

# NOUSE

Secret 5,682: "I think that women who don't wear makeup...are lazy"  
**Post Secret >> M6 - 7**



## Tuition fee cap removal leaked

**Kate Goligher  
 Sam Lawson**

TUITION FEES could rise from their current level of £3,225 up to £14,000, depending on the outcome of this week's parliamentary election. An official review into university funding led by Lord Browne, former CEO of BP, is due to report back in the autumn.

The report, commissioned by Labour with agreement from the Conservatives, may recommend that the current cap be lifted completely. This would mean that most students would have to pay for their degree in full. This equates to around £7,000 per annum for most students. For more expensive courses, including sciences and medicine, this could rise to as much as £14,000.

With the election just days away, the balance of the new parliament will have a dramatic effect on the implementation of the review. Both Labour and the Conservatives have refused to make any firm policy commitments on student fees until after the report is published. Currently the Liberal Democrats are the only party who oppose tuition fees, with proposals to stop final year students' fees next year and to phase out all fees across a six-year period.

In the event of a hung parliament, it is uncertain whether they

would be prepared to abandon the policy.

Felix Bungay, Chairman of the York Tories, said that in the event of a Conservative-Liberal coalition there may be a compromise with tuition fees remaining at their current levels. However, he also stated that he didn't think "it was a very high priority for the parties".

Around 235 Labour and Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) have signed the NUS pledge on tuition fees, stating that they would vote against any bill in parliament which would increase tuition fees, casting into doubt whether such a bill could be enacted.

The news comes at a time when pressure from university vice-chancellors to overhaul the current funding system has been mounting, following cuts to the higher education budget.

The University of York's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Students, Jane Grenville, told *Nouse*: "We don't, as a University, lobby government to put fees up. We would be very happy if government supported Higher Education from the public purse, and [Vice-Chancellor] Brian [Cantor] made representations publicly about this last year, but to no avail."

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## ROSES >> 12 PAGE SUPPLEMENT



## Fears of 'student ghettoisation'

NEW GOVERNMENT legislation has sparked fears of student 'ghettoisation' in York. The new law stipulates that landlords must gain planning permission before renovating houses in residential areas such as Badger Hill. This revelation follows a letter sent out earlier this year labelling students "anti-social".

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## Adam Bennett advertises escorts

ON-CAMPUS letting agency, Adam Bennett, has been accused of advertising escort agencies on campus, in his office above Costcutter. Bennett has labelled the accusations "wholly fictitious and libellous". This is despite *Nouse* uncovering that the number he uses for his letting agency is the same as an escort service.

>> NEWS P3

## Exclusive interview with Aaron Porter

*NOUSE* GAINED the first ever press interview with Aaron Porter since he became the NUS President-elect last month in Newcastle. Porter outlines his key policy as rejecting "any possible lifting of the cap on fees" and to "fight for a fairer alternative". This follows the news that tuition fees could rise up to £14,000. >> NEWS P4 and P5

## Big D acts and theme announced

AUDIO BULLYS and Chase & Status have been announced as this year's headliners at Derwent's flagship event, Big D. The event is open to all of campus, and is set to beat last year's record, when tickets sold out in 45 minutes. >> NEWS P6

**Chloe Smith talks to *Nouse* about the future of Westminster**

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## Second student suicide this academic year

**Charlotte Hogarth-Jones**  
 EDITOR

A THIRD-YEAR student, Thomas Robinson, was found hanged at his home in York on April 14.

He is the second York student to have taken his own life this academic year.

Robinson was a final year student, who withdrew from his course of Maths and Computer Science in March of Spring Term

this year.

He had continued to live in his house in York since then, and was found dead at home over the Easter holidays, on March 14.

A coroner's inquest into his death has since concluded a verdict of suicide.

University Press Officer, David Garner, stated that the University are "greatly saddened" by his death.

He echoed the words of the Computer Science Department, in saying that Robinson "will be very

much missed".

Garner continued to say that the University's thoughts are "with his family at this extremely distressing time", and that they are "offering support to his friends here".

In an email sent by Dr Steve King of the Computer Science Department, it was revealed that Robinson's funeral will be "restricted to family members and close friends."

The department also advised

students needing to talk to someone regarding the issue to contact their supervisors, or alternatively to email the Open Door Team at open-door@york.ac.uk.

Robinson's death is the second student suicide this year, following the death of Chemistry student Pierre Le Moignan.

Le Moignan was reported missing on November 21, and an inquest into his death on April 17 confirmed that he had taken his own life.

# New government legislation leads to fears of 'student ghettoisation' in York

MAGGIE ASLET

**Laura Connor**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

NEW GOVERNMENT legislation plans will require student landlords to obtain planning permission before renovating family homes into student houses in residential York areas, such as Badger Hill.

The new law, implemented on April 6 2010, has caused fears of ghettoisation and student alienation from community areas.

One landlord, who owns several properties in the Badger Hill area, has said that the new planning law will obligate him to publicly declare changes he makes on properties. This has actively discouraged him from renovating any more Badger Hill properties for students in the future because he feels that residents in the area would protest against more student houses being introduced.

He added that the meeting in which these changes were explained was "very rushed", that "no documents were given", and that the landlords were "given no guidelines" on how the law would be fully implemented.

This follows outrage over a letter sent out to residents of Badger Hill last month, which protests that York Council, North Yorkshire Police and the University have received an "ever increasing number of complaints from residents regarding serious anti-social behaviour and noise generated by some of the local student population." The letter adds: "Sadly, Badger Hill is developing a very negative reputation due to all this unnecessary trouble!"

YUSU Democracy and Services Officer, Lewis Bretts, has called the letter a kind of "organised discrimination", arguing that "if instead of 'students' it said 'blacks', 'homosexuals' or 'muslims' it would rightly be illegal."

The letter continues: "The time has come for owners, landlords and letting agents to take more responsibility for the actions

of these inconsiderate individuals and to rectify the condition of some of the student houses and gardens, many of which are in an absolutely disgraceful state!"

This is despite one member of York Council telling *Nouse* that he would be "perfectly happy to live in a student area" and that residents have to be adaptable to change due to "socio-economic reasons".

He concurred with landlord concern over the abruptness of the legislation, adding that it was "rushed through without much literature." The councillor continued in saying that the new laws could lead to "student ghettoisation" in areas such as Tang Hall, similar to notorious student areas such as Fallowfield in Manchester and Headingley in Leeds.

A second-year English literature student, who lives in Badger Hill, but did not receive the letter, said: "I am offended by what students are accused of in this letter. My housemates and I have always respected the local community, tried to maintain the noise and the cleanliness of our house, and have never caused any trouble to anyone."

"If instead of 'students' it said 'blacks', 'homosexuals' or 'muslims' it would rightly be illegal."

YUSU Democracy and Services Officer  
**Lewis Bretts**

"There is a reason why students choose Badger Hill - it is safe and the houses are well-furnished. This kind of legislation could cause concentrations of students in places where people don't really want to live, such as Tang Hall."

This follows reports made by *Nouse* earlier in the year about students suffering sustained harassment from teenagers in Tang Hall.

Another Badger Hill student resident, Chris Montenegro, said: "I think the kind of perspective that students cause a hassle is quite inward looking, it's quite parochial."



**Laws will prevent students from living in areas like Badger Hill**

Frankly, students in the nine months that they're actually living in the places are contributing an extraordinary amount to the local economy."

James Alexander, YUSU President from 2004-5, and current Labour Parliamentary Candidate for York Outer, has accused the University of not creating enough accommodation on Heslington East during its initial expansion last year, and that they have thus missed an opportunity to prevent family houses being converted to student lets.

Alexander told *Nouse*: "I think students provide a great and much needed diversity to local communities and I think mixed communities should be maintained, but I think it isn't beneficial for students or the local community to simply live in a separate area."

Despite evidence that students contribute to the community, Alexander added: "I would personally like to see more campus accommodation."

In response to Alexander's

accusations, David Garner, the University Press Officer, said: "The University cannot compel students to live on campus and it cannot exert any direct influence on the open housing market."

"We are, however, committed to providing accommodation to meet the growth in student numbers associated with Heslington East, and in the last three years we have added nearly 1,000 bed spaces."

The new legislation will now define student houses as a new Use Class, 'C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation', whereas they were previously classed under the generic Use Class, 'C3 Dwellinghouses', which is what family houses are classed under.

Paul Edward, of York Council, said: "We will implement the new legislation fairly and evenly, and we are now waiting on the government for further clarification."

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## Confusion over 'No Platform' policies

The University and the National Union of Students (NUS) have conflicted over whether British National Party (BNP) speakers should be permitted on campus. While NUS conference delegates chose to continue the 'No Platform' policy that prevents affiliated unions from hosting events by BNP speakers, the University stated that it "was founded on the principle of freedom of speech, and we do not ban any speakers as long as they remain within the law," when queried on the issue. BNP speakers were not invited to campus for an election hustings held last week.

## Computer Science Professor awarded

University of York Computer Science Professor, Samuel Braunstein, has been placed number five in the list of the 'Top Ten Physics Newsmakers of the Decade', by the American Physical Society.

The stories chosen for the prestigious list "represent the physics news that the public was reading and hearing about in the broader media over the last decade." Braunstein was praised for his paper 'Unconditional quantum teleportation' published in 1998, when he was based at Caltech. In 2009, his paper was also ranked number 59 amongst the most cited papers in physics worldwide.

## New treatment for fatal disease found

Scientists at the University of York's Centre for Immunology and Infection have made a breakthrough in treatments for the disease human trypanosomiasis, commonly known as sleeping sickness. Working with research colleagues in Dundee and Toronto, the team from York, led by Professor Debbie Smith, has made good progress in developing new and safe treatments to kill the parasites, particularly in the first stage of the disease.

Each year, between 50,000 and 70,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa contract sleeping sickness.

**Reporting by Ben Gascoyne, Chris Young and Hannah Ellis-Petersen.**

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*Are we really all going to end up as unemployed graduate statistics? Liv Evans takes advice from a successful investment banker on how to get the career you want*

Secrets of Success >>M8-9

# Adam Bennett advertises escort agency

JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

**Charlotte Hogarth-Jones**  
EDITOR

THE ON-CAMPUS letting agency, Adam Bennett, has been accused of advertising escort services from its office above Costcutter.

Bennett has strongly denied the accusations, calling them "wholly fictitious and libellous", despite *Nouse* finding that the mobile phone number of an escort service is the same number as that being advertised as 'Browns of York' in Bennett's window.

On April 13, *Nouse* received an anonymous letter, with a Leeds postmark.

The author made numerous claims, one of which was that Bennett was allowing a member of staff to advertise escort services, for the website [www.escortmale.co.uk](http://www.escortmale.co.uk), from his office window on campus.

At the time of investigation the domain name of the named website was active. It advertised the services of a middle-aged, male escort, working in York and the surrounding area. It also contained a list of prices for the various services and personal details about the escort.

*Nouse* registered on the website, giving a name, email, and phone number, and sent a question to the escort using the given contact form. The escort from the website then replied to the question via text message. The number of the escort is the same number as that being displayed as "Browns of York" in Adam Bennett's office window on campus.

Bennett has continued to strongly deny any connection of his company with the escort agency, despite being presented with the full content of the letter, and the

results found by *Nouse*.

Bennett issued a statement, saying that "Adambennett.co.uk were not aware of the existence of the website you mentioned, or of the alleged activities of this person".

He continued to explain that "the driver was allowed to put an advert in our window for his removal service because during his time working for us he had proved himself to be presentable, reliable, well-mannered and hardworking."

The letter in question also made numerous other allegations about the member of staff, although *Nouse* was unable to find any evidence at all to support them.

Bennett said that he had been "told from more than one source" that the author of the letter has "connections with another letting agency", and that he believes it to be

"AdamBennett.co.uk were not aware of the existence of the website you mentioned."

Letting agent  
**Adam Bennett**

"mischief" which was created to harm his new business.

The author of the letter left no name, stating: "I cannot risk giving my name... I don't want to identify myself as I have taken a house with this agency and don't want any revenge against my group."

A second year Politics student called the situation "disgraceful", stating that "students should be made aware of what's happening on campus". He continued to add that "the University has had so much trouble with these letting agencies, I don't know why they are still letting space to them."

One second year Economics



You might be interested in checking out a website [escortmale.co.uk](http://escortmale.co.uk)

You will see that this belongs to a male prostitute and if you check the site ownership it belongs to a

This was an "employee" of AdamBennett.co.uk during this years student house campaign. was one of the bus drivers.

***Nouse* received a letter last month accusing Adam Bennett of advertsing escort services on campus**

student has argued, however, that the fact the number on the advert was the same number as the male prostitute was "irrelevant", adding that "whatever he does in his spare time is alright".

The University Press Officer David Garner has denied any necessity for the University to intervene in the situation, stating that "this is an internal matter for the tenant".

The website in question now no longer exists.

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# University error forces nurses to pay double rent

**Victoria Lee**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

FOR THE second year running, the University has been strongly criticised for giving misleading information to nursing students, causing many of them to have to pay over £1,500 extra rent over the summer.

Before signing their contracts at the beginning of this academic year, nursing students were given verbal assurances that, as in previous years, they would be allowed to vacate their halls of residence at any time, after giving four weeks notice. Following this advice, over 50 nursing students paid deposits and signed private housing contracts for homes for their second year.

The nurses informed the University that they wished their contracts to be terminated at the beginning of July 2010 to allow them to move into their new homes. However, they were told that their University contract legally bound them to pay for their halls of residence for the full 51 week let,

even if they chose to move out.

According to a number of student nurses interviewed by *Nouse*, when they tried to argue that over 50 of them had previously been given verbal confirmation that they could leave at any time, Margaret Kuby, Deputy Manager of the Accommodation Office, accused them of lying.

The University has since conceded that "a member of University staff has given incorrect information to a small number of first-year nurses living in University accommodation."

They continued to say that, as a consequence, all nurses who can prove that they "signed a tenancy agreement [for a house in the private sector] before Monday 22 March 2010" will be released from their University accommodation contracts after August 1 2010.

Despite this, nursing students who have already signed a private contract for the next academic year will still have to pay one month of double rent. Those who cannot prove that they have signed a contract, or who signed contracts after this date, will have to pay full rent



**Many nurses will have to pay over £1,500 in double rent this year**

up until October.

Matthew Jacobs, Student Records and Bursaries Manager for the Health Sciences Department, said: "The University has... certainly failed on this occasion."

YUSU Welfare Officer, Ben Humphrys, has called for the University to ensure that next year's nursing intake is given "absolute clarity" on the situation. He added: "We need to see a proactive

response from the University on this, more flexibility with the current cohort, and absolute clarity next year so [that] we aren't put in this situation again."

One student, April O'Callaghan, who was part of the group of nurses campaigning against the University, said: "It's disgraceful that the University didn't give us proper financial and legal guidance when it came to

signing a legal document like a contract that most of us had never done before."

Another student nurse, Elisabeth Hill, said: "I was on the phone to my parents just crying, saying, 'I'm so sorry but I'm going to have to drop out', because, honest to God, I couldn't see how I was going to pay for the new house and for the University rent."

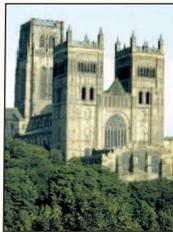
In previous years, nurses have been able to leave after giving four weeks notice, but at the start of this academic year the contract was changed to prevent this practice. Many of this year's students knew second and third year nurses who had left their contracts early, and as they were not notified otherwise, assumed that they would be able to do the same.

According to Hill and six other nurses interviewed by *Nouse*, Kuby has refused to apologise for accusing the nurses of lying, and for the stress her team's mistake has caused the nurses during the Easter exam period.

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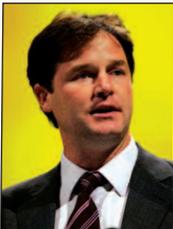
# NUS President-elect Aaron Porter to

## CONFERENCE DE-BRIEF



### Durham disaffiliation

Durham University Students' Union are formally recognised as disaffiliated from the NUS following NUS interference with the Union on the NUS' no platform policy.



### Political parties' election appeals

Leaders of the three main UK political parties give a pre-recorded video speech to NUS delegates on the first day of conference. Nick Clegg is purportedly given the best reception.



### YUSU President submits motion

YUSU President, Tim Ngwena, submits a motion to lobby for further independence for the Office of the Independent Adjudicator, the final appeals body of Universities. The motion passes.



### Aaron Porter elected President

Previous NUS Vice President of Higher Education, Aaron Porter, is announced NUS President-elect. Porter was elected in the first round of voting with a majority of 65 per cent.



### Charlie Leyland narrow loss

YUSU Academic Affairs Officer, Charlie Leyland, loses out on NUS Vice-Presidency to Usman Ali. Leyland won both the third and fourth stages of voting but narrowly lost in the last stage by just nine votes.



### Votes for 16-year-olds

The NUS resolves to campaign for votes for 16-year-olds. In their resolutions they set out proposals to lobby political parties to include this in their manifestos post-election.



### BNP no platform policy debated

The conference is thrown into a strongly fought and extensive debate on freedom of speech, and a motion to stop British National Party and English Defense League activists from speaking at universities is passed.



### Motion of Censure passed

A motion of censure against Bellavia Ribeiro-Addy, NUS Black Students Officer, is proposed by Durham Students' Union after their dissatisfaction at her conduct with respect enforcement of the no platform policy. The motion is passed.



### NUS President leaving speech

NUS President, Wes Streeting, closes the conference with his leaving speech, highlighting the need to fight tuition fee rises and commenting on the strength of the NUS.

### Laura Connor DEPUTY EDITOR

IN AN exclusive interview with *Nouse*, NUS President-elect, Aaron Porter, has emphasised that his top priority this year will be to reject "any possible lifting of the cap on fees" and to "fight for a fairer alternative".

Talking to *Nouse* just an hour after being elected, Porter said: "I'm absolutely over the moon, partly because this is such a significant time for further and higher education. There was a huge focus on the outcome of the fees review [this year] but also on the agenda of university and college funding, so my motivation to stand was to ensure that NUS could be best represented during these difficult times, and I hope that I can lead NUS through to deliver the best possible outcome for students."

Porter won the Presidential position at the NUS Conference in The Sage, Newcastle on April 14. He gained 65pc of the vote, with an aggregate total of 440 votes. His closest competitor was Bell Ribeiro-Addy, who came second with 20% of the vote.

Despite breaking the record for the longest average time per view on *Nouse's* live blog at the Conference, many of our viewers were located within The Sage building, and not many students engaged in commenting on the blog.

This contrasts to the level of interest *Nouse* received during YUSU elections hustings and results night; *Nouse* broke its own record earlier this year for the most commented on article in the website's history, on the first night of

hustings. How does the NUS plan to address student apathy and alienation across the country? "The challenge for every Student Union, and indeed the NUS, is to think about how we engage with students, and a high priority for me is to ensure that NUS is more than just a discount card for students but [that] the campaigns we run at a national level are something that students can identify with, and we need to continue talking about the issues students face on a day to day basis," Porter explains.

Porter highlights his experience as NUS Vice-President for

"I guess one of the reasons why, perhaps, students feel discounted with NUS is because in many instances Student Unions themselves don't have the contact details of their own students."

NUS President-elect  
**Aaron Porter**  
Higher Education as giving him

the knowledge and ability to reduce such apathy: "Policy has been a huge amount of what I've done, and it directly [helps] students... I hope that by coming out onto campuses I [can] engage. I want to think about how I can, and the NUS can, communicate with students more directly."

But does Porter really think that this is the role of the NUS, when in existence already are individual Student Unions which are meant to locally link with students? At what stage does the NUS tread on Student Union toes? "Well," Porter begins, "I'm clear on the relationship with Student Unions and NUS, and I guess one of the reasons why, perhaps, stu-

dents feel discounted with NUS is because in many instances Student Unions themselves don't have the contact details of their own students, and I want to work with Student Unions to ensure that that can be overcome, because I believe it's in the interests of both Student Unions and of NUS to have that access to information.

"In terms of the specific nature of the relationship, Student Unions choose to affiliate with the NUS and therefore they should be shaping the direction and priorities of the NUS, and it's not for me, nor indeed is it for NUS, to dictate to Student Unions what we should be doing. Rather, we should be supporting Unions to empower them to lead their own campaigns, and also to help find out what's going on in other Unions. So if another institution does something good, and that's a benefit to students at York, then they should be shared with that information."

It does not seem, however, that all Student Unions experience the empowerment that Porter advocates; last month, Durham Students' Union voted against affiliation with the NUS after discrepancy between the Union and some members of the NUS over whether Durham should have been allowed to invite a BNP speaker to the university. Porter admits: "I think... that there was a huge, grave error of judgement made by two officers which rightly and understandably upset the students at Durham University, and I would not expect any of the officers at NUS whilst I'm President to act in a way that those officers did. I can understand why Durham left. I would have hoped that they would not choose to leave over a single issue, but I

## YUSU consensus that we 'need' the NUS despite recognition of alienation

### Camilla Aparc NEWS REPORTER

YUSU'S AFFILIATION to the National Union of Students (NUS) is viewed by YUSU Officers with varying degrees of content.

YUSU President, Tim Ngwena, recognises that, due to democratic leadership, engagement is a crucial responsibility for NUS benefits. He explains: "It's like a gym membership. If you pay for membership and don't go, you only have yourself to blame if you're still tubby round the sides."

Charlie Leyland, Academic Affairs Officer, ran for NUS Vice-President for Higher Education this year, but lost by nine votes to Usman Ali.

Leyland says: "NUS assumes that you buy into the collectivist model in order to reap the benefits for students. I do... I can sleep at night safe in the knowledge that

issues are being dealt with on a national scale as well as doing what we can in our own institution to safeguard students. Simply, we can't do it alone."

Student Activities Officer, Rhianna Kinchin, views her remit as under-represented: "Support to real, active students could be better." Kinchin cites the effect of successful support within YUM, allowing "our community a strong national reputation". However, debating over national issues "may come secondary to ground level support."

Ben Humphrys, Welfare Officer, says that YUSU "can often feel unrepresented and disconnected." Yet Humphrys praises the NUS as an aid to successful welfare representation which "puts students first."

He adds: "I don't always like how the NUS works, or even everything it does, but its overall impact

is unequivocally positive; quite simply, we need it."

Lewis Bretts, Democracy and Services Officer, understands why York may feel nationally alienated. "I've always had a bit of a chequered relationship with the NUS - there's no doubt that on a policy level it is more than a little detached from the average student at York.

"However...that's part and parcel of a democratic organisation - sometimes we don't get our way, but it doesn't mean we should stop engaging."

From a sporting perspective, York Sport President, Emily Scott, is less satisfied. "I don't really feel I get much from the NUS, but they acknowledge this themselves."

The NUS represents seven million individuals, yet despite expressing discontent in its treatment of their remits, YUSU accept their membership as a necessity.

# fight against lift on tuition fees cap

CBI HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT



**Aaron Porter rose from the position of Vice-President for Higher Education to President of NUS last month**

would have hoped that they would not choose to leave over a single issue, but I can understand their anger.”

And how has the episode changed the direction and attitude of the NUS?

“I think this, if anything, is the required kick up the proverbial backside for the NUS to ensure that we are prioritising engagement with students, increasing our relevance, and working with Student Unions to do that, because

the fight ahead is huge, and actually some of these fights can't be won by individual Student Unions on their own.

“We need a National Union when it comes to trying to ensure that fees don't go up.”

“We need a National Union in terms of making the case to government that Higher Education shouldn't receive cuts, so I'm confident as to why a National Union exists, but I really appreciate that we need to get better at making the

case to Student Unions.”

And: how will he be voting in the election?

Porter admits that he would not surrender his Labour Party membership unless it got to “a stage where I felt that the Labour Party was not the best Party overall.”

But, he stresses, “I don't believe that on any single decision I've made that I've had anything other than students at the top of my agenda.”

## NUS: 1 in 7 female students sexually assaulted

**Victoria Lee**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ONE IN seven female students has been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university, says a recent National Union of Students (NUS) report.

The report, which surveyed over 2,000 female students in the UK, also found that 25% had been subjected to “an unwanted sexual experience while at university or college”.

The commissioner of the ‘Hidden Marks’ report, NUS National Women's Officer, Olivia Bailey, has described the results as “disturbing”.

Bailey continued: “It is particularly worrying that the perpetrators in many of these cases are fellow students.” This was the case in 60% of these cases of sexual assault.

Furthermore, the report claims that only 10% of female students who have been seriously sex-

ually assaulted have reported the incident to the police.

Only 4% reported their attack to their University. When asked why not, 50% of those who did not report to the police said they felt ashamed or embarrassed, while 43% thought they were “to blame for the violence committed against them.”

Bailey said that the report has highlighted the fact that, “not enough is being done to encourage women students to report all instances of assault or harassment to their institutions or to the police.”

She went on to describe the report as a “wake-up call”, saying that students must be left in “no doubt that such behaviour will not be tolerated.”

Sandra Horley OBE, of the domestic violence charity Refuge, said: “It is vital that universities create an environment where women feel confident to speak out against abuse. Female students need to know where they can seek

help, and must feel sure that their reports will be taken seriously. Women have the right to enjoy university life, focus on their studies and plan for their futures, without fear of intimidation of violence.”

YUSU Women's Officer, Charlotte Philips, stated: “This report highlights the need for greater provisions, and crucially greater awareness of the existing provisions on campuses. We will work with the welfare team to create a greater awareness of services such as Nightline and the Open Door Team, whilst discussing with local authorities the potential of local specialist provisions for those who experience sexual assault or rape. We are planning an ‘End Violence Against Women’ campaign in the Autumn Term in which intends to help clarify people's understanding of the boundaries of consent.”

COMMENT >> Page 9

## York accommodation fees rise up to 16 per cent above NUS calculations

**Camilla Apcar**  
NEWS REPORTER

EARLIER THIS year the National Union of Students (NUS) reported a 22% rise in accommodation costs since the academic year of 2006-2007.

The survey expressed that in most cases, the increase is owing to a restricted choice in types of let. At the University of York, however, a new system of rent banding has been established based on size of room; availability of en-suite; and kitchen facilities which will be implemented from the beginning of next year.

Rent banding will mean that fees will be based on the qualitative conditions of accommodation, ranging from £81.76 to £163.87 per week.

Despite the introduction of this new scheme, since 2006 accommodation charges at York have risen up to 38%. For example, at Alcuin College some rooms with 2006 fees of £81.41 have now augmented to £112.42 per week.

The University has commented on increase highlighting a comparison with other Higher Education institutions, and the University of York's investment of over £41 million since 2006 in renovating accommodation and the creation of 870 new rooms. They also stated: “We are currently inviting bids to build and maintain a new 600 bed college, the second new college to be built as part of our ongoing expansion of the University's main campus.

“This considerable investment reflects the University's commitment to providing the best possible accommodation within a college system that is a distinctive element of our offer and highly valued by our students.”

The NUS reported that “this rise comes despite the fact that stu-

dent support has increased only to account for inflation, yet the rental rise is 13% above inflation over this period.” At York, taking into account the national level of inflation as published by the NUS, the rise remains at 29%.

David Garner, University Press Officer, explained the choice to introduce rent banding at York: “Additional rent bands have been introduced to more accurately reflect the variety of different types and ages of rooms at the University of York.”

Endorsing the rent banding scheme on behalf of the Student's Union, Ben Humphrys, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented: “It's generally a positive thing, the choice between how much you pay allows students to spend more on things like student activities. I hope people will welcome this next year.”

The Welfare Officer will “watch how it affects demographics quite closely”, besides taking part in a cross-institutional comparison to monitor accommodation fees at York in relation to other universities.

“It is remarkable that, despite the fact that students are already incurring huge costs in order to obtain a degree, some Vice-Chancellors and private providers think it is acceptable to both argue for higher tuition fees and slam students with excessive rent prices. Students simply cannot afford to be hit with this double whammy,” declared Wes Streeting, NUS President, within the article's report.

Humphrys added: “Uni life is increasingly expensive, which is something we all face.”

The introduction of catered accommodation options for most rooms within Langwith and Derwent colleges has also been included, an unprecedented development in the University's history.

MICHAEL BRUNSDEN



Accommodation charges, such as at Alcuin, have risen by up to 38%

# Audio Bullys and Chase & Status revealed as headliners of Big D

**Rachel Banning-Lover**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE ANNUAL campus festival, Big D, is to be headlined by Audio Bullys and Chase & Status this year. There will also be a performance from Reverend Soundsystem, a DJ set from the indie band, Reverend and the Makers.

Derwent Vice-Chairs, Emma Warren and Flick Saunders, have confirmed that the chart topping acts will play at this year's event, which will also have a 'SinneD' theme. Little D, the afternoon part of the festival, will also return

for its second year, following last year's success.

The event attracts students from all colleges across campus, with last year's tickets selling out in record time, within 45 minutes.

Warren and Saunders revealed that plans for both Big D, and its sister event, Little D, are well underway, stating, "We are so excited for this year's Big D, last year's WonDerland was really incredible, and this year we are working with a passionate committee, and a great theme, to make it even bigger and better than ever!"

'SinneD' will be based around the seven deadly sins, with each sin

characterising the seven different areas of entertainment across campus. The event will be spread across Derwent and Langwith, including the external space between them. There will be two main areas for the live acts, as well as a DJ in The Courtyard.

Audio Bullys reached number three in the UK singles chart in 2005, with their single, 'Shot You Down' which sampled Nancy Sinatra's version of the song, 'Bang, Bang (my baby shot me down)'. Their 2003 single, 'We Don't Care,' was also in the UK singles charts' top 20.

Electronic Production Duo Chase & Status have also had chart success, with three of their singles debuting at number one in the UK Dance Chart. Their most recent success was the entering of their single 'End Credits', featuring rapper Plan B, at number nine in the UK singles chart in November 2009.

Chase & Status will be performing live at Glastonbury, a few days prior to their set at York. They will also be performing at V Festival later on in the summer.

As well as the exciting music line up, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy fairground style attractions, including an inflatable human football table.

Big D organisers have worked



FACEBOOK

Audio Bullys and Chase & Status will headline this year's Big D, along with Reverend Soundsystem

hard to ensure that everyone gets a chance to enjoy the festivities, targeting Little D, which will be held on the same day as Big D in the afternoon, specifically at those with exams, or those unable to get a ticket for Big D. Little D, set out as a self-styled Victorian Fête, will feature food stalls, games and society performances.

Warren and Saunders stated that they are "confident that in creating 'SinneD' and Little D we have

managed to provide something for everyone to enjoy" and that they "can't wait to see everyone there!".

As usual, Big D will be a charity event, with the money raised going to the charities Hope House, EducAid, RAG, and the Ron Weir Memorial Fund - charities chosen by Derwent College members.

Last year, just under £7,000 was raised for the charities Teenage Cancer Trust and York and District Mind, as well as for

campus charity RAG and the Ron Weir Memorial Fund.

A launch party for 'SinneD' will take place on Thursday night, Week Three, at the Pitcher and Piano in York, where the first 100 guests through the door will be able to secure a Big D ticket a day before they go on sale.

**Tickets will go on sale to all other students from midday on the Friday of Week Three, from [www.yusu.org/tickets](http://www.yusu.org/tickets)**

## Asbestos in V-Bar prevents new URY equipment

**Hannah Ellis-Petersen**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

IT HAS been revealed that asbestos present in the walls of V-Bar has caused a halt to plans to install speakers to stream University Radio York (URY) across the space.

While an agreement was reached that the University would enable a system and install the necessary equipment for the broadcasting of the radio station in the venue, Alex Williams, Head of Computing at URY, told *Nouse* that to accomplish this, "estates needed to lay an extra networking cable, to be able to operate the tills and radio at the same time.

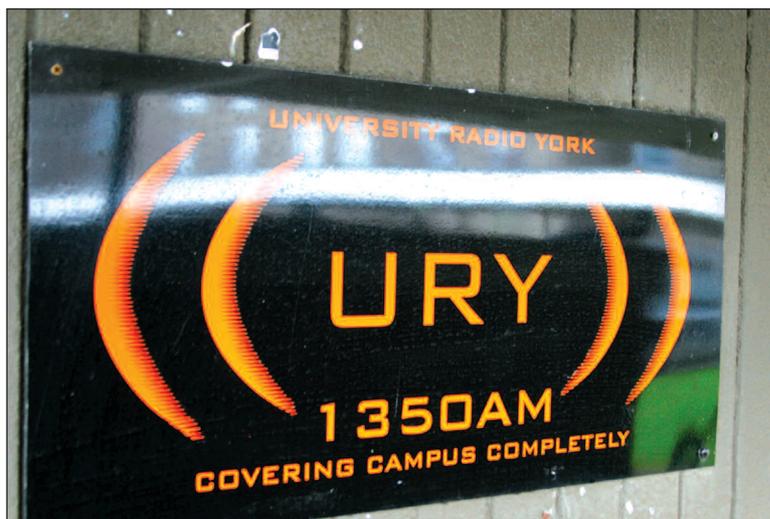
"Laying an extra cable meant drilling and threading through walls riddled with asbestos."

The presence of asbestos throughout the University buildings has been a concern to many students at York, and ensures

that the renovation of buildings such as the library has been made increasingly difficult for fear of disturbing the asbestos that exists within the walls.

Williams continued to comment on further issues: "While this was being sorted, the bar manager purchased a small music-streaming device - the same as are used in The Courtyard and YourShop, and were assured once the cable was down, they could plug it into their hifi system and would receive a high quality stream of our radio station. The one flaw in this plan, is that the V-Bar hifi system is wired right into the jukebox."

In a statement regarding the situation, a University spokesman commented: "Buildings across the University campus do contain asbestos but this is inevitable given the widespread use of asbestos as a building material for much of the 20th Century. Any building, including homes, schools and hospitals,



JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

Asbestos has been forced to halt plans to install new speakers

constructed before 2000 can contain asbestos.

"We have always been open that there is asbestos on campus but it is not the presence, but the management of asbestos which is the key to safety and we have a comprehensive strategy in place

to meet the duty of care we have to our staff and students."

He continued: "In the particular case of the speakers in V-Bar: there are speakers in place but the wiring needed for them to work has not been done. We are in the process of drawing up

plans to ensure that the necessary work can be completed safely.

"Any work on the fabric of the buildings at the University needs to be appropriately assessed to ensure all potential risks are addressed. These risks may include aspects such as buried services and potentially asbestos."

First year English student, Liberty Paterson, commented: "It's always pretty alarming to hear stories about asbestos, particularly in somewhere so constantly full of students, like V-Bar. It would be great to have URY playing there if possible, the University really should sort it out."

Another second year student also stated: "If the University were actually bothered, I'm sure they could easily sort out speakers for URY, particularly since the issue has been going on for quite a while now. I really think it would add to the atmosphere of the bar."

<< Continued from front

Grenville continued to state that “realistically... we don't think that that will happen, so we will now wait to react to what comes out.”

Although the report will not be published until after the election, it has been made clear by Browne that he favours completely abolishing the cap.

The cap would not be removed immediately; rather, new fees would be phased in. Universities would be able to raise



“We oppose any increase in tuition fees and any further marketisation of higher education.”

YUSU President  
Tim Ngwena

fees on an annual basis. This could be by as much as £1,000 per year.

The *Sunday Times* has suggested that increases could be felt from as early as 2013, and that “the subsidised interest rate on student loans would go, with bursaries ensuring that applicants from poorer families were not put off

university.”

A rise in the interest rate could come into affect almost immediately, as the rate for student loans is set on an annual basis. It is unclear as to whether a change in the interest rate would affect those already have loans from the Student Loans Company.

Many have raised concerns about the effect that a rise in tuitions fees could potentially have. The current NUS President, Wes Streeting, described rises in tuition fees as a “nightmare scenario”. Streeting added that it “would lead to students choosing courses on the basis of cost, rather than suitability.”

NUS President-elect, Aaron Porter, who will take up his post in June, urges students to continue to campaign against a lifting of the cap on fees. “This is a time to continue pressurising politicians not to increase the cap on fees, and we will be publicly shaming those that refuse to sign our ‘Vote for Students pledge’, which has already been signed by more than 700 candidates. Students, families and the wider public overwhelmingly oppose higher fees and I will fight to ensure that politicians listen to them.”

A first year English literature student said: “We're already taking out loans to be able to pay, what happens if fees increase further?”

Another second year student,

however, suggested that changes in the structure of fees may prove beneficial for some students: “Finally, arts students are not going to be forced to subsidise expensive science degrees any more. I think that those degrees



“This is the time to continue pressurising politicians not to increase the cap on fees.”

NUS President-elect  
Aaron Porter

are important, but I fail to see why those who only have four contact hours a week should pay the same as those who have 20.”

YUSU have also commented, saying: “We oppose any increase in tuition fees and any further marketisation of higher education. We're awaiting the outcome of the Browne review and we'll be campaigning to ensure that any of the proposals in it will be in the best interest of York's student body.”

Top-up fees were first implemented in 2006; the bill to introduce them was narrowly passed by the House of Commons with 316 votes to 311.

## Plan for student centre confirmed

Camilla Aparcar  
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF York have drafted a Space Strategy plan, outlining the direction in which they would like the University develop in ten or more years time.

The space issues under consideration include learning, social, accommodation, catering, and has also been looking at the potential for a Union building, and is still in draft stages. YUSU President, Tim Ngwena, who has been the chief representative for the Student Union throughout the consultation process, and will be guided by a working group, has stated that “there will be a new student centre within the next ten years”.

Ngwena has elucidated that among the initial proposals are the potential for a campus-based nightclub; an entirely new building; or expansion of both academic study and student activities in its current location.

The plans are inclusive of both Heslington campuses, with locations including Langwith, Heslington East and Spring Lane. A centralised Union building with an incorporated bar is one of the possible options.

