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Will Self

Author and novelist talks education, riots and "sesquipedalianism"

>> M11-13



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YUSU officer attacked over anti-semitic remarks

University drops out of World 100 rankings

Martin Spurr
NEWS EDITOR

YORK HAS fallen out of the world's top 100 universities in figures released last week, dropping 40 places down to 121st in the league table.

This follows falling out of the top 10 UK universities in the 2012 Guardian League table this summer; as well as losing its status as the 'Best University in Yorkshire' to the University of Sheffield according to the last two league tables.

The University attributed the decline in league table position to "fluctuation [that] does occur periodically in league tables," adding, "especially where they rely on reputation surveys."

The Times Higher Education Authority (THE) ranked York as 81st in the world in 2010; but this fell to 121st this year - level with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The only other British university to fall out of the top 100 was the University of London's Royal Holloway - ranked at 107th.

Among other British universities, three made the top 10; while there were 32 in the top 200 in the world.

York was awarded the title of 'University of the Year' in November 2010 by THE but has fallen in all the major university league tables this summer.

Weak graduate employment

Continued on page 5

JUSTYN HARDCASTLE



A standoff between Racial Equality Officer Binitie and Labour Councillor Levene over perceived racial comments has led to calls for Binitie's resignation

Martin Spurr
NEWS EDITOR

A YUSU Officer is facing an official complaint from a York Labour Councillor after he claimed anti-semitic remarks were made over facebook.

David Levene, the Labour Councillor and former York student, made the complaint to YUSU after a private conversation on facebook with Lawrence Binitie, YUSU's Racial and Equality Officer.

A heated debate occurred after Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime

Minister, gave a speech to the UN against Palestinian's attempt to gain recognition as a state.

It culminated in Levene writing "Go to hell" and Binitie responding with "that sounds like a typical Jewish response."

Binitie had stated earlier that, "If I was an Israeli, I would be ashamed of the speech Netanyahu was giving" but has said since that, "if I said to someone - if I was Italian, I would be ashamed of Berlusconi - I am not saying I am ashamed to be Italian."

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, phoned Binitie four days ago and

Lawrence claims he was told that Levene was threatening to write an article calling him a racist and demanding an apology and resignation.

After the phone call Binitie described himself as "spitting angry" because it was a "private conversation and I didn't expect an official complaint."

"He is blackmailing me by demanding an apology and my resignation," he said.

"Every time someone tries to explain their views on Israel they get labelled as anti-Semitic."

During the facebook chat con-

versation, Levene asked Binitie, "are you ashamed when a christian does something bad on the other side of the world?" and received the reply "I am not a christian, but if I was I would openly condemn and you don't seem to be."

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon between the two parties, in which Levene produced a drafted apology and resignation he wished Binitie to publically say; but Binitie was insistent that he would not

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Clubs suffer without Ziggy's funds

NIGHTLIFE FAVOURITE Mansion may face closure after next week, but many of the University of York's sports clubs have already suffered from their regular funding being withdrawn by the club

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Feedback failures across departments

STUDENT SATISFACTION figures have revealed a serious concern over the quality of feedback received by students across a variety of departments, with students complaining of a lack of depth and clarity to received assessments across the board

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Getting creative with Carlotta Actis Barone

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New James Bar divides opinion

DESPITE INTENTIONS for the bar within the Roger Kirk to be a similarly popular space to the Courtyard, concerns have been voiced by students who feel that the new YUSU 'Lounge' bar will be "soulless" and caters only for conferences

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Nouse sports guide

FOR NEW students looking to take up a new sport this year, the Nouse Sport team ask six University club Presidents about their club's activities, and give an overview of various opportunities available at York such as women's football and shooting

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apologise or resign "for something I did not say."

The drafted apology by Levene wanted Binitie to apologise to the whole Jewish community for the comments he made.

However, Binitie refused to do so and the matter will be taken to the Complaints Procedure Committee in the coming days.

Levene released a statement

"He is blackmailing me by demanding an apology and my resignation"

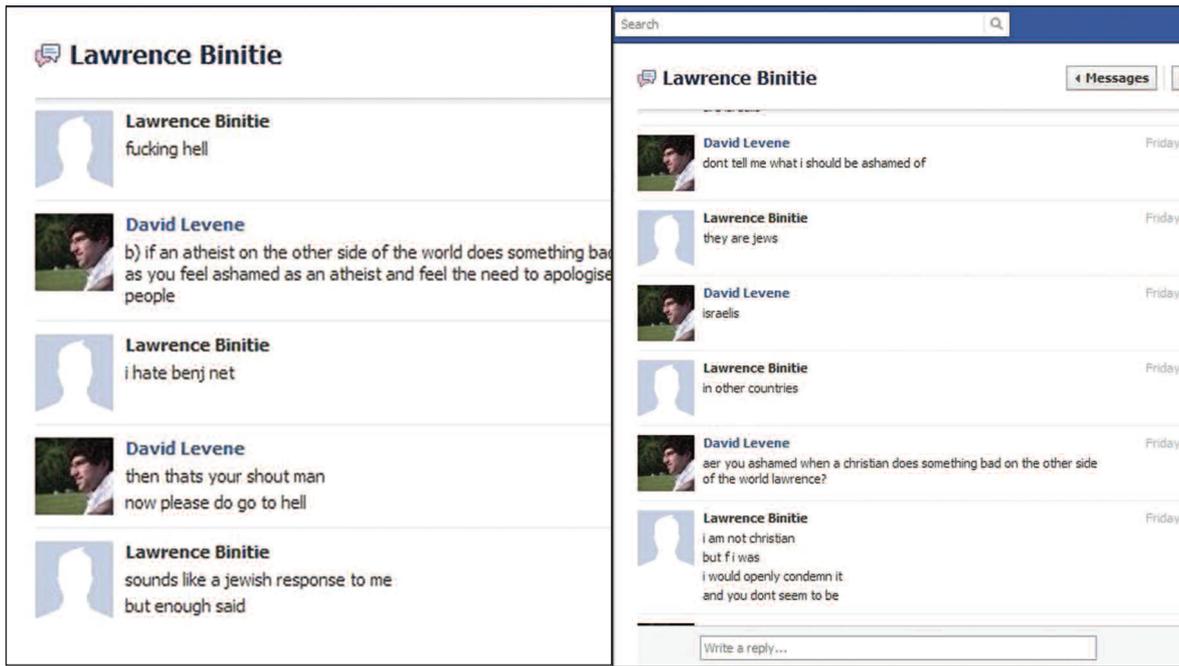
YUSU Racial Equality Officer
Lawrence Binitie

after the meeting with both parties yesterday regarding the incident.

"His language is obviously very concerning and it's for YUSU and the student body to decide how to deal with it."

Binitie also claims that Ellis said specifically that Sam Asfahani, YUSU York Sport President, "has pledged to submit a vote of no confidence in you." But this is denied by Ellis and Asfahani.

Levene unsuccessfully ran for YUSU President two years ago and was a prominent figure within the University as Chair of Union Council until being elected a Labour Councillor for York in May



Screenshots of the facebook conversation, discussing Israel-Palestine, that sparked the anti-semitism claims

this year.

The issue was discussed yesterday at a closed door YUSU meeting between Tim Ellis, Binitie and Levene.

Nonetheless, if a vote of no confidence is put forward it could only be levelled against Binitie himself, and would have no repercussions against his fellow YUSU Racial and Equality Officer Bassim Al-Ahmadi.

But Binitie rejected claims that his comments were incompat-

ible with his position as Racial and

"His language is obviously very concerning and it's for YUSU and the student body to decide how to deal with it"

York Labour Councillor
David Levene

Equality Officer, highlighting that

his role involves concentrating on issues that relate directly to students and not global issues.

"He [Levene] is like a lot of people who, behind it all, see what is going on in Israel is wrong but try to change the issue rather than discuss what is going on in Palestine."

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, commented on the issue stating: "As it is an ongoing investigation I cannot comment at this present time."

New YUSU building delayed until January

Isabella Wynne
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

THE YUSU student centre is facing long delays until completion leaving the Sabbatical Officers set up in temporary offices in the James Upper JCR until the Spring Term.

The new offices, situated in James College in place of the old McQ's bar, were due for completion by the start of the autumn term, but builders are now contracted until Christmas with the new space not set to open until January.

As one of the 2011 YUSU Sabbatical pledges was to "ensure that your elected representatives

are making you aware of what we are doing" some students have voiced worries that being located in non-visible offices will affect communication between students and YUSU.

Last term Tim Ngwena, the previous YUSU President, said the building aimed to make it "easier for students to see their officers both part time and full time."

But Rob Carruthers, a fourth-year Music student, commented about the impact the delay in building work will have on the crucial first term for freshers, stating that is in "a pretty obscure location."

He continued: "Even though they're still reachable by email and phone, the lack of a centralised office will surely make things more

difficult for freshers who have just arrived."

However Tim Ellis, YUSU President, stated that while their temporary location "isn't ideal," YUSU will be working to ensure that their new locations are "as well signposted as possible."

He also added that they will be making extra efforts "to get out of the offices as a team" with weekly appearances every Thursday at Heslington East campus. Adding that this would allow students to voice their concerns and "give YUSU a much needed presence there."

Harriet Carr, a second-year English student, said that it sounded "promising" that more consultation session with students were

taking place which would hopefully "raise their [YUSU's] profile" around campus.

YUSU contributed £500,000 to the new student centre with the University making up the rest of the £2.2million cost.

Once completed, the building will extend forwards into the car park space, and backwards towards the old McQ's bar - which has been moved to the Roger Kirk Centre. The main aim was to make it easier for students to see their elected student officers both part time and full time.

Janes College are losing McQs to make way for this, although they will receive preferential treatment at the newly opened Lounge bar, to make way for the new building.

Swimming pool completion underway

The new Sport Village is set to be open from July 2012 on Heslington East. The complex which will accommodate pool, gym and dance studios among other facilities. The eight-lane, 25 metre pool will be the first part of the York Sport Village to be completed. The £9million cost of the pool is being funded in part by grants from York City Council on the understanding the facilities will be available to York residents as well as York students. The original plans foresaw it being built in 25 years but it was only after pressure from students that forced the University to give the go-ahead earlier.

UCU warns of further industrial action

The Universities and College Union are starting to 'work to contract' from the 10th of October in response to proposed changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme, which controls academic pensions. This will mean that members at York as well as across the country, are being instructed to perform only those duties that are specified in their contract. The University have issued a statement, stating: "The University has made clear that it expects staff to perform all teaching and related duties whether members of staff are participating in the action or not... including their obligation to perform their duties in an efficient manner."

The Lounge Bar to Serve Late-night food

The new YUSU Lounge Bar, located in the Roger Kirk centre, will serve late-night food. It will only be available from seven to eleven on weekdays and the food will be biked over from Courtyard, on one specially designed bike. All food will be prepared in the the only YUSU-owned kitchens, despite the fact that there are working kitchens in the building which would not be in use during the Lounge's serving hours. The kitchens are owned by Commercial Services.

Reporting by Hoagy Davis-Digges and Rose Troup Buchanan

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The death of the man behind the brand, who defined modern design culture leaves behind an empire, but that represents what exactly?

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Est. 1964

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

contact@nouse.co.uk

Contribute:
editor@nouse.co.uk

EDITOR
Hannah Ellis-Petersen

DEPUTY EDITOR
Camilla Aparcar

MUSE EDITOR
Mia de Graaf

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Andrew Ryan

CHIEF SUBEDITOR
Hannah Brearley

GRAPHIC DIRECTOR
Jonathan Frost

PHOTO EDITORS
Lucy Dixon

NEWS EDITOR
Martin Spurr

NEWS DEPUTIES
Hoagy Davis-Digges
Rose Troup-Buchanan

COMMENT EDITOR
Hannah Clugston

COMMENT DEPUTY
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SPORTS EDITORS
Henry Cowen
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Sam Briggs
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MARKETING MANAGER
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University sport clubs embroiled in Ziggy's sponsorship debacle

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York's sports clubs are facing a budget shortfall as a result of Mansion's (formerly known as Ziggy's) potential change in ownership.

The club closed over the summer months, but has reopened for Freshers fortnight and is still facing closure if a buyer does not emerge by the end of next week.

Uncertainty over Ziggy's future has created problems for many of the sports clubs that frequent the establishment. Many of these clubs had negotiated lucrative sponsorship deals with the previous management and are now in doubt over the future of their deals.

The larger of the Sports Clubs have been most affected by the recent changes, including the University of York Boating Club (UYBC), Netball Club, York Hornets, and Football Club.

Sam Asfahani, York Sport President, has stated that YUSU intends to support any club which has lost out financially as a result of Ziggy's actions.

The University of York Boating Club had begun negotiating a twelve hundred pound deal with Mansion last term. Due to the confusion over whether or not Ziggy's would reopen and remain open, the club has been left without a large part of their funding.

The club's social secretaries, Edward Grande and Edward Scobie, who negotiated the agreement, have been unable to contact the specific manager who they dealt with. They released the following



LUCY DIXON

The future of the popular Wednesday night Ziggy's remains in doubt

statement: "The Boat Club had nothing totally confirmed with Mansion in regards to sponsorship for next year, but will be looking to

continue previous years of good relations."

The York Hornets have also had a sponsorship deal with

Ziggy's. The Hornets' Chair, Emily Hogan, said: "We were definitely planning to continue sponsorship, however, we've been unable to contact anyone from the club - they appear to have gone completely off the radar." Hogan expects that the Hornets' budget will suffer as a result of the loss of sponsorship; losing around two hundred pounds as a result.

The sponsorship deals for many of the clubs appear to have been negotiated by manager Ed Barker. However, Nouse was unable to contact Barker or any of the management team.

Tim Fong, an employee of Ziggy's, appeared unaware of any changes to ownership when questioned. He commented that he expected the venue to remain open for the year, and had not heard of any of the changes.

"We will of course be supporting and representing any sports club that has lost out financially"

York Sport President
Sam Asfahani

The venue is renowned for its association with the sports clubs, and there has been some speculation that the latest development may damage their relationship.

Emily Hogan, York Hornets Chair, stated she thought it unlikely that the recent changes would change the relationship that most sports clubs have with Ziggy's. "The

only thing that might slow the social activities is the uncertainty created."

David Potter, a member of the Squash Club, said that he thought it was unlikely the sports clubs would go elsewhere. But he stated: "I've heard that Gallery are putting on some interesting events; such as ball-pits and regular foam parties."

The confusion generated through Ziggy's transitions has suggested the possibility of competition from other clubs. The lucrative Wednesday night sports slot has traditionally been held by Ziggy's. Over the years the club has gone through a number of changes, whilst retaining the patronage of the sports clubs.

Last year Ziggy's underwent extensive refurbishments and rebranding to emerge as Mansion, although it retained the original name for Wednesday night.

Jeyoon Kim, Street and Breakdance Rep for DanceSoc, said that: "At the moment it is where everyone goes on a Wednesday, and so if there's a rumour that its closing all the sports team will be looking for potential other places to go."

Kim continued that the clubs might find somewhere they liked, or offering superior drinks deals.

The potential loss of sponsorship comes at a time when societies are facing cuts across the board.

Angus O'Brian, Football President, had the following to say about the cuts facing the sporting societies, particularly his own: "Although we were disappointed with a slight cut to our grant, we have been able to increase our revenue through greater sponsorship."

University to open library 24 hours

Jack Barton
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY has announced that the JB Morrell library will become 24-hour after Easter next year.

The change will accompany the long-awaited completion of the library's refurbishment and is scheduled to commence by next summer term. The £20million refurbishment which began in 2009 will, according to the University, provide hundreds of new study spaces, as well as a much improved café.

A University spokesman stated that the refurbishment will provide "second to none" facilities and that the University are confident that this will encourage students to take full advantage of the extended hours.

He added that the University was "delighted" to meet what had long been high on the list of student demands.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, who had

made 24-hour opening of the library one of his campaign promises, commented that he was extremely pleased to have achieved this so early in his term and is confident that now funding has been secured, there is no reason why this should not go ahead.

"This is something I have been focusing on over the summer, having meetings with both the library and the university senior management.

"I am delighted that we will be able to open the Library on a 24 hours a day basis in the summer term"

A University Spokesman

"The funding has now been secured, and as long as the library refurbishment is completed on time (it is currently on schedule), then there is no reason why 24 hour opening cannot be achieved."

This development brings York in line with other high-ranking



LUCY DIXON

YUSU have been lobbying for the library to be open 24 hours for many years which will happen after Easter

Universities, many of whom have been extending the services of their central libraries in the past few years.

In some, such as the University of Bath and UCL, University management have been surprised by the extent to which students have been taking advan-

tage of the 24 hour opening times.

The University spokesman continued by saying: "The new facilities (most of which are already open) will be second to none and they include hundreds of additional study spaces as well as a much improved and expanded café. We are confident that students will

make full use of them."

Dan Hudson, a second-year English and Philosophy student. on the new all day opening times, said: "I think it's a great idea. I prefer to write essays late at night and sometimes there's something I need to check or find a reference to back up."

Students dissatisfied with poor

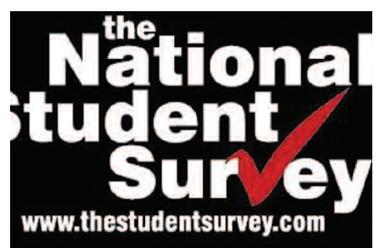
Hannah Ellis-Petersen
EDITOR

THE ADEQUACY of course feedback given across the majority of University departments has been called into question, after figures reveal levels of student assessment satisfaction has fallen below 40 per cent in some areas.

The National Student Survey, questioning on average 70 per cent of students in all departments, highlighted that only 32 per cent of Maths students at York felt they had received detailed feedback on their work, and only 41 per cent agreed it had helped clarify things they didn't understand. This shows a 17 per cent drop from 2010 in feedback satisfaction, the largest drop in any area of the departments surveyed, and is over 20 per cent lower than the satisfaction results at Durham University.

Sam Endor, a second-year Maths student, agreed with the criticism, calling the course "badly organised."

Olivia Ward, a third-year Maths student, told *Nouse*: "I can understand why some people might have been dissatisfied as we don't really get any feedback at all," but added that she personally saw it as "sufficient for Maths as it is



generally a right/wrong subject so it is easy enough to see where you went wrong just by looking at solutions and not having personal feedback."

"I think the main problem with Maths students is their inability to ask questions in seminars though so maybe that is really where the problem lies," she continued. "I think most humanities students would be amazed if they sat in for one of our seminars due to the fact that everyone just sits there in silence."

The declining trend was not isolated solely to Maths, with a myriad of departments demon-

"Feedback is an area that has always held back this institution. Management and Economics traditionally perform badly which is a problem for York"

YUSU Academic Officer
Graeme Osborn

strating poor and below-average results on feedback. As the worst performing category across every department at York, only 44 per cent of Psychology and Computer Science students expressed satisfaction with the clarity and detail of their assessments, and only 47 per cent of Management students.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, conceded that feedback was an area that "has always held back this institution."

"Management and Economics traditionally perform badly in the student satisfaction survey which is a problem for York as an institution as they are both large departments and had a high response rate, meaning the figures are very representative" he said.

"However this year was particularly bad for Maths, which saw quite a downturn. The University is keen to turn this round for all departments that performed badly and we have been meeting with each individual department to ensure they have an action plan to turn things around."

With the majority of student satisfaction figures averaging 80 or 90 per cent, the notable disparity between the quality of teaching and the quality of feedback - over a 30 per cent difference - emphasises assessment as a major stumbling block for York to boost its student satisfaction results across the board.

Osborn confirmed that the University had made an aim to get all departments to 70 per cent student satisfaction on feedback by next year, a goal he termed "ambitious but achievable."

He added: "Overall student satisfaction actually improved by 1 per cent this year, but we slipped a few places because everyone else is improving at a faster rate."

The falling standards of feedback, and subsequent declining satisfaction, is a considerable factor in York's descent in the Guardian and Times University league tables this year, which ensured York fell out of the country's Top 10



Feedback was the stumbling block in the National Student Survey 2011

Universities, as well as out of the World Top 100.

Trevor Sheldon, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, acknowledged that the departments were "disappointed with the relatively poor student satisfaction ratings", but asserted that "each is committed to make huge efforts over the next period to improve the undergraduate student learning and teaching experience."

"The Vice-chancellor and the

Deputy Vice-chancellor have met with the departments and each one is developing an action plan to respond to student feedback," he said.

"I am confident that the new heads of department, along with their senior teams, will ensure that areas of weakness will be addressed. Their actions will be shared with students who I hope will support the staff in their efforts to make change."

The Nursing and Health

Entry grades fail to correlate with degree

Martin Spurr
NEWS EDITOR

THE NUMBER of students achieving a First Class Honours degree has been found to vary greatly within different subjects at York that offer similar grade entry requirements upon initial acceptance.

Government figures from 2009/10 show that the disciplines of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Archaeology and Sociology have a similar median average UCAS scores for students - 340, 380 and 340 respectively; but upon graduating the proportion of students achieving a First is three times higher in the discipline of Electronics and Electrical Engineering.

Similarly, all three disciplines had a similar number of students accepted this year with an A* at A-Level - nine per cent in Electronics and 10 per cent and 11 per cent in Archaeology and Sociology respectively.

While 35 per cent of students achieved a First Class Honours in Electronics, only eight per cent of students did in Sociology and six per cent in Archaeology despite



Students who enter different departments on similar grades are leaving York with hugely varied degree results

students having similar entry scores across the three subjects.

This was level with disciplines such as English and Maths, at 33 per cent and 32 per cent, but their entry grades were much higher with the median UCAS entry score 480 for both and 68 per cent and 63 per cent of students achieved an A* at A-Level respectively.

The figures also showed a disparity across York with some subjects having a third of students achieving a First, but for disciplines such as Psychology the figure was only 14 per cent.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, stated: "This is an issue that has been discussed at various levels in the uni-

versity over the last couple of years."

"It may be related to the differing teaching, learning and assessment requirements."

A University spokesman commented: "We are aware that students in some disciplines perform at a higher level than in others. It is also true that students in some dis-

ciplines arrive with higher level entry qualifications which may be indicative of ability or potential on arrival. We also recognise the

"We recognise the potential for some departments to use a wider range of marks than others and this is being monitored"

University spokesperson

potential for some departments to use a wider range of marks than others, and this is being monitored by the Standing Committee on Assessment and Senate."

At the University of Warwick, 30 per cent of students studying Electronics were awarded a First Class Honours degree but with a higher UCAS entry level at 420 points.

The University of York Department of Electronics declined to comment on the story and referred *Nouse* to the University Press Office.

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feedback standards

JONATHAN FROST

FEEDBACK

50% SOCIOLOGY
STUDENTS SAID FEEDBACK HELPED CLARIFY ISSUES

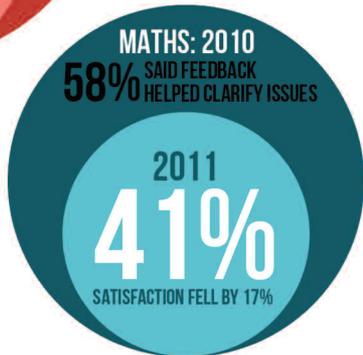
47% MANAGEMENT
STUDENTS SAID FEEDBACK WAS DETAILED & HELPFUL

44% COMPUTER SCIENCE
STUDENTS WERE SATISFIED WITH FEEDBACK

32% MATHS
STUDENTS SAID FEEDBACK WAS DETAILED



"SATISFACTION WITH DETAIL OF FEEDBACK AND CLARIFICATIONS IS DECREASING"



>> Continued from front

years. The reality is that we are one of the best universities in the UK and in the world, and widely accepted as such."

Among other British universities, 3 made the top 10; while there were 32 in the top 200 in the world.

York was awarded the title of 'University of the Year' in November 2010 by THE but has fallen in all the major university league tables this summer.

Weak graduate employment prospects has been highlighted as a problem at York for many years and was one of the main reasons it was ranked down in the Guardian - as the career prospects percentage for graduates finding employment after six months had fallen by over four per cent in the last year.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, also called the recent performance "disappointing" and agreed with the University that graduate employability was a major issue, stating: "[it] points to the existence of an underlying deterioration of York's position in the sector, whether that is York actually getting worse, or everyone else

improving at a faster rate.

"We have identified employability as one of the key issues, especially in the UK league tables, and are making it a key priority this year."

However, Osborn did agree with the University that "league tables go through periodic fluctuations," highlighting that 15 per cent of the data used was derived from reputational surveys.

This type of feedback is more prone to variation, but he did accept that it is of concern because "York's ranking is going down in a number of league tables, including the four main UK ones and the most high profile international league tables."

Sheffield rose 36 places from last year to 101st place, subsequently taking from York the accolade of being the top university in the region. Cantor, however, was keen to emphasise "we are above Sheffield in most league tables."

The Spokesman for the University continued: "Nevertheless, what the University of York has achieved in less than 50 years is remarkable and we remain one of the best universities in the world, with first-class teaching and research."

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PAOLO MARGARI



The University of Sheffield has overtaken York as the 'Best in Yorkshire'

Science department has also performed saliently poorly in feedback satisfaction, dropping over 20 per cent from last year in the perceived clarity of feedback administered to students.

Similarly with Politics, who, having performed badly in last year's survey, implemented a detailed plan throughout the last academic year to raise levels of student satisfaction. Despite improving in overall satisfaction, feedback satisfaction fell by a further 6 per cent, to 50 per cent, indicating a continued failure to address the issues plaguing the feedback process.

Despite satisfaction levels

being above average in the department, several English students have also expressed their continued dissatisfaction with the depth of assessment provided.

"I didn't get any feedback from last term. We only had one essay and my feedback was just ticks," said Lev Harris, a third-year English Student.

David Ward, another third-year, expressed a similar sentiment.

"For the only essay we got back last term, which is worth a lot towards my degree, my mark was disputed between the two markers. This should mean I get feedback from both markers, but all I

got was six lines. It is ridiculous."

Nonetheless, Brian Cantor, the University Vice Chancellor, was optimistic about future overall student satisfaction.

"We have been working hard to enhance our library provision, our careers guidance, and marking and assessment procedures," he told Nouse.

"I hope and expect that our NSS scores will improve further in the future, particularly with the completion of the library refurbishment and the new personal development plans to help with career planning for all students."

LEADER >> Page 12

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Hoagy Davis-Digges



IT HAS been something of a mixed year for York, winning University of the Year 2010/2011 whilst crashing down in almost every league table published. It is, it would seem, broadly owing to the University's failure to perform in spheres outside of traditional academia that it finds itself struggling to maintain its place in the top 10.

York, as an institution, has always benefitted in the league tables from the weight that they place upon the quality of research which each institution produces and similar questions of academia rather than what might be called the 'student experience'.

However, it seems that what

we're seeing now is the beginning of a balancing act where it becomes clear that in order to have good research departments, we must generally fill them with academics whose primary interest is further research into their subject rather than getting a number of students up to a level that they have long since ceased to find challenging.

Indeed, while it is certainly not the view of all or even most academics it seems there is still a significant number who regard teaching as an onerous duty, which simply allows them sufficient time to pursue their actual area of interest.

For a number of lecturers this will mean that they are putting in the minimum necessary amount of work in order to prepare for their classes and as a result their lectures and seminars are uninspiring have a sense of lassitude which can make every minute drag.

Whilst perhaps as recently as a decade ago this stance could be happily maintained within many university institutions, with the

increasing expectation of students that universities conform to their desires and demands, a lachrymose attitude to giving students feedback on their work is beginning to stick out like a sore thumb.

The problem with this approach is not only that the university becomes less attractive. There also remains the perennial problem that if students feel their

"It seems there is still a significant number of academics who regard teaching as an onerous duty, which simply allows them sufficient time to pursue their actual area of interest"

work is being ignored by their tutors, they cease to believe that the work that they are doing is valuable or indeed worthwhile. By doing this we not only damage students' capacity to get the most

out of their course, but we also undermine their faith in their belief that coming to university was, after all, a wise choice.

The new government guidelines coming into place, which force universities to publish the results of the NSS alongside the information about that course, will throw a great deal more importance upon the it must also be considered in the light of the government's new plan, which will ensure that universities will receive money year-on-year based on how many students they attract.

It will lead to universities implementing structures that will force academics to spend more of their time focusing on the needs of their students and far less time developing their own research and thoughts.

What I suspect this will lead to in reality is a gap that will develop between members of a department who are there to attract funding through high-profile research projects and those who must spend the majority of their time doing the actual

teaching.

I believe this will widen to the point where those who teach are essentially supporting the research of a number of their colleagues, who need only give the occasional lecture.

