

“Unlike Saudi Arabia women can drive... there are some good statistics amongst the bad ones”

Behind the ‘axis of evil’ > M11



## Tru and Gallery face closure

MARTYN MATTHEWS/SAM NEWSOME



A graph showing Luminar Group Holdings Plc, the company that owns both Tru and The Gallery, share prices over the last decade

**Hannah Ellis-Petersen**  
**Sam Lawson**

NEW INFORMATION has arisen this week, showing that two of York's most popular student nightclubs, Tru and The Gallery, face imminent closure.

An anonymous source close to *Nouse*, in contact with a member of The Gallery management staff, revealed that those working at the club had been informed that unless there was a significant turnaround in the profitability of the venue in the next six months, then it would have to be sold.

The rumours of closure have also been reinforced by both Tru and The Gallery's refusal to meet with *Nouse* to discuss the issue, despite repeated requests.

Furthermore, it was discovered that the club manager of Tru, Chris Bateman, even made a phone call to the manager of The Gallery to warn of *Nouse's* investigation.

Tru and The Gallery are both presently owned and operated by Luminar Group Holdings Plc, one of the largest club owning compa-

nies in the UK.

In their recently released financial report, it was revealed that in the last 52 weeks, Luminar's share price has peaked at 166.00p and fallen to a low of 33.25p.

The current price is 34.5p. It was also shown that their percentage growth in earnings per share (EPS Growth) forecast for the end of Luminar's financial year on 28th February 2010 is -71 per cent.

The group, which on 27 August 2009 owned 88 late night venues, also made a loss of £300,000 in the 6 month period prior to this date, compared with a profit of £3.4m in the same time frame in 2008. Moreover, in December 2009, sales were 13.8 per cent lower than those the same month in 2008.

Although both clubs are attended weekly by both the University of York and York St John students, *Nouse's* source reported that student nights have proved not as profitable as the full price nights on Friday and Saturday. Even these nights, however, are now attended less by local

club-goers than in more financially stable times.

In October 2009, the *Financial Times* reported: "Stephen Thomas, Chief Executive (of Luminar), said rising unemployment amongst Luminar's core market of young clubbers was to blame for the sharp decline in trade." It is thought to be likely that the possible closure will result in a buy-out by another company who would then revamp and relaunch the venue(s).

Reuters reported on the likelihood of such a takeover in January of this year, stating that: "HMV Group plc (HMV.L) is in advanced talks with nightclub operator Luminar (LMR.L) over a possible partnership."

Reuters' source stated: "I would expect it to blossom into an outright takeover."

On visiting The Gallery, *Nouse* were met with hostility and told to leave the premises immediately. This reluctance to deny the closure, or even talk about the future of both Tru and The Gallery nightclubs, has been seen by many as a

confirmation of the truth of the rumours.

The fact that Tru only opened as a club in 2008 after a £1million renovation of Toff's nightclub, which was what it was previously named, has also been seen as a cause of the financial difficulties being faced by the venue.

Due to the poor financial climate and lack of attendance, it is possible that the club has struggled to recuperate the money invested in the development. The news that two of the most visited nightclubs could potentially close was met with outrage by many students.

Sophie Handson, a first year University of York student, expressed her dismay, commenting: "I can't believe The Gallery might be closing, I'm so annoyed. It's my favourite night of the week."

Kate Davey, another first year student, took a similar view, saying: "Where are students supposed to go now? Going out in York is going to be even more boring than before."

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### Student admin of pro-Huntley group

A FIRST year student has been posing as a paedophile on a pro-Ian Huntley Facebook group. Huntley was convicted of killing two 10 year old girls in 2002. In his defence, the student has since blamed his friends, despite significant evidence collated by *Nouse* connecting the two profiles. >> NEWS P2

### Derwent bar plans unconfirmed

PLANS TO renovate Derwent bar have faced difficulties this week after it was revealed that the impending summer deadline may not be met. The project will need to be completed by the end of this academic year, otherwise funding will be reclaimed by the government, which has caused concern. >> NEWS P3

### Students abused by Tang Hall teens

STUDENTS LIVING in Tang Hall have expressed complaints after enduring several months of harassment by local teenagers. One resident told *Nouse* that since moving into Tang Hall last term, him and his housemates have suffered groups of teenagers banging on their door, and following and swearing at them. >> NEWS P3

### Rugby firsts' confusion after cancellations

THE UNIVERSITY of York Rugby firsts' title has been hanging in the balance this week after cancellations led to a suspension of a crucial game between Sheffield universities. >> SPORT P20

### The faces behind York's popular fast food haunts



>> M8-9

# Student poses as paedophile

## Hockey Club changes social

The University of York Hockey Club (UYHC) has elected to change the theme of its notorious annual 'Wife Beaters' social this year, after concerns over its welfare implications. The theme of last Wednesday's social was changed to 'Bollywood and British' after Rob Newton and Sophie Hossack, UYHC Presidents, said that they wished to "alter this theme to ensure it fitted in with the changing attitudes within in the club" and that they "constantly encouraged to see the positive way in which the club is developing". Newton and Hossack added: "No member of YUSU talked to us or asked us to change the social."

## York accommodation deemed "unfit"

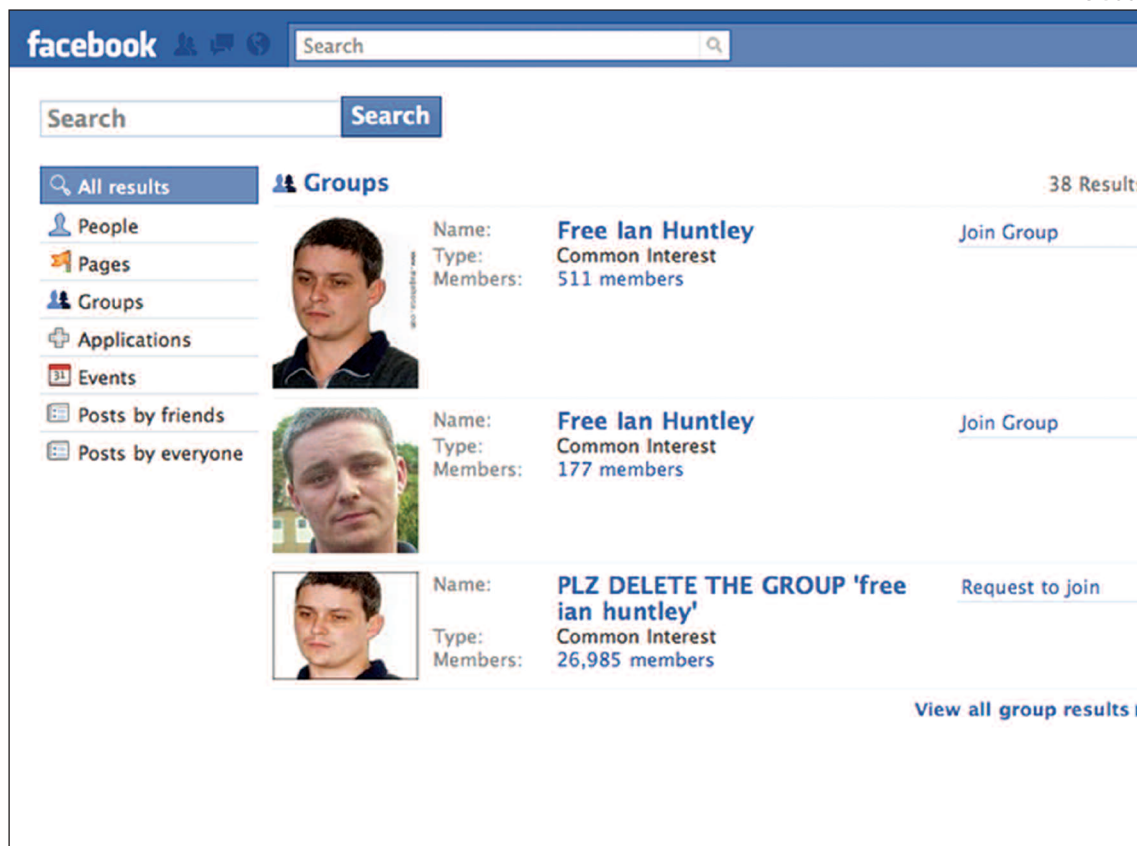
Information recently obtained by the *Guardian* has revealed that 24 percent of York residential accommodation is graded "unfit for purpose". The University of York had 24 percent of its accommodation listed as "Category 4" for functional suitability, defined by the HEFCE as "poor, the room/ building fails to support current functions and/ or is unsuitable for current use." James Reed, University Press Officer, claimed that since 2007, the University has "spent £36 million in new residential buildings, spent £5 million improving the basic fabric of our existing accommodation and installed new kitchens in our oldest colleges."

## B Henry's relaunched

Alcuin bar B Henry's was relaunched on Friday as a weekly venue for live music, with Tony Ward, the Alcuin College provost, judging an acoustic battle of the bands. The relaunch is part of a campaign to re-brand B Henry's as popular music venue with campus-wide appeal. Ollie Todd, Alcuin JCRC Chair, is "very optimistic about the relaunch." He added: "I think that, as a space, B Henry's will work well for small live music events; I hope it will give a feeling of intimacy for the people at the bar when a gig is on." An Alcuin first-year said that "this is the busiest I've ever seen it since fresher's week."

Reporting by Laura Connor, Ben Gascoyne and Robin Synnot

FACEBOOK



An admin of the Facebook group 'Free Ian Huntley' is believed to be an alias profile of a York student

Charlotte Hogarth-Jones  
EDITOR

A SOURCE reporting to *Nouse* has claimed that a student has become an admin of the Facebook group 'Free Ian Huntley' and repeatedly posted paedophilic messages on the group wall under an alias profile.

The group is one of two on Facebook, and currently has around 511 members.

Numerous comments have been posted under what is believed to be a fake profile, with the name of 'Herrod Genghis'. Of the comments written on the group wall under the name of Genghis, one stated: "I hope my kids get the fate they [the girls] did, this life is so full of misery, the pleasure of Sir Ian would really warm it up."

Another read "I would love for Huntley to kill me and violate my cold, dead corpse", and posted a phone number asking for Huntley to call and "threaten my children so I can masturbate to your voice". Further remarks were made, insinuating that he was planning to free Huntley and initiate explicit sexual activity with him. The remainder of the messages posted on the group cannot be printed for legal reasons.

Ian Huntley was a caretaker who was convicted of killing two 10 year old school girls, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. Huntley was sentenced to life imprisonment in August 2002 for murder, and sexual offences against the girls were also investigated in depth.

Referring to evidence brought up in Huntley's trial, in which Huntley stated that he was helping Holly to control a nose-bleed when she accidentally fell into the bath and drowned, Genghis wrote that the girls "were the cleanest they had ever been in their lives" and that Huntley's "bathing skills are top notch".

Speaking to *Nouse*, the student accused of creating the Genghis profile stated that "there were comments on that group, and also some on pro-Taliban

sites and also some gay dating sites" and that it was his fault for "leaving my Facebook on in the kitchen so often." He claimed that his friends "quickly moved from changing [his] status to 'I'm gay' to joining me to anything they could".

Although the student's status was indeed changed to a similar message on 7 February, his status

"It is a prime example of the dangers of using Facebook and other social networking sites."

Ben Humphrys, YUSU Welfare Officer

has subsequently changed and messages have continued to be posted on both his actual profile, and that of Herrod Genghis from the end of January until recently.

On 25 January, the student's

personal profile status read, "Finally got deleted from Facebook, totally deservedly of course", and replied "for pretending to be a paedophile" to a friend who asked why. He also posted the following day: "Dear Facebook, I didn't take Maddy, I don't want Huntley released and I haven't had sex with a baby, can you not take a joke?"

When questioned about the alias profile, the student claimed that it was his friends who have "created a different account to pursue their perversions on".

The alias profile added the student in question as its first friend, and is a "fan" of many of the same groups.

While the statuses on the student's personal profile, such as "promises the disgust will continue" would strongly link the two profiles, there is no further evidence to prove this.

Ben Humphrys, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented: "These comments are, at best, in

very poor taste. It is a prime example of the dangers of using Facebook and other social networking sites - anything on, or linked to, your profile and any comments you make may be seen by the University, future employers or the police and impact upon your future prospects."

This comes following the arrest of an 18 year old man from Didcot on 17 February, who posted a hoax message on the Claudia Lawrence Facebook page stating: "Hi all, just let you know that I am ok and I am safe and sound. Speak to you all soon, love Claudia xxx".

The man has now been released and cautioned with making malicious communications and wasting police time.

The student's alias profile has been removed since *Nouse* began its investigations.

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The Pill is our most popular form of contraception, but often the risks are overlooked. Camilla Jenkins and Janey Stephenson explore the reality of the Pill.

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# Future of Derwent bar uncertain as renovation plans face financial threat

SCARBOROUGH DESIGN

Camilla Aparc  
NEWS REPORTER

THE TIMESCALE and full extent of plans set out by the University to renovate Derwent bar remains unconfirmed, despite recent progress.

The impact of the renovation proposals may prove problematic for the JCRC's plans, such as the Ron Weir Memorial Garden and next term's Big D.

According to Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, the work will be completed within this financial year: "The project has not been fully costed yet but if it goes ahead, and this is not confirmed, the project will be in excess of £100,000."

However, the project will need to be completed by the end of this academic year as financial law states that any expenditures need to be made by 31 July 2010, or the money will be reclaimed by the government. Concern about this deadline has been raised as the popular Summer term event, Big D, is scheduled for the beginning of July.

Holly Burton, Derwent JCRC Chair, has voiced her unease over the implications that construction or refurbishment work would hold over the event if work is started too late.

Regardless, Burton has been assured by the University that "Big D" will happen.

The bar renovation will also disrupt the JCRC's plans for a memorial garden as an extension to D-Bar, dedicated



The renovation of Derwent bar will need to be completed by the end of this academic year, raising implications about next term's Big D

to the late Derwent Provost, Ron Weir, particularly in terms of continuity of decorative style and the availability of event space to fundraise.

The JCR have already raised £8,000 for the project through alumni and fundraising, as the garden will not be funded by the University.

The University must start any renovations to the bar before the end of this term to ensure completion in time for Big D.

Nonetheless, students

have expressed their enthusiasm for the renovation plans, with Burton commenting: "I'm confident - the plans look good and I'm confident it will happen. It's just a question of when it will happen. In the long term it would be amazing."

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, also expressed his approval for the idea: "It's great to see [that] the University has finally put its money where its mouth is. I hope the University doesn't backtrack - all of a sudden they've pulled some money

out of the sky to renovate bars - having to spend the money within this financial year would be an absurd excuse."

However, the University has continued to emphasise that its current budget is under serious financial pressure due to the current economic climate and upcoming budget cuts, something which could significantly impact the likelihood of construction work.

Greenwood conceded that this was an issue, stating that "we would probably

have to cut our cloth accordingly and do what we could with whatever money we are authorised to spend."

On the University's behalf, Greenwood also claimed that the final confirmation of the project relies both upon the JCRC having time to "comment on the plans", and the fiscal impact the plans would have on the University, especially if the bar is completely closed for a long period in order to carry out construction work.

Greenwood has also exclusively released to Nouse

the initiative for a bar focus group, which "whilst not able to agree changes to bars that involve large amounts of capital expenditure" will attempt to "implement local initiatives".

The first focus group has led to "Commercial Services and the JCRCs working towards sharing both the costs and the profits of events." The proportionality of the "sharing" remains undecided, but student feedback has been positive.

COMMENT >> Page 10

# Students harassed by teenagers in Tang Hall

Charlotte Hogarth-Jones  
Victoria Lee

STUDENTS RESIDING in Tang Hall Lane have complained of constant harassment by local teenagers since they moved in at the start of this academic year.

Throughout the year, a small gang of teenagers have attempted to break into residents' houses, left rubbish in their gardens, and attacked students as they arrived home from campus.

Residents claim that they have not yet reported the gang to the police out of fear of retribution from the teenagers' families - all of whom live locally. One resident claimed, "I would call the police but I'm worried their dads will come round and mess us up."

He continued: "Pretty much every night, a group made up of six 13 to 15 year old girls hang outside where we live and try to get into

our house. They keep on banging on our door and swearing."

According to the residents, the group regularly attempt to assault them as they return home: "One

and one girl tried to jump on my back. I heard them coming so I dodged out the way. She landed on the floor."

A second year resident, Adam,

PETER IVESON



Students experienced abuse by a group of youths in Tang Hall

night, I was walking home when I heard a group of them approach me. They were completely drunk

stated: "If we pop to the supermarket, they come up to us just to abuse us, always looking for an

argument. We tried all sorts to get them to stop but they won't. Our neighbours get it really bad too."

Another resident, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of the gang finding out he had spoken to Nouse, has claimed that as the gang "get more familiar", their attacks become more persistent.

He said: "Their latest game is to try and get into our house." He continued to say that him and his housemates were apprehensive about "forcibly removing" the gang because they suspected that the girls would go to the police with false accusations against them.

On the night of Halloween, the same resident described how the "five girls who live next door got attacked by one of the kids." The girls were too scared to call the police, and refused to speak to Nouse as they were worried about the gang retaliating.

The girl gang frequently hangs around with local older boys. A

third year student, who also lives in close proximity to the gang, commented: "It's a bit weird, isn't it? 21 year old boys with 13 year old girls in their house?"

She continued: "They're always bragging about how many boys they've slept with. One girl told me she slept with five boys and tried to show me pictures of her having sex on her phone."

Since the incident, the third-year resident has deliberately kept out of the way of the gang. She explained how the gang "wanted to get back at us for ignoring them. One of the girls tried to wee in our garden. Unfortunately she got the wrong garden."

Ben Humphreys, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented: "Although York is a relatively friendly city, if you do find yourself in conflict with local residents it's vital you contact the University welfare advisors or, if the situation is extreme, the police."

# York 'graduate level' employability 11%

RICHARD EASTWOOD



The long awaited graduation for University of York students is often marred by the the reality of low employment opportunities, especially for a top ten rated institution such as York

**Victoria Lee**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York graduate is just over 11 per cent less likely to achieve 'graduate level' employment than the graduating students of peer institutions.

These figures have led to questions over whether the University is investing enough time and money in student job prospects.

The University of York is ranked among the top 10 universi-

ties in the UK, meaning its graduates should theoretically have similar employment prospects to the graduates of institutions such as Imperial College London and Bristol University.

Yet research by YUSU has found that universities such as Imperial and Bristol have more than 87 per cent of graduates going into 'graduate level' employment, while just 76 per cent of York graduates will follow suit.

Despite York's high ranking, recent research by High Fliers Research Ltd has placed the

University in 19th place when it comes to graduates chances of being targeted by top employers. Bristol University - whose ranking in the university league tables is similar to York's - is in sixth place.

This damning research has led the dim career prospects of York graduates to be described as the "fundamental fault" of the University.

As one first year student commented: "Aren't careers the point of University? If the University is failing us in this respect, then what's the point of being here?"

Funding, geography, York's late term dates and the high number of York students who choose to take a year out after graduation, are seen as key to understanding York's low performance in comparison to that of peer institutions.

Liz Smith, Director of the University Careers Service, says: "If we received double the funding we could do double as much [to help]. We're not as good as we could be."

Geography is also a key factor when considering York's low graduate employment rate. Many stu-

dents choose to remain in their university city for a year after graduation. As Smith points out: "Unless the students who stay want to work for the University, York Council or the NHS, there are no jobs here."

York's late term dates are also a significant factor. An Alcuin third year student, who asked to remain anonymous, stated: "Despite having raised this issue with the University on many occasions, we continue to finish our summer term so late that a lot of internships start before we have

% of Graduates Entering 'Graduate Level' Employment	Sunday Times Good University Guide Overall Rankings 2010	Universities Targeted by the Top Number of Employers 2008-2009	% for type of service used to find employment information
<p>24% Don't 76% Do York</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Oxford</li> <li>University of Cambridge</li> <li>Imperial College London</li> <li>University College London</li> <li>Universty of St. Andrews</li> <li>University of Warwick</li> <li>Durham University</li> <li><b>University of York</b></li> <li>LSE</li> <li>University of Bristol</li> <li>University of Bath</li> <li>University of Southampton</li> <li>King's College London</li> <li>University of Nottingham</li> <li>Loughborough University</li> <li>University of Edinburgh</li> <li>University of Exeter</li> <li>University of Sheffield</li> <li>Lancaster University</li> <li>University of Leicester</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Manchester</li> <li>University of London</li> <li>University of Warwick</li> <li>University of Cambridge</li> <li>University of Oxford</li> <li>University of Bristol</li> <li>Durham University</li> <li>University of Nottingham</li> <li>University of Bath</li> <li>University of Leeds</li> <li>University of Birmingham</li> <li>University of Edinburgh</li> <li>University of Sheffield</li> <li>Loughborough University</li> <li>University of Southampton</li> <li>Cardiff University</li> <li>University of Glasgow</li> <li>University of Newcastle</li> <li><b>University of York</b></li> <li>University of St. Andrews</li> </ol>	<p>3.6% Do 96.4% Don't University Careers Service</p>
<p>12.7% Don't 87.3% Do Others (Av. Imperial College London, Bath and Bristol)</p>			<p>76.2% Don't 23.8% Do The Internet</p>

# less than UK's other top ten universities

BETH MILLER

University on many occasions, we continue to finish our summer term so late that a lot of internships start before we have even finished our exams. This effectively excludes students from gaining places on any internships and is detrimental to their career prospects."

York is a very small, academically driven institution. In comparison to students from other UK universities, the geographical location of York means students have less opportunity to travel. As one third year student said: "I will definitely take a year out after I graduate. York is a very intense experience. I want to take a break before I go into full time employment."

The figures noted in this article are from the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. This survey is run yearly by the department for Children, Schools and families. All universities are legally bound to survey at least 80 per cent of their graduates six months after graduation.

At this point, many students are still travelling, or taking a break before they look for 'graduate level' employment. They would then be classed as 'unemployed' or in 'lower than graduate level employment', hence lowering York's graduate employment rate.

However, Smith acknowledges that there is a serious problem at York. She was appointed as Director just four months ago and was given the key task of improving graduate job prospects at York.

Yet the psych of the average students remains a problem. First year Langwith College student, Cem Turham, states: "Although I think about my future career all the time, going to the Careers Service seems a bit like going to the job centre."

However, Turham concedes that the University does have a responsibility towards its graduates: "We're at university for a career, so if it takes a budget increase for the Careers Service to get a better service, then that's what should happen."

Over the next year, Smith wants to extend the boundaries of the Careers service so that careers become integrated into university life: "We need to change the culture so staff and students see careers as part of the university package."

Indeed, this initiative of integration of the Careers Service and university life seems to fit in with students' requirements. In a recent survey of York students run by YUSU, just 3.6 per cent of students said they looked to the Careers Service as a source of information on employment options, while 76.2 per cent looked to the web.

In the same survey, 71.4 per cent said they had been involved in various University societies. This suggests that the incorporation of the formal and informal could be key to increasing the graduate prospects of York students.

Smith commented: "It has been acknowledged by the University that they need to do something about the lack of jobs going to York students"

She continued, stating that she believed that: "Our initiatives for the future include increasing the use of the web as a communication tool and working more with colleges and societies to get our message woven in."

"You don't need to come to the Careers Service, the Careers Service needs to become a part of everyday university life."

**LEADER >>** Page 10



Students at the University are reminded that they are just as employable as its peers at other institutions

## YUSU support the golden initiative

**Sam Lawson**  
NEWS EDITOR

WEEK SIX saw YUSU address the issue of poor graduate employability for University of York students with their promotional and 'myth busting' Employability Week.