Elizabeth Heaps, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates and Strategic Projects, has notably called for student opinion via the Union, resulting in plans for a Union-formed working group, consisting of students and officers to examine the University's plan and voice the issues that are most



A new student centre is part of the University's Space Strategy

pertinent to students, some relating to YUSU's draft Strategic Plan.

Heaps commented: “we are not yet able to make firm undertakings as to exactly when this work might take place. We are currently working on the Estates Strategy which will create a prioritised programme of building and refurbishment over the next ten years and beyond.”

A similar group, chaired by Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students, Jane Grenville, was disbanded last year. The new group aims to ensure that the Space Plans corre-

spond to student needs.

Last year, proposals for a student centre “wouldn't have been deemed viable in terms of monetary solutions,” Ngwena remarked.

He continued: “The University committed to a plan before the recession, and made a capital budget before the recession.” However, Heslington West has reached its 23% of land suitable for construction, therefore plans would require demolishing or refurbishing current structures.

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## York scientists make new environmental breakthroughs

Laura Connor  
DEPUTY EDITOR

SCIENTISTS AT the University of York have been embarking on a number of new environmental initiatives, which could help reduce the impact of carpet tile waste on the environment and create an alternative biofuel made from household waste.

Current adhesives make carpet tile waste particularly difficult to recycle, so around 70 million kilogrammes of waste is incinerated or sent to European landfill sites each year. Researchers at the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence have created a new starch-based adhesive which allows the layers to be separated and recycled.

The Centre's director, Professor James Clark, said: “Carpet tiles are becoming increasingly popular so it is important we find ways of producing them in a more sustainable way. The results of our research provide a potential solution to a serious waste problem.”

Scientists at the University are also working on a new alternative biofuel made from grass cuttings and leftovers from the average family dinner table.

“The University of York has one of largest groups of environmental researchers in the UK, working in a wide range of departments across the spectrum in the sciences, social sciences and humanities.”

University Press Officer  
David Garner

After winning grants worth £1.5 million, the team of scientists have since been attempting to put their findings into practice. Some of the money has been spent on a laboratory, which will open later this month. The laboratory houses a microwave which contains pellets which are heated quickly, but at low temperatures, a process called pyrolysis, where organic materials known as biomass are heated without air in a reactor.

Dr Budarin, one of the scientists working on the project, said: “There are a couple of other groups working around the world who focused on microwaves as being great heaters. But our research is different because we discovered that pyrolysis occurs at lower temperatures than previously thought, so we use the microwave as a catalyst for the process not for its high temperatures. And this is important because at 500 degrees you need very expensive equipment. We don't, and that is a massive improvement.”

J. Clarke, the leader of the experiment, said: “Pyrolysis is traditionally thought of as a high temperature activity. But from our previous microwave research, we knew some chemical transforma-

tions could be carried out more selectively at lower temperatures. This is because of specific interactions between the molecules and the microwaves. Now we have shown that we can use microwaves to convert biomass such as straws into valuable products very quickly and at remarkably low temperatures.”

Regarding the University's recent environmental initiative, YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer, David Clarke, said: “We can all be proud of the University's research into methods to improve our impact on the environment. Tackling climate change and making our lives more sustainable relies on utilising cutting edge science; this technological advancement has the potential to have a worldwide impact.”

University Press Officer, David Garner, cited York's improvements as a leading source of research for environmental issues: “The University of York has one of the largest groups of environmental researchers in the UK, working in a wide range of departments across the spectrum in the sciences, social sciences and humanities.”

“The University is establishing a York Environmental Sustainability Institute which will help to co-ordinate work across different disciplines involving nearly 100 researchers. The University is also a key player in the Centre for Low Carbon Futures which sets out to provide assistance to regional and international business with the practical application of new technologies into to useable products.”

Garner added: “It also seeks to change behaviours – the way we live in a low carbon society, drawing on the social sciences, natural sciences, engineering and economics research power of York and our fellow regional universities.” This follows *Nouse's* report last month, which detailed how YUSU reached the NUS' Bronze standard in the Sound Environment Impact Awards, a ceremony designed to commend, display and promote environmentally beneficial initiatives and innovations undertaken by Students' Unions across the UK.

Clarke continued: “It's important that the University extends this innovative approach to its own efforts to become more sustainable. It is the first UK institution to commission a comprehensive study into its carbon footprint, and that's a great start. The challenge is to ensure that effective action is taken on the findings of this study.”

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YORK PRESS



Scientists have made new findings

# YUSU Strategic Plan

As the Union releases its draft plan for the next three years, **Henry James Foy** explains the impact it is set to have on students.

**E**xcited you probably aren't, but interested you should be. After months of consultation, Union President Tim Ngwena has released the draft version of YUSU's strategic plan for 2010-2013, claiming that the report "sets the framework for making the right decision in the future."

Certainly, this won't be the most exciting document you read this year, if indeed you do. But its contents hold the key for the next three years of the Union.

"There was a need to take stock. Stop. Break. Pause," explains Ngwena. "We - to see what the things are that we do really well, and then in the future we can be radical and try different things."

Suitably, the report marks a period of financial tightening for YUSU, curtailing any further commercial expansion of the Union with no "significant new increase[s] in costs". However, Ngwena admits that if an "amazing opportunity" arose he expects the Union to take it into consideration.

Notably, the report makes only passing reference to the looming decision regarding the location of the new YUSU centre, should the current location be deemed unsuitable. "That was almost deliberate," Ngwena explains. "I didn't want it to tie us down to one course of action."

YUSU were expected to use the space vacated by Langwith College's 2011 move to Heslington East, but plans to develop their current building or potentially construct new premises on the University expansion have also been mooted.

The report also makes official the expected plans for YUSU to hire a new staff member to assist JCR Committees with finance and administration issues, echoing

candidate policies at the recent YUSU Elections.

However, the role's creation, slated for 2011, is listed as dependent on University funding, and Ngwena notes that of the three new staff positions proposed in the plan, it is listed as the least vital.

Stating that YUSU currently employs 128 staff across all its various administrative and commercial entities, the report appears to suggest an increase in administrative positions throughout.

"Our staff numbers are behind other Unions. We'd want to increase [them]," explains Ngwena. "There is a trend towards staff roles in [the YUSU] building. They bring in expertise and take workload from the Sabbs so that we can get out and do more representation things. That's our primary role."

However, despite setting out three specific roles that the Union will create in the next two years, Ngwena expects the next strategic plan, in 2013, will purposely set out to re-balance the student officer to staff ratio: "This isn't the whitepaper for that. The next one will be."

Groups, including YUSU Council and the GSA, will engage with the draft before a final edit is produced later in the term. However, with only 163 members in the report's feedback Facebook group, Ngwena's new challenge is to get 'non-engaged' students to give their opinions on the plans.

## New proposals

Lobby the University to launch an **annual Student Experience Survey** which would include an assessment of the impact that YUSU has on the student experience and use this to measure YUSU progress.

Identify the needs of students living in the private rented sector and explore innovations such as a **city-wide students letting agency** and an area representatives or **student street wardens scheme**.

Lobby for an improved **Personal Development Plan** structure that covers all students, providing them with a clear minimum individual entitlement with an **assigned adviser** throughout their studies.



## Staff

YUSU employs **128** staff, of which **97** are students.

The report details the employment of a **Researcher** and a **Representation Coordinator** in 2010, and a **JCR Development Coordinator** in 2011, subject to funding.

While not fully addressing the question of a reduction in the number of sabbatical officers, the report recommends **"ongoing improvements to governance in practice including review of sabbatical roles."**

## Expansion

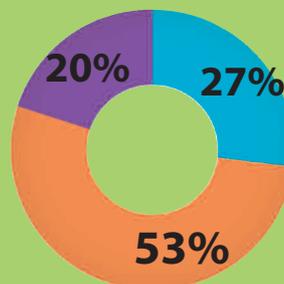
Financially limited by its £450,000 outlay into the Courtyard project, the report states that YUSU should strive to: **"Not incur any significant new increase in costs, liability or activity beyond that contained in this strategic plan"**. However, the report does seem to contradict this sentiment with a recommendation to: **"Consider opportunities for expansion of YUSU commercial activities to provide better value, variety and service on campus"**. The lack of concrete answers continues with the long-overdue solution to finding a solution to YUSU's future location, as it ambiguously proposes to **"Look at options and secure a time frame for relocating or expanding the current Student Centre"**.

## Finances

Income



Expenditure



- University grant
- Commercial revenue
- Other (inc. Interest)
- Representation & Action
- Student Activities
- Academic & Welfare

The report states that the University set to move away from per-student funding, towards a year-on-year incremental rise system

In the long run, YUSU's membership looks set to increase at a faster rate than its income stream

# Comment & Analysis

## Accountability ultimately infiltrates every level of society

**Camilla Apcar**  
 Deputy  
 Comment  
 Editor



Sex scandals are nothing new, but employees could learn plenty from more famous examples

Being held accountable for our own actions is an ideal constantly emphasised as a significant part of growing up; an example of taking on adult levels of responsibility. And yet, in the world of employment, bosses are expected to take the blame for the actions of their employees. There needs to be an understanding of the separation between acts performed within the working environment, and private life.

This point has been demonstrated most clearly in recent allegations made against a former employee of the Adam Bennett housing agency for using his professional role as a platform for sourcing clients. It now reflects negatively on his boss who was, as has been made apparent by *Nouse's* investigation, apparently entirely unaware of the situation.

Whilst some may say that Bennett should have been more conscious of his employees' actions, it is arguable that for the employee in question, the issue to be raised is not the condoning or condemnation of activities he was undertaking in his private life: it is that he should never have merged personal activities with his job as it clearly undermines both his own occupational integrity and that of the whole enterprise. Although no longer employed at the agency, the repercussions of his previous acts remain significant.

We can never fully know what another human being is likely to do - we are subjective creatures, susceptible to being a liability to others; despite responsibilities held to higher authorities. Our own Lewis Bretts, of YUSU

Democracy and Services fame, once profoundly commented that he, like the rest of us, is "human and fallible". He was right, but this mustn't stop us asserting our probity, particularly in the workplace. The reality of human nature is unfortunate, and cases such as this can be likened (on a grander scale, but with similar ramifications) to Bill Clinton's impeachment after his infamous sex scandal with Monica Lewinsky. It reflected poorly on his government and political party, caused uproar, and has been said to have affected the outcome of Al Gore's election campaign in 2000.

Indeed, for students at the University of York, it functions in the same way - if the entire student population started littering

the streets of the city as a matter of course, the negative connotations would eventually affect the public attitude towards the official University body. Accountability infiltrates every level of society.

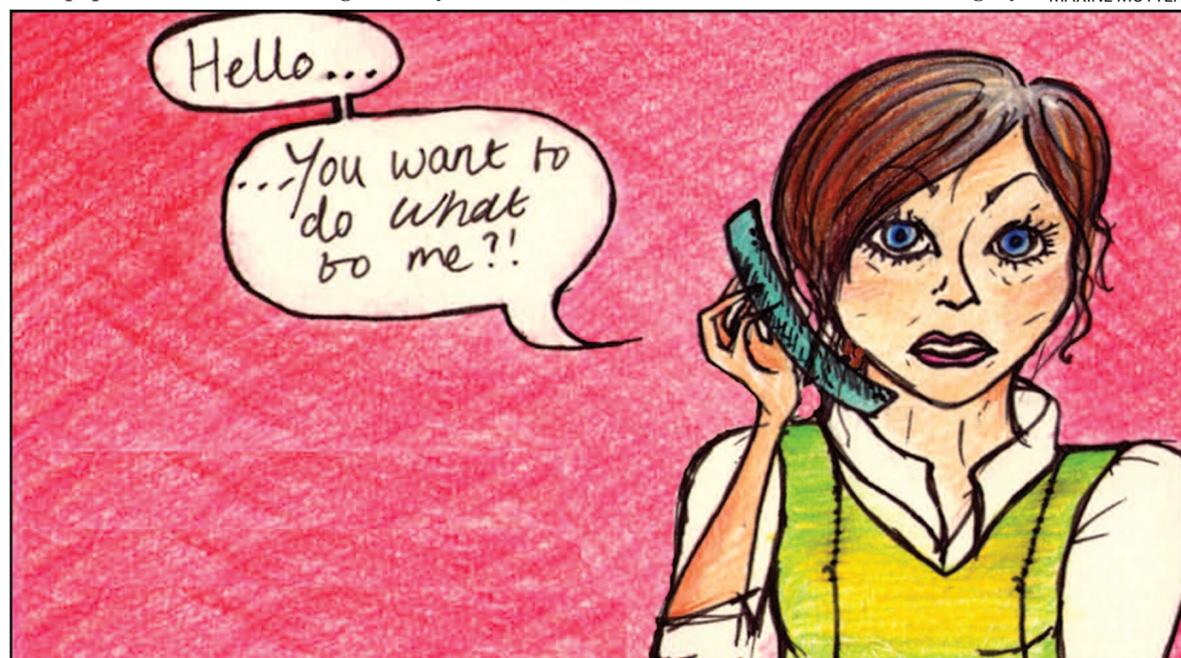
The predicament for trusting members of staff - even if they pass all manner of safety and integrity checks before employment - eventually relies on individuals recognising their impact on their superiors, and taking the blame for personal misconduct.

Objectivity in the workplace is a necessity to ensure a productive and responsible environment. Successful examples of this can be found most convincingly in professional collaborations of celebrity couples, for instance, Beyoncé and Jay-Z, or Tim Burton and Helena

Bonham Carter. These pairs have had numerous working partnerships as well as maintaining a private relationship - if they can do it alongside dealing with the stresses of fame and attempting to live a publically scrutinised lifestyle, how strenuous can it be for the rest of us to stay objective?

The distinction between the personal and the private is not always clear, but in most cases, where the distinction is apparent through codes of socially acceptable behaviour, it is remarkable that such an attitude could remain undetected.

It may prove problematic for some, but common decency is a fundamental quality to acquire in order to maintain professionalism and moral integrity. MAXINE MUTTEN



**Laura Connor**  
 Deputy  
 Editor



## 'Raunch culture' is to blame for sexism

It is so easy, and almost enjoyable, to debate issues of modern female sexuality and the body politic. The controversial YUSU Women's Officer election exemplified a paradox of progressive attitudes and narrow-minded dogmatism. The whole pandemonium endeavoured to argue that prejudice against women has dissipated.

"Hurrah!" you may yell, "the 21st century has finally embraced the liberalism it has been struggling to understand for the past three centuries!" But, no: Peter and Mark's attempt at eliciting a 'non-issue' was done in such a backward thinking, 'ironic' way,

that it ultimately served to undermine any purpose they may have had to question WomCom's necessity. They assisted in demonstrating the exact opposite of their argument: women's issues are just as potent as ever.

The whole drama of the event was kind of fun. Everyone loved mocking the duo, yet what the theatrical chaos does not represent is the real problem of issues that underlie the economic and cultural web of society, such as gender-salary comparisons. Or how female magazines subliminally make the average woman feel fat, ugly or poor (usually all three, plus a few added doses of sexually conserva-

tive and generally dull for good measure). It is an issue the human race may never be able to comprehend: sexual violence.

**"sexual attractiveness is still somehow conceived as a fault of the woman's"**

The new statistics provided by the NUS are alarming and perhaps unexpected. But most shocking is

the amount of sexual violence occurring in supposedly safe student campus idylls across the country. The mind-set of sexual perpetrators is too psychologically complex for us to ever realistically understand, and must partially involve the biological power relations inherent between men and women from birth.

What is less scientifically baffling, but equally shocking, is the percentage of women who refuse to tell neither their institutions nor the police after an attack, as they feel that the incident is their fault. We read pre-20th century novels such as *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* or *Pamela* with some sense of com-

placency. "That would never happen today!" you may remark. "We have legislation against this sort of thing now!"

But the terrifying reality is that the attitude still remains; sexual attractiveness is still conceived as a woman's fault, something that the aforementioned magazines tell us that we must possess.

Whilst we may hail what American feminist journo Ariel Levy dubs 'raunch culture' as liberating, the irony is that physical violence towards women is symptomatic of a society still saturated with an acute sense of sexual prejudice, heightened by its desire to bring sex to the forefront.



## Few positives behind the pain

Students paying higher fees is simply detrimental to both short term and long term financial viability. The possibility of a lift on our current cap is a worry to students across all universities and the realisation that this might bring yet greater financial hardship across the board is not an issue to be taken lightly.

However, beyond our disdain for Lord Browne's personal preferences in the distribution of higher education costs, we must begin to accept the inevitable and look at the benefits of such a change. Browne's thoughts are positive in some aspects. We must respect the sentiment of fairness that the government is trying to implement.

The disparity induced by a cap lift is not necessarily an unfair one. This is an opportunity for students to revel in true fairness and although any rise in fees is intrinsically bad for us, we as students must accept that some degrees perhaps should cost more than others. The lack of contact hours for humanities students are unacceptably priced at the current £3,225. Although a proposed £7,000 is an eventual possibility, it compares with £14,000 for the vastly greater number of hours for other subjects.

The NUS' decision to oppose the hike is admirable and truly representative of students, but the reality is that under the system preferred by Browne, money paid would reflect the cost of a degree. The worry, as pointed out by NUS President, Wes Streeting, is that this may lead to an inevitable choice between cost and suitability.

Students should not have to choose between these aspects, despite promises by institutions that lower income families would not loose out. Already we have a system whereby students choose their degree on the basis of future merit instead of genuine curiosity. A difference in cost for certain degrees will move students further away from the instinctive interest that universities were founded upon. Although vocational drive is a powerful and important quality, students must be allowed to learn, instead of just retain information. The likely fee hike does not just endanger our pockets, it endangers our education. We are here to learn, to absorb and enquire. An unequal fee system, however representative, will actually mean less choice for the majority that can't afford to study what they want to. We must not support a lift on the current cap; for ourselves and for the future generations that wish to be educated.

## Letting them get away with it

It is reasonably shocking that one of the many wild accusations about Adam Bennett, in the letter received by *Nouse*, has turned out to be true. It seems more than likely that the letter was a slanderous attack against Bennett, whose independant company has only been running for six months and is supposedly doing very well in comparison to his agency rivals. However, the fact remains that the ex-member of staff has been revealed to be a male prostitute, and the number with which he conducts business is the same one which he has been advertising in the window of Adam Bennett's.

Bennett claims to have been completely unaware of his employee's secondary line of work. This may, or may not, be true. However, one has to question how prudent it is to allow relative unknowns to advertise services of which one knows little about. This is especially important given the prominence of Bennett's office window on campus, and the undeniable association that anything posted within it will automatically cause.

What is perhaps more shocking, however, is the University's lack of interest in the whole situation. They seem to take no interest whatsoever in the image, reputation, or dealings of their tenants. In addition to this, they seem wholly unaware of how great an effect those renting on campus can have on student body.

It is naive to assume that the agencies, shops and businesses renting on campus bare no relation to the University. They are representative of the University's values, morals and priorities, and taking so little interest in disruptive tenants shows a total disregard for the reputation of the institution.

## Badgered out of security

Moving out of the safe and contained hub of student on-campus accommodation is one of the most stressful non-curricular activities students face when coming to university. At universities with greater collegiate homogeneity, such as Oxbridge, students don't have to contend with the challenges of corrupt landlords and heating bills, as they often stay in college; however, students are faced with another set of problems when choosing potential houses and housemates after just a term at the University.

But one of the biggest advantages for students at York is the amount of student accommodation available across the city. If you want to be close to town, go for Heslington Road. If you want a convenient and modern place, go for Hull Road. If you want safety and security, go for the more residential areas, such as Badger Hill.

The government legislation introduced last month will actively discourage landlords from renovating houses in student areas, and eventually distance students from more residential areas. The claims outlined in letters to residents of the Badger Hill community were nothing short of disgraceful. The implication that students in some way harm the local community and give nothing back to the economy is unfair and misinformed. The assumption that all students are lazy, noisy and unhelpful is a pertinent representation of misguided stereotyping. Student ghettoisation would be nothing short of a backwards and detrimental move for students and residents alike.

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editor@nouse.co.uk

## The politics of the Facebook generation are misleading



Henry Cowen

Do we really care about politics? That might sound an odd statement, particularly coming from someone who is attempting a degree in the subject, but are the posters and Facebook statuses just an indication that politics has become trendy?

Wander into The Charles at any time of the day, and the chances are that many of the people at the tables will be engrossed in conversation about where their vote is headed, who won the debate or just how "bloody awful" Thatcher was.

Student political activism is a cliché, but it's probably fair to say that it is a cliché which we all encourage. It seems to me that for many of us we speak on the issue because we think we should. You don't want to be the person who, when asked of their view on Trident, goes white and starts speaking about chewing gum.

Our views are generally just parroted from our parents, or the paper we read that morning. I'm not excluding myself from that bracket. I've been brought up in a Liberal household and, shock horror, I extol

the virtues of Clegg and his crew. I'm not suggesting that none of us have genuine political beliefs. After all, we all know that person who really does care. You can spot them a mile off; they are the one that goes, "It's just like 1955 all over again", and then everyone nods knowingly, almost as if they know what the expert is going on about.

### "Our views are generally just parroted from our parents, or the paper we read that morning"

My particular expert friend is a true Labour man through and through. Posters block out the light in his room, and give him half a chance and he'll sing you "The Red Flag" as if it has always been his favourite song.

For every expert though, there are at least 100 of the rest of us. We

have an opinion, we have our profile photo changed to our party of choice, and it seems for all the world we are political activists.

It's all a façade though, isn't it? Sure, we may use our vote, but I imagine the first website most of us turn to when faced with our computer screens is not BBC News. It's probably Facebook.

And here is the crux of the argument. We go to these social networking sites to ensure that everyone knows how we're voting, we put the posters on our wall just to make sure and we spit out our drink at the mention of an opposing party to convince our friends that the very idea of a Tory/Labour/Lib Dem government would be abhorrent to us.

Would it not be better if we were all a bit more honest with each other? In the pub the other day, a friend of mine was asked who he was voting for. "I don't know really, not sure I will. I don't get it if I'm honest," he replied. Shouldn't we join my friend and be truthful with ourselves? We get political because we think we should be, and we'll forget it all until the next election.

Ben Gascoyne  
Comment  
Editor



## Regardless of the election result, the old media lost

On Friday, we will have a rough idea at last of what the new political story is. Even if the incumbent Labour manage to clinch another majority, the tone of the national debate will be vastly different. The results will come after about a month of ubiquitous media coverage that's reported on everything from gaffes to literal car crash television.

Regardless of who wins and loses, one important player has been under incredible pressure. The traditional media has never had it so hard; readership is collapsing and only the trashy *Daily Star* has found a way to make it stop. The election then has been their greatest hope of stemming the losses, even if just for a brief moment. This, of course, has led to an interesting intensity in their coverage. Every day has become a game changer for them, each headline a way to guarantee their futures.

It has never been particularly difficult to criticise the Murdochs on their involvement in politics, but this time Rupert and spawn James may well have overdone it completely. Alongside Rebekah Brooks, the ambitious new Chief Executive of News International, they have not been keeping a low profile. Lines were drawn early on when disgraced former News of the World editor Andy Coulson became the Conservative Party PR chief in 2007 just before the hastily aborted election, and as the phone hacking scandal grew in scale and Coulson's likely involvement became clear, Cameron chose to not only stick with him but defend him personal-

ly. The News International contribution to the election has been ethically dubious; Murdoch has had no contact with the Lib Dems, and their resultant panic after the poll surge led to embarrassment after embarrassment for their image as smooth operators. When *The Independent* stated that "Rupert Murdoch won't decide this election, you will", a team of Murdoch's finest turned up at the offices of *The Independent*, screaming obscenities at their editor. Shortly after that, *The Sun* was accused of suppressing a poll commissioned portraying public approval of a Lib Dem government.

Despite the sweating and panicking of Rupert Murdoch after the television debates that he rallied so hard in favour of, the old media did have something to celebrate; numerous commentators labelled social media ineffective as a campaigning tool and unimportant for breaking the big stories of the cam-

paign. *The Telegraph's* Iain Dale labelled Twitter useless and ridiculed the earlier suggestions that it would be the decider of the next government. What he, and many others, did not account for was the narrative that opened up just before the election was called that hinted anyone in the know expected social media to be unceremonious at best. By crowing about a hollow victory, the old media establishment has made itself look even closer to the grave. While they've dominated the story of the campaign, its all been for nothing; the sales figures are still utterly miserable for every single publication, the BBC faces pressure to fundamentally change and, while certainly biased, Lib Dem activists report that the campaign against them by papers has actually encouraged further support.

The election was a critical period for rescuing the old media, and they failed to make it count.

CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOUGH



SPY
York Student Sectors

**Vodcatus Chunderus**  
The common student tittle of choice. Rarely sighted in its full, undrunk state. Often spotted on pavements and on top of brick walls surrounding Tang Hall lane.

**I-SPY points: 15**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Binius Overflowqus**  
An often spotted phenomenon around Sunday evenings. A foul stench is to be expected upon approach. Do not attempt to move under any circumstances.

**I-SPY points: 10**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Hannah Clugston



## Marginalising students is only going to lead to trouble ahead

Placing students in increasingly more deprived areas will only make the drawbacks to higher education worse

Imagine living in a world where the entire population woke up at midday and stayed up until the early hours of the morning. Where the main cuisine was chocolate and takeaways, and your neighbours didn't complain about the noise but instead actually joined in. Welcome to 'Student Land'.

This seems like a far-fetched reality. However, it could become everyday life given the recent legislation which makes it increasingly difficult for landlords to buy and renovate properties for students within residential areas. As a result, landlords would no doubt opt for the easier option and simply provide a range of non-residential properties, in one confined area of York. We'd have to live in some sort of giant student zoo; limited to grimy industrial areas or the beautiful middle of nowhere.

It seems slightly ironic that the government is putting so much emphasis on the importance of degrees when at the same time York councillors are attempting to force the very people undergoing such education out of the cities and marginalising them. If the government want us to obtain degrees for the benefit of their economy, we deserve the right to live in residential areas. Surely it's hard enough tackling Higher Education without the additional complications of housing?

Part of being a student is learning how to function in a normal adult environment without holding your parents' hand. If we were all kept in one giant student ghetto, we'd build a cellophane bubble of

Join the debate at  
nouse.co.uk/comment

THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK
SPY

**Tree et Chavvi**  
Tang Hall's main resident. Can be attracted with White Ace and Haribo. Harmless unless provoked. Can be identified by its mating call of "Brap Brap Brap."

**I-SPY points: 15**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Prankus Studenti**  
Force of nature visible most prominently at the beginning of July. Always accompanied by whoops, cries and screams. Can be a health hazard.

**I-SPY points: 5**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Freshus Way Pilgrimage**  
Student mecca. During term times large groups of students can be seen flocking toward the bright green sign. Noodles, pickles and beans can also be found here.

**I-SPY points: 5**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Big Green Elephant



Jess Haines

The label "eco-warrior" is not in vogue. It's alternative to the point of "we're students and any global warming, battery hens-fair trade rant is uncomfortable. Relax, let's have a drink and watch Spurs annihilate." It's not always trendy to care about the environment whilst at uni. In fact, it can be pretty tricky.

Likewise in the general election, "Climate Change" only resurfaced as a live issue when the leaders debated. Some see this as the big green elephant in the room - caring claims about the climate, yet why haven't we heard much?

We have, however, been politely requested not to "throw away our vote". I worry that the Greens are under attack. *The Guardian* jests that their Achilles heel could be "leaflets get recycled before house members have read their contents". Are they being taken seriously?

*Nouse* recently reported YUSU's success in achieving a Bronze NUS Sound Impact award. "Yay," commented Jason L, "some good news!" But really? When our Roses rivals beat us to the Silver Award post with their Green Lancaster scheme? And the NUS encourage us: "The real winner is the environment." Why does this make me feel a little queasy? It's a patronising pat on the back. Do students need to be cajoled by brownie points into taking steps to look after our planet?

Apparently, bright marketing sparks are deemed necessary to make students take notice of ecological issues in the hope that we can win awards. This is an overall mentality that grates on me.

So to science and the media. We are hearing exciting reports of scientists at the University of York developing key pro-environment projects. New adhesives to minimise carpet tile waste, you say? Oh yes, and biofuel, that tricky little microwave adopting process called pyrolysis that can supposedly turn our apple cores into engine fuel.

Unfortunately, journalists talking about science bring Rita Skeeter to mind, searching for the scoop, fluffing up press releases and really not having a clue. Perhaps naive journalists are too susceptible to 'interesting' press releases, regardless of scientific weight. At least the Science Media Centre's Director wants better training for scientific correspondents, moving towards paying the subject due respect.

If a project to fund biofuel developments is worth £1.5 million, then surely it's worthy of our attention. YUSU's Environmental Officer, David Clarke, reminds us: "Climate change is not a leftist issue." It concerns us all a great deal, as seen by YUSU's positive 10:10 campaign.

I've got my ticket for Sir John Beddington's lecture on 27 May. I hope it's a good turnout.



M<sub>6-7</sub>: *Would you let the world know your secret?*

M<sub>8-9</sub>: *Can we really have it all?*

M<sub>10-11</sub>: *Who will help me if I get lost?*

M<sub>12-13</sub>: *What will happen tomorrow?*

M<sub>14-15</sub>: *Will I be taken seriously as a soldier?*

# MUSE.

# MUSE: 4 May 2010.



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www.postsecret.com

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Here at *NOUSE*, we are not known for our abilities to let things go. Terrified of becoming replaceable, most section editors approach production with the zeal of the Vietcong, willing to fight to the death for what they (on Quark) believe in. I thought I was outside this group. However, as I screamed into my phone outside the Library: "Why are they fucking with my baby?!.. Of course I'm not bloody overreacting!"; I realised I might have been wrong. Exam stress had got the better of me, you see.

Many moons ago, as a naive Deputy Politics Editor, I stood in front of *NOUSE*'s hustings and claimed I was going to alter the very way that *MUSE* was run. It was going to be a well-oiled machine, I was going to be the Captain of my very own battleship and we would never, ever miss a Drama Barn review. I've always liked my little jokes. As ex-Editor Henry James Foy pointed out, I promised to use more colour in the magazine. I direct you to Street Angels (M10-11). As he would say, better late than never, yaaaa?

Delegation is an art that has been perfected this week. As the pressure of half my degree intensified, I retreated to my bunker (the reading room) and sent messages behind enemy lines from afar. Some say it was cowardly. I consider it efficient. There have been numerous stars this edition. I can say, hand on heart, that you would not have this beautiful, Seaworld themed edition without the hard work of Features' very own Liv Evans. Mia de Graaf also deserves a special mention for her looming skills and clogs, as does the ongoing patience of my beautiful Editor and beautiful Deputy Editor. Thank you for humouring my whims and telling me to get out off the office when it all got a bit much. I honestly don't know two people I'd rather lead the troops with.

Now: Capcar's not just Deputy Numbers **M6-7**, how to get rich quick **M8-9**, Sian Turner tells us to embrace the neon **M10-11**, sometimes a magic eight ball just isn't enough **M13-14**, ladies and lieutenants **M14-15**. Finally, review of the brand spanking new Courtyard menu (**M23**). They kept the kitchens open for us and everything.

# Henry James Foy

“You’re not a lad,” pipes up my girlfriend for the third time that afternoon. “You’re just a wannabe fake lad.”

A wannabe fake? That doesn’t even make sense. And anyway, I wasn’t actually suggesting that my choice to wear shorts that day in the barely above 15-degree northern sun rendered me such.

But she’s right, of course. I’ve never really embraced that whole aspect of my sex.

Of late, many of my friends have become fascinated by the website TrueLad.com, where stories of intense laddery are posted and rated by the interested public (true lads, one would assume), as either praise-deserving socially unacceptable acts, or scorn-worthy events that are just aren’t disgraceful enough. I find most too mind-boggling to comprehend.

I am, as my housemate likes to say, an anti-lad. For the record, he lies far closer to the anti-lad end of the spectrum than I, but delusionally thinks that downing a large glass of fine Merlot to be equitable to straight-arming a dirty pint.

It has been the same all my life. In Year 8, my football coach cut my (albeit miniscule) reputation to shreds in the changing rooms when I suggested his team-sheet contained a spelling error.

Later, in Year 11, the very same teacher refused to speak to me for a week after I received a school colours tie – normally reserved for the football stars or the rugby heroes – for placing at an international sailing championships. Sailing, he thought, was a sport for rich girls and homosexuals.

My lack of true laddery doesn’t just

relate to my sporting prowess, or lack thereof. The other crucial aspect of a true lad, that of enjoying the devastation of one’s insides on a regular basis through the imbibing of laughably large quantities of alcohol, is similarly lacking.

Now, I like a good night out on the town like anyone else, but the idea of drinking a pint of Carling through the head of a fish fills me with an intense feeling of utter revulsion – and an understandable fear of biological infection.

At Mr York last year, an event that I agreed to take part in as an extraordinarily large favour that rapidly unraveled into a particularly erroneous judgement, my anti-laddery was viciously exposed.

It was only when the lager appeared before me and my five competitors – who, incidentally, were so filled with ‘lad’ that they were set to burst – that I realized I’d never actually downed a pint before. I turned gingerly to the rugby-playing behemoth next to me and asked for any tips. “Oh don’t worry mate, it’s easy – we do this three or four times every Wednesday.” Needless to say, I lost by a sizeable margin.

This, however, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. “You got out before the loss of dignity reached chronic levels,” my most socially-critical friend assured me. He stuck around after my exit at the hands of the Carling-guzzling man machines to see them prance around in bras, and ultimately expose their body parts to the baying humiliation-hungry mob.

This is the final aspect of laddery, and one that I simply cannot comprehend. If sporting prowess is



“The idea of drinking a pint of Carling through a fish head or out of my shoe fills me with an intense feeling of revulsion”

unobtainable, and incalculable alcohol consumption undesired, then nudity in public places defies every shred of my self-respect.

In much the same way that overtly masculine lads who love to extol their manly virtues are unable to suppress an inbuilt craving for nights out in drag, there is something indefinable in a true lad’s mental choice to whip his little man out for maximum audience exposure.

Let’s not beat about the bush –

unless you’re streaking during a pornography championship (if one exists, be sure a true lad is behind it), one’s little man will certainly be living up to that euphemism.

This weekend, at Roses, I witnessed one such act first hand. One true lad, who I’d bet was a medically-classifiable moron, circled the York Rugby Firsts’ team huddle, his barely-visibly dodger swinging in the freezing Lancashire air, quoting the omnipresent and mildly humorous

Gap Yah YouTube video.

Will this tale be posted on TrueLad for fellow lads to pass judgement? Will his act of comic suicide earn him a ‘Good Lad’ or ‘Shit Lad’ review? Instead, I hope that he wakes up tomorrow and, upon viewing his tiny penis in a Facebook picture commented on by hundreds of mocking strangers, realizes his lad-based folly.

There is time to repent. The anti-lads are recruiting.

## Social pariah: Charlotte Hogarth-Jones

\*Sunday night, in the midst of a particularly grim production weekend.\* My two glamorous female housemates arrive at Nouse HQ to escort me away for a cheeky pint (of wine) for my housemate’s birthday.

In a weak attempt to “freshen up”, I liberally douse myself with a can of Costcutters finest Impulse (sexykissrushsomething?) on my way out. I am also sadly reminded that not only has my luxurious and ladylike French duty-free perfume been drained of its last dregs, but also that my bargain spray smells nothing like it. In fact, I now smell very strongly of ‘eau de baby changing rooms’, and not at all like Keira Knightley on a balmy summer’s evening.

As I totter home between Giselle and Eva Longoria, I become even more acutely aware of my pizza-stained school hoodie, and grubby Converse. I feel like the unwitting chubby lady with a moustache who always gets abducted by Trinny and Susannah.

However, following a much needed pep talk from Gok Wan squared, I finally breeze through my front door and stride confidently into a living room of hip’n’happening party people. An emo boy semi gets up off the sofa and leans dangerously close into my personal space aura.

“Do you wanna fuck the dealer?” Eh?! This was not the question I was expecting at all. I am thrown into a tumult of confusion and, as so often occurs, just say the first thing that comes into my head. “No.”

There is a very, very awkward silence. Neither of us says anything. I hold on, won-



dering if he’ll offer something a little more appropriate. I imagine he is thinking the same. I struggle to think of somewhere I could take the conversation from there, but there really isn’t anything to say after that.

I really like gadgets, and computer games, and internet thingys in general. I won the IT prize at school in Year 8, and have no shame in telling you it is my proudest achievement. This week I wholeheartedly embraced the stalker’s birthday present that is Foursquare, an application for smart phones which allows others to track your whereabouts. If, of course, you tell them where you are.

You also win points for going to certain places (remember, points mean prizes!) and become the ‘Mayor’ of places, which I very

much like the idea of, and is really the main reason why I got it.

For six whole days I happily tweeted away, indulging in the bliss that was my new geek toy. @YusuPrez I’m in YUSU! @yorknouse I’m at the Deramore! @HouseOfApcar I’m Mayor Of Costcutter! Etc. etc. In fact, I was getting quite into it, collecting badges left, right and centre, and gaily tweeting that I was at ‘Isotoma Tower’, what I assumed was that mahussive rocket ship thingy near Derwent, which I pass every day and night on the way to and from home. In fact, I was reveling in the glory of being the only person sad enough to be ‘Mayor’ of not one but THREE Heslington establishments, when I noticed the following tweet: mitchellrj\* Just been very confused to see

that @localperson1 is mayor of the company I work for on Foursquare! Oh dear. What a tweeting twit.

“Bah! I bet my little basket comes to nearly the same amount as your massive trolley!” I joke to my two friends in the checkout. I always get a bit overexcited at Asda. Except that it actually did cost the same, and given that my student loan hadn’t yet come through, it wasn’t really that funny at all.

“I just, I just don’t understand!” I bemoaned to my pals, bringing the receipt ridiculously close to my eyes as if that would somehow make everything cheaper.