This will make it a great deal more difficult for newer institutions to develop their own research as they will be unable to support the almost full-time researchers that would allow for such innovation. By making it far more difficult for newer institutions to develop their own research we maintain the privileged position of older, better funded institutions who are able to support larger research departments.

Therefore it seems likely that in the foreseeable future what we will find is that large institutions are able to consolidate and increase their monopoly on higher education in the UK and it becomes less likely that we will see a repeat of the success enjoyed by universities such as York in moving from start-up universities into the UK top 10 in less than half a century.

IRIE VIBES

SOUNDSYSTEM CULTURE

YORK'S BIGGEST REGGAE,
DANCEHALL, ROOTS, DUB
& DUBWISE EVENT

SAT 15TH OCT - 2ND BIRTHDAY FEAT
RSD / ROB SMITH + WREXILE

FRI 18TH NOV - IRIE VIBES MEETS
BIG TOES HIFI (SCOTLAND)

SAT 10TH DEC - FEAT. LIVE DUB FROM
DUB BARN COLLECTIVE

CRESCENT WMC
OFF BLOSSOM ST. YORK

8PM - LATE . 18+ . BRING I.D.
HEAVYWEIGHT SOUNDSYSTEM &
CARIBBEAN FOOD (WHILE STOCKS LAST)

New RAG shop raises over £1000 in first week open

Harrie Neal
NEWS REPORTER

A NEW YUSU RAG initiative is selling kitchen equipment left by last year's freshers to new and current students, with items such as pots, pans, utensils, and others up for sale.

The 'Big Green Clean' shop, above Costcutter's in Market Square, opened its doors for the first time on Tuesday 4th October, raising over £500 in its first two days and has subsequently raised over £1000.

James Croydon, YUSU Activities Officer, commented: "Whether you've forgotten all your forks, or you just fancy travelling light and getting all your equipment when you arrive, then the shop is for you."

Willis stated that at the start, "I think I was a bit naïve," adding, "I had hoped to raise about a grand in total, but as you can see the shop is rammed out there." Pots and pans are being sold for two pounds each and crockery items for between fifty pence to a pound.

"At the end of last term we asked people living on campus to



The RAG shop has proved popular for freshers seeking cheap utensils

leave the things they didn't want in bin bags, and this is what we got. I'm starting to stagger all the good stuff so that when all the first-years arrive at the weekend they won't be left with a load of rubbish."

Becky Mursell, RAG Ents Officer, commented: "I don't know why it hasn't been done before."

"It has been amazing for RAG - giving a boost to our totals before term has even started while for the forgetful student (or those who aren't able to bring their kitchen

stuff with them) we can kit their kitchen out and at a price that won't break the bank."

The idea for the shop was conceived by RAG Officers Baxter Willis and Rebecca Irwin and committee members James Croydon and Laura Borisovaite.

RAG's next event will be the Viking Raid in week two this term and tickets for this have almost sold out.

COMMENT >> Page 11

Ziggy's faces potential closure after a refurbishment fails to increase profits

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

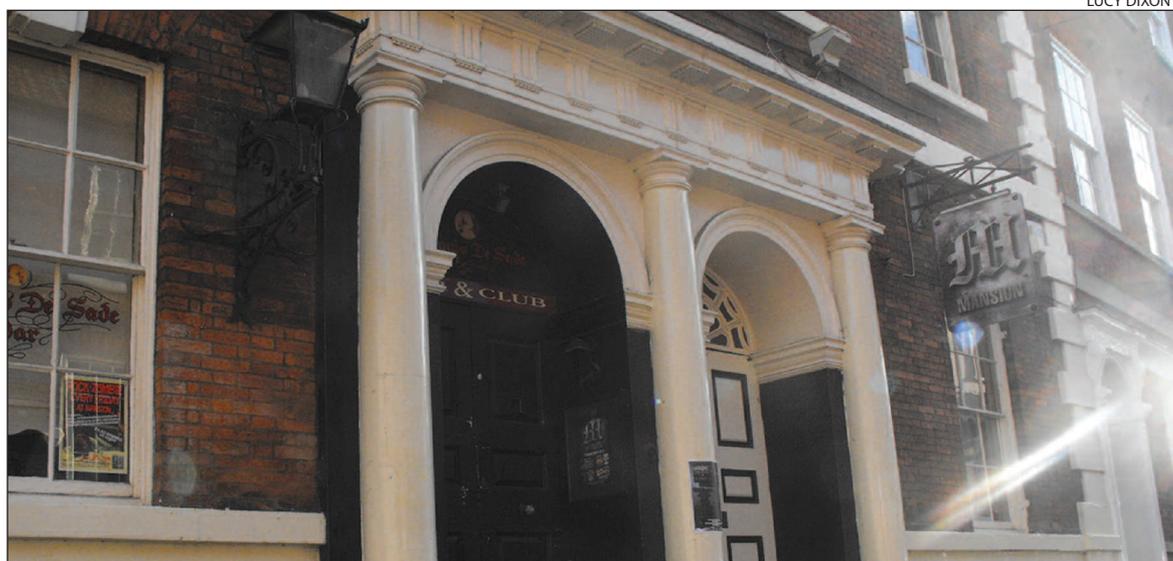
THE NIGHTCLUB Mansion, more commonly referred to as Ziggy's, may have shut after 28 years of business.

The reasons behind its potential closure remain obscure. Sources who wish to remain anonymous have pointed towards the activities of one of the club's employees, who has allegedly defrauded the venue of thousands of pounds.

The club recently underwent an expensive rebranding, unveiling a £100,000 redesign in March. According to *Nouse's* local source, the rebrand was funded by a personal loan from another evening venue in York which has not yet been repaid. It retained the name for Wednesday nights, and continued free entry.

Mansion will be open for the first two weeks of term, although after this period the future of the club continues to be in doubt. *Nouse* contacted the North Yorkshire Police who said they were unable to disclose any information regarding the venue.

The phone-line for Mansion has been disconnected, and it was not possible to speak to any of the management staff there. The club is currently on the market, and the popularity of the Wednesday club night may mean that a buyer will emerge in the near future.



Ziggy's nightclub looks set to be open for the first two weeks of term, but its future after that remains uncertain

Ziggy's has been a traditional Wednesday night venue, mostly frequented by sports clubs and societies. Sam Asfahani, YUSU Sports President, commented: "I realise how important Ziggy's is to our sports teams, and I will be asking our clubs what they think we should do at our AGM just before term starts."

At the Annual General Meeting for sports this week, Asfahani stated his intention to continue to support the clubs, saying that a decision in regards to Mansion would be taken when the situation became clearer.

Many sports clubs have

expressed concern at the closure of Mansion. A social secretary for the hockey club, Oliver Wheatley, said "the news of Manion's closure has been met with great dismay within

"The club will be engaged in a collective mourning process over the coming days"

UYHC Social Secretary
Oliver Wheatley

the UYHC and the club will be engaged in a collective mourning process over the coming days."

The fixture of Wednesday night Ziggy's will leave many sport

societies without a regular venue. Most of the societies who frequented Ziggy's have already planned their socials around the club night. The York Hornets have listed each social's dress-code with the tagline: "See you in Ziggy's." With the possible closure of the venue, many of the clubs will have to face the possibility of a loss in sponsorship.

Mansion, despite its popularity, has not been without trouble. In 2010, Elliot was taken to court by residents and presented with a series of conditions in order to retain his licence. He was allowed to stay open, but said he did not foresee any future problems.

Big D beats total raised in previous years

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE DERWENT event BigD has raised an estimated £7,500 with initial estimates suggesting that the event has raised nearly one thousand pounds more than last year. Over 1,600 tickets were sold by the organisers.

"Come Fly With D", which was held in the last week of the summer term, was themed around different countries.

The headline acts were Basshunter, and Sub Focus (DJ Set). There were also performances by Lethal Bizzle, Crystal Fighters, and Itchy Feet.

Fi Stuart-Clarke, third year History student, said: "Big D was one of the best events on campus. It was a great way to say good-bye to your friends, as well as raising money for charity."

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

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

New Lounge bar divides college opinion

Hoagy Davis-Digges

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE NEW James College bar, The Lounge, opened this week with some students voicing concerns over the ownership the college will claim for the bar now that it is YUSU run.

Many are worried that it will lack the atmosphere of The Courtyard, which serves as Langwith's bar and that The Lounge will not feel like the James College bar.

It will also be serving food, although its lack of kitchen will mean that food is going to be biked over from The Courtyard with the waiting time being put at the moment at 30 minutes..

In particular there have been concerns that the need to maintain the Roger Kirk Centre as a space for York Conferences and the involvement of Commercial Service has meant that the needs of the college have been overlooked.

Alice Housego, a second-year James College student, described how she isn't planning on using the new bar.

"Personally I am going to be using the Courtyard. I think the Lounge looks soulless and a bit tacked on. I also think the name should reflect the college that it is in, as we no longer have McQ's."

Emma Bartlett, James JCRC Chair, has commented: "There has been a massive amount of progress



ROSE TROUP-BUCHANAN

The Lounge bar officially opened on Sunday night for freshers' week despite worries over building work delays

in the last few days and I'm very confident it will be ready for freshers. The college has had a lot of input in the designs for the bar and its capacity."

She also added: "We will still be using it as our own with our weekly pub quiz. It now means that other colleges may also want

to use it more which is a great way to get people to the south side of campus."

Laura Watson, one of the James JCRC Ents Reps, added: "My opinion is that it will work the same way as The Courtyard works for Langwith."

Whilst Watson was highly

enthusiastic about the project, she also commented that for members of James College, "it's sad that they don't have their own place to meet each other."

Tim Ellis, YUSU President, has commented on the development, stating: "The bar is hopefully going to have the same relation-

ship with James as the Courtyard does for Langwith students (i.e James College will see it and use it as if it is their own bar but will be used by everyone on campus). YUSU, Commercial Services and James have all been working close-

"It's sad that they [James College students] don't have their own place to meet each other"

James JCRC Ents Rep
 Laura Watson

ly together with the development of the plans."

As it stands the bar is only using temporary partitions to separate the space of the bar itself from the Roger Kirk Centre, as it was not possible for it to be completed by the beginning of Freshers' Week, when it has been booked for fresher events by James College and by YUSU for part of the Live and Loud event.

However, there are plans over the course of the Christmas break to build a bulkhead around the bar itself which will allow a partition to slide around the bar.

The Lounge will be used only for events during the first week of the Autumn term, after which it will be fully open from 9pm on the 17th October.

COMMENT >> Page 14

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 the **most**
 of your time at University



Find out who is recruiting and what you need to do to get noticed by top graduate employers at the Autumn Term Careers Fairs.

Week 2: Finance and Management Fair

Thursday 20 October, 11am-3pm,
 Physics Exhibition Centre

Week 3: Science and Technology Fair

Thursday 27 October, 11am-3pm,
 Ron Cooke Hub, Heslington East

Week 4: Law Fair

Thursday 3 November, 12noon-3pm,
 Ron Cooke Hub, Heslington East



Come along to chat with representatives about a range of job and further training opportunities, find out more about application processes and investigate summer internships.

For further information, including a list of all organisations attending each fair, please visit: www.york.ac.uk/careers/events
 No need to book, just turn up!

RAG plans ice rink for winter event

Martin Spurr
NEWS EDITOR

RAG ARE planning to have an ice rink on campus for their big 'Winter Wonderland' event this December.

The Christmas event will be held over the 3rd and 4th of December with the artificial ice rink at Vanbrugh paradise along with a various stalls, a German market and Cadburys providing free chocolate.

Stalls will be selling crafts, sweets and have a variety of different games and activities there to be played.

RAG are spending £3,200 for the ice rink over the two days but Selina Wolke-Rios and Becky Mursell, RAG Ents Officers, said that they had not yet decided how much the ice rink will cost for students to use.

As well as the ice rink there will be bands playing and a pantomime on the Saturday and Sunday nights being performed by PantSoc. Food such as burgers and hot dogs will be available and drinks such as mulled wine.

One third-year student commented: "I think it is an ambitious plan, but if they pull it off it will be incredible."

"It my time at University I have not been enthralled by many of the on campus events, but this event is something I am looking forward to."

Little John's LGBT bar disputes loss of licence on grounds of homophobia

Rose Troup-Buchanan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE LGBT bar the Little John has had its licence revoked, causing the bar's owner to claim homophobic victimisation.

Mr Ransome, the owner, has kept the bar open and serving whilst he fights the decision of York City Council court to close the establishment down.

Mr Ransome had the following to say: "we think that the actions taken against us have been completely malicious, and we class it as homophobia."

The bar's licence was revoked after it emerged that two counts of cocaine had been found in the flat above the bar. Mr Ransome has claimed the cocaine was for private consumption, and reiterated the bars no-drugs policy.

After the first count of cocaine was found the Little John was fined 200 pounds and given a cau-

"We think that the actions taken against us have been completely malicious, and we class it as homophobia."

The Little John Owner
Chris Ransome

tion, but it was the second discovery of cocaine which resulted in court action and subsequent clo-



The Little John is one of York's few LGBT friendly drinking establishments

sure of the drinking establishment.

Emma Brownbill, LGBT representative, said: "it's obviously disappointing to lose any venue, while it is not York's only LGBT friendly bar, many York students and alum-

ni will be sad to see it close."

Brownbill was confident that the LGBT community would band together and continue to support whatever venue came to replace Little Johns.

Mr Ransome continued that he felt his establishment had been singled-out unfairly; citing the council's decision to insist on marshalls at the door, rather than the usual doorsafe which other bars are required to have. He emphasised Little Johns "had never had any real trouble here before."

Jannette Robinson, owner of Jacks Coffee Café, adjacent to Little Johns, supported the court's decision to revoke the licence.

She said that the revocation was entirely justified and quashed suggestions of homophobia as claimed by Mr Ransome.

York City Council defended its decision with the evidence of an employee smashing a bottle in the street, after taking it off a customer, which was caught on CCTV.

In addition, evidence was present in court showing a lax smoking policy; a customer who asked where to smoke was told "anywhere".

The customer was not directed towards the designated area, outside the building and in accordance with national guidelines.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, stated his intention to support the LGBT community in finding alternatives for their events. He commented that: "It's a massive shame that Little John's has shut, although I understand the reasons."

A decision over the future of the bar is expected to be reached by the council before Christmas.

Societies suffering from drop in YUSU funding

Hoagy Davis-Digges
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A NUMBER of societies have faced difficulty this year after receiving far less money from YUSU than they had expected. Many of them blame a number of cuts in the YUSU budget, which is having a knock-on effect to societies.

However James Croydon, YUSU Student Activities Officer, has said that there have been no cuts to the YUSU budget this year, and furthermore that there has been no decrease in the money spent upon societies.

Croydon commented: "The money I gave to societies was the same if not more. There are just more societies this year. No one is going to disappear because of their grant but the money I was being asked for was significantly more than the money that was available. More societies applied for grants."

Treasurer of DanceSoc, Charlotte Peachy, has said that the society's financial position is very different to what it was a couple of years ago, "We have to pay out quite a lot to do competitions, as well as the dance showcase."

"We rely on YUSU helping us get to competitions, because the only income we get is from the classes we run."



DanceSoc is one of the societies which is suffering after receiving less grant this year than usual from YUSU

She explained that "this year we have had to reduce costs, which has meant paying our instructors less for each class. We have also had to look into new ways of making money, we are aiming to start up more classes to appeal to more people."

Explaining what they will need to cut back on, she said that they are already unable to send people to a number of competitions due to registration fees and transport costs but said that since they "don't want to cut back on showcase we may have to sacrifice some

competitions".

Croydon also discussed his new societies training, adding: "my main aim of societies training is to explain alternative funding methods."

Finally he explained that some societies had been given funding

because the YUSU process for distributing grant allocations took into account the need of a society for particular items and the current state of the society's own finances.

However, not all societies have been seriously affected, though still feel that a lack of funds is restrictive for the society.

The treasurer of DramaSoc, Sarah Lewis, said that "we got our usual grant, and we're quite a unique case because we have a weekly income from our performances."

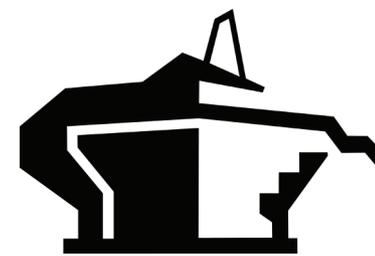
"This year we have had to reduce costs, which has meant paying our instructors less for each class"

Treasurer of DanceSoc
Charlotte Peachy

"With our grant we had ideas about doing a lot of refurbishment, but didn't get enough. The YUSU grant is only keeping us ticking over for another year."

She also indicated that other performance societies may have difficulties in the coming year, "Central Hall Musical Society are particularly struggling because of Jekyll and Hyde, and YUSU will probably have to help them."

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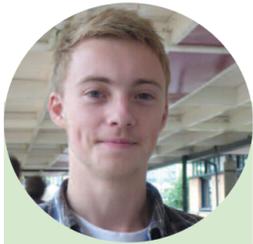


Martin
NEWS



First impressions

Nouse gets initial thoughts from this year's new intake on their first day



What do you think of your new room?

It's ok, I wouldn't say it's great

Have you bought a ticket to 'Live and Loud'?

Yes

Do you know who Tim Ellis is?

No

Nouse or Vision?

Nouse

Dave Tolley, Vanbrugh,
Electronic Engineering and
Music Technology



What do you think of your new room?

My room's pretty old, but it seems ok

Have you bought a ticket to 'Live and Loud'?

No, not yet. But I think I want to go, I just want to meet some other people who are going

Do you know who Tim Ellis is?

No

Nouse or Vision?

Nouse

Maike Westus, Vanbrugh



What do you think of your new room?

It's alright - I'm pretty far away from campus though

Have you bought a ticket to 'Live and Loud'?

Yes, everyone I talked to seemed to have got one

Do you know who Tim Ellis is?

Yes, I've been following him on Twitter

Nouse or Vision?

Nouse

Halifax College



What do you think of your new room?

Nice but I'm worried about the showers - my friend's has already flooded her room

Have you bought a ticket to 'Live and Loud'?

Not yet, but I think I probably will

Do you know who Tim Ellis is?

Sort of - I think I've seen his name on some of the Goodricke Facebook groups

Nouse or Vision?

Vision

Alex Buckley, Goodricke,
Film and Television
Production



What do you think of your new room?

It is really nice, I think it looks good.

Have you bought a ticket to 'Live and Loud'?

Yes, I heard that everyone was getting them.

Do you know who Tim Ellis is?

No idea, sorry!

Nouse or Vision?

Nouse

Johnny Gilcrest, Goodricke,
Computer Science

Fairfax residents receive University compensation

Isabelle Wynne
NEWS REPORTER

LAST YEAR'S residents of Fairfax House have received compensation from the University after questions were raised as to the quality of their accommodation; with £50 being awarded to the 80 students who lived there and over £4000 being granted in total.

Complaints from students culminated in the signing of a petition and an in-depth complaints report, outlining areas of the building that they felt weren't up to a suitable standard.

Nouse reported on the Fairfax House petition last term, in which concerns over safety and the rent price that the University was charging for the accommodation were raised by over 90 students signing the document.

Although the amount of compensation was lower than initially asked for, Campus Services has also promised at least one consultation group with students in Fairfax house as an opportunity to voice any other concerns that may arise.

A University spokesman stated that, "all repairs had been achieved in line with the terms and conditions of the letting" and that the compensation given was "a small ex gratia payment" made "in recognition in the delay of reaching a decision" by the panel.

However Robert Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented that "the compensation awarded shows that...the delays in responding to issues were not always resolved in a thorough and timely fashion" and that their response was "a step in the right direction" in the improvement of University accommodation."

"[It's] a step in the right direction in the improvement of University accommodation"

YUSU Welfare Officer
Robert Hughes

He also stated in his YUSU blog that it sent "a strong message" that students would stand up for accommodation they felt "is below par." Adding that, "there is now going to be a lot more scrutiny about the quality of the accommodation at the University."

Vish Nithiyanthan, one of the previous tenants, stated that he was pleased that they had reached "a positive and successful outcome" despite the full amount of compensation not being received.

He also stressed the importance of the University's promise to review the situation again in the future, which will "ensure future residents do not experience the same problems again."



Comment & Analysis

Hannah Clugston

Comment Editor



Leave behind your prejudices and embrace northern quirks

University is the time to embrace the diverse nature of the student body and enjoy new experiences, rather than stigmatise them.

For freshers, York may well be your first experience of Yorkshire, or in fact your first experience of the north at all. The majority of University of York students are from the south of England. So, strangely, although you may have moved north you will in fact find yourself in a very southern environment.

The north-south divide is an age-old concern. No one is really sure what it is or where it begins and ends but generally it seems to be the cultural and economic differences between the north and the south of the UK.

As a Northerner myself I have to say this divide seems to be more of an issue to Southerners than it is to us. For example, we all know what a northern stereotype is, a weird man with an unintelligible accent talking about eating tea (instead of dinner) and consuming large amounts of mushy peas and gravy. But when it comes to the southern stereotype I am at a bit of a loss - a businessman looking grumpy?

I'd like to disregard the northern stereotype straight off, but there are a few etiquette tips that might help you along. For one, taxi drivers prefer northerners, but be warned, if you can maintain a particularly convincing accent they may talk to you about mines (take it from experience) and unless you scrub up on your Yorkshire history you might be at a bit of a loss. Also if a local is blunt with you this is not necessarily rudeness but just the brutal honesty to which Northerners are accustomed. Equally if a granny talks to you at the bus stop be polite back, we all

like to have a good chin wag

But on a serious note, the north-south divide is actually a load of rubbish. Ok, so we might pronounce "bath" a bit differently and find it easier to cope in the cold but fundamentally there is little difference. And as much as it might be funny to annoy your northern housemates by mocking the local dialect, it is stupid to dwell on the supposed "divide".

University is a place that brings together the most diverse groups of people. The University of York is home to students from all over the UK, as well as all over the world. This will be one of the only times in your life when you will get to spend extended periods of time with so many diverse cultures all at once, especially living in student

accommodation. During my first year I learned how to cook a multitude of new dishes, I read new books, watched unseen films, listened to novel music and tried new sports all because of the different people I'd met at university.

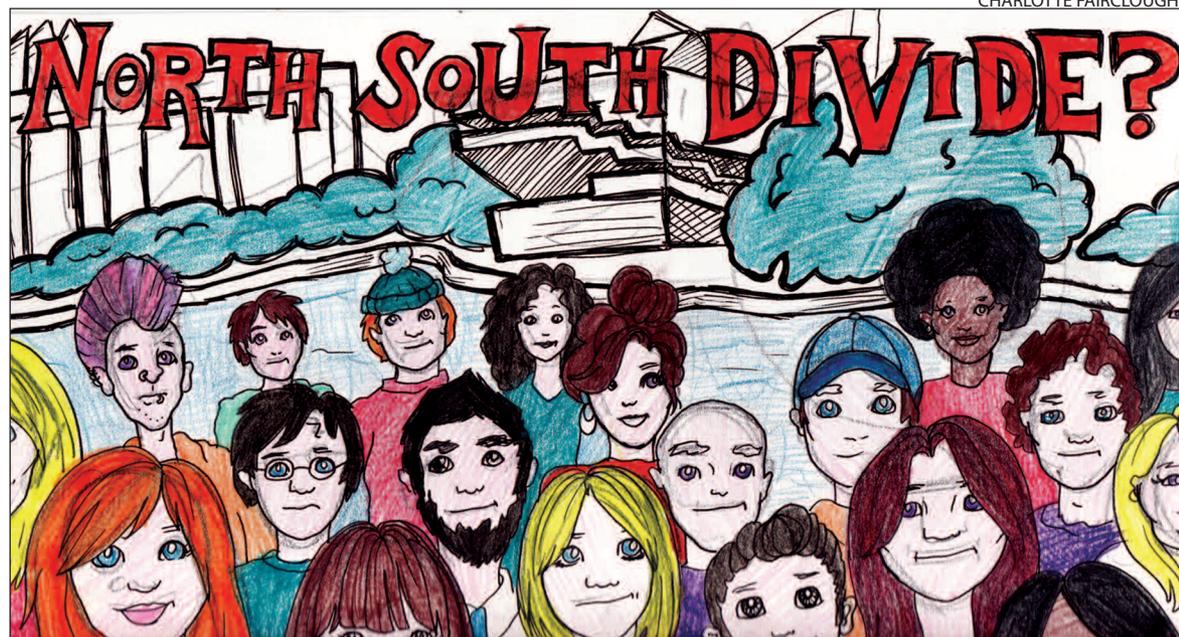
The wide array of student-developed societies represent the variety of interests held by students at York. But diversity can also be appreciated over the kitchen table and in the lecture theatres. Staying open minded is imperative to our development as people, especially when we arrive at university. Dismissing different opinions and people could stop us from appreciating a new train of academic thought or discovering a new hobby.

Of course, we have to be

aware of those few students that like to attempt a personality transformation. But student accommodation holds no secrets and "Mr Maverick's" stories of extravagant escapades eventually fall flat when he gets caught out in his Peter Rabbit PJs. It is only so long you can maintain an illusion and after a year of living in close proximity you really learn to appreciate people for all their fun and faults.

Regardless of whether there is a distinction between the north and the south or whether Mr X's way of cooking eggs is better than Mr Y's, all these divides are disregarded at university. So, it is about time we stopped focusing on prejudiced stereotypes and enjoyed learning from the different people around us.

CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOUGH



Jason Rose



Inconsistencies in league tables prove them worthless

Dramatic news this summer; York is dipping in the league tables. The Times HE World University rankings saw us drop from 81st to 121st. The QS World rankings saw us drop from 88th to 96th. And the ARWU (Academic Ranking of World Universities) sees York miss the top 200 altogether.

On the home league tables, the *Guardian* sees ninth become 15th, the Complete University Guide (CUG) sees 10th become 12th, *The Sunday Times* sees 13th become 15th and *The Times* sees ninth become 11th. It's consistent across the board.

So why are we slipping?

Looking solely at the *Guardian* and the CUG, we have gone down in the following categories; graduate prospects, teaching satisfaction, student to staff ratio, spending per student.

Despite incessant promises and campaigns for employability, according to these ratings, we're actually getting worse. And cutting a number of staff members to save money negatively affected these statistics. This could partly be due to the fact the Heslington East development is cutting out Hes West facility expenditure.

In reality, the *Guardian* sees Bath overtake us solely because of entry tariff and graduate employ-

ment level; CUG sees Bristol overtake us because of the same two categories. The QS World Rankings even sees Southampton

"we have more people entering postgraduate education than our peers"

overtake us this year (75th to our 96th), due to an Academic Peer Review (72.1 per cent to 67.4 per

cent).

York has its reasons for failing to attract graduate jobs; we have more people entering postgraduate education than our peers and we have more people staying to live in York (instead of moving to seek employment) than comparable institutions.

I have never trusted these tables for a number of reasons. Ultimately, though, because of this simple fact: Manchester is not in the top 24 this year for any of the UK league tables, and yet is allegedly 38th in the world. The lack of logic behind that dumb-finds me.

Also, the ARWU appears to

favour older and larger institutions. Using number of Nobel Prize winning alumni, Nobel Prize winning staff, number of highly cited individuals, number of published papers, number of papers indexed, and the total score per academic staff member, to compile their rankings.

This shows two things: firstly, that the university league tables are completely useless - and secondly, that the University expansion will indeed help improve our league table position. So it seems, the very thing that is frequently blamed for current problems may well be the thing that helps us all out in the distant future.



Freefalling

What with York's continued fall from grace as far as league tables are concerned it should not come as a big surprise that that it has dropped out of the top 100 universities in the world. Whilst in part it can be read as part of a wider trend as UK universities are gradually eclipsed by those in the developing world, the salience of York's descent is clearly attributable to other factors.

The University may dismiss this as a blip, but the fact is that for a number of years now York has been tumbling down the league tables, and it is a growing concern about future that the reputation of the university when they graduate will be vastly poorer than that of the university which they applied to. Indeed, as undoubtedly painful as it may be for York students to accept, the impoverishment of York's reputation is clearly evinced by its poor performance in graduate employability in a number of recent surveys.

With students paying more, the questions which potential applicants will be asking when they are choosing the university that they apply to will be far more concerned with the earning power of their degree once they graduate. Unless the University does something radical then the decline of York could soon be cemented into a pattern which will discourage prospective students from applying.

