



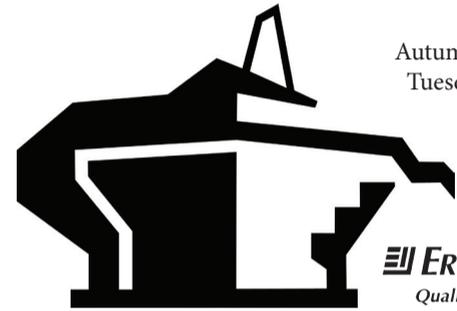
An old saying says "try everything, except Morris dancing and sodomy"

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FRESHERS' SUPPLEMENT
INSIDE

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LAURA HUGHES



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Proposed degree overhaul to impact first year students

Rose Troup Buchanan
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is considering introducing a reports scheme that could supplant the traditional honours grading system.

The reports scheme, HEAR, an acronym for the Higher Education Achievement Reports, would directly affect this year's first year students, should the University decide to join the scheme next year, as they have indicated they might.

The University explained its decision to examine implementing the scheme, stating: "We will monitor its impact in other universities and will consider introducing it next year".

But a spokesperson confirmed they would postpone the implementation of the scheme this year:

"We have discussed this thoroughly with student representatives and don't believe that students will be disadvantaged by this.

However, the reports scheme will refine the way in which degrees will be graded, and aims to improve graduate employability. Under the scheme, students would be awarded 'reports' throughout their studies, detailing both their academic progress and their extracurricular activities and achievements, allowing future employers more information on a student's qualifications.

Nationally, students starting this year would be the first to come under the initiative, under recommendations from the body operating the reports scheme. Should the University decide to follow the scheme, first-year students would be the first York students to gradu-

ate under the change.

However, the decision is dependent upon an electronic system for diploma supplements being in place. Presently, the system is operated manually, and in a piecemeal fashion, as not all degrees require the diploma supplement.

The decision to move to an electronic system, and therefore the reports scheme, is dependent upon discussions by relevant University staff to determine the actions and ascertain the funding required to implement the scheme.

Both the National Union of Students (NUS), and the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR), have helped in the development of the scheme.

Professor Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, chair of the group

leading the scheme, has stated that he feels the scheme could in time come to supplant the traditional grading of degrees, replacing the present grading system of firsts, seconds, and thirds.

Burgess stated: "Universities have recognised for some time that a single degree classification cannot do justice to the range of skills, knowledge and experience students gain during their time in higher education."

"The HEAR is designed to encourage a more sophisticated approach to recording students' achievements in the 21st century."

The reports scheme would

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News

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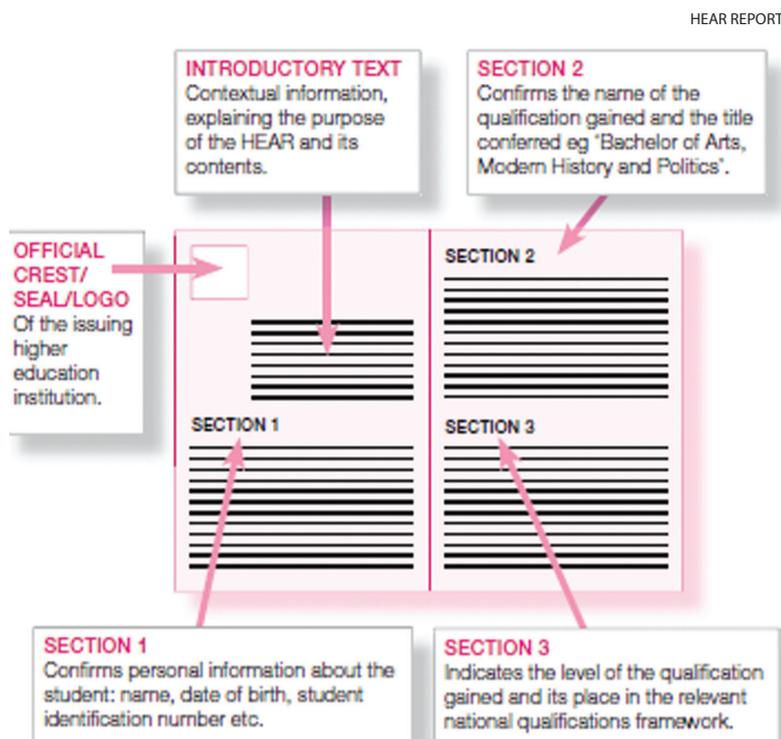
consist of an electronic document, produced by the University, with YUSU's input, providing a record of a student's achievements at university. Students would be able to access their reports throughout their academic career, and it would be updated regularly. Significantly, it would follow a standard template in order to ensure consistency across the country.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said: "We warmly welcome anything that will go towards a recognition of a student's wider skills and experiences. It's so competitive out there, so any edge that York graduates can obtain over others, which is formally recognized, can only go to our students advantage."

The crucial factor of the scheme is section 6.1. This section records and verifies student participation outside of academic study, providing accredited additional information to future employers about a student's range of skills and experience.

However, the University already runs a scheme which is similar in its aims, the York Award, which is entering its twelfth year and which was the first of its kind in the country.

A spokesperson from the University's Careers Service said: "The Careers team are keen to develop



The reports scheme has already been picked up by 90 other institutions

the York Award further so that more students can have access to its advantages. We plan to do this in a way that will help us support the HEAR, but will also stand alone, so that York students will benefit whatever the University decides to do."

The scheme released a report which states that information and

accreditation would be "authorised and stewarded by the awarding institution responsible for the information," containing only information and achievements that have been "verified and validated by the institution, or by an authorised, trusted third-party organisation".

The information that would be contained in section 6.1 would

most likely consist of a student's extracurricular activities, such as societal involvement or sporting contributions, a component of student life presently overseen by YUSU.

However, should the scheme go ahead it would be overseen by the University, rather than YUSU. The Careers Service explained the likelihood of such a decision as a result of already having the infrastructure, for example the student records system, which would only need to be built upon, rather than started from nothing.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, said: "I believe the University is making the right decision to consider developing the HEAR."

"Only time will tell how effective the HEAR will be, but anything that gives employers and other higher education institutions more information about the achievements of our graduates is a good thing. As it is those students starting this year who would be the first to receive the HEAR the university has three years to put the systems in place to produce it; I believe that should be more than enough time."

Taylor finished by saying that he hoped YUSU would be "meaningfully involved" in the development of the scheme at York.

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University RAG hosts Big Green Clean Shop

RAG ARE hosting a Big Green Clean Shop in 'Yourspace', the common room area in the new YUSU Student Centre in James College. The Big Green Clean Shop is selling secondhand pots, pans, utensils, cutlery, plates, glasses and mugs. York's Student's Centre is hosting the sale from 10am-2pm everyday from Monday week 0 to Friday week 1. Suggested donation is £1 per item and all profits will go to RAG (Raise and Give).

Former York Lecturer dies aged 65

A FORMER government minister who worked as a lecturer at the University in the late 1960s has died, aged 65. Malcolm Wicks, an expert on poverty who became a Labour Minister for Education, Pensions and Energy under both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, was one of the first members of staff in the the former Department of Social Administration and Social Work. A University spokesperson said, "As a believer in evidence-based policy, Malcolm Wicks was a great supporter of the University's Social Policy Research Unit. He often returned to visit his friends at the university, all of whom will miss him greatly."

The Charles pub to get bike racks for students

Four bike racks are soon to be installed outside the Charles XII pub in Heslington village. The installation was organised by City of York Councillor David Levene, and will be paid for by the city council. This move comes after frequent complaints from students who felt that there were few secure places to lock up their bikes outside the popular pub. Councillor Levene said: "It took some negotiating, but it's small things like this that can have a big impact. The exact date of instalment is to be released shortly."

Reporting by Alex Osborne and Laura Hughes

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PHILIPPA GRAFTON

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AGGIE TORRANCE

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NOUSE

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YUSU's relationship with Salvation sours

● Club Salvation continue with their controversial unofficial student night despite YUSU protests

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

CLUB SALVATION decided to run their F**K ME! York University Night on Monday, despite concerns raised to the local nightclub by the University of York Students' Union (YUSU).

Matthew Troll, Salvation's General Manager, told *Nouse* he had received various communications from YUSU with regards to the unofficial F**K ME! student night.

"It became apparent to me that they were not happy with us launching the session, under the branding of F**K ME I'M A FRESHER! and specifically targeting York University Students."

Club Salvation is not among YUSU's official nights this year, despite bidding for the endorsement along with other York clubs.

Troll said: "This year due to the increased number of venues wishing to bid for the endorsement of an official YUSU student night, Club Salvation, one of York's longest established independent operators, was invited to 'pitch' for the rights to retain our official Tuesday night. This had not happened in previous years, however, we recognised YUSU's reasons for doing this, and went about putting together a pitch that we were confident with."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said that the presentations from all of the four 'big' clubs were outstanding; presenting secure policies on welfare provision, sensibly competitive pricing, solid themes, and sensible door staff policy.

Taylor continued, "Because of this, instead of dropping a club by default we did try to fit all four clubs into an official four night plan which would best suit the audiences on those nights; sadly Salvation turned this down. Furthermore we went ahead with the usual three 'official' student nights, with Kuda in



Club Salvation is no longer an official student night tied to YUSU so they can set their own drink prices

on the Tuesday - it'd be wrong to leave it off the student night programme as it looks to be up there as one of the region's top clubs."

As Salvation is no longer an official student night and tied to YUSU, the club is now able to set their own entry and drinks prices, resulting in this year's prices for both entry and drinks being substantially cheaper than in previous years, with drinks at 99p and entry from just £2.

But Bob Hughes, YUSU's Welfare Officer, has expressed concern at these low prices: "As a key part of the tendering process for official club nights, we place a very strong emphasis on the safety and security of students, and on the responsible

drinking policies of the club in its offers and publicity.

"Although cheap drinks can seem appealing, I believe clubs and bars have a social responsibility to ensure that drink isn't served at too cheap a price, and this is echoed in guidance and advice from Drinkaware and other safer-drinking agencies, as well as legal drinking regulations."

Troll stated how he explained the choice of theme to YUSU Officers: "I attempted to reassure them that this was a deliberate campaign to grab people's attention, and that the intention was for the brand to evolve week on week, e.g. F**K ME IT'S HALLOWEEN...or F**K ME IT'S CHRISTMAS, or F**K ME

I'VE FINISHED MY EXAMS and so on and so forth."

But one James second-year commented, "I'd like to think that lots of students will find the theme distasteful enough not to go. It's offensive and immature."

However, Troll said Salvation thought the idea, "was no more controversial, than say fashion clothing French Connection using FCUK on their T-shirts, or F*** ME I'M FAMOUS, on the enormously successful David Guetta world tour Album."

As a result of further communication from YUSU earlier in the week, Troll arranged to meet with YUSU last Monday to discuss the issue. A number of concerns were

raised during the meeting, according to Troll, and it was decided that Salvation would pull the night in favour of retaining relations with YUSU.

But relations soured further and Troll said, "It was only later on the Monday that I felt we had made a mistake. By pulling the night in favour of maintaining relations with the Students' Union, we would have been doing this at the sacrifice of our relationship with the stu-

"I'd like to think that lots of students will find the theme distasteful enough not to go. It's offensive and immature"

One James second-year student

dents."

Taylor commented: "As has always been the case, York offers a wide array of nightlife for our students to attend outside of our incredibly popular official Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights at Kuda, Tokyo and Revs. Monday night's by no means different and people have tried to crack it before - so it'll be interesting to see how it fairs alongside 'Ego' at Fibbers, Kuda again, Vudu, and even Wil-

Hughes finished by saying: "In the past, we've seen various clubs and bars attempt to push the limits and end up going nowhere with it, and we would look unfavourably on drinks prices that operate against this social responsibility."

Despite a number of days negotiating with YUSU, in an attempt to resurrect the contract, all negotiations for an official Salvation stu-

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York climbs eighteen places in world rankings

Ross D'lima
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York has jumped 18 places in the Times Higher Education world university Rankings, yet still remains outside the top 100 at 103rd.

The move means that York stays a considerable way off its peak of 81st in 2010/11, having then fallen to 121st in 2011/12.

The news comes following a spell of turbulence in university rankings for York, having dropped two places in the Guardian rankings, from 15th to 17th, and two places in the Times Good University Guide, from 11th to 13th. However, York was ranked as the UK's best university under 50 years old by the Times Higher Education guide.

A spokesperson for the University stressed that while the improvement in the world rankings is to be welcomed, more work must be done: "We are very pleased that



The University of York was just outside the top 100 universities in the recent Times Higher Education World Rankings

York has leapt 18 places in the THE World Rankings. We will, however, not be happy until York is back in the top 100 where it belongs."

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, echoed this sentiment, stating: "The rise in league table positions is good news after

a couple of years of falls across all league tables. The University needs to make sure that this is not just a one-off, but rather the first step to getting York back into the world top 100 and UK top 10."

Students have also welcomed the news. Mphatso Dumisani

Kalemera, a second-year student said: "It is a relief to see York back on the up in these rankings. I hope we can continue to climb them and eventually compete with the best."

The rankings have provoked criticism of the state of higher education in the UK, after just ten UK

universities made it into the top 100, compared with 12 last year and 14 in 2010/11. York was one of only 12 Universities that made a gain in the rankings, compared to 29 that fell.

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News

New Langwith accepts first students

LAURA HUGHES

LAURA HUGHES



Ben Bason
NEWS REPORTER

HUNDREDS OF students have moved into new Langwith accommodation on Heslington East, as the college makes the move to the new campus.

The new buildings, which cost the university £30 million, have provided rooms for 645 students, bringing the total Hes East population to 1300. Langwith college has joined Goodricke which is entering its fourth academic year on the campus.

The old Langwith buildings on Heslington West have now become part of Derwent college.



Students moved into the new Langwith college on Heslington East over the weekend as the University is concluding its tender for a third college

“The atmosphere of creative focused energy is both tangible and a delight to be part of”

Langwith provost
Dr John Issitt

Designed by architect Carey Jones, the new college consists of large blocks that surround smaller town houses. The buildings, situated to the east of Goodricke in the barren landscape of Heslington

East, are made of a mixture of wood and brick.

“The accommodation seems to be of a very high standard and everything is shiny and new,” Jack Baker, Langwith chair told *Nouse*.

“As with any new venture there have been a few teething problems but luckily we were able to learn from Goodricke in this regard and thus reduced them.”

A new YUSU bar, The Glasshouse, was opened last week in the central building which is to be shared by Goodricke and Langwith

but is only a temporary solution until the new Social and Catering building is built on Hes East in several years time.

Dr John Issitt, Langwith provost, is delighted with the new college, commenting: “New Langwith is looking great. It is good quality accommodation, carefully planned to suit the needs of our students.”

“We have adapted our centre building to a bar that looks and feels inviting and friendly. Thus far I have had no negative feedback from anyone.”

But not everyone has been impressed with New Langwith. Visiting student Katharina Baumann said, “It was really expensive for such a small room.”

“The cleaning of the rooms really isn’t very good either; there was mud on my chair,” she added.

There has been concern that Langwith’s move the Heslington East will isolate it from the rest of the University, but Issitt says the move will help create a new community on Heslington East, “with the departments and all the other

people who work there, the feeling of a vibrant academic community should build and build.”

“YUSU, our college welfare teams and the JCRs of both Langwith and Goodricke have embraced the bar project positively. The atmosphere of creative focused energy is both tangible and a delight to be part of.”

A brand new college will be built to join Goodricke and Langwith in the next phase of the Heslington East development, due to be completed in 2014.

Name needed for third Heslington East college

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

THE NEXT stage of the Heslington East development is already well under way with a brand new third college on the new campus expected to be built for the start of the 2014/15 academic year.

The tender process for the third college is almost complete and Evans Property Group are the preferred bidder. Evans were the company behind the building of the recently completed new Langwith College.

It is thought the value of the proposed contract is around £50,000,000 and that there were four bids submitted, including Evans’.

It is expected that the ninth college will have around 620 student beds and the tender proposal suggests that a further new college may be required to be built in

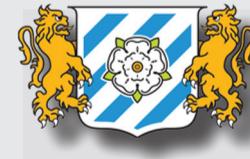
around two years time, as the University Plan makes clear.

The University currently refers to the new college as “college nine”, but Jane Grenville, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, said they were looking for name suggestions.

The current college names are derived from either geographical locations (Derwent and Langwith), historical figures (Alcuin, Vanbrugh, Goodricke, Wentworth), or recent York-related people (James and Halifax).

Grenville suggested a Roman theme for the newest addition to York’s collegiate system, adding the name ‘constantine’ as an example. Constantine was a Roman emperor crowned in the Roman city of York, known as Eboracum, in AD306.

If you have an idea for the name of the new college, please submit it to contact@nouse.co.uk and we will pass on suggestions to the University.



? New name?
New logo design?

