



FRESHERS SPECIAL:

Everything you need to know about York. Where to eat, where to drink, and how to survive >> **M8-13**

Showdown over Union bar



"The University has been unable to provide us with a single practical reason as to why they will oppose this application."

YUSU Service and Finance Officer
Matt Burton

"We categorically oppose a 24-hour alcohol and entertainments license and this has been clearly communicated to YUSU"

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Students
Jane Grenville



● YUSU defies ultimatum over 24 hour licensing ● University threatens to terminate Union bar project

Henry James Foy
NEWS EDITOR

SENIOR UNIVERSITY officials have threatened to terminate the planned Union bar in Langwith college if YUSU officers do not withdraw an application for a 24-hour drinking license.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Students Jane Grenville delivered an ultimatum to Officers of York University Students' Union (YUSU) on Friday afternoon to either cancel their application made to the City of York Council or the University would withdraw support for the bar.

After the Union refused, the University was forced to submit a last-minute objection on welfare

grounds to council offices in the city before the 5pm deadline on Friday.

As *Nouse* went to print, Union Officers were still confident that the proposed application would be approved, and were not prepared to submit to the University's demands.

At the centre of the dispute is the outcome of a conversation that took place in July between Grenville and YUSU Services and Finance Officer Matt Burton. Grenville claims that Burton was told that neither she nor the University's Senior Management Group would support a 24-hour license. Burton said the Grenville was unable to give a definitive answer during the July conversation.

Speaking this week, Grenville

said: "[The University] categorically opposes a 24-hour alcohol and entertainments license and this has been clearly communicated to YUSU."

Burton, who has led the plans for a Union-run bar since inception, said the first time the University made clear its opposition was on the day it submitted its objection to the council. Burton said Grenville had raised not conveyed her position until "the eleventh hour".

Burton said: "the crux of the issue is that the University is unable to provide us with a single practical reason as to why they will oppose this application. That is frustrating for us. We believe they have little ground to object to this. It has created a situation of us versus them."

Grenville, who has been a key University supporter of the bar since the idea was raised last year, said that she had either been "misheard or ignored" by Union officers.

She said: "At the heart of this is a variance between YUSU and I about two conversations in July. My memory of those conversations is I was asked how I would react to the idea of a 24-hour license, and I replied that I couldn't support that."

"It was under my radar because I thought I had a very good relationship with YUSU. I made an assumption that if I said no, it meant no. It was just a simple matter of trust. I feel that my good nature has been taken advantage of," she continued.

"There is no way in which any-

body is ever going to resolve this. One of us is not right. One of us is saying 'I said no', the other is saying 'you said you had no problem with it'. It's a 'did, didn't' situation."

Grenville said she did not believe that YUSU had attempted to hide their application from her, but has now that no meetings between herself and Union Officers will occur without a neutral body minuting the conversation.

Grenville, whose portfolio consists entirely of students relations issues, admitted that the incident had damaged trust between the two bodies. "Relations now between YUSU and the senior management

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First years left scattered by fourth consecutive accommodation crisis

Sian Turner
 DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York is facing its fourth consecutive housing crisis, as a number of first year students have been forced into off-campus accommodation or into shared rooms.

The crisis, an echo of those that have marred the start of the Autumn term for the past three years, has seen students whose accommodation forms were not received by the University until after the application deadline without rooms assigned. An unknown number of students are now being housed in shared rooms, and the University has been forced to rent off-campus houses and sub-let to students. Rooms have been adapted for sharing and the University has rented houses near to campus, providing a further 22 rooms for students.

University officials have attributed the rooms' shortage to the rising number of students applying and being accepted to York this year.

"We have been faced with a particularly high level of applications for places," said University Press Officer David Garner. "It became evident at the end of September that a significant number of students had not been allocated accommodation and the number of rooms still available was limited."

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students Jane Grenville said: "We have more unconditional spaces than beds," she said. "The number of students changes every year; it is dependent on completely unpredictable factors."

First year students have remained dissatisfied, and online student discussion forums have acted as an outlet for frustration.

Writing on Studentroom.com under the alias 'this.river.is.wild', one first year said: "Anyone else feel like the whole accommodation allocation system has been a fiasco? I just can't understand why the system is so crap when it seems to be a recurring problem each year! Surely they could learn from previous years to make the system more efficient?"

Incoming first years have also complained that they received confirmation of accommodation only days before arriving in York. Work in the Accommodation Office was further delayed by the volume of calls from received from anxious parents and students.

YUSU Society and Communications Officer Rory Shanks said: "as far as we know, the main problem that the Accommodation Office is facing is that some of the offer letters have been slow to get out. It seems that the result of this is that because the letters haven't gone out, loads of people have been ringing up, which in turn has been slowing the Accommodation Office down."



HENRY JAMES FOY

A number of first years are being housed off-campus or in twin rooms

Derwent Chair Oliver Lester said: "the office got so bad that our college administrator had to volunteer to help out, as did I last week."

The University responded to try and reassure students and their families. Grenville said: "it has been an abnormal year," she said. "We are well aware of how difficult it is to be a fresher and not know where you are living. It is, however, excep-

tional at York for this to occur. Every single undergraduate student who got their form in on time will have a bed. People who didn't get their forms in on time will be provided with temporary accommodation."

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Derwent kitchen campaign a success

A public campaign by Derwent chair Oliver Lester has successfully led to a complete refit of the kitchens in the Derwent extension block. Dubbed by former YUSU President Anne-Marie Canning as "the worst kitchens on campus," Lester launched a campaign last year to pressure the University into redeveloping the blocks. Featuring an infamous Youtube video, Lester's campaign highlighted the difficulties for students living in accommodation with inadequate cooking facilities. Revamped this year, second year student James Beggs said of the new kitchens: "They're amazing, I wish we'd had this last year. It's how university kitchens should be."

York makes Times top ten universities

For the second year running, the University of York has achieved a ranking of seventh in the Sunday Times University Guide. The league table of more than 100 UK institutions praised York for "achieving a social balance in its intake absent from many other high-achieving universities", and also awarded it a record of teaching quality bettered only by Cambridge and Loughborough. The guide has also given top ranking to 22 subjects at York. The results have been well received. "It is another clear endorsement of our continuing academic quality" the University said in a subsequent statement.

Guardian success for campus media

Student media outlets at the University of York have won a number of nominations at this year's prestigious Guardian Student Media Awards. Online site *The Yorker* received a nomination for best website, and two of *York Vision's* editors have been successful in the student sports writer category. *Nouse* received five nominations, including best newspaper, best magazine for *Muse*, and best website. *Nouse* writers were also nominated for Features and Column. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at Shoreditch Town Hall in London on November 26.

Reporting by Nouse editorial team

A HISTORY OF CRISIS

RAF SANCHEZ



2007/08

Summer flooding delayed the construction of new Vanbrugh College blocks, forcing 200 Vanbrugh freshers into temporary accommodation in other colleges. A further 47 Langwith students spent their first weeks at university in a Holiday Inn when their kitchens were not refurbished in time.



2006/07

Massive cuts were made to kitchen facilities in Langwith, Goodricke, Derwent and Vanbrugh weeks before term. After pressure from the Students' Union the University paid out £55,000 in compensation to individual students and added facilities across a number of colleges.



2005/06

Construction on new Alcuin blocks failed to meet deadlines forcing 72 first years to spend Freshers Week sleeping in the National Science Learning Centre in the University Science Park. Students were warned that they would face possible fines if they did not keep their temporary rooms clean.

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 www.NOUSE.co.uk

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Nouse presents our comprehensive guide to everything that's on in York. Want to know where to eat, where to drink, and where to go afterwards? It's all in here

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University hosts 'racist' NUS event

Henry James Foy
NEWS EDITOR

POLICE ARE investigating race hate claims after a delegate at a National Union of Students (NUS) training seminar held in Central Hall in August allegedly held up a sign saying 'Bring Back Slavery'.

YUSU President Tom Scott found himself embroiled in the subsequent controversy following comments reported in a national newspaper talking down the seriousness of the incident.

Craig Cox, of Nottingham University Student Union, is under investigation by the police for holding up the sign, while another student delegate was also investigated by the NUS for claiming that black students "increase gun and knife crime" on campuses.

NUS Black Students' Officer



North Yorkshire Police are continuing to investigate allegations of race hate crimes

Bellavia Ribeiro-Addy, whose team reported the events to North Yorkshire Police, said: "It is unacceptable that black students should have to put up with blatant racist stereotypes at NUS events."

"It is unacceptable that slavery can be treated as a joke. It is one of the greatest crimes in human history," she added.

However, Scott, who took part in the seminar, told the *Daily Telegraph*: "There is a lot of political correctness in the union. There were people on the course with strong political views. The student involved was frankly poking people to see if he could get a response which worked - but I don't think there was any malice intended."

Scott later appeared to back-

track on his comments, telling *Nouse*: "It was a bad quote that got given to the [*Daily*] *Telegraph*. I should have shut up really."

"It was a very, very off-colour joke that should not have been made," Scott said, referring to the incident, adding: "The big thing is that none of our staff, students or sabbs were involved in this. It just happened to be held in York."

Many delegates were clearly upset by both incidents, the *Daily Telegraph* reported. A number of black students have allegedly threatened to boycott future NUS events as a result. Police are obliged to investigate any allegation made by someone who feels they have been the victim of racism.

A spokesman for North Yorkshire Police said: "North Yorkshire Police can confirm that we are investigating a racially motivated incident during a student event at York University between 12-15 August. Inquiries are currently ongoing."

In addition to the North Yorkshire Police enquiry, Cox was also investigated by the NUS and the University of Nottingham Students Union.

The NUS found Cox to be in serious breach of its equal opportunities policy, and as a result, banned him from attending any future NUS non-democratic events. This is the most serious sanction that the NUS can bring against an Executive Officer.

Cox, President of the Nottingham University Conservative Association, was also sanctioned by his Union, and faces the potential of future punishment. He denies any wrongdoing, and claims to have produced the sign to "wind up" fellow participants at the NUS seminar.

"The real story here is that the NUS wants to run a show trial that would make Stalin blush. Due process, natural justice and fairness are, in NUS eyes, mere concepts



"It is unacceptable that black students should have to put up with blatant racist stereotypes at NUS events"

NUS Black Student Officer
Bellavia Ribeiro-Addy

that can be readily ignored when it suits them," he said

"These witch-hunts have got to stop. It's about time the NUS started representing ordinary students again and stopped acting as a front for left-wing zealots," Cox added.

Christopher Mullan, Students' Union President at King's College

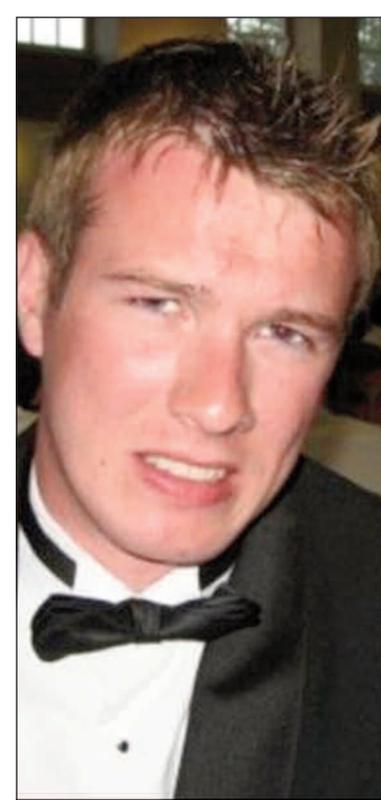


"There is a lot of political correctness in the union. There were people on the course with strong political views"

YUSU President
Tom Scott

London, was also investigated by the NUS for allegedly questioning whether black students should be encouraged to attend Universities, as they would increase gun and knife crime.

The 23-year-old, a member of the exclusive Disraeli Club, which fundraises for youth events within



"It's time the NUS started representing ordinary students again and stopped acting as a front for left-wing zealots"

Nottingham SU Officer
Craig Cox

the Tory Party, is also said to have questioned whether "undesirables" from the black community were wanted at universities.

Mullan has been cleared by the NUS, but is still under investigation by his students' union.

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Goodricke JCRC chair expelled over summer

Raf Sanchez
EDITOR

GOODRICKE HAS become the second college to lose its JCRC Chair since June after Joe Clarke was expelled from the University at the end of last year.

Clarke was sent down for academic reasons and was advised that by the University that an appeal had little chance of success. Speaking to *Nouse*, he said: "Their response was cold and quick considering the number of hours a college chair puts in for the University. I don't think it was even taken into consideration the amount of work I put in."

Clarke admitted that balancing his chairmanship with academics had often left him "overstretched". He said: "I think that



Former JCRC Chair Joe Clarke

the people who get into position of college chair are people who want to take on a challenge and do everything they can for their college. When given that amount of work

they do it because they want the best for the college but in hindsight you realize it probably is too much for one person."

Clarke's responsibilities have been split between former Vice-Chairs Katie Saunders and Becky Turnbull. Clarke clashed with Saunders last term when Saunders attempted to bring a vote of no confidence against the JCRC's Social Secretaries after a trip to Belgian lost £2,000. The vote failed after the meeting in which it was proposed was inquorate.

Following the meeting *Nouse* received an anonymous letter listing a number of serious accusations against Clarke. The letter, believed to have been written by a member of the JCRC, read: "I have passed this on to you as I believe the University and the College must be made aware of the conduct of this

Goodricke's Chair since being elected. I believe most people would be shocked with polices and remarks that have been made [by Clarke] this year." None of the allegations in the letter could be substantiated.

Clarke dismissed rumours of a no confidence vote, saying "I fully engaged what was going on in the college. I think if a vote had been made it would not have succeeded. The issue was sorted out an open meeting and the feeling there was that everyone was happy with the outcome."

Goodricke Treasurer James Smallwood said: "It was a big shock that Joe left but the committee came together over the holidays and got everything sorted for Freshers' Week. Hopefully things should all be fine this term." Smallwood said there was "no chance" Clarke would have faced a

vote of no confidence if he had remained at the head of the JCRC.

Clarke said the University did not recognize the work done by college chairs. He said: "On an institutional level I don't think the work of a college chair does is recognized at all by the university. I think very few people at the higher levels of the University have any idea what college chairs do."

Clarke becomes the second college chair to be removed from their position after James Chair Chet Khatu lost a vote of no confidence in June. Khatu was voted out by a margin of 10-2 following a public falling out with James Provost Dr Neil Lunt. He had previously been embroiled in controversy after taking part in an event in which a stripper was brought to the JCR and subsequently refused to apologise.

Rising costs of living to force 40%

HENRY JAMES FOY

HOW WE SPEND IT

In 2007/08 students at the University of York spent:



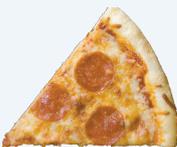
Rent
£46m



Alcohol
£11m



Mobile
£3m



Groceries
£7m

Source: NatWest Student Living Index 2008

Anjli Raval
 DEPUTY EDITOR

NEARLY HALF of all University of York students will be juggling their degrees with part-time work at the start of the 2008/09 academic year, according to a recent survey.

NatWest's annual Student Living Index survey showed that four in 10 of York's student population, or 5,308 students, will be in part-time employment to help pay their way through university, with many claiming it would be too expensive without additional income.

The research analyses how much students spend on accommodation and living costs against how much they earn from part-time jobs. NatWest questioned 2,600 undergraduates from 26 university towns and cities across the UK.

York was placed 23rd for cost-effectiveness, only coming above Swansea, Manchester, Southampton and Exeter.

Students in work during their time at York will collectively earn a total of £10million a year, while their combined cost of living has risen to £104m.

The survey found the cost of living and the current economic climate is a key factor for 5% of students across the UK in deciding where to go to university. It is a factor for only 3% of York students.

York undergraduates spend approximately £46m on rent, £11 million on alcohol, £7 million on supermarket food shopping and £3



Four out of 10 York students will take up a part time job to help meet rising costs of living

million on their mobile phone bills.

The average York student spends £212 per week on living and housing costs and will have weekly earnings adding up to £65 from

a part-time job.

Nearby in Leeds, the average student spends £240 per week and makes £99 from term-time employment. Although the average cost of living at York

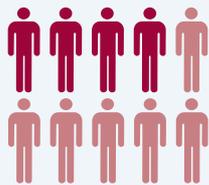
is low in comparison to other universities, students earn less than their peers, resulting in a low cost-effectiveness rating.

Plymouth is the most cost-effective place to study

HOW WE EARN IT



£65
 average weekly wages



40%
 of York students have a part time job during term

Campus rents rise significantly

Henry James Foy
 NEWS EDITOR

INCOMING undergraduate residents have been hit by an average 7% increase in accommodation prices across all types of rooms and let durations.

A 38-week let for a standard room on campus will cost new students £2958.36, an increase of £202.36, or 7.34% on last year's charge. The rise is similar for 38 and 33-week en-suite rooms.

Following a University committee proposal to raise all rents across campus by 4% for the 2008/09 year, utility price rises have forced another additional hike of approximately 3%.



Occupants of Derwent E and F blocks will pay higher rents

Due to the "unprecedented rise" and "escalation in the utility costs over and above that which was forecast when Student Services Committee approved the

student rents" in October 2007, the University has levied a charge of 26p per bed per night.

A significant rise in gas prices is the major contribu-

tor to the rent increases, with the University's contracted gas firm charging more than double from 1.719 p/Kwh to 3.881p/Kwh. The University has predicted that electricity prices may also rise by a similar amount when that contract is renewed at the end of this month.

Water and sewerage charges are expected to remain stable and long-term contracts for other utility supplies negotiated in 2007 have protected the University from other increases over the past year.

A *Daily Telegraph* study found that the average utility bill has risen by 25% over the past year, as energy firms pass on rising supply costs to customers.

RISING RENTS

33 week En-suite

£2864.79	£3065.37
2007/08	2008/09
+ 7%	

38-week Standard

£2756.00	£2958.36
2007/08	2008/09
+ 7.34%	

38-week En-suite

£3315.15	£3543.09
2007/08	2008/09
+ 6.86%	

of students into working part time

York is more comfortable than survey numbers suggest



ANALYSIS
Anjali Raval
DEPUTY EDITOR

with the average Plymouth student spending £217 a week on living and housing costs, but making £115 a week from part-time work. In contrast, Plymouth's counterparts in Exeter will spend £294 per week, but earn just £67 making it the least cost-effective university town.

The survey also took into account the number of hours worked by students. On average, York students work 12 hours per week, just below the national average of 14. Students in Portsmouth work the most hours each week, averaging about 18.45 hours.

YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer Charlie Leyland said: "The best thing you can do is to sit down with all of your financial information: how much interest free overdraft you have, the incoming of loans, any additional income against rent costs, living costs, and other things like phone bills, socialising and make sure that it's realistic. If there is a shortfall and you feel that you cannot free up some money then get advice, don't ignore it. There are hardship loans available from both YUSU and the University if you get stuck".

Mark Worthington, head of student banking at NatWest, said: "Students are increasingly aware of the wider economic climate and this is filtering down into their decisions when they are choosing their university and also when deciding whether to take a job during term-time."

The numbers don't make happy reading, but while it seems like a simple matter of spending too much and earning too little, taking a closer look reveals it's not that straightforward.

While the average cost of living per week in York is the NatWest survey's lowest at £212 per week, students at the University are working less hours and earning less money than their coun-

terparts. This means they are unable to compensate for their living expenses, securing York a lower rating on the cost-effectiveness table.

But one has to remember the cost effectiveness table only plots the average-living costs against money earned through term-time employment.

During their poll, NatWest asked students to list other sources of income, such as financial aid from parents or grants from private institutions. This data, however, was not factored into the overall cost-effectiveness calculations, leaving

a black hole of finance.

Rather than demonstrating the shortage of jobs available or the average York student's lack of enthusiasm about taking up paid work,

Students at the University are working less hours and earning less money than their counterparts

surely it's the case that parents are naturally giving their children allowances and handing out loans to

cover living expenses.

Although this year's estimates of student spending are conservative in the wake of the credit crunch and worries of recession, the cost of living is still readily increasing thus parents are more likely to support their children.

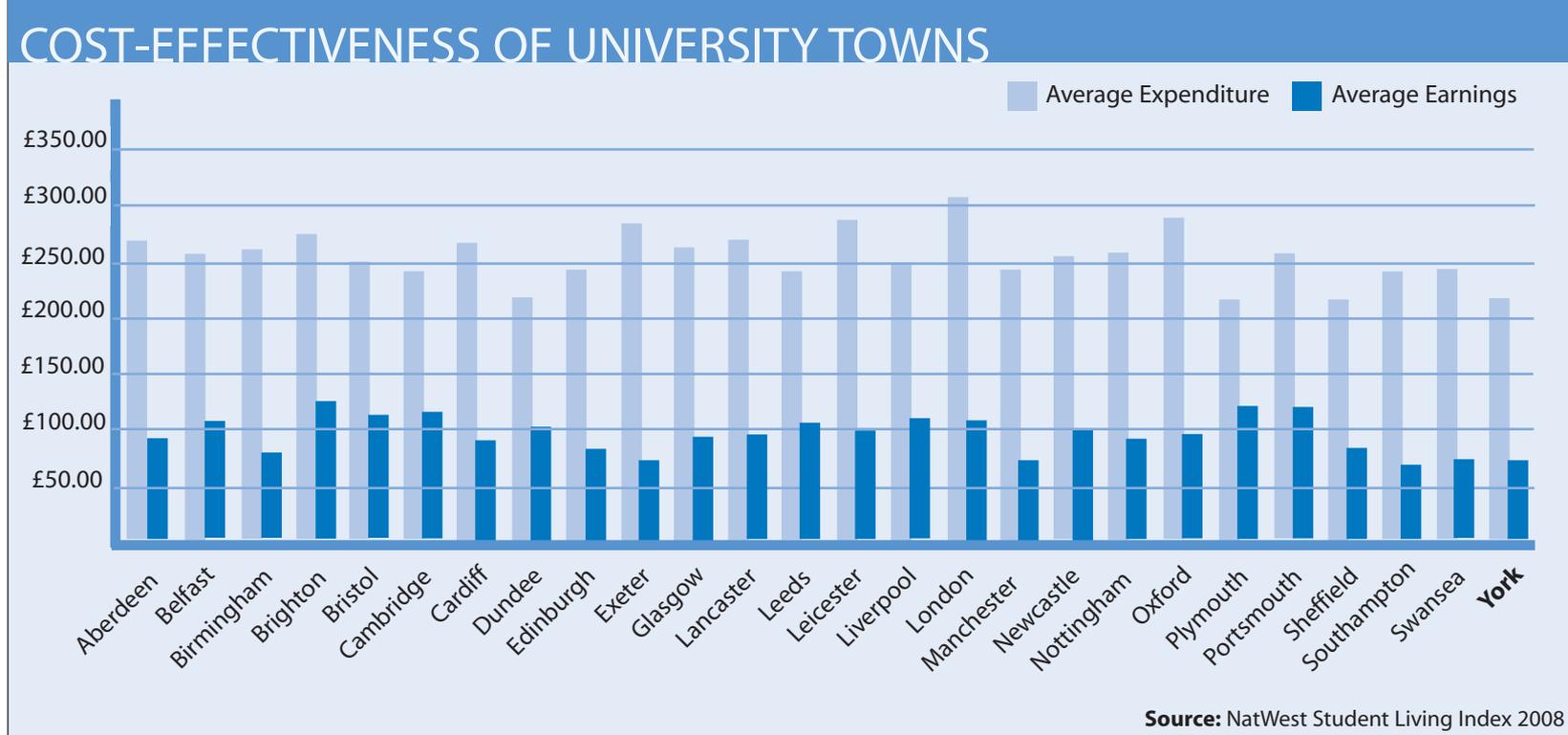
This is hardly surprising as York comes eighth place in the Times Online's 'most middle-class universities' list with 83.1% of students coming from social classes 1, 2 and 3.

Along with this, more students will apply to the University for financial aid

in the form of bursaries or hardship funds as additional sources of support if parents are unable to help them meet their expenses.

According to NatWest, York students receive an average of £44.60 per week from their parents and £29.55 from bursaries.

The main aim of the NatWest Student Living Index was to help students evaluate the relative economic advantages of living in different university towns. However NatWest's claim that York is one of the least cost-effective should not be a cause for panic.



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York students spend £4m more on alcohol than groceries

Sian Turner
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS AT the University of York are spending more money per week on alcohol than on food, according to the findings of a recent survey.

The NatWest Student Living Index 2008 has revealed that those at York spend £11m a year on alcohol, whilst just £7m is spent on groceries.

Presented with the findings of the survey, YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer, Charlie Leyland, admitted that the results were concerning.

"The statistics are worrying," Leyland said. "No one should feel they have to spend money on alcohol to

have a good time."

A number of students confirmed that alcohol consumes the largest percentage of their finances.

"It's true," admitted one second year History student who asked to remain anonymous. "I definitely spend more on alcohol than on food, but it's part of the student lifestyle. Also, it's much easier to eat cheaply than to drink cheaply. You can buy value brands of food, but you're not going to drink value lager if you go out for a drink at night."

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students Jane Grenville said: "I've already made my views on binge drinking clear. Far be it for me to be a nanny Pro-Vice Chancellor, if students want to spend

more than 10% of their money on alcohol, that's really their choice. It probably is too much, but you know the risks."

A survey at the end of the summer term revealed that many York students felt Freshers' Week to be too "alcohol-orientated," thus efforts have been made to promote more 'alcohol-free' events this year.

The first week of the autumn term, renamed 'Welcome Week' due to the negative, alcohol-related connotations that 'Freshers' Week' was believed to hold, is set to feature the first, alcohol-free Union fixture in Central Hall.

"I'm very excited," said Leyland. 'Unreel', which will be on Wednesday of Week 1,



Students at York spent £11m on alcohol over the last year

is being run with the International Students' Association. Leyland said: "I've booked out Central Hall, and we will have two films playing in the Physics Building and international films in Central Hall, plus yoga, food and drink, Indian head massage, henna, arts and crafts, acoustic guitar and Wii games."

The results of the NatWest survey also coincided with a move by the Student Union to ban society initiative rites. Under a new Social Policy launched by YUSU, any sports club or society found to be holding initiation ceremonies involving alcohol will be fines, and, in the case of sports clubs, possible expulsion from YorkSport.

City council attacks University on commitment to renewable energy

VENETIA RAINEY

Raf Sanchez
EDITOR

CITY COUNCILLORS have refused to approve the most recent stage of the Heslington East campus expansion after accusing the University of “ducking and diving” on its commitment to renewable energy.

At an October 2 meeting the City of York Council Planning Committee deferred approving plans for the new Department of Theatre Film and Television (TFTV). Councillors claimed that the University had failed to provide sufficient evidence of how it planned to meet its commitment to produce 10% of its total energy requirements from renewable onsite sources.

Liberal Democrat Cllr. Christian Vassie said: “We are simply not convinced that the University is committed to renewable energy for that site. We expect the city’s leading academic institution to help in that regard



Pro-Vice-Chancellor Elizabeth Heaps is responsible for Hes East

and not appear to be ducking and diving in helping the city go forwards.”

Cllr. Ruth Potter, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, said: “It is very disappointing that the University isn’t coming forward and showing leadership on this issue. There have been words but no action.”

The committee had the option to approve the application on the condition that

an energy plan be presented at a later date. Vassie said the committee refused to give approval to send a “strong message” to the University.

Councillors raised a number of specific concerns, claiming that the design of the TFTV building would not allow for the placement of solar panels on the roof and that no effort had been made to include water source heat pumps in plans for the lake. The University has as yet made no application for wind turbines.

The University was represented at the meeting by Director of Facilities Management Keith Lilley. Lilley told councillors that the University was taking a “holistic” approach to renewable energy which could not be judged on the design of a single building.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Elizabeth Heaps, who is responsible for overseeing the Heslington East project said that councillors’ criticisms were unfair.

She said: “We are taking

a University wide view of energy provision and consumption, and are committed to being energy efficient in a broad sense. We have a robust, effective long-term energy strategy. We acknowledge, however, that we may not have communicated our strategy to councillors with sufficient clarity.”

No records of votes are kept at meetings of Planning Committee but both Potter and Vassie said the approval was refused by a wide, cross-party majority. The University is expected to return to the Planning Committee on October 23 with updated plans.

The University committed to producing 10% of its energy requirements from renewable onsite sources in the Heslington East Master Plan, released in April 2008. The plan also commits the University to a reduction in carbon emissions across the entire campus of 10% by 2010 from 2004 levels.

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Construction work began on Heslington East during summer

HES EAST - EXPLAINER

In **May 2007** the University was granted government permission to begin the Heslington East campus expansion. The project, which is estimated to take **10 to 15 years** to complete and is currently budgeted to cost **£500m**, will eventually double the size of the student body to a total of **10,000**.

The new campus will boast an impressive range of new facilities including an eight lane **swimming pool** and **athletic stadium**. Work has already begun on the new Goodricke college, which is set to open for residents in **October 2009**.

The expansion has caused serious tension between the University and **local groups**, who have objected to the expansion on the grounds that it will flood the area with students as well as causing **irreversible damage** to the local environment.



Skeleton found at Heslington East site may be first TB victim

Sian Turner
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

WORK ON the Heslington East campus extension has unearthed the skeleton of a man believed to be one of the first victims of tuberculosis in Britain.

Found in September during archaeological investigations on the site, the skeleton was found in a shallow grave close to an old Roman road between York and Barton-on-Humber. Close analysis by experts from York Osteoarchaeology confirmed the cause of death

to be tuberculosis, a disease that affected the man’s spine and pelvis.

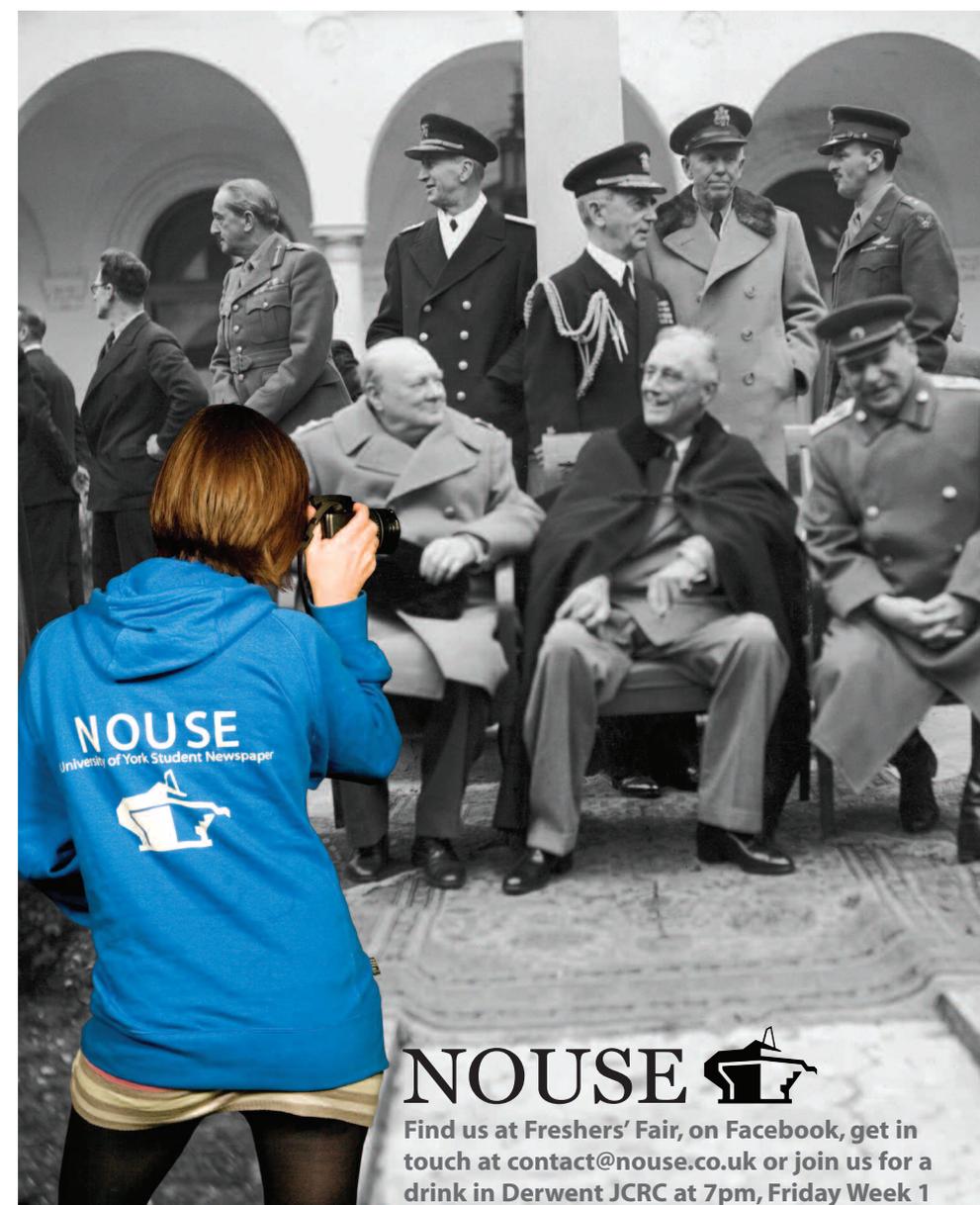
Heslington East Fieldwork Officer, Cath Neal, also of the Department of Archaeology at York, said: “This was a remarkable find and detailed study of this skeleton will provide us with important clues about the emergence of tuberculosis in late-Roman Britain, but also information about what life was like in York more than 1,500 years ago.

