

# NOUSE



“Your mere presence is adding to the company’s inefficiency... you might as well be decorative.”

Life as the office bitch >> M11

## £11m Sport Village revealed



### Jewish students without facilities

JEWISH STUDENTS have become angered by the University, who do not intend to provide specific accommodation or catering service to suit kosher dietary needs. Peter Bartley, Chair of the Jewish society ‘J-Soc’ has described the existence of a Muslim prayer room as “simply unfair”. >> NEWS P3

### Bus competition to force fares up

SENIOR FIGURES at the University have raised concerns that, by lowering their prices, bus company FTR may be putting themselves in competition with the University’s choice for students, York Pullman, in order to stop York Pullman from being a sole operator, forcing prices back up. >> NEWS P6 & 7

### College Chair fresher conflict

COLLEGE CHAIRS have expressed their frustration with Commercial Services after their new bid to hold their own line of free freshers’ events on campus. Such events clash with college-organised events in the second week of term. >> NEWS P9

### York win in pre-season friendly

THE MEN’S firsts ended their pre-season campaign with a comfortable 36-17 victory over York Rugby Club seconds. Pete Tarrega scored three tries in Tuesday’s victory over local side York. >> SPORT P24



- 4G pitch ● Health and beauty spa ● York City Knights Rugby Club to use facilities

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## University profit from housing deficit

Hannah Ellis-Petersen  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

OUTRAGE HAS been expressed by many of this year’s incoming freshers, after learning that the University looks set to profit from the undergraduate accommodation shortage.

The shortage has forced a significant number of new students into postgraduate halls with costly 51 week rental contracts.

Particular concern has been raised for those students who have been placed in Wentworth College, which is perceived not to cater for

the social and welfare needs of new undergraduates, and where the private nature of post-graduate study could potentially leave first-year students feeling isolated.

Undergraduate students living in Wentworth and Halifax will have to pay 51 week lets instead of the usual 33 or 39 week agreements. Students in Wentworth will pay £4,458.93 per year, as opposed to just £2,797.76 for a standard 33 rental agreement, as other undergraduate colleges allow.

51 week lets are best suited to postgraduate or nursing students who continue their study over the summer, and will prove costly for

undergraduates who intend to move from campus accommodation to private housing once the summer term ends.

This will mean that students will have to pay double rent, on both campus and private accommodation over the summer, unless they are able to find another student to take over their campus lease for the summer period.

Lase Laleye, an incoming student studying Accounting, Business Finance and Management, told Nouse how he applied for accommodation before the deadline, yet received an email to say he would be living in

Wentworth College which he “wasn’t told was actually for graduates” before he moved in.

“It was only after I researched the college myself that I realised I wouldn’t be living with other new students” he stated. “I have to admit I’ve been pretty concerned about living with older people who won’t be going through the same experience, and I’m worried that I will be quite disconnected from freshers’ life living here,” he continued.

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LEADER >> Page 12

# Browne report published today

**Tom Fisher**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE FINDINGS of the Browne Panel Review are to be released today, revealing Lord Browne's recommendations for the future of university funding in the UK.

The main conclusion of the review, which is viewed by many as the most significant re-evaluation of university financing since the introduction of tuition fees in 2006, is widely anticipated to be a proposal for a significant rise in the tuition fee cap. The cap is currently set at £3,290 per year.

The results of the Browne Review will coincide with the Government's spending cuts, of

"Universities have completely failed to make any case to justify charging students even more for their education."

Aaron Porter, NUS President

which George Osborne is expected to announce the full details on October 20.

It was recently reported that the teaching budget for universities, including York, could be cut by roughly 75 per cent, falling from £4.7bn to £1.2bn.

However, cuts may be even more significant for arts and humanities subjects, where teaching funding could eventually disappear altogether.

Rather than a raise in the tuition fee cap leading to increased university revenues, the reduced teaching grants will instead mean that the higher fees are needed for universities to maintain their current financial balance.

Should subsidies for teaching in arts and humanities be abolished, it may force universities to raise fees to twice their current level in order to cover the funding gap. This would represent a major progression towards a free-market university funding system.

While more established and oversubscribed universities such as York look to suffer less from charg-



Lord Browne today announced the recommendations of his report on university funding

ing higher fees, it is the newer and less internationally reputable institutions that could struggle to attract students if rates are augmented. Currently, York has a significant amount of private funding, as well as a large income from international and postgraduate students, which leaves it in better stead to cope with any changes in application numbers.

"I think the graduate tax is inherently flawed but I don't think there is a rational argument against charging students for the full cost of their education."

Third Year Student  
Poppy Garrett

The University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jane Grenville, commented: "To date, higher fees

haven't seen a downturn in applications nationally, but at York we believe that it is necessary to create support systems that will not deter the most disadvantaged."

Nonetheless, if tuition fees increase, this method of finance may still not be a viable option to cover the drop in Government grants.

Officials have expressed concerns that should fee cuts take hold whilst the tuition fee cap remains stagnant at £3,290, universities nationwide may be left with a serious funding shortfall. Wealthier Universities such as Oxford and Cambridge are better financially equipped to handle cuts, there is a worry that the funding gap will hit the less affluent universities the hardest.

Students at York have also expressed their worries that the proposed, 'graduate contributions',

could reach figures as high as £7,000 or £8,000, a sum many consider "unaffordable".

Poppy Garrett, a third year student, commented: "I think the graduate tax is inherently flawed but I don't think there is a rational argument against charging students for the full cost of their education."

Talking to *Nouse*, Aaron Porter, NUS President, stated his view that universities have "completely failed to make any case to justify charging students even more for their education" and have "not adequately explained where the money they've already received since fees were tripled four years ago has gone.

"Student satisfaction has not increased, bursaries have not been effective in getting poorer students into top universities and staff salaries have hugely increased."

## Forced rise in JCRC equipment charges

College Committees have been forced to spend more on technical equipment charges after the introduction of a locked fee of up to £2,000 by YUSU.

The Union have said that this is due to rise in their own equipment contract with includes higher prices for individual equipment set up charges, but have described the service as offering "an extremely high level of reliability". Tahir Shetty, Vanbrugh College Chair, commented that: "We should have more freedom. The contract is signed so there's no point in complaining, really... there's zero movement."

## Former student Council candidate

David Levene, former University of York student and Chair of the Student Union Council, has been selected as the Labour candidate in the May 2011 York local Council elections.

Chosen to fight Heslington ward, Levene will be using his experience at as a student at the University to develop his policies and aims to create better conditions for students in York. Levene has stated: "The situation as it stands is a sham, and York students deserve better. As someone who's worked hard for students in the past, I will always fight for them, as well as championing the amazing work they do in the local community."

## History of Art joins with V & A

London's V & A museum has joined the University's History of Art Department in a major new research partnership. The partnership will begin at the beginning of this academic year, and will see the creation of an annual lecture and a symposium.

Professor Mark Hallett, Head of the Department of History of Art, said: "This is an ambitious and innovative venture that will bring leading academics and curators together to address important art-historical issues."

Reporting by Camilla Aparcar, Hannah Ellis-Petersen and Laura Connor

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Have you ever fancied donning a pinnu and whipping up something spicy for the special one in your life? NOUSE's tried and tested recipes will transform your dinner party from lazy to luscious.

FOOD DIARIES >>M8-9I

>> Continued from front

Five of the studio flats in Goodricke College, described by the University as “designed to be self-contained for two people living as a couple”, have this year been converted into twin rooms, with two undergraduates now sharing one double room. The rent for such twin rooms is charged at 80 per cent of the single room rate, per occupant. This means that the University will make £179.87 per week, as opposed to the £163.87 paid by a couple for the same room. With these students also forced to take up 51 week rents on such accommodation, this will earn the University an extra £4335 a year.

“I was upset that I was put in a double room as I feel starting University is a time when everybody needs to feel they have their own space, and I was unable to get that.”

Student  
Alex Michalik

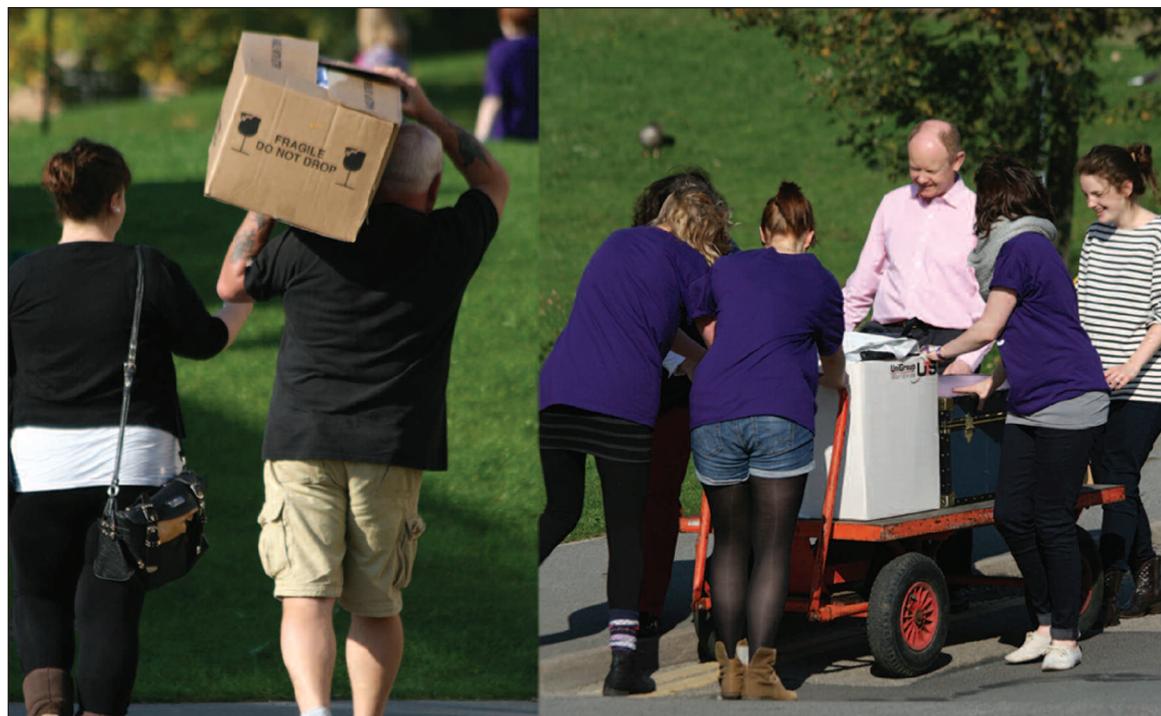
First-year Navya Mynei, who was “forced” to live in a twin room, has described the inconveniences of a shared room, with “the bookshelves and switch boards all on just one of the desks, so one of us needs to buy extension cables and get up every time we need a book”.

She also stated how “the shower and the WC could’ve been separated to help us save time. But that

didn’t happen, and we’ve been late to every single orientation session so far”. Another student, Alex Michalik, described his difficulties when allocated a twin room in his first-year. “I tried to make the best of a less than ideal situation and was encouraged to hear that they had paired us based on similar interests,” he said. “Unfortunately, in reality, we could not have been more different and the atmosphere in the room was very awkward at times. I was upset that I was put in a double room as I feel starting University is a time when everybody needs to feel that they have their own space, and I was unable to get that with just a thin curtain separating us.

“At a time when there are so many changes going on and so many new experiences, I needed a place to relax and call my own which just wasn’t available to me. The situation got so bad that in the end I took the chance to move out of University accommodation and into a flat in the town centre.” The University has come under considerable criticism this year for accepting more students than on-campus lodging can accommodate, despite an original guarantee that all freshers would be allocated some form of University housing.

As a result, freshers this year have also been placed in Hickelton Court in Halifax College, a strictly quiet housing area designed for families and post-graduates. However, Laura Borisovaite, YUSU



JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

Freshers are forced to move into postgraduate and shared accommodation after campus housing shortage

Welfare Officer, stated that the Colleges are “aware of the issues” and “are working hard to integrate these students”.

She continued to say that “the mixed accommodation halls will house both postgraduates and undergraduates in equal numbers and all students have access to all the social activities and sports facilities on campus regardless of their residential status. The aim of being a student is the fact that you are

“While it may be a minor challenge, there is a lot of added value in living in a mixed environment.”

YUSU Welfare Officer  
Laura Borisovaite

exposed to a varied environment whilst you are at University. While it may be a minor challenge, there is a lot of added value in living in a

mixed environment.”

Nonetheless, with such large numbers of undergraduates taking up residence in campus accommodation, taking into account the rent banding increases and forcing students into 51 week lets, the University looks set to make a considerable profit from the additional sources of income.

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# Jewish students without adequate provisions

Camilla Apcar  
NEWS REPORTER

JUSTYN HARDCASTLE



The only kosher provisions on campus is a self-catering kitchen room

MEMBERS OF the Jewish community on campus have spoken out against the University, who do not intend to provide specific accommodation or catering service to suit their kosher dietary needs.

However, for Islamic students residing on campus, halal catering has been introduced in the Roger Kirk Centre as part of the University’s catered accommodation venture, and a Muslim prayer room has been opened over the summer.

Commenting on the lack of kosher catering in the Roger Kirk Centre, Peter Bartley, Chair of the Jewish society ‘J-Soc’ has said: “I think there is more of a hyper-sensitivity when ensuring Muslim students are at ease, potentially at the detriment of other faith groups. I’m not necessarily saying that’s the case now, yet it could very easily develop into such from the current standing.”

In terms of other religious provisions on campus, Bartley has spoken on behalf of J-Soc, welcoming an Islamic prayer room. He has described the “former Islamification of the designated multi-faith prayer room in Wentworth” as “simply unfair to other faith groups on campus and went against any notion of a multi-faith space for prayer.”

demand for accommodation specifically designed for Jewish students, Hillel House – a four bedroom kosher-specific property co-owned by the University and the Hillel Foundation on Spring Lane – was shut down last year by the University.

Bartley has said that “this in part can be attributed to the poor standards in the previous Hillel House for living purposes as well as the lack of publicity to potential Jewish students”.

Although the University have stated that “in consultation with the Jewish Society, we have agreed there is no longer any requirement for separate accommodation”, some Jewish students believe the future facilities will offer minimal compensation for the loss of Hillel House.

According to Jon Greenwood,

Director of Commercial Services, the strictness of kosher laws means that the University do not have the space to provide any kosher facilities, particularly for those living in new catered accommodation within Langwith and Derwent, as it would be a “struggle”.

“I don’t know. Halal is a little less tying to conform to. Kosher is more restrictive.”

Director of Commercial Services  
Jon Greenwood

While the J-Soc Chair has said he appreciates the financial implications of providing kosher food in relation to the number of students, Greenwood reasoned that due to

having “only one really good production kitchen, we haven’t physically got space” to provide kosher catering. However, the recent introduction of halal catering has gone ahead, despite Greenwood admitting to “a very low turnout of halal customers when it was offered in Costcutter”.

Although the University has reasoned low demands as justification behind the lack of kosher facilities, there are approximately 70 members currently actively involved in J-Soc alone. When asked who he believes the responsibility to cater for all faiths lies with, Greenwood replied: “I don’t know. Halal is a little less tying to conform to. Kosher is more restrictive.”

Commercial Services have considered vegetarianism, veganism, specific dietary intolerances and Islamic students within their catering programme. Greenwood highlighted the example of one female student who has been supplied with her own separate fridge due to a wheat intolerance: “We try to do everything we can.”

Jewish kosher dietary laws do not permit the consumption of meats such as pork, or for certain parts of an animal to be eaten. Meat must not be eaten alongside dairy, and utensils that have come into contact with meat must not be used with dairy.

As there are no shops nearby which cater to their dietary requirements, Jewish students studying at York are forced to purchase kosher

foods online from Leeds or Ocado. In addition, these students do not have access to a synagogue in the city centre or to any specific on-campus facilities.

Despite future plans for a smaller location in Derwent College to host a prayer room and self-catering kosher kitchen, it will not include any accommodation specifically for Jewish students. David Garner, University Press Officer, has only been able to confirm that the new facilities will be opening “soon”.

The J-Soc Chair also commented how his society would “very much support the Christian Union having a designated space for prayer or use given there sizable presence on campus and the unsuitability of the chaplaincy building for large scale activities.”

“Over 80 per cent of Jewish 18-25 year-olds attend university, and institutions such as York would do well to break into this lucrative potential market through sustained interaction and efforts with Jewish schools.

“The University has a lot to do in terms of attracting Jewish students, as comparatively York fares poorly to other universities; many of whom have put real effort in only recently and have seen a drastically higher number of Jewish students as a result (notably Nottingham). It can and should be done.”

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# York Sports Village development due

**Charlotte Hogarth-Jones**  
EDITOR

*Nouse* is able to exclusively reveal the plans and details of the new York Sports Village.

The development, which is scheduled to cost around £11m, will contain a 4G pitch suitable for rugby, football, American football, hockey and Lacrosse, as well as an eight lane county competition standard swimming pool, a health and beauty spa and several dance studios. It is due to be completed by Easter 2012, and will be open to students as well as the general public.

Sam Asfahani, York Sport President, has stated that the development will “completely revolutionise sport at York”, highlighting that it will “not only improve the experience of existing members both in terms of our clubs and general membership, but it will also be a great advert for prospective students”.

Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, has also claimed that when completed, the village will be “bigger than David Lloyd” and “much cheaper”, despite admitting that the project was a “big thing” as “there’s nothing else on the site yet – there are no infrastructures”.

The 4G pitch exceeds many sports club’s expectations, who were skeptical that even a 3G pitch, one of Afahani’s leading policies in the YUSU elections last term, would ever be achieved at York.

“To be honest with you, I never thought we’d get one, but it’s so brilliant that we have”, commented lacrosse captain Phil Harrold. “We’ve played on a 4G pitch at a tournament in Amsterdam before and it’s incredible, it’s head over heels above the astro we have at the moment” he continued, adding that “last year we had so many games cancelled because the pitches were water-logged, but the new pitch will mean we can finally play all year round”.

Conor Brennan, Captain of the first XI football team, also

echoed Asfahani’s thoughts on the development, stating he hoped that “better training facilities might attract better players to the uni in the future” and that that was “the biggest positive for us”.

In addition to the 4G pitch and its separate changing rooms, the York Sports Village will contain several dancing and fitness studios available to clubs outside of peak times and with storage for equipment, as well as a high end health spa offering beauty treatments, a steam room, and sauna and jacuzzi facilities.

“The development will completely revolutionise sport at York. It will not only improve the experience of existing members but it will also be a great advert for prospective students.”

York Sport President  
**Sam Asfahani**

A 150 station fitness suite will be available to members only, but with discounted rates for students, and will be open to members of the current University gym, while the pool will be available to both members and ‘pay as you go’ users. It will be fitted as a 25m County competition standard pool with 8 lanes and starting blocks, not an Olympic one as has been suggested in the past. It will also house 120 seats to be able to accommodate galas and competitions.

There are currently no plans for new courts to be built, which Rob Wadsworth, Sports and Recreations Manager for Commercial Services, said “could cause difficulties”, stating that “if people want to play badminton, they can’t - there are no new facilities for that kind of thing at the new place”.

Wadsworth also specified that Commercial Services “haven’t worked out how the village will integrate with York Sport yet”, but explained that predicted membership fees and provisional timetabling are already in the process of being drawn up.

When asked how he hoped York clubs would be able to use the new facilities, Asfahani told *Nouse* that he has “every faith that the good relationship between York Sport and Commercial Services will continue” and that together they will “ensure that the needs of all our clubs are met, assuring that the facilities are at the right specifications for as many of our clubs as possible”.

Gold membership to the village is currently estimated at around £29 per month for students and £45 for the general public. This is substantially cheaper than the nearby David Lloyd gym, which currently charges around £55 per month and is used by roughly 1500 York students.

Silver membership, which will have limited use of the facilities and is for off-peak hours, is also estimated to cost students £20 a month and the general public £28.

Members of the current University Sports centre on campus will have access to the new Sports Village automatically included in their membership.

Wadsworth also revealed that the York City Knights were involved in talks with the University and would potentially be using the Sports Village for their official training. “They don’t want to invest in their own facilities” he said, “so they’re coming down to do a deal with us”.

Rugby President, Rory McGregor, expressed similar concerns of other sports Presidents, stating that although he didn’t “see any reason why local sporting clubs can’t benefit” from the new development, “University sports clubs should take priority”, stressing the importance that “timetabling shouldn’t lead to the disadvantage of York Sport”.

However, McGregor remains confident that Asfahani will deliver on his promise to push for the needs of York Sport, throughout the development of the project.

“He’s got enough experience and, having worked with him on the York Sport Committee last year, he has my full backing” stated McGregor. “His heart is in the right place.”

The £11m project comprises of numerous sponsors which have been somewhat controversial.

The City of York council have given the University £3m towards the Village and as a result it will be open to the general public. Concerns have been raised over how much access York students will have to the facilities, with Greenwood stating that the council “want to be able to specify how many hours they’ll have available” and that there has been “no limit agreed” as of yet.

However, timetabling for the swimming pool is already under way. “Noone knew anything about programming pools” stated Greenwood, “so we signed it off to a company called Active Leisure who specialise in this kind of thing”.

“[[It’s] bigger than David Lloyd and much cheaper.”

Director of Commercial Services  
**Jon Greenwood**

A further £1m investment has been secured by the University through a government initiative, Sport England’s Sustainable Facilities Grant Funding. In march, Sport England announced a £10 million National Lottery funding round, Active Universities, which they stated would be “aimed at getting more university students

playing sport”. Greenwood explained to *Nouse* that the York Sports Village will also be taking steps to promote Sport England’s various initiatives as a form of compensation for the investment.

The campaign for a swimming pool and new health club facilities on campus has been ongoing since the expansion of the University campus onto Heslington East.

The University originally outlined a timetable of 25 years till the project would reach fruition. However, after pressure from students and YUSU officers, many of whom made the pool a central feature of their election campaigns, the development has been prioritised and alternative sources of funding sought. The project proposal has also received strong support from the University Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor.

The prospect of new sports facilities has proved popular among students. Jenny McLaren, a third-year student, commented how she believed it was a “really worthwhile investment for the University”.

“The new plans look amazing,” she said. “Sports facilities on campus have always been really shoddy, so it is about time for something new and snazzy.”

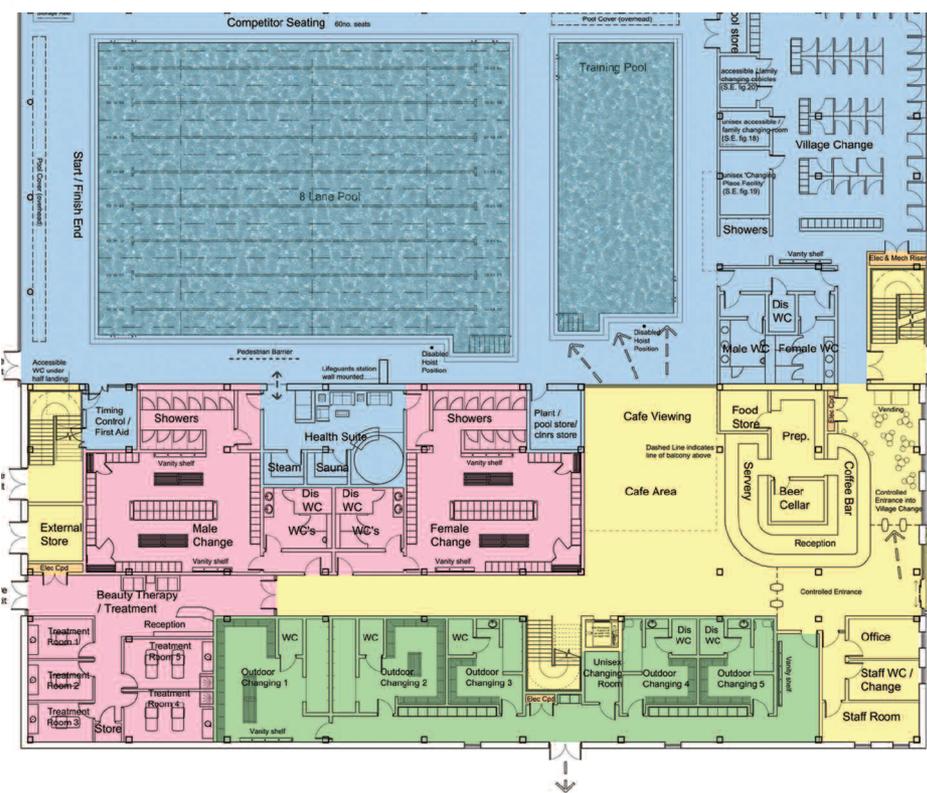
“My only regret is that I will have left by the time the pool and spa are built.”



Plan and an aerial map to show the location for the new swimming pool

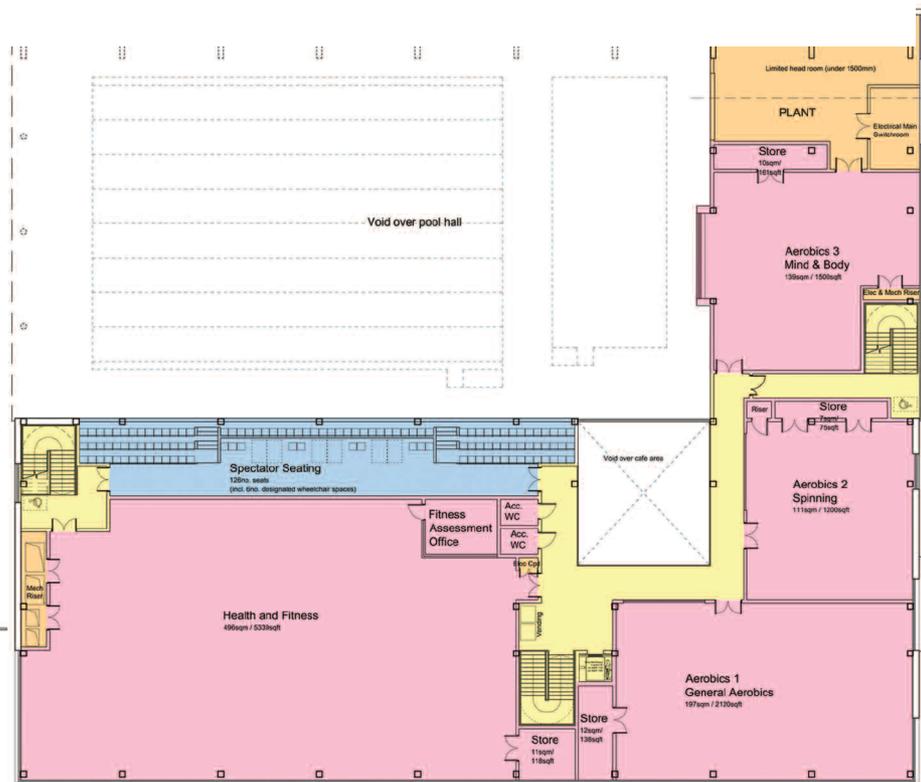
Activity	Projected prices for non-students	Projected prices for students and concessions
Swimming Session	£4.40	£3.00
Swimming Lesson	£5.60	£4.50
4G Football Pitch	£80 per hour	£60 per hour
4G Third Pitch	£25 per hour	£20 per hour
Gold Health Club Membership	£45 per month	£29 per month
Silver Health Club Membership (Off Peak)	£28 per month	£20 per month

# to be opened two years' from now



Ground Floor Plan

Access to 3No. 5-A-Side & 1No. full size 3G Pitches



First Floor Plan



Official construction plans for the York Sports Village showing a poolside cafe and coffee bar, beauty treatment rooms, Spinning studio, and small training pool, amongst other things



and York Sports Village. Construction is due to start this time next year

## COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Hannah Ellis-Petersen



A sporting revolution is upon us, or at least a detailed plan for one. While we can still not quite provide our young, sporting athletes with the facilities that almost all other universities offer, we now have reinvigorated hope that one day, we will.

The news that the University are finally living up to their promise to provide the students of York

with sporting facilities beyond those usually found in a primary school playground will undoubtedly be greeted with a universal chorus of 'Hurrah' across campus. There may be shouting in the streets. I've even heard rumour that York sporting alumni (apparently called 'Yorkies') are planning to return to celebrate this jubilant moment with us. After all, this has been a long time coming.

Too long have the sporting clubs of York, as well as the general student populous, put up with makeshift facilities, a sub-standard gym and a non-existent swimming pool. For a University with such an active and diverse

sports community, there really was little justification in ignoring the increasingly disheveled sports centre, sitting isolated on the edge of campus. The fact that membership for this inadequate facility continues to rise every year merely rubs salt in the athletes' wounds.

And yet, it seems we are all about to be rewarded for our year(s) of sports related hardship. No longer will we be forced to bite our tongues when Southampton-partyschool-University talks about their multi-million pound gym with their supersonic weights and glistening pool.

Now we too will have 4G pitches and Olympic sized swimming pools. Indeed, the beauty centre and spa are only two of the many wonderful and strangely futuristic facilities Commercial Services are promising to bestow on our humble campus.

David Lloyd will be crying into their overpriced coffee and jacuzzis.

And yet, everything may not be as bright and sunny as it initially appears. While there is little doubt that a new sports village will be of enormous benefit to both the University and students, the astronomical cost of such facilities has

"David Lloyd will be crying into their overpriced coffee and jacuzzis"

meant that the University has had to go in search of additional private funding. It is a strategy that, while providing a quick and easy remedy to the financing difficulties, is not the wonderful solution

many claim it to be.

Currently, the spending of the University towards the project is only just above that of the local council, which will essentially mean that locals will be just as entitled to the facilities as the students as York. And you can imagine how that will end.

Despite numerous news articles and attempts by both students and YUSU to reach out to the locals, York's town and gown problem continues to be an issue. My neighbours are fond of leaving little notes on our front door with helpful suggestions like "don't leave your bins out" or "perhaps time to mow the lawn?"

I can just imagine Mr and Mrs Next Door tapping me on the shoulder while on the treadmill and whispering "perhaps time to wash your hair?" Just what everyone needs during their workout.

While, theoretically, I have no objection to sharing our new sports grounds with the charming local residents of Heslington and Osbaldwick, there is a further concern that they will be prioritised over students, bringing in more profit for the private investors than the beautifully reduced student rates.

First and foremost, the facilities should be completely open and available to the sports clubs. It becomes entirely pointless for the University to invest several million in a 4G pitch if clubs are only allowed to make use of the facilities at 'off-peak' times, or have to compete with outside sports teams renting the space. Almost all sports teams are suffering from lack of funds at the moment. If they are forced to compete financially with other, privately financed, clubs, they will lose out. Similarly, as luxurious as spending an indulgent afternoon soaking up the surroundings of a campus beauty spa sounds, in reality, the expensive cost of the treatments is hardly student appropriate. Furthermore, if we are being honest, one has to question whether a beauty treatment centre built entirely for Yummy Mummies is really a good use of both the University and Council's budget."

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Furthermore, if we are being honest, one has to question whether a beauty treatment centre built entirely for Yummy Mummies is really a good use of both the University and Council's budget.

As much as I see the necessity of bringing in funding from outside, the University must ensure that the sports village doesn't lose its student focus. York does not need another over-priced health club filled with pilates-practicing yuppies and their bratty children.

So while we celebrate the imminent revitalisation of our campus sports facilities (and resolve to finally join the gym when it is completed) Commercial Services need work to strike a balance between pursuit of profit and working towards enhancing the York student experience.

# Fears that FTR bus company

SAM NEWSOME

**Victoria Lee**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

SENIOR FIGURES at the University have raised concerns that recent changes to bus services to and from campus could impact adversely on students in the future.