Any ideas? Send your suggestions to contact@nouse.co.uk

YUSU satisfaction rate: 61 per cent

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

STUDENT SATISFACTION of the University of York students' union (YUSU) has been ranked at 61 per cent compared to 88 per cent for the University, according to this year's National Student Survey (NSS).

Nationally, YUSU is ranked 79th, whereas the University is placed 37th in the country. The average satisfaction rate for students' unions is 66 per cent.

This is the first year in which satisfaction for students' unions across the country has been collected in the NSS. The NSS is a survey taken by final year undergraduates each year who provide feedback on their courses, satisfaction, academic support, as well as students' union experience.

In YUSU's own 2011 student satisfaction survey, just over 45 per cent of students said that their students' union was making a positive impact on their life as a student.

However, Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, disputed the validity of the NSS score.

Taylor said, "Whilst we certainly recognise that YUSU can up its game in certain areas, question 23 [asking about students' union satisfaction] doesn't paint the truest



MARTIN SPURR

of pictures on student satisfaction with the Union.

"It's pretty laughable to ask 22 questions on a university's impact on students' experiences, and then compare all of that data to just the one question chucked in right at the end of the survey. 61 per cent doesn't do us justice, and we'll be looking to prove that this year."

The students' unions who satisfied their students the most and provided the best experience were the University of Sheffield, Loughborough University and the University of Leeds.

Oxford University's students' union was ranked as the second worst in the country with a satisfaction rate of just 39 per cent. Cambridge and Durham's students' unions also performed badly, scoring 46 per cent and 56 per cent respectively.

Other students' unions that

scored 61 per cent as well as YUSU included those of Anglia Ruskin University and the Royal Holloway.

The connection was made by Taylor that universities with collegiate systems performed badly, "likely down to confusion on representation and a duplication of services."

But although the figure was questioned by YUSU, there are plans to improve the experience that students receive from their students' union.

Taylor added: "We're looking to do a lot more now to involve off-campus students in our work, and really trying to make YUSU become approachable, rather than something exclusively for the usual suspects."



COMMENT

Hussein Kesvani



Last week, as the results of the National Student Survey were released, it became clearer than ever that in order to make YUSU more efficient, it needed to transition from an introverted administrative organisation, into a more transparent and engaging entity. For even though the University of York was placed 79th in overall satisfaction, much of this poor showing had little to do with the overall satisfaction of the university itself. Rather, the recent result shows that only 61 per cent of respondents were satisfied with YUSU. Compare that with some of our neighbouring universities like Leeds (with a 90 per cent approval) and this year's winner, Sheffield University (with 95 per cent), and you might be finding yourself asking whether YUSU is worth the money each student contributes towards it.

Such statistics rarely paint an accurate image of reality. Nonetheless, it should be recognised that at a time when a new cohort of students enter York, paying fees almost three times higher than the current finalists, the expectation of a union that is 'value for money' will only become louder, and more frequent. In this case, it might also be worth re-evaluating our understanding of the term 'value', and whether promises of more money resources will yield the desirable results that election campaigns have often, and will probably continue to promise.

Consider the phenomenal success of Sheffield's students' union. Stating its mission to "serve in the interest in all its members", the union not only provides effective means of democratic representation, but also presides over a variety of recreational facilities, restaurants and club nights. True, Sheffield might have more space, and more funding at its disposal.

However, it is perhaps their ambitious goals to deliver more open services to the student body on campus, as well as serve a public function within the city, that make it a truly outstanding union. No better has this been articulated, than by their new president-elect, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman, whose campaign pledges included 'Open Cafe' (a platform for students to directly engage with their sabbatical officers informally) and a student-run service to provide tuition to local people in the city. Ultimately, the success of Sheffield's SU lies not just in an enterprising outlook, but an amiable ambition to become a fundamental part of a much wider

“It wasn't just about the money available to the students' union, rather, the ability to create an inclusive community”

community, that encompasses students and local people. Indeed, it wasn't just about the money available to the students' union, rather, the ability to create an inclusive community that would allow the Union to work for students at all levels.

As the new academic year starts, YUSU would do well in considering the students' union model exhibited by Sheffield. While the sabbatical team have performed well so far, modern refurbished offices and new facilities can only do so much. Kallum Taylor and his team should also work towards creating a strong student community both on and off campus. Such a task does not come without challenges; a greater presence of YUSU within college communities, attempts to make union issues more accessible to the wider student body and positioning YUSU as an important organisation in York's wider community will all be essential, not only in creating a more effective students' union, but one that truly goes beyond 'value for money'.



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News

VC to depart
December
next yearMartin Spurr
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has confirmed that Brian Cantor, the University Vice-Chancellor, will be stepping down from his post on 31st December 2013.

Nouse exclusively revealed in May that Cantor was leaving the University but at the time it was not clear when in 2013 he would leave. Next year the University celebrates its 50th anniversary.

In August, Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, announced there would be two consultation meetings for students to attend with the recruiting company, Odgers Berndtson. These are taking place on Wednesday 10th October at 11am in H/G21 and on Monday 15th October at 6.30pm in P/L001.

The advert for York's new vice-chancellor is expected to go out on 22nd October, with a long list being drawn up between 10-12th December and interviews being held in the beginning of March 2013.

Cantor has been the Vice-Chancellor of York since 2002, when he took over from Professor Sir Ronald Cooke. Professor Cooke had spent nine years at the top of the University and was preceded by Professor Berrick Saul, who was Vice-Chancellor for 14 years. In 2010 the University won the Times Higher Education University of the Year award and, in March, York was accepted into the Russell Group.

University still advertising clearing spaces a week before the start of term

Neil Johnston
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK WAS the only member of the elite Russell Group that was still advertising spaces in clearing last week. The University was one of 110 universities and higher education colleges that were still seeking students from Britain and the EU to join them ahead of the start of term.

There were vacancies on 68 courses at the University and many blame the large number of spaces on the huge rise in tuition fees, something that was reiterated by Kallum Taylor, YUSU President.

This year will be the first that English students starting university courses will have to pay £9,000 fees. The universities with the most vacancies appear to almost all be those planning to charge the maximum tuition fee.

In June it was revealed that applications to UCAS for University had fallen by 8.9 per cent compared

“Remaining in clearing until the start of Registration Week was the sensible approach”

University Spokesperson

to last year. Previously, York fared better and bucked the trend with only a 5.3 per cent drop in from 18,429 to 19,459 applications.



The University was the only member of the elite Russell Group to still be advertising clearing spaces last week

Whilst York was the only member of the Russell Group still advertising, some members of the 1994 group were also looking for vacancies to be filled. Other top institutions advertising places, included Lancaster, Leicester, Sussex, Surrey and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

In comparison to some, York could be seen to have performed well, with 24 universities having 200 or more courses with places left.

A spokesperson for the University commented on the clearing places, saying York was performing better than other institutions.

“We are much closer to our admissions target than many of our competitors. We shall be welcoming around 3,000 first year undergraduates to York next week, a similar figure to last year.

They added that it was best to adapt to changes in the application process and take advantage of them.

“We are in a completely new admissions environment. Remaining in clearing until the start of Registration Week was a sensible approach, given that there are no restrictions on admitting AAB students.

“Well-qualified students, who

may be ‘trading up’ from other universities or whose plans have changed, are still keen to come to York, so it is wise to signpost those courses which have some limited capacity.”

Taylor pointed to the rise in tuition fees as one of the reasons for places still being available.

“There are plenty of reasons for the number of clearing places, including the huge increase in tuition fees and students failing to achieve expected ‘A’ grades. In fact, York has performed relatively well; some similar universities were advertising spaces long after ours were filled.”

Student takes land grab fight to London

YORK OXFAM SOCIETY

Lizzie Lynch
NEWS REPORTER

Harriet Milligan, University of York student and Oxfam campaigner, took part in Thursday's international protest in London.

Milligan hoped to raise awareness of Oxfam's high profile campaign against land grabs in underdeveloped countries.

The campaign sought to highlight the violating effects on the world's poorest people as land areas as large as York are sold off each day to large multinational producers; globally the last decade has seen land eight times the size of the UK sold off which Oxfam says is enough land to feed a billion people.

Milligan is hoping to bring awareness of the campaign to York with the ambition to gain support to lobby the Government. She stated: “If we make our voices heard, we can support farmers in poor countries to have enough land to grow their food, and that everyone has enough to eat.”

“The rush for land is out of control” Milligan continued, “people who are trying to grow food and feed their families are suffering hunger, violence and greater poverty.”

Oxfam's recent report ‘Our Land, Our Lives’ reiterates the sig-

nificance of foreign investors on the poorest of the world's population, stating that between 2000 and 2010, 60 per cent of agricultural land purchases by foreign companies were in developing countries where hunger issues are most rife; a majority of the final output by the foreign companies is also then exported.

Oxfam's GROW campaign is

“If we make our voices heard we can support farmers in poor countries to have enough land to grow their food”

York Student and Oxfam Campaigner
Harriet Milligan

lobbying the World Bank to halt these large scale land deals for six months to ease the destabilising results on local families who rely on their land as their only source of food.

Milligan believes that a positive influence by the World Bank would help to “stop these human rights abuses and ensure that investments help not harm poor communities. Investment should be

good news for developing countries and not lead to greater poverty, hunger and hardship. The UK government needs to put pressure on it too.”

However, in response to Oxfam's campaign, the World Bank Group stated this Saturday that whilst they acknowledge and “share the concerns” that Oxfam highlights, they cannot agree to a moratorium period.

Instead they believe that knowledge of international markets and management that foreign investors can bring to developing countries aids the overall development of small scale subsistence farming to commercial scale output. They claim that “a holistic, multi-stakeholder approach is the only way to address the challenge of food security and help to feed the world's poor in a sustainable manner”.

Oxfam urged the UK government, one of the bank's largest shareholders, to use its influence to persuade it to implement the freeze.

Milligan added: “It can also play a crucial role as president of the G8 next year by putting food and hunger at the heart of the agenda, and addressing land grabs as part of this. Critically, it can also press the EU to reverse biofuels targets – a key driver of land grabs.”



York student Harriet Milligan participated in the Oxfam protest in London

STYC contract bans negative comments

Tom Witherow
NEWS REPORTER

CRITICISM HAS been launched by certain students against a clause in the STYC contract.

The clause of contention states that students are not expected to "make negative comments about the college, courses or University." STYCs who sign their contracts do so in the understanding that failure to adhere to its terms will result in the removal of their position as STYC.

Bob Hughes, the YUSU Welfare Officer, told *Nouse*: "The clause has been in the main contract, drawn up by YUSU but adaptable for colleges, for a couple of years now, and is there to foster a positive atmosphere of the college and University life at York."

"It is there so that STYCs and Head STYCs recognise the strong role they have as ambassadors of their colleges, but also so that the incoming students, and the parents and carers that bring them to university, aren't unduly worried."

The contract and clause was originally drawn up by YUSU last year and was used by JCRs across campus. Students have either interpreted the clause as an Orwellian act of censorship or a necessary insurance of the well-being of potentially vulnerable freshers.

Rob Aitken, Derwent Provost, said he did not see this clause as particularly contentious, "as I would have thought it was obvi-



The contracts tell Stycs that negative comments have a serious impact on the impressions of freshers

ous (and should not need saying) that when you are in a position of responsibility representing an organisation you do not speak negatively about it."

But one Derwent Head STYC, who wished to remain anonymous, revealed they believe: "It is unacceptable that YUSU make a clause saying we can't speak our mind. Where is our freedom of speech?"

Morwenna Egan, an Alcuin STYC, said she felt, "you should be

able to give your honest opinion. If there is something bad they should know it."

While, one James STYC, believes the clause is, "not very helpful when we are trying to give guidance to freshers".

The contracts tell STYCs that any negative comments, even offered as a joke, can have a serious impact on the concerns and impressions of freshers.

Katy Tinman, Derwent's Wel-

fare Rep, was present at the meetings about the contract with Bob and the rest of the welfare team and commented: "When freshers move in, I want them to be able to make up their own minds about the university."

"I wouldn't want any STYCs (who are in a position of responsibility) to unintentionally influence freshers when they may be feeling nervous and vulnerable on their first day at York."

Amir Walls, first year Vanbrugh student, believes that "whilst its good for the University - it isn't entirely honest. Is there really anything that bad to say?"

“The clause is there to foster a positive atmosphere of the college and University life at York”

YUSU Welfare Officer
Bob Hughes

One Langwith fresher agreed; she said, "it would be more helpful if STYCs were completely honest as it is their guidance who we rely upon. It would be useful to be aware of any potential modules to avoid for example."

The contract also states STYCs are banned from forcing their freshers to partake in any activity that they are uncomfortable with. This includes any alcohol related activity. Intimate relations with freshers in the first two weeks are also forbidden.

With regard to the clause in contention, Laura Watson, James College Chair, said: "it's not really enforced", but did comment that "if they turn away a whole block from an event then we [the JCRC] will have words".

STYCS and Head STYCs can have their paid wristbands removed for contravening their contract.

GSA President steps down

NANBUDAO



Unusually, Diaconu was elected president while still an undergraduate

Tim Wingard
NEWS REPORTER

Karin Diaconu, the University's Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, will be stepping down from her position for the current academic year.

Diaconu was elected president of the GSA for the second year running in June and was initially expected to hold the position until September 2013.

The former president has been awarded a PhD scholarship from

the University of Birmingham and so will be leaving the University of York.

Diaconu, who was born in the German-speaking town of Sibiu in Romania, completed her undergraduate degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at York, and was pursuing a MSc in Health Sciences (specialising in Cancer Epidemiology) during her first term as GSA president.

Her focus during her presidency was on issues such as postgraduate employability, integration and

internationalisation.

Diaconu was widely respected by graduate students, staff and GSA officers. Kallum Taylor, YUSU president, stated that she, "led from the front in a professional, yet effective, manner".

“[Diaconu] has been a tireless advocate for postgraduates, totally committed and alert to the issues”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Jane Grenville

Jane Grenville, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, said that Diaconu, "has been a tireless advocate for postgraduates, totally committed and alert to the issues that affect the postgraduate community, ready both to raise problems with the University and to join with [the University administration] to promote positive campaigns to improve the postgraduate experience".

The GSA Council nominated Abdulkarim Oloyede, the Services Officer studying for a PhD in Electronics, to be the acting GSA president until a replacement is elected in the coming weeks.

A by-election will be held on 21st-28th October, and nominations for candidates are open until the 12th October.

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News



College porters still “over-stretched”

● Goodricke, Langwith, and Vanbrugh to remain without 24 hour porters

● Nine night-time facilities receptionists spread over the three instead

Martin Spurr
EDITOR

FOLLOWING A £2m investment in the student experience, the University has put in place night-time staffing in colleges without 24 hour porters for the start of this term.

However, YUSU have continued to state that this welfare and security provision is not good enough and that there have already been instances of an “over-stretched” portering service.

Goodricke, Langwith and Vanbrugh colleges don't have porters available 24 hours each day, but will now have nine facilities reception assistants spread throughout the three colleges.

“We have already seen issues of the portering service being over-stretched”

YUSU Welfare Officer
Bob Hughes

These night-time staff members are made up of students as well as external applicants and they have had two six hour induction sessions, according to Jane Grenville, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor.

But Bob Hughes, YUSU Wel-



Despite the new addition of nine night-time staff members YUSU have warned the porters are still over-stretched

fare Officer, has warned that these are not adequate replacements for the 24 hour porter service that is available in other colleges.

“Some of the colleges, most notably Goodricke, have some night-time staffing provision, but with the movement of Langwith to Heslington East this year, and no noticeable comparative increase in staff, we

have already seen issues of the portering service being over-stretched, resulting in students having a poor level of service, particularly upsetting to students as their first experience of college and University life.”

The issue of 24 hour portering has often been the cause of student wrath against the University. In 2010 there was an unsuccessful

campaign to re-instate 24 hour portering in all colleges following its dissolution due to financial tightening by the University.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said “this issue was always going to resurrect itself as a problem”, and predicted, “it'll come back onto agenda bigger than before”.

“It's YUSU policy that we be-

lieve each college should have 24 hour porters throughout the year. This is not going to change anytime soon, particularly with fees changing. A top class university should have this provision as a base feature. Our porters provide a fantastic and vital welfare service which has seen cuts in hours and, as a result, a dilution of purpose.”

Even though the University promised night-time staffing in all eight colleges in their package to improve the student experience, there have been concerns that the staff who take the place of porters in some colleges will not have had the same level of experience or training.

Hughes added: “Students working overnight, or any student worried about their safety at this time will be considerably affected. I strongly feel that 24-hour portering in all colleges, rather than night-time staff who don't serve the same functions, or receive the same training as porters, is essential for ensuring that students' general and security needs are met sufficiently, and this is something we will continue to lobby the University for.”

A University spokesperson commented, “there will be night-time staffing in all eight colleges during term-time. Staff have already been recruited and trained.”