“A burial such as this, close to living quarters, is unusual for this period when most burials were in formal

cemeteries. It is possible that the man was buried here because the tuberculosis infection was so rare at the time, and people were reluctant to transport the body any distance.”

The remains are now being studied as part of research into the origin, evolution and spread of tuberculosis bacteria in Britain and Europe, funded by the National Environmental Research Council.

The burial area will not be built on. Plans are underway for community archaeology visits once investigations are complete.



NOUSE

Find us at Freshers’ Fair, on Facebook, get in touch at contact@nouse.co.uk or join us for a drink in Derwent JCRC at 7pm, Friday Week 1

Licensing battle jeopardises Union bar

GEORGE LOWTHER



<< Continued from front

group member who speaks for students are badly fractured," she said.

When questioned as to whether the University would terminate the bar project, Grenville said: "We will wait and see".

YUSU Societies and Communications Officer Rory Shanks, responded by saying, "If [Grenville] doesn't support the bar because of a disagreement with Matt Burton, then that's a sorry state of affairs."

Shanks said the proposal had been raised at a number of powerful University committees. "It has been very apparent that we were applying for the license and it has been aired in prominent forums. It was aired in the last monthly Bar Working Group, of which Jane Grenville is the most senior University member of staff invited. She didn't attend, but it was minuted and they were sent to her."

"It has been no secret, and Jane Grenville acknowledges that," said Shanks.

Grenville admitted that she had not read the minutes from the working group, and as a result was not aware of the license application until it was raised in an interview with *Nouse* on Thursday afternoon.

"If Jane has chosen not to read the minutes, she can

expect to miss things like this," said Shanks.

After becoming aware of the application, the University moved quickly to order YUSU to withdraw the application or risk losing support for the bar. Burton and Shanks claim requests for an emergency meeting with Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor on Friday were ignored.

Speaking on Friday afternoon, Shanks said: "They are putting us in a really hard position, a frustrating position, and are refusing to meet us. It is literally the eleventh hour. We will not withdraw the application until we meet with the Vice-Chancellor."



Former YUSU President Anne-Marie Canning

The formal objection to the council, which was submitted only minutes before the deadline, stated that the University "does not support 24-hour drinking". It was signed by University Registrar and Secretary Sally Neocosmos, and is understood to have the backing of the Vice-Chancellor.

Burton and Shanks denied that the 24-hour license would encourage unsafe drinking. "We don't intend to trade whenever we can, it just gives us flexibility. It's something to have in our back pocket," added Shanks. The license proposal submitted stipulates that the University would have to agree to the specific opening hours for any event.

If the council upholds the University's objection, the application will enter a 14-day mediation process. "We hope that if we can sit around the table like mature adults, we will reach a point that is acceptable to both parties," said Burton.

The Union was forced to abandon plans for an October opening after the University refused to begin necessary asbestos removal work, despite large-scale student protests designed to put pressure on Cantor into overturning the decision to delay the project.

COMMENT >> Page 13
LEADER >> Page 12

Student protests against the University's decision to delay opening Langwith bar were ignored

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Students involved in series of assaults over summer break

Henry James Foy
Beth Gandy

THREE INCIDENTS involving assaults on University students has raised awareness of safety issues in York after dark.

During the summer break, one student was attacked during a robbery, another suffered a violent attack on her doorstep, while last week a group of students were involved in a violent incident with local youths.

On July 18, a 21-year-old Economics student, who was attacked and robbed in Retreat Lane around midnight, suffered a head injury and was taken to hospital after being found unconscious

The attacker, who is believed to have been travelling on a bicycle and wearing a white hooded top, approached the student and "pushed her to the ground and knocked her unconscious," according to a spokesman for North Yorkshire Police.

The University described the incident as "nasty". "We would appeal for anybody who has any information about this incident to contact the police. This incident underlines the need for

vigilance at night," said a spokesperson.

The student, whose handbag was stolen during the attack, was discovered by two other students who raised the alarm. Vanbrugh Provost Dave Efird, who accompanied the student home from hospital, described it as a "disturbing incident".

"Students should be vigilant when walking late at night, particularly when alone... [and] should not use Retreat Lane at night because it is particularly isolated," Efird advised.

In an unrelated incident, third year Environmental Sciences student Rob Glendhill was left injured after an attack during the early hours of October 8.

Glendhill was walking home from the city along Walmgate when he was confronted by three men. Glendhill was punched three times in the face, and his two companions were chased.

Third year Economics student Richard de Boltz was amongst the group, and spoke of the attack: "Three guys were waiting together, looking to pick on students with the aim of starting a fight. They hit Rob and chased the rest of us down

the street."

"The three men, who were waiting on the street, saw us coming and began to shout verbal abuse at us, with phrases such as "what are you looking at?" Once I'd replied that we were not looking at anything, one of them turned and punched me in the face," added Glendhill.

The attack has been reported to the police, who are looking into a series of recent attacks in the area. It is believed that the men are from Tang Hall, and have taken to waiting in the early hours with the aim of preying on those heading home.

A third attack occurred on September 13, when a hooded youth punched a hole in a York student's front door following an early-morning altercation.

Natasha Burke, a 20 year-old student living in Heworth was approached by a man and woman on her doorstep at 4.30 AM after letting in her housemate.

The man, described as between 18 and 21, asked to use her cooker to light his cigarette. As she closed the door on him, he began pounding his fist on the door.

He then punched through the stained glass window of the door before



HENRY JAMES FOY

Students have been warned to avoid Retreat Lane after a series of recent attacks

running off.

"I was shaking; I just couldn't believe what had just happened," Burke said

Charlie Leyland, YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer said she was "very concerned" to hear about the attacks, and advised students

to stay alert at all times.

"I don't want everyone to panic about this as [attacks of this nature are] extremely rare, though I would urge students to always travel in groups if at night, certainly not with headphones in which leaves

you very unaware of your surroundings," she said.

Leyland also praised the recent decision by FirstYork to introduce a £2 night bus return which she hopes will mean that fewer students will choose to walk to and from campus late at night.

Entwistle tricked by US prison gang

James Cousins
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY OF York graduate and convicted double murderer Neil Entwistle has been tricked into shaving his head in an attempt to secure the protection of a white supremacist prison gang, according to reports in the *Boston Herald*.

Entwistle, who graduated from York in 2002 with a Masters Degree in Electronic Engineering, was convicted in June 2008 of murdering his wife and nine-month old baby daughter and is serving two concurrent life sentences without the possibility of parole in Massachusetts.

Officials at the maximum security Souza-Baranowski Correctional Centre have confirmed that Entwistle was receiving death threats from other



Neil Entwistle broke down in court during his US trial

prisoners. He was reportedly assured by prison gang members that he would be guaranteed their protection if he shaved his head as a gesture of solidarity.

A security official at the Correctional Centre, who spoke on the condition of

anonymity said: "The non-white inmates were threatening him, calling him a 'baby-killer'. Then the white inmates eventually convinced him that the only way he was going to have any safety is if he joined up with them."

Entwistle complied, shaving his scalp with a plastic safety razor, only to be told by the inmates that it was "a nice gesture, but we're gonna kill you too". The source inside the correctional facility said that Entwistle "seems to have been very easily manipulated".

The former York student is in custody in the Souza-Baranowski's protective custody wing for a minimum of two years after which he may be moved to a lower security facility.

Entwistle, who turned 30 last week, has recently changed lawyers in his uphill bid to overturn the two concurrent life sentences. He continues to maintain his innocence.

Entwistle was found guilty of murdering his wife Rachel and daughter, Lilly. He met Rachel while a student at the University.

Oxbridge academics call for end of fee caps

Peter Campbell
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE CHANCELLOR of Oxford University and the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University have both called for a removal of the cap on tuition fees for students from independent schools.

Speaking at a gathering of 250 top independent schools, Lord Pattern, the Chancellor of both Oxford and Newcastle Universities, announced that the middle classes could not possibly voice an objection to this, given the amount that they were prepared to spend a private education.

"It is surely a mad world in which parents and grandparents are prepared to shell out thousands of pounds to

put their children through private schools...and then object to them paying a tuition fee," he said.

The comments come ahead of next year's government review on the current level of tuition fees, and are considered likely to have impact on the committee's final report.

YUSU President Tom Scott said the move could lead to raising of caps for all students. "If you start lifting the cap for some, then immediately university Vice-Chancellors will start crying for the cap to be lifted for all." Scott called for a wider debate on the future of funding for the higher education sector as a whole.

The NUS has warned that if tuition fee increases go ahead, graduates could face final debts of £37,000.

Inquest into York student's death closes

Anjli Raval
DEPUTY EDITOR

AN INQUEST HAS heard that a University of York student who was found hanged last November had a history of bulimia and self-harm.

Third year Biochemistry student Laura Gerstel, 20, was found dead in her house on Fulford Road in the early hours of last November 26. She left a note referring to her weight saying that she did not wish "to live this way".

She had also changed her status on Facebook to 'Laura Gerstel is thinking if only...' an hour before her death.

The inquest in York heard that Gerstel, from North Berwick in Scotland, began self-harming at the age of 12 and was diagnosed with bulimia at 16. She had previously been referred to a psychiatric hospital after her parents found cuts on her wrists and legs.

In a statement her father Anthony Gerstel, said: "She would not let us help her. But when she was at university she sent us happy texts and sounded fine." None of Gerstel's family were present at the inquest.

Gerstel's housemate, Emma Wellard, had been asleep at 4am on November 26 last year when she was woken by the screams of another housemate. Her statement said: "I came out of my room and saw Laura suspended from a red ribbon tied to the banister. My housemate phoned for an ambulance.

"I had known her for two years. She suffered from bulimia, took anti-depressants and did cut herself."

Coroner Donald Coverdale dismissed a verdict of suicide as she had drunk the equivalent of two-and-a-half pints of beer the previous evening. Her father said in his statement that his daughter "became compulsive" when she drank.

Returning an open verdict, Coverdale said: "This is a very sad story. Laura had suffered from a number of medical and psychiatric difficulties, and unfortunately had harmed herself in the past.

"I am not aware of any previous attempts to take her own life. The note she left referring

"Everyone who knew her loved her. She was one of the few people who it was always a genuine pleasure to be around and talk to"

to her thoughts and feelings that she was overweight connects to her psychiatric difficulties," he continued.

"The level of alcohol she had consumed may well have impacted on her judgment. Because of the uncertainty about her motives and the state of her mind due to the alcohol, I am going to record an open verdict. I'm afraid we shall never know what was in Laura's mind," Coverdale summarised.

After her death, Gerstel's supervisor Jim Hoggett said: "Laura was an enthusiastic and bright student who was a pleasure to teach. She was very popular with staff and her fellow

students and she will be much missed in the Departments of Biology and Chemistry where she studied."

In the days following her death, friends used Facebook to post emotional tributes to Gerstel. Her close friend Robin Corey said: "Everyone who knew her loved her. She was one of the few people who it was always a genuine pleasure to be around and talk to, always so bright and bubbly and full of fun and laughter."

YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer Charlie Leyland advised: "If you are feeling under pressure, upset or worried please tell someone. University is often one of the hardest and strangest experiences you'll ever have. There is a myriad of people here to support you."

"A problem shared is a problem halved. It's never too late to get in touch with someone who can help you, no matter how small or big you think the problem is. If it's important to you then it really is important to us. That's what we are here for," Leyland added.

CONTACT

If you have been affected the issues in this article contact:

YUSU Welfare
www.yusu.org/welfare

Nightline
01904 433735

Open Door Service
01904 433698

University Health Centre
01904 433290

Samaritans
08457 90 90 90



An inquest into the death of Laura Gerstel found she had suffered from bulimia and depression

Silver lining for graduate in Lehman collapse

Henry James Foy
NEWS EDITOR

FORMER Vanbrugh JCRC Chair Ryan Bennett was inadvertently cast as a poster boy for the plight of workers left jobless by the collapse of banking giant Lehman Brothers last month after being photographed leaving the bankrupt company.

Bennett, who had been employed as a trainee only a week before the collapse on 16th September, saw his photo and story used by publications such as *The Guardian*, *Evening Standard* and international news agency Reuters.

"When I entered the building early in the morning there were only a couple of cameramen outside. By the time I there were paparazzi lining the street. I found myself racing through



Bennett's photo appeared on the front page several of newspapers

a gauntlet of press. By 3pm I was sitting in a bar and found that my picture was in the *Evening Standard*. It did bring a somewhat lighter note to the day when I was asked to autograph a copy," Bennett said.

"I was also recognised due to the photo when I went

to the local job centre later that week," he continued.

Bennett's photograph, showing him leaving the company offices holding Lehman-branded umbrellas and bags, was used by many publications to illustrate the desperate attempts of ex-employees to reconcile their

disbelief and sorrow.

"Some employees were in floods of tears, while others were drinking bottles of vintage champagne once owned by the company. Traders were playing cricket down the isles of the trading floor, smoking cigars and leaving the building with all they could," said Bennett.

"The heart of the company just seemed to die... employees flocked to the nearest bar to consolidate their losses," he added.

The fall of Lehman Brothers was the biggest corporate bankruptcy since The telecommunications giant WorldCom collapsed in 2002.

Bennett, who is technically still employed by Lehman Brothers and is therefore still receiving the salary agreed under his contract, is staying in London to search for another job.

Student's film wins four African Oscars

Jenny O'Mahony
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY OF York student has won a prestigious award for his role in a film about cocaine smuggling in Ghana.

John Apea, a third year Sociology and Social Policy student, won the best screenplay award for *Run, Baby, Run* at the African Movie Academy Awards in May. He also played the starring role in the film.

Run, Baby, Run tells the story of a young student who inadvertently picks up a huge stash of cocaine in London. After selling on the cocaine, the original owners track him down, leading to a dash across Britain and Africa, ending in Ghana, where the cocaine originated.

The film received a total of four awards at the ceremony held in Nigeria. Apea said of the ceremony: "As I looked into the crowd, I could see the jury members clapping and we actually had a standing ovation. The atmosphere was impeccable, extremely glamorous and well co-ordinated."

For Ghanaian Apea, the award came as a surprise: "The look on peoples' faces showed that they were in shock that a film from Ghana, which is considered backward in filmmaking, had won four awards."

The film explores a regional drug industry that is out of control. About 300 tons of cocaine, with a street value of £30 bn, is now trafficked through West Africa to Europe each year, according to Interpol estimates.

STUDENTS
GET
BACK
to **DOING**
NOTHING.
QUICKLY.



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Terms & Conditions 1. No purchase necessary. 2. Draw is only open to students attending the following universities: University of Bradford, University of Huddersfield, University of Hull, University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, York University and York St John University. Students eligible to enter include under graduates and post graduates. 3. Entry must be made by texting the word "chips" to the following number: 67777. 4. Closing date for applications is 30th November 2008. 5. Prize comprises: paying for 4 x tickets to a concert of the prize winners choice (subject to availability) to include travel and accommodation up to the value of £1,000. 6. McCain Foods GB Ltd accepts no responsibility for transport to and from the venue. 7. There is no cash alternative. 8. The winning entry will be selected at random under independent supervision from all entries received by the due closing date. 9. The winner will be notified within 28 days of the closing date. Once notified, the winner will have until 31st December 2008 to decide the concert they would like to attend. Concerts must take place in 2009 and within the UK. 10. Promoter's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered in to. 11. Promoter: McCain Foods (GB) Ltd, Havers Hill, Scarborough, North Yorks, YO11 3BS

Who's YUSU?

Profiles and Analyses of the YUSU Sabbatical Team 2008/09

PRESIDENT TOM SCOTT



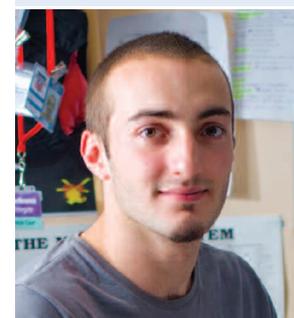
Scott shot from relative unknown to campus personality and YUSU President after his unconventional Pirate-themed election campaign. Decked in full swashbuckling regalia, Scott's travelling army of seadogs and wooden galleon grabbed the attention of the normally disinterested York electorate, securing him a dominant win over two well-fancied opponents. Scott's inexperience and outspoken disgust of campus politics frightened many in the YUSU clique, and his blunt response to the NUS racist incident leaves some unconvinced of his competence for the top job. He, more than any other, will be closely scrutinised this year.

DEVELOPMENT AND CHARITIES JAMIE TYLER

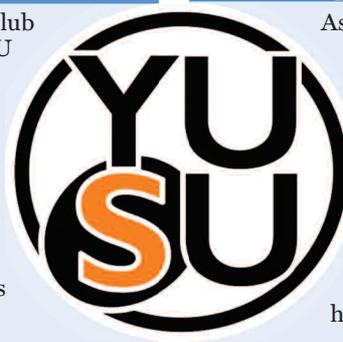
Popular choice Tyler, who was a much-loved JCRC Chair of Derwent last year, won a close race with a simple campaign of 'Accessibility, Inclusion and Awareness'. Enthusiastic and approachable, Tyler also brings a wide range of experience to the role, as an ardent supporter of various campus charities and organisations. Having worked with Kids' Club, Student Action and various RAG parades, Tyler successfully ran two Kids' Camp events this summer, after YUSU lifted a ban on the event following an incident earlier in the year. Tyler and former SDC Officer Joey Ellis's passion for the event was seen as central to its success.



AU PRESIDENT ALEX LACY



Alex Lacy, the former President of the Boxing Club won a closely-fought contest to become AU President on the back of his policies of inclusivity and promises to get more people playing sport at York. He also made headlines by attempting to do 1000 press-ups in Market Square during election week. He has already had an impact by arranging the first ever training day for sports club presidents, as well as presiding over the Athletic Union's incorporation into YUSU and subsequent re-branding as York Sport.



ACADEMIC AND WELFARE CHARLIE LEYLAND

As Derwent's former welfare rep, merchandise rep, and Freshers' week organiser, Leyland drew heavily from her college to secure her position. Following the unceremonious departure of Grace Fletcher-Hackwood last year, Leyland was forced to hit the ground running. Following the results of an external investigation, Leyland will be YUSU last ever AcWelf Officer, with the role being split next year. She promises longer library opening hours, a web-based housing search system and healthy vending machines.



SOCIETIES AND COMMUNICATION RORY SHANKS



Former Entertainments Officer Shanks was a predictable winner in the battle to succeed Sam Bayley, fighting off relatively unknown rivals to become the Union's spin-doctor and society administrator. Former Alcuin Treasurer and Entertainment Assistant, Shanks was highly commended for a successful year as a YUSU Entertainment Officer prior to winning his election by a huge majority. Committed to assisting, rather than censoring campus media, he may spend quite a lot of his time running the media propaganda campaign for YUSU's new bar.

SERVICES AND FINANCE MATT BURTON

Campus politics heavyweight Burton is now in his fifth year at York and second year as YUSU officer after successfully winning a second term as the Union's money man. His wealth of experience is seen as a tonic to Scott, while some fear he may eclipse the President's power and duties, a role held last year by former girlfriend Anne-Marie Canning. Burton, who runs his own successful website business, staked a desire for a second-term following YUSU's decision to embark on the Langwith Bar project, which he sees as a personal legacy. YUSU deny the bar will be branded with his initials.



WEB-CANNON

This week's snapshot from YUSU's web-cam

YUSU Office Cam Sun Jan 20 17:59:58 2008



Just minutes before the YUSU Welcome Talk Pirate President

Mad Cap'n Tom Scott, cheerfully regaled in his buccaneer outfit,

practices his jokes while a nervous Jamie Tyler looks on.

DEMOCRACY GLOSSARY

Constitution

The constitution governs all the processes and actions of YUSU, acting as a guide and rule book for union officers.

EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting is called to discuss one motion only which is considered too urgent to wait until the next Union General Meeting.

Internal Affiliates

Groups which operate within the university may choose to affiliate and receive funding and have representation upon the unions governing body.

Motion

A motion is a piece of proposed policy that suggests a way that the union should run or something it should do.

Quoracy

Quoracy refers to the number of people required to be present before a meeting can conduct business. This is set to ensure that meetings are representative.

Ratification

A process of approval which student societies must go through so that they are operate within the union and receive funding.

Sabbatical

Students can be elected to become sabbatical officers of their students' union, either taking a year out of their degree (in the academic year following their election) or remaining at the institution for a year following the completion of their degree.

YUSU Exec

The business decision making body of the union which meets weekly.

YUSU Senate

The principal steering body of the Union and meets biweekly. All the union officers and heads of internal affiliates plus three Boards of Studies Reps. Senate holds Exec to account. This is an open meeting which anyone is free to attend.

UGM

Union General Meetings are held at least twice a term. They serve as a discussion forum about the direction the union should take and the way it should conduct itself. In turn, these discussions are posted on our website and the motion is voted upon.



Welcome to York

So you're here. Whether you've come from a summer flush with the drama of A-level results, a gap year of learning and adventure, or are a mature student or post-graduate alighting here, you've found the University of York. Let's start with congratulations. York is undoubtedly a world class institution. The academics here are often the leaders in their fields and you will often your core reading was written by the person who also leads your seminar. The calibre of students is exceptionally high in the classroom but even more so outside. Our little, duck-saturated campus is a vibrant microcosm with its own politicians, actors, sports men and women, artists, musicians and, dare we say it, journalists.

It is undoubtedly insulated and the small pond atmosphere often leads to big heads in the University, the Union, and the student body at large. Sometimes this is justified - there is a lot to be proud of - sometimes not. If you are a first year undergraduate you may find a number of your peers looking a bit homeless this week. The University is going through its fourth consecutive accommodation crisis, failing to learn lessons of the past.

Yet for the most part, York is a place that few leave without taking something away. And there are few better ways to get involved, nor vantage points to survey it from than *Nouse*, the University's oldest student newspaper. Get in touch contact@nouse.co.uk or visit us at Freshers' Fair. Welcome to York. Make the most of it.

To the wire

What was almost a stunning victory for the Union over an unprepared and unsuspecting University was crushed swiftly and brutally. In a heavy-handed but effective way, the University has given YUSU two choices, of which only one is real. Heslington Hall knows this. This is not to say that the University is overreacting. In the 24-hour notice period that it had before the application became a full-fledged license, there was little time for negotiation, certainly not with a rightly incredulous and astounded YUSU. As land-owner, the University will always have a card up its sleeve. Friday's events showed it was very prepared to play that card. This paper is in little doubt that Heslington Hall is serious about its opposition to 24-hour drinking and its capability of terminating the bar project before it really gets underway. The Union's staunch defence of such plans may well, after the posturing subsides, melt in the face of the horrifying potential of having no bar at all. In truth, YUSU can turn this series of quite extraordinary events into a victory. Businesslike negotiations with the council for a standard license will make them look like a Union that promotes student welfare, and show the University to be authoritarian and unable to keep tabs on what's happening on their own campus. Whatever may or may not have been said during unminuted telephone calls, a peaceful end to this dispute should mean these potentially very damaging arguments about who said what can be forgotten.

Lessons not learnt

For the fourth consecutive year, the University of York is facing an accommodation crisis. This year, the problem is due solely to substandard administration. There are not enough beds on campus to sleep the number of students to which the university has offered places. Allegedly, some first year students did not receive notification of their accommodation - where exactly they were to be living - until around a week ago. This is unacceptable. A short-staffed accommodation office is not a good excuse. Frankly, it is an embarrassment, and a problem which must be rectified in time for the start of the next academic year.

Where you live at university will have an impact on how you work, how you socialise and, ultimately, how well you settle in at York. Living in a college provides students with the ideal environment in which to develop. Many freshers will be justifiably angry, therefore, to discover that they are sharing a room with a stranger when they had requested single accommodation, or that instead of living on campus - a prime reason for choosing to come to York - they have been placed in a private house miles from the university.

The University must maintain high numbers of undergraduates, especially bearing in mind the expansion to Heslington East. But the accommodation office must improve its efficiency in order that students get the welcome they deserve.

Comment & Analysis

Counting remains an issue at our 'top ten' University



ADAM HANLEY



Criss Noice
Contributing Writer

York has had more first year students than beds for four years running.

It's a commonly held assumption that the University of York's higher ups attempt to screw students over at every given opportunity. However, you would think the powers that be would give freshers a chance to get in the door before they start their constricting tirade on student life. This is apparently not the case.

For the fourth year running, first year students are being shipped around town and bundled into shared rooms together instead of having their own room on campus, as promised.

Now, I'm sure that having a whole house to wreck instead of a single room and kitchen in your first year is a welcome challenge for some, but it is also sure to take away from the hilarious social awkwardness experienced by most freshers when they meet people in an adjacent room in their hall.

These students will not only have to travel half way across town to get to "unmissable" campus events, but they'll also have to negotiate their way back under a thick veil of Tesco value vodka and Carlsberg. In the dimly-lit labyrinth of dark alleys and thief lanes that is York, this proves to be no easy task.

Students in houses around town are being cast

as outsiders before they even start, leaving them no better off than those poor souls given the misfortune of living in Halifax, wherever that is.

For those of you who are sharing rooms with somebody else this year, I apologise in advance on behalf of your roommate. When you're stumbling around Vanbrugh at the end of Access All Areas, looking desperately for something more interesting to do, and you meet that pretty girl/guy you saw go past you on the M1 on the way up here on Sunday, don't expect to take them back to your place to see how their father is. When the two of you stumble into your room and find that your new friend is playing his beloved Nintendo, it's going to kill the moment faster than a rabbit on speed.

"How could this have happened," I hear you cry. Well, there's a strong possibility that the University just cannot count. Surely it isn't going to be that difficult to look at how many rooms you have on campus, how many offers you have given prospective students and then work out whether the numbers match. Perhaps I'm being a little over-optimistic.

Has the University come to the point where it has so little faith in its own appeal that it assumes masses of people who get offered an

unconditional place will turn it down? Or perhaps some joker in administration counted the ever-distant rooms on Heslington East in the total. Who knows.

The truth of the matter is that there just weren't enough people working in the accommodation office last week to cope with the amount of application letters that were coming in. Even college chairs were being drafted in to help sort envelopes and lighten the load, which doesn't help all that much because there aren't that many of them left.

These factors combined with general ignorance meant that some confirmation letters still hadn't been sent out as late as October 5th. In their defence though, sending out a letter saying "Welcome to the University of York. Your accommodation will be in... York. Somewhere. We hope" isn't a job that anybody wants.

To put it simply, the University is an overzealous-bus driver who has let too many people on and has had to tie a few to the roof. Everyone's still going to degree town, but those up on top are going to have to stick it out for a while until a few people inside get off early.

After all, the next bus doesn't come for another year - and that one's not going to be big enough either.

It's time to put power politics aside



Jennifer O'Mahony
Contributing Writer

A lack of communication and ego has deepened the rift between YUSU and the University.

When Anne-Marie Canning took up the YUSU Presidency last year, she spoke emphatically about her desire to improve relations between the Students' Union and the University.

She has since ensured that relations between the SU office and Heslington Hall have remained relatively amicable, and when Tom Scott took over, most assumed that this closeness would remain for the sake of the student body.

Langwith Bar was designated as entirely student financed and run, and no one from the Vice-Chancellor's office objected when Matt Burton, Services and Finance Officer, applied for a 24 hour license for late night events, or so he thought.

The subsequent explosion has shown exactly why students and University executives will never understand each other: because they never listen to what the other side is saying. Relations are now at an historic low between YUSU and the University. One can only imagine the look of fright on the poor clerk's face as Pro-Vice-Chancellor Jane Grenville ran into the York City Council building on Friday, just two minutes before the final deadline for licence applications. Eyes bulging, veins protruding from her neck, a seething Grenville slapped down her objection, cursing Burton, screaming wildly for justice.

The issue at hand is about two different agendas rubbing up very uncomfortably against each other. No one likes chafing. The University wants to keep costs down, and passing on Langwith bar's overheads to YUSU must have seemed like an excellent idea at the time. They could forget about the running of Langwith JCR, and carry on planning conferences with a little less interruption. The acquisition of Langwith was a coup for YUSU too,

"Langwith bar was intended to student financed and student run."

Meaningless reports do little to help students



Joe Chapman
Contributing Writer

The student living report is vague and confusing.

Amidst the dizzying array of numbers and dubious references to so-called 'cost-effectiveness' in the recent student living report lay an important message - apparently.

The study, which conveniently doubled as a marketing exercise for NatWest, told us that 40% of 'hard-working York students' supplement their study with part-time work, averaging 12 hours per week, collectively earning £10 million, which is slightly less than is spent on alcohol. As if this wasn't meaningless enough, we were also informed that we collectively spend £46 million on rent and £7 million on groceries.

The irony is that the lack of understanding of what these figures actually mean reflects the lack of close attention paid by many students towards their finances. There is no doubt that there will be thousands of freshers, with hard-earned zeroes on the bank balance and gratefully received student loan

allowing them to offer prospective students a temporary Student Union before Heslington East provided the real thing.

The current situation shows the Union has rather more power to wield than they always remember. There will undoubtedly be red faces and much wringing of academic hands this week, as the University work out how exactly Burton made them look like incompetent amateurs in front of the couple of thousand new students who may not have been aware of this unfortunate fact until just now.

The outcome to this debacle can be predicted with a fair amount of confidence. It is expected that YUSU will see the loss of a 24 hour licence

as preferable to the loss of Langwith as a student bar altogether. I envisage that Burton and Scott will give in to her ultimatum, the insomniac alcoholics among us will remain thirsty, and tensions will cool slightly, from boil to simmer, in the metaphorical pot of University-student relations.

Do not be fooled by a period of calm, however. There are and will always be officers who take more initiative than expected, people in power who aren't paying attention to their inboxes, and journalists hanging around to ask all the awkward questions.

But then again, the minutes of YUSU meetings never really say anything worth reading, do they?

CRISS NOICE



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Have faith in York's league table ranking



Tom Barnes
Contributing Writer

The general ignorance towards the quality of York university is a bemusing thing. Its premier level of achievement has been shown year after year through university rankings, yet it still manages to receive bad press.

As a mere toddler compared to her nearest rivals at just 45 years old, York rose seven places to regain a top 10 position in the *Times* University Guide and only narrowly missed a similar rating in the *Independent* and *Guardian* guides. What's more is that York has never been out of the *Sunday Times* top 10, it has an international reputation as the 74th best institution in the world, we benefit from the highest average score in terms of teaching assessment than any other university in the UK and according to the *Guardian* newspaper, York is 'one of the best places in the country to study'.

So indeed, my reply in the future should not just indicate York as a good university but an elite one - siding up to more elderly institutions not as a novice but as an equal partner and one whose achievements have very much been vindicated above those who have relied on their historic positions.

To rifle through past campus newspapers is like reading through an obituary - tales of flouted past glories, declining standards and the death of a premier university. Those now seem to be the ramblings of hyper-pessimists considering York's status in *The Times* as one of the 'biggest movers' and our return from a supposed dank state in to the rather more comforting higher echelons of the university league. This volatility of student morale however, is made all the worse by the more sensitive nature of York as a younger, less historically established university which naturally necessitates more consoling and cuddles from Brian Cantor.

York's rise in the league tables should lead to an increase in applications and therefore, hopefully, in the quality of candidates. What's more is that with Heslington East and new departments such as Law, York will overcome one of her greatest weaknesses - its condition as somewhat of a comparative unknown village university and thus be more attractive to graduate employers than the handful that currently frequent us.

And so as we embark upon a new year it's time to put past negativities behind us and instead be rightfully proud that we are fortunate enough to attend such a prestigious institution.

money being extracted from cash machines on a more than daily basis, who have no concept, at all, of the extent of their excess, or more importantly, of its long-term implications.

Financial problems, are not to be taken lightly, and a harsh wake-up call, even in this week of weeks, may not be so unwelcome. However, with the media currently saturated with scare stories of economic turmoil and personal financial ruin, there is a grave possibility that such warnings will go unheeded by an audience suffering from what can be described as a kind of 'information fatigue'.

And vague, confusing reports, like this one are the most likely casualties. It talks about the "cost-effectiveness" of studying in York yet, fundamentally, it fails to evaluate the short-term or long-term benefits of a university education. In addition to this, it is not clear whether the report refers only to this institution, or the city's two universities combined. The

£7 million spent on groceries appears to ignore what is spent on food in cafes and bars. The nationwide survey of 26 towns involved 26,000 students - an average of just 1000 per town. And the figures - which are crudely calculated aggregates of all York students - has no apparent context.

So lets give the situation the vital context it needs. Assuming the report refers to both universities in the city, the combined £18 million we supposedly spend on groceries and alcohol amounts to £40 per student per week, in term time only - this is approximately equivalent to an average maintenance loan.

Meanwhile, the figures for earnings from part-time work suggest that the average working student earns at or slightly above the minimum wage for 18-21-year-olds.

