

# NOUSE



## FRESHERS' SPECIAL

Special extended edition of Muse featuring exclusive interviews and a complete guide to your start at York

CHRISTINE HAMILTON  
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JURASSIC 5

# Student attacked by gunman

By Heidi Blake  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A UNIVERSITY of York student recently fought back after an armed robber attempted to mug him at gunpoint on Heslington Road.

The third year science student knocked the would-be robber to the floor and wrestled the gun from him while repeatedly punching him in the face, before escaping with the firearm.

The attempted mugging took place on Thursday September 20 at 2.40 a.m., when the student was walking home from The Gallery nightclub.

Speaking of the attack, he said, "The bit where I noticed something was up was on Heslington Road near the Spar. There was a man



Crime scene: Heslington Road

walking up ahead, and he had been walking normally, but then he put on this exaggerated drunken walk. I was a bit drunk, but not so drunk I didn't know what was going on, so

I crossed the road. Then he crossed over and asked me what time it was in a slurring voice, and I told him, and then he pulled out a gun and said 'now give your wallet'. Then there was a big scrap where I grabbed his gun and we were fighting in the street.

"He was holding the gun about six inches from my chest, and he asked for my wallet but I didn't want to give him it. It sounds stupid, but when someone's holding a gun that close to you, it's just instinct to push it away.

"He bit into my chest [and] drew blood, but I managed to pull him off and just kept hitting him in the face. I did eventually get his gun off him when he was on the floor, and then he called for someone and I thought, if he's got a gang, I'm not

taking them on, so I just ran with his gun.

Recalling his condition on arriving home, the student said: "I was covered in blood - my hands had blood on them, and my shirt. There was a lot of blood, not just from the bite, but my hands were bleeding too."

The student was taken to hospital by a friend later that morning, where he was given a tetanus jab and put on a course of antibiotics to avert infection from the bite. He contacted the police, who are conducting DNA tests on blood found on the student's clothing in an attempt to identify the attacker.

Police have appealed for help in catching the gunman, who they say may have sustained facial injuries during the fight. Detective

Constable Craig Wilson of York CID said: "We would ask that if any member of the public has any information about any person with a recent facial injury that may be as the result of an assault, to contact police."

The police have since recovered the weapon, and have confirmed that it was an airgun, despite having every appearance of a handgun.

This is the third attack on a University of York student in the last month. Albi Furlan, a second year student, was the victim of a random assault by four young men in Tang Hall on Sunday September 24, while a second year nurse who wishes to remain anonymous was attacked by two men on Bishopthorpe Road last week.

## Freshers arrive to massive facility cuts - full story pages 4 & 5



Photo: Georgie Mabee

# Pentagon funds University research into arms trade

**By Jamie Merrill**  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY'S Computer Science Department has been awarded a controversial research grant of up to \$2.6 million by the American and British militaries.

Amidst fierce criticism from student groups, the department will participate in a ten-year programme involving 25 companies in America and Britain, with a total budget of \$135 million..

Researchers at York, led by Professor John McDermid, have received funding to co-ordinate work in the UK and the US on security systems.

The department will examine new approaches to computer security and explore advanced technology for secure wireless and sensor networks to support future coalition operations.

Professor McDermid said "the programme will draw skills from both sides of the Atlantic to make a

difference in the way defence systems are designed, implemented and operated".

Elinor Rooks, a member of the No Share in Killing Campaign, which has pressurised the University to commit to an ethical investment policy, said "the duplicity of the university's position is shocking: with the right hand it forms an ethical investment working group; while with the left hand it substantially increases ties with the arms industry and the UK and US militaries."

Student Union President, Rich Croker has taken a more moderate stance: "If the investment and circumstances of the research are in contravention of SU policy we will take appropriate action.

"However, the research could enhance the communications and security networks for Britain and our forces abroad".

Professor McDermid denied the research was unethical. On his behalf



Students protest against York's investment in arms. Photo: David Martin

David Garner, the University Press Officer said "The research is concerned with increasing security and safety of the Armed Forces, often operating as peacekeepers, in conflict zones -- and those who may be affected by their actions.

"Regardless of one's views on UK and US for-

ign policy, it is ethically justified to explore ways of improving safety and security".

The University has faced criticism before over unethical practises.

People and Planet, Amnesty, Freesoc and Student Action for Palestine staged a "die-in" and collected over 1000

signatures last term to protest at the University holding over 100,000 shares in the controversial arms company BAE systems.

The protest led to the creation of a University working group of students and staff to work towards gaining an ethical investment policy.

## Ex-student's artwork stolen over summer from Wentworth

A POST-GRADUATE has had works of art valued at £600 stolen whilst on display in Wentworth College.

Police are investigating the theft of the oil paintings by Jonathan Bray, which were on loan from a private collector based in Hertfordshire. They formed part of an exhibition of modern artists taking place in the college.

The paintings were reported stolen at 3:15pm on 14 July 2006 and it is believed they were taken at some point between 29 June and 14 July.

A University spokesperson has reported this kind of theft as "unusual" although he claims that because of the nature of the University as an open campus it can happen "from time to time". Both the University and the police have asked that anyone with any information in relation to the theft please come forward.

It is currently unknown whether the paintings were taken by a student or a member of the public.

## Nouse award success

For the second time in two years and in its 40 year history, *Nouse* has been nominated for the Student Newspaper of the Year in the Guardian Student Media Awards 2006.

It has also, for the first time in its history, been nominated for Best Designed Student Publication. Last year, *Nouse* came runner-up to Gair Rhydd, Cardiff's student newspaper, in the best newspaper category and was named NUS/Daily Mirror Student Newspaper of the Year 2005 for the first time.

## Ziggy's becomes first of several strip clubs

**By Heidi Blake**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ZIGGY'S NIGHTCLUB has undergone a £65,000 transformation to become York's first strip club since the early 1970s. Since Ziggy's opened for exotic dancing this September, seven other businesses have inquired about opening lap-dancing venues in York.

The popular student venue will continue to oper-

ate as a normal club mid-week, with exotic dancing taking place on Friday and Saturday nights. Up to ten strippers will be in performance on any such evening, each of whom will carry out two exotic dances on stage. Customers will be able to buy a bottle of champagne and have a 'private party' with a stripper for half-an-hour, and private lap-dances will be performed in booths for an additional fee.



The new face of Ziggy's

Clifton ward councillor Ken King, a member of the licensing act committee, said: "I don't have a problem in principle with these establishments, although I do sometimes feel sorry for those people who feel they need to go to them."

Of the seven further businesses seeking to open similar venues in York, King said "I wouldn't want to see York being saturated with these types of establish-

ments. Seven would be too many. That would seem a lot for a place the size of York."

A City of York Council spokesperson said recently that "whilst there is no legal basis to prohibit this on moral grounds, we can put as many measures in place as possible to limit the impact on the general public and to protect performers."

To this end, the Council has made licensing for strip venues contingent on a vari-

ety of factors. No exotic dancing will take place before 9pm, or on Sundays, and no nude photographs or images can be displayed outside the premises. No-one under the age of 21 will be permitted to enter to premises while exotic dancing is taking place, except the dancers themselves who must be over 18, and all dancers must be provided with secure dressing rooms away from public areas.

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Your essential supplement, *Muse*, has exclusive interviews with Jurassic 5 and Christine Hamilton as well as special section on becoming a fresher

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# York graduates' terror in Beirut

By Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

SEVERAL GRADUATES from the University of York found themselves trapped in Lebanon during the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict over the summer.

Three students; Christine Hamieh, Rachael Marsh and Aseel Takshe, were situated in different parts of Lebanon when the militant group Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and killed three others in July 2006, provoking a 34-day military offensive and blockade on Lebanon by the Israeli government.

The conflict, known as the 'July War' in Lebanon, ended after a ceasefire negotiated by the United Nations came into effect on 14 August.