YUSU in continued talks with First over bus service

Alex Osborne
NEWS REPORTER

YUSU ARE in continuing discussions with First regarding their decision to scrap the number 4 bus service to Heslington East campus.

From the 7th October the service only went as far as Heslington Hall before returning towards Acomb, meaning that the Heslington East and West campuses will be connected by the UB.1 and 44 services alone.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, has already expressed criticism at First's decision.

The decision will place extra pressure on the remaining services at a time where more students and members of the public will be moving between campuses, due to the opening of new Langwith college and Sports Village on Heslington East.

Taylor has urged students to support all services under the wing of UniBus, namely the UB.1 and 44, alongside the Clubbers' Bus, as the company works in close collaboration with YUSU.

Regarding further talks with First, Taylor commented: “Myself and Bob Hughes [YUSU Welfare Officer] met with representatives from First Transport last week and highlighted to them both individual complaints made by our students, and our absolute dismay



Kallum Taylor has urged all student to support Unibus services to Hes East

with their abolition of Hes East coverage. It became clear that they were not wholly aware of students' concerns.

“This is no doubt a combination of how they were not key decision makers and how they've not attended their last four obligatory transport meetings with the University.”

He added: “This changed once we mentioned the guerilla campaigns being discussed beyond YUSU by students on their own accord. In the meantime, we'd encourage our students to continue their support of the UniBus.

“They're a company who listen, and from that Heslington East will have a Sunday morning service, amongst other improvements.”

Taylor has stressed his priority is to offer the best and most efficient bus services possible to students.

Furthermore, he wished to stress: “If any students have bought any type of multi-journey or season-long bus ticket with First, on the assumption that they'll be covering Heslington East then please get in touch. The tickets they advertised are valid only after October 8th, which is of course the day after First scrapped their route.”

University hosts newly elected Green leader

Laura Hughes
NEWS EDITOR

NATALIE BENNETT, the newly elected leader of the Green Party, is to deliver a talk at the University on Wednesday 24th October.

Lisa Camps, Chair of the University of York Green Party, told Nouse, “Her visit marks an aim to put student politics at the heart of the political agenda, coinciding with the first influx of £9000 fee payers and preparations for the student protest in November.”

Bennett said: “We've got a serious, if entirely understandable, problem with disillusionment. We need people to make their voices heard and doing that at university is a great place to start.”

Members of the University of York Green Party have expressed their delight at the announcement of the leader's visit.

Eve Halliday, former secretary, commented, “I think Natalie's visit indicates just how connected the party leadership is with its grassroots and the public, something that members of other parties can't claim as easily.”

“It will be an amazing opportunity for students to engage with the party, and for Natalie to outline her vision for the future of The Greens”.

Bennett is the former editor of *The Guardian Weekly* and the parliamentary candidate for Holborn

& St Pancras. She identifies as a feminist and founded the Green Party women's group. Bennett is a trustee of the equality campaign group the Fawcett Society.

Despite not joining the Green Party until 2006, Bennett was elected leader last month, succeeding Caroline Lucas,

the party's first MP in the UK. The Australian-born journalist defeated Peter Cranie, Romaine Phoenix and Pippa Bartolotti in a vote of over 3,000 Party members.

Bennett has vowed to fight the coalition government's “economically illiterate” cuts. Stating that the country needs “investment in homes, investment in jobs, investment in energy conservation,” Bennett has also pledged to argue for revitalising local industry, especially to produce renewable energy, and British farming.

Bennett has said she was “deeply honoured” to be given the responsibility. Adding, she stood because she believed in the Green Party's “radical vision” for Britain's future. Speaking of her party, Bennett commented that, “it offers, I think, the only viable way forward for British people, for the world.”

The talk is open to all students and will take place on Wednesday 24th October at 18:30 in V/045.



News

University accommodation complaints double

Neil Johnston
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE NUMBER of complaints about the University's rented accommodation have more than doubled in the past year. Halifax appears to have suffered significant problems, with half of the complaints last year coming from this college.

While the numbers of 34 complaints in 2011/2012 and 15 in 2010/2011 may seem small overall, any complaint that is made several times is only counted once, such as if five people from one house reported a similar complaint.

Halifax college suffered from only two complaints in 2010/11, compared to the 17 received in 2011/2012.

The information obtained by a Freedom of Information request has raised concerns over students accommodation, especially given students are now paying the top £9,000 to attend York this year.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said the University should



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Halifax college received the most accommodation complaints last year

be providing it "faultlessly" and that "cute marketing lines aren't enough".

No information was held on

complaints before 2010, when an online form was introduced. Since the system was introduced complaints have risen in several col-

leges but decreased in others.

In Derwent complaints increased from two to six, whilst in Alcuin they also went up from two to four. James College saw complaints go from none to one. In Langwith and Wentworth complaints fell from two to one. The problems ranged from common issues such as heating and plumbing, to showers being broken, bed bugs, leaking ceilings and cleaners throwing out belongings.

Taylor continued to say that students should be provided with decent accommodation considering the amount they pay in rent: "It goes without saying that the very base level of expectation for students paying their rent should be that their rooms are hygienic, their property respected and that the heat and water their rent covers is provided faultlessly."

Taylor also said accommodation needs to be up to scratch if second and third years are going to choose to live on campus, "If the university wants more second and third years choosing to live

on campus then their experience in first year's going to be pivotal in that - cute marketing lines aren't enough."

“Cute marketing lines aren't enough”

YUSU President
Kallum Taylor

A University spokesperson commented on the rise in complaints saying they were always going to be problems with the large amount of accommodation the University rents.

Furthermore, many of the problems were due to refurbished rooms. "The University has more than 5,000 bedspaces and the number of complaints is relatively low. There was a marginal increase in 2011/12 due to the major refurbishment of over 800 bedspaces in the summer 2011. A project of this magnitude inevitably results in a number of 'snagging issues' all of which were rectified, with compensation paid where appropriate."



CHIPPYKEV

In pictures: York suffers worst floods for 12 years

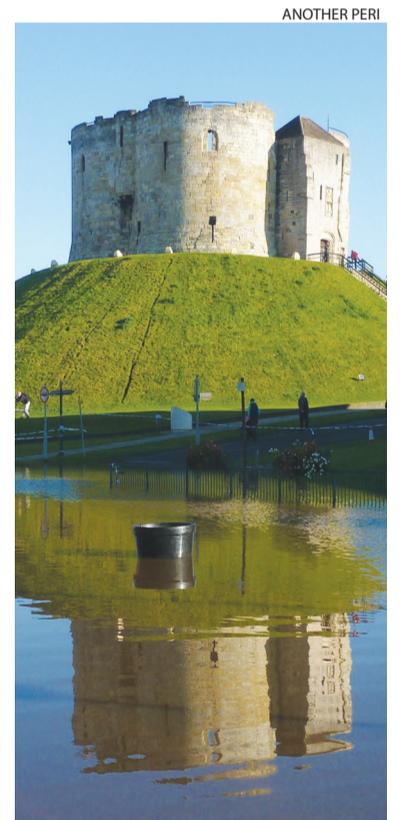
Neil Johnston
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE CITY was hit by rapid floods two weeks ago which brought large scale chaos to the centre of York. Roads were closed blocking off many routes meaning it could take

hours to get from one end of the city to another.

The flooding even hit student populated areas and popular student bars such as the Lowther on Cumberland Street. The Lowther and the Kings Arms were particularly affected.

ALH1



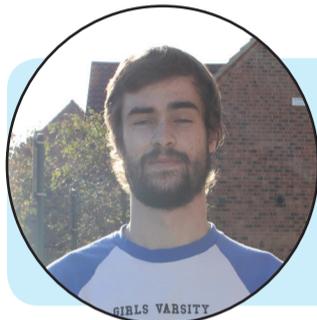
ANOTHER PERI

ALH1



First impressions

As the latest students to join the University, **Alex Slingsby, Laura Hughes and Neil Johnston** caught up with a few fresh faces



Alex,
English and Linguistics

What do you think of the STYC system?

Sweet. Think it's really good how they show you about and help you out, and they are really friendly.

How do you feel about paying £9,000?

It's not too bad. I'm originally from Alabama so would have to pay a lot more there.

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?

No.

Did you take a year out?
Yes, I worked in Paris and New York.

What do you want to get out of university?
Get a job and support a family.



Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No.

What do you think of the STYC system?
Really good and so helpful.

How do you feel about paying £9,000?
Bit upset but you have to bite the bullet. We'll have to wait and see if it's worth it.

What do you think of your new room?
Great en-suite and storage space is great.

Nicole,
Sociology and Criminology



Brandon,
History

What do you think of the STYC system?
Yeah, it's quite good, they all seem very helpful.

How do you feel about paying £9,000?
Not too bothered, it's all part of a loan anyway.

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No.

Have you thought of joining any societies?
Yes, drama.

Did you take a year out?
No, couldn't afford it.



What do you think of the STYC system?
The STYCs have all been really great.

Have you thought of joining any societies?
Baking society.

How do you feel about paying £9,000?
I don't mind as there's no time limit on paying off my debt.

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No.

Why did you come to university?
Everyone else was doing it.

Olivia,
English and Philosophy



Sean,
Environmental Science

What do you think of STYC system?
The STYCs have been in control and really friendly.

Have you thought of joining any societies?
I'd like to start boxing.

How do you feel about paying £9,000?
I'm not as I just did a years foundation at York College.

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No.

Why did you come to university?
For a degree.

Did you take a year out?
Went to Australia and worked as a chef.



What do you think of STYC system?
Great, they've shown us the ropes.

Have you thought of joining any societies?
Thinking about getting involved in the JCR.

How do you feel about paying £9,000?
It's kind of scary but I just hope it all works out.

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No.

Why did you come to university?
Experience, and, of course, the education.

Callum,
English Language and Literature



Luke,
Physics

How do you feel about paying £9,000?
I'm American so I pay twice that.

Why did you come to university?
I'm here to have fun, and drink a lot.

Have you thought of joining any societies?
No.

What do you think of STYC system?
Probably a good idea.

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
Apparently he made a speech in the bar last night, but I don't remember.



Comment



comment@nouse.co.uk
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Fiona Parker



University reports are not the way forward

Should universities distinguish between students achieving the same grade by means of an extra-curricular achievement report?

Thirty universities will soon begin trialling a system of accreditation which aims to create detailed accounts of students' achievements throughout their higher education courses. These files, to be known as Higher Education Achievement Reports (HEARs) will detail accomplishments in areas outside academic achievement such as sports, societies, music and clubs.

The idea comes in response to an increase in the number of graduates achieving First Class Honour and Upper Second Class Honour degrees and a consequential lack of distinction between job applicants. Is it really possible for an academic qualification to be revolutionised in order to show extra-curricular achievement? York is not part of the initial trialling group and I believe that this decision was made with good sense.

Today 70 per cent of graduate recruiters use the 2:1 classification as a cut-off point when browsing through applications. The problem facing today's employers and students alike is that too many people are achieving a 2:1 or above, with a marked 10 per cent increase in students achieving upper second class honours and first class honours, and 73 students on average competing for each job. Either degrees are getting softer or students are getting brighter, but things cannot go on as they stand without chaos on the job application front line.

Universities accessing achievements outside academic courses, however, seems to be a dangerous

move. The university qualification should be based upon academic accomplishment in a given subject. A degree, is after all, a certificate of higher education. Activities outside the academic course should without a doubt be recognised, but could be included within a CV or Cover Letter. One outstanding issue would be how the University would recognise each individual achievement for any particular executive role or commitment to a certain activity. A student may have performed beyond the call of duty of their specific role and, in a CV, can discuss just how responsible and committed they truly were - a difficult achievement to define in a HEAR. With this in mind, the levels of responsibility are likely to differ. A further issue to consider is the relation between specific

activities and employment opportunities. A position on the Physics Society may not immediately appeal to an advertising agency, while an individual's description of what they achieved on the committee, including perhaps publishing leaflets and promotional activities, would. Employers often view what a student has learnt from an experience outside of academic life and how this extra-curricular education has raised employability prospects. These individual accounts can only be written with accuracy by the student concerned; a member of University staff would be hard pushed to fully express the learning experiences of each individual to their full credit - which is another reason that a description of activities and responsibilities on a personal CV would be more appropriate.

A six page file on a university career would not be an adequate solution for employers wishing to distinguish between high achieving graduates. A certificate which represents the attainment of a degree ought to represent what it is and what it is alone. GCSE certificates never detail school football team victories and A-Level qualifications come on single sheets of paper, announcing the attainment of a certain level of education. If too many students are achieving top grades, perhaps the moderating of marks is what needs to be taken into consideration, not how extra-curricular activities are presented.

By combining "University Life" together in a six page booklet we are in effect undermining a hard-earned educational qualification which should stand for itself.

ALICE BROOKSBANK



Peter Hitchens



I have nothing but bad advice

Peter Hitchens is a York graduate, columnist, author, and foreign correspondent. He currently writes for the Mail On Sunday, and has published five books.

I have nothing but bad advice for the young. If I could do it all again, I think I'd have to do it the same way, but with gritted teeth and a sense of deep embarrassment. You see, all the good things that ever happened to me happened after I'd acted - as I now realise - stupidly.

If I hadn't stormed out of my boarding school at 15, in a state of petulant, adolescent rage, then I would probably have ended up at Oxford or Cambridge, and by now I might be a history lecturer in, say, Nottingham. I've nothing special against Nottingham, and there is a lot of pleasure to be had in history, but that other, conventional life looks rather thin to me now. Because I sabotaged my schooling, I came to York instead, and incidentally took up revolutionary social-

ism.

If I hadn't done that, I'd never have met the woman who's now my wife, nor met my children. Nor, I am certain, would I have infiltrated Fleet Street when it really was Fleet Street, felt the thunder of the presses under my feet at midnight, and rejoiced at my early bylines with a delight it's now hardly possible to imagine. I wouldn't have been part of the tumult of news and raw history in which I have lived, precariously but with much enjoyment, for the past 35 years.

I'd never have seen the nasty dead-eyed face of war, or nearly been lynched by a mob in the Congo. I'd never have been part of the Velvet Revolution or hidden under my bed to dodge gunfire in Bucharest. I'd never have sat and chatted about foreign policy with Margaret

Thatcher, or teased the awful Blair creature to his face, or been personally recommended for decommissioning by Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein.

“ You see, all the good things that have ever happened to me happened after I'd acted - as I now realise - stupidly ”

I'd never have lived in an elite apartment in Moscow with KGB neighbours, nor dined in a hilltop farmhouse in Soviet Georgia, half a mile from a civil war, with swallows

flying in one window and out of the other. I'd never have run away (surprisingly fast) from the People's Police in East Berlin. I'd have missed thousands of daily tutorials on what the world is really like. I'd never have walked on the scorched, irradiated plains of Kazakhstan where the Soviet H-bomb was tested, nor spent a weekend under the sea in a nuclear missile submarine.

And all because I wasn't sensible, before or since. Even after I arrived at York, I had a nagging feeling that I should drop this revolutionary politics stuff and beg the great Gwyn Williams to let me study history instead, which I really ought to have done. But I had a revolution to foment, so I did the wrong thing. And that has made all the difference. But please, don't listen to me.

Postgrad Freshers

Simon Coulson



I'm not saying I have any answers: as a Masters student, there's a tendency to think you've suddenly become a well-rounded, worldly individual. If only this were the case.

Parents will dish out heaps of well-meaning but outdated and misleading advice. For one, you don't have to attend every single event and talk to as many different people as you possibly can. And if you feel anxious at any point that you aren't doing enough to make more friends, the chances are you shouldn't be.

I moved to York recently to complete an MA and didn't know where anything was, or even where to start looking. But probably the best part of the Postgrad Fresher's experience is that it's understated. There's the GSA to organise events and meet-and-greets, but the rest is up to you. Gone are the days where people will judge you too harshly or feel they have something to prove. Plus, it's more laid-back - which is perhaps because of the increased workload.

Of course, the need to make new friends doesn't leave as soon as you graduate. But by your second degree you'll have learnt from your mistakes and the sense of urgency will have left, which allows you time to socialise. This isn't the first time I've pitched up in a strange city: I studied in Belgium for a semester during my second year, which taught me many things, including the importance of actively seeking out events and opportunities. Even now I spend a long time sending e-mails, checking event listings and organising events on Facebook. And it's not just because I don't care much for clubbing: if you have a short time in a city that's bursting with opportunities, it's got to be worth taking some time in order to seek them out.

Start with the local newspaper. From there you have access to all manner of useful things, such as events listings. Next, check out the pubs within walking distance. I love British pubs: the good ones can offer anything from weekly quizzes to food and drink festivals, and you can get free entry to a lot of live music events.

Perhaps you'll want a slightly more challenging way to broaden your social horizons, though. Studying abroad with other students not only gave me command of another language, but also friends and contacts from all over the world. Now we're all on Facebook it couldn't be easier to keep in contact with fellow students, and my experience is that people are delighted when you show an interest in their culture or language.