The campaign came as York performs particularly poorly in its graduate employability and aimed to uncover students' perceptions of employment and to implore students to take advantage of any opportunities that the University might offer in improving employability.

The tagline and title for the

event was 'We Are Golden', taken from the song by Mika but used to encourage student confidence in its ability and employability.

The week was organised and run by Charlie Leyland and Rhianna Kinchin, YUSU Academic Affairs Officer and Student Activities Officer respectively. The week long campaign was preceded with a YUSU student survey which established student opinion on issues such as how the current economic climate has affected them, which skills are most important to employers and the best ways to find out about employment opportunities.

A petition for the improvement of University Careers Service

and support was also pushed over the course of the week which is to be presented to the University. Kinchin stated that: "Over 1,000 students (and some staff) signed the petition asking for more focus and investment from the University in employability and careers support, demonstrating the importance of a new and robust employability guidance structure to the student experience."

She went on to express her confidence in the success of the campaign, stating: "Employability week was extremely well received by our students and has provoked discussion and debate within the University."



## Students must strike a balance between the enjoyment of university and looking towards the future

**Hannah Ellis-Petersen**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

Just reading the title of this article sends shivers down my spine. The very thought of leaving the self-indulgent surroundings of university life, for the cold and heartless world of job hunting, has me running to the library in search of solace in academic idealism while I still have the opportunity.

Nonetheless, horrifying statistics telling me that I am 11 per cent less likely to get a job than my peers at similar, or even worse, universities certainly serves as a dose of cold, hard realism. As a student, it becomes so easy to slip into intellectual monotony and ignore the black hole of employment that draws ever closer. Perhaps as an English student, I over-romanticise what is nothing more than sheer laziness. Yet it

seems that York students are unaware of the true extent of the ruthless graduate job market, and instead exist in a bubble of blissful ignorance. And there is a part of me that finds this naivety a far more appealing, and less stressful, way of living life. After all, if I had my way, I'd be content to spend the rest of my days locked in a room reading Sagan and De Beauvoir, living a life filled with baguettes and feminist ideals.

But unfortunately, the world just isn't like that and unless your godfather is Rupert Murdoch, we're going to have to fight tooth and nail for every employment opportunity. We need a Careers Service that is pushy and constantly in your face, rather than politely emailing suggestions for student workshops and almost

encouraging complacency. After all, fear is the best motivator.

However, there is a balance that needs to be struck. Once we start focusing every aspect of university life towards getting a job, much of what makes this

"We need a Careers Service that is pushy and constantly in your face, rather than politely emailing you suggestions for student workshops and almost encouraging complacency. After all, fear is the best motivator."

University such a unique institution will be lost. We have already spent seven or so years of our lives

having our education limited purely to what might crop up on those imperative GCSEs and A-Levels. Such a restrictive approach is just as detrimental to our effectiveness in getting jobs as ignoring the issue altogether. While it may initially appear that your impassioned seminar group debates on the genius of Machiavelli or the over appreciation of Orwell serve no purpose in 'the real world', having the confidence to present, assert and defend your own views and opinions is a skill that will stand us all in as good stead as a high class degree. Yes, there is little doubt that the Careers Service needs to become more than a vague concept, ignored by most students within the University, but at the same time we need to recognise that it's a two way road. More

funding and improvements to careers assistance and facilities still does not mean that at the end of our three years, we shall be handed a job on a shining silver platter. It needs to be a combined effort for any noticeable change to occur. A new, more imaginative approach to motivating students is needed to get people interested and involved. We need to ensure that the word 'employment' conjures up more than an image of sitting at an office desk rotting away in boredom for the rest of your life.

The jobs are out there and there is no justifiable reason that York students shouldn't be getting them if we put the time and effort in. After all, Greg Dyke went here and he ended up running the BBC. Just a little something to aim for.

# Library provision to be beside the Charles

Sam Lawson  
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has announced that it is to create a new student study space by April of this year, next to the Charles XII public house in Heslington.

The building to be used, currently named 'The New Building', will provide a work environment for 150 students. This comes following concerns that the current renovations to the library have hindered students, who have complained that there is not currently sufficient space to work.

David Garner, University Press Officer, stated that: "In response to student concerns about the temporary restriction on study space during the library refurbishment, we are working hard to provide additional student study space in alternative accommodation." Garner continued to explain that the University "aims to have the additional space available for use by early April", and that "further details will be announced in due course".

However, despite the benefits of additional space, many are concerned about the implications of having a workspace for students next to a public house.

"It's hard enough for me to concentrate on my work as it is, I don't think I'm going to find it easy to focus on my essay when all my friends are next door in the pub,"



A new study space is being allocated beside the Charles pub in Heslington, opening in April 2010

said one Alcuin first-year student. The Charles XII, part of the restaurant chain Mitchell and Butlers, was unable to comment on how this would affect them. One student pointed out: "It's obviously going to be great for the Charles."

People normally grab a sandwich on campus but it's a bit of a trek to there from Heslington. I don't think students will be bothered to walk back to campus just for a snack."

However, another final year

student did not think that the new building would make a difference to the pub's income. "People always go to Browns or the Charles," he stated, "and the kind of people that stay on campus really late to work are not going to be so easily dis-

tracted. People need to take responsibility for their own work."

The University is rumoured to be looking for a large number of staff for the new study space, and are concerned that students may use the space as more of a common room than as the workspace which it is intended to be.

The library, which is currently being renovated, is due for completion by March 2012. The second floor, which is currently temporarily cordoned off, is due to be completed by June of this year. There is also speculation that the third floor of the library is supposedly to be finished by October 2010, although the University are yet to officially confirm this. When this is finished, the refurbishment of the current library will be complete.

Work is then scheduled to begin on the Comsite building which currently adjoins the library. This will act as an expansion, which is planned to house a Computer Science section and a graduate centre, as well as further study space.

The University is also said to be presently converting its journals into electronic form in order to allow easier access and to provide more space.

Depending on the University obtaining help from the Copyright Licensing Agency, it may also be converting many of its Key Texts to electronic form.

COMMENT >> Page 11

## 10:10 campaign launched

Rachel Banning-Lover  
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY has outlined plans for how they are going to cut ten percent of their carbon emissions this year, in accordance with the 10:10 campaign.

The plans were as a result of research into the University's carbon footprint. They include making buildings on campus more energy efficient, as well as introducing voltage reducing equipment in the biology buildings.

The University currently spends over £3 million a year on energy and produces over 20,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

The University had proposed to cut emissions by around six percent, but have now pledged to cut emissions by ten percent in 2010.

Last year, the University was ranked 35th in University Green League. Gemma Anderson, a member of People and Planet Society, believes that this provided motivation for the University to sign up to 10:10. Anderson believes that by joining the campaign, the University has shown "a true commitment to sustainability".

David Clarke, YUSU Environmental and Ethics Officer, stated: "The University's plans are generally impressive but inadequate in areas such as air travel.

"The University must take

action on all key sources of emissions in order to honour its 10:10 commitment."

YUSU has taken similar steps towards becoming environmentally responsible by switching to a more "ethical" banking policy.

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, confirmed that they have switched their banking services from a non-ethical bank to a bank which is considered to be ethical: "Everything is going over. We have a current account, a savings account and a credit account. It's all being switched over."

The bank YUSU currently saves with has been described by People and Planet as "responsible for massive investments in fossil fuel extraction."

In contrast, YUSU's new bank has an ethical banking policy in which they don't invest in "businesses engaged in the distribution of fossil fuels" or "indiscriminate weapons".

In March 2008, a UGM motion was passed that mandated YUSU to move its accounts to an alternative bank if no changes were made to the bank's investment policies within a year.

Your:Shop and The Courtyard chip and pin systems are currently bound by contract for the foreseeable future. The changeover to the new bank will be fully completed by the end of the year.

COMMENT >> Page 12

## Anger over belated JJ's funding

Chris Young  
NEWS REPORTER

DISAGREEMENTS regarding funding of social space have arisen between the Halifax College Student Association (HCSA) and the University.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) has approved an application from Halifax College for £20,000 to remove the bar and stage in JJ's, as well as to replace the lighting and front door.

However, Lydia Blundell, Halifax President, has claimed that if this money had been made available a few years ago, JJ's would still be open as a bar.

Currently, JJ's is used as a common room for Halifax students after closing down as a bar in 2008. Since then, the space has been heavily funded to encourage its use.

Last year JJ's was given Sky television by the Vice Chancellor, as well as a big screen projector. The HCSA also bought an Xbox and Wii for the common room, followed by a table tennis table by this year's committee.

More significantly, during the summer last year, JJ's had new windows fitted in what was described as a "conservatory extension" in order to tackle the lack of natural light in the area.

After consultations with Jane

Grenville, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students, the alumni fund granted Halifax another £20,000 to install the windows.

Blundell clarified her position on the situation: "I'm not annoyed - I'm grateful that they've given us this money. But I just wonder why this money wasn't available when JJ's [as a bar] was struggling. It's a shame we didn't have that support when we really needed it."

Blundell continued to say that it was "good" that the University was still willing to support JJ's, but that it was "annoying" that this money wasn't available before.

She continued: "Especially with cuts around the rest of the University, it's strange how all this money is suddenly available. I'm glad that we're being supported, but [without the money] JJ's is now just a deserted bar which people don't want to use unless they have a specific reason."

Susie Fothergill, Fundraising Programmes Manager of DORA, explained how the funding is allocated: "This year the grant was given to alter the internal facilities and improving the only social space in the College in order to aid student interaction and create a larger area for broader use by stu-

dents. This is what the College identified as their priority."

She continued to explain why they couldn't support JJ's as a bar: "Projects that are funded are usually one off improvements or equipment purchases. The fund doesn't give consecutive years funding, and as it is a completely separate entity it wouldn't underwrite ongoing costs or commercial outlets, such as JJ's."

David Sharp, Halifax President in 2008, disagreed with the current Halifax President's views on JJ's. He told *Nouse*: "Once JJ's shut down as a bar, there was an instant improvement. It could suddenly be used as an actual social space by all students all the time."

The HCSA now plans to make the area look less like a deserted bar and more like a welcoming social space. Blundell hopes that by changing the front doors from their currently heavy style, the area will look less like a nightclub.

This newly improved social space will add to the already communal barbeque areas in each of Halifax's courts. The refurbishment is due to take place during the Easter break and finish in the first weeks of the Summer term.



# York Minster not an option for graduation

PETER IVESON

**Rachel Banning-Lover**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY of York has cited a diverse range of faiths among the student body as the main reason for graduation ceremonies to continue to be held in Central Hall, as opposed to York Minster.

Much attention has been brought to the issue by the fact that York St. John University students hold their graduation ceremonies in the Minster, something that many University of York students view as unfair.

However, Rosemary Goerisch, Assistant Registrar, stated that York St John "has a Christian foundation", whereas the University of York has secular origins, and so a ceremony at the Minster would not be appropriate.

Nonetheless, with five per cent of York St John students being from an ethnic minority and five per cent coming from abroad, there have been suggestions that the amount of students from a non-Christian background is unlikely to be significantly different from the University of York.

Traditionally, the University graduation ceremonies have always been held in Central Hall, although many students have voiced their disappointment that the venue for graduation is not

York Minster, a much more picturesque location for the special occasion. One first-year student from Goodricke said: "I was really disappointed when I saw people graduating from Central Hall. Considering we all live in York, it only seems right [that] we utilise their most beautiful building."

Graduating in the Minster would also be an additional attraction to prospective students and their parents. For many international students who study at York, the beautiful, historic city was a considerable attraction for choosing the University of York over other universities in the UK. Amy Hey, PR and Communications Officer for York St John University, said: "Students feel honoured to receive their degree in such an atmospheric building. The university receives many comments from both students and their families expressing their enjoyment of ceremonies in the Minster."

Tim Ngwena, YUSU President, stated that other YUSU officers had looked into campaigning for the Minster to be the venue for graduation at the start of his term in office. Ngwena agreed that "we have a diverse range of students. However, the biggest constraint is that international and home students alike have time commitments after finishing their degrees. This is difficult to fit in with the availability of the Minster."



The University of York is considered a secular institution, so cannot hold a ceremony at the Minster

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Sat 12:00pm - 18:00pm

# In the Running

## Laura Connor predicts how students will vote in this year's YUSU elections

### PRESIDENT

### DEMOCRACY AND SERVICES

### ACADEMIC

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES



**MATTHEW FRECKLETON**  
 Relative unknown Freckleton hopes to impress with his wealth of entrepreneurial experience.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**SAM DANIELS**  
 Climbing to YUSU Ents Officer with Suzi Ellis, Daniels is no stranger to managing events - will this be enough to secure his chances?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**MATT BAILEY**  
 As Board of Studies Rep and someone who works closely with Charlie Leyland, Bailey may emerge as an Academic dark horse.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**RACHEL HESSELWOOD**  
 As YUSU Volunteering Officer, will Hesselwood have done enough to secure her chances as Activities Officer?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**OLIVER HUTCHINGS**  
 The former Alcuin Chair is well known for his energy and personality, attributes well-suited to the role of President.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★★★★



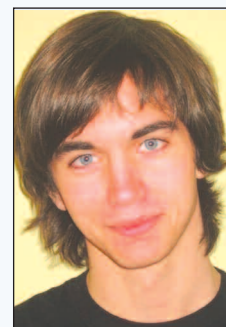
**CHRIS ETHERIDGE**  
 Tory boy Etheridge is another face of campus politics, especially after becoming Campaigns Officer.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**BEN HUMPHRYS**  
 Current Welfare incumbent Humphrys wishes to extend his experience as a YUSU Sabb to focus on more academic issues.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**LUKE MALKIN**  
 By presenting York Come Dancing and securing a position in RAG, DanceSport President Malkin seems well on his way to securing victory.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



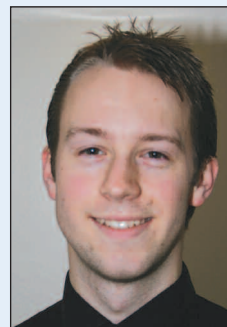
**DAVID LEVENE**  
 Former Labour Party Chair and current Chair of Union Council aspires to extend his passion and experience to the role of President.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**DAN WALKER**  
 After commendably leading new Goodricke students on to Hes East, former JCRC Chair Walker is no stranger to a challenge.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**JASON ROSE**  
 Will Rose's reputation as Campaigns Officer and attendee at every committee meeting going to work as a campaigning advantage?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**NICK SCARLETT**  
 RAG Charities Liason Officer and Mr Kids' Camp certainly has the passion and the experience - but does he have the support?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆

### YORK SPORT



**TIM NGWENA**  
 Current YUSU President Ngwena plans to run for a second term, making him the first incumbent President to ever do so.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**SAM ASFAHANI**  
 Asfahani is well rehearsed in both sports and politics, as former Langwith Chair and founder of the American Football Club.

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★☆☆☆



**ELANIN VINCE**  
 Will Vince's role as LGBT Officer with Peter Warner-Medley provide her with transferable skills as an Academic Officer?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★☆☆☆☆



**KATY UNSWORTH**  
 As Alcuin RAG Rep and organiser of this year's RAG week, will Unsworth's RAG niche be enough?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★☆☆☆☆



**ROBERTO POWELL**  
 The former Halifax President is well-known on campus - but can Powell rely on his college and secure the loyal vote?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★☆☆☆☆



**ROB NEWTON**  
 Can Hockey Club President Newton rely on the club's faithful support - especially as it is one of the biggest sports clubs on campus?

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★☆☆☆☆

### WELFARE



**PETER WARNER-MEDLEY**  
 This year's winner of York Come Dancing and current LGBT Officer is currently uncontested...

ELECTION CHANCES  
 ★★★★★

### NOUSE MINI-SITE

For all information about candidates' policies, election news, video footage, plus comment and debate, go to [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk). We will be launching an elections mini-site shortly after this year's nominations have closed, on Friday 26 February.





# Comment & Analysis

Camilla Jenkins

MUSE Editor



## Take heed, your actions online are nowhere near anonymous

The internet does not provide the veil of anonymity that most assume. You are at the judgement of both your peers and the law.

A few weeks ago, the OTC at Oxford University decided to hold a 'Zulu' themed party. A student journalist spent the entire evening camped out to see if anyone blacked up. No one did. Why be reduced to paparazzi style journalism? Because in Oxford, this is big news. National news, in fact.

However, a couple of hundred miles north, a similar thing has happened. This time, a student decided to black-up, dress in Arab clothing and strap a representative bomb to his waist. On his chest is a clock, representing a ticking bomb. Why are the London Times not calling our esteemed Editor demanding to buy the story off us? Because, as I'm sure you know, we are not Oxbridge and the things we do are less interesting.

The national media's lack of interest in our concrete-enclosed campus has led to a false sense of security for students. While Oxbridge is well aware of the implications of voicing politically incorrect statements, whether tongue in cheek or not, York seems blissfully unaware of the concept of consequences.

The recent uncovering of a York student posing as a paedophile on various Facebook groups should act as a shocking reminder for all that we are no longer protected by the warm bubble of our youth. Off-colour humour, although rarely tolerated in schools, usually results in detention. Now, it may be lawsuits.

Student media are already being forced to learn this lesson. The Racial and Religious Hate Act 2006 brought in by Labour means

we, your caring and protective student media, are forced to consider legal ramifications before we do anything. Not only is *Nouse* accountable for every word we write, the author in question is as well.

Some feel a faux paedophile's actions are excused by his youth or his ("admittedly poor form") idea of humour. One student tried to convince me that it didn't matter because he wasn't actually a paedophile. "He didn't mean it, it was all in jest. Why are we taking this so seriously?"

Much like writing a novel, anything you put on Facebook is considered "published". You are accountable to both the law and your friends list.

Facebook is a public forum and we must treat it as such. Just as we wouldn't walk through Market Square shouting about how "it's all the bloody immigrants' fault" or inviting that little blonde girl into your white van to "see your new puppy", students shouldn't post things or join groups they don't agree with. Your online actions will have consequences that stretch into real life

The average user spends 55 minutes on Facebook. Considering most friendship lists will contain anyone from children, relatives, and employees, that's an awful lot of people whose opinions all matter in their own way, that will see your drunken hilarity or distasteful frape.

It is time for students to accept that we are adults and must act like them. I don't care if you love children, hate Jews or find dead baby jokes hilarious - you must expect to take responsibility for what you say. If you insist on following suite with our page two boy and displaying incredible stupidity online, you must accept the consequences.

Nanny state? Perhaps. But it is time for students to stop expecting to be protected by their youth and take responsibility for their actions. Most have already accomplished this. For those who haven't, I warn you: you will be discovered and deserve to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

RHIANNON WILLIAMS



Camilla Apcar

Deputy Comment Editor



## Look into my eyes, and tell me that it isn't Tru

Oh Tru, what will we do without you? If (but more likely when) the club shuts down, I sense the end of an era. So many of my most cherished Fresher year memories took place on those hallowed dance floors. Tru might not be everyone's idea of a great night out, but for some, it's a landmark in our lives. An institution signifying freedom and independence: a real symbol of university life. It might be of less than average standard but as we know it, it's quite likely to leave our midsts forever. Or at least until new management comes along.

All I can think is: what will I look forward to? How can I guar-

antee turning up to mid-week lectures hungover, still a little tipsy? Will there be a replacement that can allow for post-Sunday Night Gallery recovery, but still come enough in the week to not care about demanding seminar reading? Why is everything changing?

I've never found accepting "changes" in life overly problematic. It's a healthy necessity, whether we like it or not. Change allows us to evolve and our horizons to broaden. If we were to continue living the same routine, carrying out the same tasks with the same people for our entire lives, we would doubtless get bored. It's a horrid thought to consider: "My

current lifestyle is keeping me from discovering the person I have the potential within me to become" But to a great extent, it's true.

**"truthfully, the University had every right to tell us to get back on time"**

Since starting university I have, countless times, apologised to my friends at home for not filling

them in on every detail of this "new existence" I'm leading. Yet what we must all come to understand is that you can't spend all of your time recounting details to others. At some point, you simply have to go and live your life.

Contemporary society doesn't allow us the time to get emotionally attached to anything, least of all a mediocre (but beloved) nightclub. We live in such a fast paced world that once we truly come to appreciate something, we're always told, "oh wait, actually, you had it all wrong", and suddenly something else becomes the 'right' answer. This doesn't necessarily mean we have to forget the past

though. Our past experiences shape our future actions - it's all part of a subconscious education into "wisdom".

Change is an inevitable process which, with a certain amount of trepidation, I'm all too ready to embrace. I'm just not sure whether I'm ready to let go of Tru just yet. Does this mean I'm going to have to try out this new 'Jampot' Monday night at Ziggy's? 'Monpot'; 'Jamday' -they just don't have the same unique ring. But I'm sure next year's Freshers will make it work. They'll never know what they missed out on in the first place. Au revoir, Tru - you will be sorely missed.



> Depressed students **M6-M7**  
The other side of student life

> Realities of the Pill **M10**  
Are the side effects really worth it?

**SPRING WEEK SEVEN**  
Tuesday 23 February 2010

# MUSE.

**Take a walk on the wild side**

**Fashion brings you the latest S/S 2010 trends. M12-M17**

Chris Young

## Ethics and economics are not always going to go hand in hand

Saving money with ethics in mind is all well and good, but are newer banks up to the task?

Two years ago, a UGM motion was passed telling YUSU that the students of York wanted to our Union to save its money with an ethical bank. Now, after a lot of work and effort, our Union does so. Gone are the days where we save our money with unethical investors. We no longer indirectly fund the arms trade or are, in some way, responsible for massive investment in fossil fuel extraction.

Don't get me wrong, I am all for saving the Earth and not killing people. But where do we draw the line? Lives are important, but they're dictated by the flow and availability of money. When Northern Rock collapsed a few years ago everyone in the country was, indirectly, forced to spend money to safeguard people's investments. But a dramatic bailout cannot happen on a regular basis, especially with younger banks. Is saving with a young, fragile bank not known for its stability

really the right message to send to young students?

I'm not one to criticise YUSU; the Sabbatical officers work very hard and don't deserve a lot of the high profile disapproval

**“We need to trust long-established banks with a history of stability”**

they get. At the end of the day, the decisions made are because our elected officers believe the results will benefit students at York. The decisions they make, especially regarding money, can significantly affect future generations of Sabbs to come afterwards though, as well as their ability to fulfil their own policy ambitions.

In this situation, sensi-

ble and economic banking must take precedence. The future of our Union relies on sensible and safe money management. All profits made by Your:Shop and the Courtyard go straight back to YUSU. This money is then used to fund both sports, welfare and student activities, from this paper to Drama Soc.

Clearly, money is one of the most important assets to any business or organisation. Basing how we risk one of our key assets around the idea that our views will distantly affect how a bank decides how it invests is foolish. In a world without economic confidence, we need to trust long-established banks with a history of stability.

Putting ethics before common sense is thoughtless. I only hope that the hard work our Sabbatical officers do doesn't go to waste and put future Sabbs at a disadvantage. At least we'll be saving the planet though, won't we?

Grace Teh

## B Henry's faces an uphill struggle

Facebook wants to know: do you want to join the group 'Relaunching B Henry's as a live acoustic venue'? I ponder for a second as I have no clue what B Henry's is, but upon seeing that a substantial number of my friends have joined I duly accept the invitation and then promptly forget about it.

As I discovered a few days later, B Henry's is actually the Alcuin College bar and not quite the achingly hip secret underground venue I'd hoped. Being a Jamesite, you will have to excuse my faux pas as simple college patriotism, and the plain fact that, for me, Alcuin is just too far away.