Of course, to some extent York's poor ratings become a self-fulfilling prophecy, as its weakening reputation makes it more difficult for graduates to compete in the job market. York has for far too long been content to rest on its laurels as a 'research-based' university, but it is imperative that the makes a concerted effort to make the university more student oriented in order to continuing to attract the funding to maintain its facilities and its reputation as a world-class institution.

Gutter politics

On the one hand you have the YUSU Racial and Equality Officer, who arguably is guilty of being strong viewed and reacting unwisely more than anything; on the other you have David Levene, the former student who seems to not be able to let go of University life and the petty politics that permeate it. This private matter between these two individuals has escalated into the public domain, and YUSU, by getting involved, has compounded the divide and bitter rivalries within the student union have left the issue tangled up beneath a web of rumours and false assertions.

Why was there the need for a person who failed to win the YUSU Presidency, now a Labour Councillor in York to make a complaint - regardless of whether it was right thing to do - to the student union he no longer is a member of? Meddling in student politics when you are now an elected councillor is trying to control the life you used to have, not the one you currently do. Bringing YUSU into a matter that originated from a private conversation and demanding an apology and resignation through union channels seems a strange way to resolve a problem between two people who, although not self-confessed friends, have known each other for several years. With threats of votes of no confidence being bandied around, the real question is whether YUSU will protect one of its own from outside attacks or internally condemn one of its members and force them out because of outside pressure?

The Israeli-Palestine conflict creates strong opinions and fierce debates and while the YUSU Officer's comments were verging on the stronger or militant stance, a YUSU driven peace operation was surely not the best way to sort out the conflict.

Feedback failures

It doesn't take long to realise that University is a place of independent learning. You either do the work or you don't, and there is no-one standing over your shoulder reprimanding you for forgetting your homework. Which is all well and good, teaching us to stand on our own two feet so to speak. But there is a fine line between independence and abandonment, and that line, it seems, is feedback. What good is high quality teaching if students are given no personalised advice on how to improve and progress within the limited three years at university. This is a institution of learning, but how can anyone gauge their progress, errors and misunderstandings through six lines of text or a tick sheet?

The declining trend of feedback standards show that it is a sadly ignored aspect of student satisfaction at York, yet arguably the most important of all; teaching students to actually utilise those hours of lectures from scrawled notes into a tangible result of academic achievement. Ironically, it is also becoming increasingly necessary for York as an institution, for as we plummet down the league tables, how else will we know where we went wrong?

Student politics kicked to the gutter



Hannah Brearley

Accusations that one of the YUSU Part-Time Officers, Lawrence Binitie- one of the Racial Equality Officers no less- has been making racially offensive comments kick-starts this term with suitable sensationalism. This story, however, has snowballed, quite dramatically, and has escalated from a passionate political discussion to a public brawl.

YUSU Officers, part-time or sabbatical, are elected by the student body to fulfill a role, and with those positions, cliché but true, comes great responsibility. However, clear limits and parameters between the professional and personal must be drawn. Whether staggering out of Ziggys or volunteering to clean up the local graveyard, we will be judged by others. But just because you are a YUSU Officer, you cannot be a paragon of virtue, sobriety and clean-cut respectability all of the time.

Unlike last term's issue of rugby racism, in which racist comments were posted to the team's official Twitter account, Binitie was engaged in a private discussion in a

personal capacity; as a student, not an officer. The furore that has emerged in the wake of the comments made, involving various sabbatical officers and provoking accusations of blackmail and threats of votes of no confidence, has failed to recognise the boundaries between the personal and the political.

This is an example of personal preference and bias running amok

"this story has escalated from a political discussion to a public brawl"

amongst politics, something that is evident in national as well as local and student political debate.

Expecting Tim Ellis to solve the Israeli-Palestinian crisis in his first academic term in office is insane; casting him a mediating role between a student and an interfer-

ing local politico is simply unproductive.

The issue in this case is that the comments made are related to the role Binitie was elected to fulfill, and may compromise his credibility. The issue of his credibility, his ability to represent students, and his continuation in office should be down to those people who voted for him. YUSU Sabbatical Officers should ensure that students know all their options with regards to their elected officials; we voted them in, so we should know damn sure how to get them out if we want. But we need to ensure it is done for the right reasons.

Binitie is entitled to his own opinion, although he needs to be aware of the impact airing his views may have on others. However, if Levene felt incapable of dealing with heated and controversial debate in a social forum then his decision to go running to YUSU seems justifiable; however, I would suggest a career change. A personal resolution was required, not a three-ring circus of student politics.

Martin Spurr



Squatting legislation could endanger peaceful protests

The word "squatting" conjures up images of large empty houses being broken into by unruly youths, living in a house that is not their own and then being unwilling to leave and give up their new free home. But a new government bill, aimed to tackle the "squatting problem", is in danger of affecting the ability of students to hold peaceful protests in buildings. The bill, to criminalise the act of trespassing, could criminalise the homeless as well as the sit-in protests that are traditionally very popular to students. The sit-ins that swept across many institutions last year in response to the increase in tuition fees would be criminalised if the bill went through - as lawyers suggest it would amount to trespassing.

While I didn't join in with the supposed "Great" York sit-in last year, the participants of which occupied part of the Exhibition Centre for 10 days protesting against the potential increase in tuition fees, I did admire their determination and dedication to the cause they were pursuing. The only disruption that the University suffered was the loss of space and the annoyance of the continued protest being there day after day - to criminalise that would be misguided and illiberal.

Whether you supported the sit-in in York last year is irrelevant, as is whether you saw the sit-in as the best form of protest; what does matter is that those students who wished to protest about a cause in such a manner were allowed to do

so and not stopped because of legal wrangling. In the future students could be severely limited in their choice of protest expression.

Trespassing and occupying owned property is not what I am advocating. But when it is done for a good reason and when it is conducted in a cooperative and non-violent way, it is hard to see the logic in criminalising such behaviour - albeit indirectly. The protesters last year in York met with University officials, explaining their own position and making allowances for other students to come and work in the space upon University insistence. In return the University listened to the concerns that were being raised, and although the protest was eventually unsuccessful, the conduct during it could in no way be described as criminal.

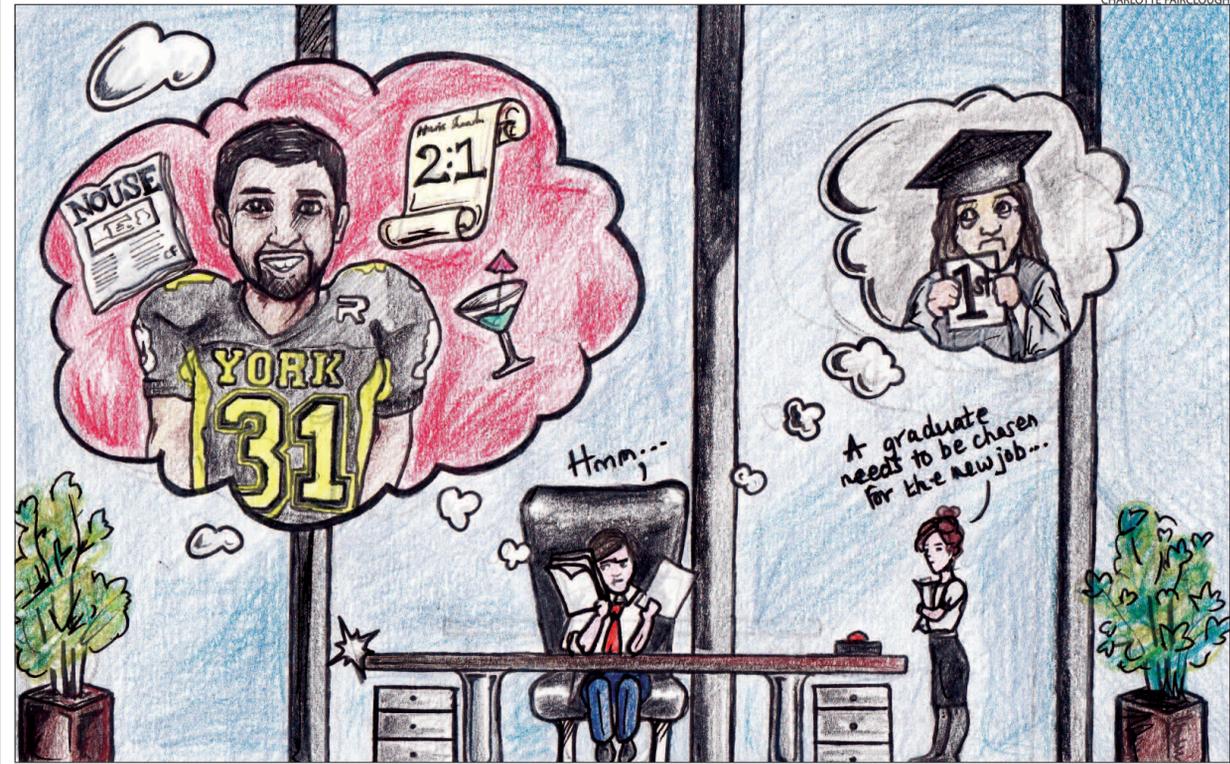
Similar student sit-ins erupted in Chile over the summer; and while some of the activity was vio-

lent, sit-ins have been used worldwide to show authorities, at whatever level, that the people aren't in favour with the decisions being taken. To ban this would damage the principles of the right to demonstrate and would be a backward step when historically constructive demonstrations have highlighted issues and helped society advance.

The bill may be intended to solely deal with squatters (and whether that is right or wrong is another argument) but as lawyers have warned, protests, such as sit-ins, might also be blanket covered by it. It is necessary for the bill to be reconsidered once more.

Fundamentally, a law with unintended consequences is not well thought through regardless of what they are, especially when those consequences criminalise legitimate and peaceful forms of protest. Perhaps a sit-in is needed to get the government to listen.

FRANCES SAMPAYO



Camilla Apar



Deputy Editor

University sacrifices: choosing between the first or the fun

Academic study is not the complete university experience and outside interests will only serve to spruce up your job prospects.

The initial realisation that it was unlikely that I would be getting a first class degree was one of despair. How would I get a job? How would I explain what appears to be an absolute failure to my expectant family? How could I possibly have not spent every spare moment in the library or doing secondary reading? Or the primary reading, even?

Academia. It's what we all come to university for in the first place. Yet soon enough, the allure of various activities, nights out, and the simple fact that there are over 13,000 other students to befriend and party with takes over. First year: it doesn't count, everyone reassures one another. Second year: it counts a bit more, so work to meet the deadlines and turn up to the exams. Third year: the apocalypse dawns. It's a natural cycle of desolate panic, yet academia is not the only thing that 'counts'. Some people like to reassure themselves with this fact, without carrying much conviction. But it's true: university is not just about obtaining that coveted first. There is almost a sickening number of opportunities available to students - and they wouldn't be there if they weren't intended as beneficial additions to academic study.

Whether it's taking part in something that relates to what you want to do when you graduate, or volunteering to plant trees in local parks, everything is a 'useful' experience. If not at university, when else? It's hard to envisage many people in the working world who

have the time, inclination, or funds to go on a night out, direct a play, and partake in competitive squash matches all in one week.

The figures from the NSS showing that more Electronics students at York get a first class degree than those studying Archaeology are admittedly puzzling. Unlike popular and biased stereotypes, this doesn't mean that Electronics students are more focused on their studies, go out less, have less of a 'life' than Archaeology students.

"using individual experiences as evidence that you've made the most of being at university"

Perhaps the reason for the disparity is that Electronics students have more contact hours than Archaeology students, and different methods of examination. What worries me isn't the difference between the numbers of firsts from students doing different subjects at my own university - it's whether students from different universities doing similar subjects, who I will be competing against in the big bad world of employment, are having an easier time getting a first. This, sadly, isn't something we can do much about,

other than making the Harry Fairhurst building your second home.

This leads to the next worry about whether employers recognise that York is a good university. It fluctuates up and down the league tables on a yearly basis, it's not part of the Russell group, and it doesn't have a reputation for being 'the' university for any particular subject. On paper, being a York graduate might say absolutely nothing, so using individual experiences as evidence that you've made the most of being at university (regardless of the institution) become necessary to set students apart from the job-hunting rabble. Maybe this is where York is a winner: there's college sport and BUCS sport; there's some extremely niche societies; there's even academic societies for those with scholarly inclinations.

Employers know these opportunities exist, they've heard the plugs from universities and unions about the glorious 'student experience' as many times as we have. They know 'how it is' for students, so in some senses, turning up to an interview proudly waving your first but having nothing else to say about your time at university is a bit of a death trap.

There's a healthy balance to be found, and it's a juggling act. It's hard to work out which to sacrifice, the fun or the first? I'm personally happy to settle for a 2:1, and I'd like to think it's not entirely because I've been happily duped into believing all of this 'well-rounded person' business.

Admiring tricksters is questionable



James Harle

On October 5th, Edward Davenport was sentenced to 7 years and 8 months in prison for conspiracy to defraud. The self-styled "Lord" scammed businesses out of multi-million pound sums, using an "Advance Fee Fraud" whereby the company would be asked to pay administration fees for a loan that never came.

From his glamorous residence at 33 Portland Place, Davenport projected a front of professionalism and respectability - qualities he was found to be sadly lacking in court - through his business website, which featured pictures of him with almost every conceivable celebrity.

I would be a lot more indignant about Lord Davenport's crimes if I wasn't so busy admiring him. It wasn't enough for him to be a multi-millionaire with a house to rival Buckingham Palace and hang out with most of the celebrities in the known world. Oh, no. He had to spice things up with some fraud too. He also penned an entire website filled with pro-Davenport propaganda, and his own crest. What do you say about a man like that? I say, I'd probably quite like to be him.

In all seriousness: how can we be expected to condemn Davenport? Popular culture is filled with Davenports, who we fall in love every time we go to the cinema or open a book. If a man steals a car, he's a criminal. If a man manages to con people out of vast amounts using trickery, then he's somehow admirable. That's what Hollywood's been teaching us since before we were born.

And that's the heart of the issue for me; I can uphold the laws that put Davenport in prison. I know that what he did was wrong. I just don't feel it. Even if you don't want to admit it; that's how culture affects you, on a subconscious level. I should want to lock him in a cell, instead I want to pat him on the back and say: 'man... you had a good run there'. There is something compelling in his audacity that I just can't put aside.

I'm not proposing a solution to this problem, because I don't think there is one. Heightened control of creative content is indefensible; censorship is not the answer. We can't deny our love of tricksters - from Brer Rabbit to Jack Sparrow. They are indivisible from our inherited culture. Nor can we allow a man like Davenport to go on his way, chuckling over what a scam he is.

What I'm calling for is more sensitivity to the connection between what we watch and who we admire. I think what's important is to highlight the contradiction here, and acknowledge that it's alright to sympathise with, or even admire - as long as we don't confuse it with what's morally acceptable.

MUSE.

11.10.11



“I’m a loner”

Will Self lets us in.

Los Campesinos!

Frontman Gareth talks about the making of their fourth album.

The Trends

Fresh out of Fashion Week, the team bring you this term's trends.

MUSE.



M5



M16



M21

FEATURES.

M5. India's Hidden War

Jack Barton investigates the unspoken conflict enforced by the Indian Naxalites

M8. Immortalising the iCulture

In the wake of Steve Jobs' death Sophie Walker investigates the iCulture

M10. Headstrong Hemlines

Fashion designer Carlotta Actis Barone talks to Paris Bennett about her new line

M12. Will Self

The fierce novelist/writer talks to Mia de Graaf about a writer's solitary existence

ARTS.

M14. The mystery of black characters in Victorian art, and why you should hang onto your beach read.

FASHION.

M16. For the start of term we bring you Fashion Week's top trends and the art of illusion.

MUSIC.

M18. Los Campesinos! talk about their 4th album, PLUS a playlist special.

FILM.

M20. Debate has sparked over whether or not films with smoking should be cert. 18. PLUS Melancholia

FOOD&DRINK.

M21. Famous student chef, born and bred in Heslington, York, passes on his tips. PLUS chocolate week starts now.

IMAGE CREDITS.

M11. Philippa Grafton
M13. Chris Saunders

Quirks: Insured body parts

Playboy bunny and Hugh Hefner's ex, Holly Madison, just insured her breasts for \$1m. She's not the first to cover her humanly assets...



David Lee Roth: Sperm (\$1m)



Fred Astaire: Arms (\$20k) Legs (\$75k)



Bruce Springsteen:
Voice (\$5.7m)



Dolly Parton:
Boobs (\$600k)



America Ferrera:
Smile (\$10m)

Confessions of a glory hunter



Mia de Graaf

In Argentina during the summer I got some interesting reactions to my being English: in one memorable episode a heavily-accented taxi driver launched into what he seemed to feel was a customary recital of a seven-minute Hamlet speech. Now, I am an English Literature student but unfortunately this just threw me - I was stuck between a kind of grin and a stifled snort - not sure quite what emotion was channeling either. I dropped him a couple of extra pesos as I clambered out, but it still plagues me as to whether or not I cheated the poor man. That episode was something of a one-off though.

More commonly, however, I would be greeted with a forceful "England! Manchester! Manchester City!" Now this I can handle. Blue as they come, and keen as a fresher, I am your girl when it comes to this game.

The Tevez saga? I was all over it. Those four goals by Aguero? Don't even try me. Where do they play? Manchester - tick. Manager? Mancini - tick. Other players? Give me a sec... Club history? Hardly important.

I have to confess: I know next to nothing about 'my' team. 'We' could very well be first - or, top, rather (I'm sure 'we' are). Or 'we' could be sixth. Then again, 'we've' got (for now at least) The Tev, so I'm not sure how strong a possibility that is.

It's not an unfounded allegiance: my mum's side of the family hail from Stockport, with a confusing tradition in which the men support Manchester United; women, Manchester City. Essentially, for me, this was just another one of those sexist things: we got the bad team while the lads soldier on, red and roaring, with plenty to celebrate. All some clever peruse, I thought, to make us girls disinterested. Well, for the large part of my life it worked.

The male-female rivalry kept me lightly entertained by it at Christmas times perhaps,

but unlike most admirable English valiants, I was born with a limited capacity to launch into a forever tuneless song (why?), wave my arms in the air (why?), and possibly shout abuse to the guffaws and cackles of my companions, while my clearly more knowledgeable male cousins had a far better team. Just no point.

My how the tables turned over in Buenos Aires. I, the *inglesa*, was positively the connoisseur. For those Argentines less vigilant about backing up their research, may be somewhat misconstrued on matters regarding results and general progress. But they will be fully aware, my friends, of my unparalleled allegiance to the team.

To my dismay a similar pursuit befell me when we moved to Loftus Road - it seemed I was to be doomed to another car crash of a local team too: QPR. I endured a game or two but it rained and on a good day 'we' equalised. Basically blue was just not my colour, and I couldn't quite see the point in trying to make it so.

Fast forward a few years (+a few business deals, and a few league table shifts) and I am your girl for all things blue.

So far I have only hit one crippling hurdle: a quiz by Sirs Henry Cowen, Jake Farrell, and the late (graduated) Peter Iveson, aka the Nouse Sports Force: "Who's your favourite player?"

I felt smug - I even took my time to answer. No need to sound keen, I've got this one down: "Hernandez" - followed by a smirk and a recline.

"The United player?" quoth Iveson or Cowen - my memory, in the embarrassment, fails me.

Since then, however, I hate to break it to die-harders but I have mastered the art: two players, the goalie, an average league table position, got a chant under my belt (blue moon, Elvis - the pun goes down a treat). Forever a glory-hunter, never a fan. And I'm proud.



Tea time by numbers

2.3 kilograms. The amount of tea consumed per person per year in the UK. Imagine the amount of good that'll do your compost heap if you recycle all those tea leaves.

6. The number of times that sales were taken of fresh versus frozen pastries in the US. You might be able to freeze sperm and still let it pack a punch - but a frozen pastry...just not the same.

1800's. The century when scones were still made with yeast. Don't tell your granny, she'll be as shocked as we were to find that scones are really easy

to make. Damn the DIY age, we were enjoying those self-indulgent tea-room trips.

80%. Office workers who claim to find out more about what's going on at work over a cup of tea than in any other way. We favour a good danish pastry at *Nouse* - mostly because we got our kettle stolen by the Health and Safety people. Boo.

50mg. The amount of caffeine in one 190ml cuppa. That's less than half the caffeine in coffee. Plus it's cheaper, tastes nicer and doesn't make your breath smell. Win win situation, no?



Thinking inside the Box

Camilla Apcar

“Some scenes are created for entertainment purposes” – a disclaimer of sheer honesty, a symphony of orchestrated situations to my ears. In *Made In Chelsea* or *The Only Way Is Essex*, mundane domestic tasks are no longer dull, they're the setting for many a melodramatic furor. Last week, Mark Wright made a cup of tea while discussing his dejected mojo with his dad whilst wearing heavy-duty makeup. I was riveted.

I know all too well that the stars of these programmes would, in the Venn diagram of TV personalities, lie somewhere between wannabe actors and Candid Camera victims. They know what they do: they have awareness, they have unagi. I can follow them all on Twitter, dedicating unlimited amounts of time to watching them 'be'.

As a defiant member of the curly club back in the real world, my hair has taken in

the starring role in many trainee hairdressers' nightmares. “How much do you want off?” asks my naïve new hairdresser. A pointless question, since however much they lop off, my hair springs back to half the length and a totally different shape as soon as it's dry. Earlier I looked like King Charles I. Later on, perhaps I'll resemble a young Elizabeth Taylor. Only time will tell. It's like battling with the entire Spanish armada from a tug boat – so why resist? My hair does what it wants, and I take pride in its independence. I once thought it would secure me the fourth place in Destiny's Child. (Alas, alack.)

If this were an episode of *MIC* or *TOWIE*, I'd be accompanied to the hairdressers' by my best gal pal, coincidentally bump into a frenemy and get accused of disrespecting (verb). Instead, I get idle chat about the weather as my hairdresser visibly gives up on cutting in lay-

ers and my former parting becomes a zig-zag across my scalp. At the optician's, Mark Wright and Arg would be reading out dirty words – “A-R-S-E-W-I-P-E” – instead of spelling out the real letters.

Big hair, yes. Of being personally involved in big drama, I am not a fan. But for the last ten years, despite knowing better, every time my (attractive) optician shines the little spotlights in my eyes all I can think is that he's leaning in for a kiss. Stifled breathing and a severe urge to giggle follows, resulting in a sound similar to a heavy asthmatic wheeze. Caggie Dunlop or Sam Faiers would almost certainly let romance take over, but having restored my breathing after feeling blinded by the various coloured lights, I get told that the inside of my eye looks extremely healthy. Fantastic.

My Dad would quite mistakenly call investing my

time in semi-reality TV “mindless drivel”. It's amusement 24/7 and thanks to Twitter I don't have to wait a whole week before my latest Joey Essex fix: it's “Lunch time... Not nandos... Not a dairy lee luncherble.... I'm having chicken breast with spinig and broccoli.” I am served daily insights, getting to know my favourite characters rather than have to judge them (no one can deny that they are primarily there as subjects to public judgement/ridicule/praise) purely from the severely edited footage. This is flexible interaction. It's better. Trust.



TWITTERATTI

@kanyewest
Fresh kid



@officialtulisa
Im being really grotty 2nit & having a kebab! Aaah u only live once

@cher
Go'n 2wash face & take Big Girl Earrings off! Had em since 1973! But They're So huge I don't wear them often or earlobes would touch ground!

@WTFuckFacts
Marilyn Monroe's IQ (168) was higher than Einsteins' (160)

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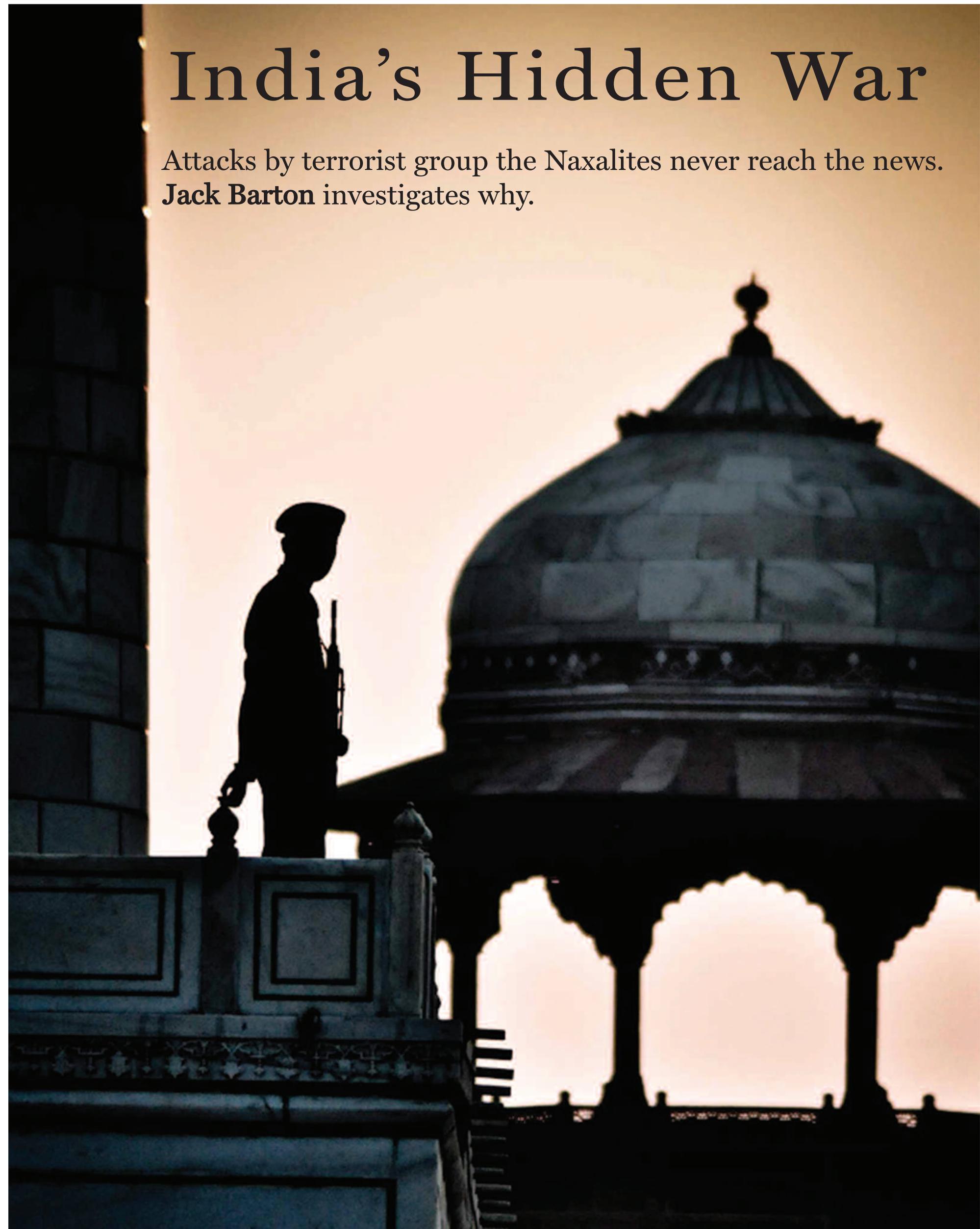
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SECURITYSERVICE
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India's Hidden War

Attacks by terrorist group the Naxalites never reach the news.
Jack Barton investigates why.



Would a country with the second largest military in the world protect its' civilians against terrorism?

It seems extraordinarily outrageous and almost impossible, that a big, well known country, could hide an entire guerrilla army's activities. But welcome to India, a place where that can, and is happening, and to which we, the rest of the world are completely oblivious. The Naxalites are a terrorist group committing atrocities regularly on civilian and military personnel. In fact, it's not new news, they've been attacking their own for almost half a century now, yet it is still no more publicised or persecuted by the authorities or the wider world.

On 18th May 1967, in the remote south Indian village of Naxalbari, a splinter group of the Communist Party of India declared their readiness to adopt armed struggle to redistribute land and take control of the state. Despite initial fame and success in their early years, the Naxalites became estranged from the political system and were forced to hide in the more remote areas of southern India. In the last decade however, a massive resurgence has been underway, as the Indian government allow foreign companies to exploit their natural resources, thousands of India's rural poor suffer and the Naxalites' Maoist doctrine increases in appeal.

In 2006 the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared the Naxalites to be the single greatest threat to Indian security, since then however, there has been apparently no progress made against them as the Indian military is occupied on the Indian-Pakistan border and in the disputed Kashmir region. Between April and June last year, a spate of attacks killed and wounded over 150 civilians and security personnel, since then the violence has continued – several more people were killed last month alone.