So the important thing is to think of yourself not just as a student at a university during your studies, but also as an inhabitant of a city. If anything, this is easier for undergrads, thanks to student loans and a friendlier workload.

BRANDON SEAGER



Alex Slingsby

Deputy
Comment
Editor



Don't turn into fresh meat

York's nightclubs should not be allowed to advertise our students as nothing more than easy prey, and York's students shouldn't let them.

As this year's flock of eager students join the university ranks for yet another freshers' week, moving what seems to be everything they own into a single room with decidedly little storage space, and waving goodbye to the family, it would seem that a few nightclubs are planning on taking their own autonomy to the extreme, and preparing to throw first-years straight into the deep-end of what they think it means to be a fresher.

Some York nightclubs have declared a 'no limits' approach to their student nights, selling drinks from as little as 99 pence, and advertising the stereotypical vulnerability of our latest bunch of freshers as part of the deal.

Although this might have sounded like the best idea since sliced bread at the time of publication, this does nothing but tarnish the reputation of said nightclubs, and consequently York nightlife. This isn't the impression we want freshers turning up to.

Cheap drinks, loud music, and Gangnam-style dancing to Call Me Maybe, may seem to be the perfect combination this year, especially for those who are still cradling their precious shiny student loan in the hope that it multiplies in the next few days.

But when these nightclubs start selling these cheap tequila shots alongside a fresher for the night, parading our first-years to be nothing more than fresh meat, this is when the fun stops.

Fair enough, we're all adults here. We should know our limits by now, and most of us have already sorted out where we draw

the line, but if the pen to draw our lines with is missing, the nightclubs can become very influential. This is especially the case if we waste no time in carting our first-years, clad in an array of questionable fancy-dress, straight to the nearest pub that hasn't been flooded, singing strange college-based chants, and drinking dodgy alcohol as we go.

However, that's no excuse for the nightclubs that lure our freshers in with the promise that they themselves will be able to lure some

“ University doesn't make you invincible, but alcohol might make you think you are ”

freshers out at the end of the night.

The real issue here is that the title 'fresher' shouldn't evoke harmful or misleading connotations. 'F**k me I'm a Fresher' is not funny; it's dangerous, and endorses this kind of behaviour, exhibiting our students as easy prey.

York's nightclubs, especially those who unashamedly parade around campus, promoting themselves as the 'Official York University nightclub' have a responsibility to the students, especially during the first couple of months when first-years can often be found walking around Goodricke trying to find their way to Morrisons.

A campus university can seem reasonably cosy and secure, but once freshers break out of the microcosm, and take a taxi straight into the real World, it seems they'll now have to be on guard at all times. Once they leave the bubble wrap of the allocated colleges, the first-years will need to learn how to prioritise their own safety above the need to have a good time.

Shouldn't the welfare of students come first, above all shameless advertising?

By all means, try to meet as many new people as you can fit in your Facebook, go to every fresher event, bar, and nightclub you can find, and make sure that you enjoy the week ahead. But make sure that you know your own limits, because there will be people who take Salvation's slogan seriously, and this is definitely not what you want to be waking up to in the morning, accompanying a rather large headache and a hangover that just won't let go that easily.

Freshers' week is certainly going to be a week to remember, but you have to make sure that it's remembered for all of the right reasons.

Orientation can be a little disorientating at best, and leading the freshers straight to the prawn cracker paradise we like to call Willow, really won't help the situation.

Just because the guy sitting across the table can down a couple of pints in the space of ten minutes, doesn't mean that you can too. University doesn't make you invincible, but alcohol might make you think you are, so try and help yourself before somebody else has to.

Follow the debate:
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Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964



HEAR it out

Students should take comfort in the fact that the University is considering the HEAR scheme. Given that we are facing an economic situation in which it is tempting to compare graduates to endearingly naive lemmings, running blindly towards the abyss of graduation, anything that our institution does to aid our employability should be encouraged.

If the scheme sounds somewhat like a return to the patronising days of school reports and hourly accountability, then it is because it is exactly that. However, students should not shy away from this.

The evidence from pilot universities and those currently on the scheme does look promising. Once we as students have got over our educational hubris then perhaps we will realise the need to grasp at any employment improvements that might come our way. The suggestion the scheme may replace the traditional honours system is indication enough of the dramatic change our universities have undergone in recent years, and how we may need to update our thinking and attitude. The scheme might take us back to school, but if it improves our chances of employment and enhances our university experience then students should do all in their power to encourage such a change.

Night-time staffing a vital support

The issue of 24-hour portering has, rather predictably, raised its ugly head once again. While night-time staffing for Goodricke, Langwith and Vanbrugh is a step in the right direction, the truth of the matter is that a 24-hour portering service in every college is essential to the student experience on campus. This debate is never more important than at the start of the academic year, when a new batch of freshers move in and will, in many cases, find themselves without adequate support from porters to make the transition to university life.

The nine night-time staff members that will attempt to fulfil the role of porters in the three colleges in question may have been trained up - albeit through just two six-hour sessions - but will surely be lacking the knowledge and experience that is often required of porters. This is particularly worrying on Heslington East, where 1,200 students living in University accommodation are completely reliant on this necessary service. While the new students may have the benefit of some shiny new houses, they will no doubt be left unimpressed at the lack of support afforded to them.

And with this year's fresh intake now paying the newly hiked tuition fees and attending a Russell Group institution, the University's excuses as to why we don't all have access to round the clock portering make them seem ever more distant from the student population. We are attending a quality University, and that should be reflected in its welfare provisions as well as its degree scores.

Hes East: the significant other

As a new cohort of students embark on their university journey, it is a good moment to take stock of where York has come from and where it is going. The new Langwith college looks impressive, and there appeared to be few problems as around 600 students moved in this weekend. This is the second college to be built on the Heslington East campus, and with the new Glasshouse bar there is more of a community feel to the site. This will only improve over the next few years when a third and brand new college is built. But the University must continue to invest in student facilities to make the second campus feel like a student campus.

Most students living and studying on the Heslington West rarely venture to York's other side. But why would they? There is no reason for them to. The Glasshouse will provide more of a community spirit, but greater investment in student services and facilities must be made if the two campuses are to feel linked in spirit and not just in name.

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Left-wing or left behind?

Rohan Banerjee



Fresh out of Kentish suburbia, I arrived at York a decidedly centre-right thinker. Two years later, studying what the department of Politics website describes as a "diverse and challenging degree course that covers the spectrum of political thought," I find myself au fait with many more liberal thoughts, and shaving less. Far be it from me to dismiss this unprecedented head start into Sikhism, but in sporting such savvy cheek fringe, it has been made increasingly clear that my university, as a rule of thumb, is inextricably bound by agenda.

Indeed just as it is the agenda of traditional Christian and Jewish seminaries to produce religious Christians and religious Jews, the agenda of modern British universities is to produce left wing, politically active secularists. The difference is, of course, the religious seminaries are honest about their plan and do not try to hide behind the guise of academic analysis.

Two weeks into my first term and tasked with writing an essay comparing, but notably not contrasting, the aspects of conservatism and fascism, I began to wonder if my voting Tory six months previously might hinder my chances of a decent mark. But while there is no great crime in changing your political views - in fact, I wish the older generations would realise that it is in fact possible - it is important to note mine did not so much change, as they did disappear. Within hours, my views on a flat tax rates were abandoned in fear of failing any one of my four Marxist modules.

Certainly, there appears to be an assumption amongst a number of Britain's sixties' universities that young people will take every oppor-

tunity to rebel against the establishment, and I admit rocket sales of Che Guevara t-shirts have done little to suggest otherwise. However, while there is perhaps some vague level of common ground under the label of "left," from my experience, the communist converts at York are not as genuine as they have been taught to believe they are - the £40 polos speak for themselves.

The charge that all politics students are raving Marxists, bent on correcting the wrongs of Western oppression, is fascinatingly misguided, not least disproved by the number of likeminded students to myself, who spend the majority of their essays arguing against something they agree with.

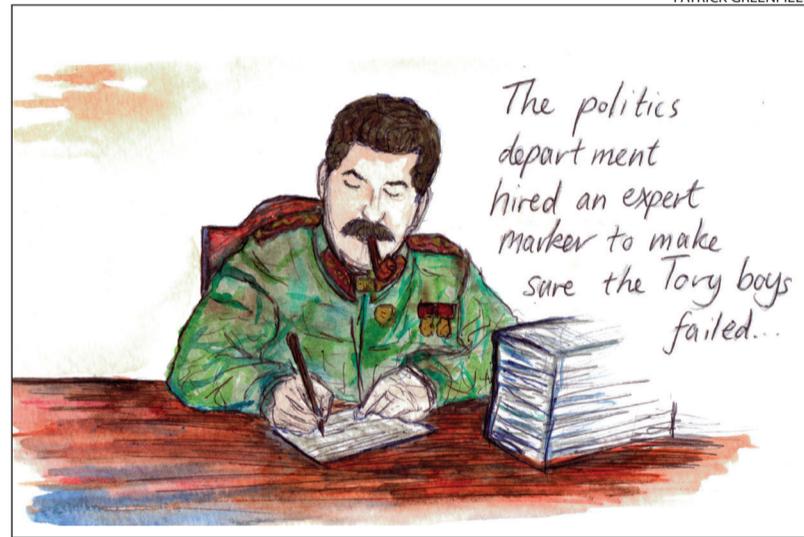
There are left-wing students at York, just as there are at any university, but the number is not so great to justify the myopias of the curriculum. The fact that York Tories is the biggest political society on campus lends itself conveniently to this argu-

ment. Besides, prior to the great betrayal of 2010, no one was that left-wing anyway; rather, most students were moderate Lib Dems, for high public education spending, leaning towards nuclear disarmament and against tuition fees.

In 2012, The University of York has its fair share of Tory tykes and Lib Dems, the undecided and the unaffiliated who clearly prove that the entire student body is not left-wing. Could it be that the student left has a history of being the most vocal political alliance? Is it this loud mouthing that leads to the warping of our degrees?

In reality, York's politics students are not an undivided army of radicals, but rather a cohort of intellectually diverse students who had come to study politics, but were instead force-fed an unambiguously liberal agenda. Though some have embraced the agenda, others, like myself, are found wanting more than "Capitalism is wrong because ..."

PATRICK GREENFIELD



Rankings show patterns, not attainment

Martin Spurr



For the first time in a few years the latest university rankings make smug reading for York students. As most UK institutions suffer a disappointing fall - into what Phil Baty, the editor of the Times Higher Education rankings, calls "global mediocrity" - York has risen 18 places to 103rd in the world.

At first glance this appears to be a great triumph for York against its UK peers. However, some context is needed when talking about university rankings. Though a rise of 18 places is significant, it isn't as significant as the drop of 40 places - out of the top 100 - that occurred last year.

The University at the time dismissed this as the result of, "fluctuation [that] does occur periodically in league tables". But the senior team within our establishment cannot have it both ways. In prime location on the homepage of the University website is a purple box brandishing the achievement of York as the number one university under 50 years old in the world. A notable accolade no doubt, but you shouldn't praise and heavily publicise your successes

without accepting failures or disappointments when they happen.

Everyone knows there are a hun-

“The University is right: rankings do fluctuate sporadically”

dred and one ranking guides with as many different methodologies as there are universities. No rankings are directly comparable - there are at least three universities who can lay claim to the World Number One crown this year - but simply dismissing outright falls in tables, as happened last year, undermines the claim of improvement that this year's rise suggests.

Perhaps what we should be concentrating on is the rise of Asian universities into the world top 100. In future years this could impact on UK institutions as international students provide a sizeable portion

of a university's student revenue. If Asian students decide to attend Asian universities, finances may suffer in the UK. There are around 50 more international students this year at York than previous years, but this isn't something the University can rely on, especially with unfriendly student immigration policies.

What this shows is that rankings can show patterns and trends - like the rise of Asian universities - but specific year on year rises and falls should be only loosely recognised.

Rather than highlighting the good but ignoring the bad, the University should take all rankings with a pinch of salt. Students and staff members know that York is a good university, one of the best in the world. We also know that last year wasn't ten times better than the year before or that this year won't be ten times worse than last. The University is right: rankings do fluctuate sporadically. These fluctuations can enable York to rise 20 places or fall 20 places but it is futile to embrace positive fluctuation yet dismiss it when it's negative.



Gary Holland

Positively discriminating students

The University should offer bursaries to students from all backgrounds and levels, in order to maintain a balance of fairness and equality.

The University of York offers £1,000, a guaranteed interview to become a Student Ambassador, and tailored careers support to its students through the Vice Chancellor's Diversity Awards. To qualify for selection for the award, you must be a resident of the UK, be on an eligible degree course, and either be from an ethnic minority background, have lived in local authority care at some point, or have a disability.

A lot of the new students who don't meet one of the latter three criteria seem to react with a degree of indignation: "I don't deserve a free grand any less because I'm white!" and so on. Now, obviously the University isn't trying to imply otherwise, but I actually think that the immediate reaction is at the very least understandable. After all, there are plenty of white, able-bodied students who have never lived in care but for whom £1,000 towards their living costs would be a huge and incredibly appreciated help.

However, we are all made aware in the news and by politicians that people who do meet one of those

three criteria are less likely to be affluent. Therefore, they are more likely to be what the University might judge as a "good" candidate for the help.

I believe that the primary motive behind the award, though, is actually getting a higher number of disabled, minority and less affluent students to university.

“A degree is not supposed to be easy to obtain; it should show dedication”

In fact, this is a theme which is consistently at the forefront of political debate. And when York stated its intent to raise tuition fees to £9,000 in most cases, and over £6,000 a year across the board, it had to draw up an Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), detailing how it justified the fees. In the agree-

ment the University states that it proposes to spend over 30 per cent of its income from the additional fees to raise aspiration to attend university in potential students and "support their achievement, promote access to the University, and support successful completion among [their] target groups".

This includes a whopping £5,058,000 of bursaries and fee waivers in the 2012/13 academic year. For example, first year students from a household with an income below £25,000 are offered £2000 in fee waivers and £1000 in accommodation bursaries.

My issue with this system is not that I don't believe disadvantaged people should have an equal opportunity to study at university, but rather that this "positive discrimination" is just combatting the symptoms of a lack of equality of opportunity; not fighting the root problem. There should be no need to offer the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Awards, because it should be just as easy for those who are currently eligible for the award to attend university as it is for those who aren't.

This is, of course, much harder to achieve than meeting set quotas for disadvantaged students by fixing admissions in their favour, which is what universities such as Leeds, Bristol, and Birmingham have done: they have systems which "boost" the grades of poorer students, meaning middle class applicants can lose out on a place to someone with a lower grade.

In my opinion, we need a system which ensures all students have an equal - and high - standard of primary and secondary education so that college and university places can fairly be awarded based solely on academic success. Because let's not forget that a degree is not supposed to be easy to obtain; it should show that someone has dedication to and talent for their subject - it shouldn't be something that anyone can get.

We just need to make sure that the people who can are the people that have worked hard to achieve, rather than those who were lucky enough to have an above-average school in their area, or those who gain a place specifically because they didn't.

Changing student politics for the better

Josh Allen



If I were to say to you 'political involvement', what would you think?

Does the phrase conjure up hours of stale minute-taking tedium in a draughty community hall or seminar room? Last stands over some point of principle with regards a semi-colon between identikit factions, a case study in the narcissism of petty difference?

Or maybe it would conjure up the romance of protest, the joy of seeing plans realised and lives transformed. Friendships forged in the struggle, lively evenings in bars and deep conversations in coffee shops. Splatters from poster paints, illuminating words from respected guests, both seasoned and unseasoned comrades.

“Our duty as representatives and activists is to get your voice ringing”

At YUSU we want 'political involvement' to be the latter. Too often it seems like 'political involvement' at York is the former.

A students' union should be fighting your corner, acting as an exchange where people can meet, share ideas, and plot a course towards a better world. Sadly, and I say this as someone who is highly involved, in the past we have frequently under-

performed.

The action we need is more bloody. The Union should be a place of cut and thrust debate and jagged discourse, not bland technocratic jargon and stale "unity".

The Union is calibrated around the principle that if someone has an idea then they are the best person to see it through. Officers and non-officers like myself should be signposts, message boards; we should seek to match up people who want to do things and fight for them to be given to resources to get those things done.

We should stir up debate, invite speakers onto campus, put ideas out there, provide openings for you guys to hold to account those who make decisions, and share your ideas, and let them know what you think.

To this end I have invited the local police and crime commissioner candidates to my Community assembly to do a hustings, especially for students. I hope to invite other local notables and thinkers to converse with us over the course of the year. And I know that many of my colleagues, both other chairs and the officers are thinking along similar lines.

The Union must never be afraid to get its hands dirty. Our duty as representatives and activists is to get your voice ringing not just through Hes Hall, but the Guildhall and Whitehall. Our generation is not favoured, we won't be handed anything. We must go out and seize it.