Despite my reservations though, and for the sake of journalism, I trekked all the way across campus in order to find this mythical place, and to find out why it is struggling to achieve its surely deserved popularity. You can imagine my disappointment upon reaching the other side of the universe, when I find that B Henry's is closed.

Apparently the bar is only open two nights a week; I couldn't help but register a lack of surprise at the fact it is losing money. How many people are going to be frustrated by that alone?

I do realise that I am probably being somewhat harsh. Restricting opening hours and rebranding itself is B Henry's attempt to justify remaining open in the future. But is there any hope

left for the ailing establishment? Will a re-launch as a Friday night acoustic venue really work? Forgive me if I sound cynical, but I think it's going to take a lot more than a bit of live music to remove its existing stigma. York students are rather fond of routine; Tuesday night Tru, Wednesday night Ziggy's etc. It seems unlikely that a campus bar can break these ingrained habits, good or bad.

It would be unfair to say B Henry's is suffering alone. No bar on campus, apart from The Courtyard, is close to being a hive of activity. The situation college bars are faced with isn't exactly ideal. Why would the average student, for example, want to drag themselves down to the college bar for a drink they could very well do it cheaper in their kitchens? Or why would the same person want to 'pre-lash' at a college bar when places such as Nag's do 'Trebles for Singles'?

What is needed is more than just a redesign. What's required is a serious and drastic change in the attitudes and thinking of most people.

We must get behind our college bars as only we have the ability to change the negative outlook on them. After all, as much as we hate to admit it, students are rather like sheep - once a few of us decide that Friday night at B Henry's is the place to be, the rest are soon sure to follow.

### The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

As election season begins, has the current YUSU team done a good job so far?

187 people voted, with the majority stating

No



82 people voted Yes

(46%)

105 people voted No

(54%)

To be a part of the debate and for exclusive web content go to [www.nouse.co.uk/comment](http://www.nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Letters

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

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

*Nouse*, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

### Elections have the potential to be eco problem

Dear *Nouse*,

While elections are going to be really good I'm sure and there's the Sesame Street stuff that looks really nice, is anybody else a bit worried about the environmental implications of them?

While the uni just signed up to the 10:10 commitment, which is absolutely amazing, it hardly matters if each and every candidate, running for every small and irrelevant position under the sun, prints out about three thousand posters, stickers and badges.

Come on, it's hardly like everyone

(or anyone at all barring a few eco types) will bother with recycling them. Instead they'll end up all over the floor, and what's worse is that they're only going to have been any to one person in the end; the candidate who wins.

I hope that everyone thinks about the ecological impact we all have with all the largely needless campaigning. Think about what you're doing!

Evan, Third Year Social Policy student

### Don't ruin our clubs

Dear *Nouse*,

I'm really quite annoyed that the Health and Safety types are ruining my time in York.

I am a regular frequenter of both Ziggy's and the Willow. Last year, the ridiculous capacity limits were placed on Willow that have forced them to demand queues and payment for entry. It's not really been quite as good since.

And now Ziggy's is apparently a noise threat. What utter rubbish from the moaners.

A Derwent Third Year

### Lost Property

Dear Mr. D Gibbons

We have your lost property. We found your cards on the floor near our offices.

One of the lost cards we found are your Co-Operative membership card, which without your shopping will surely be more expensive, a most pressing reason to pick it up immediately. We also found your undoubtedly crucial Natwest railcard!

Come by our offices and pick them up, we're in plenty of the time.

*Nouse*

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# MUSE: February 23, 2010.



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M16: style.com

M23: Jason Lozier

When I became *MUSE* Editor, I was given many valuable pieces of advice. Among these, I was most skeptical about the instruction to set up a point system and set it up fast. I was shocked. Of course I didn't need a point system. I had thought long and hard about my managerial techniques and they were bound to work. Two editions in, I realise this was a mistake. Staring at what can only be described as a diabolical article, I announced to the office: "I can't decide whether this person is just cheeky or just lazy? Or both." And thus the point system was born.

Never one to be a Debbie downer about things, I created a carrot to go alongside the stick. Inspired by YUSU's campaign, people who please me are described as "golden". Just in case this isn't incentive enough, I've also taken to turning up with vast quantities of food including reward chubba chups and conciliatory baked goods. Just call me the fucking muffin man.

Anyway, enough mollycoddling. Don't have time, you see. Now: living with depression **M6-7**, attempts at free fast food for life **M8-9**, Iran - rogue state or friendly state? Uncovered **M11**, the fashion team goes above and beyond with S/S clothes **M13-16**, blast from the past with Ms Shaw **M18**, interview with band fronted by Sting's son (to whom I am loosely related - we have the same forehead!) **M21**, dinner goes back to front **M23**. That's all folks. Enjoy the show.

- Camilla Jenkins

# Henry James Foy

I have nothing against fasting, nor prayer for that matter, they're both very noble things, and the true foundations of Lent. But what really gets me is today's concept, viciously re-appropriated by modern society to become a crap version of New Year's resolutions.

Jesus refrained from turning rocks into loaves of bread. He didn't stop munching KitKat Chunkys for 40 days just so he could mope around feeling hungry and a little bit proud.

The problem is, nobody is actually going to do something that benefits society in general at Lent. Instead, smug individuals chose to give up something ultimately superfluous to their existence thus overtly announce the relinquishing of their sinful vices.

"I'm giving up swearing for Lent," one of my friends told me this weekend. That's great. Have a medal. "I'm giving up chocolate," another member of the group piped up in response. Bravo. I hope they meet up at Easter and fucking scoff a fuckload of fucking Dairy Milk.

One unimaginative friend even went as far as posting 'Anybody got any suggestions as to what I should give up for Lent?' as their Facebook status. There are other ways to be unhappy, you know. I had to physically restrain myself from writing 'twattish, attention-seeking statuses'. I did have some other suggestions though. How about giving up not donating to charity, or stopping not flying to earthquake-hit disaster zones with sackfuls of urgent medical supplies? That would be something worth announcing on Facebook.

At this point, you're probably either wanting to know exactly what I have decided to give up, or you've resolved to give up reading this column for Lent, or maybe forever. Not to be out-sacrificed by the general masses, I racked my brains. I wanted a habit that would be tough to break and worthwhile. Something beneficial, yet challenging. However, as I'm not overweight, a smoker, an embarrassed user of expletives, a secret public defecator or a combination of these, I was at something of a loss.

And then I found it. It's fuelled by both a respect for sacrifice and a selfish desire for benefit. It's a short-term struggle for long-term pleasure. For I am currently forgoing both my favourite thing and my biological enemy: cheese.

It hurts, believe me, and it has

**"As I'm not overweight, a smoker, an embarrassed user of expletives, or a combination of these, I was at something of a loss"**

been a struggle thus far, but I'm resolved to it. Cheese is my weakness. Literally, in fact. A few bites of the creamy, soft stuff and I'm wholly incapacitated. It's the lactose. I just can't deal with it. I've taken the Lactase pills. I've tried to find lacto-free mozzarella. I've even cut out every single drop of supplementary lactose from my diet, but it's not enough.

You may scoff. You probably should - it's a rather anticlimactic resolution to a rather angry column topic, but I'm sure you agree, it did provide a striking visual represen-

tation. But hold your mocking. This is no easy feat.

It seems my fondness for fondue is in fact a psychological condition, and the difficulty of breaking such a dependence on the darling of dairy is well documented by such scientific titles as *Breaking the Food Seduction*. Did you see how much brie she ate in a week? Christ, I was dribbling.

And get this. Some evidently insane American scientists reckon they've found traces of morphine in cows milk, and have proved that the milk protein casein, which cheese is packed full of, produces opiates. What did the crazy Dr Barnard call cheese? 'Dairy crack'. And I'm going cold cheddar.

But I still can't claim to actually be making the world a better place. Unlike a graduate friend who

came to stay this weekend and has given up alcohol for Lent. It was only after he told me it was to raise money for his disabled friend's wheelchair that I hastily stopped telling him how much of a miserable bastard he'll become for 40 days.

The long, pregnant, and very awkward silence that followed aside, I reckon his is the best reason for forfeit I've heard this year. That's what Lent should be about. Helping others through sacrifice. And avoiding chronic enzyme-related genetic disorders, obviously.



## Social pariah: Charlotte Hogarth-Jones

Exiting The Courtyard in a jubilant and cheeky mood. Swinging round into the glass doors at great velocity I see my friend Jim, who should technically be my evil arch enemy, as he is from (pause for dread and "de-de-dehhhh" noise) OLD VISION.

Gliding through the doorway I raise my right hand and am about to offer a friendly and perhaps over-enthusiastic wave. Suddenly, I am filled with horror and panic as I realise he is talking to someone else, someone who is ALSO FROM VISION (de-de-dehhh here again if you like...) but whose name is someone-I-think-I-know-the-name-of-but-cant-quiiiite-remember. In a rash, shock horror move I for some reason decide to therefore extend my left arm outwards as well, waving to them both in order not to snub -boy-on-the-left-whose-name-I-dooont-hink-is-Paddy-but-I-dont-know-what-it-bloody-is-and-it-is-SO-too-late-to-ask?

Turning myself into what could only be defined as a human windmill of etiquette, I swiftly shoot my arms out, thrusting and rotating my palms into both of their faces with such violence that I a) nearly break Jim's nose and b) destroy what now seems like it was probably quite an important and serious convo. As I realise I have made myself into a Charlotte-rotisserie I see their faces. Jim looks shocked. Nameless boy looks expressionless, but I figure that can't



be good. In an even more daring and reckless move I decide to coo "helllllooo Vision!" in a high pitched and manic voice. I regret all of this. Sorry Jim. Sorry...other boy....

Derwent Bar. About 20 sex themed songs after 8pm. Take Me Out. (This is not a suggestion by the way, it's the name of the event....) Final round. I am surrounded by roughly 10 Helen of Troy lookalikes. It's the question round. It's the only part in Take Me Out where I have been required to utter anything other than either a girlish, brainless titter accompanied with a large quantity of hair flicking, or a "whooping" noise of the

kind done on Jerry Springer. The latter, by the way, I am particularly ill at ease with.

I have never been the kind to "whoop" on queue. So. The Big Question. "What's the best thing about a horse?" I am unprepared for this. My careful homework with my housemates prepped me for "what food would you eat off me?" or "would you let \*insert suitably inappropriate phrase\* on your \*insert suitably appropriate body part\*" but not, sadly, for anything involving horses.

Answers fly left, right and centre from my exotic competitors. "You can mount them," cites one with a cheeky wink. "I don't

know, but I'd love to ride you," replies another Princess of the Jungle. But what can I think of? "Shiny." That's literally aaaall that comes to mind. In my head I try to sex it up a bit. "They're shiny, but I like it like that," I think. Nope, that's no good. "They're shiny, which is slippery, which is a bit... oh fuck". Finally, it's the girl next to me. She offers an answer I can't remember, but which offers a level of "whooping" (and, also I believe "ooh yeaaa"s) which shoots off the Richter scale.

"So, Charlotte, can you top that?" offers our saucy hostess. The crowd waits with baited/alcoholic breath. "Um, no, Sarah, no I can't". Oh dear.

In the *Nouse* office, having been recently introduced to the delights of chatroulette.com. Yet, it seems, not sufficiently warned.

"What are you doing Charlotte?"

"Ah Leigh, well you see this guy on his webcam is having a nap, which is sooo funny, so I'm pretending to have a nap too so that when he wakes up he'll get really confused!"

"He's not having a nap, Charlotte."

"Of course he is Leigh! What else would he be doing with his head on the desk and his hands underneath!"

\*Leigh Clarke, Sports Journalist and chatroulette sage at this points illuminates his somewhat naive editress"

"Oh God, click next Leigh, click!"

# So-called life: Liam O'Brien

Everyone has their favourite words, and when you write reasonably often, as I do in this very paper, you tend to repeat them. Mine are 'beatific', which I generally flip into the pejorative to mean 'miserable', and 'burdensome', which I use as a substitute for the ponderous, all-consuming malaise of everyday life.

I'm not the only guilty party. In the national press, particularly in magazines and weekend supplements (the eternal home of bad writing), words are repeated all the time. Is it possible to read a style magazine without seeing the nondescript 'quirky', 'unique' or 'elegant'? Do you feel like slapping every writer who describes someone's creative oeuvre, whether musical, artistic or otherwise, as 'anarchic'?

Two of the most overused terms are those two bookends of the emotional spectrum, 'zenith' and 'nadir'. A recent issue of a certain paper in the Berliner format had them both in surplus. But sometimes, these words are just necessary.

For over the next few weeks, the University of York will experience its own annual nadir, when students will be asked to accommodate the two-headed evil of Fusion and YUSU elections.

Not simply accommodate, even, but to participate, to look at the myriad of posters and feel urged to vote on something which, to most students, is of absolutely no consequence other than to mark our approval of mild-mannered personality cults and policy that veers between unrealistic and dull.

It is the duty of campus media, however, to help students

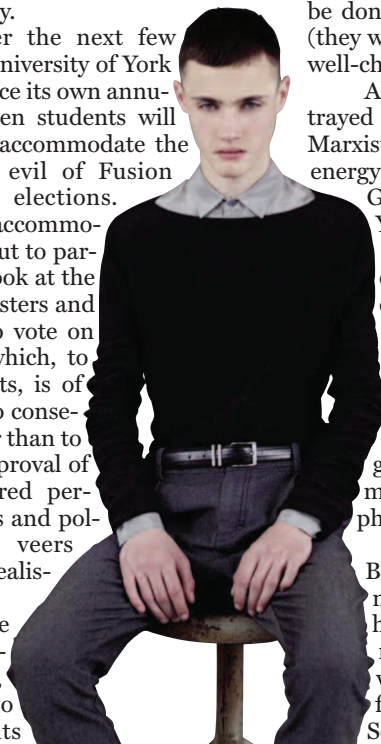
make informed choices in the elections, and it goes without saying that they form the main news agenda in Spring term. Alongside election rumours though, Fusion's PR have craftily conjured their show into a news item, and I must congratulate them for this bewitching effect.

The truth of it is that Fusion is a two-hour exercise in boredom, punctuated by the odd moment that provokes the mind out of somnolence, perhaps because you know one of the participants, or because you are horrified at the clichéd appropriation of a theme onto a basic dance routine or 'modelling' scene - there's nothing like it when Fusion take an idea and really, err... amble around with it. The real thing to look out for is the ursine gait of the boys trying to model. That, and the stylists' attempts to do something a bit 'alternative' with clothes sourced from such aspirational outlets as Moss Bros and Gap. I've enclosed a picture of how high street clothes (here, Topman) can be done well if the models are skinny (they won't be), interesting (nope), and well-chosen (...).

Alas, our campus media has portrayed Fusion as some collaborative Marxist effort stimulated by a creative energy not seen since the Bloomsbury Group's heyday. I'll take The Yorker's piece as an example.

Fusion's 'visionary', and ostensibly celestial creative director, "manages to negotiate every last detail of the performance with an almost unearthly serenity." Furthermore Head Choreographers Darcey Bussell and Gene Kelly "have brought genuine talent to this year's committee [sic, because that's not a phrase]."

Why am I being so awful? Because in the past I've been so nice. I'm absolving myself from having given Fusion 3 and 4 star reviews before, reviews they weren't happy with despite the fact they were far too generous. See it at your peril.



# Rule Britannia by numbers

**4** 2%. The number of Brits who believe in ghosts. This compared with 38% who believe in God. The later explains the CU but why are York ghost walks so deserted?

**2** 0% of British women go to work without wearing any underwear. In the Nouse office, it's 90%. Hallo boys.

**8** % of British men do not clean their teeth when they wake up, meaning morning breath is all day breath. It's not sexy, is it?

**6** is the number of British men you will, on average, shake hands with who have just masturbated this year.

**4**,231. The amount of times the average person will have sex in their lives. That's only 84 times a year, adjusted for puberty and old-age. Screw the porters, YUSU should be campaigning against this.

**5** 6% of Brits would rather have a smaller waistline than a higher IQ. It remains a constant shock that we are the financial centre of the world. Not an ambitious lot, are we?

**1** the rating Sheffield gets on the list of those who have the most fillings and missing teeth. And there was I thinking it was V-Bar.

**1** 2. The number of pubic hairs the average Briton will consume in their fast food. Efes or a midnight shag? Now you can do both. Grim.

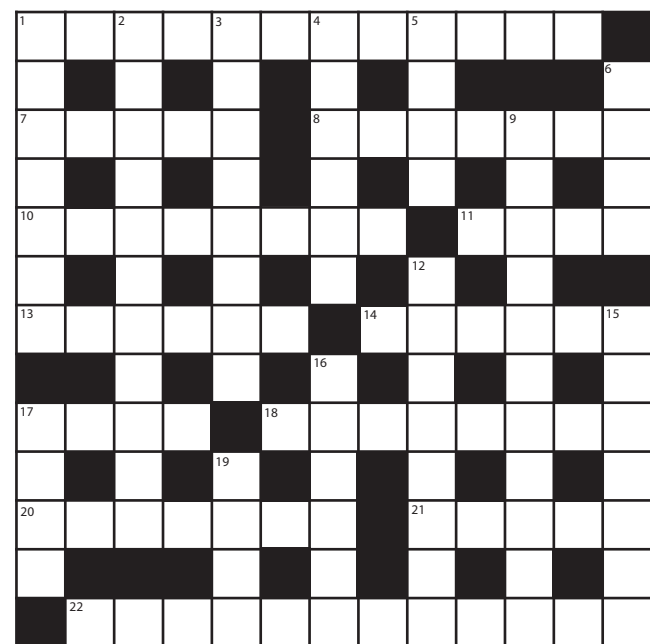
**2** 2 times more tea is consumed by Britons compared to the French and the Americans. It's not a great statistic but considering our dire sporting performances, it's all we've got.

**3** Brits die each year testing whether a nine volt battery works on their tongue. That's more than die from coconuts falling on their heads in the Bahamas. Less exotic, but we make it work.

**1** st. York's own railway museum is the largest in the UK. This tidbit was given to me by my grandfather, in all seriousness, when I admitted to being concerned about the lack of social life in York.

**7** 4% of British women admit to using holidays as an excuse to get drunk. The other 26% are lying.

## The Nouse Crossword



- 11. Mythical Himalayan ape (4)
- 13. Acquire; secure (6)
- 14. Sofa; couch (6)
- 17. Supreme Greek God (4)
- 18. Noble ancestry (8)
- 20. River crossed by Caesar (7)
- 21. Circular or filled cake (5)
- 22. Female Albanian Saint (6,6)

### Down

- 1. Spanish founder of Cubism (7)
- 2. Rough principle of calculation (4, 2, 5) (Anag. Be Hurtful Om)
- 3. Island south of Australia (8)
- 4. Beginning; source (6)
- 5. Bishop of Rome (4)
- 6. North Indian tea (4)
- 9. Herbicide used during Vietnam War (5, 6)
- 12. Revive; relight (8)
- 15. Murderous sister of Orestes (7)
- 16. German hot-dog sausage (6)
- 17. Spanish high street clothing chain (4)
- 19. Northernmost territory of Indonesia (4)

### Across

- 1. Airborne commandos (12)
- 7. Defeated 2010 Superbowl finalists (5)
- 8. Bring a public official to trial (7)
- 10. Country bordering Hungary and Poland (8)

## The Nouse Sudoku

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

# The joker behind punk

Pete Shelley of The Buzzcocks talks with **Mia de Graaf** almost 30 years after they first became famous and revolutionized the music industry.



**The Buzzcocks at a concert in Barcelona.**

In 1975, Pete Shelley, then a philosophy student at university, came across an advert, posted by fellow student Howard Devoto, wanting to start a band. 35 years later, despite an eight year split and a shuffling of band members, The Buzzcocks are still going and are seen by many in the music world to be among the pioneers of the punk genre.

Shelley's friendly "Hello!" throws me off guard - this cheery Mancunian voice fuelled a cutting-edge, anarchic trend of modern culture?

He is unfazed by my apprehension at his constant jokes and digressions into talking about things he's seen on TV; he is clearly aware of the preconceptions of our generation. "The original punk was a good laugh and that's what life's about isn't it? Going out and meeting people, and having fun, playing loud music."

Of course to many of the younger generation today, 'The Buzzcocks' means half an hour of Simon Amstell and Bill Bailey humming and quizzing (of which Shelley is quite aware: "it doesn't half make trying to find clips on YouTube frustrating!").

However, 30 years ago they were the focal point of the new wave music scene domineered by Tony Wilson, club-owner and record producer. The recent film *24 Hour Party People* revived the memory of this eclectic movement, and reasserted the influ-

ence it had upon modern culture.

Shelley, again, addresses a topic of great hype with an unexpectedly jovial tone. "Tony Wilson was great, yeah. I went round to his house at Christmas; we used to have a great time."

This casual, spontaneous attitude initially attributed to punk has developed and changed over the years, and Shelley has watched the genre convert from non-conformity to strict rebellion: "there are lots of people in punk that are very..." he deliberates carefully, "...strongly committed."

You get the punk Taliban as well - the people that go on about punk as no smiling; you're not meant to enjoy yourself."

Evidently this is a concept that Shelley finds amusing and is surprised when I ask if The Buzzcocks' music is still punk, or whether it is now classed as a less hardcore genre. "We show them how to do it properly," he laughs. "Punk is an ideal, an attitude, it is instead of being a passive consumer. You become an active participant in culture and you do something to make things change."

They are currently touring, having been to Italy, England, and America. What are they looking to achieve now, 35 years on? "The same kind of thing, a reaction out of an audience. Thankfully it's a lot better than we used to get. People have had the time to find out about us and learn some of the songs, it

was really surprising playing in Italy because it was a very young audience but they were all singing along, so we must have done something right."

Shelley is firm in his belief that this is the kind of reaction music should provoke: "It should be easy but music has drifted away. When we started, in order to be a musician you needed to be able to play a thousand notes a second or something stupid like that, and you had to be a 'virtuoso' to form a band - or at least that was the accepted thinking."

**"You get the punk Taliban as well - the people that go about punk as no smiling; you're not meant to enjoy yourself."**

"Punk was different to that because a lot of people enjoy music; music is the people, it's not just the rock stars and the corporations."

It is for this reason that Shelley cites The Beatles and T-Rex as his musical influences in starting a new wave: "They were, of course, a whirlwind in themselves, and it was good because the songs were accessible so I could learn how to play them on my guitar."

On the subject of today's popular music, he thinks hard before admit-

ting: "Ever since they stopped doing 'Top of the Pops' I don't know at all what's going on!" However, this detachment from the charts is hardly a sign of Shelley's detachment from advancements in the industry.

He talks at length about the need for record companies to keep up with rapidly advancing technology: "I suppose it would be nice to record an album, but record companies don't know what they're doing yet."

"In 1999 we released an album with EMI and we went in asking who was in charge of the Internet and they were head in the sand, 'if we ignore them they'll go away', which is outrageous."

This aggravation at the business is unsurprising in a band that has often been seen as politically reactionary. Shelley mulls over this label: "Well, it depends. We won't be standing for the next election; it's not that kind of political. Anything you do or say about what's going on is political."

"Steve [Diggle, guitarist] has a bee in his bonnet against big corporations and globalizations, and my songs have talked about 'big' questions, like what is life? When I write things that are political it's because the most important political things now are the things that individuals do to each other in society. So I am political but I'm not a patron or electioneer or anything like that."

Chuckling to himself, he adds, "but vote Labour!" **M**



# The best three years of your life?

Student depression is a misunderstood condition, says **Liv Evans**.

Picture this. It's a Friday evening. A group of students are clattering around their flat, making dinner, excited about going out later that evening. It's noisy, everyone's talking, everyone's having fun. But there's one student in the kitchen who feels the opposite. She can put a brave face on, and can laugh and drink and enjoy herself along with everyone else. But deep down, all is not as it seems.