FTR, the University's old bus provider, was dropped at the start of this academic year after a series of disputes, during which FTR refused to extend its route to cover the new Heslington East campus, and to lower its student bus fares.

A contract was instead signed to subsidise a small local company, York Pullman, who agreed to meet the University's stipulations with regards to fares and bus route.

According to the Managing Director of York Pullman, Tom Jones, since FTR was dropped and Pullman began to receive the £180,000 a year subsidy, FTR have decided to lower their prices and fares to match Pullman's, putting them directly in competition with each other.

Jones alleges that FTR have only made these concessions in an attempt to force Pullman to run on reduced profits and "withdraw from the competition."

He stated: "If [York Pullman] are forced to pull out of the University route because of the fierce competition from the more financially secure FTR, then FTR will not carry on with the £2 ticket. They have only made this reduction since York Pullman became competition."

An FTR Spokesman, Duncan McGraw, responded to these allegation, saying: "It is being implied that we are the bad guys. This is just fair competition."

However, when asked if FTR intended to raise their student prices should they regain a monopoly of the University route, McGraw refused to confirm that there would be no fare rise, saying: "We can't comment on market forces... in a business you can't guess what's going to happen." He continued: "But we are aware that in the current climate students are struggling financially."

McGraw also denied that FTR's initial decision to lower prices and alter their route had anything to do with York Pullman's decision to do the same, saying: "We made our price and route changes before Pullman made theirs."

According to Jones, "Morally and ethically FTR are not in it for the right reasons... they are an over-jealous company. We [Pullman] are in it for the right reasons."

He continued: "The University negotiated with FTR for three years [over route and price change] and FTR declined at every opportunity for three years. They refused a reasonable request... now competition's arrived they've done it."

However, a Langwith student, who asked to remain anonymous,

commented: "It sounds like Pullman is bitter about the competition. If there is going to be lots of buses with low fares, surely that is a good thing."

A senior University source, who was present at negotiations with FTR, has claimed that the company said they couldn't extend their route to Heslington East because their "bendy buses were too long to turn left around the roundabout outside Heslington Hall and up Field Lane."

The source continued: "Now York Pullman have altered their route to cover Heslington East, FTR has decided to extend their route and somehow their buses are now turning around that corner."

Jones stated: "It's obvious FTR were lying about their buses not being able to turn that corner; now they just look like fools."

McGraw refused to comment on why FTR originally said their buses couldn't turn the corner, stating: "I didn't attend any meetings so I don't know."

Jones said students must be "reminded of the history of FTR. This is not a nice company. We [York Pullman] will do our best to market our service and maximise business. We are prepared to stick it out."

YUSU President, Tim Ngwena stated: "FTR for the last year has continuously received a lot of criticism about its customer service as well as refusing to co-operate with the University on extending the number four to Heslington East. They have now gone back on their words which again highlights the dishonesty in their relationship with the University and students."

He continued: "York Pullman are a strong operator and competition is nothing new to them. Pullman's UniBus has had great feedback from students and this can only strengthen their position."

Jane Grenville, Pro-Vice Chancellor for students commented: "With both FTR and Pullman in the picture, there will obviously be a better service for students, especially as both companies are offering free travel between the Wentworth bus stop and Heslington East."

"The University is also running its own free minibus service around campus south and Heslington East so we'll notice a big improvement all round in the short term, but there could be long-term consequences of competition that are less beneficial."

Grenville urged students to consider "the long-term implications of an apparently simple consumer choice between FTR and York Pullman. The fact that the University has put a substantial sum of money behind the Pullman deal shows that a £2 fare is uneconomic". She continued: "If the Pullman operation fails then FTR, as sole operator, is likely to put its prices back up."

**COMMENT >>** Page 13



An FTR Bus on the University Route. The company refused to confirm that they would not raise student bus fares, stating, "We can't comment on market forces... in a business you can't guess what's going to happen"

**First**  
transforming travel

-- **Founded: 1989**

-- **Cost of each bus: £300,000**

-- **Frequency of service: Every 10 minutes Monday to Saturdays, every 20 minutes Monday to Saturday evenings and Sundays**

-- **Listed on the London stock exchange and the FTSE 250 index**

## PROS

- Bus conductors collect fares quickly to speed up the journey
- Modern vehicles
- Disabled access

## CONS

- A recent *Nouse* investigation uncovered allegations from international students of racist behaviour from FTR staff

# monopoly could force fare rise

SAM NEWSOME



A York Pullman 'unibus' on the new University service. The company alleges that FTR are trying to put them out of business in order to "reclaim a monopoly on the University route [and] put their prices up"

## YORK PULLMAN

- Founded: 2007
- Cost of each bus: £120,000
- Frequency of service: Every 15 minutes monday to Saturday. Evening bus to and from Heslington East between 21.15 and 23.15
- Local company with a turnover of approximately £4 Million a year

### PROS

- Have pledged to keep student fares low
- Local Company

### CONS

- Buses run every 15 minutes, instead of every 10 minutes like FTR
- No bus conductors may lead to a slower service

## What they said...

"Students should always opt for a York Pullman bus over the FTR bus when they can."

"If York Pullman are forced to pull out, FTR will recover their monopoly and student bus fares will go up."

*Jane Grenville, University Pro-Vice Chancellor*

"FTR have now gone back on their words which highlights the dishonesty in their relationship with the University and students"

"Pullman's Unibus has had great feedback from students and this can only strengthen it's position."

*Tim Ngwenya, YUSU President*

"We can't comment on market forces... in a business you can't guess what's going to happen."

*Duncan McGraw, FTR Spokesman, refused to confirm that FTR would not raise student fares in the future*

"FTR will put their fares up if York Pullman are forced to pull out."

"Students need to be reminded of the history of FTR. This is not a nice company."

*Tom Jones, York Pullman's Managing Director*

The roundabout outside Heslington Hall, which ftr originally claimed their bendy buses were unable to manoeuvre around



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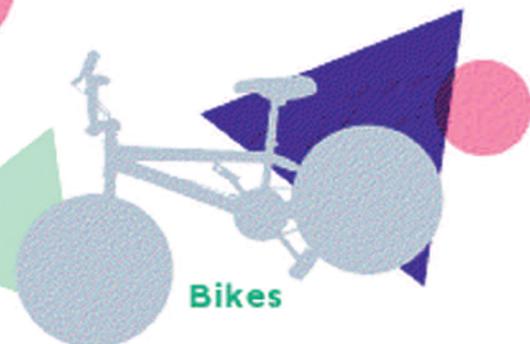
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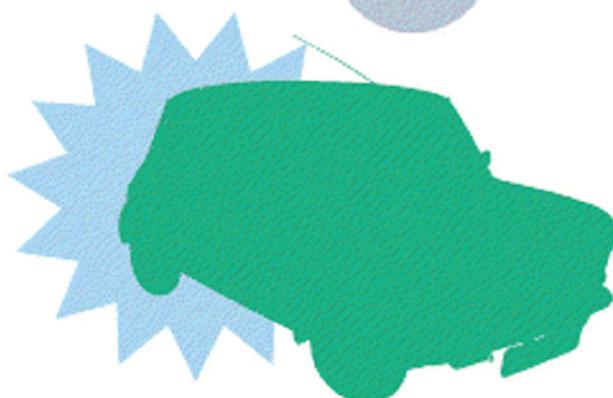
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**We're behind you**

# Commercial Services and college Chairs conflict over freshers' week event clashes

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

**Camilla Apcar**  
NEWS REPORTER

A NUMBER of college Chairs have voiced their frustration over Commercial Services' new bid to hold their own line of free on campus events.

Commercial Services have faced resistance after it was revealed that some of their planned events in the newly refurbished Roger Kirk Centre clash with events already organised by college JCRCs during the second week of term.

To help in raising the profile of their Roger Kirk events and encourage crowds attendance, Commercial Services have asked colleges for their support. However, college committees have refused, saying they will prioritise their original plans before making any commitments to the University.

Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, believes "pretty much every Chair" will be supportive of the plans. However, this comment was undermined by a statement from Langwith College Chair, Conor Wilcock: "We all know the money from Commercial Services will partly go to funding conferences. I'd rather see it supporting students."

He continued to say he "would rather use the Student Union" to organise co-hosted events, as he feels that the money would be better spent in students' interests by the Union.

As entry to the Commercial Services' events will be free of charge, some Chairs believe that

the University will be "running a massive risk" at each event, in terms of financial gain and attendance. Each College was asked to support a different event throughout the week, including an event on the same day as YUSU's popular annual Viking Raid.

However, Lydia Blundell, Halifax College Chair, and Tahir Shetty, Vanbrugh College Chair, have expressed concerns over timetabling clashes at the expense of their own College events.

Wilcock continued: "We need to make sure these events don't clash with college events - that's not something in principle that I'd support."

The Commercial Services events will be typically running from around 8pm until 11pm. Shetty commented that "it will be an interesting learning experience for Commercial Services, as they don't fully understand the efforts that go into organising and promoting each college event."

A Vanbrugh student, who asked to remain anonymous, stated: "I would much rather attend a college event than a University event which sounds quite badly organised."

Greenwood, of Commercial Services, has revealed that a quarter of a million pounds has been spent on the refurbishment of the Roger Kirk Centre because their previous events didn't attract "enough people there to give it atmosphere". He admitted that the forthcoming Commercial Services' events "will lose money", admitting: "But we expect that."

Although the events held in



Concerns have been raised over whether the 1,000 capacity of the Roger Kirk Center could be filled

Week Two will be free, the University intends to charge for such events in the long-term.

"We're trying to get colleges with no bar to identify with the space", explained Greenwood.

YUSU Democracy and Services Officer, Dan Walker, does not feel that Commercial Services' plans will pose any threat to YUSU events. He stated: "The Roger Kirk Centre is a venue with fantastic potential, however [it] also has several limitations in terms of

events." He continued: "I'm looking forward to see how the newest layout of the Roger Kirk Centre will work", but made it clear that he was unable to respond to speculation about the building's future.

Concerns have also been raised over whether events held in the Roger Kirk building will be successful. The space has never been used for 'gigs'; its prime function thus far has been college balls or award ceremonies. With such a large investment put into the

refurbishment, questions over how to fully utilise and make profit from the space still remain.

"Colleges have pull, as does YUSU," continued Shetty, "but it's too big a space and both sets would struggle with it." Goodricke College Chair, Tim Ellis, stated: "I don't think colleges will support Commercial Services' events. I doubt it'll go very well for them in the end, to be honest."

COMMENT >> Page 12



All events taking place in the Roger Kirk Centre, located next to the Student Union building and MCQ's in James College.

PROMOTIONS AVAILABLE ALL WEEK

2 x J20's £2.30

PINT OF COKE/LEMONADE £1.70

DAY	WHAT	WHO	TIME	DRINK OFFERS
MONDAY 18	Acoustic Night 	Association with 	8 - 11pm (bar 12am)	4 PINT PITCHER OF JOHN SMITHS, BLACKTHORN OR FOSTERS - £7
TUESDAY 19	Dance Performance Night	Dance Soc	8 - 11pm (bar 12am)	DOUBLE HOUSE SPIRIT AND MIXER - £2.50
WEDNESDAY 20	Battle of the DJs	Fringe and Indie Soc	8 - 11pm (bar 12am)	PINT OF FOSTERS - £1.55
THURSDAY 21	Cheesy Pop Soc	Cheesy Pop Soc	8 - 11pm (bar 12am)	3 X VKS - £5
FRIDAY 22	Bands Night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From allmost the end</li> <li>The hungry ghosts</li> <li>iheart (headline act)</li> </ul>	8 - 11pm (bar 12am)	PINT OF SNAKEBITE - £1.75

# Council plans for limits on student housing

**Laura Connor** uncovers City of York Council plans to impose a greater restriction on student housing in York and how potential plans could effectively push students out of the University proximity.

When it was discovered earlier this year that the government had decided to ensure that student houses required planning permission to be converted through new legislation, a slippery slope has been emerging ever since.

York City Council have since declared that pronounced concentrations of students may impact on local neighbourhoods, have devised an internal 'map' detailing exactly where students live, and are now exploring the possibility of using an Article 4 Direction in response to government policy. This would mean that any Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) with more than three people in them – soon to be six, according to new coalition Government plans – in specifically student-centric areas near the University, as identified by the council, must receive planning permission.

Nouse has since learnt that the council can use their map to investigate the state of student houses on a road-by-road basis, looking for evidence to back up their support for the Article 4 Direction. This is despite not finding the evidence to support their plans through a survey conducted by officers looking to find indications of problems such as "anti-social behaviour", "increased levels of crime" and "lack of community integration". This was conducted in wards identified as having the highest proportion of students: Fishergate, Heslington and Hull Road.

When asking residents in Heslington whether they felt there was a lack of respect and consideration between people in the local area, the council found that 0 per cent of people felt that this was the case. 100 per cent of the residents living in privately owned or rented properties in Heslington said that they are satisfied with their local area, and 94 per cent in Fishergate agreed. Only 5 per cent of residents in Fishergate think that there is a problem with anti-social behaviour in the local area.

In a report made to the council last month, the former National Chair of Liberal Youth and Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate at the last General Election, Alan Belmore, argued that in areas with high student populations, "in all the criteria laid down in the officers' report, it is either has a better or no effect if you are living in an area

with a high student concentration". He added that "further investigation will involve significant workload on behalf of the council staff in order to appease a prejudiced few".

The Article 4 Direction does not just perpetuate a stigma and prejudice against students that the council have found to be not necessarily true. Belmore has also pointed to how the Article 4 Direction can be used to block the construction of HMOs near the University and effectively limit student housing in the area. This could push students away from the University and cost the average student £100 a term in travel fees. According to Belmore, "for a student living on a yearly budget of £500-700, which is not uncommon, it would be huge and only push them further towards commercial lenders."

Local student residents have been experiencing such prejudice first hand. A third-year English student living in the Heslington

"There's an agreement among all parties, including ourselves, that there is an issue regarding students in the community."

**Councillor Ian Gillies**  
Conservative Group Leader

ward told Nouse last week that a letter which was sent to the Union and the University earlier this year, labelling student residents as "inconsiderate individuals" who act "irresponsibly" and leave their houses in an "absolutely disgraceful state!", has been consistently left under her car windscreen, despite living in what she calls a "sleepy student house".

One of her neighbours recently came to her house to discuss the amount of cars that had been coming and going from the house over the weekend, and clearly pointed out all the student houses on the street and the amount of cars each house owned. She said that she felt "freaked out" that the neighbour would put "so much time and effort into identifying student houses on the street and approaching student residents, when we are always respectful and polite".

A problem that has been identified is

## LEGISLATION BREAK-DOWN

**NEW LOCAL POWERS TO CONTROL HMOs WERE INTRODUCED ON THE 6 APRIL 2010 WITH A NEW USE CLASS ORDER COMING INTO FORCE MEANING THAT ANY CHANGE OF USE TO AN HMO REQUIRES PLANNING PERMISSION. THE NEW USE CLASS ORDER EFFECTIVELY SPLITS THE OLD C3 CLASS INTO TWO CLASSES C3 (DWELLINGHOUSES) AND C4 (HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION). IF THE COUNCIL PASSES AN ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION, THEY CAN REQUIRE THAT ANY HMO CONVERSION IN CERTAIN AREAS MUST OBTAIN PLANNING PERMISSION. AN ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION IS A DECISION MADE BY A LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY (LPA) OR THE SECRETARY OF STATE PREVENTING CERTAIN SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT.**

that very few councillors, if any, are willing to stand up for the student cause, making a limitation on student housing a tangible possibility.

Steve Galloway, Chair of the Local Development Framework Working Group and a Liberal Democrat councillor, told Nouse that "personally I think that there is a case for having a ceiling on the number of

is about the "condition of student properties, not students themselves" and that their main concern is that "student houses are not maintained". Alexander proposes a licensing scheme where student landlords could be fined £20,000 if they convert a HMO without a license, and up to £5,000 if they don't meet council guidelines and proposals. But Galloway has argued that a licensing regime "could only be introduced if it could be demonstrated that there are above average levels of anti-social behaviour in an area and (perversely) that there is low demand for housing (which clearly isn't the case in any part of York)".

Galloway added: "Merely making such a proposition has the effect of stigmatising communities - whether they have a large number of students or not."

What remains to be seen is how far the council will take their "proposed further work", which includes identifying more "localised concentrations of student housing" and creating "place-specific thresholds" of student houses, and also how far YUSU can go in showcasing the student cause.

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, has said that "over the past few months YUSU has been working with the relevant York council departments to better understand the issues that are facing students in the community. It's apparent that there is mounting interest into housing policy regarding student lettings... it concerns me that none of the policies put forward by the parties has involved Student Union or University consultation."



short-term let properties permitted in a street".

The Conservative Group Leader, Councillor Ian Gillies, confirmed that "there's an agreement among all parties, including ourselves, that there is an issue regarding students in the community". He said that a "large influx of students into an area has a tendency to overwhelm that street or neighbourhood, creating a mono-culture in which they feel uncomfortable", despite 95 per cent of people in the Heslington ward feeling that it is a place where people of different backgrounds get on well together, according to the council's survey.

James Alexander, leader of the Labour Group, has emphasised that Labour's policy

**COMMENT >>** Page 11

### THE LABOUR PARTY



**JAMES ALEXANDER**

**Leader of the Labour Group**

*Alexander proposes a licensing scheme where student landlords could be fined £20,000 if they convert a HMO without a license, and up to £5,000 if they don't meet council guidelines and proposals.*

### THE LIB DEMS



**STEVE GALLOWAY**

**Liberal Democrat Councillor**

*"Personally I think that there is a case for having a ceiling on the number of short-term let properties permitted in a street... Residents talked of concerns about the appearance of homes, car parking and noise."*

### THE CONSERVATIVES



**IAN GILLIES**

**Leader of the Conservative Group**

*"We're all finding that student housing is one of the main concerns of people in the area... a large influx of students into an area has a tendency to overwhelm that street or neighbourhood."*

# Comment & Analysis

Charlotte Hogarth-Jones



Editor

## Integration with the local community starts at home

It's up to individual students to make an effort to combat the general public's negative opinion of our community

The information coming to light about how York is viewed by the local community is somewhat shocking, but let's get one thing straight: people not liking students isn't a new thing.

While it's been interesting over the past week to look at how the council, local politicians, and general public seem to differ in their opinions of us, don't be misled. For decades there's been a Yorkshire man somewhere "oo ech-ing" about all the "ruddy students" under his breath, and that's certainly not about to change any time soon.

And it's easy to see why. More often than not, I think it's fair to say that in all groups of society, it is the badly behaved minority who leave a lasting impression.

Students are no exception to this. Indeed, while there are hundreds of YUSU volunteers involved in valuable and largely unrecognised projects in the local community, nothing quite sticks in the mind like a small pool of studenty vomit on your doorstep.

It's the easy option to sit here all doe-eyed, and to pretend that "we are golden" - that all students make house proud, charming neighbours who spend their time gaily reciting Wordsworth to each other, re-glossing their white picket fences, and silently studying late into the night by candlelight.

But if we're honest with ourselves, that just isn't true in the majority of cases, is it? And we do need to confront this issue head on, because it's not going away any time soon. Like it or not, some people in York don't worship the

ground we walk on, and it's more productive, convenient, and just generally healthy if we can change this negative opinion of us.

Which, of course, is easier said than done. People are quick to place blame on YUSU, campaigns committee or the University, and yes, they could certainly be doing more to raise the positive profile of York students. But then, couldn't you?

The general consensus at the moment seems to be a sort of 'why don't you LIKE me!' type explosion a la Friends, which is basically completely useless. Repeatedly telling people how great we are and how much, in theory, they should love us, isn't really a great plan. If anything, it comes across as pretty obnoxious.

There's always been a huge focus on integrating different groups of students on campus, but our relations with the rest of the city beyond commercial interest seem too often overlooked. We need to start relating with our neighbours and the rest of the community on an individual level.

Although Ziggy's on a Wednesday might suggest otherwise, we aren't all socially inept degenerates. In fact, we aren't half bad. What we are bad at, however, is communicating, and I'd even suggest that at times we're as guilty of stereotyping our neighbours as they are of us.

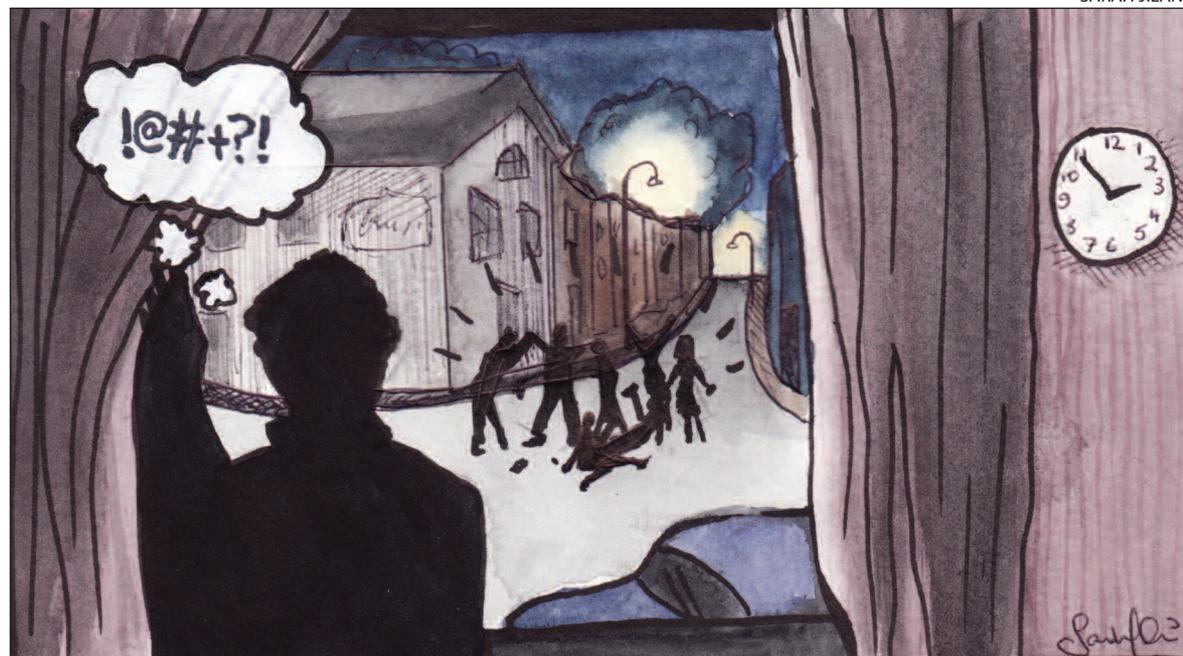
I'm not saying we should all transform ourselves into Stepford Wives. There's no need to start baking cherry pies and replacing

all your practicals with neighbourhood watch stints, but perhaps a little more effort on our part wouldn't go amiss.

In reality, it's difficult to gauge what the general opinion of York students is. Local politicians tell you what you want to hear, and in general an honest opinion is hard to come by. But a bit more of an active effort, on both sides, is surely a step in the right direction.

The issue of York students and their relationship with the local community has quickly spiralled into hysteria, which isn't at all helpful. A little more understanding, tolerance, and engagement from everyone is surely the simplest, most direct way to address a rapidly destructive issue.

SARAH JILANI



Hannah Ellis-Petersen



## Religion at York: the tyranny of the majority?

The question of how much institutions should cater to the needs of different religious groups is a divisive issue to say the least.

Should we, as a liberal democracy, go out of our way to make sure the University provides and funds facilities to enable free and easy worship for all faiths, or should we embrace our status as a completely secular state, where people are free to practice their religions, but not imposing the cost of religious practice on non-believers?

It is a national topic that has been difficult to avoid of late, with the French banning any religious

attire in schools, and more recently their outright banning of the burqa; yet the issue has now reared its controversial head in our campus bubble.

I feel I first must stress how strongly I am of the belief that the recent action by the French government was deeply flawed and nothing more than racism, thinly veiled as some inconsistent version of liberal toleration. The burqa, while symbolising oppression of women and cultural isolation to many, is also a traditional part of the Muslim faith and no government has the right to dictate the cultural and social choices of their electorate.

While the issues currently facing Jewish students on campus are not to quite the same scale, they nonetheless illustrate a similar

**"inconsistency of facilities for different faiths is nothing short of unfair"**

reluctance by the University to fully embrace the multi-cultural nature of society. With Jewish stu-

dents now without facilities to maintain their kosher traditions, and even a separate prayer space, as has recently been opened to Muslims on campus, it does not reflect well on an institution supposedly open to all faiths.

While I am not advocating that Commercial Services should be providing an entire kosher empire on campus, the inconsistency of facilities for different faiths is nothing short of unfair. The provisions for Christians and Muslims at York far outweigh those for Jewish students, showing a very callous attitude on the part of Commercial Services in reducing their already limited religious

and kosher kitchen space. It should make little difference how many Jewish students need these facilities; just because they are a smaller group does not justify their needs being ignored completely. In fact, I believe that was what Alexis De Tocqueville would have termed a 'tyranny of the majority'.

Providing students choice and freedom to practice their religion should not be something thrown to the wayside in an attempt to save money. After all, if the University continue to refuse to cater for a variety, there is a risk that all will be left on campus is religiously lacking people such as myself. And how bland is that?

## NOUSE

Est. 1964



## Moving in the wrong direction

Starting university life is a daunting time for the majority of first year students. The stress of moving into an entirely new environment, making friends with people from different backgrounds, and adjusting to the culture shock of actually having to cooking is alarming enough in itself. However, the news that some freshers will have to reside alongside considerably older students whose main priorities are completing assessments rather than making the most of their social life, is an unnecessarily additional strain.

Some new undergraduate students are being forced into postgraduate accommodation in Wentworth College, providing yet another example of a commercial decision by the University to get more students on courses – and somehow provide accommodation for them. Despite an admirable attempt to house a few more students, there has been a considerable oversight, as not living alongside with other undergraduates puts these students at a social disadvantage.

Whilst postgraduates understandably need to focus on their studies, these freshers will enter a rather quieter environment, unawares that the university experience they were likely to have been expecting isn't going to be right on their doorsteps. The surroundings that you live in do, as the university seems to have grossly ignored, affect the first week – and thereafter – of undergraduate student life. Those in positions of higher authority appear to have forgotten that the welfare of all (not just the 'majority' of) students needs to be their first priority. Coming to university, students have high hopes, and these need not be dashed before they even start.

The worst aspect of this situation is that these students will have to pay more for their accommodation fees than their peers who have been allocated accommodation in undergraduate colleges. These students will have to dig even deeper to fund their university education. This is an unacceptably commercial decision made by the University: do they not receive enough from funds already trickling into their 'party pot', tuition fees, various commercial ventures, and all the students residing in normal accommodation?

Ripping off a few unsuspecting new students whilst simultaneously ensuring that their student experience will be extremely compromised, is simply unfair. For some, this will come in quite literal terms. Certain students in Goodricke are being forced to share rooms which were originally constructed for just one student. Their living space has been compromised to the extent of lacking personal legroom. In terms of the university's priorities, they need to seriously rethink the way they should treat new students, who will doubtless be passing on less than content opinions about York to future students.

## Praying for fairness

Since the University has introduced halal catering for Muslim students on campus, it seems unjust that Jewish believers do not have a counterpart in terms of catered services.

While any visible prejudice against a particular religious sect on campus would be – as in society at large – unacceptable, this newspaper feels that the University must be given some margin for 'error'. It is true that there are only a certain amount of catering spaces available on campus, and since the religious restrictions of both sects mean that their foods must be prepared separately, there was obviously an executive decision made by Commercial Services: to provide the sect with the highest demand, with specific catering.

There was a higher demand for halal meats when kosher foods were also served on campus, and so appears to have been simply a utilitarian choice.

The inequality of this situation is not down to Commercial Services, but University bosses who have not taken into account that Muslim students will now have both specific prayer spaces as well as catering facilities, whilst Jewish students will have neither of these nor a public prayer space as there is no synagogue in the city centre either.

## Diving into a commercial minefield

The news that this University is to build a £11m sports facility is most welcome. As a high ranking University, York must play host to adequate facilities if we are to attract the most desirable students. The University's decision to spend funds on this project is a wise investment, however when the centre is complete they must not forget who they built it for.

The centre is to be open to the general public as well as students. When asked how much access York's student's will have to the centre, John Greenwood, Director of Facilities, said that "no limit [had been] agreed" as of yet.

This is a serious mistake on the part of the University. The University may see their investment in this new centre as an investment in future students but there is no doubt that they also view it as a commercial investment. With the centre to be open to the general public (who will be paying almost double the entry fees that students will pay), the University – in their haste to financially benefit from their investment – may forget that student interests must remain their priority.

Nouse urges the University to remember that the centre is being built for students and they must be the primary beneficiaries of this investment.

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## University greed is damaging freshers' welfare



Camilla Aparca

Deputy Comment Editor

Who you live with can, if you let it, influence a great deal of your student life.

Flatmates are the first people you will socialise with before braving the rest of campus and actually put yourself 'out there' to try various other experiences.

I have a lot of sympathy for the freshers who have been forced to live with older students. Postgraduates, understandably, are more inclined to spend less time discovering the joys of stumbling through York's cobblestone streets on a weekday night, and more hours learning about the fascinating realm of molecular physics.

You can't fault postgrads for doing so: they're paying more for intensive study. It's the University who are to blame and this is another example of a commercially driven decision to cram more students – whilst hauling in more tuition fees booty – onto courses, and honour the pledge to provide all freshers a place to live on campus.

That promise is flawed. The University clearly overestimates the number of late applicants who will

still attempt to apply for accommodation, and most first years will rarely choose to live off-campus.

These particular incoming students allegedly have nothing to fear, as YUSU assures Nouse that colleges are "working hard to integrate" them fully. Yet in the end, integration is really about how much effort individuals make. Remaining unconvinced by even

"another example of a commercially driven decision to cram more students onto courses"

your closest friends' entreaties to try out something new will lead to a rather dull existence.

It may well prove tiring for the freshers in question – making plans all the time is far more tiresome than being able to just pop next door to your neighbour's room, who

is quite likely to be wasting time on Facebook instead of doing anything which will actually contribute towards their degree.

But, as with most undesirable situations, perhaps it will be 'character building', and they'll evolve into the 'well-rounded' person the rest of us dream of becoming.

Sometimes, battling through these situations is what university is all about. Adjusting to adverse circumstances, usually with a less than sympathetic support team at hand (let's face it, various Welfare officers around campus say they're 'there' but in reality most of us will be too lazy to actually go and visit them), often gives rise to the most memorable experiences.

Whether you can get through them without turning into a heap of anxious nerves is what makes a wealth of difference. These circumstances won't make for the freshers extravaganza they were expecting.

But having to make a conscious effort to get the best out of every situation will at least allow (force) a few freshers to develop into well-seasoned individuals.

## We need working washing machines, not more parties



Victoria Lee

The phrase 'money down the drain' pops easily to mind when considering Commercial Services' most recent fruitless endeavour.

The Commercial Services department has thrown itself into the role of Campus Chief Party Planner, organising social events for the new freshers this year.

While this alone doesn't sound like a terrible plan – I'm not one to complain about an extra campus party or two – the timing and financial viability of these events is questionable to say the least.

Some of Commercial Services freshers' events will clash with College freshers' events which the various JCRC's have dedicated months to planning and organising. You may wonder why Commercial Services are trying to entice freshers away from College events which the University itself has asked the Colleges to arrange? The answer comes back to that time-enduring impulse: money.

However, one would be justified in wondering how Commercial Services intend to make any money when the events they are holding have free entry. Indeed, when this question was put to the cheery chaps over at Commercial Services, the answer was probably something along the lines of: "erm well I don't think we'll really be making much money. Actually I think we'll be running at a loss."