This Union and thousands like it are vehicles for doing so. On 21st November, York shall be marching in London with tens of thousands

of other students, stating our case. Marching for education, empowerment and employment.

It is this kind of collective action that achieves results. Here in York we have a vast range of causes to advance: decent accommodation on and off campus, better University services, zero tolerance of sexual harassment, more student say in the University's governance. We must do it for ourselves. No one else will.

“This random allocation of emails allows for a strong mix of personalities”

So, if you feel like I do, get politically involved. The Union exists only because York students do. I can promise you a warm welcome.

If there's anything in particular you'd like to talk to us about, be it an idea for a campaign, making the Union more open and accessible, or something you'd like us to lobby about. Please contact either myself, an officer, or one of other chairs. All of our details are on www.yusu.org. And we all want to be the best reps we can be.

Josh Allen is the Chair of Community Assembly 2012/13 and a Neighbourhood Rep

Comment Bites from the Nouse website

Keeping the boobs at bay

Steve says:
September 25, 2012 at 10:34 am

I dislike it when these articles demonize porn, I'm a big fan of porn. It has its rightful place and hasn't destroyed my opinion of women. "The darkest depths of the Internet," are not where you should go if you want breasts. I don't think anyone should try to go there! However, surely page 3 messes with a teenage daughter's paternal feelings when she sees him ogle a girl closer to her age than his? It hardly teaches a son to treat women well either.

Banter!

Anonymous. Obviously says:
October 5, 2012 at 2:20 am

It's very easy to take apart the boneheaded proponents of banter, but they are in no way related to genuine comedy. "Banter" comedy is symptomatic of the whole LAD movement, and not most real performers.

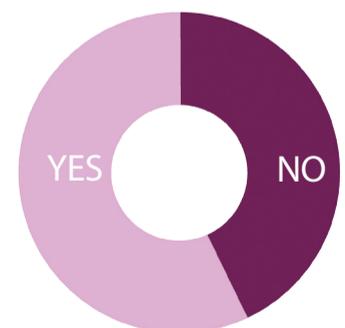
There's really no point in producing a self-righteous and generalized assault upon "offensive" comedy under the guise of an attack on banter. There are clear distinctions, and there are complex arguments.

The Burning Question

This edition, *Nouse* asked:

“Will you use the new Heslington East Sports Village?”

186 people voted, with the majority stating YES



102 people voted Yes (55%)

84 people voted No (45%)

Politics



politics@nouse.co.uk
www.nouse.co.uk/politics

Graduates continue to face tough employment market

Hayley Carr
POLITICAL REPORTER

AROUND 50 per cent of the students leaving the University of York at the end of this year will struggle to find a job within the first three months of graduating, research from the Local Government Association (LGA) suggests.

The coalition government has attempted, as part of the Big Society, to address the generic problem of unemployment through their flagship Work Programme. However, 47 per cent of the charities that run the scheme have predicted it will fail within six months according to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

Structurally the scheme is flawed as only one third of the people involved in the project have been given work contracts. Financially, half of charities involved have declared it is not viable because they are currently being forced to reach into their own financial reserves to prop up the scheme, resulting in it barely helping those who are not in work.

The Labour Party has been highlighting the flaws of the Work Programme for a significant amount of time, but as of yet the government shows no sign of backing down. Back in July of this year, Liam Byrne, the shadow work and pensions secretary, said, "Chaos is engulfing the government's back-to-work scheme."

As a result, Labour has devel-



Graduates face spending more time at the Job Centre than in work, new figures released last week illustrate

oped a scheme that, on the surface, will be far more effective at tackling new graduate unemployment. This is because it understands the core problem of unemployment as a whole - young people with a history of poor education and training.

This claim is supported by recent research which depicts regional variation in unemployment.

Tower Hamlets, one of the poorest boroughs in London, with many rough schools, had the lowest proportion of new graduates in full-time employment at 36.3 per cent.

Labour's scheme, the 'Youth Jobs Taskforce,' which has brought together entrepreneurs, academics and trade unionists aiming to get more new graduates and young un-

employed people in jobs, looks far more promising.

The government should take heed in the statistics produced by the LGA, as it is struggling to deal with the problem of youth unemployment, including recent graduates. It is evident that it should look at new ways of encouraging young people into work.



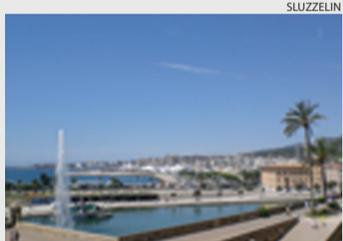
Turkey: The Turkish Parliament last week authorised cross-border military action against Syria. This comes in reaction to the death of five civilians caused by Syrian shells.



USA: Facebook has revealed that the social networking website now has over 1 billion regular users, entrenching its position as the world's most renowned social media site.



UK: The BBC has been forced to deny a cover up over allegations it overlooked sexual assault of minors by the late Sir Jimmy Saville. It said there was "no evidence" that Newsnight had been prevented from investigating the claims.



Spain: Police have arrested a 21 year old man in Palma de Mallorca on suspicion of plotting to bomb the University of the Balearic Islands. The man was seized as he picked up ingredients supposedly to mimic the Columbia disaster in the USA.



United Arab Emirates: Plans have been unveiled to build a replica of the Taj Mahal in Dubai. The \$1bn project will be much bigger than the original and will contain a hotel, shops and commercial buildings, developer Arun Mehra said.

Action needed in ageing world

Ellie Swire
POLITICAL REPORTER

A REPORT published by a United Nations agency has called for "bold political decisions" to be made in response to the potential crisis wrought by an ageing global population.

Both the UN Population Fund and the charity HelpAge International, who were together responsible for the research, have criticised the widespread mismanagement of elderly populations and the failure of nations to provide adequate support for older people. It also warned of the dangerous consequences that would be incurred unless urgent action is taken.

The number of older people worldwide is currently growing faster than any other age group, with the number of people aged over 60 expected to pass one billion within the next 10 years.

With improvements in living standards, nutrition and healthcare, relative life expectancy is longer now than it has ever been before. But, without the appropriate financial provision and social



Ban Ki-Moon has called for decisive action on an ageing population

support, the issues of widespread poverty, discrimination, physical violence and neglect are expected to become all the more pressing among the old.

With a global demographic shift weighed towards a higher proportion of elderly dependants, the need arises for major changes to nations' current welfare, pensions,

and healthcare policies.

"Rapid population ageing and a steady increase in human longevity worldwide represent one of the greatest social, economic and political transformations of our time," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message to mark the International Day of Older Persons, which coincided with the report's

release.

"These demographic changes will affect every community, family and person. They demand that we rethink how individuals live, work, plan and learn throughout their lifetimes, and that we re-invent how societies manage themselves."

"The challenge lies with governments who have not put policies and practices in place to support their current older populations," the agencies said in a joint statement.

HelpAge International has called for the introduction of pension schemes to ensure the economic independence of older people, as well as improving the accessibility to medicinal drugs and implementing new social welfare programmes.

The global launch of the report was followed by a day of global activism, initiated by the campaign group Age Demands Action (ADA). It is hoped that the report will raise awareness and encourage all governments and other organizations to make the necessary changes to accommodate for a burgeoning elderly contingency.

History is not the solution to Afghanistan

Laura Hughes

The war in Afghanistan will not be 'Obama's Vietnam.' Afghanistan will not shadow his presidency as Vietnam did for Lyndon B. Johnson's. The analogy is a simplistic reading of past and a rather vast misconstruction of the present.

The Taliban is not the Viet Cong, and anti American sentiment is the only real parallel we can scrape from the history books and draw between the two. Ho Chi Min was the head of state, a central authority, and the leader of a unified armed resistance force.

The principle leaders of the Taliban command a disunited and disparate insurgency, divided along tribal boundaries, under the authority of warring chiefs and warlords. A conventional opposition in Afghanistan, similar to that of the North Vietnamese Army in the 1960s does not exist.

Afghanistan harboured Al-Qaeda operatives and the US went into Afghanistan on the pretext of fighting their 'war on terror'. Al-Qaeda has since dissolved across the region and remains a wholly separate entity to the Taliban, who remain in their country and solely seek support in neighbouring Pakistan.

The Taliban has few resources and lacks the sponsorship of a superpower. Vietnam's communists received international support and sought sanction in Laos and Cambodia, whilst supplies continued to be received from both the Soviet

Union and China. Afghanistan's neighbours in India, Russia and Iran are unlikely to support the reinstating of the Taliban, who have already governed their country.

Whilst Afghanistan is a tribal civil war, Vietnam was both a civil war, and a proxy war between superpowers. It was, in essence, the fought element of the Cold War.

The North Vietnamese received international support and armed assistance. The Viet Cong insurgency was an additional level of armed support and resistance that ran alongside the conventional efforts of their Northern partners.

“Sentiment against fighting the Taliban has not turned the way it did in Vietnam”

The modus operandi of the Taliban is solely one of insurgency. The North and South Vietnamese each fielded armies of several hundred thousand combatants. In Afghanistan rough estimates suggest there are at most 25,000 active members of the Taliban.

Over 58,000 Americans and more than one million Vietnamese were killed in the American war in Vietnam whilst just over 100,000 troops have hit Afghan soil and are volunteers not draftees.

The scale of the two wars is



America must not look at past conflicts such as the war in Vietnam in order to ensure success in Afghanistan

incomparable; a Tet-style and scale offensive in Afghanistan is implausible. Today the Taliban are struggling to maintain control of a few small villages and towns. The Viet Cong were significantly better equipped to deal with foreign armed forces.

Sentiment against fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan has not turned the way it did in Vietnam.

Afghanistan won't hijack Obama's presidency and Obama's foreign war will not derail his domestic agenda. Americans today will be looking at their own economic situation before they do their country's war on terror.

Iraq saw Bush fail to push his domestic agenda into a second term in office. Again Afghanistan is just not sullied to the same degree

by Americans or the international community.

The Obama administration and commentators of the counter-insurgency must look at this war without the historical analogy. Future armed and economic involvement in Afghanistan will determine the success of this war. Let's not look to the past to pave Afghanistan's path forward.

The West must look at Syria differently

Ed Schwitzer

The way the debate on Syria is portrayed in the West is overly simplistic and thus unhelpful. Ignoring the concerns of other countries is dangerous because they are raising legitimate problems. Instead, the West must try and come to a more balanced viewpoint and re-connect with the other important players, if any progress is to be made in Syria.

This week Walid Muallem, Syria's foreign minister, accused certain Western countries of backing the 'terrorist organisations' fighting against his government. Many of us in the West will instantly dismiss such accusations.

While the Syrian government call them 'terrorists' or 'armed gangs', our media prefers to use terminology such as 'rebels' or the 'Free Syrian Army' (FSA). Iranian, Russian and Chinese objections to our interference in Syria are characterised as the irresponsible acts of corrupt, dictatorial regimes.

But this outlook must change. We need to start looking at Syria in a more sensible and productive manner. Of course it is true that countries such as Iran are in many ways motivated by self-interest (an Alawite-run Syria gives Iran a valuable corridor through which to support groups such as Hizbollah).



Western nations needs to see Syria in a more complex light and has failed thus far to learn from past mistakes

However, we need to remove the constant undertone in our media that we are the 'good guys' whose only aim is to protect innocent people who are being persecuted. Similar unrest in states such as Bahrain have not led to Western moves to protect the lives of civilians. Moreover, the revolution in

Egypt happened against a dictatorship that was funded with billions of dollars of US military aid. To say the West is always the hero is, unfortunately, wrong.

Indeed, the concerns of some non-Western countries on the Syrian issue are very pertinent.

Dmitry Medvedev, the Rus-

sian Prime Minister was recently interviewed by The Times. One key point he made was the realisation that Syria is an extremely complex country, specifically in an ethnic sense: "It's much more complex than Egypt or Libya because of all the communities living there: Sunnis, Shia, Alawites, Druze and

Christians. They will either find a way to get along or civil war and killings will go on indefinitely."

The conflict in Syria cannot be solved simply by supporting the rebels until they win; which seems to be the extent of many Western countries' strategies at the moment.

A military victory alone will not create a stable Syria, we would likely see reprisal attacks on Alawites and Shias by the Sunnis, who resent the oppression they suffered under Assad. We do not want to see a situation similar to Iraq where sectarian violence continues to thrive.

The second important point he raised was the 'mission-creep' problem as it happened in Libya, "But the question is - where is the line between resolutions and a military operation? We saw that with the resolution on Libya. It basically led to international intervention. This is a bad way."

The UN resolution passed by the Security Council on Libya was designed to protect citizens in Benghazi from imminent destruction, and yet it was used to justify a full scale aerial bombardment of Gaddafi's army which ultimately led to the overthrowing of his government. It must be questioned whether the rest of the world can trust any resolution the West submits to the UN with this level of obvious deceit.

Labour conference: unimpressive

Rohan Banerjee

Out of power and short of policies, the Labour Party's Conference 2012 proved to be a decidedly horizontal affair. Though party morale is slowly rebuilding after its ejection from power, the long wait until the next contest has made the opposition sag in the middle.

With two years and a ten point lead, Ed Miliband certainly has much to prove, yet questions remain about his own personal approval ratings and what Labour would actually do differently if they got into government. Watching BBC Parliament judgmentally from my very own red seat, a very reasonably priced one from Ikea, my guess is not a lot.

While none of the major parties won the 2010 election, Labour was undoubtedly the biggest loser and if one considers the myriad of internal problems the party faced from the start, any such result is unsurprising. Seated disenchantment with the party, as well as politics as a whole, had done little to endear the incumbent to the public. Thought self-purported as the working-class party, the expenses scandal which incriminated many senior Labour politicians tarnished the party's reputation irreparably.

With an apposite distinction between the leading parties apparently indistinguishable, voter alienation turned to apathy amongst the electorate, as a lack of faith translated to a lack of votes, with most voters feeling unrepresented by any of the parties on offer.

Indeed, with Labour's snout equally as deep as the Tories' in the expenses trough, the party's image spiralled further into the gutter and Gordon Brown's own lack of charisma did little to help the party's chance of re-election.

Punished for their poor performance in 2010, Labour faced an overwhelming need to reinvent. But following this year's proceedings in Manchester, it is clear that Labour has certainly not learnt. With another ambiguous manifesto, one thing becomes painstakingly clear



Ed Miliband's speech garnered much attention on Twitter, but was ultimately empty of any real substance

– the on-going policy review that is at the heart of Labour's limbo. The lack of cohesion, rumoured division between Ed Miliband and his namesake, Ed Balls, is damaging the party's standing with voters.

Only the vaguest principles could be agreed upon and there was no indomitable programme of government. And while no expense has been spared in highlighting the failings of the coalition, Labour have offered few, if any, counter proposals themselves. Miliband is not a man with a plan and his party is not united behind one.

Being heir to Tony and Gordon was never going to be an easy task and Ed has to play a careful game as leader of Labour's broad church. The unions need dealing with and awkward questions on whether to

support public sector strikes and even whether to address the spending cuts protest coming up later this month must be handled appropriately.

Yet after five days of the con-

“ Labour have offered little; Miliband does not have a plan ”

ference, we did not see as much evidence of political strategy, as we did of time killing and extravagant padding out. Dame Tessa Jowell's session on Team GB's triumph was both milked and unnecessary, and while the parading of Nicola Adams

was heart-warming, I doubt it will sway many undecided voters on Labour's economic or foreign policies.

And I don't imagine Ed's speech would either. Indeed, a self-indulgent and irrelevant family history was sandwiched between unoriginal views and ambiguities.

As at home on stage as Bambi on ice, Miliband failed to back welfare or immigration caps and still stands for more spending, more borrowing and more debt – exactly what got us into this mess in the first place.

Borrowing a political slogan from some two hundred years previously, it is obvious that Miliband's "one nation party" are bereft of original ideas; even the "new" Technical Baccalaureate just seemed a rehash of the old BTEC.



@OwenJones84

Owen Jones,
The Independent

“You don't see this often - an energetic, unscripted Ed Miliband, first unveiled at the 2008 Labour Conference #Lab12.”

02 Oct



@hugorifkind

Hugo Rifkind,
The Times

“It's amazing how much Ed Miliband goes on about the few roomfulls of people in Britain who earn over £1m every year #Lab12.”

03 Oct



@IsabelOakeshott

Isabel Oakeshott,
Political Editor,
Sunday Times

“No mention of the unions so far...could this speech mark a real turning point in the way Red Ed is perceived? #Lab12”

02 Oct



@suzanne_moore

Suzanne Moore,
Columnist,
The Guardian

“Is it just me or isn't One Nation 'narrative' fundamentally a denial of class conflict? #Lab12.”