Given this context it seems that it's hardly the kind of warning needed to send us all running to the experts at MoneySense.

>> Student Summers **M6-7**
Three students who made summer count

>> Freshers Listings **M12-13**
Everything you need to know

AUTUMN WEEK ONE
Tuesday 14 October 2008

MUSE

Witness the Freshness:
We unveil our Freshers guide **M8-13**

Muse 14.10.08

SPECIAL FRESHERS EDITION



Summer report

While some students are content to spend summer lying in the sun, others want to get out and achieve something amazing. We report on several who have done just that >> M6-7

FRESHERS SPECIAL

Muse presents our Freshers Guide 2008. We look at Freshers Week through the ages, way back to York's inception in 1964. Glance at how Universities around the world welcome new students, and browse our comprehensive A-Z of York student life. Introduction by Lily Eastwood, and sketch by Henry James Foy >> M8-11

FRESHERS SPECIAL: Listings

Everything you need to know about living and relaxing in York. Your one-stop shop to find the best bars, cafes, restaurants and club-nights around >> M12-13

F&D: J Baker's Bistro reviewed, plus a guide to fresher-style food and drinks, day by day >> M14-15

Fashion: What to wear, and what to avoid >> M17

Arts: York's Edinburgh successes, plus culture on a budget >> M18-19

Music: What's on in York's music world >> M20-21

Film: How To Lose Friends, plus Kristin Scott-Thomas' new movie >> M22



Lily Eastwood



Welcome Week kicks my teeth in

Welcome week is just a kick in the face and further evidence that my sense of fun is draining. Freshers' week would be fine, because I don't feel bad about not having fun. Do you know why? Because I am not a Fresher. Welcome week on the other hand. Welcome! That cruel universal world welcomes us all - but to what? "Hello third years, welcome to exams, welcome to the year that counts, welcome to making up for all the times you slacked off in second year even though you knew it counted." Freshers' week was just harmless pressure to binge drink. Welcome week is smug.

There is nothing cool about third year. First year is a happy blur and in second year campus is yours. It felt like you only saw people you knew. We were established and justified then. Course friends, college friends, random every week in Ziggy's friends... Third year begins and the strange faces start creeping in. I'm not seeing those I know anymore, I'm seeing everyone I don't. I may not have been a big fish last year but I am a tiny fish now, and the pond is massive.

All this makes me very serious and not at all fun. I can barely even spell flippant. Every social engagement I have descends into depressed silence via some overly serious conversation on the credit crunch, third world debt or marriage. I even had a serious debate with someone over our preferred

choice of burial, taking into account financial and environmental aspects. All in a half hour break from the library. (Mine, by the way, is not at all. Burn me and scatter me to the wind.)

Either there is an epidemic of anti-fun sweeping third year or someone needs to give me a good slap now so I can snap out of it while I still have some friends. I am too young to be this boring.

But it's more than boring, isn't it? It's old. I am aging before my time and falling rap-

sense of sexuality. I may as well abandon any remaining femininity and go and join a convent. Let's face it. I wasn't that good at flirting to begin with. I like to see it as being a young superhero. All young ladies have an untapped and difficult to control ability to flirt. One day I could master it and rule the world, or at least my own love life. In reality I accidentally send "shag me" signals to weirdos and spend the rest of the time staring into the middle distance.

I was out in a bar for my 21st birthday just a few weeks ago and a very squat bald man tapped me on the shoulder and told me I'd ruined his evening. For the record, I thought I'd been doing an excellent impression of being fun, edgy, sexy and young - maybe even feminine. Anyway, I'd ruined his evening, with my dancing apparently. I inquired as to how my fun, edgy, sexy and young moves could possibly be so intrusive on his evening? The man replied that they were not intrusive but wanton and provocative: I had been leading him on. Not the whole room, but specifically this bald man. I had, so I was informed, given him a "look" when I was at the bar. This was also wanton.

This is the height of my flirting skill. My friend who (to my unskilled eye) was acting the same as me had a man approach her with a similar line. Her man, however, was about 25, gorgeous and able to string sentences together. My (middle-aged) man came up to my shoulder, had a face that looked like he smashed

'I'd ruined the bald man's evening, with my dancing, apparently.'

idly behind the trendy generation. The other morning, as I scraped at my dry weetabix and counted the hours before I could legitimately go back to bed, I made the mistake of turning on E4. E4 stands for fun, edgy, sexy young things. Their adverts are for fun, edgy, sexy young items. The advert I saw was for fun, edgy, sexy young perfume and showed, in all its stringy salivastastic glory, a man snogging a girl's elbow. I'm just... no.

I've spent my life being treated as a boy by my male friends and now popular culture has completely eclipsed my



Collette Kerrigan

This week's guest says it's time to chill

From summer job to student slob, the task of slipping back into life at York after a long few months really isn't too difficult. Though there are deadlines to be met and a budget to be kept to, it is a relative life of ease that we live inside the comfort of our quaint campus. Walking through a haze of 1960s buildings on a Monday morning, I am safe in the knowledge that Costcutter will still stock a welcome can of Relentless; that there are still more recycling bins in student kitchens than you can shake a stick at and that the Barney-coloured bendy bus is still slowly winding its way through the city walls. As I cross my fingers that the credit crunch hasn't sent the price of home delivery sushi skyrocketing,

there isn't too much that can truly faze me.

Though I may give the impression of being somewhat fancy free, is it so wrong to embrace the few worry-free moments that are graced upon me as a student? At the risk of sounding old before my time, the age of distrust hovers over us when suspicion is second nature, and rightly so. Who can forget the digitally enhanced fireworks of the Chinese Olympics opening ceremony, for example? It's not hard to see how trust becomes a far-fetched concept as we are told to question anything we see, hear or read.

This is the same for students. It goes without question that we keep our wits about us, whether that is taking out money at a

cash machine or merely locking up a bike outside the library. Even the rape alarms in the fresher fair packs are a good idea- though more widely used as an unwelcome alarm clock. But there comes a time when the security conscious take things a little too far. "Beyond name labelling her food in the fridge", explains one puzzled student, "my flatmate leaves milk outside her bedroom window so that I can't take it... even though I'm lactose intolerant."

Somewhere along the line, while our backs were turned, a plague of paranoia has taken hold of us and we are positively encouraged to "trust no one". The park is now a branded haven for weirdos and paedophiles and even Santa is subjected to disapproving looks at the shopping centre each Christmas. It's almost laughable that wearing a hoodie can label you an urban menace. But whether you are wary of attack or merely mindful of your calcium intake, there is little left that we

aren't anxious about. In fact, it has been said that more than one in three people in the UK suffer from paranoid thoughts. "I used to find it difficult to step outside of my room", recalls one anonymous paranoiac. "If I heard someone laughing, I was always sure that it was at my expense. If I left the flat, I was certain that there was someone in there taking my things and stealing my work".

Surrounded by fear and suspicion, it is no wonder that many people teeter on this fine line between prudence and paranoia. I once met a technophobe who refused to sign up to Facebook because she was convinced of "the government conspiracy to get all our information and track our social behaviour". Surely it is simply time for us to loosen up a little. With only a few sacred years at Uni, this is the chance to embrace the heady days of our twenties. Probably our last chance to be a bit footloose. Leave the conspiracy theories for your thirties.



This week, Lily will mostly be...

Avoiding becoming as iconic as James Bond and the victim of excessive product placement. The sheer amount of stuff I can buy that will turn me into James Bond makes me nervous. Drinking Coke means I get Bond girls, wearing Avon perfume means I am a Bond Girl – thank Our Lady Dame Judy Dench that I can't afford an Omega watch. I am becoming hyper-aware of my own product identity and I am beginning to hear voices. (Cue kitsch-camp and happier if not holier than thou presenter voice)

Lily lurks in a dark corner of the library wearing an oversized Marks and Spencer's sweatshirt and matching oversized grimace. She's not unwashed she's "grunge" and that's not pen on her face - that's a fashion statement. Remember to differentiate between lurking and skulking: skulking is for special occasions.

Lily now shuffles down Tang Hall

Lane draped in a "vintage" scarf and a cool air of discontent. Notice the holes in her tights as she deftly dodges a chunder pile. Tres punk, anarchy lives on in her dishevelled attire. As she glowers in your general direction notice the dark circles under her eyes, that's really "now".

If you were to rifle through her bag you'd mainly find a lot of Kleenex man-sized tissues, for her man-sized cold. To really get inside the Lily look it's important to be suffering from low-grade illness from October to March. Make sure you've got some broken bic bios, a "retro" Sony Ericsson and last week's lost satsuma complete with biological community.

Running for the bus Lily falls flat on her Maybelline-maybe-she-wasn't-born-with-it-face. Not for the first time today she realises that she's actually quite far from a James Bond lifestyle.

doors into it for a living and a very limited vocabulary. Where did I go wrong?

And now, now not only do I have to be wary of my weirdo magnetism but apparently my elbows could be wanton. I may never go out again, and if I do I'll be the one shuffling around, eyes to the ground and hands over elbows.

I think I'm actually the last person to give up on my female identity. No, not my female identity: just my ability to successfully cohabit, platonically or otherwise. Just this summer my own father said to me: "You don't need people as much as me, your mother and your sister. You won't ever depend on a long term partner." Won't I? Am I an empowered female? More likely he was just preparing me for the reality of spinstardom, which I deserve for being old, boring and not remotely turned on by elbow snogging. Bring on the cats.

Sarah Foster

I can see the Minster from my mildewed shower

Ah York, how I missed you. I'd managed to survive three whole months without accidentally treading on a duck (when you're rushing to a nine fifteen lecture, this is almost as traumatic for you as it is for the poor duck) or being overcome by the urge to run up Clifford's Tower after one to many Dusk cocktails, only to remember that actually I have zero ability to scale very steep slopes and giving up three seconds in. There were three months of my life that didn't involve dodging cow poo and speeding bicycles as I wandered



down Walmgate Stray or debating the relative merits of the Nags Head over Rumours. Instead I spent those three months trying to explain to friends from home that while York does sound a little odd that honestly it's a very nice place indeed. ("I mean, yes, my Student Union president is a pirate, but surely that sort of thing happens all the time? No?")

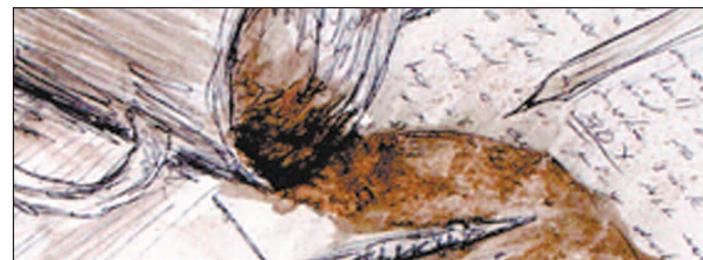
But then I remember that there are a massive number of you reading this to which the above references mean nothing. A great mass of people who have never had to use the phrase 'duck rape' in everyday conversation (or worse, had to witness it outside your bedroom window). People who have never had to take a ten minute detour round campus because every single bridge over the lake is closed. People

who have never eaten an Efes take-away!

I envy each and every one of you. Yes, being a fresher does have its many downsides, Goodricke's kitchens being just one of them, but there's nothing as great as discovering all those things that leave me, the world weary third-year, too jaded for words. I pass Milkshake without even batting an eyelid at the concept of a Jammie Dodger milkshake, even though sitting here; contemplating the possibility of a Jammie Dodger milkshake makes me smile just a little bit.

I don't even notice the numerous street performers anymore, not even the one who looks like Frank Sinatra. The cobbled streets of York have not lost any of their beauty; I think I've just become a lot less adept

at noticing it. Last year I could see the Minster while I was in the shower, which for some reason sort of spoiled its architectural beauty for me. Looking at beautiful buildings when you're surrounded by mildew tends to do that to a person. But this shan't be the case for you. For you all these things are new and sparkly and exciting. You ought to run around campus, marvelling at all its concrete glory, amazed at why anyone would ever decide to build Central Hall to look like that. You can digest the numerous urban legends of York. (Mini in the lake! Jimi Hendrix vomiting in Langwith!) You can get at least three hours of entertainment by asking everyone you live with you pronounce the word 'bath'. It shall be immense! At least until week seven or so.



SocialPariah

Hugh Morris is a warning to us all

As the sun sets behind the Reichstag, my friends and I enjoy a pint of cold Berliner Pilsner and two courses of German fine cuisine. A young couple sit next us, hand in hand, gazing into each other's eyes. I finish discussing the links between gentrification and a rise in post-modern sculpture in the city, then let out a mighty belch. What's left of the Wall falls, and the romantic gentleman on my left, in a thick German accent implores me, "Come on, mate". He shares a disapproving look with his other half and gives me a patronising thumbs up to show that 'we're still cool'.

I'm a student. This allows several otherwise reproachable activities; not shaving, not tipping, not washing, sleeping until 4PM, discussing 1960s American literature and still using the word 'like' every 7 seconds, having an entire wardrobe based around crests and nicknames – York University Sailing Club, Buttsy (long story) – and, of course, wearing exclusively bed clothes outdoors. However, when the choice of trousers is a pair of novelty scrubs, and the weather is driving rain, full frontal nudity becomes apparent. Sorry, everyone.

Fashion is tough these days. One will do anything to get by. One man's rubbish is another man's gold. One insecure kid's faux pas is another kool (sic) kid's 'must have' accessory. I am at a house party in Leeds kooling it up (sic again). I have my fitted purple t-shirt, my fringe is swept across my forehead and my skinny jeans are tight. Sitting on the stairs chatting, a partygoer in fancy dress admits he's wearing girl's jeans. I am not in fancy dress, but, when in Leeds... "Ha, yeh, I'm wearing my girlfriend's jeans," I reply. Everyone looks at my tight black jeans, "Are you wearing a thong too?" Everyone laughs. "No", I mumble to no one in particular.

Have you ever been walking along, pacing to the beat, lost in your own headphone world? No? Well, you're missing out. However, one should be careful about singing along, out loud, in public, without realising it. Walking back from work at two in the morning, I stop to get cash out so I can warm myself on some cheesy chips. "I wanna make love in this club", I chirp. Usher had the right idea, I think to myself. The bloke in front of me disagrees. "Wha", he probes. "I was just singing to myself", I apologise. "Ha. Are you a dick or sumthin'?" "No...I just want to make...err...love in this club." Not true. But it scared him enough to turn back around.

This one is aimed at the Freshers. When you have that first seminar, and the tutor wants you to bond with the rest of the faces in the room, stay alert when asked to find out three pieces of information about the person sitting next to you. Listen. Even if, say, the girl next door but one to you, is far more attractive, and you spend the next five minutes staring blankly past your neighbour ignoring every hobby, county, or sibling count. When it comes to your turn to introduce your colleague, things get awkward. "Right, this is Kate..." Kate interrupts me. "Erm. It's Alice, actually."

Caveman

Name: Homo Neandertalensis
Fighting out of: 12,000 BC
Likes: Walking, making tools



EitherOr

Was all that evolution really worth it?

The toaster-oven. BBC iPlayer. The dishwasher. Genetically modified carrots. The Arctic Monkeys. Modern man has it all. Or does he? Is life really at it's zenith, or have we instead got much to learn from our ancient counterparts, who lived in harmony with nature? **Dave Coates** investigates...

Round 1: General Standard of Living

Neanderthal man struggled to forge a living, when many of the now-temperate zones of the earth was still weathering the harshest extremes of an ice age, due largely to God not being finished with it yet. Spitting in the face of their holy progenitor, cavemen forged a rugged existence in frozen hinterlands where few other proto-humans could survive; hunting large mammals, developing esoteric speech patterns and expanding their knowledge of foreign policy by looking at

Russia. Their simple lives depended on close integration into social nuclei, strict behavioural codes and mistrust of outsiders which humans maintain to this day. Indeed, many of the earliest examples of stone tools, cave drawings and permanent settlements may be traced back to the ingenuity and lateral thinking of these early humans. Modern man cancelled Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip and made nine series of Smallville. Thank you. Thank you so much. 1-0 Caveman.

Round 2: Interaction with the Environment

Some scientists argue that early man lived in a relatively synchronous balance with nature, hunting only when necessary and mastering the cultivation of simple crops. But these people are lazy spineless hippies who took Wall-E far too seriously. I mean, scientists described the kind of animals cavemen had to cope with as "megafauna." When scientists discovered that most of the

universe was made up of unfathomably mysterious black stuff, the best they could come up with was "dark matter." How awesome must mammoths have been to push them to "megafauna"? On the other hand, if modern man continues the way he has done, soon the last remaining humans will have to leave Earth and make plucky little robots tidy it up. It could happen, man, it could happen. Caveman 2, modern man 0.

Round 3: Culture

Hemlok the early man was excited. He and his young prehistoric friends had obtained a grant from the village elders to carve a series of stone tablets, aimed at other prehistoric young people. Sure, the stone tablets would have reasonably local scope and generally imitate the stone tablets of professional carvers, but it would be a good opportunity to meet other young cavemen and forge alliances that would open doors in future,

should someone invent them. And Hemlok was commissioned to carve the stone tablet intended to make the other cavemen laugh and forget about the sabre-toothed tigers. For days, Hemlok racked his primitive mind, agonising over each choice of word, dreaming of sculpting the simple rock into one of the great pieces of early satire. Then he gave up and got Dave to do it because Hemlok wouldn't know funny if it introduced itself. Then he got nominated for a Guardian

Round 4: Ambition

Early man had humble dreams. Most things in the world wanted to kill him, and the things that didn't ran away very quickly and tasted horrid. But we know him, and give enough of a crap about him to read a page of nonsense about him. And modern man cares enough about enlarging his understanding of himself to explore this world, to create

new ones, to dream greater dreams than at any point in history. Today, humankind is standing on the shoulders of so many giants that even the darkest core of the universe, even the deepest recesses of time, are within his grasp. Together we can forge this land anew and fulfil at last the promise of our great country. Vote Obama-Biden in 2008. Cave-man 3 - Obama-

Modern Man

Name: Homo Sapiens Sapiens
Fighting out of: Lack of anything better to do
Likes: Teaching English abroad, reading Giles Coren



TheStrip

It's...
Literary Theatre
L'il Austen
This Week:
Pride and Prejudice

OH mygod, I'm like, IN Pride and Prejudice.
Who are you?

D'ARCY! WHISK me away from this life of consequence, you ROGUE!
Where's Elizabeth?

Elizabeth loved D'Arcy for his kind spirit, not his tight pants.
SWOON

If I give you this money will you stop gambling?
Maybe...
D'ARCY WICKHAM

Have you SEEN this, Jane Austen's ghost?
No, dear, I wrote it.

It's missing the point!

You're not like the others...
SMOLDER

True, but I could only dream of the freedom women have today. What they do with it is irrelevant.

Besides, my books were all comedies.
Really?

Meanwhile in Mansfield Park ...
I REALLY LIKE FANNY.



Almost Overheard

KARL, a fresher, is sitting at Vanbrugh Stalls looking through some leaflets. COLIN, a second-year, stands behind him.

COLIN: The main drag of Vanbrugh corridor is bristling with the fresh intake of students. Karl stands outside the gentlewoman's lavatory, thumbing through advice-giving pamphlets.

KARL: Oh hi. My name's Karl.

COLIN: He said, optimistically.

KARL: Are you first-year?

COLIN: He asked, irrespective of danger.

KARL: Yes, well, I best get on.

COLIN: And with that he left, hurrying down corridors, trying to put from his mind the imminent and unavoidable threat of doom.

KARL: Very funny.

COLIN: He muttered knowing it wasn't.

KARL: Look, can you stop following me? You're making me nervous.

COLIN: Indeed, Karl was nervous. More nervous he had not been in the past.

KARL: That doesn't make sense.

COLIN: Dazed, confused, disorientated by the barrage of omnipotent narrative, he picked up his pace, his feet clipping along the floor ever faster, bringing him out onto the feculence-smeared concrete of the ironically named Vanbrugh Paradise.

KARL: Look, just please leave me alone.

COLIN: Yelled the infuriated boy.

KARL: Somebody help!

COLIN: But nobody did. His cries were

in vain. Slowly, and surely he realised the extent of his doom and knew there could be only one course of action to escape the incessant narration.

KARL: Keep back. I'm warning you.

COLIN: He came to a halt, his lungs now out of all manner of breath from the frantic, futile running and vitriolic bawling. He found himself flanked by the campus lake. Its hypnotic waters drew his eyes in, tempting him with an escape from the imposing stranger's constant recitation of events.

KARL: Come one step closer and I'll jump. I'll do it! I'll kill myself.

COLIN: And the boy knew what he must do.

KARL: I'm not joking, you know.

COLIN: He turned, closed his eyes, offered up a silent prayer. The grimy, greasy water seemed to reassure him. He leapt.

KARL: What? This is only knee deep. Oh I see. Yes, yes, very funny. Get the fresher to jump into the lake and we can all have a laugh when he discovers it's too shallow to kill you.

COLIN: The gathering crowd indeed did laugh at the humiliated boy, not least because the water, though too shallow to kill, was still lethal.

KARL: What?

COLIN: And with that he was carried away for numerous injections.

Dominic J Allen

DeFacebook

Profile edit Friends ▾ Networks ▾
home sweet home account privacy? never logout

All Friends ▶ **Status Updates**

Showing: **Status Updates** Recently Updated Phonebook Everyone Q Search Friends

Lily laughs in the face of reality. last Sunday - clear

What are you doing right now?

You have 256 friends with recent status updates. 1 2 3 4 5 Next

Benjamin Flannerhan has limited memory of last night...and the night before...and the night before...

[Message](#) | [Poke](#) | [View Friends](#)

Details: And you have limited memory of meeting him.

Fiona *londonxcore*** Jones** was underwhelmed by Lunatic Fringe but has found herself with PantoSoc.

[Message](#) | [Poke](#) | [View Friends](#)

Details: Fiona added you when she thought you were still cool. Since then she's seen your ipod.

Another Fresher hasn't yet joined Facebook so probably won't make any real friends.

[Message](#) | [Poke](#) | [View Friends](#)

Details:

Chris Barnes chooses porn, jam sandwiches and the foetal position over Slag and Drag.

[Message](#) | [Poke](#) | [View Friends](#)

Details: Chris is your neighbour. You will invite him out with your friends until you see his voodoo doll.

Raf Sanchez

Nouse's Editor has his say



In case you haven't noticed, things in the world aren't going that well. Every day the photo editors of national papers struggle for some new way to illustrate the scale of human suffering caused by the credit crunch. "A distraught stock broker bursting into tears as he realizes

he's out of a job and is going to lose his house? Angelic children patting their mother's heaving shoulders as she learns that the family savings have gone the way of the Titanic? Get real, the Dow Jones lost a quarter of its value this morning. I was thinking more along the lines of a banker impaling themselves on the prongs of their Blackberry charger."

Yet for the wall-to-wall gloom I would hesitantly venture there's some good news. For starters, the state of the housing market means we may be able to afford homes one day. That we will never ever, ever be given a mortgage is entirely beside the point. Better still, Obama is riding high in the polls as result of the economic gloom. He looks set to serve a good three weeks as president before the total collapse of Western civilization. But most importantly the global financial crisis gives us all a chance to practice that most invaluable of Freshers' Week skills - talking

loudly and passionately on topics of which we are spectacularly ill-informed.

I have a friend, let's call him Julian, who never met a conversation he didn't like. Over the years I have watched him again and again rush audaciously into discussions about which I know for a fact he knows nothing. With breath-taking bravado he holds forth on the intricacies of ice hockey or the suitability of the governor of Kansas as a vice-presidential nominee. Risking life, limb and crippling social humiliation should he be caught out, he lectures others without so much as a correct fact to lean on.

For some time he's been able to supplement this thrill seeking addiction by lurching into seminars, proud of having read the least yet spoken the most. But this was mere crystal meth in comparison to the medical strength of opportunity provided by the credit crunch. Julian dropped Economics AS after three weeks because found it dull. Yet

today with eyes rolling madly he howls about the incorrect pricing of risk, the impotence of our liquidity policy in a globalised economy and the weakness of sterling-denominated corporate bonds. The flight of passionate discourse, unencumbered by clunky and overrated knowledge, is truly a beautiful thing to behold.

Let us all learn from Julian. This Freshers' Week don't quietly pretend that you're busy cooking Pot Noodle King Size while your new housemates are animatedly discussing some classic hip-hop group you've never heard of. Confidently assert that Flava Flav sold out after 'Fear of a Black Planet'. Pound the table as you insist that Notorious B.I.G. had it coming. And sneer with contempt at any who challenge your view that creative foundations of all contemporary rap can be traced back to Vanilla Ice. What do they know? Probably only quite a bit more than you.

The summer is normally a time for rest and relaxation, but these York students show us that there's a world of opportunity available to young people

So what did you do over the summer?

Work on the Presidential trail



Raf Sanchez worked on the Obama campaign for two months.

I went to Virginia in search of a Southern experience. I wanted to see the United States at its Bible-

bashing, gun-toting, red-white-and-bluest. I wanted to sleep in a caravan, eat grits and have endless arguments with Republicans who would accuse me of being a "pansy-ass Limey".

On paper Virginia isn't a bad bet for this kind of thing. It hasn't voted Democrat in a presidential election since 1964. The state's Republican senator George Allen kept an antique noose in his office and referred to an Indian man as "Macaca" at a rally.

But the reality is a more complicated. In a country often divided into "red states and blue states", Virginia is increasingly purple. Its current governor is a Democrat, as is Senator Jim Webb - who defeated Allen in 2006. The technology firms setting up shop in the north of the state have brought an influx of young professionals who are both highly educated and liberal leaning. It also among the top targets of the Obama campaign in 2008.

A lot of my time on the campaign was spent doing voter registration. It's a pretty low tech affair. You stand at high-traffic areas like Metro stations and ask people whether they're registered to vote. All that's required is a clip board, a stack of registration forms, and a willingness to be ignored for hours by hundreds with varying levels of politeness in return for the five or six people you register.

Voter registration was easily the most rewarding part of my work on the campaign. It's here that you really feel how much Obama's candidacy means to people, especially many African-Americans old enough to remember the Civil Rights struggle. People don't just agree with him. He is cherished. His "improbable" success is something people draw personal pride and happiness from, as a parent might from the success of a child. To be allowed in on a little bit of the solidarity people feel for the man is incredibly empowering.

Yet as empowering as it can be 'voter reg' can pose some difficult

questions. Black people are statistically less likely to be registered than white people. Young people less likely than old people. A young black man in jeans is many multiples less likely to be registered than a white man in a suit. But to what extent, for yourself if not for the outward appearance of the campaign, is it acceptable to act on those statistics? You don't always feel great when you take an awkward sidestep to make sure you're positioned to ask a young black woman if she is registered to vote for the candidate she statistically should support.

Although northern Virginia is growing ever more Democrat the love for Obama is far from universal. Every day on the doorstep and on the phone you would get abuse from Republicans as well as Clinton supporters who were unable to let go even after their candidate apparently had. One night when I was alone in the office a large gentleman wandered off the street and urinated on the floor. His even larger friends convinced me to shrug the incident off as a policy disagreement. We laughed the next day but several nights later a group tried to break down the locked office door while a number of people were inside. Staff members who had worked in other states previously told me about death threats they had received for being a white person working for a black candidate.

The international character of the campaign reflects the stake the world has in the election. By the time I left there were seven Brits, as well as a German and an Italian working in our office. All were greeted with a mixture of gratitude for "coming to help us save our country" and the usual curiosity with which foreigners are treated in the US. Like me they had come out to fight for Obama and for adventure, but stayed, working thankless hours, out of loyalty to the field staff who put their lives on hold for the election.

On my last day before leaving for the UK I met Obama on a tiny airstrip in New Hampshire. His jet, adorned with his mantra of 'Change', looked comical amongst the Cessnas and Piper Cub light aircraft. He seemed tired but glad to see us. He asked me about Virginia, nodding in quiet approval as I told him about our field work there. He is more substantial, tougher looking than his trademark slim suits make him appear on television. There is a swagger as he walks.



'Staff members who had worked in other states previously told me about death threats they had received'

He thanked us for our work and within minutes his jet roared off. For those of us left on the runway it was a moment on which we would giddily compare notes until hours later. For him it was just one more campaign stop on a long and difficult road to the presidency.

Visit Palestine



Laura Payne visited Israel and the West Bank to work in a refugee camp for a month.

For all the alleged spiritual power of Jerusalem, it is not a calming place. It's a city under siege, where the air is thick with tension. School children on outings are accompanied by armed security guards. Police and Israeli defence force soldiers with M-16's strapped to their back seem to outnumber civilians. I spend a lot of time trying not to look suspicious. When I stand on a crisp packet there's a loud bang. People jump. A gun cocks. I freeze. Anywhere else that would be funny. Throughout my week, I struggle with the pathological security and remain scared that I'll stand on another crisp packet.

Not so in the West Bank. The atmosphere changes immediately and tangibly. The volume increases. Music blasts out; people shout rather than talk; cars honk and screech. Finally I

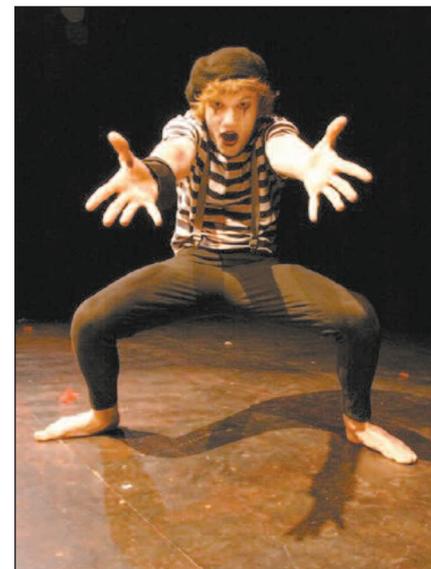
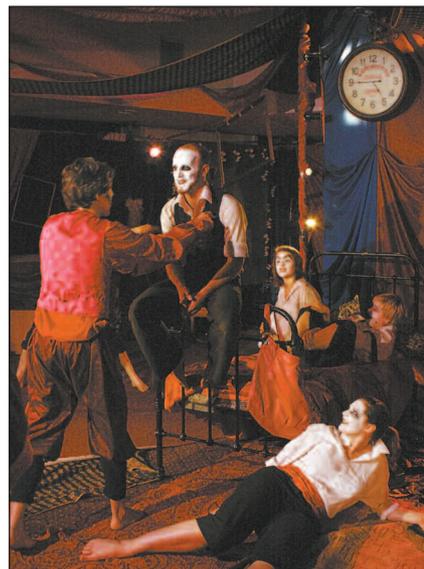
feel like I could jump on a crisp packet and nobody would notice. It strikes me now as ironic that even though Palestine is the occupied territory and Israel the occupier, I felt freer in the West Bank than I did in Jerusalem. Not safe, but free. People might watch me here as they did in Israel, but open curiosity replaces inherent suspicion.

We were staying in Aida camp, one of the biggest refugee camps in West Bank which houses around 4,600 people in cramped conditions. We slept in a school just outside of the camp in the shadow of the separation wall. It feels safe enough, until a fight breaks out down the road. We hear gunfire and run upstairs to the classrooms we sleep in. The local volunteers get caught in the fighting, and run to the relative safety of the school. We sit it out. Eventually the police come and tell us we should all go into one room at the end of the school. They 'have the situation under control now'.

The most volatile region in the West Bank is Hebron, where the Israeli settlers have built their settlement right in the middle of the Palestinian old city. 700 Jewish settlers live under massive Israeli army and police protection, disrupting life for the 180,000 Palestinian inhabitants. They are about as fundamentally Zionist as it is possible to be, and harass, abuse and victimise anyone who is not also a settler, including internationals.

We are supposed to be meeting with the Christian Peacekeepers, a group of observers that patrol Hebron to try to prevent violence, and walk down one of the city's most contended roads, one that is officially shared, but is in reality controlled by the settlers. As we walk, the settlers tail us, shouting abuse. This road was once a bustling marketplace; the heart of the Hebron economy. Now it's like a scene from a war movie. Soldiers are positioned every 20 meters or so. Another settler comes out and starts to put up Israeli flags. I follow the example of our guide and offer him a friendly 'shalom', but he just spits onto the ground.

None of this phases Terry Boulatta, a Jerusalem born headmistress, filmmaker and activist. Married to a Palestinian man, she believes that both communities should start building links with each other: 'If they build a wall, we should build a bridge'. I had heard many such sentiments, but her hopefulness managed



Clockwise from left: a Palestinian woman having trouble at the border; the Wailing Wall in Israel; Belt Up's Alexander Wright; Belt Up's Red Room



to catch me off guard.

Since I left, local volunteers I worked with have been imprisoned, the UN are still distributing food aid in Aida camp, and the daily fight to survive continues. My trip didn't change that; I never expected it would. But it did change some small things. We left a garden for the children to play in at Aida Camp, and murals depicting the children's original villages. Helping Kholoud, a local volunteer, apply for a Visa means she's now studying Peace Studies in the UK. It's these small things that endure, that made the trip worthwhile. It might not have been pretty all the time, but would I recommend it? In a heartbeat.