The rate of student depression is above the national average. In a 2003 study conducted by the Mental Health Foundation, it was found that 12% of male and 15% of female students suffered from clinical depression whilst at university, compared with one in ten of the general population. More recently, since the introduction of tuition fees the number of students seeking counselling has risen by 20%. It was estimated in 2005 that one in four students will suffer from some form of mental distress whilst at university.

Rebecca\*, 20, a student at York, explains her experiences of this debilitating condition. "There's this voice in my head sometimes and all rationality goes out of the window. When I'm in a certain mood it completely takes over me. I feel like it's not even me anymore.

"I feel overwhelmed and I feel like I don't know what to do with myself. It sort of feels like a panic attack, but it's a lot more sustained. It will last for days."

Gareth\*, 22, a student at a Welsh university, was diagnosed with clinical depression in October 2008. "There's a split personality. Sometimes you feel like you can climb Everest; sometimes you feel like you can't climb out of bed. There's always this self-doubt in your head telling you you're wrong and you're going to cause a nuisance to people. Your self-esteem is zero, no matter what people tell you. They could tell you you're the best person in the world, and you wouldn't believe them."

Clinical depression is different from the downs that most people feel. A sufferer will experience intense feelings of anxiety, negativity and helplessness, combined with a general lethargy and lack of interest in everyday life. It can tear families apart as they search for a cure for a condition which has no physical manifestations, but can take over a person's character and completely change their personality.

For Rebecca, the problem developed after failing to get into her top choice universities. "Academia was always a respite. If I was having emotional difficulties, I could say, 'it's OK, I'm doing really well at school and I will be really successful in my career', and that was completely diminished. I'd always been quite a confident person and I felt like my confidence had completely been destroyed."

Gareth partly attributes his illness to his circumstances when he started university. "I haven't moved out of my hometown and I lived at home for my

first year. I've never felt like I've fitted in at university at all."

He describes how he changed as the illness took hold. "I went straight from being an extrovert to being an introvert. I've never had any trouble making friends, but at uni I just couldn't be bothered. I started ignoring my friends and I broke up with my girlfriend of five years. Before I was diagnosed I just thought I was going through changes, I thought it was natural until people told me I needed help."

He has been taking Prozac since being diagnosed and may be on it for life. "It controls the mood swings. It makes you feel better and it makes everything seem a bit more real, but at the expense of emotional output. You become an emotional zombie." Do the benefits outweigh the negatives? "It helps that my depressive lows are not as far down as they were, but that's at the expense of sometimes feeling any highs. It creates a middle ground."

Both found that going to university exacerbated the situation. Gareth found the transition from schoolwork to a degree very difficult. "The pressure to make deadlines can be overwhelming. But I wouldn't say that there's a pressure to succeed in university. If anything, the attitude among some students is completely anti-academic."

However, humanities student Rebecca struggled for the opposite reason, feeling that there was not enough

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**"There's a stereotype of a student as someone who has a very fun life. For a depressive it's the exact opposite"**

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focus on academic work. "There's not enough pressure, you're not constantly taken care of. The fact that I have so much time on my hands means I have to have a degree of self-worth. With humanities you're put into a cycle of laziness. The more you think about it, the worse you feel." And so few contact hours makes things worse? "Definitely."

It is interesting to note the different reactions between them to the academic aspect of university. Rebecca, a high-achiever who had expected to excel, found the university system, with its emphasis on individual study, difficult to adjust to. In contrast, Gareth attends a mid-table university, having not done as well in his A-Levels as he had hoped, and found the work too challenging. There is no overwhelming reason for student depression; it can strike for many different reasons.

Gareth was immediately deferred from his course after his diagnosis. "The year out, if anything, made it worse. The instinct of a depressive is to lock themselves away. It feels like it's you against the world. No matter how

much you think 'I don't need anybody else, they don't like me, you need other people. Cutting yourself off makes the problem even worse.'

After previously enjoying an active social life, he gave up all his recreational activities. "I was busy nearly every day of the week, but when the depression took hold I gave up nearly everything. I felt that everything was getting on top of me and it was all too exhausting, both physically and mentally. My confidence had completely gone and I just couldn't face people."

His story becomes harrowing to hear, as it becomes clear just how much the condition affected him. "Another instinct of depressives is to run away from problems and that's when rationality goes out of the window. I was on holiday in London last year and I had a nightmare which freaked me out so much that I had to go home. I had to go across the city at about 3am, take the Tube then wait for a train home which cost £80, when I had a return ticket for the next day. It made sense to no-one I was with and it didn't make sense to me, but I was in such a state that it seemed like the only thing to do. I didn't know why I did it, but I did."

If untreated, the problem can become all-consuming, sending the sufferer into a spiral of self-loathing and desperation, and the consequences of this can be fatal. Gareth explains: "At my lowest point, I was considering suicide. There was one point where if my housemate hadn't come in to check on me, perhaps I wouldn't be alive today. That's how low you can get. You're not in your right mind. If you asked me now, 'do you want to die?', of course I don't. It's an altered state of mind."

As depression and other mental illnesses continue to become more common amongst students, the demand for counselling services has risen. But Rebecca is sceptical of how much support they can really offer. "I'm quite cynical; I don't see an objective counsellor as someone who can help me. I feel like I need to talk to someone who understands the situation and understands me. I often talk to my housemates, but I do sometimes feel like they are a bit sick of it. I hate putting pressure on people to listen to me and I don't like putting a weight on other people's shoulders about my emotional problems. I think that I have to learn to respect and trust myself before I go to a counsellor and trust them. I don't know if I'll ever go."

Gareth did make use of his university counselling services, although he describes the experience as tricky and feels lucky that he managed to get an appointment straightaway. "I was told that there was potentially a three month wait for subsequent appointments, which made keeping to a routine very difficult. Universities have a responsibility in these cases, particularly as students are paying to be doing

these courses. They have a duty to provide the best possible facilities." Do you feel like that's the case at the moment? "No." It seems that the support network for students with depression is not as secure as it seems.

However, he did feel that counselling helped: "I found it much easier talking to someone who didn't know me. There are certain things that you wouldn't want your friends or your mother to know, but if you're talking to someone anonymous in complete confidence, you can be as honest as you want. I found getting everything off my chest and knowing what was wrong cathartic, but I was looking for an instant solution, and there wasn't one."

But is it just a problem now? Do they think that once out of the university bubble, things will improve? Rebecca doesn't think that she will feel better once she graduates. "The end of uni is such an elusive concept. I used to think that as I got older, and as I met new people, things would be better, but more recently I have been really anxious about the near future. I think that the older I get, the worse I'll become. I have the fear that the older I get, the more I'll think that all the ambitions and expectations I have won't ever be fulfilled, and that'll make me feel even worse." Has uni proved that? "Definitely. When I leave here I'll probably feel exactly the same."

Gareth hasn't thought that far into the future. "But if you'd asked me this time last year how I would feel now, I would probably have said I'd feel much the same way. And that's not true; I'm feeling much, much better. When you're depressed, recovery takes a long time and you can't predict it. But am I feeling as good as I was before? No. I'm not sure I ever will again."

There is something of a stereotypical view of a depressive: someone who has always been withdrawn and hard to relate to. But Gareth warns against making judgements. He doesn't think that certain people are more prone to depression than others. "I think it can genuinely happen to anybody. It could happen to the happiest person on Earth. It's something that can be triggered and it could happen to anyone. No-one should think they're immune, because they're not."

Meeting Rebecca, in particular, you would never guess that she is depressed. She leads an active social life, is involved with societies and always seems to be busy. The stereotype of the depressive who sits in their room all day and cuts themselves off from the world does not always ring true.

Gareth concludes, "all my friends who'd already been to uni were bigging it up, saying it was amazing, the best three years of your life, but for me, they've turned into the three worst."

Is there a stigma attached to student depression? "Definitely. There's a stereotype of a student as someone who doesn't do much but has a very, very fun life. For a depressive it's the exact opposite. Depressed students are a forgotten people in society."

There is so much pressure to convince the outside world, and even yourself, that you are having the time of your life during your university career. But for more than a handful of students, this is not the case.

As much as all the drinking and partying might suggest otherwise, university is part of the real world and things will never be as perfect as we expect. It is only once this is accepted that attitudes will begin to change towards student depression.

\*Names have been changed. M



# The kings behind the kebabs

These men have seen us when we are at our worst. **Richard Lemmer** investigates the stories behind York's favourite takeaways.



**Y**es, boss? At two in the morning in Freshers' Week, these can be the most reassuring words in the world. You may have lost your friends. You may have 'lost' all your money. And if you've been to Ziggy's, you will have definitely lost your dignity.

But you're leaning against a gleaming metal work surface, staring at a menu board that refuses to stop rotating and you're trying to explain that you want an Al Funghi pizza without mushrooms.

Congratulations, you've become a stereotypical student. But how easy is it to stereotype our favourite post-lash haunt - the takeaway? And what do the sleep deprived men who have to shovel pizza after pizza think of us, the drunken rabble that we can be?

If you're hearing the words "yes, boss", you're in Efes, the takeaway that's short on possessive apostrophes but literally giving away free cans of Pepsi.

If you were a student 15 years ago, you would have found a small pizza takeaway that closed well before York's clubs. Then from the sunny climes of Istanbul in Turkey came Mr Efe Aktaf, his brother Naci, and their cousins Emre and Mete, the latter of whom

now manages Efes. Mr Efe has worked in takeaways his entire life, and is now providing for himself, his wife and his two daughters, aged five and ten.

After 15 years of topping pizzas and wrapping kebabs together, Mete claims the family unit still get on perfectly fine, although Mr Efe admits it can be hard not seeing his children. "It's difficult but I try to make time - wake up early or go to bed later - so I can have an hour to just play and spend time with them."

But Mr Efes is not immune from nagging: "Sometimes my wife gets annoyed at me - why are you working every day? Why are you working every

**"We try to close and people want to get in for food. They get angry, banging on the windows, shouting abuse"**

day? I'm trying to run a business!"

But what does Mete, manager of the self-proclaimed "number one student takeaway in York", think of you when you sway towards his counter at

**Far left: Kaja of Chubbies, Above: Mr. Efe and employee, Far right, top: the gentlemen of Viking Kitchen. Far right, middle: Kaja and partner. Far right, bottom: Viking Kitchen**

three in the morning?

"We know students like to party, and we understand this. They go out, get drunk, enjoy themselves, get some food, then go home and go to bed". Then be sick, miss lecture and panic-library-cram come essay or exam time, but I'm not going to tell Mr Efes about that.

The mentioning of partying leads Mr Efes to ask, "Where is Brendon? I never see Brendon anymore," - Brendon being a mutual friend who proudly displays an Efe's polo-shirt on his wall.

The partying stamina of students is just one of the many abilities that impress Fatih and Mehmet of York's Only Yummy Chicken.

"How do you do it?" Mehmet, Yummy Chicken's manager, asks me. "How do you party, party, party and then work the next day?" If the student is like me, I say, they sometimes miss out on whole 'next day' thing.

"That makes sense. Students are the best part of our job," Mehmet says.

We're witty and charming at three in the morning? Really?

"Students are always very friendly. And they are educated. Some people don't want to know anything about us, or anything, really."

Educated we may be, but we can still be cheeky. "Cheeky, cheeky," Fatih says as he takes several pizzas out of Yummy Chicken's oven.

"Students are always looking for the cheap way," Mehmet says. "Give it for free, give it for free! Any discount? Any discount?" Mehmet shrugs. "But we understand, and we like the students, because if there's no students, there's no business. They're drunk, I can understand."

Fatih finishes removing the pizzas and laughs: "One student came in and bought a can of Sprite and asked for student discount. They're 70p! I told him no. He was just drunk and cheeky."

At Efes, Mete agrees. "Students are fun people. We know people's names, we know the jokers, we know who likes to have a laugh. People always want a t-shirt, they're always begging, I'll pay for it, I'll pay for it! And we're like, sure, it's just a t-shirt."

Unfortunately, some students arrive at Efes in no fit state for clothes shopping. "Some students order their food and then they forget," Mete says. "Sometimes they just walk off. Sometimes they come in and order a burger. Then we will have a pizza cooked for someone else, and the burg-

er guy will say, 'yes that's mine, thank you Mr Efe'.

Sometimes we say, 'No, you ordered a burger, remember?' Other times they get the pizza and the person who ordered the pizza gets very confused when we give him a burger. We try our best, but we can get very busy and students can be very drunk."

Unfortunately, not everyone who visits York's takeaways are so understanding of students or takeaway staff. Mehmet explains that locals often gripe about the student nights at Gallery. "If people come from Gallery, and we say, 'Where you been guys?', sometimes they say, 'Gallery, but it was shit, it was full of students.'"

But Mehmet and Fatih have to bear the brunt of locals' drunken anger as well. "One time, someone was looking at the board and we said, 'What would you like?' and he said he was okay, then five minutes later we asked him what he wanted, and he said he was okay but he was still looking at the board. Then ten minutes later he came up to us and said, 'Where's my fucking food?!"

Mehmet sighs and says, "Sometimes the local people don't like us. They come in and have a go about foreign people, and we are foreign people!" Yet Mehmet and Fatih are proud of where they live. "We are York people too," they tell me. Mr Efes has also worked hard to become a British citizen, and he has no interest in ever returning to Istanbul. "I have no life in Turkey," he says, "I'd have to start from zero."

Casual racism is a subject that Mete has no time for. "We do get some really nasty calls," Mete admits. But he doesn't dwell on their content, just the type of character who calls up a takeaway to racially abuse the staff.

"It's just people who are sad and have nothing to do. If one of the other guys here answer the phone, they like to wind the caller up. If I answer it, I just say, 'Stop being sad and do something else with your life.'"

Are calls like this common? "Maybe once or twice a week," Mete says in matter-of-fact tone.

Yet not every takeaway has to deal with nasty calls. Kaja, manager of Chubbies on Hull Road, says his takeaway hardly ever has any prank calls. Kaja puts this down to his reputation in the local area. "People know me, families know me," he explains.

For over 20 years, Kaja has worked

have become synonymous with binge culture. More specifically, violent binge culture.

In 2007, *The Independent* labelled "the fight outside the kebab shop" a "minor British institution". Councils seems to agree there is a correlation between kebab shops and fights, with most councils fining "violent take-aways" up to £20,000.

Kaja claims to have never seen any violence outside his takeaway. Mete finds the stereotype totally unfair: "With takeaways, we don't sell alcohol, it's about food. Families come here with their kids. Touch wood, we've never had any violence in here ... another part of town maybe." Mr Efes recalls one incident when a student was mugged and beaten with a hammer less than 20 metres from his shop.

"We could hear some trouble and came out and brought the student into the shop to make sure he was okay." But there has never been any violence with customers inside or just outside the shop, Mete is keen to point out.

But in another part of town, the Yummy Chicken's staff are more resigned to the idea of takeaway violence. "Sometimes we talk and sort it out," Mehmet says, "Sometimes we have to call the police, sometimes we do some fighting!"

He gives me a cheeky wink and laughs. Any scars? "Not yet," Fatih says. "But we know what drunk people are like," Mehmet says. "We have people come back the next day and say sorry because their friend told them they did something bad or they said something nasty."

Instead of loving binge culture, Mehmet hates it. He understands his business relies on his customers having a few drinks, but for him, it doesn't matter if they leave a club at midnight or three. "A couple of years they changed the clubs' opening hours," he explains.

"Now sometimes they stay open when he have to close. We try to close and people want to get in for food. And we can't let them in and they get angry, banging on the windows, shouting abuse. It's bad for business."

Adam at Viking Kitchen has another reason for hating clubs' late closing times. "The long hours can kill you some nights. You have to be friendly to people, so they want to come back, but it can be really hard if you're very tired."

Considering how late most take-

"Students are fun people. We know people's names, we know the jokers...people always want a t-shirt. They're always begging 'I'll pay for it, I'll pay for it'"

on a takeaway on Hull Road (his brothers for 15 years, then six years managing Chubbies), and now he works mostly alone. "Five days a week I work here alone. My daughter works here weekends, and my girlfriend helps out sometimes, but I can manage myself." Rather than being lonely, Kaja enjoys talking to families that come to his restaurant, watching the kids muck about, the dads worrying they'll spend too much or get the order wrong.

But why do they choose Kaja instead of the other takeaways on Hull Road? "People know me after 20 years," Kaja says.

In a city with over 70 takeaways, reputation is everything. Yet in recent years, small takeaways and kebab shops

always stay open, it is easy to understand why Adam thinks "there is nothing fun about working in a takeaway". After hearing this, I don't have the heart to tell him 'Goodrick', 'Alcuim' and 'Vanburg' colleges exist only on his menu board.

But at the end of the night, whilst you're still trying to decide if you want ham and pineapple, the takeaway just wants to see you leave happy.

During the summer, when we go home, Efes sometimes has to cut its losses and shut up shop.

Yet they'll wind up back behind the same workbench, at one in the morning, still smiling, serving the same food to students too drunk to remember what they ordered. **M**



# The pill: worth the risk?

The pill has been classified as 'carcinogenic to humans', so why are 28% of women still on it? **Camilla Jenkins** and **Janey Stephenson** investigate



The pill is the most popular form of contraception in the UK and, if used correctly, is 99% effective. 28% of women aged 16-49 use it. It comprises of artificial sex hormones related to oestrogen and progesterone (sometimes progesterone alone; the mini pill). The pill completely changes the behaviour of a woman's cycle, suppressing fluctuations and stopping ovulation entirely.

Typically, girls are told the pill is the best form of contraception. But

**“During a clinical study of the first oral contraceptive, three women, all young and fertile, died after severe chest pains”**

recently GPs have noticed a rise in women requesting other types of contraception.

“The pill made me crazy, I became really irrational and paranoid. It also put a huge strain on my relationship. At the end of the day, it just wasn't worth it,” says Meredith\*.

Weight gain and skin problems are often the primary concerns of

women considering the pill.

However, if you read the small print on the drug websites or the leaflets provided with pill packets, there is a plethora of alarming warnings concerning vomiting, jaundice, migraines, fatigue, urinary tract infections, cystitis, eczema, acne, mouth ulcers and varicose veins. We tend not to read the minuscule writing on medical pamphlets and if we do, we tend to think, “it won't happen to me”.

While the NHS website admits there may be “minor side effects including mood swings, breast tenderness and headaches”, there are many more to add to this list, including an increased risk of breast cancer.

In July 2005, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified the pill as “carcinogenic to humans”, placed in the same category as tobacco and asbestos leading to increasing numbers of women seeking an alternative method.

Indeed, the pill's construction was not without flaws. The first oral contraceptive to become commercially available was Enovid. The US Food and Drug Administration approved it on the basis of a small clinical study involving 132 Puerto Rican women who

took the pill for a year. During this time, three of these women, who were all young and fertile, died after severe chest pains. They were eliminated from the study. A year after its release, Enovid had caused many cases of thrombosis and embolism in women, including 11 deaths. Nearly 40 years later, women still suffer chronic side effects which remain largely ignored by many doctors.

“I wasn't really given an option. My doctor completely deterred me from any other options,” Meredith explains.

Natasha\* continues: “It took me four years to realise that it was the pill behind my problems.” She noticed distressing changes to her body after taking ‘Yasmin,’ a brand of oral contraceptive frequently used amongst women in the UK. “I would get sharp, stabbing chest pains and migraines. I'd never suffered from migraines before. When I told my doctor, he said it was definitely nothing to do with the pill.”

“I even had an MRI scan to see what was causing my migraines, but they found nothing. I've put up with terrible mood swings, absolute loss of libido and dizziness.” Natasha became a member of ‘Yasmin survivors’, an online forum discussing serious health problems related to the contraceptive, including severe anxiety attacks, blurred vision and blood clots.

Interestingly, when Yasmin became available, it was hailed as a break-through drug for young women, completely devoid of side-effects. The brand currently has over 300 lawsuits pending against it in the USA.

Last year the manufacturer, Bayer (who also manufacture the contraceptive ‘Yaz’), was forced to run a \$20 million corrective advertising campaign. They had previously made false claims about the drug on TV adverts in the USA saying it helped skin problems and pre-menstrual depression. In 2008, the Yaz franchise made sales of \$1.8 billion worldwide.

Research has shown at least 150 bodily functions are altered by the pill. The decline in women's testosterone, resulting from oral contraceptives, is often believed to be the cause of libido loss and mood disorders.

Amongst physical and psychological side effects, there is nutritional damage. The alteration in hormonal behaviour disrupts your body's normal ability to process vitamins; crucial in maintaining health. The absorption of vitamins B1, B2, B6 and B12 is interrupted by the pill. This can lead to deficiency, causing fatigue, insomnia, low stress tolerance, and depression. Reduced zinc and increased copper levels can also knock your body out of its normal balance and may cause irritability, high blood pressure and sugar cravings.

On the NHS website it states: “Because you don't ovulate when you take the combined pill, you don't have a real period every month. Instead, you get a withdrawal bleed.”

But is it really beneficial that

women consume a pill that stops what their bodies are biologically designed to do? Hilary Lewin, a doula and body therapist who meets many women suffering from menstrual difficulties, explains the role of a period: “The uterus is used as ‘a dumping ground’ by the body. If the body stores toxins in the uterus then each month we ‘clean out’. It seems that if a woman is not properly menstruating, the uterus can become ‘toxic’ and create problems.”

Alexandra Pope, co-author of *The Pill: Are You Sure It's For You?* says that “switching off your menstrual cycle is as crazy as the doctor telling you not to waste time sleeping and to take drugs to keep you awake 24/7. All systems and living things need a cycle. Just as we need sleep on a regular basis, our bodies need time out to rest.”

With this in mind, the natural question is what other options are available. Pope believes that all girls should be fitted with a diaphragm and most GPs promote the implant, injection, vaginal ring and IUD, all more forms of hormonal contraception.

Pope also believes young girls entering puberty and sexual activity should be encouraged to embrace self knowledge.

The Natural Fertility Awareness method involves charting your menstrual cycle and calculating when you will not be at risk of getting pregnant. While this age-old method is completely natural, it is also very easy to get wrong and there is little widespread knowledge about it.

Jessica\* hadn't heard of the natural awareness method. “A lot of my friends are considering getting the copper coil. The insertion is a bit grim but, once it's in place, it can stay for ten years. Also, there are no hormones at all. It seems like a better option.”

The Intrauterine Contraceptive Coil (IUCD) involves inserting a T-shaped structure into the womb via the cervix. The coil prevents the sperm from being able to enter the uterus and, if one does, makes the womb inhospitable to prevent the fertilised egg from being able to implant and develop properly.

All methods of contraception come with risks. Interestingly, one NHS nurse commented: “Every so often there's a health scare about the pill and everyone comes off it. Then, there's a massive baby boom. It's your choice, girls.”

\*Names have been changed to protect identities. M



Take  
a  
walk  
on  
the  
wild  
side

May Delaney styled by Sofia Redgrave and Tess Webb



This page: Shirt, £110, Reiss. Shorts, £95, Reiss. Shoes, £59.99, Zara. Necklace and belt: stylist's own.  
Opposite: Jacket, £159, Reiss. Dress (with belt), £25, Zara. Shoes, £159, Reiss.





Shirt, £89, Reiss. Trousers, £39, Zara. Jacket Coast £149 reduced to £45, closing at the end of the month. Shoes, £59.99, Zara. Belt, stylist's own. Right: Dress, £150, Whistles. Scarf, £39, Reiss. Left: Dress, £125, Whistles. Shoes and tights, stylist's own.





Dress, £125, Whistles.  
Headbands, £25 each, Selkie.