The plan, one can only presume, because Commercial Services didn't seem too sure, is to continue holding events like these until they

start to become profitable.

An admirable plan, but I see a problem. The Commercial Services events will be starting at 19:00 – have you ever been out partying the night away, downing the sherry's at 7pm? And ending at 23:00 – most of us are still choosing an outfit and drying our hair at this time, not getting ready to go to bed again.

It doesn't take a genius to see that their cunning plan to become the new source of York's raving nightlife is surely destined to be a failure.

Its website page says it promises to "respond to customer needs". But, it's hard to accept their statement once you remember that this is the same Commercial Services who decked Derwent bar out with such heavy tables that an expensive forklift truck was required to move them to allow Slag and Drag to get underway.

Shouldn't this incompetent department focus on improving the

jobs it already does rather than throwing much-needed University money down the drain? In these times of financial hardship, the University should not be throwing events which can't break-even.

Whilst I'm sure that Commercial Services do have the student interest at heart, it seems fairly foolish to organise events in competition with the events already organised by the Colleges.

As a fee paying student, I'd like to think that Commercial Services was spending my money more wisely, like on a few more washing machines rather than frittering it away on unnecessary events that students are very unlikely to attend.

College Chairs have rightly voiced their frustration: one purpose of our JCRC's is to promote college unity via social events. Let's support our colleges and ask Commercial Services to gracefully withdraw and stick to what they're good at.

SARAH JILANI



MAXINE MUTTEN

Ben Gascoyne

Comment Editor

Supporting the underdog will save students money as well as allowing a struggling local business the chance to thrive right here in York

## Protecting a local business will prove profitable for all

Aesthetics aside, York Pullman run a refreshingly pleasant service. The staff are by and large reflective of the 'good' Yorkshire stereotype: friendly, a bit loud and hard-working. Were it not for their week-old rhubarb and custard livery, they'd be the ideal company to run students around York. The contrast with the less kind First FTR service is telling. Clearly quite comfortable with the willingness of students to spend money with them and the lack of competition, the quality of experience with the multinational privatisers was the public transport equivalent of catching your funny bone on the corner of a desk. There's hardly a shortage of people at the University with a story of getting treated impolitely by a surly conductor with a hatred of fivers.

Quite upsetting is the fact that the University administration, who are often criticised for doing exactly the opposite, have seen their decision to invest a significant subsidy with the local and more ethical option blow up in their face. Instead of it influencing the balance of power in favour of York Pullman and encouraging their move to properly service the isolated Heslington East site, the enormous First Group sees the move as yet another commercial battleground to wage war over.

The term 'bus wars' was coined to describe what may be about to hit York: it's what happens when public transport operators attempt to drive each other off of a route. It's usually initiated and won by the

big companies – Stagecoach, First and Arriva against either each other or small independent businesses like York Pullman. The odds are enormously stacked against the little guy; when they run a route, they do so on tight margins and run the risk of bankruptcy if they cut prices. But when the bigger operators move into an area, they have the massive infrastructure and capacity to invest that permits them to make a loss on a few routes when frequency is dramatically increased and fares are

"the outcome of price gouging in York will go unnoticed in the First Group boardroom"

cut. It scarcely impacts on their profits because they've got several hundred other routes nationwide to subsidise making a loss. Unlike the classic underdog story where the villainous big guy collapses, the tale typically ends with one of the big operators taking an effective monopoly on the route that permits them to begin raising prices and worrying a lot less about the standard of service they offer.

It's entirely up to the student body of York to reject that ending and think a bit longer term. We're in the midst of the new intake, so there's no reason why STYCs shouldn't encourage the freshers

they take under their wing to ride on the friendlier York Pullman rather than FTR. It's hardly as if it can't be justified anyway; York Pullman is a local business that has bent over backwards to try and capture the student market. First's FTR on the other hand, if the short memory of readership will recall, were nastily caught up in allegations of racism last year.

The failure of York students to ride the uglier set of buses would be a catastrophe for the relatively young York Pullman business. They've put their necks on the line to purchase the infrastructure required to actually run the routes that the University demands in return for their subsidy, and the fact that they may now be forced into a race to the bottom with a multinational FTSE250 listed transport giant could potentially drive them to redundancies or even bankruptcy. It's sink or swim time for them, but the outcome of price gouging in York will go unnoticed in the First Group boardroom. When the first years moving into the area roll round to their third year, the cheap and regular service we are being presented with will cease to be. It is hardly a coincidence that when faced with competition at last, the long established FTR policy that they will not service Heslington East has been reversed in favour of an extended route.

Invest your pennies wisely, unless you're happy to see Heslington East once again ignored and fares go up. The future of a local business is depending on you.

## Waiting for Lord Browne



Hannah Brearley

Once again, we face a crisis in the future of our universities. The cost of our education is set to escalate once more, removing the system of higher education further and further from everyman attainability, and back towards the privilege of the privileged.

The educational and political world is waiting for the release of Lord Browne's review of the university education system, the results of which are expected to throw the question of university funding into further quandary. With Vince Cable already ditching the idea of a graduate tax, the main conclusion of the review is expected to be to raise the tuition fee cap, which is currently set at £3,290.

Students across the UK are already anticipating leaving university with up to £30,000 of debt for their undergraduate degree, and the attitude of the government simply seems to be that, if students are already going to be in debt, why not make it more? The cost of our education is soon to become too much for us struggling students.

It's a far cry from that old egalitarian notion of higher education for all; as although the introduction of fees does not seem to have put students off in the past, by hiking them up further and further, school students will soon begin to ask whether university is really worth it. Is this what education has come to?

Rather than an exciting opportunity to further your education, meet new people, broaden your horizons, or improve your employability, university will soon appear as an unnecessary extravagance, available only to those with the personal finances to cover it. The student stereotype is already beleaguered by the government, and the results of this review have the potential to ensure that university education is nearly unattainable.

York appears to be in a more fortunate position than most universities, as it is already oversubscribed, and has the benefit of private funding, so hopefully York's international reputation will override potential increases in fees.

Easy as it is to demonise the universities for raising their fees without students seeing any change in the services they receive, if funding cuts for university teaching becomes a reality, universities will be left with a massive hole in their finances left unfilled by the government, and therefore it is students who will be turned to for help.

For us, there has always been a cost attached to our education, and we have paid it only knowing that our education will be 'fantastic', and there are support mechanisms in place for us. Now, the benefits of a university education are being negated by the potentially crippling price we would have to pay.

> Food Diaries **M8-M9**

Being a fresher has never been so yummy

> Terry Waite **M14-M15**

A dramatic tale of struggle and survival

**AUTUMN WEEK ONE**

Tuesday 12 October 2010

# MUSE.



**“I think it’s great that I’ve got a lot of freedom  
and I get this movement. I hate having to behave.” M6-7**

# MUSE: 12 October 2010.



## Image

## Credits

M1: Jake Walters

M2: George Lowther

M3: Justyn Hardcastle,  
Sam Newsome

M5: Enid Blyton Trust

M6-7: Jake Walters

M10: George Lowther

M14:-15: Andrew Smith

M16-17: Style.com

M23: Justyn Hardcastle

Welcome, first years to *Nouse's* official Freshers' Guide. We have toiled through the nights, burning the midnight oil and depriving ourselves of sunlight to ensure that you are as prepared as possible for the adventures to come. While most of you will know me as the slightly kooky (alright, odd) person who decided that you most certainly needed a poem to explain the delights of campus cuisine, I am in fact the over-the-hill third year who is lucky enough to edit the beautiful magazine you are about to enjoy.

Never one to pass up an opportunity for nostalgia, I find myself reflecting on when I first arrived on this duck-infested campus. As is typical of people of my age, I feel it is important to impart some advice. Don't let the concrete exterior faze you. I nearly cried when I first saw campus and I don't even notice now. You will love some of the people you meet but they may not love you. This doesn't matter. One of the downsides of having a University full of interesting and diverse people is that they may come with prejudices. While these may fade with time, the feeling that you compromised yourself for them will not. Your college doesn't matter. Don't get hung up about your educational background; you're the only one who notices. Finally, enjoy yourself. Make mistakes. Join societies. Join *Nouse*.

To the old hats, welcome back. Whether the trip to York was filled with anticipation or longing for the summer past, you are here now so you might as well make the best of it. We are lucky enough to have an entire year stretching before us that is filled with possibilities. You only regret the things you don't do, so get involved. Don't get stuck in a rut - make new friends, take up new opportunities and perhaps even learn to cook (**M8-9** shameless plug). I intend to.

Now: no worries if your TV licence hasn't come through, try out the Ad-Lib **M5**, *MUSE's* own de-Gansta shows us the edgy side of ballet **M6-7**, Evans discusses (campus) events **M10**, Surviving an internship or Lewinsky has a lot to answer for **M11**, we embark on a fruitless task **M12-13**, Terry Waite explains his story **M14-15**, Fashion Month explained **M16-17** and a play-and-pay Food and Drink guide **M23**.

# Peter Iveson

**G**OTO JAIL. GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL. DO NOT PASS GO. DO NOT COLLECT £200.

A house game of Monopoly. A great chance to play a game properly, as being an only child and having to play by yourself soon loses its appeal. I'm confident that the business acumen I've accumulated from this week's 'The Apprentice' and years of selling my worldly possessions on eBay will stand me in good stead. Wrong.

My housemates start strongly and begin to harvest the properties on the board; I on the other hand am marooned in prison still yet to make it round the board after successive 'Chance' cards go against me.

After 20 minutes of furious dice rolling, all I have to show for my troubles is Old Kent Road (widely regarded as the Mayfair of Monopoly, obviously), the Strand and the Waterworks (oh, the irony). The rest of the properties have been bought up and traded between my fellow players, who have now turned the board into London's most profitable hotel district.

Two more rounds of the board and I'm rinsed of a significant amount of cash and my few remaining notes start to have a distinctly yellow feel about them.

The £2 I receive every time someone lands on Old Kent Road makes me the laughing stock of the game, as I eagerly lap up the money in a way Ebenezer Scrooge would be proud of. This contrasts with the £750 I was forced to pay when I landed on The Angel,

Islington and was forced to book into the President's Suite (who knew?).

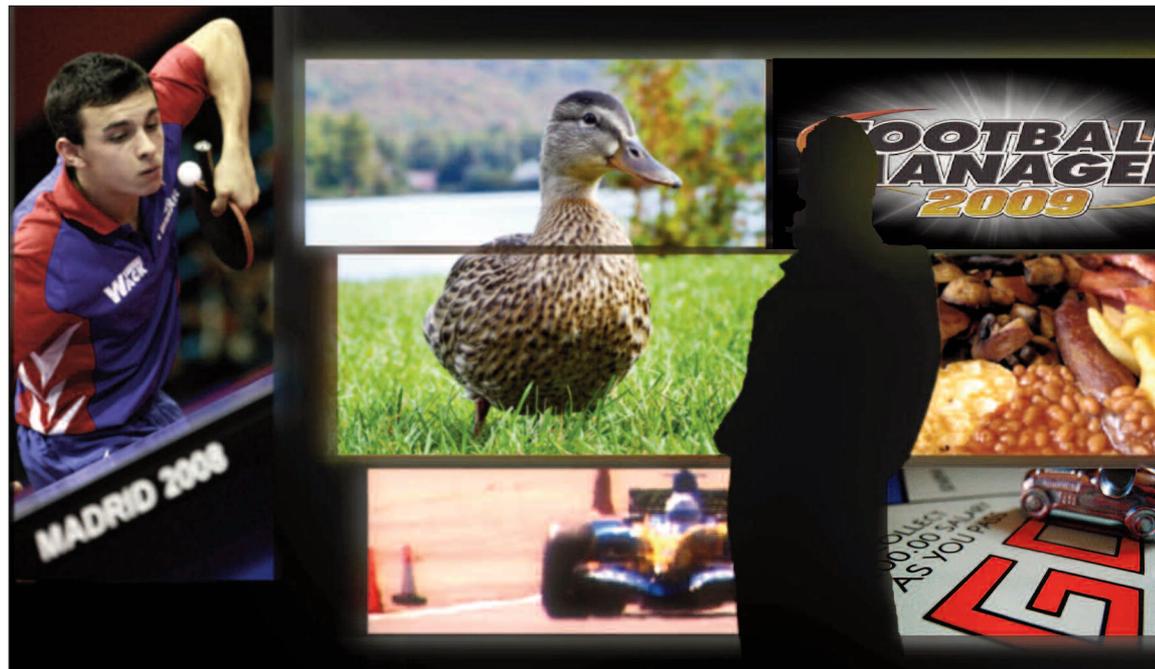
This is the moment where I will admit I am very competitive. It's not about the taking part, it's about victory and annihilation. Right on cue, I begin to trot out all the excuses I can think of; "the Chance cards are rigged", "if only I could land on Whitechapel Road", "you're all refusing to trade with me" and "this wouldn't have happened if you'd have let me be the racing car." I'm not losing through poor play, no; I go all Richard Nixon and accuse my housemates, the games and the world of conspiring against me.

Half an hour passes and I'm bankrupt, first out and lose what little dignity I have left by petulantly hurling my top hat into the kitchen.

What has happened to me? A simple game of Monopoly amongst me and my housemates ended with me demanding a rematch, swearing vengeance on my bewildered friends.

Competitiveness had reared its ugly head, not for the first time. University has taught me many things; not to leave pans unattended, not to piss off the ducks, and has certainly made me aware of a ruthless streak running through me.

In my first year, we erected a table tennis net across our dinner table. This was probably the first time my new university friends and I engaged in any kind of competitive activity. It quickly became apparent that me and three of the lads felt we could lay claim to being



"I will admit I am very competitive. It's not about the taking part, it's about victory and annihilation."

Flat Number One. Games became fraught battles where friends turned to enemies that must be beaten, and where defeated players were mocked relentlessly. The net was eventually hidden by another housemate, probably for the best.

As a fresher, you'll become aware that living day in day out with your peers changes you; it's hard to stay the same person when you are removed from a setting you've spent the whole of your life in. This probably seems a daunting prospect right now, but it isn't necessarily a bad thing - although you can probably leave out the

Monopoly rage.

But even if I appear to have picked up a character trait that I could've done without, it was actually this drive that indirectly led me to *Nouse*.

Determination not to spend my student days playing Football Manager, watching *Top Gear* repeats and eating breakfast at 5pm gave rise to a desire to end university with some real memories. Join societies, meet new people, don't be scared to run for elections and, yes, people may mock you but who cares? It'll be their loss in the end.

Leaving university with nothing but a degree would be a travesty, especially when there is so much to do. Opportunities will arise that you will never have again (Chance cards, if you will) and rather than look at them and think they're not very 'you', try to have an open mind.

University is three years you'll never get back; make sure you squeeze the most out of your time in York. Otherwise you might end up stuck on the Old Kent Road, and take it from me, you don't want that. Even with the racing car.

## Social pariah: Charlotte Hogarth-Jones

\*Sainsburys pharmacy. I ask to speak to a 'medical advisor', as helpfully suggested by a laminated sign on the counter. I am involved in half an hour of tediously difficult conversation with a girl who looks like she's recently sprung from *Mizz* magazine, smells like candy floss and has so much glittery make-up that it's hard not to get distracted by my own reflection. She is not helpful. At all.

"Is that everythin' then?" she asks in a low pitched drone.

"And a bottle of Calpol please." A wry, uncomfortable smile begins to spread across her face.

"Is that for yourself?" she goads. "Have you used this product before?"

I feel like I'm at some kind of AA meeting. "Errm, yes," I reply, getting a little hot under the hoodie. "Yes, I have."

"And would you like the over six or the infant suspension?" she smirks. "And do you like the strawberry or blackcurrant flavour? And is it the FAMILY pack you wanted?!"

It's a step too far for a girl with a raging temperature, plague-ridden family, and an overwhelming desire not to miss *The Inbetweeners*.

"Yes. Please. The big bottle of Calpol. In the strawberry infant suspension. And I will be drinking it alllllll."

\*Last day of holiday in Italy. Looking tanned, feeling linguistically invincible. In the past week I've booked a fishing trip, discussed a jellyfish infestation and come up with many reasons why I would not be participating in water aerobics. So far at the spa we have dis-

cussed beauty treatments, special offers, and what kind of aromatherapy oils my mum wants for her massage. I'm feeling pretty chuffed as we head off to the showers.

"And, um, possiamo avere un, um, un towel?" Our Italian masseuse looks perplexed. "Eh, um, you know a you know a \*insert arm rubbing motion\*"

"Eh, a massage?" our Italian lady helpfully proffers.

"No, ah, you just gave me one of those I mean a, um, a, you know a \*insert horrendously embarrassing drying action, which at the time seemed to represent me toweling my back, but may have looked like some kind of spontaneous belly dancing performance. Ms. Italy and I awkwardly part ways, sans

towel.

It had seemed, in theory, like a nifty, 30cm nip from shower to open dressing gown. My mother had already completed the manoeuvre with Olympic-like finesse. However, the Laws of Fate are unkind, and on exiting the cubicle I narrowly miss, nakedly springing directly into Ms. Italy's alarmed face. Queen of Oils snickers something in Italian which is once again beyond my reach. Think it was "you could have asked for a towel". Really need to look that word up.

\*My birthday. I am a happy bunny. My housemates have bought me a wunderbar Birthday Dress to wear, and with my newly received Chatimal (Google it), I'm feeling

like the bloody Paris Hilton of Heslington. Smooth. People are drinking, people are talking, people are kissing goodbye to my £300 deposit. After a couple of O'Renishi's in town, it's off to The New Club. "Happy Birthday to CHARLOTTE!" announces the DJ, and the crowd goes wiiiiild. This is ACE.

Suddenly, I slip on the newly installed stage blocks and am catapulted onto the dance floor, in most undignified manner. It is a proper video game type fling 6ft up with nooo adoring fans to catch me.

\*York A+E, 11.00 the next day. "And you said you fell off a stage Miss Hogarth-Jones? Had you been consuming alcohol?"

"Um, well, yes I had had a bit, but I wasn't actually drunk at all." Belinda the nurse raises an eyebrow. "No, honestly, I promise." Belinda lowers her eyes. "This form says it was your birthday last night ... but you weren't drinking ..."

"No. Look, I can see how this would all point to the fact that I was drunk, but I wasn't, I'm just clumsy," I insist. Belinda clearly has me down as a lying hobag as she produces a small dish of giant pills. "Yuss," I sigh, "those look really good." Belinda's eyebrows look like they're about to fly off her forehead.

"Oh nonononono, I mean because my foot hurts! I mean for pain relief! I mean good for my FOOT!" I plead, as I hop along to the corridor, but it's too late. Belinda has already absconded and I am left hopping to the X-ray room, meekly muttering about tap water and hoping not to be forcefully diverted to the psychiatric ward.



# Freshers by numbers



**200.** The number of people you are likely to consider your bestest friends ever in your first week.

**4.** The number of people you will meet in Freshers' Week and still be friends with by third year. And half of them you'll have slept with. The other half will be kind of annoying.

**1** The number of *Nouse* journalists who stated most people are "off their bonk and giving it the barry" during Freshers' Week. Apparently, the latter stems from the phrase "give it the Barry McGuigan-biggun." Right.

**6.3 million.** The average amount of fungal bacteria festering in your communal bathroom. Those shower shoes your mum insisted you bring aren't looking too shabby now.

**3** The average number of discarded knickers found, per college, by the porters. And those are only the ones they tell us about. The sexy ones go conveniently 'missing'.

**5** The number of daylight hours you will see during Freshers' Week. Sadly, this is not quite enough to turn you into Edward Cullen. Better luck next time, boys.

**24 minutes.** The length of time it takes before that *friendly* girl suggests a game of Never Have I Ever. Apparently everyone just had to know about her clit ring. Snaps for her.

**£1.10.** The average price per condom. Depending on how lucky you intend to get this week, it may be worth hightailing it over to YUSU for some freebies. If you join *Nouse*, you could interview a Sabb all in the same visit.

**2,100.** The amount of excess calories you're likely to consume in alcohol and cheesy chips. That's almost a pound in a week. Bet you're not feeling so proud of being one of 'Mr Efes' regulars' now.

**64 days.** The average length of time it will take you to realise very little is compulsory here. It's longer for public school students but then they were always a bit slow. Something to do with being in Alcuin, perhaps?

**90%.** The percentage of STYCs and Parents who took on the role in order to shark the youth. Some colleges make you promise to look but not touch. You didn't sign a damned thing though, did you?

There's a reason those involved in *Nouse* bang on about societies: they matter. If you want to be thought of as driven, then join campus media or York Entrepreneurs. If you'd like to be cultured, then audition for Drama Barn or join one of the arts societies. These don't have to be lofty goals but you need to really want to achieve them. Otherwise, they'll never happen.

Perhaps you want to be that slightly posh rugby boy who sleeps with lots of girls. In the words of our Sports Editors: go for it, my son.

(As I am currently being held accountable by YUSU for any encouragement, subliminal or otherwise, for you to participate in activities that might be damaging ... use a condom.)

Despite the Hes East expansion, our campus is still small. It's easy and often viewed as acceptable to get lost in the daily interactions that seem oh-so-important. While it's very exciting that the cute boy across the room asked you for coffee, you don't need to spend all evening analysing it. We're young, but we don't have that much time left here. And is 'that girl' really the person you want to be?

You may not know. I'm certainly not sure. I do know that I want to be known as honest and kind and *incredibly* efficient. Although life taught me somewhat of a cruel (and unending) lesson last year about over-committing myself, I don't want to waste my time and intend to embrace all the opportunities this year offers with both hands. If nothing else, job applications are just around the corner.

I hold Socrates personally responsible for any bad behaviour last year. His quote: "enjoy yourself, it's later than you think" certainly sounds like a blessing when drunk.

Being on the sofa with a bowl of Cheerios is fun - for an hour. Scoring the winning goal or being elected to a position or helping someone through Nightline is so much more rewarding. As is having a really crazy night in Leeds that ends up in Edinburgh.

Leave university the person you want to be. Or at least leave university having done something. It'll be worth it, I promise.

## Camilla Jenkins



One of the advantages of York starting ridiculously late is that we have a good, long time to get used to that back-to-school feeling. I have always adored the first day of the autumn term. It feels like a fresh start. Old mistakes have been forgotten (although I doubt my tutor would agree) and you have a chance to do things right. This time.

On the journey up the M1, I found myself making a series of solemn vows; this term I would attend all lectures, prepare for every seminar and go to the gym at least five times a week.

As third year looms closer and closer, we are forced to take stock of our time at university. To facilitate this process, I shall lead you, dear reader, through a little thought experiment. I am one third philosopher, after all.

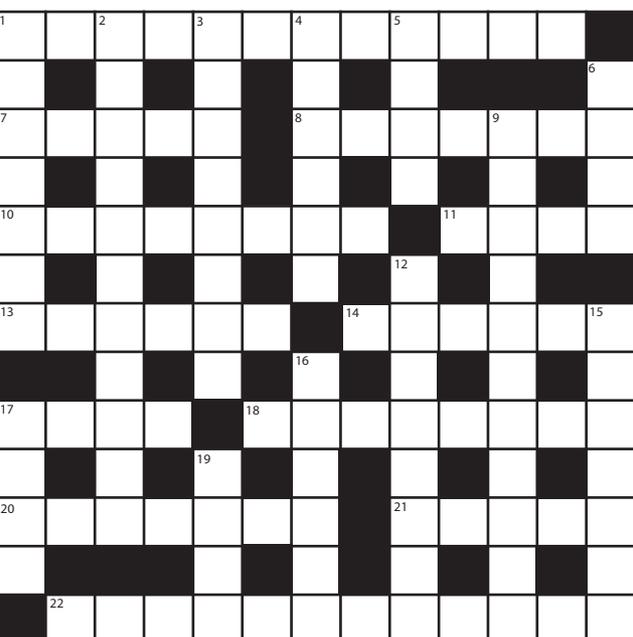
What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself? Think about it. Intelligent probably featured somewhere in that list, perhaps along with interesting and entertaining? Maybe even ambitious or accomplished? Write it down, if you're that way inclined.

Now, think about what three adjectives others would use to describe you, based purely on your actions at university. No longer quite such a flattering exercise, is it?

I was once told that the key to success was to imagine the person you want to be and then act like them. What do you want to achieve with your time here? What impression do you want to leave behind?

At university, it's often easy to lose track of the bigger picture and become someone who merely reacts to situations rather than controls them. Maybe it's time for this to change?

## The Nouse Crossword



- 11. Small island (4)
- 13. Rubbed out (6)
- 14. King of England (1016-1035) (6)
- 17. Stumble (4)
- 18. '\_\_\_ Entry', physical force esp. against resistance (8)
- 20. Drunk (slang) (3,4)
- 21. On edge (5)
- 22. Any kind of property that can be inherited (12)

### Down

- 1. Sticky, sweet substance (7)
- 2. The act of making or enacting laws (11)
- 3. Reduced in size as by squeezing together (8)
- 4. Autographed (6)
- 5. Of the mouth (4)
- 6. Capital of the republic of Maldives (4)
- 9. Interruption (11)
- 12. Black hole of \_\_\_ (8)
- 15. Known substance (7)
- 16. Dwarfed tree (6)
- 17. Inform (4)
- 19. Segment of DNA (4)

### Across

- 1. Headhunters (6,6)
- 7. Keen (5)
- 8. Your mother's mother (7)
- 10. Buyer (8)

## The Nouse Sudoku

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

# Ad-Lib: The Famous Five

Enid Blyton's classic tale has a special place in our hearts. But now the pen is in your hands to lead Julian, Anne, Dick, George and Timmy on your own journey. Fill the blanks with any noun, verb or adjective and see how your story goes.

"I feel as if we've been at \_\_\_\_\_ for about a month already!" said Anne, stretching herself out onto the warm \_\_\_\_\_, and digging her toe in. "And we've only just come!"

"Yes - it's funny how we \_\_\_\_\_ down at Kirrin so quickly," said Dick. "We only came yesterday, and I \_\_\_\_\_ with you, Anne - it seems as if we've \_\_\_\_\_ here ages. I love Kirrin."

"I hope this \_\_\_\_\_ lasts out the three \_\_\_\_\_ we've got left of the holiday," said Julian, rolling away from Timmy, who was pawing at him, trying to make him \_\_\_\_\_. "Go away, Timmy. You're too \_\_\_\_\_. We've bathed, had a run, played a ball - and that's quite enough for a little while. Go and play with the crabs!"

"Woof!" said Timmy, disgusted. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ up his \_\_\_\_\_ as he heard a tinkling noise from the promenade. He \_\_\_\_\_ again.

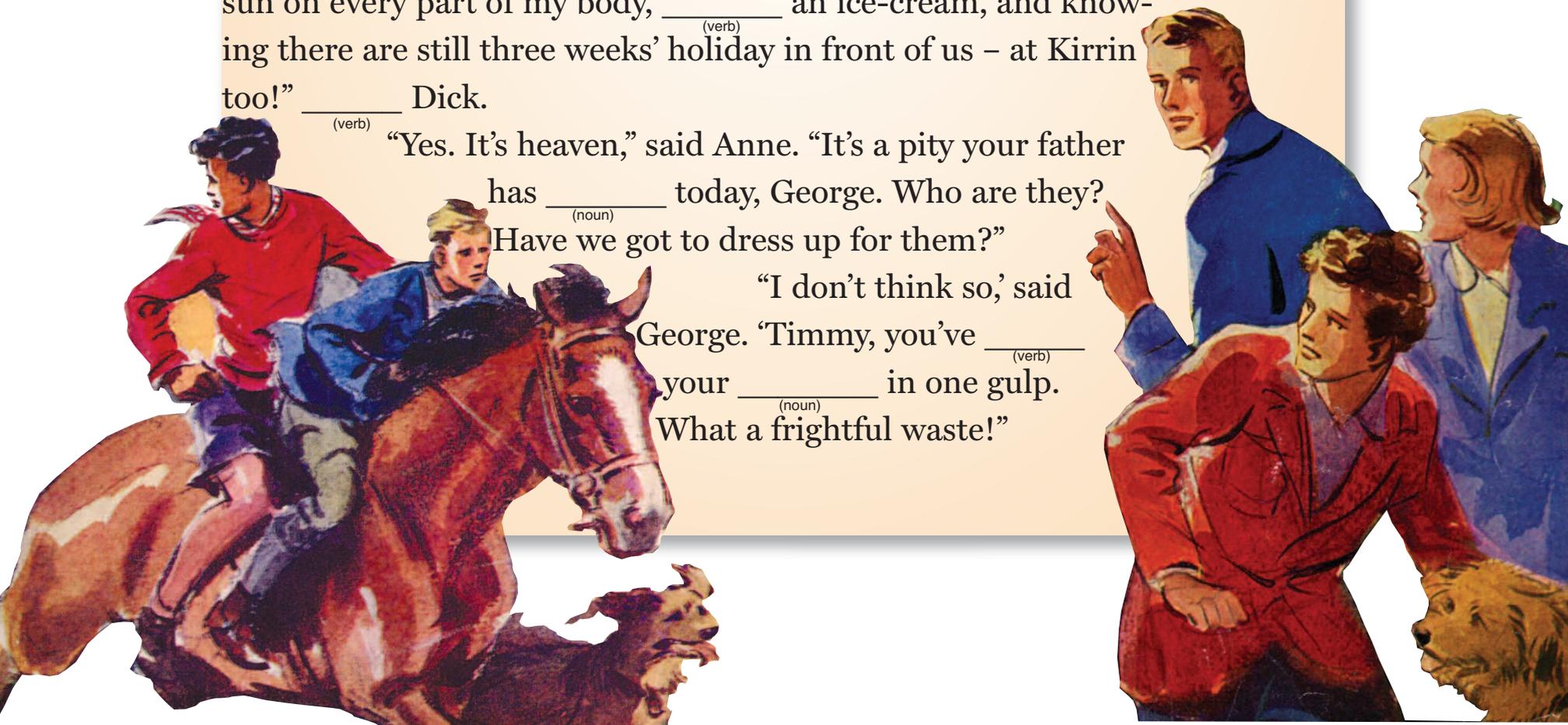
"Trust old Timmy to \_\_\_\_\_ the ice-cream man," said Dick. "Anyone want a \_\_\_\_\_?"

Everyone did, so Anne collected the money and went off to get the \_\_\_\_\_, Timmy close at her heels. She came back with five \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Timmy jumping up at her all the way.

"I can't think of anything nicer than \_\_\_\_\_ on hot sand with the sun on every part of my body, \_\_\_\_\_ an ice-cream, and knowing there are still three weeks' holiday in front of us - at Kirrin too!" \_\_\_\_\_ Dick.

"Yes. It's heaven," said Anne. "It's a pity your father has \_\_\_\_\_ today, George. Who are they? Have we got to dress up for them?"

"I don't think so," said George. "Timmy, you've \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ in one gulp. What a frightful waste!"



# Rebel, Rebel

Controversial choreographer Michael Clark has reinvented just about every aspect of ballet. Mia de Graaf hears his take on the freedom of creativity.



to Melbourne, Australia for his next performance. "I leave on Sunday and I get there on Tuesday! It is quite a big time difference, so it's probably only like a day and a half, but can you imagine? I'm not very good being trapped on a plane." For someone that formerly expresses themselves through movement, and has done since first joining his sister's dance class, remaining stationary in a confined space for almost 48 hours is a challenge to say the least.