Christine Hamieh, who recently completed her PhD in Lebanese Politics at York, hadn't planned on visiting her family in Lebanon but was forced to return to her home country the day before the war began, after her father became sick.

When bombs began to fall on her family's home village of Karak, she, along with around fifty of her relatives, fled to the Syrian border.

She said, "They were the worst moments of my life. I have never felt that scared before. Normally, the road [out of Lebanon] takes twenty minutes but it took us nearly two hours. We took all

kinds of alternative routes because the main road was destroyed."

Rachael Marsh from the UK was staying with the family of Aseel Takshe who was celebrating her engagement, in the city of Dohhe



**Christine Hamieh**

Aramoun when the conflict began.

After arriving back in England she told *Nouse* of her experience: "I was scared the first night of the bombs because we didn't know what was happening. I decided to stay [in Lebanon] because I didn't want to leave behind a family that had welcomed me so generously".

She admitted that while the attacks continued her family in England probably suffered more than her, as she knew exactly what was happening while all they saw were highlights on the television.

Of this, she said: "My mum was terrified and was very glad to get me home at the end."

Aseel Takshe, current Welfare Officer for the York GSA (Graduate Students'

Association) spoke of her anger at the way she and her fellow Lebanese were treated during the war.

"We were frustrated more than scared for ourselves, but scared for the well-being of others, especially my family in Sour," in south-west Lebanon.

"They said that the main reason for the war was to get back the two soldiers...for the sake of those two soldiers over 1,000 Lebanese were killed. Are we that cheap? They have created a whole new generation of Hezbollah."

Since the ceasefire was declared, Rachael and Aseel have returned to the UK to complete their respective PhDs, while Christine has returned to Lebanon to assist with the aid effort as a volunteer for Oxfam.

Speaking on a recent visit to York, Christine she expressed her disappointment at the reaction of the West to the conflict: "We believed that the strength of Lebanon lay in the weakness of the army because as long as we had good connections with the West they would not allow anyone to violate our land, but [the war] proved that wrong."

"It was very obvious that there was a disproportionate reaction...people are very resentful.

**Read more of Christine Hamieh and Rachael Marsh's experiences in Lebanon P10**



Damage sustained by a building during bombing in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon

## Beirut struggling to rebuild after 'July War'

By Adam Sloan  
and Claire Yeo  
POLITICS EDITORS

TWO MONTHS after the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas in Southern Lebanon came to an end, the situation on the ground is far from stable.

The conflict in some ways seems only to have enabled Hezbollah to strengthen their hold on much of the population of Southern Lebanon, while Israel has come under criticism from both internal and external bodies about its conduct during the war.

In Lebanon itself there

is much reconstruction to be done.

Unexploded cluster bombs have been discovered in close to 750 separate locations in the South, which will prevent more than 200,000 displaced people returning to their homes.

Cluster bombs are still legal to use when directed against military targets. Israel has claimed that Hezbollah militants have been hiding out in civilian areas, which has made it ever more difficult to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate targeting. Their use, however, has been criticised jointly by Amnesty

International, the United Nations and Human Rights Watch.

The United Nations predicts that it may take up to two years to fully sweep the area for unexploded ordinances. Bombs can be found on rooftops, mixed in with rubble and litter, across fields, roads and driveways. Over a hundred people have so far been wounded by these unexploded devices.

Politically the situation also remains volatile. The leadership of Hezbollah have rejected calls by the UN to disarm, and there is still a very significant de facto Hezbollah presence in the



A bombed Beirut port

south. Lebanese troops have now been able to move into the region though, supported by a UN peacekeeping force numbering around 6,000.

'Children flying brightly coloured kites adorn some of the few walls that are still standing'

**Politics P10**

There are many who also worry that the destabilisation of the Lebanese government during war could result in the return of the only recently departed Syrian forces back into the country. Syria has been accused by the United States of financing and backing Hezbollah.

For years prior to the conflict, Hezbollah acted almost as a "state within a state" in Southern Lebanon, setting up schools and providing services for the local population. Many argue that it has been the failure of the Lebanese government in allowing this kind of situation to continue that allowed Hezbollah to become so powerful.

Israel and the United States both view Hezbollah as a terrorist group. The position of the UK is a little cloudier, recognising the militant wing as a terrorist organisation, but not its political side.

# Porters' Union prepares to take action against University managers

By Heidi Blake  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A LEGAL CHALLENGE to the University over proposed changes to portering contracts is being drawn up by lawyers acting for the public services union, Unison, following a prolonged dispute between porters and University managers.

Unison argues that the proposed changes to contracts, which would require porters to move around between colleges and include alterations to shift patterns and working hours, constitute unfair dismissal, inasmuch as they effectively dismiss porters from a previous contact and re-engage them on different terms.

According to University porters, the most contentious proposed change is the 'flexibility' clause which will require staff to work between different colleges, rather than being allocated permanently to one in particular.

One University porter said on Friday: "Flexibility is alright in its place, but bang goes customer care. In this college here, I treat the students like my sons and daughters. I care for them. If they've got a problem, they come and speak to us, and we try and sort it for them."

"If you've got somebody here who doesn't know the college and doesn't know the students, you've got no customer care. If the students see people they don't know, they're not going to trust them to come and talk to



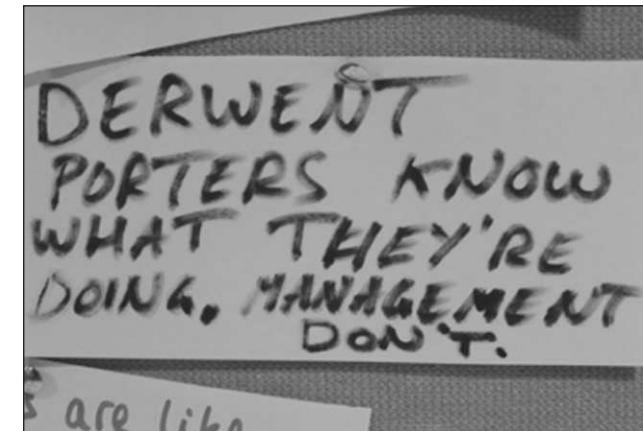
**Students support their porters with notes of appreciation. Photo: Ally Carmichael**

them."

Another porter raised concerns about the security implications of 'flexibility', saying: "I think the only

time that someone will actually sit up and take notice is if there's an accident. If I'm in a strange college that I don't know, and a fire breaks

out somewhere and I need to get to it, I'll be thinking where the hell is that location? And there's some poor student burning to death



because I can't get there.

"Or if somebody has a heart attack in their room, and you don't know where that room is, you're not going to get there in time. We're all first aiders, and if something like that goes wrong here, we can be in any room of this college within two or three minutes because we know where they all are. This is our college, and it should stay our college, but it's not going to."

Unison Regional Officer Phil Booth said "staff feel they are being threatened into signing away their legal rights to protection against significant changes to their hours of working." Unison is currently balloting its members on the issue, and plans to take their case to an employment tribunal.

The changes are being introduced in accordance with the Framework Agreement, a new grading and pay structure introduced at the University in August, in accordance with the Higher Education Roles Analysis, which are not part of HERA or the Framework Agreement. It would appear to be a cost-cutting measure.

nised role evaluation methodology designed to ensure "equal pay for work of equal value."

A University spokesman said on Friday "We have given statutory notice of the contract changes and they are being introduced in accordance with legal requirements.

"The Framework Agreement will result in reduced hours, increased holidays and improved sick pay for staff. But with that modernisation of pay and conditions, we need to modernise working arrangements and the Framework Agreement has always encompassed these two complementary factors.

However, Phil Booth said of this: "What the University have done, which we believe they shouldn't have, is to bolt on unfair employment changes to the Higher Education Roles Analysis, which are not part of HERA or the Framework Agreement. It would appear to be a cost-cutting measure."

council".

York St John University has also experienced similar complaints regarding the student housing on Navigation road.