## Sofia Redgrave



the moment: body art. Chanel, Jean Paul Gaultier and Rodarte all plastered their models with paint on the spring catwalks. Rodarte chose to paint their models with dark bold tribal patterns, Gaultier had his models covered with temporary tattoos, most of whom had their name in gothic typeface across their necks, arms and for Iris Strubegger's case, across her face. But it was the Chanel body art that we remember and embrace as we shed the clothes of the past and replace them with fresh and exciting trends.

Karl Lagerfeld's creative director of beauty,

**“Why not stop wasting hours of time applying eyeliner or cocktail rings?”**

Peter Philips, gave the illusion of tattoos inspired by blossoms, delicate chain bracelets and pearls by painstakingly hand painting the models. The designs took the place of statement jewellery in the ‘Marie Antoinette-goes-to-the-barn spectacle.’

So, short of actually taking a paintbrush to May, our model, our options were limited.

Chanel now rules the ‘Decalomania’ trend, and seem to have a monopoly on the chic transfer market (Rodarte and Gaultier have not followed suit as far as I’m aware). These really are the coolest transfers around, and are most definitely not your average ‘I Love Mum’ or ‘British Bulldog’ tattoos. And, as this is the first season in ages where jewellery doesn’t seem to be about making a huge statement, and make-up and hair are also fairly laid back: why not stop wasting hours of time applying eyeliner or cocktail rings and embrace something a bit more exciting? Love it or hate it, body art is back (I’m not actually sure if it was even ‘in’, but never mind).

The trend has already caught on with our celebrities. Cast your mind back to the photograph of Daisy Lowe wearing the Christopher Kane black and white chequered skirt, with the thigh split arranged to a great effect to show off her new Cheryl Cole style band around her thigh. But, take a closer look and you notice the chain design is a lot more elegant than the usual thigh tattoo, and the little interlocking Cs recalled the emblem-

atic codes of Chanel. All well and good, but over the past two days at London Fashion week, full of people sporting the hottest new trends (I’ve seen clogs, I’ve seen summer leather, I’ve seen bum bags), I haven’t seen a single Chanel tattoo, or any other transfer for that matter.

You might point out to me that the Chaneles are not released on general sale until March 1st, but these are all industry insiders, most of whom will have all been send a packet or two to test out at the beginning of February. Maybe they know something that we don’t? Hannah Betts from *The Telegraph* describes the “colossal wastage rate” when trying to apply them, with bits falling off like “dead flies” and a final effect which is “tight, itchy, shiny as a scab, with a rather dubious love bite-type rash developing around it”.

So, I’m in two minds - is this the ultimate fix for label lover? A once in a lifetime chance to actually wear Chanel, by literally branding themselves with interlocking Cs. An extreme form of ‘conspicuous consumption’? Or, is it cool? Has Karl managed to make the tattoo a must-have this season, quirky, tongue-in-cheek, and a refreshing change from jewellery? You decide.



This page: Jacket, £39.99, Zara. Sweater, £89, Reiss. Trousers, £120, Reiss. Shoes, stylist's own. Right: Dress, £159, Reiss. Boots, £69.99, Zara.



## Ones to watch

**MODEL: LINDSEY WIXSON**

Lindsey Wixson has only been modelling a few months, but hers is a real story for success. When she first made the journey from hometown Kansas to New York she was rejected by many leading modelling agencies except the relatively unknown Marilyn Models. However, she's definitely having the last laugh as she opened the most recent Prada show and fronted the S/S '10 Miu Miu campaign with amazingly long hair extensions. Next up, she's planning to take the Parisian and London catwalks by storm.

**TREND: THE NEW ANIMAL**

Miu Miu are leading the way in terms of defining the print for the season. Alongside the geometric tie-dye seen from Proenza Scholeur, the newest trend is to support domestic animal inspirations as well as exotic. Using leopard print and taking details from animals has been a trend for countless fashion years, but full images of cats, birds and dogs adorned Miu Miu's shirts, trousers and accessories at their most recent Paris show, producing a look which juxtaposed fine tailoring with a youthful edge. Head designer Miuccia Prada proved that a trend doesn't have to be the main focus of the outfit either, the shoes are both wonderfully on trend shape-wise as well as being a subtle way of proving fashion credentials.

**DESIGNER: THE TAKEOVER**

In the wake of the tragic death of Alexander McQueen, the question hanging in the air is who could possibly continue his extraordinary vision and design talents. Whilst sources have confirmed that the Autumn 2010 collection was essentially finished, the Director of Communications asked for the immediate return of all samples. Whilst they remain in shock, securing the items has become a priority to ensure McQueen's legacy is protected. According to thesartorialist.com, the Gucci group has invested millions in McQueen, but ultimately there is no option but to close the business, whilst there are rumours that McQueen's assistant Sarah, with him since his St Martins days, has the expertise to become head designer.

**NEW ERA: FILM TO FASHION**

It seems that the connections between the film and fashion industry have been even more firmly forged with the release of Tom Ford's debut picture *A Single Man* which premiered at the Curzon Mayfair. To bring it back to fashion, the hit television show *Mad Men* has led to a new appreciation of retro chic. Indeed, the 1960s aesthetic of the *A Single Man* fitted perfectly with Tom Ford's new campaign featuring Nicholas Hoult, one of the stars of the movie. Taking a reverse look, from old to new - for the first time, Patti Smith has opened up about her relationship with Robert Mapplethorpe, both icons of 1970s New York bohemia. It just shows that fashion is everywhere.



# Arts.

## Testing 'Test Pieces': Antonia Shaw analyses the latest exhibition of Eva Hesse.



The status of Eva Hesse's experimental, cast-offs and studio detritus – her 'Test Pieces' – have been radically repositioned in the latest display of her work. Boasting approximately 50 of Hesse's 'preparatory' works, many which had previously only been seen by their privileged private collectors, this exhibition is modest in size but not in stature. Curators Briony Fer and Barry Rosen have not merely brought to light Hesse's fugitive 'preliminary' works but have critically rethought the categories of major and minor artwork, merging those hierarchical classifications, rebranding the 'Test Pieces' – 'Studioworks'.

Hesse's major works have been the subject of many critical debates of recent decades. The flotsam and jetsam of Hesse's workshop, her discarded 'Studioworks', should theoretically be the most exemplary of this artist's concerns with experimentation, hand-worked labour, materials, process and indeterminable forms. Yet, these petite sculptures proffer frustratingly little in way of elucidating or expanding upon Hesse's practice.

The forms, materials and concepts are simply too similar to her 'finished works' to do so. But this is the intriguing crux of Fer's exhibition.

Hesse's works do not simply slip and glide between a myriad of concepts, terms and analogies, but as this show explores, they also oscillate between the 'finished' and the 'unfin-

ished'. The exhibition does not claim to be of monographic importance; rather it confronts the nature of preliminary work head-on.

This intangible definability is perfectly illustrated at the start of the catalogue that accompanies the exhibition. Here, Sol LeWitt recounts in an interview in 1981, the struggle of attempting to sort Hesse's studio works into 'artwork' and 'studiowork': "Yes, this is a piece"; "No, not a piece"; and "I think in the beginning she was just fooling around".

The various attempts at naming these 'preliminary' works, 'Test Pieces' or 'Sub-Objects' or Fer's own coining, 'Studioworks', relegate them to the secondary. Despite being primary in Hesse's process their status as artworks has been unstable, being loaded with this position of the 'preparatory' and the inconsequential. Yet Fer brings the 'Studioworks' to the fore. She questions how we see and place them in our material world, tentatively reinstating them as artwork proper.

It remains up to the viewer to consider Fer's proposition. Whilst there is merit and indeed contemporary relevance to this reconsideration of preparatory work, Fer runs the risk of obliterating the nuances of distinction between Hesse's final works and these 'Studioworks' – a differentiation that is only apparent through their inherent hierarchy rather than an alternative set of formal or conceptual concerns.

This exploration of the status of Hesse's

'Studioworks' naturally questions the merging of the studio and gallery space and its implications. With the trend of installations and site specific artworks, can we now see the gallery as an extension of the studio? It is with this question that we can situate the exhibition in the discourse of contemporary art curation. However, it also holds onto the vestiges of institutionalised museum display.

In the lower gallery the majority of the works have been displayed in groups of four or five and encased in glass vitrines, presumably due to the constraint of conservation. These cases are at eye-level and scaled to the viewer, in an attempt to minimise their impact when viewing the works. Aside from questioning the status of these 'Studioworks' by collapsing hierarchical classifications, Fer's display draws fascinating parallels and dialogues between works.

The groups of works in each glass case are arranged to encourage free association. Fer has melted the five-year chronology that these works span, favouring intimate formal relationships, juxtapositions and cross-fires of meaning between these amoebic works. Much like the linguistic play in the titles of her larger, more famous works.

Yet a voyeuristic subtext permeates, peering through the glass cabinets at these curious, small and visceral embryonic bodies feels akin to the sensation one feels when leafing through Hesse's published diaries. These pieces now

seem to have an enhanced fetishism and scientific quality, analogous to the collections of an obsessive connoisseur of biological and cultural specimens that have.

Hesse's 'Studioworks' may sit beneath the threshold of Art, but Fer's curation ensures that they are as engaging. They tell of an ongoing process, part-objects charged with the entity of the living, of chaos and order, flux, irregular regularity, transition and a multitude of permutations. They indicate a process of making, remaking and reconsidering – both in terms of Hesse's creation and Fer's curation.

This exhibition has been critically acclaimed – and not without reason despite the problems which I have raised. It not only displays works previously unseen, but introduces Hesse to the Scottish institutions.

Fer and Rosen have curated an accessible exhibition which unearths difficult questions of artistic production and what can be considered the art object.

What better artist to explore the confusion presented by these current issues than Hesse? An artist whose work is always in flux, leaving the viewer to detangle the complicated and considered mess.



## Lowenna Waters



sparked a discussion not only on the status of the art market after the current recession but also on that ubiquitous word 'taste'. We have to ask: what exactly makes this piece so valuable? Value and taste are words that the art historian balks at, but the auction market makes up an important part of the art world,

**"What makes this piece so valuable? Value and taste are words that the art historian balks at."**

influencing the circulation and exposure of works. So what did that anonymous telephone bidder buy into?

'L'Homme qui marche I' is wrought out of the typically craggy thumbprint covered bronze of Giacometti's famous anorexic thin life size sculptures of men and women. Its feet rise up from the base as if being dragged down in mud. In contrast to the usually stat-

ic frame of his sculptures, this figure marches stoically on, a poise often interpreted as indicative of the post-war angst of the modernist era. Jean Paul Sartre described Giacometti's work as isolated figures of existential despair.

Giacometti himself reportedly had a plethora of psychological disorders, manifesting themselves in recurring bouts of impotence that afflicted him throughout his life, badly affecting his relations with women. Similarly his artistic career was coloured by dispute, leaving the Surrealist group and pioneering an individual aesthetic which continues to provide a fruitful environment for reception of his works.

It is in no doubt that Giacometti is a key artist in the Modernist canon, but previous to this sale his legacy was not celebrated to the extent of his contemporaries, such as Picasso. It will be interesting to see whether this extreme price tag alters Giacometti's position in galleries and institutions. Even more so, will prices like this continue to be achieved? Perhaps the sale of Giacometti's sculpture will signal a change in the recent

lull of the contemporary art market, which impacted auctions in the last year.

This sale, although celebratory of a great artistic talent, cannot help but raise the question of art's value. This is a contentious issue, for we can never put a price tag on a piece of art. Its value is ultimately subjective, as the Giacometti sale demonstrates; it reached £50 million in only eight minutes after being valued between £16-18 million.

How will this affect Giacometti's reception? On the one hand, it will increase the artist's exposure and bring some of his pieces back to the gallery floor. On the other hand, the exorbitant price could place the work beyond the budgets of public initiations, making his work an exclusive commodity.

It is difficult to balance art history and the art market. They are two disparate systems, which deal in the same currency and meet in the gallery space. Just as we need thematically interesting exhibitions, the art market must also be represented. Let us hope that the art world keeps inflated prices in check and that Giacometti's artistic legacy is not polluted by furious bidding.

Earlier this month Alberto Giacometti's 'L'Homme qui marche I' (Walking Man I) sold for £65 million at Sotheby's London, making it the most expensive artwork ever to be sold at auction. The sale

## Arts in depth

### Award winning artist Pavel Büchler talks about his recent works with **Beth Walton**.

**A**ward-winning artist and research professor at the Manchester School of Art Pavel Büchler is a modest man; quite contrary to the portrait of a 'strict conceptual artist' he confesses he probably should be. He prefers producing his own postcards to sending texts or emails, and it's a trusty Nokia 3210 that he is carrying.

When he begins to talk about his work though, it quickly becomes apparent that however calm and collected he may seem, he thrives on living and working in the artistic centre of a buzzing Metropolis like Manchester.

It's the sort of place where he can daily encounter the 'small stories' and 'cultural situations' which inspire his work.

As you step into his deceptively large office, with multiple doorways and only one exit, it's clear that Büchler is another world. His world is one in which two pencils make a castle, or where one glove is better than two. Each door, I am assured, leads to nowhere, but might provide a gateway into another dimension.

In his words, he lives in a place "where everything is back to front" and is "brilliant".

Originally from Czechoslovakia, Büchler recently scooped the prestigious Northern Arts Prize. Nominated by Maria Balshaw, Director of the Whitworth Gallery, for his contribution to the international art scene, the Prize's accompanying exhibition in Leeds centres on his work with found objects. Notable pieces include 'Eclipse', an arrangement of projectors, casting the shadows of various sized balls onto a blank wall.

Another is the fantastic 'Il Castello', described as "two pencil stubs forming a visual-verbal pun for a castle" and the smallest, yet arguably the most fascinating piece in the entire institution.

Meaning "the castle" in Italian, after its namesake the seminal yet unfinished novel by Franz Kafka, Büchler describes the work as "almost like a full stop".

But he stresses the fact that Kafka's text is not the subject matter of the piece, but more a source of inspiration, and what Büchler terms a cultural situation. "There are artists who are inspired by trees and birds and rocks and that's where they live. Where I live is about books and cultural products. Those are the things that come my way."

"[Artists] who I get a lot from are not models," explains Büchler. "They are almost like situations in culture - Duchamp is



already of our culture, really - they are for me something completely depersonalised."

Although artists like Duchamp provide Büchler with a certain artistic license, claiming "you can measure the greatness of an artist by what he or she enables you to do", he insists that ready-mades are not the method of working for him.

Nevertheless, the use of the found object is integral to his working practice (pencils and solitary gloves his particular favourites), providing an essential barrier between artist and audience. "Another measure of greatness", he claims, "is the extent to which a work resists exhaustion. The extent to which it makes you curious again and again."

"There's a big difference between ready-made and found objects. The difference is that when you find something, it's only then that you realise that's what you should have been looking for. I've never had an idea in my

life. After a lifetime of doing it, I still don't know what to do in the studio."

"The studio is somewhere I can practice, like you practice the piano, so I'm alert enough and ready enough to see a thing when I come across it."

Authorship and authenticity, in a traditional sense, clearly do not apply to Büchler, who describes how "the artist is always ultimately disconnected" and how the categorisation of art according to medium is "historically redundant".

"If we think of all the properly 3D objects as sculpture, what does that really mean for the historical meaningfulness of that category? I think you probably don't get very much out of that sort of thinking."

I don't even have a proper category for my work. If it performs for you one way or another, I don't care. A friend of mine, who also finds it problematic to be described as anything other than an artist, came to the



opening of Eclipse in London. They said that if this was a painting, they would spit on it. It must be a sculpture because he didn't spit on it."

Despite the fact that his work is largely theoretical, Pavel Büchler comes across as far too sincere to be considered sensationalist. His works belong to an avant-garde canon of western art to which they both refer and significantly contribute.

If the measure of a great artist is what he or she enables us to do, in the simplest sense Büchler is a one of our greatest.

His art makes things visible, pointing out the little things that pass by unnoticed, not in a patronising way as he explains, but in a "let's see what happens kind of way".

**Left: Pavel Büchler, "Eclipse", copyright Pavel Büchler. Right: Pavel Büchler, "Il Castello", copyright Pavel Büchler.**

## Up and coming events

### Alan Johnston: Drawing a shadow



Marketed with the tagline, "a pencil, 12 walls, 120 hours, 450 sq. metres and one exhibition", Alan Johnston's latest show "Drawing a Shadow: No Object" is highly anticipated among the arts world in the north of England. The exhibition opens at the Henry Moore

institute in Leeds this week and is sure to be a fascinating portrayal of the renowned artist's latest work. The exhibition will run until May 2nd and is hoped to be one of the highlights of the many exciting exhibitions shown at the institute this quarter.

Johnston's drawings give new perspectives to familiar spaces. This exhibition will not only be the largest one to date in the UK, but will also provide a venue for Johnston to showcase his signature style drawings and sketches.

His style involves using "not quite" three dimensional drawings which will "highlight the galleries as sculptural spaces in their own right".



Arguably the most professionally executed exhibition since last term's 'Place Making', 'Handmade' at the Norman Rea Gallery challenges conceptions of traditionally feminine pastimes such as knitting, and blurs the boundaries between craft and contemporary art. It features the work of inter-

national artists Anna Chocola and Kate Talbot, recently featured in British Vogue. This show is very much in keeping with the current British art scene, with shows such as 'Quilts' at the V&A featuring pieces from the 1700s right up to Tracey Emin's patchwork bedspreads.

### Deutsch Börse Photography Prize



Photography's answer to the Turner Prize, the Deutsch Börse's 2010 winner is due to be announced later this month with a show of all nominated works on at the Photographer's gallery. This will be shown in London until April 17th. The four nominees include Anna Fox, Zoe Leonard, Donovan Wylie and Sophie Ristelhueber, both groups nominated for their recent retrospectives.

The prize is awarded to the photographer working in Europe who is seen as having made the most significant contribution to the medium of photography over the previous year. It is an award known for picking photographers with skill and vision. Look out for an inter-



view with nominee Anna Fox at *Nouse* online.

**Far left: Alan Johnston, copyright, Alan Johnston. Left: Anna Chocola, mixed media, copyright Anna Chocola. Close left: Anna Fox, copyright Anna Fox. Above: Zoe Leonard, copyright artist.**

# Music.

## Adam Bychawski interviews Welsh indie troubadours Los Campesinos!

Romance isn't dead, but it is dead boring according to Los Campesinos! Their new record, *Romance is Boring*, is the third in an increasingly disheartening progression of titles, the follow up to last year's *We Are Doomed, We Are Beautiful*. It seems as if LC! have grown out of their ADH-tweens, had that heart-wrenching first relationship break-up and are now sulking about in their emo 'dear diary' phase. Anyone with a sour distaste for the chirpy hyper-active pop of their debut *Hold On, Youngster...* will almost certainly be smirking at the thought that LC! have finally sunk into a post-tween depression. But, thankfully, maturing isn't the same thing as having a mental breakdown. Well, it is a bit, but mostly it's about improving by consecutive failures and being cynical about everything. *Romance is Boring* is the most disparaging claim yet, but in an album lyrically infatuated with ideas of romance, are they just kidding themselves? "It's more a stab at the premeditated idea of romance which is just a bit over-thought, sappy and boring. Also Tom likes the double meaning of 'boring' as in 'boring' its way into you," explains vocalist and lyricist Gareth.

Lyricaly, the youthful diatribes of *Hold on Youngster...* have almost worn off in this record and matured into more melancholic lyrics about death, sexual frustration and, erm, football. Are they embarrassed looking back at their more twee beginnings? "*Hold On, Youngster...* was written in the excitement of being in a band, we were all uni students and we were all really excited to be practising, writing songs, playing gigs and I think that's really apparent in the lyrical content. I hadn't really decided how I wanted to write lyrics until then, and there are some songs that are just nonsense songs. My favourite lyricist at the time was Stephen Malkmus and in a lot of his lyrics, though they all sound brilliant, it's quite difficult to find a meaning."

It wasn't so long ago that Los



**Above:**  
**Los Campesinos!**  
**go camping.**

Campesinos! were students having to fit a degree somewhere between all that music, before landing a support slot for Broken Social Scene and being signed by Wichita Recordings in their final year. "Our last year in uni was insane; we were releasing 7"s, any reading week we had we'd book a tour, we'd be sacking off Friday afternoon lectures so that we could travel to London. The day before one of Ollie's

final exams we played a gig in the Scarlet in London to about 800 people or something and he had an exam the next morning, so we finished the gig and there was literally a car outside waiting for him, and he got in the car and drove straight back up to Cardiff University."

With the last two records some of the exuberant pop fizz sound has deflated, and left space for some

instrumental experimentation that is more varied. "I think we definitely wanted to develop our sound, and the nature in which [*Romance is Boring*] was recorded was really important. Previously we went into the studio and just recorded it. This time we recorded for a month, then we went on tour for a month, then we went back into the studio and recorded for another six weeks. So it was really nice to be able to go in and out - whilst we were away from the recording process we could listen to what we'd done and think we wanted to go in this or that direction." Somewhere between all that extra brass, strings and feedback, Los

"Our last year at uni was insane, any reading week we'd book a tour"

Campesinos! have also managed to fit in some guests, namely Jamie Stewart of Xiu Xiu fame. "I honestly don't remember how it happened, I keep meaning to go through my emails to see when the correspondence first came up. Xiu Xiu are basically my favourite band, I was going to do something on the Xiu Xiu record but then chickened out in case I ruined it."

So what about the future, which at the moment is sounding pretty bleak listening to some of Gareth's lyrics? With a number of football fans in the band is there any chance for a career in football management, or even a Los Campesinos! FC? "One day I would love to sponsor my local team, we could get together to blazon Los Campesinos! across their shirts."

One of my dreams would be to play in one of those 'Guitars for Goalposts' 90s celebrity football matches. But we'd have to get famous first before that happens, so I don't hold out much hope."

## Future Sounds



This edition of Future Sounds features two groups from across the pond, which are more than likely to find themselves slapped with the 'supergroup' label. First up are **Broken Bells**, a new duo consisting of Danger Mouse - that is, Brian Burton, one half of Gnarls Barkley, as opposed to the tiny white fictional mouse - and James Mercer of The Shins. But fear not Shins fans, Mercer isn't planning to drop them for good - though he does claim to be a bit exhausted from all that alternative rock twiddling, and is going to take a break from any major stuff until 2011.

This month saw Broken Bells' first single, 'The High Road', a delectable taste of what's to come from their self-titled debut album, due in March. It's a chilled track that effortlessly blends acoustic guitar riffs with electronic keys and a woodwind-esque melody, all entwined with Mercer's passionate vocals. Another track 'Vaporize' follows a similar formula, and sounds like the soundtrack to a hazy Indian summer. It is easy to see why the collaborative efforts of Burton

and Mercer have caused quite a stir in the music world, and Broken Bells will make their eagerly awaited live debut at the eminent South by Southwest festival this spring.

Next in line are the Atlanta group **The Constellations**, who have a frequently changing line-up, currently featuring Elijah Jones from Gates of Berlin, and five other musicians including Julian Dorio of The Whigs. The line-up is completed by Alaina Terry and Shab Bashiri, who are the band's official 'Clap Squad', and provide backing vocals and

"The Constellations describe themselves as a 'psychedelic soul-rock explosion'"

onstage entertainment. Guest appearances include the college-loving Asher Roth and the other half of Gnarls Barkley, Cee-Lo.

The Constellations describe themselves

as a 'psychedelic soul-rock explosion', and their music lives up to this title; their track 'Setback' is a throwback to 60s psychedelia, whilst 'Love Is A Murder' combines a grungy guitar line with an airy pop-infused chorus.