It is estimated that sixteen of India's twenty-eight states are 'infected' to some degree, India's intelligence agency has estimated that the number of Naxalites could be as high as 70,000, though other estimates go as high as 120,000.

Of course, in the world's largest democracy, such a huge movement can hardly have gone unchallenged. Over the past decade individual states in Central and Southern India have affected their own campaigns with varying degrees of failure. Strategies have mainly included arming local resistance movements and emptying villages where there is support for the terrorists. A group called 'Salwa Judum' formed around 2005 out of unknown circumstances but claiming to be a spontaneous counter-movement of the people. If it ever was independent, it quickly became a tool of government who armed its members and gave them training and leadership.

After Manmohan Singh's 2006 declaration, these strategies intensified and almost amounted to civil war with 50,000 villagers dispossessed and displaced by both sides to deny support to the other. The violence of the militias only increased the support for the Naxalites, the conflict peaking with a number of reprisal attacks and accounts of child soldiers being pitted against each other. Even government forces were drawn into the mess of accusations and atrocities, many critics have claimed that their violence only fed support for the terrorists.

Even in the midst of this violence, Raman Singh, Chief Minister of

“There are two Indias. The dazzling India which we see every day on our TV channels. But there is another India which we rarely see or write about”



Chhattisgarh (the state which saw most of the violence) claimed that the Salwa Judum campaign was a 'success story' while other politicians emphasised its 'peaceful' origins. Both sides are accused of extortion, rape and murder; it would be fair enough to add crude propaganda to the list.

As a result of recent violence, this September the government of the state of Karnataka commissioned a permanent 500-strong force trained in jungle warfare, though KPS Gill, the former director general of police in Punjab who is considered an anti-insurgency expert, told reporters: "The anti-Naxal strategy is a flop. Someone picked up the strategy from some book and forced it down the throats of the paramilitary forces."

While groups of Naxalites have offered ceasefires, the Indian Government says it will only consider peace talks if a complete ceasefire is forthcoming – the fact that this has not been offered undermines the image of cohesion and of a unified army made up of the many Naxalite groups.

The Naxalite spokesman Ganesh Ueike claims that they are not terrorists but leaders of a political movement who want to "liberate India from the clutches of feudalism and imperialism". He has condemned militants in the disputed Kashmir region who have been blamed for attacks against civilians in Mumbai, claiming that the Naxalites only attack government forces: "Those who choose soft targets or do such things to create communal hatred have nothing to do with people. They are mercenaries funded by national or international powers ... All this should be condemned."

Meanwhile, the Indian Government continues to oscillate between encouraging the misjudged violence and denying that there is a problem. In January this year, the arrest of Dr Binayak Sen brought condemnation from Amnesty International and several Nobel laureates. On flimsy evidence he was convicted of sedition after campaigning against the arming of local vigilantes, saying that innocent people were becoming the victims of something close to a civil war. His arrest gives more credence to what many critics have said; that while it was the terrorists who started this conflict, it was the cheap and almost laissez-faire approach by central government which brought the country close to civil war.

To put all of this into a broader context: since 1990, an estimated 10,000 people have died as a result of this conflict and over 50,000 have been dispossessed. A guerrilla army is active across a huge region of India, their outdated and archaic ideology given credence by the misjudged and repressive actions of central government. The Naxalites are easily comparable in size to the Taliban and have been active for decades, yet in comparison they are almost unknown by the wider world. The question which therefore jumps out is why does this conflict not receive more media attention? Or more precisely how and why does the Indian government downplay its significance?

Bahukutumbi Raman, a former head of the counter-terrorism division of India's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing, said in 2007: "There are two Indias. The dazzling India which we see every day on our TV channels, in the spins of our political leaders and in the writings of our so-called strategic analysts. But there is another India which we rarely



“They are not terrorists but leaders of a political movement who want to “liberate India from the clutches of feudalism and imperialism”

Right: A militant group in Chhattisgarh, take to the streets in the aftermath of an attack.

see or write about. This is the India of grinding poverty, a victim of social exploitation of the worst kind, where the inhabitants – mainly tribals – are treated like chattels and domestic animals by the upper caste political leaders, landlords and forest contractors... It is this India coming out from under the carpet, which is flocking to the banners of the Maoist ideologues.”

The success with which this conflict has been hidden is remarkable and can be seen as symptomatic of the Indian Government's attitude to the country's image. While some politicians and activists have raised their voices against the military operation, most of the Indian media is often largely unquestioning of the government's claims and actions. At the same time, activists claim the authorities have launched a smear campaign against them, labelling anyone who speaks out as a "Maoist sympathiser". The government routinely claims that the rebels are opposed to development and progress, yet GN Saibaba, an activist and professor at Delhi University, said: "The government has no other explanation to offer for why there is an uprising. It is not true that the Maoists are against development but the question they ask is 'whose development' and 'what sort of development'."

Meanwhile in the international

media, the terrorists are usually referred to under the blanket term "Maoists", and the attacks are usually distant and ineffectual enough to receive little close attention, thus blurring the overall picture. During the spate of major attacks in 2010, several western journalists were beaten up by the Indian army when trying to get close to the site of an attack. As recently as 23rd September, the journalist David Barsamian became the latest to be deported for broadcasting opinions that were not in keeping with the government line. None of these events have apparently drawn much concern or attention to the running of a country which claims to be the biggest democracy in the world and which Western governments are all vying to get closer to.

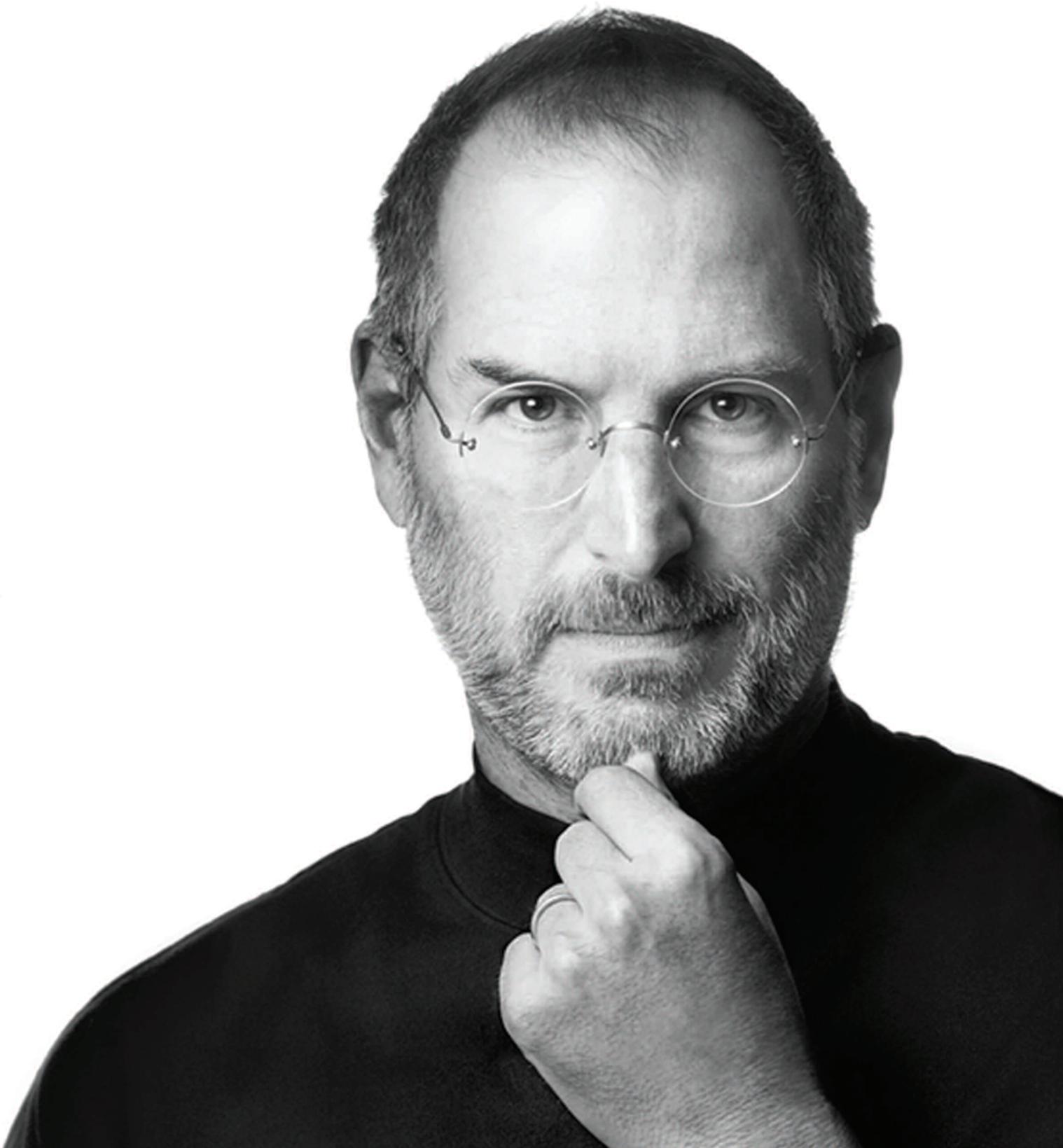
Many have tried to draw attention to this conflict though, and the implications both of its existence and the way in which it has been hidden. Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy has campaigned tirelessly to draw attention to the conflict and even defended the Naxalites' tactics. She has attacked the government as a 'charade of democracy' which has used the Naxalites as an excuse for a 'land-grab' of areas high in natural resources in central and southern India. Roy was accused of sedition by the Indian

Government last year though not convicted. Even for someone of milder views, the whole issue of this conflict and the way it has been treated must call into question the attitude the Indian government takes to dissent and its international image. Roy's criticisms bear even more weight when they bring her an accusation of sedition – an arcane blanket charge that has been described as an 'imperial hang-over'.

It is easy enough to see why this conflict would be embarrassing for the Indian government, the causes of the dissent are not fictional or even ideological and the more of a problem the terrorists come to be perceived as, the more these are highlighted. But it is the entire history of this conflict which is embarrassing, from the failure to crush the rebellion to the woefully misjudged tactics which essentially led to fighting terror with terror. What lengths are the government prepared to go to ensure their great-power status? The longer there isn't a sufficient reaction, the more the civil war will escalate. The prospects for innocent civilians ought to be better, but the reality is that unfortunately, little will change unless the West, or the Indian government attempt a resolve. It seems, the secret will continue to be kept, and the harm will hidden for longer yet. **M**

Immortalising the iCulture

Sophie Walker



“He achieved one of the rarest feats in human history: He changed the way each of us sees the world” said President Barack Obama in his speech to commemorate the death of Apple founder Steve Jobs, who died last Wednesday at the age of 56, from cancer.

“The world has lost a visionary. And there may be no greater tribute to Steve’s success than the fact that much of the world learned of his passing on a device he invented”. Sought of a bitter-sweet irony isn’t it? I am writing this article on a Macbook pro, Nouse is made on six Mac computers. Jobs himself created the technology to facilitate our constant “update” culture. This time the update was of his death, which has sparked an unprecedented outpouring of grief. He wasn’t exactly a celebrity in the sexy sense of the word, but something about the death of the father of the grey slinky objects we’ve adopted as a sort of digital pet, has really gotten to us.

But why are we so affected by the passing of the CEO of this computer company? Andy Ryan, a technology blogger, tells me he thinks it’s all a bit much. “It is truly a tragedy, but suppose Larry Page (founder of Google) died, he has given us as much access, yet the emotional outpouring wouldn’t be anywhere near as grand. Job’s has even been compared to Edison and Einstein, which is quite some kudos. To be honest, comparing the printing press which is seen as one of the greatest developments in the world and an unremarkable tablet device which has been sued numerous times for patent infringement are not the same.”

Humanity in general may not have been advanced hugely, but the way people feel about the progress and cool-status of their own technological lives has.

And everybody sympathises with a success story too. Jobs founded Apple with his childhood friend Steve Wozniak in his parents’ garage at the age of 20, and the two marketed what was considered the world’s first personal computer, the Apple II. After 10 years, in 1985, a bitter feud with their appointed CEO, had him thrown out of the company he created. He said in his commencement speech at Stanford University that, “it was the best thing that ever happened to me”. After buying Pixar, and founding NeXT, he returned to Apple 11 years later to transform it into the most valuable company in the world, now producing \$65.2bn a year in revenue.

People often overlook the extraordinary legacy of Apple in so many industries; the way we view technology, the way we listen to music, the way we communicate, the way we think about art, design and invention.

In the PC world of the first personal computers, Mac was the only competitor to take on Microsoft. In the retail world, the Apple stores opened in 2001, and were the envy of all shop front designers worldwide, and they still have not been successfully cloned. In the music industry, Jobs’ influence is exponential; Apple is the largest music merchant in the world, after his persuading of labels to sell records for 99 cent, rendering record and CD companies irrelevant and bankrupt. The legacy of Steve Jobs, is not merely the popularity of his brand, or the scale of their usage, it is the products themselves. Blake Seely, a software engineer at Apple said though, “his legacy wasn’t any specific product, it’s Apple.”

Either way, Apple’s legacy may be

due to Steve Jobs' revolutionary ability to combine beauty and technology. He made computers personal and more importantly, fun. He made the information revolution accessible, "everyone can use Apple's products to do their jobs more efficiently, whether they're a street inspector or an NYPD detective", said Micheal Bloomberg, New York City Mayor.

The Apple aesthetics are profoundly humanistic; the insight is that you, the human, are the most stunning creation, not the computer. This insight into Apple technology is what has redefined our work and leisure culture. Instead of being glued to a screen at home, the iPhone, iPad and iPod are designed to let you get out and about; they only reinforce the positive image of the Age of the Internet. Indeed, the digital relationship with an Apple product, as opposed to any other, is a human one. And Jobs achieved that with the beauty of his design.

The beauty of the soft aesthetic has redefined domestic design. Every Apple product is sleek and glossy, as if harboring the same good genes from the same family. The corners are round, the lines are soft, the weight perfect. Everything about the screen and keyboard is in remarkable proportion, design that only a true futuristic vision and zeal for calligraphy could have engineered.

But it is not technology that has the cold, impersonal edge of futuristic technology. It is comforting, stimulated by the genius use of light such as the almost living pulse of the faded silvery battery. And of course, the Apple itself, a piece of fruit, symbolizing the most natural process. It isn't rotting, but is has a bite taken out of it (a homage to the Bletchley Park genius Alan Turing who committed suicide by eating a poisoned apple), as if there is an element of flawed perfection. But perhaps the Apple colours were the greatest flag-wavers of the originality of his design. The flare and attraction of the eye-popping purple, turquoise and fuchsia pink propelled the Apple products from objects of genius design, to objects of fashion, and sexy fashion at that.

Jobs made Apple products easy to use, and democratic. Sean O'Neal is a support technician at Apple, and said that, "more than designing modern computers he designed modern life. By making technology so user friendly he changed the methods of how we work, communicate, enjoy entertainment and create our own innovations". Andy Ryan is keen to dispel the romanticism though, "Apple products are overpriced and contain utterly unremarkable technology, basically it's the sleek marketing campaign that's special".

But what he has done is reshape modern culture by branding the products not as pieces of efficient machinery, but as exquisite luxury. Consumers appreciated the fact that he put a price on that luxury, and they were prepared to pay. Jobs never compromised quality for consumer demand. In fact, he never even used focus research groups, because his business mantra, was not to give people what they want, "for something this complicated, it's really hard to design products by focus groups. A lot of times", he once said, "people don't know what they want until you show it to them."

Contagious magazine have dubbed Jobs the "father of the modern creative class". Indeed by creating things that consumers came to desire, he was predicting the market in an extraordinary way. The genius of not

making what was conventional became the appeal of Apple; no one knew they wanted an iPad, before Jobs invented one, thus proving how the success of innovative invention is what can predict market value better than catering for the lowest common denominator.

Our culture now has a very ingrained sense of the fact that morally, quality ought to come at a cost. High Street fashion is the worst perpetrator of unethical, mass-produced, poor-quality goods. Apple has shown how not everything can, or should be made for free, and if you expect excellence, you have to pay for it. The cheapest products should not dictate free-market chains.

Many believe that Apple became the largest company in the world because of Jobs' stubborn adherence to this principle that he refused to give quality away for free. Indeed, his massively tight control of Apple's copyrights, was precisely what propelled the company to its' success as opposed to hide it away as a little niche business that partook in no open collaboration.

One of the most profound aspects of the Apple brand is the brand loyalty. It is like no other. It is probably because of its' accessibility, quality and appeal. But there has to be something else, in our brand label obsessed culture, that keeps consumers coming back and buying products, that are slightly better. Jobs had the ability to replace his own products on the market; the evolution of Apple has a short-term memory for that which it leaves behind- for example, the Mini was whipped off the market when the superior Nano came along.

As with any brand which commands loyalty and enthusiasm from its' customers, it is because there is a product of substance behind it. We know that when we buy an Apple product, it is a reliable investment in a brand we understand the ethos of, along with its' consistency of quality.

But perhaps as History tells us, it's the individual we're attracted to, that sends a brand flying. Jobs was the genius, the turtlenecked face of Apple. But Andy Ryan sympathises with the dozens of accomplices who've invigorated Apple's products too, "whom presumably the world leaders will also have tributes for too".

So what was Steve Jobs? A pioneer? An inventor? An artist? "The main stream media, world politicians and every coffee blogging hipster with a pitchfork would have us believe, the hand to heart best thing since sliced bread. I think we need to detach ourselves from the 'mactrix', and honestly consider what Steve Jobs was", says Andy Ryman.

Is the venerated God of iCulture worthy of immortalisation for making cool, sexy products, and is it not really about the technology at all? Maybe, but even if you aren't a techie, and you only use Word and Safari, it's about the look and the feel or your digital pet.

Ultimately, Jobs was an inspirer. The speech he gave at Stanford was simple, symbolic and powerful, like his products. "Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Don't waste your time living someone else's life", he said post-cancer.

So, as you embark on your degrees at York, Jobs' legacy is for all of us; make your time as creative, innovative as possible, to change the way we see the world. Heed Steve's best advice, "Stay hungry, stay foolish". **M**

"I work for a fruit company, you may have heard of it"



Headstrong Hemlines

Fashion designer Carlotta Actis Barone talks to **Paris Bennett** about feminism, prostitution and Scarlett Johansson

“If you were the daughter of Italian visual artist Manuela Corti and writer Gianni Actis Barone, you’d studied at the prestigious Central Saint Martin’s, worked for fashion royalty Balmain and had your own successful label, you would certainly be destined for yet further greatness. Meet Carlotta Actis Barone. Having been lucky enough to see her previous and latest collection during London Fashion week, it was a surprise that each occasion provoked a remarkable reaction. It must be an exhausting requisite for artists to justify their work with profound conceptual ideas or a moral, political conscience. But for Barone, the background to her work is not contrived, it marks her apart as a designer who is talking about more than just hemlines.

Carlotta has a creative mind which seems to absorb inspiration from the richest and most interesting places; her latest concept is ‘the stolen liberty and beauty associated with prostitution’. Now, you wouldn’t get Chanel or Burberry venturing down that rabbit hole. But Barone pulls it off effortlessly, with an intellectual ease and aesthetic understanding, which never seems to falter throughout her collections. “I am always very political when preparing

my collections, Feminism, slavery and this time, I came across the matter of prostitution.” In the world of fashion, which is often based a lot on escapism, it is a risk to delve into reality. With her focal interest on social truths, it is challenging, yet at once resolving that her work is also “elegant, passionate, sexy and glamorous.”

Inevitably then, Carlotta says she designs to a strong, feminine woman who, more importantly, is liberated. She clearly has high standards for her own designs, and her subjects, but this merely reinforces her appeal. She describes her ideal client as being “Scarlett Johansson- she is my muse! Because she’s different, she’s sexy and sensual. She is absolutely the perfect woman for my collection.” Barone uses her principals as her priority, and Johansson just happens to fit that bill, rather being a designer who chooses the pretty ‘it’ girl.

Another rather intriguing element of her involvement in her fashion, as opposed to just design, is that she wears her own clothes. One can appreciate that it might come across as self-publicising for a designer to wear their own creations, but it should seem bizarre if they don’t. Barone explains that she unfortunately never has the

time to make them all for herself, but as she speaks to me tells me that she is wearing one of her previous season’s jumpers. “I only make one garment a season, which is the one that I go down the catwalk with. I am not as skinny as the models, many things don’t fit me. But I couldn’t design something that I wouldn’t wear.” It feels like a refreshing take on minimizing the disparity between the way the models and the way real people wear the clothes.

The real people really matter; they need to know when can you wear these dreamy, yet substantial creations. “Big occasions, then day-wear. I always try to balance it out because of what sells unfortunately. It’s more the day-wear.” There are pieces in each collection that do take into account practicality. Coats, hooded garments and non-revealing suits that can conceal, can be seen in all collections. Another surprising detail she lists is that “I want my client to be not too young actually. I want her young but definitely over 20, around 25 years old. I want her to be confident and have a full range of clothes, from the red carpet to the morning.” The Barone brand can achieve the balance between garments for all occasions with catwalk glamour. Her theatric combination is audience considerate

throughout, but she knows how to push boundaries against her conservative counterparts.

This season’s boundary pusher has been prostitution. Barone assures me that she hasn’t gone down this route as a dirty pull, “when I start my research I look at images that can inspire me and I came across an image of a Victorian brothel from the late eighteen hundreds it was just beautiful, of all these meaty, curvy women in lingerie, that for us would be pretty well covered but for them it was like porno”. All of this sounds very borderline, but I assure you there is a well versed method to this idea. “Then I started to look into all the different kinds of prostitution, and then I came up with the matter of the deportation of girls who has been tricked into coming to Western countries. I started to try and find a level of prostitution that wasn’t as bad, because I am not against prostitution itself. There are women that do it quite happily and are not forced to do it. There is nothing wrong with that, and so that is how I ended up with Geisha.” To explore this for her collection, Barone has gone through an extensive thought process to support her work.

When you think of prostitution, fashion is definitely not, and should

Above: The Autumn/Winter 2012 Collection featuring Barone’s rope inspired design.



“I am not against prostitution, but the ropes represent the freedom that is taken away, they are imprisoned”

look is still prominent. She tells me that, “the Geishas are really the first category of quote unquote prostitution that is willingly done. There is a big tradition behind Geishas. Because I had to make a statement that was the most visible one.” With these Eastern influences, there are also glimpses of French boudoir features, combined with the other major theme of Victorian brothel. The silks, delicate satins, densely printed chifcons and hems of Chantilly lace all evoke ethereal dreams. When used in the kimono, puffball and play-suit silhouette, all garments do hint at being bedroom worthy. The styles capture the bitter sweet underlying theme between the positive and negative origins to the look.

With Barone’s merge of East meets West I am curious to know

where this bricolage has come from. “I always like the contraposition between East meets West, because they were actually deported from Eastern countries to Western countries. I just mixed them together, I think the culture dichotomy is quite nice because it clashes but then it comes out as something else which I really enjoyed.” The make-up is highly oriental, but the Western hints shine through in such looks including the white, virginal bride style end gown. This gown was to represent liberation, in which the bride had finally found her love, contrasting against the restriction of other looks.

Another Western feature that featured on the catwalk were the X-rated shoes. At one point the focus were on the variety of floral decorated, clear acrylic platform stilettos. They certainly took the prize for highest heel shown during LFW. I was curious to hear if Barone had designed theme herself, “no, I styled them together with my team. The shoes are stripper shoes, but once again we decorated them with fresh flowers that were actually dressed half an hour before the show and the florist was backstage making them up. So even though they are stripper shoes, we are embellishing them.” Amy Winehouse once sang about ‘Fuck me

pumps’, and this foot candy could fall into that category, but they were also honest, and elegant.

Finally, arguably the most bold feature shown in her collection were the head pieces. She told me that she “didn’t want to be too obvious. We tried to put it in a modern feel, when we found the headpieces they were absolutely perfect, even the colour perfectly matched my fabrics.” The intertwined structures full of pins, blossom and flowers, and “very heavy big things hanging down” do add a nice crowning touch to her looks. Barone says that she found it very “inspiring” working with the head wear and that they will definitely be featuring again.

With all the politics and social truths nurtured by Barone’s creative mind, she always ensures they get stylishly expressed. The fusions she creates from potentially the most dark and sinister themes is surprising and effective. Her historical references, the fact that she knows her stuff and is not afraid to tell you defines her as a designer who expects the same level of response from her fans. Barone is injecting some unique themes into the fashion wheel, unlike any other out there. We can only be challenged further. Bring on Autumn Winter 12. **M**

not, be the first thing to pop into your head. Women can look sexy and suggestive, without going being tarty. But how did all the unsavoury connotations avoid coming through in Barone’s Spring Summer 2012 look? “I tried to avoid the trashy part of the situation and look at the beauty of these women that are still now imprisoned. The dresses are all very floaty because actually the women inside of them are free, or want to be free but are just compressed with this rope. That was the concept I wanted to express. I didn’t want to show the body or degrade it, I wanted to show the beauty of it.” To add further light to her explanation, when she describes the women being compressed with a rope, she literally in aesthetic terms means just that. In her latest work, she has used a rope to contour the silhouette and this in many ways can be seen as an item holding in the woman beneath. She describes how it represents “the freedom that is taken away, they are imprisoned”. It seems as if every detail in her work has been considered to the highest standards, which is probably why her work is of such a high calibre. Her working mind leaves no stone unturned.

Even without the background knowledge of her concept, the Geisha

Will

Self



Novelist, hack, and a national favourite for political commentary, yet Will Self remains entirely independent.

He talks to **Mia de Graaf** about life outside the bubble.

“This whole imbroglia is epiphenomenal”, read the black and white slogan T-shirt stretched unforgettingly across the chest of a round and, from what I could tell, non-English speaking teenaged boy in Buenos Aires. For any that didn’t catch this social networking sensation, it sprung from Newsnight’s debate on the hacking scandal, in which novelist and writer, Will Self, infamous for both directness and opulence, used these characteristically verbose words to describe the drama. Steve Coogan - there to lend the ‘celebrity victim’ voice - let out an audible guffaw. Self, however, eyes set forwards, continued, spinning out his complex and deliberated perception of the “tectonic shift” from print to broadcast journalism that the debaters grappled with, and the “interregnum between cultural hegemonies” in which we live.

Perhaps more so than a lot of writers, words are something Self has often been both commended and chastised for. His unconventionally wide choice of vocabulary - as his novels, articles, speeches, what have you, slide liberally between using basic and highly intellectual language - have earned him labels as genius and pretentious. “Actually,” says Self methodically, addressing the frenzy that followed his TV appearance, “there’s a fine line between using fancy words for the sake of it and actually expressing something well, and epiphenomenal imbroglia is about right when it comes to the relationship between the phone-hacking scandal and the shift - which tectonic - between print and web-based journalism.

“In general I’m both exasperated by people’s refusal to extend their own vocabulary beyond the standard 3,000 or so words mandated by plain English, and equally exasperated by my own wilful sesquipedalianism, which, try as I might, I seem unable to curb.”

Naturally before a minute was up this particular case of sesquipedalianism was well on its way to ‘trending’ status on Twitter, and a month later here I am on the other side of the world weighing up whether it was the power of said social network, the universal obsession with the hacking scandal, or indeed the fascination with the phrase itself, that landed it between this man and I plain and clear on black and white stretchy cotton.

It is probably a combination of all put together. It is probably also propelled by the fact that the phrase came from Will Self, a persona people have become attached to as an independent and outspoken commentator on next to anything he cares to accept - most will have him. Not simply a writer and a novelist - the profession he claims to - but an ‘expressor’, and something of a comedian. Comfortably weaving narrative-like description into everyday speech, he seems to speak within the

imagination of a child, using the mind of a highly intellectual adult, charged by fiersome political opinion. On the topic of the Clegg-Cameron characterisation (following his blog post on Clegg as the “verruca” of British politics’ foot), Self unreels his sharp and dramatised analysis: “Cameron is like the Scorpion in the fable - it’s in its nature. Some people - foolishly in my view - believed it wasn’t in Clegg’s nature either, but of course he’s just another tedious centrist politician. The centre ground of British politics at the moment is like watching several very hairy men share a lot of brushes between them. It’s that irritating.”

Growing up in North London, Self was a voracious reader: “I wanted to be a writer from my teens - but it seemed an impossibly high-flown ambition.” Making the early decision to take a less obvious road to get there - arguably a trait of his in approach to most things - Self went to study philosophy at Exeter

College, Oxford. “I knew by the time I was 16 that studying literature in an orthodox way was something of a blind alley for people who wanted to write in an innovative way - rather than just writing books about books for people who read too many books. I was interested in philosophy and politics, and I’ve never regretted studying them.”