Perform in Edinburgh Fringe



Jamie Wilkes went up to Edinburgh Fringe with York performance company 'Belt Up'.

This summer, the York theatre company 'Belt Up' (nothing to

see/hear)' planned to invade the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with our venue 'The Red Room'. Armed with truckloads of red fabric, old carpets and Victorian paraphernalia, we transformed a hotel function room into a run-down bohemian boudoir. The idea was that this venue would be an immersive theatre environment hosting a ridiculous amount of shows from butchered French classics to unabridged Shakespeare's stretched over three days in fragmented episodes across the entire city of Edinburgh. It was a mammoth project, and one that had dominated our lives since January.

It was hard work, very hard work. I began to forget what sleep felt like because there simply wasn't time. Our venue was running around 25 shows over the festival with at least 7 every day. Naturally, after a hard and draining day's work, the only sensible thing to do is go out and get plastered. This, of course, made the following day harder – I don't think I will ever live down a podcast interview for 'threeweeks' in which I was still drunk from the night before and started ranting about "fucking the fourth wall".

'It was hard work, very hard work. I began to forget what sleep felt like because there simply wasn't time'

As the festival gathered momentum, audiences started to pick up. With larger audiences came more press interest, and soon the reviews started coming out. We had novelty to our advantage – not many shows could offer being shown to your seat by a dwarf or saving you from an invisible falling grand piano. By the end of the fringe three of our shows were listed in the top 50 by 'The Scotsman', with 'The Tartuffe' making its way to the top five.

This was my first experience of the festival and to say I was thrown into the deep end is an understatement. It is a weird place, like some sort of alternative reality. My most memorable moment was post-final Red Room party; we decided to climb 'Arthur's Seat', a small mountain overlooking the city. I excitedly decided to run ahead of

Above, L-R: Raf Sanchez and Barack Obama; the Obama campaign-plane; Israel - Palestine wall

the rest of the group despite not knowing where I was going. After several minutes of shouting, I realised that I was in fact going up the wrong hill. To make up for lost time I ran, as the crowd flies, in a straight line from one mountain to the other. I was invincible. I was that superhero in the 'drinking doesn't make you a superhero' advert, and I survived. We eventually reached the top and watched the sun rise whilst burning flyers for warmth.

As the festival drew to an end, our hard work and overly ambitious ideas were rewarded. We received two awards for 'The Red Room'. One was the 'Threeweeks' editors awards' for our "prolific 2008 programme", one of 10 awards given out by the magazine. Interestingly, one of the other winners was a 75 year old stripper. Belt Up was also awarded the Edinburgh International Festival award, in the form of £5,000 towards developing a workshop for next year. Although before the Fringe I had dreamt of a transfer to the National Theatre, or a Pulitzer or two - I never thought we would actually achieve such recognition. It was an incredible feeling.

WELCOME TO YORK



Arriving in a new place can be intimidating, says [REDACTED]

Remember your first day of infant school? Your mother/father/keeper dropped you off at the gate, gestured in an excited manner towards the sandpit and left you to fend for yourself.

Two years ago, my parents drove me north and left me in this concrete playground. Despite having previously asserted myself as independent, go-getting and all that wholesome good stuff I was pretty ducking scared. Welcome to York, it's nice. To quote the University website "the whole site has been pleasingly landscaped around an elongated lake which forms a habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl". The

waterfowl obsession will come with time, but it's probably best to stay ahead of the curve. Scribble down a few duck puns, and buy some duck-based merchandise. Do not try and befriend the geese, they hate you.

If you're lucky, you're not scared at all because you're drunk and will be for the next two weeks. Just to set a couple of things straight: there is nothing you can do drunk in the first two weeks that can't be undone, so I wouldn't worry about all those plagiarism talks you're missing. It'll be fine; just copy off of someone else later. Anyway, you're not worried because you're drunk. To the rest of you, the best

thing you could possibly do is go find someone to play with. It's not important what they're like, just remember to maintain that playground mentality. Grab the hand of the person nearest to you and say "do you want to be my friend?" They almost certainly do, and it's not because you're cool. Learn to understand "new friend" as "person I am standing next to so I don't look like a loner while I look for real friends".

Some people are lucky and grab the hand of their soul mate. Those who don't happily trundle along for a while, hang out with those they are indifferent to, and snog people they are repulsed by. There's every opportunity to make some of the best friends of your life at uni and your parents were right: there are 10,000 people here and not every one of them can hate you. Give it time and indulge in the phrase "Hello, I don't know you" while

you can; its validity expires in spring. Remember that a lot of things expire in spring, like the legitimacy of excuses like "I thought Alcuin was in

'Maintain the playground mindset. Indulge in the phrase "Hello, I don't know you" while you can as its validity will expire in spring'

Derwent" and "I didn't realise we actually had to go to lectures", so take advantage of that fresher feeling. Everybody has a freshers' story and it's up to you to make it what you want it to be. Finally, forget all this "welcome" week business; it's freshers' week -your week! So take it. The rest of us have got a degree to be getting on with.

THE A-Z OF YORK



...is for **Alcohol**. A fitting place to start, considering you will probably be offered a drink within 3 hours of your arrival. Try to drink in moderation, stick to either wine, beer, or spirits, and don't give into peer pressure. Ah, fuck it.



...is for **Banter**, an appallingly inane yet inescapable word around students for any form of human interaction, be it verbal, physical or psychological used by everyone. You will use it. Your fate is sealed. Give in.



...is for **The Charles XII**, the pub in Heslington. Cheap, cheerful, and does bbqs on Mondays. It is named after a racehorse belonging to the Duke of Heslington, who used to own the land on which the University is built.



...is for **Duck Shit**, with which most of the University's highways and byways are paved, or at least coated. The University is home to a vast amount of bird life, and inevitably, nature will take its sticky course.



...is for **Efes**, a gourmet kebaberie pizza place which will deliver to anywhere on campus. Recently banned from advertising on campus by the SU, owner 'Mr Efe' has become somewhat of a campus celebrity.



...is for **FTR**, the gigantic and overpriced purple bendy-buses that students just love to hate. Last year's controversial price-hike only added fuel to the blazing inferno of their unpopularity. You're better off cycling.

Tom Scott, current President, York University Students' Union



To tell the truth, I don't have that many memories of my first week - not because I was drunk, but because it all went by in such a flurry of activity.

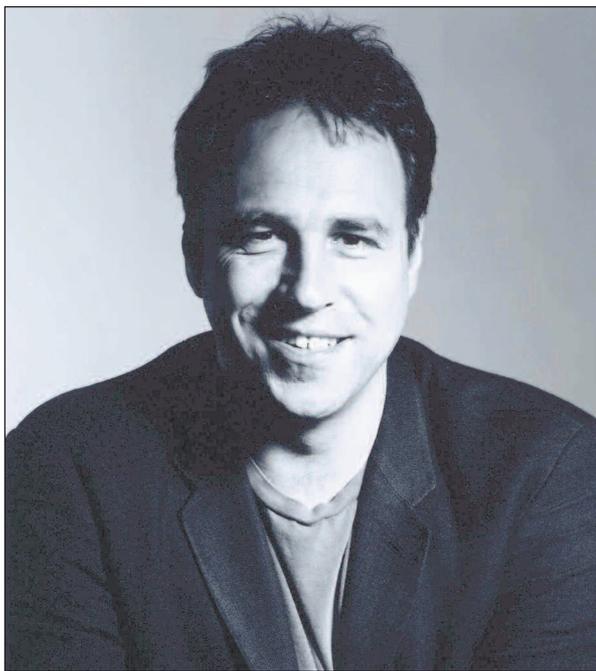
I remember being bewildered by all the information that was thrown at me: the advice leaflets, the offers, the information about anything and everything that was going on around campus. I can remember taking my first walk around the city, with its dozens of tiny alleys and streets; it took me the best part of a year to work out how streets were connected, and even now I'm not quite sure of all of their names. I also definitely remember getting Freshers' Flu. Be prepared for it. With thousands of students carrying new and interesting viruses, your immune system is in for a workout.

If it all gets a bit too much, remember that there are many, many avenues of help and support available, and you should use them. There was at

least one point during my first week where I should have called on them - and I'd have been better off if I had.

I had no idea that I'd still be here five years later, writing as the President of YUSU, dispensing advice to this year's new students. Really, I had no idea what I was going to do. I grew up so much during my first year: I changed from being anxious and fairly socially awkward to being confident and only slightly socially awkward. I joined societies, met so many people, had the best three years of my life and then stuck around and had two even better ones.

For those of you who are fresh from school (and it's worth remembering that a good number of our new students aren't), you really are about to set off on what's likely to be the biggest adventure you've ever had. The person who graduates in three, or four, or five years' time won't be the same person you are now. So here's the best advice I can give you: keep a diary. Write about what you've done, even if it's just as a few notes, when you have a little spare time. Because that other version of yourself, years from now - they'll want to look back and remember where they came from.



Anthony Horowitz, author of over 50 novels including the Alex Rider series, is a York Alumnus. This is him writing in Nouse freshers edition of October 1974

that his only friends on campus were the ducks. But we cannot really blame the university for this sorry state of affairs. On my first night here, Vanbrugh organised a terrific party for us, but I was sadly unable to meet anyone as the excessively loud music swamped any chances of conversation. At the next party, I did better. For the 80p that it cost, I managed to make 8 friends, although when I commented to them that at only 10p each they seemed good value, they looked upset.

However, I firmly believe that I have a good friend in the Vice-Chancellor. When he spoke at that first meeting and asked people to invite him to tea, I could swear that he had me directly in his eye. Also there was a charming person in his third year at the Society Mart, who was ever so friendly as he persuaded me to pay 50p to join the R.S.P.C.B. (Birds) of which I had never heard before. My supervisor is also a charming man; it was so kind of him to spare me one and a half minutes of his precious time, and I look forward to seeing him again next year.

In spite of these delightful people I must confess to a slight loneliness. I haven't yet heard from the R.S.P.C.B., and my tea has got cold waiting for the V.C. In fact, I must admit that the only people to come into my room since I have been here have been the cleaners - oh, and someone who came while I was out. I would really love to meet this visitor. Particularly as he has stolen all my money, my record player and room fixtures. In fact, if there is anyone reading this article (if the editor publishes it. He is awfully nice, but I wish he would stop dictating my article for me) - if you have a moment to spare, just a minute or two, please pop in and visit me in my room - H/331 in Vanbrugh - just for a minute... please.

I would imagine that the first - and the last - days at university are the worst of the lot. In the last, we are sat down with our final papers, and if the pressure is hard enough, might well end up sobbing our eyes out. Yet the first few days are almost as bad; I spent most of them sobbing myself.

The torture these days of being a fresher takes the form of excruciating loneliness... There is one young lad in our college who still has to play bar football by himself. Another in Langwith once told me, a pathetic tear in his young blue eye (he has only one),

In retrospect...

No freshers week experience is the same, so whether you're drinking or sinking, take heart- you're not alone

Emma Ronicle, President, University of York 21+ Association for Mature Students



I quickly learnt in Freshers Week that the popular student stereotype is often surprisingly accurate. But I was different. I was already 24, a fresher who was married and already finding it very difficult to stay up after midnight, or drink more than three glasses of wine before falling asleep on the sofa. I was a mature student.

Living off campus was the biggest hurdle I faced, and after an initial welcome talk for us, I felt that the University abandoned me in an alien world of poster sales and Viking Raids.

I found myself hanging around campus, hoping to bump into somebody I recognised, which was unlikely, as I had only met a handful of people. After a while, I realised that if I wanted to make friends, I would have to make the effort myself, despite how difficult and uncomfortable it felt.

I attended a seminar welcome meeting, and afterwards I bravely persuaded four other students to come for coffee with me as I had nowhere else to go for the three hours in between meetings; these girls are now my best friends at University.

I had to forfeit most of the social events in Freshers Week, but I came to realise that I don't need to participate in every aspect of student life to feel a part of the university. I now know that there is no such thing as a standard student, and I wouldn't trade my time at university for anybody else's.

OTHER FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM YORK

Guy Fawkes - The legendary Catholic behind the gunpowder plot was originally born and baptised a Protestant in York.

Judi Dench has won, over her established career, nine BAFTAs and various other awards.

Harry Enfield - Now an English comedian, Enfield was in Derwent college where he read Politics. He is most famous for playing Kevin in 'Kevin and Perry Go Large'.

Dr. Han Seung-soo, the Prime Minister of South Korea, received his Doctorate in Economics from the University of York in 1968.

Graham Swift - A British author, whose novels include 'Waterland', winner of the 1996 Booker Prize.



Harriet Harman, MP, the Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party and a key member of the current cabinet, graduated with a degree in Politics in 1972

Judi Dench - Born in York and best known as 'M' from the James Bond films, Dame Judi

Greg Dyke, former Director-General of the BBC, studied politics at the University of York and is now Chancellor of the University.



...is for **Gap Year**. You will be hearing a lot about these. The best thing to do is just smile and nod. After a while, even the intrepid travellers themselves will get tired of the story about "that time I got dysentery."

...is for **Heslington East**. This is the new University expansion program. For most, if not all of your time here, it will remain a vast, muddy building site, but in 20 years it might have a pool and/or a bar. Don't hold your breath.



...is for **Intelligence**. Watch yours disappear slowly over the course of your first year in a haze of blank memories and missed seminars. It will return to you in third year around the time dissertations role round. Probably.

...is for **J. B. Morrell**, York Uni's library. Not surprisingly, it contains lots and lots of books. Rumour has it that someone (drunk) once pooped in one of them, and by the morning, forgot which one. The moral? Sniff first.



...is for **Knickers**, whether on, off or somewhere in between. Whatever you end up doing over the next few weeks with your undercrackers, just remember to take them back home with you in the morning.

...is for **Langwith Bar**. The brainchild of SU officer Matt Burton, this is your Union bar, and should be great, and cheap. Shame, then, that the University sneakily made sure it won't be finished for Welcome Week.



...is for **Minster**. You get free entry to this really rather pretty cathedral with your student card, so go see it when you're at a loose end in town. It's easy to neglect the tourist stuff what with all that learning.

Grim asbestos & the Rah bazaar

Henry James Foy constructs an alternative freshers' tour around York's campus

Did you pack a coat? A scarf? Excellent. Aside from the four hours in June when campus warms up just enough for York's devoted sun worshippers to scramble in their flip-flops and sarongs to **Vanbrugh Paradise** to pretend we study in an agreeable climate, expect it to be cold. And really quite wet. Regardless, don't expect palm trees and a thousand virgins each. Certainly not after Freshers' Week at least.

The view is dominated by the grey monstrosity of **Central Hall**, obscuring any potential surrounding beauty. One wonders whether the architect was

'Alcuin and James are an en-suite, private school, Jack Wills tracksuit-bottomed affair, with backcombs and rugger jerseys.'

simultaneously working on a Soviet satellite at the same time, and somewhere above Moscow a roomy multi-purpose conference centre is whizzing around the stratosphere. Central Sputnik has played host to such names as Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, and Paul McCartney, albeit in his post-Beatles, pre-mentalist amputee wife stage. But don't expect any big names in the future. A concert in 1985 saw Boomtown Rats frontman and general charity annoyance Bob Geldof urge everyone to surge towards the stage, with thousands of pounds worth of equipment being broken in the process. Since, the most exciting event in the Hall has been the annual meeting of the general synod.

Heading onwards, there's **Langwith** to see, or rather stroll through. Don't let the new carpet and sliding doors fool you, spot the boarded-up entrance to the mythical Langwith Bar to see the true face of this asbestos-infested college. Typically filled with arty English types hanging around after lectures, Langwith struggles to compete with the over-zealous college spirit of **Derwent**.



Which, fortunately for my cleverly linked paragraphs, is around the corner. The oldest college, and in all probability filled with more asbestos than its next-door neighbour, **Derwent** paints over the ever-spreading cracks with generous amounts of camaraderie and merriment which some find nauseating. Their self-titled 'best events on campus' are always sell-outs and the bar is generally packed with sporting types polluting the air with their usually Neanderthal-like and almost always unfunny 'banter'.

If you've ever read any piece of University publicity or documentation, you are sure to recognise **Heslington**

Hall, liberally splashed all over all PR guff to make us look a little more like Oxford. By now you will realise the brutal untruth – and anyway, you won't be able to get anywhere near it: this is Cantor's castle. Spend time running around the Quiet Place in masks with DramaSoc instead. Who knows, you may even 'find yourself'.

York isn't world-renowned for its sporting prowess, and a quick shift around the **Sports Centre** reveals why. The ageing astroturf is circled by a goose-poo-littered running track and sits adjacent to a building site that doubles up as a set of changing rooms. Yet we do seem to beat Lancaster in the

Roses tournament every year. Thank goodness Richard of York didn't decide he fancied a war with Loughboroughshire back in the day.

It seems appropriate to mention **Halifax** at this point. A formerly self-sufficient commune located a brisk five minute walk from the Sports Centre, the collapse of college bar **JJ's**, which was losing money faster than the average Icelandic bank, has forced residents to either trek to local drinking hole **Charles XII**, or lower themselves to 'mainstream campus' events.

It would be rather staid and predictable of me to describe **James** and **Alcuin** College, an all en-suite affair filled mostly with girls with back-combed hair dressed in Jack Wills tracksuit bottoms and hoodies and guys in similar legwear and rugger jerseys from various private schools, as a pretentious college. But I think I just did.

Passing **Wentworth** by – the graduate-only college serves an enjoyable curry night on Wednesdays, but little else of note – next up is **Goodricke**, home to the infamous C-Block, a dilapidated but much-loved sham of a residence that is considered the worst on campus. In contrast, **McQ's**, the college's bar, is thought of by many to be the best place for a pint on campus, as long as the karaoke events held there don't begin again.

Karaoke is, as yet, one of the only types of event not tried by **Vanbrugh's** Ents team to fill up their grossly oversized venue. However, **V-Bar** is almost always busy, and a place where it's almost impossible not to bump into someone you know. Not to be missed is **Vanbrugh stalls**, where York's most weird and wonderful societies set up shop to sell you a ticket to something or make you sign some kind of petition.

So there you have it, campus in a nutshell, at least for now. You may think it looks like an architectural disaster – but console yourself: you're here now, which means you'll escape the sprawling nightmare of **Heslington East**. That's if they ever finish it, what with all these council injunctions and irritating archaeological discoveries.

...is for **Naked, Nudity** and **No Clothes**. Many of York's sports teams are better at doing this than their actual sport, but don't worry, you'll have plenty of opportunities to join in. Alternatively, stand and sneer.



...is for **On Your Bike**. Get your bike from the Vanbrugh bike auction, or just grab one lying about on campus. You never really buy a bicycle... just rent one for a while. Not really, you criminal. Don't even think about it.

...is for **Porters**. The University tried to abolish 24-hour portering in some colleges, but there was outcry, with reason. Porters look after you, and let you back into your room when you've locked yourself out. They're awesome.



...is for **Quack**. This is a sound you will be hearing a lot. Outside your bedroom window, outside your seminar window, outside your "friend's" bedroom window, and eventually, in your mind. The goose's quack is fatal.

...is for **Ruddy Shelduck**. There used to be only one of these golden ducks on campus: the much-loved Trevor. Then he died, and YUSU decided to buy two more. Expect them to be universally adored.



...is for **Societies**. Almost everyone at York does something. It's like a microcosm of the wider world. There are the sportsmen, the journalists, the actors, etc. Most of them are pretty good at what they do, so get involved.

...is for **Tetanus**, which you'll most likely get if you swim in the lake. Rumour has it that the University pays a six-figure fine every year because it still works out cheaper than having the thing cleaned. It's gross.





point parents who want to see their children succeed in life," from their guest speaker Dr Hjh Naemah Hj Basir, Acting Director of the Institut Teknologi. Students take part in a range of cultural and sporting activities, but they are reminded of the excellent opportunity it provides for a head start in preparing for study. Self-disci-

'The older students shave the heads of the "fresh meat" and write the name of their course on their face with lipstick'

pline and cleanliness are stressed; and

INDONESIA

as it is a 'dry-country' (the sale and consumption of alcohol is prohibited by law) there's a fair chance they actually get on with some work.

During Ospek (Freshers) Week, new students are required to go through rites of initiation including marching, dressing up in stupid costumes, and sometimes even push-ups. Students must keep a low profile and abstain from 'sinning,' which constitutes anything from being too loud to too beautiful, or just attracting too

SWEDEN

much attention, leading to punishment by older students. Reprimands can involve extreme forms of hazing, sometimes down-right cruel, such as being forced to eat mud!

'Nolling', the public humiliation of new students, is so established in Sweden that it's actually arranged by the student union in conjunction with university personnel. Events organised include the infamous 'Kladstreck', or

An international perspective

Gina Heslington talks to people the world over about their Freshers Week rituals; from being made to eat mud to the classic beer pong

USA

Nigerian student Funmilola Osinupebi talks about her experience at Wellesley, a top women's liberal arts college in Massachusetts, USA. "In my first year hall we handed each other ribbons symbolizing the connection of each generation of women. We then had to make up a chant mocking all the other halls, and march down to the campus lake, where after half an hour of good naturedly screaming insults, we made a wish, and tossed pennies into the lake. We then had to dive in to get them so that the wish was fulfilled. I didn't do it; I didn't want my hair to

BRAZIL

get wet." For most people, 'freshers fun' is the highlight of the academic year, but in Sao Paulo University, it can go a step too far. Glauco De Souza reveals that the older university students shave the heads of some of the first years (the fresh meat), and then write the names of their courses on their faces in lipstick. They then force the first years to beg for money from cars at traffic lights to provide for a beer fund for their torturers. Not surprisingly, some students

CANADA

opt to skip class to avoid it all. Fresher's isn't always about booze and parties; in Canada more compassionate causes are encouraged. Mathew McDonald, a graduate from the University of Ottawa, tells about how he took part in a 'Shinerama,' a massive fundraising event that takes part in over 60 Universities in Canada to raise money to support the fight against cystic fibrosis. It began in 1964 as a chari-

ty shoe-shining campaign, but now over 35,000 students annually take to the streets during orientation (Freshers) Week to shine shoes, win-

BRUNEI

dows, and even heads, for pennies and a squeaky-clean conscience.

At the Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) Freshers Week is no laughing matter. Students were welcomed with a strong word of advice; "Do not disap-



Yi Ding, an Overseas Student at York in his 3rd year, gives his account of his Freshers Week

It's the most natural thing for overseas students to be homesick. I still do occasionally. You might not feel it immediately, already overwhelmed by your longer-than-the-Great-Wall-To-Do list, but as time goes by, when you feel like it's like Mission Impossible Five to get British humor, when during Easter all the home students have gone and

you are the only one left in the whole building, you might start to miss home. It's alright, and you should know that you're not the only one. Many are in the same situation and you are not alone. Keep in touch with your family and friends, go out every day, exercise regularly, and when you want to talk many of the university's support and welfare departments will be happy to listen, plus counseling services and 'the nightline' are just a call away. University organizations like ISA (International Student Association) are there as well.

The first people you're likely to meet are your housemates in hall of residences. As your neighbours, some have the potential to become your best friends for a life. I lived in Langwith E Block during my first year and although I was the only Chinese person, most of my housemates were extremely friendly.

Overseas students tend to stick together and form close circles of their own. They refuse to make contact with world outside, and some don't even bother to try to understand British culture or improve their English. There is

nothing wrong with speaking your language with friends, or enjoying your own food, but to cut off all links with the country you study in? Not such a smart choice. When it comes to speaking a foreign language, a proverb rescues me every time: "Do the things you fear, and the fear will disappear".

The important thing is to be really open-minded and to throw your self into all kinds of activities. Of course, some studying is crucial, and some shyness is unavoidable. To quote my grandpa's wisdom: "University is a



...is for **Umbrella**, and other assorted rain-proof paraphernalia. In case you haven't got the idea yet, York is generally dreary, grey, and wet with either duck poo or rainwater. Appropriate footwear is a must.



...is for **Villagers**. These don't like us students very much. They often own rifles and have been known to shoot on sight. The only one to trust is the owner of sand-wicherie from heaven, Browns in Heslington village.



...is for **Welcome Week**. Nobody knows exactly why YUSU decided to rename Freshers' Week. Everybody pretty much already knew what goes on. Nonetheless, Welcome Week = Freshers' Week.



...is for **Xenu**, the evil space-lord who is loosely responsible for Scientology. Something about Thetans. If you want to find out more, there is a Church of Scientology dianetics centre on Hull Road, above the Asian Supermarket.



...is for **YUSU**, or York University's Student Union. Currently headed by a pirate, these are the people who provide student welfare and generally stick up for your rights. Find out more information at yusu.org.



...is, of course, for **Ziggys**, the Micklegate club beloved by sports teams and everyone else. There are other clubs trying to muscle in on the big Z's Wednesday night territory. Chances are, they won't succeed.

Bored of the old Charles-Rumours-Ziggys routine? Skip straight to the best of what York has to offer with the **Nouse** guide to eating, drinking and partying on the cheap

A BITE TO EAT

1 Mr Ewich

Stall, The Shambles
From his tiny premises in the Shambles, the enigmatic Mr. Poundwich has been selling his memorably-priced and delicious wares for as long as anyone can remember. Valiantly taking the fight to the Credit Crunch, his sandwiches have never changed in price, making them the best deal in the city. Ideal for the student on a budget.

2 Declare

Lendal
No one would dispute the fact that England does the best sandwiches in Europe, possibly the world. Declare takes such an art to a new level. Expect to choose from deli counter products such as marinated artichokes and freshly sliced salami, put it in thick, seedy brown bread, and enjoy. All at a reasonable price.

3 Betty's

6-8 St. Helen's Square, 46 Stonegate
Betty's main premises in York were designed by the same designer of the interior of the Queen Mary liner in 1936. The food, a mix of wholesome Yorkshire and uber-wholesome Swiss fayre, is absolutely delicious, if a little pricey, but its enormous selection of teas and coffees are world-beating quality for Starbucks prices. There is usually a queue for the main Betty's on Parliament street, but its second

4 City Screen Cafe

13-17 Coney Street
The café at York's famous independent cinema is one of the most relaxing places in York. From its deep, comfortable leather armchairs and sofas under the sloping ceiling of the screen above, you can sip coffee and nibble home-made sandwiches watching the boats go up and down the river Ouse.

5 Copper Kettle

40 Huby Court
Situating just inside the city walls, this solid home-style British greasy spoon cafe is the best of its kind in the city. Full English Breakfasts and nice hot cups of tea are the standard hangover-cures, but their omelettes are well worth a try too.

6 Naught E Food

23 Blake Street
The Naught E Food Company is quite simply the best sandwich place in York. Their Mexican Chicken is to die for, as is their Crayfish and Rocket. Add to that daily home-made soups and made-to-order hot toasties, this place is seriously worth popping in to if you're looking for lunch in a hurry.

7 Brown's of Heslington

Heslington
Not strictly in town, this is the closest gourmet sandwich place to campus.

DINING OUT

7 The Garden of India

5 Fawcett Street
Every student's favourite Indian, the University's most visited local is still a solid choice. No set menu but generally reasonable prices and decent, standard Indian fare. Delivers to campus, too, so you can order in and have a few beers.

8 La Tasca

21 Back Swinagate
With a friendly, lively atmosphere. Tapas dishes include calamari, patatas bravas, chicken croquettes, and fried chorizo. You can even get a San Miguel as part of the deal. **Menu Rapido:** Any 3 tapas from a fixed menu, plus a drink, for **£7.95**. Your food is free if it does not come within 15 minutes. Available Monday to Friday until 5pm.

9 Biltmore Bar & Grill

Swinagate
Serving classical food in a stylish setting, start your meal with anything from a selection of cured meats to prawn cocktail salads, and follow it up with steak and chips, homemade lasagne, salmon fishcakes and more. **Winter set menu:** Two courses for **£9.95**. Available 12pm to 3pm, Tuesday to

10 Toto's

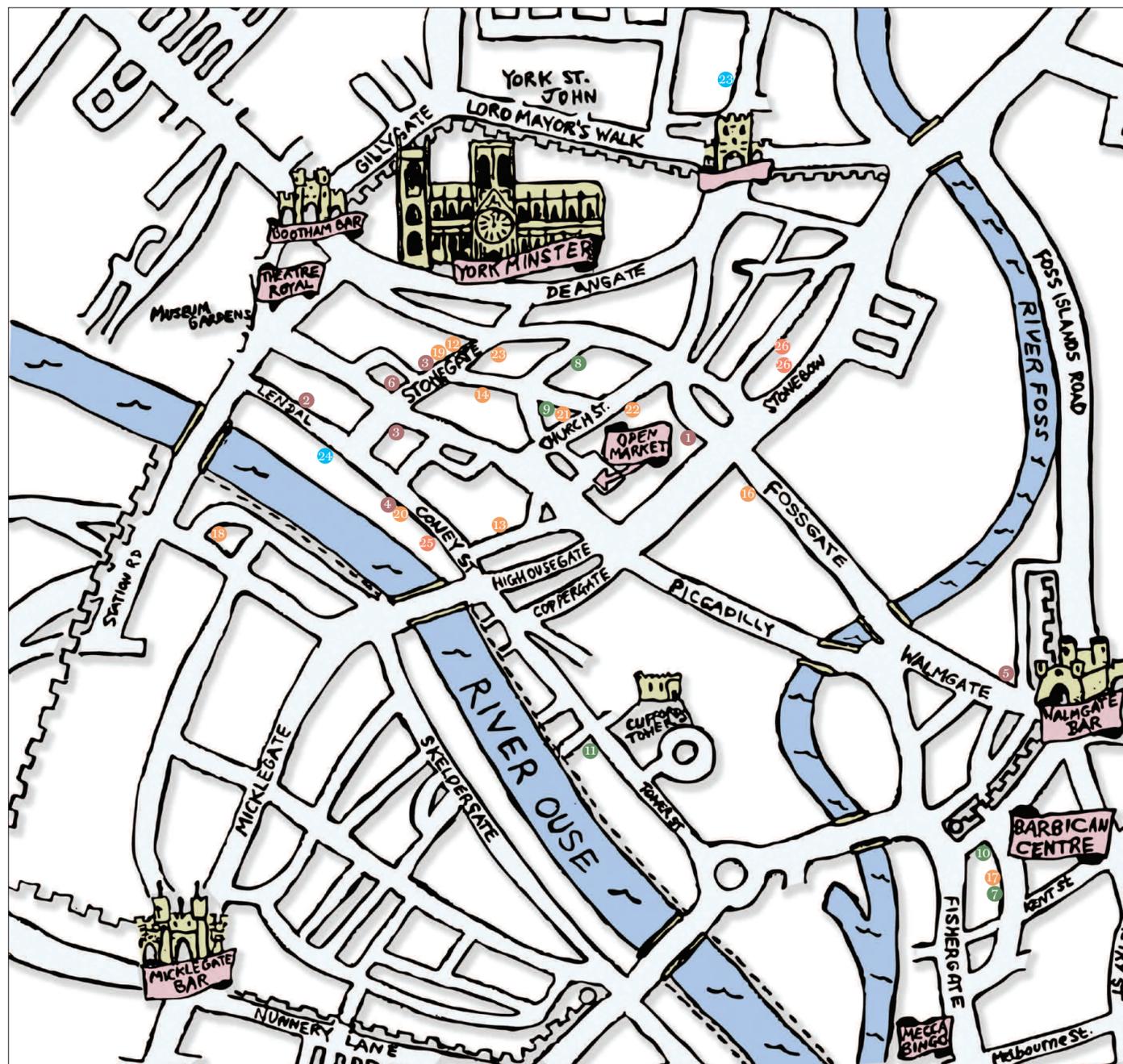
Situated between campus and the city centre, Toto's is famous for its good food and quick service. Try their pizzas and pastas. **Happy hour:** All pizza and pasta dishes only **£4.50**. Available 5pm - 7pm, Monday to Friday.

11 Olive Tree

10 Tower Street



With a beautiful view of Clifford's Tower, the Olive Tree specialises in providing good food, fast. Think chorizo and crayfish risotto or chicken parfait on toast followed by lamb steaks or salmon fillets with a good glass of wine to seal the deal. **Set Menu:** Two courses for **£11.65**. Available 12pm - 2pm, and 5.30pm - 10pm, Sunday to Thursday.



NIGHTLIFE

All nights can be found on facebook.

Idioteque

Escape the monotony of York. Big, campus popular events with Electro, Techno, D'n'B, Hip Hop and anything else.

Popaganda, Up the Racket and TRASHED!

Popaganda. Every Saturday night: Cool pop, guilty pleasures, indie anthems, oh, and the odd cheesy chart smash. Up The Racket is York's longest running Indie,

Electro, Rock 'n' Roll anything goes alternative disko. TRASHED! is a 360 degree whats-what of party songs, new and old.

Chinese Laundry

Our name was inspired by from the only venue we could find (The Willow: a chinese buffet restaurant with a sound system). We try to mix the accessible with the underground..

Herbal Mafia

A collective of musically minded individuals providing quality music.

Breakz

Purveyors of some of the finest music events on campus and in York. Whether you're into drum and bass, dubstep, breaks or just want something a little different, Breakz provides you with a night of pure musical indulgence.