02 Oct



@AllisterHeath

Allister Heath,
Editor, City AM

“It will be good thing if this speech rattles Tories and makes them less complacent. But I'm sceptical whether many voters will pay attention #Lab12”

02 Oct

Nouse Events presents



Lord Adonis
“Class war: education must change”

in the
Bowland Auditorium

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Liam Burns, NUS President
Rachel Reeves, MP

8pm
Wednesday 31st October

Talk and Q & A



Nouse
find out more on
Monday
Week 2
at
7pm
in
P/L/002

Spinning themselves out of power

In the two years of coalition rule, the government's policies have been under the spotlight. Here though, **Sam Shepherd** argues that PR, not policy, has been the government's main flaw.

This Parliament was always going to be one of the most difficult governmental tenures in recent memory. Arriving on the back of the biggest economic crisis of the last 20 years, the Coalition has tried in earnest to get the ship of state back on an even keel.

However, half way through its time in office, the past two and a half years have been nothing short of disastrous for Cameron and co.

This though, has not been as a result of policy. What set the Labour government apart from previous administrations was the way in which it presented those policies to the public. With the genius of Alastair Campbell, the "Spin King", Labour managed to successfully manoeuvre themselves into a position to win three successive elections.

It is the art of spin and PR which the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats have failed to grasp properly, and it is this failure to do so which has underlined their lack of success as a coalition. From David Cameron leaving his child in the pub to Nick Clegg's laughable apology for his party's commitment to prevent a tuition fees rise and more recently "gate-gate", the government's gaffe record is akin to that of the latter months of the Brown government.

Gaffes aside, the government has failed on countless occasions to express their policies in a way which gives the relevant and correct information to the public. Take, for example, the case of tuition fees. The government has allowed the naysayers to take control of this de-



If Clegg and Cameron wish to have any chance of winning the next election, they must use PR more effectively

bate, failing to adequately explain the benefits of the new fees deal to the voters. Hence we have a scenario where many prospective students believe they have to pay fees up front and are going to be laden with £40k of debt, when this is not the case.

In addition, we have the NHS debate. After speaking with members of the public (and indeed members of the Conservative Party), it seems there is mass confusion over what the NHS reforms constituted. The NHS needs improving,

that much is clear, but the government seem somewhat lacking in

“The government has failed on countless occasions to explain their policies simply”

courage to explain what is wrong with the nation's darling in plain,

succinct words. As a result they have been accused of "privatisation" of the NHS.

Perhaps their biggest failure in PR has been over the economy. The bank balance remains in a perilous state, and whilst growth is also a concern, the government needs to emphasize the fact that we are still in a debt crisis, something which Labour's plan would not solve. Osborne needs to highlight the fact that the pain of a few years of belt tightening would be significantly less than that of a potential bank-

ruptcy.

The Labour Party conference this past week has highlighted the coalition's weaknesses in this area. Ed Miliband's speech, whilst brilliantly delivered, contained little substance, but has seemingly won over the doubters within the party. Labour have excelled at spin and PR since the emergence of "New Labour" and will continue to dominate this area if the coalition fails to grasp this concept more firmly.

This week, it is the turn of the Conservatives to come under the media spotlight. David Cameron will, as usual, give a speech which is easy to listen to, but in order to compete with Labour here he must explain the problems the country is facing eloquently, succinctly and in an understandable manner. This is the only way he and the coalition will combat Labour's compelling but ultimately empty rhetoric.

In short then, the main flaw of this government so far has been their inability to get the public on-side. This is not due to the policies themselves, but the personalities and lack of skills in dealing with the general public.

Whilst this Parliament was always going to be a poisoned chalice, it is without question that had the coalition had better PR they would not be so open to the attacks they are crumbling under from Labour. If the Conservatives and the Lib Dems are to challenge at the next general election, they need to shackle the image of "posh boys", but more importantly learn how to battle the PR machine that is Labour.

Life on the Obama re-election campaign trail

THE LAST WORD
Harry Lambert



Inside the Obama headquarters just outside of Washington, dated phones, celebratory bells and crumpled telephone call sheets litter the room's fold-up tables. The bells ring with each volunteer recruited. A giant, hand-drawn thermometer shows how many have come on board that week. Presidential placards hang along the longest stretch of wall. Scribbled "Why I'm In" messages fill the white poster pages covering another. Yard signs lie stacked against a third.

Across the country similar offices have formed the backbone of the grassroots machine the Obama campaign have again invested in to beat a better funded opponent. At the offices in northern Virginia, anybody willing is welcomed. Neighbours talking to neighbours, you are told, is more effective than any amount of corporate advertising. By directly talking to voters you can reach them unfiltered by the media. An increasingly targeted approach

makes for a more effective one.

The reality is more complex. Door knockers are often from out of state, and cannot easily whip up a few sentences to change minds and curry support. There is an intrusion to interrupting someone's

“There is a power to seeing strangers of all types come together”

weekend that can inhibit even the most self-assured type.

At the end of one afternoon knocking on doors I stopped an active, shirtless, thirty-something man on his way into his house. He had voted for Obama in 2008 but now was unsure. "Congress is too closeted", he said. Everyone helps each other out but not the people. He wanted them all gone. At such times the campaign's talking points are of little use. This man had heard Obama's appeals before. To him a stat about how many jobs have been created in the past 27 months carries little weight.



BRANDON BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Obama campaign utilises a network of dedicated volunteers

A brief doorstep conversation could not persuade him, or the other uncommitted voters I met that Saturday. Door knocking, and grassroots campaigning in general, is unsuited to it. And with relatively few undecided voters, field offices in many regions across the country are now almost solely focused on turnout.

Ensuring supporters are ready and able to vote is crucial work – many need to register for the first time, update an identification or

send off an absentee ballot. The problem is that so targeted a campaign has you endlessly calling people who already support the President. Unsurprisingly, they are often uninterested in reiterating their approval or volunteering their time. After two weeks and over 700 calls I only ever called Obama supporters. You can be left feeling you have irritated as many people as you have helped.

The data, we are told, shows such tactics are effective. If you get

a voter to fill out a 'I commit to vote' card and send it back to them in the run-up to election day, it makes them 5-10 per cent more likely to vote. If you confirm volunteers for an upcoming shift, they are more likely to turn up. If you leave your supporters without the help some need to register and vote, poll leads mean nothing. But at the end of an evening spent calling 150 people, speaking to a dozen and recruiting just a handful, that is hard to remember.

But small moments can make a day of turf cutting, pack making and data entering feel part of something bigger. There is a power to seeing strangers of all types come together to re-elect a nation's first black President, when so few calls are likely to be answered and help-less supporters aided.

One elderly black woman told me of how as a child, the white kids, riding the bus on the way to their school, would throw bottles at her, walking to hers, and now four years ago she had seen the first black President elected. It is those moments – the people you meet and the stories they tell – that make the monotony of campaigns worth it.

Business



business@nouse.co.uk

It's all downhill from here

After gaining investment from Richard Reed, Innocent Smoothie founder, Swansea Uni boys Jezz and Ben speak to **Tom Williams** about progress with their venture, Mango Bikes

Swansea students Jezz Skelton and Ben Harrison were recently featured on BBC Three's new show, *Be your Own Boss*. The pair managed to demonstrate the potential for their idea to sell customised single-speed bikes. *Nouse* spoke with the young hopefuls to hear what they've got planned for the future.

The two met whilst studying at university. Jezz, then a third year in Business and Marketing, said they came up with the idea "whilst trying to find something better to do than revise for January exams".

However, he does describe the difficulties in managing the business along with studying, saying, "Ben took the hit on his second year grades so that Jezz could concentrate on his finals".

After coming up with a solid business model, they entered *Be your Own Boss*. The show, hosted by Richard Reed, the founder of Innocent Smoothie, aims at supporting young start ups with his personal investment.

Reed, along with two friends, decided to start smoothie company Innocent Smoothie after graduating from Cambridge. The brand achieved substantial success and sold a 58 per cent share to The Coca-Cola Company for £95million.

Now Reed is turning his hand to help young entrepreneurs. After seeing the potential of Mango bikes he invested £50,000 of his personal fortune to allow them to develop the idea.

Mango Bikes lets customers customise every aspect of the bikes in a wide range of colours to suit



Jezz Skelton and Ben Harrison showing off a custom Mango Bike at a Mango promotion event

their taste.

Initially, they faced difficulty on the show, with their website crashing, and Reed was originally uneasy about their commitment due to their involvement in university. Yet their exposure on the show has proven to have a positive impact on their social network following, and sales.

They describe the biggest problem of the business as the 'lack of working capital available', saying "we have the demand but we can't keep up with it".

The duo have taken a leap of

faith by not applying for graduate jobs. They have aspirations to "expand into Europe. Long term goal is to create a fashion brand, so it's not just bikes we're looking at."

But, by their own admission, they still have a long way to go. "We have a huge amount to do. We're currently developing geared, ladies and kids bikes." In the future they'll be "looking into doing cool bike accessories and then once all that's done we'll look at selling all kinds of fashionable products."

They believe Mango Bikes can capitalise on their recent publicity

and offer a wider range of products.

Jezz explains that "at the moment we're a bike brand, however, the aim for the future is to be a fashion brand that started with bikes. We're also looking into setting up franchises around the world with meetings already underway with potential franchisees."

Their advice for the students of York is if you "have a good idea and you've done your research then just go for it. It's amazing how many people are willing to help you out along the way." However, they emphasise that "it's not an easy ride."

The new defrauders

James Daveney

How much would you pay for your right arm? A man from Valencia, Spain, along with his family took out multiple insurance policies in order to receive a €600,000 euro payout by claiming he lost his arm in a car accident. In fact, he was convinced by his unemployed family to amputate his right arm in an attempt to leverage their economic hardship.

This story highlights the growing lengths that some people will go to out of pure economic necessity. According to the Zurich Insurance group, a new class of defrauder has emerged, "This type of policyholder now covers debt in business with insurance," claiming compensation has become a new way of making ends meet for some in crisis ridden countries.

This can be backed up by data from insurance and pension providers, which state that there were about 55,000 fraudulent claims in 2003, compared to 131,000 in 2011.

“He was convinced by his unemployed family to amputate his right arm”

The biggest increases in fraudulent claims appear in small and medium sized companies, as well as young people under the age of 26.

But this rise is also due to more cases being investigated, which in turn led to more fraud being discovered. Many companies still use private investigators to uncover any untruths, with social networking sites being invaluable to them in solving cases.

In one case last year, a photo on Facebook of two teenagers drinking alcohol and partying at a friend's house helped uncover a brazen scheme. The pair had claimed they had been in an accident involving two cars, each carrying five people, at a roundabout.

This accident involved nine cases of whiplash, with each person receiving €5,000 of compensation. Claiming to insurers that they didn't know each other, the photo proved the opposite and that they had committed insurance fraud.

The last case is the most sophisticated of all, where one detective and his agency investigated a case involving four fires in foreign-owned shops. The owners had found a fool-proof way to get out of the country whilst earning more money from payouts. They burnt down the store, received the payout and left the country that was no longer their economic salvation.

Bitesize Business with Satnam Shergill



THE TAX HAVEN

UBS: A whirlwind month for Kweku Adoboli, 32, of Whitechapel, who sent losses at UBS to a height of £1.4bn, in September 2011.

Adoboli, described as a "master fraudster", reportedly created false accounts, exceeded trade limits and used contrived deals to cover his tracks. Prosecutor Sasha Wass described his deceitful dealings as "nothing more than gambling", saying the trading loss was equivalent to nearly 70,000 nurses' annual wages. He denies charges, made in September 2012, of false accounting and fraud.



SIMONW93

Halfords: The success of this summer's Olympic games has lifted sales for flailing bike and car parts retailer, Halfords.

The company recently appointed Matt Davies, former Pets at Home boss, as Chief Executive. Davies has since seized the Olympic opportunity by stocking retro Pendleton bikes and Boardman's cross-bikes.

In a trading update Halfords stated a 14.7 per cent rise in bike sales in the second quarter, which aided the overall rise in their share price by 38.8pts.



W31_JU

Greece: Undeterred by a sixth consecutive year of recession, Greece is to undergo construction of a new F1 track that is set to cost almost €100m.

The country has received continuous criticism for its rigid labour market and poor economic management. Subsequently, it is likely to need economic help from the European Union over the next eight years.

The government released the news with the 2013 Budget despite an expected contraction of the Greek economy.



Expats: Loughborough dropout Katie Smith ditched her economics degree to start her own business selling British goods to expats. 'Tastes Marvellous' has reached a turnover of nearly £600,000 in its first year. Smith, 18, from Shropshire, felt confident in her exporting enterprise and "decided to take the plunge and go straight into the world of business".

To date, the company has exported to 84 different countries across the globe, though she still faces competition from already established businesses.

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Science



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Evidence of water found on Mars

James Cameron
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

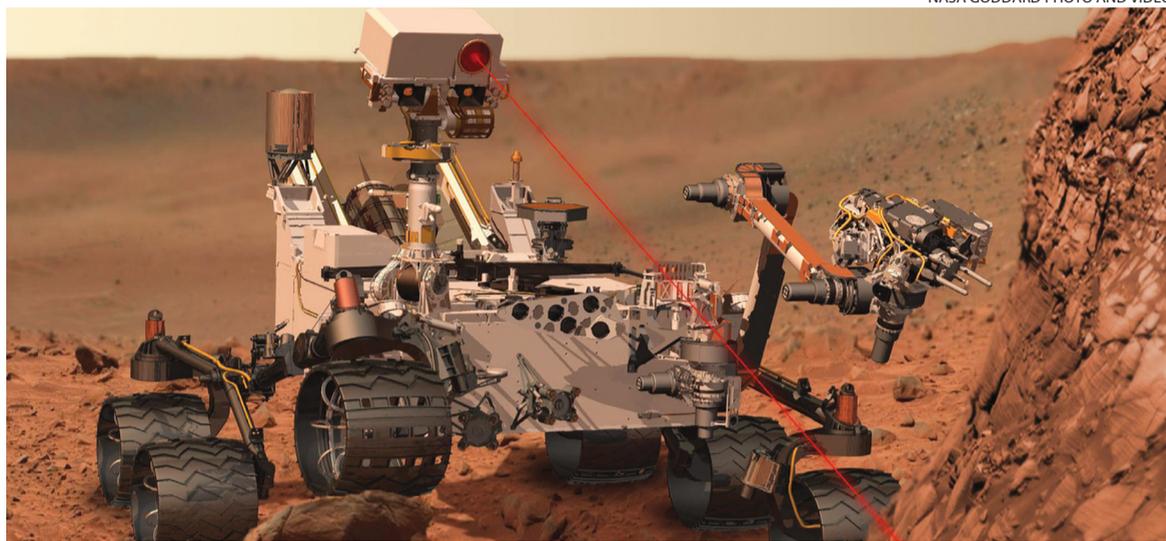
For the first time, direct evidence of a flowing stream has been discovered on Mars, NASA announced on Thursday.

Previously the only strong evidence of a large body of water having once existed upon Mars were indirect, such as images captured from orbit. Now, just a few weeks into its two year mission, the Curiosity rover has discovered and photographed a dried-up riverbed. These latest observations are a confirmation that the Red Planet was once indeed the site of rivers and streams, just like Earth is.

The pictures come from an examination of two areas of rocky outcrops, named "Hottah" and "Link". The observations were a follow up on previous hints from another outcrop, exposed by a thruster exhaust as Curiosity touched down.

Both outcrops contain rounded rocks embedded in stone, forming what are known as 'rock conglomerates'. The gravels in these conglomerates range both greatly in size, from that of a golf ball to as small as a grain of sand, and shape, some being smoothed and round and others being sharp edged and angular.

"Hottah looks like someone



NASA GODDARD PHOTO AND VIDEO

The Curiosity rover has been on the red planet since August and is determining if life could have been supported

jack-hammered up a slab of city sidewalk, but it's really a tilted block of an ancient streambed," said Mars Science Laboratory Project Scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The images captured clearly show a gravel bed in which the stones have been eroded over a long period of time to form the pebbles much like the familiar, smooth riverbed stones of our streams. From the size and shape of these stones, Curiosity's science co-investigator

William Dietrich of the University of California, Berkeley has been able to deduce that the stream was probably flowing at a speed of around three feet per second, and somewhere between ankle and hip deep. The stones are too big to have been moved by wind, and many are rounded, eroded by their movement in the stream.

A possible next step for the rover is to test the riverbed and analyse the elemental composition of the material holding the rock conglomerate together. This

would allow further conclusions to be drawn about the environment that caused these formations. And since the stones of the conglomerate were transported from above the rim of the crater, any analysis of these would allow lessons to be learned about the broader regional geography.

The discovery site lies between the north rim of the Gale Crater and the base of Mount Sharp, a mountain within the crater. Earlier imagery shows an alluvial fan of lake sediment washed down the

rim of the crater, with many channels dividing it, just uphill of Curiosity's discovery. This abundance of channels is suggestive of continuous or repeated flow of water over a long time, not just a one-off or even just over a few years.