Though Self muses whether one can actually develop one’s work over time (“Evelyn Waugh said a writer has - if he’s lucky - two books in him, and these he simply rewrites”), he has certainly secured an “innovative” writing style - many casually refer to Will Self novels as making up a genre in itself - often under the banner of “shocking”, and “outrageous”.

Self is unsure about what he wants exactly from the reader, aside from setting a challenge: “I don’t want it to be easy for the reader - but beyond that I have no prescriptive intent at all. It’s up to readers to take away what they will, I’m not concerned with either propaganda or marketing, which amount to the same thing.”

Compared to such writers as J. G. Ballard and Hunter S. Thompson, Self’s fiction is famous for kicking rules and taboo up in the air - something that is forever linked with a time when, back before 1998, he referred to himself as “a hack that gets hired because I do drugs.” He has been clean of everything for 13 years but, as the straight

talker he is known to be, remains just as refreshingly candid about the topic when I ask how he feels about people forever marrying his work to his past: “Well, they’re bound to, aren’t they - it’s what people do: personalise. It’s understandable, and really, if I didn’t want this to happen I should’ve avoided doing all those drugs!”

Whether critics put the content of his works down to a drug-fuelled past, or an eclectic imagination, Self makes

“I sit down and write a draft, mornings are best, 800-1,200 words a day. Then I begin the second draft while the first is underway - about half way through - and that seems to help to thicken the broth in narrative and motif terms.”

“Shows like Newsnight give you the slightly queer feeling of being in a village - England as a mega-Ambridge”

clear that these seemingly lawless and unbound narratives do not come into being in a romantic haze of creativity, looming together novels and articles simultaneously in between the occasional TV appearance now and then. No, they are, he confirms, “not relaxed at all”. Although “all books begin with a sort of lucid dreaming and gradual accumulation of ideas, images, tropes, descriptions, scraps of dialogue that goes on for perhaps a year or two - often while other things are being worked on,” the work sets in:

answered an abrasive “piffle” - he did once take some tentative steps into the television drama world, only to jump back into his bubble sharpish: “My version of Oscar Wilde’s ‘The picture of Dorian Gray’ began life as a film script, but I stalled when I realised the amount of changes the producers were likely to inflict on my vision, so I turned it back into prose fiction. Writing for the screen, small or large, is essentially collaborative, and I’m a loner.”

Unlike approximately all hacks, Self does not tweet (he has an account to publish his various writings) - although “I’m not completely antipathetic to the WWW, I write journalism on a computer.” This public persona is not one he works at or has constructed for a life and career in television or collaboration, taking creative breaks in between. “I can assure you I’m asked a great deal more than I actually do - and I really don’t want to end up as a professional talking head, burnished by the fraudulent regard of studio lights.”

Nonetheless, Self has become nationally, internationally, and, as he insists, involuntarily elected as a political spokesperson on matters of all kinds. He is not necessarily averse to taking part in late night TV debriefs or debates. But when he does take part, he seems to do it on more of an ironic, observational level than anything else. “I do shows like Newsnight from time to time because they give you the slightly queer feeling of being in a village - England as a mega-Ambridge - you’re in on the goss’. And yes, sometimes because I think I have an opinion that I don’t see being expressed.”

Above : Will Self portrait by Chris Saunders © CHRIS SAUNDERS protected by Celebrity Pictures Ltd

Arts.

The Forgotten Subject

Ed Scobie-Would looks at the role of black people in Victorian Art

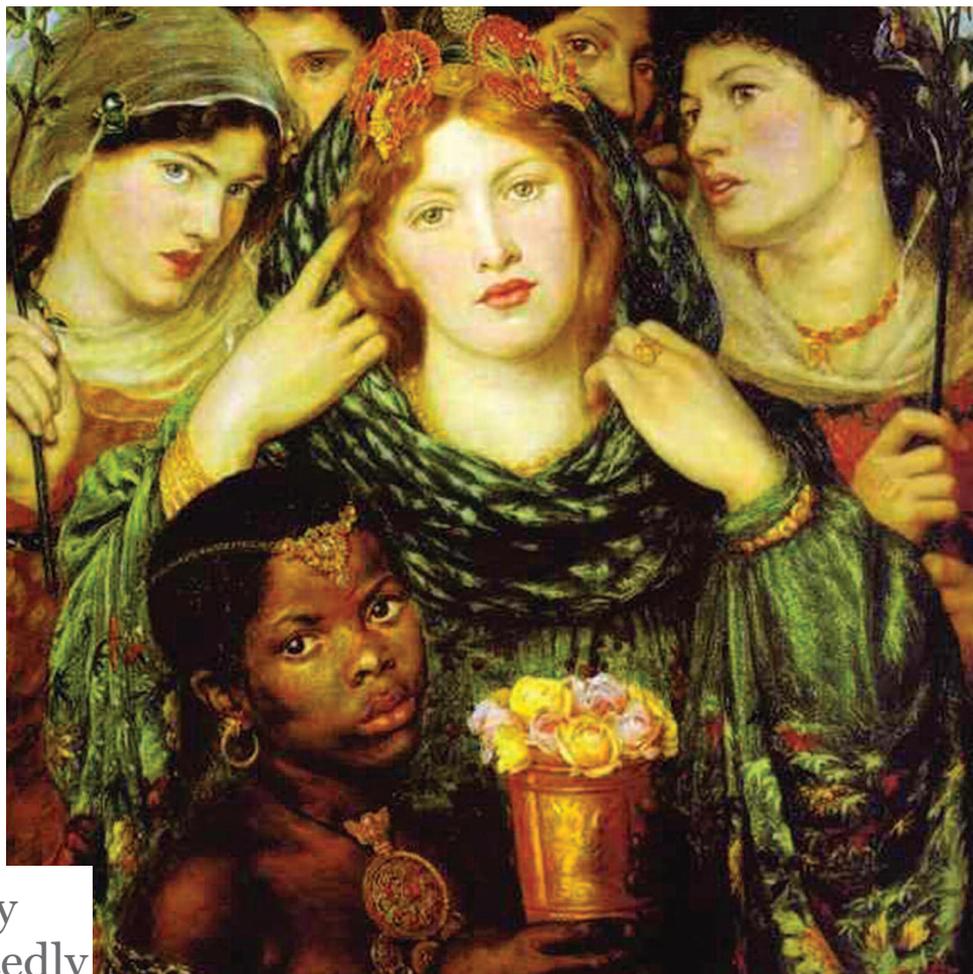
Black figures in Victorian art were often seen as inconsequential and not wholly important constituents in a painting. Yet Benjamin Haydon's *The Anti-Slavery Society Convention in The National Portrait Gallery* suggests otherwise. The vast number of figures squeezed onto the canvas produces a magnetic result, yet not only due to its sheer size. Drawing closer, it was no longer the mass of faces that intrigued me, but merely two – the profiles of two black gentlemen. One at the forefront, facing away, and one in the audience. Haydon's intentions are politically clear, if condescending: “a liberated slave, now a delegate, is looking up to Clarkson with deep interest... this is the point of interest in the picture, and illustrative of the object in painting it: the African sitting by the intellectual European, in equality and intelligence.”

The portrayal of black figures in British Victorian art - in particular, art surrounding the abolition of the slave trade - is fascinating. At its height, British ships were responsible for transporting 3.1 million slaves from Africa to America, with only 2.7 million actually surviving the appalling conditions on board. Although initially abolished in 1807, it wasn't until 1838 that the final abolition of colonial slavery took place. The total abolition of slavery took another 27 years, when President Lincoln passed the Thirteenth

“He illustrates key emotions that repeatedly manifest in Victorian paintings examining the post-slavery period”

Amendment. Many Sub-Saharan Africans were now situated all over the world, particularly in America and Britain; hence, in any art intended to be a reflection of society, their appearance was frequent.

The mystery surrounding their “unusual features”, intrigued European artists and led to many an artistic experimentation. A particularly good example is Thomas Faed's *Visit to the Village School*, now situated in the McManus Gallery in Dundee. Painted in 1851, the scene depicts a wealthy laird and his wife visiting the school of which they are patron and patroness. The couple's black manservant is seen standing alone in traditional English livery, being mocked by the children and becoming the subject of a caricature on the blackboard behind. Faed's isolation of this manservant poignantly lays bare the inter-racial relationships of the time, those everyday slights on the man's dignity which were so widely uncontested, and the tensions and attitudes which accompanied these relationships. His notoriety for painting scenes of the downtrodden members of society illustrates empathy combined with probing curiosity, key emotions that repeatedly manifest in Victorian paintings



Left: Ira Aldridge, first black Othello, 1830.
Above: Rosetti's *The Beloved*, 1856

examining the post-slavery period.

At this time we begin to see paintings which depict black figures practicing their skill or craft, or displaying social status, rather than purely for the aesthetic “novelty” of their physical appearance. Edgar Degas, one of the most famous Impressionist artists of the 19th century, painted *Miss La La at the Cirque Fernando* in 1879. Already having adopted ballet as his visual subject, the opportunity to paint Miss La La, a black circus act, as a challenge too fascinating to refuse. Swinging from a wire merely by her teeth, the agility of the airborne women fascinated Degas - highlighting the artistic interest surrounding blacks, yet also demonstrating how that interest was still unfortunately entwined with the overtly performative, exotic and carnivalesque.

Debates about the representation of black people in art pre-1800 make it difficult to pinpoint the extent to which artistic opinion has changed. Dominique de Menil, founding patroness of *The Image of the Black in Western Art*, advocated art as “an antidote to prejudice” - that “Western artists... included black figures in positive... and often celebratory ways”. Whereas Yona Pinso's study of Hieronymus Bosch's painting *The Adoration of the Magi* (1510) drew attention to how even “the decoration of the Black King's tunic... contained hints of sin and wickedness”: the sirens with human heads and birds' bodies on his cloth being suggestive of sexual temptation and animality. Known for his studies of blacks in the ancient world, Frank Snowden documents that in ancient Rome and Greece many of the slaves were white; blacks were mostly found in roles unrelated to their race, such as warriors or sailors. Evidence in art proves this harmonious co-existence, finding examples of “sympathy and attraction” between the two races.

James Northcote's painting of Ira Aldridge, a famous black Victorian actor, titled ‘Othello, the Moor of Venice’ was praised when it was exhibited at the Royal Manchester Institution as being “the best executed painting in the exhibition”. Once you have seen this painting, the high praise comes as no surprise. It truly is an amazing painting, simple yet full of depth and emotion. The way in which the figure is glancing to the side in contemplation, and the softness to the way in which the paint is handled, creates warmth, intimacy and endearment.

Although the depiction of blacks did change as a result of the slave trade, after the abolition the motives behind the change still appear to be politically or racially oriented. It was not until much later in the 20th century that we see just depictions of black figures in Western art. Indeed, a touring exhibition, *Black Victorians: Black People in British Art 1800–1900*, opened in Manchester in 2005, prompted by efforts to highlight issues in these past representations. We can only hope that today and always, presiding artistic representations of this kind will take as their foundation Terence's words: “I am a man; I consider nothing that is human alien to me.”

Apocalypse, Now?

Has the apocalypse painter John Martin making a comeback via Tate Britain's new exhibition? **Sarah Jilani** investigates

Volcanos erupting, angels wailing, lightning striking and some very moody skies... Put that way, these paintings sound like material more appropriate for Goya in a really bad mood or a fourteen-year-old asocial boy's favourite video game.

John Martin (1789 - 1854) had a hard time making a living at first, dabbling in teaching, inventing, engraving and engineering on the side of these dramatic paintings. He enjoyed rising popularity later on (as did his brother, the 'mad preacher' Jonathan Martin who set fire to York Minster, incidentally), but critics at the time found him tawdry and sensationalist - the likes of Coleridge and Ruskin among them, Martin's work was seen as catering to "common", or plain bad, taste.

This reputation clung about him throughout most of the twentieth century - perhaps unsurprisingly then, Tate Britain's *John Martin: Apocalypse* exhibition is the first in 30 years and the largest collection of his works since his death. Yet nowadays, where Old-Testament-style-doomsday believers are probably thinner on the ground and few have tackled Milton rather than Twilight, is there anything about these works that can still resonate with the modern viewer?

For the crowds of the early 1800s, Martin's disregard for conventional composition and choice of dramatic imagery made his art shows more of a dramatic performance. For us, perhaps

"Are paintings on their own truly not enough for us

a painting of a chasm in the earth doesn't carry as much shock value: at least not post Hirst's cross-sectioned menagerie. Yet by no means is this merely another quaint, Victorian exhibition to pass up. We may have no idea who Belshazzar is or where Gomorrah was, but Martin's grandiose, detailed pieces appeal to the imagination deeply, with a visual splendor that can still leave the viewer in awe (without having to fear you shall be ousted as "common" by Victorian critics).

Editor's Picks

21ST - 23RD OCTOBER, DRAMA BARN, 19.30

This term at the Drama Barn kicks off with *The Accrington Pals*. Peter Whelan's 1982 takes us back and forth between the experiences of those at the front in 1916 the Battle of the Somme, and the women who await their return.

20TH OCT - 12TH NOV, YORK THEATRE ROYAL, 19.45

Written by Scottish playwright David Harrower, the dark but thought-provoking play *Blackbird* will be on at the Theatre Royal. Two people meet again years after their past taboo relationship. Winner of the 2007 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play.



Curator of the exhibition, Martin Myrone, assures the viewer that "with animation, special effects, and a dramatic narration drawn from the Bible and original texts from the 1850s, the show pushes at the boundaries of the conventional gallery experience". It seems Tate Britain tried to tackle this question - whether the original impact of the paintings translate for the modern viewer - with as many bells and whistles as they could finance. Is it that hopeless though; are the paintings on their own truly not enough for us anymore, now that their biblical context is less forceful for his twenty-first century, multi-ethnic audience in London?

In many ways, this aspect endows them with more force; these scenes are so epic, turbulent and otherworldly that the heavy permanence they depict does wonders to our need for a moment of reflection in busy lifestyles. We are now no strangers to watching the end of the world in a cool 124 cinematic minutes. So Martin's subject matter may not be far off from *The Day After Tomorrow*, but these unmoving canvases display a

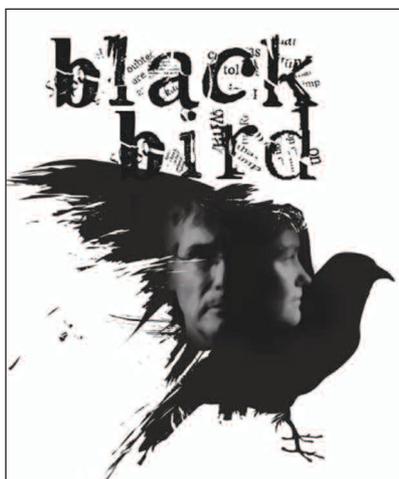
startling sense of movement, mood and scale above and beyond what we think can be achieved via a 2-D medium.

The piece *Sadak in Search of the Waters of Oblivion* (1812), for instance, absolutely stretches the imagination the more one looks at it. As we try to reconcile the vastness and timelessness of the distant waterfall surging down jagged rock with the struggling human figure clinging on in the foreground, the majesty, futility, and struggle strike a chord.

An exhibition wide in scope and informative in its approach to the artist, its extra effort to dress up the pieces for fear that its subject matter is not universally appealing will hopefully not hold it back. Nature, man, structure, chaos, destruction and most intriguingly, the human power to fully realise what began as a figment of the imagination - what could be more relevant subject matter to this, or any, age?

John Martin: Apocalypse is at Tate Britain, London from 15 September 2011 until 15 January 2012.

Sarah Jilani
ARTS EDITOR



16TH JUN - 29TH OCT, YORK ST MARY'S CHURCH

Susan MacMurray's delicate and beautiful pieces make up *Echo*, an installation inside the renovated art space within York St Mary's church. This fleeting, subtle and ghostly exhibition is right at home in this cavernous stone church in town - not to be missed.

22ND SEP - 13TH OCT, THE ROYAL BALLET, 10.30

If you're in London and enjoy watching dance, *The Royal Ballet In Class* gives us the UNfinished product. A chance to observe the Royal Ballet during an ordinary lesson promises a unique and interesting way to spend a morning.

What not to read



Emily Heggadon
DEPUTY ARTS EDITOR

"Chick lit - shit lit", and, "the sooner it dies the better" were among the comments on recent articles reporting a loss in sales of 10 per cent in the popular writing genre. Self-professed literary minds all over the country are seeing this demise in the genre as a welcome prospect. Yet as a literature student myself, I do not see the genre as such a scourge on our intellect; instead, this drop in sales feels like a negative turn.

As students, we are encouraged by peers and driven by our own sense of snobbery to shy away from "chic-lit", as it does not fit within the acceptable realms of canonized literature. Despite this, as I happily tried to dig my way through *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight* whilst sitting on a beach this summer, I could not help wishing for a copy of something purely enjoyable for its own sake. It seems the condescending stigma attached to "beach" literature and other books targeting women today, has effected their readerships.

Refusing to support the vast range of books and authors that are grouped under this unfortunately derogatory term, women are not only reducing the amount they read, they are proving the doubters and the cynics right.

Only last month author Polly Courtney left her pub-

Nicholas Sparks, would arguably classify them as the former. It is not clean-cut at all.

A few years ago, after conducting a survey on reading patterns in the sexes, author Ian McEwan predicted that "when women stop reading, the novel will be dead." Men only account for 20 per cent of the fiction market. The audience for light, women's fiction are women who read purely for enjoyment and relaxation. Yet with these figures, if we continue to subject them to ridicule, we could see a huge dip in book sales overall.

It is also important for scholars to remember that authors like Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë and George Eliot would most certainly come under the umbrella of "chick-lit" - after all, their storylines and ideas are akin to many recent fictional works of this genre. 200 years of hindsight and scholarly criticism may have granted them access into the literary canon, but at the time, one can only imagine how they were scorned by the men as pieces of unintellectual fluff.

I am not saying that every piece of fiction marketed as "chick-lit" is destined to be an eventual masterpiece, however, the term encompasses a genre so large, and represents such a chunk of the economy, that it cannot be merely cast

"Subjecting them to ridicule could lead to a huge dip in sales"

lishers, HarperCollins, due to the belief that her books were being mistakenly presented and marketed as "chick-lit": surely only highlighting the idea that this is something to be ashamed of.

"Chick-lit" signifies literature written specifically, but not exclusively, for women, by women. However, its boundaries are often crossed with that of "women's fiction". These can also be written by men, and often include topics other than love. However, women often dubbed as "chick-lit" writers are far from it: Jodie Picoult, for instance, as well as anyone who has ever read

aside as worthless. Even though they are the reading majority, the associated negative connotations have made women themselves feel uncomfortable with the label. This must stop.

Anyone professing to have any sort of literary knowledge must first understand the market, and in time appreciate - not necessarily read - what is out there. We are reminded in the wake of Banned Books week in the US about the freedom to read, and freedom of choice and expression. After all - surely there is nothing that cannot be learnt from an hour spent with Jilly Cooper?

Fashion.

THE TRENDS S/S 12



Twinkle,
twinkle

Some shine out more than others in fashion, and Mr Christopher Kane certainly knows how to bottle star dust. This trend is principally based on star prints, but as you have never seen them before. The use of photographic prints of actual stars from NASA was a main look for street style at LFW. It is certain that the high street will soon have these style prints. It is a versatile trend in that it can be dressed up or down, but is perfect for the upcoming glitzy party season.



Get real

Have a look at Ashish's latest offerings. One theme, but shown in two different ways. Firstly, the look has used a real object, and secondly elements strongly mimic a real object, this being a garden wall. In actuality this look is rather unrealistic to wear out on a daily basis, but think about a painfully real close up print, such as bricks. Also consider using real items, like Ashish and Carlotta Actis Barone have done with bunches of delicate flowers by plating them into your shoe laces or a weaving them into the fabric on a garment.

Mens. Men at work

Laurie James FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

In the fashion world, functional is often viewed as a dirty word, one which sees style sacrificed for practicality. However when examining men's work clothes, it is possible to see that you do not necessarily have to forget about looking good whilst getting your hands dirty.

The classic workman stereotype can be encapsulated in Bob the Builder's appearance. A pair of overalls tucked into chunky, thick soled boots portrays what many see as conventional building attire. Yet, upon closer inspection these garments have more of a fashion impact than many would give them credit for.

A perfect example of work clothes entering the realm of more mainstream fashion can be seen with CAT boots. With a durable rubber sole and manufactured from tough leather they are well suited for the rough and tumble of building sites but



despite the tough exterior they are also popular as for all the young dudes. The recognizable honey colour accompanies denim well, and the chunky nature of the boots gives a more rugged masculine appearance.

John Deere is a less talked about brand, who embody the spirit of the Wurzles, as not only do they produce clothing but also a wide range of heavy farming machinery.

This unconventional approach is endearing as it is hard to imagine the likes of Dior designing a tractor. One garment from them which especially stands out is the duck barn coat. With oversized pockets and a rich tan colour accompanied by a tartan lining, its distinctive style stands out and offers a new alternative on the done to death Barbour wax jacket.

Bob the Builder has a recognizable pair of faded blue dungarees and for those looking to emulate him, but in a chic manner, Dickies does not disappoint. They offer a range of dungarees and overalls including the bib-and-brace. Whilst being aimed almost exclusively at those with practical intentions, the Dickies overalls themselves can be considered style icons. The armless nature of the garments allows for layering, with a shirt or t-shirt easily fitting underneath and the unusual shape with trousers joined to a top allows for a unique look.

So the workman look is going strong. It allows for the creation of a playful image with bright coloured, oversized garments but with a strong masculine undertone. Although not appreciated by all, it offers something different to a wardrobe and I would certainly recommend you embrace your inner workman.



Location, location, location.

Paris Bennett
FASHION EDITOR

When I read that the latest McQueen collection was shown in a morgue I felt a bit awkward. So many reasons as to why this location for this label would be wrong instantly sprung to mind. But then fashion is all about dramatics and the late Alexander McQueen would probably of pushed the stylish fashion boat even further than Sarah Burton and chosen an actual graveyard. But what is with this latest trend to catwalk in the most peculiar of places?

The best in the business are showing some real consideration in making their runway destination somewhere bizarre, uncomfortable and totally unrelated to fashion. A few weeks ago Versus chose to show their latest collection in a gym hall. The floor was laid out like a basketball court, lines painted in pastel tones and the start of the show signified by a shrill whistle blow plus the sound of balls bouncing. Go team fashion! This never seen before setting is not completely crazy as



garments shown included sheer drawstring trousers and racer tops. But a gym is still a place of sweat, weight loss and cellulite. With the beautiful clothes being shown to a beautiful audience in a location that has some not so pretty relations, there is a high risk that the unglamorous surrounding could cast an unfair judgment to a critic or client's opinion. Does an audience want to sit in a place that is possibly realistic or relatable to something that is far away from the blasé world of fashion. To many women a gym is hellish place which shows you have identified a bodily imperfection. For example, where would the next location for a catwalk be, a plastic surgery operating theatre?

Another fashionable fan of the out of the ordinary is the fabulous Dame Vivienne Westwood. She has held a show in the rather avant-garde setting of an old meat market. Front row fans included Pamela Anderson, who is a spokesperson for animal rights charity PETA and lives a very public vegan lifestyle. Anderson did not speak about her opinion on the location, however the setting goes against all that she campaigns for.

Another place that might cause debate as to whether it is suitable or not is the Royal Albert Hall. It has hosted large fashion events, such as Fashion Rocks in which designers including Stella McCartney show their clothes accompanied by live music. But should a historical landmark not built for any runway purposes be used in this manner. Although it is not an outrageous location, it is still a respected building, rich in British history that some might be offended by in using it as a setting for a overly sexed up fashion show.

I do support the idea of thinking outside of the fashion box, but I think catwalk settings must be considered with intense analysis. The way we see the clothes without question is affected by the surrounding in which they are presented to us in. A meat market will not appeal to a vegan, a gym will not appeal to a person with weight issues and a morgue might not appeal to a recently deceased family member. I encourage designers to play with props and locations that enhance their clothing, fashion should push all boundaries, but please do not underestimate your surroundings for a catwalk.

**Page
turner**



With American designer, Corrie Nielsen, using Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as a major source of inspiration in her latest collection, it is refreshing to see a designer looking at literacy source for a style. For this trend, it is all about using your imagination. There is no exact look, but as with the mental images that fictional books fill our minds with, you take the truth, in this case being clothing worn by people of that time, and then you put a twist on them. For example, Nielsen has the historical features spot on such as the waist coat but then with an extreme collar emphasizing Gray's character.

**Necks
appeal**



Scarves are the obvious Autumn Winter 'it' accessory, but be creative with this new focus area during the chilly seasons. Consider all fabric and soft items that might be a suitable new neck decoration. Although this might sound a little out there, it certainly will not look out of place. For example, in the latest DSquared2 collection, models wore huge flags as scarves which created a new purpose for this patriotic item. Another item that might be used in this manner is the classic band flag. Dig up your old gig banners and wear them as you would a scarf.

Trending. Illusion

Sarah Wolfe DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Designer. Stella McCartney

Forget the stick-thin look it's all about the curves this season, well at least we think so. Stella McCartney's A/W 11 collection optimises this season's illusion trend transforming the look of the bodycon dress. A strict colour palette of white, cream, black, emerald red and sapphire blue aids to emphasise the theme of sleek sharp sophisticated lines and shapes. The combination of racerback and sweetheart necklines, velvet fabrics and curved bodices communicate an athletic feel. McCartney's Julietta dress dances on the boundary between seductive and sporty using smooth black stretch cotton that contrasts with the soft tulle fabric transparent panels that are embellished with raised embroidered black polka dots.



Disciple. Kate Winslet

Suiting the elegant Kate Winslet down to a tee, the versatile British actress takes on the illusion trend well. Winslet recently wore a Stella McCartney Bicolour Octavia dress to the premier of *Mildred Pierce*, looking sophisticated with the slim nipped in waist and elegant hourglass hips created by the clever black and white panel design of the bodycon dress. Others to take advantage of the illusion look are American actress and former model Jane Fonda who looks just as elegant in McCartney's polka dot dress in the September issue of *Harper's Bazaar* as Natalia Vodianova who wears the same dress in Stella McCartney's ad campaign, showing the trend suits a variety of ages and women.



DIY. New Look

For those that can't afford a Stella McCartney number the high street has once again satisfied it's disciples by interpreting a high fashion trend, allowing you to play with this season's illusion trend of curves and geometric prints at a more friendly price tag. Eye catching graphic prints are making a bold impact at Asos such as their bold multi-stripe pattern dress for £35. New Look offers a variety of block patterns including a diamond check shift dress for £19.99 and a hazy pink and orange coloured tunic for £21.99 playing on the layering of opaque prints. The bold impact of the illusion trend means accessorising can be made simple with large chunky bangles and block heels.

Music.

Hello Sadness My Old Friend

Los Campesinos! frontman Gareth tells **Sam Briggs** about their forth album *Hello*

Eight members, a hyperactive tendency for exclamation marks, and a name that roughly translates from Spanish as “the peasants!”, does not an everyday band make. Thankfully, supercharged octet Los Campesinos! have far outlived their estimated life expectancy to reach their fourth album and an ever growing global fanbase. Speaking to vocalist Gareth Campesinos, the moniker taken by all band members as their second name, it would appear that this comes as much as a surprise to him as anyone.

Meeting at Cardiff University, a city only notable musically because “it’s not defined by anything”, the band’s initial expectations fell far short of grandiose. “We just got together to have a laugh”, admits frontman, Gareth (does any journalistic convention justify referring to someone as Campesinos seriously?), “and that’s one of the best things about it.” Adopted stage surnames aside, the camaraderie within the group feels familial as Gareth describes the maturation process they experienced together. “It sounds clichéd, but we know much more who we are as people now, and spending time together now is all we know”. Pitying old school friends, “the popular ones!”, Gareth jokes, with qualifications in how to write music “who are still playing to the same people as ten years ago”, his description of the band’s natural cohesion in comparison is clear.

Their widening success has not come without personal cost to the band, however. With three years of time and fees already invested in university degrees, the membership of vocalist Aleks and violinist Harriet was always destined to be temporary. Along with first drummer Ollie, there have been three line-up changes since the founding of the band, replacements include: Gareth’s sister Kim, road manager Ross, and support act Sparky Deathcap. Despite this, Gareth remains regret-free when quizzed about whether he would have changed anything about the band’s past. “We’ve made some decisions that I’m sure others wouldn’t have made, but the way we’ve done it has set us up perfectly to be in the position we are now”, one that they are clearly happy with.

