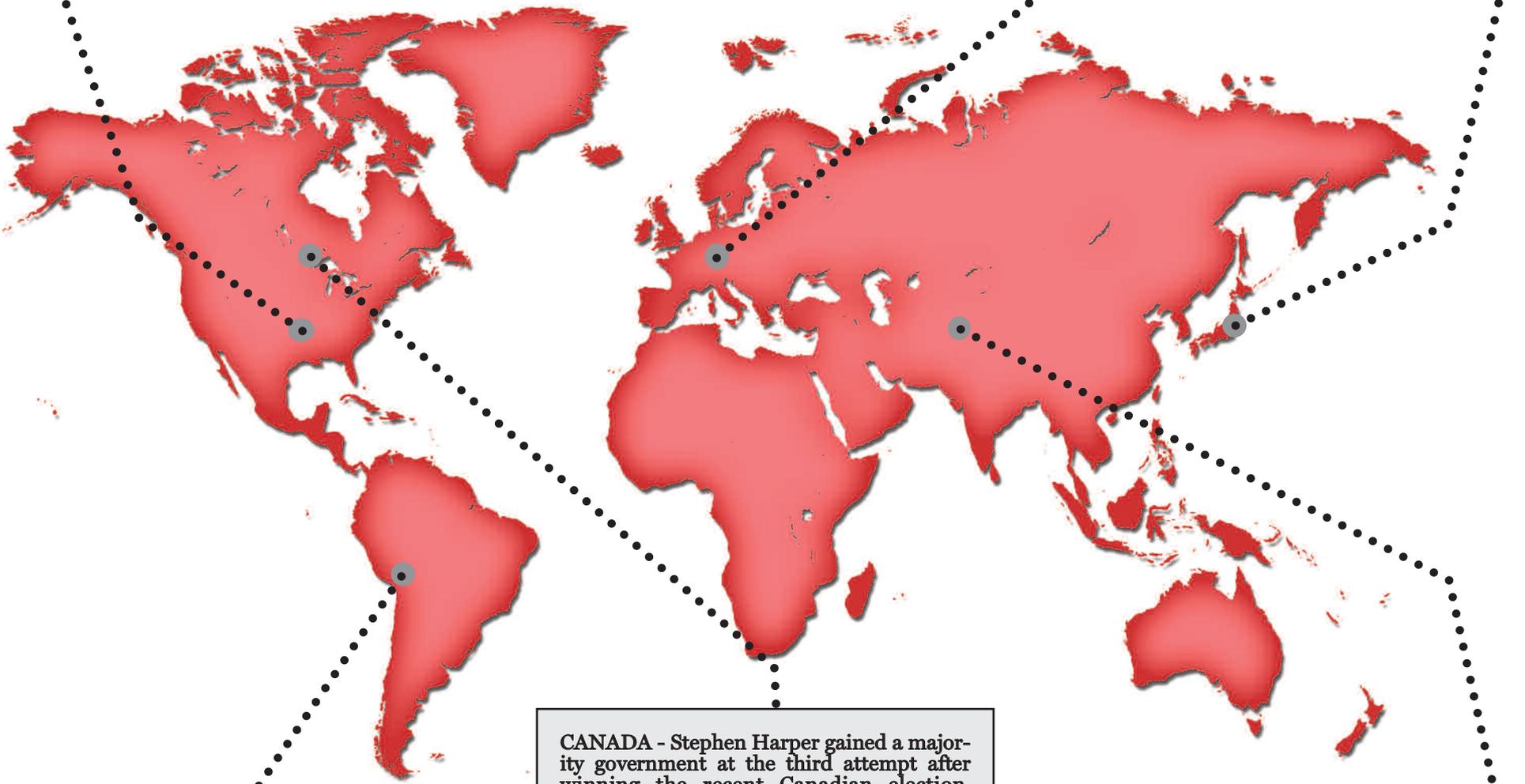


VINCENTDESJARDINS

KAWAMOTO TAKUO



JAPAN - The efforts to avoid a repeat of the terrible nuclear disaster has resulted in a second nuclear plant to be closed. The Hamoaka facility was deemed to be at a significant risk from any earthquakes nearer to Tokyo. Some have stated this cautious approach is too little, too late.



SZEKE



BOLIVIA - Bolivia became the first country to grant human rights to the whole of nature. In what is being called 'The Law of Mother Earth', nature is due to receive the right to life and to exist, to not be polluted and to not be genetically modified. Considering how difficult it is to ensure global human rights are adhered to, one wonders how effective a law protecting the rights of the natural world could possibly be.

CANADA - Stephen Harper gained a majority government at the third attempt after winning the recent Canadian election. Harper has been Prime Minister since 2006, but this year his Conservative Party managed to win 167 of the 308 electoral districts. Harper has a number of strong policies, which include increasing the Canadian presence in the Afghanistan conflict. The election resulted in the resignation of Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff.

LESTUDIO1.COM



UK IN KAZAKHSTAN

KAZAKHSTAN - President Nursultan Nazarbayev has extended his rule into a third decade after the recent elections. The leader, who has been in power since the Soviet era, has dispelled criticism that democracy is extinct, despite the appearance of a one party state. Nazarbayev has been known to make all vital economic and political decisions himself on behalf of the energy rich country.

York councillors comment on vote results

Steven Hirschler
POLITICS EDITOR

THE LOCAL elections in York resulted in a resounding defeat for the Liberal Democrats, who had formerly held the most seats in the city. Not only did the party have to relinquish a majority of its seats to other parties, but the leadership of the city was also transferred to Labour. In addition, a senior member of the Lib Dems who had served as a councillor for 38 years was forced out by a public whose antipathy for the Lib Dems' concessions on the national stage have resulted in a flight of support for their leaders and representatives.

During the vote count at Energise, a sports facility in Acomb, a few of the city's party leaders and members offered their views as to why the balance of power shifted in York, formerly a Liberal Democratic stronghold.

When asked if local participation was adversely affected by the national political climate, the councillors interviewed were nearly unanimous in their response. Dean Knapper, a Liberal Democratic candidate in Fishergate, explained that the Labour party had capitalised on public dismay at Lib Dem concessions at the national level.

For the Lib Dems, the focus had been upon the importance of local issues. However, in this election, the national scene played a significant role. The diminished support for Lib Dems at the local level was 'undoubtedly' due to the public's

dissatisfaction with party positions at the national level, Knapper explained.

Councillor James Alexander, the leader of the Labour Group in York and now elected leader of the Council, explained that the turnout in local elections was still relatively low, despite perceptions of a politicised electorate wishing to voice its disapproval of the national political environment. Some people were simply "not interested in voting", Alexander explained, due to a disconnect between party representatives and the electorate as well as voters' fatigue as they have voted in a general election, by-elections and local elections within a single year.