Their version of the Tom Waits tune 'Step Right Up' is a nine minute unabashed funk-fest that the band pull off with ease, Elijah's southern drawl fitting perfectly with the lyrics about whiskey, bar fights and a generally hedonistic rock 'n' roll lifestyle. It even crescendoes into a big electro-crossed-with-samba-style drumming finale that I defy you not to get down and dance to.

Currently on tour with Snoop Dogg over in the US, The Constellations will be bringing their retro soundscapes to the UK this March, although only in London. Alas Broken Bells tell a similar story, only gracing our shores once in London next month. But it's a fair bet that the summer festival season will give the rest of us a chance to see both bands in action, a sight not to be missed.

Estella Adeyeri

# Fiction Plane: a band with big shoes to fill

## Sophie Andrews catches up with the rock band fronted by Sting's son.

Listening to the music of Fiction Plane, you might easily be fooled into thinking you were listening to a track by the Police - only rocked-out, jazzed-up, stripped naked and covered in chocolate. Perhaps you'd be right. Fronted by Sting's son, Joe Sumner (pictured), the vocal similarities between the two are striking and shows that talent clearly hasn't skipped a generation. The band incorporates ethereal acoustics with devastatingly powerful lyrics and beats to bring a new standard of music into the 21st century. After a busy year of touring, and prior to the release of their next album in spring, drummer Pete Wilhoit took some time out to chat to me about the good, the bad, and the just plain funny side to the music industry.

Peter's relationship with music began to develop from a pretty tender age. "At ten years old, as cliché as it sounds, I started listening to The Beatles with a friend and we started a duo group called The Explosives. We started writing our own tunes and then at recess in our elementary school it rained and everybody came into the choir room and we started playing these songs. All the girls started singing along and I think at that moment I realised the power of music: that's when it really overwhelmed me as far as wanting to be a musician."

This initial attraction to music soon grew into an appreciation for



rock legends such as Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix, alongside an interest in classical music and jazz. Whilst all of these styles had an influence on Peter, he says that, "I think I was really drawn more to the rock thing because I was able to get more involved as a drummer."

Peter may have now fulfilled his dreams of becoming a professional musician, but he's not being complacent about it. "I'm really lucky that I have known for a long time that this is what I wanna do, and achieving so many things just as a drummer and a musician has really been special. To be able to consider this my job - it's kind of a joke! I have such a flexible schedule, and I've played some amazing

shows at some really amazing places around the world. Basically, I've been able to see the world playing music, and been treated very well in foreign countries, purely because I'm a musician, so it's a real honour and a real pleasure and I definitely don't take it for granted." Joining Fiction Plane in 2003, after beating over one hundred other auditionees, Peter found himself in a band that he could really connect with, and that opened up a world of opportunities. In particular, the chance to not only meet Sting, but to support The Police on tour. "It's a strange thing because I was a big Police fan growing up, and then in some way to get this weird connection with

Sting and The Police was something I never thought would happen. So you know, I got to know Sting as Joe's dad, and knowing somebody as your friend's father is very different to seeing them as an artist and this legendary musician. So you get this real special insight as to how everybody ticks and how everybody gets along. You know it was tough in the beginning for Joe, because he's never wanted to 'tag along' and be second fiddle. He's a really talented guy and is doing something he loves to do and is very good at. It's hard to always be compared to your father, but eventually he realised that you have to take this head-on and it's not going to change anything by not facing

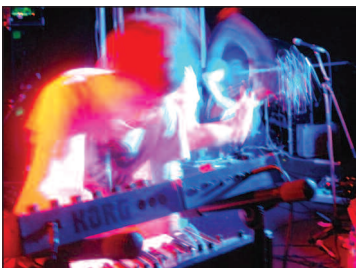
the facts.

"We got this opportunity to tour with The Police and we all decided we'd be crazy to turn it down. You know, it was a very unique tour and the biggest tour we'll ever be on. We played at amazing venues and we got to go out there and do what we love for 45 minutes and play whatever we wanted. It was quite a gift that was handed to us, and we were very appreciative of it. It was an amazing experience: It really opened a lot of doors for us as a band."

Having an icon like Sting to give advice and act as a type of mentor must have its plus points. "Every now and then he'll give you some advice but you know, it's usually the kind of motivational stuff like, 'I know it's tough boys, just keep at it.' There are so many bands and so many musicians that it's difficult, especially nowadays, to break through as a band."

But Peter does have a few tips for others hoping to break into the music scene: "The thing you have to do is cover all your bases. You have to do the MySpace, you have to do as many YouTube videos as you can - get your music out to as many sources as you can, because it's basically your little ball in the numbers of the lottery. Unfortunately, there's no equation that equals success in the music industry, or any job for that matter. It's a matter of giving yourself a chance to get lucky."

## Reviews



ARTIST: ROLO TOMASSI  
DATE: 8TH FEBRUARY  
VENUE: FIBBERS  
REVIEW: TOM KILLINGBECK

★★★★☆

Stopping off in York for a headline slot in the midst of a tour in support of Enter Shikari, electro-spazz-prog wunderkinder Rolo Tomassi pull a disparate crowd into Fibbers. Skunk haired tween scene girls, veteran metal warriors and befringed indie folk all pile into the scabby venue on a dreary Monday. Support band Blacklisters sound like the love child of Big Black and The Jesus Lizard, their 80s style noise rock wild and confrontational. Lead screamer Billy stalks the crowd, grabbing audience members and putting them in brutal headlocks. The skunk haired emos shit themselves in fear.

Everyone's here to see Rolo Tomassi though, and when the band saunter onstage the venue suddenly seems packed. Singer Eva Spence appears to be a sweet girl - ribbons in her hair and her own arts and craft stall on the merch table. However, as their first number hits her almost possessed screams chill the blood as

they echo across the room in a manner that brings Regan from the Exorcist to mind. The band's sound is refreshingly original, melding together everything from vintage prog keyboard wankery to gameboy electro and, of course, metal grooves and hardcore breakdowns. At one point I think the band is genuinely playing the theme from classic Nintendo horror game 'Castlevania'. The crowd, quite rightly, goes apeshit, and the moshers seem amusingly confused by the sudden tempo shifts and bizarre time signatures. One second they'll try to start a circle pit to a massive metal riff, and then be caught short by a sudden foray into electro-jazz. Rolo Tomassi keep us all on our toes throughout their breathless set and, for such a young band, show up their contemporaries thanks to the sheer breadth of their music. Let's hope they come back soon, and don't forget about us when they ascend into the hallowed halls of spazzcore fame.



ARTIST: HOT CLUB DE PARIS  
DATE: 16TH FEBRUARY  
VENUE: CITY SCREEN BASEMENT  
REVIEW: ADAM BYCHAWSKI

★★★★☆

Almost four years without so much as a fart, let alone any new material (no, I'm not counting that live album), and suddenly Hot Club de Paris come out with a new EP, another already recorded to be released later and even a follow up to 2006's *Drop It 'til It Pops* planned for this year. Have they been hibernating till next decade, hoping their chances will be higher for 'top of decade' lists in 2010? Who knows, but lead singer Paul Rafferty certainly has grown a handsomely spiffing 'tache in that time.

Lack of new songs hasn't damaged the popularity of Hot Club if the packed out Basement Bar is anything to go by; they even have their own teenage cheering section up front, all of whom look like extras in an episode of *Skins*. It's tough enough for Rafferty or guitarist Matthew Smith to avoid toppling into them, let alone having their lyrics screamed back at their faces. It's no surprise that their upbeat guitar-driven indie

has attracted a younger audience. But that's not to say that Hot Club are another derivative teen band; lumping them with likes of British landfill indie bands would be a criminal underrating. For so long Hot Club have been the perennial go-to support group; they excel in brief sets that avoid potentially uncomfortable performance dips. There's none of that apologetic bedroom failure to measure up here though, just sharp off-kilter guitar riffs, and great vocals.

Most impressive are the brief acapella moments, in which the audience is hushed to silence by a rendition of the barbershop-esque 'Bonded By Blood' with Rafferty providing an impressive beatbox accompaniment. Thankfully, it doesn't come across as some hideous attempt at rock-rap, instead being a perfect example of the combined talents of all three members. I'm hoping that this will be their year at long last, as it really has been far too long, Hot Club.

## Nouse Playlist

**Mother's Day Melodies**  
*Tom Killingbeck*

Mothers' Day is on the horizon, so slam some of these tunes on a mixtape to earn some sweet maternal affection.

**Queen - Tie Your Mother Down**

This'll get Mum dancing around with a hairbrush, whilst simultaneously reminding her not to meddle in your love life.

**The Shangri Las - I Can Never Go Home Anymore**

The most heartbreaking song about mums ever written.

**John Lennon - Mother**

A dark, cathartic hymn to a broken home. Only use if your mum divorced your dad and you hate her for it.

**Captain Beefheart - When I See Mummy I Feel Like A Mummy**

Surreal latter-day Beefheart. It's about mummies, but it sounds like it was written for Dad.

**The Doors - The End**

If you harbour Oedipal fantasies about mummy dearest, then use this bloated slice of Dionysian psychedelia. Jim Morrison howling "mother I want to fuck you!" like a mad wolf will turn her on to your perverse intentions.

# FILM.

## Michael Allard

The British media and film industry needs to re-think its approach to awards season.



My earliest memory of Oscar hype is this. I was 11 years old and being driven home from school with the radio on. We were stuck in traffic when the news bulletin came on: the Oscar nominations had been announced. But rather than talk about the different films that were up for Best Picture, all the focus seemed to be on *Billy Elliot*, *Billy Elliot* and *Billy Elliot*. Three *Billy Elliots* for the three nominations it had received (Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress). The DJs probably talked about how cute Jamie Bell was and I distinctly remember them interviewing an American commentator whose pronunciation of "Julie Walters" made me laugh. Would she follow in *Shakespeare in Love's* recently revered footsteps? Was this the year that Billy Elliot would bring it home for the Brits?

Sadly, Billy came home empty-handed, and as much as I enjoyed *An Education*, I wouldn't be too surprised or annoyed if it suffered the same fate. It's also received three nominations (Best Picture, Best Actress and Best Adapted Screenplay), as has *The Young Victoria*, whilst the British stars of *The Last Station* and *A Single Man* are sitting hopefully in acting categories.

In the past nine years, it's been a pleasure to hear about the successes of Kate Winslet, Wallace & Gromit, Julian Fellowes and Danny Boyle, to name but a few. But the Academy Awards are a Hollywood affair and we should never forget it. If you're a British film fan who places importance on American awards ceremonies, count yourself lucky that we're one of the highest-represented countries out there.

When reporting the nominations, this year's newspapers have largely focused once again on how the UK has fared. "Plucky Brits in the frame as US big hitters slug it out for Oscars glory", wrote *The Times*. "Respectable showing for British actors as ex-spouses square up for Oscar glory," reported *The Guardian*. The image this creates carries an inferiority complex: whilst the British film industry will never reach the size of Hollywood, it still turns west for approval more often than it looks at its immediate audience. It's not so different from the political analogy presented by *In the Loop* (nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay): we have a 'special relationship' with the USA, and we're seduced into it by the idea of riding in a big limo.

But the relationship between British and American films at the Oscars is symbiotic: just as we make historical dramas so that the Academy will take notice of our British accents, so the Academy looks to the U.K. to seem more international than it really is, for period films that we know how to make better than anyone else. Rather than being a part of the Oscar hype machine, the BAFTAs would do well to model themselves on the César Awards which honour the best French films of the year. Wouldn't things be more interesting if *An Education* was competing with *Fish Tank* for Best Film, whilst *Avatar* waits to see if it will be named Best Foreign Film?

FILM: INVICTUS

DIRECTOR: CLINT EASTWOOD

STARRING: MORGAN FREEMAN, MATT DAMON

RUNTIME: 109 MINS

REVIEW: DUNCAN PELHAM



The timely release of *Invictus* coincides with the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's walk to freedom after 27 years in prison.

The film's story follows Nelson Mandela after he wins the first fully democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. Mandela is presented with the task of uniting a divided society torn apart by the grave social and economic ramifications of the apartheid system. Attending a South African Springbok rugby match, the President notes that the black South Africans boo their home team. For them, the Springbok team represents and evokes the white supremacy that had previously fractured the country for so long. *Invictus* follows Mandela's quest to turn the ramshackle team into a fighting force in the 1995 World Cup, one which might also have the power to bring unity to the polarized society.

Eastwood is tackling an incredibly complex issue: years of repression by the white minority has spawned a society marred by resentments and prejudices that run so deep that they simply cannot be given their due

in the course of a two hour film. Nevertheless, Eastwood does a noble job of presenting the prominent racial fault line. But his representation lacks subtlety; the opening scene sees the racial divide represented quite literally by a road. On one side, black children lean over a rickety fence cheering on Mandela's release; on the other, just metres away, the pristine, privileged whites look on in silent trepidation. The Afrikaner coach spits, "Remember this day boys; when this country went to the dogs."

Mandela – an outstanding performance from a dignified, warm and understated Morgan Freeman – recognises he must balance "black aspirations with white fears", and there are subtler moments that hint at the complexities of this issue. For instance, the camera drifts across a black maid's sullen face as her Afrikaner employer rants against the new black President. Tensions simmer between Mandela's personal security force – a force the President insists must be multi-racial, not solely black. But as Mandela's estranged wife remarks, how are



the blacks supposed to work alongside the white security guards when they bear such resemblance to those who so heavily handedly threw Mandela in prison and enforced the harsh apartheid regime? Eastwood timidly prods and probes at these intricate questions for the first third of the film with this thought-provoking portrayal. But thereafter, socio-political deliberations take a backseat to the obligatory sporting endeavours of Matt Damon and inspirational-speech clichés.

Whilst Mandela's quest for a unified rainbow nation via forgiveness and reconciliation is portrayed in a typically simplified manner, it is undeniably rousing. And the story's predictable sporting underdog trajectory is made up for, in part, by the sheer force of the story. The fact that if this story was presented as fiction it would be implausible is testament to the incredible feat achieved by the South African rugby team and sport's unexpected role in, briefly, unifying a divided nation.

FILM: A SINGLE MAN

DIRECTOR: TOM FORD

STARRING: COLIN FIRTH, JULIANNE MOORE

RUNTIME: 101 MINS

REVIEW: LEV HARRIS



Tom Ford is a fashion designer. That much is obvious from the trailer of his debut film *A Single Man*. It's cool, sharp and polished, everything a Gucci suit should be. The full length offering begins as the trailer means to carry on, characterized by production design which flawlessly evokes the setting of 1960s California during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Yet it's the highly stylized approach of lush visuals combined with an expansive palette of saturated colours which threatens to overawe the viewers and distract them from the standout feature, the central performance of Colin Firth. He anchors the film with his portrayal of George Falconer, a gay professor who leads a haunted and disillusioned existence following the death of his partner, Jim eight months earlier.

We trace him on what is potentially his last day as, struggling to see any future to his life, he prepares to commit suicide. Firth has rightly received an



Oscar nod for his nuanced and dignified role as a man consumed by torment on the inside, yet enveloped by a closed-off demeanour to the outside world. His co-star, Julianne Moore, was cruelly overlooked by the Academy despite her heart-rending and understated turn that compliments Colin Firth's staggering lead while never overshadowing it.

This is not the self-indulgent film-making that some have made it out to be; Ford balances the quietly affecting substance with a refreshing and self-assured lightness of touch. The visual aesthetic feels like a true labour of love, exuding emotion from every single angle, and the film is all the better for it.

CLASSIC FILM:

COLLATERAL (2004)

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL MANN

STARRING: TOM CRUISE

RUNTIME: 120 MINS

REVIEW: DUNCAN PELHAM



Michael Mann's *Collateral* is often overshadowed by his other two towering achievements, *Heat* and *The Last Of The Mohicans*, but *Collateral* shows similar sophistications. His films have been described as high-brow action films. That may seem like a contradiction in terms, but there's no doubting that Mann has an intelligent vitality to his direction.

Max (Jamie Foxx) is a taxi-driver dreaming of bigger things. By a strange twist of fate, a ruthless assassin (Tom Cruise) enters his cab on a mission to execute five high-profile court-case witnesses by the end of the night. So far, so formulaic. But it's not just the thriller element that marks this film out, but the surprisingly scrupulous character study. We build an empathy with the unfortunate Max as he drive us around Los Angeles. He's a dreamer who's underachieved, and the harsh, philosophical postures of Cruise's assassin forces Max to confront suppressed aspirations. The two share incredible on-screen chem-



istry, and as much as this is Foxx's show, Cruise might just steal it in one of his greatest performances. Sharply suited and neatly styled, he jibes at Max about dreams he may never pursue. Both dig deeper into one another's psyche, engaging in a quasi-philosophical battle of the wits. The dialogue positively zings, every frame pervades an ominous tension, whilst the cab scenes recall the Pacino/De Niro coffee shop exchange in *Heat*.

*Collateral* is just as much these things as it is an ode to the shimmering cityscape of L.A. at night. Mann works with twilight-tinged palettes of dark oranges and blackened blues, brought to life by the energy exuded by Mann's digital camera work.

# Food & Drink.

RESTAURANT: MELTON'S  
ADDRESS: 7 SCARCROFT ROAD  
PRICES: £9 - £20 FOR MAIN  
REVIEW: BECKY YOUNG

★★★★☆

**“Starters are usually my least favourite part of the meal. However, once I saw scallops on the menu, my mind was made up.”**



When I say I have eaten at Melton's, everyone seems to automatically assume I am talking about its sister restaurant Melton's Too in Walmgate. I too was guilty of this same mistake until I was taken to the original Melton's. Now, it is all I can talk about.

Melton's is a small, family run restaurant and renowned for using local suppliers. It has been mentioned in numerous publications such as *The Daily Telegraph*, the *AA* food guide and was given the 'best home cooking' award by BBC's *Olive* magazine. Furthermore, it is a winner of a 2AA rosette. Incidentally, only 10% of the restaurants nationwide are of a standard that is worthy of one rosette or more.

After arriving in the pouring rain, I was hastened into the restaurant by my dinner partner. The moment we entered, I felt incredibly relaxed and couldn't care less that my shoes were soaking and my hair was damp. The restaurant itself had a lovely calming atmosphere. The warm décor and the soft lighting gave the feeling that you could sit for hours and completely escape the trials and tribulations of university. We were led to a secluded table in the window of the restaurant where our waiter introduced himself, proceeded to take my coat and give us menus. Shortly afterwards we were brought a selection of breads and an amuse-bouche of parsnip soup, presented in a tiny coffee cup which was

a wonderful touch; I was immediately smitten with the place.

The wine menu is extensive with choices ranging in price. You can tell considerable time and effort has been put into choosing this menu to match the foods. After choosing our main course, we decided to choose the recommended wine, a 2006 Chablis at £29.

I work backwards in a restaurant and so will start with our dessert, my favourite course of any meal. Each sounded delectable and I couldn't help but feel incredibly greedy as I wanted them all, so much so that I considered ordering two puddings before common sense hit. I settled for the hazelnut and apricot parfait, on the premise that my partner would have the warm ginger rhubarb terrine with custard which was recommended by Dylan, our waiter, and is a speciality at Melton's.

Both were absolutely fantastic. The parfait was served with a hot chocolate sauce which, together with the strong flavours of the apricot and the bits of hazelnut, was delectable. However, if I was to recommend one pudding off the menu (I have since returned several times and tried nearly all of them) it would be the terrine; it was one of the most interesting desserts I have had in a long while and one which I was admittedly apprehensive about at first. The rhubarb terrine is accompanied by custard, which is somehow in small balls of jelly, and then garnished with

iced sticks of rhubarb; delicious.

The mains were just as exquisitely cooked and presented as the desserts. Unfortunately, there was less variety and we both went for the apple orchard chicken which was so well cooked that you forgot it was 'just chicken.' For once, I wanted to truly take my time over this course as it was so scrumptious.

Starters are usually my least favourite part of my meal. However, once I saw scallops on the menu my mind was made up - we were going to have every course. My partner ordered the buckwheat blini, which was incredibly tasty although not as fantastic as the scallops.

Melton's truly is a wonderful restaurant. The food is excellent and the staff are perfectly attentive. The restaurant offers private dining facilities, which I have already tried and tested when I organised a dinner for fourteen people and as you can probably guess, the evening was wonderful. We were given the upstairs room, which is decorated in sumptuous shades of soft peach and the restaurant even created a special menu just for us. The location, just a couple of minutes from town, makes you feel that you have escaped the drama of university, even if only for the night.

The bill was just under £55 for both of us, including the wine at full price; it is an incredibly fantastic deal and one I will no doubt take full advantage of.

## WINE R.J. Pringle

I dislike Lent. 960 hours of self-imposed, self-righteous misery. To inflict cravings upon yourself for 40 days only to return to your bad habits immediately afterwards seems a little daft. Lent is, however, already upon us and you've probably already chosen something to give up. Considering the unlikelihood you'll manage to tackle the abstinence, some might suggest you throw in the towel now.

If, however, you're determined to try, you may find a little booze essential for any success you may have. I suggest indulging in a few of the bottles below:

**2007 Fairleigh Estate**

**Chardonnay, Marlborough** (13.5%; £5.99 each for two, Majestic) Creamy with tropical and citrus flavours.

**2008 Doña Paulina Merlot, Chile** (13.5%; £4.50 each, The Wine Society) Soft and plummy. Great value for money.

**2008 La Motte Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape** (13%; £6.99 each for two, Majestic) Zesty with notes of apple followed by gooseberry.

**2007 Dourthe Barrel Select, Saint-Émilion** (12.5%; £9.49 each, Waitrose) Typical Saint-Émilion. Dark berries with a full-

bodied palate.

**2007 Vinalba Reserva Malbec, Mendoza** (14.5%; £8.99 each for two, Majestic) Full-bodied typical Argentinean Malbec. Blackcurrant and plum with a hint of vanilla.

**2006 Clos d'Yvigne Le Petit Prince, Côtes de Bergerac** (13.5%; £8.99 each for two, Majestic)

Mostly Merlot with some Cabernet Franc. Plum and cherry on the nose with strong tannins and some spice.

**2008 Errazuriz Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, Casablanca Valley** (13.5%; £7.49 each for two, Majestic) Grapefruit, mandarin and grassy aromas. Great with seafood.

**2007 The Society's White Burgundy, Macon-Villages** (12.5%; £7.50 each, The Wine Society) Delicious, fruity unoaked chardonnay. Good with seafood or on its own.

**2008 Ned Pinot Noir, Marlborough** (13.5%; £9.99 each for two, Majestic) Plums, chocolate and spice. A personal favourite.

**2002 Gran Vendema Gran Reserva Rioja** (14%; £7.49 each for two, Majestic) Fruits of the forest with a touch of vanilla. Warm and rich. Great value for such a big Rioja.



## PUB Richard Smith

I've had previous experience with this establishment. The last time I went to Lendal Cellars, (some years ago, it must be said) it was more like Grendel's cavern - dark, festering corners and an unpleasant sense of musty damp. Luckily, that's all changed.

Upon descending into the pub, the softly lit two-tiered cellar, all plush chairs, benches and wooden tables, is tidy and warm without being inspiring.

The frankly ridiculously small bar shows that this is a food oriented pub, somewhere reassuring to bring your Mum after she's huffed and puffed at the alcohol to food ratio in your house fridge.

The prices are pretty grown up too - £2.60 for a Greene King IPA, an easy drinking Suffolk brew that, coming from those parts, I have supped many a time. Yorkshire Terrier is the standard local alternative.

The wine list is far more diverse. For a pub the choice is excellent and you will definitely find the right bottle to accompany a meal, but you will not be paying extortionate restaurant prices for the pleasure of it.