In fact, York as a city makes substantial gains from the presence of students. A recent study shows that the entire student population will be contributing approximately £74 million to the city's economy in the coming year, forming a large part of the local economy. Of this, £25.5 million comes from housing rents paid by students living in the private sector.

# Badger Hill residents lash out at students

By Charlotta Salmi  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A PETITION BY the Badger Hill Action Group (BHAG) sent to 565 home owners was returned with over 500 signatures protesting against the letting out of family homes as student accommodation in an estate situated nearby campus.

In the petition, handed to the York Council planning head, Mike Slater, the BHAG demand that the Council use its planning powers to limit the amount of houses let privately estate.

One Badger Hill resi-



**Rich Croker spoke out on behalf of students**

dent, Paul Hobman, claimed that up to 1 in 5 houses on his road are student homes.

This, Hobman says, "is changing the whole make-up of the area".

The second concern addressed by the petition was the negative effects on local shops and primary schools of fewer families living in the area. One reader of *The York Press* feared that "with laughing and shouting in the early hours, unkempt gardens, and washing left hanging to dry in windows" the estate is turning into "a ghetto".

Student Union President, Rich Croker said that "the University is incredibly small and stu-

dents are well spread around the city."

Badger Hill residents were unimpressed; one reader describing Croker's remark as "nothing short of a joke".

Malcolm Dewhurst, organizer of the BHAG petition, expressed fears that "if the University is allowed to expand, it will get even worse". Plans for the Heslington East campus expansion would bring a further 5,400 students to York.

Grace Fletcher-Hall, SU Policy and Campaigns Officer noted the problem of many anti Heslington-East

campaigners promoting "the idea that students are this rowdy, anti-social rabble" to further their own agendas.

As part of their campaign, the Badger Hill Action Group is also urging residents all over York to take action through legal channels to protest against student housing.

Dewhurst commented: "Anyone with access to the internet can view planning applications online. If any residents detect applications which seem to be for student accommodation, they should tell their neighbours and object to the

# Self-catering facilities cut

By Jamie Merrill  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY has substantially removed or reduced accommodation cooking facilities across campus in response to new government fire and safety regulations.

Around 400 students in Derwent, Goodricke, Langwith and Vanbrugh colleges have been affected by the new Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. The order came into force on October 1 2006 and has seen cookers and electrical appliances removed from college kitchens.

The new regulation stipulates that fire risks such as cookers, baby bittings and certain appliances cannot be situated on escape routes.

Kitchens in the affected blocks have had these appliances removed, leaving only microwaves, toasters, water boilers and fridge freezers. Plug sockets have also been hardwired to stop students using other appliances.

Derwent and Vanbrugh colleges have been worst affected, with 227 and 90 students respectively losing catering facilities, whilst around 80 students have been affected in Goodricke and Langwith.

The Derwent College Chair, Dave Jones, has criticised the University for its late action saying "it's another incident when the university have left it till the last minute... it wouldn't have been a problem if the

## Alcuin kitchen (top)

1 microwave	3 bins
1 oven	2 fridge-freezers
8 gas hobs	2 sinks
12 chairs	A bay window
A large table	
14 cupboards	
3 drawers	

For use by twelve students

## Derwent kitchen (bottom)

6 chairs	1 toaster
4 fridge-freezers	1 hot water boiler
20 small lockers	
2 microwaves	
1 sink	

For use by twenty students

University hadn't cut corners in the past."

The University has defended the changes as essential. Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, said the University has a program of upgrading older campus accommodation as it has done in Langwith, but said "we can't refurbish all the blocks at the same time as the cost would be around £11 million."

Rich Croker, the Students' Union President, acknowledged that the safety changes were essential and welcomed the refurbishments, but said "it's something that should be happening anyway."

Commercial Services have introduced a new discounted pre-paid catering scheme called Meals in Advance Deal (MAD). Jon Greenwood, said "the scheme is being introduced

Photos  
by Ally  
Carmichael

to offer an alternative option to students with reduced cooking facilities as well as to offer unaffected students a discount if they pay upfront."

The MAD scheme, which cost £20,000 to introduce, initially offers two catering packages including breakfast and dinner 5 days a week for £350 a term, and 7 days a week for £475 a term.

Croker condemned the University for not consulting the SU on the plan, whilst Jones, Derwent Chair, questioned its price saying "some students won't be able to pay, they're the ones getting really ripped off".

A new price scheme has now been negotiated by the SU to come into effect in Week Three.



## Freshers angry at facility cuts

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

had to deal with angry parents and compensate freshers with free meal vouchers as students arrived on campus over the weekend.

Students in Goodricke, Langwith and Vanbrugh Colleges arrived to find refurbishment work incomplete and substantially reduced cooking facilities.

A Vanbrugh College official had incorrectly informed students they would be in catered accommodation complete with ovens. However new fire and safety regulations mean all appliances considered fire

risks have been removed.

Mrs James, whose son is due to commence his studies at the University this week, said "I'm outraged and annoyed. We're going to put in a request to move to alternative accommodation. My daughter is at Nottingham and this would never have happened."

At Goodricke College around 100 students were told that refurbishment work in A block carried out over the summer had not been completed and no kitchen facilities were available.

Students in Langwith A block also arrived to find

they had no refrigerators.

Dr Jane Clarbour, Goodricke's Provost, said "the University's response to this has been quite late." Students have been offered three meal vouchers a day and bottled water until the kitchens are ready. However one contractor said the work would take longer than two weeks as "there is too much to do".

Sue Johnston, Head of Campus Services, said of the difficulties "there have only been one or two problems and the [JCRs] and colleges have worked really hard successfully to resolve them."

# NUS launch offensive on top-up fees

By Sara Sayeed  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS ARE set to converge on London on October 29 to combat the introduction of variable tuition fees.

The demonstration is the zenith of the National Union of Students "Admission: Impossible" campaign. Starting at 12pm, student activists and supporters will commence on a march through London, culminating in a rally at Trafalgar Square. Two co-convenors of the campaign, Gemma Tumelty and Wes Streeting, have already been touring the country's universities this month in a bid to

gain support.

The implementation of the new top-up fees was brought in this year under the Higher Education Act 2004. The Act has introduced "variable" fees, which allow universities to charge full-time undergraduates up to £3,000 per annum. However, it has again been plunged into controversy after Parliament's suggestion to lift the maximum fee cap. Universities will consequently be able to demand fees as high or low as they choose.

The NUS alleges that some universities will attempt to raise fees as high as £10,000 per undergraduate per year. With the aver-

age 2006 graduate already leaving University with in £13,252 of debt, the introduction of higher fees could inflate post-graduation debt to £44,000 by 2023.

The NUS is concerned that top-up fees will supplant an ethos of learning with that of fiscal savvy, as regards higher education. The "Admission: Impossible" website states, "We believe education should be free for all...that education is a right not a commodity". There are also concerns that the system of Higher Education will be assimilated into the consumer market, as applying to university becomes increasingly determined by the best



NUS top-up fees demo

"fee deal".

Critics are saying that universities are competing for students on monetary rather than academic terms,

and have pointed to as demonstrated by Leeds Metropolitan University's decision to opt for the lower fee variable of £2,000. As a result, their applications have increased by 8.3%. Conversely, the 2006 applications to University in general, decreased by 3.5% and a recent "Admission: Impossible" survey showed that 27% of high-achieving state school students are less inclined to pursue a university degree due to increasing fee concerns.

Although the maximum top-up fee rate is supposed to rise with inflation each year, the Act confirms that the rate will not be increased

until 2010. As a pre-requisite of implementing the bill, Parliament must review the impact of variable fees and vote over a prospective fee increases by 2009/2010. "Admission: Impossible" has already taken action potentially to circumvent a decision to lift the £3,000 cap on fees, by way of an Early Day Motion (EDM). This is similar to a Parliamentary petition and has already gathered 98 signatures.