Alexander stated that support for Lib Dems waned nationwide and resulted in some further support for Labour and Conservatives. Lib Dems "have been the party of protest, but that's simply not the case any more." A vote for Lib Dems is no longer a vote against the establishment, "because they are the establishment", Alexander exclaimed.

Ian Gillies, councillor from the Rural West York Ward and Leader of the Conservative Group in York, expressed his belief that the situation on the national stage had a direct impact on the local scene. Gillies cited the "implosion" of Lib Dem support as being a boost for the Labour party candidates.

With the failure of AV across the board with a nearly 70 to 30 per cent split among the electorate, concern has mounted for many that the Conservative government's



Councillor Steve Galloway (right) prepares for the bad news

restructuring of constituencies will result in a so-called 'Conservative Century', in which all other parties will be marginalised.

Dean Knapper of the Lib Dems explained that the AV campaign failed, because it did not address the interests of the public. He was also concerned that the number of MPs was being reduced while the number of Lords is due to increase. "I do not understand how that feeds into democracy. We're reducing the amount of representatives, yet increasing the number of unrepresentative people. It's not very progressive."

James Alexander of Labour

expressed similar concerns regarding the redefinition of boundaries: "I fear that the reduction in seats will actually be a gerrymandering of the political situation. If constituencies become larger and more rural, you build in a bias toward the Conservatives".

Councillor Ian Gillies was predictably less concerned about the restructuring of constituencies, as his party will be the one overseeing the redrawing of boundaries. "We live in a democracy and at the moment, democracy has spoken", Gillies exclaimed. However, Gillies was careful to acknowledge the fact that it is too early to tell what

impact the restructuring of constituency boundaries will have on the future of British politics.

With the large number of students and ex-students running as candidates in the local election, party leaders were asked what role they could play in representative government. James Alexander stated that "an ex-student is in a perfect position to" bridge the gap between the student community and the local population.

Ian Gillies was positive about the ties between the city and the two universities within its boundaries and he stated that the local community needed to be made "aware of the asset we have in the university facilities and, of course, in its students". He suggested that the involvement of young people and students would be helpful in drawing these two communities together.

The York election results revealed the community's disapproval of the Liberal Democrat's concessions at the national level. Where once Lib Dems held 19 seats in the City of York Council, Thursday's elections left them with a mere eight. Conservatives, on the other hand went from seven seats to ten and Labour enjoyed a resounding win with 26 seats compared to the 18 they held previously. With voter turnout up from 41.8 per cent in 2007 to 44.72 per cent this year, defections were not the only problem facing Liberal Democrats, but previous abstainers were also eager to express their dissatisfaction with the party.

York students active in local politics

Alexander Prowse
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

A LARGE number of current students were running in the York Council elections. Many students were running to gain experience of political campaigning and representation, such as Lizzie Beardsley in the Guildhall ward.

In the University dominated Heslington ward, second-year Caleb Wooding ran as the Green candidate. Despite losing to David Levene, he was satisfied with 449 votes.

He later commented: "It's great that we've increased our vote share on an increased turnout on campus. Students got the opportunity to vote Green and we achieved a pretty good second place. This puts us in a strong position for next time."

Wooding was also firmly for encouraging other students to attempt election, "I'll definitely think about running again, and encourage anyone who can to run for elected office."

This view was echoed by Josh Allen, a first-year History student and Liberal Democrat candidate. "It would have been nice to win, but realistically I'm happy with my performance, I would definitely consider running again."

Tom Spencer, a second-year Politics and International Relations student, was standing for the



Lib Dem candidate, Tom Spencer

Liberal Democrats in the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward. This had previously been a Liberal Democrat stronghold, however two of the three Councillors elected were Labour. Spencer gained a very respectable 1065 votes, something he was very proud of: "I'm very happy by achieving that number of votes on a 50 per cent turnout."

Dean Knapper, a second year Politics and International Relations student, stood alongside fellow second year Jim Whiteside. Both students were representing the Liberal Democrats in

Fishergate, a notoriously low Lib Dem vote.

Eventually the Green party held Fishergate, with Knapper and Whiteside not that surprised. Knapper, with 257 votes to his name, later jovially commented, "I'm glad that the Greens won, my aim was to beat James and I've done that by 35 votes."

It seems that whilst no current students won their ward, all unanimously enjoyed the experience. Whilst these students were trying to make a difference, other who voted contrived to achieve the opposite. One glaring statistic was the high number of spoilt ballots in the Heslington ward.

Over 75 ballots were spoilt, which provided amusement for the crowd. "Maybe these students aren't as clever as they make out" one activist commented. The spoilt ballots were intentional, a source of venting anger at certain parties rather than effectively using their vote.

It was a resounding victory for the Labour party. James Alexander, local Labour leader, stated he was "elated" with the results. "York deserves better, and the hard work starts here."

Alexander also commented on the future of the Liberal Democrat leader: "Nick Clegg should consider whether he remains leader of the party."

Levene victorious

Alexander Prowse
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

DAVID LEVENE continued the sweeping gains for Labour by winning in Heslington. "It's all still sinking in really but it was a fantastic result, to have a (Council) majority of five is a fantastic achievement for Labour," he told *Nouse* on the night.

When quizzed about his campaign on campus, Levene replied: "Obviously students make up a very large part of the ward. I'd like to thank all students who voted for me, it wouldn't have been possible without them."

Having a big presence on campus on the day of the election Levene acknowledges was a great benefit, marked most notably with a large placard on Vanbrugh bridge. Campaigning for a Council election on campus however was riddled with obstructions.

"Turnout is a long standing issue but it was still an improvement on 2007, if only slightly, and also we found during the campaign that students were interested in politics.

"But often it was quite difficult to get to students because accommodation blocks were locked down and it is not very easy to get in touch with students through the post. These are all issues we want



Levene enjoys his election victory

to tackle in the next few years".

Levene's background of being a former Union Council chair, and a candidate in the 2009 YUSU Presidential elections, gave clout to his campaign on campus. "I believe because of this, students felt they could have the confidence in me and that I would represent them well."

Levene is not the first York alumnus to become a York councillor. He laughed off future aspirations of parliament, not knowing what the long term future held.

"At the moment my only interest is my job here, our Labour election manifesto was quite ambitious to achieve, so it's just getting straight to work really, no time to rest.

"In five years time I've absolutely no idea where I'll be, but I hope to have done a good job in Heslington."

Miliband's new look

Rose Troup-Buchanan
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

ED MILIBAND is to undergo surgery on his nose. The operation is to take place during the summer recess and is intended to correct a deviated septum, which has contributed to Miliband's sleep apnoea, a condition that causes a person to stop breathing whilst sleeping. The operation may also have the secondary effect of reducing Miliband's nasal drawl.