Practical friend to the rescue. “You spent over £30 on shower gel and toiletries,” she begins. But that’s not all.

“Parma Ham, Turkish Delight, a mixed box of 40 Toy Story icepops,” she begins.

“OK, stop stop, I can see now, enough!” I beg of her, but she continues with the list/death sentence.

“Four packets of Haribo Tangfastics, emmental, an ENORMOUS jar of olives, six bottles of wine of varying quality, avocados, hairgrips, AND WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!”

“It’s an elastic band thingy for toning your arms,” I meekly explain, hanging my head in shame. “I wanted to tone my arms for the summer?”

“What were you planning to EAT?!”

“The ice pops,” I explain. “There are forty of them, after all.” Checkmate. Mwahahahahahaha.

# So-called life: Liam O'Brien

I, like many others, am in the last term of my degree at York, and like many others I have amassed a grotesquely large number of friends. It is an unsustainable and uncomfortable number. As we prepare to depart, it is time to divide them into those we must keep, and those we must discard.

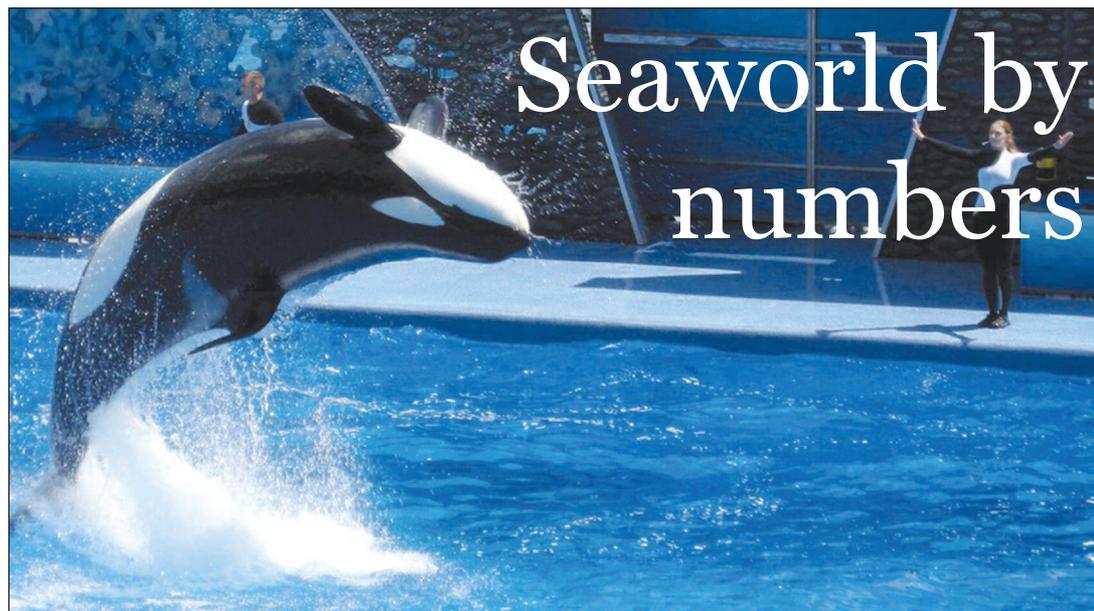
Readers, you may have been seduced into believing that everyone will keep in contact, and that life will continue in its present, happy condition. Yet as you receive pleas to "come and see me in York" from people doing MAs here, or God forbid, "I'd love it if you could make my 22nd at my house in Hull," you will regret not having implemented a careful and deeply discriminatory selection process.

So how does one divide them up? To give an example, I have a friend who will shortly be starting on £27k at Ernst & Young in London. She is a 'keeper'. We must assess them on their practical utility to our glorious future. To begin with, get rid of those basing themselves outside of the capital, where their opportunities will be fewer and their cultural education infinitely worse. We can use their probable degree outcome as another selection criteria. Does their vacant aspect and shuffling gait suggest that a 2:2 is on its way? No one will employ these people, and you should issue them with your own personal P45.

Then consider which subject they are studying. Readers, I put it to you that in the employable world of the 2:1, 69 > 60. However, a 60 in Medicine represents a far greater value than a 69 in Management, despite the end result being the same on the degree transcript. We have all made Management friends at one time or another. We

have all laughed at their inability to render their daily travails in coherent sentences, and we have all cajoled them into revealing their pisspooor knowledge of worldly events in quizzes designed specifically for our own entertainment. The devoted among us may have even dragged ourselves along to a Management social, in which we can see their specimens congeal and fester amidst their own kind. They might have been 'jokes' or good 'craic', but now is the time to detach - and quick.

Management bashing is a less popular sport than it used to be. As we visit retail outlets in York and have the subject's graduates attend to our shopping needs, no longer are we encouraged to sneer at their misfortune. In these times of economic woe, we dare not, in case our scorn is misdirected at a former Sociology major. But on a wider level, we are now told that we must foster a collective spirit with Management students, to bring them into our circle. My Art History housemate explained to me that our Management housemate was doing well in his essays, and that he could get good marks. So I explained that when a dolphin at Seaworld paints a picture with a brush in its jaw, people applaud not because the picture was any good, but because it was drawn by a dolphin.



# Seaworld by numbers

**6** The number of *Nouse* journalists who are unaware that a whale penis is known as a 'dork.' Actually, there are only 5 in the office. I finally got the imaginary friend I always wanted.

**1** the number of elephants that accurately represent the size of the blue whale's tongue. Many jokes about whales and female stimulation ensued. It's not funny (bahahaaaa).

**5** 0%. The amount of fat in whale milk. That's ten times the fat in human milk! Can lead to a weight gain of 200lbs a day! And we thought Britain was fat.

**\$** 24.99. The reduced price of an "I heart whales" apron. Money well spent, I say. I have two.

**1** 50 tons. The maximum size of the blue whale. That's the heaviest animal in the world. Keep that on the DL though, we don't want them developing anorexic tendencies.

**3** %. The proportion of their body weight that whales eat every day - about 130lbs. That's lots of plankton. Was it really a surprise that Ahab in *Moby Dick* got eaten?

**8** 0. The average age a female whale will die. It's 30 for men. Only male whales sing to attract a mate. Maybe they shouldn't have tried so hard.

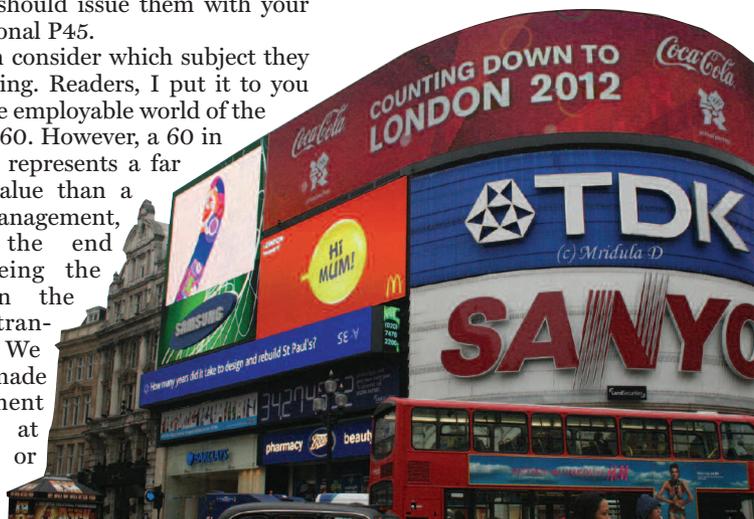
**1** 30 million. The number of visitors to Seaworld since it opened. Deputy Numbers and I are not two of them. This is sad. And partially responsible for my fetish. Freud was right, it's all about the childhood.

**2** times. How much bigger a male whale's dorsal fin is than a female's. Wahey. Wahey. In other news, do you think sperm whales were made fun of in whale school?

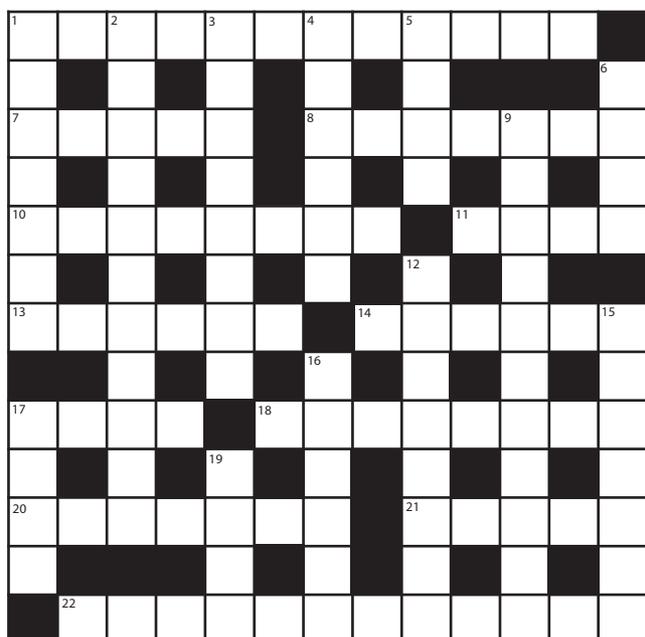
**1** 2 million years. The time whales have been on this planet. They used to have legs and walk, we hear. Following this logic, my dreams of becoming Ariel may finally come true. *Under the sea, da da daaa....*

**8** 5%. The number of *Nouse*-bots who publicly ridiculed this edition of Numbers.

**7** 0%. The amount who admitted to secretly watching Seaworld videos at home. I knew they'd come round eventually.



## The Nouse Crossword



- 11. Tiny green flowerless plant (4)
- 13. Sparkling, twinkling (6)
- 14. Treasure, coconut confectionary (6)
- 17. Effort, slaving work (4)
- 18. Newborn baby care (8)
- 20. Loss of memory (7)
- 21. North Italian mountain range (5)
- 22. Alcoholic's hangover cure (4,2,3,3)

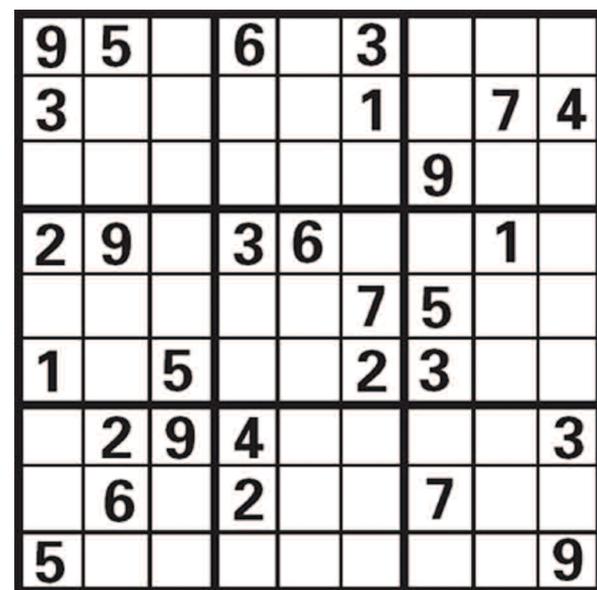
### Down

- 1. Humiliates, demeans (7)
- 2. Air-circulation system (11)
- 3. Rum-based cocktail (8)
- 4. Mass desertion (6)
- 5. Aamir \_\_\_\_\_, Bollywood actor (4)
- 6. Female Egyptian god of fertility (4)
- 9. Well-mannered, kind (11)
- 12. Highest quality (3,5)
- 15. Festive dessert (7)
- 16. As someone's representative (6)
- 17. Small freshwater duck (4)
- 19. Historical Russian leader (4)

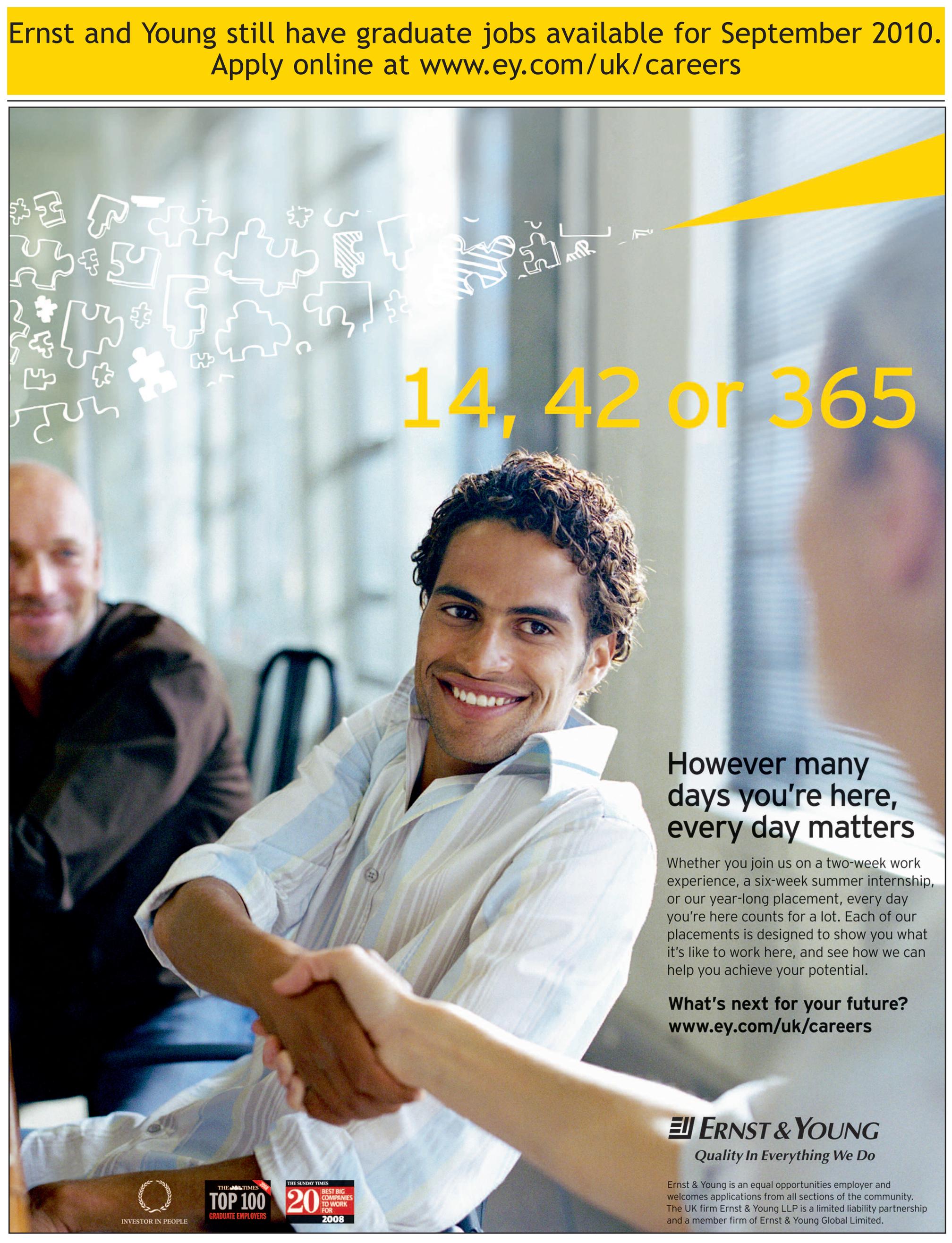
### Across

- 1. Richest England footballer (5,7)
- 7. Famous Australian beach (5)
- 8. Citrus fruit (pl.) (7)
- 10. Incentive, fiscal injection (8)

## The Nouse Sudoku



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# Would you let the world know your secret?

Frank Warren receives hundreds of postcards expressing people's darkest moments. **Camilla Apcar** investigates what led him to found the PostSecret project.

Frank Warren could never have expected that hundreds of thousands of postcards would be sent to his doorstep.

In November 2004, he started the PostSecret project by handing out 3,000 blank postcards with instructions to reveal a secret that the holder had never told anyone before, and post it back to him. But even after he stopped handing out the postcards, anonymous secrets kept arriving in his mailbox in Maryland, USA.

Over a million people visit the PostSecret blog on a weekly basis, making it the largest advertisement-free blog in the world, and in 2005 the postcards were treated as an art form in their own right at the PostSecret exhibition shown at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington.

To date, he has received over half a million postcards.

The popularity of PostSecret has led to a weekly blog, five books and most recently, a global campus university tour. However Warren views PostSecret as a "community art project", which he originally started with no concept that it would be acknowledged world-wide.

"I was struggling with secrets of my own and this was a way for me to find and discover and work with the secrets I was hiding from myself", he soberly reveals.

PostSecret remains deeply personal to its founder, and has taken on as much significance and purpose for Warren as it has to those who write to him.

The postcards reveal extremely private and often dark, tragic secrets. 'He's been in prison for two years because of what I did. Nine more to go.' Contrasted with: 'I can't think of a secret, except - I don't think I'm interesting enough to have a secret.' 'When I listen to my patients, all I can think about is how I drag that razor across my skin too ... and how much I miss it.'

Warren has received confessions of murder plots, sexual abuse, suicide attempts and cases of severe depres-

sion. Many people have described PostSecret as 'wrong' and 'dangerous' because it allows confessions to serious offences without consequential punishment.

Warren prefers to focus on the emotionally confessional aspect of the project and the ways it helps people confront and move on from the problems that they're hiding - from others and from themselves.

"I think all interesting people have secrets and it's probably healthy to reveal some of those."

He continues with a chuckle that some secrets are best kept to oneself: "if you're spending your holidays with your in-laws or your wife there are probably some secrets that could just be hurtful."

Although Warren works closely with the American helpline 1-800 SUICIDE, PostSecret makes no claims to function similarly. In a sense, it is a one-sided form of communication: Warren stores every postcard he receives and only sometimes does he personally reply to a secret which has touched him.

"In most cases, the postcards come anonymously and it's not even with a return address. I think in most cases people just want to let their secrets go. They don't necessarily want me to react or answer their questions, they just want it to be a step in their journey."

Only a fraction are made public by publishing them online or in one of the PostSecret books.



**Above: Frank at home, surrounded by postcards**  
**Right: assorted secrets sent in anonymously**

The PostSecret blog doesn't accept any donations. Warren believes that there's more to it than making a financial turnover.

"For me, the project isn't a tool for making money or generating revenue, it's really something which has more meaning than that. I believe that's one of the reasons I've been able to earn the trust of so many strangers, by treating what they tell me with dignity. I've never taken one dollar for a paid advertisement on the website."

It can be difficult not to get carried away with imagining who may have written a secret and what sort of life they lead, but Warren's six years of experience have led him to a solution to day-dreaming. "I think when you have a strong imagination like I do, you can combine it with PostSecret and understand that all these mysterious, extraordinary stories are happening in people's lives all the time, just beneath the surface. It makes riding the subway or seeing somebody sitting by themselves at the coffee shop just a little more interesting."

Still, PostSecret isn't wholly serious. There are plenty of secrets such as: 'I converted because I think I look sexy in a headscarf.' 'I don't eat dinner at your parents because their house is filthy.' 'When I'm mad at my husband ... I put boogers in his soup.' 'I ate all the blueberries. (And they were delicious.)' 'I don't care about recycling. (But I pretend I do.)'

Warren has put one of his own

secrets into each of his five books. "People don't really guess mine. I think that's the beauty too; it reminds us of how we're so connected to each other. You think you can have only all these unique secrets, but really they're the parts of us that connect us at the deepest level."

"I think it's the postcards which really keep people grounded," Warren explains.

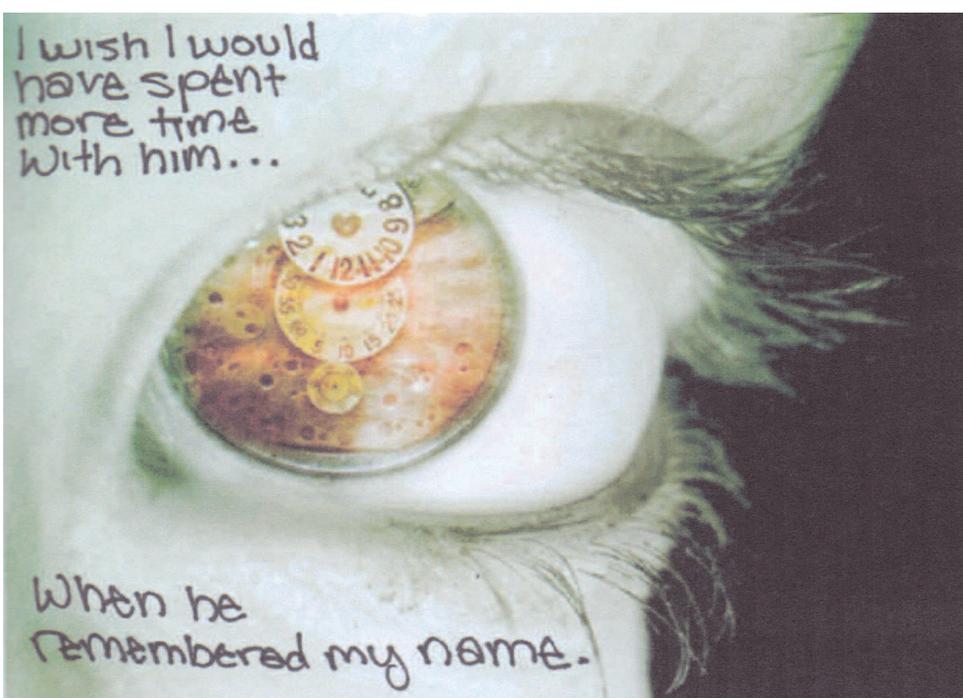
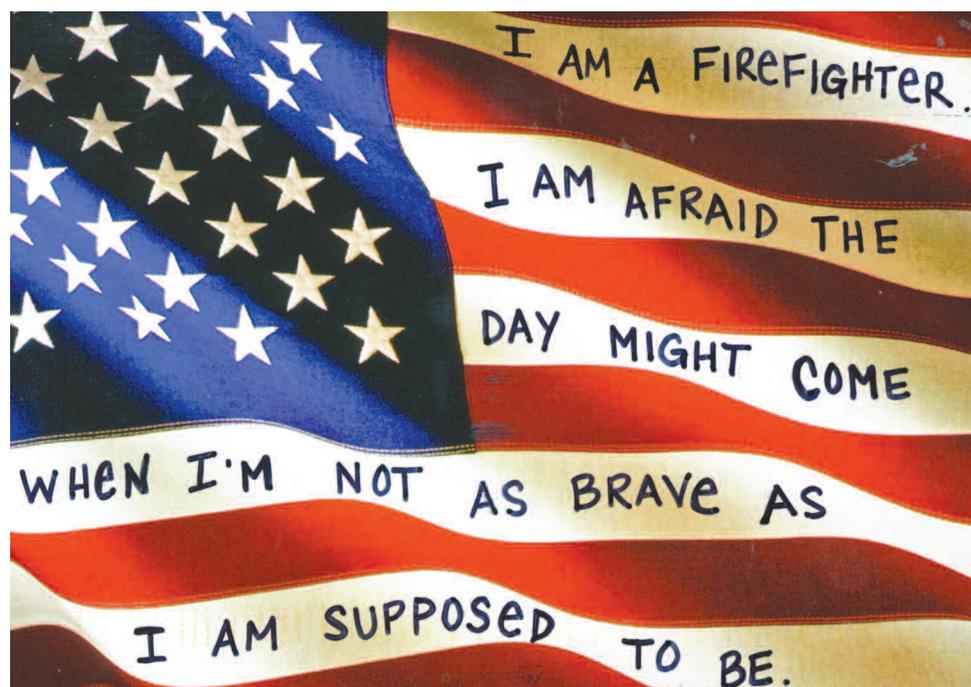
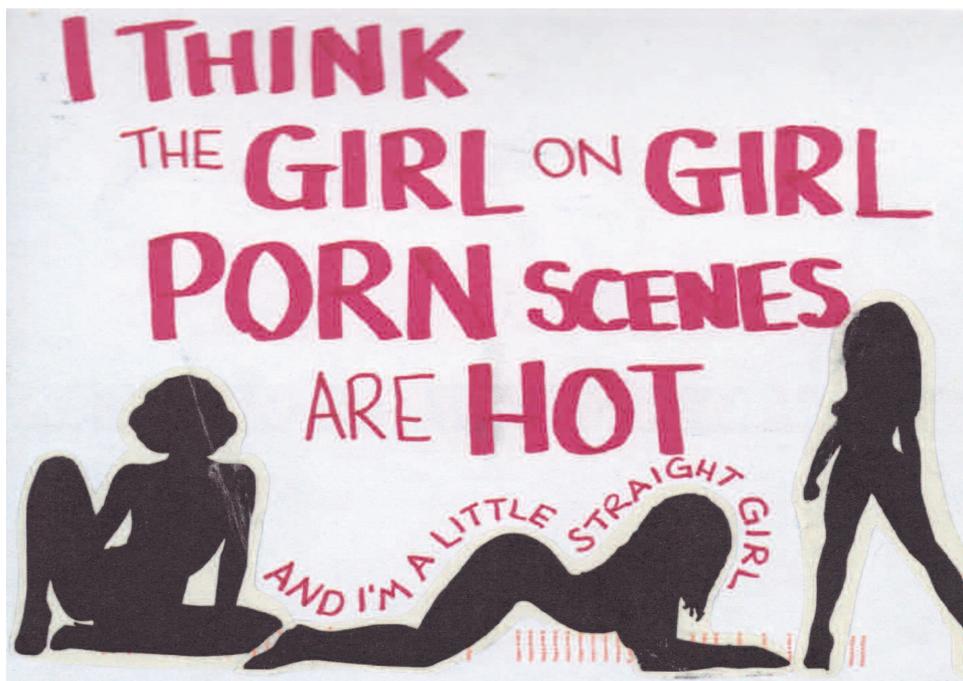
"There is a real sense of authenticity and earnestness in the postcards that you might not find in just an email, and I think it's that the element of the art that really allows the voices on the cards to speak and resonate to people."

"I think of the postcards as art and so I think there's a level of truth, especially where you're talking about personal self-revelation."

"Sometimes I think a secret can be true and false, or it's false until you share it and you can make it true in the choice. It's a complicated question, so I think maybe the most interesting and meaningful secrets are the ones written by people that are true but they think they're making it up, by a way of pulling it out of themselves."

Warren receives thousands of postcards every week. In seven days he is delivered the same amount of post that you would get if you received one item everyday for two years and nine months.

He puts its popularity down to being able to relate to other people's secrets, besides writing your own:



“People come to the website at PostSecret for different reasons, but eventually you come across a secret that is strange or has articulated something, and it applies to you, or maybe your spouse or your parents, and I think that when that happens it can create a real difference.”

PostSecret is accessible because it transforms what may generally be considered ‘unacceptable’ into the ‘acceptable’.

It fuses old and new modes of communication together: the postcards are sent in via ‘snail-mail’, but then are viewed and contemplated on the internet.

The postcards are sent in from a wide demographic, but Warren seems certain that the project resonates most with younger generations.

“I think young people are at a point in their life where things are more intense and more alive. They especially are searching for what’s real and what’s bullshit, and PostSecret fits into that.”

Nowadays public disclosure of one’s thoughts and feelings via social networking sites is commonplace. Warren remains adamant that this online culture does not detract from the resonance of the postcards he receives. “I always select the secrets every week that most speak to me and ring with authenticity.” He pauses in reflection.

“It really hasn’t affected me in terms of what I select and what’s shown

on the website, I think. I get about a thousand postcards every week and post about 20.”

Warren’s role is integral to the workings of PostSecret. He’s not only its founder, but a communicator, friend and confidante of over half a million people.

He’s neither a psychologist, nor a psycho-therapist. He’s a homeowner

“Sometimes I think a secret can be true and false, or it’s false until you share it and you can make it true in the choice.”

with a wife and child, he has a Twitter account, and he likes Harry Potter. But what makes Frank Warren stand out is his consistent interest in reading secrets, shown through the undoubtedly exhausting weekly selection process for the website.

Warren describes his role as comparable to a diary holding thousands of secrets.

“I think what I try and do is facilitate a conversation, so my voice is very rare on the PostSecret blog. I try and stay in the background and let the power and the poignancy which is on the postcards speak for themselves.”

Despite being the singular figure that the entire project relies on, he never once expresses anything other

than an extremely humble sort of pride.

When I ask if he ever gets tempted to flippantly disregard a secret, he gives an instantaneous reply.

“I always look forward to the postcards every day.” He simply seems to be taking it all in his stride, even though he’s under no obligation to keep reading each and every postcard.

PostSecret has taken over Warren’s life in ways he could never have imagined, and the project is now his full time job. “I spend 50 to 60 hours a week on secrets. I think I’ve become pretty efficient at going through the postcards, and my wife helps me sometimes, but I’ve got through over half a million. I still look forward to the mail every day, so I think I’m the right person for the job.”

As if that wasn’t dedication enough, every single postcard is sent directly to his home, making PostSecret even more personal for Warren.

“When I started the project I had no expectation that it would grow to reach really tens of millions of people around the world but I knew it would always be special for me. Knowing that it resonates with other people and that others appreciate it is very gratifying. I think it’s a responsibility and a great privilege, but it doesn’t feel like a burden.”

He must have a great relationship with his postman.

“Yeah, my mail carrier, we do. She asked me to supersize my mailbox so

we had to get a bigger one.” PostSecret has invaded even the smallest details of his personal life, never mind his jet-setting across the globe on a tour to share the stories behind the PostSecrets, which also allows audiences to share their secrets ‘live’.

Is there a future for PostSecret? Although it appears to be nearly independent, Warren disagrees. He won’t be giving up on the project he has nurtured to fruition any day soon.

“The PostSecret events are pretty exciting, so I just look forward to travelling and sharing the stories behind the secrets: the ones that are inspiring or funny or sexual or shocking.”

So long as people have secrets to reveal and let go of, it seems that the social and emotional functions of PostSecret cannot, and will not, expire.

Gaining an insight into the life of a man whose work has built a rapport with thousands of people also led to the discovery of an eloquent truth.

“I do think of PostSecret as a community art project,” Warren declares, “but I think the postcards can do the work of art in a different way. Someone who writes a secret might not realise the effect they’re having on other people who they’ll never meet. By being courageous enough and yet vulnerable, you can inspire people.”

Reading a PostSecret is like reading an emotionally loaded account of a lifetime; the accessibility of which lies in its unreserved honesty.

www.postsecret.blogspot.com M

# Dirty \$exy Money

At the end of this term, a new bunch of York graduates will depart to take on the world. **Liv Evans** discovers how to get exactly what you want from life.



Having grown up as part of the 'me' generation, we have been told that we can have it all. The world is our oyster and, if we work hard and pass exams, it is ours for the taking. However, there comes a point when even the most buoyant confidence can become dented and, as the broadsheets seem intent on telling us, our generation faces increasingly arduous prospects of securing post-graduate employment.

"I definitely worry a lot about if I'll be able to get a job," said one History student. "I know what I want to do, but I'm always being told that getting the job I want will be nearly impossible and I'll have to work for a pittance for ages before getting anywhere. To be quite honest, I barely know anyone who got a good job immediately after graduation. It just doesn't seem likely anymore – I don't think anyone really expects it."

However, this should not be entirely unexpected. As the children of an era of exams, tests and multiple hoops to jump through, the employment hurdle seems just another challenge to overcome. Potentially problematic, but by no means impossible.

Indeed, Muzaffar Khan, the co-author of *Racing Towards Excellence*, a book which aims to help students achieve their ambitions. He thinks that as long as students have the right mind-

retired to become Vice Chairman of ACOPS, an international development charity. He is currently the director of Space Energy AG, a company that seeks to develop space-based solar energy. At its last sold price, the company was valued at half a million dollars. He holds degrees from the London School of Economics and Kings College London.

Clearly, by any benchmark, Khan's advice would be pertinent for any student wishing to take tips on how to be successful. But throughout his career, he has also become a mentor for many individual students, providing them with advice, help and the benefit of years of experience in the student's chosen field. And this knowledge, he emphasises, can be key to achieving one's aims. "I have mentored individuals, ranging from 14 year olds to university students and even people in their 50s, and in every case, input from a good mentor increases the trajectory of one's performance, whether it's an academic career or a financial sense. It's really about not having to repeat the mistakes of others and being able to learn from their experiences. A good mentor in this sense is exactly the same as a sports coach; they refine the way you do things so that you end up being more efficient, productive and successful in gaining your objectives, or working towards them." Having been a per-

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"If people are determined and are willing to make the necessary changes in work practices, then pretty much anything within most jobs is possible"

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set and the determination, anything is possible.

"Once you find the right way of going about things, it's easy. So many people do the wrong things. For example, prospective employees often expect the employer to like them for who they are rather than having the skill sets or the personality traits that the employer would find attractive. But once you find the right way of going about things, you are much more likely to be successful."

Khan has an impressive CV, with an extensive background working in hedge funds and investment banks. He started his career in private banking at Citibank, before becoming a mergers and acquisition specialist. He then worked as a foreign exchange trader at Barclays Capital, before becoming a strategist for Moore Capital, one of the largest and most successful hedge funds in the world. After five years, he

sonal mentor to hundreds of students over a period of about 17 years, he states that none of them have ever had difficulty finding a job.

It seems that advice given by a professional in your chosen field can be of great benefit. But is it realistic for the average student to expect that a high flying expert will take a great interest in their progress and subsequent career? It could be pretty intimidating to ask for help from someone at the peak of their career. But Khan thinks that students should seek out help more often than is currently the case, and that students shouldn't necessarily assume they will be refused. "The mentoring process is very well established in business, education and the Army, for example. When you start at many firms, you're given some kind of mentor – there's always another professional who you can ask for advice. This is the case at



Goldman Sachs, for example.”

So should more students take advantage of this? If the process is already the norm, it mightn't be a stretch to extend the advice network to those who aim to enter the field. “Students need to inspire the individual to want to help them. The key to having a good mentor is finding an individual who you feel positive around. You get a sense that they really understand, and they have a specific skill set that will help you to gain your objectives. They should support and nurture you in a positive fashion.”

However, even if you follow the advice of others, it is not enough to assume that you will simply be able to amble into a career path post-graduation. Khan emphasises that students should decide what they wish to do early, as subsequent action will be made much easier and much more productive. “It certainly is more difficult the later you leave the journey,” he states.

“The interesting thing is that life is easier the earlier you get your act together. There's something amazing about starting early, as it creates a cumulative impact which is very positive. If you leave it later – and by later I mean two or three years after university, let's say – things become harder.” This is worrying for the quarter of recent graduates who have decided to postpone the start of their careers altogether, according to a YouGov survey in March for the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

But perhaps the most surprising aspect of my conversation with Khan was his condemnation of university careers services. I was expecting a criticism of students for being lazy: far more likely to procrastinate over an assessed essay until the night before

than to harass the careers service for information. However, Khan absolved students of blame and instead focused on the services provided by universities themselves. “Universities sell themselves as passports to good jobs – you go to a good university and an employer is meant to find you attractive as an employee. And yet most universities seem to be really laid back about helping students with career advice.

“I don't think it's about student laziness. It's much more that nobody helps them become aware of how important it is to start working hard first. After all, by getting into university shows that you are relatively hard working – you've had to do GCSEs and A Levels and shown some level of discipline throughout your life to get to this point. The apathy towards career planning arises, for most people, not from laziness, but because nobody tells them it's important to start planning early.”

He asks me if I know my careers advisor. I admit that, although having been to a few scheduled talks, I wouldn't know who he or she was were they to walk past.

“That's a remarkable shortfall, as universities really should be the facilitators of careers for their students. The key for students is to collectively use the union and other avenues to force the career departments to upgrade the services that they provide to students. I think that what's more important than worrying about what decision you've made as to which university you've gone to is the advice you're given when you get there.” Perhaps all is not lost for the numerous Oxbridge rejects at York after all.

When asked if he always wanted to go into banking, Khan admits, “No, in my case it happened because all my friends were going into it. I thought,

**Left: What our generation hopes to achieve? Above: the City of London reflected in the Gherkin**

‘that sounds great, I'll do that.’ My real passion in life has been helping others to succeed. I think that we live in a world where there is too much of a disconnect between the rich and the poor, and that increasing social mobility should be the primary objective of society – only then can we have a cohesive, mutually respectful society. I want to help the next generation of successful bankers realise that they are part of a symbiotic world where they need to look after others as well.”

With the perception of bankers as people who earn masses amounts of money (despite the public vitriol this has attracted in recent months) and the financial sector as a glamorous and attractive world, I ask if he thinks students can often be unrealistic in having ambitions of such a demanding and competitive career.

“No, I think it can be a realistic ambition for anyone. The issue is never that your ambitions are unrealistic – the issue is the gap between your ambitions and your determination to do what it takes to achieve those ambitions.” He cites examples of a recent mentee who failed one of her years at university, but who now works for Morgan Stanley, and an acquaintance who attended Anglia Ruskin University, but who defied the odds and got a job at Amira.

However, it is important to be aware of what you may have to sacrifice if you are determined to have a successful career in this kind of field. Working for 14 hours a day for five days a week, and then sometimes on Sundays too, is the norm for bankers, according to Khan. This is another benefit of the mentoring process: discovering how hard your desired career path may turn out to be, and deciding if it is the right step for you to take – a decision much

better to take whilst still at university than after graduation. “I encourage people to find mentors so that they get a realistic picture of what life is like in these places and the sacrifices that will be required in their personal lives in order to succeed.”

But only two things are required to be successful in your chosen path: determination and an ability to change. “Talent is something that can be created – and I have done so. What is remarkable about most people is how rigid they tend to be. They create a world view and will not deviate from it, but if people are determined and are willing to make the necessary changes in their personality and in their work practices, then pretty much anything within most jobs is possible.”

The overwhelming impression and advice that Khan gives is that students must be determined in order to be successful. His book makes the distinction between being happy and being successful, and how these two concepts can sometimes be mutually exclusive, particularly for new graduates. The aim is to balance the two, and although tricky, this is not impossible.