NUS have provided details on their Admission: Impossible website www.officeronline.co.uk/admissionimpossible, regarding how to get involved, including a campaign guide.

# NUS card hit by confusion

**By Toby Green**  
**EDITOR**

A "LACK OF information" is being blamed for York shops failing to uphold the exclusivity of the National Union of Students' new discount card.

The NUS Extra card promises students who buy the card "a range of exclusive discounts, offers and competitions designed to make student life more exciting, more memorable and more rewarding."

However, Nouse phoned six local branches of shops advertised by the NUS as only offering discounts to NUS extra holders, to ask if they provided a student discount. Five out of the six questioned said that you only needed to prove you were a student to get the discount.

Alongside the Extra card, which costs £10, NUS are still offering a free 'NUS Democracy' card. This denotes membership of the NUS and your local union, but they have stressed that the card will "not provide access to any discounts or special offers." However, a member of staff at the York branch of Office said "We can offer you a student discount as long as your card has 'NUS' written on it."

When presented with the results of the survey, an NUS spokesperson said: "I would suggest that the staff that gave you that information were not fully briefed. "That's not the policy and it appears to be a lack of information in those particular outlets."

However she did admit that "students who brought the NUS Extra card at £10 would find it very unfair if someone who got the free

card received the same discounts."

The decision to introduce a charge for a student discount card has been controversial as before this year NUS provided a free card which included discounts. However, the new card does offer more discounts than previously.

Amy Woods, Student and Finance Officer for York Students' Union, said that the card was introduced as "due to previous problems (the NUS's) financial posi-

'This overpriced joke is actually a reality'

## Comment: page 9

tion is not good at all.

"However, most students will be able to get their money back in a term, and it will undoubtedly save students money." The NUS spokesperson said "We needed an extra revenue stream, and one that would go into the unions."

She denied that charging for a discount card would detract from the campaigning side of the NUS. "One of the aims of the card is to plough money back into the unions to empower them and therefore enable them to do their own campaigns." However, Amy Woods said "most students see the NUS as a discount card and not as a campaigning body."

Students have voiced their displeasure at not being able to get the free discount card previously offered by the NUS. Alex Barrister, a first year Vanbrugh student, said: "£10 is a lot of money to pay."



Students are facing full wallets as the numbers of discount cards multiply. Photo by Ally Carmichael

## Colleges capitalise on Extra scheme

**By Toby Green**  
**EDITOR**

THE INTRODUCTION of NUS Extra appears to have encouraged a host of similar schemes, with some colleges introducing discount cards for their students.

Both Halifax and Derwent have introduced their own branded cards, the Xtra VIP and the DIP card respectively, and both are charging their students. Dave Jones, chair of Derwent JCRC, denied that his card, which costs £10, is a money-making exercise, and instead

promised buyers that "the DIP card will constantly be reassessed to make sure it provides the best value for its members."

The Derwent Privilege System is offering discounts on college balls and merchandise, but is mainly focusing on offering non-financial advantages to members, such as exclusive socials and an extra day to buy tickets for Club D. Jones also said that they hoped to have a number of bars in York signed up to offer discounts, but claimed that

other discounts would be made available if these didn't materialise.

In contrast, the Xtra VIP card is only offering college savings. The scheme, which costs £30, promises £1 entry into all Xtra events, £1 off Halifax's two flagship Freshers' events, 10% off ball tickets for the holder and a friend, as well as 10% off merchandise orders.

Sam Bayley, Chair of the Halifax College Student Association, said that "if you went to every event and bought a hoodie and a t-shirt you would save £21", though he confirmed that compared to someone who bought Xtra tickets in advance, a cardholder would only save £9. He also said that the number of events that needed to be missed to fail to make a saving was "low... the card is not for everybody. It's a way that students can save money and still get involved in the college."

Some members of the HCSA are reportedly unhappy about the card. Sources on the HCSA committee have said they do not recall the final details of the scheme being brought to a committee vote, and the Halifax minutes do not detail a final vote.

Bayley strongly denies that this is the case, and said "I have in my meeting notes that the vote was Week Eight of the summer term, but this was not minuted properly."

York Entrepreneurs has also launched their own scheme, the VIP card. George Hudson, who is behind the idea, said that the VIP card "is the best choice for students as it offers great discounts at a good price [£7]."

The card has found itself in opposition to the NUS Extra card, although Hudson claims not to have known of NUS's plans when starting the VIP card. He also revealed that YUSU had blocked the society advertising the card in Freshers' leaflets "because it posed a threat to the NUS Extra card. The Students' Union put the NUS's interests above that of a student society and we're now in direct competition."

However, Colin Hindson, Societies and Communications Officer for the Students' Union, said they couldn't have advertised the card as "the Union has a direct business link with NUS Extra and we make money out of it, which would have been threatened by the VIP card."

Hudson calls it a "mistake", saying that they offered YUSU a cut of the profits. "The NUS Extra is not good value for money as £10 is a ridiculous amount of money considering students did not have to pay for it last year."

"But they've had to do it as the NUS are in so much debt."

## The shops questioned by Nouse



**JJB**  
**Fitness**

**NUS say:** "No joining fee for NUS Extra cardholders."

**The gym says:**  
"You can just bring in a letter from your university."



**Storage**  
**King**

**NUS say:** "25% exclusive NUS Extra discount off storage and packing supplies."

**The business says:**  
"Any student card will do."

DOROTHY PERKINS

**Dorothy**  
**Perkins**

**NUS say:** "10% off for all NUS Extra cardholders."

**The shop says:** "Only students with an NUS Extra card are valid."

peacocks

**Peacocks**

**NUS say:** "Save 10% with your valid NUS Extra card."

**The shop says:**  
"All you need is a standard NUS card."

**OFFICE** Office

**NUS say:** "Office shoes offer NUS Extra cardholders a 10% discount."

**The shop says:** "We'll accept anything with NUS on it."

BURTON

**Burton**

**NUS say:** "10% off everything for NUS Extra cardholders"

**The shop says:** "You can get the discount if you have a Union card."



Princess Anne and Charles Kennedy were spotted on campus last week at a Citizens' Advice Bureau convention. The Princess Royal, who is the patron of the C.A.B., arrived on the University campus with a team of bodyguards to give a speech to C.A.B members in Central Hall. When asked whether he had enjoyed her speech after the convention, one member said "it was quite boring and irrelevant to York. I didn't really listen, to be perfectly honest." Kennedy, who arrived and left by private helicopter, gave a speech to the members about the importance of making politics interesting and accessible to young people.



## This is York...

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## Price of drinking rises once more

By Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York has announced its second increase in bar prices in two years.

The changes, which are effective immediately across all campus bars, will see the price of a pint rise from £1.60 to £1.70. The increase means York prices will rise further above many universities in the area, with institutions such as Liverpool University offering £1.20 per pint and the Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union selling beer for as little as 99p per pint.

The University issued a press release on Friday to



**Bar prices have risen**

counteract accusations of over-pricing, saying: "Prices in college bars have not been increased for two years. We work as hard as we can to protect our selling prices, but from time to time we are forced to increase them."

"Prices are highly com-

petitive locally. When the Students' Union carried out a survey of prices in bars and clubs last term, ours were cheaper than anywhere else...we have a limited capacity to hold our prices when faced with increases from our suppliers"

It added, "we are dedicated to working with the SU, GSA, JCRs and the student body as a whole to promote safe drinking while encouraging students to use the bars regularly and responsibly."

Teeside University have recently announced that to decrease student drink consumption they are to increase beer prices to £2 per pint.

**YORK UNIVERSITY** has been ranked seventh in the Sunday Times University Guide for the second year running. The guide, which is published annually, places York below institutions such as UCL and Warwick but above Durham and Manchester. The Sunday Times has also given the highest ranking to 22 subjects at York and named it top university in Yorkshire.