The Gale Crater was chosen as the landing site for the Curiosity rover because of the presence of the central mountain, Mount Sharp, which, going by previous observations, was formed by sedimentary processes. This is useful because it is a fairly non-destructive form of mountain formation and so geological indicators of life are more likely to have been preserved.

"A long-flowing stream can be a habitable environment," said Grotzinger. "It is not our top choice as an environment for preservation of organics, though. We're still going to Mount Sharp, but this is insurance that we have already found our first potentially habitable environment."

During the two-year primary mission of the Mars Science Laboratory, researchers will use Curiosity's 10 scientific instruments to investigate as to whether areas in Gale Crater have ever offered environmental conditions favourable for microbial life. This is a promising start to what will hopefully be an insightful two years.

Why should we care about what science does?

Justin Byrne
SCIENCE REPORTER

I believe that for most people science seems to be a disconnected discipline, practised by isolated, wool-gathering men and women. I too can hardly stop myself agreeing with them when surveying the daring fashion choices of our university's academics. I worry that this misconception causes a lack of interest in the fate of science and its future funding. So, why should we care about science?

Most students are aware enough to recognise the past achievements of science in their daily lives. All of our current luxuries are products of a scientific foundation: the principles of physics going into every electrical item,

of chemistry into every household item, and of biology into everything you eat and everything in your medicine cabinet. But these are dusty trophies of a past generation of science. What is it doing for us now? Why should we care about what the white coat wearing men and women of today are doing?

The most obvious answer is that science is still producing information that is improving day-to-day lives, not just for us - the comparatively rich - but worldwide. This was best exemplified through the life works of Dr. Norman Borlaug. The work of Borlaug and his team in agricultural improvements - namely creating disease resistant, dwarf varieties of crops - may save 8 billion lives by 2025. Few can ever hope to help the world as

he did, but that doesn't stop the research continuing.

New materials and technologies are also allowing us to revolutionise the way we do things at home and abroad; carbon fiber that once was limited to the construction of aerospace technology and F1 cars is now cheap enough for us to implement in industry and in consumer goods such as sporting equipment. These days nanotechnology is being implemented in everything from sunscreens to computers.

In the coming years, science will produce a mountain of gadgets that you won't be able to live without. Due to limited space I have left out advances in medicine, as the merits of sprayable skin for burn patients, and grow-your-own or-

gans are obvious. These laboratories provide jobs for thousands and do make money. However, without investment, subsidies and education, we risk harming their progress and sacrificing jobs.

Though the above reasons provide a case for science that would be put to investors or governments, many scientists feel that this misses out the reason that really impassions them.

Though not my first defence, the true reason we care about science is that, at its core, it is the search for understanding. Science is a tool that regular men and women use to pursue truth, despite knowing that certain truths may always elude them. This pursuit is in itself valuable, much like art, literature and beer tasting. It is human.

Though often those I talk to will scoff at the researcher who devotes their life to the understanding of a tiny creature, or the solution of the equation for why dripping honey forms spirals as it lands, I implore them to see its value. This is especially true when their life's works fail to fully answer the question; uncovering truth in the universe is just as valuable as interpreting the truths of the universe in art.

Why should we care about science? Because it enriches us; economically, culturally and intellectually. Science isn't dull, cold and clinical; it is radiant, warm and human. Though I answer by saying "look at its benefits", I am remembering Keats: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty - that is all ye know and all ye need to know."

Top Six: Ig Nobel Awards

The Harvard hosted Ig Nobel awards aim to highlight research which "first makes you laugh and then makes you think". We look at the highlights.

Ever found yourself worrying about what strange science lies behind the all too frequent ability for a cup of coffee to spill whilst you are walking with it?

Well, fear no more!

The inquisitive minds of Rouslan Krechetnikov and Hans Mayer have found the science behind this 'liquid-sloshing'.

Fluid Dynamics

ORNICKARR GREENBARROW



Anatomy

It turns out that chimpanzees are surprisingly good at recognising other members of their species. However, this revelation comes with a catch.

The research, published in Advanced Science Letters by Frans de Waal and Jennifer Pokorny has discovered that chimpanzees are able to identify specific individuals with nothing more than an image of their rear.

Continuing with the previous theme, French researchers Emmanuel Ben-Soussan and Michel Antoniotti received the Ig Nobel Medicine Prize after providing advice for doctors on how to minimise the risk of blowing up their patients during a colonoscopy.

Yes, you heard that right - there is a risk of explosion as a result of such an investigative technique. Good news for all!

Medicine

Sleepwalking into disaster

As Arctic ice levels reach a new record low, **James Mcauliffe** highlights the growing problems we face in regards to climate change

GERARD VAN DER LEUN



Walking on thin ice: it's not just polar bears at risk from an ever-increasing loss of Arctic ice

According to NASA and the US based National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), satellite images have shown that Arctic ice had shrunk to just 3.41 million square kilometers on September 16th.

This shocking figure is 700,000 square kilometres less than the previous record low of 4.17 million square kilometres set in 2007. For a sense of scale, this is equivalent to losing an area of ice twice the size of the entire UK.

These latest findings continue an alarming trend seen over the last three decades with this summer's Arctic ice levels being reduced to a third of its 1979-2000 average. A dramatic demonstration of how quickly the Arctic situation is escalating.

The ice cap has decreased in thickness by 40 per cent since the 1980s. Combined with the data regarding area, the summer ice volume is now only 30 per cent of its 1980s levels.

Yet the problem is catalysed further. Gradual thinning of the ice cap has made it more susceptible to the regional cyclones, hurricane force winds and violent waves that

break up the ice and further increase melting. The result is a vicious circle whereby the weakened ice cap is less able to withstand weather conditions over time, enhancing ice loss.

Experts have described the figures as 'disturbing' and declare that we are now in 'unchartered territory'. Professor Peter Wadhams of the Polar Ocean Physics Group recently predicted the 'inevitable death' of the ice cap, further adding that its decline may accelerate so that the Arctic summers of 2015-16 may be ice free.

The knock-on socioeconomic effects of a loss in summer Arctic ice could be catastrophic, as it plays a crucial role in maintaining the planet's climate. This big white mass helps to reflect a great deal of the sun's energy back into space, meaning that its absence would likely cause an accelerated global warming effect.

"The extra radiation that is absorbed is, from our calculations, the equivalent of about 20 years of additional CO₂ being added by man," Professor Wadhams explained.

To add to this, the temperature gradient between the ice caps

and the warm tropics drives global weather systems. This is the force behind the jet stream, winds that drive ocean currents and consequently the global patterns of rain distribution.

Changes to any of these will likely bring about an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts, freezes and flooding. With rising flood levels in York, there is growing evidence that this has already begun.

“We could be very close to the 'end game' that experts have long warned about”

The resultant rise in sea levels would also be very problematic and hit low-lying coastal areas hard. Not to mention that a total summer-melt scenario would also spell the end for the Arctic ecosystem and the array of wildlife we have become familiar with through programs such as the BBC's Frozen Planet.

Anthropogenic, human-driven, global warming is widely be-

lieved to be the predominant cause for the increased melt and we could be very close to the 'end game' that experts have long warned about.

These latest figures from the Arctic really serve to reinforce the dire need for governments around the world to take swift, decisive and unified action to bring about a vast reduction in our emission of greenhouse gases. The need to kick our addiction to carbon fuels and invest heavily in cleaner energy sources is becoming an increasingly pressing issue.

However, it is difficult to conclude that the immediate future will hold much change. As more and more developing countries jostle to claim a slice of the global economic pie and we face an ever-increasing global population, fossil fuel consumption is increasing year-on-year.

While politicians argue and dither at climate change summits where nothing but unambitious token efforts are announced, Arctic ice vital for the stability of our planet is melting. All the while, the window of opportunity to prevent dangerous climate change seems to be passing us by.

Snake venom pain relief may beat morphine

James Cameron

The venom of the black mamba is one of the most deadly and fast acting in the world, rarely more than thirty agonising minutes after being bitten are you alive. You might then be surprised to learn then that this venom holds the key to a problem that has troubled medicine since its origins, how to manage pain effectively.

Once isolated, three of the component proteins of the black mamba's venom have proven to be a highly effective painkiller in tests on mice. The proteins, dubbed "Mambalgins" by the researchers, had an analgesic effect as strong as morphine.

But what makes these proteins special is that, unlike morphine, it does not cause any noticeable side-effects such as the headaches, muscle twitches, or nausea commonly associated with opiate painkillers. Nor do they lead to increased tolerance, which requires morphine to be administered in increasing dosages, or addiction which leads to damaging behaviour.

The human body when injured will produce a cocktail of chemicals that travels around the body. When these pain chemicals reach the brain, they tell the brain to create the sensation of pain. This then makes us aware of the injury and we react accordingly.

Cornerstones of this process are the acid-sensing ion channels, or ASICs, which let the brain detect the chemicals of the pain response by sensing an increase in the acidity of cells. Snake venoms have been known to either decrease or increase the acidity of cells, this will subsequently decrease or increase the pain felt by the victim. The isolated Mambalgins inhibit these channels and reduce the amount of pain that a bite victim feels.

The research, carried out at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology in France and published in Nature, opens up new possibilities into commercial painkillers, but also for obtaining a deeper understanding of the way in which our brains respond to and detect pain.

Initial tests with Mambalgins on human cells have been positive. However, it must be noted that this is very early research and much work remains to be done if we are to see it applied to humans. That said it is promising given the similarities in the ways in which mice and humans process pain.

Acoustics

Japanese inventors, Kazutaka Kurihara and Koji Tsukada, won this prize for their creation - the SpeechJammer.

This ingenious gadget is able to disrupt an individual's speech via the simple method of repeating each word that an individual is saying at a slight delay.

Ethical concerns regarding the potential for freedom of speech to be restricted via this method have already started cropping up.

A study by Anita Eerland, Rolf Zwaan and Tulio Guadalupe has found something curious.

Published in the journal 'Psychological Science', it found that you can make the Eiffel Tower appear slightly smaller simply by leaning to the left.

The knock-on implications about the fallibility of human estimation should be enough to get readers double-guessing their judgement.

Psychology



Chemistry

It seems that there was an odd sort of crisis occurring in certain houses in Anderslöv, Sweden recently. Residents of those houses were finding that their hair was turning green.

Enter Johan Pettersson, who revealed that the issue was due to the copper piping in the homes of the now green-haired Swedes. It seemed that the problem stemmed from improper interior coatings of the guilty piping.

Want to write for us?

Contact:

science@nouse.co.uk



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Sport



Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

Welcome to another year of sport at York. After a summer of sensational sport that has captivated the nation, we find ourselves in the rather more humble surroundings of the University of York.

It may not be the Olympic Stadium, or Centre Court, or Medinah Country Club, but our little corner of the sporting world has its own charm.

Over the past year I've watched and reported on more sports here than I care to remember, but one thing I can say for the benefit of any freshers reading this is that playing sport here is one of the best things you can do with your time at university.

Whether it's for one of the many university-level clubs or your college, the opportunities available here really do highlight the message that has been universally broadcast this summer – that sport is something that unites us all and is an overwhelming force for good.

“It may not be the Olympic Stadium, or Centre Court, or Medinah Country Club, but our little corner of the sporting world has its own charm.”

Those of you joining us this year may have to endure the perils of hiked tuition fees, but you do have the privilege of being the first year to enjoy the benefits of the shiny new Sports Village for the entirety of your stay here.

Or, if you're like me, you may prefer the more nostalgic feel of a muddy 22 Acres or windswept JLD astroturf – we cater for all tastes here!

And even if you don't fancy playing, I can say with some authority that going along to watch some sport and cheer on your mates is a thoroughly worthwhile use of your time – it may be a tad cold during the winter but it beats writing essays any day.

The University sport season starts next Wednesday afternoon with men's rugby, and will be in full flow in Week Two, with the big college sports following shortly after.

There has been endless discussion about how the Olympics and everything else that went on this summer will inspire us to take up sport and being here gives you the ideal opportunity.

We are by no means a leading university when it comes to sporting prowess, but there is that something special here that sometimes makes it feel like we are.

The college sport system is nothing short of brilliant, and once Roses and College Cup come around in Summer Term you will see just what sport means to the people here.

So get yourself out to some freshers trials and I look forward to seeing you out on the pitches.

Concern over Sports Centre price hike

Neil Johnston
SPORTS CORRESPONDANT

THERE IS concern among sports clubs over an increase in the cost of renting Sports Centre facilities.

While many members of sports clubs are happy with the new membership options available, there is some anger with the cost of renting facilities such as badminton or squash courts.

It is now only £15 a month to use the gym and court hire compared to last year when only platinum membership would provide this at a cost of £90 for 3 months, £260 for 9 months or £300 for a year.

However the prices for renting courts for both non-members and members has gone up. Rental of the sports hall has gone up from £18 to £25 and is now £40 for non-members. It is also more expensive for guests to play with members. It is now £2.50 to play on a court rented out by gym member whereas before it was free if the guest was a York Sport member.

Racket sport clubs are particu-



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

The cost of renting facilities such as badminton courts has risen this year

larly worried about the increases and are concerned that people who want to book racket courts will be put off by the high charge. They are worried that the price increases could put off new players at a time when there is a push to get people involved in trying new sports.

The Badminton and Squash Clubs negotiated a reduction in fees for club activities last week after discussions with the Sports Centre and Charlotte Winter, York Sport President.

Baillie Watterson, Badminton Team President, commented on the price changes: “I just want to start by saying the £15 a month for access to Sports Centre (gym and racket courts booking) is actually a very good deal, the same price over nine months as bronze membership last year, but with access to the sports centre gym.”

He added that there were now worries it could affect college badminton: “We had concerns from UYBC members including those

who run coaching sessions and college captains, many of whom used racket memberships last year to book college training, as some were unable to get financial support from their colleges for college training sessions, leaving them with the cost of booking weekly courts.

“With the guest fee or higher booking charge, this could decrease involvement in college badminton, just as we announce the exciting introduction of a new college singles league.

“Racket Sports account for a large proportion of the Sports Centre bookings, however with the increases in price and removal of free student parking outside, we worry many new students could be put off giving it a try.

“Sports Centre gym and racket membership is great value, if you happen to know others who also have it too. Otherwise, you could be left on your own practicing serving.”

The Sports Centre commented that the change to prices were “long-overdue” as they had not increased for number of years.

York Sport Village: In Pictures

Philippa Grafton takes a look around the new facilities at the York Sport Village on Heslington East



College sport teams ready to kick off the season

Will Light
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

WITH THE start of a new term, the sporting folk of York will breathe a huge sigh of relief as their summer of athletic abstinence comes to an end.

One of the most hotly anticipated events is the restart of the college leagues, which offer a chance to people of all abilities to play competitive sport without the stress of University-level matches.

Football is almost certainly the most prestigious college sport, and this year's competitions promise to be extremely competitive.

With three different colleges winning the Winter League, Spring League and the coveted College Cup (won by Derwent, James and Vanbrugh respectively last year), the margins between the sides in the firsts leagues are extremely narrow. Given a run of form, any side could potentially win the league.

Vanbrugh's tenacious Johnny Grout, midfield battler and new captain has told *Nouse* about his side's ambitions for the coming season.

"I think our aim has to be to build on our success from last year," he said.



2012 champions Vanbrugh celebrate their penalty shoot-out victory over rivals Halifax in the Summer Term's College Cup final on the JLD

"Winning the College Cup was a massive achievement for the side, and with a good intake of talent at trials we can kick on and hopefully make Vanbrugh the top college side."

Halifax are arguably still the team to beat though.

Despite a dry spell in terms of success and a heart-breaking penalty shootout loss in the College Cup, the amount of University players at their disposal means they remain a threat to any side they face.

James and Derwent, as the other two giants of the college football world, are also going to be worth watching as always.

You can always count on the remaining colleges to provide a few upsets at the season unfolds, and Langwith's progress as a sporting college should be observed with great interest this year.

Ever the underdogs in sporting competition, the increased number in students following the move to Hes East and its proximity to the new York Sport Village mean that Langwith has the potential to break into the upper echelons of the college sport hierarchy.

It is extremely difficult to pre-

dict a winner at this early stage in the season, as traditionally a lot depends on chancing upon a sizeable pool of talent in the Fresher's trials.

“College leagues offer a chance to people of all abilities to play competitive sport”

These take place over the following week, with league matches beginning on the weekend of Week Two.

College rugby, meanwhile, is undergoing a major transition, with matches being played on campus for the first time.

This move will hopefully drive an increase in interest, with certain colleges often struggling to field full teams.

Derwent are, by far, the side to beat, thrashing Alcuin 64-0 in the

College Final in an incredibly dominant display.

However, Alcuin will almost certainly rival Derwent, as will James.

The gap in quality between sides is much larger than in football, but it will certainly be interesting to see how sides such as Halifax, Goodricke and Vanbrugh are affected by the move to 22 acres.