It may not be the best time to be a graduate seeking employment, but if certain guidelines and advice are followed, perhaps the situation is not as terrible as is often made out. It would be a mistake to assume that jobs are plentiful and easy to get, but with the right mentality and armed with the right tools, perhaps a degree of optimism would not be misplaced.

*Racing Towards Excellence is available from booksellers at a price of £9.99. Muzaffar Khan will be giving a lecture for the Club of PEP, entitled “How to Get a Top Job in the City”, on May 12 in ATB 056/057. M*

# Street Angels



Who's there when a good night goes wrong? **Sian Turner** investigates an organisation which helps those in difficulty in York's city centre every weekend.

If you go out in York on a Friday or Saturday night, amongst the many feather-boa clad hen parties and 'lads on tour' stags, you might see some Street Angels.

Clad in fluorescent jackets that bear a striking similarity to those worn by Royal Mail employees, these figures disperse water, flip flops and practical help to the city's needy, and are rarely remembered the next day by those they help.

I first discovered Street Angels through a friend, who, twice a month, dons her oversized reflective jacket and heads out to spend four hours from 10pm to 2am caring for the somewhat worse for wear in York's city centre. Unfortunately for her, it's usually raining too.

Launched in York in October last year, the Street Angels organisation is a

faith-based one that brings together volunteers from churches across the city to provide practical help in the small hours to some of the most vulnerable people.

York is now one of many towns and cities throughout the UK that boasts a Street Angels group.

What do they actually do? Well, for those four hours (often longer, depending on how busy the night is), the Street Angels divide the city in half and two teams of three to five volunteers walk the streets, looking out for those in need. Their official mission statement is "to help make York city centre a safer and better place, practically helping, caring and listening to people, especially those in vulnerable or difficult situations." This can take many forms, from giving flip flops to a girl whose heels have broken, finding

Above: a Street Angel in action

overnight accommodation for a person sleeping on the street, or staying with someone until they're sober enough to safely get a taxi home.

Although not trained in First Aid, all Street Angels volunteers undergo a rigorous three day training programme that includes courses on drug awareness, licensing regulations and conflict management. North Yorkshire Police and SIA (the governing body that regulates the training of bouncers) are both involved in the training process.

It was Jennifer Locke, a York resident working for the Christian mission organisation Youth With A Mission (YWAM) who first conceived of the idea of Street Angels for the city. Inspired by the work done in Halifax, where the project first sprung up, she saw Street Angels as a way to expand the work already being done by volun-

teers in York: "Previously some church and YWAM volunteers had been regularly serving hot drinks on Friday nights on Parliament street," she said, "and I could see that there were a lot of vulnerable people who would benefit from an initiative like Street Angels."

So far, a Christian group wanting to do some good. But who are the people who go out and give up their time for the drunk and the homeless?

Well, anybody. Street Angels York currently has 55 volunteers and is still recruiting. It counts amongst its numbers the retired, those with families, and even some students.

I spoke to Kirsty, a third year English student who has been involved with Street Angels since December 2009.

"A friend of mine helped to get the project up and running," she explains,

“and originally I sent off my application form because it sounded like a good project, but mainly because I wanted to support her. The more I’ve been involved, doing the training weekends and going on nights out, the more I’ve realised what a great project it is, and how it has a positive impact in York on a night time,” she added.

“I’m no perfect angel; I go out on socials, I drink, I love going out,” Kirsty explains.

“I have done for the last two and a half years, and I’m very much looking forward to going out more once all my final essays are handed in.”

I also spoke to Nick, another third year involved with Street Angels. Both students found it difficult to know how to explain their participation in a project that seems at odds with the stereotypical student lifestyle. They also struggled to explain their actions in relation to their Christian faith, a motivating factor in their lives but one that often carries its own stereotypes.

“People do think it’s an unusual thing to chose to do whilst you’re at university; surely you’d rather be out drinking than picking up drunk people,” comments Kirsty.

“Often you’re met with a sort of bemused silence when you tell people about the project, they go ‘oh, that’s nice,’ and then they look away, not really knowing what to say.”

The difficulty seems to come with how they are perceived by both the general public, and by their student peers, for whom the Christian stereotype is still strong: “I think the issue is that if you’re doing something like Street Angels, people often get a little defensive towards you because it can look a bit like you’re positing yourself as morally superior to those who have gone on a night out; that you’re better than them and do a civic duty or something,” comments Kirsty.

“I think especially because Street Angels is a church-based organisation, people think ‘oh, Christians, they’re judging us for our sins,’ or something like that, which couldn’t be further from the truth.”

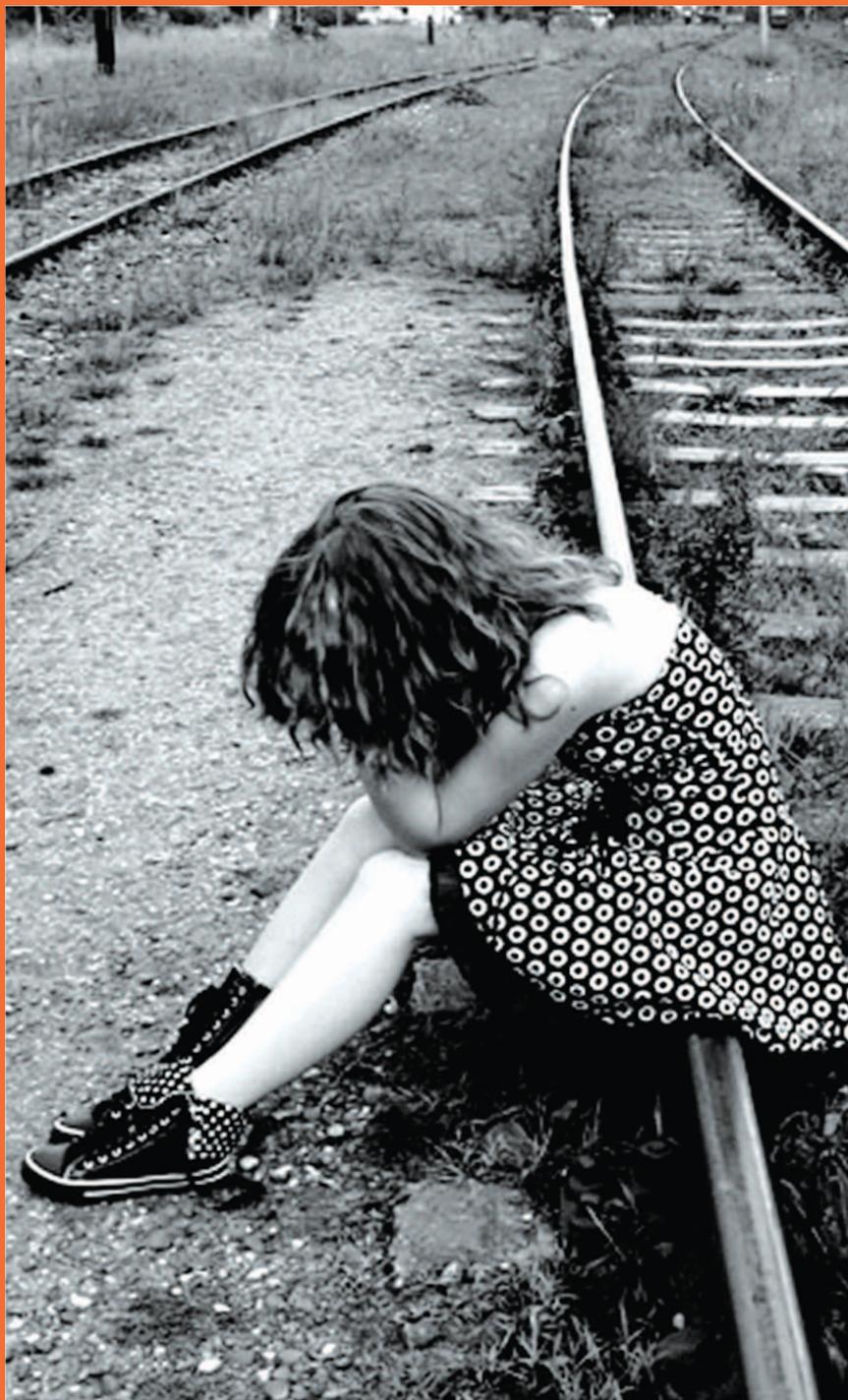
Nick explained that most of his friends “tend to be quite positive towards Street Angels and think it’s cool,” but lose interest when they find out that it’s a Christian project: “They often want to get involved, and I’ll show them the website and how they can, but as soon as they see that it’s a church organisation, they say no.” Like Kirsty, he admitted that “the main issue is that people think you’re better than everyone else in doing this; that it’s a kind of display of moral superiority.”

Although both students are Christian, both try to explain their involvement as not wholly a faith-based decision, but more one brought out of their experiences of being a student in the night time economy.

“Even though it’s a Christian project, I wouldn’t say that’s my primary reason for doing it,” explains Nick.

“It depends how spiritually you want to look at things – maybe you could say God guided me to it – but to a non-Christian that means nothing. There are many reasons why Street Angels is a great organisation, and it’s not wholly based on faith.”

Although he does not drink himself, Nick has been out on many a night out, and knows the need for practical and emotional support when difficult situations arise. “If I’m just on a night out and I saw a girl crying, I’d go up to her to see if she’s alright,” he says, “but as just a guy on the street there’s limited help I can give. As a Street Angel



though, you’re fully equipped to help people and you have an official position – you’re in a uniform – and I think that helps people trust you and they’re more willing for you to help them.”

For Kirsty, her decision to become a Street Angel was very much routed in her own experiences: “I do Street Angels not because I want to judge other people, but because I’ve been the girl walking home on her own with no shoes, and I know that the night can be a scary and lonely place,” she explains.

“Street Angels are great because they’re accessible; they’re not the police, they’re not bouncers, they’re people who are just there to care for you when you need a more personal degree of help and assistance. They do it because they want to help, not because it’s their job, and that I think is a key difference. There’s true heart in what they’re doing; it’s not just them trying to feel superior to others.”

The experience of being vulnerable at night seems to strike a chord with other students. I spoke to Annabelle, Kirsty’s housemate, who knew of her involvement in the project, but was unaware that it was a Christian initiative until our conversation. “Whether you’re religious or not is irrelevant,” she commented. “I’ve been in some very precarious situations before, and I think it’s a great idea to have people there who will help you. I can’t necessarily understand why people do it – I never would – but it’s definitely amazing, not weird.”

The work the Street Angels have been doing over the last five months is beginning to be acknowledged and appreciated by the people of York.

The patrols are often recognised by weekend revellers with greeting of hugs, high fives and the occasional “these guys are legends”. All Street Angels patrols carry a walkie talkie, tuned to the frequency used by the police, York CCTV and many of the bouncers across town.

More and more, bouncers and police are choosing to contact the patrols directly when they find a situation suited to the kind of care Street Angels provide. Jennifer remembers one night when, contacted by the bouncers at one of the riverside bars, they were called to help a woman who had become separated from her husband: “When we arrived we found she had no money, no phone, couldn’t remember her husband’s number, and that he and their friends had somehow managed to leave without her. We spent over an hour with her visiting the area where she thought they had headed to, and eventually we reconnected her with her husband. She was really thankful that we had been there to help, and that she hadn’t had to walk the city alone,” she added.

Dealing with situations such as Jennifer’s is a regular occurrence on a night out with Street Angels. Much of the patrols’ time is given over to relatively minor incidents that, importantly, free up the time of Police and door

staff to deal with more serious threats to public safety. The attitude of the Police and bouncers towards the Street Angels – one of friendly co-operation – shows the value they put on the work done by the volunteers.

“One night, at the Punch Bowl just outside of Micklegate, one of the bouncers called us over to deal with a situation of a young girl, only about 15, who had had her wallet stolen but didn’t want to report it to the police because her fears of being underage,” says Kirsty.

“We were able to take care of the girl and allow the bouncers to get on with their job. They were really grateful, and invited us over to share their supply of sweets when we’d sorted everything out!”

From its conception, Street Angels has always had close links to the North Yorkshire Police force. Mick Henderson, Licensing Officer for the City of York, has been involved from the start, helping to secure funding for the project and providing vital training for volunteers.

He is very positive about the work done by Street Angels in working alongside the Police: “We feel that the Street Angels do a great job and actually help free up Police time that would otherwise be spent dealing with the more vulnerable members of society that the Angels have the time and commitment to assist,” he commented.

Having worked within the Police and the night time economy for many years, Mick knows all too well the perils of Friday and Saturday nights, and saw the need for Street Angels long before it was actually conceived: “I have always felt that there was a need for such work in the city,” he said. “I had seen the scheme being rolled out elsewhere in the country, but didn’t know who to approach in York.”

“York is a well visited city and the need for Street Angels on the streets when these visitors (and locals) are at their most vulnerable, and in drink, sends out an important message as to how we all work together to make York a safer place to live and visit.”

Speaking to Kirsty and Nick, they have endless stories of incidents that they’ve come across whilst out with Street Angels, some hilarious, some heartbreakingly sad.

What is obvious, however, is the true concern – often brought about by their own experiences – that they have about the night time economy and how very vulnerable and exposed it can leave its revellers.

Kirsty tells one story of girl she found barefoot and distressed early one morning. “I went up and offered her flip flops,” she said. “At first she was quite defensive and said she didn’t need any help, but as I was about to leave she suddenly called me back and admitted that yes, she did need help. It turned out she was pregnant, on the verge of having an abortion, and she’d come out to try and find the father of her baby.”

“Obviously, it’s not my job to judge her or give her advice, but I was able to calm her down, reassure her she was safe, and get her a taxi to her mum’s house.”

Without the practical care given by the Street Angels, one has to wonder how this night, like many others, could have ended up.

*Anyone interested in getting involved with the project, or finding out more information about it, should visit [www.ywamyork.com](http://www.ywamyork.com) or [www.streetangelsyork.com](http://www.streetangelsyork.com)*

# What does your future hold?

Despite scepticism surrounding the psychic industry, it continues to grow.

**Charlotte Hogarth-Jones and Hannah Ellis-Petersen** investigate whether it all really is smoke and mirrors.



**I** had a dream two days before 9/11. I dreamt I was on a plane and I saw stuff. I was supposed to be getting a flight on the twelfth, but it freaked me out so much I couldn't even function the next day, and I wouldn't pack or go to the airport. Then 9/11 happened and it all made sense.

Rose\* is one of many people in the UK working as a Psychic Medium, giving "ribbon readings" from her home in York.

Even if their talents often appear more than a little dubious, people have not ceased to be fascinated by the phenomenon of clairvoyance, and psychics have been popular throughout history.

The earliest human tribes started with mystical medicine men and shamens. While it seems more than likely that such incidents were wild drug trips, many psychics still place great emphasis upon what they view as the spiritual foundations of their trade.

The modern psychic industry is in fact booming across both Europe and America. A recent poll revealed that an alarming 41% of Americans believe in extrasensory perception and 31% believe in psychic communication. The second and third largest psychic networks in the US, Psychic Readers Network and Your Psychic Experience, annually take in about \$50 million and \$35-\$40 million respectively and psychic hotlines are one of the largest growing industries today.

The current popularity of paranormal television and celebrity psychics such as John Edward and Sylvia Browne suggests that times have barely changed since the courts of Ancient Egypt, where psychics held such a high

place in the royal court that entire battles, decisions about crops and even choices in government officials were often based entirely on their 'visions'.

Rose claims that "you can train anyone to be psychic; everyone has an energy around them", but that only certain people are born as mediums: "people who can transfer messages."

She believes that to be a medium "you either have it or you don't". Her website claims that she is "able to connect directly with the spirits of those who have passed over and communicate with them".

However, Rose believes that this isn't always a good thing. "You see loads of stuff, like floods and things, but thankfully I've learnt how to turn it on and off. You have to live your own life. You've got to be in control of the spirits or they just keep coming to you all the time. At the moment I'm totally in control of them. I let spirits give me messages when I do readings, but the rest of the time I can turn them away."

Rose believes that the biggest challenge she faces as a medium though, is not controlling her "gift", but is dealing with society's reaction to self-professed psychics. "Spirits used to say things to me in my dreams, and I wanted to talk about it, but my mum told me never to tell people in case I got put in some asylum or something. I've only just started telling people about it. I've been living in Australia and when I came back to the UK, psychic stuff seemed to be all over the TV and everywhere else. I guess that's when I started being more open about everything."

The first acclaimed psychic of modern times was Dr Franz Antoine

Mesmer who was one of the initiators of the spiritualist movements in the 1900s. Among his many supposed abilities, he claimed to have been gifted with "thought transference, of clairvoyance, and 'eyeless vision'" as well as other psychic phenomena in subjects, which he "mesmerized". However, when called upon for his healing powers, he proved remarkably useless, and was subsequently discredited.

The next notable figures of psychic history have to be the Fox sisters who, in 1948, held mass séances, claiming they could speak to the dead. Their show also included strange tapping noises and mysterious moving objects. However, they were revealed as frauds when one of the sisters betrayed the clan, and revealed the tapping noises were merely the popping of their ankles and toes.

Spiritualism and the psychic phenomena were also brought to prominence by the Society for Psychical Research. However, the detailed research of the society - on everything from telepathy and hypnotism to mesmeric trances and haunted houses - did nothing but expose the flaws of most claims of clairvoyance.

Rose openly admits that not all of her friends are convinced of her ability to contact spirits and convey messages from them. "Some of them just take the piss, calling me a 'hippie chick' but I say 'no, it's real!' My partner didn't believe it for ages; he just kept saying 'show me some proof' for years. Finally, I told him something so specific that he really was shocked, and now he believes. Now I get messages from his dad all the time."

"Spirits used to say things to me in my dreams, and I wanted to talk about it, but my mum told me never to tell people in case I got put in some asylum or something. I've only just started telling people about it"



Such gifts were brought into question publicly in the 1920s as Joseph Rhine Banks, not put off by previous discrediting of the 'gifts of the seer', set up parapsychology in his determination to use a scientific method to investigate the existence and causes of psychic abilities and life after death. However, this did not bring as conclusive a result as he had expected: he made himself massively unpopular by 'exposing' as fakes well known and well respected psychics of the time. In fact, his actions so outraged people that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle took out an in a Boston newspaper, stating "B. J. Rhine is a monumental ass". He had the ad edged in black borders.

The investigation did, however, bring to light the lack of scientific evidence. So how does Rose know that her belief in her psychic powers is not purely delusional, as the critics suggest? "I know it's not," she states abruptly, "otherwise I'd be in a mental asylum."

"I've been to spiritualist church for years and my mum is a spiritualist healer. She used to work at the cancer hospital in Scarborough where they have a room for spiritualist healers. It's not proven to cure people, but it's proven to help them, and to make them feel better."

I ask her if the readings could be delusional on the part of the client then, given that a large proportion of those who come to see her seem desperate to receive messages from deceased friends or relatives. She doesn't think so, but reveals that "normally when you give messages you do get a lot of people crying". She also believes that "when people have lost someone they

love and they say that they feel like the person's still around, they probably are. Spirits surround you all the time, and they are watching you."

Indeed, Rose's particular views in regard to spirits and the afterlife are representative of the spiritualist church which herself, and all of her psychic friends, attend. "The soul leaves the human state of the body when you die, and you go back up into a sort of universe of energy," she explains. "Later the soul can come back to Earth and give messages, but it has to learn how to communicate again first."

If she genuinely has a gift of psychic communication that she was born with, does she think it is right for her to charge people for sharing it with them? Rose states that she herself was "really umming and aching" about going into business, but that she has "basically been forced into this by [my] friends", despite their differing belief in her talent. "I guess it's big business," she adds.

In fact, she readily admits that a high proportion of 'fake' mediums exist in the industry. "Yeah, there are loads!" she exclaims. "I went to an event called 'Mind, Body and Soul', and decided I wanted to get a reading for myself for a change. I paid £30 to see this complete charlatan. She talked about herself for well over 15 minutes and asked millions of questions."

So, how can you tell a fake medium from the real thing? "It's hard," says Rose, "but they shouldn't be asking you very much at all, they should just be giving you messages instead. That's what you're paying them for."

\*Names have been changed. M

# ROSES 2010

York 105.5 Lancaster 157.5





**Leigh Clarke**

SPORTS EDITOR



Roses, the Holy Grail for sports clubs and the event that they prepare rigorously for all year, is over and this time I'm afraid we lost. Heading into the tournament on the back of three straight competition wins, expectations were high but Lancaster approached the competition with a passionate thirst for retribution and emerged deserved winners overall.

In a tough first day York were reminded how difficult it is to go and win this competition in another university's backyard. In 46 Roses competitions there have only been eight away wins, making the nailbitingly close York victory of 2008 appear even more impressive. Yet York managed to keep the score respectable, holding on, at least mathematically, until Sunday afternoon.

York Sport President-elect Sam Asfahani has said that next year Roses should be in a "neutral week with no exams" so that petty politics can be taken out of what should really just be a sports competition. Tactical scheduling has been a big part of Roses in recent years but it is a shame that clubs are often not able to field their strongest teams in the most important fixture of the year.

That's not to take anything away from Lancaster though, who recovered well from last year's humiliation to prevent York from winning their fourth tournament in a row – something that no university has ever managed before. The weekend was also organised excellently, Michael Payne, LUSU (University of Lancaster Student Union) President, telling me that, after seeing the success of last year's tournament, they

realised that they had to raise the bar.

Yet York can leave Lancaster with their heads held high. By Saturday afternoon overall victory was virtually impossible, but they continued to compete ferociously for every remaining point. This spirit was epitomised by the rugby and lacrosse teams, ending their seasons on a high with fantastic displays. The rugby firsts maybe even went some way to make up for the disappointment of missing out on promotion earlier this year. Or perhaps the spirit was epitomised best by Kathryn Arrowsmith, stepping up when the table tennis B team were 15-0 down and playing out of her skin just to save the whitewash.

It is a shame that Emily Scott, an individual who has contributed so much for York over the past few tournaments, was to be the first York Sport President in four years not to win the Carter James trophy. Yet she will still be remembered as one of the great York Roses competitors – turning out in five events for the White Rose this year.

For York, there is always next year. Sam Asfahani talks of increasing coverage and the number of spectators; Michael Payne wants the tournament to be recognised nationally like the Oxbridge boat race. There are ambitious minds involved in this tournament and they know that it should expand rapidly with every year. This is an event that brings everyone in the university together, whether they are playing or not.

So here's our attempt to condense a packed few days into one supplement. Whether you could not attend or you just want to relive the fun, the following pages are filled with match reports, round-ups, results and a selection of our best photographs. There's even The Mixer's take on the weekend for those who want to enjoy the funnier side of the competition. We hope you enjoy reading our take on the weekend as much as we enjoyed putting it together. And



Emily Scott could only grin and bare it as her opposite number Sue Wynes lifted

# Lancaster gain

**Adam Shergold**

SPORTS EDITOR

<b>Lancaster University</b>	<b>157.5</b>
<b>University of York</b>	<b>105.5</b>

IT TRANSPIRES last year's 115-point humiliation smarted much more than we ever imagined. For twelve months, the sportsmen and women of Lancaster have been licking their wounds, plotting and scheming, counting down to the opportunity to enact delicious revenge. This weekend, they clinically and ruthlessly went about their business, successfully loosening York's recent stranglehold on the Roses tournament and earning a deserved win.

The 157.5-105.5 scoreline was not unexpected, with many quick to highlight the absence of key personalities in York teams through the exigencies of exams and essay deadlines and, in comparison to the mirrored situation, the White Rose were spared the humiliation many openly feared. Emily Scott, the York Sport President, proclaimed herself delighted that the travelling hordes had reached three figures.

Of course, many believe York should never have had to think in such terms. The cynical on campus will argue that York never had a hope following the unedifying rowing fiasco, which saw Lancaster start the competition with twelve points, and the exam clashes, but Lancaster could only beat the competitors before them. It is time to open a dialogue, put aside the inter-AU pettiness which preceded the action proper and raise

the profile of Roses by staging it towards the end of the summer term, away from the congested exam periods. It was refreshing to hear Sam Asfahani, the President-elect, promise something to this effect at the closing ceremony.

For Sue Wynes, the well-liked Lancaster AU President, the weekend was a dream in motion. Under massive pressure to end York's recent hegemony in the tournament, and not exactly the most popular person in York Sport circles, everything came up in red roses for Wynes. Her teams were empowered by dark flashbacks to last year, motivated by retribution and delivered when demanded, winning all the events they were expected to win and a few more besides.

Her committee also delivered a well-organised and successful tournament, continuing the 21st century revival of Roses commenced by York last year – the razzle dazzle, fireworks, cheerleaders and streamers are now firmly part of the scenery.

By contrast, Emily Scott, the commander of York Sport both on and off the field, must be gutted to have missed out on the triumph that had become almost a right for her predecessors. Scott led by example, competing in the football, water polo, skiing and hockey in a personal crusade, but sadly this will be a campaign promise unfulfilled. Let's hope she is not judged too harshly for the defeat, having restored Varsity to the calendar and steered penniless York Sport through some stormy waters.

The writing was on the wall, in truth, after Friday's programme of fixtures, which were dominated by the Red Rose. A year ago,

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**Front page photograph by George Lowther**

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SAM NEWSOME

## TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### BEST CLUB



Following a season in which they have achieved new heights and yet still plumbed the depths of despair, the professionalism of the Rugby Club over Roses weekend was phenomenal. They achieved a clean sweep of victories, culminating in a tense 19-17 result for the firsts with Ed Drewett and Tom Weir scoring. For many of the squad, it was a fitting swansong following three years of loyal service to UYRUFC. "It proved Yorkshire is God's own country," said Alex Redshaw after the final whistle.

### BEST PLAYER



For the second year in succession, it has to be Emily Scott. York Sport's head honcho participated in the skiing, the hockey, the water polo and, at short notice, both the indoor and outdoor football. As Sam Asfahani, her successor, said "she's a machine." However, despite such a monumental personal effort, it was perhaps scripted that Scottie should not have the opportunity to hold the Carter-James trophy aloft.

### BEST MATCH



Two goals down against the run of play and playing in monsoon conditions of biblical proportions, the men's hockey firsts mounted an improbable fightback to earn a share of the points on Saturday evening. James Branton and Nick Latcham grabbed the second-half goals which ensured a good season for captain Andrew McIlwraith ended on a high point.

### FUNNIEST MOMENT



Drenched, disorientated and dodgy, the officials at the Saturday football would literally have wanted to be anywhere but tramping a touchline resembling a ploughed furrow alongside a dire game watched by a crowd of zero. Meanwhile, the octogenarian in charge of the men's lacrosse (pictured) had the funky grandad look down to a tee.



the Carter-James trophy, despite many brave performances from depleted York teams, such as the women's basketball above

# their perfect revenge

York had surged from the starting blocks to construct a 50-point lead. The tables were turned here, as Lancaster handed out some embarrassment in the minor Indoor Football matches, an event in which the visitors were severely short-staffed. Thankfully, the coach and car-fulls of established Futsal players arrived in the nick of time to prevent a clean sweep, the men's firsts winning 4-2.

As expected, York's biggest club, YUsnow, did the business on the dry slopes at Rossendale but, even by this point, their 10-2 win was an island of delight in a flood of Lancaster victories. The swimming, darts, pool and indoor frisbee all went their way in the evening and York were already down-

**"Under massive pressure to end York's recent hegemony in the tournament, everything came up in red roses for Sue Wynes. Her teams were motivated by retribution"**

shifting into damage prevention mode.

Saturday dawned with renewed hope, exemplified by the memorable fightback by the mixed volleyball team in the day's first event, but it quickly became apparent that York needed a lot more than the trickle of points in order to retain the Carter-James Trophy. The biggest shock came in the fencing, where both the men's and women's squads, virtually invincible during the BUCS season, found themselves coping with the

unfamiliar sensation of defeat.

While points were collected in the racquet sports – badminton, squash and tennis – they were being shed on a frequent basis elsewhere. And, in another example of how the tide had turned, the football club, who played some of their finest football in years at Roses last summer, had the life sucked out of them by the monsoon conditions which send spectators scampering for shelter late on Saturday afternoon.

The final day started lazily, with Lancaster needing just a dozen or so points to wrap up mathematical victory. They were quickly acquired, with a stirring comeback in the women's volleyball, gains in the canoe slalom out at Garstang and double wins in the basketball, and a hearty roar of relief went up when it was officially announced, at 1.30pm, that the trophy would be crossing the Pennines.

Immense credit must go to the Rugby Club, however, who picked up a perfect five victories across the weekend, underlining their superiority with some brilliantly inventive play in the seconds and thirds' matches and nerves of steel in the firsts, which was won by a two-point margin. For many of the lads, it was a fitting end to their UYRUFC careers and a bright end to a season which has tested their patience and commitment.

The closing ceremony, staged before a large and raucous crowd was a drawn-out mix of trophy presentations and dancers with red and black pompoms cavorting to Lady Gaga, the often ribald Twitter feed on the big screen providing splendid light relief.

The York athletes were half-way back across the Pennines by this point, not particularly fussed at watching a group of red-tracksuited officials parade the trophy they had come to heist.

Wynes led the tributes and the chanting, reserving plenty of praise for the army of sportsmen and women who had delivered her 15 minutes of fame. Wynes had scored a ten-minute hat-trick in her women's football team's 5-0 win on Saturday - "I like to play my part," she said.

Michael Payne, the genial Student Union President, was understandably bursting with pride at the outcome of the weekend. "Everything went smoothly, it's been absolutely brilliant. I've seen an awful lot of the sport this weekend and I've loved it all."

For Scott, her voice failing after a week-end of bawling encouragement for her beloved 'Yorkie' at the top of her voice, there was nothing but admiration for the White Roses's defiance against unfavourable odds.

"It's been such a fantastic weekend, everyone will agree. The sport has been of such a high standard. Despite being weakened, there were lots of fantastic performances."

All that remains is to start planning the comeback in 2011. Asfahani is obviously not someone who's going to look too kindly on a successful Lancaster raid next time and threw down the gauntlet. "I want a neutral week, with no exams. I want a spectacle, including big games in a proper stadium. We'll win hands down." We shall see but, for now, the Carter-James Trophy is back in enemy hands.

FRIDAY

Lancaster 60.5  
York 27.5

ROSES 2010  
BY NUMBERS

11  
Number of goals scored by  
Krishna Balan in the lacrosse  
matches

# Controversial officiating denies YUsnow clean sweep on the slopes

**SNOWSPORTS**

**Louise Cotrel-Gibbons**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

<b>Lancaster University</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>York University</b>	<b>10</b>

THE FINAL score over at Rossendale on Friday evening read York 10 Lancaster 2 as YUsnow once again left behind a trail of disheartened Lancastrians in the ski and snowboard events, despite having very little training on dry slopes since Christmas.

The club have been concentrating on real snow training for their BUCS events at Easter in the French Alps, but they still bossed proceedings in the rain here, narrowly missing out on a repeat of last year's whitewash through some contentious officiating.

The ladies' teams opened the events with a comfortable clean sweep for York, winning three out of three races in the best of five relay format competition. Skiing first, Steph Campbell-Woodward showed speed and impeccable technique to pull out a strong lead, instantly putting Lancaster on the back foot, and leaving Louise Cotrel-Gibbons and Alana Buchanan to only increase the gap between the two teams.

Emily Bird finished the job for York, finishing a full course length ahead of the last Lancastrian skier. The second race was as easy as the first, as Lancaster did not make full use of their team - their best skier was to race in fourth position, leaving her to ski the course once the race was already all over.

In the third race, Emily Scott, the York Sport President, took to the slopes in place of Cotrel-Gibbons, eager to finish the job of winning four points for her beloved York which she did with a flawless run.

The mixed races were concluded in an even faster time, with York winning two out of two races in a best of three competition - the schedule reduced apparently



Tom Farrow completes his run in the snowboard event, although York were forced to share the spoils after Lancaster appealed

because of a lack of time, thought observers suspected that Lancaster simply did not want to lose more races than they had to.

Dave Tee took the lead, leaving Lancaster in no doubt that the rest of the race would be a formality. Matt Thomas, Rob Wallis and Campbell-Woodward pulled ahead, leaving outgoing captain James Lodge to complete the race before the last Lancastrian skier had even started the course.

York absolutely slaughtered the inferior Lancastrians with little effort, scooping one of the easiest four point haul of the entire Roses weekend.

Controversy and conflict

arose, however, when the snowboarding results were disputed by some Lancaster racers, despite many supporters from both sides and the hosting team's captain agreeing on a win for York.

With the Red Rose supplying the flag officials at the finish line, indicating when the next competitor can start their descent, there was a lack of balance in the officiating.

The first board race saw both teams struggle, with several falls on the increasingly slippery surface, and a photo finish which resulted in both teams agreeing on a draw. The second race saw less falls as York focused; Tom Farrow

got a good start, preserved by Paul Oates and Ben Ward. This really put the pressure on Lancaster, as board captain Marlies Neuner finished the race just in the lead.

However, the (Lancastrian) stewards claimed that when Neuner fell near the end, she did not complete the course correctly, missing a gate, and that Lancaster should thus claim the race. This was disputed by York who saw no such mistake, supported by several Lancastrian observers. Both teams agreed to discount both races and to start again in a best of three format.

York, now warmed up and looking comfortable (only Neuner

had been able to attend dry slope training), proceeded to win the next two races and it appeared to be all over for Lancaster with another four points in the bag.

However, Lancaster, still angry over the result in the second race, insisted on changing the format once again by introducing a deciding fifth race: if York was to win, the four points would belong to the White Rose, if Lancaster won, the points would be split.

Unfortunately, the deciding race saw Lancaster produce their best form of the afternoon and finish just ahead of York, claiming a controversial two points for the Red Rose.

HOW FRIDAY UNFOLDED

**10.00**  
York head into the first full day 12-4 behind having won the cricket by 3 wickets but with the rowing deficit boosting Lancaster's total.

**12.21**  
York's first win of the day. A Conor Brennan goal leads to a 4-2 victory in the men's indoor football firsts.

**12.21**  
The Ultimate Frisbee ends 15-11 to Lancaster, despite a spirited effort from the White Rose.

**13.54**  
Disaster for the men's indoor hockey seconds as they concede a late equaliser to draw 2-2.

**3**  
Number of events which ended in draws - the snowboarding, women's rugby and men's canoe polo

**12.50pm**  
The time on Sunday when Lancaster secured overall victory

**York 23-22 Lancaster 5**  
The overall score in the Roses competition since 1965, with one draw  
Number of men's hockey first teamers playing their last game for York

# Firsts prevail in indoor football

PETER IVESON



**Lancaster on the offensive in their 5-1 men's thirds triumph**

## INDOOR FOOTBALL

**Huw Harrow**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO GOALS from Conor Brennan helped the men's firsts Indoor Football side secure York's first points of the day with a 4-2 victory in a hotly contested clash.

Having stepped straight off the bus and on to the pitch, York began sluggishly and were indebted to goalkeeper David Ambrozejczyk for keeping it goalless with a string of fine saves.

Slightly against the run of play York took the lead, however, with Ash Daly converting a penalty awarded for a foul on Alex Tringham.

This seemed to galvanize the away side and Brennan, the Halifax striker, quickly doubled their advantage, briefly silencing the home supporters on the packed viewing gallery.

York failed to kill the game off, though and, roared on by the vociferous support, the home side struck twice in quick succession, levelling the scores with little more than five minutes remaining.

However, the effervescent Brennan was not to be denied and his second goal and an effort from Captain Jack Crane with the last kick of the match saw York claim a win that had at one stage looked to

be slipping through their grasp.

There was even time for a cameo appearance from Udy Onwudike whose physical presence held the ball up commandingly in the closing stages.

Crane described the performance as 'workmanlike' and bemoaned his side's complacency but under the circumstances must have been delighted with the result, which turned out to be York's only bright point.

The earlier fixtures were a struggle, with York severely lacking in numbers and the same makeshift side was somewhat farcically forced to compete in both the men's seconds and thirds fixtures.

Unsurprisingly Lancaster ran out easy winners in both matches by score lines of 6-1 and 5-1 respectively.

In the women's matches, the seconds, despite the best efforts of York Sport President Emily Scott, were also well beaten 3-0, but the firsts can count themselves unlucky not to have earned at least a draw.

Having conceded two early goals, they dominated the rest of the encounter, piling the pressure on the Lancastrians. Katie Ballantyne managed to score from the penalty spot but the equalizer would not come, condemning them to a 2-1 defeat.

## Lancaster take control in the pool

BY DAVID AMBROZEJCZYK

GEORGE LOWTHER



BOTH OF York's swimming teams were comfortably beaten on Roses weekend, yet the men's and women's teams can both take heart that they performed admirably against a much stronger force.

Lancaster were clearly the stronger side going into the weekend, with their club President Michael Boyd saying they expected a whitewash, even taking the gamble of missing the pre-Roses boot camp.

In the Women's competition, Lancaster dominated the early proceedings, racing out to a 21-9 lead after notching a 1-2 in the

200m Freestyle, 100m Individual Medley and 50m Butterfly. York men's side fared a lot better, with Lancaster's lead just two points. Boyd's brash prediction prior to the event would fail to come true with York's own Raymond Wade producing a stunning performance to land top spot in 50m butterfly.

A stoppage following an unfortunate incident, which required an ambulance, allowed Lancaster to regroup and re-establish their dominance in the next batch of races.

While both York teams offered

some resistance in the 50m backstroke and breaststroke, the tie really shifted Lancaster's way with a whitewash in the 50m freestyle and 200m free relay - the Lancaster women's team crushing York by a margin of almost 25 minutes in their race.