## The Minster undergoes renovations

THE YORK Minster has been awarded a £390,000 lottery grant to go towards the planned £6 million restoration of the cathedral's 'Great East' window. The window is one of the oldest stained glass windows in the country, and also the largest piece of medieval art anywhere in the world. Dean of York, the Very Reverend Keith Jones, has dubbed the window the "Sistine Chapel of stained glass".

EST. 1964  
**NOUSE**

## Mixed greetings

Welcome to York! For some that sentiment may ring hollower than others, as yet again freshers are facing disruption on their first day at our University. You'd think that the powers that be would at least have waited a few weeks before disillusioning this year's latest intake, but unfinished buildings and sparse kitchens have greeted some members of Derwent and Goodricke. Considering last year's highly publicised debacle in Alcuin, where freshers arrived to find their accommodation buildings uncomplete, you'd have thought that, this year, efforts would have been made to ensure the accommodation students have already paid for would be in place. Granted, health and safety laws are strict and no one is pretending that it would have been better for them to have been ignored. However, it remains a shame that when embarking upon the "biggest week of their life" they won't be able to eat more than toast and a pot noodle. Nonetheless, it is a sincere welcome to this year's freshers, and you are becoming part of a great institution. You'll find everything you need for a highly enjoyable three years (even the chance to join some award-winning media societies...) Now when does the work on a Union bar start...

## Lebanon horror stories

For many, we watched the scenes of bombing in Lebanon on the news with horror and sorrow for those involved. However, it is the sad case with major conflicts that you only really get touched when you hear the individual stories of those involved. For the York students trapped in the city of Beirut, the terror must have been unimaginable. Thankfully, they were luckier than some. Being stuck in the middle of a battle that became headline news around the world must have felt like a nightmare. Whatever the politics of the rights and the wrongs of the situations, it is stories like these that are the only way to expose the horror of war.

## Noouse continues rise

On a lighter note, congratulations to all members of Noouse, past and present, for their help in gaining Guardian Student Media Awards nominations for best student newspaper and best student publication design. This is only the second time we've ever been nominated in the best newspaper category, and the first for design, so well done to everyone involved.

**SU  
President  
Rich  
Croker**

Hello and welcome (back) to York! If you're new to York, welcome to the beginning of the best time of your life! Your time at York will provide all the thrills, frills and spills that you could want from a Uni life! Over the coming years YUSU will be here to help you have a fun filled and action packed life at University. We'll be here to provide support for any problems you may have, any clubs or societies you want to get involved in and for those nights when you just want to let your hair down and have a good time!

Some of you may wonder what I do with my time in the YUSU office... well it's a good question... some people suggest I just swan around to University meetings and dinners letting everyone else get on with the work... well that's half true, thankfully. My main roles lie in representing the student views to the University, and other bodies to ensure it gets heard and considered. I also try and ensure all the areas inside the Union work together

effectively to ensure no one treads on anyone else's toes. Check out the blogs on the YUSU website to find out what all the officers have been up to recently.

And now for the wanton ramblings that I will fill these pages with over the coming year... I hope you enjoy them...

This year was the first time I've ever spent the full summer in York - admittedly it was working from the YUSU Office rather than as a student free to wile away the summer months lying in the sun. For a while it appears nothing has changed - students are still around going to the same old bars in town, kids' campers leave with the same anticipation and return with the same looks of joy as ever, the same people facebook you to find out how life is.

Don't stand back and watch your time at Uni pass you by. Don't be stood on the train platform in three years time with a piece of paper, no matter what it says on it, as your only reward for three years at York. Do what makes you happy whilst you are here - don't feel forced into or not do something just because that's what your room mates do. Try new things, expand your boundaries - spend your time at York living, not just existing. Stand on that platform in three years time and look back with a wry smile on your face and be able to say 'job done, no regrets'.

you spend at York will be the time of your life, something that you look back on in years and smile with fond memories. Somehow, though, looking back so soon you can't help but wonder where the time went, who you will see again - whether you will ever be so careless and free again.

If you throw yourself into life at

York you will reap the benefits.

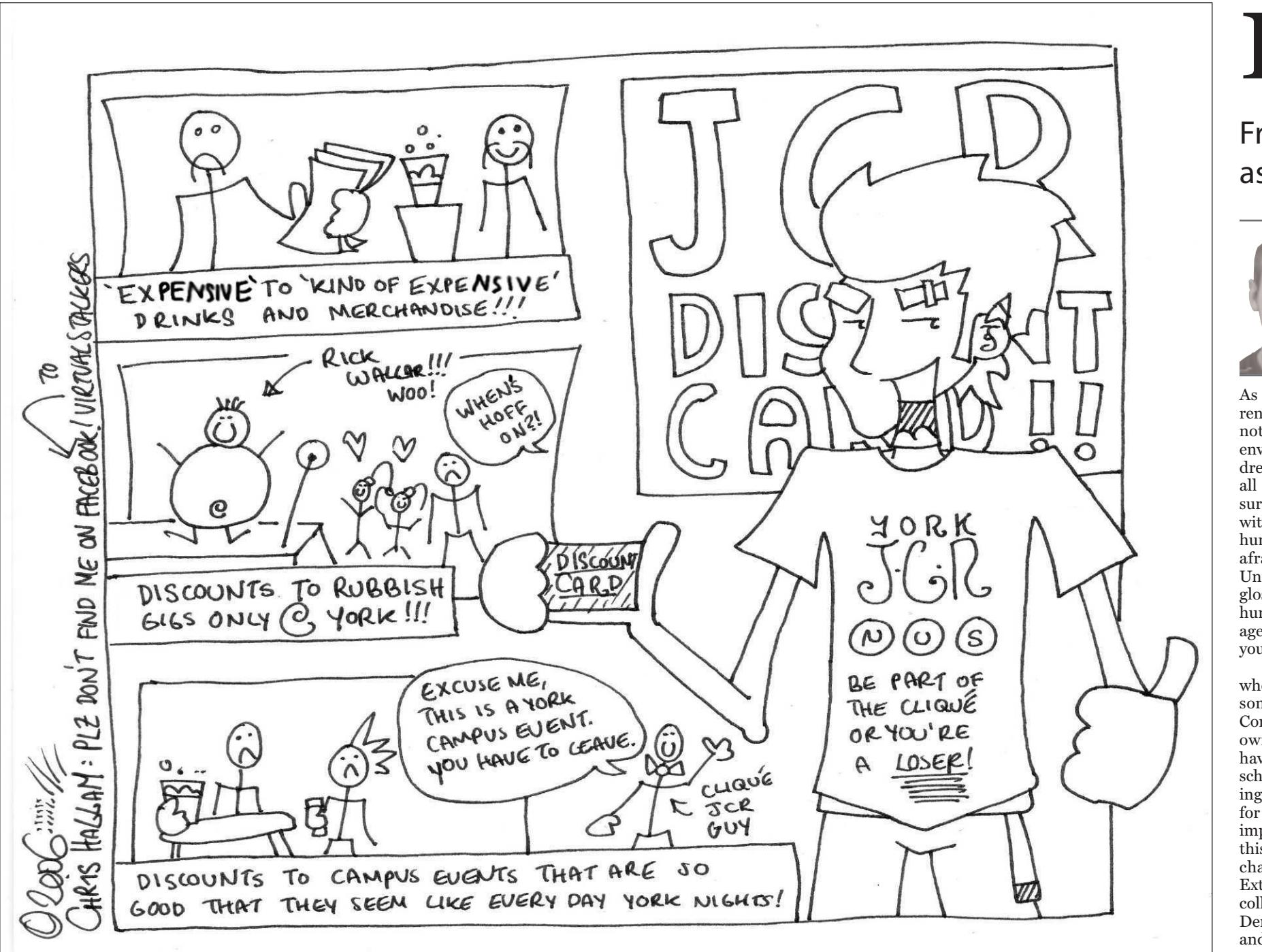
Sometimes life isn't easy at University, but your time spent here is what you make of it. I lost my first Junior Common Room Committee (JCRC) election and yet went on to become Chair of Derwent. The opportunities are out there for you if you want to find them - just believe in yourself and what you want to do. Think of your time at Uni as an opportunity rather than your right.