Miliband's aides have been quick to deny the operation is to change his voice, insisting that the procedure is purely for medical reasons. However, the hope that an end to Miliband's 'gawling', as some colleagues referred to it, was likely not far from popular consciousness.

The televised debate between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon in the early 1960s changed politics. Following the broadcasts, Nixon was described as a sleazy hit man, whilst the impeccably dressed and recently shaved Kennedy stole the audience. This trend has continued today: the advent of the Internet has allowed the dissemination of images to the rest of the world moments after they are taken.

Politicians can often expect a rough ride. Gordon Brown understood the hazards of public exposure, having once been referred to as the 'one-eyed Scottish git' by one *Sunday Times* columnist. David Miliband was regularly pilloried for looking like a monkey. Nick Clegg was mocked by those on the Right for his badly fitting suits

during the run-up to the general election. However, just as bad press can break politicians, good press can make them.

David Cameron has been given the "golden boy" treatment as press coverage shined on him in the years leading up to the election. Such was also the case for Blair in the late 1990s.

A politician's appearance is important, but as a marker of their popularity rather than as a deciding factor. This emphasis on style over substance has been overstated in recent years. We are a generation raised on X-Factor and media overexposure. Although modern media and Internet bloggers have access to more images and have more opportunity to mock than ever before, this does not mean they are a deciding influence on the public's perception of a politician.

Appearances will only take a politician so far. Blair was praised, not simply for his good looks, but because he represented a fresh alternative to John Major's stale approach.

The vicious attacks on Brown, while sometimes centred upon his appearance, might be viewed as an indirect response to the public's impatience with a Labour government that had enjoyed over a decade of power.

Miliband's nose job may not be for purely medical reasons. However, no matter what the subsequent change in the sound of his voice, his stance on policies will likely remain the same. Only the superficial voter will be swayed by appearances, though that portion of the population is disappointingly high.

Pakistan-West relations shaken

Jack Barton
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

THE DEATH of Osama Bin Laden brings to a close possibly the biggest manhunt in history, a fifteen year search requiring the cooperation of half the world's security forces, unknowable sums of money and countless lives in collateral damage.

The relief and, in many cases, joy shared by most of the world may well be tempered though in the country which played host to him for years.

Although the Pakistani government denies it, western security forces long suspected Osama Bin Laden was hiding around villages in the mountainous tribal areas of Waziristan in the depths of North-East Pakistan.

The revelation that he was not only in an urban area but was only 45 miles from the capital Islamabad, has caused serious aspersions to have been cast upon the Pakistani Government, its intelligence services (ISI) and its relationship with the West.

The White House has thus far failed to comment on how this will affect relations with one of the United States' strongest allies in the region, though media speculation that the ISI must have known of Bin Laden's whereabouts has been rife.

The recent history of America's relationship with Pakistan is a complex one, with the CIA suspecting the ISI of playing a double game and allowing extremist groups to survive around their borders as insurance against alienating parts of the population.

This is further complicated by



Relations between Pakistan and the United States have been strained

Pakistan's nuclear capabilities; America is likely apprehensive that strained relations may create a backlash causing weapons of mass destruction to fall into extremist hands.

Under the Obama administration, relations have been further damaged by the U.S. military's use of Predator Drones which some reports claim have cost the lives of thousands of Pakistani civilians. It says a great deal about the trust between these allies that Pakistan's foreign minister has openly admitted that they were not consulted about the raid on the Abbottabad compound.

The future of Pakistan-West relations remains unclear, as intelligence services attempt to unearth what support system Bin Laden had operating in the heart of the country. The Pakistani government is likely to come under fresh pressure to take a new, tougher stance against extremist groups in the country. The Obama administra-

tion's position has no doubt been fortified.

Whether or not the United States' use of Predator Drones continues, it is unlikely to encounter many questions regarding its past use of this sinister example of modern weaponry. Pakistan's government is likely to tread carefully as America and other countries provide Pakistan billions in international aid.

While America's gung-ho attitude to Pakistan's national sovereignty is an issue that will cause many people unease, the larger concern of the day seems to be whether or not the Pakistani government was aware that Osama bin Laden was living comfortably in Abbottabad.

Pakistan and the United States will likely come to some arrangement in order to maintain the delicate balance between the two countries as both have interests that cannot be met as individual forces.

Bin Laden 'was not armed'. Does it matter?

POLITICAL EDGE
Steven Hirschler



method is viewed as appropriate only when all other options have been exhausted.

What does the US gain from further inciting anger by revealing the fact that bin Laden was not armed when shot in the head by an American assault force? In the era of WikiLeaks, perhaps the Obama administration is aware that details of the assault would eventually surface sometime in the future anyway and that the government might as well release the information before it is reinterpreted and disseminated by an outside agency.

For many, the details of bin Laden's death do not matter. Those jubilantly parading around the streets of New York and Washington DC might have been just as pleased if bin Laden was shot in the back as they would have been if he died retaliating against the onslaught of American Navy Seals. For them, it is simply enough that he is dead.

Commenting on a *Los Angeles Times* article, one respondent writes: "To those concerned [bin Laden] was unarmed, so were close to 3000 people that went to work on 9/11!" While this view is a common one, the reaction to bin Laden's death is bound to intensify as more details are released.

Few people are bemoaning



White House representatives have engaged in a series of backpedaling

Osama bin Laden's death, but in order to claim the moral high ground, some need to know that shooting bin Laden in the head was a matter of last resort. The fact that he was reportedly unarmed seems to undermine the US government's claims that it did not give explicit shoot-to-kill orders. Statements by high-ranking US officials seem to betray the nation's official stance.

The CIA director, Leon E. Panetta, implied that the only way bin Laden would have been taken alive was if he put up his hands and surrendered. A senior congressional aide stated that bin Laden "would have had to have been

naked for them to allow him to surrender." In what circumstances is shooting an unarmed man an appropriate response, no matter how uncooperative he may have been? If this is considered a suitable proportional response, then the lines between justice and vengeance have become disappointingly blurred.

The United States' self-proclaimed moral mandate depends on its actions. Americans must decide if retribution and justice are synonymous. If the US hopes to distinguish itself from the organisations it goes to war with, the American military will need to

make it clear how its actions are distinct to those pursued by terrorists. Following the global criticism of the United States' torture techniques at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib, the US must offer a greater degree of transparency in regards to its military endeavours.

A degree of secrecy is obviously required when carrying out covert operations, but the reports following those activities need to reflect the true conduct of the United States military. The Navy Seals are not known for their restraint. A Vietnam veteran shared his memories of the Seals and reported that they had placed enemies' heads on stakes outside their village as a warning for those opposing the US military. These actions are hardly becoming of a nation that prides itself in the examples it sets for the rest of the world.