Having allowed Budweiser to use their breakthrough single, “You! Me! Dancing!” in a recent advert, Gareth reveals that they were offered much more for the track when the band was only six months old. “That money would have been very nice, and set us in better stead, but we didn’t want to be the “Budweiser band”. Doing it at this



“I think I’ve really nailed the perspective of depressed perfect this time”

stage, we’ve shown our worth, that we’re not just being opportunist”, he says, admitting that it acts as an example of the different current incarnation of the band, that “the people that we were four or five years ago would have said that bands shouldn’t sell their music. But in this day and age, it’s the only way bands can make money.”

The move also rings true with Gareth’s wish “to become a bit more famous, in terms of playing [bigger shows] to a couple of hundred more people every night, so that we can keep pushing ourselves and justify still being in a band”. Known for being as much the

obsessive fan of obscure music as artist, Gareth’s frustrations with the inherent divisions between “band” and “fan” help fuel his drive to “keep building and improving on our music, not just fall into the niche of whatever we’ve been doing before”. That push for new sonic territory and wider audiences comes in the form of new album, *Hello Sadness*, released on November 14th. Gareth describes it as the band’s “most patient album”. “Previously, we’ve had an inclination to shove everything into a song, but this time we’ve tried to step back to use space better, and realise what is actually necessary. In relation to wanting to play to more people, we’ve created our most accessible album to date, but our most powerful”.

Any potential worries for a clichéd cover-up for “a sell out” are dispersed by lead single “By Your Hand”. Definitely leaner, definitely anthemic,

but still very much in line with the band’s USP of putting a cheery, Technicolor twist on gloomy topics in a raucous fashion. Although believing that “when you become really close to something, that’s when you question it the most”, Gareth’s feelings towards the album seem positive, with “everyone all on the same page, pulling in the same direction, making [the album] much quicker and more pleasurable to make than before”. When asked what defines it when compared to the band’s previous albums, Gareth describes his increasing understanding of the concept of an album, from debut *Hold On Now Youngster* acting as a compilation of every song they’d written to date, to musings on “sex, death and football” on “Romance is Boring”. “I think I’ve really nailed the perspective of depressed perfect this time”, Gareth jokes.

A significant portion of Gareth’s internet footprint has been governed by his views on the traditional distribution of music. “It isn’t a bad thing that bands have to give more to their fans, and treat them more like human beings”, says Gareth. He goes on to explain *Heat Rash*, the band’s new subscription zine released separately from strictly musical exploits, to provide a platform for the “different abilities and interests of an eight piece band”. “There’s no bad thing about bands having to think outside the box of just ‘tour, release, tour, release’ in terms of creativity”, he says when questioned about the changing values of music today. Talking about booming vinyl sales to combat people “who just want as much music as possible”, and dismiss something after half a song when “downloading a piece of art in two minutes that we worked on for two years”, Gareth seems to take comfort in “that people who care, care more than ever. People who really value music as art, in its physical form”.

We are interrupted by a particularly enthusiastic game of Bogies (“you have thought you’d choose a more offensive word when you’re older”, laughs Gareth), and our interview ends in time for the band’s evening festival slot. A far cry from the bookish twee icon promoted in the bands early days, Gareth’s sharp tongue is as amusing as it is witty, whilst being knowledgeable about the industry and his place as musician and artist. Hopefully he’ll have something more positive to greet than sadness come November.

REVERB.

“Look at this beautiful kitten.’ ‘Fuck you, that kitten’s a socialist.’ ‘You’re a fag.’ Basically, that’s the crux of all Internet discussion.”

Creative Bromance

Male Bonding give Adam Bychawski tour tips

As their name might suggest, Male Bonding, made up of John Arthur Webb (vocals, guitar), Kevin Hendrick (vocals, bass) and Robin Silas Christian (drums) share a particular fondness for collaboration. Although it's important to point out this isn't limited to musical bromances, but also includes female-fronted bands such as Pens, Vivian Girls and the Dum Dum Girls. If the Minutemen's mantra was "jamming econo" it might be fair to say that Male Bonding's is "jamming collabo", having recorded numerous cassettes with fellow bands on different sides. "Doing splits is economical and fun" explains Robin, "our first release (with Graffiti Island and Pens) happened because our friend found a box of tapes at his work and rather than put them in the skip he made a release which we each designed a cover for. It made sense to do this as all our bands had started at the same time and none of us were gonna wait for someone else to come along and put out a record."

This strong belief in DIY also prompted the band to try their hand at their own record label, *Paradise Vendors*, which has been steadily putting out various splits and compilations. "Releasing music in this way is natural to us, just something we have always done and it's good to document things physically, put them in the archive. When you have written a song and put it out you can say, great that exists now - let's move on and do something else."

One of the more unusual releases on *Paradise Vendors* is a compilation dedicated to punk cult figure, GG Allin, appropriately entitled *Violent and Obscene*. Lead singer, John Arthur Webb has made it clear elsewhere that "I love GG Allin's music, but not his views and opinions - some of them I do, but certainly not all of them. He fascinates me as a person - how over the years he went from 'Don't Talk To Me' to a song like 'Shove That Warrant'. Male Bonding's live setlists frequently include cov-



ers as a semi-tribute to other influencing musicians. "Doing covers is just something we have always done; Black Flag, Blur, Baby Gecko, The Connells..." explains Robin.

These more unorthodox punk tastes along with the Brit pop of Blur and power pop of The Connells is perhaps why the band made a comfortable addition to Sub Pop's roster in 2010, releasing their debut *Nothing Hurts* that same year. Since then the band have recorded a follow-up *Endless Now* with producer and record engineer John Angello (Kurt Vile, Sonic Youth, Dinosaur Jr., Andrew WK), released in August. "John was great to work with. We recorded it in an old converted church and slept in another church at the bottom of the drive. Each day we ate breakfast together and listen to stories about the Breeders. John set up a lot of microphones and then sat in the altar of the church (the control room) whilst we played surrounded by stained glass and a huge African drum."

"We definitely embraced the sound of the big room and added more layers of guitars this time. We like mistakes, still do so we didn't mess with it too much after, but

I think it sounds bigger, rather than cleaner." *Endless Now* also marks a milestone for Male Bonding's characteristic song brevity, with one track even reaching six minutes. Robin politely dismisses suggestions of the band having a creative epiphany or perhaps some divine insight "We like longer songs and shorter songs. That song [Bones] is very repetitive and we all liked it that way. We just played it and kept playing until John Agnello ran in the room with a huge board that read 'eight minutes thirty'."

Currently the band has just finished an epic US tour and are sic'ing themselves for slightly smaller road trip for their UK tour in October and November. Expecting tour tales of a fun-yet-economic kind, Robin's anecdotes are, surprisingly, instead about the availability of public baths. "We swam econo'. America has a great selection of swimming pools, slides, and spas", before kindly offering on some passed down tour advice on heating pasties by leaving them out on dashboards - results are forthcoming.

Future Sounds.

"Are you listening to elevator music again?" is frequent deriding response from my flatmates (and if I'm honest probably 99 per cent of the population) to the one of the most unloved musical genres - drone and ambient. I guess one man's profoundly beautiful is another's homeopathic relaxation tape. So I should tentatively warn the following may only be interest to that remaining 1 per cent. It's been a good year for the genre, with releases from Grouper, The Caretaker, Tim Hecker, and Motion Sickness of Time Travel - fans of niche music rejoice.

One convincing reason is a new release from Adam Wiltzie of Stars of the Lid, an artist worthy to

rival Eno for the ambient throne. Wiltzie has collaborated with well-reputed 'contemporary classical' pianist Dustin O'Halloran in a new project, *A Winged Victory For The Sullen*, named in typical Stars of the Lid fashion. Wiltzie previous project was often disquieting with its sinister undertones, a side only hinted at through disturbing song-titles. *A Winged Victory For The Sullen*, is an album bereft of those unsettling moments, and yet also strangely elegiac. While it may not be as unnerving, it is a more subtle and poignant melancholia. It is a fitting ode to insomniacs, a piece for pensive solitude, but mostly a brief few minutes of almost divine noise. AB



A Winged Victory For The Sullen

Reviews.

ARIST: BETH JEANS HOUGHTON
DATE: 2ND OCTOBER
VENUE: DUCHESS, YORK
REVIEWER: LIAM PORTER

★★★★☆

Beth Jeans Houghton, a 21-year-old guitarist and singer-songwriter from Newcastle, played the Duchess early October to a small but appreciative crowd: composed in no small part of friends of Houghton and the support acts though also containing a few clearly rapt BJH devotees.

Houghton appeared on stage, with her band, dressed in leopard tights, a thick cotton beanie and a comically oversized Star Trek: The Next Generation T-shirt, hanging to where a short skirt would terminate. She performed standing largely immobile, feet tightly together, and began the first of her set without a word of preamble, ending each with a terse "thank you".

Despite her demure, girlish stature, she commanded a strong, almost intimidating stage presence, at one point commanding the sheepish spectators to step up to the stage from their gingerly distant proximity: "we can't see you".

Her first album is yet to be released (slated for early 2012) but she's already shown noticeable musical progression; from twee, traditional folk and country, evident on her *Hot Toast Vol. 1* EP, to a dreamy but high-energy, soulful indie sound. Her set was, consequently, a mix of this new sound (the album preview, "Dodecahedron", being illustrative) and the older, hoedown-y numbers - albeit moulded subtly to her new aesthetic.

ARIST: ONSLAUGHT
DATE: 23TH SEPTEMBER
VENUE: GARAGE, LONDON
REVIEWER: ALEX SWADLING

★★★★☆

It's been a long journey for thrash titans Onslaught, disbanding in 1991, reforming in 2004 and turning over a vast amount of band members and facial hair.

The sweaty denim clad turn-out tonight is a testament to their struggling, but brilliant thrash. Kicking things off (or at least playing when I arrive, which is when things kick off) are masters of darkness, Nightlord.

Amazing, angry, sex-guitar faces firmly fixed, they growl through their cringingly "evil" set, which is also interspersed with informative inter-song asides on knives and other pointy things.

Replacing an angry overweight man, Philly Byrne's cheeky grin beckons an insurgence of energy and a big ol' dirty mosh-pit. Fronting the more openly confessed entertainers Gama Bomb, they unleash their punk-thrash metal baby out to play.

As compelling and awesome as Gama Bomb are, their set is painfully and teasingly too long - and there's a noticeable feeling of restlessness. Buzzing, worked up and ready, Onslaught eventually grace the stage and thank fuck they don't disappoint.



At about three quarters through the first track, the lead guitarist retired his Telecaster and produced a trumpet, switching for the remainder of the song; a recurring addition to the set which, alongside their atmospheric joint vocals, much expanded the musical palette of your average bass-drums-guitar arrangement.

Though vocal duties were largely shared, it was naturally Houghton's clear, ringing soprano that dominated, recalling something between Vashti Bunyan and Grizzly Bear, though com-fortingly not a wholesale importing the sound of any contemporary.

She finished her set with a dance-y, punk-y rendition of Madonna's "Like A Prayer", in which she broke her immobile stance and invited audience members to dance along on stage with the lure of free merchandise. British manners triumphed, however.



Yelling "spitting blood in the face of Godddd", the opening throes of title track to their reuniting album, 'Killing Peace' crashes onto the small confines of gig venue Garage and I nearly explode with excitement.

However, the majority of the crowd seem less volatile than me, there is a dread that Onslaught may have peaked with their choice opener. Thankfully, after a slight dip, their set picks up again with a mixture of pre and post-reunion songs and every track you need to hear live. If this set is anything to go by, Onslaught's reunion is definitely merited and certainly welcomed.

Film.

Smoking - Certificate 18

New research has suggested that films featuring cigarettes are unsuitable for teenagers. **Vicky Morris** asks whether such proposals are worth listening to

New research has suggested that films featuring cigarettes are unsuitable for teenagers. Vicky Morris asks whether such proposals are worth listening to.

Some of the most iconic images in film are incomplete without an actor smoking: Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly, with a long cigarette holder poking out from under her hat as she sports her little black dress, or Clint Eastwood in *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* puffing on a cigar, shadowed by his cowboy hat. But as our perception of smoking has changed to one of negativity, images like these have become less common.

In fact, pick any commercial film made in the last five years, set in the modern day, in which a hero is depicted smoking. Nowadays, smoking in film is usually used either to recreate the culture of an era, or to portray an ultimately bad character. It would seem that the film industry has gone some distance to change how it portrays smoking, but for some, not far enough - especially when it comes to underage smoking.

The issue of smoking in films is one that refuses to go away, and a recent report into the influence of film has again brought up the debate. The report, undertaken by Thorax, has found evidence to suggest that smoking in films does have an influence on young people's decision to smoke. They found that among 15 year olds, those who watched more films, including characters smoking, were 75 per cent more likely to try a cigarette and 50 per cent more likely to be a current smoker, than those who had watched few films which incorporated smoking. These findings led Thorax to recommend that all films featuring smoking should be given an 18 certificate suggesting that depicting smoking is equal to showing illegal drug abuse and violence in films.

Is film really that influential on how we choose to behave? I myself believe these recommendations are out of proportion. As if, once again, we are completely overstating the power of media in pushing people to do something. In the past, cinema has been blamed for extreme violence, drug abuse and a whole list of



other wrongs, despite the other range of factors that drive people to behave in the way they do.

I am a passionate and avid filmmaker, watching thousands of movies, some of which included smoking. Never when watching these have I thought to pick up a cigarette. I put my decision not to smoke, down to the influence of family and friends. To me it seems influences like these have a much stronger weight, and if film does have a sway in a decision, it is one of many factors in a bigger pic-

“The film industry has gone some distance to change how it portrays smoking - but for some, not far enough”

ture with minimal powers of persuasion.

Changes to the rating classification system could significantly alter the film landscape. For example, under Thorax's suggestions the Disney classic *101 Dalmatians* would be changed from U to 18, due to the chain-smoking habits of villain Cruella De Vil. I beg to ask what child would aspire to be like the puppy-murdering criminal in the first place.

Regardless, the research was primarily aimed at those aged 15. As

current regulations stand, although each film is considered on its own merits, the BBFC will look to classify a film as 15 if characters are depicted smoking. To me 15 seems an appropriate age as you would assume they should know how to weigh up the risks of smoking before taking it up.

It would be a real shame if regulations like these were introduced into film: education is a better place to combat these problems; it is not an issue for the arts to deal with. If a smoking character leads to an 18-rat-

ing, filmmakers would be put off for fear of not reaching as wide an audience. If this was the case, the public would be missing out on great, realistic film-making for the sake of cigarettes.

Regardless of the recommendations made, both the government and the BBFC seem reluctant to take on these measures and have stuck by the current regulations relating to film classification. Nevertheless, the issue is a potent one and I think it will be a long time before we see it put to bed for good.

Reviews.

FILM: DRIVE

DIRECTOR: NICOLAS REFN

STARRING: RYAN GOSLING

RUNTIME: 100 MINS

REVIEW: MICHAEL

MIDDLETON

★★★★☆

Ryan Gosling gives a stand-out performance in Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn's latest offering. Much has been made of the apparent influence of Western heroes of old on Gosling's character, but where those characters were often cold and distant, Gosling is mysterious, intriguing and, though a man of few words, his "Driver" is an appealing character for much of the film (right up until, quite literally, he starts kicking heads in).

The violence, when it eventually comes, is a bit much. It doesn't spoil the film, but does take from the subtlety achieved the first hour. The car chase sequences are well executed, if few and far between. A film I'd reluctantly label an 'action/thriller', *Drive* is a class above its CGI-riddled brethren precisely because of the authenticity of its action, which has drawn favourable comparisons with the 1968 Steve McQueen classic, *Bullitt*. Coupled with Gosling's understated and sincere performance, Refn has discovered a killer combination.

Carey Mulligan gives a solid performance as the mother of a



young boy; her vulnerability clearly endears her to our hero. The tacit chemistry Mulligan shares with Gosling will leave you wanting to see more. The film also boasts an excellent faux-eighties-electro soundtrack and, along with Miami Vice inspired graphics, the film has a videogame-like quality.

There are some genuinely shocking moments, in the best possible sense of the word shocking. These elements of Noir in the lingering shots of the Driver, the quietude, and the individualistic story all help turn the pure 'action/thriller' on the poster into a drama to be taken seriously.

FILM: MELANCHOLIA

DIRECTOR: LARS VON TRIER

STARRING: KIRSTEN DUNST

RUNTIME: 136 MINS

REVIEW: HENRY WARD

★★★★☆

Anticipating a sci-fi heavy film a la *Armageddon*, my expectations were not met. They were surpassed. Visually stunning and emotionally draining, Lars von Trier's *Melancholia* delivers with this apocalyptic drama.

After the prologue's beautifully constructed introductory montage, which sets up Earth's destruction, the film rewinds several weeks leading up to the event and is divided into two parts. We follow Justine (Kirsten Dunst) her dysfunctional family on her wedding night, alienating friends and family, to a scenario weeks later where her sister Clare (Charlotte Gainsbourg) and brother-in-law John (Kiefer Sutherland) fear and marvel at the planet *Melancholia* is due to pass safely by the Earth. The film's first half following Dunst's character is excellent at setting up the scene, if not a little slow paced. While giving an excellent performance, it is hard to sympathise with Justine. Her character expresses increasingly the titular humor, falling into a state of depression, and neglecting those close to her in her life prompting a slight loss of interest. It is through Clare's eyes in the second



act that the audience begins to understand and accept Justine and her behaviour.

Von Trier manages to make the characters' fears our own. The claustrophobic idea of a planet colliding with our own plays on the audience's minds throughout. There are few typical sci-fi elements here, rather a thoroughly down-to-earth story, revealing hopes and fears in these broken characters. While we are aware of the film's outcome from the outset, its final scene, both harrowing and beautiful, leaves one in complete silence. Much more than an end-of-the-world tale, *Melancholia* speaks of family, love and sadness and a group of individuals forced to confront their demons. The initial slow pace aside, Lars von Trier's storytelling and cinematic flair will etch itself into your mind for a long time to come.

Top 5 Car Chase Movies

To celebrate the release of *Drive*, we count down five of the best pieces of automobile action in the history of cinema...

Willie and Tim in the Motor Car (1905)

Only 6 minutes long, this silent short features a motorcyclist in pursuit of 2 pesky joyriders.

Bullitt (1968)

Full of continuity errors and Steve McQueen's massive ego - but still unsurpassed.

The Italian Job (1969)

Best British film ever? Maybe, but international audiences ignored it for decades.

The Blues Brothers (1980)

Any good chase needs an amazing crash: nearly 100 cars are wrecked in this comedy classic.

The Fast and the Furious [series] (2001-Present)

It's as infuriating as it is fast: but this billion-dollar franchise shows no signs of slowing down.

Food & Drink.

Sam Stern, teenage chef

Ben Burns gets top tips about student cooking.
Over to you Heslington's hungermonger.



loads of bits – pancakes late-night. Fry-ups are good after a very late night...

You encourage the use of local and organic produce, yet most students think it costs the earth-do you have any tips on cost effective ways to introduce organic/local produce in to the student diet?

There are always discounts on organic stuff at your supermarket so you just have to look for it. Go shop on the days and at times when produce is reduced. You've just got to be a bit clever. Some universities are now providing allotments for students who want to grow their own. Check out local markets and green grocers but don't make it a religion. The Slow Food Movement just started as a student movement and they'll be looking at what's good and fresh for students locally and special event at local restaurants. Good food and great value. Google them...

What are the most useful ingredients every student should have?

Baked beans...eggs, cheese, potatoes, noodles, rice, bread, lemons, garlic, lazy chilli, soy, lazy garlic, ketchup, tinned cannellini beans, tinned chickpeas and butter beans, lots of dried herbs, paprika, smoked paprika, cumin, salt, pepper, oregano, chilli flakes, olive oil (look for special deals) vegetable oil, white wine vinegar, mustard, tinned tomatoes, tomato puree, tinned tuna, soy sauce, chilli sauce, milk, butter, onions, rice, bread

You're latest book is vegetarian, what are the best ways to prevent vegetarian meals from tasting bland?

Using the right herbs and spices and making sure your seasoning is correct. That's not just salt and pepper but using the full range of things to boost flavours. Forget that it's vegetarian. Some of the best food in the world is meat-free. If you stop thinking that it has to be worthy you're more likely to be creative with it. Any bland food is insulting so you just need to keep mixing it up. Keep in a store of relishes and chutneys etc so you complement tastes. Don't overcook vegetables but find ways to cook them so they

retain their character. Roasting root vegetables brings out their flavours and sweetens them and try griddling courgettes, sweet potatoes, aubergines – a re-invention!

As you've targeted a young audience, many people have called you 'the next Jamie Oliver'. The comparison aside, do you have any future plans to combine politics with food and really change the way people eat?

No. Not personally. Maybe I can influence through the recipes and food choices I make but I think it's counter productive to be overtly political and dictate to people. You can only make suggestions and hope that people trust you enough to try making your food and then they get addicted to the tastes, the process and maybe start to feel healthier. Food is central to everything but it's got a bit off-kilter = become a bit of entertainment rather than something we all do naturally. It'd be great if we could get back to that. Loads of blokes I know are really getting into cooking - while it's the girls who lack confidence or choose not to. Interesting...

What are your thoughts on the ready meal culture?

It's not a great culture. I think things will eventually reverse though. Food prices will continue to rise and there will be greater shortages of certain key commodities. That will force the issue and maybe people will start to value food. Too much choice is the problem at the minute. And that's driven by a food industry that carries huge power politically. I would like to say that change could start to happen in schools. Put proper cookery lessons back into the curriculum starting at nursery level so kids get to experience a range of tastes and textures. Eating habits are established that early and kids love to cook. They're not frightened of the process in the way that adults can be. And once you've tasted food as it can be – you can't live on processed rubbish full-time. You can book brilliant food really cheaply. But that would take huge political will and a lot of investment. Every school needs a proper kitchen and fully trained staff. In France, kids sit down to a three course lunch, with no choice, and a proper adult diet. I wish we could go that way...

For our more experimental and experienced readers-do you have a favourite and more exotic ingredient they could incorporate in to their cooking?

Raspberry vinegar is great in a salad dressing or for baking up a dish of red cabbage and apples to team with a baked gammon joint. I really like using smoked paprika.

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

Rose Troup-Buchanan



Butternut Squash: has a soft, dense, and pleasingly sweet taste. They are great incorporated into soups with a little bit of spice and coconut.



Blackberries: these are everywhere at the moment so take advantage when you are wandering along hedgerows. Eat the dark, almost purpled-coloured, ones.



British Cox apples: support our farmers and buy British. In season, have a thin and rosy skin and a sweet, firm taste.



Sweet-corn: sweet and crunchy, boil or fry and eat with lashings of butter for a comfort meal full of vitamins.

It's **National Chocolate Week** from the 10-16 October, so if you want to sugar up to a fello fresher, then indulge in these treats...

Cosy cuddle by the fire?
Cadbury's Hot Chocolate



Romantic park-lit date, with novels?
Chocolate Fondue



Have a snuggly moment?
Gu Chocolate Puddings



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The Final Say

Big Mac Blues

Hannah Ellis-Petersen



There are almost 35,000 McDonalds restaurants in the world. 35,000. Collectively, as a franchise, they have an economy bigger than Ecuador. Should you find yourself in Guadeloupe, and curried goat on banana leaves doesn't quite take your fancy, a Chicken Deluxe with extra bacon, large fries and accompanying (diet?) coke are there to rescue your sensitive western soul from a cultural carcass. In Saudi Arabia? Well you may not have democracy, but freedom can most definitely be found for \$2.50, placed between a lightly toasted bun and smothered with bbq sauce.

Now, don't get me wrong, I am no McDonalds misanthrope, looking down with disdain on anyone who walks through those golden arches as I snack on a self-congratulatory tofu twizzler. Next time I'm in Indonesia, I will be making a definite, albeit brief, pit stop to sample the delights of McRice. And I'm just frankly intrigued by the McBulgogi burger, a treat reserved solely for the South Korean branches.

But where my curiosity levels off, despair takes over. After all, it's not just McDonalds. It's Starbucks, and Costa, Pizza Hut, and god forbid, Nandos (yes, the plague of piri piri has gone global). Having chosen to exchange the spiralling economic and social black hole that is the UK for the (debatable) calmer climates of the Middle East this summer, I was envisioning an escape from the mall of homogeneity. I would live out my unapologetically pretentious dreams as I danced Dabke down the road to Damascus.

But who was I kidding? After all, I have yet to find a high street in the world that isn't lit up by those two alphabetical beacons of



boring, H&M, and Lebanon proved no different. The concept of an iced-coffee no longer exists ("oh, you mean a frappacino.."). And the FroYo has arrived in a big way.

I would never bemoan any country the freedom to import whatever high street gem they wanted. Rymans, Poundland, Debenhams; they are the world's for the taking. But what I cannot help but object to is the fact that these institutions and monuments to monotony have become symbols of progression. If a country has a Starbucks, they are on their way up in the world.

And I regret to say such fallacies are not restricted solely to the high street. Encountering a fellow Brit on my travels, the conversation inevitably turned to our mutual home. "Well I'm from London, but I actually really consider myself a citizen of the world" was her opening line. It was all I could do to restrain myself from binding her up in union jack bunting and stuffing scones into her eyes.

Whilst the closest thing I've ever got to patriotism is a key ring from Windsor Castle, I can't help but object to such happy hippie sentiments. Even a basic sense of national identity gives us a sense of belonging; lose that and we are simply 7 billion Kerouac-esque figures, wandering aimless (and drunk) from one corner of the globe to the other. After all, if we celebrate difference as much as we pursue homogeneity, the world will become a much more interesting place.

And by all means, indulge ourselves in a Big Mac from time to time. After all, the Queen herself owns a McDonalds in her vast estate near Buckingham Palace. If it's good enough for Liz, well damn, it's good enough for me.

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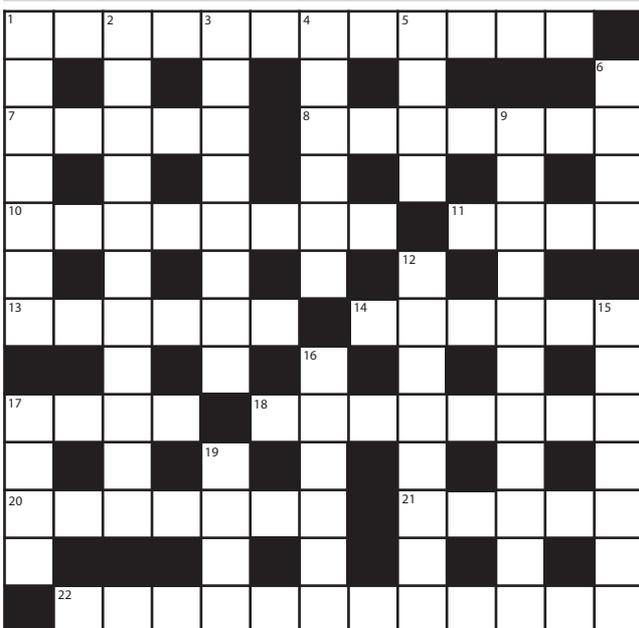
LAST WORD

Sorry I forgot to give you the mayonnaise

-Richard Brautigan, *Trout Fishing in America* (1967)

THE NOUSE CROSSWORD

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



Across

- Uncritically teach a set of beliefs/ideas (12)
- Cosmetic cheekbone colouring (5)
- A ridiculous but amusing person (7)
- Finland's largest city (8)
- Alternative search engine to google (4)
- Decorative suspended structure above a cot (6)
- African country bordering Namibia (6)
- Small sled in which one lies supine (4)
- Brazilian martial art (8)
- Mythology fields where the blessed go after death (7)
- Jungian inner personality (5)
- Class of boxing (12)

Down

- Notorious Muslim prophet (7)
- 2 over par (6,5)
- Believable (8)
- An expression of criticism or disapproval (6)
- A bad smell (4)
- Catch material on something sharp (4)
- Term for insects laying eggs (11)
- Introduce something new (8)
- Stubbornly unyielding (7)
- American showman and circus founder (6)
- Vegetable of the onion family (4)
- Knee-length tartan skirt (4)

THE NOUSE SUDOKU

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

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

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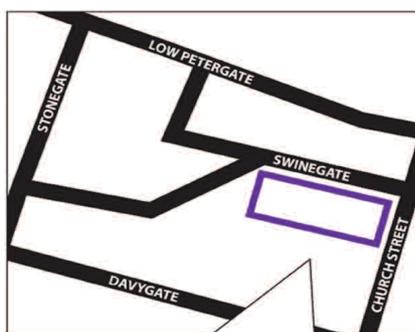
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Isabelle
Wynne

The value of college bars may diminish unless action is taken

Plans of action made to support college bars need to have follow through.