Tinnitus

Home of Drum'n'Bass in York. Catch us every last Friday of the month in the back room of The Junction.

Electric Boutique

We will be bringing you the dirtiest and

filthiest names in the world of Electro. The one and only Reddread playing a

Tallawah

lovely selection of reggae and ABD sorting out the hip hop with various different djs appearing every month.

Movements

York based Hip Hop and Trip Hop night, taking place at The Junction on the first Friday of every month.

The Duchess and Fibbers

York's main live music venues.

WATERING HOLES

13 Evil Eye Lounge

42 Stonegate
Reputedly Jonny Depp's favourite bar in the world. A vast range of cocktails and spirits are complimented by an excellent Thai fusion food menu. Cool boudoir-style décor, including big beds to share, internet points, a liquor shop and cutting-edge music complete the picture. Their notorious Hellshot, which featured several different types of absinthe, was banned by York Council a few years ago.

18 Dusk

8 New Street
A long-time student favourite due to its 2-4-1 cocktails at night and good solid food for reasonable prices during the day. The tables are sticky, the drinks are cheap and tasty. Never a poor choice for the start of a big night

14 Bobo Lobo

5 Little Stonegate
Mojitos and capirinhas are the foundation of this Latin-American bar/nightclub, though during the day it doubles as a café specialising in enchiladas, chimichangas and burritos. A great alternative to the standard York night out.

15 The Victoria Hotel

1 Heslington Road
Situating half-way between campus and town, this friendly local pub works out as one of the cheapest for spirits and mixers- a double gin and tonic will leave you with change from £3. They also serve Old Rosie, an incredibly strong locally-brewed apple cider that will knock your head off.

16 The Blue Bell

53 Fossgate
Easy to miss, the Blue Bell is great for a quick drink. Its cosy, comfortable rooms and old-world feel are belied by a very modern kitchen; The Blue bell boasts an excellent tapas menu.

17 The Sea Horse

4 Fawcett Street
As conveniently-located as The Victoria, this Samuel Smith's pub is the place for beer-drinkers on a budget; a pint of Alpine Lager costs just

£1.70. Comfortingly old-man-pub in décor, this is just the place for a few quiet pints.

18 The Maltings

Tanners' Moat (Lendal Bridge)
This cosy pub by the river oozes atmosphere. The real ale and malt whisky enthusiast's mecca, its selection is outstanding, as is its authentic gammon-and-pineapple grub and occasional live music.

19 The Old Starre Inn

40 Stonegate
York's oldest licensed establishment, founded in 1644, Old Starre is perfect for those who like an air of history with their pint. A central location and one of the latest licenses of any bar in York - 2AM most nights - mean that you can drink and chat late into the night.

20 City Screen Basement

13-17 Coney Street
York City Screen's Basement bar is one of York's best venues for stand-up comedy and little, intimate music performances. With something on nearly every night, and a regular comedy night every Sunday, this is a guaranteed hit. Check their listings to find a night that grabs your attention.

21 Vudu Lounge

37-39 Swinagate
With a bar staff whose flaring abilities are matched only by their cocktail mixing skills, the somewhat pricy Vudu Lounge may not be the first port of call for the average student night out, but for an occasional indulgence Vudu is hard to beat.

22 Pivo

6 Patrick Pool
European-style beer hall with a wide selection of brews on offer, including delicious fruit beers. Each drink is served in a different glass.

23 Alley Cats

Coffee Yard
Situating in its very own Coffee Yard in an alleyway just off Stonegate, this quaint little place has a good selection of wines and also serves sandwiches.

THE ESSENTIALS

23 The Health Services

What do you do when it's the weekend and you need a doctor? Or if you want to get yourself checked for something... down there? The NHS is fantastic in York, and the walk-in centre on Monkgate is open 8am - 6pm, 7 days a week. The GUM clinic is adjoined and open for drop-in (no appointment necessary) at various times throughout the week.

Banks

Collapsing or not, banks are useful things. York city centre has every bank

you could possibly desire, even a Northern Rock. There is also a Natwest, an HSBC, a Barclays and Lloyds TSB in Heslington village.

24 Post Offices

As well as the main post office in town (Lendal), there is also a dinkier and handier one in Heslington Village.

Supermarkets

Once you realise that Costcutter is a rip off, you may want to venture elsewhere to shop for food and booze. There is a Sainsbury's on the other side of the barracks, and a large Aldi and Iceland further down Main St.

Food & Drink



THE RECIPE

Will Heaven

PERSIAN SPLIT PEA STEW

- SERVES 4-5
- 1 LARGE ONION
- 1 GARLIC CLOVE
- 1 AUBERGINE
- 200G OF YELLOW SPLIT PEAS
- TURMERIC
- CINNAMON
- 4 CHICKEN BREASTS OR LAMB

So its President isn't exactly kosher. And yes, buried in the Zagros mountains there is probably a warhead warehouse nearing completion. But Iran does some things well: like Khorosht-e-Gheimh. No matter how hard you try, you will never be able to pronounce that word, even if you buy a teach yourself Farsi CD. So give up now, stop trying to be raffishly ethnic, and call it Persian split pea stew.

For this dish, you need to plan ahead. Split peas may cook faster than unsplit peas, but they are still hard, crunchy and dry. So before you cook them, leave them in warm water for three hours to soften.

Once that three hours is over - and let's face it, you've just watched Friends, then Scrubs, then Friends again on E4 + 1 - the real cooking begins. Fry the onion over a moderate heat until it turns golden brown (like an Autumn leaf), then add the garlic. Garlic, *Goodfellas* tells us, is best chopped up extra thin using a razor blade - so do it. Then add the meat. If you are Persian you'll go for lamb, but chicken's fine too.

Season this with cinnamon, turmeric and (freshly ground) salt and pepper. Stir and turn the heat up a bit. When the meat is sealed, add the chopped tomatoes (not "with added herbs"), the drained split peas and the tomato puree. Mix in two cupfuls of water and let it simmer with the lid on.

While this happens, for a few minutes soften the chunks of lightly salted aubergine in a pan. When they are a bit mulchy and brown put them in the stew. It will need to cook for another half an hour with the lid on. Keep stirring and add boiled water if you think it needs it.

Rice. If you can master this, then President Ahmadinejad salutes you. Add basmati - not really Iranian, but it'll do - to boiling water. After five minutes take the half-cooked rice and drain it. Now, put it back on an extremely low heat with the lid on to steam it until it's well fluffy. Now, serve it up with a smile to Barack Obama and watch him squirm.

Recipe provided by Lida Mirzaii. Send funny recipes to foodanddrink@nouse.co.uk

RESTAURANT: J BAKER'S BISTRO MODERNE
 ADDRESS: 7, FOSSGATE
 JEFF'S 'GRAZING PLATE' LUNCH/DINNER: £10/£35
 REVIEW: JAMES MACDOUGALD



If, like me, you have suddenly and unexpectedly become a third-year undergraduate, steeped to the balls in essay deadlines, thrashing about in mounting debt like a cormorant in an oil slick, and with one eye permanently tracking the job market, you may think you recognise in the J. Baker's website that most familiar of friends: the embellished CV. Well, to understand is to forgive. But in any case, you'd be wrong. There is, admittedly, the occasional handful of dust - a purple paragraph of gagging praise that may not entirely represent the opinions of the review it was lifted from... possibly... but unlikely.

This is a dazzling CV. Jeff Baker was the first Leeds chef ever to hold a Michelin star. In 2005 he was named Yorkshire Chef of the Year, and both Jeff and his first solo project, J. Baker's, score highly in UK gastro-polls. A cursory glance at the website will confirm all of the above, along with a veritable trophy cabinet of favourable ratings and positive local press reviews.

Unfortunately, there's no such thing as a free lunch. Quality - whether it's a perfectly fried *foie du canard* or a lightly steamed university education -

comes at a price. If you're planning an evening meal, expect to pay no less than £35 a head for three courses, wine, tipping, etc. The 'Grazing Plate' or 'Magnificent Seven', as I have come to think of it, is a glorious pageant of seven courses: congenial comrades, but each one rivalling the next for ingenuity and panache.

Recently, the Grazing Plate has been better than ever. It begins with gunslinging wise-head Yul Brynner. This time he was disguised as a *carpaccio* of red mullet with sweet pepper accompaniment. He was succulent. Food of such genuine good quality could never fairly be accused of affectation, but the menu does, at times, go wildly astray over names and descriptions - a tendency that was exemplified by the course that followed: pumpkin 'study'. This proved to be an aerated soup and was delicious. Nevertheless, the mind shrinks in terror from being imminently presented with 'game bird *sinfonia*', 'prelude in endive' or maybe 'nocturne in muted sloe'.

Quickly succeeding the 'study' was a wispy cloud of pollock - an increasingly popular stand-in for cod on chip-shop

BAR: THE REFECTORY
 ADDRESS: KING'S MANOR
 AVERAGE SCONE PRICE: 60 PENCE
 REVIEW: HANNAH SMITH



This one is too cute not to mention, and for those without the tedious daily trek to King's Manor for all your learning needs, a novelty that you won't associate with dashing between lectures.

The café at King's Manor is our little cafeteria haven - but it is open to the public and the keen-bean tourist so it doesn't reek of student hangovers and grumbly-bumbly freshers. It opens at around 9:30 in the morning, and the staff should get The Loveliest Women in the World trophies - you may actually mistake them for your 'aunty' - not the real aunt - your mum's best friend. But they probably won't hug you.

Your Earl Grey will be faithfully delivered with a beaming radiance that defies the fact they have been serving horrid snotty little student gremlins for at least the whole time I've been at York. Scones are hot, and the cheapest in town at £1.20: we still get our student prices as it's still part of the University. All say HUZZAH.



So that's our cheeky little bonus rates off everything - sandwiches, soups, salads, and even the casual Danish pastry. Similar to the dining Meccas of Wentworth and Vanbrugh, hot food is pretty standard old school food-from-hot-plate-served-on-a-tray-self-service-manual-labour. So sans the lazy table service like a regular café, but hey! You'll want to help these wonderful ladies out.



NICHOLAS JULIAN WOOLF

Our Web Deputy used to work here; nevertheless, the food is great!

menus. This came with a dollop of anchovy paté riding some sort of savoury, upmarket Dorito. A perfect, tender quail dish followed and, afterwards, a well-judged beef *noisette* with seared chicken liver and runny duck egg yolk sealed in a light filo parcel. My only complaint about the dessert - summer fruit buried in sorbet and lemon mousse - was that it was more than just a tast-ing portion. But that's scarcely a complaint. The meal wound down with a stimulating epilogue of local and European

cheeses - including a morsel of 'Welsh smoked'.

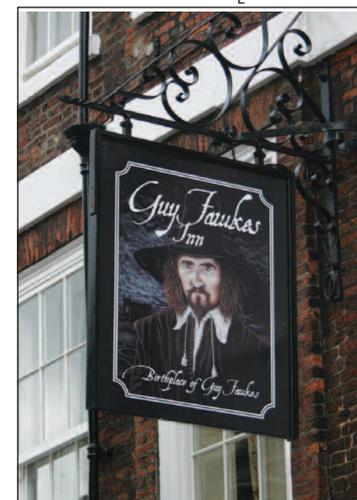
I can think of few better ways to spend £35, but if you're concerned about costs, consider the £10 lunch menu. J. Baker's offers good food with personality and pride - a rare combination; rarer still is the presentation of simple ingredients with artistry and humility, often heralded by titles as unassuming as 'sausage and beans'. N.B. Jeff may be Michelin-rated, but he has feelings. Leftovers, I am told, are not received well in the kitchen.

BAR: GUY FAWKES INN
 ADDRESS: 25, HIGH PETERGATE
 AVERAGE PINT PRICE: £3.00
 REVIEW: JAMES 'HUNTER' THOMPSON



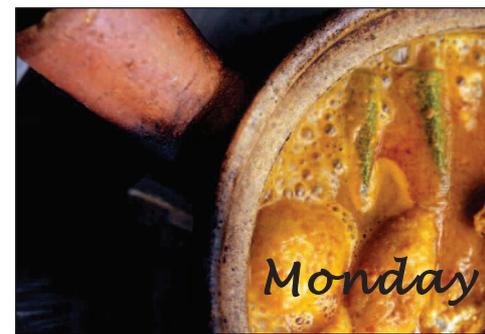
There are several licensed establishments in York that try to lure punters in by claiming an association with a certain famed historical terrorist who was born in this city. The Guy Fawkes Inn goes farther than most and claims to be on the location of his actual birthplace. Whether it is or not, I don't particularly care.

I arrived at the inn on a Sunday afternoon, having consumed nothing but a cup of coffee since the night before. Naturally I was looking forward to a roast, but much to my dismay they had stopped serving food. I resolved to have a quiet pint of Staropramen and then leave to search for food, but one of my companions embarrassed himself hideously by failing to recognise the barmaid-postgrad who had taught him in first year, and we were compelled to flee to the courtyard to finish our drinks. In the cool air we discussed whether anyone would ever open a bar at the birthplace of one of the 9/11 hijackers. Guy Fawkes sat down next to us.



"I thought Ye Olde Starre Inne was supposed to be your local!" I exclaimed. "Wait a minute, weren't you hung, drawn and quartered?" "Oh no," he replied, "I jumped from the gallows and broke my neck before they could draw and quarter me!" "Ah," I said, hurriedly draining my pint and fleeing to somewhere with more food and fewer dead revolutionaries.

Food & Drink



Vegetable curry

Budget: £5.50
Ingredients: chopped garlic, chopped onion, 2 roughly chopped carrots, 1 roughly chopped courgette, tin of tomatoes, 1 tbsp of plain yoghurt.
Step 1 - Fry the onion and garlic in vegetable oil until golden.
Step 2 - Add the vegetables and stir until soft. Mix in the curry powder and lots of salt and pepper, stir around to mix the spices in.
Step 3 - Now add the chopped tomatoes, yoghurt and a cupful of water. Stir well and bring to the boil. Let it simmer for 2-3 mins.
Step 4 - Serve with rice and you're done.
Top tip: To avoid burning the curry powder, mix the curry powder with water to make a paste.

Apple Lemonade

Ingredients: 2 cups of syrup, 3 cups of apple juice, pint of water, 1 cup of lemon juice, 4 cups of water.
Instructions: Boil the water and sugar for 10 mins and bring to the boil. Add the syrup then serve cold with ice for an unusual twist to a classic.



Cheese Omelette

Budget: £5.00
Ingredients: 2 beaten eggs, 2 tbsp of milk, handful of mushrooms, ½ chopped onion, lots of grated cheese.
Step 1 - Throw in the mushrooms and onion. Lift out of the pan and mix it in a bowl with the cheese and season well with salt and pepper.
Step 2 - Return the pan to the heat and swirl the eggs into it. Cook for around 1 min, swirling it with a fork every so often.
Step 3 - Spoon the mushroom mixture over half of the omelette. Using the flat side of a knife flip the omelette over.
Step 4 - Cook for a few more moments. Serve up with a salad.
Top tip: Add some chopped ham for a meaty omelette.

Skittles Vodka

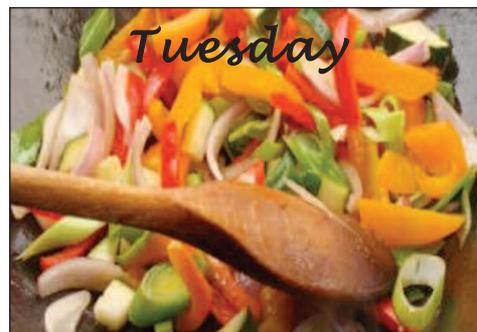
Ingredients: Skittles (all colours of the rainbow, apart from green and purple), Vodka, 2 days.
Instructions: Chuck the skittles into a bottle of vodka and leave for two days until the skittles have dissolved. Serve as colourful shots.

Stir Fry

Budget: £4.00
Ingredients: 2 chicken breasts cut into strips, chopped garlic, ½ red, green and yellow pepper, handful of beansprouts, 1 tbsp of soya sauce, egg noodles.
Step 1 - Add the garlic to a smoking hot pan, add the chicken and season generously with salt and pepper.
Step 2 - Throw in the rest of the vegetables and toss around with soya sauce.
Step 3 - Cook the noodles in boiling water for 2-3 mins. Add some soya sauce to the water for an extra kick.
Step 4 - Drain the noodles and add to the pan, mix well and serve up.
Top tip - Add sesame seeds to the vegetables for an extra bite.

Mojito

Ingredients: 1 shot of rum, handful of mint sprigs, 1 tsp of sugar, lime zest, lime juice.
Instructions: Mash the mint and sugar together. Add the rum and pour over the ice in a tall glass. Grate some lime zest and a splash of lime water. Mix well for a fresh cocktail.



Chicken ceasar salad

Budget: £6.00
Ingredients: Chicken breast, 1 garlic clove, slice of white bread, tbsp of mayo, gem lettuce, lot of grated cheese, egg yolk, 1 tsp of tabasco sauce.
Step 1 - Cut the chicken into bite size pieces and fry until golden. Put this to one side.
Step 2 - Then slice the bread into cubes, fry in a hot pan until crispy.
Step 3 - For the dressing mix the crushed garlic, tabasco sauce, mayo and egg yolk, mix together and season well.
Step 4 - Toss the croutons, chicken and lettuce in the dressing.
Top tip: Add some black olives and cherry tomatoes for an even more juicy salad. And don't forget the cheese.

Honey Banana Smoothie

Ingredients: 1 banana, cup of milk, 1 tbsp of yoghurt, ice cubes.
Instructions: If your clever enough to have brought a blender, blend all the ingredients together until smooth. Spoon some honey on top for extra sweetness.



Wednesday



Spaghetti Bolognese

Budget: £6.00
Ingredients: Pack of mince beef, chopped onion, chopped garlic, tin of tomato, tomato puree, 1 cube of beef stock, dried spaghetti.
Step 1 - Fry the onions and garlic in a pan, stir in the mince until brown.
Step 2 - Season with lots and salt and pepper then add the chopped tomatoes, puree and beef stock made with boiling water.
Step 3 - Reduce the heat and let it simmer.
Step 4 - Cook the spaghetti in boiling water until soft, drain and serve with the sauce. Spag bol made easy.
Top tip: Add some basil for some extra flavour and top with a lots of cheese.
Go veggie: Instead of mince beef use a pack of quorn instead.

Sangria

Ingredients: Glass of orange juice, bottle of fruity wine, lemonade, 1 tbsp of sugar.
Instructions: Pour orange juice into a jug, stir in the sugar and when it dissolves add the wine and orange slices. Top up with lemonade for the strength of your choice. Probably strong.

Burger and chips

Budget: £5.50
Ingredients: Pack of lamb mince, chopped onion, 1 egg, chopped garlic, shredded lettuce, tomatoes.
Step 1 - Put the lamb mince, onion, garlic in a bowl and crack an egg into the mix.
Step 2 - Using your hands mush everything together until mixed well.
Step 3 - Pat the mixture into burgers and fry in hot oil until cooked through.
Step 4 - Place the burgers in buns or pitta bread with lettuce and tomatoes. Serve with salad and chips and your sorted. At least you didn't go to Efe's.
Top tip: If you have any mustard lying about, add a big dollop to the burger mix to spice things up. you can also sprinkle paprika over your chips.

Bloody Mary

Ingredients: 50 ml Vodka, 100 ml tomato juice, 4 dashes tobacco, 4 dashes Worcester sauce, Pinch of salt and pepper.
Instructions: Pour ingredients into a glass with some ice cubes, pour back and forth from one glass to another and you're done.



Bacon and tomato soup

Budget: £5.50
Ingredients: ½ pack of bacon, ½ chopped onion, 3 tablespoons of flour, tin of chopped tomatoes, 2 cups of milk.

Step 1 - Fry onions and chopped bacon in a pan until brown.
Step 2 - Mix in the flour and season with lots of salt and pepper.
Step 3 - Stir in the chopped tomatoes, return to the heat and bring to the boil for 1 minute.
Step 4 - Reduce the heat, and then add the milk. Heat it up again until its hot enough to eat.
 Mmmm.
Top tip: If you like your soup thick add more flour.

Irish Coffee

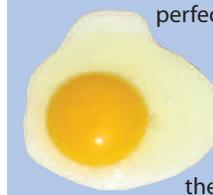
Ingredients: Hot black coffee, double cream, two shots of whisky, 1 tsp of brown sugar.
Instructions: Pour the whisky into a coffee cup, Dissolve the sugar into the whisky, then add the hot black coffee and stir well. Float the double cream on top.

BACK TO BASICS

Eggs

Boiled

To avoid cracking the egg use one already at room temperature. Slip it carefully into a pan and cover with warm (not boiling water). Add some salt and bring to the boil. If you want your egg hard-boiled leave for 9 mins, and for soft boiled leave for 2 1/2 mins. Remember to turn down the heat before the egg starts rattling in the pan and you have a perfect boiled egg.



Scrambled

Beat an egg with salt and pepper. Melt a knob of butter in a pan, turn the heat down low and pour

in the beaten egg remembering to stir it the whole time. When the egg looks thick and creamy take it off the heat and your done.

Rice

Don't forget to wash the rice before you start to get rid of the starch. Put the rice in a pan and fill it with 2/3 of boiling water, adding some salt. Bring it back to the boil and boil gently for 10 to 12 mins until the rice is cooked but still a little firm. Drain the rice and serve up.

Star Tip

To liven up beans on toast, sprinkle some paprika on the hot beans and serve with chunky buttered bread.

NOUSE



Nouse is the University of York's longest running newspaper and the only one to be nominated for Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year 2008. Nouse received more Guardian nominations than any student paper in Britain.

We are looking for:
Reporters, Features Writers,
Photographers, Website
Designers, Reviewers, Sports
Writers, Columnists, Sub-editors,
Designers and Advertising
Managers

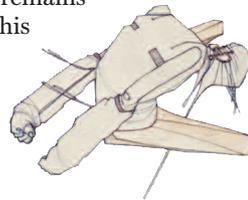
Come visit us in the Physics building at Freshers Fair, find our Facebook group 'Nouse', visit our website at www.nouse.co.uk, email us at contact@nouse.co.uk or come for a drink on Wednesday wk 1 at 7pm in Derwent bar.

Style&Fashion

ONESTOWATCH by Liam O'Brien

DESIGNER: AITOR THROUP

The RCA graduate has been on the menswear scene for some time now, winning numerous accolades including bursaries from i-D magazine and Diesel, and refusing job offers from, amongst others, Acquascutum. Throup has stayed true to his vision of reinventing the male silhouette into artificially-modified, industrial shapes, but remains unable to fully realise his sensational drawing-boards (see Aitorthroup.com) with a similarly enticing catwalk show.



TREND: SILHOUETTE SHIFT

What happens when skyscraper heels become a bit de rigeur and the sight of skinny model in skinny dress becomes a bit outmoded? The spring/summer 09 shows at Paris and Milan

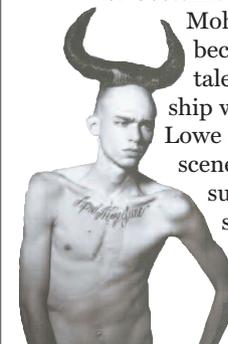
held the answer. Prada constructed the heel at an angle that again defied pragmatics or indeed movement of any kind. The accented shoulders explored in Balenciaga's A/W 08 collection were taken to a new extreme by Alexander McQueen who kept the skinny models but added hips, tits and hyper-real upper-body structuring to dresses in a collection referencing our impact on the natural world, as evidenced by the battalion of taxidermy lining the catwalk.



MODEL: COLE MOHR

Hedi Slimane's chosen muse before his departure from Dior Homme and catwalk favourite of Costume National and Burberry,

Mohr is due to explode not because of obvious modelling talent but because of friendship with Luke Worrell, Daisy Lowe and the emerging London scene of models gaining exposure because of the filler social pages of freesheets London-wide. What is his favourite colour? We will soon know.



DISASTER: TV ABOUT FASHION

Even the inane must have been screaming at the television during *Gok's Fashion Fix* as clothes were given a 'Gok Twist' with tranny-tassles, and repeatedly won a studio audience vote over beautiful designer garments. *British Style Genius* began last week, but succeeded only in making fashion accessible, rather than fun. Ideally, a *Newsnight* equivalent with Franca Sozzani and Andre Leon Talley clawing the crap out of each other would grace our screens every week.



Taking inspiration from the edgiest Spring/Summer 2009 shows, **Liam O'Brien** advises on dressing ahead of the pack

Though the looks available in shops from Bond Street this season follow the trends set by the catwalks in their Autumn/Winter collections, it's always a good idea to look at the most recent set of collections to dress ahead of the pack. Whilst your friends buy their winter ensembles in toned-down high-street versions of Russian and Goth themed catwalk pieces debuted in spring this year, it is possible, through clever purchases to introduce elements of next season's essentials into your wardrobe. The pictures above show four of the most striking new collections for Spring/Summer 2009, and though the clothes may seem unwearable and ostentatious, the ideas behind their design can provide inspiration that transcends any budget.

Maison Martin Margiela's 20th anniversary show was a celebration of old and new ideas. Although the idea of achieving a similar look could be logistically dangerous, the idea of models 'incognito' can be adapted to the general Margiela phi-

Clockwise from top: Maison Martin Margiela, Castelbajac, Luella, Gareth Pugh

losophy of not being afraid to let the clothes take precedence over the wearer. With the wearer simply an object on which the clothes can sit, experimentation with the structure of clothing is easier.

Jean Charles de Castelbajac's fluorescent mix of vivid prints encompassing comic characters and children's lego is a bright addition to any catwalk season. At first glance, the clothes seem distinctly non-commercial but a glance through any youth fashion Bible tells a different story. Jodie Harsh regularly attends to her business in colourful Castelbajac, and the designer has provided stage outfits for Yelle, M.I.A., and Santogold. The clothes are expensive, but the notion of encompassing global brand ideologies into an ensemble isn't too hard. Be on the lookout for unusual branded items from companies you wouldn't expect to make clothing (and certainly don't do it very well).

Luella Bartley's summer collections are consistent in a wearable, feminine way that her winter collec-

tions often aren't. Geek chic combined with a jocular take on the day-wear of the British aristocracy evidence her roots at British Vogue. The look is an easy one to prepare for even in the winter months. A striking corsage and fascinator can be bought from vintage dealers, and check jackets are available everywhere. Ensure that you dress with an airy spirit and delicate demeanour when aiming for the Luella look.

Gareth Pugh's latest Spring/Summer collection was perhaps his most timid yet, essentially rehashing his old ideas and bleaching them brilliant-white. Though elements of wearable clothing encroach further into his collections year on year, this collection is still an intimidating prospect to adapt for even the most special evening occasion. It would be impossible to do an exact copy, which is probably the point, but angular clothes for angular specimens is a look achievable at any time of the year. Try monochrome tights, high platform shoes and contrasting colours.



ArtsReviews

BOOK: CHASING HARRY WINSTON
 AUTHOR: LAUREN WEISBERGER
 REVIEW: JOSEPHINE BAARK

☆☆☆



Money, boys, shopping and seduction - what better way to start your term? The three main characters Emmy, Leigh and Adriana are fed up with their New York lives. Their rejection of their perfect jobs, their beauty and their sexy boyfriends might create resentment from any York student trying to scrape by on a loan.

However, they are portrayed with enough humour to make up for it. The tried and tested chick-lit structure of friends who crave change, make a pact and then proceed to explore the consequences works well. Weisberger has given up the autobiographical, whiney stance of her other two novels and instead takes the stance of observing her friends from a distance and "shamelessly stealing" their stories. Everyone ends up predictably, but satisfyingly happy, despite adversity.

Though each character could easily have been picked out of a cosmopolitan magazine tell-all, Weisberger depicts them with cynicism and makes their faults seem lightheartedly laughable rather than annoying.

This is a true page-turner that is extremely hard to put down. It is an enjoyable, funny, and sexy read, and is strongly recommended, if you have a spare moment.

BOOK: MR PIP
 AUTHOR: LLOYD JONES
 REVIEW: SARAH-JANE SILVESTER

☆☆☆



Matilda is thirteen and has a fertile imagination. Left on the island of Bougainville with her mother, Matilda craves company. The school is closed, there is no electricity, no medical supplies, and life is dictated by the rising and setting of the sun, which brings the only rhythm to each uncertain day. Enter Mr Watts, the last white man on the island, nicknamed by the children 'Pop Eye' because of his eyes that appear to 'leap from his face'. 'Pop Eye' steps in to teach the island children with only the aid of one book; Dickens' Great Expectations. It is here in the character of Pip that Matilda finds her refuge.

The last few chapters in which we are taken into the present feel unnecessary and did distract from the sentimental, tender narrative that had been created throughout the rest of the book. Nevertheless, Jones cleverly challenges our notions of the value of fantasy, enrapturing us with the beautiful voices of the island so we find ourselves engulfed in Matilda's world. If you wish to escape into a foreign world this term, this is the book to read.

Li Peng talks to students who have made an impact on York's arts scene

Those of you who have just arrived in York have a lot to live up to. In the last couple of years the campus-based arts scene here in York has been injected with life by students with flare, energy and originality. By taking the initiative to build on established ideas or starting something new, they have added vibrancy and new interest to the York arts calendar.

"If you come here and just complete a degree, you are really wasting your time and money," said Duncan Piper, who organised the Langwith Arts Festival as a fresher and subsequently made a huge success of last year's York Carnival. "I spent my first term doing nothing and got bored. The performing arts have so much potential to become a huge part of your life. It adds an extracurricular vibrancy that York needs," added Piper.

Student-led events are a great way to meet people and help the student body realize its potential. "There is just so much talent within the student body," said Sam Daunt, president of the newly-ratified Happily Ever Society which is producing its first musical, *Grease*, this term. "I have a lot of respect for anyone involved in performing arts in York, whether they are directing, writing, performing or making costumes. The roles are endless."

Amy Browne, who organised dance extravaganza Fusion last year, agreed York has no problems when it comes to the size of the talent pool every year. "There is a massive jump between school and

university in the quality of art that is produced. Much that is created here is very professional: this applies to everything from dance to music to acting," she said.

Involvement in such events rewards on a personal scale as well. PantSoc chair, Becca Atkey, credits her enjoyment of the performing arts scene to "the massive buzz" she gets from being onstage: "The sensation is pretty hard to get anywhere else, and there is a sense of achievement when you perform in something you've worked really hard to make it happen," she said.

"It's better than sex," remarked David Coppard, the guitarist of jazz band The Ugly Goslings, which has played for events like Woodstock and the Alcuin 40th Anniversary Ball. "When you're performing, you're not doing anything logically useful, like doctors and scientists saving lives and doing good work behind closed doors, but everyone looks at you like your performance is the most important thing in the world. It's very satisfying".

Most people start small, like Daunt. She started off playing a part in the pantomime, *Robin Hood* and soon moved backstage. She has since gone on to produce *The Peter Pan...tomime* and coordinate Woodstock, York's summer music extravaganza, last year. "You will never feel ostracised or incapable, because there are so many ways for people to get involved," she said.

Atkey agreed, "If you like performing, don't be shy to audition



Getting involved with campus arts events can be rewarding

even if you haven't had any experience. Also, I know from experience every production would be grateful for people helping out behind the scenes as well."

For Coppard, making contacts was one of the key aspects to getting his foot in the door. "If you go for small events like open-mic nights for instance, talk to the organisers. Very often, they will be

putting on bigger shows soon as well, and they will contact you about that too," he said.

If nothing in York captures your attention; Piper's advice is to go your own way. "If you have an idea that does not fall under the remit of any other society, or they are reluctant to facilitate your project, go ahead and create your own".

EVENT: DYLAN MORAN
 VENUE: GRAND OPERA HOUSE
 REVIEW: MATTHEW JEYNES

☆☆☆

Dylan Moran's fourth solo tour, *What It Is*, lacked new material. The jokes and stories felt like material recycled from his previous tour, *Like, Totally*, only worded less humourously.

His opening piece, a sweeping journey of racial stereotypes, similar to his mockery of Germany and Australia from *Like, Totally*, was intended as a commentary on how stupid these stereotypes are: how they stop people from just getting along.

However, the only laughs he got from the audience were laughs at the stereotypes, leaving me to wonder whether the message was sincere, or whether Moran had used stereotypes as a sure-fire way of getting fifteen minutes worth of laughs in his show.

The show suffered from the lapses in rhythm that so often plague an opening night. However, Moran's naturally rambling stage persona turned these pauses into laughs from the audience.

This is unsurprising because, for all the minor quibbles about recycled themes and material, Moran is still a comedian at the height of his powers, with tremendous stage presence, natural comic timing and ability to engage with his audience.

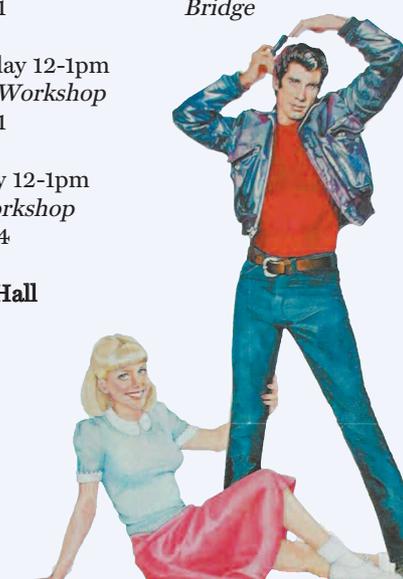
There were moments in this show, such as his musings over what exactly 'women's issues' entailed, or his claim that every time Silvio Berlusconi smiles an angel gets gonorrhoea, which left me laughing so hard I nearly fell off my seat.