From a national security standpoint, it might seem unwise for the United States to release a detailed report of the assault on bin Laden's compound. Knowing he was unarmed when killed will only incite further anger. However, if the United States wishes to present itself as morally superior to suspected terrorists, it must be plain about its actions and be willing to accept the possibility of reprisals.

Should Pakistan qualify for Western Aid?

Rebecca Kinahan
 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

AMIDST THE euphoria in the USA over the killing of Osama bin Laden, and the multitude of legal and moral questions subsequently raised, some foreboding issues are in risk of being overshadowed by celebrations in the West.

Unfortunately for Pakistan, the seemingly inconspicuous compound housing bin Laden remained undetected (or unreported) for years. The likelihood of bin Laden having a network in Pakistan is high; just how far interconnected he was has yet to be determined. However, that news is not the bombshell. In light of the murky nature of the Pakistani involvement, Tory M. P Philip Davis has called for the UK to scrap or demand repayment for the £350 million aid package given to Pakistan. The USA has also indicated that they wish to reduce their aid budget.

Western donors have for a long time dabbled in other countries' affairs using the benevolent guise of development. The history of international aid is replete with examples: Kenya, Egypt, Libya, and Afghanistan to name a few. In return for this aid, economic, political, and humanitarian inter-

vention has been justified as a form of neo-colonialism and military aid. And now, as Pakistan has apparently violated the code of the aid agreement, western donors want to pull out. They are not getting their money's worth.

Never mind that the money

“Politics needs to be separate itself from aid... the aim of aid is not to dictate the internal affairs of a country, to do so is to use human rights as a bargaining tool”

was being spent to prop an ailing country, ravaged by conflict, war, poverty and natural disasters. The United Kingdom and the USA both knew of the perilous state of Pakistan, with large ties to extremist and militant groups and an unstable government that spends a disproportionate amount of money on arms.

It was well known that the Pakistani government does not have hegemonic control over its people and that interagency and governmental organs are often con-



Pakistan receives a huge amount of aid from the USA and Britain

flicted. Yet, it was still decided that it was in the interests of the UK and the USA to tackle the poverty crisis. What has changed?

Calling for aid to be scrapped represents a failure to appreciate the fact that the aim of aid is not to dictate the internal affairs of a country. To do so is to use human rights as a bargaining tool.

One in four Pakistanis are considered poor, and one in two are in imminent danger of becoming poor. Pakistan has low literacy levels, and Karachi is one of the worst

places for a child if they want an education, which the UK aid package is aimed specifically at. It is the five year old who is going to grow up without an education and no prospects, and it is the five year old that will eventually be siphoned into one of the many militant groups in Pakistan if developmental aid is scrapped. Though the two are not always directly correlated, poverty has the capacity to breed extremism.

At the best of times, endorsing and aiding countries is complex,

but the flippant comments of politicians that feel they have the power to distribute quality of life, are like those of petulant children, demanding every toy in the shop.

A radical readjustment of the definition of aid is needed. The people who need it must be put back into the forefront, and politics needs to separate itself from aid. If that means giving aid through external institutions, then so be it. The circumstances surrounding bin Laden's discovery and capture should have no bearing on the decision to assist the destitute populations of Pakistan.

In a *Daily Mail* poll, respondents were asked if Britain's aid package to Pakistan should be cancelled. The response was shockingly high at 83 per cent in favour of revoking aid, though it is important to consider the fact that only *Daily Mail* readers were privy to the poll, making it heavily weighted.

Still, criticism for Pakistan has mounted on all fronts, but aid should not be seen as a commodity. Cutting aid in a moment of anger is rash, and it merely reinforces the West's ability to use aid as propaganda.

Why should the perceived failure of the Pakistani security forces result in the decision to deny food and education to the country's most desperate residents?

Students react to referendum experience

Steven Hirschler
Sam Shepherd

FOLLOWING A rather hopeful display of student participation in Thursday's local election and AV referendum vote, results seem to reveal that the youth voting contingent was still relatively small this year.

Some students from the University of York and the University of Cambridge were on hand to offer a few reasons why they believe this historical trend was perpetuated last week.

Young people tend to be some of the most vocal regarding their political views, but are often among the least likely in the electorate to vote. Based on research conducted by the University of Essex, the Office of National Statistics reported that 60 per cent

of the relatively low number of young people deciding to exercise their right in each election. In years in which a general election is not taking place, turnout tends to be even lower.

As issues are debated in classrooms and pubs around Britain each election year, hope that the youth vote will reinvigorate the political scene is renewed. However, such optimism is often misplaced. The results of the most recent election reveal that it has been yet another year of low turnout for young voters.

Students at the University of Cambridge offered their views on some of the reasons why young vot-

ers may have failed to show up at polling stations. One respondent indicated that there is still a lot of apathy among the youth, even at a university as politically aware as Cambridge.

“While I may be interested in these issues, many others may not be.” Others suggested that there is a general lack of knowledge about the issues and that students sometimes feel that they cannot make an informed decision, so choose to abstain.

A second-year Archaeology student revealed that the political parties failed to distribute a significant amount of literature, particularly regarding the Alternative Vote

proposal. An English Literature student reiterated the same point, stating that very few educational pamphlets had been distributed during the course of the campaign. There was some frustration with the fact that voters were then expected to make a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ decision regarding a subject they knew little to nothing about.

A respondent enthusiastically revealed that she had voted ‘yes’ for the AV referendum. She exclaimed: “why shouldn't we change the system? It's a dinosaur.”

When asked if she ever thought the ‘yes’ vote had a chance of winning, the respondent acknowledged that a lack of information regarding AV and the resulting ignorance of the voting population would likely lead voters to play it safe and vote ‘no’. Indeed, the overall result seems to confirm this observation.

The situation in York was similar. Voter turnout in Heslington was relatively low, at 37.8 per cent compared to a 44.72 per cent average for the whole of York. Students, while vocal, did not vote in great numbers. The views of students at the University of York seemed to resemble those held by those at Cambridge.

One respondent reflected that, while there was a significant push on campus to vote ‘yes’ on the AV referendum, the enthusiasm did not extend beyond the boundaries of the university campus. Those living off campus explained that very little literature had been provided on the subject and that a firm

understanding of AV required a significant amount of independent research. ‘Yes’ campaigners failed to make their position accessible to the general public and therefore lost its support.

York students also cite the ‘Yes’

“On response indicated there is still lot of apathy among the youth, even at a university as politically aware as Cambridge”

campaign as having failed at striking the public's imagination. The ‘No’ campaign was far more effective at debasing its opposition and inciting fear about what a change in systems could mean.