The event began to slip further away from York in the latter stages, with York's women unlucky not to notch a first place in any of the twelve events. While Lancaster dominance eventually prevailed in the men's competition, York were able to secure another win through

## Bode hat-trick earns dramatic win

BY HENRY JAMES FOY

PETER IVESON



A TIMELY hat-trick from Nico Bode saw York record a memorable win in the men's firsts indoor hockey fixture by 5 goals to 3.

Repeating his goal haul from York's recent BUCS Final encounter against MMU Cheshire, Bode showed great composure at crucial stages of a frenetic game to turn around a match that was headed towards defeat.

Overall York, who don't play any other indoor hockey all year, won the event 3.5-2.5.

Trailing 3-1 with 15 minutes to

play, Bode's second and third goals after a converted Nick Latham penalty corner saw York take the lead with only four minutes remaining.

Weathering a swathe of Lancaster attacks, York held on to their lead before Latham scored his second penalty corner with a beautifully struck effort with the last hit of the game.

After failing to take the lead from the penalty spot in only the fourth minute, Lancaster made the breakthrough with one of the

games many penalty corners, before Bode's first, a well-placed sweep from a Billy Walsh cross, squared the tie at half-time.

The men were under pressure to deliver after the women's firsts were held to a frustrating 1-1 draw despite dominating possession for the entire match.

Charlie Bartlett stood out as the best player on the pitch in that game, and in conjunction with defensive partner Imy Eldergill-Storm ensured Lancaster rarely troubled goalkeeper Beanie Usher.

Barlett's marauding runs into the hosts' half provided a plethora of chances for strikers Laura Pepper and Rachael Faustino, and ensured the hosts' backline was constantly tested.

Eldergill-Storm's long-range effort grabbed the lead early on, before a converted Lancaster penalty corner pegged York back before half time.

With three goals for the White Rose disallowed, including the final shot of the game, it appeared that perhaps this just wasn't York's day.

**14.43**

It ends 1-1 for the women's indoor hockey seconds, while their second team went down 5-2 to Lancaster earlier in the day.

**17.38**

York take the mixed badminton with 4 games left to play.



**18.57**

Lancaster take the men's second's badminton 5-4.

**20.29**

Indoor Frisbee ends 10-9 to Lancaster.



# THE WEEKEND IN PICTURES

Photos by:  
Sam Newsome - 5,8,11  
George Lowther - 1,2,3,6,7,9  
Justyn Hardcastle - 4  
Peter Iveson - 10



# SATURDAY

Lancaster 128.5  
York 82.5

ROSES 2010  
BY QUOTES

"It just proves Yorkshire is God's own country"  
ALEX REDSHAW  
UYRUFUFC Firsts Captain

## MAKING A SPLASH: The Coolest sport at Roses 2010

SAM NEWSOME



A last minute equaliser by Lancaster denied York a full haul of points in a thrilling and fractious men's canoe polo match on Saturday night, after the women had lost 6-0

# Miserable afternoon for football club

GEORGE LOWTHER

### FOOTBALL

Leigh Clarke  
SPORTS EDITOR

If Roses had a low point, this was it. At the final whistle Lancaster celebrated the 3-1 victory loudly, but it's fair to say that even they would have not enjoyed getting there. Torrential rain, a near unplayable pitch and an understandable lack of support led to a game devoid of quality and with few extended passing movements, let alone clear cut chances.

Yet Lancaster deserve credit for making the best of the poor conditions and keeping York's attack quiet throughout the second half. In the opening stages York striker Conor Brennan frequently found his way through the Lancaster defence and linked well with Alex Tringham to score York's first goal. After taking the lead in the second half, however, the Red Rose defended solidly and held on to take a deserved victory.

The early stages were uneventful and, with the small crowd in attendance, one could be forgiven for thinking they had gone to the wrong match, and were not watching one of the tournament's most anticipated fixtures.

After twenty minutes Conor Brennan finally found a way through the Lancaster defence, but sent his shot straight towards the keeper. The game opened up, and soon after Lancaster were ahead. York keeper Sam Clitheroe let the ball slip out of his hands from a free kick and the Lancaster striker pounced on the opportunity to give his side the lead.

York were soon level and enjoyed their best period before the first half. At the interval captain Mark McLeod criticised his team for not being ahead, stating that they had the quality to see the game out. Yet in the second half York were unable to regain the fluidity of the first and, as the rain got heavier, the game reverted back to the disjointed scrap of the opening

stages. York had chances to equalise - Ian McKelloh fighting his way into a good position only to send a poorly weighted cross past the box and Dan Cox finding space in the box but being unable to fire a clear shot at goal - but in reality rarely threatened in a turgid second half.

Club President Greg Gardner said that the team were "extremely disappointed" with the result: "We were the better team but failed to capitalise and got what we deserved. I'm happy with the spirit and effort from everyone but things just didn't fall for us today."

York did pile on the pressure in the final minutes but their hopes of taking any share of the Roses points were denied with a scrappy Lancaster goal in the final kick of the match.

The result capped a bad day for UYAFC. The women's firsts lost 5-0 earlier in the day and the men's seconds and thirds both lost, the former also suffering as a result of the poor weather.



## TIMELINE OF SATURDAY'S ACTION

10.00

The archery starts and will eventually be calculated as a loss for York in every category bar the Novice Female and Senior Female teams.



11.58

York win the mixed volleyball 3 sets to 2 after a thrilling comeback.

15.02

The men's seconds hockey team claim a 1-0 win, while the women's seconds win 3-2.



"We can't be too gutted, it's been a great season. Andy McIlwraith has been quality. The lads have put in so much effort"

ROB NEWTON - UYHC President

"We were the better team but failed to capitalise and get what we deserved - story of our season unfortunately"

GREG GARDNER - UYAFc President

"You know how competitive I get and this has just added to it. Next year we'll win hands down"

SAM ASFAHANI - York Sport President elect

GEORGE LOWTHER



## Two wins out of three for weakened Netball sides

### NETBALL

Adam Shergold  
Tess Webb

IT WAS A Saturday afternoon of mixed fortunes for the York University Netball Club at Roses 2010, with the firsts unable to make it a hat-trick of victories after the second and thirds had done the business.

The firsts' 51-27 reverse was certainly no disgrace, with Lancaster competing two tiers above York in the BUCS system and gunning for revenge after a shock defeat twelve months ago.

With the hosts straying offside in the shooting circle on a number of occasions, their early momentum was checked and York remained firmly in contention through the first-half courtesy of tenacious defensive work from Goal Keeper Grace Marsden and Goal Defence Sarah Smith.

However, the Lancastrian strength in attack prevailed against a depleted visiting side and they cut loose in the third and fourth quarters, creating a lopsided final scoreline.

Lancaster's momentum going forward especially told in the final quarter, when they managed a ten-

point haul in the time it took York to secure four goals.

Earlier, the seconds built on a lightning-fast opening quarter to secure a 44-22 win and collect two points. Cleopatra Jones stood out in defence early on, making some remarkable interceptions, before York's tactical astuteness and impressive movement shone through, allowing them to outmanoeuvre and outperform Lancaster, who were soundly beaten.

The thirds recovered from a sluggish start in the day's opening contest to win 42-34 with a stylish attacking display. Lisa Griffiths

and Olivia Coward, at Goal Attack and Goal Shooter respectively, produced near-flawless performances to ensure York snatched the single point on offer, to the delight of Captain Amelia Prestage.

"Overall it was a brilliant end to a brilliant season and all the teams performed valiantly," Prestage said.

Sophia Sahin, the seconds captain, added: "I'm awesomely proud of the team, they performed well throughout."

On Sunday, the York fourth team lost 11-24, while the college select, Halifax, were defeated 37-22.

## Comebacks the theme in hockey feast

### HOCKEY

Henry Cowen  
Jake Farrell

AS THE RED of Lancaster became more prominent on the Roses scoreboard, York's hockey players went some way to emboldening their slowly fading tournament chances, recording an 8-5 overall win in sometimes torrid conditions.

The day's performances displayed just how much the club has flourished under the stewardship of Presidents Rob Newton and Sophie Hossack over the last twelve months. The Men's thirds started well, taking a 3-1 lead after a period of expansive hockey but

were to capitulate to a 4-3 defeat.

There were no such shortages in the reservoir of character held by the women's seconds as they won 3-2. Emily Scott played with the abandon of a sportswoman desperate to claim a personal victory in a weekend that seemed to be leading inexorably to defeat.

The excitement of the first games was not matched in the men's seconds. It took one brilliant short corner move to set up Tom Harcourt to score the winner.

The women's firsts found themselves 3-1 up, through two goals from Rachel Faustino and another from Emily Lucas, only to see Lancaster earn themselves a 3-3 draw, following a nasty injury to

Charlie Bartlett.

Hossack commented: "It's our best performance against Lancaster in years; indoor and outdoor."

Comebacks seemed the order of the day as Andy McIlwraith's men's firsts drew 2-2 having been 2-0 down. After Lancaster struck twice, James Branton finished neatly to give the White Rose hope before Nick Latham scored to level matters.

McIlwraith was frustrated at not clinching all the points but nevertheless was pleased with his side's efforts: "I do feel slightly aggrieved, but am extremely proud of the team... it has been a pleasure to captain the lads."

SAM NEWSOME



GEORGE LOWTHER



## Lancaster turn up the pressure

### SATURDAY ROUND-UP

Jake Farrell  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THOUGH YORK'S chance to make Roses history, by retaining the Carter James Trophy for the Fourth consecutive year, officially ended on the contest's final day, it was on Saturday that it became evident that defeat was inevitable.

Although some performances permeated the York malaise, Lancaster pressed their hard fought Friday advantage to the point of victory. Among the bright moments were a steely victory for the mixed volleyball team who

came from two sets down to win in remarkable style. The men's team, pictured, wanted no such drama, and won their match in straight sets.

Elsewhere the Rugby 7's asserted their dominance as the three men's side recorded consecutive victories and the women earned a late draw. The men's whitewash could not cover the fact that York were becoming increasingly beleaguered elsewhere with losses, unexpectedly, in both the men's and women's fencing, traditionally two of their strongest events.

This gloom was further exacerbated by the battering that York's

archers took from an impressive Lancaster side, while the Red Rose also took the points in the water polo and table tennis matches.

However, York made gains in the snooker, another forte, and the racquet sports. The men's badminton side won 6-3, while the women were even better, winning 8-1.

The men's squash firsts claimed a 5-0 whitewash, while the mixed tennis team won 4-2, before the pouring rain curtailed the on-court programme.

Over in Bolton, York's recent domination in the sailing continued, winning every race en route to a routine victory.

16.14

The firsts netball team fight hard but end up on the wrong side of a 51-27 loss.



17.45

A rare success on a disappointing day as the men's firsts volleyball team clinch a straight sets win.

18.13

A late goal for Lancaster seals a 3-1 win in the firsts football clash.



19.17

The men's firsts hockey ends 2-2, after a brilliant fightback. The women's team were pegged back to 3-3, having been 3-0 up.

@ST\_Student  
“...and York are still behind in Roses 2010...I’m putting most of that down to the cheating Lancastrian timing of the whole thing”

# Satisfying victory for rugby firsts

RUGBY UNION

**Huw Harrow**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IT WASN'T a vintage performance by any means but York men's firsts held on for a 19-17 victory, giving UYRUFC a highly satisfying clean sweep of this weekend's rugby. Having enjoyed arguably the club's most successful season ever, York were strong favourites going in to Sunday's showpiece event.

However, the result was to hang in the balance until the dying minutes, Lancaster desperate in their attempts to snatch any sort of late score which would have been enough to give them the win. As had been the case for much of the game though, they ultimately lacked the creativity to force their way through York's determined resistance and the final whistle sparked jubilant celebrations and great relief on the packed touchlines.

The game had looked almost secure when a herculean effort from the York pack saw them drive a five metre scrum over the home try line, allowing the colossal Tom Weir to claim his second try of the afternoon. Rob Grant's nerveless conversion had then put York two



SAM NEWSOME

Ed Drewett scores the first of York's tries in their tense 19-17 win on Sunday, completing a full set of victories

scores clear at 19-11 but some uncharacteristic indiscipline from the visitors allowed Lancaster to kick two simple penalties and set up a frantic finish.

Though a somewhat limited Lancaster side rarely threatened the York line, they were able to rely on a fairly constant stream of infringements from the away side to keep the scoreboard moving.

Despite playing with a strong wind at their backs, York struggled for large periods of the first half, falling 6-5 behind after Weir's early score. With York's halfbacks using the wind to dominate territory, their pressure did ultimately tell when Ed Drewett raced in at the right hand corner, Tim Walker putting him in after a perfectly executed blindside move from a

scrum. It was York who played the more expansive rugby throughout but they lacked the necessary composure in attack to pull clear, a couple of promising runs from speedster Gabriel Adebisi failing to lead to any points. Though their hosts offered much in terms of physicality and endeavour, York's defence was always up to the task

and not even the attentions of a mankini clad half-time pitch invader could distract them from recording a deserved win.

Things had been much simpler for the seconds who put Lancaster to the sword running out 45-0 victors, Matt Pollen the star of the show with a hat trick of tries. The thirds were also victorious, by a 34-22 margin in an exhibition fixture. With the rugby sevens fixtures delivering a hat-trick of wins, York remained unbeaten across the weekend.

"I'm really pleased the first team ended on a high," said Alec Porter, the coach. "After the upset of missing out on promotion [to Premier B on an administrative technicality] we targeted a clean sweep of wins, as with last year. It's a massive achievement to get six out of six."

"It was always going to be a close game and, despite having an eight point lead, we were hanging on."

Meanwhile the women's fixture was abandoned as a 5-5 draw after an air ambulance was called to take an injured York player to hospital. The women's sevens match ended in a 12-12 tie on Saturday.

# Lancaster wrap up victory after Sunday domination

SUNDAY ROUND-UP

**Leigh Clarke**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With Roses having been effectively won the day before, York teams turned out knowing that only pride was at stake and enjoyed a mixed set of results on Roses' final day.

York lost both the men's basketball 65-49 and the women's 49-34, being unable to recover from strong starts by the home team in each match. Captain Dane Vishnubala called the men's result "a disappointing end to what has been a great season."

Elsewhere in the sports centre, York women's volleyball firsts squandered a two set lead in a late morning thriller that all but sealed the overall results.

York enjoyed better success on the tennis courts, where they won both the men's and women's firsts events, and the Ballroom dancing, where they were victorious in every event except the beginner's Latin.

Sam Asfahani's York Centurions had clearly improved vastly from last year, holding Lancaster 6-6 at half time in the American football.

Unfortunately their opponents won the tactical battle in the

second to finally take the match 22-6.

Halifax college continued their impressive year with a 4-1 victory over Fylde college in the inaugural college football winners exhibition match. Lancaster won the netball equivalent 37-27, with Halifax again representing

Lancaster took all the points in the Karate, despite strong showings from York in the Kata, and also won the Canoe Slalom and Climbing events.

Finally, in the day's other exhibition matches, Lancaster were the winners in both the rounders and the clay-pigeon shooting.



JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

Lancaster won the American Football 22-6 for four crucial points

## ALL OF SUNDAY'S ACTION

12.06  
Lancaster take the women's volleyball by 3 sets to 2, despite having been 2-0 down.



13.47  
York's women's basketballers lose 49-34 to their Lancaster counterparts.

15.23  
Lancaster's male basketballers repeat their women's team's success with a 65-49 victory.

15.33  
York's lacrosse players provide a small silver lining, winning 18-6.



@MichaelpLUSU  
"Partridge is good, but Roses is EPIC"

@Matthew\_Power  
"York...LOL"

@UYRUFU  
"YORK MENS RUGBY take whitewash from Lancaster. 5 out of 5. Done."

"Lancaster rugby...humiliating"

@Holly\_Music09  
"We are Lancaster. And we have won"

@muffinnuffin  
"Getting the feeling that York are losing"

@jason\_p\_rose  
"I'm the only member of @URY1350 left in Lancaster? Well then I've got some work to do. One day of epic reporting remaining"

# Cunning Cantor in croquet glory

SAM NEWSOME

## CROQUET

**Henry James Foy**  
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

TRY TELLING Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor that it's the taking part that counts. His teammate YUSU President Tim Ngwena might be all about keeping it cool, but Cantor's a man who hasn't got to the top by losing.

Following Alex Lacy's wholly abysmal performance last year, where his bizarre concept of competition perhaps formed part of the admissions test to his current job as a gym instructor at an asylum, Ngwena and Cantor were the pre-event underdogs.

Listening to the chat on the sidelines during the farcical search for a croquet set, it appeared that their competitors, the effusive LUSU President Michael Payne and the steely-eyed Prof. Paul Wellings, were the competitive type. Wellings was well-fancied to leave the York pair stuck in the rough. "Your guy looks laid back," observed one of the watching Lancaster pro-vice-chancellors with distaste.

Suitably, as Wellings padded up and down the pitch with all the brashness of a man who had surely slipped in a few clandestine practice sessions, the York pair got off



to a shambolic start. With both Lancaster players passing through the third peg, Ngwena's sixth shot had just navigated the first. But canny Cantor had a plan.

"It's very tactical," mused one of the 10-strong group of watching dignitaries, and with that in mind, Cantor wasn't about to let laid-back Tim sail him down shit creek like Lacy had done.

With the blitzkrieg approach that only comes from decades in the cut-throat materials industry, Cantor bished, bashed and boshed his way past Payne and his floppy hair, and when the smug Wellings' ball touched the winning post with

a peg still to navigate, Cantor threw a dive that Ronaldo would have been proud.

Using a disqualification rule in an exhibition sport might be seen as a tad excessive, but Cantor was adamant. As Payne's 20 or so LUSU fans watched in astonishment, Wellings – miles ahead at this point – was forced to forfeit.

But as the climax approached, Payne had found a way back in. He had a four-foot shot for victory. Brian gave him the eye. Payne bottled it. And with Tim merely a bemused spectator, Cantor cool as a cucumber, rolled his ball 15 feet to victory. Job done.

# Easy win for lacrosse

SAM NEWSOME



The men's team concluded a fine season with an 18-6 win on Sunday

## LACROSSE

**Adam Shergold**  
SPORTS EDITOR

ALTHOUGH NOT as comfortable as some pre-match predictions, York's men's lacrosse team encountered few problems in Sunday afternoon's 18-6 romp.

Krishna Balan weighed in with a five-goal haul and assisted a couple more, while Rob Coslett notched four. Luke Shilling, Phil Harrold (2), Paul Crowley Jr. (3) and James Menon (3) were also on the scoresheet as the White Rose ran amok against a porous Lancaster defence.

Lancaster, who had been destroyed 28-0 in the correspon-

ding fixture last year, had overcome some of their attacking meekness and beat Benedict Robinson in the York goal on half-a-dozen occasions, but they never looked like picking up the four points on offer.

"It was not our best performance by a long way, but a good win nonetheless," said Robinson, the Captain. "It's a good end to a great season."

On Saturday, the mixed team kick-started York's weekend by outclassing their Red Rose opponents 17-8, with the prolific duo of Balan and Cosslett scoring six and five goals respectively.

In the women's exhibition match, York were defeated 8-1.

## ALMANAC: THE RESULTS IN FULL

Match	York	Lanc	Pts	Match	York	Lanc	Pts	Match	York	Lanc	Pts
<b>Thursday April 29</b>				<b>Saturday May 1st</b>				Rugby Union 7s Men's Seconds	29	17	1
Cricket Men's Firsts	192-7	188	4	Sailing Open	3	0	4	Rugby Union 7s Women's	12	12	1
<b>Friday April 30</b>				Archery Senior Mixed Team	2501	2968	0	Rugby Union 7s Men's Firsts	12	7	2
Equestrian First Team	60	4	0	Archery Novice Mixed Team	964	1528	0	Lacrosse Mixed	17	8	4
Equestrian Second Team	47	44	0	Archery Novice Male	462	599	0	Football Men's Thirds/College	1	2	0
Indoor Football Men's Thirds	1	5	0	Archery Novice Female	502	323	1	Football Women's	0	5	0
Indoor Football Women's Seconds	0	3	0	Archery Senior Male	743	791	0	Football Men's Seconds	1	3	0
Indoor Football Men's Seconds	1	6	0	Archery Senior Female	690	572	1	Football Men's Firsts	1	3	0
Indoor Football Women's Firsts	1	2	0	Volleyball Mixed	3	2	4	Volleyball Men's	3	0	4
Indoor Football Men's Firsts	4	2	2	Climbing Mixed A Team	292	303	0	Badminton Men's Firsts	6	3	4
Skiing Mixed	4	0	4	Climbing Mixed B Team	277	231	2	Badminton Women's Firsts	8	1	4
Skiing Women's	4	0	4	Fencing Women's	102	133	0	Canoe Polo Open	2	2	1
Snowboard	2	2	2	Fencing Men's	110	135	4	Canoe Polo Women's	0	6	0
Frisbee Open	11	15	0	Netball Thirds	42	34	1	<b>Sunday May 10</b>			
Indoor Hockey Women's Seconds	2	5	0	Netball Seconds	44	26	2	Dancing Beginner's Latin	19	23	0
Indoor Hockey Men's Seconds	2	2	0.5	Netball Firsts	27	51	0	Dancing Beginner's Ballroom	28	18	1
Indoor Hockey Women's Firsts	1	1	1	Table Tennis Mixed Firsts (open)	7	10	0	Dancing Advanced Latin	35	28	1
Indoor Hockey Men's Firsts	5	3	2	Table Tennis Mixed Seconds (open)	3	14	0	Dancing Advanced Ballroom	34	29	1
Badminton Mixed	8	1	4	Tennis Men's Seconds	6	9	0	Canoe Slalom Men's	W	L	2
Badminton Men's Seconds	4	5	2	Tennis Mixed	4	2	0	Canoe Slalom Women's	0	2	0
Judo Men's Over 90kg	0	10	0	Trampolineing	147.5	148.6	0	Volleyball Women's	2	3	0
Judo Men's Under 90kg	0	10	0	Squash Men's Firsts	3	7	4	Tennis Women's Firsts	12	3	4
Judo Men's Under 81kg	10	0	1	Squash Men's Seconds	6	2	0	Tennis Men's Firsts	9	6	4
Judo Men's Under 73kg	0	10	0	Squash Women's	0	5	0	Karate	1	3	0
Judo Women's Over 57kg	10	0	1	Hockey Men's Thirds	3	4	0	Lacrosse Men's	18	6	4
Swimming Men's	48	64	0	Hockey Women's Seconds	3	2	1	American Football Men's	6	22	0
Swimming Women's	34	76	0	Hockey Men's Seconds	1	0	1	Rugby Union Thirds	34	22	0
Darts Men's	4	5	0	Hockey Women's Firsts	3	3	2	Basketball Women's	34	49	4
Darts Women's	2	7	0	Hockey Men's Firsts	2	2	2	Rugby Union Men's Seconds	45	0	2
Pool Men's	3	6	0	Water Polo Women's	1	4	0	Lacrosse Men	18	6	4
Pool Women's	1	8	0	Water Polo Men's	10	19	0	Basketball Men's Firsts	49	65	0
Indoor Frisbee Open	9	10	0	Snooker Mixed	3	2	4	Rugby Union Men's Firsts	19	17	4
				Rugby Union 7s Men's Thirds	24	19	1				

Pts = Points won by York

# The Mixer at Roses 2010

SAM NEWSOME

The closing ceremony - for many a highlight of the weekend, for others just a place to dry off and ogle at some cheerleaders. The Mixer attended eagerly, with promise of pompoms, dancing and Brian Cantor. Yet, to be perfectly honest, we would have had more fun getting drunk with Alec Porter, the YUSU clique and that odd guy in the mankini - it was that boring. Aside from the obvious highlights - fit presenter, cheerleader getting dropped, the only male dancer and his smug "yeah, I know" look - it was mainly just watching Sam Asfahani standing up and sitting down.

The awards for every sport were presented. Every. Bloody. Sport. Half of York's winners didn't even turn up so Sam Asfahani had to go up and receive nearly all of the awards. Which was funny for a bit (it really wasn't). The organisation was shambolic - fit girl had to shout for most of it and they lost the screen for a good ten minutes. Seriously, it was like watching YSTV.

The trophy for the best trophy went to climbing (fashioned out of a cliff we think), the best speech went to Emily Scott (doing her Barry White impression) and most cringe-worthy moment went to the Lancaster AU President's forced "Lancaster la la la" chant midway through her speech. TM got its fix of Brian Cantor for the day when he sheepishly moved on to the stage and stepped next to Lancaster's suave opposite number. There was almost an iconic moment as, with the music swelling, VP Baz walked to the centre of the stage, perhaps about to perform some heroic gesture that would epitomise York's pride in defeat and inspire us all to redeem ourselves honourably next year. Instead the fireworks went off and he jumped out of his skin. Almost, Brian.

The only really good thing about the bash was the big screen that, in

between showing Lutube montages (not nearly as arousing as it first sounds), displayed the tweets from anyone who cared to send them in. It was soon disabled, when the organisers realised that the whole event was taking place amidst a backdrop of obscenities, messages to Jason Rose and Alan Partridge quotes.

All in all it was a bit useless. Central Hall might be a bit rubbish, but it certainly makes for a better awards ceremony venue than a tent. Not my words Carol, the words of Top Gear magazine.

The Mixer enjoyed Roses 2010. It had everything you could want; controversy, competitiveness, sporting excellence and darts. However one thing it certainly had too much of was rain.

When even the linesman at the football turns around and laughs at you, you feel especially low. Added to that there are only so many times you can stand people saying: "Why didn't you wear a waterproof?" or "Where's your umbrella?" Every question is another indictment of your stupidity at having lived in England for all your life and still not being aware that the weather has the tendency to change rather quickly. Want real pain? Try seeing Lancaster score a last minute equaliser and having to face the taunts from the opposition while being soaked to the skin.

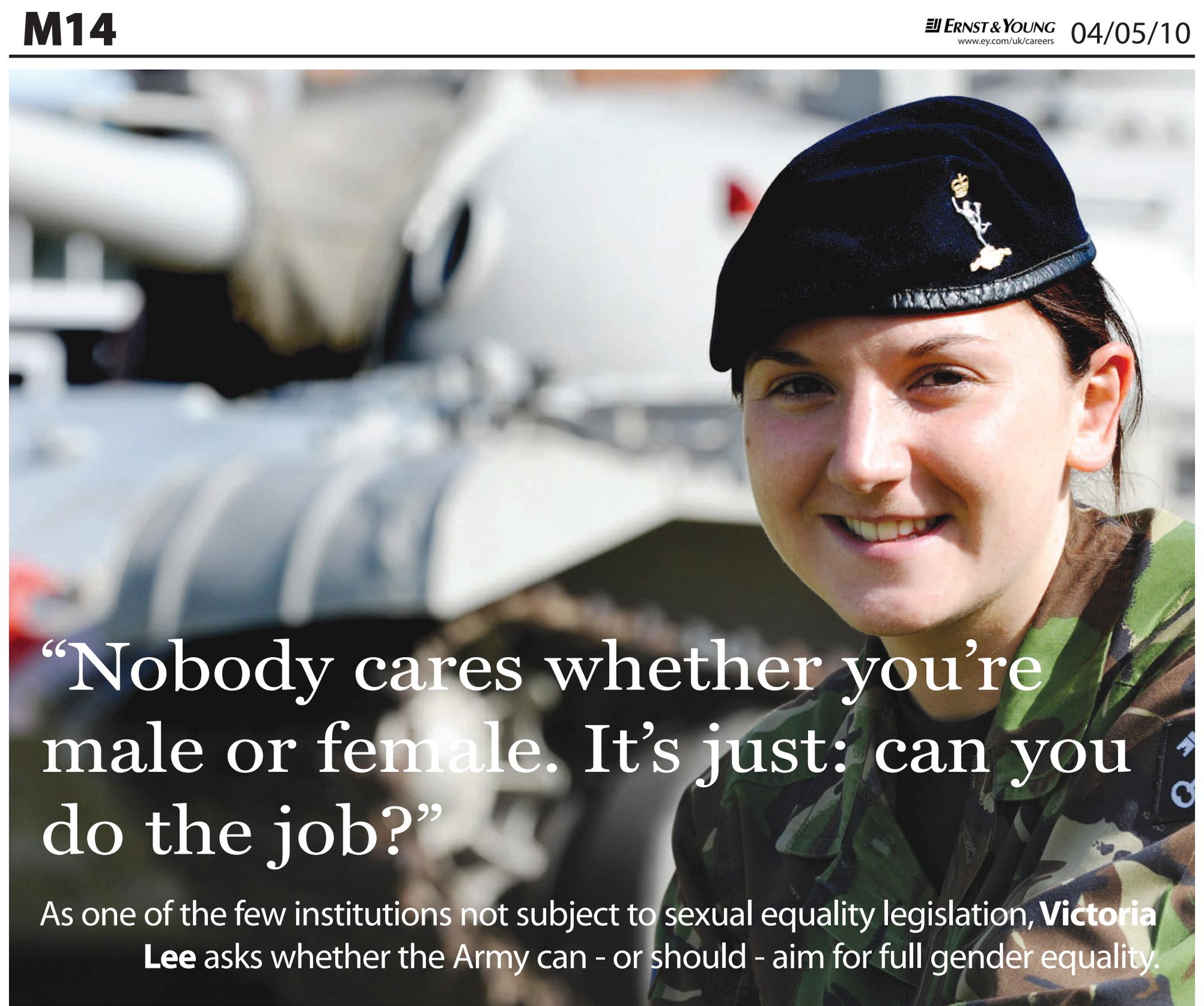
To cap it all off TM is described by Emily Scott as looking like "a drowned rat". Next year you can keep the rain, TM would prefer a Roses victory thank you very much.

And finally, the trampolining club might be wondering why we didn't cover their event this year. Camilla Jenkins, our resident "irrelevant sports" correspondent, was too busy at the tiddly-winks, octopush and rugby league. I bet you were jumping for joy.



## Nudity with Sam Newsome and George Lowther





# “Nobody cares whether you’re male or female. It’s just: can you do the job?”

As one of the few institutions not subject to sexual equality legislation, **Victoria Lee** asks whether the Army can - or should - aim for full gender equality.

“I wouldn’t have thought that women would have been able to cope with the demands of war. I wouldn’t have thought that the men would have been able to regard them not as women but as fellow soldiers, or that the women would have been happy to live and work in those sort of conditions. Back when I left the Army in 1979, I wouldn’t have thought that was possible. Now, it’s pretty obvious I was wrong.”

Former Warrant Officer Sergeant Major Daniel Lee pauses after making this statement. But today, despite over 70% of positions being open to them, women still make up less than 8% of British soldiers.

Although the past decade has witnessed dramatic advancements in the army’s facilitation of women, the issue of women at war remains a contentious one, and the challenges faced by these women are numerous.

Just 18 years ago, women were excluded from the regular army. Females could join the Women’s Royal Army Corps (WRAC) to provide administrative support, but were barred from all combat roles. Mandy\* left the Army in 1992 just before the WRAC was disbanded and women were integrated into the regular army. When asked why, she simply said: “I

just got sick and tired of being nominated to wash the cups, serve drinks at the Colonels’ tête-à-têtes and the expectation of being the evening entertainment (yes, that does mean what you think it does) and then suffering because I refused all the time. Until there are workable routes for reporting minor sexual harassment or prejudice while serving, the Army will never be the career choice for intelligent women.”

Yet since 1992 the Army has made increased efforts to include women. Lance-Corporal Laura Hosty, 21, a soldier in the Royal Corps of Signals, is based at the York Barracks. I ask her whether, 18 years later, Mandy’s comments still apply. “I do get ‘you’re a female, you can sweep that up’ from the lads I work with,” says Hosty, “but not from the higher ranks. And it’s more banter than anything with the guys.”

“On the sexual harassment side, I’ve never seen anything like that. Even when I was out in Afghanistan; I felt absolutely fine. I didn’t feel outnumbered in any way or threatened by anybody while I was there.”

Corporal Holly Percival, 24, of the Army Medical Corps states that: “There’s a lot of testosterone around and although [the men] miss the female attention, I don’t think they

come looking to us for it. They see the girls here as their girls.”

But in spite of Hosty and Percival’s comments, a recent report has shown that 67% of UK servicewomen say they have been subjected to offensive sexualised behaviour from male colleagues, while 12.7% have been sexually assaulted.

One female soldier in the US Army, Marti Ribeiro, who served in the 10th Mountain Division until 2006, has described being raped by a fellow soldier while on guard duty in Afghanistan. After reporting the attack, Ribeiro was told that if she filed a claim she would be charged with dereliction of duty for leaving her weapon unattended. After leaving the army she said: “I had dreams of becoming an officer one day, like my father and grandfather ... Unfortunately, because I’m female, those dreams will not come true.”

By reporting her attack, Ribeiro puts herself in a tiny minority. Only 5% of female soldiers report sexual assaults. However, the reaction Ribeiro received after reporting her assault is not uncommon. 39% of women who did report said they had experienced negative consequences as a result. As one Gulf War journalist put it: for women “attaining equality may carry a terrible price.”

Although Hosty is hugely positive about her experience as a female soldier, she admits that the current channels to

report such cases of assault and harassment are insufficient and the consequences of filing such a report would not be positive.

One of the key issues preventing women reporting such cases of sexual assault is that the senior officer will inevitably be male. “That’s a difficult thing to talk about at the best of times,” she says, “but because there aren’t that many females at a higher rank you could speak to, you’d have to be comfortable enough to go and speak to a guy about it.”

The certainty that you would be taken seriously is also essential. “A lot of people,” Hosty continues, “can take it as an ‘ah don’t be silly, you’ll be fine’ sort of thing.”

The risk of sexual assault does not only come from the enemy within, so to speak. A female soldier taken prisoner by the enemy faces an infinitely greater chance of being raped than her male counterpart. For this reason among others, women are currently barred from serving in ‘frontline’ positions where the main aim is to ‘close with and kill the enemy’, and the chance of becoming a POW remains constantly real. Logical as this may sound, the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have carved out a new type of warfare in which there is no ‘frontline’.



question of whether or not women, specifically young mothers, should be “permitted” to serve in the armed forces. But questions of social equality and moral responsibility are not the forte of a functioning modern Army. As Gerald Frost, Director of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, says: “War is not an equal opportunities activity.”

Former Sergeant Major Lee states: “When you join the army you know that if you become incapacitated in any way and unable to carry on the role you’ve signed on for, you get invalidated out. If a woman has a child and it reduces her ability to be an operational servicewoman, she should be discharged. She can’t fulfil her obligations.”

The armed forces require highly trained, operationally competent soldiers. Some argue that whether it be a man or a woman, their position as a mother, a father, a son or a daughter is irrelevant until this personal circumstance affects their military competence. It is possible that the focus on gender is counter-productive.

As society evolves and the issue of child-rearing is spread more equally between the sexes, perhaps it will not automatically be the military career of the woman which suffers after a couple have children. This may allow women to rise up through the army and increase in number.

“A woman,” Lee states, “is either a soldier or she’s not, and her soldiering comes first before her family. It has to, doesn’t it? You must be a soldier first and foremost, regardless of whether you are a man or a woman.”

Recent research conducted by the Israeli Army into the effectiveness of women as frontline troops has found that while childless women were “just as good or better than men”, women who had children were “significantly less effective because they were much more reluctant to kill people”.

Indeed, Lee claims that “most women haven’t got the aggressive temperament that men have - particularly those in the armed services. They just don’t have the aggressive tendency.”

This fits in with the 2002 MOD report which claimed women had a ‘reduced capacity for aggression’.

When I suggest to Hosty that this may be the case, she laughs aloud. “Some perhaps,” she says, “but some females can be more manly than other men! There are girls I know are much tougher than some of the guys.”

Lee’s next comment can be easily juxtaposed to research conducted by Kehoe into how societal conceptions of masculinity affect women in the British Army. Lee states that women are “far more suited to looking and nurturing after children rather than doing the aggressive war-like operations that men instinctively do because of their masculinity.”

Kehoe’s research shows that since birth women have been taught to be timid, conservative and conscientious. They have been given dolls to play with while the boys have been given trucks and guns and taught to be aggressive, ruthless and violent. Even if a boy and a girl do not behave in this way, watching how the other members of their sex play and behave will define the perimeters of their conduct.

Indeed, further research has shown that while women may initially be hesitant with their aggression, the longer they are exposed to the aggressive behaviour of their male colleagues, the more their own levels of aggression increase. This cements Kehoe’s idea

that the behaviour of those around you directly influences your own behaviour.

Another problem is the comparative physical weakness of female soldiers compared to male soldiers. A recent MOD report found that only 1% of female soldiers can match the average male soldier for strength and fitness. Women must exert themselves 25-30% more than men to achieve the same output; this along with their smaller size and lower bone density, predisposes them to a higher incidence of stress fractures and general injury.

As Hosty says: “We’re not built the same as the guys and they’re still chucking exactly the same weights on our backs as the guys on their backs. I got a knee injury when I was in basic training from using all the weights and stuff.”

Although women have more time to complete their runs and have to do less sit ups and press ups than men in their physical tests, they must still carry the same weight kit as men.

In 2002, the European Court of Justice ruled that member states could “derogate from the principle of equal treatment [between men and women] in the interests of combat effectiveness”. This ruling has allowed the army to continue its policy of banning women from all ‘frontline’ units.

However, if a woman can attain the level of physical fitness required to serve on the frontline and is completely aware of the risk of sexual assault faced by female POWs, there seems to be little reason why she shouldn’t. As one male Infantry soldier puts it: “If they [the female soldiers] are carrying the same weight as us, in the same heat, they get in the same contacts ... I don’t see any problems with it at all. I think it’s good they can get out here, do the job and not be stereotyped.”

Speaking of a female Artillery soldier out on foot patrol with an Infantry unit, a male Officer said: “As long as everyone I give the kit to can carry the kit; she’s trained on the weapons system she’s got and she’s expected to fight alongside everyone else.”