Although I did not eat myself, the young couple at the table I spied on were merrily demolishing a brace of winter



warmers, all of which are priced around the £8-10 mark. This was followed by a very well received steamy, custardy number, a commendable choice given the filthy weather outside.

My one main bone of contention was the peculiar music. One moment, inoffensively mellow jazz, the next, Dappy was barking at me from a terribly recorded live album, somewhat ruining the calm, relaxed atmosphere.

Just as the two-pint fuzz began to creep its way into my brain, a dozen roaring rugbyoids came barreling into the cellar, baying for pint after pint of naff lager. It was time to use the absolutely sparkling loos, put on my coat and head out into the dank February night.



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Chris Young

## Ethics and economics are not always going to go hand in hand

Saving money with ethics in mind is all well and good, but are newer banks up to the task?

Two years ago, a UGM motion was passed telling YUSU that the students of York wanted to our Union to save its money with an ethical bank. Now, after a lot of work and effort, our Union does so. Gone are the days where we save our money with unethical investors. We no longer indirectly fund the arms trade or are, in some way, responsible for massive investment in fossil fuel extraction.

Don't get me wrong, I am all for saving the Earth and not killing people. But where do we draw the line? Lives are important, but they're dictated by the flow and availability of money. When Northern Rock collapsed a few years ago everyone in the country was, indirectly, forced to spend money to safeguard people's investments. But a dramatic bailout cannot happen on a regular basis, especially with younger banks. Is saving with a young, fragile bank not known for its stability

really the right message to send to young students?

I'm not one to criticise YUSU; the Sabbatical officers work very hard and don't deserve a lot of the high profile disapproval

**“We need to trust long-established banks with a history of stability”**

they get. At the end of the day, the decisions made are because our elected officers believe the results will benefit students at York. The decisions they make, especially regarding money, can significantly affect future generations of Sabbs to come afterwards though, as well as their ability to fulfil their own policy ambitions.

In this situation, sensi-

ble and economic banking must take precedence. The future of our Union relies on sensible and safe money management. All profits made by Your:Shop and the Courtyard go straight back to YUSU. This money is then used to fund both sports, welfare and student activities, from this paper to Drama Soc.

Clearly, money is one of the most important assets to any business or organisation. Basing how we risk one of our key assets around the idea that our views will distantly affect how a bank decides how it invests is foolish. In a world without economic confidence, we need to trust long-established banks with a history of stability.

Putting ethics before common sense is thoughtless. I only hope that the hard work our Sabbatical officers do doesn't go to waste and put future Sabbs at a disadvantage. At least we'll be saving the planet though, won't we?

Grace Teh

## B Henry's faces an uphill struggle

Facebook wants to know: do you want to join the group 'Relaunching B Henry's as a live acoustic venue'? I ponder for a second as I have no clue what B Henry's is, but upon seeing that a substantial number of my friends have joined I duly accept the invitation and then promptly forget about it.

As I discovered a few days later, B Henry's is actually the Alcuin College bar and not quite the achingly hip secret underground venue I'd hoped. Being a Jamesite, you will have to excuse my faux pas as simple college patriotism, and the plain fact that, for me, Alcuin is just too far away.

Despite my reservations though, and for the sake of journalism, I trekked all the way across campus in order to find this mythical place, and to find out why it is struggling to achieve its surely deserved popularity. You can imagine my disappointment upon reaching the other side of the universe, when I find that B Henry's is closed.

Apparently the bar is only open two nights a week; I couldn't help but register a lack of surprise at the fact it is losing money. How many people are going to be frustrated by that alone?

I do realise that I am probably being somewhat harsh. Restricting opening hours and rebranding itself is B Henry's attempt to justify remaining open in the future. But is there any hope

left for the ailing establishment? Will a re-launch as a Friday night acoustic venue really work? Forgive me if I sound cynical, but I think it's going to take a lot more than a bit of live music to remove its existing stigma. York students are rather fond of routine; Tuesday night Tru, Wednesday night Ziggy's etc. It seems unlikely that a campus bar can break these ingrained habits, good or bad.

It would be unfair to say B Henry's is suffering alone. No bar on campus, apart from The Courtyard, is close to being a hive of activity. The situation college bars are faced with isn't exactly ideal. Why would the average student, for example, want to drag themselves down to the college bar for a drink they could very well do it cheaper in their kitchens? Or why would the same person want to 'pre-lash' at a college bar when places such as Nag's do 'Trebles for Singles'?

What is needed is more than just a redesign. What's required is a serious and drastic change in the attitudes and thinking of most people.

We must get behind our college bars as only we have the ability to change the negative outlook on them. After all, as much as we hate to admit it, students are rather like sheep - once a few of us decide that Friday night at B Henry's is the place to be, the rest are soon sure to follow.

### The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

As election season begins, has the current YUSU team done a good job so far?

187 people voted, with the majority stating

No



82 people voted Yes

(46%)

105 people voted No

(54%)

To be a part of the debate and for exclusive web content go to [www.nouse.co.uk/comment](http://www.nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Letters

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

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

*Nouse*, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

### Elections have the potential to be eco problem

Dear *Nouse*,

While elections are going to be really good I'm sure and there's the Sesame Street stuff that looks really nice, is anybody else a bit worried about the environmental implications of them?

While the uni just signed up to the 10:10 commitment, which is absolutely amazing, it hardly matters if each and every candidate, running for every small and irrelevant position under the sun, prints out about three thousand posters, stickers and badges.

Come on, it's hardly like everyone

(or anyone at all barring a few eco types) will bother with recycling them. Instead they'll end up all over the floor, and what's worse is that they're only going to have been any to one person in the end; the candidate who wins.

I hope that everyone thinks about the ecological impact we all have with all the largely needless campaigning. Think about what you're doing!

Evan, Third Year Social Policy student

### Don't ruin our clubs

Dear *Nouse*,

I'm really quite annoyed that the Health and Safety types are ruining my time in York.

I am a regular frequenter of both Ziggy's and the Willow. Last year, the ridiculous capacity limits were placed on Willow that have forced them to demand queues and payment for entry. It's not really been quite as good since.

And now Ziggy's is apparently a noise threat. What utter rubbish from the moaners.

A Derwent Third Year

### Lost Property

Dear Mr. D Gibbons

We have your lost property. We found your cards on the floor near our offices.

One of the lost cards we found are your Co-Operative membership card, which without your shopping will surely be more expensive, a most pressing reason to pick it up immediately. We also found your undoubtedly crucial Natwest railcard!

Come by our offices and pick them up, we're in plenty of the time.

*Nouse*

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# TIM NGWENA'S BLACKBERRY as seen by Ben Gascoyne

17.02.10 17:13  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: council@yusu.org  
Subject: pres

Hey Tim,  
  
question: who's the best candidate for president?  
  
answer: its fuckin me!!! come on!  
  
hope not hate  
dave x

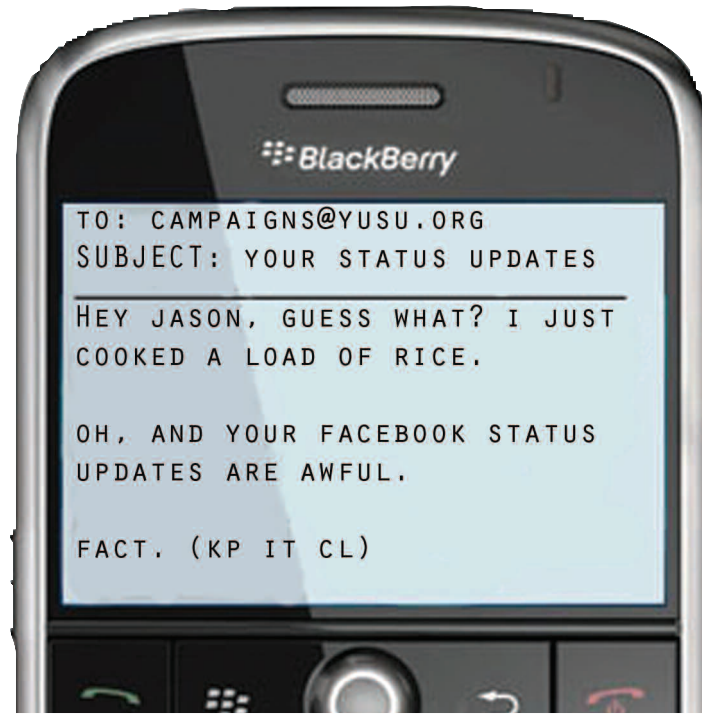
18.02.10 14:56  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: first.lady@yusu.org  
Subject: RE: courtyard

So... still on for dinner?  
  
accio society ratification!

x  
-----  
21.02.10 17:01  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: services@yusu.org  
Subject:

mate  
  
gangrene is not a joke. people in the 21st century get it too, not just medieval peasants.

Lewis x  
-----  
22.02.10 21.02  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: reminder@lovefilm.com  
Subject: Overdue Films



Hello Tim,  
  
We've noticed that you need to return the following films:  
  
'Election'  
'Mean Girls'  
'The Candidate'  
  
Please send them back to us as soon as possible to avoid incurring a fine.  
-----  
21.02.10 17:01  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: m.freckles@gmail.com

Subject: so...  
  
what exactly does the pres do? gotta start campaigning and stuff!  
x  
-----  
24.01.10 20.10  
To: president@yusu.org  
From: editor@nouse.co.uk  
Subject: it's done!  
  
here's the pages Tim!! hope your lent is still going strong, rice is actually pretty boring.  
  
p.s. i wanna be mrs.norris...

# The Acquaintance

with Poppy Babcock

Well it's nearing the end of term and much has come to pass; for one, we've all limboed under or leapt over the hurdle that is Valentine's day. It's a trying time for the single cynics, who have to pretend that it's a meaningless commercial charade to their friends but cry into their pillows at night.

Almost as bad are the few in relationships themselves; the awful dilemma of flowers, chocolates or a selection from the sale rack in Ann Summer's is just too much for some to bear and all that's left is to call time. My decision was perhaps the wisest; to get drunk by myself. If you can't cope with yourself as a drunken mess, then there's no way you'll ever tolerate a better half. No amount of cajoling could tempt me into a girls' night out; inevitably becoming a boys' and girls' night in, and out, in... and out. It seemed to me that in the spirit of romance, we could have a look round and see what's budding; or, in most cases, what needs a good weed.

What has been refreshing is the heartwarming surge of trust that lovers seem to have in one another of late. On a rather uneventful night out a few rather scantily clad girls caught my eye. Leaving less to the imagination than soft-core porn, curiosity got the better of me and I asked a friend for a little background information. Imagine my amazement when I was informed that two of the gang were in serious relationships and were committed to their beaus. All one can do is applaud the faith these men have in their ladies; and of course, attempt to erase the image of errant erect nipples from one's mind. Sturdy relationships aside; perhaps a fashion faux bra.

We've all got one; a really rather tragic friend in an "on again, off again" relationship. "Understanding" may perhaps be better; I'm sure they all connive in underground dens to torment the more stable components of their friendship groups. One such "couple" has yet to enjoy more than a few hours of exclusive bliss at my last count, and yet don't seem to leave each other's side. One has to wonder whether perhaps they're getting into character for some poorly written soap; or, alternatively, that they have really fantastic make-up sex.

Either way, what's most important is how to best keep the rest of the world up to speed- I'm advocating for a new Facebook app: "Keep Track- In the Sack or Bouncing Back?". It'll just make life so much easier.



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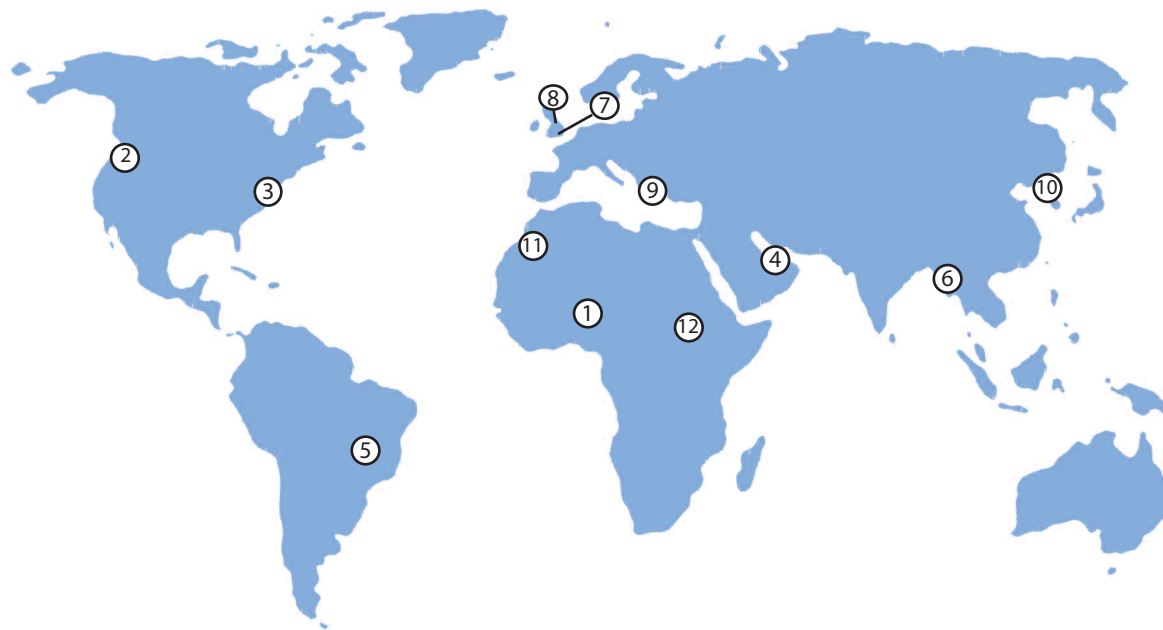
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# Global Focus



## 1. NAIMEY, NIGER-----

The military in Niger has staged a coup, overthrowing President Mamadou Tandja. As a result, Niger has now been suspended from the African Union. The coup has also been widely condemned internationally. Thousands of people have taken to the streets of Niamey to show their support for the deposition. It is believed the President is being held at a military barracks.

## 2. VANCOUVER, CANADA-----

The beginning of the Winter Olympics was tainted by the death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili. He left the Whistler track at high speed and hit a pillar. As a result of the incident, the men's event was moved to the lower course, used by female athletes, which has a lower top speed.

## 3. WASHINGTON D.C., USA-----

A meeting between the Dalai Lama and Barack Obama has strained relations between the USA and China. Following the meeting at the White House between the President and the Tibetan spiritual leader, China has expressed "strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition". US-China relations were already fragile after America's recent arms deal with Taiwan.

## 4. DUBAI, UAE-----

The Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Mabhouh has been assassinated in a hotel room in Dubai. The Dubai police have suggested that the Israeli intelligence agency 'Mossad' may have been involved. It is alleged that Mabhouh was in Dubai to purchase weapons for

Hamas. Some of the suspects had travelled using British passports. Mossad has previously used British passports.

## 5. BRASILIA, BRAZIL-----

The governor of Brazil's Federal District, Jose Roberto Arruda, has turned himself in to police following alleged corruption. Arruda is accused of taking bribes for public-works contracts. He had been filmed accepting bundles of cash, but claims the money was to buy food for poor families. This explanation has not been well received in Brazil.

## 6. YANGON, MYANMAR-----

Tin Oo, Vice Chairman of the

National League of Democracy (NLD), has been freed from detention. The party is the main opposition to the ruling Junta. He had been held under house arrest since February 2004. The leader of the NLD, Aung San Suu Kyi, remains under house arrest. Her house arrest was extended by 18 months last summer after an American man swam across a lake to reach her compound.

## 7. COVENTRY, UK-----

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has unveiled Labour's "a future fair for all" slogan for the upcoming election. Brown also claimed that the economy would be "at risk" under a Conservative government. He

emphasised the importance of supporting as many jobs as possible as well and encouraged people to look at Labour for a second time.

## 8. MANCHESTER, UK-----

Greater Manchester Police have arrested 395 people in the space of 24 hours during a major crackdown on alcohol related violence. Officers "locked down" the city centre and operated a string of raids. Safety arches were used to stop people carrying weapons and sniffer dogs were brought in to detect drugs. Two cannabis farms were uncovered and a shotgun with 50 live cartridges was seized. 36 cases have now gone to court as a result.

## 9. ATHENS, GREECE-----

EU leaders have shown support for Greece following a massive debt crisis in the country. They promised, "determined and coordinated action, if needed." However, they haven't made any specific commitments. This ambiguity hasn't helped to ease market nerves. The Euro has reached very low levels against the Dollar.

## 10. PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA---

Kim Jong-il's birthday was celebrated in North Korea with fireworks, a flower festival and synchronised swimming displays. The leader's birthday is one of the most important holidays in the country. His birth in 1942 is alleged to have been marked by a double rainbow and a bright star in the sky.

## 11. MEKNES, MOROCCO-----

Several people have been killed and many more left injured in the Moroccan town of Meknes following the collapse of a minaret just before the beginning of a sermon. There had been heavy rain in the region for several days before the collapse, and it is thought to be the cause of the incident.

## 12. DARFUR, SUDAN-----

One of the largest rebel groups in Darfur (JEM) has signed a ceasefire with the Sudanese government. It is estimated that during the conflict between the rebels and forces loyal to the government more than 300,000 people were killed. Many more people have been displaced and are still living in refugee camps in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

----WWW.NOUSE.CO.UK/POLITICS

## Mystery surrounding murder of Hamas leader deepens

Vanessa Donhowe-Mason

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

THE STORY of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh's murder did not gain media attention until last week, when the Dubai police revealed that forged European passports had been used by the suspects.

Mabhouh's assassination occurred within five hours of his arrival in Dubai. It has been suggested he was there for an arms deal. His suspected assassins are alleged to have started trailing him from the moment of his arrival at Dubai International Airport.

The suspects, who travelled on fake European passports, meticulously planned out the operation. They flew into Dubai on separate planes, and disguised themselves using wigs and false beards.

CCTV footage has been released showing two of the team, disguised as tourists carrying tennis racquets, watching Mabhouh check in at the luxury al-Bustan Rotana Hotel and following him



The Al-Bustan Rotana Hotel where the murder took place

into an elevator. Dubai police believe that four assassins entered Mabhouh's room while he was out, and suffocated him on his return.

Eleven Europeans were victims of identity theft by the alleged killers. Of these 11, six are British nationals living in Israel. The

Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has stated that the photographs and signatures on the passports belonging to the suspects do not match those issued in the UK.

Gordon Brown has so far spoken cautiously about the affair, stating the need to "carry out a full

investigation". David Miliband, foreign secretary, has stressed his determination to "get to the bottom" of the use of fake passports, while Conservative leader David Cameron has urged for answers from the Israeli ambassador to "some pretty tough questions".

Israel has a long, dubious history of using foreign passports for its secret operations. In 1987 it promised to stop using fake British passports after Britain expressed outrage over this practice.

If the use of fake passports by Mabhouh's killers is traced back to Israel, relations with Britain may be seriously jeopardized.

Reports are now circulating over the possibility that the British government knew of allegations that British passports were used by the suspects. Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague is claiming it is "entirely possible" that the government was aware of this within ten days of the murder.

Speculations are growing over whether the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency, is

behind the murder.

Dubai police chief Lieutenant General Dahi Khalfan has blamed Israel, saying: "investigations reveal that Mossad is involved in the murder of al-Mabhouh. It is 99 percent, if not 100 percent, that Mossad is standing behind the murder."

Israel's foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, insists that there is no proof in the allegations of their involvement, although he has not outright denied the claim, citing Israel's "policy of ambiguity".

"In some cases Israel has decided to close the circle and take revenge on people who were behind symbolic acts of terrorism" said investigative journalist Ronen Bergman. In 1989, Mabhouh is thought to have masterminded the capture and murder of two Israeli soldiers. His assassination may be part of a vicious circle of revenge.

As Hamas militants vow they will "never rest until they reach his killers" and promise vengeance for Mabhouh's assassination, the cycle of violence looks set to continue.

# Iran criticised for Human rights abuses

27189271

**Ieuan Ferrer**  
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR

IT HAS BEEN reported by the Iranian Minorities Human Rights Organisation (IMHRO) that a mass grave has been discovered near the city of Ahwaz, in the Iranian province of Khuzestan.

Many are viewing it as final proof that the government has been 'disappearing' Khuzestani dissidents.

Reza Washahi, the head of IMHRO, commented: "Many people have been disappeared in predominantly ethnic minority areas and the Iranian government have refused to take responsibility for it. We should never close our eyes on such things."

This latest discovery implicates two powerful forces within Iran - the Iranian Security Service and the Revolutionary Guard, the regime's loyal military force - in the covert kidnapping and killing of Iranian citizens.

Iran, a largely Persian country, has been repeatedly accused of disregarding the human rights of its Arab minority, centred in the Khuzestani region.

Similar accusations have been made regarding the regime's treatment of Kurdish, Baluchi, Turk, Turkmen, Jewish, Christian and Bahá'í minorities.

The four men, who discovered the grave, have since been arrested by the Iranian authorities and transferred to an unknown location.

The Iranian government



**Iranian protesters take to the streets of Tehran to show their opposition to the government**

has stepped up its campaign of repression of dissidents since the disputed election of July 2009.

Ayatollah Khamenei, the unelected Supreme Leader of Iran, is accused of acting in concert with Ahmedinejad, the incumbent, to rig the elections against Mousavi.

The Green Movement, as the followers of Mousavi have come to be known, have been intimidated, assaulted and, it is alleged, killed by the regime.

Recently, two men who were arrested whilst peacefully protesting against the election result last summer were executed for being "enemies of God" and plotting to overthrow the Iranian regime.

White House Deputy Press Secretary, Bill Burton,

labelled the executions as "a low point in the Islamic Republic's unjust and ruthless crackdown of peaceful dissent."

The recent anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution was marred by scenes of Green Movement protesters being assaulted by baton-wielding

**"The four men, discovered the grave have since been arrested by the Iranian authorities."**

members of the Basij militia - a common sight in recent times.

These organisations, have

been accused of committing innumerable human rights breaches. These famously conservative and regime-loyal organisations have become so influential that Hilary Clinton, the US Secretary of State, recently claimed that Iran is becoming a "military dictatorship".

President Ahmedinejad is ex-Revolutionary Guard. He and Ayatollah Khamenei have ensured that over half of Iran's cabinet are currently made up of current senior members or veterans of the Guard.

The Revolutionary Guard were formed in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution as a counterweight to the standard, armed forces. Ironically, it now seems that they have gained too much power.

Political  
Edge



Tom Fisher

Sharon Osbourne, Vinnie Jones, Katie Price, Gordon Brown? I must admit I was more than a little surprised to see the Prime Minister on Piers Morgan's 'celebrity' chat-show.

Brown's appearance was certainly emotive, but also unnecessary. Chat shows should not be something that features on the agenda of someone who is leading a country.

Politicians should stick to politics rather than attempting to sway voters with endearing personal showcasing.

Also, there is huge hypocrisy involved with this latest venture into personalised public relations. Brown had previously taken the stance that he would never talk about his private life. Perhaps desperation over the impending election drove him to reverse his original position. I strongly suspect his arm was firmly twisted by the spin doctors at Downing Street.

David Cameron has made it clear that he will not be doing anything similar to Brown, and rightfully so. Politicians need to maintain a professionally focused approach rather than playing the family card.

**"I severely doubt we would have caught the Iron Lady sitting opposite Piers Morgan."**

Whether you liked her policies or not, Margaret Thatcher was a great leader. She wisely advised, "to wear your heart on your sleeve isn't a very good plan; you should wear it inside, where it functions best." I severely doubt we would have caught the Iron Lady sitting opposite Piers Morgan.