And this challenge equally befalls him in a phone interview, where he grapples with words and language that seem to harness his boundless energy. Still, as he begins to explain his latest project – a summer-long rehearsal with 80 untrained dancers in addition to his existing company in the Tate Modern's Turbine Hall – his mind wanders, and he follows its trail instinctively. "The more I thought about it, the more I thought this is kind of silly: it's not a theatre, why not try and embrace the nature of the building more, and do something ..." he falters, buzzing with thought, "not non-theatrical because, I can't really help myself. I'm doing something theatrical but to, um ... the scale of it is huge!"

He continues in the same way to think aloud, and it seems that despite the self-professed "insanity" Clark has experienced in his private life, his rebellious nature is more an eager desire to test the limits of expression than to break from tradition. Indeed, he has a foundation of classical training that underpins his dancing and choreography, and this has fuelled his initial passion for dance itself.

"I think a classical foundation is very useful for me because it is something that I understand and it's the foundation of what I do really. It's basic things like standing correctly and being able to stand on one leg.

"When I went to the Royal Ballet School I didn't know anything about ballet but I was kind of hungry for that knowledge. Anthony Dell was a dancer then, and Ashton was still alive making work. Some of those pieces are so pure, and there's nothing extra from one place to the next. I guess that's something I would aspire to as a choreographer. Certainly then as a dancer, to do something so perfectly formed – you know what it's like, a piece of music that strikes a chord with you. I didn't mean to study it long, I meant to go to Scotland after a year, but I kept finding something else that I wanted to find out more about."

But he eventually found an interest in popular culture – music, fashion and art – and he could not hold solely upon the art itself. He began to experiment with merging the traditional and the modern. Clark is very matter of fact about this being a logical progression, and sees this rebellion as simply exploring other aspects of the creative field. "I think it's great that I've got a lot of freedom, and I get this movement. I hate having to behave," he insists, in a genuine tone of misunderstanding as to why one would have to behave.

"The first show I put on I worked with BodyMap [fashion designer], and it was kind of a reaction to what it had been before, which was very stripped down. You went to only look at the dance, with people generally wearing practice clothes, and I thought: it's just denying the whole visual art, why not embrace that?"

"Fortunately I've been able to embrace different aspects of things in the work that I do, like working with Malcolm [Garrett, graphic designer]. Also, fashion: when I started doing

work I'd go to clubs a lot, and for a lot of people I saw and met in those situations, their only means of expression was how they dress."

However, this was a radical venture, and almost took the focus to the opposite extreme. "In the early days some critics could only seem to write about all the extraneous stuff: the costumes, the music ... they didn't talk about the dance at all." Not that this is something he resents. In retrospect – refreshingly aware of his own eccentricity – he even sympathises: "But I think it was probably hard to see, they might have been slightly overwhelmed. It felt like that inside it too. That was the good thing with the bare bums. Just to have your bum out felt so ... challenging. It's not something that one does, you know, to jump around ... it's kind of like you dare yourself to do these things. For some reason, I don't know why." He sighs in a sort of motherly tutting to his bare-bummed self, but betrays a quiet sense of achievement as he pans back over the years.

"Things have changed quite a bit since I've started making work. There's a different audience for dance, certainly for my dance. There's quite a broad spectrum of people that come to see what I do, which is great I think. I mean, it wasn't conscious that I did that but it was just stuff that interested me. A broader appeal, I guess."

Much of the broad appeal undoubtedly comes from his fusion between ballet, and popular punk icons, such as Marc Bolan, Iggy Pop, and David Bowie – with whom he has often collaborated – taking inspiration from their music, and further their styles of movement, and image.

"Iggy Pop was a performer, and it's something that I try and achieve with my dancers. It's very, very hard for a trained dancer to just throw himself around like that, like a petulant child – doing things that are really, well, painful. Then again you've got Bowie who's much more self-conscious, and I love postures that people strike! Like Bowie, almost everything he does he's so aware of: what he's doing with his body, and his musicality. Marc Bolan's another one who does that as well.

"I guess those are people who I listened to from the age of ten or something. But I didn't understand that I wanted to be part of whatever it was that they were a part of. For me it was hard listening to Bowie then. It was a bit like Stravinsky later on: something I really wanted to understand, but it took a lot of effort. That sounds strange with pop music. I wanted to get them, but I wasn't feeling it initially."

But this obstacle merely dissolved into another challenge to be overcome. "It's interesting: the stuff that I've used, is very descriptive – it's quite graphic – and it's hard not to describe visually what he's describing in words. You have a kind of dialogue with the music and the lyrics. You go with them sometimes, or you might do the opposite. I like playing with that aspect.

"I do this thing where I choreograph something completely different to the music and then I change the music and it just colours the whole thing so differently. It's an interesting thing to do because emotionally it becomes something completely different, it's quite strange."

Is this a calculated construction,

anniversary of London Dance Umbrella, a festival at Sadler's Wells.

Given, as well, the choreographer's media portrayal as 'the bad boy of ballet', I expected no less than a little lateness. More often than not in a review or article, the writer will marry Clark's topless Hitler-moustached dance or dancing toilet with his wild lifestyle outside of the professional realm (almost as famous as his work is his battle with heroin addiction). Thus I await a conversation with an aggressively ardent rebel against tradition and the norm.

This severity, however, does not come across in his soft Scottish twang as, laughing, he dreads the long flight

Michael Clark is a bit late: "sorry! I'm a little bit flustered – I had loads of stuff to do because it's our last day before we go on tour again."

It is understandable, he is a busy person. The Royal Ballet School's unconventional graduate has been performing and choreographing for Michael Clark and Company since 1984, producing a range of works; from solo performances to collaborations with artists, fashion designers, and musicians. Well-renowned pieces over the nearing 30 years include a trilogy to the music of Stravinsky ('O', 'Mmm...', and 'I Do'), and 'OH MY GODDESS', used to open the 25th

or accidental? "It's quite annoying for me, being me, because I always seem to choose the counter-intuitive choices, over the predictable ones, you know what I mean? You know, how unpredictable can you be? And it gets a bit annoying after a while. For my dancers I try not to make it laborious – it is laborious though! I do take ages to make decisions, but I try and do as much work as I can on my own. But I am physically restricted because I'm getting older, and the space I'm working in is quite tiny compared to the Turbine Hall. Then again, in the Turbine Hall in front of all those people, I couldn't do those things you can do privately when you try something out that could go wrong. I believe that when you're told nothing's new, I disagree. I think that one can do things that you probably haven't seen before, and that's one of the things that I'm excited about, the possibility of discovering something."

I ask to what extent he reinvents his own work in trying to do this, which earns a chuckle. "I get accused of doing that all the time. It's hard. For example, with something like the Chosen Maiden solo in the 'Rite of Spring', I worked so slowly on it because I didn't

want to see anything that I'd seen before, and that was very important to me. But now, having done that, it becomes part of your body, it's like a different language, and it becomes part of your vocabulary and it's like why shouldn't I use it? It's my vocabulary. And yes, there are references to other things and to be self referential is kind of dangerous too, but you develop a language and it becomes the way that you speak and it's like the parallels with language and words. It's the same with the body, I think."

Demonstrative of this idea, he subsequently finds it difficult to put into words such bodily vocabulary, settling instead for a description of the visual. "My birthday is 2/6/62, and I'm not saying there's anything in these things, but I do have a fascination with duality and opposites. To hold up mirrors by craftwork, a bit like reflection. Like, I try and work against symmetry in my dances." There is a pause, and a slight hesitation, before he reluctantly realises that "I guess it's a modernist approach, to be asymmetrical, but I suppose I can't help that."

His aversion to definitions, particularly in reference to his own work, is apparent throughout the interview.



"Just to have your bum out felt so ... challenging. You dare yourself to do these things. I don't know why."

Clark continually interrupts himself as he thinks of a contradiction to his own points, never resting on one certain idea. As he says he does with his choreography, he always takes the alternative approach to a conversation topic.

"I was just reading something on the way home about the way people define classicism. It's so different from one field to another. This guy was saying that anything with order is classicism. I think I agree with that." However, he sounds thoughtful, as if ready for his mind to offer up the flipside of the argument.

"Language fascinates me because it can be so specific and dance just isn't like that. Things can have a definite meaning in words, but they don't in dance.

"A lot of people in the audience will see a relationship with something, and you can't avoid that really – other human beings and how they relate to each other. It's not an abstract thing really, is it?"

Having now touched upon the topic, I ask about the relationship, whether direct or actively avoided, between the expression in his choreography and his own private life. Despite a slight sigh, Clark does not shy away from "that whole area", and, as ever, it is something that simultaneously repels him and intrigues him.

"It's a confessional aspect of art like that which makes me a bit queasy. But then again, I quite like doing things like that. The discomfort aspect, I mean, with the literal. Like, there's a dance to 'Heroin' by the Velvet Underground in one of the shows and of course people see that seriously and say, 'oh, he has a problem with heroin', and, God, I'm fully aware of that. It's a manipulative thing really. So, yes, it's very hard not to be knowing at times,

but I don't want everything to be in quotation marks. I do sincere things that some people think "he's not really going to mean that", but ..." he fades into internal debate with himself, conclusively resolving, "truth is such a weird thing."

He flicks off the topic energetically, not with a sense of masking anything, but with most probably boredom of the topic. Instead, he moves to sharing the new phenomenon that has befallen him with restrictions age is placing on his body.

"I think it's an ongoing challenge to be able to articulate what it is that I want to achieve, because it's much easier to show somebody something. That's the way I've always done things: if I can do it, then they can do it."

But with time comes limitations, and Clark is fully aware that he is no longer at the peak of his physicality. "There are a lot of people in dance that don't believe me that human beings are evolving before our eyes. I have a 19-year-old who's just joined the company called Harry. He's got loads of potential, it's great. Already in my lifetime there are dancers much more capable than way back. But I guess people ask much more of themselves.

"It does mean that I've had to develop new skills to articulate what it is that I want. So on a good day it's exciting, it's challenging!"

Clear definitive articulation, however, is not how Clark works, nor is realistic targets. He spirals off into a description of his fantasy project ("I'd love to choreograph a funfair ride, because I know they won't let me do it, but I'd love to have a theatre which is like a fantasy land") and it's clear that as he has never followed the rules, he is certainly not going to let bodily restrictions make him do so. **M**



**Far left:**  
**Michael Clark**  
**Left: dancer Benjamin Warbis, member of Michael Clark and Company**  
**Above: dancer Oxana Panchenko**

# Freshers' Food Diary



Contrary to your tutor's beliefs, man cannot live on knowledge alone. Here are some tried and tested student recipes lovingly collected by *Nouse's* expert chefs for your benefit alone.

## Twist (n' shout) Pesto Chicken

Pesto: one of the tastiest foods that comes in a jar. A sheer brilliant mixture of basil, pecorino cheese, and pine nuts. What could be better? This recipe has the added twist of red pepper in the pesto adding extra flavour and colour to the dish.

Serves: 4  
Preparation time: 5 minutes  
Cooking time: 35-40 minutes

Ingredients:  
4 chicken breasts, sliced  
½ jar red pesto

1 can chopped tomatoes  
200ml crème fraîche  
4oz stoned olives

Turn the oven on to 180°C.  
Fry the chicken in a little olive oil.  
Remove the chicken and place in an oven proof dish.  
Mix together all the other ingredients, twisting as you stir.  
Season with a little salt and pepper.  
Pour mixture over the chicken fried chicken.  
Bake for about 35-40 minutes.

Serve on a bed of pasta with a green salad, and bingo: a twisted pesto chicken dish is your name-o.

## Libellious Lemon Risotto

The journalist's risotto of choice, didn't you know? This tasty treat got its name when served to an irate member of the Trampolining Club after they threatened to sue us for defamation of character. One bite in, the suit was dropped and *Nouse* lived to report another tale.

Serves: 2  
Preparation time: 10 minutes  
Cooking time: 25 minutes

Ingredients:  
75g risotto rice  
2 chicken breasts (or 100g king prawns)  
1 onion, diced  
Juice of one lemon  
100ml of white wine (which we know every student has)  
750ml of chicken or vegetable stock  
75g frozen garden peas  
1 red pepper, sliced  
Parmesan

Fry the onions gently until cooked, but do not brown.  
Add the risotto rice and cook until translucent.  
Add the chicken and cook for 5 minutes.  
Pour in the juice of the lemon and the white wine a little at a time until the rice has absorbed all the liquid.  
Repeat this process with all the stock.  
Lastly, throw in the peas, pepper and chicken and simmer for at least 5 minutes.

Sprinkle with lashings of parmesan, and relax. Easy.

## Winter Wonderland Leak and Potato Soup

*"Oh the weather outside is frightful, but this soup is oh so delightful. And if you just make it now, it'll wow, it'll wow, it'll wow."*

This is the perfect winter warmer to make when there is snow on the ground and you're suffering from Freshers' Flu. The vitamins in the veg won't hurt either.

Serves: approx. 4

Preparation time: 5 minutes  
Cooking time: 20-25 minutes

Ingredients:  
25g butter (a knife full)  
1 onion, diced  
2 leeks, cut into strips  
250g potatoes, cut into small chunks  
500ml of vegetable stock  
200g frozen peas  
150ml single cream  
(1 tbsp parsley - optional, but adds great taste to this recipe)

### The Ultimate Comfort: Spicy Macaroni Cheese

You haven't stopped all day, and the hunger has really set in. The books on your desk need to be read, the essay needs to be written, you need to speak to your supervisor, you're meant to be at rehearsals in the Drama Barn or at 22 acres for rugby fitness training. Yet all you want to do it put your feet up. Do it, and relax with the ultimate comfort pasta dish. You probably weren't that essential anyway.

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 5 minutes  
Cooking time: 20 minutes, then 30 minutes in the oven

**Ingredients:**  
400g macaroni pasta  
3 tbsp butter  
3 tbsp plain flour  
1 small pack of strong cheddar, grated  
Half a pint of milk  
1 red onion, diced  
2 cloves of garlic, crushed  
1 small chilli  
(3 tbsp chilli sauce - optional, for added spiciness)

Preheat oven to 180°C  
Cook pasta according to pack instructions, cutting a couple of minutes off the recommended cooking time so that it's still a little bit hard.  
Drain the pasta and pour it into an ovenproof dish.  
Whilst pasta is cooking, melt the butter in a frying pan and fry the onion, garlic and the small chilli (stir in the chilli sauce now if so desired).  
Melt the butter in a saucepan.  
Add the flour and firmly stir to make a paste.  
Pour in the milk gradually, stirring to avoid creating lumps.  
Turn down the heat to a simmer and slowly add the grated cheese.  
Mix the spicy onion mixture with the cheese sauce.  
Pour the combination on top and mix it together with the pasta until all covered.  
Grate cheese over the top.  
Place in the oven for 30 minutes until the top is slightly browned.

This is great with a salad, with ketchup, on toast, with some vegetables or simply by itself for the ultimate comfort.

Melt the butter in the pan.  
Add the leeks and the onion and cook for 5 minutes until soft.  
Add the potatoes and the stock, then bring to the boil.  
Cover it and simmer gently for 15 minutes until the potatoes are tender.  
Stir in the peas and cook for a further 2 minutes.  
Remove from the heat, and blend the soup until smooth (or the consistency you desire).  
Stir in the cream.

Sprinkle with the parsley and a fresh roll from the local bakery. OK, Morrison's will have to do.

### Vanbrugh's Legendary Mexican Burrito

The semi-legendary Van-burrito, which was created in a Vanbrugh college kitchen (see what we did there) many terms ago, is the ultimate faff-free, one-pot, rib-sticker, stomach-liner of student cookery. More exciting than bolognaise, less effort than lasagne and more fun than chilli con carne, the burrito is the daddy of mince dishes.

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 5 minutes  
Cooking time: 20 minutes

**Ingredients:**  
500g minced beef  
1 onion, diced  
1 red pepper, sliced  
1 courgette, sliced  
Cajun seasoning  
1 tin of baked beans  
1 beef stock cube  
8 flour tortilla wraps  
200g boiled rice

Dry fry the beef until well browned. Drain off the excess fat and water that comes out and set it aside.  
In the same pan, heat some oil and fry the onion for 3-4 minutes.  
Add the peppers, and then the courgette after a further 5 minutes.  
Return the cooked mince and add the beans to the pan.

Now it's time to deploy the enormous array of spices and seasonings your mum forced upon you before you arrived here. As long as you add a stock cube, salt, pepper and cajun spices it'll taste great. The addition of Jamaican Jerk seasoning works well too.  
Leave to simmer for 10 minutes to allow the flavours to develop.

Now tank up your tortilla wrap. Begin with boiled rice, followed by the mince mixture.

Add any one of: guacamole, sour cream, cheddar cheese, or our personal favourite, natural yoghurt, mint sauce and finely diced cucumber (that's a raita for you curry fans) and you get serious top-end nosh.

### Super Hero Omelette Recipe for Success

Super fast and super easy, this recipe is possibly the most fun you can have with a frying pan. Eggs are healthy, cheap and meant to be good for a hangover. Throw in some vegetables and you've got a meal your mother would be proud of.

Serves: 1

Preparation time: 2 minutes  
Cooking time: 10 minutes

**Ingredients:**  
3 eggs  
15g (knife full) butter  
30g grated cheese  
Either leftover vegetables (mushrooms, cooked onions, peppers) or

or chives.

Crack the eggs into a mug, season with salt and pepper and beat with a fork.  
Melt the butter in a frying pan, add the eggs and tilt the pan to spread eggs evenly.  
As the eggs cook, bring the edges the cooked eggs into the middle of the pan allowing the uncooked egg to run to the outside.  
Continue doing this until the egg has set. Sprinkle with your chosen filling and top with cheese.  
Fold over the omelette.  
Leave to cook for two minutes.

Warm new potatoes and a fresh leaf salad tops off this quick meal. Tell us you don't feel like you could take over the world now.

### Dinner Party-Ready Spaghetti Bolognaise

Of course you could just chuck in a jar of Dolmio or Lloyd Grossman but that isn't going to impress your new beau, is it? Here is a cracking standard and absolutely delicious recipe of one of the all time student classics.

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes

**Ingredients:**  
1 onion, diced  
2 cloves of garlic, crushed  
400g mince beef or mince lamb  
1 can of chopped tomatoes (400g)  
1 tbsp tomatoe puree (ketchup can be used as a substitute)

8 mushrooms, diced  
1 pepper, sliced  
1 beef stock cube or gravy granules  
1 tsp mixed herbs (optional)  
Parmesan

Fry the onion and garlic on a gentle heat.  
Add the mince and continue to cook until all the mince is brown.  
Add the chopped tomatoes and the tablespoon of tomato puree, then simmer for 2 minutes.  
Add in the mushrooms and pepper, and cook for a further 5 minutes.  
Lastly crumble in the beef stock cube (or gravy granules), add in the seasoning to taste.

Serve with spaghetti and a good helping of parmesan.

### Lady Gaga Loving with Muffins

Despite our well-documented love of The Courtyard's pancakes, girl cannot survive on syrup alone. There's something quite nostalgic about whipping up a batch of muffins before you head to campus. Throw on an apron and you're practically ready to head down the aisle.

Serves: makes 10-12

Preparation time: 15 minutes  
Cooking time: 15-20 minutes

**Ingredients**  
350g self raising flour  
½ tsp salt  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
250ml milk or plain yoghurt (or a combination of the two)  
60g melted butter  
90g caster sugar  
A filling of your choice (for example, blueberries, raspberries, chocolate, or sultanas)  
To make chocolate muffins just replace 15g of flour with cocoa powder.

Preheat the oven to 180°C.  
Sieve the flour in a bowl and add the salt and sugar (and cocoa powder).  
Melt the butter in a bowl and mix in with the milk/yoghurt and eggs.  
Make a well in the dry ingredients and add the liquid mix.  
Stir gently, leaving the mixture slightly lumpy, and fold in your chosen filling.  
Spoon mixture into muffin cases.  
Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

Eat hot or cold with a cup of tea or coffee. Truly scrumptious.

# Lectures? What lectures?

It turns out UCAS may not have been entirely truthful about the whole university experience. **Liv Evans** offers a survival guide for the bemused, confused and slightly misused.

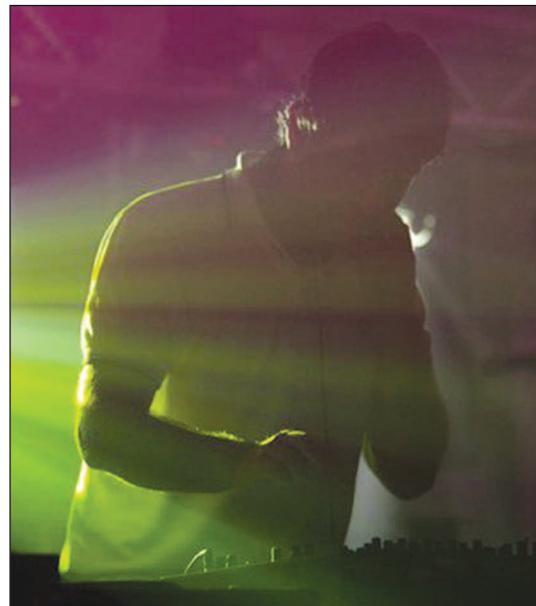
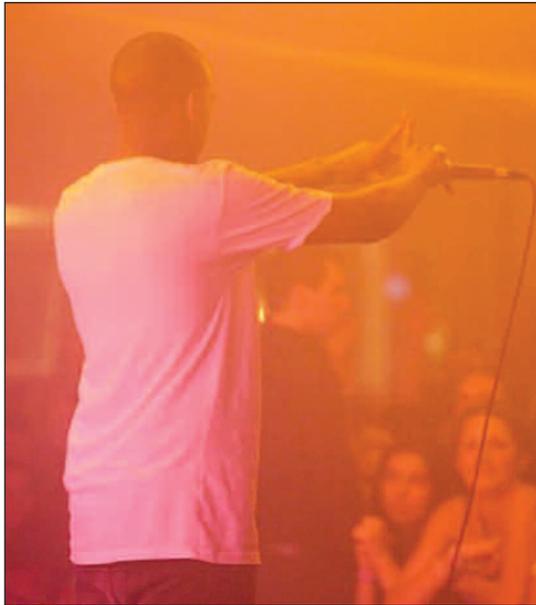
Being abruptly left in a place where you've never been before and don't yet know anyone would be seen as abandonment in any other walk of life. And yet it is de rigeur at university, and anyone who dares to express discontent at this order of things is normally met with surprise and a vague air of condescension. Amongst the general hype of how amazing it's all going to be, it's easy to forget that it can be overwhelming. I was mainly just confused, I think. And remained so for most of first year. But lesson number one, children, is that it's OK to be terrified. I still am, almost.

Second on my list of advice for you latest batch of bright young things: join a society. If you're on an arts course with approximately zero contact hours a week, you need to find something to do with your time (even iPlayer and 4OD lose their charms after the seventh repeat of 'Grand Designs'). It's a cliché, but societies really are your best bet of finding like-minded people and most people make their best friends at university through them. Plus, if you stick around long enough, you'll probably get a nice society hoody with your name written on it. Acceptance and belonging in the form of comfortable clothes, who could ask for anything else?

Bizarre as it may seem, people watching in the library is definitely under-rated as a form of entertainment. Many an hour have I wasted theorising on who was sleeping with who, or who was on for a first and who was only studying in an attempt to impress their latest squeeze. This is not exactly what the library's designed for, but at least you'll get use out of it - rare indeed for a first year. I have a friend who didn't even know where the library was until summer term, and my industrious *MUSE* Editor claims she didn't know what a reading list was until term two. Neither is particularly sensible. If you just sit there, intelligence and enlightenment will perhaps arrive via some kind of osmosis. We hope.

People from YUSU and the like tend to think they're "campus celebrities" (as shown by gratuitous strutting around Gallery's VIP section, and the wanton flashing of completely unnecessary gold cards). They're not celebrities. No one really cares. Only through writing for *Nouse* did I learn the vital knowledge of who or what a Student Activities Officer is. I still don't think I care too much.

People will be nice for a bit, but the "oh look I'm in Derwent when I'm meant to be in Alcuin, isn't this hilarious" situation is a bit old in Week 7. And the "let's make friends with everyone" thing fades very quickly. Come February when it's snowing and you're by yourself and you slip over on a piece of ice and fall over on the walkway up to the library, no-one will laugh and then strike up a conversation about how embarrassed you must be and oh dear isn't it hard being a fresher and not knowing anyone and getting lost?



No, the opportunity for randomly making friends will go. They will just laugh.

It doesn't matter what you wear. Last year we were all amazed by the amount of effort the freshers seemed to put into every day outfits. There's nothing more depressing than sitting in the Courtyard when hungover, and seeing some lithe beautiful fresher with giant hair showcasing all the expensive bits of Topshop's A/W collection. Deviating from the standard student uniform (hoody, joggers, basically anything you can a) fall asleep in and b) be sick on) will bring attention - not particularly helpful if it's 9am after Ziggy's.

Every college tries to claim they are the best one. This is a huge lie. It's pretty obvious which ones are the best. Clue: if you're living in en-suite accommodation or about three miles away from campus, you didn't make it. And everyone who did randomly get allocated to the "best college in the world" will spend the next year going on about how amazing it is. This is also a massive lie. They're not that different. Basically, if you can enjoy living with a bunch of strangers in dilapidated accommodation while being either so drunk or so hungover that you have no idea what's going on, you will love university. Everyone else, pretend to.

Do not become the person who does something so horrendous in freshers' week that this becomes your nickname for the rest of the three years. There is a guy in Halifax who shat in a sink. We're still talking about it. Do not, repeat, do not be that guy.

If you like the people you live with, great. Everyone loves everyone - at first. Don't be surprised if cracks start to appear, however. This is natural, and you can work through it. But do make an effort to find other people. There comes a point when "this person hangs around all the time and I can't get rid of them" actually becomes "my friend". This can be handy. But equally, "my friend" can become "this person who always hangs around and I'm just sort of stuck with them". There's less of a distinction than you might think.

Fire alarms are an unanticipated annoyance. In summer term of my first year, I got up early to do an essay. There was a fire alarm at about 10am. We all had to traipse out. I was the only one in the entire court who was dressed. Still not sure whether to be proud of this or not. And there'll always be someone in the shower when the alarm goes off. Quick in and out, that's my advice. You snooze, you lose.

But, overall, first year is when you think you can do anything. Take it from a jaded and not at all patronising third year. And in fact, *do* do everything. In second year you realise that you cannot, in fact, expect to do well in that essay or not throw up in a seminar if you haven't missed a Gallery all term. So enjoy it while you can: that pesky thing called a degree will rear its ugly head sooner than you think.

But most of all, you're here now. You may as well just get on with it. **M**

# How to be indispensable

Ladies and gentlemen, intern and job applications are officially open. As we face one of the most competitive employment markets yet, **Camilla Jenkins** investigates the best way to succeed during internships.

In these job deprived times, internships have become the modern day equivalent of hand-to-hand combat for most students. After months of pestering emails, aptitude testing and mortifying interviews, you turn up ready and willing to help. Unfortunately, you are entirely useless and, depending on what field you're working in, most probably a liability risk. And everyone knows it.

As a self-described professional intern, I have had many experiences and made more mistakes. The following suggestions come from the experiences of myself and my friends. Hopefully, these will prevent you from finding yourself waiting outside a loading dock for four hours at 5am in the morning with no-one but a creepy security guard to keep you company. But more about that later.

## The pen is mightier than the sword

Much like any good soldier, you should turn up on your first day armed and ready for action. I'm assuming you've already done company research and know the key people you will be working with. Get a good spiral notebook and a pen and never let them leave your side. Document every interaction and request you come across, no matter how basic it seems. Scribble furiously in meetings. The wealth of information you accrue will be invaluable when, inevitably, you forget quite how your boss suggested you knock up that economic model on Excel predicting currency fluctuations.

If nothing else, by the time you leave, you will have gathered a substantial database of sensitive information about the company which you can use to suggest that you are probably more valuable inside than outside. Be careful of confidentiality agreements, though.

## He's your boss, not your bruv

In America, the line between colleague and friend is well-established. On our fair isle, it is less so.

To be part of the team, you should be taking up any opportunity offered, including post-work drinks and celebration dinners. Banter is fine and banter with your boss is better, but don't every forget that they have control of your salary. Some companies enjoy playing the "who can get the intern to vom first" game. Yes, it's juvenile and possibly immoral but then so is the financial sector.

Resist impulses to regal the team with your latest triumph in Ziggy's, no

matter how many tequila shots they have you doing. And how many times they ask you for just one crazy student story.

## IT Soc might not have been such a bad idea...

You will be asked to organise meetings. These will involve electronics. One of the biggest mistakes I made was not testing the equipment before a very important meeting of VPs.

We had had a power surge the night before and nothing was working. Do not be that guy. If you are responsible for the meeting, even if you really shouldn't be, arrive an hour early to

make sure everything is going according to plan.

If it's particularly important, arrange for IT support to be there just in case. Tell them there's a problem even if you're not sure there will be.

## Will you be my friend?

Everyone will tell you about the importance of networking. What they won't tell you about is the importance of networking with secretaries, the front desk, IT support, security guys and, of course, the mailroom. If your office has a cafeteria, throw them in too.

In these modern times, people

often underestimate the importance of being able to get practical things done quickly. After all, someone has to know how to charm the chef into letting you borrow his scale to weigh the parcel for your boss' daughter.

Don't be a snob; these are the people who will help you out when you're asked you to do something absurd by yesterday, if possible.

## It's not the Devil Wears Prada but....

Be the best dressed. Always. I don't care if everyone else is rocking up in gym shorts and trainers, you should always look smart. Invest in a couple of good suits if you're working in the City, or at least some nice trousers and a shirt or two.

Make sure your hair is shiny and your nails are clean. This goes for boys too. As an intern, your mere presence is adding to the company's inefficiency problem. You don't have to be there and, paid or not, should be grateful. If you can't help (and you won't straight away), you might as well be decorative.

## Married is not the same as gay

Any good intern will tell you that flirting (with either sex) and being entertaining are essential to becoming part of the team. Being part of the team is essential to becoming indispensable.