Even if a woman overcomes these challenges, one concern remains that is entirely out of her hands. According to the MOD, when women are in their Unit, men will prioritise the well being of the woman over their mission.

Hosty says, “my dad’s in the infantry ... and [he said that] if a female is injured on the front line, the male is more likely to stay back and help that female, which wouldn’t be the case if a male got injured on the front line. It wouldn’t affect them as badly to see a male injured as it would a female injured.”

There are numerous facets to the challenges faced by female soldiers today. Physical strength, social responsibilities and sexual assault are not to be taken lightly, but if a woman wishes to serve in the armed forces, it is arguable that she should not be prevented by the cruel chance of gender. The armed forces presents one of the last frontiers for gender equality.

As former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion famously said: “The Army is the supreme symbol of duty, and as long as women are not equal to men in performing this duty, they have not yet obtained true equality.” During the invasion of Iraq in 2001, Cynthia Mosley, a commander in the US Army, stated: “When the action starts, every soldier does what they’ve been trained to do - nobody cares whether you’re male or female. It’s just: can you do the job?”

\*Names have been changed. M

me to Afghanistan and I don’t want to leave my child behind.”

Before 1990, women were automatically discharged from the Army as soon as they became pregnant - whether they desired it or not.

Although the Army has now accepted a woman’s right to continue serving after having children, the public disdain displayed towards female soldiers with children proves that this acceptance that runs only skin deep.

**“As long as women are not equal to men in performing this symbol of duty, they have not yet obtained true equality”**

In 2007 the female Naval Officer, Leading Seaman Faye Turney was captured along with 15 colleagues in Iranian waters. The *Daily Mirror* commentator Paul Routledge was not alone in voicing the opinion that: “Britain cannot be so short of military personnel that such women [young mothers] should be permitted - nay encouraged - to go gadding around the world’s most dangerous and volatile waters.”

Extensive arguments surround the

**Far left: Lance-Corporal Laura Hosty at the York Army Barracks  
Above: female soldiers on duty**

The capture and rape of Private First Class Jessica Lynch (a driver in the US Army’s Quartermasters Corps) in Iraq in 2003 provides a very real example of the dangers women face serving in modern warfare.

But if a woman is fully aware of these additional risks, she must surely be given the prerogative to decide whether or not to take them. The game of war is riddled with risks and dangers; while the risk of rape may be an added danger for women, denying women the choice to choose whether or not to take such a risk could be seen as denying her a very basic right.

Since Hosty joined the Army at the age of 16, she has been on two tours of duty. She is due to leave for Afghanistan for a third tour next week. During wartime, a soldier can expect to be deployed roughly every two years. According to Hosty, this kind of volatile career does not bode well for those who wish to start a family.

The vast majority of the women she works with have left the Army after having children. She said: “I’ve known a couple of girls who were pregnant in York [barracks] and they had the same reasons [for leaving].” One of the women Hosty knew “wanted to stay in the army but felt like ‘I’m going to have to leave because they’re going to send

# Fashion.

**Liam O'Brien** talks to Johnny Blue Eyes, creative director of the endearingly zany House of Blue Eyes.

London Fashion Week often seems to take itself very seriously indeed. One name on the schedule, though, is always certain to raise a smile, and that is the House of Blue Eyes. In their legendary Autumn/Winter 2009 show, Alice Dellal walked the catwalk topless, covered in blood, and with a black cape held above her head. This year, their Revolution of Love collection was a colourful and anarchic addition to a season otherwise characterised by pared-down tones and the remembrance of Alexander McQueen. At these recent shows, Phoebe Philo's work at Celine was praised as the collection that heralded a creative but functional way of dealing with the ongoing recession, and her mantra of "Strong. Powerful. Reduced" became the byword for editors and buyers worldwide. But such a philosophy is anathema to the iconoclastic



Johnny Blue Eyes, creative director and "mother and father combined" of the House. He insists that "in difficult financial times through history, the most creative moments happen."

Johnny was originally renowned for his work as a performance artist, hoping to communicate a message promoting personal freedom, and that "everybody in this world looks differently, feels differently and wants different things from their lives and relationships". His 20 years performing in London and New York have led him to reflect: "I believe that performance art is one of the most magical of all the arts because it is about being in the moment."

Turning his hand to styling, Johnny has worked with many people in the music business, creating their look for live festival performances and editorials. "The Gossip and the Klaxons were



great fun to work with," he says. "As were the Scissor Sisters who I absolutely love. Central to my work as a stylist is collaborating with the artist and developing a relationship together, and then taking flight together to the stars!" When the House of Blue Eyes was set up in 2008 with "the idea of bringing together a family of artists, designers, performers and musicians", Lady Gaga was quick to snap up some of their choice pieces, including a PVC cape for the cover of her *The Fame* album.

The House has been likened to Warhol and The Factory, but Johnny maintains that it isn't "the only inspiration. The punk movement of the 70s and the gay

Houses of New York are equally inspiring to us." He also holds up individual figures within New York's ball culture as influences on the House, including Venus Xtravaganza, a transgender prostitute murdered before she could pay for sex reassignment surgery (as documented in a favourite film of Johnny's, *Paris is Burning*).

"Andy Warhol is always sitting on my shoulder," admits Johnny, "but I am really conscious about being in London in 2010." In this environs, the House's shows are celebrated for their unusual array of modelling talents: "Our models are reflective of our world. They are different sizes, different colours, different sexualities and come from diverse backgrounds. Fashion should be for everyone."

Meandering along in tow with everyone else has never been Johnny's concern, and it is certainly no preoccupation of his for the future: "In order to make a change in the world, you have to not be afraid of razing to the ground stuff that needs to disappear so that we can build something new, beautiful and fresh."

**Left: Beth Ditto as styled by Johnny. Right: Johnny Blue Eyes. Top: Revolution of Love collection, Johnny far right.**



## Sofia Redgrave



All of the above is true, but what the film and the book fail to show us are the beautiful and creative sides to the city, most recently fuelled by the intense Indian thirst for up-and-coming fashion.

Over the last few years I have travelled to Delhi and Mumbai on many occasions, and each time I have noticed these cities becoming more cosmopolitan as they reach tentatively into the international fashion world.

In 2007, *Vogue India* hit the street stalls, the new Indian *Grazia* followed shortly in 2008, and at Fashion Week I met a group of Indian fashion journalists from Mumbai, eager to learn from the well established scene in London.

"Great," you may say. The booming Indian economy is supporting the country's love for fashion. I thought I'd show my support too and picked up copies of *Vogue India* and *Grazia* in Mumbai airport to help fill the hours flying back to Blighty. Visually, the magazines were impressive. They were sleek, sophisticated and continued the glossy quality we have come to expect from their European counterparts.

However, expecting revolutionary and exciting new designs from the East, my heart sank

when the contents paralleled the western examples far too closely.

Page after page, I was confronted with product spreads filled with Chanel tweed bags at RS 135,362 (£1,994), Anya Hindmarch wallets for RS 22,569 (£332) and iPods, Diesel denim, Juicy Couture and Tod's sandals. When products like these are featured in British *Vogue* or *Grazia*, the majority of us consider them expensive - and this

**"This western attitude towards fashion journalism alienates many of Mumbai's middle earners"**

is when the average British wage is somewhere around £22,000 a year.

Compare this to the £700 average Indian salary and the products appear astronomically expensive, and only available to the super rich.

This western attitude towards fashion journalism alienates many of Mumbai's middle earners, who take home around £10,000 a year, curbing their healthy appetite for fashion and shopping.

When *Vogue* first hit the shops in India it caused controversy: children were being paid RS 25 - about 30 pence - for every copy they managed to flog to 'rich madams' caught in the endless traffic jams.

On top of this, *Vogue* orchestrated a sort of "Third World chic" shoot featuring some of the poorest members of the city wearing Alexander McQueen and Burberry - both expensive British labels. This juxtaposition of rich and poor highlights the vast gap between the fashion featured in India's glossies and their readers. After devouring both *Indian Vogue* and *Grazia*, I wished the volcano had erupted a week earlier and stranded me in Mumbai.

I would have been given the opportunity to really explore the innovation and creativity in the city; to hunt out some of India's own design talent, of which I'm sure there is so much of. If only *Vogue India* and *Indian Grazia* would do the same.

# Fashion Forward or Backward? Tess Webb explores the technology behind fashion today.

**T**weet, tweet, tweet. According to *Elle* magazine, an extraordinary 5,218 tweets were posted during the catwalks of S/S '10. Fashion, not unlike the celebrity industry, is constantly evolving, shocking, and generating the passionate interest of millions of people worldwide.

In one sense, the connection between fashion and technology (whether it be blogs or online magazines) is fantastic. Who wouldn't want to know the height in inches of McQueen's armadillo shoes? Or which supermodel was pictured writhing with snakes on a backdrop? (Raquel Zimmerman, in case you were wondering.)

Twitter is constantly being used throughout all runway shows - even to the point that the front row have their eyes glued to their laptops and Blackberries instead of

the models. Here are some facts to support this seemingly endless obsession.

On February 23 this year, Burberry was the first line to create a show that the audience had to watch in 3D glasses. Whilst we may wonder if the glasses were Burberry branded - the audience members did note that it made the colours of the clothes appear darker. Some were quoted as saying: "You can't beat seeing the clothes in real life" - surely an obvious point?

Furthermore, it was recorded that a "Twitter war" has started on the fashion scene, involving companies to hire others to hack into their respective systems. I'm not sure of the inner working of the big design houses but I have a feeling the time could be better spent.

And it doesn't just stop at Twitter. The

catwalk shows themselves are also embracing hi-tech additions to modernize the way we view fashion. Think Kate Moss holograms and also strobe lighting, laser shows and imagery.

But here's the crux: has this boom in technology, liberal opinions and influx of bloggers somehow distracted from the magic of fashion, and - arguably more importantly - style?

"There's more to fashion than clothes." True. But whilst I believe that it's amazing that designers are constantly working towards creating inspiring fashion shoes, something feels a bit amiss.

Firstly, I believe that as we dubiously make our way into 2010 and beyond, it's really quite difficult to pinpoint a certain trend or look that we all gravitate towards.

It's easy to name the items that we correspond with the 60s, 70s and 80s (stonewashed denim, anyone?).

Yet now, whilst individuality is strong, sometimes (especially on the high street) repetition creeps in. Nautical stripes, originally popularized in the 1940s, are again ever-present on the shelves of the high street (most notably Zara) and that uncertain feeling as to the credibility of your outfit threatens. Is what you're wearing too cliché, blasé, or, God forbid, passé?

The need to rely on Twitter for constant style updates has meant that we have drifted away from what truly matters about fashion - icons and traditions.

If we think back to the breakthroughs made as recently as the 1980s (the rise of punk clothing and the subsequent shoots were originally frowned upon by the largest fashion houses, but they then gradually accepted the trend), it seems that modernity is rather a poor substitute.

Overall, it can seem that we're stuck in a state of indecision - wandering between the wilderness of futuristic tailoring or regressing to Levi's flares. We've reached a point in fashion where we have the choice - a freedom to choose when it comes to style.

During London Fashion Week, it astonished me at how hard people tried to prove and underline this by wearing the most ridiculous outfits possible, including one man wearing a cardboard dress decorated with the faces of cats. There was no way he could be called stylish or fashion forward, but rather he seemed more of a product of a modern world where we all dressed like freaks.

I therefore must conclude that whilst we should embrace the freedom of now being able to wear exactly what we wish and able to gain information within the seconds, modern technology does, to some degree, make us forget what fashion is really about.

It is about inherent style and taking inspiration from things that actually move you, rather than trusting whichever blogger comes up on your news feed.

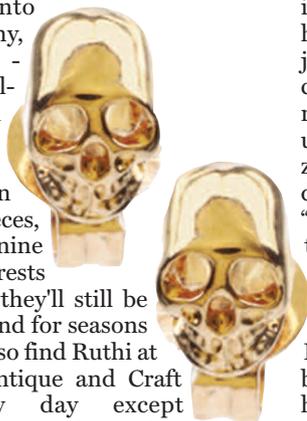
**Bloggers on the front row: it seems La Wintour is the only one paying attention**



## Ones to watch

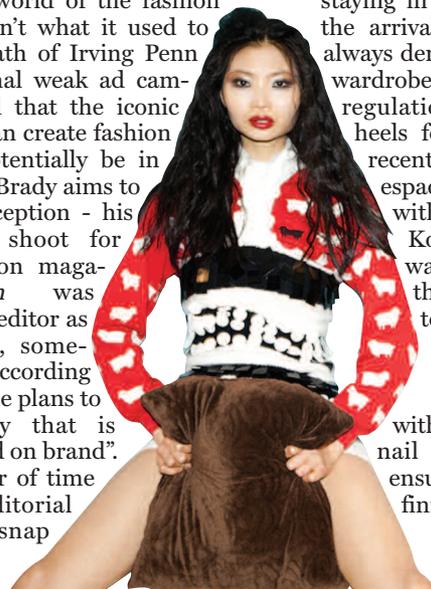
**DESIGNER: RUTHIE ORLIN**

Jewellery remains delicate and intricate for summer, and Orlin's new collection takes classic motifs such as skulls and scrabble letters, and puts a feminine twist on them, whilst using simple gold and silver. Orlin has recently made the move from styling and fashion design into her own company, with great success - her line is now available on ASOS and polyvore.com (earrings pictured are £25). The main strength of her pieces, most of which are nine carat gold-plated, rests in their longevity: they'll still be relevant and on trend for seasons to come. You can also find Ruthi at the Hampstead Antique and Craft Emporium every day except Mondays, with prices starting at £12.



**PHOTOGRAPHER: TREVOR BRADY TREND: THE SUMMER SHOE**

Recently, it has been murmured in fashion circles that the world of the fashion photographers isn't what it used to be. With the death of Irving Penn and the occasional weak ad campaign, it seemed that the iconic imagery which can create fashion history could potentially be in jeopardy. Trevor Brady aims to change that perception - his recent fashion shoot for upcoming London magazine *Random* was described by the editor as "something else, something exciting." According to his website, he plans to create imagery that is "progressive and on brand". It's only a matter of time before the editorial heavyweights snap him up.



It doesn't matter if you're going abroad or staying in the UK in the summer months, the arrival of everyone's favourite season always demands at least one update to your wardrobe: the summer shoe. As well as the regulation flip-flop, disregard spindly heels for dynamic wedges. Prada have recently created a fusion of both the espadrille and cork heel but sticking with bright colours, such as these Korkeaze beauties, is the way forward. Available at korkeaze.com, they manage to stand comparison to the leading designers and won't be too hard on the bank balance either. Priced at £100, wear them with putty coloured nail varnish to ensure a polished finish.



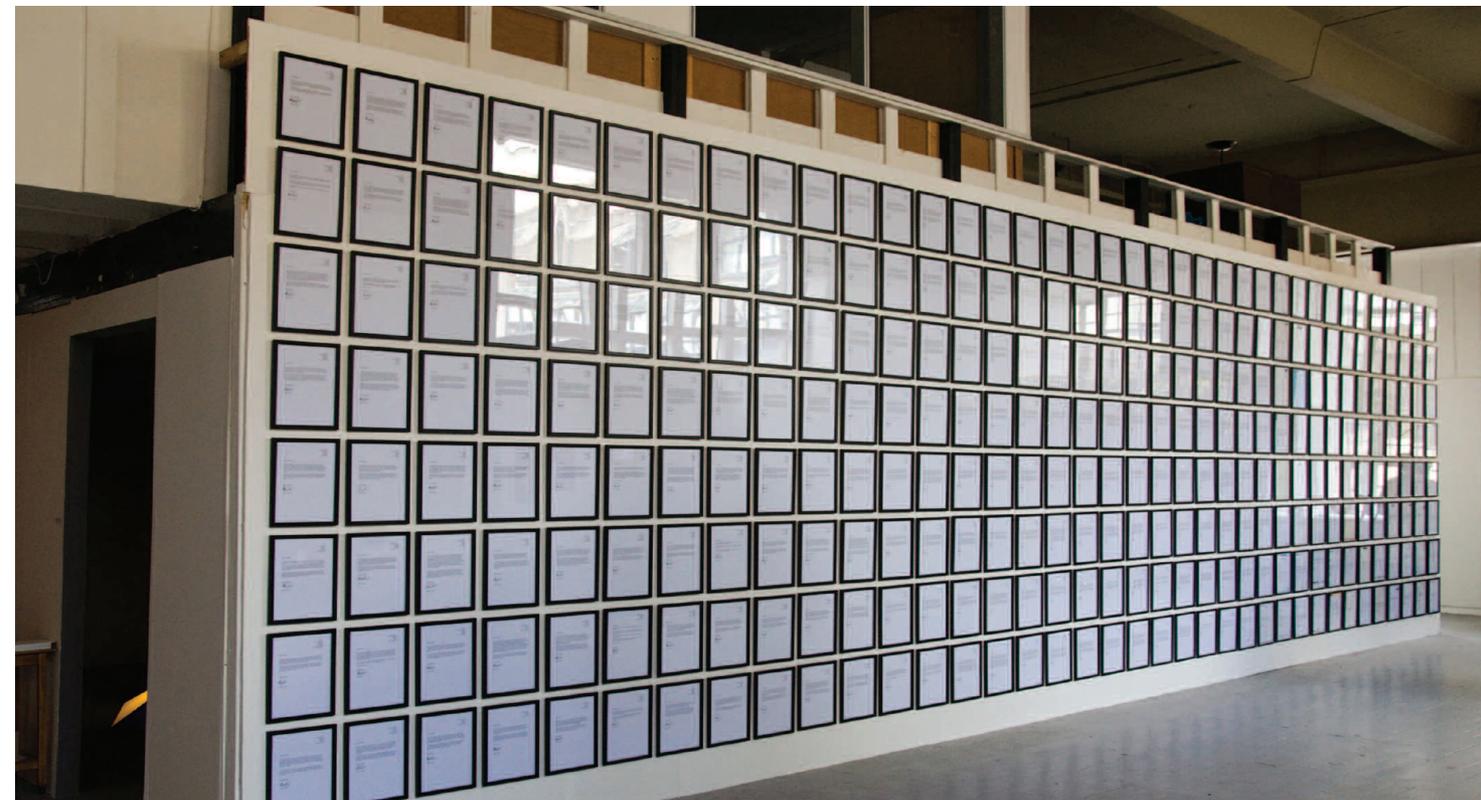
**EVENT: FESTIVALS**

Forget Reading and Leeds, this summer's festivals are places for the fashion pack to gather and show us the key trends for summer. The most recent was Coachella 2010, hosted in the California desert last week which saw the likes of Agyness Deyn, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Kate Bosworth all present their take on festival chic. It remained rock'n'roll, with the comeback of denim and sturdy shoes, but was speckled with neon and bright prints. Also, we can't forget the performers themselves - including Florence and the Machine, who has recently made appearances in both *Vogue* and *Grazia*.



# Arts.

## Camilla Apcar talks to Harriet Lowther about 'The Big Thank you Project'



**H**arriet Lowther is passionately thankful – for every product she has ever used.

In fact, this gratitude has allowed her personally undertaking to thank as many companies as she can to evolve into an extraordinary art project.

'The Big Thank You Project' is a collection of 224 A4-sized thank you letters sent by Lowther each for a different product or service, with individualised messages about why she appreciates them.

Displayed in rows on a huge wall at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, viewers can read each one – as well as some of the replies the artist has received.

The Project started last Christmas, when the 24-year-old photography-based artist thought, "what about the people who sit there for days, weeks, months or maybe even lifetimes; making the same thing over and over without even so much of a thanks?" She reasons: "if I use the product, I must like

it; otherwise I would not use it, no matter how small", even "the little trinkets which surround me, the objects which define me, the inanimate things which make me me."

"The project was never intended as an art project; it very much began as a personal endeavour. I think this is what reinforces its sincerity, as there never was an original directed audience."

"They were written for no one, except the recipient of the letter," continues the artist, reflecting on the direction and motivation behind her work.

Lowther is keen to tell a dramatic evolutionary tale, from how "I had never thanked someone I didn't know, had never met or even spoken to ... it was a process," to how "I would reward myself with a dose of nicotine whilst the letters printed" and "awaited the postman with eager anticipation, it became a habit (the Royal Mail have of course received their own personal thank you letter)".

Soon, "The Big Thank You Project"

developed to a far greater scale for the Glasgow School of Art Fine Art Photography graduate.

"The letter writing was getting out of control," she confesses.

"It became my life. I was living the art project. Except it was no longer an art project, it was a quest ... where no one could be left out. I couldn't live with the guilt of forgetting the maker who had put so much care and attention into making the pencil I had used as a child."

The underlying message of the project could be interpreted through the issues which Lowther went on to consider, such as commercialism, consumption, gratitude, etiquette and anti-capitalism.

She admits, "I tend to pick up on things most people forget. I like to notice what others miss", whilst "discussing topics to which we can all relate".

Within her exploration of contemporary commercialist tendencies, Lowther forces

the viewer to evaluate what products they use themselves.

At first glance, the near formulaic white spreadsheet display of 'The Big Thank You Project' seems as though it could in no way be an introspective spectacle.

Yet closer inspection of its theme, and apparent purposefulness in awakening simple appreciations, allows Lowther's letters to progress past conventional expectations of traditional written communication.

Her use of a factually authentic medium provides a realistic dimension to her work.

The Lancashire artist explains: "On one level, like Kafka, I was attempting to conquer the institution, breaking down the barriers between myself and unapproachable companies. I was making myself heard."

Lowther received complimentary gifts as a result of the project, the first of which was "two perfect packets of Silver Spoon Sugar", and consequently an eyeliner, pens, an umbrella, cod liver oil and a LEGO set.

"I was shocked at the amount of things I received in return, as I was just not expecting them." Companies began to remember Lowther, at which point she questioned the sincerity of her letters.

Although her plight was genuine, she wondered whether the meaning behind her thank you letters would be misconstrued. "If you say something too many times, meaning is lost. If you don't say it at all, there is no meaning. I couldn't win."

"The amount of things we own or use is almost inconceivable. This project recognises and addresses that. The overwhelming number of letters will, on a basic level, force people to realise the amount of things they use so habitually, and maybe be a bit more grateful for what they have."

After 242 letters, "I am staring to wonder where it will all end, if it will. Where does it stop? I use new products all the time, no matter how insignificant. I could continue with this project for the rest of my life."

"The Big Thank You Project' has just finished displaying at the RSA in Edinburgh as part of the Royal Scottish Academy New Contemporaries exhibition.

**More of Harriet Lowther's work can be found at [www.harrietlowther.com](http://www.harrietlowther.com).**

## Lowenna Waters



to persuade the leaders of the importance of the arts and why they deserve adequate and continued funding. I mean, it's far easier to see the effects of investment in weapons of mass destruction as opposed to weapons of social nourishment. However, there are strong arguments in the arts' favour based on

**"In times of social and economic depression, art can be a crucial tool of regeneration"**

solid statistics and example. Art, especially in a time of social and economic depression, can be a crucial tool of regeneration, investment and aid. Speaking recently at the Conservative arts conference, Alan Davey, Chief Executive of the Arts Council England, commented, "the arts ought to be a key part of any civilised government's mission."

He added: "I hope any government

would not return to a Millsian view of the most efficient creation of wealth being the sole aim of any society. To [fund the arts] is rational, economically sound, and is essential to our quality of life."

Art schemes have been used successfully as rehabilitation for young offenders, such as a recent scheme at Feltham Young Offenders' Institute, which culminated in a show of the inmates' painting, sculpture, printmaking and gilding at the National Gallery.

Investment in culture is not just socially beneficial; the economic impact of theatre is £2.6bn, with every public pound invested earning £2. Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture brought £800m into the city, and last year's Manchester International Festival generated £35.7m. In the immortal words of that paragon of our youth, John Major, gazing from our television sets through his rightly oversized 80s glasses: "Man cannot live on GDP alone". Quite agree there, John.

So what exactly are the three Culture Secretary candidates proposing as their policies? They have all boasted credentials of

being acquainted with popular culture. Don Foster, the Lib Dem candidate sounded his support for Florence and the Machine and Dizzee Rascal. "Their performance at the Brits, which I think all three of us were at, was bettered only by the performance of Lady Gaga." Down with the kids, isn't he?

Also in the Lib Dem quarter, they emphasise that the arts are no longer seen as an after-thought or added extra, and pledge to "maintain current levels of investment in the arts and creative industries". Labour has acknowledged how art contributes to Britain's common good, as well as its economy. However, prospects under a Conservative government seem bleak, as the arts were not mentioned in their manifesto.

Overall, it would seem flippant to base one's vote upon the parties' arts manifestoes alone. However, if one believes that they are essential to nurturing a strong sense of cultural identity, then it may be an idea to skim through the cultural ideas the parties have for the future of society. I mean, what would this country do without an annual dollop of 'The X Factor' and Cheryl Cole, hey?

# Arts in depth.

## Lynne Roebuck chats to **Laura Connor** about the commercialisation of fine art.



Lynne Roebuck's art is "about the impressions of landscapes we carry with us". Roebuck specialises in limited edition original prints, which consistently suggest a crashing anger and turbulence reflected in the human condition. Her print 'Dark Water Clash' is inspired by a stormy collision of waves in deep water; the rich, dark ocean blue and tepid green subtly mix together in the linoprint, whilst the semi-transparent inks overlay to convey the fine mist boiling foam generates.

But how does Roebuck effectively marry the nebulousness of human experience and perception with the power of the landscape in her prints? "I use printmaking as my medium because I feel it offers all sorts of potential creative possibilities," Roebuck explains. "The print making process deals with successions of images; makes indentations into a surface, called 'impressions'... it also breaks down visual information into lay-

ers and involves concepts such as registration and miss-registration, for example."

She sees her striking colour combinations as arising "from direct observation - 'sampled' you could say. People have commented on the amount of blue this has resulted in." She stresses that her concentration is on the cohesion of the creative process rather than the potential perceptions of her viewers: "I've not pondered if the colour combinations present melancholia or uplift. I see them instead as entirely descriptive. I intervene in the colours to ensure that they are cohesive, rather than to manipulate their emotional aspects at this time."

What does Roebuck prioritise as her primary inspiration, however: the *a priori* landscape picture, or the *a posteriori* human perception? Do they form a fusion through her prints? "My primary inspiration is the human experience of (external) reality, or:

'reality' as it manifests within," Roebuck emphasises. "I've found myself using the more straightforward phrase: 'landscape as we feel it to be' to describe my current work."

And where is the root of this inspiration for Roebuck? She cites the difficulty of defining inspiration but acknowledges the changes in her attitude as she grows older: "Why this is my primary inspiration I don't know. Perhaps moving from suburbia to the countryside at a key point in my childhood was pivotal. Maybe my increasing years increase the sense of preciousness of time experiencing the physical world. Perhaps what has come with my maturity is more political, as I observe how modern UK society becomes one dimensional (the social orbit) and anaesthetised from physical reality, with the myriad of implications that has." She adds: "I suspect all three contribute."

Roebuck considers human perception, during the creative process and when someone views her end product, as the main thrust of her work, however. "It's our 'experience' which dominates, not the place," she asserts. "It profoundly defines our inner life... An aspect I'm particularly interested in at the moment is the idea of the 'idyllic' place." She enthuses: "How we fix stories, meaning and what we call a 'sense-of-place' to locations as a way, I suggest, of both keeping our vivid inner life connected to outside reality and a way of identifying with something 'worth having'... [It's] rooted in primal survival perhaps. Though free from many of the survival concerns of earlier generations, people's relationship with physical places is as important as ever and far more complex than my amateur theorising can ever truly pin down... but there is to me, I fear, a creeping disconnection from external reality and isolation in inner reality. In some ways, I'd suggest, it's not de-personalisation, but over-personalisation. I hope my work makes visible (communicates) aspects of the invisible layer overlaid on the physical world, a layer unique to each of us, yet common to us all."

How does Roebuck thus elucidate her message and retain her artistic integrity in an increasingly insular world? "My understanding is that artistic integrity is being honest, being whole and unified. Every artist, given creativity, is Rhizomatic, and has to deal with the entirely artistic challenge of where the line is between wholeness and unity, versus shapelessness and discord."

How does Roebuck approach the challenges of commercialisation whilst retaining her artistic integrity? She admits: "I have to sell work, but I've chosen not to sell direct. This is because I want to spend as much time as possible producing art, but I feel the decision was also an instinctive one seeking a distance from commercial concerns too."

She continues in expressing her dissatisfaction with the industry: "If my observations are correct about parts of the arts industry structuring itself around a direct selling model then commercialism is surely being brought right into the artist's studio and artistic integrity becomes a real issue - perhaps this is why I encounter so much discussion about it." But does it affect her work? "Personally, I don't want commercialism in my studio at all," she says, "and I hope I've made it easier to maintain an integrity by my choice, though I may have made it harder to establish my practice if everything is structured otherwise. I should say that my feelings about direct selling are a personal preference, not a judgement - I'm sure many direct selling artists manage their artistic integrity well despite their involvement in selling activity and I can only express admiration."

Roebuck concludes on a note of reluctant acceptance: "I'm not going to claim that my work is entirely unaffected, this would be naive, self-deluded, even dishonest. How my work is being effected, that I'm aware of, is I feel largely benign though, because I'm not privy to why precisely it sells. Perceptions... do trouble me. With so much commercialism, I fear it becomes more likely others will assume commercial intent, a lack of artistic integrity and infer shallowness."



Left, Above: © Lynne Roebuck.

## Up and coming events

### Catcher: before Chapman shot Lennon

Award-winning writer Richard Hurford returns to Pilot Theatre Company once more, with his stunning new play that explores the fatal attraction of fame and obsession.

*Catcher* follows the real life story of gun man Mark Chapman in the run up to his assassination of musical legend John Lennon.

The story of Mark Chapman and John Lennon has been told many times, but no one knows what took place in that hotel room on Mark's last night of anonymity.

*Catcher* invites the



audience to step inside that room and for the first time approach those final hours through fresh eyes.

*Catcher* opens May 13 at York Theatre Royal and runs until June 5.

### Spring Awakening

One Drama Barn production to watch out for this term is *Spring Awakening*, opening May 14.

Set in 19th century

Germany and written by Frank Wedekind, *Spring Awakening* is the story of a group of adolescents growing up in a repressive rural society.

14-year-old Wendla struggles to cope with her unplanned pregnancy.

Young boys Hanschen and Ernst battle with their sexuality, whilst rebellious runaway Ilse returns from her bohemian adventures to offer teenage tearaway Moritz one last chance to embrace life.

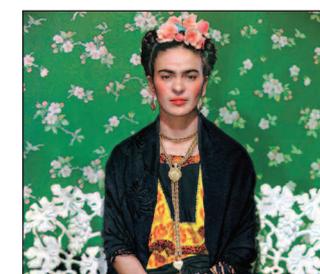
Banned in England until 1963, the play is an innovative piece of drama which still has as much relevance today as it did 100 years ago.

*Spring Awakening* runs between May 14 and 16.

### Frida and Diego

If you can't afford to jet off to the Frida Kahlo Retrospective at the Gropius-Bau Museum in Berlin, you can still get up close and personal with the artist at this week's Drama Barn production of *Frida and Diego*.

*Frida and Diego*, a love story by Greg Cullen, centres



around the meeting and romance of two of Mexico's most influential artists, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera.

This dreamy re-telling is directed and produced by Rhiannon Ashcroft, and mixes theatre, music, art, politics, movement and tequila. It promises to be a memorable experience for cast and audience alike.

### Jenny Holzer

The next two weeks are your last chance to catch Jenny Holzer's latest at the Baltic Mill in Gateshead.

Best known for her use of text as art, American artist Holzer combines an investigative use of language with an innovative use of materi-



als and modes of distribution - billboards, t-shirts, condom wrappers and paintings - to confront some of the most potent issues of our time: love, pain, peace, longing, conflict and survival.

See Jenny Holzer at the Baltic until May 16th.

From left: *Catcher*, copyright, Pilot Theatre. 'Frida Kahlo self portrait', copyright, Nickolas Muray.

Above: Jenny Holzer, copyright; the artist.

# Music.

Intrepid indie ecologists Stornoway chat to **Tom Killingbeck** about their recent success.

UK indie has had many past dalliances with the pastoral; most recently British Sea Power with their foliage obsession and appearance on *Countryfile*. But Stornoway's sound - whimsical pop-folk that suggests sun-dappled meadows and rolling dales - is backed up with professional experience in ecology. Having left a career as an environmental scientist, Brian Briggs leads the four-piece with his soaring tones, their bucolic sound seemingly vying for a place in our hearts as the theme of the coming summer. Last year saw the band take off; winning the 'Best Artist' award at BBC Radio One's Big Weekend and, more recently, signing to hallowed UK label 4AD. This take-off seems unaffected by volcanic ash, as a season of festivals approaches and the release of debut LP 'Beachcombed Windowsill' is readied.

What's more, these Oxford scholars have decided to play an exclusive gig at our humble university, where, in Derwent Bar on Tuesday 11th May, an audience of Oxbridge rejects can wistfully stare at them play, wondering how different things might have been had they had the opportunity to study amidst those fabled spires. The ecological vibe of the band is bolstered by our interview, which is conducted breathlessly via phone while hiking on a mountain near Bergen, Norway, where the band are later playing a gig. Brian, the singer, has always "been interested in sailing and outdoor activities", hence the band name, a burgh in the Outer Hebrides which he once attempted to sail to but "failed, because of gale-force winds". The name was also chosen because it "probably has the most romantic name of all the Hebridean islands - a band called Mull or Oban might be a bit awful".

Romance and the great outdoors are definitely the two main forces that shape the band's somewhat unique take on pop. Perhaps a genre name needs inventing for it; maybe 'sprout-baroque'. Certainly, influences seem



**Above:** Stornoway enjoying a post-hike sing-song.

diverse, with Briggs' Kate Bush romanticism mixed with Teenage Fanclub style power-pop. Drummer Robert Steadman (brother of bassist Ollie) cites a more exotic source for the rhythm section, as he and his sibling originally hail from South Africa. "There's one main artist that I've always really admired," he says. "Johnny Clegg - this South African guy who takes a lot of influence from traditional Zulu songs. The rhythm section having that sort of influence does add a slightly African feel." While the band's sound is hardly afrobeat in the vein of

Vampire Weekend or The Very Best, the polyrhythmic percussion undeniably buoys their sound in an unusual way. 4AD is "a great home to be in, particularly with the other artists", and combined with stablemates such as Broken Records and Camera Obscura; they definitely form a new rustic directive from the label. The source of all this swooning romanticism and idyllic naturalism seems to stem from the aforementioned Oxford. You do get the idea that they were running around the corridors clutching teddy bears called

Aloysius. Being from such a background has its advantages - not many fosterling bands get backed by orchestras so early on: "towards the end of last year, in the Sheldonian Theatre - which is this massive, very, very old concert hall, we actually got a 40 piece string orchestra to join us, and having that behind us definitely added something special to the sound." Live, the band are often joined by a trumpeter and violinist, their ambition and scope seemingly increasing by the week. But they're clearly not the toffee-nosed 'serious' band they're sometimes made out to be - the interview is interrupted at one point by a scream. Robert apologises: "Sorry, Brian just leapt out from

"a band called Mull or Oban might be a bit awful ..."

behind a rock and scared the shit out of me." Their academic background has also meant some big sacrifices for the chance to follow their musical dream. As mentioned, Brian left his career as an ecologist - "if you need to know anything about shoveller ducks in South East London, he's the top person in the world to speak to" - but the others are similarly professionally trained, keyboardist Jon having done a Master's in Russian at Oxford.

When asked why they've left such potentially lucrative career paths, they assure me it's all about the love. They've been music obsessives since youth, balancing learning their instruments (some of the band are self-taught) with book-poring and note-scribbling in darkened studies. "It's been a dream since childhood really, only now it's developed into something more; a career," Rob muses. Who can blame them? I'd take a vocation in dicking about on mountains and playing folksy chamber-pop over any job you can get with a Master's in Russian any day.

## Future Sounds

If we haven't rubbed it in your face enough yet, this weekend was 'Live at Leeds' festival (seriously promoters, where are our freebies? You tight bastards).

So our (not particularly inspired) 'Future Sounds' this edition is dedicated to a few of the acts that played at the event. In previous years, 'Live at Leeds' has put on acts such as Metronomy, Pulled Apart By Horses, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Wild Beasts: all of which have since found critical acclaim. This year, most of the swinging dicks from the Leeds music scene were off recording debut albums, and a lot of new talent has taken over their places.

Firstly are Is Tropical who may be escaped criminals from somewhere exotic, given they perform wearing tropical patterned neckerchiefs over their faces (or is this some new subtle Topman sponsor scheme?).

Who knows? But this electronic trio sound like they could probably be the soundtrack in your local branch.

Not managing to sound quite as catchy as Metronomy, or as weird as Late of the Pier,

they balance somewhere in between with their unnerving spoken or sung lyrics and tropical synth loops. Already touring with The Big Pink, there's every chance they could gain similar popularity.

With their killer riffs, shouty vocals and beastly name, These Monsters are entirely representative of the scene Leeds has much recent success from.

Having toured with Pulled Apart By Horses, they sound like they could be their heavier cousin - soundwise that is. Vocals take somewhat of a backseat to the riffs here, and, rather unusually, there's even some brass accompaniment. But thankfully it isn't in the form of some obtrusive Mark Ronson remix; instead it's carefully used in the instrumental build-ups for a much more interesting take on the heavy rock sound that isn't your average Kerrang-endorsed fodder.

Next is up Wolf Gang, but this animal is more Fleetwood Mac than fire-breathing rock monster.