I think the most substantial contribution independent schools could make to our communities is to address inequalities between state and privately educated pupils. The University of York is the only leading UK University to exceed Government benchmarks for accepting state school applicants. A study by the Sutton Trust revealed that there are 3000 state pupils annually who achieve A level grades high enough to attend a leading university, but - for one reason or another - don't. This is not a question of lowering standards, but of improving access.

Whilst the Chancellor's recent

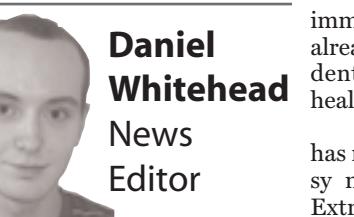
pledge to raise state school spending should be welcomed, we should also look to tap into the resources of those institutions receiving the benefits of charitable status. One way that private schools might prove their public benefit is to share facilities and teaching time with local state schools. The social mixing this would encourage would be beneficial to all.

Although it is claimed that the research funded by the US Army and Ministry of Defence will be predominantly into increasing the security and safety of the Armed Forces in conflict zones, it has been suggested that the networks of sensors being



# Extra cards, extra cost

Freshers at York are being swamped by a host of different organisations asking for their money, but should they be targeting students?



**Daniel Whitehead**  
News Editor

immense £1350 then you have already spent £1400. Your student loan isn't feeling too healthy now, is it?

doubt feel the need to melt your card into the shape of a Sam Bayley voodoo doll before long.

chicken burger in the Roger Kirk tonight.

On a more serious note, the truth is none of these cards should be required for you to live a healthy student life. In fact many help you to live a much unhealthier one. These schemes are simply being introduced to benefit the three organisations which are supposed to uphold your rights as a student. NUS, JCRs and the University are playing a dangerous game by backing students into a corner and it threatens to destroy the trust of many students even at such an early stage in the academic year.

For some students, this overpriced joke is actually reality, with many freshers from Derwent, Langwith, Goodricke and Vanbrugh faced with a kitchen crisis of epic proportions. The genius which we associate with our University planners has once again come to the fore as they apparently realised the day before many students arrived back in halls that their planned kitchen refurbishment was not going to be finished.

It is also the problem for many who returned this week of having a kitchen which looks completely normal apart from the small problem of having no fridge, no cooker (or Baby-Belling) and no toaster. If you're lucky you may have been given a plug socket to plug your own appliances into, if not then it looks like you're going for a tasty

Despite these new schemes, the gaping hole in your pocket will be undoubtedly formed by the University's new 'MAD' idea (no seriously, it's actually called MAD). The £1350 per year scheme is a complete betrayal of what the University promised prospective students, and whoever thought that the Roger Kirk Centre really does provide you with your five a day is indeed a fool.

As a fresher I'm sure your current view of University life is nothing less than idyllic. You envision a haven filled with hundreds of attractive young things all grappling for your attention, surrounded by a meadow filled with daisies, butterflies and a humungous barrel of beer. I'm afraid to say that, although University is fun, encased in this glossy bubble of joy are money-hungry sharks with their own agendas, all wanting a slice of your student loan.

Some of the many culprits

who come to mind are the NUS, some college JCRs (Junior Common Rooms) and your very own University, all of which have recently introduced new schemes which involve you paying large sums of money upfront for services which have hardly improved on last year. In fact if this week you decide to purchase the 'brand new' NUS Extra card for £10, the Halifax Xtra card for £30, the Derwent college card for £10 and all three terms of the new campus food card selling at an

extra £100 then you have already spent £1400. Your student loan isn't feeling too healthy now, is it?

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# Funding wars should not be the price of progress

Disappointment with Department's research for United States military and the Ministry of Defence



**Julian Hammerton**  
Comment Editor

In October 2005, Noouse started the debate about the University of York's investment in the arms trade.

Thousands of sensors are dropped in a network which then tracks the movement of people and vehicles within the area without the need for soldiers on the ground or surveillance aircraft above.

The York student-run "No Share in Killing" Campaign was set up to raise awareness about the University's unethical investment policy, opposing its not inconsiderable involvement in the arms trade. The news that the Computer Science Department has been awarded such a substantial grant for research into advanced technology for use in future coalition operations has been met with much opposition from this and other groups representing the views of many students within the University.

Campus groups like "No Share in the Killing" and Amnesty International do a brilliant job at raising the profile of ethical issues, but it is still of paramount importance that we all take our University's unethical investment policy seriously. It is the responsibility of us all to arm ourselves with all the information possible to make an informed decision about our stance

developed could be used to create something called 'magic dust'. Thousands of sensors are dropped in a network which then tracks the movement of people and vehicles within the area without the need for soldiers on the ground or surveillance aircraft above.

Given that recent military tactics have involved too many air strikes and too few ground forces, one would be wise to worry about what the US and UK military services will use the wireless sensor networks developed here for. I am deeply concerned that the work my department will be undertaking should not be used to plan military offensives. It is, however, apparent that the University has little regard for the opinions of myself and many of my fellow students.

The success of the campaign to end the University's involvement with BAE gives hope to those of us who oppose this recent decision to accept the grant. It is the duty of all those with a conscience to keep abreast of decisions made on our behalf and demand an ethical policy which places concern for human welfare above financial gain.

With medical issues such as AIDS and malaria needing such urgent attention, the fact that the Computer Science Department has chosen to research military strategy makes me ashamed to be in the department. I understand that the department needs funding, but

► INTERVIEW M2

We chat to Christine Hamilton

► CAMPUS FASHION M12-13

What to wear if you want to fit in

AUTUMN WEEK ONE

October 11th 2006

# MUSE

The week of your  
life: how to be a  
fresher M11-17



# The battleaxe of York

Despite the series of scandals that cost her husband his political career, Christine Hamilton has reinvented herself as both a media butterfly and self-proclaimed battleaxe. **Heidi Blake** talks to York's most infamous graduate about married life, civil war re-enactment weekends and getting a 2.1 without doing any work

**I**t's hard to imagine Christine Hamilton, the media's most notorious and entertaining battleaxe, arriving at Goodricke College as a lowly fresher in 1968, but she assures me that she hasn't changed since then. "I still feel absolutely a student. I haven't grown up at all. Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional and I've ticked the box not to bother."

At this point, Christine calls the conversation to a temporary halt. "Neil!" she barks. "Neil, don't stick that there! Move it up a bit. Up there!" I'm not entirely sure what is taking place on the other end of the telephone (the mind boggles) but I'm amused to hear my interviewee's famously domineering persona playing itself out so genuinely behind the scenes. As a woman whose life has been repeatedly blighted by the ramifications of her husband's political misdemeanours, I say she has every right to be bossy.

Neil and Christine Hamilton have felt the backlash of life in the public eye like few else. They weathered one of the fiercest political storms of the nineties after Mohammed Al Fayed accused Neil (then MP for Tatton) of accepting cash for tabling parliamentary questions, and suffered a further public battering in 2001 when they were falsely accused of rape in a blaze of press coverage. Incredibly, the couple have transformed notoriety into celebrity: they now appear regularly on television and radio, are both published authors and recently made their debut on the Edinburgh fringe.

Christine graduated from York in 1971 with a 2:1 ("not bad for no work") in Sociology, a course which she describes modestly as "a soft option". She tells me how, underwhelmed by her degree, she quickly turned her attention elsewhere. "I was manically social. I got into politics, which was a big mistake, of course. I went to the societies mart at the beginning of term, and I bumped into the Chairman of the Conservatives, and before I knew where I was, I was the social secretary organising all the social events. The other thing I did a lot was Sealed Knot - a Civil War organisation. At weekends we'd go off to Marlston Moor and Littlecote House and camp in tents and re-enact the battles. It was an absolute hoot. I must have been bonkers, but there you go. The Racecourse was a

popular haunt, too, and we used to spend long days out and about, walking and pubbing and just generally being young. So what with the Conservatives and Sealed Knot and boyfriends etcetera, I was very busy."