All things considered, one of the biggest challenges facing young students passionate about the future of politics is the general apathy a majority of their peers display in terms of their republican responsibility. There is a sense that student politics are an extra-curricular activity and that the real world is not affected by the participation or non-participation of the nation's youth.

As results reveal, even a small number of votes can go a long way in shifting the balance of power. The youth will either wiser up to this fact or be left bemoaning a government whose views are unrepresentative of their interests.

“Why shouldn't we try to change the system? It's a dinosaur”

of voters aged 18 to 24 voted in the 1997 elections.

This compared with 78 per cent of those aged 35 to 44 and 89 per cent for those aged 55 to 59. In 2001, the percentage of 18-24 year olds voting dropped to 53 per cent. 70 per cent of those aged 35 to 44 voted while 81 per cent of those aged 55 to 59 cast ballots in the same year.

These figures are illustrative



For some students their first voting experience was the referendum

College Cup contenders start their campaigns as James set the pace

JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

Jake Farrell
SPORTS EDITOR

FORM AND its more imperious cousin class aren't as far apart as usual when it comes to the College Cup. The confidence gained from a good start can gather momentum and before you know it the seconds striker reluctantly picked with budgetary constraints in mind becomes a hat-trick scoring behemoth.

Hamish Denham doesn't quite fall into that category, given that he is a College striker of repute and plays for the talent rich Halifax, but even he may have been surprised to be the second highest scoring player this week with 11 points. Not only that but he is second only to UYAFC Captain Conor Brennan, whose three goals and Man of the Match performance against Wentworth proved to anyone in doubt that he is class act.

Jon Garness also is part of our front three and is top scorer in the competition after four brilliant finishes. He looks to be a dangerous proposition and will surely be amongst the goals.

Looking beyond the initial glut of goalscoring points Mark Mcleod was the pick of the bunch and looks to be a potent pick. His imperious display against a more than talented Vanbrugh, where he was named MOTM and showed how deadly he was from dead balls, is a signal that he could rack up some big numbers.

Defensively two Derwent keepers were in sublime form with Stu Bruce unlucky to miss out on team of the week after a sterling game for the 3rds against James 2nds. Marginally it is Krishna Yellappa that gets the nod after playing his part in a week where Derwent didn't concede a goal as a club.



Vanbrugh's Phil Taylor challenges James' Simon Mole



The Nouse XI who made the difference for their college, and for your fantasy team

Group One (all data correct on Sunday week 2)

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
James 1sts	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
Halifax 2nds	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Wentworth 2nds	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Vanbrugh 4ths	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Vanbrugh 1sts	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Goodricke 3rds	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

Group Two (all data correct on Sunday week 2)

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Derwent 2nds	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Langwith 1sts	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Goodricke 1sts	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	1*
Vanbrugh 3rds	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
James 3rds	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Alcuin 2nds	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

* Goodricke 1sts docked 2 points for fielding ineligible player

Group Three (all data correct on Sunday week 2)

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Langwith 2nds	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
Derwent 1st	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Goodricke 2nds	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Halifax 3rds	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Wentworth 1sts	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Alcuin 3rds	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

Group Four (all data correct on Sunday week 2)

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Halifax 1sts	1	1	0	0	5	0	+5	3
Derwent 3rds	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
Vanbrugh 2nds	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Alcuin 1sts	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
James 2nds	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
Wentworth 3rds	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0

The trophy is anyone's to win after first week of fixtures fails to provide any conclusive answers

Jake Farrell
SPORTS EDITOR



ONE WEEK in and we are not yet able to alleviate the distinctly edgy atmosphere on the JLD. Each team is still feeling the pang of insecurity, and it is all the more acute for the contenders.

James went some way to riding the spectre of last year, when their chances looked so promising, by turning in a clinical performance against Vanbrugh to win 3-1 on the opening day. For them their unknown quantity could well be key.

They were without Tom Clarke, the ex-Yeovil player, who will augment a strike force that contains James Offord whose brace sunk their main group rivals. Phil Taylor cited tactical ineptness as a factor in his side's defeat.

Results such as this one cause problems for the casual pundit. James excellence cannot be ignored, just as Vanbrugh's flatness on the day cannot be excused. Regardless, each respective performance does not sentence the two sides to inevitable success or failure.

This equation will cause a similar dilemma for Tom Ragan's Halifax. Blessed with an embarrassment of riches on the pitch his side will be expected to go all the

way. Their 5-0 win over Wentworth thirds featured beautiful football but they will admit that it doesn't confirm them as the team to beat.

Difficulties continue for Alcuin and Langwith as the gap narrows between the standard of first and seconds string sides. A late Dan Radford finish earned Vanbrugh seconds a draw in an ill-tempered affair. Bruce Starkey is still a dangerous weapon for Langwith but will need support from his team mates to overcome a difficult challenge from the seconds sides who will want to beat them and progress into the knock-outs.

Derwent and Goodricke will hope to add some flair to their battling opening showings and continue the dominance that they shared

in the first two terms. The cutting edge of David Kirk made the difference in a 1-0 win against Wentworth, whilst Goodricke nicked a win without main man Jon Sharpe only to be deducted two points for fielding an ineligible player.

Elsewhere a superb showing from Derwent thirds saw them win 3-0 against James seconds thanks to John Gow and Jon Garness, who also fired the seconds to win against their Alcuin counterparts. Despite these promising signs it looks as though Halifax will take some beating away from the firsts sides, as their third side drew 1-1 with Goodricke seconds and the seconds cruised to a 2-0 win over the Hes East natives thirds side.

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Vanbrugh delight - joy of the cup

Cheerleaders pick up five national awards over successful Easter break

Sam Morgan
 DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE YORK Hornets had a successful Easter holiday when they claimed first place at the British Cheerleading Association Midlands Classic. The victory backed up other impressive performances that included a runners-up spot at the University Nationals.

First on the schedule was the

BCA University Nationals held at Telford International centre where the girls competed in the all-girl senior level two division. The Hornets finished second out of eighteen teams with a grand total of 238.5, fifteen shy of winners Portsmouth Phoenix. Finishing in second place was a marked improvement on last year where they came fifth and shows that diligent practice and hard work is paying off.

Their greatest accomplish-

ment, however, came in the BCA Midlands Classic which is open to all.

Again up against Portsmouth Phoenix, York pulled out a clean routine to take the title - and repeat last year's triumph - with 257.5 points, this time five ahead of the Portsmouth team.

For those unfamiliar, the York Hornets' performance comprises of stunting - that common scene in all American high school films where a girl known as a 'flyer' is thrown into the air to be caught by those below - jumps, dance, a cheer, and 'tumbling', a move which incorporates gymnastics.