Wolf Gang is the alias of Max Elligott, who's created a modern take on the 80s pop

aesthetic with his echo-y harmonies and Bowie inspired-guitar and synths. Elligott claims he can bang out a song in a day, but there's not too many sound-a-likes, with moody heart-longing 'Back to Back', jangly-guitar fast-paced 'Nightflying' and staccato synth-pop of 'Pieces of You'. What sound Elligott will pursue in his debut album, currently being produced by Blue May (the-cocknbullkid, Lykke Li) will be hugely interesting with so many ideas already on show.

Lastly are Sunderland indie boy-band Frankie & the Heartstrings. Lead singer Frankie definitely fits the boy band bill with his part-shaven, part-foppish quiff haircut, but that's about where the boy band comparisons stop. Sure, songs like 'Tender' verge on soppy ballad, but with their bursting out chorus and Frankie's yelps of "breaking out", they leave you gasping from an emotional punch rather than feeling queasy from sentimental mushiness. They should be abseiling your heartstrings in no time.



Adam Bychawski

# True Sounds of Liberty

## Hannah Ellis-Petersen talks to the only boys wearing drainpipes in Kabul.

For the past five years our headlines have been dominated by the conflict raging in Afghanistan; the lives taken and the ceaseless destruction caused. In my determined investigations to find out the harsh 'reality' of life in Afghanistan, a country that has faced more political upheaval in its history than perhaps any other, I instead stumbled upon a small fragment of youthful optimism amid the discord.

They come in the form of Kabul Dreams, a band who proclaim themselves to be Afghanistan's first indie-rock band and who are, slowly but surely, pioneering a new movement of western music across their war-torn country. Formed in 2009, they are something of an oddity, describing their sound as "indie rock with elements of Brit pop", with influences ranging from 'Radiohead and The Beatles to The Vines and Oasis'.

While this may be a standard response from every up and coming 'indie' band in the UK, having such western influences is practically unheard of in a country in which all music was virtually banned for a decade under Taliban rule, and all westernised products strictly taboo. All three members of Kabul Dreams are no strangers to having their lives dictated by such political and religious oppression. Lead singer Siddique recounted to me how "the three of us were born in Afghanistan but had to move to

the neighbouring countries during the political turmoil, civil war and the Taliban period."

Bringing together the youth of Afghanistan under their message of 'peace, solidarity, love and friendship', rather than the all too familiar religious and military dogma, gives them a unique and significant role. While they may have been some of the lucky few who managed to escape the harshness of living under Taliban rule, their lives have been a far cry from their privileged western musical counterparts. And yet, they truly believe that their music can make a difference. "We certainly feel we are an inspiration for young Afghans," says Ahmed, who stands as the mouthpiece for the band, being the most fluent in English. "Considering how much the Afghan youth suffered during the war in every aspect of their lives, including the lack of social life, music and other forms of entertainment, we want to be able to form a platform for youngsters in future to express themselves through new styles of music."

There is a definite sense, however, that even they themselves have been taken aback by their mounting popularity. "In our biggest gig here in Kabul for an Afghan audience, we didn't expect them to like our music this much," says Ahmed. "We thought they might just stand there and listen and probably clap at the end of



each song, but they were a proper rock audience; they screamed, they yelled, danced and jumped!" However, with 68% of the population under the age of 25 in Afghanistan, it comes as little surprise to me that their concerts have stirred up so much excitement across the city of Kabul. With such limited opportunities for young people to gather freely and let their hair down, such gatherings come as a welcome relief. It is perhaps for this reason that the lyrics to the songs of Kabul Dreams are permeated by a wistful and peaceful escapism.

I asked whether they viewed

themselves as a political band, though the vagueness of their answer suggested it is a label they are attempting to avoid. "Our songs are about different things," says Ahmed. "Some are about our lives and what we want. Some are about universal themes like love, peace, girls and relationships".

When I ask them what they see as their main role as musicians, all three band members are keen to emphasise the impact they believe their music can have in changing the perceptions of the outside world on the culture and traditions of Afghanistan. "We always had a dream to play in an Afghan rock

band sometime and represent Afghanistan internationally in festivals and other events," explains Ahmed. "When we got together and started jamming, this dream became a reality."

While it is far too idealistic to believe that three reasonably talented and optimistic individuals hold the key to radical social change across Afghanistan, the ideals of freedom and love in their songs are vitally important in inspiring the Afghan youth, whose lives are too often dominated by the destruction of war.

Certainly, as three men they are sure to encounter far less criticism than if such a project had been embarked upon by females. Even at their recent concert at the American University of Afghanistan, the girls sat on the sidelines while the men danced and jumped with abandon. It is a harsh reminder of how the western principles expressed in their lyrics can only go so far, particularly in the face of centuries of religious subjugation of women.

With an album planned for this year, Kabul Dreams are well on their way to bringing even a small measure of hope to people whose lives have otherwise been marred with war and political oppression. As they say themselves, "we are doing something different, something that's never been done before", and for that you cannot help but admire them.

## Reviews



ARTIST: PALOMA FAITH  
DATE: 8 FEBRUARY  
VENUE: O2 ACADEMY  
SHEPHERD'S BUSH  
REVIEW: RHIANNON WILLIAMS



Paloma Faith's star is soaring. Following memorable performances on 'Later... with Jools Holland' and the considerable vitriol aimed at her outrageous outfits in *Heat* magazine, Faith is closing her first headlining tour in London. She takes to the stage shrouded in peach-coloured ostrich feather fans, stalking around in six-inch scarlet sex shop shoes.

Opening with a rousing 'Smoke and Mirrors', her voice has a rare visceral quality, swelling and filling the venue with a surprising energy and power far exceeding her diminutive stature. Her brand of jazz-and-pop infused funky soul is sincere and intelligent, completed by her backing singers and band.

Faith live is a very different experience to listening to her recordings. The inevitable gloss of the studio falls away and her roughly honed talent really shines: skilfully weaving tales of heartbreak and lust whilst side-

stepping the narcissistic introspection of peers Amy Winehouse and Lily Allen.

In between songs Faith regales us in her kittenish Hackney purr. "I'm looking for a gentleman to charm the pants off me," she muses coquettishly, selecting an audience member to serenade with the sickly saccharine 'Romance is Dead'. "Last night I thought I was gonna get arrested - tonight it looks like you might be," she cackles as a slightly chubby ladies' man joins her, introducing himself as Larry.

A commanding showgirl with a saucy grin, Faith throws herself around the elaborate stage set whilst powering through her debut album 'Do You Want The Truth Or Something Beautiful?', alongside some covers.

Her rawness coupled with the odd missed note makes Faith a loaded pistol of showmanship and honesty, bellowing her way through encore 'New York' to a rapturous standing ovation.



ARTIST: LCD SOUNDSYSTEM  
DATE: 27 APRIL  
VENUE: O2 ACADEMY  
LEEDS  
REVIEW: TOM KILLINGBECK



The O2 is rammed full of a heady mixture of towering bald men and miniature indie kids, which shows the broad spectrum of James Murphy's appeal.

Touring for new (and purportedly final) LP 'This Is Happening', DFA figureheads cover the stage as the band kick into 'Get Innocuous!' and send the venue into a smorgasbord of dance spasms. A swirling disco ball fills the venue with stars and light as the audience is sucked into hot, slick, rhythmic grooves.

Murphy, at nearly 40, with trademark baggy white t-shirt and faltering crowd repartee is the perfect leader, affable and completely overtaken by his music, backed by a diverse crew. Gavin Russom resembles a hairy synth wizard from the techno wilderness, commanding an impressive array of modular equipment from the rear of the stage, while Pat Mahoney is the perfect dance drummer, relentlessly injecting intense amounts

of funk into the sometimes samba-like percussive efforts.

Murphy, free from the confines of his studio hermitage, seems liberated by the live environment, careering about the stage and connecting with the audience in a way unexpected since reports of the totalitarian, mansion-based and white-suited new record. The new songs sound fantastic - 'Drunk Girls' is ecstatically received, its brief glam-pop out of sync with lengthier works such as 'All I Want'.

When burning calling-card 'Someone Great' comes along - perhaps the band's greatest song - the audience becomes more static. Maybe it's because of the jaw-dropping emotion of the tune, its low-key lyrics and haunting synth lines create a raw human power that isn't present elsewhere. As we finish on an anthemic 'New York, I Love You...', there are plenty of people here hoping that this isn't the last tour, and that Murphy's got many more records in him.

## Nouse Playlist

**The Alternative Glee Soundtrack**  
*Estella Adeyeri*

Here are just a few of the tracks that should have made it into the New Directions repertoire:

**The Rolling Stones - (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction**

An ode to Mr Schue's continual inability to "do the nasty" with Emma.

**Mystery Jets - Young Love**

Captures the heartbreak and raging hormones of William McKinley High School.

**Run DMC - My Adidas**

A hip hop tribute to Sue Sylvester's favourite brand.

**Passion Pit - Little Secrets**

Secrets are usually to blame for Glee Club controversy.

**The Ramones - Teenage Lobotomy**

This would explain a lot about Brittany. Though she does get some of the best lines ever.

**Snoop Dogg and Akon - I Wanna Fuck You**

Whilst the Glee version of 'Like a Virgin' was great and all, this gets the point across a lot more succinctly.

# FILM.

## Michael Allard

An *Anchorman* sequel is on the horizon, and, well, it's kind of a big deal



*Anchorman* is a very, very silly film. It's somehow been a major part of my life ever since I first saw it. For a couple of years, catchphrases from it would roll into everyday conversation. Depending on my mood, anyone who was confused would either get a dull and drawn-out explanation of why that was funny, or just be told to see it.

Long after this phase had passed, remarkably (or maybe pitifully), *Anchorman* came back into my life as I began uni. It was incredible that this particular brand of American humour was a common source of banter with a completely new set of people. Now, there always seems to be an *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* DVD, left out of its case, stranded somewhere near the TV. I don't usually notice it, but there are times when seeing that disc lying around will send a rush through my body which flies out of my mouth in the form of a garbled suggestion to watch it (usually to no one in particular).

Talk of an *Anchorman* sequel has been going on for about two years, with all members of its main cast and creative team speaking enthusiastically about it as the same questions repeatedly come up in interviews. And this week, MTV's movie blog has reported that the film was closer than ever to being made, with filming potentially beginning at the start of 2011. Director Adam McKay has said: "It's just a budgetary thing with Paramount, in terms of how much they'll give us to make it". But despite reports that actors were willing to take low salaries in order for things to move forward, comments recently made by its main star, Will Ferrell, are less enthusiastic. Speaking in March, he said: "I thought we were doing it. I was told it was happening and now I've heard it's going to be too hard to get everyone together". He and Steve Carrell are now stars who have dabbled in the bigger-budget action-comedy arena; have a look at the recent *Date Night*, or the trailer for *The Other Guys*, a buddy cop film also directed by McKay and co-starring Mark Wahlberg.

Regardless, there's a distinct possibility that I'll eventually find myself queuing up to see the return of Ron Burgundy, and whilst it'll be tough to destroy my love for his original incarnation, some films are best left alone. *Anchorman* is a pleasure for the improvisation that runs through it, something which seems absent in Ferrell's recent work. In certain scenes, you can laugh at a joke or a piece of dialogue and simultaneously feel the inventive energy behind it, making it easier to appreciate its originality.

Unlike the case with other cult films, however, these are creative abilities which make up the livelihoods of *Anchorman*'s writers and comedians. When asked about *Anchorman 2* at a *Date Night* premiere, Steve Carell joked that it had already been made: "We shot it in just two days... they just turned the camera on... and I think we were drunk most of the time". Something made with that sense of fun and eccentricity would be far more interesting than the explosions he and Ferrell are running away from on-screen this summer.

FILM: CENTURION

DIRECTOR: NEIL MARSHALL

STARRING: MICHAEL FASSBENDER, OLGA KURYLENKO

REVIEW: LEV HARRIS

RUNTIME: 97 MINS



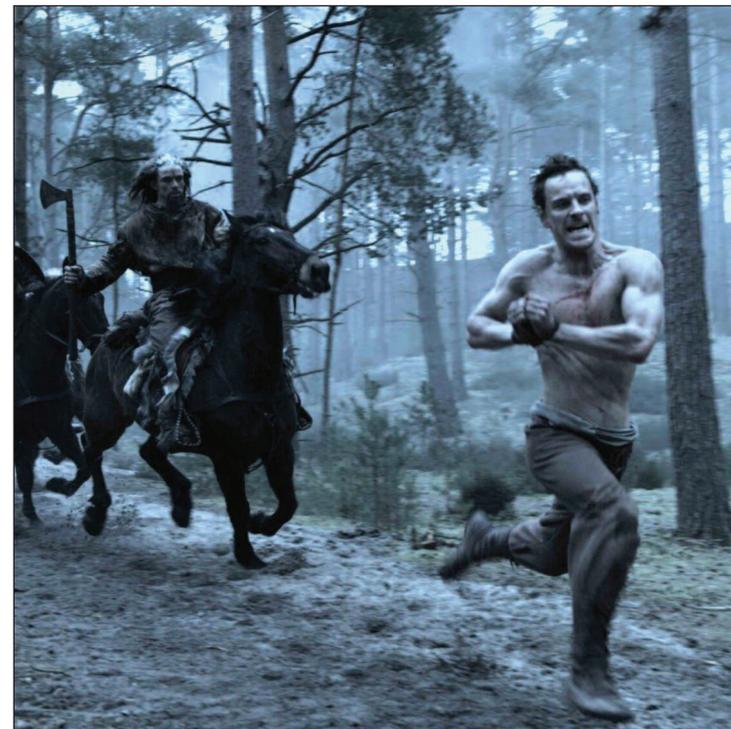
It seems that filmmakers are never afraid to tackle and (for want of a better word) copy exactly the same subject matter as another film made in the same year. Such is the case with Kevin Macdonald's *The Eagle of The Ninth*, released later this year, in the wake of *Centurion*, Neil Marshall's latest offering.

The history of the mysterious disappearance of the ninth legion is non-existent, thus handing Marshall complete artistic and creative control. The premise is simple: following a guerrilla ambush of an entire Roman battalion by the Picts, seven members of the ninth legion of Rome are trapped behind enemy lines with little hope of survival. They attempt to reach the English border before they are picked off by revenge-driven Etain and her band of warriors.

At first sight, this chase thriller couldn't be further removed from Marshall's previous movies, but on further inspection many similarities arise, albeit disguised in leather jockstraps and metal armor sculpted in the shape of the war-

riors' torsos. *The Descent* features a similar band of outcasts, a group of women being chased by a higher power in a cave, as opposed to the Scottish highlands. As a result, a feeling of staleness abides while watching *Centurion*. A change of tack for Marshall is needed; getting someone else to pen the script might be a good start.

The film begins entertainingly enough with a battle in the woods akin to the beginning of *Gladiator*. The carefully crafted hand-to-hand set piece is visually satisfying, but soon it becomes obvious we are watching a collection of chase sequences that, whilst gritty and brutal, don't live up to the excitement of the opening: the film loses its initial tempo and starts to sag. One only need watch *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* to remember why *Centurion* comes off as distinctly average. Some scenes have been taken right out of *Butch Cassidy*, whose set-pieces resonate due to our emotional attachment to the anti-heroes. This is desperately missing from *Centurion*. There is a five minute getting-to-know-you



campfire session between the remaining Roman soldiers, yet no sooner has this finished when half of them succumb to arrow shots to the back or spears through the mouth.

You are left with a feeling of indifference towards the deaths of the lazily-drawn secondary characters; even the backstory of antagonist Etain, a clear copy of *Titus Andronicus*' Lavinia, is referred to only half-heartedly. Meanwhile, Michael Fassbender makes the most of his turn as the leader of the resistance, unfaith-

fully dedicating himself, and bent on escaping back to the border, while also showing a side of vulnerability to his character.

It ends with a throwaway attempt at character development, as a predictable romantic sub-plot hurriedly gives way to then end credits, revealing nothing but uncertainty about how to end the story. Comparisons to *300* and *Gladiator* are inevitable, and while it surpasses the former, its formulaic nature means that it never reaches the heights of the latter.

FILM: CEMETERY JUNCTION

DIRECTORS: RICKY GERVAIS, STEPHEN MERCHANT

STARRING: CHRISTIAN COOKE

RUNTIME: 95 MINS

REVIEW: LAURA COLEMAN



It seems reasonable to assume that the vast majority of *Cemetery Junction*'s audience will choose to watch the film based solely on Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant's sterling comic partnership, whose reputation was cemented by the stratospheric success of *The Office* and *Extras*.

Such heights inevitably produce equally high hopes, but unfortunately, these are almost certain to be dashed here. In terms of on-screen performances the pair are under-used. Merchant's cameo lasts seconds, yet it produces more humour than the rest of the plodding, prolonged scene put together. Gervais's role as protagonist Freddie's father is similarly played down, and feels strangely dislocated. His is supposedly a passionate, hard-grafting and fiercely defensive character, but the majority of Gervais's lines are muttered into a newspaper he reads constantly, while slouched at the kitchen table.

What is confusing, however, is that this has all the makings of a masterpiece. As well as the writer-directors, the cast is impressive - Ralph Fiennes and Emily Mortimer play love interest Julie's parents with real style and humour, but their performances are subsumed in the stupor of the trudging plot, a romance that is anything but interesting. It is as if the foundations have been laid for a great British film, but somewhere along the line the process reaches a junction of its own, the makers' courage fails them and a wrong turning is taken somewhere. The result is cinema that is predictable, insipid and even - were it not for the names attached to it - forgettable.

FILM: THE FRONT (1976)

DIRECTOR: MARTIN RITT

STARRING: WOODY ALLEN,

ZERO MOSTEL

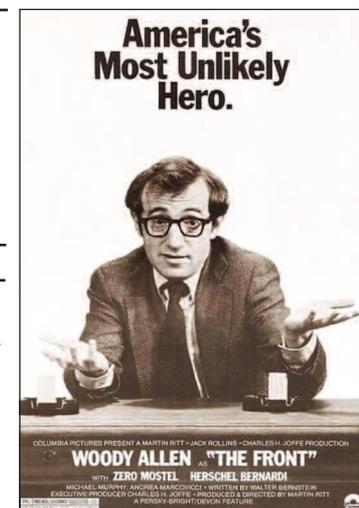
RUNTIME: 95 MINS

REVIEW: MICHAEL ALLARD



In his most celebrated work, Woody Allen is both an amateur and an actor playing variations on the creative persona that's still going strong after 50 years onscreen. But in one of the funniest and most incisive films to have Allen in a starring role, he is neither writer nor director. And rather than playing a comic, as he does in *Manhattan* and *Annie Hall*, he instead plays a man who must pretend to be a funny.

What makes Martin Ritt's film stand strong next to Allen's own directorial output is its willingness to be polemical. Set in 1950s New York, *The Front* portrays the tragic and comic consequences of blacklisting under McCarthyism. Allen plays a bookie who agrees to sign his name to scripts written by an unemployable screenwriting pal accused of being a communist sympathizer. The hero soon finds himself being hired as a front by more and more blacklisted writers who need to earn a living, and risks getting in major trouble himself.



Blacklisting was a fate suffered by many of *The Front*'s cast and crew, and with this in mind the film ends the common plotline of the hero who lies about his genius not with an 'All's Well That Ends Well'-style resolution that forgives, forgets and ties up any loose ends, but in angry protest against the House Un-American Activities Committee. Even more powerful than this, though, is the sub-plot concerning Zero Mostel's blacklisted comic actor Hecky Brown, based upon real-life actor Philip Loeb. It's the ultimate Tears of a Clown tragedy, as Mostel, famous for starring in Mel Brooks' original *The Producers*, totally embodies a showman absolutely humiliated by McCarthyism.

# Food & Drink.

RESTAURANT: THIRTEEN THIRTY ONE  
ADDRESS: 13 GRAPE LANE  
PRICES: £10-£25 FOR A MAIN  
REVIEW: JACOB ROSENTHAL  
☆☆☆☆☆

**“Tread very carefully when entering an establishment that peddles food by day and drunkenness by night.”**



With York reeling from the recent loss of its beloved Tuesday night at Tru, many will find redemption by eagerly telling you, “we still have hundreds of bars and restaurants - more than one for each day of the year, you know”. However, more often than not, these two styles of gastronomic outlets are not entirely separate entities.

As with most of the bar-cum-eateries in York, the fact that the same darkly lit building you stumble from in the small hours of the morning also provided modern and optimistically British food came as something of a surprise to me.

On entering the restaurant in the day, these confusions were not immediately resolved; it was relatively empty and all the boards were displaying only drinks offers.

I was left to make initial assumptions based on the manner in which the table was presented. I think I can say with some confidence that when most people see mildly chipped wooden tables, an assortment of Heinz sauces and stainless steel numbers on their table one thought comes to mind: reasonably priced, honest pub food.

Imagine my surprise then when opening the menu, to be greeted with everything from pork loin and blueberry mash at £23 to black lip mussels and 21-day-aged steak at similarly eye watering covers. In fair-

ness, this was coupled with cheaper offers on sandwiches and snacks but as I was there to review the restaurant in full, I decided to call their bluff.

I opted for Thai fish cake with sweet chilli olive oil at £4.95, followed by lamb shank on a bed of rosemary and red onion mash at £11.95. My fellow diner, despite a slight grimace from myself in anticipation of the bill, chose the 15oz locally sourced sirloin steak at £15.95. He assured me it was the best test of a good restaurant. I fear he may have just sensed the opportunity for free steak!

We chatted through the rather extended wait for the starter, yet its arrival turned out to be an unexpected surprise. The fish cake was crisp, with a fluffy texture and pleasant mild spicing. Despite being flanked by a Blue Dragon or similar shop-bought sweet chilli sauce, it was thoroughly enjoyable.

The mains, however, were a slightly different affair. The waitress sweetly wished me luck as she placed what appeared to be half a lamb in front of me. Despite a rushed presentation, the lamb was well cooked and the gravy full of the smoky taste of the rosemary, but the quantity of both decimated the delicate red onion mash and carrots.

My friend's steak was also well cooked but served on a plate piled so

high with unnecessary garnish that it did not allow it to be the main event - which a 15oz cut of meat should be.

Slightly dazed from the quantity of food which I had just consumed, I began to realise the mistake we had made. All around us, other tables were eagerly ordering from the sandwich menu ensuring the barman was earning his wage.

The long wait for our food, not being experienced by other diners, was I suspected caused by shocking the normally short-order chef by ordering the high end restaurant food which made up half the menu. Although clearly able to serve good food at a certain level, the ‘quantity over quality’ philosophy becomes slightly harder to overlook when faced with a £50 bill.

If you're looking for a quick snack and two-for-one cocktails then I'm certain that Thirteen Thirty One would accommodate.

If, however, you are looking for a more refined dining experience which reflects the price you pay for such food, you should look elsewhere.

Certainly, tread very carefully when entering an establishment that peddles food by day and drunkenness by night.

As long as they promise to keep the blueberries in the cocktails and out of the mash, in future I may consider another visit.

## THE COURTYARD

Camilla Jenkins

Inspired by the elections last term, I decided it was time to take a stand. I launched my own one-man guerrilla campaign on the YUSU suggestion box. I was going to get pancakes on the menu if it killed me.

Democracy, my friends, is a beautiful thing. As The Courtyard's (self-proclaimed) number one fan, I thought it appropriate that I was the one to pass judgement on the new menu. Armed with a handful of unsuspecting, *Nouse*-blue guinea pigs, I began my experiment. Votes were cast, votes were counted, and Rhianna, we even used STV.

First up, the light snacks. The **crudités** were a clear winner. Pepper slices, carrot sticks and cucumber shards are served with a pot of hummus and sour cream. For the less veggie orientated lads (or laddies), there's a substantial portion of flatbread; loaded up with enough dip, it's almost unhealthy.

As a fan of the bagels, I approached the wraps with suspicion. Still, never one to let prejudice interfere with integrity, I was willing to put aside my concerns. The **steak wrap** was

the outright favourite and awarded a first by our impartial panel. The **breakfast wrap** was less impressive, but I put this down to the lack of ketchup (my laziness instead of their inefficiency). I was a big (and solitary) fan of the **prawn wrap**. The **egg mayonnaise**, on the other hand, failed to convince even the hungriest of journalists.

The new **risotto** is much improved on the old haddock-laced one and the **couscous** was light and delicious. *Nouse's* Politics Editor Kate Goligher described it as “spicy hot”, but then she is Northern Irish. Can't please everyone.

Without a doubt, the most impressive item on the menu to be the **pancakes**. Warm and delectable, served with butterscotch sauce, they are guaranteed to brighten up even the darkest of days. If that doesn't work, there's always the **mixed berry pancake bonanza** (my word, not theirs).

The roundup: First - steak wrap, Second - pancakes, third - crudités.

The Courtyard offers their ‘Round the World’ menu with a different meal for £5 every day.

## PUB Richard Smith

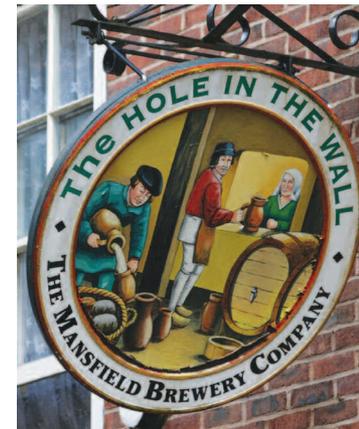
First things first, York's Hole in the Wall has nothing to do with that ghastly Saturday night TV show, and the Petergate pub doesn't need silver lycra to draw a crowd.

Second things second, the Hole in the Wall isn't actually a hole in the wall, but the quaintness and originality of the setting is accentuated by the low ceilings and the looming Minster 100 yards from its door.

Upon entering, to describe the pub as half full would be generous, but there were enough people to create some sort of ambience. Blackboards above the bar boldly promised curry night on Monday, live music on Tuesday and quiz night on Thursday, but having arrived on a Sunday, we were left to entertain ourselves. The unsophisticated yet pleasing smell of frying beef and a promising looking specials board suggested a pub that was a little more accomplished than its modest name.

Beef talk aside, we were here for the beer. Out of five guest ales, the Old Thumper, coming all the way from Hampshire, was an almost overpoweringly fruity pint - the final third was certainly harder work than the first. The more sedate Oxford Blue, produced by Banks's, proved a far more agreeable challenge.

It is refreshing to see a pub in York celebrating beers from



across the country, as sometimes our pubs can be blinded by the quality of the breweries of Yorkshire. To see less familiar ales from across the country is a truly welcome change.

After fielding the inevitable “what's the point of history?” question from my unenlightened Chemistry colleague, and engaged in standard banal volcano dialogue, pre-exam nerves had begun to melt away.

When left alone for a moment, I began to look around and wonder whether I had been a bit terse with the barman, and if I had enough money and time for a third. I was brought crashing back to earth by the grimacing chemist, hitching his trousers back up after an altogether unsuccessful trip to the gents.

“They'd be lucky to get a four out of ten for those toilets”. I'll wait till I get home then.

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20% off spirits and beers

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TEL: 01904-627627

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Rachel  
Banning-  
Lover

## Vulnerable students need a University admin they can trust

Thoughtless administration practices will not help student perception of the University

For most of us, if we go to the University with a concern, and they assure us over the phone that everything will be fine, we take them for their word. Given the campus-wide emphasis on student welfare, we expect the University to listen to us, be honest with us, and, overall, act responsibly. Perhaps we are being slightly naïve.

However, this has not been the case for student nurses who were, originally, told over the phone by University staff that they could be released from their 51-week accommodation contract at any time. The University recently backtracked, stating that the nurses couldn't be released as it was not in their written contract.

Whilst in this day and age we should probably be aware that a verbal agreement is not enough (particularly if it involves the University losing

money), for many students this will be their first time signing any type of contract.

Therefore, the University should have been more mindful when

**“the University has handled the issue thoughtlessly”**

advising on issues that involve an exchange of money, and crucially, they must take responsibility if they've given students the wrong information.

The University's careless mistake could not have been aimed at a worse audience. Student nurses, particularly at York, are often from non-traditional backgrounds and therefore cannot

afford to pay double rent. Left unable to pay for accommodation, some have even been forced to contemplate dropping out of their course.

The University has handled the issue thoughtlessly, branding some of their most vulnerable students as liars, despite over 50 reporting that they were verbally informed they could end their accommodation contract at any time.

After such poor treatment, how could any student feel that their best interests are being put before profit? If they wish to keep attracting students from non-traditional backgrounds, they must restore trust.

Losing up to £1,500 in rent is a serious issue. It is vital that the University realises that for some students, just the risk of this mistake is too much of a gamble for the sake of obtaining a degree.



Hannah  
Brearley

## Big rewards for a bigger Union

Sitting outside with several pitchers of Pimms, the conversation turned to campus events. The conclusion? “But events on campus are rubbish!”

Before you get too excited, the possibility of creating a new student centre on campus will be mas-termined within the next ten years. Yep, you heard it, a decade. Although it might not affect our time at York, unless we stay on for numerous YUSU elections or complete a PhD or two, it's still something to consider. A new bar could hopefully have the effect of enticing bigger names to York for events as they would actually have somewhere to per-

**“the current climate of student habits cannot be ignored”**

form. Bigger, better and more frequent on-campus events can only be a good thing, right? Perhaps not.

Although the state of affairs on campus is likely to change somewhat in the next ten years, the current climate of student habits and campus bars cannot be ignored. We students are creatures of habit, with a fairly strict social timetable of which clubs to be in on any given day. Would another

student space on campus be treated with the same ambivalence as the other university bars?

We're always looking for ways to cut corners financially. A club on campus would mean that one could stagger safely home in five minutes after a night out, rather than paying for the benefit of having to hold back your gag reflex in the back of a taxi on the return journey from Ziggy's.

The other question is whether the centre would migrate to shiny new Hes. East, or remain in the crumbling concrete Western haven. This obvious question does have a rather obvious answer; a new hub would be a great way of populating the 'ghost town'.

It would hopefully be much more than an on-campus party venue. If we follow the University of Warwick's footsteps, a centre for literally everything at university is clearly necessary; as a friend from that institution who wanted to be quoted as the 'Authority on socialising, recreational activities and getting down in general' mentioned, the SU building is a “hub of activity, for food, pool, pub, clubbing, market” – the list was endless.

So many other universities have this near-essential facility, that aside from the cost, (Warwick's renovation cost £11m) I can't see a downside. Being able to enjoy a night out right here on campus seems like a win-win situation to me.

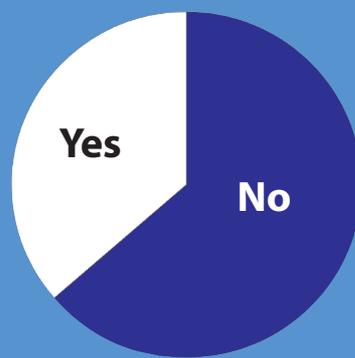
### The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

Are you satisfied with the YUSU elections outcome?

287 people voted, with the majority stating

**No**



104 people  
voted  
**Yes**  
(36%)

183 people  
voted  
**No**  
(64%)

To be a part of the debate and for exclusive web content go to [www.nouse.co.uk/comment](http://www.nouse.co.uk/comment)

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

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

*Nouse*, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

## Letters

### Ngwena and YUSU have failed to resolve portering

Dear *Nouse*,

You quote Tim Ngwena's claim that his anti-campaigning stance has the support of students. He has chosen to ignore the fact that the proportion of voters who supported the censure motion against was 7.5% higher than the proportion who voted for him to remain in office.

The main arguments in favour of the portering cuts were that:

1. Portering isn't necessary, especially as crime on campus (so the Union claims) has fallen since the cuts; and
2. the HEFCE was about to slash our budget by several million.

However:

1. Contrary to the Union's claims, and as the York Vision "Crime Time" report shows,

rates of crime on campus have in fact, even if you disregard the rise in bike thefts, gone up, not down, since the cuts. Moreover if you do include bike thefts and allow for the fall in crime across York as a whole, then campus crime is amazingly DOUBLE what it should be.

2. HEFCE funding has risen, not fallen, and if you add in the profits which will be milked from the extra overseas students who will soon be living on Hes East, then the tiny amount needed to fund some replacement porters is available hundreds of times over.

Jane Grenville's statement last term sounded hopeful, but time is going by, and if the Union can mess up our chances of getting portering back, then it will.

Claire B, a second-year student

### Big rises in fees are dangerous for education

Dear *Nouse*,

I am hoping that YUSU get behind any effort, and effort at all, to stop the increase in fee rises that was recently recommended by Vice-Chancellors and other people with literally no idea about the ability of most students to afford.

Continually, we are being told by our university leaders that they need us to pay this for our universities to be competitive with the likes of foreign institutions. But the job market is not exactly polite to students at the moment, and the idea that I might have had to take on even more debt to study at a proper institution is terrifying.

If I had been faced with paying the entirety of my education, as these fat cats would like me to, I may well have opted to not bother with going to a "good" university and moved towards a cheaper institution that offered what I believed greater value for

money, or simply taken an altogether different route.

We have gotten ourselves into a situation where we are now told to simply put up and shut up with things such as fees. The rhetoric on competition is ridiculous. British universities are already proportionally well represented in "World Top 100" lists. It would be fantastic to do better, and more money will always help that.

Ripping off students is no way to go about it though. If you take progressively more money from students, you will end up with less and less people attending increasingly more elitist and irrelevant universities that were supposedly created in the public interest.

It's time for our unions to show that they are relevant for something beyond running cheap bars and cafes.

John, an Alcuin first year

TIM NGWENA'S BLACKBERRY as seen by Ben Gascoyne

25.04.10 9:15  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: dreamzmurphy@gna.co.uk  
Subject:

Hey Tim,

I know you're in the process of booking acts for the Summer Ball but you should really consider me. Dreamz is a massive act and since I was a student once too I'd even do it for free.

How about it?

Dreamz Murphy

27.04.10 11:36  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: dreamzmurphy@gna.co.uk  
Subject: RE: Sorry

no no  
im definitely big enough to open for n dubz  
come on!!!

29.04.10 01:31  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: services@yusu.org

Hey tim,

you definitely need to take this out of the strategic plan, i was only joking when i left "sell a lot of burgers and make a lot of money?????" in there on page ten for goals this year.

30.04.10 01:31  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: ents@yusu.org  
Subject: RE: nice!!!!

na na niiii

01.05.10 7:10

To: president@yusu.org  
From: welfare@yusu.org  
Subject: I'VE BURNT THE OFFICE DOWN

APRIL FOOLS!!!

ben x

15.05.10 07:53  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: welfare@yusu.org  
Subject: RE: I'VE BURNT THE OFFICE DOWN

SHIT

03.05.10 11:32  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: editor@nouse.co.uk

Subject: Hello?

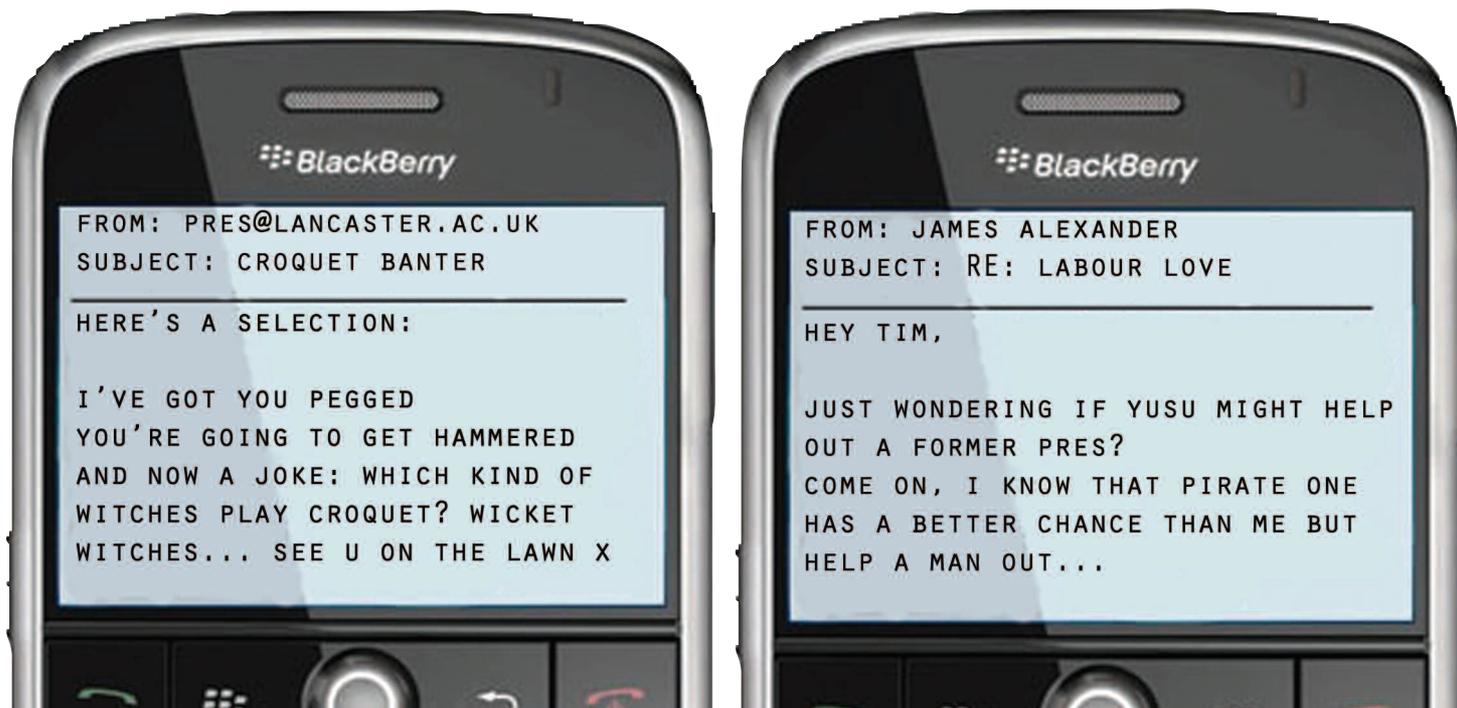
HEY TIM,

IT'S BIG D SOON  
BYE!  
XXXX

03.05.10 14:53  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: capcar@nouse.co.uk  
Subject: OI!

next time you can just write it yourself!!!

xx



Welcome back to what, for some more than others, is the term of change. I may be the only one who's noticed it, but there is definitely something in the air. Something is different; and as I walked back from the library one night this week, I felt a chill. Insert 'weather-up-north' joke here, and then perhaps devote some time to musing on what it really is that's changed. Yes, some of us are soon to be leaving York for greener and dryer pastures of graduate (un)employment, but I don't think that's it. In my absence from our lovely little campus, everyone, including some very unlikely candidates, seems to have "gone political".