Dylan Moran's new tour relied on old material

ARTS IN BRIEF

DramaSoc Freshers' Workshops	Drama Barn
Week 2 Monday 12-2pm <i>Auditions Workshop</i> AEW/011	Week 2 <i>William and Octavia</i>
Tuesday 12-1pm <i>Acting Workshop</i> AEW/011	Week 3 <i>Gift of the Gorgon</i>
Wednesday 12-1pm <i>Writing Workshop</i> AEW/011	Week 4 <i>A View from the Bridge</i>
Thursday 12-1pm <i>Tech Workshop</i> AEW/104	
Central Hall	
Week 5 <i>Grease</i>	



TheatreFeatures

York theatre company take Fringe by storm

In Edinburgh this August, everyone was talking about *Belt Up*. **Nicky Woolf** chats with one of their directors

University of York-based theatre company *Belt Up* (Nothing to See/Hear) won the prestigious International Festival Award at the Edinburgh festival this August. The award is the International Festival's way of plucking and encouraging the best of the Fringe from the mass of performance and theatre that floods Edinburgh every August.

The prize is compound: £5,000 now, assistance towards a performance to the value of another £5,000 in the run-up to next year's Festival, and the possibility of funding for full-budget production the year after that, plus expert advice, workshops and other assistance during the year.

"We were incredibly flattered to even be considered," says Alex Wright, one of *Belt Up* Theatre's directors, who directed *A Clockwork Orange* in the York Theatre Royal studio last term as well as several of *Belt Up*'s Edinburgh productions. "The whole thing happened so quickly... To have respected and important international professionals tell you that you're worth their time, advice and money is unbelievable. We were very happy – if not a little bewildered."

Belt Up (Nothing to See/Hear) was founded in 2007 by a group of friends in the University of York's Drama Society. Their first play, *Trainspotting*, was a great success, receiving 5* in *Nouse*, and that summer they took it to the Edinburgh Festival.

"That definitely inspired us to do more," says Wright. Seeing other people's work at the Fringe is incredibly eye-opening and makes you realise just how much you can do and how far you can go with theatre. But the *Red Room* project itself didn't take shape until much later. I'm sure there are many traces of shows we saw last year though."

The Red Room was *Belt Up*'s own venue at the Edinburgh Fringe. Allocated their own room in the Carlton Hotel by C Venues, *Belt Up* spent nearly a week turning it into a red velvet boudoir, complete with bar, piano, full-scale theatrical lighting rigs and enough armchairs, benches and floor-cushions to comfortably seat an audience of 80 in an immersive theatrical space.

From this base, *Belt Up* put on nearly 20 shows, including city-wide promenade performances of *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Five of those shows were daily, and the others were weekend, evening or one-off bespoke performances. By the end of the festival, *The Red Room* was packed to bursting-

point almost every production.

"The idea for the *Red Room* really developed over a period of time. We came up with the idea in January and the more we chatted the more shows we decided on. The initial immersive idea was quite simple, but it all just snowballed from there," Wright tells me.

Edinburgh International Fringe director Jonathan Mills said: "This is an award for potential... The judges did a sterling job seeing so much on the Fringe. There was a very strong shortlist but *Belt Up* (Nothing to See/Hear) stood out.

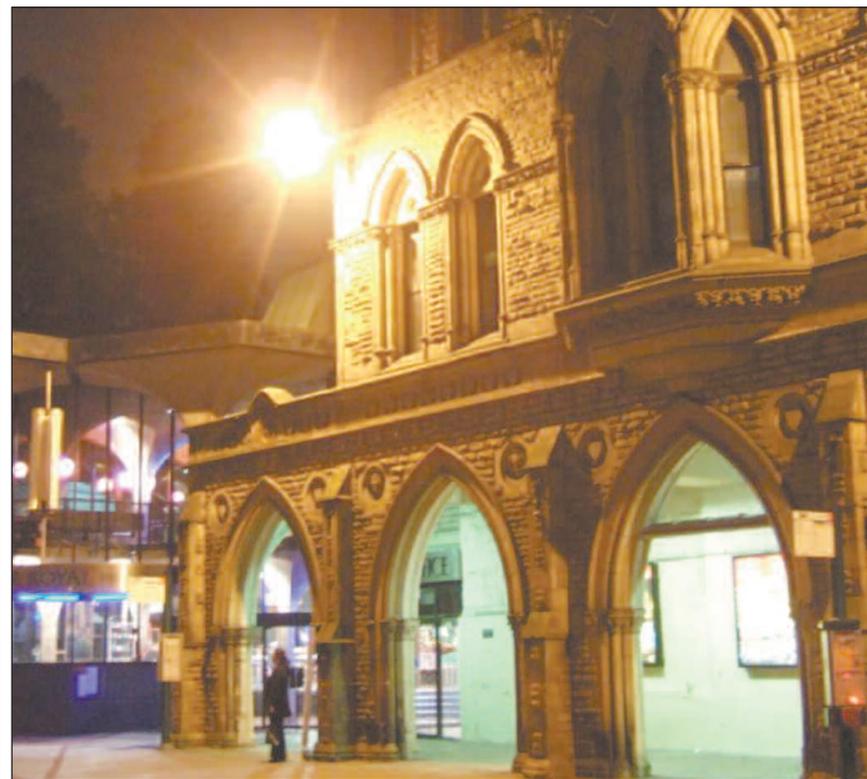
"*The Red Room* is a very interesting concept," he continued, "and this young collective have theatrical integrity and passion. We are very much looking forward to working with them over the next year and they promise to bring something fresh to EIF audiences in 2009... I can only say, watch this space. In August next year, we anticipate something really interesting in motion."

Belt Up's next production is *William and Octavia*, a fairy-tale-esque two-part production written by Wright and Jethro Compton, which is on in week two in the Drama Barn.

**Performers
Nicola Carter,
Alice Boagey
and Rachel
Finnegan in one
of *Belt Up*'s
Edinburgh
shows**



Tom Fitz-Hugh looks at how to enjoy York's arts scene on a student budget



Theatre Royal is just one venue offering theatre at affordable prices

One of the first things that you will learn as a student is that an NUS card can get you a long way. After the buzz of Fresher's Week has worn off, and you've realised that York's nightlife leaves rather a lot to be desired, you may be looking for an alternative way to spend your evenings. Spending a night at the theatre may initially appear an expensive option but, armed with a student card, a night of good quality, live entertainment will set you back significantly less than a night in Tru.

For drama aficionados York's home from campus will undoubtedly be the Theatre Royal, on the Minster side of town. With almost all productions offering student tickets at the significantly reduced price of £5, there is little excuse not to get cultured up here, especially given the range available.

Last year saw *My Fair Lady* treading the boards of the main stage whilst *Waiting For Godot* played out in the Studio. This term's highlight, Arthur Miller's masterpiece, *Death of a Salesman*, will be running throughout November. In fact, you could make a day of it at a matinée for £14, which'll get you a complimentary programme and the perfect chance to discuss what you've seen over cream tea in the Café Bar.

Walk past the queues at Gallery Nightclub, and you'll reach the Grand Opera House. It is York's more commercial venue and attracts household names, including Paul Merton, Adele, Dylan Moran and Dara O'Briain. Usually, the bigger the show, the bigger the hole in your pocket.

Fortunately there is a way round this: all full time students can text "standby" to 07887 926 101 for £5 tickets. Alerts are then sent out on the day of participating shows, and the recipients can simply breeze in with nothing

but a flash of their texts at the box office.

So, if a spur-of-the-moment splash of showbiz appeals, this term sees Frankie Boyle and Russell Howard complete a trio of Mock the Week stars; "a non-stop barrage of Abba hits" from tribute band Voulez Vous on their final tour; and, for the truly daring student, a show entitled, *The Lady Boys of Bangkok*.

A trip to the cinema is equally viable. City Screen has discounts for students every weekday and the discount is even greater on a Wednesday. Plus, for hardcore filmgoers, Sunday double bills are always only £6. City Screen doesn't just show films though: it's basement bar regularly hosts live music and comedy. York students' very own open mic night "Take the Stage", which takes place on alternate Mondays, costs only £2 and offers an array of stand-up, music and poetry.

From some of the same people, but safely ensconced within the campus bubble, is ComedySoc's finest work Have I Got News For York. Effortlessly the university's best comedy, it costs £2 on the door, but queue early because it's deservedly stunning reputation precedes it, and V/045 really isn't that big!

Finally, there is no better theatre on campus than Drama Soc's weekly productions in the Drama Barn, located behind the music department. Joining up at Fresher's Fair is well worth the £5 membership, getting you a pound off the £4.50 ticket price for every show. Last year's productions of *The Trial* and *Metamorphosis*, directed by Alex Wright, were truly phenomenal.

A new society, York TheatreGoers, aims to visit and support local and regional productions. This will provide the opportunity to visit theatres further afield at reasonable prices. Email theatre@yusu.org to join the mailing list.

MusicInDepth

JAMES COUSINS

Mind The Generation Gap



Well it's the beginning of another year in York, and autumnal clouds herald an influx of fresh-faced new-arrivals, ready and eager to explore the multi-faceted dominion of life in our thriving city. Of course it will be interesting to see how many of these new faces can be accurately described as "fresh" by the end of the week, and in all probability York's entertainment possibilities will be thoroughly exhausted come November, but nevertheless, these are exciting times. Freshers, welcome to York, and do not despair - there's more than meets the eye. Even if the music scene is the exception that proves the rule (see In Depth).

This summer I spent a couple of weeks visiting my family in South Africa which, due to the almost incomprehensibly vast size of that beautiful country, inevitably entailed early-morning starts and frequent long-distance drives. Being the altruistic and loving son that I am, I decided to make use of the long hours to educate my family in the many musical joys that they had yet to encounter, starting with some of my favourite bands that surely, I thought, even the most hard-headed musical philistine couldn't fail to appreciate. A bit of Arcade Fire here, a smattering of Bright Eyes there, a liberal helping of Sigur Rós on top - lovely. In the middle of a *Hoppípolla*-induced state of musical bliss my tone deaf father decided to express his appreciation for the Icelandic beauty that I had opened his eyes to. "What is this rubbish, it sounds like water being sloshed around the bottom of a bin". Not quite the reaction I was hoping for. On the other hand, every time a classic Bowie or Beatles track graced our ears my mum took great pleasure in enquiring as to why my generation couldn't find our own music and stop trying to claim her generation's as our own. Setting aside the fact that she would only have been three when *Sgt Pepper's* was released, my mum had a point - blindingly obvious, I know, but great music is timeless.

We have recently been witness to what I shall call The Legends' Resurgence. That wrinkly old rocker Paul McCartney has recently hit the headlines for producing, shock horror, truly fiery rock music instead of his by-now-customary lush and somewhat trite pop. And still the greatest live performer I have ever seen is that venerable 61 year old Jim Osterberg, perhaps better known as Iggy Pop. Not to glamourise drug taking, but my goodness, Iggy was talented at ingesting illicit substances (for more on Mr Pop, see page right). He and a certain David Bowie, legend has it, lived together in the bleakly hedonistic Berlin of the Seventies subsisting for long periods on only cocaine and milk. Despite the apparent prevalence of coke in Heslington Hall, this is an entirely different level of excess to the bland sweatiness of Ziggy's, and yet Iggy still manages to blow performers forty years his junior off the stage. Sure, my mother would thoroughly disapprove of his lifestyle choices, but put on 'The Passenger' and a grin will inexorably spread across both mine and my mother's faces. Music, like time, can be a great healer. But maybe don't play arty Icelandic music to your Neil Diamond-loving Dad, it just isn't going to fly.

ARTIST: KINGS OF LEON
ALBUM: ONLY BY THE NIGHT
REVIEW: RICHARD JACKSON
RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW



Kings of Leon's headline performance at this summer's Glastonbury Festival shot them from alternative adoration straight into the glare of mainstream success - people who had never heard of the Tennessee foursome sat up and took notice. As a result, their fourth album *Only By The Night* has had to bear the weight of some rather hefty expectations, with many hoping for a veritable modern masterpiece. For the expectant public, and for the boys themselves, however, I have some bad news: this album never quite produces the consistently world-topping music that many had hoped for. But boy does it come close.

Only By The Night begins promisingly with the ethereal 'Closer', akin to 'Knocked Up' from the Kings' previous offering *Because Of The Times*. The barnstorming singles 'Crawl' and 'Sex on Fire' up the pace for a bit before 'Use Somebody' slows proceedings down again with its epic stadium rock chorus. At first the chanted vocals could put listeners off, but this song proves to be a grower in the truest sense of the word - rewarding repeated listens, it becomes the epic centrepiece of the first half of this epic album. 'Manhattan', 'Revelry' and '17' maintain this slower tempo, which may be acceptable at the end of an album such as *Because Of The Times* with its brooding lyrics and reverberating guitars, but in the middle of an album which is expected to be a band's mag-



num opus they prove disappointing. 'Revelry' has a charming chorus that lifts the verses above mediocrity, however '17', a tale about teenage lust, fails where so many Kings of Leon songs have delivered before. The final portion of *Only...*, however, shows more maturity and subtlety than Kings of Leon have showed before. 'I Want You' and 'Be Somebody' show a new, more understated side to Kings of Leon that was missing from the grandiose, sweeping guitar statements of *Because Of The Times* and the purer rock of their first two albums. Past Kings of Leon albums have saved their most sensitive and slowest songs for last, for example 'Holy

Roller Novocaine' and 'Arizona'. For an album expected to catapult the band into the mainstream you would expect a fantastically impressive ending, but unfortunately 'Cold Desert' fails to deliver. The emotion and ambition in Caleb Followill's voice is clear, but, like a little too much of the album, it doesn't live up to its promise. The singles do not have the enduring excitement of the singles from the first two albums, nor does the album have the sense of whole that *Because Of The Times* benefited from. Despite these flaws this album is still a musical achievement likely to surpass anything else released this year.

IN DEPTH: THE YORK 'SCENE'

Ollie Elliott

If you come from one of those big metropolitan cities that seem to have a high profile band playing in just about every abandoned warehouse, drafty church or even in one of those newfangled student union things, then the 'scene' in York may come as a bit of a shock. There are no Carling Academies or other major mass audience venues and it is rare indeed to see big name bands come to York. But unless your musical interests begin and end at stadium rock you should definitely be able to find a variety of interesting things going on. The key aspect of gigs in York has to be the sense of intimacy - both the major venues, Fibbers and the recently opened Duchess, are small cosy venues. In the near future they will be playing host to an eclectic range of bands from the likes of Foals and the Guillemots to folky singer-songwriters like James Yorkston and even the occasional hip hop or classic punk band.

The Cityscreen bar (beneath the cinema in town) is another good

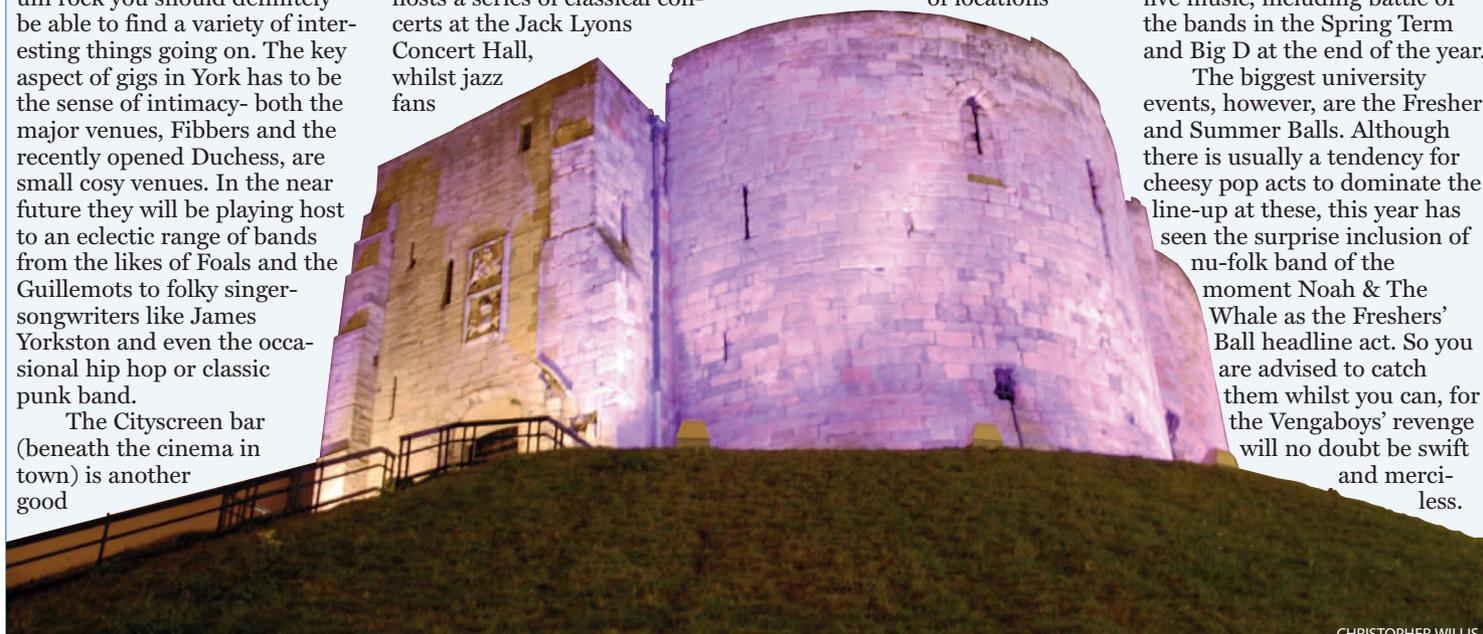
place to find local and more alternative acts. Similarly, the Junction, located just past the train station, often puts on an interesting variety of acts - for example the likes of Dan Le Sac & Scroobius Pip, Sam Isaac and Wild Beasts have played there in the last year. The ancient Black Swan Inn has also made a name for itself as York's leading purveyor of quality folk bands (and, I am told, chocolate cake).

For the more classically minded, the University itself hosts a series of classical concerts at the Jack Lyons Concert Hall, whilst jazz fans

can find occasional jazz nights in pubs in York as well as on campus during term time. Outside of the established venues, there are a variety of club nights, specialist music nights and one off gigs across York. Some of the most notable student-run alternative club and gig nights include Hessian, which last year saw performances from bands like These New Puritans and Casiotone For The Painfully Alone, and Idioteque, an electro night held in a variety of locations

including several Working Men's Clubs, somewhat to the bemusement of the regulars. There are also a variety of music nights put on by organisations and societies on campus - Burn the Jukebox have put on several gigs by more experimental bands whilst URY's 'Transformer' DJ nights managed to bring Mystery Jets to campus last year for a live acoustic performance. Campus in fact hosts a variety of events throughout the year featuring live music, including battle of the bands in the Spring Term and Big D at the end of the year.

The biggest university events, however, are the Fresher and Summer Balls. Although there is usually a tendency for cheesy pop acts to dominate the line-up at these, this year has seen the surprise inclusion of nu-folk band of the moment Noah & The Whale as the Freshers' Ball headline act. So you are advised to catch them whilst you can, for the Vengaboys' revenge will no doubt be swift and merciless.



MusicReviews

THE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE PLAYLIST

ARTIST: IGGY POP
TRACK: LUST FOR LIFE

Whatever the nature of your Freshers' Week excess, you can be fairly sure that at some point its limits were dutifully tested by Iggy Pop. More akin to a ferret humping the leg of life than a man, this implausibly resilient peanut-butter abuser has lived faster than the Halon Collider can chuck particles around and with the same potential for complete annihilation. As for why this song deserves its place at the top (or bottom, depending on perspective) of the pile of tunes cataloguing rock star excess, just check the ingredients: written by David Bowie, for the sometime frontman of The Stooges, it serves as the theme song to *Trainspotting*. If a recipe for a more hedonistic sonic potage exists I certainly can't think of one. Plus, it's a nice bouncy romp to boot, racing along a rock standard riff replete with stomping percussion and drug garbled lyrics about hypnotizing chickens.

ARTIST: BIG BLACK
TRACK: BAD HOUSES

Even as I step out of the door, I tell myself I will not go. 'Bad Houses' is, even more so than its fellow *Atomizer* tracks, a wholly inhuman song. Dominated as it is by a spare 4/4 drum loop, overlaid only occasionally with Albini's smooth, mechanical riff and measured vocals, one might wonder if the creators of the song possessed bodies, let alone souls. As ever, Big Black's frontman seems an entirely plausible informant about a world of unmitigated, yet somehow banal, depravity. Even if you freshers are unlikely to find your way into any of the brothels Albini designates as 'bad houses', such places are hardly the only venues in which pleasure is neatly commodified and exchanged for dignity. This is a post-club 'anthem' of a rather different sort.

ARTIST: BLUR
TRACK: COFFEE & TV

With a the-loneliest-place-is-in-a-crowd-of-people type logic, hidden beneath the surface of this seemingly trite britpop classic, with its chugging MORish guitar, ephemerally swooned chorus and aching cute video, is an uncomfortably insightful account of Graham Coxon's efforts to give up drinking. In many ways it can be taken as the opposite side of the coin to then rivals Oasis' typically neanderthalic treatment of similar subject matter with the bland booziness of their anthem 'Cigarettes and Alcohol'. "Take me away from this big bad world" Coxon pleads, with the trademark affected naivety of his vocal stylings; it's the epiphany of the morning after the night/week/years before when nothing seems more desirable than to crawl into the comfort blanket of mundanity and a blunt but safe, "coffee and TV", existence. It ends by repeating the hopeful, but probably self-deluding, resolution to "start over again": the kind that will have been made everyday this week- and then broken the next.

Tracks selected and reviewed by Steven Williams and Jed Fazakarley

Olivia Houghton spends an unusual night at the opera

Opera may not be high on a typical student's list of favourite music genres, but with recent advances in technology it has certainly become more accessible. And who knows, you may just find you like it. If you're already a convert but struggle to scabble together the price of a ticket on a student budget then you're in for a treat.

Live streaming of opera performances to cinemas is a trend that was initiated by New York's Metropolitan Opera in 2006 with successful broadcasts across America, Britain, Japan and Norway. Last season Glyndebourne followed suit striking a deal with Odeon Cinemas; and now Covent Garden's Royal Opera House want a piece of the action. For the price of a cinema ticket (I won't lie to you, we're still talking £15) you can sit back and munch on popcorn as you watch and listen to the delights of Handel's *Giulio Casare* or Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* this autumn.

I did just this; well, almost. I substituted pop corn for chocolate ice cream which I ate whilst the crowds at Covent Garden sipped their champagne. For privileged front row views and behind the scenes footage of the nooks and crannies of the orchestra pit, we journeyed to Croydon to see Mozart's *Don*



CATHERINE ASHMORE

Persson, Didonato, Poplavskaya and Keenlyside in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*

Giovanni on the opening night of the ROH season. I wasn't sure what to expect and finding myself the youngest by about thirty years in an almost empty cinema didn't inspire much confidence. But I was to be proven wrong. We settled back in our not-quite-so-plush seats and watched the audience filtering into the Opera House; to my amusement I spotted my cousin on the screen. The curtains lifted and a thrilling performance began. We had close up shots of the cast who brought together the story of Don Giovanni's

womanising and amoralistic ways with wit and sensitivity, not to mention wonderful voices.

The performance ended after a lengthy three hours, long enough to numb anyone's bum. But if you can put up with sound quality that wasn't half bad for a cinema, and are willing to forgo the atmosphere and excitement of the real thing, then I would highly recommend a trip to the cinema for something a little bit different.

See roh.org.uk for full listings.



ARTIST: THE STREETS
VENUE: MANCHESTER ACADEMY
REVIEW: HENRY JAMES FOY
DATE: 05/10/08

★★★★☆

There are few acts in the world that are so adored by their legions of fans or, perhaps, in the case of Mike Skinner, so utterly excited by the occasion to attempt to run through the crowd to the back of the venue. "Don't grab me, don't grab me, yeah?" Skinner shouts before he is mauled, held aloft by the Manchester crowd and man-handled back to the stage, grinning madly and shouting his thanks. He calls it 'Go Moses', which, judging by the appreciation of the fans, may not be all that much of an overstatement.

It is a fitting way to end The Streets' Sunday evening set. Mixing classic favourites such as 'Turn the Page' and 'Let's Push Things Forward' from debut album *Original Pirate Material* with tracks from the new *Everything Is Borrowed*, Skinner keeps the crowd moving throughout. Never so much, in fact, than when he ordered us to crouch on the floor before rising up to the opening chords of his iconic 'Has it Come to This?'

It has been more than eight years since Skinner's breakthrough, which created a soundtrack for a generation of urban British teenagers. While some criticised his third, more relaxed, album as a break from a successful formula, *Everything...* marks a return to form. Don't let the Sunday billing fool you. The Streets are as flamboyant and entertaining as ever.



ARTIST: BE YOUR OWN PET
VENUE: DINGWALLS, CAMDEN
REVIEW: STEVEN WILLIAMS
DATE: 26/08/08

★★★★☆

When Be Your Own Pet announced in August that they were calling it a day, it probably didn't come as much of a surprise. As a band they embodied the ennui-induced self-destruction and thrill-seeking tendencies of the teenage experience; 'what will happen when they are no longer teenagers?' seemed stamped on them like an expiration date.

What was overlooked due to this predictably short shelf-life was just how damn good the music was while they were here. Taking the lyrical themes of The Stooges and the snottiness of Black Flag, they added a singer who can only be described as Toni Basil after being 're-educated' by a terrorist guerrilla army and an impressively single-minded commitment to fun.

For this last show before their hara kiri, the guys took to the stage half-naked while singer Jemina, sporting war paint and a black vest, could have hopped straight out of a Rambo film if it wasn't for the lack of entrails. The set itself was brought to a crashing finish as the band were overcome by increasingly frequent stage invasions and gave up halfway into the last song. Jemina, explaining their decision to split, wrote 'Someone once said it's better to burn out than fade away.' Tonight they showed they earned the first part of that epitaph; don't let them become consigned to the second.



ARTIST: THE NATIONAL
VENUE: CARLING ACADEMY
REVIEW: OLLIE ELLIOTT
DATE: 30/06/08

★★★★☆

Never underestimate the element of surprise with a band you love. This was the bitter-sweet lesson learnt from the first time I saw American alt-rock giants The National.

Having obsessively listened to their fourth album *Alligator* upon its release back in 2005, the three year wait to see them live had filled me with worry that newer material would be played at the expense of those older songs that I have come to adore. So when I managed to get hold of a setlist before the gig I was ecstatic that every song I wanted to hear was on it. But this knowledge came at a price; knowing the set list eliminated the excitement of spontaneity.

That said, the band, fresh from their headline performance at Glastonbury, were exceptional. They perfectly balanced moody and mellow tracks like 'Ada' and 'Slow Show' with extremely emotionally charged and powerful songs like 'Abel' and the standout of the night, 'Mr November'. It's something of a mystery as to what this song is actually about, but by the end you are so swept up by it that it doesn't matter. The National seem an enigmatic band, both in their lyrics and due to the fact that, despite their convivial and easygoing nature, they leave you feeling that there is a lot left unsaid. Never mind the surprises, it is the mystery of this band that will keep me enthralled for years to come.

Film Reviews

PAUL

High School Musical and Funny Games: portrayals of teens in cinema



Jordin Sparks at the VMAS last month: "I just have one thing to say about promise rings. It's not bad to wear a promise ring because not everybody - guy or girl - wants to be a slut." The American Idol winner was reacting to comments by Russell Brand poking fun at the squeaky clean Jonas Brothers, but her moralistic outburst evidences a wider polarization between how the media, television and particularly film represent youth culture.

The 1970s showed adolescents on journeys of self discovery. Terrence Malick's *Badlands* saw a 15-year-old girl from the American Midwest go on a voyage, with her interpretation of the grisly reality she saw shrouded in blind romantic fantasy. *Walkabout* saw an adolescent girl apparently unable to understand death. The brat pack films of Reagan's 80's explored a form of self discovery focused firmly on the self - and not really anything else. *The Breakfast Club* and *St Elmo's Fire* introduced a basic form of the American High school prerogative found in a more extreme version today in films like *Mean Girls* and *Clueless*.

The brat pack though was at least fun. Current Western film about youth culture seems to either portray a sanitized, glorious super-fun like the upcoming *High School Musical 3* or a hard-edged, Easton Ellis influenced nihilism. The former is absolutely terrifying. *HSM3* recently broke the record for cinema pre-sales in the UK, beating out *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* in a sure demonstration, if one was needed, that the franchise and its dayglo philosophy has translated well over the Atlantic. Though the film's box-office is likely to be frontloaded, the sight I witnessed last weekend suggests that its takings in one weekend might be enough to secure *HSM7*. Upon seeing a Zacquisha cardboard cut-out, a child, not young, said "Did you know you can't see *High School Musical 3* on television? You have to see it in the cinema".

Is this the wrong idea to sell children though? I'm not advocating accusing *Shrek's* writers of body fascism or anything, but doesn't looking at a Disneyfied, high-contrast image of Zac Efron in the film seem a bit wrong when you can see the reality of Vanessa Hudgens straddling him on a beach in any celebrity rag. The torture-porn of Haneke's *Funny Games* or Joseph Gordon-Levitt's blood-stained face in *Brick* just don't seem so dark anymore.

FILM: I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG
 DIRECTOR: PHILLIPE CLAUDEL
 STARRING: KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS, ELSA ZYLBERSTEIN
 REVIEW: LILY EASTWOOD
 RUNTIME: 115 MINS



Award-winning French writer of the novel *Grey Souls*, Philippe Claudel makes his impressive directorial debut with the delicate *I've Loved You So Long*. The film centres on Juliette (Kristin Scott Thomas) and Léa (Elsa Zylberstein), the estranged Fontaine sisters, reunited following Juliette's release from prison after a 15 year sentence.

Claudel examines guilt and forgiveness, and their hold over family life. The dark secret of Juliette's crime takes an assured back seat to the quiet observation of Juliette's tentative new and renewed relationships and Léa's seemingly happy life is shaken and the reality of years of denial takes shape and her enigmatic sister captures everyone's attention.

The subdued and elegant Scott Thomas is the glorious centre-piece of this film, playing a woman struggling to believe that she deserves to lead any kind of normal life. Her high critical acclaim from both English press outlets and their counterparts across the channel largely acknowledged the role as

the best of her career thus far, not only lending credibility to Claudel's first directorial outing, but also setting the mood of the entire film. As she reconciles her feelings of rejection and worthlessness the film warms with her. She is on camera almost the entire time, often in complete silence and always mesmerising. As a drunk acquaintance says over dinner with the Fontaines, "Juliette, always silent, always judging us."

The clever casting of Scott Thomas is just one of a series of perfect fits that Claudel has taken great care to achieve. The film is set in the North-Eastern city of Nancy, where both Claudel and Léa are professors of literature at the University. An offbeat regional setting serves well as the backdrop to his oddball outcast characters. Léa's football mad husband, her self-named "Benetton family" and well-placed disparaging comments about Parisians quietly reference the area's cultural tensions. To a British audience the film maintains its smoky French charm, without a hapless gamine or kitschy French



folk soundtrack in sight.

The realism continues with an excellent supporting cast, particularly the family. Zylberstein is an excellent match as sister, and particularly for younger sister, both visually and in temperament. Her sweetness and constant hope for reconciliation and redemption lifts the tone against the bleak reality of Juliette's actions. The effortlessly captured illusion of every day family life and sisterhood rocks bril-

liantly against the abnormality of Juliette's history. Family life comes complete with cuddly granddad figure and precocious children. The tiny Lise Ségur is nothing short of darling in her role as the eight year old P'tit Lys.

The quiet emotional resonance of this beautifully-constructed study of estrangement typifies the French sensibility towards filmmaking and will enhance the enigma of both Thomas and Claudel.

FILM: HOWTO LOSE FRIENDS & ALIENATE PEOPLE
 DIRECTOR: ROBERT B. WEIDE
 STARRING: SIMON PEGG
 KIRSTEN DUNST
 REVIEW: PETER MASSEY
 RUNTIME: 110 MINS



Based upon Toby Young's novel, chronicling his misguided attempts to succeed as a journalist in the US, this comedy employs just a little bit too much childish humour but manages to succeed on its own terms.

Simon Pegg, who by now must be the best in the world at playing charming losers, is perfectly cast as Sidney Young, a naïve, blundering journalist who is snapped up by one of New York's biggest celebrity magazines. His blunt manners, deluded egotism and an innate talent for creating embarrassing situations immediately make him unpopular. Only one fellow writer, played by the likeable Kirsten Dunst, shows him any signs of friendship.