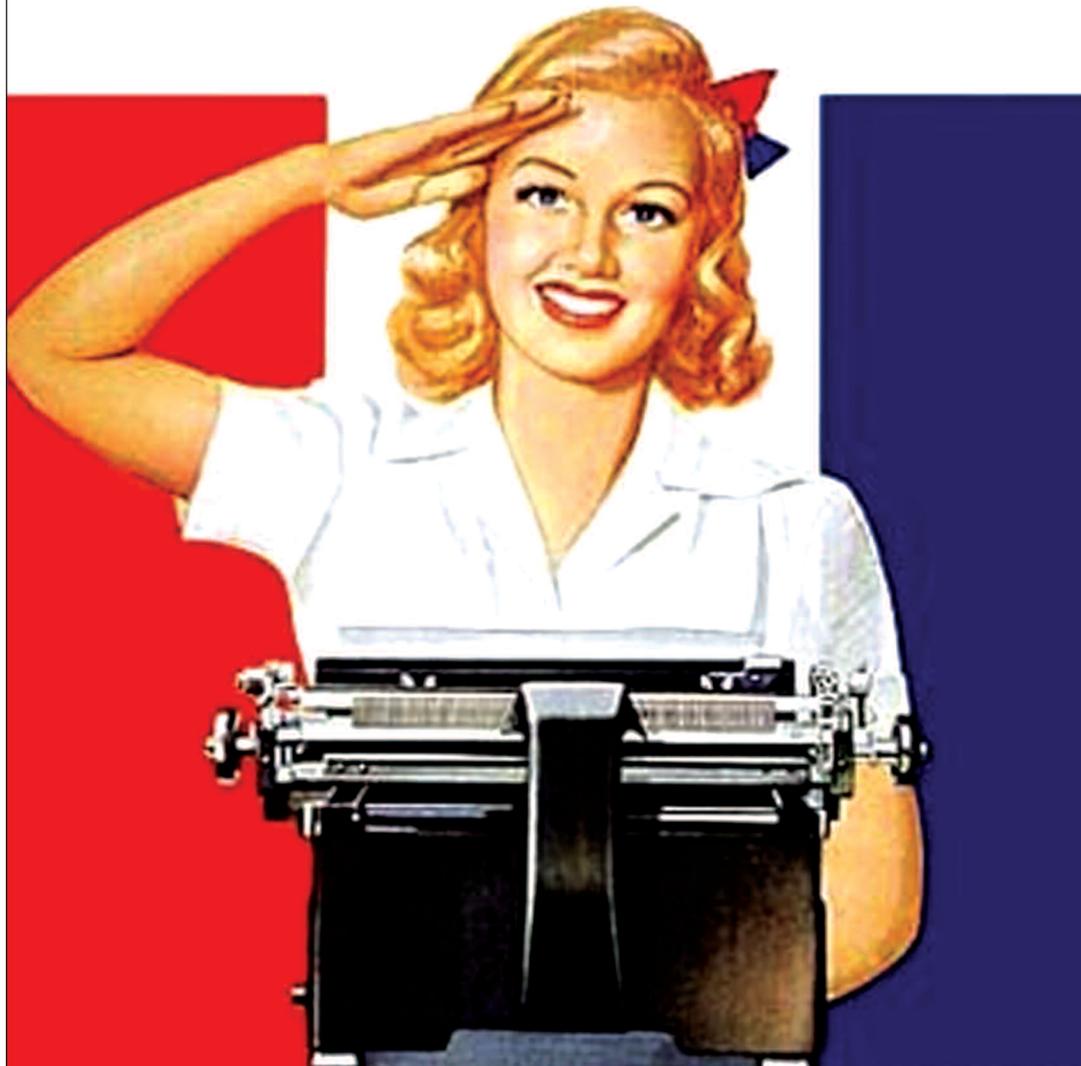
Part of your job is to provide the entertainment. However, there is a limit. Do not convince yourself that just because that really funny guy in Developing Markets is married, it's OK to go all out like you would with Gok Wan. You have no idea what sort of arrangements he has with his wife. It sounds obvious but you'd be amazed how often it happens.

## Hello. Would you like a mem-o?

I couldn't resist. As an intern, you will spend most of your time collecting information. The problem is, most of the knowledgeable people are very busy. Too busy in fact, especially for you.

If you can convince them to sit down with you, make sure you are prepared. Type up a memo or at least an email with the background of your project and exactly what information you need from them. Be specific and flexible. Don't be offended if they postpone or expect you to trot after them as they leave the building. Any attention is good attention. **M**

# YOU WRITE WHAT YOU'RE TOLD!



# A Nouse Night Out

**Start**

**University Health Centre**  
 8.30 - 18.00  
 Monday - Friday  
 Tel: 01904 721820  
**Emergency Out of Hours GP service**  
 Tel: 0845 056 8060  
**A&E**  
 Wigginton Road  
 York YO31 8HE  
 Tel: 01904 631313

**Morning After**

**CABS**  
 Streamline - 01904 623737  
 Fleetways - 01904 645333  
 659 Taxis - 01904 659659  
 Station Taxis - 01904 623332  
 Ebor Cars - 01904 641441  
 Local Taxis - 01904 641341  
 Telecars Taxis - 01904 424646

**Prelash**

**STOCKING UP**  
 Costcutter - CAMPUS  
 The Co-op - 16 mins (Hull Road)  
 Sainsbury's Local - 20 mins (Fulford)  
 Morrison's - 24 mins (Foss Islands Road)  
 Waitrose - 25 mins (Foss Islands Road)  
 Sainsbury's - 29 mins (Osbalwick)

**Town**

**BUSES**  
 £2.00 return on both 4 and 44

**Drinks Deals**

**Dusk** -  
 2-4-1 Cocktails  
**Stone Roses** -  
 2 for £6 Cocktails  
**Reflex** -  
 £1.99 Cocktail of the month

**Takeaway**

**Viking's Kitchen** - 01904 629912  
**Istanbul Grill** - 01904 646411  
**Efe's** - 01904 652210  
**Buffalo Pizza** - 01904 412222  
**Garden of India** - 01904 645649  
**Tang Hall Chinese Takeaway** - 01904 870838

**Getting home**

**Revitalise**

**BEAUTY**  
**Uni Gym - CAMPUS**  
 Three month Silver Membership:  
 £40.00 + YorkSport  
 (Weekdays peak times. Weekends all day.)  
**York College Salon - SIM BALK LANE**  
 Cut and blow-dry: £4.50  
 01904 770200  
**CINEMA**  
**Vue Cinema Clifton Moor - BUS ROUTE 6**  
 Student: £5.65  
 08712 240240  
 www.myvue.com  
**City Screen Picturehouse - BY VODKA REVS**  
 Student: £6.00  
 0871 902 5726  
 www.picturehouses.co.uk

**Recovery**

**CAMPUS FOOD**  
**Derwent Bar** -  
 Weekdays: 9am - midnight  
 Saturday: 6pm-8pm  
 Sunday: 6pm-10.30pm  
**Wentworth Edge** -  
 Weekdays 8am - 7pm  
 (Wed & Fri until 11pm)  
 Weekends: closed  
**Vanbrugh Wicked** -  
 Weekdays: 9am - 4.30pm  
 Weekends: closed  
**Courtyard** -  
 Weekdays: 10am - 11pm  
 Weekends: 12pm - late  
**Costa** -  
 Weekdays: 9am - 5pm  
 Weekends: closed

**Retracing Steps**

**LOST PROPERTY**  
 Fibbers - 01904 651250  
 Salvation - 01904 679767  
 Ziggy's - 01904 620602  
 Tokyo - 01904 620203  
 Gallery - 01904 647947  
 Duchess - 01904 641413  
 VUDU Lounge - 01904 627627  
 Vodka Revs - 01904 676054

**TEAR OFF AND EXCHANGE**

**BLUE FLY LOUNGE**  
 Free vodka shot  
 Sun-Thurs  
 Valid until 12/01/11

**NAG'S HEAD**  
 Two for one VKs  
 Two for one 16oz Pepsi's  
 Mon-Sun  
 Valid until 12/04/11

**LOWTHER**  
 Two for one cocktails  
 Free shot of Corky's with one alcoholic drink  
 20% off non-alcoholic drinks  
 Valid until 31/12/10

# Terry Waite: a man in the firing line

**Victoria Lee** meets the man who was at the centre of a media and political storm when he was held hostage in Lebanon between 1987 and 1991.



“Lebanon holds no ghosts or horrors for me ...” Terry Waite, taken hostage in Lebanon and held for 1,760 days before being released in 1991, pauses before continuing: “We live in a world full of suffering. There are many people who have suffered more than I have. Suffering needn’t be totally destructive; it can always be turned around and something constructive can emerge from it.”

Waite, 71, worked as a Church of England envoy when he was captured on a hostage negotiation mission to Lebanon in 1987. He had been strongly advised against the operation after his public use of an American helicopter and appearance with Colonel Oliver North (who was embroiled in the Iran-Contra Affair) compromised his position as an impartial figure.

Waite is an inexplicably tranquil figure. His movements and speech are slow, his huge hands clasp together in a picture of equanimity; yet his very presence puts you on edge. He presents a mass of contradictions; he is so genuine and open, yet complex and difficult to read.

I ask Waite how he can be so accepting of the fate he has endured; so certain that something positive must

arise from his calamity of suffering. He does not directly answer my question. He has a knack of deflecting difficult issues with such subtlety that you don’t quite realise what he has done.

“Who knows how their life is going to unfold,” he says. “You make choices and choices are made for you and sometimes you have no choice.” His

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“I was interrogated during the first year of my captivity, and if I had been involved in Iran-Contra, you wouldn’t be speaking to me now; I’d be dead.”

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deep voice has a lullaby quality that both excites and depresses in one damning move.

The key to eradicating ‘ghosts and horrors’, he says, is forgiveness. “You can forgive people when you can understand their motives. While I don’t agree with the methods that my captors used - violence to achieve political ends - I do understand their motives.”

He continues: “Hostages were seen as a symbol of the West which they blamed for a number of their prob-

lems.”

Waite’s ability to forgive is admirable, but I wonder if this is merely a sign of a desperation to see good in everything and everyone.

When I suggest that his determination to complete the Lebanon mission despite adverse warnings was a sign of naivety, I receive a categorical denial.

At the time, he says, he believed there was only a “very, very slim chance” of anything going wrong because of his compromised position. “I was determined,” he says quietly. “I knew nothing about the Iran-Contra affair [as his Islamic kidnappers believed]. I was not afraid to stand on the truth, so I went back.”

“I was interrogated during the first year of my captivity and if I had been involved in Iran-Contra, you wouldn’t be speaking to me now; I’d be dead. I don’t think it was naïve. I was not afraid to stand by the hostages I was negotiating for.”

Prior to his work as a hostage negotiator, Waite, along with his wife, Helen, and four children, travelled extensively with his various Church of England roles, narrowly escaping death of several occasions. Firstly through Uganda, where they witnessed the Idi Amin coup, then Asia, Africa, the

Americas and Europe.

Before me sits one of the most peaceful men I have ever met, yet this is a man who has lived on the edge of disaster for most of his adult life.

I ask him whether he always knew that his time was short, knew that his every move constituted nothing more than small and conscious steps towards devastation.

He almost smiles when I put this question to him and for the first time I detect a small change in his tone. “I can answer that very clearly,” he says.

“When I went on hostage missions I always used to wear a clockwork watch. I knew if I was ever captured, that a battery would wind down and I wouldn’t know the time. So, yes, I was very aware of the dangers.”

He makes this concession so easily that he may as well be talking about the weather. Whether Waite is indeed too naïve or too forgiving, as so many have suggested, this remains a damning acknowledgement.

Indeed, this is a man who, despite spending four years tied to a radiator in solitary confinement, volunteered his negotiation skills once again when the group of British sailors were captured in Iranian waters and held hostage in 2008.

I want to ask Waite if he regrets



**Left: Terry Waite when Victoria met him**  
**Above: Beirut today**  
**Below: a Lebanese woman**

going to Lebanon against advice, and whether he would make the same choice if presented with the situation once again.

"I don't regret what happened or my actions that led to it. I didn't enjoy it and I wouldn't wish to go through it again, obviously not, but I don't look back and say, 'I wish I hadn't done that.'" He pauses, "I would hope that for a just cause I would again have the courage or ability to stand for justice."

According to Waite, the underground stone cell he called home for over 1,000 days was just ten feet wide and seven feet long. He knows this because he is six feet, seven inches tall.

I want to know how he kept his mind through four years of his solitary captivity. I know he communicated with fellow prisoners by tapping on his cell wall using a laborious sort of Morse code, yet this alone can't have facilitated his continuing sanity.

"Hope," he says simply. "When you're in solitary confinement like that, you live for each day and maintain hope."

Since his release, Waite has had a drastic career change. He moved away from the Church of England, devoting his life to charity work, whilst writing to earn a living. When I ask him why, the answer is again "hope."

"It's important now for me to be involved with charity organisations which enable people here to have some hope in life and get back into life. It's all about maintaining hope."

Indeed, I have met Waite at an industrial warehouse where he is present to support a charity fundraiser in aid of the homeless charity, Emmaus UK, of which he is President. "I've met at least five people today," he says, "who've been through Emmaus - got back into life, got flats or apartments of their own."

I ask him if charity work is more important than working with the Church. "Charity work sends a very powerful message." He pauses and almost smiles for a second time: "It's better than standing up in a pulpit mouthing a few words, and equally significant in my mind, to any papal business."

For Waite, hope and forgiveness seem to form a sort of timeline, or perhaps a vague guide as to how to live one's life. Hope for the future, forgiveness for the past.

But I want to know if his forgiveness has any boundaries. Indeed, Waite is one of the many in avid public opposition to the Iraq war and the infamous man who led us into it.

When speaking of his captors ear-

lier, Waite said: "You can forgive the methods if you can understand the motives." I ask him if he can understand Blair's motives? Yes, he concedes, he can understand Blair's desire to unseat Saddam Hussein. Therefore shouldn't he - and the largely disdainful British public - forgive Blair for the violent methods he used in Iraq?

He pauses, visibly uncomfortable. "I think we should probably forgive him as a person," he says eventually, "but on the other hand, from his point of view he would say that there is nothing to be forgiven, so ..."

Wouldn't your captors say the same? I ask.

Again, a tense pause. "Erm, they might say the same. I'm trying to think about the answer to that because I think it's a good question ... You could forgive him as a person but he's got to live with the consequences of his actions. He's committed criminal acts and shouldn't evade justice." He continues: "I think he believes he was right and he will have to answer for that in the end ..."

So, there are some things that actually can't be forgiven? Has he really completely forgiven his captors?

Waite becomes suddenly self-conscious and I feel as though I am eventually breaking through his placid, calm

composure. It seems he sees forgiveness on different levels; in different categories.

"Complete forgiveness demands a contractual relationship where the perpetrators will say 'I genuinely have made a mistake and I am sorry' and [the victim] will forgive."

"Yes, I can forgive my captors," he says, "but to make it complete it needs to be a contractual relationship."

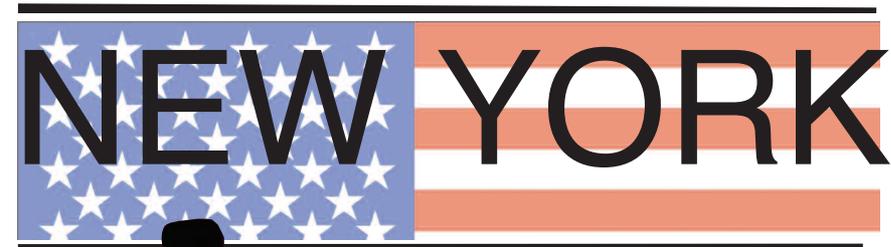
Suddenly Waite seems more human to me. None of the respect I previously felt has gone. In fact, nothing has changed. If anything, this concession that complete forgiveness with his captors is impossible has added to his immense and immeasurable humanity.

Finally, I ask Waite if he has a motto for life, or something that helped him through his captivity and the preceding 20 years.

His deeply profound face smiles. "Of course," he answers: "No sentimentality, no self-pity and no regrets."

To donate to one of Terry Waite's charities, Y-Care International, please donate online at [www.ycareinternational.org](http://www.ycareinternational.org) or at your local building society. Please send any donations for the homeless charity, Emmaus, to: Emmaus St Albans, Hill End Lane, St Albans, Herts, AL4 0FE. **M**

# Fashion.hot new designers



## SOPHIE THEALLET



French-born Brooklynite Sophie Theallet wowed New York this autumn with her old world, Mexican romance inspired collection, with big printed dresses and off the shoulder dresses juxtaposed against softer lace and nude satin numbers.

Her experience working at both Alaia and Jean Paul Gaultier shone through, with her sophisticated blending of beauty and sensuality. As the winner of this year's highly coveted Vogue Fashion Fund, her simple yet original designs are swiftly moving from fashion obscurity to seasonal must-haves.

In a scant five seasons, Theallet can already count Michelle Obama and Sarah Jessica Parker among her admirers, and as a current Vogue favourite, looks to be making a permanent mark on the New York fashion scene.



## HAKAAN



A name plucked from obscurity has become an overnight sensation. Hakaan has somehow avoided the natural progression from nobody to 'one to watch' to well known designer, securing a slot on the official schedule with little fuss or attention. That was until a hype began to build around this Turkish designer's show with only 48 hours to go.

Suddenly it was billed as the show of the week - with a buzz only usually afforded to big name designers, no doubt due to the selection of high calibre models (Natalia Vodianova, Lara Stone, Abbey Lee and Imogen Morris) and A-listers on the front row (Kate Moss, David Walliams and Carine Roitfeld).

And the collection? A limited palette of white, black, and camel. Very sexy and accomplished. Leather, ostrich feathers and bandage dresses featured heavily, which could earn him comparisons with Riccardo Tisci at Givenchy.

## Sofia Redgrave



What did you do this summer? Most of us will provide the generic answer: a bit of time at a beach/festival/house in the country and a lot of time doing work experience or internships. Gaining experience at fashion com-

panies often involves hours of unpaid work. However, this is generally considered the only way to gain access to the industry.

After graduation, the fashion world needs to see continuous commitment, not just an impressive online application form. Such dedication has often been criticised by the press, who have often deemed internships as the equivalent to 'slave labour'.

Yet, no matter how bad some internships can be, there will always be fantastic ones out there. It is possible to gain a real insight to the fashion world, and make great friends along the way. However, let's not forget the few horror stories that have been reported this year.

The Guardian researched and produced a piece about the hard working conditions for the interns at the Alexander McQueen showroom. It was found that the interns would work up to 17 hours a day in the lead up to fashion week, outnumbering the actual number of paid staff by 2:1.

Yes, people put up with these conditions because internships are essential for anyone who wants a career in the industry, but how do you avoid being bundled into the fashion cupboard for

months on end with endless returns and tidying to do?

It's difficult to avoid, so, for starters, don't be star-struck by the prestige of the company that you are working for. Ask for more responsibility and input. They will more likely than not welcome pro-activity and be pleased to give you other work.

**"For starters, don't be star-struck by the prestige of the company that you are working for."**

For example, a few summers ago, I interned at a leading fashion magazine. My responsibility was to organize Fashion Week for the team, a mammoth task which involved co-ordinating with hundreds of PRs in Paris, New York, London and Milan. A friend of mine got the chance to go on cover shoots and work with well known models. However, these tasks often involved staying late to ensure our share of the work was done.

This summer, I tried a different part of the industry, and interned at a fashion PR company during Fashion Week. Although many of the tasks were simple and not creatively challenging, I was given the opportunity to meet and talk to a number of industry insiders - whether it was inviting them to a celebrity dinner or showing them to their front row seat at the hot show of the season. This, I learnt, was the ticket. The networking opportunities that fashion internships offer are often as, or more, important than the internship itself. And make sure you keep in contact with your fellow interns - one day they might be giving you a job.

So, tips for getting an internship: persistence - if they don't reply to your letter, phone call, or email, pester them till they do. Secondly, keep a clean internet profile. Your Facebook page is the first thing that any employer will look at, and, sadly, they won't be impressed with that photograph of you funnelling beer on Wednesday night. Lastly, pull favours from people you know. If you ask around, you might be surprised how family friends have connections in the fashion world that might very well lead to an interview.

# PARIS

## VANESSA BRUNO

Launching as a young designer in Paris has been likened to being sent to the sacrifice of the fashion industry. The president of the French Fashion Federation believes that young French designers can only succeed when patterned with an extraordinary manager. However he also believes that without them, there would be no fashion industry. This is why he has worked hard over the years to provide space on the calander for designers such as Vanessa Bruno.

Although she appears to be a prolific designer in Britain, Vanessa Bruno is still a small fish in the Parisian world of Chanel and Dior. She made her first steps into designing along side Dorothée Bis, the Paris based ready-to-wear fashion house, after retiring from modelling. At the tender age of 24, she launched her own line, using herself as the main point of inspiration.

This 2011 collection had all the spring trends: neon, lace and cutouts, with a nod to the tropical prints of Hollywood.



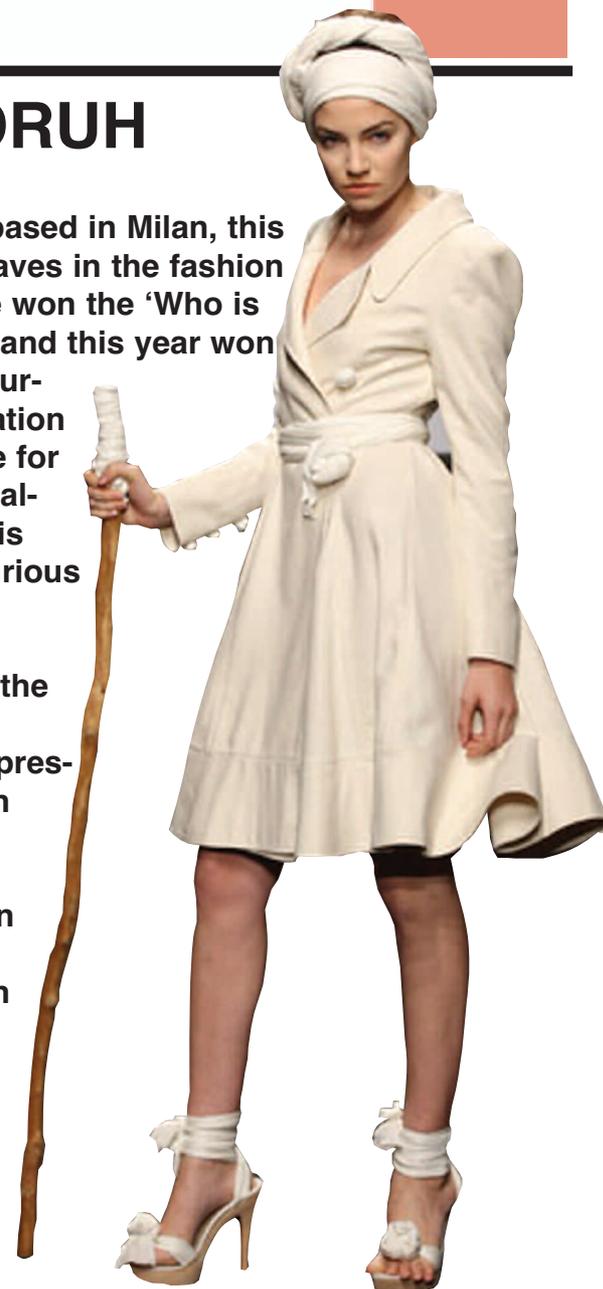
# MILAN

## ERKAN CORUH

Born in Istanbul, yet based in Milan, this designer is making waves in the fashion world. Last season he won the 'Who is on Next' competition, and this year won an award in the Wintour-hosted 'A New Generation of Designers' initiative for his collection which balances references to his homeland, with a luxurious avant-garde feel.

Ekran has reinvented the burqa, exploring the themes of equality, repression, freedom, religion and politics.

The designer has been hand-picked by Dolce and Gabbana to sell in their newest venture, Spiga 2, a shop dedicated to those they think could be the duo's successors. Watch this space.



## Shopping: independent York boutiques

### ONE BOUTIQUE

York's ethical boutique, One, on Grape Lane is a unique shopping experience of ethically sourced items.

This season's collection includes dresses made from suits that have been altered carefully, so that they actually look fashionable rather than a GCSE project.

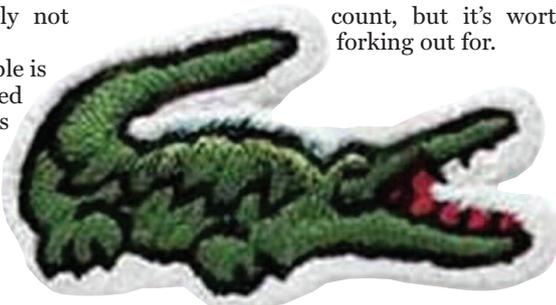
Ethical fashion is often discarded as undesirable, but here this is definitely not the case.

Also available is jewellery produced by women's groups in Turkey, with proceeds going directly back to the community.



### MANNIX MENSWEAR

Mannix Menswear is a classically British independent stockist of formal attire alongside casual pieces from brands such as Barbour, Lacoste, Paul & Shark and Duchamp. Founded in 1963, the store has now expanded to three shops situated on Lower Petergate. There are some surprisingly affordable staple pieces such as the winter jacket - a good one is the quilted hunting jacket, which is a popular style - so there is a wide selection to choose from. Unfortunately there is no student discount, but it's worth forking out for.



### WHISTLES



Surprisingly, not many people know that York has its very own Whistles, located centrally on Stonegate, just opposite Evil Eye. The shop oozes minimalist sophistication, and with parts of the new collection hitting the store every week, what's not to love? Invest in camel coats, sheepskin flying jackets, well cut trousers, and cashmere soft silk shirts. And to top it all off, Whistles has just introduced a 10% student discount.

### VINTAGE FASHION FAIR

Set in the rather rustic Hospitium in Museum Gardens, Judy's Affordable Vintage Fair is a veritable treasure trove of dresses, jewellery and aging Barbour jackets to suit all tastes. With only a £1 entrance fee, you can browse to your hearts content for outrageous 80s ball gowns and eclectic Christmas jumpers, as well as more expensive collectable items. You never know what you will find, and could leave with anything from a new hat to a chipped teapot. Once you have finished, you can sit down to tea and cupcakes in their makeshift yet charming café. In York on 17th October, 10.30 - 16.30.



# Arts.

Artist Deborah Curtis discusses contemporary arts' role in the education system with **Beth Walton**.



Earlier this month the coalition government announced devastating cuts to funding in both the education and culture sectors. With the onset of these cuts, I caught up with artist Deborah Curtis to discuss her organisation, the House of Fairy Tales and why she believes contemporary visual art has the potential to transform the way children learn about the modern world.

Set up as a joint project between Deborah and partner artist Gavin Turk, 'The House of Fairy Tales' is a "child-centred artist led" organisation specialising in educational events and workshops, all of which take an unconventional and narrative approach to learning.

"I have been working on ideas to do with children and education since my eldest son was born. Before this project I was working with another registered charity looking to build a creative centre for families in East London," explains Deborah. "'The House of Fairytales' evolved out of a something Gavin and I set up separately from our professional

interests and it re-awoke the mission I was on before."

It is the educational nature of the narratives in 'Fairytale' which gives the project its name. "Fairytale are endemic; I was listening on the radio to how in British culture there are more ghost stories and fairytale than in any other. It's surprising given how we are known for our scepticism."

But far from dictating the direction of the project, traditional fairytale are just a spring board for Deborah and her team from which to think about stories as a form of education, or rather the importance of stories to the learning process.

"Really the project is more about the narrative nature of learning than fairytale themselves, but they're a platform for making things transformative and magical," says Deborah. "They give us liberty to take young people on a leap of imagination even with a non-fiction project."

"I have always been interested in a narrative approach to learning which links chil-

dren into visual culture and thinking around the subject - something contemporary art does really well. Artists commonly go on a journey of discovery throughout a project, which takes them through different media and processes," comments Deborah. She relates the experience of the artist to that of the child playing make believe. "'The House of Fairytales' is a non-institutional learning experience."

Although the project is described as 'child-centred', the workshops and events are open to and benefit all ages, enjoying success amongst children and adults.

"Naturally, we believe in it being an all age thing. We set up to do something high quality. Everything in our programmes from signage right down to the materials is carefully thought through. On the whole, children's things tend to be low grade - primary colours and wax crayons - so we aim to give them something that has the articulacy of the adult world."

Likewise, Deborah explains how adults

find the project's ethos refreshing, describing how their events provide escape from increasingly cynical 'adult culture'. "We get a cross range of ages interacting with us. The place we set up at Glastonbury was the other side of the valley to the children's area, and so we got lots of young people stopping by and saying, 'it's so cool here'."

We work with lots of artists and visual performers, and what they love about working with us is the child centred space. It's a kind of nest where irony is only to amuse the performers, not to appeal to adults, and it has a resonance with the adults in the audience. So much adult culture is ironic and cynical these days, particularly in the art world."

The team are always looking for ways in which to interact with the wider community. "The project is a bridge between artists and creative people, and education," says Deborah.

"We just did this project about water-wheels at the Thames festival. To all intents and purposes, it was a non-fiction subject about engineering and ecology, but within that there were magical narratives going on with people in costume which brought the subject to life, and helps encourage this idea of being in a parallel universe."

"At the moment, we are working on a major project with artist Daniel Lobb, who builds worlds within vehicles. He created a double height caravan we have been touring with. Inside it is a staircase, an old fireplace and even a chandelier - it's like walking into a stately home. Daniel plans to create a small fragment of Venice on the back of a caravan chassis, which will start life in Venice, appear at the Venice biennale and tour back through Europe and the UK. The subject matter will be ecology, climate change and world trade."

"The House of Fairytales' project is funded solely by Deborah and Gavin, who collect what revenue they can from big events. So how does Deborah feel about the cuts being made to public arts funding?"

"In many ways the current climate is an interesting one for creative projects as well as being a difficult one. It makes you more focused on project sustainability. It's nice if you can get subsidised but it doesn't always make for the best."

## Lowenna Waters



The four shortlisted nominees for the Turner Prize have been announced and the exhibition is now open at the Tate Britain; that weighty, dignified and elegant building on the banks of the Thames. The prize is synonymous with controversy, exag-

gerated media hysterics and outraged visitors who claim to be able to do better themselves. It was set up in 1984 to showcase the best in British contemporary art whilst bringing it to a wide audience. The winner receives a £25,000 prize, and kudos within the art community: it is considered the most prestigious prize in Europe. The list of winners from previous years is dominated by Young British Artists, many now household names and influential cultural figures.

Dexter Dalwood, a painter who was briefly associated with Charles Saatchi's flash in the pan movement of "neurotic realism", is one of the finalists this year. He directly quotes other artists work and produces "visual testaments to individual moments in history". There is the dark muted scene of a tree silhouetted by a luminous moon named "the death of David Kelly", which captures the ominous Oxfordshire location of Kelly's suicide, and yet leaves the protagonist from the scene. "White Flag" references Jasper John's painting of the same name and depicts a scene from the Iraq war.

Also nominated is Angela De La Cruz, a

Spanish artist who has lived in the UK for 20 years. She produces conceptual pieces that "let in the muck of everyday life"; they often look like works in progress. Crumpled canvases in bright yellow, pink and red fill her room in the exhibition and murk the boundary between sculpture and painting.

There is the Scottish artist Susan

"Let us hope Britain can maintain her cultural climate as one of the best in the world."

Phillipsz, whose sound installation of her singing a traditional Scottish folk song was originally shown under a bridge in Glasgow.

Finally, there is a series of thirteen television screens showing films by the artists Kodwo Eshun and Anjalika Sagar, known collectively as The Otolith Group. The domi-

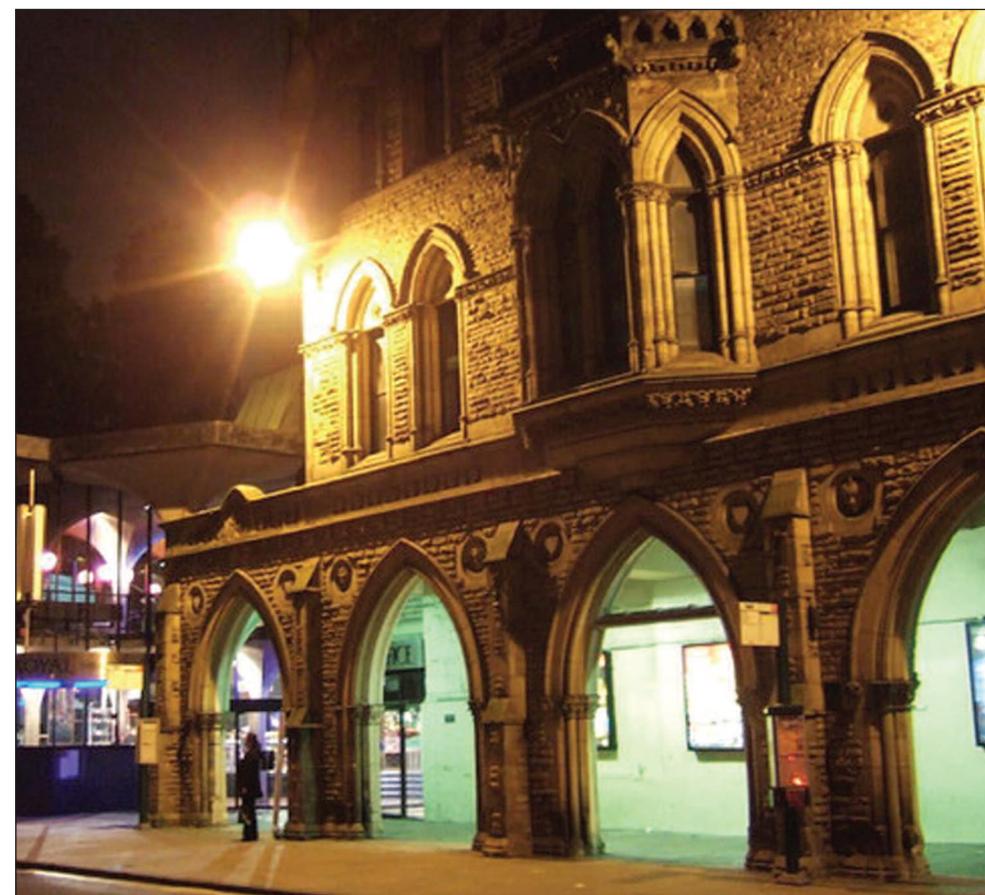
nating aspect of their work is a film about a young Bengali boy meeting a kindly extra-terrestrial being. They unite scenes in contemporary British London with authentic Hollywood and Indian films.