Despite being pretty far from the hub, York's buzzing with political savvy: I've met people in the last few days who could single-handedly save our economy. Political awareness and knowledge don't seem to be amongst the necessary criteria for participating in the many heated debates I've been privy to since my return: a loud voice, a tendency to naturally turn a little rouge in the face and neck region and a small, small inkling of what happened to all that gold seem to be pretty key. At least to my ignorant eye and ear. Anyway, it's all been very illuminating, and as my mind wandered during "Who Will Be Better For Our Economy For Dummies: Part IV", I considered what a televised debate of a few of our finer representatives might look like. Obviously it would follow Gok Wan's 'How To Look

# The Acquaintance

with Poppy Babcock

Good Naked', and close with a close up of someone in impassioned chats at Courtyard, eating chips and mayo.

There's a note of annoyance in my tone, I know, but I really am fed up with invitations to "National Not Voting Conservative Day", or "I've always voted Labour and I'm not stopping now". Can't we go back to the time when one's voting status was personal, and private, property? Perhaps we're being too frank about the wrong things. Given the end result of a couple of discussions I have become embroiled in, I honestly think asking a dinner guest how many sexual partners she'd had would provoke less debate: and possibly in some cases, prove more informative. The silver lining of the rather tedious current climate is the occasional very surprising, and often entertaining, converts to the political bandwagon.

Having a mosey around town on a well-earned break from the books I ran into an old acquaintance who, after the formalities of "Did you get stuck anywhere?", launched into what I can



only hope was an ironic insight into the results of the first live debate - "It's a shame, because Gordon Brown is just sooo ugly... and Nick Clegg's tie was SO lovely! A hung parliament would just be awful, wouldn't it?" Scary, scary stuff. Take me (or, rather, them) back to the good old dark days of ignorance, when I could point at people and guess which ones would fail to know the name, or worse, gender, of our current PM. This brigade with semi-enlightened Facebook statuses has got me wondering which way's up.

No one needed to be told which way up to look at the pictures of this year's YUSnow trip; although I wouldn't have objected to captions and the odd anatomical label. Red, ruddy cheeks frolicking in the snow: nothing could possibly be more delightful for the non-student holiday goers as they made their way up the mountain. Some of the better photographic evidence is really good ad material, or at least I think so: bevy of beautiful boys urinating on the slopes - "Should've gone to Specsavers?" Or maybe a Bailey's ad, with "drink responsibly" in tiny print at the bottom.

At the bottom of a bottom. I've never been on a YUSnow social, so this is a question to you, the masses - do they hold preparation training sessions? Like stand-naked-in-the-fridge-before-pre-lash-to-get-ready-for-frostbite-in-dangly-bits sessions? Well however they do it, it's really very impressive. Can't be a fantastic pulling technique though, because no matter how warm-blooded, thick-skinned or weather-resistant you may be, there's always going to be a retreat on one front. The most

important front, boys, where if you're lucky you can mount an attack. I have to say, flicking through pictures and seeing friends and past lovers glistening on the slopes was vaguely reassuring: at least some things never change. Aside from getting a little rounder round the edges.

Considerably more exciting is Roses. Undoubtedly the hijinks will be palpably delicious. I learned upon my return from the break that the rugby team has been perfecting itself into an object for total subjugation of the lower classes; on meeting anyone from a "lower university, you know, like the 'metty' ones" on their recent tour, the team would offer some pithy statement on the wealth of York students and quite literally-burn real paper money in front of their pauper-peers. I am uncertain of whether this is actually amusing or not. Daddy didn't climb to the top of the slippery corporate ladder just for their inebriated spawn to destroy it all for the sake of dispiriting our lessers.

In other news, my new claim to fame is that I very recently had a real and genuine "Gap Yah" moment. Someone really said "on my Gap Yah". The 'e' and the 'r' were conspicuously absent, and I was so distracted by hearing it in the flesh that I unfortunately missed the ensuing, side-splitting anecdote. I think I tuned back in to the conversation just in time to hear "harem pants". But I could be wrong.

# GlobalFocus

## 1. ATHENS, GREECE

Thousands of protesters converged in Athens for a march against planned government cuts. The cuts are intended to help deal with Greece's budget deficit, and are demanded by the EU as an exchange for a £120bn loan. Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou, has warned Greece to be prepared for a period of austerity.

## 2. BANGKOK, THAILAND

Violence in Thailand has again flared between the red-shirt demonstrators and Thai troops. Clashes have been continuing for around six weeks as the red-shirts protest that the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva is illegitimate. With possible reconciliation unlikely, the stand-off looks set to continue indefinitely.

## 3. MADRID, SPAIN

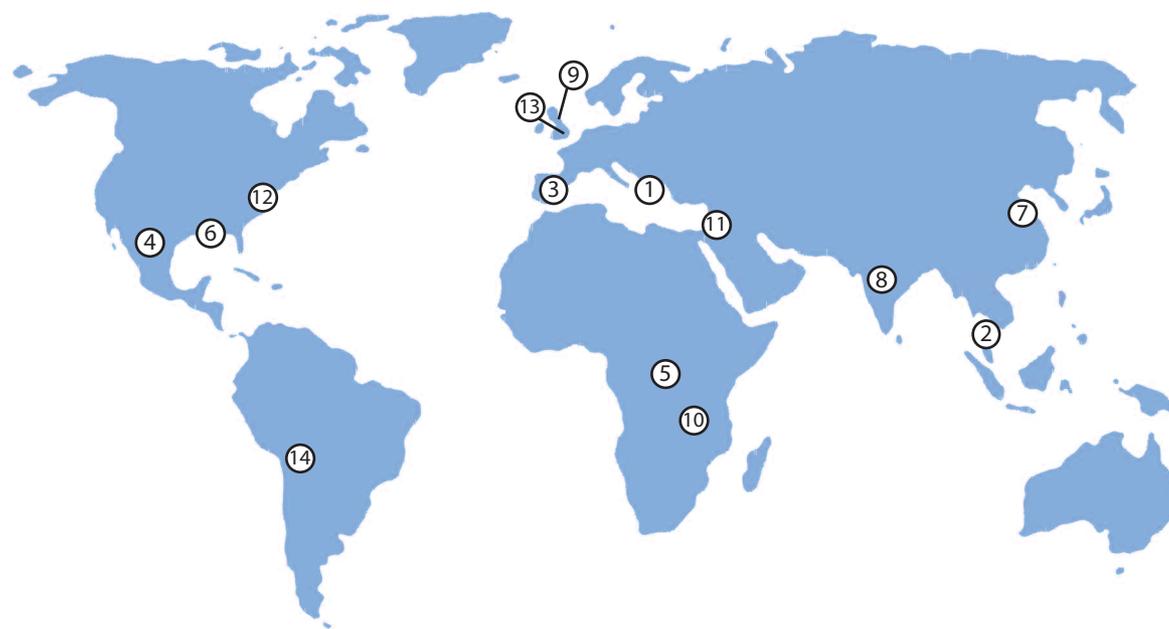
Unemployment in Spain has reached 20pc for the first time in over two decades. There are already approximately 4.6m unemployed, and analysts fear that the figure will continue to rise. A slump in Spain's construction industry worsened the economic downturn. Spain is facing the possibility of having its credit rating downgraded.

## 4. ARIZONA, USA

The state of Arizona has passed the toughest anti-immigration law in the country. The law has been branded discriminatory and draconian, and has caused widespread outrage from civil rights groups.

## 5. SOUTH KIVU, DR CONGO

A UN official has termed DR



Congo "the rape capital of the world". Over 8,000 women were raped during fighting in 2009. A UN mission in Monuc is attempting to combat the endemic sexual violence against women by providing escorts, and liaising with local officials.

## 6. LOUISIANA, USA

A huge oil spill in the Mexican Gulf is washing up on the Louisiana coastline, and Experts say that the impact of the oil spill could exceed the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster which is the worst in US history. Wildlife species and the fishing industry will be threatened by the spill. At first the size of the spill was greatly underestimated.

## 7. WEIFANG, CHINA

Five schoolchildren were injured after a man attacked them with a hammer, before setting himself on fire. Three similar incidents have happened over the past three days. The Chinese government claims that media attention spurred the copycat attacks, and has banned front-page coverage of the incidents.

## 8. NEW DELHI, INDIA

The US, UK and Australia have warned of "imminent attacks" in New Delhi which are likely to target places where foreigners are known to congregate. Government advisories have warned travellers to remain vigilant and avoid cer-

tain areas. Markets and Western-owned hotels were named as "especially attractive targets".

## 9. EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Scotland's Parliament has voted to support calls for the introduction of proportional representation in Westminster. Robin Harper, MSP for the Green party, spoke against the UK's current electoral system, calling it "discredited".

## 10. LILONGWE, MALAWI

The Malawi government has proposed a ban on polygamy. The proposed ban has drawn opposition from Muslims who have argued that such a law is discriminatory. The gender minister says the ban

will stop abuse in polygamous relationships.

## 11. JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton has announced that proximity talks between Israel and Palestine will recommence next week. Indirect negotiations between the two countries stalled last month following Israel's planned further development of East Jerusalem.

## 12. WASHINGTON, USA

The rise in childhood obesity could constitute a threat to national security. Two retired generals have warned that obesity prevents would-be recruits from joining the military service, and will ultimately jeopardize US military strength.

## 13. LONDON, UK

A study in the Lancet journal has found that the UK has a higher risk of early death than in other rich nations. Denmark and Belgium were the only western European countries that had a higher early death risk. Poor diet and high rates of smoking and drinking are named as contributory factors.

## 14. SUCRE, BOLIVIA

Evo Morales, the President of Bolivia, has ordered the nationalisation of four electricity firms. The government now controls 80pc of the electricity. This follows the nationalisation of oil and gas reserves as well. Morales is attempting to re-distribute wealth away from foreign owned companies to the indigenous people of Bolivia.

WWW.NOUSE.CO.UK/POLITICS

## State of Arizona passes draconian immigration bill

Vanessa Donhowe-Mason

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

THE STATE OF Arizona made the headlines last week when it signed into law a highly contentious bill intended to crackdown on illegal immigrants. Under the new law, which is now widely viewed as the toughest in the US, it is a state crime not to carry immigration documents.

The law gives police unprecedented power to question and detain anyone they believe to be in the country illegally.

An effort to reform federal immigration legislation collapsed in 2007, and Arizona is the latest of a series of states to have passed state immigration laws.

With an estimated 460,000 illegal immigrants living in Arizona, the immigration debate has been a particularly highly charged issue. Arizona's divisive new law has sparked both condemnation and support.

The economy of Arizona has



Mexicans protesting against discrimination in San Francisco

slumped in recent years, causing increased hostility to illegal immigrants. A poll by Rasmussen Reports found that 70pc of Arizona's likely voters support the legislation, even though 53pc also said they were concerned it would cause racial profiling.

Bordering Mexico, Arizona is frequently used as the point of entry for illegal migrants entering America. Supporters of the bill hope it will deter migrants from illegally entering the state. A hard line stance on immigration is strongly supported by Arizona's

Republican politicians. State Representative, John Kavanagh, said: "When the new tsunami of illegal immigrants comes, we will be ready for them."

The bill has had several high-profile backers, including Senator John McCain. He defended it, saying that people of Arizona "have had their rights violated by the unending and constant flow of drug smugglers and human traffickers". Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, who signed the bill into law, proclaimed that it "protects every American citizen".

However, opponents term the law "draconian", arguing that it discriminates against citizens of Hispanic appearance, as well as resulting in racial profiling.

Under the new law, police have the authority to stop a person and demand their documents if there is "reasonable suspicion" that they are unlawfully in the US. The ambiguity of the word "reasonable" renders the law open to abuse and may legitimize targeting people with darker skin colour.

Before the bill was signed, President Obama criticized it, saying it threatened to undermine "the trust between police and their communities". He has instructed the Department of Justice to examine whether the bill violates civil rights.

Mexican President Felipe Calderón warned that political relations and trade would be "seriously affected" as a result of the law. He too cited concerns about potential misuse of the law, saying that it "opens the door to intolerance, hate, discrimination and abuse in law enforcement".

The backlash from the law looks set to impact Arizona's already ailing economy. Opponents of the bill have called for a boycott of the state. A coalition, "Boycott Arizona", has been formed and urges people not to buy state-made products.

With high profile figures getting involved and both sides adamant that they're right, the furore is likely to escalate for the foreseeable future.

MATT COHEN PHOTO / 1115

# Belgium on the verge of banning burkas

POLICY NETWORK

**Vanessa Donhowe-Mason**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

BELGIUM LOOKS poised to become the first country in Europe to ban items of clothing, include the burka and the niqab, which hides identity in public spaces. The Bill was passed easily in the lower house and may become law as early as next month.

No MPs voted against the ban, which also has widespread public support. It seems that Belgium will decisively choose that full-face veils have no place in its society.

The ban is generally aimed at clothing that hides a person's identity. Supporters argue the law is a necessary measure for public security.

Daniel Bacquelaine, head of Belgium's liberal Reformist Movement Party, is adamant that the ban would not constitute a violation of human rights, stating: "It's not about introducing any form of discrimination".

Some feel that face veils form a barrier for interacting with the person beneath it. For the purpose of improved social integration and cohesion, banning clothing that conceals a person's identity is an admirable step.

Critics have argued that being unable to see a person's face while talking to them constitutes a serious impediment to being able to engage in meaningful communication.

Societies that enforce the wearing of full-face veils are places where women are oppressed and subjugated. In



**Gordon Brown is regaining ground in the polls following recent developments in the election contest.**

Afghanistan, women are forced to where the burka by the Taliban, and as such it represents an instrument of intolerance and forced submission.

Belgium's move to ban it, and other face-veils, is a move to be applauded. "A civilized society cannot accept the imprisonment of women", emphasises Bacquelaine.

Tunisia has already banned the wearing of the niqab. In Turkey, wearing a headscarf is banned in public office and universities on the grounds that it is incompatible with the ideals of a secular society.

Belgium's bill is likely to undergo considerable opposi-

tion from human rights organizations.

Amnesty International has already criticised it, saying

**"Sarkozy has already said that full veils "threaten the dignity of women" and have no place in France."**

it sets a "dangerous precedent". Undeniably, the line between preserving the right to freedom of expression and promoting integration and cross-cultural dialogue is tenuous and

ambiguous.

Belgium may be the first European country to ban full-face veils, but it's unlikely to be the last. France has been on the brink of introducing similar legislation. French President, Nicholas Sarkozy, has already said that full veils "threaten the dignity of women" and have no place in France.

Whilst such a ban seems a distant possibility in the UK, Italy and the Netherlands are also contemplating a similar legislation to Belgium.

Europe will be watching with interest to see whether the Belgian bill becomes law. The Netherlands are also contemplating a similar ban.

Political  
Edge



Kate Goligher

SINCE THE DAYS of Margaret Thatcher, the Tory party have been known as the 'nasty party' in British politics, and the memory of three million unemployed is still fresh in the minds of many people.

On May 7 however, there is a distinct possibility that we will see a Conservative government with David Cameron as Prime Minister. But what exactly would a Tory Britain look like?

Many people are extremely concerned with what a Tory government could bring. A pledge to cut public services from Cameron has left many questioning whether there will be a return to mass unemployment and painful tax rises.

Cameron in the four years since his election as leader has attempted to change the image of the Tory Party. At 43, Cameron would be an unusually young Prime Minister, and his alter ego 'Dave' has proved popular with some younger voters.

In all, Cameron can be said to be a marked improvement on the Dracula-esque Michael Howard.

Underneath the shiny polished exterior of Cameron's forehead though, has anything about the

**"Cameron can be said to be an improvement on the Dracula-esque Michael Howard."**

Tories really changed? Cameron would certainly like us to believe that something has changed, and it appears that something has indeed changed. Cameron seems more than happy to show motion and his heartfelt anecdotes about the National Health Service (NHS) almost persuade me to believe that he wouldn't hack the NHS budget to pieces.

But is the perception that the Tories are the nasty party really fair?

Ultimately, the Labour party probably deserves the same label. In the late 70s, during the winter of discontent, a Labour government under James Callaghan couldn't afford to bury the dead.

Perhaps even the currently infallible Lib Dems could be labelled as 'nasty', particularly if some of their radical policies became law. Their current immigration policy is a prime example of this, and has seen them come under intense scrutiny from all quarters.

It is likely that whoever wins the next general election will also be labelled 'the nasty party' regardless of what their position is on the political spectrum. The next parliament will probably see higher taxes or cuts in public spending; ultimately the deficit spells doom for whichever political party inherits it.

## Vote tactically, or for what you believe in?

**Tom Fisher**  
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

AS ELECTION DAY edges closer, there is still indecision for many over which party to vote for. However, the bookies are indicating that both York Central and York Outer are not three horse races.

York Central is the constituency that many second and third years will be voting in, whilst those on campus will be voting in York Outer.

In York Central, Labour are the clear favourites. You can barely get your money back on betting on a win for Labour candidate Hugh Bayley. Second favourite are the Conservatives with betting website Victor Chandler offering 7/2 on their candidate Susan Weeks winning the seat. The Liberal Democrats are a long way behind them though, with candidate Christian Vassie looking like an outside shot.

York Outer is a much closer affair, but only between the Conservatives and the Liberal



ANTHONY KARANJA

**Tactics can alter the votes filling the ballot box**

Democrats if the odds are anything to go by. James Alexander, the Labour candidate, is receiving the huge odds of 40/1 to win.

The race is seemingly between Madeleine Kirk, for the Liberal Democrats, and Julian Sturdy, for the Conservatives. Kirk is currently edging it according to the bookies. Victor Chandler is offering the

lower odds of 8/11 for Kirk compared to 1/1 for Sturdy, and other betting websites are similar.

The issue of clear favourites in particular seats paves the way for tactical voting rather than voting for the party that you want to win. This flaw in the electoral system complicates the process of voting. Of course, perceiving a vote on an

outside candidate as a 'waste' is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Despite Alexander being an outsider, he may still defy the odds.

Tactical voting may have aided the recent popularity of Nick Clegg. Former Labour supporters who aren't attracted by the prospect of voting Brown may be transferring their votes to the Liberal Democrats in order to avoid Conservative dominance. Ideology certainly plays a significantly role in any election.

Having to vote tactically naturally raises the question of whether our voting system is the best structure. The German voting system involves voting once for a constituency candidate and a second time for a party overall.

In the UK, we face the conundrum of whether to vote for the local person or the party we want to rule overall. However, in Germany voting this way often leads to no party having a clear majority, and can limit the effectiveness of the government.

Perhaps deadlock is the price to pay for democracy.

# Students take part in election debate

**Kate Goligher**  
POLITICS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY RADIO York (URY) debate with student members of the three political parties and a member of the debating society on Sunday night unfortunately, was not met with the same excitement as the recent prime ministerial debates.

Despite this, the four panelists including the society chairs of the Liberal Democrats the Conservatives and, the former Chair of York young Labour as well as Chris Woods

"I really do not think Nick Clegg is going to form a coalition with anybody"

of the debating society put on a good show. Unlike the recent leadership debates it lasted less than an hour and the audience participation made for a lively debate, even adversarial at times.

The debate focused on a variety of issues many of which the political leaders had avoided in their own debates. It provided an opportunity for students to have some of their questions on the issues that directly affect them answered.

Unsurprisingly the first question was about the leadership debates and what impact had, had on the election campaign. Craig Martin of the Lib



**The stage is set for the debate with students from each of the political parties on campus**

Dems described the debates as "X Factor" in style, however he also stated that they had raised the profiles of each of the leaders. Felix Bungay of the York Tories stated that Nick Clegg was the "biggest winner" however as the debates continued he had "started to wane".

On Gordon Brown's recent comments towards Gillian Duffy, the Labour panelist Joe Riches stated that he thought Brown "felt pretty stupid". He

said that the "Labour party generally needs to be more upfront in defending the value of immigrants". Bungay suggested that the incident had raised further questions about Brown's character stating that it showed "that he was unwilling to take the burden of his failure on his own shoulders" and had "given a lot of credibility to those stories about how just how dreadful Gordon Brown is to work with."

Woods argued that despite the media furore it was "entirely a non-issue". Martin also weighed in stressing that that the prime Minister would be a representative for the country on the international stage saying "we need to know these people's characters just as much as their policies."

The existence of smaller parties including the British National Party (BNP) and UK Independence Party (UKIP)

made an appearance in the debate, after a question from the audience about whether we should be concerned about parties such as the BNP and UKIP getting into power. Martin said "not really" due to the current electoral system which is biased towards larger parties. Woods raised the issue whether, under the Alternative Vote System favoured by the Lib Dems, we would be more likely to see the BNP or UKIP in power. Martin suggested that it would be beneficial for "minority parties to be involved with politics in this country". Interestingly Bungay referred to UKIP as a "Conservative party pressure group."

The potential of a hung parliament after the election was also raised, however unlike their party leaders the panelists were rather more specific on what they thought the outcome would be.

Riches said that he believed that the Lib Dems were unlikely to form a coalition with Labour and instead would probably form a coalition with the Conservatives. Craig suggested that "if we were to suddenly side with the Conservatives or suddenly side with Labour it would split our party in half, and I really do not think Nick Clegg is going to form a coalition with anybody."

In essence the debate was four students discussing politics. However, ironically on some issues it provided greater clarity in terms of policy than the party leaders themselves did in their own debates.

## Hung parliament potentially perilous for UK

**Alexander Prowse**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

AS MAY 6 draws closer, a hung parliament is a distinct possibility. No major party in Westminster is likely to win the 326 seats needed to achieve an overall majority, such is the tightness of this election under the first past the post system.

The electorate are dissatisfied with the propositions of the major parties and are hoping that a hung parliament would act as a catalyst for change.

Hung parliaments used to be a common feature in early British politics. These parliaments mostly ended up creating coalition governments, but that is not necessarily the case.

Since 1929, there has only been one hung parliament, in 1974. This was when Harold Wilson called an election in an attempt to defeat the trade unions. The election resulted in Wilson forming a minority government, with Labour winning four more seats than the Conservatives and the Liberals

rejecting pleas of a coalition. Another election eight months later resulted in a Conservative majority being re-established. John Major ruled his last year as prime minister of a minority government thanks to poor results in by-elections, as did James Callaghan in the 'winter of discontent' of 1978.

Hung parliaments in Britain are unlikely due to the First Past the Post electoral system, favouring the two largest political parties. The Liberal Democrats have been calling for a very long time for a fairer system of election, such as proportional representation. Gordon Brown has promised a vote on electoral reform.

Governing coalitions and voting system changes have their benefits and drawbacks. In Germany, the proportional representation system has resulted in a very successful coalition government headed by Andrea Merkel. In contrast, proportional representation in Italy has continually resulted in weak and ineffective governments, with Silvio Berlusconi's 'Forza



**The House of Commons could become a place full of indecision if no single party reaches the majority**

Italia' being the best of a bad bunch.

It is hoped that a coalition in Britain would cause the parties to come together for once and discuss the major policy issues needed at such a critical economic time. Nick Clegg, Liberal Democrat leader, has said a coalition would put an end to the "political points scoring" in Westminster, a move

away from his much quoted "old style politics". As the election campaign has shown however, working within a coalition will be difficult. Labour's flirtation with the Liberal Democrats has been temporarily rejected, and the Conservatives are determined to not focus on the probability of a coalition. This, after all, was their election to throw away.

There is a danger there will be so much disagreement over policy and decision making that a coalition would actually damage the British economic recovery. This has already been highlighted by political commentators who have stated that the international money markets would react unfavourably to coalition government. Such opinions have started to change recently due to the effects of Greece's economic problems on the value of the Euro, but still could be a problem.

The result of this historic election, unless suitable agreement is created, could cause great uncertainty and indecision. A Labour bounce back in the final few days is improbable, and the Conservatives have a mountain to climb to gain the 116 seats they need for an overall majority. Ideological differences and very contrasting views on key voter policies such as tax cuts, immigration and government spending, will need to be overhauled if politics in Britain is to come out of this election stronger.

# The future of politics

Chris Young talks to former York student and Tory MP for Norwich North Chloe Smith.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY



“As a Conservative, I may not agree with Dr Gibson’s views on everything, but I am determined to represent the people of Norwich North with the same honesty and conviction.”

These were the first words of Chloe Smith when she became the Member of Parliament for Norwich North in July last year. Now, less than a year later, Smith is fighting to win her second term in office.

The 27-year-old has impressive qualifications for a career in politics, so much so that it was feared that she would rise up the ranks of the Conservative Party too quickly. Fortunately, Smith hasn’t followed in the footsteps of Theresa Villiers and doesn’t show any signs of doing so.

“The only thing I’ve focused on for the last year, and really for the foreseeable future, is being a very good constituency MP,” - a clear indication that the University of York graduate hasn’t changed her opinion since those first words in July last year.

Conservative female MPs are few and far between, especially young ones. Margaret Thatcher and Justine Greening were 33 and 40 respectively when they first entered into Parliament, and are the most notable young Tories of recent time.

Yet, like the first words she spoke when becoming an MP,

the bright lights and temptation of a Parliamentary career don’t faze her.

“I’m in a very lucky position and it’s been an enormous honour to experience what I have in the last year. Some of what happened, happened by chance it’s fair to say. I was thrown into it much earlier than I anticipated.”

It’s a good start for a young woman who wants to keep integrity at the heart of her representation. One can only hope that in the future, all politicians won’t be whipped by their party and stand up for the people that voted for them.

“She insists that York gave her a stable, enjoyable and challenging three years”

“I haven’t yet encountered that clash yet, let’s just put it that way. But then I guess so far I’ve had a shortened Parliamentary career.” Thankfully, Smith cites her time at the University of York as one of the reasons for her success.

She insists that York is a “very strong University” which gave her a “stable, enjoyable and challenging three years. York gave me a good starting point. First of all, it gives you an excellent qualification to go on with.

**Chloe Smith won the by-election for Norwich North in 2009 with a significant majority.**

From University in my case, I went off into the world of Business - I went to work for Deloitte, one of the big law firms - and frankly you need a good degree for that.”

Despite Smith getting a first in English literature though, she insists there’s more to University than just academia, especially when it comes to future employment. “Although many people go into politics or anything else with more academic qualifications, I’m not saying that’s the only thing in life, but in my case that was the route that I took.”

The young Conservative says that she’s always been interested in politics, perhaps further evidence of her strong principles when she insists she won’t be taken in by Party whips. Before coming to York, Smith spent a gap year working in Westminster for Bernhard Jenkin and Gillian Shephard, the former shadow education secretary, whom Smith describes as “an excellent role model.

“I got interested in politics when I was about 16. I got to know my local MP in South West Norfolk and I was starting to set up a youth forum with people across the county. That was my starting point. Quite apolitical in one sense, but from that point I became quite interested in Westminster politics and slowly realised that it would be something I would perhaps

aspire to.”

Smith’s gap year took place during the 9/11 terrorism attacks, an event which has moulded her political ideas.

“I was in Parliament at the time, sitting almost directly under Big Ben when the planes went into the towers and we were all watching it on TV and some of us were thinking, ‘Oh crickey, here we are’. It was quite a political backdrop to come to University, so I shared some political debates about that and was keen to make sure we didn’t throw the baby out of the bath water.

“I think that’s what I’d say was my political stance at the time. I have strongly main-

tained that there’s such a thing as terrorism and it should always be condemned. It holds innocent people hostage and destroys lives.”

Once at University, the young MP took steps to further interest in politics. “I was in the Conservative Party at the time, I also helped run the French society, a tiny society in which we used to watch French films. The big one for me, in terms of my studies, was that I was also a Course Rep. The other big one was that I was Chairman of the United Nations Association in my final year, so that was something that I took a real interest in throughout.

“These weren’t in the service of later politics though, these were just things I was interested in. There was no grand plan at that point.”

Despite being a “Norfolk girl through and through”, Smith is a Conservative MP and is “confident” that her party will be in power on Friday morning.

“I’m very positive. I think the country is strongly seeking a new direction and the vast majority of people I’m speaking to are seeking a fresh start. I’m confident that David Cameron will be able to turn that into a strong position.

“I don’t buy the principle reforms that Clegg offers, and actually Brown has lately espoused in a final dash to try to save his skin, and that is to say that I don’t think PR really works for people. I think that you’ve got to have a constituency link to a constituency MP.”

Finally, the York graduate gives her advice to current students: “Throw yourself into anything that interests you and make sure you make friends, enjoy yourself and learn a few things along the way.

“I reject this whole idea of being a career politician. All I’ve done at any different point is get involved in things that interest me where I feel I can contribute something. That’s really important to me.”

## ABOUT CHLOE SMITH

**Elected:** July 23 2009 after the sitting Labour MP Dr Ian Gibson resigned in the wake of the MP’s expenses scandal.

**Education:** Read English literature at the University of York gaining a First Class Honours. She attended a comprehensive schools in both Swatham and Methwold.

**Career:** After leaving university Smith joined Deloitte where she was an advisor to various organisations before moving into Politics.

**Seat:** Located in Norfolk, the constituency of Norwich North is set to

be a key marginal seat in the upcoming election, with Smith hoping she will not lose her seat after just ten months in the job.

**Ambitions:** Rather than racing toward a ministerial post in government, Smith insists she wants focus on doing the best she can for her constituents.

**Charity:** Smith took part in a British Heart Foundation fundraising expedition up Mount Kilimanjaro.

**Views:** Supports lower taxation and opposes the Lisbon Treaty.

# Clegg: what goes up must come down

**Peter Campbell**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

NICK WHO? THREE weeks ago, the question would not have been an unreasonable one. The launch of the Liberal Democrat manifesto was something of a non-event, the Party's September conference was seen as a resounding flop by all papers except the *Independent*, and the prospect of them as 'kingmakers' in a hung Parliament sent a shudder down the spines of many. Then came the leaders' debates.

The general consensus was that politics was crying out for change, and David Cameron seemed to be the only option. Cameron had spent four years establishing himself up as the agent of change - the heir to Blair. In 90 minutes, an ex-left-wing journalist and former European diplomat took that mantle from him with such ease that it almost beggared belief.

Frankly, that doesn't surprise me. Having met Nick Clegg, I can attest that he is immensely likeable. He is well informed, good with people, and overall generally impressive.

He is also an exceptionally good debater, not least because he is an excellent public speaker and can make a very weak case very convincingly. Ironically, this is not far from Clegg's task in the debates.

Once the public saw him in a situation where he was at his



DAVID SPENDER

strongest they were, relatively unsurprisingly, almost instantly enamoured with him.

The bounce in the polls that followed seemed almost unstoppable, despite the best efforts of several media outlets.

Even in the second debate, Clegg managed to hold his own, defending his policies, and overall come out relatively unscathed.

He also successfully man-

aged to shape the media debate for the next week, bringing the previously taboo issue of Trident to the forefront of the election, forcing Labour and the Conservatives to do battle on an issue that had previously been ignored.

Over the last three weeks however, things have started to unravel for the Lib Dems. As their policies start to become subject to intense scrutiny, the

image of a Cleggian Britain has started to emerge. And it isn't pretty.

Despite the media's attempts to discredit Clegg, it is the Lib Dem's policies that have caused the greatest problems for their previously flawless election-machine.

Vince Cable, often described as a "national treasure", came under serious fire in the Daily Politics Chancellor's

Debate for his flip-flopping on the economy, including his previous call for Britain to join the Euro. Had his voice been heeded, Britain could now be in a worse situation than Greece.

Immigration is also a key issue in marginal constituencies, where the Lib Dems simply have to win in order for Clegg's claim in Saturday's *Guardian* that the race is now between him and Cameron for Prime Minister to be remotely feasible.

However, Clegg's amnesty policy towards illegal immi-

"the image of a Cleggian Britain has started to emerge, and it isn't pretty"

grants is totally unworkable, and came under serious fire in the last debate.

In fact, in a recent survey of 1,000 voters, they fundamentally disagreed with 8 out of 10 of the Lib Dems leading policies.

The two they liked were similar to a Tory policy for localisation, and a UKIP policy to raise the tax threshold to £10,000.

The policies of the Lib Dems may not work in practice. Their electoral success will depend on them stopping that information reaching the average voter.

Cleggmania rose. It can also fall.

**Nick Clegg has faced some tough questions after his recent gain in popularity.**

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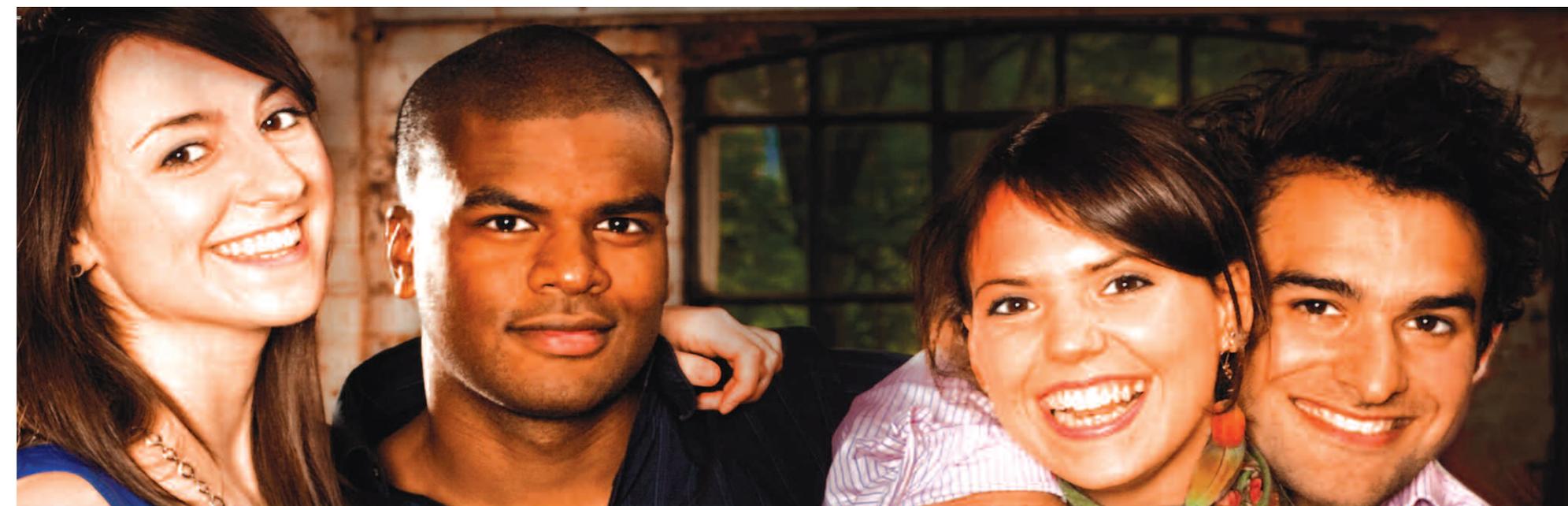
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## SPORT

**POLITICS** : Join us this Thursday for election night, where *Nouse* will be doing a live blog, open to comment and debate at [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk).



# Lancaster block York's four in a row with resounding Roses victory

SAM NEWSOME



<b>Adam Shergold</b> SPORTS EDITOR	
<b>Lancaster University</b>	<b>157.5</b>
<b>University of York</b>	<b>105.5</b>

THE UNIVERSITY of Lancaster have won Roses for the first time since 2007, beating York 157.5-105.5 on home territory.

The victory ends a sequence of three successive victories for York and was secured early on the Sunday afternoon following home victories in the women's volleyball, basketball and canoe slalom events.

York fought bravely throughout the weekend despite many teams being forced to field weakened teams because of exam com-

mitments, but they always trailed Lancaster after disappointments in the Friday and Saturday sport.

At times, good news for York seemed scarce but they excelled in the rugby, with a clean sweep of wins, snowsports, where only a controversial decision to stage a deciding run in the snowboarding denied York all twelve points, and the racquet sports.

Emily Scott, the York Sport President who competed in five different sports, was upbeat despite losing the tournament. "I'm really chuffed with the overall result," she said. "We broke the 100 points mark, which was good for us, and there were lots of fantastic performances."

Her opposite number, Sue Wynes, could celebrate a fine weekend for Lancaster's teams and a smooth-running tournament, which culminated with cheerleaders, fireworks and wild celebrations.

"It is the best weekend of my life," she said. "It is brilliant. The teams have won it for Lancaster as it was so hard to tell who was going to win."

Lancaster dominated the football fixtures, plus recorded valuable wins in the water polo, fencing, darts, pool, ultimate frisbee, table tennis and judo. They were awarded twelve points by default after the cancellation of the rowing regatta.

Sam Asfahani, the York Sport

President-elect, vowed to bring the Carter-James Trophy back to York next year, but stated that he wanted to restore fairness to the competition by staging it outside of exam weeks.

"You know how competitive I get, and seeing this has only added to it," he said. "It's a shame for Emily [Scott] because she epitomises Roses and competes in so many events. If anyone deserves it, it's her. Next year, though, we'll win hands down."

Michael Payne, the Lancaster University Student Union President, added: "I've loved having York over here, absolutely brilliant. It shows we have so many talented students."

## ROSES 2010

Find your special pull-out inside for the weekend's analysis, match reports, full results and exclusive photographs



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