For returning students this year, James College may look a tad different. Not only due to all the building taking place but the fact that the college bar, McQ's, has vanished.

College life, as everyone knows, is more than just halls of residence. The sense of community so vital to them is fostered in things like sports teams, college events and college bars. They are a place for socials, quiet drinks with friends or as pre-drinking spots before a night out. Drinks deals mean that you can enjoy a pint of your choice for less than it costs to use one of the campus washing machines.

Some would cite the dwindling popularity and financial viability of bars like B-Henry's, only open two nights a week now, as a reason for its closure. Other college bars like D Bar, host annual events like Big D are considered by many to be one of the highlights of the year and often sell out well

in advance.

McQ's certainly did have its supporters. A Facebook group, set up back in March when plans were first thought to be of refurbishment, reflected the

"it remains to be seen whether this style of bar will be a hit with students"

affection of a bar thought to have a 'unique' atmosphere with its pub-style quizzes, with some calling for increasing its capacity rather than increasing that of the Roger Kirk building itself.

Hopes for the Lounge Bar to lure students away from bars in town by offering cocktails and spirit deals not previously seen on cam-

pus, with food also on offer are ambitious. The logistics of the situation may seem odd: with food being biked over from Langwith due to a lack of a kitchen, you have to wonder whether student needs were fully thought through when it was being planned.

The question is whether it can really compete with the variety that town offers. It remains to be seen whether this style of bar will be a hit with students or whether it will just become another space to be rented out for conferences by Commercial Services. It does, however, provide a wakeup call.

For those who wish to save their college bars, it's time to start encouraging people to make use of them to preserve the sense of individual college spirits. Perhaps it's time for some sectors of the university to realise what a university is; first and foremost a place for its students, rather than a place of financial gain.

Sam
Shepherd

Communication by curse word

The University of Bristol has recently published research which suggests that swearing affects our behaviour. I thought I knew that already. Apparently not.

Further digging into this reveals a slightly different story. This study compared a 'naughty' word and people's reactions to euphemisms that mean the same thing, and lo and behold, the reactions were different.

We react worse to swear words, rather than their meaning, due to verbal conditioning we experienced when we were young. This raises the possibility that young children recognise

"do words affect the way I think?"

their parents' reactions to words not sanctioned as 'safe' by our lords and masters in society, before they know what they mean.

The results, says research instigator Jeff Bowers, throw some light on a question often debated by linguists and psychologists: do the words you say affect the way you think and perceive the world? Bowers says the difference in stress levels between swear words and euphemisms shows that we don't only respond to the meaning of a swear word.

So do the words I say

affect the way I think? Probably. There are scenarios whereby swearing is completely inappropriate. For example, if you're with your grandmother and she asks how university is going, you do not say that it is "f***ing s**t." Yet, when one plays football the realisation you aren't Lionel Messi makes it acceptable.

What this study shows is that by saying the same things but in different ways can provoke different response from us. Indeed, this seems like a good explanation as to why people will go to such lengths to avoid certain words, to the point of replacing them with similar sounds like "sugar" or "fudge."

But does this study really prove that the words we say affect the way we perceive the world? I don't think so. Communication is a key factor in how the world works, but whilst someone may dislike me for using a swear word, it does not make my world go round. The words I choose do not necessarily reflect my personality, and they are not central to how I live my life.

The language we use should not affect the way we interact with others. People often say that swearing is merely a way of displaying to those around you that you are somewhat lacking in intelligence. I disagree. It shows humanity and passion and I think that is more important in life than uttering swear words.

The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

Do you think we should reintroduce the death penalty?

382 people voted, with the majority stating NO



88 people
voted
Yes
(23%)

294 people
voted
No
(77%)

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

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

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

Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Letters

Commercial needs are overtaking student needs

Dear *Nouse*,

I don't think the university have students' best interest in mind anymore. I can't understand why they build so many of the buildings in ways that aren't actually suitable for students to use.

I really like the Heslington East campus but it's also not at all catered to student needs. While there might be the study pods that go onto the lake and a lot of computer spaces - the catering choices aren't enough for all of the students on the Goodricke accommodation plus all of those who are coming over for TFTV or Management lectures.

I feel like the university have made their choices on how to design the spaces under the commercial constraints of conferences that take place over summer. The large spaces in The Hub aren't suitable for many

events that students would actually hold - I certainly can't think of many.

In my opinion it seems like it is just catered for the conference guests who flood the university in the summer holidays. On top of this, the bar in The Hub is only open during working hours - the vending machine is only source of available food on Goodricke during the evenings, when students are most in need of food!

It seems that commercial, rather than practical decisions have been made - and while I'm sure there's little that can be done about it by students, it doesn't make it any less wrong.

Ed, Derwent

I want the ducks back

Dear *Nouse*,

I'm aware that there were a lot of people who wanted to change the old university card because of the student discount issues and the fact that they still had to buy an NUS card to use in certain shops.

However, I think that the new design actually looks more dated than the past one - don't the university have a better designer they could have employed to make the cards? It looks like something right out of the nineties.

I do appreciate that I can now use the card as proof of education...but I know that soon enough I'll miss the ducks that were there before! I know this sounds shallow, but the new card really is quite ugly.

Alice, second-year

Uni bar ISO GSOH

Dear *Nouse*,

Whoever made the decision to name the 'Lounge' is clearly deluded, and has no sense of humour. The James JCR wanted to call it the 'Mucky Ducky', 'The Drunken Duck' (Welfare vetoed that one) or the 'Black Swan'. That would have allowed the space to have far more personality.

Instead, we're left with a really impersonal space which after the loss of McQ's is really quite sad. What happened to the sense of humour that student representatives are meant to have?

I know it's not a big deal, but it's that kind of thing that makes a 'student experience'. The best bar at Exeter university is affectionately called the Lemmy. What do we get? The Lounge. Sexy.

Mark, Politics student

Campus Wildlife

The foreign language chameleon



One of the more reclusive species of campus wildlife, these animals have a tendency to be overlooked in the noise generated by wilder creatures. A mistake, as these creatures often disappear south in search of warmer climes and can be invariably counted upon for a summer sojourn.



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

The English dodo



These creatures tend to have something of the theatrical about them. Their general appearance is drab and often semi-squalid through eschewing personal hygiene. They are given to bouts of loud, intense noise, impenetrable to outsiders. However, experienced Dodo-watchers have given to calling these 'literary debates.' Although intimidating in appearance, the majority are kind creatures given to introspection.

The History labrador



Often seen bumbling their way late into a lecture after too much drinking at a favourite water bowl. Typically sheltered from life in a comfortable middleclass litter, once they've got over their reservations they are unswervingly loyal and faithful. Expect loud barking and tail-wagging should they encounter others of their own kind. Excessive licking has also been seen to arise, usually when searching for a mate.

The Philosophy sloth



So laid back you are often unaware you are in the presence of one. Characterised by languid movement, they tend to emerge at night where they can occasionally be highly energising presences. Their regular diet consists of a particular green leaf which is consumed most waking hours (predominantly nocturnal). Usually calm, they can appear fatalistic to outsiders, however, this often masks a sunnier disposition.



The Art History flamingo

Predominately female, this animal tends to move in iridescent flocks, and can usually be spotted gently yah-ing on the way to or from a lecture. Particular attention should be made to the usually highly unpractical plumage, which is sourced from unorthodox habitats. Generally gentle creatures, mocking of their degree can result in fearsome and highly dangerous attacks.

Nouse reads: Blogs of the BNOCs



I just can't wait to be king!

It is but a wonderful feeling to be overlooking one's Kingdom when a brand new batch of willing subjects arrive. I get a great sense of achievement in knowing that 3,000 more minions of freshers will now be doing my bidding at this university.

I am much saddened by the fact that I cannot reside in my Kingdom more often. I have to make so many other State visits and pay unfortunate tributes to our Lancastrian rivals, that these commitments really do prove to be quite constricting on my time.

Formalities, of course, do have their perks - a lot of travel and making some

superb contacts. (Sometimes I keep the costs of these expenses to myself, but what is someone in my position to do? I mean, really?)

There's really no chance of rebellion amongst the masses, especially as they are kept at bay by YUSU. Who knew that five of my former subjects could do such an excellent job at making sure the rest remain obedient to my wishes?

I often like to stroll around the grounds incognito - it gives me such freedom to watch the State outside of Heslington Hall. I know that when I overhear some of my subjects talking in disrespect about the establishment, it is only

because they are dissatisfied with my lack of personal interaction with them.

I may include some of these revelations in my memoirs, which, in fact, I have just started. Some provisional working titles include: "Guiding a Kingdom", "Inspiring Growth: Leading The Masses", "How To Rule From A Distance, Memoirs of a Remote V-C". The publishers weren't keen on the sketches I provided of York's food web with myself at the top, but I told them my crown was entirely unnecessary, of course it was a whimsical gimmick! I never wear my crown out in public. What a faux pas that would be - it's only for the bedroom, naturally.

Fresh(er) Meat



Ah freshers. Their excited young faces, the overwhelming sense of awe, the intoxicating combination of alcohol, independence and zero sense of direction. Perfect time to strike. Since the Football Stud, the charming political BNOC and the Sexy Sabb upped and left (they call it graduation, I call it giving up) I've had to move onto a new breed of man. Fresh meat.

And all those freshers will be looking for a woman of the world to show them the way around campus. And if they're lucky I'll let them inside my Central Hall. But I really do take my STYC duties very seriously; it's just the first night that's off limits, at least, I think that's what the Welfare chap said. Who knows. Who cares. After the initial ice breakers I launch my full-on attack. That ghastly over-size "Hi I'm Your STYC" t-shirt is the first to go; sleeves chopped off, neckline slashed to my bellybutton and hello sailor! Here I am. The beauty of Freshers' Week is the lack of subtlety...lets face it, any "fancy dress" evening is just Cougar Code for "get it out for the lads"...right?

And of course those public-school puppies, confined to single-sex classes and prim country misses with pussybow blouses are putty in the hands of someone with real pulling power...meow! It's like a bash to the head; Cougar Concussion I call it.

The thing is that by the time the Fresher's Fair rolls around, and I've "product tested" every bed in the block, the hedonistic mix of insecurity and too much make-up is wearing off, and I need a new fix. So I pick myself up, dust down my fish-nets and prepare for next years' batch of underlings, welfare warnings ringing in my ears. Roll on Freshers Week 2011...12...13....



Ye Olde Tales of Medieval Woe

It so bifel me on an autumn day that upon a strolle aside a lake darke and murkey that I espied a sweete maiden with lockes of the fineste shade. When I approacheth closer I discovr'd that she had somme straunge device akin to hire eares.

She spoketh withe milde tone in aliene tong, and of thinges which were foriegnne to me. What was this boke of which she spak? It was in the shap of a face - a face fayrer than thynne, genteel maide? I do not comprehende her meening. Ay, I supposede it were a boke of faces

for match-making; so longe hath I dream'd of a maiden like hire that I only desire my face to be in her boke. I muste purchase a copy on the morrow for her delighte!

My weary travails continued, paste the Centrale Halle towards the Alcuine hilles to meet my fellowe kinsmen. T'was but a momente before I pass'd upon my goode man Dereke and I convers'd with him on matters long and deepe. The latest jouste was that afternoone and I hoped to wing yon maiden's hearte for mine owne.

The noon-tide grew near, crowdes gather'd for the matche. Would she arrive? Would hire lockes shine in the afternoone sunne before mine eyes? I foughte withe mine opponnet valiant and stronge I wonne the battail...but never did mine maiden coom to me. The sunne rose and sette, and I stooode alone waiting for her arrivale. Yet! In the distance, beholde! T'was hire! Mine joye was boundlesse.

Yet I looked closere - she laugh'd and I sawe she ridicul'd mine attyre. Mine hearte...hath broke.



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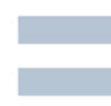
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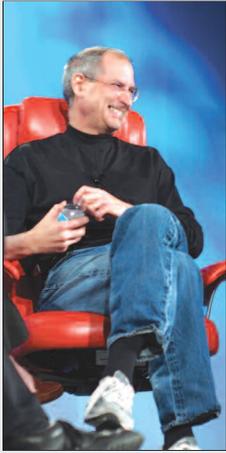
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GlobalFocus

CALIFORNIA: Steve Jobs, former CEO and co-founder of Apple, Inc. died on 05 October following a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Apple fans, government officials and tech industry leaders expressed their sense of loss following Jobs' death. Despite concerns of labour exploitation in the Chinese factories developing Apple products, many have acknowledged the fact that Apple revolutionised the way humans interact with technology.



JOI

BRITAIN: A pensioner led police on a 27-mile low-speed chase at 10mph before eventually being stopped by an officer tapping on the window while running alongside the car on a dual carriageway. Caroline Turner, 76, drove the wrong way round a roundabout, then drove into incoming traffic on the A12 in Essex, refusing to stop when pursued by police. Turner was disqualified from driving for 12 months, fined £100, and ordered to pay £100 costs.

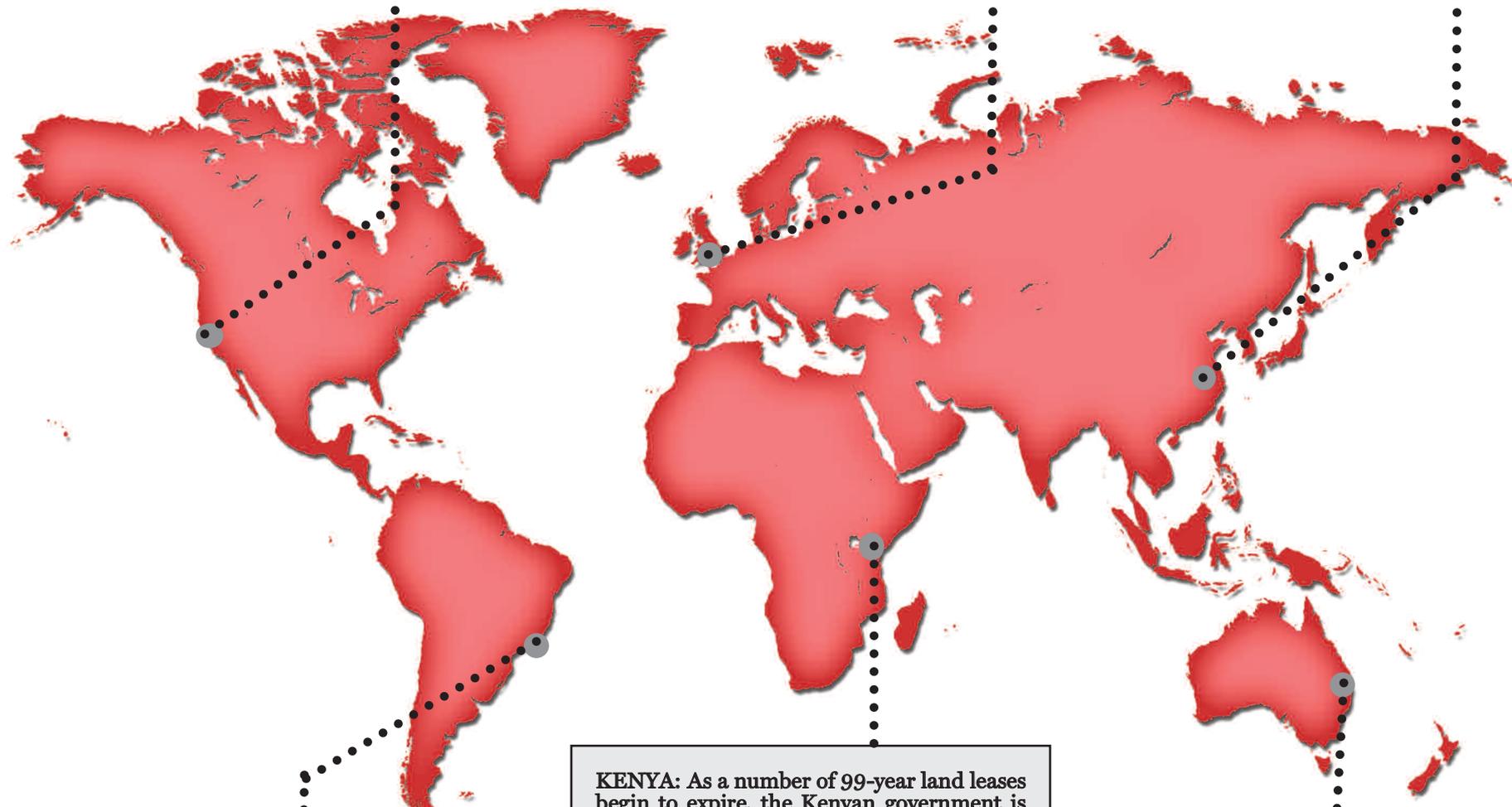


MIKECOGH



IVANWALSH

CHINA: China has halted plans to continue developing its high-speed railway system after safety concerns arose following July's deadly bullet train crash, which led to the deaths of 40 people and injured a further 200. There is no word yet as to when development will recommence.



KENYA: As a number of 99-year land leases begin to expire, the Kenyan government is aiming to reacquire large plots of fertile lands currently in the hands of foreign nationals. The Kenyan Constitution states that non-citizens or companies with at least one shareholder who is a non-citizen are only entitled to 99-year land leases. The land grab would could potentially benefit local Kenyan farmers, but it might stifle already productive foreign-owned crops.



JAMES.GORDON6108



PRISCILLAJP

BRAZIL: Christ the Redeemer, the iconic statue towering above Rio de Janeiro, turns 80 this week. Tourists have flocked to its base for decades and it was declared one of the modern wonders of the world in an international poll in 2007. Celebrations and religious ceremonies will commence this week and near the end of the month, replicas of the statue will make their way around the world, arriving in the cities of New York, Buenos Aires and Jerusalem.



SIERRATIERRA

AUSTRALIA: An ultra-light aircraft collided with a Ferris wheel in eastern Australia earlier this month. No one was seriously injured, but two children were trapped on the ride for 90 minutes until rescuers were able to extract them. The pilot and passenger of the aircraft were trapped inside for a total of three hours. There has been no news as to why the craft veered into the wheel.

Overview: The 2011 UK Party Conferences

Alexander Prowse
 DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE ANNUAL party conferences, which were all held in the north of England this year, did not prove to be critical successes in terms of television viewership. Nevertheless, the aims of the parties were laid down with the expected amounts of pomp and hyperbole associated with such events.

The main focus of each conference was undoubtedly the economy, with representatives from each party assuring the British public that they understand the hard times many face. Further policy statements stemmed from other key areas of discussion: unemployment and the recent English riots.

In the end, Labour failed to establish itself as a viable alternative to a Conservative government that claims it is bound by global constraints. The Liberal Democrats, evoking a modicum of naïveté, tried to convince the country that things will improve soon.

LABOUR

LOCATION
 Liverpool, 25-29th September

SUMMARY
Labourites may still be concerned about a policy vacuum, but Labour managed to present realistic strategies for the future of the country.

THE LEADER

This was Ed Miliband's second autumn conference as leader. Last time round, he was trying to shed his 'Red Ed' image. This year, he attempted to fully assert himself as a future prime minister. In the end, he had to shake off the 'anti-business' qualities the opposition have attributed to him.

It is clear Miliband is not the greatest orator, but the speech was not without its high points; the odd bit of humour pervaded the inspirational tone attendees seemed prepared to hear. When an audience member booed Blair, Miliband's irritation was evident, but he missed the opportunity to assert



The Liberal Democrats stressed unity

his feelings and turn it to his advantage. He later said those that heckled 'are no friends of mine'.

Miliband's willingness to answer public questions candidly while on stage was a bold move, but the conference did not do much to improve his standing in general public opinion.

PARTY PACKAGE

To the disappointment of many Labour supporters, much time was spent apologizing for the errors made in the previous gov-



Conservatives emphasised Britain's greatness and blamed external factors for insecurities

ernment rather than emphasising its numerous successes. Ed Balls attempted to highlight the coalition government's mistakes, but the effect of this effort was limited.

The standout idea was a possible reduction in tuition fees from £9,000 to £6,000. Despite Labour's previous promise to consider recommendations made in the Brown report prior to the 2010, many will associate fee increases with the current Coalition government. Whilst it may not be in the next manifesto, the notion of using 'smart money' on a graduate tax offered an interesting alternative.

Plans for a short-term cut in VAT may be an ideal solution for an economy approaching stagnation, but the punters and markets would have preferred more long-term proposals, and fewer stop-gap suggestions.

BROADCAST BLUNDERS

Television viewers were not treated well during the conference. Although the party can't be blamed, a power cut during the leader's speech left viewers without live coverage for a short period of time. Additionally, unlike the Lib Dems and Conservatives who had their party colours behind them at the lectern, Labour had a bright white backing, which made High Definition viewing exceptionally unbearable.

THE FUTURE

Miliband's position was put under pressure when a shadow cabinet minister began to show signs of leadership. This time round it was Yvette Cooper, who impressed many with her powerful speech and the manner she carried herself throughout the conference. We almost forgot the detracting fact that she is married to Ed Balls.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

LOCATION
 Birmingham, 17-21st September

SUMMARY
Liberal Democrats feigned their separateness, even divorce, from their coalition partners, but their sincerity is questionable. Nick Clegg seeks to bring an end to party infighting and encourage cooperation to regain lost ground.

THE LEADER

Nick Clegg had a tough task on his hands at this conference: keeping the party together. A rallying pep talk was required, so he focused on the 'Liberal spirit' of being able to overcome negative press and highlighted broader Liberal values. His speech warned of the unpredictability of the economy, but speculated what a terrible position we would be in if Labour were still in charge. Clegg also avoided placing blame on his coalition partners, something other Liberal Democrats

found more difficult to do. Clegg was convinced the party could win back all the seats they lost at the May local elections and he even suggested it was possible to win more. Some may view him as delusional, while others may believe in his convictions.

PARTY PACKAGE

In direct opposition to the rhetoric spewed during the Conservative conference, Liberal Democrats stressed the importance of the Human Rights Act, even at a time when millions of pounds of taxpayer's money was being spent on the attempted Dale Farm eviction. At the Tory conference Theresa May stressed the need to abandon the Act.

A summer school scheme for those starting secondary school was promised in an effort to help disadvantaged children with basic numeracy and literacy skills. Off the back of the riots, any effort to encourage youths to fulfil their potential, whilst also giving them something to do during the summer holidays, was viewed as a good thing. Critics likened this 'summer school' to boot camp.

In an effort to kick-start greater price competition, Chris Huhne spoke of giving Ofgem more powers over the big energy companies, whilst emphasizing the need to switch providers to get the best deal. Labour called for more radical reform, but Huhne offered few concrete proposals.

'Adversity tests the character of a party just as it tests any person.'

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

PRESS ATTENTION

The party earnestly attempted to highlight what it has been doing well in government, but this was eclipsed by the controversial speech from party president Tim Farron. After that, more attention was paid to Miriam Clegg's Topshop dress than much else. Still, some might say it was a step up from Samantha Cameron's outfit.

THE FUTURE

Liberal Democrats are still a long way off from regaining their lost popularity, and they are even further away from achieving substantial power within government, with or without Nick Clegg. The party is adamant that they will end their 'temporary marriage' with the Conservatives at the end of the current government, which might result in years in the political wilderness after 2015. As Liberal Democrats are out of many other options at the moment, they are compelled to put on a face of unity.

CONSERVATIVES

LOCATION
 Manchester, 2nd-5th October

SUMMARY
Conservatives stressed the need for tough leadership in hard times, and they proposed a few policy changes.

THE LEADER

Whilst Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg addressed their party, David Cameron addressed the nation. Following on from last year's 'We're in it together' declaration, the thrust of this year's conference stressed the new theme of a 'Great' Britain. Full of optimism, Cameron's speech maintained an upbeat tone amid references to economic struggles, riots and the Libyan crisis. Enjoying the position of speaking in the last party conference of the year, Cameron was able to poke fun at statements made in other party conferences, while effectively formulating his attacks on Labour and Liberal Democrats. Delegates were unanimous in their support following Cameron's speech, despite the fact that they did not appear particularly animated while he delivered it.

PARTY PACKAGE

The Conservative Party's reiteration of the validity of the current austerity plan came as no surprise, and there were no new temporary measures introduced that promised to help the economy. The freezing of council tax offered a reduction in real terms, but proved only a small step in improving the buying power of consumers. However, the Party pledged to underwrite loans to small busi-



Ed Miliband fails to spark Labour energy

nesses in an effort to stimulate growth. The Prime Minister also promised 400,000 new jobs and 200,000 affordable new homes.

Party Eurosceptics got some pleasure from the fight against benefit tourists, and from Liam Fox's strong rhetoric against any E.U. armed forces. The more radical wanted referendums on remaining in the E.U, but were warned off by Foreign Secretary William Hague.

Predictably, Boris Johnson failed to toe party line and declared the exact opposite, before releasing a statement to clarify his support for David Cameron. Theresa May also put herself on a collision course with the Liberal Democrats over her plans to abolish the Human Rights Act.

THE FUTURE

The Conservatives claim the success of the Government will be based as much on international developments out of their control as those changes made domestically. Conservative representatives clearly acknowledge the need to reverse low levels of uncertainty and confidence in the economy. The Party is showing its strength of belief in its policies and its Cabinet ministers, and they seem to hope this confidence will trickle down to the public.

Germany bails out EU

Sam Shepherd
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

EARLIER THIS month, the German government voted overwhelmingly to back the injection of €440bn into the European Financial Stability Facility: the Eurozone bailout fund. This has come as welcome news to struggling countries; had it been rejected, leaders' attempts to preserve the Euro would have been thrown into frenzy.

However, there have been concerns that the passing of this motion would be used to justify further expansion of the fund, or an arrangement where Germany, Finland and other wealthy members of the Eurozone would have to shoulder the debts of Italy, Spain and those nations with severe debt problems. These fears were not put to bed by the financial markets, which seemed to share this pessimistic view. However, promoters of the scheme have widely rejected this view, and struggling countries can now look forward to further injections of cash from the wealthier states within the EU.

Some commentators, nonetheless, feel that wealthier nations like Germany should not be forced to pay for the Euro's continued existence. There are fears that this bailout is just one of several means of "debt pooling." In other words, all the previous schemes – Eurobonds, a two-trillion Euro EFSF and the ECB guarantee to buy the debts of Spain and Italy – were merely ways of making Germany, Finland and others responsible for the debts of Italy, Portugal and Greece. The Germans continually refuse to agree to this, but their hand is being forced at present.

Many within the Eurozone feel that the only way to protect the sanctity of the common currency is for Germany to saddle the debt of

these countries. However, many commentators feel that there is little benefit for Germany to do this. If Germany were to write off Italy's debts, including those from before the introduction of the Euro, all incentives for fiscal prudence would essentially be eliminated. Germany's own credit rating would drop, making its own debts increasingly expensive to pay off.

Economists and commentators are bemoaning the lack of intelligence and appropriateness in the EU's responses to the issue. Indeed, some have gone as far as to say that there is a policy vacuum in Europe's higher echelons. It seems very foolish for the EU's leaders to continue attempting the same solutions under different guises over and over again.



TPCOM

Germany is to rescue the EU - again

It would seem Greece and Cyprus are nigh unsalvageable, and their exit from the Euro appears inevitable even as efforts are made to ensure their safety. Ireland and Spain are comparatively safe and may solve their crisis by imposing losses on bank bondholders within their respective countries. Italy and Portugal face problems of growth. To improve their prospects, the EU may need to spend more money in these countries to allow state governments to increase their wealth and pay debts off the backs of their own economies.

The burden of Berlusconi

Luigi Nicolletti
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

IN THE last ten years, Berlusconi has been elected three times and has ruled Italy without major interruption. In the 65 years Italy has been a republic, the citizens have endured 62 different governments. If nothing else, Berlusconi has set a precedent for stability, if nothing else.

In 1993, Berlusconi formed 'Forza Italia', a political party that led him to victory in the elections the following year. However, within seven months, Berlusconi lost the support of his close ally, due to alleged links to the Italian mafia, and his cabinet fell apart.