Scoring is based on ability and enthusiasm in each category and each team is awarded an overall score. On top of all this, the Hornets also introduced a dance squad this year who took first place honours in both competitions. They had a comfortable 13.5 point victory over the Bath Spa Rapids in the University Nationals and stormed to a win over the Chippenham Vibes at the Midlands Classic with a final score of 205.

Just to emphasise the diversity of the University's cheerleaders they also put their group stunt into competition and they came a respectable fourth to bring home a total of five trophies for the girls.

Head coach Erica Gold was understandably delighted with the achievement. She said "the competition was huge this year. Eighteen university teams in a single category



IMAGE COURTESY OF YORK HORNETS

Number 1: The Hornets celebrate their success and display their trophies

is unheard of. Finishing second was the highest we have ever placed in the competition so I can't be anymore proud of all the hard work the girls have put in".

Hannah Bottomley, a competition squad flyer, echoed the sentiments of her coach by saying "we're all really pleased. The pressure was on to place well because of our win last year, but we managed to do even better with more wins and higher scores". Bottomley and the rest of the squad will head to Newcastle on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May to take part in the BCA North East classic and hopes are high that they can replicate their successes of the Easter break.

After the North East Classic

the girls' work is not completed as the performance squad will be in action at the Roses opening ceremony, Woodstock, and Big D.

Roll of Honour

University Nationals

1st in Dance
 2nd in Cheerleading

BMA Midlands Classic

4th in Stunt
 1st in Cheerleading
 1st in Dance

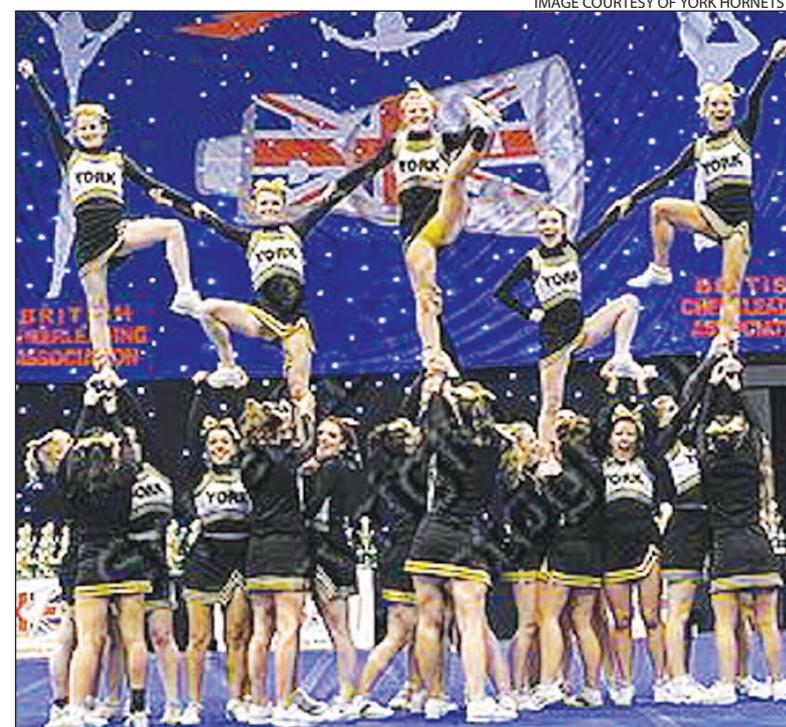


IMAGE COURTESY OF YORK HORNETS

The York Hornets in action during their first place at the BCAs over Easter

BUCS season ends on a high for Uni teams

PETER IVESON

David Ambrozejczyk
 SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

FOR THE most part, the Easter break is a time to rest and relax at home after a long winter term, but for some of York's premier sportsmen and women it turned into a chance to gain York some valuable BUCS points. It has been a period of much success for the men's lacrosse firsts, the men's table tennis firsts and the women's basketball firsts respectively.

A successful sporting period was led by the men's firsts lacrosse, triumphing in the BUCS Northern Conference Cup with a hard fought 11-6 victory over divisional rivals Leeds men's firsts. Cup victory was made all the more sweet as York dealt Leeds, who has been previously unbeaten, their first loss of the season and went one better than their league result where they only managed a draw.

York had looked elimination in the face at the semi-final stage - two scores down in the third quarter before a miraculous late rally to pip Durham seconds - but the turnaround in fortunes will give them the much needed confidence

to take into the showdown with Lancaster's lacrosse side at Roses, whom York defeated 19-6 in 2010.

Switching to the indoor sports, the men's table tennis firsts also fired a warning shot to Lancaster in preparation for Roses, defeating our historical rivals 10-6 to also bask in cup glory. In what has been to a season to remember for the ping pong heroes, finishing a close second to Durham in BUCS Northern Conference 2B, York produced a stunning display when it mattered most to take down a side that romped home to victory in the equivalent BUCS division over the other side of the Pennines.

The women's basketball firsts made it a triple header of wins for York, sauntering home to league-glory in BUCS Northern Conference 3B and putting the ghost of last season to rest, where they missed out on promotion by half a point. A twelve point gap between nearest challengers Newcastle seconds underlined a side that could be in the process of resurrecting their fortunes after relegation two years ago. A strong intake of freshers and the retention of some key third year players formed the base for York to realise

their potential, according to captain Lydie Mariutto. Mariutto enthused at the prospect of rekindling a rivalry with Newcastle firsts, who they edged out by three points in a run to the semi-finals of the cup this season.

The breadth of success across a variety of sporting disciplines again highlights the ever increasing diversity of sport on offer at York, which totals fifty nine clubs. With a home Roses tournament looming and both universities investing in sports - York with £9 million development on Heslington East and Lancaster scheduled to open their new £20 million development this summer - both institutions are looking to add a sporting dimension to their university experience, already boasting strong academic reputations.

The results leaves York in 49th in the latest BUCS standings, five places down on 2009/2010 but a mere eight points behind Lancaster (who sit 47th). York remains a considerable distance in front of Varsity rivals Hull (69th) and cross city rivals York St John (96th).



The men's lacrosse firsts were triumphant in the Northern Conference Cup

Roses 2011: The White

Henry Cowen
SPORTS EDITOR

THE WEEKEND that all sportsmen and women at the University of York have been eagerly anticipating since October is just around the corner. The teams of York and Lancaster, from rugby to debating, will go head-to-head to compete for the Carter-James trophy.

For the first time this year Roses has been bookended by two showcase events; the men's rugby firsts will kick things off with a bang at Huntingdon Stadium on the Friday night and the men's football firsts will bring things home on

the Sunday afternoon.

There will be countless ups and downs on the journey from Friday to Sunday, ebbs and flows as the momentum swings one way and then the other and you can guarantee that every point will be fiercely competed for.