Pegg's versatile facial muscles, earnest charm and sharp comic timing do very well to disguise this film's lack of consistent tone and its tendency towards puerile slapstick. One minute a gross-out farce, the next a fuzzy romcom, the script lacks the wit and refreshing realism which put Judd Apatow's movies at the head of this genre. *How To*

Lose Friends & Alienate People provides real laughs when it focuses on Pegg's buffoonery. The film does not need to resort to him falling off a swing, or the sight of a pig urinating at a party.

Other than Pegg, the film's standout is, surprisingly, Megan Fox. Fresh from *Transformers* and using her status as an up and coming Hollywood babe, she plays a hilariously vapid star who is inexplicably awarded a Best Actress award for playing Mother Teresa. Watching actors send themselves up is always a rich comic vein is always a safe bet that is used to full advantage.

Ultimately, *How To Lose Friends...* is not as sharp or satirical as it could have been, but as a comedy of errors or simply as a vehicle for Pegg, it works.

CLASSIC FILM: AKIRA
 DIRECTOR: KATSUHIRO ÔTOMO
 STARRING: MITSUO IWATA
 NOZOMU SASAKI
 REVIEW: LIAM O'BRIEN
 RUNTIME: 110 MINS



Credited with reviving the west's love of Japanese anime, *Akira* remains visually astonishing, but doesn't work completely as a piece of cinema. For anyone uninitiated in the manga upon which it is based, the plot is impenetrable beyond the one and a half hour mark. The soundtrack is both poor and obtrusively muscular, and expressing the 30-second periods of nervous, energised angst so common even in Studio Ghibli film is a task so far beyond the American voice actors that unkind comparisons to the riotous *Dragonball Z* can be reasonably formed.

The reverence *Akira* has enjoyed even in popular critical opinion has been earned, however. Even a first view of the film reveals the debt popular culture owes to its revolutionary aesthetic style.

Akira is two-thirds of a masterpiece, and succeeds when it explores the fears and idiosyncracies deeply embedded in Japanese culture. Memories of the atomic bombings and visions of future nuclear holocaust dominate the film's landscape, with the espers

(children with aged faces) representing genetically-altered victims of the fallout. Cultural emblems symbolic of the super-kawaii strain of the Shibuya district morph into monstrous toys bleeding milk, attempting to drown the motherless Tetsuo. Feral gangs lurk in the underground of city rotting after rapid economic growth.

Akira began the trend in both anime and western cinema (most notably in *The Matrix*) of emotional desolation within a city that looks alive but is, in reality, crumbling. The images of disembodied human remains merging with machinery and an over-medicated world on the brink of overspill endure in sci-fi and animated film today, but the ideas have never quite climaxed in as artful or brutal a way as they do in *Akira*.

What's On

For comprehensive listings and in-depth previews, check-out www.nouse.co.uk/whats-on

CAMPUSEVENTS

EVENT: SLAG AND DRAG
VENUE: DERWENT BAR
DATE: WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER
PRICE: £5 PRE-SALE, £5.50 OTD

Derwent's Freshers institution Slag and Drag is a guaranteed sell-out where the college's standard chart n' cheese musical selection collides with crap transvestism. Generally acknowledged as one of the year's most fun campus events, boys in basques and girls in next to nothing cavort to the sound of the Backstreet Boys and Rihanna. Doors open at 9 for a 2am finish. I'm taking off my chastity belt for the night to get into the spirit. Will Rich Croker make an appearance? Probably.

EVENT: VOLUME: PLANET POP
VENUE: VANBRUGH COLLEGE
DATE: THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER
PRICE: £6

Rebranded Vanbrugh events kick-off with a fab-looking school disco themed event featuring the delights of Lolly, the famous chanteuse responsible for 'Viva La Radio' and an orchestral version of 'Hey Mickey'. Will she mime? Let's hope so. Bottles courtesy of Vanbrugh bar available all night. This event is likely to be massive, with 'shag tag' blackboards, tuck shop, bike sheds, 3 rooms of music, themed cocktails, goodie bags and indiesoc involvement.



EVENT: ACCESS ALL AREAS
VENUE: CAMPUS-WIDE
DATE: SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER
PRICE: £8.50

In an event spread across all colleges (except bar-less James), Access All Areas provides something for everyone. Perennial favourite silent disco is in Alcuin, with Langwith turning into a club hosted by VK. Good old chart and cheese can be found in Vanbrugh and Derwent, with Vanbrugh also playing host to The Hair, who have supported Kaiser Chiefs. Wristbanding for the event starts at 7:30pm in Central Hall - get there early to avoid queues.

ARTS&PERFORMANCE

EVENT: WILLAM AND OCTAVIA
VENUE: DRAMA BARN
DATE: 16 - 19 OCTOBER
PRICE: £4.50 (£3.50 MEMBERS)

York Drama Society's prodigal sons Belt Up (Nothing to See/Hear) present this two-part fairy tale. Two plays, one written by Jethro Compton and the other by Alexander Wright, the company invite you to enter their world and release your imagination as roaming storytellers recount their fairy tales. This is the company that cleaned up the International Fringe Festival awards, so expect something big from their triumphal return to York and the Drama Barn.

EVENT: THE GIFT OF THE GORGON
VENUE: DRAMA BARN
DATE: 23-26 OCTOBER
PRICE: £4.50 (£3.50 MEMBERS)

Sarah Goddard brings her second play to York's Drama Barn; Peter Schaffer's *The Gift of the Gorgon*. This drama explores the tumultuous marriage between eccentric British playwright Edward Damson and his wife Helen. The conflict arises as Helen attempts to shape his themes to become less brutal and violent, and more pleasing to an audience. A firm believer of revenge as human's truest emotion, Edward resented her for it. Should be interesting...

EVENT: REVENGE
VENUE: YORK THEATRE ROYAL
DATE: 17-18 OCTOBER
PRICE: £5

Early morning. The birds are singing in the distance. There's a light ground mist across the countryside. Two men in black suits are paying their last respects. Or are they? This black comedy, written and directed by Sam Freeman, features two of York's finest actors, following ten different characters on the journeys of their lives. *Revenge* pieces and weaves together snapshots of lives into a story that's terrifying, dark and hilariously funny.

EVENT: THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
VENUE: DRAMA BARN
DATE: 30 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER
PRICE: £4.50 (£3.50 MEMBERS)

An all-star cast presents Arthur Miller's classic tragedy about Eddie Carbone - a good man fighting his destiny and himself. An involving and ultimately unsettling play. "Poignant, unsettling and beautifully, brutally real" says the promotional literature, and there is absolutely no reason that this cast, directed by Ed Duncan-Smith, the director of last term's *Pool (No Water) / Hot Stuff*, shouldn't achieve such great heights. In all probability, this will be a real winner.

LIVEMUSIC

EVENT: GONZO AFTERSHOW PARTY
VENUE: YORK FIBBERS
DATE: FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER
PRICE: £5

The MTV2 Gonzo Party featuring Foals sold out a good while ago, but tickets for the after-show party, featuring sets from Zane Lowe and inhouse Yo Yo Djs (who do a set every Friday night), are still available and look to be good value. This night looks to be a change from the usual mundane routine of York night, so if you've got any sense get your glad rags on and get down to Fibbers. As with all after-hours Fibbers events age ID is strictly required.

EVENT: JENNY LEWIS
VENUE: MANCHESTER ACADEMY
DATE: MONDAY 20 OCTOBER
PRICE: £12.50

Well worth a trip to Manchester for fans of folksy white-soul, Jenny Lewis is touring her sophomore album, *Acid Tongue*, after rave reviews of her debut effort, *Rabbit Fur Coat*. Lewis is the front woman for indie band Rilo Kiley before being persuaded by Bright Eyes' Conor Oberst to record a solo album. The second album is much more rock orientated and has attracted positive critical notes. Lewis is renowned for delivering heartfelt performances, not one to miss.

EVENT: TOWERS OF LONDON
VENUE: YORK FIBBERS
DATE: MONDAY 20 OCTOBER
PRICE: £9

Probably with the £9 for the belly laughs alone, Towers of London is the glam 70s-esque punk outfit that "dick on the Sex Pistols". Essentially famous for lead singer Donny Tourette's brief fling with Peaches Geldof (something which she now denies), his brief stint in *Celebrity Big Brother* and an equally short spell in vague, half-arsed media spotlight, expect rubbish music - see track 'I'm A Rat' for example - and a really, really unhealthy dose of egotism.

EVENT: HOT CHIP
VENUE: LEEDS ACADEMY
DATE: SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER
PRICE: £16.50

Festival favourites and capable of producing a mean DJ set, Hot Chip are live in Leeds Academy, a familiar surrounding to York students whose musical tastes extend beyond Peter Andre and the Fibbers programme. Both of their major label offerings were praised by critics and songs from their new album, currently in production, are expected to be showcased on this tour. Loved by scenesters and bespectacled bedroom DJs alike, the set should be a stormer.

CINEMA

EVENT: I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG
VENUE: YORK CITYSCREEN
DATE: FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER
PRICE: £4 - £7.50

The critically acclaimed directorial debut of French novelist Philippe Claudel, *I've Loved You So Long* is a quietly moving film starring Kristen Scott Thomas in a career-best performance. The character she plays, Juliette, spent 15 years in prison and emerges to be confronted with the unexpected kindness of her younger sister Léa, who makes Juliette a part of her family and helps melt her icy, estranged character. The film comes highly recommended by *Nouse's* film section.

EVENT: BURN AFTER READING
VENUE: ALL CINEMAS
DATE: FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER
PRICE: £4 - £7.50

The Coen brothers return to the big screen after an Oscar win for *No Country for Old Men* with the decidedly lighter *Burn After Reading*. Uniting a troupe of old Coen favourites with Brad Pitt should produce a comedy to match *O Brother Where Art Thou* rather than *The Ladykillers* - a rare misfire for Joel and Ethan. The film itself is about a disk containing the memoir of a CIA agent falling into the possession of two unscrupulous gym employees, who attempt to sell it.



EVENT: HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
VENUE: ALL CINEMAS
DATE: WEDNESDAY 22 OCT
PRICE: £4 - £7.50

Likely to be abysmal, but then cinematic excellence was never the point. After a shocking first outing that at least had the joyous 'We're Breaking Free' as mild reprieve, the second one had less catchy songs and attempted to introduce the issue of class divide in a move similar to Jordan shoe-horning rape into her novel *Crystal*. Trailers suggest that the third instalment, where the current crop of students thankfully graduate, is likely to be more of the same.



Last Word

24 hours to drink Moment of Zen

Well, well, well. Don't we just have ourselves a classic situation. Students, they want to drink. They want to drink 24 hours a day. There's a surprise. Adults, well, adults are a different kettle of badgers. Adults, they don't want students to drink 24 hours a day.

So far so, uh, shocking. Teenager Yusu - stupid name for a teenager, but whatever - wants to drink all night. Mummy University says no. Yusu the (assumedly bullied as a child) teenager tries to sneak out to go drinking behind mum's back. When they are dobbed in to mummy, the shit hits the fan. Mum rushes to get dad, who in this increasingly overstretched metaphor is represented by York City Council - just go with it - and asks him to put his foot down with the stroppy child. Time is short. In a grippingly tense finale, Pro-v-c for students Jack Bauer has just one hour to get the crucial message through to central control at York City Council, or a binge bomb of mammoth proportions is going to detonate right in the most heavily populated centre of campus.

will notice that we are now in an episode of 24.

Well spotted.
Blip.
Slightly higher blip.
Blip.
Slightly higher blip.
The following takes place between 4 and 5 PM.

Jack Bauer, dressed in a purple polo neck, is being briefed in Heslington Hall's counter-terrorism department, in the basement between the Press Office and the disabled toilet, room HH003b.

"It's a splinter cell. The Youth Undeniable Splinter U n d e r g r o u n d . YUSU for short.

They've got a bomb, known only as the 24-hour-bomb. You've got one hour to defuse it."

Voiceover, guest-read by Kiefer Sutherland: My name is Jack Bauer. There is nobody I can trust. There may be people within my own faculty working against me.

Jack Bauer has to get to town. Sprinting from Heslington Hall, he vaults Goodricke in a single bound. But YUSU are after him. In, uh, a helicopter. Diving into the underground passageways, Bauer makes it finally to town. He enters the doors of the office, and sees....

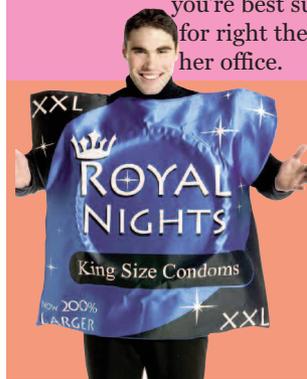
Blip.
Slightly higher blip.
Blip.
Slightly higher blip.

The next episode of 24 will start on E4 in 10 minutes.



Gingerly stepping out onto the untested ice of current affairs, listening for the creakings of satire

YUSU Ac and Welf officer Charlie Leyland is heading up a serious campaign. She reckons people are at risk from using the wrong-sized condoms. She has stocked up on loads of different sized ones and has a chart, so if you were so inclined you can find out which you're best suited for right there in her office.



Interesting fact, though: Each of Charlie Leyland's condom sizes have their own name. Nouse's intrepid news editor did not know what the largest were called, but reliably and enthusiastically informed me that the smallest are called "trim".

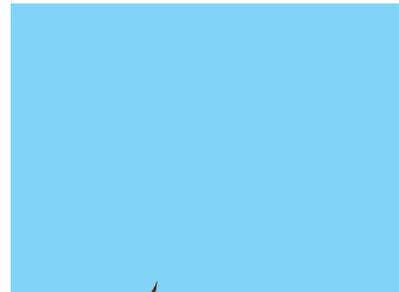
Campus has a new society: Tanning Soc. "You can drink yourself to your desired skin tone!", promises the facebook group. "with an orange VK fountain! And remember...no matter what people might tell you, you can never be too tanned."



Tom Langrish is one of this University's most respected campus politicians. A YUSU powerhouse. Therefore, it pains MoZ to have to reveal his dark fetish: at weekends, he and his fellow inane-children's-tv-related-perversion buddies frolic sexily in fields, dressed as Teletubbies.*

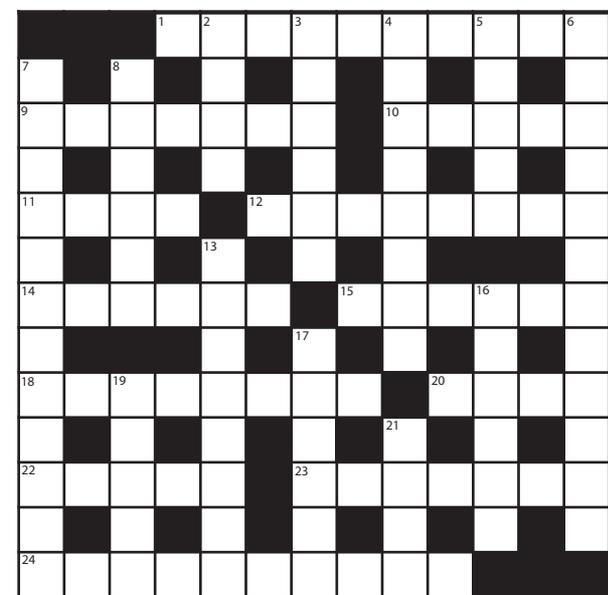
In what's being called an attempt to "mingle with the little people", Matt Burton and Rory Shanks were spotted on Sunday behind the tills of Your:Shop. MoZ has two theories. Either they're on work experience, or they're filling their pockets to the brim with liquor to save on Langwith Bar costs. It'll be here soon. Honest.

*Sorry, Tom. We saw the picture and couldn't help ourselves.



If you have any juicy tidbits or gossip to share, send them to:
socs12@york.ac.uk

Nouse Crossword



Crossword compiled by Dexter

- 23. Financial black hole, frozen food store (7)
- 24. Placing side by side (10)

Down

- 2. Remove centre of fruit (4)
- 3. Slanted lettering (6)
- 4. First to arrive (8)
- 5. African tribe (5)
- 6. Subject of Tennyson poem (12)
- 7. Bang, slurp (examples) (7-5)
- 8. Organisation (6)
- 13. Oxford college (8)
- 16. US President (6)
- 17. Unavailing attempt (6)
- 19. Nautical term, just clear of the bottom (5)
- 21. Mother of Apollo (4)

Across

- 1. Without motive (10)
- 9. West African country (7)
- 10. Affix label again (5)
- 11. Lion's ____, long hair (4)
- 12. Nietzsche (8)
- 14. World's second largest car manufacturer (6)
- 15. Shylock's profession (6)
- 18. Precious metal (8)
- 20. Indian spinach based dish (4)
- 22. English King 946-955AD (5)



Answers available on www.nouse.co.uk/crossword

Political correctness gone AWOL

HARRIET ARSCOTT

Studentification laws are flawed and impractical



Sarah Foster
Contributing
Writer

If there's one thing that has annoyed me in the last two years, it's the increasing ridiculous stereotype of the student, which seems to haunt me at every turn. No Christmas holiday goes by without my uncle mentioning I must be enjoying the dinner he's cooked as everyone knows all students exist entirely off a diet of pizzas and pot noodles. I politely inform him that I've never eaten pot noodle, imbibed my weight in lager nightly or refused to wash my bedsheets for months.

In short, I am not this grotesque slob whom it appears most people believe occupies every university in the country. I am just a regular human being, with normal eating, washing and (mostly) drinking habits. For this reason I found myself once again disappointed by the news that the government wish to limit student accommodation. "They think we're all monsters," I moaned into my cup of Earl Grey.

But contrary to popular belief, the government aren't afraid that certain areas of cities will be overrun by wild students. The fear instead is one stereotype which we're all guilty of; we all go home from time to time. They worry that student exodus during holidays turns whole areas of university cities into ghost towns.

It is a legitimate point. I

arrived in York a month before term started, and from the lack of friends about it would seem that the number of empty houses in the city of York between the months of July to October is pretty high. The government claims that this is just not acceptable, and certainly not when whole areas are left empty throughout the summer months. Apparently unoccupied houses just don't look as pretty as occupied ones and empty houses can lead to an increase of petty crime and vandalism.

Yet it seems completely absurd to legislate in an attempt to sort out this problem, particularly in places like York which already have a very limited amount of student friendly areas. We're spreading ourselves out as well as we can, but as most of us have no access to a mode of transport more advanced than a bicycle, there are very few places that make sense to live in. Vandalism may well increase in areas with unoccupied houses, but the vandals won't suddenly forget their urge to destroy when they see that there are lights on in all the buildings.

Nor can you rely on aestheticism to strengthen your argument. 'To let' signs are a bit ugly, and if you haven't trimmed the hedges for a while because you've not been living there for a few months your house might look a bit neglected, but can we really put 'prettiness' ahead of our right to live wherever we want to live? We need a roof over our heads. I mean, how else will we be able to watch Neighbours twice a day?



The good news: YUSU President Tom Scott has dropped his silly pirate act. Forget his West Country chat and his creepy band of followers. It may have won him the election, but now he is trying to do the job properly, with maturity and - no doubt - aplomb. The bad news? He has failed already.

Racism is heinously offensive. Racist 'jokes', therefore, are base. Yet at a National Union of Students (NUS) training seminar held on York's campus over the summer, a "Bring Back Slavery" poster was held up by an NUS officer.

It is reassuring to know that the officer was not from York. (It was in fact Craig Cox from the University of Nottingham.) But it is not at all reassuring to hear our YUSU President's response to the situation, quoted in the national press. He said: "The student involved was frankly poking people to see if he could get a response which worked - but I don't think there was any malice intended."

Come again? Someone has displayed a blatantly racist slogan on our campus, and the official response from Tom Scott is lame talk about 'poking' fun and no 'malice intended'.

Sadly, though, it gets worse. In the same training seminar, one union officer is said to have warned that in a university environment, a higher number of black students would "increase gun and knife crime so require more security." Again, after an NUS Black Students group complaint, we have Tom Scott's less than com-

prehensive answer. "There is a lot of political correctness in the union."

Scott is the representative of the student body at York. So, the question we should ask is this: has he effectively represented our opinions to the national media? Surely not. We are not a racist university. We are not even the sort of university which disdains 'political correctness'. And we need a President who can effectively communicate that to the outside world and, significantly, to prospective students.

Black prospective students should apply to York in the knowledge that there is no place for racists on campus. YUSU must work to increase diversity and ensure that no students feel prejudiced. Importantly, it should do this publicly. That we are a progressive, tolerant university should be no secret to anyone.

Tom Scott is not a racist. Indeed, by all accounts he is a thoroughly nice person. But he should forget "PC" and concentrate his efforts on something entirely different: PR.

Will Heaven
Contributing
Writer



Tom Scott has failed to represent York students to the national media.

To be a part of the debate and for exclusive web content go to www.nouse.co.uk/comment

Ugly, expensive and environmentally challenged

Lida Mirzaii
Contributing
Writer



The University is more talk than action when it comes to renewable energy.

Heslington East is no stranger to controversy. Since being proposed almost three years ago it has caused ripples of fear amongst the campus community. It appears that, once built, current departments will suffer, the University will shamefully plummet to the depths of obscurity in the Good University guide, and, to top it all off, it'll be ugly. Now environmentally unfriendly can be added to the list.

The planning committee refused to approve the expansion of the Theatre, Film and Television building due to a lack of an energy plan, urging the university to show evidence of how they will utilise renewable energy. Councillor Christian Vassie went as far as to say he is "hopping mad and

embarrassed by the shocking lack of interest that appears to be shown, by one of the leading academic institutions, in renewable energy."

And he has a valid point. Back in 2006, York

"The lacklustre response shows a lack of foresight."

hosted a major international conference on green innovation, which was organised by the University's Green Chemistry group.

Propounded as a "golden opportunity to put green innovation on the world stage" in the University of

York press release, the conference set out to showcase pioneering products and research in the sphere of renewable energy. It is highly hypocritical of the University to use such rhetoric to bolster its status as an innovator in environmental research and sustainability, whilst failing to bring this concept to its ultimate fruition.

A "golden opportunity" would surely be Heslington East itself, and given the current global push to combat climate change, the lacklustre response shows a lack of foresight, especially when other universities in the UK and abroad are striving to be seen as eco-friendly institutions.

Durham University has recruited a deputy director for sustainability, and

Harvard implemented a Green Campus Initiative that saved the institution £100,000 in the first year.

Comparatively, York is more talk than substance. Director of facilities, Keith Lilley, has failed to provide any evidence that a 'holistic' approach is being taken which would include an energy centre to cover both the new and old campus. The University's vision of sustainability to "promote and secure energy efficiency", is obviously reserved for its literature on sustainable development rather than practical implementation.

There are the usual stigmas surrounding renewable energy, which hinder its implementation. It can be argued that the variable nature of renewable energy does not make it reliable in

powering an energy intensive centre such as film and television. But the council is only asking the University to fulfill its own target of using 10% renewable energy in its development.

The discourse of climate change has become a popular and often vacuous tool to appeal to a growing market of concern. It's no surprise that the Lib Dems seem to be waving the eco-friendly baton, but even if Vassie doesn't have his own compost heap, it's the University's which attract research and expertise to develop green policies.

York should be astute enough to see the potential Heslington East has in this field. If the University wants to reach its 10% renewable energy target it better start showing some commitment.

Venetia Rainey Goes way back

Another year, another new group of students on campus. Poor things, for they must now go through the torturous process of realising just where they have ended up: a real life 60's movie set.

Deemed, 'the most architecturally interesting of the new universities' by The Spectator, and plain old 'ugly' by both the Queen and the Lord Mayor, York's opening in 1964 was not well received. Nouse's only defence of the campus in 1965 was that, 'it is the most revolutionary of any of the new universities'. Revolutionary, sure, if by that one means aesthetically-induced dissent amongst the masses, or a sudden uprising of the SAD disease. That said, Central Hall was originally intended to have a 'strong nautical flavour', even before the surrounding 'plastic swimming pool' was added, which, in view of its actual appearance, is pretty revolutionary.

These were not the only charges laid on York's doorstep. 'A damp squid', declared Varsity, 'abysmally inactive and torpid', screamed Nouse. Furthermore, it was noted that 'a disturbing proportion of undergraduates in this university appear to be suffering from chronic intellectual constipation. Manifestations of this condition of galloping inertia are so numerous...' that all academic excretory exercises have been postponed until further notice. Maybe not.

Clearly university expectations were based on a very different set of criteria than today. A student is more likely to criticise a university for lack of nightlife or "fitties" than be heard complaining about a 'missing dynamism and drive... there's liberalism but no life.'

Strange, how over 40 years later, the gripes of the average York student have evolved so very little. Consequentially, statements from 1965 seems equally applicable in 2008: 'First years will probably react badly against the parochialism of York, its smallness, pettiness and inertia...' Well at least now you know you won't be the first.



Letters

Nouse welcomes your letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication. Email letters@nouse.co.uk or write to:

Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Parking on campus is getting ridiculous

Dear Nouse,

I've recently moved to Acomb, a decision that my housemates and I decided would be worth the rent saved because I owned my own car. For the whole of my first year I left it at home and found it very difficult to deal with. The buses in York are very expensive for the distance that they travel and if I ever wanted to go somewhere further afield like Monk's Cross, it would mean more than one bus trip.

But having my car in York has not solved my problems. While I now have much more freedom to travel around the city, things have not got any better when it comes to travelling to campus. Sure, I'm willing to drive my two housemates to campus when they need to get there, but there are just no places for me to park on campus.

I've almost given up on ever finding a place to park, because often it would mean parking a long walk away from my department. Over the summer we ended up resorting to the number four bus to get to campus, and I imagine that parking will be ever more difficult when term has started.

Most people do live near to campus, but as the number of students increases, and will increase even more after Heslington East opens, more and more of us are going to live further away from campus, and will need some way to get to campus. This is an issue that I think the uni just needs to address, we need a place to park.

Martin O'Connor
Second year Biology student

Shortchanged again

Dear Nouse,

I am writing to express my dismay at the rising cost of gym membership. While I was impressed with the improvements that have been made to the sports centre in recent months, I do not think that they alone can justify such a huge increase in gym costs for the year. In addition to this, the cost of hiring out courts for tennis is no longer included in the cost of year long membership. While I am aware that the sports centre is still much cheaper than the Next Generation gym, at least the facilities there are much better than current available to the students. I have friends at other universities who not only have the cost of their gym membership included in their university fees, but also have much better facilities than we do, like an indoor running track and a swimming pool. I am just fed up with the lack of facilities here!

Katie Rivers
Third year Management student

Congratulations York

Dear Nouse,

I would like to congratulate the whole Nouse team on the stunning array of nominations in this years Guardian awards. It's a great asset to our University to have the student newspaper regarded so highly by national journalists and I'm sure you're all hopping with joy at the prospect of being the best student newspaper in the country!

The past year has seen some top quality feature articles and kept the student body up to date on important issues on campus. There have been some corkers, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood incident being my personal favourite, and who can forget the tense race for YUSU president? I'm sure this is what you've all been working towards, and as much as awards don't really matter, it's nice to be noticed. Looking forward to another great year for news, not only for Nouse but all the student newspapers about.

Steve Thompson
Second year Archaeology student

Best of the web

Times league table

Jason Rose (August 10 2008, at 22:14)

Nobody thinks that the Times Guide is accurate and the new ranking system is deliberately engineered to make "their" type of universities seem better, according to the common conspiracy theory. In which case it is irrelevant how we rank but how we either get prospective students to make their choice or how we change the way in which universities are ranked. It seems strange to me that we should be down there. I've never seen St Andrew's ranked higher than us on a good league table.

Their graduate prospects and student satisfaction are the only things higher - by their own rankings we're the better at educating and researching, and even spend more (though I'm not sure why that is the criteria. Spending isn't always reflective of quality).

Student Education (August 6 2008, at 7:24)

Yes, I've looked at these stats, and while they may be statistically accurate, many of the Education Studies are limited to specific factors. For example; if you look at what the rankings are based on, you have to base that information against every other university. That's assuming this is what is most important to that individual. So if my preference is finding a good all round University that has a very good Student Education Finance program, then it's clear to see where my priority of choosing a university will be.

Steve (June 20 2008, at 12:09)

Excellent news - and with the sports centre refurb we could go higher again next year seeing as York is always disadvantaged by the lack of money in which it spends on facilities.

From 'University rises seven spots in Times league table'. Comment at nouse.co.uk.

Little campus: Big Mouth...

A new batch of freshers mean new opinions from Big Mouth. We asked you your first impressions of the University and what you're looking forward to in the coming year.

Name: Mel Callaghan
College: Langwith
Year: First
Subject: French, Spanish and Linguistics



“ I'm so excited to be at York. It's a really nice campus, which is the main reason I applied here. I absolutely loved the campus the first time I saw it and am really looking forward to the Summer here. I'm really psyched about meeting loads of new people and I'm really impressed with the accommodation, so nothing to moan about yet! I was first put into Goodricke but asked to move because I was sharing a room. So I'm really glad to be at Langwith and it looks really sociable. Can't wait to go to the fresher's ball and get all dressed up! ”

Name: Adam
College: Massingerd-Mandy
College: Derwent
Year: First
Subject: History



“ Well I applied to York mainly because it offers a really good History degree, and for the ducks, of course. I was pretty impressed when I first visited here on the open day and so far I'm happy with my accommodation and everyone seems friendly enough. It's true that Derwent isn't the prettiest college from the outside but it has a great atmosphere and it'll feel a lot better when I've settled in. I'm already looking forward to getting outrageously drunk, as all freshers are, going to all the freshers events and, now, being in the paper! ”

Name: Helen
Williams
College: Derwent
Year: First
Subject: Environment



“ I was recommended to come to York by my professor back home in Germany. It's one of the best universities for my subject and that was definitely the most important thing when I was looking at potential universities. I didn't get to see the campus before I came here. but I'm pleasantly surprised. I didn't expect it to be this green and pretty! I'm looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends here, also to getting on with my degree. It's exciting to be studying in England, and hope the course is as good as my professor said it would be. ”

Name: Rebecca James
College: Alcuin
Year: First
Subject: Education Studies



“ I'm so happy with my accommodation, I've heard Alcuin is the prettiest accommodation in the uni so I was pretty lucky. Everyone thinks the campus is really pretty, and it is, the building works are annoying though. Don't really know much about what is happening this freshers week! But I'm looking forward to joining comedy soc and can't wait to get involved. Chocolate society is another thing that I can't wait to do, I hope there are free trips with all these societies! Overall I'm happy with my choice and think its going to be a great week. ”



Polly Ingham

Political Edge

Life in the midst of a drugs war



Josie Whittle
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

"IT IS AS IF we are living in a horror film when we see the violence," says Monica, 26, who lives in Tijuana, a city on the Mexico/United States border. It is a place infamous as a drug smuggling hot spot. "We had thought that those who stayed out of 'these things' were safe but now it is not the case. People are cautious about going out at night; young people feel it is better to meet in houses."

The expression 'war on drugs' is a familiar one used by tough-talking politicians. For Mexicans however, a government-led crack down on the drugs trade has meant that this is now a terrifying reality.

Mexico acts as the gateway between Central and South America and the biggest consumer of their drug production - the United States. The production and distribution of narcotics is controlled by several major drug trafficking organisations, or cartels. They operate in different areas of the country, which exercise

24,000 soldiers and federal police have been sent to areas of peak gang activity

huge amounts of power and influence over Mexican society.

Until as recently as the late 1990s the Government and cartels had a very close relationship, which saw the Government involved in agreements regarding the trafficking and distribution of drugs across Mexico and the U.S. However, the elections in 2000 saw Mexicans vote in President Vicente Fox who campaigned on an anti-corruption platform. The pacts, deals and agreements between government and cartels were broken.

The current Mexican

President, Calderon, launched the battle against the drug cartels in 2006. The initiative has involved sending 24,000 soldiers and federal police to exercise control in the areas where rival cartels are particularly powerful. However, this has had an adverse effect on citizens living in these regions. Albert, 29, also lives in Tijuana. "I'm feeling extremely insecure. Seeing the Mexican Army in the streets in Tijuana makes me feel like we're in a state of war".

Although the fighting has been between the cartels and the authorities, recent actions by the gangs seem to be deliberately endangering civilians. In Morelia grenades were thrown into a crowd celebrating Independence Day. Bodies have been found showing signs of torture and with warning notes attached to them. Human heads have been thrown onto a crowded dance floor in Uruapan. Such terror tactics are targeted at intimidating civilians, involving them in the conflict.

"Mexicans want a change of plan," Monica says about the Government's strategy. The peaceful protests and marches that have taken place across Mexico are a testament to this, with demonstrators clad in white taking to the streets to voice their desire for an end to the incessant killings.

Albert expressed his frustration with the government. "I grew up with the old regime and like most Mexicans who wanted a change, supported the new government. They have been more than eight years in the Executive and there are no changes; the political class is corrupted to the bone. I can tell you that the situation is even worse".

The country, it seems, is breathing a momentary, but significant sigh of relief, preventing our hearts from beating with credit crunch anxiety, as we finally decide to rally behind our Prime Minister.