Intrigued by the mention of early boyfriends by a woman who seems never to have left her husband's side in living memory, I implore her to elaborate. "Well, of course I met Neil while I was at York, but before that I'd fallen madly in love with a young Greek called George who wasn't at the University. He was a total pick up in a coffee bar in Stonegate, I can remember it well. Mmm. Quite glorious. Absolutely." She loses focus momentarily at this point, but just manages to pull herself back from the brink of vocal lust and continue with the anecdote. "He just came across and offered me a lift because I had heavy shopping bags. He said he was going in the same direction as me, and I said "but you don't know where I'm going" and he said "but I do, I've watched you". Oh it was wonderful. He was a lovely romance. Sex on legs really, but there we go. Then I met Neil in September '69 when I went to a Conservative conference at Swinton castle, near Rippon."

Personally, I prefer the sound of George, but she seems happy with her choice. "It was absolutely marvellous. I mean, heavens alive, David Davis was there, and Andrew Neil; David Mellor and Ann Widdecombe. The course of history might have been different if Neil had fallen for Ann Widdecombe! Or indeed if I'd fallen for one of the others. I looked at Neil across a crowded room and I thought 'that'll do for the weekend'. And here we are. We were 18 then, and now we're 57. For about three years we courted long distance because he wasn't at York, and then when I went to work at the House of Commons as soon as I left York, he was doing the second of what became three degrees, and London life was opening up, so I dumped him. But I sowed my wild oats for a bit, and then we got back together on the 17th February 1978. So I have a long-standing love-affair with the whole of Yorkshire for many, many reasons."

Intrigued by this alien world of Conservative conferences in castles, I ask her what it was like to be a Tory as

a student in the sixties: "I was very odd being a Tory in those days, because at the end of the sixties the streets worldwide were an ocean of protest. Paris was full of barricades and tear gas, and people rampaged around the city: the sons and daughters of the privileged shoulder to shoulder with the poor, etcetera. It was the same the world over: anti-Vietnam demonstrations and goodness knows what. Students were revolting against authority, and it was a very left wing time, so one was regarded as a rather odd fish by the other students."

only big issues don't divide the parties from one another. So I just don't think politics is as interesting as it used to be. I'm so glad we've left the artificial world of Westminster for the madcap world of media and entertainment. It's wonderful."

There is something suspiciously bright and breezy about her tone, and I wonder whether she is being a touch disingenuous in this apparent wholesale rejection of politics for minor celebrity. I ask her if there's anything about life in the public eye which she finds trying, but she remains upbeat. "The motto really should be that if you don't want it to end up on the front page of the Sun, don't do it. When people complain, it's like the captain of a ship complaining about the sea. Don't go to sea if you don't like the storms. If you make your living in the public eye, which is what I do, life is public."

Surely, though, the false accusations of rape that were levelled against her and her husband in 2001 by Nadine Milroy-Sloan, a 28-year old trainee college lecturer from Grimsby who employed Max Clifford to act on her behalf, were fairly harrowing as a by-product of public life? "That was very frightening. It's not funny being arrested for five hours. At one point I got a little bit emotional, because not only were we arrested and questioned and all that sort of business, but our house up in Cheshire was searched by the police. I had to ring my mother from the police station with somebody standing over me while I did it to tell her that I'd been arrested for rape and would she mind popping round to our house (she was 87 by then) and letting the police in because if she didn't they had a warrant and they would break the door down. They took all our computers, they went through every door, every cupboard, the fridge, the oven, under the bed. It was unbelievable. And at the same time another 6 were searching our flat. It was an entire invasion of our life. Oh, don't even go there, it makes me hot under the collar even to think about it."

This is the first time during our conversation that Christine has seemed genuinely perturbed; outside of her comfort zone. I ask her whether these public trials have taken any toll on her relationship with Neil, and how they deal with such things as a couple. "We



"We just had a little local difficulty with an Egyptian grocer and then later with a Grimsby gold digger"

Despite the political zeal of her student days, Christine insists that she has now left the political world firmly behind her. "I'm a politics free zone, I won't talk about it, I won't speak to political groups. I absolutely refuse. Because politics is so divisive and confrontational, and I've been there, done that, and we're in the business of cheering people up now. We freely pop ourselves in the entertainment category. And why not? It's fun, and it's not boring. In the old days of party politics it really mattered which side you were on, because there were things to be fought over. Now, Thatcher's won. I mean Blair is just Thatcher mark two. The



**Clockwise from above:**  
**Christine Hamilton; with Neil Hamilton at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; on 'I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here'**

always try and make sure that whichever one is the least down at any one time is responsible for bringing the other one back up again. So we make sure we don't both have massive dips at the same time. But no, it wasn't easy. It didn't effect our relationship in any way, but there were times when we just felt like it just was the pair of us against the entire world, and that's just not nice.

"The thing is, our problems are all very public – everyone knows what they are and I'm sure if we have any more everyone will know about those too, but at the same time that we were going through that, other people were having the most tremendous difficulties – far worse; divorces and terminal illness and dreadful things. So we just had what I describe as a little local difficulty with an Egyptian grocer and then later with a Grimsby gold digger."

Now we're on the topic of that particular Egyptian grocer, I take the

opportunity to ask if Christine still upholds Neil's innocence of accepting cash for questions from Mr Al-Fayed. About this she is definite. "Yes. There were no brown envelopes, there was no cash for questions. I'll tell you one thing. Once the Jury had found against Neil, the Inland Revenue special investigations force frankly had a duty, because if the jury were correct and Neil had received the money there was tax to pay. So we had a total investigation of all our financial affairs going back 20 years. Every credit card bill was checked, the whole lot, and our forensic accountants from the Inland Revenue were, I would have thought, rather more adept at finding financial evidence than a jury. At the end of the day they could find absolutely zero evidence of any money in any shape or form. We actually had a refund from the tax people, because we had overpaid."

Does she feel angry about the way

those events unfolded? "I don't normally think about it, so I just get on with life. But yes I do, I feel extremely angry about a lot of things that happened. But in the famous words of John Lennon, life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans. We were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is the most extraordinary story. The whole Al-Fayed thing is odd. I mean, he's a fairly odd character with a rather murky background – with the whole Diana business as well. But there we are."

I ask if she feels that, after all they have been through, she and Neil have become figures of fun. At this, she audibly bristles, and I feel I have struck a nerve. "No. No, I don't think we're figures of fun. Our motto in life now is that as long as it's legal, honest and faintly decent we're up for it. I think we prefer to think of ourselves as good sports, and if people want to regard us as figures of fun then that's their business. We don't take ourselves seriously. We're not stuck up old po-faced farts like you find all over the place. You get these boring old people saying 'Oh, heavens alive, used to be a government minister and look at him now.' Well, you know, so what? Look at half the government ministers really; who would you rather spend an evening with?"

There's no doubt that Christine is a riotous entertainer, and it's hard not to warm to her, but I find it difficult to forget her husband's highly right-wing past. I ask her about Neil's early involvement in the Monday Club, a hard-line Conservative Group with links to Enoch Powell, which advocated the repatriation of ethnic groups and supported Apartheid. She won't play ball.

"That's another slight myth. He was a member, but not actively involved." In fact, Neil was elected to the executive council of the Monday Club in 1972. I ask her if she feels that Neil has mellowed politically since then. "Oh good heavens no! He's probably got worse."

So does he still advocate the repatriation of ethnic groups, as he did in his 1979 General Election campaign? "Not the way you've put it! I mean that sounds horrendous. If somebody wants to go, fine, but oh Lord no, he's not involved in politics at all now." She pauses for a moment "Although he is a member of UKIP. Oh gosh yes, absolutely. UKIP is the big issue."