Hockey enjoyed increased popularity with a successful introduction of a summer College Cup, with Halifax being the major force.

The final of this Cup was competed between the Halifax 1sts and 2nds sides, which indicates the strength in depth that this college wields.

There are 11 other college sports played competitively throughout the year: badminton, basketball, cricket, darts, netball, pool, rounders, squash, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and women's football.



Derwent in action during their dominant college rugby campaign

Campaign to start new Triathlon Club

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

ON THE back of the Olympic success of the Brownlee brothers, plans are in place to set up a new Triathlon Club at the University.

The proposals would allow members to be part of the Athletics, Swimming and Cycling Clubs, with the Triathlon Club essentially existing in name only.

Arrangements have been made with York Triathlon Club for coaching and loaning of equipment.

The club is expected to be formed in late November or early December once the members quota has been reached and elections have been held to form a committee. Rather than electing a full committee like other sports club, three representatives would be elected to sit on the Athletics, Swimming and Cycling committees.

Memberships are set to be priced at £40, including the prices



Olympic medallists Alastair and Johnny Brownlee in action during the London 2012 Triathlon

for Triathlon, Athletics, Swimming and Cycling.

Wingchung Liu, one of the prospective founders, said, "The club's main focus is to gather likeminded individuals who have always wanted to do a triathlon but not having the opportunity to do so together."

"Similarly, the club's aim is to promote physical activity and char-

acter building through training, discipline and commitment.

"Ultimately, the purpose of the club is to get individuals to participate in an official triathlon competition, such as BUCS or an international triathlon. Whilst all is serious in terms of training, there is also the social aspect to it with individuals both experienced and not

to share their thoughts and ideas through common ground.

"At the moment, we are expecting athletes from all kinds of athletic backgrounds such as triathletes, marathoners, swimmers, cyclists and so forth.

"They do not have to be anyone of these to join. Anyone who has the determination and eager-

ness are most welcome to join the club and skill level will be further established after the club has been set up."

Students interested in joining are encouraged to sign up to the Athletics, Swimming and Cycling clubs at Freshers' Fair.

Training times will be Tuesday 7-8pm (swimming), Wednesday 2pm (cycling) and Thursday 5.30pm (running).

Members will have a choice to attend optional training session during the weekend.

Liu added, "The hopes of the coming year for this club, is to get it established, funded by YUSU, participate in its first ever triathlon meet together as a club, get new equipment and finally getting people together and having the time of their lives. After all an individual will have to be somewhat crazy to even think of attempting one."

For more information email wl592@york.ac.uk.

Sport

York clubs have high hopes

Nouse talks to some of the University's top teams before the new campaign

AGATHA TORRANCE



Badminton

The Badminton Club harbour serious hopes of success for all of their sides this season. They will be worth watching in Week 2, when the fixtures see their five sides at home in what will be some tight fixtures – including the men's first team against Varsity rivals Hull.

Baillie Watterson - Team President

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"Badminton club are hoping to provide basic weekly coaching sessions for club members to help development once the term is underway. The team have high hopes this year and are realistically targeting promotion for four of our BUCS teams and successful BUCS cup campaigns."

Why should people get involved with badminton?

"£20 for three club sessions a week, memorable socials (as well as two formal meals, our annual club holiday and our charity overnight badminton event) and the chance to be a part of one of the largest and friendliest sports clubs on campus."

How can you get involved?

UYBC Team trials are Sunday 14th October in the Sports Hall - women from 9am and men from 10am (split by surname).

Men's Rugby

One of the University's highest quality sides, the men's rugby team ply their trade in one of the top BUCS leagues and have a sensational record at Roses, where whitewashing their Lancaster opposition is fast becoming the norm.

Sam Lord and James Faktor - current and former club captains

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"Following on from last year, the aim for the first team this year is to secure promotion to the Premiership B. The performances last year were strong in places, but lacked consistency and an ability to close out tight games which is key to winning the league"

Why should people get involved with UYRUF?

"The club's best trait is its ability to balance a friendly and vibrant social life with a dedicated and professional attitude that sets up its teams for successful seasons filled with exciting and enjoyable rugby. The club welcomes new players of any ability who want to be a part of potentially the most exciting year in the club's recent history."

How can you get involved?

Freshers trials will be on Sunday 14 October on 22 Acres. Contact president@uyruffc.co.uk or captain@uyruffc.co.uk

Rowing

2012/13 is set to be the most exciting ever in the history of the Boat Club. A sensational campaign last time around saw the men's VIII pre-qualify for the Henley Royal Regatta.

Ed Scobie - Club President

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"Both the Mens and Womens captains have been working hard all summer to put together a detailed and thorough training plan in order for all squads to achieve

Futsal

Futsal is a sport in which the University of York truly excels. This season marks a return to the top flight and the club will be keen to uphold its impressive reputation.

Dom Hallas - Club President

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"Building on the success of last season, the first team is definitely aiming to win the premier league title and also to once more qualify for the national finals at the end of the season, hopeful of a top

four finish at this competition."

Why should people join the club?

Futsal is a rapidly developing branch of football focused on close control and intricate skills - a great opportunity for football lovers to try something new. Joining the futsal club gets you access to a very high level of coaching and the chance to play in the top BUCS league in the country.

How can you get involved?

Trials will be 3-5pm on Sunday 14th and 8-10pm on Monday 15th in the Sports Tent.

their full potential. We are hoping that with the recent success of GB Rowing at the 2012 Olympics, winning a total of nine medals, we will have a record intake of keen rowers."

Why should people get involved?

"Rowing is unlike any other sport, in that it requires immense discipline from each individual member of a crew, for the collective of the boat to succeed. We are a growing and rapidly developing club, with links to national talent selection officials. The beauty of

rowing is that not many people have done it before joining university, and we cater for all abilities, and being a complete novice is in no way a disadvantage."

How can you get involved?

We are at the Freshers Fair in the sports tent. First introductory meeting is at 7pm in V/045 on Monday 15th October. An open afternoon is being held from 1pm-5pm on Wednesday 17th October at the Boat House (details of how to find it on the website uybc.org.uk).

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Other freshers trials include: **Lacrosse** -Week Two - Monday 3pm, Wednesday 11am, Friday 3pm, Saturday 11am on 22 Acres; **Netball**: 14th October, 2-5pm in the Sports Tent. **Volleyball** - 14th October, Ladies 5- 6.30pm, Men 6.30- 8pm in the Sports Tent; **Women's Football** - 14th October, 2pm on 22 Acres. All sports clubs can be found at Freshers' Fair, Saturday Week One from 9am.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Week One - Wednesday 10th October:

Rugby: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Manchester Met 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Northumbria 2nds vs York 2nds.

Week Two - Wednesday 17th October:

Badminton: (H) York Men's 1st

vs University of Hull 1st - 1pm, Sports Centre; York Men's 2nds vs York Men's 3rds - 4pm, Sports Centre; York Women's 1sts vs Northumbria 2nds - 4pm, Sports Centre; York Women's 2nds vs Sunderland 1sts - 1pm, Sports Centre.

Basketball: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Sunderland 2nds - 3pm,

Sports Tent; York Women's 1sts vs Northumbria 2nds - 1pm, Sports Tent.

Fencing: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Liverpool 1sts - 1pm, Sports Centre; (A) Hull Men's 1sts vs York 2nds.

Football: York Men's 1sts vs Durham 2nds - 2pm, Sport Village 3G; York Men's 3rds vs York St

John 3rds - 2pm, 22 Acres; York Women's 1sts vs Leeds Trinity 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Tees-side Men's 2nds vs York 2nds; Huddersfield Men's 2nds vs York 4ths.

Golf: (A) Durham Mixed 2nds vs York 1sts.

Hockey: (A) Northumbria Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Newcastle

Men's 4ths vs York 2nds; Leeds Men's 6ths vs York 3rds; Durham Women's 3rds vs York 1sts; Northumbria Women's 3rds vs York 2nds.

Lacrosse: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds 2nds - 1pm, 22 Acres; York Women's 1sts vs Hull 1sts - 3pm, 22 Acres; York Women's 2nds vs Durham 3rds - 3.30pm, 22

for the new season ahead

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Men's Football

After UYAFC's first team were relegated last year, hopes are high for a successful campaign this time around. Despite their troubling league form in 2011/12 though, they showed their quality with a superb run in the BUCS Cup.

Tom Day - Club President

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"This year there is a great sense of optimism surrounding UYAFC. With the recent addition and utilisation of the York Sport Village and 3G pitch, the club is in a bet-

ter position than ever to produce a successful campaign."

Why should people get involved with UYAFC?

"UYAFC is the biggest club on campus with four teams competing in BUCS and cup competitions - we are here to win football matches. The club also boasts a strong social calendar with regular events as a club."

How can you get involved?

Trials: 8th October - 12th October, meet 13:45 at Sports Centre. £1 a day, £3 for the week.



The York Sport Committee

The York Sport Committee functions to make sure every sports man and woman gets the most out of their experience at York.

They are responsible for the running of sport at York at both the college and university level.

In the BUCS league York has 59 clubs competing every Wednesday against other universities.

The committee is headed by Charlotte Winter, York Sport President who oversees the committee and York Sport, making sure everything runs as it should.

Her committee consists of nine other members with each person being elected last term.

Megan Phillips and Amy Ballard, College Sport Officers, work with each college's sports reps to oversee the vast college sport system, including the new women's football, rugby and men's thirds football leagues. Also look out for the one-day tournaments like rowing which is new this year, and swimming in the new sports village.

Amy Moll, the Volunteering and Community Officer has the job of promoting and organising sport and volunteering within the University and the wider community.

Treasurer Chris Menon is in charge of issuing funding to every sports club at York, whilst addressing any financial issues that a club may have.

Lydia Labram, George Richards and Kirushantham Sivagananam are this year's Tournament Secretaries, working behind the scenes to ensure Varsity and Roses run as smoothly and successfully as possible.

Charlotte Ferris, Events Officer spearheads efforts to organise events such as the annual York Sport Dinner, and Sally Dolton, the Communications Officer is in charge of spreading the word of York Sport through the University,

Hockey

Both ladies' teams will be looking to build on superb 2011/12 campaigns that saw them both win promotion, while the three men's teams also have high hopes this year. The Hockey Club is also pioneering a new reduced membership scheme to help students receiving financial support.

Mylo Scurr - Club President

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"Following the tremendous success enjoyed by both ladies' teams last year they will face new challenges against tougher opponents,

and we are looking for them to consolidate their new positions. All three men's teams are gunning for promotion. Perhaps most of all, with York welcoming Lancaster to the JLD for the showdown of our season, UYHC will be aiming for a home whitewash.

Why should people get involved?

"Everyone in the club is so friendly, our weekly socials are very well attended, and all members receive 'Club and Society' cards from Vodka Revs, which provide great drinks deals all week round, as well as Mansion wristbands that guarantee Q-jump and free entry

on Wednesday evenings. With our new reduced membership and match fees scheme being introduced this year, we are helping remove barriers to competitive sport in a way no other club at York is."

How can you get involved?

Freshers' trials are being held on Sunday 14th October - Ladies 1.30-3.30pm Men 3.00-5.00pm, and Tuesday 16th - Men 1.30-3.30pm Ladies 3.00-5.00pm, both at the JLD astro. For more information, freshers should visit www.uyhc.co.uk or contact hockey@yusu.org.



American Football

This is a landmark year for the York Centurions American football team, as they compete in BUCS competition for the first time in their short history. A highly successful campaign last year saw them win at Roses for the first time.

Jack Roberts - Press and Publicity Officer

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"This season the York Centurions are playing for the first time as a part of BUCS and hope to improve on their 5-3 record last season. With a strong squad of 2nd and 3rd years we are look-

ing for incoming rookies to be the final pieces as we aim for playoff football."

Why should people get involved with the Centurions?

"Joining the centurions will give you a chance to be involved in a competitive team sport that is growing in popularity in Britain. It's not all work however, as the Centurions have weekly socials usually joining up with other York sport teams."

How can you get involved?

"Freshers tryouts are on Sunday Week One and we will meet at the Sports Centre, but come and find us at YUSU Freshers Fair for more details."

Women's Rugby

YorkSport's Club of the Year for 2011/12, UYWRUFC are fast improving as a side, securing a brilliant promotion in their BUCS league with a hugely impressive campaign.

Claire Hogarth and Lucy Davies - Club President and Captain

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?

"In order to compete at a higher level this year we have to up our game and that responsibility rests on every individual member as well as the club as a whole. We all strive to be the best we can be and relish this challenge as a chance to prove ourselves.

"This year we are welcoming a new coach to our ranks and we have every hope that he will do great things for the team."

Why should people get involved with UYWRUFC?

"Women's Rugby is a very inclusive, friendly group and through relying so much on each other on the pitch and working closely together, we have become a tight-knit group. I have made some of my best friends at University through the team and they have genuinely made my time here at York unforgettable.

"We welcome experienced players as well as those who have never touched a rugby ball before in their lives and this creates a brilliant team dynamic. We have a thriving social side as well; work hard and play hard!"

How can you get involved?

Freshers trials are on Sunday 14th October on 22 Acres at 12 noon.

Acres.
Netball: (H) York 2nds vs Leeds 4ths - 3pm, Sports Tent; York 3rds vs Bradford 1sts - 1pm, Sports Tent.
Rugby: (A) Bishop Burton Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Northumbria Men's 2nds vs York

2nds; Durham Men's 4ths vs York 3rds.
Squash: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Newcastle 2nds - 2pm, Squash Courts; York Men's 2nds vs Bradford 2nds - 1pm, Squash Courts; York Women's 1sts vs Leeds 3rds - 3pm, Squash

Courts.
Table Tennis: (A) Durham Men's 1sts vs York 1sts.
Tennis: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Sheffield Hallam 2nds - 4pm, Tennis Courts; York Men's 2nds vs Teesside 1sts - 12pm, Tennis Courts;

(A) Sunderland Men's 2nds vs York 3rds.
Volleyball: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Huddersfield 1sts - 3pm, Sports Tent; York Women's 1sts vs Sheffield Hallam 1sts - 1pm, Sports Tent; (A) Sheffield Hallam Men's 2nds vs York 2nds.

NOUSE SPORT

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Season Preview

We talk to some of the University's biggest clubs ahead of the new season

SPORT >> Pages 30-31

York Sport Village

Philippa Grafton tours the new sports facilities on Heslington East

SPORT >> Page 28



Autumn Term Week One
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SPORT

Pre-season camp proves a big success

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

THE FIRST ever pre-season training camp at the University of York proved to be a huge success last week.

Originally expecting around 100 participants, there were ultimately over 200 student athletes taking part in a week of classes and talks designed to improve fitness ahead of the new BUCS season.

Activities such as zumba, kick-boxing and spin classes provided clubs with the opportunity to work together with new and returning members, as well as utilising the new facilities at the York Sport Village on the Heslington East campus that opened in August.

These activities were also interspersed with specific sessions for each club, allowing them to work on their own tactics and skills programmes and compete in pre-season matches.

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, commented, "I'm so happy with how pre-season has gone.

"All the clubs and athletes have really got involved with everything; from the fitness sessions to the talks which have been put on."

One of the centrepieces of the week was the campaign to get York into the top 40 of the BUCS rankings.

York finished 43rd last year, which is roughly the same position as they have secured every year in recent history, but they have not finished inside the top 40 since 2006.

Often cited as a reason why York's teams sometimes struggle early on in the season, is that the late start to the Autumn term compared to other universities leaves clubs with little time to prepare and integrate new faces into their side before the start of the BUCS season.

Whereas most universities

start in late September and have three or four weeks of preparation before the start of competitive action, York sides are often left with little over a week to prepare for the first round of BUCS fixtures in mid-October.

The hope is that the pre-season camp will have provided clubs with the head start they are often missing going into the season.

Winter added, "I think the camp has been great at not only helping our athletes skills and fitness improve but it feels like everyone is really approaching this season determined to get York into the top 40 of the BUCS league."

Highlights of the week included a session for the Netball Club with Tracey Neville, former England international, on Tuesday, and two talks on Thursday night.

Malcolm Brown, coach of Olympic triathlon medallists Johnny and Alastair Brownlee gave a talk on the value of good coaching, and Ali Rose, physio to Jessica Ennis, Olympic heptathlon champion, talked to students about injury prevention and management, as well as synergies between elite and university-level sport.

The University Boat Club also enjoyed a fruitful week, despite being confined to land training because of the high river levels on the Ouse, as they worked with Ray Ward, one of the club's founding members.

"Working with Ray Ward this week has been great," said Ed Scobie, Boat Club President.

"After his huge input to the Men's squad last year, it is great to have him back working with both the Men's and Women's squads.

"Unfortunately, due to the recent flooding the river level is still too high for us to get out on the water, so we have been limited to land training.

"However, Ray's expertise and knowledge has meant we have been spending our time constructively."



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