Every sport is important and honourable mention must go to pool & snooker, fencing, lacrosse and swimming - all sports that have enjoyed a successful couple of seasons and who will be high on the list of potential Roses points winners. The great thing about an event such as Roses is that every

individual point could be essential to either side's hopes of winning the trophy. The sports listed below may get much of the attention but smaller sports such as rounders could very well be pivotal as well in deciding which side of the Pennines the trophy resides in come May 16th.

Roses boasts a history that says much for the competition between the two universities. The competition has taken place on 46 occasions, with York tasting victory 23 times to Lancaster's 22. 1974 remains an anomaly in that the honours were shared. In more

recent history, York have lost only three times in the last ten competitions, while last year's Lancaster victory was the first in four attempts.

York Sport President Sam Asfahani has done much to raise the profile of the event with the rugby match at Huntingdon Stadium representing a major progression in the tournament's stature. It is the largest inter-university tournament in Europe but there is still some way to go until it receives the respect it perhaps deserves outside of the two institutions taking part and 'Friday Night

Lights', as it has been dubbed, will be a historic night in the history of the tournament. Asfahani himself commented: "Ticket sales are going swimmingly. It looks very likely that we'll sell out the seated stand".

Lancaster enjoyed dominance last year and having surrendered the trophy in 2010 the White Rose will be extremely keen to regain it. In order to do so *Nouse* looks at some of the games and sports that might turn out to be pivotal, as well as some others that are simply bound to be absorbing and entertaining affairs.

MEN'S RUGBY FIRSTS

When & Where? Friday 8pm, Huntingdon Stadium. Tickets are still available at Your Shop, The Studio, the York Sport Committee and online at www.yusu.org/shop

How many points is it worth? 4 points

Why will it be important? What a way to start proceedings. This game will be so important, not just in terms of points secured, but in terms of laying down a marker and securing momentum.

Under the leadership of Tom Weir, it has been another strong season but Lancaster have enjoyed a superb campaign with their Vice President (Sports) Marc Handley even stating: "With the form they've [Lancaster's rugby firsts] had this year, they should dominate York".

Nouse aren't generally prone to rallying cries but our rivals Scan are predicting a first away win for the Red Rose since 1985, so we say bring it on.

What happened last year? 19-17 to York. Same again would be lovely.



ROWING

When & Where? Where else but on the River Ouse, 1pm on Saturday.

How many points is it worth? A whopping 20 points are on offer.

Why will it be important? The rowing will be important for a number of reasons but the prime one is the sheer number of points on offer.

If my maths is correct, and that is a big if, there are 285 points to fight for in this year's Roses. This means the magic number for both sides is 143. If it is tight, which it very well might be, 20 points either way is a titanic number. Roses was born from rowing and as such it always holds special importance in the schedule. A sunny River Ouse with (hopefully) a victorious York rowing side would be a lovely scene and one that might very well be a crucial factor in regaining the Carter-James trophy.

What happened last year? A clash with the BUCS Regatta meant the event never took place and York started Roses with a 12-point deficit. Controversial.

NETBALL

When & Where? Sunday in the tent is the place to be for netball. Thirds: 10am. Seconds: 12pm. Firsts: 1.30pm.

How many points is it worth? 8 points.

Why will it be important? Despite the cold a very good atmosphere can often be generated inside the tent and York's supporters could well lift the roof off if York can claim all three victories in the netball. Netball shares a place with the likes of football, rugby and hockey as traditional sports and as a result there should be a sizeable following for Cesca Dessain and the rest of her team. Lancaster firsts are two divisions above the York ladies but given the team's cup exploits this year where they completed one memorable scalping they should go into the game with some hope. The seconds and thirds tasted success in 2010 and would love to repeat that feat.

What happened last year? A mixed bag as York won two out of the three matches.



HOCKEY

When & Where? Saturday on the JLD. Men's thirds: 10am. Women's seconds: 11.30am. Men's seconds: 1pm. Women's firsts: 3.30pm. Men's firsts: 5pm.

How many points is it worth? 13 points

Why will it be important? If you're too tight to part with your cash to watch the rugby firsts at the Huntingdon Stadium then make sure you're at the JLD to watch the two hockey clubs go at it hammer and tongs. Always fun, often spikey, much drink and debauchery guaranteed on the touchlines and fierce rivalry a definite on the pitch. Andy Harris' men's firsts have had a good season, as have Charlie Bartlett's women's firsts, and both will be confident. The atmosphere at the hockey is what makes it special and expect nothing different this time round.

What happened last year? Comebacks were the theme but York came out victorious overall, winning 8-5.



Rose's path to victory

SNOWSPORTS

When & Where? Where else but the Sheffield Ski Village. The action kicks off 2.30pm on the Saturday. Entry is free for those whistling the tune to 'Ski Sunday'.

How many points is it worth? 8 points.

Why will it be important? Snowsports doesn't get the acclaim it deserves, perhaps because it's not the easiest sport to follow. Once again those wanting to track YUsnow will need to undertake a fair trek, where's the dry slope Asfahani? Sort it out. A very successful side, they'll look to repeat last year's hammering.

What happened last year? Controversy reigned as a 12-0 whitewash for York became a 10-2 victory following an appeal. Nevertheless it was a crushing victory for a side that had spent most of the weekend being on the losing side. Asfahani will be hoping for another win this year, hopefully in more favourable circumstances.

BADMINTON

When & Where? Saturday, Main Hall. The Mixed and the men's seconds get underway at 10am, the men's and women's firsts are a 5pm start.

How many points is it worth? A potentially pivotal 14 points.

Why will it be important?

Similar to rowing, you can't underestimate the importance of so many points belonging to one sport. A good weekend for York's badminton sides will go a long way to bringing the Carter-James trophy. Injuries

have hampered the men this year but skipper James Davies will want a repeat of 2010's exploits while the women's side have had a great season and will want to carry on their good form.

What happened last year? A rare victory for the right

side of the Pennines as the men's and women's firsts

secured 6-3 and 8-1 wins respectively.

MEN'S FOOTBALL FIRSTS

When & Where? Sunday, 4pm, 22 Acres. Be there - bring a banner.

How many points is it worth? 4 points.

Why will it be important? The men's football firsts is always a hotly anticipated contest. Football of course holds a special place in the hearts of British sports lovers and watching your university do battle with a local rival while receiving some very tame abuse is a nice moment, especially if they win. Last year it wasn't to be but Lancaster - a division above the White Rose - have endured a torrid season and sit bottom of the Men's Northern Conference 1A. Conor Brennan's side's season might not have been much better, with mid-table mediocrity being the order of the day, but with the Red Rose winning only twice all season and shipping 2.7 goals a game, confidence is bound to be low. The good and the great of University football are currently kicking lumps out of each other on the JLD but come Sunday May 15th they will all be united behind the common cause of bagging four points for the University of York.