We have called for decisive leadership, and this week it has been delivered in abundance. Even the distinctive silence of the Conservatives shows that Labour have placed a foot on firmer ground among the dangerously boggy terrain flooded by the global economic crisis.

Despite initial statements suggesting that this extraordinary situation is no time for public relations, Brown has pulled through with transparency and gravitas, giving the country the injection of patriotic spirit we so desperately needed.

But, what would've happened if, as his opponents desired, his leadership and authority had been publicly 'debated' and torn apart? The past month has seen a distressing lack of party unity, but the

"It is this solidarity that must remain, for now and for crises to come"

renewed solidarity only serves to highlight the narrowly averted disaster of a leaderless and disintegrated government.

It is this solidarity that must remain, for now and for crises to come. We cannot continue to hound our leader to such an extent and then expect him to continue fighting on our behalfs; party and public alike.

Absolutely no-one will benefit from the removal of Gordon Brown at this juncture, and no-one is going to congratulate the dissenter as they cheer "I told you so" from the side-lines. However, the loyalist must be rewarded for remaining strong when the going gets tough.

It should never have been necessary for Harriet Harman to condemn her colleagues' grumblings against their leader publicly. The strategically situated mediators between the party nucleus and the peripherals, who momentarily forgot the role of political parties within our system, and are now rightly suffering the consequences.

One political journalist last week griped that the outstretched hand of Brown's intervening state "will be clung to by a grateful public, much as the drowning cling to a life raft in storm-tossed waters." But if we continue pelt the captain's cabin, it will be all we can do to watch this boat sink along with the economic beacon it carries.

'Soft' A-level replacements criticised

Chris Etheridge
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT PLANS to make vocational and academic diplomas available as A-level alternatives have been criticised by MPs.

20,000 students have already started the courses this September and university admissions offices have said that those who opt for the vocational diplomas will find it harder to apply for places on academic courses.

Connie Cullen, Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment at the University of York, said that they would welcome and recognise the new qualification but believed that "any student with a vocational qualification would find it hard to apply for an academic subject such as English.

"We would always expect specific requisites for a subject to be fulfilled," she continued.



Ed Balls wants the diplomas to be the "qualification of choice"

This was echoed by Oxford University, which said that there needed to be minimum academic achievements in order for candidates to be suitable.

Diplomas have initially been offered in five practical subjects - media, health, engineering, con-

struction, and ICT - with plans for 12 more to be introduced by 2013.

Schools' Secretary Ed Balls said he wanted the diplomas to become the "qualification of choice", with government ministers refusing to guarantee the future of A levels and GCSEs.

MPs' fears that the new qualifications will be seen as 'soft' by both universities and employers is also supported by the Public Accounts Committee.

General views are that the new diplomas would be undermined by private schools which traditionally opt for academic exams. There would be a threat of a split into a two-tier system of qualifications that would give independent school pupils an advantage in university applications.

A review of all courses for 14 - 19 year olds is due in 2013, and could spell the end of the current qualification system. Last month the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) inspectors gave the scheme a favourable report but recognised that it was necessary to "build on this with the introduction of more apprenticeships, raising the age young people stay in training and education, and improving choice post-16".

The beckoning call of student politics

Keen anorak or just a little curious?
James Townsend talks about the ins and outs of campus political groups, with something to suit everybody.

The University of York's political scene is one of the most active and exciting in the country. There is a raft of societies, activities, events, and publications which provide for pretty much all political appetites.

Student politics has a reputation for being charged with excitement, intensity, and passion. There haven't been many politically motivated riots at York in recent years, nor are there likely to be in the future. In fact a lot of the debate might at first appear fairly tame. But do not be fooled! Alongside the more presentable side of the political scene, there is no shortage of radicals, nutters and anoraks to get meaty debate started - you just have to know where to find it.

First port of call for many people will be the major political parties, all of which are represented at the YUSU Fair. I'm sure it is tempting bitter recrim-

inations to provide a detailed description of each of them, but here is a cautious attempt: Lib Dems will find an intimate but devoted group of party faithful who are focussed on supporting the local party. Similarly, York Labour Club are dedicated campaigners out on the doorstep, but they also bring good speakers to campus. Being the party of government, they also have exquisite access to high-ranking ministers.

The Tories might not always be in complete concurrence with their party leadership on matters of policy, but they can always be relied upon to ensure a good night out and host debates every week. Most often seen at Ziggy's dressed in exotic costume.

For those not comfortable committing to a part just yet, the NGS provides a welcoming alternative. Described by some as the king of speaker events, they were the largest political

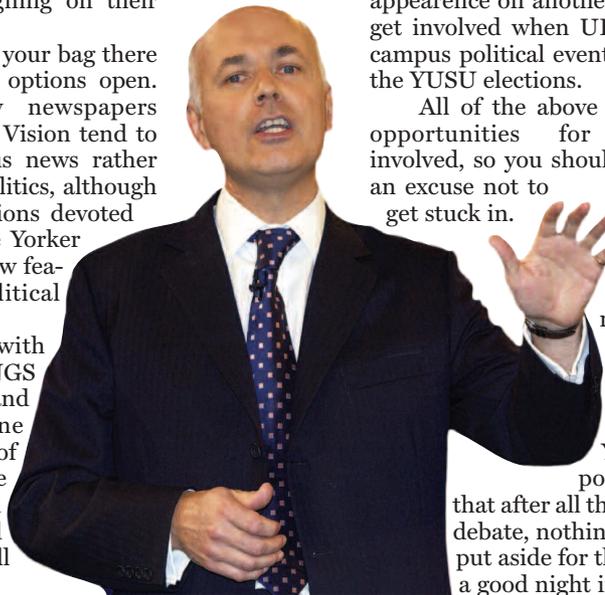
group last year. The weekly 'Thinking & Drinking' events are good fun, and are always thought-provoking but can get a little slurred late into the night.

In addition to these there is a highly active group of special-interest groups like Oxfam, Amnesty International, and People and Planet. Unlike the political groups these guys are less focussed on speaker events and debates. Instead they roll up their sleeves and get busy actively campaigning on their own projects.

If writing is your bag there are quite a few options open. The University newspapers Nouse and York Vision tend to focus on campus news rather than national politics, although all do have sections devoted to just that. The Yorker carries quite a few features on political issues.

Together with this the NGS Journal online and Vox, a magazine run by the club of PEP, include articles from politicians and academics as well as students.

Iain Duncan Smith MP was one of the speakers to visit York last year



YSTV have often made attempts to get a current affairs programme off the ground, but unfortunately haven't managed it in recent years - perhaps a chance for some visionary fresher to make their mark this year?

The other broadcaster, campus radio station URY, have a good selection of discussion shows from the intense to the rather more flippant. Running your own show can be a lot of work, so if that does not take your fancy, try and make an appearance on another show or get involved when URY cover-campus political events such as the YUSU elections.

All of the above are great opportunities for getting involved, so you shouldn't have an excuse not to get stuck in.

The most attractive thing about the way York does politics is that after all the intense debate, nothing can't be put aside for the sake of a good night in Ziggy's.

POLITICS AT YORK

University of York Conservatives

yorktories.info
Chair: Matthew Kilburn

New Generation Society

newgenerationsociety.com
Chair: Amy Cumming

University of York Labour Club

labour@yusu.org
Chair: David Levene

University of York Liberal Democrats

libdems@yusu.org
Chair: Laura Cooney

York Amnesty International

yorkamnesty.com
Chairs: Lydia Paget
Suzanne Runacres

People and Planet

peopleandplanet@yusu.org
Chair: Robyn Heather

Oxfam

oxfam.org.uk
Chair: Emily Cousins

Socialist Students (University of York)

socialists@yusu.org
Chair: George Papadofragakis

Vision



The tree contains three equilateral triangles.
Move three blocks to get four

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NOUSE

Nouse is the University of York's longest running newspaper and the only one to be nominated for Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year 2008. Nouse received more Guardian nominations than any student paper in Britain.

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Ourselves to blame: Clegg on the EU

Nick Clegg believes he can change the way people view politics. **Peter Campbell** talks to the leader of the Liberal Democrats about students, Europe and the possibility of forming a government in the future

Nick Clegg is a man who has viewed Britain from three perspectives. He has been a journalist in America, a heavily involved member of the EU Liberals, and now resides as leader of the Liberal Democrats in Parliament.

Despite having counted himself out of the 2006 Liberal Democrat leadership contest saying he was “a rookie MP who had barely arrived”, he became leader just one year later. “I had a baptism of fire as the Home Affairs spokesman”, he laughs. “Once I’d done battles with bruisers such as John Reid and Charles Clarke I learned a lot about how the system works.”

During his five years as an MEP Clegg wrote a fortnightly column in the Guardian, which he privately admits that he now misses. He deplored a misrepresentation of the EU itself by the media. “I keep hearing that the EU is taking control away from us. I actually see it as the other way around!” He argues that an independent Britain would be helpless in tackling climate change, asylum immigration, or trade with America. “America will listen, because the EU is the largest single market in the world. Would they listen to us – a much smaller economic being? By doing things together we’re getting more bangs for our bucks.”

“I’m pro-EU but I’m extremely aware of the things that don’t work: any body that takes 15 years to decide on the

“Our government holds the purse strings in a more centralised fashion than any other country except Malta.”

Chocolate Directive is not a model of good governance.”

It is almost impossible to avoid the Lisbon Treaty. Clegg, however, blames the Conservatives for hindering a more important issue. “It seems that a lot of them just want to get out of the EU: They should have the courage of their convictions to say so. A lot of fuss has built up because we have not had the major debate – not some technical legalistic debate about one treaty versus another.”

At home, Clegg feels the public has been let down. “We have a system that is not democratic, not transparent, over-centralised, and unfair. Our



Nick Clegg believes he is the man who can restore people’s confidence in British politics by bringing about desperately needed change

Government holds the purse strings in a more centralised fashion than any other country except Malta.” He pauses. “Now Malta, is the size of Croydon.”

This is all the more worrying because of government inefficiency. “Gordon Brown always wrings his hands and says how awful it is and never does anything! The government are marching robotically ahead with this idea that all they have to do is to cut costs.”

Clegg desperately seeks to get more people interested in politics. “I’ve been leader of the Lib Dems for six or seven months and what has struck me is the degree to which politics is held in such a low esteem. In the 2001 general election more people didn’t vote than voted for the party who won.” He offers a radical solution. “As long as there’s a box saying ‘none of the above’, then it should be a civic duty to vote.”

Aside from opposition to Iraq and top-up fees, not many people could list what the Lib Dems stand for. Clegg outlines specific policies on housing, fuel costs, and funding for students.

He supports his con-

cerns with statistics, saying that there are now six million people on the social housing waiting list. “Just dumping a housing development in the middle of the countryside is not a solution. We have put to the government new plans to allow local governments to buy up new stock to replenish our social housing.”

Clegg is also concerned that many will be unable to heat their homes this winter. While he admits no magic wand solution exists, he sees a possible solution. “The Government handed the energy companies a

£9bn subsidy. Spain have clawed back €1bn by forcing those companies to recycle those subsidies in installing smart metres, offering social tariffs to low-income families, and large insulation programs.”

With a constituency in Sheffield, he encounters lots of students. “What people say to me again and again is that the real crippling factor is debt. There’s still a plague on the fees for full-time undergraduates.”

While Clegg is meticulously briefed, quoting all figures and details from memory, he suffers from one key setback -

his likeness to David Cameron. The two are almost identical in background and education. An audio recording could easily pass for the Tory leader.

Finally, he addresses the issue that may be the most important politically: Can the Liberal Democrats win a general election under Clegg? “I’ve always said that my ambition is to double the number of MPs we have in two elections. If we succeed, then we will change the rules of the game forever.”

NGS is hosting a Nick Clegg meeting on October 30

IN HIS OWN WORDS

On asylum seekers: “In all the headlines and all the ‘Ya-boo’, people forget that they are actually dealing with human beings. The basis for an asylum system should be fairness but also effectiveness, and we’ve got the worst of both worlds.”

On Russia: “Russia are behaving appallingly, bullying people, countries near Russia, using gas and

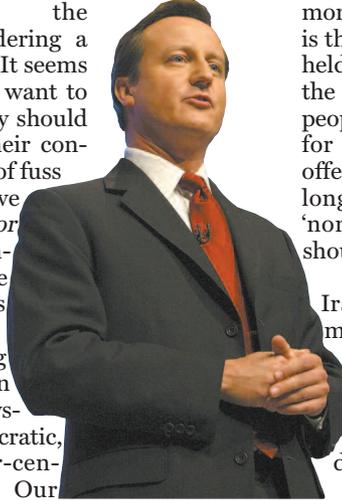
petrol as blackmail, slipping into a cold war mentality.”

On the EU: “What has got lost is the fundamental idea, which is this; we live in a world where there are just so many things that we cannot do on our own.”

On green politics: “We need to completely change the way we do business. At the minute you have

got a tax system that basically hits income but doesn’t hit pollution. We have got to completely change that round”

On war: “I don’t think we should have a referendum on war, but instead there should be a free vote by MPs. This will stop the shocking way in which people were duped by shocking images persuading them to go to war in Iraq.”





Matthew Jeynes

York's late starting date leaves our sports teams at a serious disadvantage in BUCS

Every year it is the same. Every year York teams are forced to play matches while at a huge disadvantage. Why? Because York insists on starting their terms after everyone else. Most clubs begin their campaigns this Saturday, before most Freshers have even started to recover from their Freshers' Week hangover.

The Men's Lacrosse 1sts even had to return over a week early to play a North of England Men's Lacrosse Association fixture on Saturday 4th. Fortunately, they were playing a weak Hull team and they thrashed them 17-2, but the fact that they had to return that early just isn't right. And now the merger of BUSA and UCS, and the subsequent rearrangement of the league system, has put the final nail in the coffin.

In previous years, the AU had managed to rearrange BUSA matches that were unfairly early for our teams because the BUSA format was a league, followed by a cup competition in the Spring term.

However, now that BUSA has transformed into BUCS, the league and cup



York's late start gives the teams less time to train and re-familiarise themselves with each-other before games

competitions now run concurrently. So, whereas the cup competition used to be for the top teams in their leagues, it now runs as an FA-cup type competition, in which every team is entered and has to work their way through the rounds.

This means that there

will now be more fixture congestion, making it harder to rearrange early matches, and the congestion will no doubt disadvantage York teams later in the term.

What makes the problem even worse in the eyes of York's sportsmen and women is that few of them

really know why we start so late. Even the AU President isn't sure, believing it to just be a tradition that would take too much effort to change.

Another reason given is that we start late to allow time to squeeze in more conferences, which the

University organise to subsidise their income while our students are on holiday.

Whatever the reason, the situation needs to change. Who would honestly prefer to have a ridiculously long summer holiday, and only 3 weeks at Christmas? A five-week Christmas holiday

makes far more sense.

But the main benefit would be to the sports teams, who will finally be able to actually hold trials before they begin their BUCS campaigns, and will avoid the awkward fixture congestion that results from having to re-arrange matches.

It is time for us, the students, to make our voices heard. It is the start of a new year, the Athletics Union has been re-branded as York Sport, and we have an AU President who genuinely wants to take the fight to the University over improvements. It is time for a new start.

We need to press the University to change our late start. And while we have their attention, we must press them over better facilities, in particular a new running track. The track that we have is barely worthy of the name. The fact that College Sports Days take place on it every year without major injuries is nothing short of astonishing. We are now forced to pay £40 for AU membership and for the sports centre. It's about time we started getting value for money.

£1m centre refurbishment nears completion

Criss Noice
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK'S SPORTING facilities have been subject to a £980,000 total investment over the summer months, marking the first major improvement in the area since its inception in the sixties. The developments include completion of a second floor in the gymnasium and a £120,000 resurfacing project on the JLD astroturf pitch.

Director of Commercial Services Jon Greenwood says of the project: "It's about time that we invested in sport at York, it's been a long time since we've spent money on the area so it's well overdue. I've had full support from the AU in the project, and everyone has been working together to make the sports centre the best it can be".

In the sports centre itself, a brand new reception area has been



Eventual winners Vanbrugh defeating James in the first semi-final

constructed with turnstiles, an extended staff area and a floor designed to emulate that of a running track. The changing rooms

have been overhauled to allow for more space with updated shower facilities and the temperature regulation problems experienced on the

CRISS NOICE

second floor of the fitness suite have been overcome with added air conditioning units. Also, several portraits of York students playing sport are displayed across the centre in walkways and reception areas.

However, despite the improvements, several parts of the centre have been left untouched - including the running track and the outdoor netball courts, which last year were deemed too dangerous to play on by team captains.

Sports Centre staff have confirmed that there are no current plans to develop the areas, although acting Sports and Recreation manager Rena Quarton is not ruling out development in the near future: "We're currently at the start of the financial year and although nothing has been decided yet, there's every possibility that we'll further update the facilities. The current investment has been

focused on the highest priority areas for students at the University."

Current annual membership charges are set at £180 a year, although an off peak membership has been introduced which allows students to use the facilities between 7.30am and 3pm, saving them £48 a year.

Sports Centre membership has been combined with YorkSport (formerly Athletic Union) membership, resulting in a £40 initial payment for any student wishing to join a sports team or use the Sports Centre facilities.

The increased costs of fitness centre membership have come under fire from AU President Alex Lacy: "I feel that they have made a mistake with the price of their gym memberships, it simply isn't competitive with other gyms in the area and I fear the possible loss in revenue may damage the chances of further investment in sport."

Wednesday night change for sports clubs

Criss Noice
SPORTS EDITOR

THE RECENTLY renamed York Sport (formerly the Athletic Union) headed by Alex Lacy has agreed a deal with newly opened club Salvation to hold their Wednesday night events as part of a mutually beneficial project.

Salvation owners hope to establish the same fondness for its venue that current Wednesday night haunt Ziggy's currently enjoys, while York Sport aims to inject some of the revenue gained in ticket sales back into individual clubs.

The format of the evening has been created solely to cater for Sports teams, with exclusive deals being agreed in Derwent bar for players looking to check up on the day's results. Derwent, the designated starting point for the weekly Wednesday night socials has been chosen as it has the most space available for activities like Wii Sports and is in closest proximity to the FTR bus stop - the most reliable route into town.

From there, sports teams will be directed into Salvation instead of the traditional Wednesday night club Ziggy's, and will have to buy advanced tickets at a cost of £3 in return for discounted drinks deals, which include a free crate of beer

for clubs arriving early.

The main basis of appeal for Salvation though, comes down to the vastly improved floor space compared to previous venue Ziggy's, which should theoretically cut queueing times significantly.

To further entice students into partaking in the Salvation nights, fifty pence of every advance ticket sold will be put back into the individual's sports team to aid with the purchasing of new equipment throughout the year.

Despite this, several sports team members and Presidents have had sceptical views of the plan, along with Alex Lacy's decision not to have a campus bar crawl in the belief that it "splits up clubs too early in the night."

The current level of resistance is limited to a heavily populated facebook group entitled "Boycott Salvation Sports Wednesday; Keep the Ziggy's tradition".

Whether or not the group is an accurate microcosm of the sporting population will be seen during the first event in week 2, but a current scan of opinion suggests that Ziggy's will remain the club of choice for sports teams.

Boat Club President Hugh Pryce says of the change: "In theory this is a good idea, why not try and get a better deal for students? However, this will essentially split Wednesday nights. York's student



CRISS NOICE

Club Salvation hopes to take over from Ziggy's as the premier Wednesday venue for sports clubs

population is not big enough to pack out two clubs on one night. I'm happy to give Salvation a go, but I remain a sceptic."

In the project's defence, AU President Alex Lacy says: "Club Salvation is probably the most controversial part of the night amongst

the student populace- but it shouldn't be. The drinks are cheaper, activities like beer pong and vodka roulette will be great for clubs that way inclined, and entertainment such as rodeo bulls means there is something for everyone.

"At the end of the day, we're

just providing the clubs with the choice to take part in this great set up" adds Lacy.

"Personally I think Club Salvation and Cool It Events have been a pleasure to work with, and deserve the thanks and support of York Sport clubs."

Wilkinson

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Alex
Lacy

AU President

STUDENTS, AS general schools of thinking go, are largely resistant to change.

When you arrive at University, you naturally want to find somewhere to belong, and many people find that place within sports clubs. People become protective of what they identify with, and sports clubs have an often unsung role as a source of welfare support. Can you ever change something like this and not run up against resistance?

At the end of the day, the prime directive of the position I was elected to should be to give students what they want. So we worked out what students want by looking at what they already like, what they already do, and by asking them. Then we worked to give it to them: only better and with more free alcohol.

Sports clubs at York want to feel part of something that they can feel pride for and receive recognition through, so we've rebranded the Athletic Union to become York Sport: ushering in new levels of unity, direction and professionalism.

Sports clubs want a Wednesday night where they can act debauched, bond (vigorously) and probably get naked. So, we set up York Sport Night at Derwent and Club Salvation, where they get free drinks, are given the recognition they deserve, can enjoy unprecedented attractions and get naked to Baywatch (to paraphrase the Club Salvation Head of Security: the boundary is down to your pants, because any further is actually illegal).

Club committees want to provide the best service to their members, so we've had the first ever club training day, which included a welfare workshop. Clubs are not islands who only exist to promote their own sport; they are part of a wide group who all look out for each other, whether that's clubs supporting each other's growth and development, or members watching out for each other during their time at University.

What does all this mean? Quite simply, a more attractive opportunity for all students, and I hope more people getting involved in sport at York. Not only this: with more people comes more power to affect improvements in facilities, funding and support.

However, a big group of people cannot be effective until everyone is united towards common causes and goals. It's been a very busy summer, and the onus is now on the clubs to take ownership and make this idea their own, and take over York.

You can't please all the people all the time...except with York Sport night.

Getting on the right track

Adam Shergold reviews the sporting options available to freshers at York

GEORGE LOWTHER

So you've dragged yourself through the drunken debauchery of Freshers' Week. You've deciphered the meaning behind strange words like Ziggy's, Tru and Efes. Now you emerge from your unpacked pile of belongings in another sambuca-induced daze with an unexpected yearning to rediscover sunlight, fresh air and exercise to repent for those twenty-two consecutive takeaway dinners. Anyone for sport?

Fret not; the University of York has you just about covered. The Athletic Union has rebranded its stewardship under the guise of York Sport (www.yusu.org/sport), presiding over at least 50 sports clubs, many well-established and all enthusiastically run and literally hundreds of teams to cater amply for all talents and abilities. Remember, all sports teams are constantly looking for first years to boost teams and numbers.

Casting your eye over the multitude of stalls in the Sports Hall at Freshers' Fair (Saturday 18th, 10am-4pm) will allow an appreciation of the scale and variety of opportunities here at York, from the conventional team sports to the downright quirky. Simply sign up to anything that tickles your interest and find out times of early training sessions. It's the perfect opportunity to try that activity you've never got round to, from skydiving to underwater hockey.

University teams typically compete in leagues and tournaments organised by British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) against opponents all over the country, so the chance to satisfy that thirst for competition and silverware is never far away.

The thriving College Sport scene (football, cricket, rugby and many others) allows another dimension of competition and always proves very popular, presenting an excellent chance to settle inter-college grudges.

In addition, York participates in annual tournaments: Roses is the country's biggest multi-sports competition and is played against Lancaster University - an epic weekend of fierce match-ups played in a festival atmosphere.



York offers an extensive college sport calendar and the largest inter-university clash in the country

After their second successive victory, York will be aiming for the hat-trick on home soil next May.

The one constant between all sports clubs, however, whether it be netball, mountaineering, octopush or capoeira, is a thriving social scene. Training and matches are complimented by regular excursions to York's pubs and clubs, usually with some imaginative theme of dress and inevitable hilarity.

Naturally, the clubs scramble

to utilise the sports facilities here at York, but most of these are accessible to all for more casual sport, albeit through the 2008/2009 Sports Membership package, which is priced at £40 and incorporates last year's separate Sports Centre and AU memberships.

This permits use of the recently-expanded fitness suite (£11 per month during off-peak hours, £20 anytime), sports hall (£15 per hour), squash courts (£4 each for

40 minutes) and the re-layed JLD AstroTurf (£30 per hour).

Behind the sports centre lies the 22 Acres: a patchwork of grass pitches incorporating football, rugby, cricket and lacrosse which are reliably abuzz with activity on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

The range of sports clubs at York should prove satisfactory to all tastes. Go ahead, get involved in sport this year at York.

TRIAL INFORMATION FOR UNIVERSITY TEAMS

CRISS NOICE

Netball: Week 1, Thursday 15:30-17:30 & Friday 14:00-16:00 in the tent.

Snowsports: Week 2, Wednesday, 16:00-18:00 at Sheffield Ski Village. Meet outside Goodricke at 14:30.

Women's Football: Sunday, Week 1, 14:00-16:00 on 22 acres.

American Football: Wednesday, Week 2, 16:00-18:00, on the pitch behind the Tent.

Riding: Wednesday, Week 3, 14:00 - 15:00. Meet at Goodricke at 1pm.

Badminton: Sunday, Week 1, 09:00 in the Sports Hall.

Sailing: Saturday Week 2, 09:30 outside Goodricke.

Swimming: Monday, Week 2.

Squash: Sunday, Week 1, 12:00-16:00 at the Squash courts.

Hockey: Tuesday/Wednesday, Week 1, Girls: 14:00-15:00, Boys: 15:00-16:00.

Thursday, Week 1, Boys: 14:00-15:00, Girls: 15:00-16:00.
Sunday, Week 1, Girls: 13:00-14:00, Boys 14:00-15:00, all on AstroTurf.

Women's Rugby: Sunday, Week 1, 12:00-14:00, on the pitch behind the Tent.

Men's Rugby: Sunday, Week 1, 14:00 on 22 Acres.

Football: Thursday, Week 1, 10:30 -12:30 and 14:00 -16:00, Sports Centre.

Women's Tennis: Monday, Week 2, 12:00, on the Tennis courts.

Men's Basketball: Wednesday, Week 1, 18:00 - 19:30, Thursday, Week 1, 19:00 - 21:00 in the Tent.

Rowing: Wednesday, Week 2, 10:00 - 16:00, York City Boat Club.

Success for Lacy at inaugural AU training day

Matthew Jaynes
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEX LACY BEGAN his tenure as AU President last Wednesday by organising the first ever training day for the Presidents of all the sports clubs on campus. The aim of the day was to make sure that the clubs had all the information they needed with which to run themselves more efficiently. The concept was a significant departure from previous years, where some clubs were left floundering in the first term, with little idea of what they needed to be doing.

The day is the first step of Lacy's aim to "create a more cohesive AU", and he wants York Sport to be "not just a safety net for clubs, but as a way to unite clubs to move them forward".

He sees the rebranding of the Athletic Union into York Sport as a sub-committee of YUSU with a new constitution pending, as an opportunity sports clubs at York to become more focussed on a common goal, rather than their own individual interests.

Lacy also used his the opportunity to push his own aims for the year, which he summed up as, "better sport, better facilities, win more

and get more people playing".

He launched a tirade against the University administration, in which he claimed that one of the main things dragging sport down at York is the lack of a Sports Department, or even an administrative job that deals with sport or sport development.

Lacy seems keen to take the fight to the University when it comes to improving sport at York. His plans to form outdoor fitness classes involve getting as many people as possible to use the running track for things such as tyre-pulling and fitness circuits. "I want to be able to say to the University, 'look at the number of people using a track that is barely suitable to run on. It needs to be replaced'".

This reflects a theme that Lacy was keen to emphasise during the day - that individual protests can be ignored, but collective protests would force the University to act.

The training day also addressed the controversial issue of club initiations. York Sport are not imposing an outright ban on initiations, which some Universities have attempted to do after the furore surrounding the recent initiation video from students at the University of Gloucestershire. Instead, they are forcing clubs to

sign a strongly-worded policy which implies that any complaints made will be swiftly followed up on.

While clubs will be allowed to hold initiations, the policy forbids them to force people to drink, or to coerce them in any way. The policy also bans clubs from using the term 'initiation', to protect the University from negative association.

The penalties that can be imposed on clubs for breaking these rules vary from individuals being banned from competing in BUCS competition, to entire clubs being expelled from York Sport altogether, and the freezing of clubs financing. Alex Lacy was keen to emphasise that any complaints would be followed up very seriously, with York looking to avoid the same controversies surrounding other Universities recently.

The day also featured several workshops on things ranging from finance and development to welfare. YUSU sabbatical officers, such as Matt Burton, helped run some of the workshops, reflecting the new role of York Sport within YUSU. The training day was a resounding success, with a high turnout from club committee members, and will have done nothing but good for York's sports clubs for the coming year.



AU President Lacy addressing his colleagues at the first ever training day

Day 218

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Freshers Guide to sport

As Freshers Welcome Week rolls on, we take a look at what York has to offer in terms of sport, including essential membership and club trials information.



Lacrosse team gifted second win after Brooklands forced to forfeit

CRISS NOICE

MEN'S LACROSSE

Matthew Jaynes
SPORTS EDITOR

FINAL SCORE

York 1sts 9
Brooklands 11

A strong second-half comeback couldn't prevent York from registering the first defeat of their North of England Men's Lacrosse Association (NEMLA) campaign to Brooklands, a club from Manchester. However, Brooklands were forced to forfeit the contest for playing two underage players.

The NEMBLA league is played between any clubs, not just Universities, and the Brooklands team featured both young teenagers and veterans edging into their 50's. However, any advantage might have gained from having a more physical team was nullified by the fact that take-outs were banned as being unfair on the youngsters.

Brooklands started the better of the teams, and were quickly ahead as York struggled to find their rhythm early on. However, a quick break by Chris Armstrong set up Philip Harrold for the equaliser, before Rich Ramsbottom put York briefly into the lead. Both side's defences struggled in the first quarter, and a Harry Collins goal for York was quickly cancelled out by two for Brooklands.

The Manchester team's young and naturally gifted players then began to run rings around York's defence, and the first quarter ended with Brooklands 5-3 up and in the ascendancy.

Both defences began to assert themselves more in

the second quarter, with Brooklands being limited to only 2 more goals in the second fifteen minutes. However, York's finishing let them down, with several decent chances being squandered with shots either flying well over, or being tamely struck at the goalie. The whistle blew for half-time with Brooklands 7-3 up and looking ominously good.

Whatever was said during the break in the York huddle immediately began to pay off after the restart, with the whole team looking sharper all over the pitch. The revival was spear-headed by Armstrong, who came alive after a quiet first half, while the defence and goalie also upped their games.

Quick goals from Armstrong and Ramsbottom were split by a brilliant save by York goalie, Ben Robinson. However, the Brookland's goalkeeper kept them on top, pulling off save after save, before Brooklands widened their lead to 8-5 against the run of play.

A top quality dodge and shot by Armstrong reduced the deficit, but Brooklands were quickly back on top, pulling out to a 10-6 lead.

York refused to let their heads go down, and Armstrong inspired them to three quick goals in succession, including one where he took the ball from the restart and ran straight down the pitch to score.

A stunned Brooklands side were forced to use a time-out to recover their composure, and managed to halt York's momentum, adding another goal themselves to win the game 11-9.

The game was lost for York in the first half, as their defense failed to cope with

Brookland's combination of wise old heads and the natural exuberance of youth. York's shooting was also woefully under-par in the first-half, although Brookland's 14-year-old had an exceptional game, winning the game for his team. He was so impressive that Robinson referred to him as "the best goalie I've ever seen".

York regained their composure and attacking threat in the second half, but were again guilty of wasting chances through poor finishing or over-elaborating. York graduate Chris Armstrong was York's best player, coming to life in the second-half to nearly inspire York to victory, but the team will need to improve their cutting-edge in front of goal to make strides in BUCS this season.

York's captain, Harry Collins, attributed the defeat to a "sloppy 1st half", but declared himself pleased with how they played against a team which, despite the young age of some, were much more experienced, while adding that the "pre-season training really started paying off in the 2nd half".

York kick off their BUCS campaign on 22nd October against Leeds Met Carnegie.

YORK LINE UP

00 - Robinson (GK)
56 - Leahy
72 - Pye
40 - Pullinger
45 - Crosby
24 - Shilling
07 - Walker
33 - Wakefield
31 - Armstrong
36 - Harrold
21 - Newman
14 - Collins (capt)
22 - Ramsbottom



Brookland's mix of youthful exuberance and experience proved too much for York

Salvation to hold Yorksport nights

The former Athletic Union, Yorksport, has agreed a deal with newly opened Club Salvation to host a Wednesday night event aimed solely at ratified sports clubs with a percentage of revenue going back into team funds.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT >> P21

Club Presidents attend AU training

The first ever training day for club presidents, organised by new AU President, Alex Lacy, featured information for clubs on finance, development and welfare, while also focussing on the recent controversy over initiations.

AU TRAINING DAY >> P23



Sports Centre gets £1m makeover

The University of York's sports facilities have received a £980,000 investment over the summer, including new changing rooms and a £120,000 resurfacing project for the JLD astroturf.

NEW FACILITIES >> P20

"Starting late gives us a disadvantage"

The merger of BUSA and UCS into BUCS means that York's late start will cause even more fixture congestion for our sports teams. Matthew Jaynes calls on York's sports clubs to unite to oppose this tradition.

MATTHEW JEYNES >> P20