Another artist worthy of note is Cornelia Parker, who has created a work commenting directly on the arts and culture cuts. She has produced a photo montage of Antony Gormley's "Angel of the North" with its left wing severed, symbolizing the expected 40% cuts to blight the culture budget. She is part of a group named 'Save the Artists' that has written a letter and petition to the new Minister for Culture imploring him not to slash funds. The group has enlisted high profile names such as Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley, Damien Hirst and David Hockney.

As we welcome a new academic year, I am conscious of all the people who have graduated from Fine Art degrees and are about to bear the brunt of the blustering economic climate. Let us hope that the cuts are not too devastating, and Britain can maintain her cultural climate that is one of the best in the world.

## Arts in depth.

# Mia de Graaf talks to York Theatre Royal's artistic director, Damian Cruden, about where theatre stands in a world of videolinks and broadcasts.



Theatre is in a peculiar position at this given moment in time. For a start, there are stripped funds on all fronts, and the stage is being hit hard. Already such schemes as 'A Night Less Ordinary', providing theatre tickets to young people, has an end date of March 2011, and much more of the blow is still to come, threatening to make theatre ever more inaccessible.

Beyond economic issues, there also remains the more permanent effect of film and recording: television, cinema, and the internet can provide instant, cheap or free broadcasts of plays. Live performances are therefore left in a shaky position.

York Theatre Royal is tackling both issues head on with a rehearsed reading of 'King Lear' that was recorded live in front of an audience on their main stage. The performance served to raise money for their

Access for All charity, widening accessibility by installing disabled access into the rehearsal rooms. Equally, the venture combining media meant that they are not getting left behind by society's increased attachment to broadcast drama.

Damian Cruden, artistic director of York Theatre Royal maintains, "it's about being appropriate. There are so many platforms now to listen to and watch material on, but I think stage struggles to be a television broadcast because it's not been made for that; it's hard for that to feel compelling."

"The platforms are great for letting people know that something is happening, so it's great as an advertising media. They're also great to have a discussion with your audience. Here, we do Q&A after performances, and obviously we can't have one after every performance, so if people can't make a cer-

tain one we do it as a live Skype, so you can tune in and listen to it."

It's something they haven't tried before though: "Not in my time here anyway. What we do here is that every show is transmitted live to hospital radio."

For Cruden, despite ever advancing technology, broadcast media and theatre are not interchangeable, or directly related. It is something that must be creatively manoeuvred. "When I direct a play, I don't direct it for camera. You do it differently and you perform it differently."

"Also, I think people's expectations of the television media has a lot to do with wanting to watch a sense of naturalism. So it's not about an imaginative engagement in terms of reconstructing the environment of the narrative, which of course theatre asks you to do, and in some way, shape, or form you have to imagine what was there."

"There is something about the ability for people to edit things out and get out all the mistakes and so on and make it clean and tidy, that makes it a more managed process, which you can't do when you're live."

"The work becomes more managed and more refined I suppose, but in many ways that takes away from the pleasure that we get out of watching a live performance which is that you know it's a unique moment in time that you are engaged with and once it's gone, it's gone. It's not something that you get again. And also that you have a participatory role inside that process, in making it happen, that makes it very different from watching something on TV."

Consequently, Cruden is dubious on the topic of the National Theatre's NT Live broadcasts, and thinks hard before resolving, "well, it's not as good fun as going, because it feels more like a documentation of something rather than actually what it's meant to be."

"The danger as well, if we go down that route, ultimately is that a company like the National should actually be in the regions, not just think that it's doing its job by broadcasting to them. I think there is a danger that it dilutes the nature of what live performance ought to be and what people get out of it, to being a screened performance of something."

Utilising technology in a different way, Cruden became involved in the King Lear

project engineered by actors Freddie Jones and George Costigan, and BBC Drama Director Polly Thomas.

The performance was not, in fact, systematically planned. "George Costigan had been working with Freddie Jones on Emmerdale and they'd had conversations about parts they'd played, parts they would like to play, and the idea came from there. I said "why don't you record at the York Theatre Royal, live, in front of a live audience, and whilst were doing it we can make some funds for the De Grey rooms [a space containing a ballroom, cocktail bar and oak-room] and the disabled access into the ballroom." Everybody was very keen to come do that. All the actors are here free of charge, and it's also a celebration of Freddie's acting career. For any actor it's the part, you ask anybody, not even Prospero. Lear. And Freddie Jones is perfect for it, absolutely perfect for it."

"People will be watching it like a radio recording, which people used to do all the time, go and watch recordings of radio dramas and radio shows. People do still do it: the National's broadcasts are live, and BBC Radio 4, and some Radio 3 shows."

"It's not as prolific as it once was, there used to be a lot more spoken radio shows that were recorded live - all these comedy or sitcom shows - because that's what most people listened to. It was terribly popular."

He is optimistic, however, about the reception. "It'll be interesting to see what people make of a reading of it, but I do think that it's such a potent piece of text that you will get something out of it."

"It's interesting, the relationship between aurally recorded work and theatre is quite close in a lot of ways, so there is a possibility that there is another string to our bow, as it were, and we can collaborate with people that make radio, or broadcast for the internet as well."

"And Shakespeare is a really interesting one. If you see a recorded stage version it's not as good, but when you see it, it's turned into a different life."

Though spontaneously planned, it fits the bill of "being appropriate" between the old and the new: a classic Shakespeare, recorded live, to fund wider accessibility in the future.

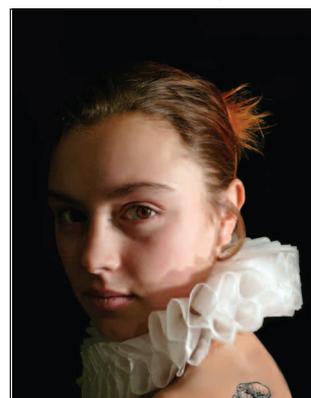
## Up and coming events

### One Flea Spare

"On the last day of their quarantine, a wealthy couple's house is invaded by two strangers - a sailor and a girl who might not be what she seems. And so another month of quarantine begins." Or so the synopsis of Naomi Wallace's play 'One Flea Spare' says, which starts at York Theatre Royal this month. Presented by Red Dog Theatre Company, the play, set during the Black Plague, begins with William and Darcy Snelgrave. This well to do couple find themselves trapped in their own home with two very questionable strangers. Held captive under the watchful eye of Guardsman Kabe, the performance follows this

motley crew of four through their month-long incarceration. Described as both an installation art piece and a performance piece, this is a must-see.

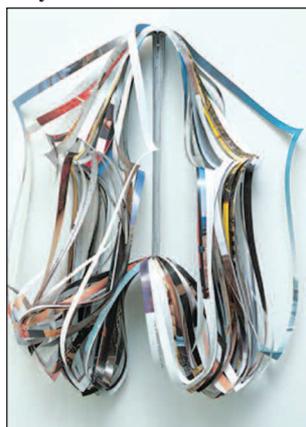
'One Flea Spare' runs between 21 and 22 October at York Theatre Royal, with



student tickets priced at £7. Undone is a new exhibition

### Undone

of sculpture by some of the world's leading contemporary artists and concerned



with the 'threshold between the made and unmade'.

Just a twenty minute train ride away, at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, the exhibition showcases hand-crafted works made using back to basics techniques and features several artists represented by art world giant Sadie Cole.

Other big names include Tom Friedman, Jim Lambie and Eva Rothschild whose suspended sculpture Ashes from 2009, hangs from the ceiling like an exposed and ephemeral system of roots.

Admission to Undone at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds is FREE until 2 January.

This month, Swiss couple

### The Fabric Works

Iwan and Manuela Wirth launch a brand new space on London's stylish Saville Row.

Opening with a show of fabric works by legendary artist Louise Bourgeois, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Curated by Germano Celant, 'The Fabric Works' is the first solo show of Bourgeois' work to open since her death, contributing to extensive existing discourse concerning the material aspects of her practise.

On display are over seventy fabric drawings made between 2002 and 2008, as well as four large-scale sculptures. The exhibition will travel from the

Fondazione Vedova, Venice to London for 15th October. Louise Bourgeois: The Fabric Works runs until 18 December 2010 at Hauser & Wirth, Saville Row, London.



From left: One flea spare press, courtesy of York Theatre Royal. A magazine by Angus Fairhurst. Courtesy Sadie Coles HQ.

# Music.

**Adam Bychawski** returns to York's music scene after summer to find it's all changed.

If you've just turned up to York, good timing, because the York music scene is going through something of a golden age.

Now, let's be clear: this isn't like London circa 1977 or Detroit circa 1982, our feeble recent music exports are limited to One Night Only and Hijack Oscar, so don't phone up your mates in Leeds and London boasting about our musical revolution just yet. Still, the variety of music venues and quality of music promoters in York is something to be rather chuffed about circa 2010.

So what exactly is happening in Jorvik that makes now so exciting? Well, foremost the University itself is going through a revival in its previously neglected role as a music venue. I kid you not, Jimmy Hendrix and Paul McCartney have played here; one of those Freshers' rumours that you remain in sceptical denial about until being reassured by a Googling.

While Central Hall isn't going to be hosting the next leg of Lady Gaga's tour any time soon, in the past year indie-folk pansies Stornoway played a hugely successful gig in Derwent, as well as Chase & Status and Audio Bullys.

The University also hosts an annual music festival, 'Woodstock', in the summer term, with a large stage on the ironically named Vanburgh Paradise featuring a variety of live bands.

For the time being there is 'The Big Bang', a newly organised YUSU event as an alternative to Fresher's Ball, featuring both Marina & the Diamonds and The Sunshine Underground performing in the University.

Outside of the University, there are a surprising number of venues in town. In the past year particularly, there have been some new developments. Stereo recently re-opened its doors in Gillygate near the Minster, having previously been a number of live venues.

In the space of a year a number of great bands have made appearances



**Above:** Fibbers is one of the most popular gig venues in York

including Times New Viking, Grammatics, Yuck and Glasvegas. This has been largely down to the work of tireless promoter Joe Coates who goes by the name 'Please Please You' and has been putting on shows in York since 2005.

Of course, 'Please Please You' is not the only name you will become quickly accustomed to in York's music scene. There are many promoters filing York with a near constant stream of bands, including 'Giddy Equations', 'Ducked Tapes', 'Hessian' and 'Mr H' to list a few.

Stereo isn't the only venue to undergo a revival this year. Long-running venue Fibbers (one of two in venues in close proximity to each other on Stonebow, the other being the Duchess) was recently sold from owners Barfly

Clubs to Tokyo Industries.

As a result, the venue has undergone refurbishment over the summer and it is far from a 'Changing Rooms'-inspired make-under. Its interiors have been entirely torn down and a modern, larger and louder venue has emerged from its lovely but cosy beginnings. Will Sage, Fibbers' in-house promoter, has already had Two Door Cinema Club, Oceansize, Kano, Sky Larkin and British Sea Power play the club since it re-opened last month.

Not only has York gotten bigger in terms of venues, it has also has a wider variety of acts performing.

Both Fibbers and The Hub (aka Ziggy's) are host to York's electro, house and dubstep night, 'Idioteque' which has had brought some of dubstep's ris-

ing stars to York such as L-Vis 1990, Ikonika and Joy Orbison. Folk has also become a popular scene in York with the third installment of the Basement Folk/Acoustic Extravaganza this October.

Hidden underneath York Picturehouse Cinema, the Basement is York's smallest and one of its most active venues. Its popularity comes from hosting a variety of acts, both local and well known, in its intimate surroundings - such as Hot Club de Paris, Dinosaur Pile-Up and Malcolm Middleton.

Much larger in size is the York Grand Opera House, which also hosts its share of folk and classical music, such as Laura Marling and the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. It also has a few cringe-worthy acts performing this term, such as Jedward and Abba Mania, which I recommend for the lulz.

If tribute bands are your thing then you might want to investigate the Duchess, one of York's biggest venues, situated above Fibbers. The Duchess has had its fair share of impersonators such as Kings Ov Leon (note the misspelling), Tragedy (an "all metal tribute to the Bee Gees") and Hotter Than Hell (a Kiss tribute band).

But do not mistake the Duchess with a local pub that occasionally hosts a band or two. It has had a number of contemporary acts in the past year such as Frightened Rabbit, Everything Everything, Darwin Deez and Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster to name a few. Earlier this year the Duchess also hosted part of DV8, one of the biggest goth music festivals in the U.K.

With all the venues and promoters in York's music scene, there is enough to avoid taking too many trips to bigger cities.

Also, there is certainly a particular sort of charm to having a band that by all means should have skipped us over, playing a packed out tiny venue to a music-hungry crowd.

## Future Sounds

Another term, another reconnaissance mission to the newest beats on the block. If you're new to *Nouse*, this is where we sniff out bands who only have self-released 7"s to their name in an attempt to make ourselves look prescient should any of them get big.

This time around, I've been looking for dream pop shenanigans, having just come off a tranquil Cocteau Twins bender. With Beach House and School of Seven Bells currently riding the waves of cool, the market for ethereal synths, cooing angel voices and wobbly dub bass is becoming rather over-saturated so let's pick out a few groups who aren't just faces in the crowd.

Firstly, **Sleep ∞ Over** have a perfect dream-pop name - soporific, teenage and containing the infinity symbol slap bang in the middle. Their song 'Outer Limits' is the kind of record I'd take up with me if I won a ticket on Richard Branson's shuttle to the stars, provided turntable needles work in zero gravity. There's a definite Liz Fraser/Julee Cruise touch to the vocals and the overall effect upon listening is that you're

floating in a warm bubble. Foetal. A warning though - you'll keep listening to this song on repeat like a happy zombie after you've heard it a few times. Get the 7" on Forest Family. Elsewhere, tunes go from gorgeous drifting cloudlike sounds that will send you spiralling off into the cosmos to scarier distorted nightmare tracks, so don't get too comfortable.

**Dirty Beaches** of Canada twin early Suicide demo vibes with baleful seaside sadness; perfect for summer's end. 'True Blue' is a dusky acoustic number which makes me feel like Bobby Vinton has fallen in love with me, died, possessed a childhood tape recorder in my room, and is now attempting to seduce me through song. Try to track down the 7" on Zoo Music - it's sold out but that just makes the chase more fun. As well as several burnt out semi-acoustic numbers, a spookadelic cover of The Stooges' 'No Fun' proves the project to be a genuine claimant to the throne of Alan Vega and Martin Rev. If M.I.A.'s sampling of the synth-punk legends has left a sour taste in your mouth, the Beaches may well sweeten you up. If you

can't get hold of a release, play a thoroughly worn-out copy of Springsteen's 'Nebraska' and drop a tab of blue sunshine. It will sound the same.

**oOoOO** have a pretty poor moniker. Like some sort of noise a camp ghost would make. Their MySpace resembles a faux-goth fashion blog but the tunes are great, in the same black vein as much feted witch-house ghouls Salem and White Ring but prettier. While 80s synths echo about and there's generally a luxuriant, velvety quality to their palette, every now and then they'll take you by surprise with a horror movie sound effect or overdriven guitar burst. Overall, dubstep rhythms collide with glittering electronics, contemporary R&B effects and distant, wraithlike vocal emanations in a haunting, but soothing way. While everything about them screams 'internet', they do feel refreshingly shiny and new. There's a single on iTunes, a couple of tracks on Spotify, and a CDR from Disaro Records - spin it for the perfect spooky/sexy Halloween.

Tom Killingbeck



**Above:** oOoOO

# Last of the Gang to Die

## The Jim Jones Revue are intent on damning Tom Killingbeck's soul with rock & roll.

Last year was a black spot on the history of wild garage rock & roll. Not content with simply taking beloved, brontosaurus-subtle Stooges guitarist Ron Asheton from us, the gods also wiped The Cramps' leather-trousered saint of sleaze Lux Interior and The Birthday Party's elfin six-stringer Rowland S. Howard from the face of the planet. Perhaps this was vengeance on account of the sorry state of garage rock itself, jaded 'revival' groups and mumbling bedroom-indie rockers becoming the flagship bands of a genre that used to make people feel like they'd had a faulty mains line stuffed up their rectum.

Thankfully, London has finally coughed up a band that can more than ably fill the steel-toed winklepickers of the aforementioned. The Jim Jones Revue were borne of a clubnight that friends James Jones (wildman howler with Thee Hypnotics and Black Moses) and Rupert Orton (brother of 'folktronica' darling Beth) collaborated to create; aptly named 'Not The Same Old Blues Crap'. Billing fiery new bands such as Soledad Brothers and Jon Spencer's Heavy Trash, as well as cast-iron legends like T-Model Ford, it wasn't long before the two were itching to get on the stage themselves.

"When Jim's band split up we decided we'd get together and see how things turned out. And it worked out really well," explains



Rupert. "We knew each other very vaguely," adds Jim, "and usually it takes a little while to figure out where your strengths and weaknesses are and what's your common ground, but with this group it was different. It clicked trying that Little Richard number 'Hey Hey Hey Hey' which was one of the songs I had in mind when I first had the vision of the band, a rock & roll song with an astonishing element of punk to it. We were wondering to ourselves, can we do this? When we tried it, it was almost like unlocking a door. I made a tape of the rehearsal and gave it to a friend

who runs a club in East London. He said, "You've got to come down and play next Saturday" – but we'd only just got together. In the end, we decided to do it anyway and it was great, the place was full. And the first real revelation of playing live was, wow, girls are dancing! It wasn't just geezers headbanging down the front."

Even at this early stage, it was clear that the music the Jim Jones Revue play doesn't inspire bobbing, or moshing, or standing at the back, arms folded and nodding. It inspires full-blooded, heart-in-mouth jiving, shimmying and

twisting, to an extent where the only logical conclusion is to stamp right through the floor. It's a straight-up, no-frills rock & roll sound, gloriously buoyed by frantic honky-tonk piano, with dollops of MC5-style licks and a sneering NYC punk vibe. As Jim attests, "people get it immediately; you don't need any esoteric references", and it's this immediacy that has led the band on an endless tour, through a host of summer festivals and even an appearance on keyboard-goblin Jools Holland's show. "We're playing pretty much every night," admits Jim, with an air of

pride and not a hint of exhaustion. "You have to put a lot of blood and guts in to it if you want to get a blood and guts sound out of it."

New LP 'Burning Your House Down' builds on the strength of their first record, still raw and dirty but with added firepower on the production side from Bad Seed Jim Sclavunos. It conjures that 1956 raw power; sparking off in a magnificently unevolved manner and somehow making Jerry Lee Lewis look like Dido. It's no wonder that everyone from Jack White to Liam Gallagher is currently getting moist for their electric stomp; I guess we were all waiting for a band weaned on the White Stripes to come and blow the apathy and irony from the East London scene, but in the end it took a bunch of veterans to do the job.

The Jim Jones Revue will knock years off your life from the first shot of their gunslinging 12-bar blues, yet their guitarist is antiquated enough to have witnessed The Gun Club in the 80s. Seeing men almost twice their age laying waste to venues up and down the country every night with Springsteenian stamina must put the shits up any youngsters hoping for half a chance at rock & roll infamy. This band have all sold their souls at the crossroads. As Rupert concludes, "I wouldn't say we're on a mission to blow everyone else out of the water. But if that happens sometimes, it happens."

## Reviews



ARTIST: KAREN ELSON  
DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER  
VENUE: BUSH HALL, LONDON  
REVIEW: MIA DE GRAAF



Bent down so that her bright red hair covered her face, Karen Elson giggled to the waiting crowd: "Sorry, bear with me! I have to tune my guitar ..." She shyly plays a chord for the audience to approve and when they scream, woop and applaud, she sinks back into giggles.

Jack White's supermodel wife looks very picturesque up there on the stage of a former ballroom, in a little-house-on-the-prairie style dress, backed by a similarly-dressed bass player, and four trilby and suit clad band members. However, high expectations were not for the visuals, but for her to match the pretty high bar husband Jack has set musically. And she doesn't disappoint.

The songs have an authentic vintage feel, as opposed to the slightly pretentious vintage vogue of indie music currently. It harks back to old American country folk style of Hank Williams, and track 'A Hundred Years from Now' even has an Edith Piaf feel to it. Elson

is not afraid to belt, and her efforts slam any ideas of this being a half-hearted attempt at a different field.

Her debut album, *The Ghost Who Walks*, is based on her experiences of growing up in the small "grey" town of Oldham, Manchester, before flying high into supermodel-dome. Strangely enough, the topic fits in well with the raw essence of country music a la Johnny Cash, and pushes a modern twist into the style.

The audience, albeit small, fill out the cosy Bush Hall, and unanimously engage in the atmosphere of the performance, be it a raucous or a solemn song, or a recalling of a joke her daughter told her. With no roadies the gig was stripped down to a much more informal performance that fit the setting and music perfectly. Whilst her range is far-stretched and it may be interesting to see how her music and performances develop over time, this debut was impressive and original.



ARTIST: DAN DEACON  
DATE: 16 SEPTEMBER  
VENUE: FABRIC, LONDON  
REVIEW: ADAM BYCHAWSKI



Dan Deacon's live show is the stuff of internet legend. As such, nearly everyone gathered in Fabric for his latest London tour date has some idea of what to expect. Having been rescheduled from new club XOYO, the gig was moved to one of London prime nightclubs. For many acts the change would be unwelcome, but with Dan Deacon's Baltimore-club inspired sound, the basement of Fabric is a somewhat appropriate stage.

Not that you'll find Dan Deacon spending much time on one, as he eschews the stage for a spot in the middle of the crowd; only visible by a flashing Halloween skull propped on a pike. There is no other way to make him out, apart from a set of cheesy disco traffic lights that have no particular relevance to the music. What Dan Deacon lacks in visual stage presence though, he makes up for by frequently pausing to address the crowd. Often his remarks are

pretty funny, but more often than not he is having to repeat the instructions for the many crowd-participation moments or warn us that his personal space is about to be infringed. Still, organisation is a necessary-evil to having a dance showdown, or a dance move Simon-says, or forming a chain of human arches that runs through the entire basement.

With all the crowd-controlling, Deacon becomes reminiscent of a primary school disco DJ. Somehow all the party games are admittedly fun, but a bit of a chore. It is hard to shake the feeling that Deacon has done this too many times before and better. Most disappointing is that the music is often a hollow representation of the records. Without his live ensemble, the multi-instrumental vastness of Bromst is replaced by flat techno. Nevertheless, there are few performers who can work a crowd to a sweaty, inhibition-lost, euphoric mess quite like Dan Deacon can.

## Nouse Playlist

**Fresher's List**  
*Estella Adeyeri*

So you've unpacked, had your first of many "down it fresher" moments, and maybe even managed to work out where Halifax is. These tunes should provide the perfect soundtrack to your continuing Freshers' inauguration.

**Screaming Females - 'A New Kid'**  
Calm those newbie nerves to the sounds of raucous garage-punk.

**Capdown - 'Kained But Able'**  
Honestly, mastering this state will be the key to your survival ...

**Example - 'Sick Note'**  
... but for those who can't, get chummy with online self-certification of illness – effectively your 'Get Out Of Jail Free' card for that post-Ziggy's 9.15 seminar.

**Phoenix - 'Long Distance Call'**  
This one's for when you drunk dial your friends from back home at stupid o'clock trying to explain why the Willow is such a magical place.

**Chromeo - 'I'm Not Contagious'**  
Be prepared for the inevitability of freshers' flu and a corresponding Lemsip dependency.

# FILM.

## Michael Allard

After *I'm Still Here*, where can satires of Hollywood go next?



In 2008, with a grizzly beard and a noticeably growing belly, actor Joaquin Phoenix announced that he'd be retiring from acting to pursue a career in hip-hop. His brother-in-law, fellow actor Casey Affleck, would document the career move and Phoenix's life at home. The result is *I'm Still Here*, in which the coke-snorting star becomes isolated from his friends and career, writing terrible music whilst the media points and laughs at his apparent weirdness.

After seeing the film, I was surprised by reviews I had started to read that still weren't sure whether or not the whole thing was a hoax. For sure, part of the movie's success lies in how its stunts prompted a cruel response in some quarters, and the argument that it must be a hoax in others - a belief the film shows Phoenix responding to with astonishment. But his perfect timing during public appearances, the unashamedly parodic rap lyrics, and the outrageously drawn out final shot and closing music are moments of blatant satire.

Overall, the film lost money at the box office. This could be put down to weaknesses of its promotion, or problems in an experiment whose outcome depended on public reactions (the name of Affleck's production company - They Are Going To Kill Us Productions - suggests that the filmmakers knew they were taking a risk). But this failure could also signal something else.

*I'm Still Here* stars a huge number of celebrities, and was made during a time when stars were appearing week after week on TV series like *Entourage* and *30 Rock*, where writers cleverly provide them with roles that draw attention to and play with the public image of the person in question. Hollywood and its heroes are more willing than ever to send themselves up, but the unpopularity of *I'm Still Here* bears witness to the novelty factor that underlies the modern American celebrity cameo. One of the film's less interesting appearances is from Ben Stiller: the numerous riffs he's done on American celebrity culture - when directing *Zoolander* or *Tropic Thunder* and appearing on *Extras* or *Curb Your Enthusiasm* - mean that the only persona he's now satirising is that of a satirist.

Phoenix's performance has been bold and exciting, but despite it being the logical extreme of a popular trend, most audiences either didn't care or didn't get it. A few months before *I'm Still Here's* release, Tom Cruise announced that he was making a full-length film about Les Grossman, the despicable movie producer he plays in *Tropic Thunder*. Funny as his performance may have been, the film will struggle to match *I'm Still Here's* irony, self-consciousness or daring. Cruise's best career choice wasn't starring in a Ben Stiller film; it was starring in *Eyes Wide Shut* and *Magnolia*, films made with seriousness that turns the personal lives of their stars into footnotes. It's by acting well and promoting interesting filmmaking that a movie star earns respect. Phoenix has done that; now, he better stay away from choosing any role that later requires him to do an apologetic TV cameo.

FILM: MADE IN DAGENHAM

DIRECTOR: NIGEL COLE

STARRING: SALLY HAWKINS, MIRANDA RICHARDSON

REVIEW: LAURA COLEMAN

RUNTIME: 113 MINS



40 years on from the passing of the Equal Pay Act, a film has been made that continues the Act's tradition not of feminism, but of egalitarianism. *Made in Dagenham* is directed by Nigel Cole; with 2003's *Calendar Girls* under his belt, Cole's reputation for serious and credible films about women's causes has already been firmly established. But serious and credible are adjectives that could be just as deservedly applied to Cole's latest release; indeed, anyone expecting the film to be nothing more than a montage of bold and bright outfits set to an inane Swinging Sixties soundtrack will find they could not have been more mistaken.

Sally Hawkins takes the lead as Rita O'Grady, a modest yet assertive machinist at the Ford factory in Dagenham, where she heads the 1968 strikes that are to pave the way for equal pay. Hawkins carries the role of reluctant frontwoman with a fitting amount of retiring grace, even if the perpetual tearful tremor in her voice does feel a tad artificial at times. Miranda Richardson and Bob Hoskins

provide her with reliable support; Rosamund Pike, however, is possibly the film's true star. Having recently played the role of a glamorous domestic goddess in another Sixties-era film, 2009's *An Education*, Pike's role here could be said to fit much the same description. Despite this, the actress brings a gravitas and a subversive humour to a part that marks an utter departure from her more airheaded performance in *An Education*, testifying to her versatility.

One element of the film that can arguably be criticised more than any other is not the film itself, but its trailers and advertising. The official trailer appears to present a raucous comedy which will take a landmark political event and use it merely as a starting point for what will essentially be a run-of-the-mill, lighthearted chick flick. The reality, however, could not be more different: a drama rather than a comedy, the film has genuine multi-dimensional depth of plot, character and politico-historical context. More surprising still, in light of the trailer, it is by no means a film exclusively



for - or even about - women. The lives of working class 1960s men are explored with as much sympathy and sensitivity as those of their wives.

What this shows is that despite the misleading nature of the film's publicity, where *Made in Dagenham* really excels is not so much in its portrayal of burgeoning feminism as in its unbiased portrayal of every side in the dispute, an egalitarianism of scripting and direction which parallels that of the subject matter. The male roles are just as

carefully cast as the female, with the Ford henchmen as subtly threatened as the female machinists are subtly threatening. The overall effect is one of balance. Private and public dilemmas, the demands of family and professional life, the vibe of the present alongside the relevance of the past - all are given equal weight and equal credence, avoiding contentious ideological territory and concentrating on the pragmatism of what Rita calls "things as they should be".

FILM: THE SECRET OF KELLS

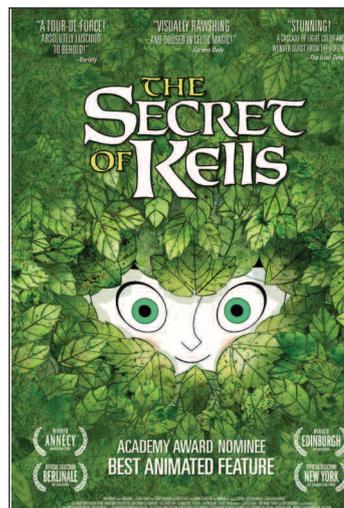
DIRECTORS: TOMM MOORE,

NORA TWOMEY

STARRING: BRENDAN GLEESON

RUNTIME: 75 MINS

REVIEW: TABI JOY



*The Secret of Kells* is an entirely untypical specimen of a children's film. Two trailers that played just before the film perfectly emphasised this: both were computer-animated, featured big stars, and were about super-villains. I was less offended by their unoriginality than delighted by a film that demonstrated their superficiality.

The film follows Brendan, a young monk who obediently follows the wishes of his uncle, the Abbot of Kells, in building a gigantic wall around their home to fend off marauding Vikings. His allegiances change, however, when a new monk named Aidan arrives from the island of Iona with only his white cat and a mysterious book. Soon Brendan is venturing beyond the high walls of Kells to assist his new friend in making a new page in the book.