What happened last year? A deluge of seasonal British rain put pay to York's chances as they suffered a 3-1 defeat.

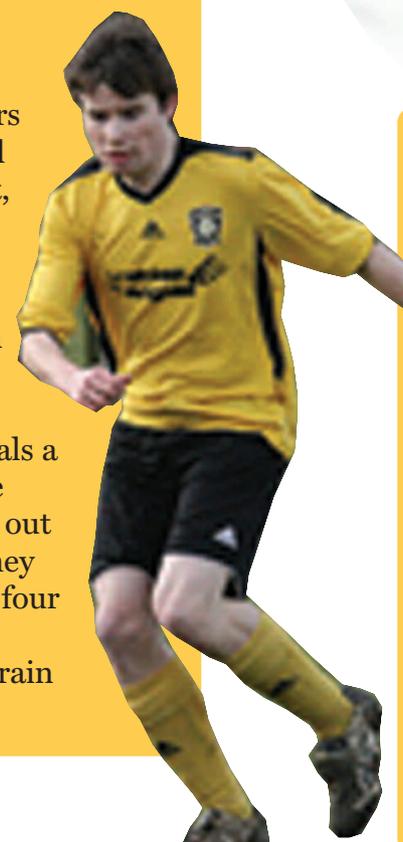
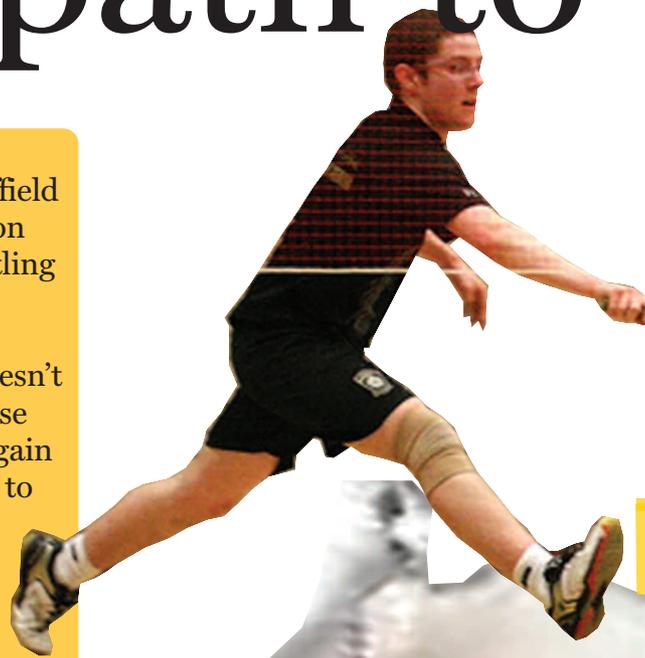
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FIRSTS

When & Where? Sunday, 10am. Main Hall. Head down to support a York side that has achieved promotion this year.

How many points is it worth? 4 points.

Why will it be important? Women's basketball firsts are perhaps a contender for York's team of the year, being the most successful in terms of BUCS team points, losing only once all season and boasting a win percentage of 91.67 per cent. Promotion to Northern Conference 2B was sealed comfortably, with a gap of twelve points between themselves and Newcastle in second place. Last year they came unstuck against a talented Lancaster side but come Sunday morning Lydie Mariutto and the rest of her team will look to get the day started by winning some White Rose points.

What happened last year? More of the same Lancastrian delight as the hosts triumphed 49-34.



Fantasy Football

Find out who you should have picked in the opening week of Cup Combat with our round-up.

THE FIRST WEEK >> P20



PETER IVESON



Wicket-keeper Andy Kirkwood celebrates the dismissal of Northumbria's Jonathan Weighill as York eased to a comfortable ten wicket victory

Cricket firsts hit the ground running with crushing victory over Northumbria

Peter Iveson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

A RUTHLESS knock of 75 by opener Fraser Crawford led York to a resounding victory against Northumbria Second XI, as the hosts made light work of the visitors' 116.

York's openers went about demolishing the total in quick time, taking just 12.5 overs to reach the target amidst a flurry of boundaries. Only Greg Jones (59) putting up any resistance for

Northumbria.

Crawford hit three sixes and twelve fours in a blistering 33 ball assault on the opposition's bowling, with fellow opener Alex McDonald ending 33 not out for a convincing York victory.

Northumbria batted first and quickly lost opener Aiden Tate (8), run out by a direct hit from Alex Kirkpatrick at mid-on attempting an ambitious single. Russell Hughes (2) was next to go, with the score on 24 for the visitors, tickling

one behind off Will Felgate. Another run out followed, as a moment's hesitancy from James O'Donnell (3) was swooped on by the cover fielder and Felgate was on hand to whip off the bails with the batsman well short.

The following nine overs went for just nine runs as tight bowling from Joel Hughes and George Richards ground scoring to a halt. Northumbria's Jack Whittaker (3) took 31 balls to score, before falling a ball later to the impressive spin

of Hughes.

The visitors' opener Jones progressed solidly as partners came and went, moving to 30 at the drinks break, playing excellently all round the wicket in hot conditions on the 22 acres.

Jonathan Weighill's (9) wicket was the next to fall, caught behind off Richards. Next man in Jason Perry (16) hit a couple of lusty blows but ultimately tested his luck for one shot too many and holing out, leaving the visitors in trouble on 81/6. Jones

responded with a succession of boundaries, including a big 6 over midwicket to take Northumbria past 100 and reach his half-century. With plenty of overs still to play, Tom Lawrenson (5) inexplicably attempted to clear the ropes and was bowled by York captain Oldham.

The tail folded meekly as Matt Reid (0), Harry Phillips (0) and James Richards (1) all capitulated, leaving Jones high and dry on 59 not out. Any hopes of an upset were quickly extin-

guished as Crawford hit the second and third balls of the innings to the boundary as York raced 33/0 off the first four overs.

Crawford and McDonald continued to tuck into Northumbria's attack, taking twenty off one over as York sped towards their target.

Crawford passed 50 with a shot through the mid-on and the pair continued to score easily, Crawford hitting the winning boundary in the 13th over.

Cheerleaders win two titles

The University of York cheerleading side, the York Hornets, enjoyed a successful Easter, picking up two national awards and a string of placed finishes.

SOMETHING TO CHEER >> P21



ROSES 2011 - The Preview

Just days before the commencement of the biggest event in the York sporting calendar we detail some of the key battles that the White Rose face in their battle for Carter-James trophy. Read up on where it could be won and lost and the matches to watch in our extensive preview spread.

THE PATH TO VICTORY >> P22-23



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