What matters is the policies that will change the lives of millions of people, not, as Piers Morgan managed to extract, how many women Nick Clegg has slept with. I don't want to know what politicians are eating for breakfast, what their hobbies are, or how energy efficient their kitchen appliances are. It is merely a trivial distraction from what actually matters.

On reflection Brown has probably done quite well out of his appearance on the ITV chat show. However, we mustn't forget he got to where he was under the image of being the quiet but efficient and hard-working chancellor. It is this quality he should be utilising against the relatively inexperienced pairing of Osborne and Cameron.

I sincerely hope that in the future, I won't have to witness any other politicians on such shows. These shows are for 'celebrities', an ambiguous term, but it certainly shouldn't include politicians.

# Tensions rise between UK and Argentina

**Chris Young**  
CHIEF SUB-EDITOR

TENSIONS ARE growing between the British and Argentine governments over rights to oil recently found in the Falklands seabed.

The Falklands are considered to be British Overseas Territories by Westminster, however Buenos Aires believes that the UK is illegally occupying the Falklands. Whilst events are not expected to escalate for now, Westminster has sent naval ships to the area, including the HMS York.

In response, Buenos Aires has placed new controls on ships passing through its waters. Ships will now need a permit to go through Argentine waters on their way to the Falklands. The main reason for this is seen to be over oil in the area. Local geologists have announced that they believe there are substantial oil reserves in the area. As a result, the UK has sent a drilling rig to the area.

Further to this, Argentine government ministers have said



**The British destroyer HMS York is reported to be in the area**

that the controls have been brought in specifically to protect "resources" in the area.

Despite Argentine hostilities, Gordon Brown believes drilling for oil will start on Sunday as originally planned. The situation has been escalated further by Argentina announcing that it is looking into

working with other countries to stop British ships going in to more South American waters than just their own.

Tensions over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands have remained since the end of the Falklands war 28 years ago.

With the discovery of oil in

PHOTOIMAGE

the area, the dispute is now economic as well territorial. The controls placed on ships in Argentine waters by Buenos Aires will result in extra costs for foreign firms wanting to drill in the area. Complications could increase if Buenos Aires places harsher limits on sailing in its waters. The Falkland Islands are in British waters, but the surrounding territory is claimed by Argentina.

Despite both Westminster and Buenos Aires wanting to have a "dialogue" on the issue, the Argentine government is standing firm. They claim that they will take "all legal means to restrict the access to the islands from the continent". Hostilities between the two governments have increased to levels not seen since the Falklands War when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister.

Mining rights for oil are currently held by the British firms Desire Petroleum and Falkland Oil and Gas. With so much stake, both governments are hoping to come to a compromise on the issue sooner rather than later.

# York Outer candidates

The candidates for York Outer recently visited the University and began campaigning for crucial student votes. Peter Campbell brings you the interviews.

## Julian Sturdy



### What do you think is the most important issue facing York outer at the moment?

"Well, there are lots of issues that you find on the doorstep when you go round. There's the threat to the local greenbelt of York, with local housing possibilities there. A lot of people are worried that their green space is going to be taken away.

There's also a lot of concern about the lack of local infrastructure such as bus services, and bad traffic and things like that.

The economy also comes up regularly. People are finding a real insecurity over jobs and their future employment prospects. It's an issue that we need to tackle."

### Has David Cameron sealed the deal with the voters yet?

"In a 24 hour media world, no one will ever seal the deal again. Blair was the last person I think ever to do that. What Cameron has done is offered something new. I remember when I first saw him speak, I was really impressed by David Cameron.

As the Conservative Party was, we couldn't go on, we had to make changes. I think they have been made, and we have moved in the right direction. We now have a real opportunity to win. Cameron will bring the strong leadership that this country desperately needs."

### Do you support Labour's push for a referendum on a change to the voting system?

"I can't believe that Brown will put a vote through 90 days before an election and expects us to believe him that it's genuine. They talked about it in 1997, and Gordon Brown was against it then.

He's been against it all the way through, and now he's putting it through. It's nothing more than an olive branch to the Liberal Democrats.

We desperately need to rebuild trust in the political system, and electoral reform is not the way to go about it."

## James Alexander



### What do you think is the most important issue facing York outer at the moment?

"The most important issue has to be the economy. It's the same for the whole country, we need to make sure that we secure the recovery.

Labour has been doing that so far, and the country has now come out of recession, and the stimulus is working.

The most important thing is to secure the recovery. We can't afford to turn off the tap now."

### Do you think Gordon Brown damaged his chances by saying that he'll serve a full second term?

"Gordon Brown has been honest and straight with the public, and I think that's right. It would be wrong for him to say that he would serve a full term and then stop."

### Do you support Labour's push for a referendum on a change to the voting system?

"I think it's absolutely right that we have a referendum on this issue, as it's something that the country needs to have a say on.

If the Alternative Vote system (AV) restores confidence in the political system, then it's a good thing to do.

I remain to be convinced about AV, personally.

I am one of the few Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) who is not toeing the line on this one.

A group of us wrote a letter to Gordon Brown expressing our concerns over the issue. I just don't think it makes sense."

### What do you think about the Tory's proposals to decrease the number of MPs?

"I think there are reason why they want to change the number.

It entirely depends on how it would affect the country."

## Madeleine Kirk



### What do you think is the most important issue facing York outer at the moment?

"They are the same issues as the country. We need a fair tax system to help bring people out of poverty. We would do that by raising the tax threshold. We also need a good education system, with fair access for all, which is something that we currently don't have.

We would introduce the abolition of university tuition fees. We also need total access to the NHS across the country. It is not right that people are living for ten years fewer in some parts of the country than others. And of course, there's the economy."

### Did you not drop the tuition fees policy?

"No, we didn't. It is our policy to remove in the first year the fees for final year students, and to phase in the rest over a period of six years. We have had to make adjustments to it because of the economic climate."

### Do you support Labour's push for a referendum on a change to the voting system?

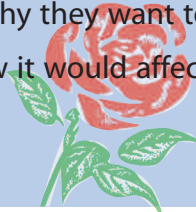
"We support the Single Transferable Vote system (STV), and the Jenkins Commission recommends the STV+, which I think we would also support. The present system is still grossly unfair.

At the last General Election, Labour got less votes than the Conservatives, and the Lib Dems got 22% of the vote and only 10% of the seats. What it means is that some voters were basically disenfranchised, which is wrong."

### What would you personally do in the event of a hung Parliament?

"The Liberal Democrats will not enter into discussions with any party until after the people have cast their votes. The party with the largest number of seats must have the first option to create the government.

Only at that point would we enter into discussions with anyone."



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# Last man standing

Henry Cowen talks to Graham Onions about England, the Ashes and his skill with the bat

GARY\_T\_W

The score is 280-9 with eleven balls remaining and the only man between South Africa and victory in the third Test against England is Graham Onions. His Woodworm bat may have been described as the "best in the dressing room", but England would have preferred anyone other than Onions, with a batting average of ten, to edge them over the line. He takes guard, his helmet appearing ill-fitting as they seem to do on all tail-enders.

Twenty-two yards away from him is the six foot six Morkel, and awaiting him at the other end is the best fast bowler in the world, Dale Steyn. Fingernails are chewed in living rooms across the UK and pulses rise to uncomfortable levels, but somehow the gutsy Durham man leaves, blocks and ducks his way to the final ball. It's Morkel versus Onions. England's hopes resting solely on the shoulders of one man. Calm and collected Onions leaves the delivery. England escape with a draw and, for the second time in three games, it is all thanks to him. He punches the air in the direction of his colleagues and, presumably, breathes a huge sigh of relief.

Graham Onions had an interesting 2009. He made his England Test debut, had Lily Allen publicly declare her affections for him, and was termed a "legend" by his captain Andrew Strauss. Yet in many ways his form mirrored that of England: he enjoyed some highs but also had to endure his fair share of lows. The former included taking 10 wickets at 30 to help win the Ashes and blocking out South Africa to earn thrilling draws on two occasions. On the other hand, being dropped in the final tests against both Australia and South Africa was a major disappointment and proof that, despite a very positive start to his England career, he has not yet secured his place in the side.

Onions seems an unassuming character, not someone to revel in the media spotlight, and his answers to questions about his career are refreshingly modest. This modesty might perhaps be the reason he has been dropped from the England team on more than one occasion; he doesn't have the flair and pizzazz of other players, and thus it is perhaps possible to overlook his efforts. Nevertheless an average of a touch over 30 after eight tests, six of which have been against South Africa



**Graham Onions, who Lily Allen apparently fancies "more than Freddie (Flintoff) now"**

Onions back is England's four-man attack. In recent years, England have favoured four seamers and a spinner, but without the talismanic Freddie Flintoff the plans have changed. There is now one less place for a seam bowler and that has certainly contributed to the pressure on England's pace bowlers. Onions appears to feel that he should be one of four seamers in the side: "Having three other seamers with you takes off the load and if you're bowling well in partnerships there's no respite for the batters." However, the question of how Andy Flower could accommodate four pace bowlers and a competitive batting line-up has probably been troubling the England coach since Flintoff's retirement.

Despite being dropped for the final - and unsuccessful - test match in South Africa, Onions looks back on the tour with fond memories: "I thought I bowled well and on the occasion held my end up with the bat!" Holding his end up with the bat is more than an understatement as it was Onions who thrillingly twice secured draws with his defiant blocking. Nicknamed "Bunny" by his teammates - more because of the fact that his name rhymes with bunions than an inability to hold a bat - his heroics at Centurion and Johannesburg became the stuff of legend. Yet of course his batting was not the reason he was selected and, fortunately for him, he believes his bowling came on during the tour as well: "It was a great tour and I felt I really progressed as England's opening bowler."

## Onions' England career

**September 2006** - Selected for England One Day International squad to face Pakistan but does not play in any fixtures.

**May 2009** - Makes his Test debut against the West Indies at Lords. Takes impressive figures of 5 for 38.

**Summer 2009** - Selected for Ashes campaign and plays key role in England's victory, most noticeably taking three wickets in the first innings at Lords.

**Winter 2009** - Hero for England in South Africa with two thrilling last man stands at the crease. Controversially dropped for the final test.

I suggested that perhaps the two draws were telling of England's luck, and not grit, but Onions was swift to suggest otherwise. The plucky number 11 put England's ability to escape down to "the determination of the side...all the hard work we put in definitely paid off, even if it was a little tight toward the end." It's never ideal to see the number 11 saving a game for a side but it's positive for everybody connected with England to hear talk of "the determination of the side", something that has been evident under the Strauss/Flower

partnership.

Despite his positive first year in the whites of England, he is yet to find true success in the coloured kit. He has played only four games in the shortened version of the game, with limited success. Ironically, following his performance with the bat in South Africa, he has generally lost out to bowlers whose batting offers more, such as Tim Bresnan or - currently with the squad in Pakistan - his teammate Liam Plunkett. It might be that Onions, like Matthew Hoggard before him, is never given a genuine chance to shine in One Day Internationals, but his bustling wicket to wicket deliveries would prove a constant threat throughout the middle overs. However, it seems for now, Onions is not in England's ODI plans, something he will surely seek to rectify.

It was clear when England laboured to a humiliating one day defeat to Australia following the Ashes that burnout was becoming a bit of an issue, and, when Ryan Sidebottom was preferred to Onions in Johannesburg, one of the reasons cited was the need for "fresh legs". What does Onions think about the new squad rotation policy, specifically with regard to his role in Bangladesh without Jimmy Anderson in the attack? "There is a lot of cricket played, although I feel the more I bowl the better rhythm I have...so I'm happier playing every game and without Jimmy there I'll be pushing hard." Typically Onions put a positive slant on cricketers' workload, focusing instead on how it improves his game, and he will be looking to lead the attack in Anderson's absence in Bangladesh.

While he shows hints of ambition in his responses, his answer to the question of his hopes for 2010-2011 sums up his humility and determination: "Working hard to become a senior bowler in the side and obviously be very successful. There's loads of cricket on, so really success in the next match is my priority." While taking one match at a time is a sporting cliché, it has to be considered a good philosophy from a young man starting out on an international career.

With Ashes success already, Graham Onions has had a thrilling first year in international cricket. Crucially, he is far from finished: "It's certainly a goal of mine (to get near Matthew Hoggard's wicket haul). Matthew has an incredible record and to be that successful is a real dream of mine. It's a long way away but I'm working hard on my game to be that successful."

Fast forward to November 2010 and England will be flying out to defend the little urn in Australia's backyard, and the Durham man rates England's chances of success; "Our bowling attack has good options, we are maturing all the time and I feel we are a real force in world cricket. Our batting line up is solid and there are a lot of people working hard for places. We have a real good chance of beating the Aussies."

If Graham Onions can continue his form in 2010, in doing so nailing down a place in Andy Flower's first XI, then he will be a massive part of England's efforts in Australia, and one gets the impression that Lily Allen will have many more chances to ogle her new crush on international cricket grounds for years to come.

**"I feel we are a real force in world cricket. We have a real good chance of beating the Aussies."**

and Australia, is very impressive.

I ask how he felt about being dropped for the final test in South Africa: "I have to say, I was slightly surprised, more disappointed to be fair. I felt I had been bowling well and putting the top order batters under pressure without picking up the wickets." His thoughts are in line with many pundits, who felt the amount of wickets he had taken did not correlate with how well he had been bowling. He delivered probing spells and the pressure he built up allowed others to reap the rewards.

Something else that perhaps held



# York's sports teams gear up to face St. John as Varsity returns

**Adam Shergold**  
SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER A two year absence from the University sports calendar, this weekend sees the return of the Varsity contest with York St. John.

Revamped and expanded, the competition, which was cancelled twelve months ago because of a BUCS fixture pile-up, is being staged over a Saturday and Sunday for the first time, allowing around 850 athletes to compete across twelve sports.

The Saturday sees the rowing take centre stage in the early afternoon down on the 1km River Ouse course, with the swimming races at Archbishop Holgate School later on. There's also planned exhibition events involving the respective universities' climbing and boxing clubs.

There's wall-to-wall sport on the Sunday, starting with the men's and women's badminton matches at 9am and encompassing tennis, hockey, netball, volleyball, football and rugby union, until the feast concludes with the men's basketball at 4pm.

Since its inception in 2005, York University have never lost a Varsity competition, with their most comprehensive victory coming on its last staging, in 2007, when the final score was 55-16.

For Emily Scott, York Sport President, Varsity presents an opportunity not only to continue this winning record but fulfil a key election campaign pledge to resurrect the tournament and earn some money for the coffers.

"I'm really excited about the Varsity weekend," she said. "I'm already dreaming of about lifting



JASON LOZIER

**Emily Scott and Gary Milner will lead their sides into Varsity battle**

the trophy. The new weekend format allows more people to participate and, importantly, means there's no clashes with BUCS fixtures.

"We are hoping the Varsity events will be a big success, allowing the weekend to actually raise a bit of money for York Sport, rather than becoming another drain on our financial resources."

Friday night sees the Varsity Warm-up event in The Courtyard while, after the presentation ceremony on Sunday evening, both sides will descend on the city centre in the Varsity Invasion, an event similar to the termly Viking Raid.

Despite their poor track record in Varsity and the generally higher position of York University teams in the BUCS League system, St. John are bullish about their chances.

"York St. John has done very well at field sports this year as well as mixed results indoors and with racket sports," Gary Milner, Vice President of Student Activities, said.

"It would be unfair to single out any sports in particular as we believe this year we will pick up points across all sections of the competition, with a strong unity and focus on passion coming from St. Johns this year, which will hopefully be evident at Varsity."

One area St. John's will be hoping to win a few points will be on the astroturf in the hockey matches which are set to be a highlight of the weekend. Earlier in the season, the men's teams tied 2-2 and are currently locked together just above the relegation zone in BUCS League 2B, with the return fixture on March 17 looking set to

determine who stays up.

St. John's women's team play their trade at a division higher than York, but were eliminated from the BUCS Cup in last month's derby, goals from Frankie Hall and Rachael Faustino earning a comfortable 2-0 win.

Despite the teams' similarities, Sophie Hossack, Hockey Club Female President, is confident of a clean sweep for York.

"Varsity is a exciting prospect for UYHC because each derby match is always incredibly competitive," she said. "From this season's results so far, the bookie would back York. York St. John's are only too aware of this and no doubt feel they have something to prove, but it's up to us to ensure they step off the JLD empty-handed and humbled."

This year's Varsity includes Barbarians teams in the football and netball, allowing the cream of College Sport talent to get involved in the action.

A football 5th XI, captained by Dave Coupland, will take on St. John's fifths and Greg Gardner, UYAFC President, believes it will merely provide another opportunity for York to underline their superiority.

"Following the season we've had, I cannot wait for Varsity! And in particular I can't wait to see all five St. John's teams trudge home across the city without anything to show for their trip to 'Fortress 22'.

"As Shankly said "a lot of football success is in the mind. You must believe you are the best and then make sure that you are". We believe we're the best and we're going to make sure St John KNOW we are."

## Lancaster pull out of multiple Roses fixtures

A number of Roses fixtures have been cancelled due to Lancaster being unable to field teams.

Seconds matches in men's fencing, sailing, cricket and skiing have all been called off as well as the mixed hockey fixture. The women's skiing is also possibly facing cancellation.

Emily Scott, York Sport President, has revealed that York have pulled out of the women's seconds rugby sevens match and "potentially a few more given there are 50 exams timetabled over the Friday and Saturday of the weekend."

Cycling and Clay Pigeon Shooting will be entering the competition as exhibition events.

## Men's lacrosse overcome Oldham to reach final

York beat Oldham 13-4 on Saturday afternoon to reach the final of the Nigel Wayne Trophy.

In an often fractious encounter, Phil Harrold weighed in with four goals, while Rob Cosslett, Krishna Balan and Paul Crowley Jr scored three apiece as York recovered from a slow opening half to win comfortably.

They will now face either Timperley or Heaton Mersey in the final, to be played at Rochdale in three weeks time.

"This could be the most successful season the club has ever had," said Benedict Robinson, the team captain.

The team are also through to the quarter-finals of the BUCS Cup, where they will face either Sheffield or Liverpool University this week.

## York Sport budget not "sustainable" says Scott

Emily Scott, York Sport President, has said that she "hopes that the York Sport budget will be increased next year" as she "is not sure things are sustainable as they are now."

Despite saying that York Sport was "coping with its budget", she confirmed that it "had not been a cash rich year" and that they had been "working really hard to try and keep on top" of their finances.

York Sport's overall grant was cut at the beginning of this year, meaning that they were unable to provide some clubs with money for essential equipment and kit.

Scott added that some clubs had applied for additional financial help but "not significantly more" than did so last year.

## Snowfall causes sports cancellations once again

Heavy snow on Sunday morning caused further disruption to the College Sport programme.

All of the week's football matches, including the much-anticipated Halifax-Alcuin clash, and rugby fixtures were called off.

The latest round of regional Futsal qualifiers was also cancelled after teams struggled to reach York.

# Novice crews impress on BUCS debut

**Adam Shergold**  
SPORTS EDITOR

IT WAS the first time many of them had participated in a proper competition, but the crews of the University Boat Club performed admirably at the BUCS Head event in Peterborough this weekend.

Many of the novice crews had sat in a boat just five times because of high water levels on the River Ouse in recent months, but they adapted well to freezing conditions on Saturday over the demanding 2.5km course.

The men's eight finished a mid-field 24th overall, registering a time of 11 minutes, 41 seconds. The women's eight ended up 20th, a respectable position considering they have only been rowing together for a month.

Heavy snow on Sunday morning briefly threatened the intermediate and championship category events but, despite a few delays, the races went ahead as planned.

This weekend represents the start of a hectic second half of term for the Boat Club, who are involved in races right across the country and the Varsity competition with York St. John on Saturday, and they were keen to take to the water.

The women's 1st XIII entered the elite championship category to prepare for the upcoming Women's Head of the River weekend. Their final standing of 12th and time of 19 minutes 34 seconds was remarkable after they were forced to complete the final 1km with only six rowers following repairs to a broken seat mid-race.

The women's 2nd eight, in the intermediate class, finished 15th with a time of 21 minutes and 38 seconds.

In the afternoon, the men's 1st IX - consisting of Ben Coverdale, Tom Bulpitt, John Appleton, Oscar Neilson and coxed by Ashley Haycock - achieved a 12th place ranking. The 2nd four, made up of John Underwood, Chris Fury,



COURTESY UY BOAT CLUB

**The women's eight crews achieved 12th and 15th finishes this weekend**

Miles Whitehead, Teddy O'Brien and coxed by Alice Taylor, completed the course about a minute behind the 1st crew despite the handicap of an hour's delay in blizzard conditions at the start line.

Evaluating the weekend, Sophie Mottram, the women's captain, said: "It was a very positive and encouraging start to what looks to be a prosperous season for the Boat Club."

Graham Onions

Henry Cowen speaks to the Durham seamer, England hero and cricket's new sex symbol.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW &gt;&gt; P18



# Rugby firsts' title hopes hang in the balance after cancellations

SAM NEWSOME



Action from York's 28-5 victory over Sheffield University last Wednesday, their last League 1A fixture of the season following the cancellation of Saturday's Northumbria fixture

**Leigh Clarke**  
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK RUGBY firsts' thrilling league campaign has ended in confusion after the cancellation of last Sunday's all-deciding encounter between Sheffield Hallam and Sheffield University.

Hallam knew that a win in their final game would take them joint top of British University and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Northern Conference 1A and, due to their better head-to-head record, snatch promotion from York.

Yet, in a further twist to what

has been a thrilling season, the local derby was called off due to a frozen pitch. BUCS regulations state that all games must be played by Sunday 21 February in order to be counted towards the league: "Matches not completed, by the date stated shall be declared void with no points being awarded to either side."

Rob Grant, University of York Rugby Club (UYRUCF) President, argued that Hallam's inability to finish their fixtures means that York should have promotion: "Technically it's the end of the BUCS cut off date and thus any

games played after this point should be void and so we should get promoted."

York also had their home fixture against Northumbria seconds called off this Saturday, yet crucially this was due to the away side being unable to field a side, therefore making York eligible to claim a walkover victory. In what has been an anticlimatic end to the season, Sheffield Hallam were also awarded a walkover in their penultimate game of the season when Durham thirds were unable to field a team.

Gregor Macleod, full-back for Sheffield Hallam firsts, said the

club was "trying to appeal to get the deadline extended". He added that it was "really unfair, because it's not something we have control over."

This is the second time Hallam's fixture against Sheffield has been postponed for bad weather. Tom Weir, UYRUCF Press and Publicity Officer, said that he hoped "BUCS would take the view that they have had enough time to reschedule this fixture" and would therefore not take "leniency" due to weather conditions.

The BUCS website states that either of the top two teams "may be required to take part in a promo-

tion playoff" in order to progress to Premier B. Whether this will be between York and Sheffield Hallam, or will instead involve one of the relegated teams from the division above is unclear. Weir said that there was a "distinct possibility" of a play-off and that if he was in Hallam's position he "would think it was the fair decision."

York have exceeded all expectations in Division 1A after only being promoted last year. They have remained unbeaten on the 22 Acres all season but were only able to take one point from six in their two games against Hallam.

## BUCS success for Boat Club

Despite being starved of practice time, York's rowers exceeded all expectations at this weekend's BUCS Head event in freezing conditions at Peterborough.

WEEKEND ROUND-UP >> P19



## Both sides bullish about their prospects as Varsity returns

After a year away, the Varsity contest with York St. John returns this weekend. With many of our sports teams in action, Adam Shergold assesses where the all-important points will be won and lost and where to watch all the action. *Nouse* will be offering live online coverage on both days, with the best reports and photos.

THE LOCAL DERBY >> P19



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