Visually, the film is astounding. It begins with a stylised representation of buildings, people and trees, but when focusing on

the illuminated texts of Aidan's book, a deeper level of detail appears. The effect appears when the mundane is transcended; the Abbot's laborious diagrams of his wall become beautiful patterns that fill the whole screen, while in the fairy Aisling's forest there are Celtic symbols etched upon the trees. *The Secret of Kells* blends various mythologies, including many in-jokes of ancient Irish culture, but is comprehensible to anyone without prior background knowledge. It doesn't try to communicate an underhanded message for children to live by; all it offers is a new, unforced and brilliant perspective on ancient pastimes, and themes of man and nature, illumination and storytelling.

FILM: ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN (1976)

DIRECTOR: ALAN J. PAKULA

STARRING: ROBERT REDFORD

RUNTIME: 138 MINS

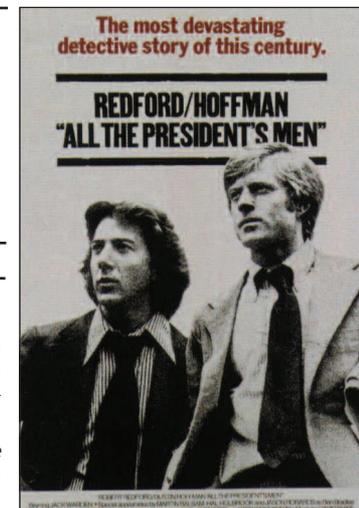
REVIEW: LEV HARRIS



A 1976 film based on the 1974 non-fiction book of the same name by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein (who are here played by Robert Redford and a simply brilliant Dustin Hoffman), *All the President's Men* is a personal account of two journalists investigating the infamous Watergate scandal for *The Washington Post*. Though ostensibly a political thriller with roots in the detective genre, *All the President's Men* is excitingly and urgently transcends the tiresome and monotonous process of information gathering through taut and unfussy direction by Alan J. Pakula.

The best scenes are in the office, with both men working frantically on the phone, trying to follow all possible leads that will drag their story from the inner pages of the newspaper onto the front page headline above the fold.

Thanks to the realism of the office dialogue, filled with detail and jargon-diluted journalist talk (sometimes near-impossible to



follow) and helped by an Oscar-winning performance from Jason Robards as executive editor Ben Bradlee, this sharp observation becomes increasingly compelling as the plot unfolds.

It is a compliment to Pakula's efficient and assured approach that despite the fact we know the general outcome of its events, the film remains no less intriguing as a result of it. *All the President's Men* is an intelligent, poignant statement; a fascinating time capsule of the cut-throat nature of reporting 30 years ago, and the story of how a newspaper stubbornly stood toe-to-toe with the White House in the search for the truth behind what would become probably the biggest political scandal of the century.

# Food & Drink.

## Parents →

The Biltmore Bar and Grill,  
29 Swinegate,  
York,  
YO1 8AZ  
Tel No: 01904 610075

This is a sophisticated restaurant situated in the heart of York. Their sharing platter (a selection of breads, charcuterie and dips) is a great alternative to the traditional starter. The main courses are wide ranging and the food is cooked to perfection. The confit of duck with colcannon mash and a red wine was superb. The portion sizes are ample, but make sure you leave enough room for the desserts which are freshly made everyday by the Biltmore's own patisserie chef. For those chocolate lovers, the chocolate brownie comes highly recommended - crème de la crème. The wine and champagne selection at the Biltmore are the best that we have come across at any restaurant in York. Although not cheap, with a bottle of the house white wine at £15 and champagne ranging from £39 - £300, it would be a shame to miss out on such good quality wine. It is a family treat, remember.



## Date →

Rustique  
28 Castlegate,  
York,  
YO1 9RP  
Tel No: 01904 612744



Although it might appear a little dingy, tucked away in Castlegate (near Clifford's tower) is an authentic French restaurant, where the atmosphere and quality of food are second to none. The rustic-looking, candle-lit tables are perfectly set for two and the character of the restaurant allows for the feeling of separation from the rest of the diners. The starters range from baked camembert or moules marinières to the slightly more adventurous d'escargots cooked in garlic and parsley butter. The range of main courses cater for meat lovers with venison steak or slow roasted leg of duck and for the vegetarians, with dishes such as Mediterranean vegetable risotto. They offer a weekday menu at a mere £11.95 for three courses and the crucial bottle of vino is of good quality and at a reasonable price.

## Friends →

Akbar's,  
6 - 8 George Hudson Street,  
York,  
YO1 6LP,  
Tel No.: 01904 679 888

Akbar's is the only Indian restaurant recommended in Yorkshire in the Good Food Guide. Whilst a poppadom will always be a poppadom, this place does have something different to offer. They do everything from old school specials, to the chef's specialities like the Makai Ka Sewat, a hot tomato and lamb dish for those brave enough. The speciality at Akbar's is the Balti, a one-pot with fried green peppers and fresh coriander which is highly recommended. There is of course, the Akbar Chef's challenge: if you can finish the chicken, lamb keema and potatoes which are cooked in the famous Akbar's balti sauce served with naan and pilau rice, the chef will give you a free dessert. At only £10.95, it's certainly student friendly. Akbar's is a must for any group of student. The combination of funky interior, friendly, staff, cheap prices, and top notch curries guarantee a cracking night out for all.



## Lash →

King's Arms  
Kings Staith,  
York,  
YO1 9SN  
08721 077 077

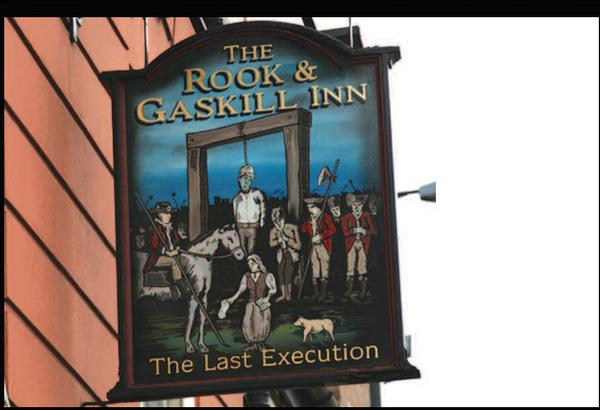


If you are a subscriber to the view that the best nights begin with an innocent pint, which morph into a cheeky session, and then become a full blown bank balance buster, there is nowhere better to start than the King's Arms. Situated by the river, it is one of many Samuel Smith pubs in York, but is the best of the lot. The stone surroundings inside the bar are necessary as the pub gets flooded regularly. If you manage to keep your feet dry, the Sovereign Bitter is currently selling at £1.47 a pint, one of the most competitive prices for good beer. If bitter doesn't float your boat then there is also the Taddy Lager and Cider Reserve, both excellent and sold for under £2. The riverside location is fantastic at sundown, and being just five minutes from Micklegate, two minutes from The Gallery and five minutes from the Duchess and Fibbers, there is nowhere better to enjoy a good session.

## Relax →

Rook and Gaskill,  
12 Lawrence St,  
York,  
YO10 3W,  
01904 674 067

It's a weekday night. You've watched *Peep Show* for the 178th time this term, but can't be bothered with the whole going out and nursing a hangover thing. Go to the Rook and Gaskill and taste some of the best beers ever to pass human lips. The Harvest Pale in particular, the Michael Schumacher of the beer trophy world, is truly wonderful. Alongside the British stuff, there's also a nice selection of continental brews including Erdinger and Veltins. It's a 15 minute walk from campus, and the clientele is really quite student-y, allowing a comfortable atmosphere for those of not quite in tune with the locals. You get plenty of beer for your buck at £2.40 for a Harvest Pale, but some of the premium lagers are quite steep. After a couple of drinks, you can amble home, satisfied with your two pint fuzziness, fully knowing you'll be up fresh and early for that 9.15. Yeah, right.



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Hannah  
Clugston

## Impressive improvements to the established nightlife in York

With York's music scene revamped for the new academic year, we've only got better nights out to look forward to in the future

Part of being a fresher is, more often than not, being able to explore a new city.

When I was an enthusiastic first year, I spent a lot of time getting to grips with what York had to offer, partly due to personal enjoyment and partly due to a desire to impress my friends from home with student style anecdotes. Either way, it's not hard to quickly build a checklist of why York is such a great place to live.

York is more than a beautiful city lined with historic shops, tearooms and high street stores overlooked by the glorious Minster. Aside from amusing ducks, we also have plenty of entertainment; with balls galore, we're never stuck for a dance at university. But, the one thing I was distinctly disappointed with was the lack of a music scene.

Obviously there is plenty of music to be heard around York, it blocks up our eardrums as we attempt to build friendships on the

dance floor. But there seemed to be a distinct silence on the stages of live music. Joyously though, I quickly discovered an endless stream of live bands coming to serenade York,

**"we'll soon be watching the real S Club 7 reunion"**

not just from Leeds.

Nearly all the student venues in town have got involved with hosting reams of live acts ranging from Kano to British Sea Power. Revolution's staging Westwood and Wylie, and Tokyo have booked almost half of the band formerly known as S Club 7.

It certainly appears that the better the venue, the more inclined bands are to frequent our bars and

stages. Fibbers has not only had an interior make over but also a line-up revamp. The listings are now recognisable and less likely to be confused with a groceries shopping list. At the end of the day, if there is nowhere suitable for bands to perform we are obviously going to miss out. Since both Fibbers and Tokyo have been transformed, we can anticipate better acts.

The student population can be seen as the instigators of these improvements. Our desire has meant events such as Big D have left students queuing for tickets as if it were a music festival.

Any sharp businessman would quickly jump at this opportunity to provide live music all year round. Better acts arriving this year will encourage bigger ones in the future.

Who knows, perhaps the old Barbican swimming pool will be transformed into an arena and we'll soon be watching the real S Club reunion.

Andy  
Cooper

## College sports welcome all

When I first arrived at university two years ago, my footballing ability was shamefully rusty. I hadn't played since I was about 13 or 14 but was keen to start playing again. At York, I found an arena to peddle what little talent I had without feeling embarrassed: College Football (specifically 3rds). At universities which do not have a collegiate system (the vast majority of them) the only place where students can get competitively involved in sports is by playing for their university against others. This can be an intimidating prospect if you haven't played football for a few years or don't rate

**"I found an arena to peddle what little talent I had"**

yourself. Here at York, regardless of your ability, there is a tier for you. College football is made up of three leagues that get progressively more competitive, from the 3rds through to 1sts. Beyond college football there are the university teams where the highest standard of football is played.

The 3rds level of football is what I am best acquainted with and I'd urge

anyone who is a little unsure of themselves to go to their college's try-outs in the first few weeks. Whilst it is taken a little less seriously than say 1sts or 2nds, it is by no means leisurely. The matches are, at times, battled out with passionate commitment and the four best 3rds teams make it through to the college cup in the final term. One of the most important things about 3rds football is the way commitment is rewarded by your college. If you can put the effort in to go to the training sessions and work hard on the pitch, there is always the chance that you will be promoted to the 2nds or 1sts. The 3rds teams act as feeders into the 2nds as do the 2nds into the 1sts. Many of the guys who now play for their 1sts teams began as 3rds players.

Football is perhaps a bad example due to its popularity; there aren't as many tiers in other sports, but the collegiate system works the same for them all. If you don't feel up to playing university level rugby then play for your college. If you are out of practice with a hockey stick go to your college's try outs. You'll find yourself more welcome than you'd previously imagined and probably getting some time on a pitch. To put the message as simply as it can be: get involved. Whether it be football, squash or volleyball - don't feel intimidated, there's a level for you to ply your trade at.

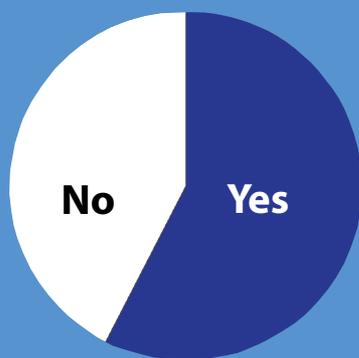
### The Burning Question:

This edition, *Nouse* performed a Freshers campus poll:

Was York your first choice university?

66 people voted, with the majority stating

**Yes**



38 people  
voted  
**Yes**

(57.5%)

28 people  
voted  
**No**

(42.5%)

To join the latest debate and read exclusive web content, go to [www.nouse.co.uk/comment](http://www.nouse.co.uk/comment)

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

Email [letters@nouse.co.uk](mailto:letters@nouse.co.uk) or write to:

*Nouse*, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

## Letters

### Economics Department productively inefficient

Dear *Nouse*,

I think it is absolutely despicable that the Economics department promised the students who were forced to suffer the atrocity that was the Macroeconomic and Microeconomic exams a "big announcement" on Tuesday/Wednesday of last week and failed to deliver.

Not only do students taking Economics have more work than most other degrees, we are also badly taught and have exams that are designed to see us fail.

Furthermore, we are constantly forced to deal with a department that is not only incompetent but also uncaring. My friend, upon approaching her tutor with concerns about the Micro course, was told that she shouldn't worry because it was so badly taught that it was often discounted when considering your overall degree category. This is ridiculous and unhelpful.

Students need more academic support from their department. It would seem that most of the Economics tutors are more concerned with perfecting their latest economic model (which will never work anyway) than doing their jobs. I fail to see why the University refuses to acknowledge this.

The Economics department must be reformed and held accountable for their actions. As students, we don't ask for much but we do expect them to fulfill on their promises.

Don't send out an email promising us hope and then snatch it away. Don't set exams that are so difficult that the average was a Third or a low 2.2. Don't hire professors who tell students they are too busy to deal with their menial concerns.

Thank you for your time,

**Angry, of Halifax College**

### Living in TV licence fear

Dear *Nouse*,

This letter is really just a warning to other students and some friendly advice to save them a bit of money. I always thought the TV licence laws were 'real'. Apparently, they're not. I've been living in fear of getting my door knocked down for about two weeks now, watching TV to my heart's content. This morning, I received a letter through my door from the TV licence 'people'.

I thought this meant they were on to me, and until just now, was worried about having to pay some sort of astronomical fine. I was wrong. The 'people' are not 'people'. It turns out, so my friend who lived without a licence for a year and was sent similar 'warnings' tells me, that they're empty threats.

The laws are not real - don't be fooled. Don't live in fear, it's all an expensive joke.

**Rachel, Second year**

### Reading lists are lies

Dear *Nouse*,

For those of us who actually come to university to study for a degree, it's extremely frustrating when the initial reading list which you were provided with turns out not actually to be the books you will need to read in your upcoming seminars.

I was put into one such situation over this summer, when I decided to get an academically proactive jump start on my reading. Yesterday, I logged onto the University website to check out who my seminar tutor was, only to behold that all of the reading were texts which were blending into obscurity.

My seminar tutor, it appears, is someone who likes to be so comprehensive, that it's simply not enough to study two works by a particular author...all of their 'lesser known' works must be covered within just two hours.

**Second year English literature student**

TIM NGWENA'S Twitter as seen by Ben Gascoyne

**Tim Ngwena:YUSU Prez**  
**@yusuprez** 53.945098,-1.052645  
*YUSU University of York Students' Union President:  
Follow me to get short updates on what I'm up to.  
http://yusu.org*

Following Message [dropdown] [settings]

Timeline Favorites Following Followers Lists

**yusuprez** Tim Ngwena:YUSU Prez  
got the freshmania already, going to get off my bonk and on the barry in orgasmic later!!! #hellyeah  
from York, York  
1 hour ago

**yusuprez** Tim Ngwena:YUSU Prez  
@marinasdiamonds Sweeeet!  
from York, York  
9 hours ago

**yusuprez** Tim Ngwena:YUSU Prez  
hey do you wanna play an event @marinasdiamonds  
from York, York  
9 hours ago

**yusuprez** Tim Ngwena:YUSU Prez

Similar to @yusuprez  
**lukemalkin** · Follow  
Luke Malkin  
**mjb504** · Follow  
Matt Burton

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“The exquisite art of idleness,  
one of the most important  
things University can teach.”

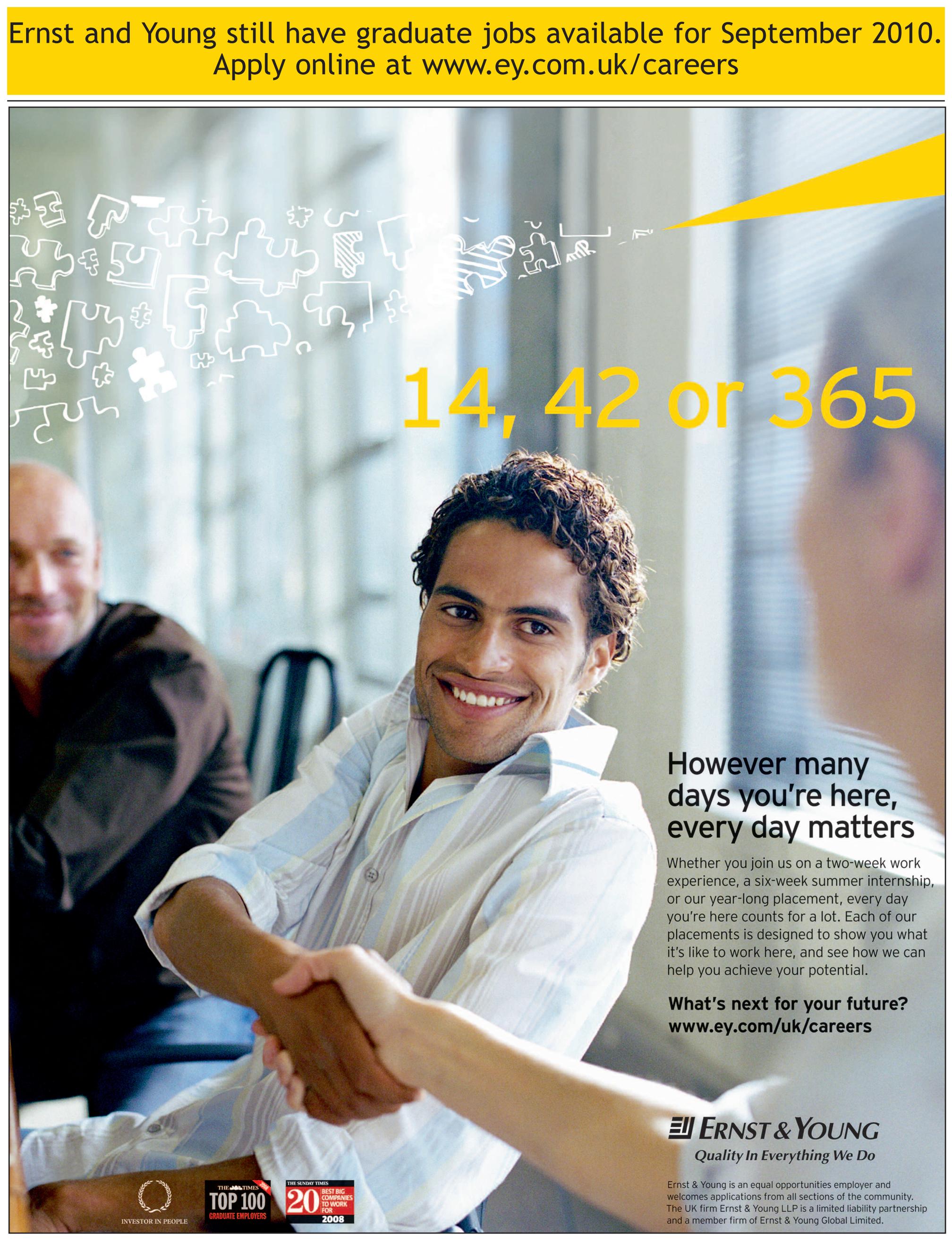
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Got something worth saying?  
Find us at Freshers' Fair, or our introductory  
meeting on Tuesday Week 2 at 5pm in P/X/001  
and pick up your free queue jump to Salvation.  
We look forward to meeting you!

NOUSE



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# GlobalFocus

## 1. LONDON, UK

Ed Miliband named his new Shadow Cabinet last week. Yvette Cooper, the most popular cabinet member in terms of votes, was given the role of Shadow Foreign Secretary. Alan Johnson beat the favourite Ed Balls to the role of Shadow Chancellor, whilst Balls was given the job of Shadow Home Secretary.

## 2. AJKA, HUNGARY

A vast flow of toxic sludge has leaked from an alumina plant in Hungary causing the government to declare a state of emergency. The flow has reached the river Danube, causing an international problem. So far, four people have died as a result of the caustic toxic flow.

## 3. PARIS, FRANCE

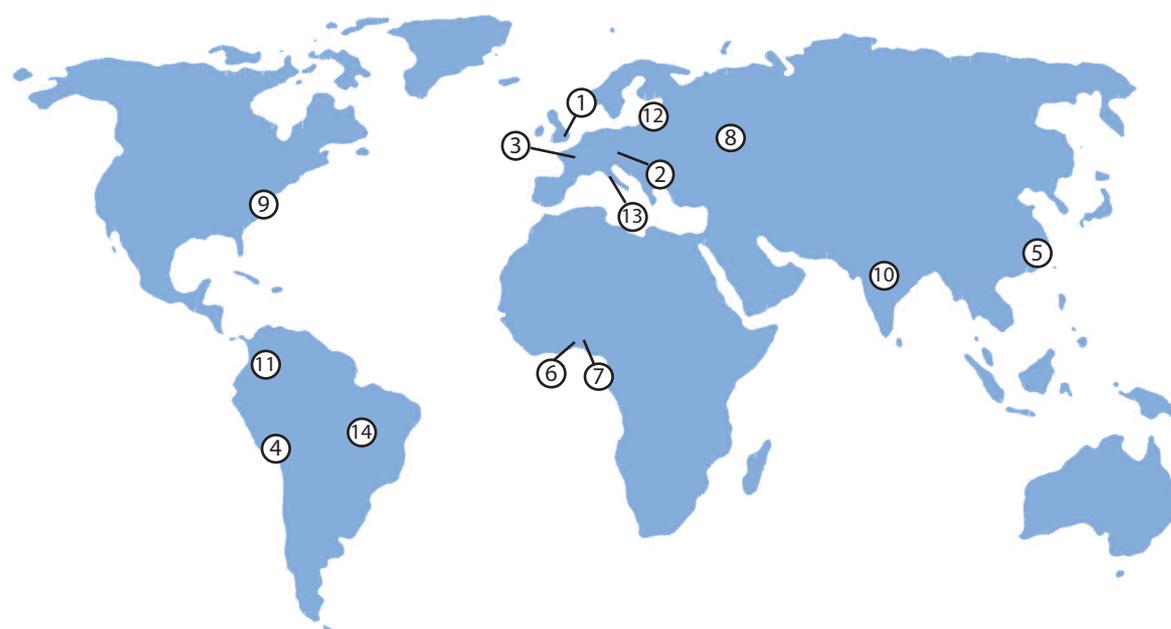
The Senate in France has voted for a rise in the retirement age from 60 to 62. The move is an attempt to lower the burden on public finances from state pension liabilities. Strikes have already been planned in protest. Critics have said that the rise did not go far enough and that another hike will be needed in future.

## 4. LIMA, PERU

The capital of Peru witnessed a historical moment recently when it elected its first ever female mayor. Susana Villaran is considered to be towards the left of the political spectrum, and scrapped to victory over her opponent Lourdes Flores.

## 5. BEIJING, CHINA

China has expressed its anger at the decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo. The



jailed dissident is seen by some as an inspiration in the pursuit for greater human rights, however the Chinese government claims that he is a criminal. Lui was pivotal in the Tiananmen Square protest of 1989. President Obama has urged the Chinese Government to release him from prison as soon as possible.

## 6. ABUJA, NIGERIA

Nigeria's celebrations over 50 years since its independence were spoiled when car bomb attacks killed 12 people and injured many more. The country is embroiled in both religious and ethnic conflicts that have been extremely violent in their nature.

## 7. ABUJA, NIGERIA

A former bank chief in Nigeria has been forced to hand-over a colossal \$1.2bn in assets and has been sentenced to six months imprisonment for fraud. This is a step in the right direction for a country that is notoriously rife with fraudulent activity and corruption. Corruption is also blamed for the state oil company going bankrupt.

## 8. MOSCOW, RUSSIA

The Kremlin has agreed to refund Iran for a deposit they placed on the order of air defence missiles. This comes after Russia cancelled the contracts as it breached UN sanctions. Iran claims that Russia is being submissive under pressure

from the US.

## 9. WASHINGTON DC, USA

The top security adviser to President Barack Obama, Gen James Jones, has resigned. The move was not unexpected, but still represents another big shift in staff at the White house. Larry Summer, Obama's top economics adviser, also quit recently. His replacement will be the lesser known Tom Donilon.

## 10. DELHI, INDIA

The opening ceremony of the commonwealth games started with as a success. This follows an embarrassing build up to the games for India over the state of facilities.

Suresh Kalmadi, chairman of the organising committee, claimed that he had done such a good job, that the London Olympics committee should give him a job.

## 11. BOGOTA, COLUMBIA

As Columbia's drug wars continue, the police claim to have made a significant breakthrough. Dozens of people were arrested in a series of raids. A drug-ring suspected of exporting tonnes of cocaine to the US was the target. The ring are thought to be linked to the Urabenos cartel.

## 12. RIGA, LATVIA

Latvia's incumbent government have been comfortably re-elected. This is despite the demise of the Latvian economy. The post-financial-crisis recession in Latvia has been far larger than any other European nation, and is predicted to continue for years.

## 13. ROME, ITALY

Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister, has landed himself in hot water following the release of a video tape in which he makes a joke about the Holocaust. The outspoken Italian PM said it was "just a laugh".

## 14. BRASILIA, BRAZIL

Brazil's Presidential election has become a run-off between Dilma Rousseff and Jose Serra. Rousseff is backed by the country's former President, Lula da Silva. The Green Party's strong performance has delayed a certain victory for Rousseff.

WWW.NOUSE.CO.UK/POLITICS

# Cuts and strikes: Europe's repetitive theme

Alexander Prowse  
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

THE wave of protests and industrial action across Europe is expected to continue as Government spending cuts are announced.

Individual workplaces to whole industries have seen staff walk out over disputes ranging from job cuts to pay freezes, as consumers and business continue to feel the pinch of the recession.

The financially unstable countries in Europe have seen frequent strikes by the large body of public sector workers, who are against Government austerity measures. Strikes and protests in Greece have been ongoing throughout this year, with the latest bringing capital Athens to a standstill. Prime Minister Berlusconi's plans in Italy, which include targeting public sector pensions, have caused sporadic protests across the country. Spain, having recently had its credit rating downgraded, had a nationwide general strike for the first time in



Recent strikes by underground staff caused commuter mayhem

eight years last month.

One of the largest anti-EU demonstrations ever occurred in Brussels on September 29, where tens of thousands of demonstrators descended on the EU headquarters. Police had to barricade the area.

No nationwide strikes have been planned in Britain, but individual business and industries have been targeted. British Airways' cabin crew workers walked out several times earlier this year, and the two recent strikes by the RMT on the London Underground have

caused controversy.

These tube strikes were severely criticised by London mayor Boris Johnson. He presented ideas for tougher strike laws against "these militants wrecking

**"One of the largest anti-EU demonstrations ever occurred in Brussels on the 29th September"**

lives", advocating a minimum 50 per cent participation in a strike ballot. The business lobby group CBI has also encouraged changes to the law over strikes.

Johnson grabbed headlines by stating that these strikes were political in nature, seen by him as "revenge for electoral defeats". Nevertheless strikes are illegitimate if motivated by political and not workplace issues.

The Trade Union Congress is backing six protests this month. In

addition, *The Times* highlighted the possibility of co-ordinated same day strikes by members of the RMT and Fire Brigades Union. Co-ordinated strike action would have a similar negative effect to Britain as those experienced by continental countries.

The economic outlook is gloomy. George Osborne's huge £83bn spending review is set to be unveiled on October 20. This comes at a time when the IMF has stated that more taxpayer support to finance markets is needed to ensure stability. Germany and Spain are set to be hit hardest by necessary financial refinancing of nearly £2.5trillion over the next two years.

Frequent strike action taken by workers and public protests will end up harming the economy. As a result, Governments across Europe are treading a very fine line between making sufficient cuts to stabilise the country in the long term, and maintaining support of the electorate through re-building confidence in the economy.

# So much for Miliband's 'New Generation'

TIME-4-CHANGE.ORG.UK

Tom Fisher

DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

LAST WEEK Ed Miliband made his first major decision after becoming Labour leader. The selection of the Shadow Cabinet naturally draws a lot of attention and pressure, and some are commenting that the new party leader folded under that pressure.

Both Ed Balls and Yvette Cooper were tipped to become Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Miliband surprised everybody with the selection of former Home Secretary Alan Johnson.

Both Balls and Cooper, who are also husband and wife, have economic credentials and seemed the most suited to the role. Did Miliband back out of making a tough choice between the two and opt for a safe third party?

The move to appoint Johnson could be perceived as a tactical selection to try and unite the party. However, the former postman and trade unionist seems to be even less qualified for the role of Chancellor than George Osborne. So, unite he may, but on matters actually related to the economy he may struggle to put Osborne under as much pressure as Balls or Cooper might have done. They have been given Shadow Home and Foreign Secretary respectively.

More important than the specific post of Shadow Chancellor, though, is the make up of the Shadow Cabinet overall.

Rather than ushering in a



**New Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Alan Johnson with Labour candidate for York Outer James Alexander, in Westminster**

new generation of Labour, and re-capturing the confidence of the nation, the group is mostly full of Labour old-guard.

Labour looks dangerously like a meager re-shuffle of the composition that just lost the last general election. Rather than inject new energy and faces into the thick of the party, the same old faces are lingering on.

Healey on health, Burnham on education, Harman on international development. Not exactly a catalysing formula for change.

A slightly amusing and interesting fact about the voting for cabinet members was that out of the ten most popu-

lar candidates who were selected for the cabinet pool, zero of them chose Ed Miliband as their preferred candidate in the leadership

**“Rather than ushering in a new generation of Labour... the group is mostly full of Labour old-guard.”**

election.

This appears to leave Labour in a rather peculiar situation; where Labour's top brass are still an old genera-

tion, and they have been given a leader they did not want courtesy of the union's vote.

The tone of the Labour conference was all about uniting the party and uniting behind the new leader.

But, this Shadow Cabinet is full of people who have felt the full force of losing an election. They might not put up with Ed Miliband's mediocre speeches if ratings do not climb.

Ed Balls and Yvette Cooper may be all smiles for the press and expressing support for Ed, but should his leadership waiver, they will be first in line to replace him after being overlooked for No.2.

## Top Quotes

“They left us with massive debts, the highest deficit, overstretched armed forces, demoralised public services, endless ridiculous rules and regulations and quangos and bureaucracy and nonsense.”

*David Cameron on the Labour party.*

“There is nothing good about opposition. Every day out of power, another day when this coalition can wreak damage on our communities, another day when we cannot change our country for the better.”

*Ed Miliband on election defeat*

“We will take risks in government. But we will never lose our soul. We haven't changed our liberal values. Our status is different but our ambition is the same.”

*Nick Clegg at the Lib-Dem conference*

“We won a clear majority in the popular vote – mathematics is mathematics. The majority of the people do not support the government's radical plans.”

*Julio Borge on Hugo Chavez losing his grip on Venezuela*

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies.”

*Julius Henry Marx on politics*

## Private Life Politics, Should it Matter?

Kate Goligher

POLITICS EDITOR

FOLLOWING Ed Miliband's recent election as Labour leader, controversy has erupted surrounding his personal life.

Various newspapers have reported that he is in fact not married to his partner Justine Thornton, nor is he listed as the Father on the birth certificate of the couple's child.

Since these details emerged, Ed Miliband has said that the couple will get married in the future. He suggested that his reason for not getting married was that political events, including the general election, got in the way. But does Miliband really want to get married, or are his reasons for marriage political?