In the years that followed, Berlusconi used his vast media empire to become a more prominent public figure and, in 2001, Berlusconi formed a new right wing coalition called 'casa delle libertà' (House of Freedoms) and ran an aggressive campaign that secured him the premiership for a second time. Berlusconi held power until 2006, when Romano Prodi carried won the election. However, Prodi's time in office was plagued by government crises, and the right wing coalition was successful in returning Berlusconi to power in 2008.

Berlusconi's 2008 election campaign laid out a series of objectives in its 'sette missioni per il futuro dell'Italia' (Seven Missions for the Future of Italy). This document offered a number of promises including boosting economic development, instituting federal reform, sustaining families, increasing security and justice, adding to public services, and setting into place a special public finance plan.

The Berlusconi government promised full employment and the availability of many long-term contract jobs. A recent ISTAT (Italian Institute for Statistics) report reveals that 28.6 per cent of young people



EUROPEANPEOPLES PARTY

As Italy celebrates its 150th birthday, the spectre of Berlusconi remains

are unemployed in Italy and the remaining 71.4 per cent are largely employed with short-term contracts.

In its promise to sustain families, the right wing coalition promised a reduction of the tax burden to under 40 per cent. However, a few weeks ago, the government approved a public budget package that will raise the tax burden to 42.7 per cent this year, 43.8 per cent in 2012 and 43.9 per cent in 2013. It is worth noting that Italy already has the third highest tax burden in the world according to the OECD, just after Sweden and Denmark.

In its effort to increase security and justice within Italy, the Berlusconi government has employed an interesting tactic. One of its promises included a guarantee to punish any person guilty of committing a crime and ensured that the punishment would be carried out lawfully and through the appropriate procedural methods, which is in accordance with the Italian Constitution statement: 'La legge é ugaule per tutti' (In front of the law, everybody is equal).

On the 8th of May 2008, Berlusconi was reelected to the position of Italian Prime Minister. By the 23rd of July 2008, the two chambers of Parliament approved a law (initially proposed by Berlusconi's coalition), which made the four major political figures within government – the President, Prime Minister and Presidents of the Chambers – untouchable in the face of the law. The motion stated that these public figures would be free from criminal judgment during their tenure within their respective political posts.

As Italy celebrates its 150th year of statehood, one is left wondering what the Italian Republic actually represents. It is difficult to escape the sense that the Republic is a nominal entity, which transforms at the whim of those who can manage to wrangle power away from others and maintain it with a vice-like grip.

If the Italian state is forced to change at the impulses of its leaders to ensure their protection, what guarantees, if any, exist to ensure the safety and well being of its citizens?

A price to be paid for keeping Britain British

POLITICAL EDGE
Steven Hirschler



IN THE wake of the August riots, David Starkey declared that 'whites have become black' and intimated that the mixing of cultures would lead to conflagrations greater than those witnessed in Tottenham and Clapham. Melanie Phillips, writing for the Daily Mail, asserted that multiculturalism had led to the disenchantment of white British youths, whose culture 'was deliberately shattered' by the incursion of a foreign element. These sentiments closely mirrored those of David Cameron, who in February suggested that state multiculturalism has failed.

This fear of the 'other' has led the British Government down a path of ever restrictive immigration control as it seeks to stamp

out foreign influences. Theresa May stated last year that migrants marrying UK citizens should be expected to learn English. Last June, the Home Office announced that it would seek to reduce net migration into the country by limiting the amount of foreign student visas issued.

David Cameron is pushing to amend the European Convention on Human Rights and he is hoping to redefine 'the family' in an effort to limit the number of 'bogus' asylum claims. His lukewarm attitude toward human rights was made abundantly clear during the Conservative Party Conference earlier this month when he stated that the 'right to family life is not inalienable'. Further, Cameron declared: "We need to make sure that [the British Government is] not constrained from removing foreign nationals who, in all sanity, should have no right to be here." These sentiments have laid the foundation upon which immigration legislation is decided in this



UKHOMEOFFICE

Theresa May aims to curb immigration

country; the enforcement of these policies are ever evolving.

Like so many other public services, Britain has outsourced the policing of migrants to the highest bidders. A large number of asylum

seekers are kept in detention centres (prison-like facilities with all the associated accoutrements including barbed wire fences) awaiting appeal decisions or deportation. Some asylum seekers have been in 'short-term' detention for years at substantial costs. A recent New York Times article reports that private contractors operate seven of eleven UK detention centres. Serco, famous for the controversial conditions in which it houses asylum seekers in Australia, runs two immigrant removal centres in Britain. Serco's profits continue to rise as countries shell out large sums of money to manage their undesirables. GEO, another company, has reported a £6.5 million increase in revenue during the quarter as it expands its detention facilities in Britain.

Another rival company, G4S, currently holds £700 million in British contracts, though the company came under fire recently when some of its employees were suspected of asphyxiating an Angolan man

during a flight. G4S was also required to pay a \$500,000 settlement when its drivers allowed passengers in the back of a van to become severely dehydrated during a journey in sweltering heat. This event, and others like it, seem to leave the company's representatives unfazed. Acknowledging the amount to be made in government contracts, often in the tens of millions, the chief executive of G4S declared: "In time, we will become winners ... because there's a lot of outsourcing opportunities and not many competitors."

Attitudes toward immigrants rarely change, and it seems unlikely that the collective British mindset will come to the sudden realisation that immigrants help bolster our ailing economy and take less from government services than they pay in taxes. However, it might be worth reflecting on the humanitarian cost of sweeping the rubbish under the rug while wiping our hands clean as someone else carries out the dirty work.

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<p>TUESDAY 15TH NOV WEEK 6</p> <p>FULL MOON UV PARTY</p>	<p>TUESDAY 22ND NOV WEEK 7</p> <p>we ♥ 90s</p>	<p>TUESDAY 29TH NOV WEEK 8</p> <p>BEACH PARTY</p>	<p>TUESDAY 6TH DEC WEEK 9</p> <p>winter SNOW party</p>	<p>TUESDAY 12TH DEC WEEK 10</p> <p><i>Sexy Santa</i> Xmas Party</p>

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BAR SALVATION



The Mixer

The Mixer WLTM John Motson's grandson, GSOH not required

THE MIXER loves Freshers' week.

Perhaps it's the smell of desperation in the air, perhaps it's the sound of freshly unpacked Jack Wills gilletts rustling all over campus or maybe it's just the simple joy of being young and alive.

Whatever the reason it's a season to be anticipated and revered for the macabre spectacle it provides.

As cash registers become fat through the sale of alcohol, soon to be vomited up all over Mickelgate, and the fresh meat are treated to the sounds of, amongst others, the Pigeon Detectives, it's a week that also raises many questions.

Why are the Pigeon Detectives being allowed to play live music? What is a Pigeon Detective? Who is responsible for booking the Pigeon Detectives? Do they think the Pigeon Detectives are good or are they being wilfully objectionable? Can they be put on trial? - are just some of them.

Most of the other posers are being considered by worried sports captains, petrified that the void left by their star centre back, who has finished Uni and is on a graduate

scheme at Costa Coffee, will remain unfilled by the arriving cohort of spindly youngsters.

The Mixer urges optimism. We have such faith that York has been blessed to succeed in everything it does, apart from University league tables, that we know this year is going to be something special.

For every second row that has headed for pastures new an implausibly beefy public school boy will take his place and play with sincerity and dignity whilst showing respect to women on club nights out.

If a opening bowler is on a year in industry then a gangly fella who steams in to bowl at 80mph will slot seamlessly into the attack and, like the impeccable team mate he is, will bring along a tupperware box of sliced florida oranges to every match.

Decimated college football lineups will be augmented by members of the Barcelona youth system who shunned the vacuous lifestyle of a professional footballer to study Management and Accountancy in this fair city.

The pitches will stay dry, there will be passionate, talented referees at every match and we'll win an

away Roses at a canter befitting of a seaside donkey.

Trust us it's going to happen, maybe Brian Cantor will take a pay cut as well, or at least look less disdainful of the masses of students populating his fiefdom.

We may not be the best judges though. You see, it's been a tiring year for TM and we can only stagger onward toward the finish line of our term in office in the knowledge that maybe there's someone out there waiting to step into our shoes.

So roll up John Motson's grandson, come hither Henry Winter's illegitimate love child ushered off to Uni under a veil of secrecy - we need you.

It's only fair isn't it? After a year of giving your all at goal attack for the netball team your captain wouldn't turn to you and say "Sorry Tabitha, no-one fancies it, stick your bib back on and forsake your degree for the 121st best University in the world".

So prepare your CV's, ready your suit for interview and then stow them away for when you're trying to get a proper job. Anyone will do.

If he can do it, you can too!



SOUNESS DIDN'T NEED REFERENCES AND NEITHER DO WE!

Senegalese "footballer" Ali Dia made one Premier League appearance at Southampton before everyone realised he was rubbish and about as related to George Weah as Michael Gove is related to West Coast rapper Tupac Shakur

Interested in writing for us? Contact: sport@nouse.co.uk or find us at the **Freshers' Fair, Saturday Week 1.**

College captains ready for kick off

LUCY DIXON

Jake Farrell
SPORTS EDITOR

COLLEGE SPORT is strong at York but football is perhaps the most hotly contested. After an enthralling College Cup, *Nouse Sport* spoke to the college captains and asked them about the coming season. All of them hope that the Freshers coming in to their team will help propel them to victories against their rivals to get the all important bragging rights.

ALCUIN

"I'm really looking forward to the new season and think we've got some solid foundations to build upon after some good performances in the College Cup and just hoping we get a good batch of Freshers to add to that."

Bradley Wood, Firsts Captain

HALIFAX

"We're looking to capitalise on our College Cup success of last season. We haven't lost too many players and we're expecting a few decent freshers to step into the team. We're hoping that this year is all about the 'Fax!'"

Jack Beadle, Firsts Captain



Class of 2011: Captains from the eight colleges are primed and ready for another tilt at the College football title

GOODRICKE

"We've managed to retain a lot of our senior players so we're looking at a relatively unchanged squad this year, unlike some colleges who have been left high and dry. Hopefully, with a strong batch of Freshers we can mount a serious challenge."

Matt Thomas, Firsts Co-captain with Christian Hammer

DERWENT

"We'll try to keep building on last year, we had a great league campaign and strong College Cup. We've lost some really important players who will need replacing but we had good seconds and thirds last year so we're hoping they can step up and we can get a couple of decent Freshers."

Joe Boughtflower, Firsts Captain

JAMES

"This season we will be aiming to win at least one of the three tournaments that run during the year. Last season was disappointing, especially the College Cup, as we felt we had a really strong side." Richard Baxter, Firsts Captain. (James and University centre back Oscar Lynch pictured in James colours.)

LANGWITH

"We'll be looking to maintain the team spirit that kept us competitive last year. We'll really need to play for each other throughout this season and hope for some defensive reinforcements. Determined performances and a few wins would be good"

Andy Hutt, Firsts Captain

VANBRUGH

"We're hoping to challenge for the league in the coming terms, establish our fifths team, continue our weekly socials, defend the Doxbridge trophy in Ireland and go a step or even two further on last year's semi final in the College Cup."

James Wilson, Firsts Captain.

WENTWORTH

"We are the neutrals' favourite and the spirit that we have as a club is second to none. We go out every Sunday, give it our all and are invariably tougher opponents than people give us credit for. As postgraduates we are also the only football team that has an academic pre-requisite."

Rich Rhodes, Firsts Captain

**Sam
Asfahani**



A word from your President...

YORK SPORT IS all of our sports clubs, our members and our York Sport Committee.

We're here to make sure anyone at York can play any standard of sport they wish too. And although that isn't an easy task, we do have 57 sports clubs available to our students, making us one of the largest athletic unions in the country.

You can find us on the pitches, in the sports centre, on the water and even in the air. You can also find nearly all of us out on Wednesday night.

The important thing is to give this a go. Not only does it give you the chance to represent your University up and down the country, but sport also gives you close friends and a great social life.

Just check out a Wednesday night in Ziggys. Beyond this we also run our successful College Sport where you can represent your college at thirteen different league sports as well as several one-day tournaments throughout the year.

College Sport is all about having a laugh with your mates and it's all on campus, and all free!

But we don't only provide all this, we also work hard to ensure sport is progressing and forward thinking at York.

Keep an eye out this year for major projects we have led or been part of. These include the multi-million pound Sports Village opening in July 2012 on Hes East, work to create a Coaching Network, increasing our funding to volunteering and international scholarships as well as much more.

On top of all this each year we face off against our rivals from Lancaster in the biggest inter university sports tournament in Europe - Roses.

This year we head away from home to defend the Carter-James trophy and we hope that many of you will be there to join us.

Just keep an eye on www.yusu.org or our fantastic student media for more news on these kind of projects.

Chances to get involved are everywhere, best bet is to pop down to Freshers' Fair on Saturday Week 1 in the Sports Centre to meet the clubs, or just drop them an email.

Until then, welcome to York, enjoy your Freshers Week, and I look forward to running into you, probably on the sports fields or on a night out!

Captains fantastic: four York skippers talk ambition

LUCY DIXON AND PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Jake Farrell
SPORTS EDITOR

BEING A captain of any team can lead to challenges but not everyone has to contend with an academic degree along with the weekend's team selection. Being democratically elected also has its pressures but every year the University's finest sportsmen and women put themselves forward to lead teams, organise training sessions and talk to the media.

Their passion and leadership could be the difference between a good and a great season. There is also always the tantalising prospect of achieving something that will be remembered long after they leave the University; they could be the captain whose name becomes synonymous with a promotion and cup double or simply just a battering of their City or Roses rivals.

If they can deal with the responsibility it's a job that can provide rich rewards and go beyond simply choosing personnel as Chris Unsworth, men's swimming captain, details: "I really want to unify the swimming team this year. At the end of the day, swimming is an individual sport; there is only one swimmer for a team in the water at a time and in the past our team has not respected each other as competitors. It's really important to make sure that in training and on poolside everyone supports each other as much as possible, whatever they are looking to achieve."

It's an ambition that Izzi Mattick, co-captain of the Women's Lacrosse firsts, shares: "Lacrosse at York is so welcoming and friendly and on joining you quickly become involved in all aspects of the club. Captaining the firsts therefore is a very exciting prospect not only to have the opportunity to lead the team on the pitch but also know everyone off it."

"Having just finished a week of pre-season, at the beginning it did seem a daunting task, but even by the end of just this first week it has been good fun and we are looking forward to the rest of the season."

The over arching ambitions may be similar but each captain has a very specific idea of what they want from the coming, and for many final, season. "I feel our performances to the end of last season improved significantly" says men's football



The Captains: (CW from top left) Lydia Labram & Izzi Mattick, Chris Unsworth, Becky O'Dwyer and Dan Turley

firsts captain Dan Turley. "We started to collect more clean sheets, and picked up some massive results, so I would like to carry on from where we left off and hit the ground running from day one; picking up maximum points, achieving promotion."

Promotion is an aim that women's netball captain Becky O'Dwyer also believes is well within the grasp of her side: "Obviously promotion within the BUCS league is something we always strive towards. We expect our players to be committed and dedicated throughout the season to ensure we secure key victories. We aim for all three teams to succeed at Roses and ensure that we don't fall at the final hurdle to the Red Rose."

It's the small things that make the big differences,

and they are the things that Captains can directly influence, as Unsworth recognises:

"Last year, even though we achieved so much, a lot of races were lost by the tiniest of margins; our incredible results could have been even more outstanding if the team focused on where these margins were lost. Building strong technique and pushing yourself that little bit more is something that I want to see as a key principle in the team."

Coaching is constantly improving and the standards and talents of each team is raised by such investment.

"We have a fantastic coach, with incredible netball experience who frequently trains us to the standard that we are," says O'Dwyer "The club makes sure that

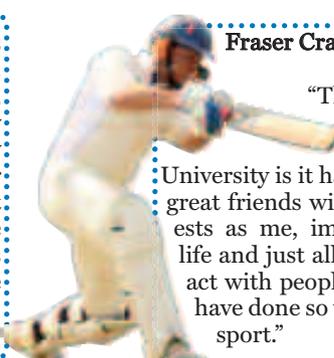
everyone who becomes a member gains a valuable and highly enjoyable experience during their time at University."

They all start the year with a blank slate and boundless enthusiasm. All four captains mention how much their teams mean to them socially and how important it was in the formative stages of their time in York.

Whatever results they produce is undoubted that they will pull on the black and gold each week with pride.

They are very different people but Izzi Mattick sums up the qualities that each captain brings to everything they do and what new members can look forward to when they join a club: "Enthusiasm, dedication, enjoyment."

There are so many opportunities to get involved with sport at York. Whether it's Aikido, Ben Lairig, Fencing or Octopush it's pretty much all catered for. For many people sport really shapes their time at the University, but don't take our word for it, we just write about it. Here's a few thoughts from people who pull on the black & gold jersey to represent York.



Fraser Crawford, Cricket

"The most enjoyable thing about playing sport at University is it has made me lots of great friends with the same interests as me, improved my social life and just allowed me to interact with people who I wouldn't have done so without playing sport."



Katy Ballantyne, Women's Football

"UYWFC is a fab club to join when arriving at York as we have good team spirit; welcoming people from all levels of football. We aim to develop individual skill, as well as the overall team's performance. Most importantly we aim to have enjoyable sessions, fun socials and make lifelong friends."



Talfryn Provis-Evans, Badminton

"It has been a real privilege to play for the University. With so many great people both running and attending the club, it's hard not to get immersed in the warm and inviting atmosphere. The best part for me was Roses, where we convincingly beat our old rivals Lancaster!"

Be a part of it: Play sport at York

Men's Football - Angus O'Brien

- 1) The first team's victory in Roses. Although all four teams held their own in their respective leagues, having everyone down on 22 Acres watching the firsts beat Lancaster in the centre-piece game on the Sunday of Roses was fantastic.
- 2) Getting four promotions is the goal along with a whitewash over Lancaster. We need freshers to step forward and apply themselves to achieve our goals.
- 3) We are one of the biggest sporting institutions on campus with an open, welcoming and professional atmosphere. It is a unique opportunity to meet like-minded and fun people from all colleges and, though we have four teams and an even larger squad, we are one club playing for the same badge week in week out.
- 4) Freshers' trials run every day during freshers' week, meeting at the Sports Centre at 1.45pm. Look out for posters on campus, check www.uyafc.co.uk, like our Facebook page, or ask anyone wearing UYAFc merchandise. Four final pre-season friendlies against Sheffield Uni will be held on the day of Freshers' Fair. The teams for these games are picked during trial week.

Sport provides the perfect opportunity to escape from the pressures of study. The trip down to the sports centre or JLD on a Wednesday afternoon almost takes on the importance of a religious pilgrimage to the many athletes York nurtures through its sport system.

Here, *Nouse* asks the President of six clubs 1) the highlight of last season, 2) their hopes for the upcoming year, 3) why you should get involved with the club, and 4) the all-important information for trials.

Space dictates (newspapers can only be so big) that we can't include the information for every club but head online to www.nouse.co.uk to find out a bit more about your prospective club and, crucially, where to turn up for Freshers' trials.

Hockey - Sam Unsworth

- 1) Highlight of last season has to be Roses. Having the whole club, housemates and everyone else lined around the JLD with banter being thrown around made for an incredible atmosphere to play in, and having four of our five teams smash Lancaster obviously helped matters!
- 2) Freshers' Trials will be at the JLD pitch at the following times during freshers' week:
 Men's 2-3:30pm Wednesday 12th October
 3:30-5pm Sunday 16th October
 Women's 2-3:30pm Wednesday 12th October
 2-3:30pm Sunday 16th October
- 3) The men's first team look to maintain their high position in a tough BUCS league and build on their Northern Conference BUCS Cup winning form. Our women's firsts and seconds are aiming for promotion, along with our men's seconds and thirds who will be looking to succeed and really push for the top in the Yorkshire league.
- 4) What makes us a little different to some of the other big sporting clubs is that we are a mixed club: you can't beat a Wednesday afternoon spent cheering on the men and women of UYHC, with Ziggy's on the horizon!

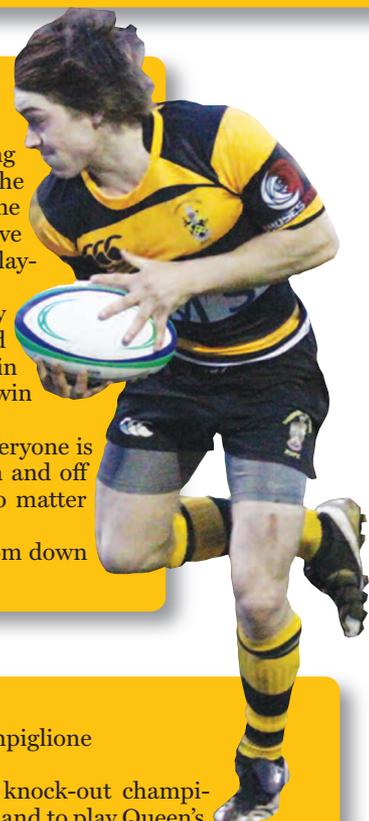
Netball - Kay Masterson (Netball firsts' vice-captain)

- 1) Gaining sessions with three top coaches was our main highlight. The new techniques and approaches to different areas of the game we learnt were critical to our fitness levels and to the entire club's achievements throughout the season.
- 2) Promotion within the BUCS league is something we always strive towards. We expect our players to be committed and dedicated to ensure we secure key victories. We aim for all three teams to succeed at Roses to ensure we don't succumb to the Red Rose.
- 3) One of the closest clubs on campus, we all enjoy great social get-togethers with fancy dress themes. We have a fantastic coach, with incredible netball experience who frequently trains us to the standard we expect. The club makes sure that every member gains a valuable and enjoyable experience.
- 4) We have a preliminary trial on Wednesday 12th October 11am-1pm at the Sport Tent. This is a chance for any freshers who are free to come along and play some netball before 'official' trials start. More trials are on Sunday 16th, 4pm-6pm and on Monday for those asked to attend.



Men's Rugby - Sam Morrison

- 1) The highlight of last year was undoubtedly winning Roses. Playing in front of over 2,000 people, at the Huntingdon Stadium, was an incredible feeling for the firsts. It was also brilliant to capture a third consecutive whitewash over Lancaster after all the hard work the players had to put in.
- 2) The club have a brand new set of coaches in Kerry Wood and Andy Rock, the first time the club has ever had two coaches. All three teams are looking for promotion in their respective BUCS leagues whilst also aiming to win Roses for the fourth year running.
- 3) The club ethos is definitely its strongest attribute. Everyone is committed to the team and share a great friendship on and off the pitch. It's also very welcoming to new members no matter what playing ability.
- 4) Trials will be held on Sunday the 16th October at 12pm down on the 22 Acres. All are encouraged to attend.



Badminton - Steve Hallett

- 1) It is hard to pick a specific highlight from the last season as generally all of the teams had a successful season, with two teams being promoted in the local badminton league, and the men's A team narrowly missing promotion in BUCS.
- 2) This season we have entered a new women's team into the BUCS league and are hoping that they will have a strong start. We are also hoping to take back the mixed doubles trophy at Roses this year, having lost it by only a few points last time.
- 3) The Badminton Club is one of the largest sports clubs at the University with a great social atmosphere due to the many events such as the annual Easter holiday and the popular overnight charity event. It supports the entire range of standards from complete beginners to the eight student teams which take part in both the high standard BUCS and the local leagues.
- 4) Trials will be Week 1, Sunday 16th October 2011 in the Main Hall at the sports centre. 9:00am ladies (all surnames), 10:00am mens (surnames A-G), 11:00am mens (surnames H-R), 12:00noon mens (surnames S-Z), 1:30pm call backs + ex team.

Volleyball - Harry Pampiglione

- 1) Reaching the last 16 of the UK knock-out championship and traveling to Northern Ireland to play Queen's University Belfast was the standout achievement. To play at that level and realise that we can compete with the top teams in the UK was a brilliant experience.
- 2) We want to finish in the top half of our league, the highest league in the country. We're looking to compete with all the top universities, which is why we're looking for new players to boost the squad. And then, of course, another Roses whitewash.
- 3) Both men's and women's teams go on socials together every week. If you're a fresher looking to continue playing volleyball in university or someone just looking to try something new, we're a really friendly club so come down, join in, and have fun.
- 4) Trials will be held on Sunday of Week 1 in the Sport Tent, 6-8pm for ladies and 8-10pm for men. It won't be a formal or arduous trial, but more of a practice session to gauge what ability people are so we can place them in the right training sessions.

Anna Yeomans, Lacrosse

"I cannot imagine my University experience without playing sport. I have met some amazing people and had an incredible two years in the lacrosse club - playing hard together on and off the pitch. This year I am looking forward to having a more active role in the running of the lacrosse club and giving something back to help promote the club and ensure it has strong foundations for future players."



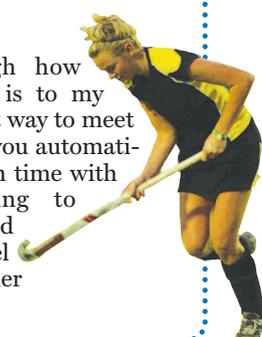
Ryan Hartwell, Shooting

"Being involved with the Shooting club has been one of the best things about University. Whilst there have been some manic moments, seeing both the club and people improving year on year and meeting some top notch people on the way has been excellent."



Frankie Hall, Hockey

"I cannot stress enough how important I think sport is to my University life. It is a great way to meet like-minded people. Plus you automatically get to spend so much time with them training, travelling to games, playing games and on socials - you soon feel like you've known each other for ages."





Mixed results for hockey firsts in pre-season friendlies against York St John

JAKE FARRELL

Henry Cowen
SPORTS EDITOR

THE NEW season for the hockey club kicked off last week with two friendlies against inter-city rivals York St John. The men's firsts fell to a 3-1 defeat but the women's firsts romped home to a 4-0 win.

With important players leaving for both sides the matches were an opportunity for players to stake a claim for a place in the side, and they gave the new captains a chance to run the rule over their squads for the upcoming season.

The men's side were up first, playing against a St John side that returned to University two weeks before and the visitors' extra sharpness was evident, starting much the stronger of the two sides and keeping goalkeeper Sam Harriman busy.

The hosts were guilty of playing themselves into trouble on a few occasions in the first half, and as the away side pushed forward, another attack was thwarted only by a great tackle by Harry Bercis.

The main man for York in the first half was Harriman, who made a number of fine saves to keep the scores locked at 0-0.

York did begin to get into the match more but their rustiness was evident throughout and it was no surprise when Ben Bull put St John ahead; some good work from Rob Chamberlain earned him some room and his attempt was deflected in by the well-placed Bull. Chamberlain himself then doubled his side's lead, tapping in after another Harriman save.



The University of York Hockey Club's new President, Rachael Faustino, battles for possession in her side's 4-0 victory over York St John last Wednesday. The men lost 3-1.

New captain Henry Meller, who found himself in the role of Umpire in the first half, was instrumental in York's reply. Taking the ball on the left he found a superb pass, the ball finding its way to James Wilson who reduced arrears. It wasn't to be York's day however as St John scored a third in the closing minutes, Dom Firth

making it 3-1 at the final whistle.

Captain Meller wasn't too down, despite the scoreline: "It was what I expected. It's the first competitive game we've had, we've come back quite late and only just started training. There were only three of four first teamers on display, their superior fitness told and, credit to

them, they deserved the win."

There was much better news for the women's firsts, however, as they cruised to a 4-0 win. Obviously the better side right from the off, they made their dominance pay and the win would have put them in good stead for the season ahead.

Hannah Gage, who with Sally Warrington, takes over

from Charlie Bartlett as the team's captain opened the scoring to make it 1-0. With the experienced Imy Eldergill-Storm and Emily Lucas still pulling the strings it looks like it could be a very promising season for York's women, and it was Eldergill-Storm who threatened next, hitting the bar from the edge of the D. Jill Mercer made it

2-0 before half-time and Eldergill-Storm added a third. With time running out Mercer doubled her tally to leave the final score 4-0.

Gage was suitably impressed with her side's performance: "I'm very happy with the result. It's a really positive start but we've still got lots to work on for the season."

Captains' log

What's it like to hold the top job at some of York's biggest clubs? We talk to four captains raring to get their season underway.

AYE, AYE CAPTAIN >> P22



Freshers Trials: Find out where to be and when to be there

Whether you want to try out for rugby or cheerleading we've got all the details. Check inside for a selection of dates and times or head to www.nouse.co.uk/sport for a more comprehensive list

TRIALIST TIMETABLE >> P23



The Nouse Sport Podcast

The only sports podcast on campus, with debate and analysis on campus matters and national goings-on from the Nouse Sport team

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