His recent promise to get married suggests that he himself believes that marriage is a requirement for any budding Prime Minister.

But are politicians personal lives relevant to their ability to govern and should we judge them for



**Bill Clinton's presidency was marred by private scandals**

their personal choices?

President Bill Clinton nearly lost the presidency and his reputation, following the emergence of his affair with intern Monica Lewinsky. Other politicians have been forced to resign positions following scandals in their personal lives. In 2008, Elliot Spitzer, Governor of New York, was forced

to resign after his involvement in a high price prostitution ring was exposed.

But is it fair for us to expect this kind of moral perfection from our elected representatives?

To an extent, yes it is. In the UK the public get the chance to choose who represents them only once every five years; in between

elections the general public are relatively powerless. Voters can't simply no confidence politicians if they fail to carry out their promises. Politicians are effectively given a blank cheque between elections such responsibility requires a high degree of trust in politicians from the electorate. If an individual is capable of deceit in their personal life, there is no reason to suggest that they would not also be capable of deceiving the electorate.

While moral virtue isn't an absolute must for politicians, it is probably recommended for any politician hoping to be re-elected in the future.

However, the recent scrutiny placed upon Miliband is unfair. If he chooses not to get married, that is his private business. In fact, he should probably be applauded for promoting an alternative family unit.

Politicians are human beings and it is only fair that they be able to retain some kind of privacy in their personal lives, unless of course their actions call into question their honesty and integrity.

SSKENNEL

# Osborne botches child benefit reform

**Hannah Ellis-Petersen**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

IT HAS been an uncomfortable week for the Chancellor George Osborne, after his announcement that Child Benefit would be cut for all those earning over £44,000 was met by outcry from both outside, and within, the Conservative Party.

Child Benefit, which was originally introduced in the impoverished era of post-war Britain, is viewed by many as a central feature of the welfare state, providing universal support to mothers and children,

“There is a definite feeling among many that this is a strategy that has not been thought through”

regardless of income. Yet with a Tory government in charge, that is leaning ever further towards the right, this all looks set to change.

Interviewed on ITV's *day-break*, and seemingly unaware of the backlash that would follow, Osborne announced the end to universal benefits, in a move that is predicted to save the government £1bn. However, the TV appearance did little to soften the blow for many Conservative MPs who expressed their concern that the cuts would only serve to alienate their core supporters - the



CONSERVATIVE PARTY

**Osborne has received a heavy amount of criticism after his child benefit reforms seemed to lack sophistication**

middle classes.

Indeed, one senior Tory figure was heard saying: “Well, my wife will certainly be voting Labour now.”

There is a definite feeling among many that this is a strategy that has not been thought through, with critics quick to point out basic anomalies in Osborne's supposedly “uncomplicated” benefit cuts.

Under Osborne's new proposal, dual income families earning under £88,000 will still keep child benefit, while single

income families will be unfairly penalised. These basic flaws, visible to any who cared to examine the plans even superficially, revealed an alarming and unusually improvisatory nature to the new plans, which has done little to sooth the 1.2 million families who will find themselves considerably less well off come 2013.

The flaws in the policy have prompted Ian Duncan Smith, the Work and Pensions Secretary, to revise the cuts into a means tested universal bene-

fits and credit system, that would be means tested rather than imposing a £44,000 cut off point.

Despite the fact that 84% of the population agree that those highest earners should not receive child benefits, the general consensus appears to be that the Conservatives have handled the issue in an almost naïve and irresponsible manner; a black cloud that hung over the rest of the conference.

David Cameron has admitted he should have forewarned

the public, though again this is unlikely to appease the working mothers who have raised particular objections to the ruthlessness of the cuts, and their notable absence from the election manifesto in May. The surprise expressed by Cameron at the furore that followed the announcement, and subsequent vigorous back peddling of policy, revealed a disconnection between government and voter; a lack of awareness of the fundamental importance of such a long standing benefit to so many families across the UK.

He now also looks to face the wrath of backbench MPs who are currently threatening rebellion. For the first time since they were elected, we are faced with a government who has lost the cohesion that made it appear so strong.

“We're going to suffer for this” said one minister earlier this week. “It's going to be very hard to defend this without something solid on tax rates. Unfortunately, there's no real sign of that happening”

It is a sign that the honeymoon period for Cameron and Osborne is truly over, with the chaos of the cabinet, and the poorly thought through tax plans playing out alarming reminiscent of the government under Brown. After all, it is cuts such as these that give gravitas to Ed Miliband's insistence that Middle England is “under attack”, and Cameron will have to work hard to convince Britain's middle-classes he still has their best interests at the heart of this government.

# 18 months on Guantanamo bay still open

**Dominic Mantle**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

AROUND NINE months ago, Barack Obama missed his self-imposed deadline for closing the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay.

He had set the deadline a year previously, and had originally promised the closure as one of his major election campaign policies. Now it seems the facility may not be closed before 2013, or even later

The long delay appears to be resulting from a combination of political obstacles, legal debate and dwindling motivation amongst the Democrats. The Senate has opposed attempts to implement a basic translation of the current Cuban-situated arrangement to a maximum security jail in Illinois.

This is despite Obama declaring his intention to conduct this move in the Presidential Memorandum of December 2009.

The completely un-super-

fluous matter of deciding on the best method for trying the 176 inmates of the crimes they may eventually be charged with is also contentious.

Trial in civilian courts is seen as being fairer and in greater accord with international law than the alternative of potentially secretive and partial military commissions. However, this would render much of the little evidence held against the terror suspects unusable due to the circumstances of its obtainment.

The Obama administration also appears to have downgraded Guantanamo's closure as a priority as the idea becomes less popular with the electorate.

The dramatically reduced urgency being exhibited by a man once ideologically concerned with repealing the illiberal measures of the Bush presidency is being appeased by an effective media silence around Guantanamo.

In small part this is being enforced by the US military, which recently prevented a group of Canadian journalists



THE US ARMY

**A Humvee patrols Guantanamo Bay. The facility remains open despite Obama's promises**

from reporting on the trial of a Canadian citizen being held at the camp. This was following the printing of the name of a witness which was already in the public domain.

The accused was 15 and legally a child when it is alleged he committed the war crime of killing an American soldier, making the trial unfair.

Yet it is largely the media having become bored of the story that has allowed it to escape the public gaze in recent times. A quick search reveals that there has been only one deployment of the word ‘Guantanamo’ on [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk) in the last month, and even that was sadly out of context.

It may be true that the interrogation techniques likened to torture of the early years of the War on Terror have now ceased to be employed by US intelligence operatives.

However, the fact remains that over a hundred foreign nationals are still being detained and have not been tried of any crime because of the paucity of evidence against them. Many have been incarcerated for several years and will therefore have been subject to such coercive procedures as ‘waterboarding’.

Even if Obama's preferred solution to the problem of the inmates' future is taken up, and they are transferred to the US mainland, it is by no means certain that the Government will not continue to view their indefinite detention without trial as an option.

Despite the setbacks in the Senate, Obama and the media should not let the issue of closing Guantanamo fade away. The biggest blockade to mar Obama's tennure so far has been the Senate.

OFFICIAL STUDENT SUNDAYS

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4 Rooms / 3 DJ's / 2 Clubs

10pm - 3am



SUN  
10TH  
OCT

The Massive Fresher's

## Welcome Party

OFFICIAL SUNDAY NIGHTS GET UNDERWAY IN STYLE WITH A GUARANTEED SELL-OUT BLOCK PARTY. 3 ROOMS OF MUSIC ACROSS 2 CLUBS AND FEATURING SOME OF THE UK'S FINEST DJ TALENT LIVE.

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SUN  
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# WESTWOOD

## TIM WESTWOOD!



BBC  
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1

WITH A 4 HOUR DJ SET FROM THE MAN HIMSELF IN THE R&B ROOM. **COME DOWN EARLY - THIS WILL BE HUGE!**

SUN  
24TH  
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# THE WHITE PARTY DJ WYLIE

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## £2

JAGERBOMBS

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# REVOLUTION®

10PM - 3AM. CONEY STREET, YORK

# TheMixer

DOWNING STREET

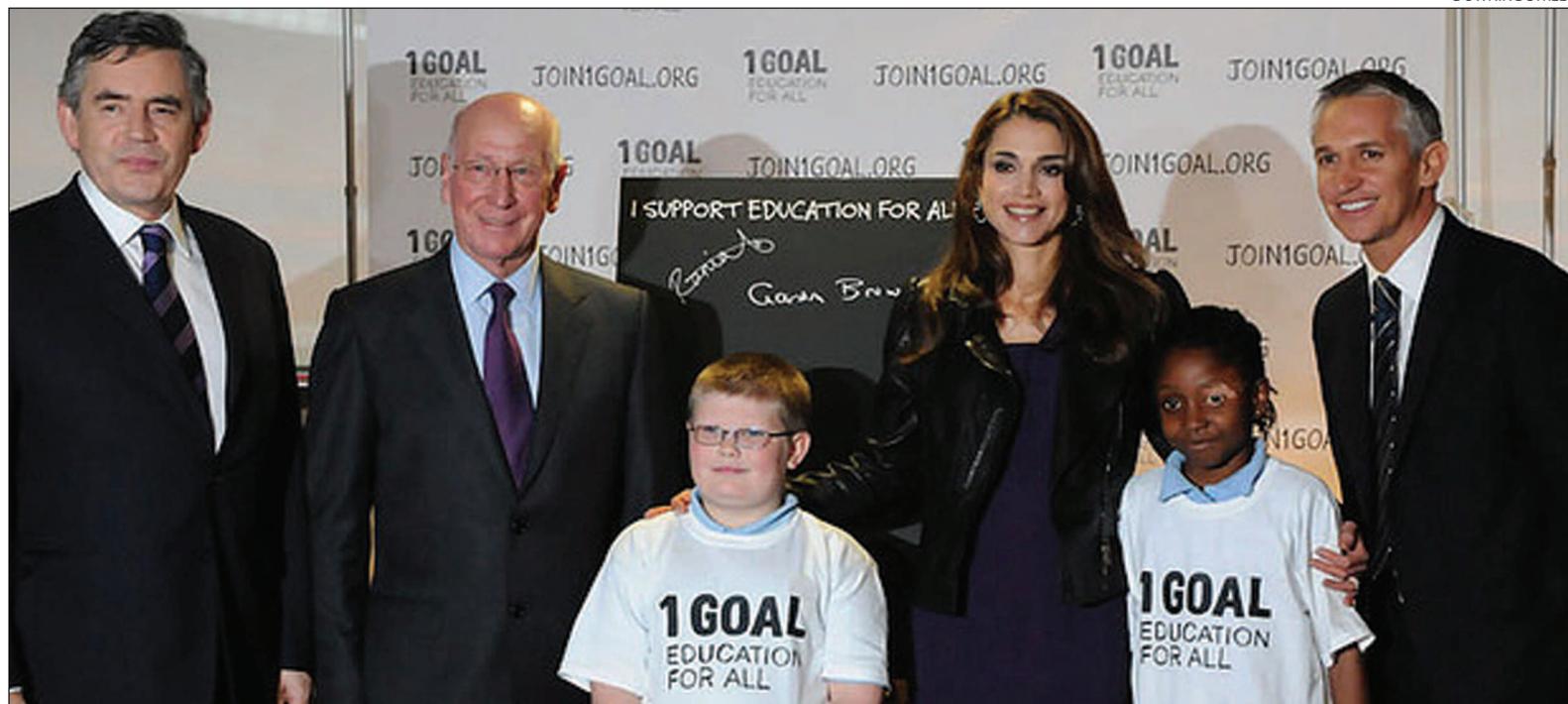
**TM HAS** been pretty busy recently. In fact we won a Commonwealth Games Gold medal yesterday in Lawn Bowls but nobody noticed. Getting back on the plane, we were surprised to see that the plane was not only not British Airways but also that the cone had not been altered to celebrate our gold medal achievement.

We didn't worry too much; we figured the hero's welcome we were bound to receive upon arriving at Heathrow would make up for it. Imagine our shock when our plane from Delhi actually landed in Luton. We arrived to no reception at all and weren't even able to watch our winning moment on TV the family had chosen to record Autumnwatch instead.

The Commonwealth Games eh? What a load of rubbish, might as well have a competition for countries beginning with G.

Gary Lineker has it all. He's remembered as the finest poacher since Bambi's mother's murderer. He gets to sit and spout banalities about the Premier League for money on a Saturday night and has a lucrative sideline in potato based snacks for no discernible reason. Not only that but recently he went around the world, courtesy of the license fee, to find out what we already knew for a documentary entitled "Can England win the next World Cup?"

As much as *TM* loves dear Gary - his conspiratorial method of presenting and salt and pepper barnet are divine - we need a medical expert, not an ex-footballer to



**Hapless statesman GB attempts to absorb some luck, as GL proposes a front two to return the World Cup to English shores**

answer that question. I say a medical expert because a serious neurological study is needed to find out why the best English footballers suddenly seize up in the face of national expectation, a stern Italian or a pack of sprightly Germans. It's certainly not because we just produce players who are technically inferior to their continental counterparts.

Perhaps they could take a lesson or two from the University rugby team. They take their pregame tension out on York's myriad of night spots. Why don't the England team go out attired in a

variety of overpriced brand names, fight with people in sweaty clubs and indulge in rabid promiscuity. Oh wait...

*TM* would like to make some predictions for the coming year. Not predictions about the wider world of sport, that would be boring, but predictions about sport at York. Don't worry, *TM* isn't about to make some serious predictions;

**1. Langwith will turn up short of players** - People will laugh, but they'll still put in a half-decent per-

formance and Bruce Starkey will score.

**2. Halifax will crack under pressure** - Nobody is doubting they have the best players. They have a midfield that even *TM* couldn't break into and a line-up that is oozing with quality and yet, like the New Zealand rugby team, they will invariably fail when the pressure is on.

**3. Roses will be amazing** - It's the time when everyone comes together; old, young, male, female, sportsman, journalist. OK, so *TM* exag-

gerates, but you get the picture. *TM* feels like Baz Luhrmann when he does the Sunscreen song. York will be fantastic, and you will enjoy sport but TRUST ME on Roses, it's incredible.

**4. There will be a controversy** - Whether it is a questionable initiation or a promotion that does not happen because someone forgets to make a crucial phonecall, something will go awry. Don't criticise York Sport too harshly though, at least they didn't organise the travesty that is the Commonwealth Games.

## Sport can make your university experience

**Jake Farrell**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

AS YOU stand in the cuttingly cold Yorkshire air, you wonder what you are doing there. The mud is oozing around the soles of your shoes and the prospect of taking your hands out of your pockets again is enough to send your increasingly mutinous fingers out on a general strike. Then from nowhere something illuminates the dank Wednesday afternoon.

A raking cross field pass, a meticulously measured conversion, a referee falling over. All small, vital reminders of the importance of sport and the privilege that lies in watching it.

If you ever wanted a testament to the sheer vivacity of university life then maybe it lies in sport. Each week hundreds of students take time to go out and get involved, some for the exhilaration of competition others just to get themselves out of the house.

Either way the notion of participation at university prompts one simple question. It's the same question that is begged by living in a freezing house but joying in every second of it, the same question posed by waking in the afternoon on a Thursday feeling insanely rough but strangely contented - when will you ever get to do this again?

University affords us with a range of opportunities that later life struggles to replicate. Should you want to take up Ultimate Frisbee in fifteen years time the sports offered at your local leisure centre, your hectic family life or your identikit squash playing colleagues called Rupert could prove obstacles. For three short years that isn't the case.

Whether you end up preparing diligently for a BUCS final later this year or roll up to College football smashed, sporting a selection of kit so distinct in colour and style to the rest of your team-mates that it appears you have decided to play

Alcuin on your own, you may as well get involved.

Since I retired prematurely from football, aged just 14, I've decided to make the most sensational comeback since Take That. I've bought some tactfully understated boots and I might have a kick around for my college thirds. It took me a year to work up the bottle but hopefully this term I will walk back to play 11-a-side football once again. I caught the bug during a college organised Inter-Block tournament.

It was a genius competition. We got spanked every week of course, that wasn't really the point. If I was good enough to play sport at a serious level I wouldn't be writing about it. I'll stick to the kick arounds - it's up to you to provide some magic for us to put on paper, or to take a photo of, take for example this gentlemen at Roses, Strongbow in hand and dodging the rain. If ever a picture summed up your likely experience of sport at York then this is it.



# The State of the Union:



"This is a year that we can really push it" - Sam Asfahani contemplates the challenges ahead of him

**Jake Farrell**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDANT

SAM ASFAHANI is a busy man. Invoices for exorbitant amounts of money swamp his desk and he is in the middle of training a new batch of University Sports captains up to the standard required by BUCS. You sense that he wouldn't have it

any other way.

Despite the intense schedule and challenges that he is facing over the coming year he is upbeat and ambitious, clearly at home in the role of Sabb Officer.

"I've been settling in great and the team has been really useful. It's great having experienced

hands on board like Tim (Ngwena, YUSU President) and Ben (Humphrys, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer). It takes us a while to know the job, and not just the job but the Union, and having them around has meant a really good dynamic."

It's typical of Asfahani to want

to hit the ground running. There were plenty of sceptics when he said that York would have a full size, 3G pitch in the pipeline by the time he left office but his ability to dare to dream is having a dramatic effect on sport at York.

This year all 3,500 York Sport members will be issued with a York Sport Discount card entitling them to discounts at 8 clubs, bars and restaurants. For the former Langwith Chair it's about giving-something back: "It's little things but its trying to make people feel like they are actually part of something."

Another section of the York Sport Community imperative to Asfahani's vision of the future are elite athletes. As a former British International American Footballer the pressures of sport at the top level are familiar to him. During his election campaign he spoke of the importance of making those

**"It's little things but its trying to make people feel like they are actually part of something."**

## Sam Asfahani

who represent their country feel valued and supported.

Now, thanks to a grant of £6,000 a year for three years from the alumni fund, Asfahani will be able to do just that, as he sits on the board that will decide which individuals to allocate grants to.

"It's just us doing what we can to help our international athletes" he says. "We're proud of all of them and it about time we started giving back to people who are playing at the top level."

This kind of cultural shift in the University attitude toward the sporting elite will be difficult to

change at an institution unashamedly more concerned with its academic capabilities but this, at least, is a start.

Asfahani has the uncanny ability of truly understanding the needs of sport at its highest levels without being remotely exclusive in his attitude to participation.

The professionalism that has seen him move to help those at the top of the sporting pyramid has also led to him re-arranging BUCS fixtures to give the weary 22 acres pitches as much time to recover as possible during the winter months. By the same token he speaks with pride of York's record of "some of the highest participation in the country" and is effusive in his praise of the College Sport system.

Promoting the dual aims of improving York at the highest level while giving back to every York Sport member right down to intermittent gym users will be difficult, but a challenge that he will undoubtedly embrace.

Whatever happens over the coming year it is inconceivable that Sam Asfahani will be resting on his already notable laurels. This is a job that he has had his eye for a while but, comfotingly, it seems that his drive to be York Sport President comes from a real desire to implement his vision.

Whilst some candidates for sabbatical position have been accused of careerist tendencies, no such charge can be levelled at the man currently leading York Sport. Asfahani is the real deal. There is one point in the interview where



Head online to [www.nouse.co.uk/sport](http://www.nouse.co.uk/sport) to see the interview with Sam Asfahani in full, courtesy of YSTV.

## Women's fencers prepared for Premier League

**Henry Cowen**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

YORK'S FENCERS warmed up for the season by hosting their first ever Open on Saturday. With 72 entrants it acted as both pre-season training and crucial fundraising, especially for the women's team who face their first season in the Premier League.

A glorious season last year has seen the women's fencers promoted to the Northern Premier League where they will do battle with the likes of Birmingham and Edinburgh. Funding issues have not been overcome but Saturday's Open will go some way to easing the financial burden.

As well as that strains on

### Results

Women's epee: 1st Jodie Galtrey (Harrogate)

Women's foil: 1st Alessandra Villa (Birmingham FC)

Men's epee: 1st Granville Ward (Mary Hawdon)

Men's Foil: 1st Ingvar Kraatz (University of Leeds)

membership are still threatening to hamstring Louise Highton's side but the captain was optimistic; "We won't walk over any games and...hopefully we won't be involved in the relegation play-offs".

It is a big ask for Highton and her side especially in terms of recruiting new talent with the added commitment that the Premier League demands. The team is remaining positive and if they are able to perform to the same level that they did last season then they might just be able to remain York's premier team in terms of league position.

The day was certainly a success as over £700 was raised, money that will be used for both sides this season.



JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

The women's fencers start their campaign against Birmingham

# York Sport preview 2010

## RUGBY

After an administrative error cost them their shot at promotion last year the Men's Rugby Firsts will be hungry to ensure that even human error doesn't stop them this time around, though they could be hampered by the loss of some key players. A clean sweep at an away Roses confirmed the club as the premier mainstream sports team at York, and new Captain Tom Weir will hope to his inspire his side to their mercurial best in the way that Alex Redshaw so often did last year. Rugby club success is not limited to the men as the ladies side are becoming more formidable with every season. In their last game before Roses they trounced Newcastle 124-0 and will hope to continue in the same vein.

**Star Man:** So many to choose from but we'll plump for Scrum Half Tom Bugge who had a stormer against York Rugby Club last Tuesday, although captain Tom Weir will be vital.

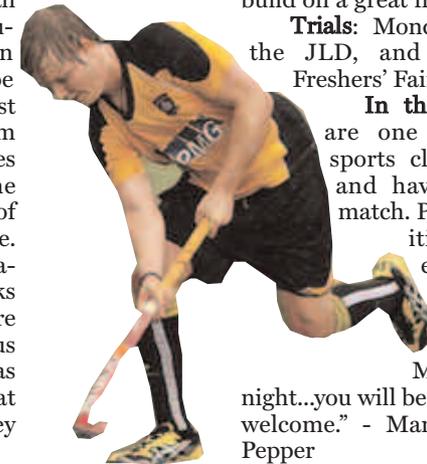
**Trials:** Sunday Week 1 (October 17th), which is the last day of Freshers so make sure you're in an OK state when you turn up at the 22 Acres.

**In their words:** "We have a solid core of seasoned veterans on which to build. We may not have the coaching structure, money or facilities of larger universities but we do have an unmatched fighting spirit and increasing professionalism, which maybe, just maybe, will carry a YURUFC team to promotion." - Tom Weir



## HOCKEY

Perhaps the most expansive all round club in York are coming into 2010-11 off the back of a heartening season. New captains Mark Inman and Laura Pepper will be instrumental in spurring their sides on and Inman in particular will hope to replicate the cup success of last year that saw the men's side claim victory in the BUCS Cup. All sides bar one were promoted in the Yorkshire League and a season of similar success would be welcome. One particular highlight of the season was Roses where comebacks were mounted left, right and centre in the middle of a tumultuous atmosphere. In the end it was the White Rose of York that reigned supreme and the Hockey club will want the same again.



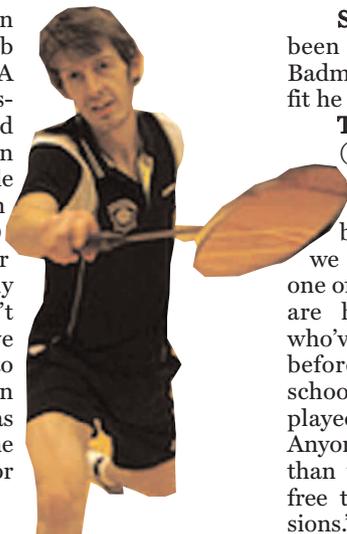
**Star Man:** Without Billy Walsh somebody will need to step up, Henry Mellor (pictured) could build on a great first season.

**Trials:** Monday evenings on the JLD, and games during Freshers' Fair.

**In their words:** "We are one of the largest sports clubs on campus and have ambitions to match. Players of all abilities and experience...are welcome...to come and join us in training every Monday night...you will be made more than welcome." - Mark Inman/Laura Pepper

## BADMINTON

As well as being successful on the court the York Badminton Club have proved impressive off it. A charitable 12 hour Badminton session last year raised £1,000 and this year the club is embarking on a coaching course that will enable members to go out and coach in the local community. An 8-0 demolition of their Lancaster rivals last year was a hugely impressive victory but wasn't repeated at Roses. Combative Captain James Hoare did much to instil a fierce competitiveness in his team and Ben Mcgladdery, as Club President, will have all the raw materials at his disposal for another successful season.



**Star Man:** Paddy Clarke has been Mr Reliable for the Badminton team and if he can stay fit he will be key.

**Trials:** Sunday Week 1 (October 17th)

**In their words:** "We're proud of being one of the biggest clubs on Campus and we are also proud to say we're one of the most welcoming too. We are happy to welcome people who've never played Badminton before, those who've played at school/college and those who've played for a club competitively. Anyone eager to take part is more than welcome to pop down for a free trial at one of our club sessions." - Ben Mcgladdery

## FOOTBALL

Being in the promotion shake-up until the latter part of last season can be deemed a partial success for the UYAFC who will hope to go one better during this season. Outgoing President Greg Gardner will be missed but with striker Conor Brennan wearing the captain's armband and last year's Freshers intake progressing through the ranks, the club will hope to mount a serious challenge for promotion. Under the guidance of team Captain Jenni England York Ladies proved an tough proposition and will hope to consolidate on a season to take positives from, any keen female footballers would be welcomed with open arms.



**Star man:** Conor Brennan, although there is talent across the pitch.

**Trials:** Freshers Week, Monday-Friday, 2pm, meet at Sports Centre.

**In their words:** "As a club we have big ambitions this year. We want the biggest ever intake of freshers this year so that our club has plenty of options and a solid foundation for the next three years... we aim to continue our fantastic home form." - Conor Brennan

## From Ben Lairig to Capoeira: Beyond York's more mainstream sports

**Henry Cowen**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

YORK IS not somewhere where you can play only the standard sports. From **Aikido** to **Volleyball** there is a veritable smorgasbord of sports you can get involved with; here we look at some of the more interesting.

**Ben Lairig** might sound like the slightly odd kid you sat next to in Maths but it is actually a sport, and a rather good one at that. It might not get the headlines on the back pages but if mountain walking is your thing then this is the sport for you. Often at university it can all get a bit much; your work might be getting on top of you, maybe your friends are being a bit too loud or perhaps you're desperately fighting to reach a deadline? If so, why not get away from the 1960s architecture of the Uni and head for the hills.

Another different sport to throw yourself into, literally, is **Capoeira**. A martial art with its roots in South America instead of the more traditional Far East fus-



Canoe Polo is one of York's most popular minority sports and gathered quite a crowd at Roses 2010

ing music and acrobatics to create a unique performance. Imagine going back at Christmas to tell your Grandparents that you have taken up Capoeira, you know that while they won't know what you're on about they will still be very impressed, and if for some reason they decide to attack you, you will be able to protect yourself.

**Octopush** is not just the word that Sean Connery uses for eight-legged cephalopod molluscs, it is also a sport that is similar to hockey, but played underwater. It is fairly well established in the UK with the 52nd National Club Championships taking place this year. No previous experience is required and it is, by all accounts,

great fun. If you fancy the new sport on the block then why not try **Powerlifting**? For the first time this year it is a YUSU ratified sports club so to celebrate you can deadlift, bench press or squat lift your way to muscledom. You don't need to turn up looking like a stunt double from *The Expendables* and it is, of course, very good for

sculpting those guns. You may read this and wonder if there's any point to taking up a sport that is so different from the norm. But in terms of life experience how valuable it is to do something completely different. Every Frank, Wayne or Steve can play football but there aren't many people that can point to an experience in Octopush.

So there are just a few slightly different sports that might tickle your fancy if you want a change from the obvious. When you're sixty years old and someone asks you whether you remember much about your time at university it won't be the games that you already excelled in that you will remember, it will be the time you had a go at Capoeira that will stick out, so why not give it go? Head online to [www.nouse.co.uk/sport](http://www.nouse.co.uk/sport) see a full rundown of every single sport on offer and where you should turn up to trials. After university you will probably never get the same chances again, so seize the opportunity.

SAM NEWSOME

# SPO

## York Sport President

*Nouse* catches up with the man in charge of sport at York, Sam Asfahani. He previews an exciting year for all involved with sport.

FRESHERS' SPREAD >> P22



# Tarrega hat-trick inspires easy York win in final pre-season friendly match

PETER IVESON

**Henry Cowen**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE MEN'S firsts ended their pre-season campaign with a comfortable 36-17 victory over York Rugby Club seconds. On a mild evening, Tom Weir's side were dominant but were perhaps guilty of taking their foot off the pedal as their opposition were allowed to cross the line for three tries of their own. Nevertheless, it was a positive performance from the side which is once again pushing for promotion this season.

Despite having lost some big players from the previous campaign there remains a good core of the team cruelly denied promotion last time out. Under the floodlights it was the uni side that started better and they didn't take long to edge ahead; a fantastic run from Ed Drewett was followed by a nicely timed off-load that allowed Pete Tarrega to run in the first of his three tries. Scrum half Tom Bugge added the additional points from the conversion.

The second try was another exhibition in running rugby. A quick line-out was taken on the far touchline and reached winger Ben Turner, he found a nice line before offloading to Tarrega who once again touched down to extend Uni's lead. So far it had been all Uni with the local side struggling to get into the game but a spell of concerted pressure saw James Mulroney force his way over to reduce arrears.

Some superb individual play from Tom Bugge then saw the scrum-half cross the whitewash point. Bugge, at the heart of so much that was good for Weir's side, was unable on this occasion to add the additional two points. He did convert his next attempt after the pacy Adebisi carved through York's defence to score under the posts.



Star man Pete Tarrega runs in one of his three tries in Tuesday's victory over local side York

Despite being comfortably on top throughout the first half Uni allowed the home side to get back into the match. Firstly Mulroney powered over from close range once again before Andy Kay scored his side's third try to make the score 26-17 at the interval. The visitors had definitely had the better of the half but York's late rally proved the game was anything but over.

The second half was a much quieter affair, probably as a result of substitutions breaking up the

flow of the game. Nevertheless Uni remained on top and never allowed their opposition an avenue back into the match. With time running out the away side bagged two more tries. Firstly another fine piece of backs' play saw the ball go through various hands to find Tarrega who went over in the corner. Afterwards there was just time for a find counter-attacking try; camped on their own line Uni surged forward and when Adebisi kicked on there was nobody quick enough to catch him so he

wrapped up the game by making it 36-17.

It was a worthwhile fixture for Weir's men and they will go into the new season full of confidence. The skipper was pleased with his team's performance: "I thought the team performed very well in gaining a comfortable win against a tough and very physical opposition." He will now be hoping his side can carry on their pre-season form going into the season proper against Leeds seconds on Wednesday.

## YORK LINE-UP

1. YRFC player
2. Gregor Morris
3. Sam Hutt
4. Sam Carr-Archer
5. Will Forsythe
6. James Faktor
7. Rory McGregor
8. James Bennett
9. Tom Bugge
10. Matt Pollen
11. Ben Turner
12. Gabriel Adebisi
13. Pete Tarrega
14. Rich Bremner
15. Ed Drewett

## York fencers host inaugural open

York's fencers prepared for the new season by hosting the inaugural University of York Fencing Open. Life in the Premier League awaits the women's fencers.

FENCING OPEN >> P22



## Welcome to York - a preview of everything about York Sport

Whether your interest is rugby or aikido, you can get involved. Take a look at what is on offer and become a part of the black and gold. Online there is all the information you need about the 59 sport clubs you can join but inside we take a more in-depth look at the main players and some of the more unusual sports.

FRESHERS' SPREAD >> P22-23



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