It nearly being time to leave Christine to "pop out to B and Q to buy some shower-heads", I must ask the classic question. Where do she and Neil see themselves in 5 years time? "Hmm. Nobody knows where they'll be in 5 years, and we perhaps less than most. We just don't know what's round the corner. More of the same, hopefully. What I'd really like to do is to have my own chat show. Since Edinburgh there's been a nice resurgence of interest in us from production companies, and we've had some meetings with some very big ones. But we'll see. I really don't know."

Is there any chance she'll be popping back to York any time soon? "The trouble with going back is that it does make you feel really old. It fills you with happy memories, but also you think, 'oh crumbs, where have all the years gone, what have I done with my life?' There's a touch of envy at all these lovely lithe young people swanning around, with their entire lives ahead of them to wreck. But I'm sure I'll be back one day."

## York's most famous alumni



**Harry Enfield**



**Adam Hart-Davis**



**Oona King**

Kevin the teenager and Paul Whitehouse's best mate, the comedian, who advertised Dime Bars and Hula Hoops, was originally a member of Derwent College.

The presenter of the What the Romans/Victorians/Tudors Did for Us series and Tomorrow's World took a PhD in Organometallic Chemistry at York.

The second black woman to be elected a member of Parliament, the former Bethnal Green and Bow MP studied Politics at York as a member of Vanbrugh College.



Jurassic 5: (from left to right) Akil, DJ Nu-Mark, Chali 2na, Soup and Mark 7

# Five is the magic number

Having just released their fourth studio album, LA hip hop collective Jurassic 5 have become one of the most respected and popular hip hop groups in the world. **Toby Green** discovers their secret

Halfway through their set at the Manchester Academy, and the four MCs of Jurassic 5, Chali 2na, Mark 7, Akil and Soup, leave the stage as DJ Nu Mark comes down from his decks to the front and crouches behind what appears to be two Fisher Price 'tap-a-tune' playsets connected by myriad wires.

He hits one brightly coloured button, and the crowd laugh as a honk goes through the PA. He hits another button. Then another. And suddenly the crowd isn't laughing anymore, but gasping as the percussionist-turned-DJ forms a fully formed beat out of a toy designed for an infant connected to a crossfader.

Later on, the whole band do a synchronised bodyspop that would have put Peter Crouch to shame, followed by a dance routine to rival N'Sync. This isn't what you would expect for a hip hop show, a genre of live music that is too often marred by curtailed sets, poor performances and, sadly, violence. But then, as the old cliché goes, Jurassic 5 aren't your standard hip hop group.

Speaking to Nu-Mark and Soup before the show, I was left in no doubt that the five piece collective from Los Angeles never underestimate the importance of playing live. In fact, they readily admit that it is a major reason why they find themselves in the enviable position of having fans who aren't really into hip hop, whilst maintaining the respect

of the underground scene from which they originated. It's a situation which Nu-Mark jokes is "Like, how did that happen?!" He leans back, and ponders how a group with no hit singles (their biggest hit, Concrete Schoolyard, reached 35 in 1998) manage consistently to sell out their tours across the world.

"I think it's because people open their minds to us because we open our minds to other genres of music, especially when touring. 9 out of 10 of our peers would have turned down a tour like the Warped Tour (a punk and rock US festival) that doesn't have the traditional hip hop crowd, but we treated it as a challenge and exposed our music to the fans, who were like 'Oh, I wasn't really feeling hip hop before and I've never really listened to it, but you guys have opened my eyes.'

"We haven't just done punk tours as well, we've played with Bruce Springsteen, Fiona Apple as well as Lauryn Hill and OutKast. We really are wavering between two musical worlds, or even nine worlds at this point, which has extended our fan base. The power of our show is that it paraphrases what our albums are all about, and once you see us the music becomes a bit more palatable to you."

The crowd at the Academy is the mix that you would expect from a Jurassic 5 audience, with middle class white kids still in the skater phase alongside serious hip hop heads and local MCs trying to sell homemade mix

tapes out the front. Yet when the deep bass voice of Chali 2na commands everyone to scream whenever he says Manchester, no-one is self conscious enough to resist. For Soup, it's a simple formula. "People want to



## 'The thing about Jurassic 5 is that it's a team effort, it's always been that way and it always will'

be entertained and we do that, that's why we have such a wide audience. Whatever genre of music you're playing, when you go to a show you want to be entertained. We make sure we get people involved in our show. It's not just four guys standing still up there, we're always interchanging, you've got Nu-Mark with his toys and there's a range of different vocal ranges with the four guys."

However, after the release of the group's fourth album, *Feedback*, there have been whispers that, God forbid, Jurassic 5 might be making a concerted effort to reach the mainstream. A variety of different styles pervade the LP and the first single, 'Work It Out', is a collaboration with folk rock band, The Dave Matthews Band. However any suggestion that the 'crossover' feel of the record is cynical is crushed by Soup.

"*Feedback* does have a breadth of different styles compared to the previous albums, but that was just where the music took us. I've never been a fan of people who come out with new records and boast that it's got everything you would ever need, a dance track, a soul track etc because I've never liked that. That's contrived. If it was a beat we liked we did verses to it, whatever the style. The beat carried us in the direction that we went, and that's why, although there's a lot of different styles on the record, it still has that cohesiveness."

Similarly, Nu-Mark has no worries about the consequences of their developed sound. "I hope we've been reaching a different audience this time, it's always good to expand and you don't wanna just keep preaching to the converted. Our fans have really supported us from day one and everything, but we grew up listening to our favourites on the radio in LA. It's good to be heard, otherwise we would have never pressed up CDs in the first place. Radio is a very powerful medium, it's the hugest microphone you can have."

Although stations such as Radio 1 haven't caught on to the group in the same way as Jay-Z or OutKast, their UK fanbase certainly does not seem to be suffering. Every night on the tour is sold out, and it's a crowd that responds as strongly to the old stuff, if not more so, as to the cuts from the latest LP. It's not just a one-way thing though; the group genuinely seem to love playing over here with an exhilarating live ver-

sion of 'At The Races' recorded at Brixton Academy making it onto *Feedback* as a bonus track.

"Yeh we love it over here," drawls Soup. "It's always good to be back. We're big fans of your music as well. Roots Manuva is dope (the South London rapper is a close friend of Chali 2na and the duo have tagteamed on a number of tracks), Dizzee Rascal is good, Skinnyman as well and The Streets have some songs that aren't too bad. People in the US, they're always interested in what you guys are doing over here, although maybe not so much of the hip hop. Dance more so though, when Soul2Soul were cracking it was like yeah, there was a real big buzz. But it is a little harder for UK artists in the States."

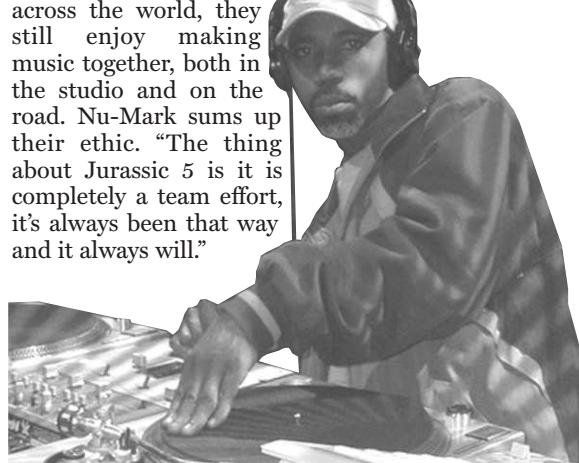
Nu-Mark cuts in. "Yeh it's really hard for you guys with the hip hop. I recently did a mix CD of international hip hop and people were like, 'Wow I didn't know France got down like that, and Japan as well.' And it's really tough out there as everywhere just plays American stuff."

Later on in the show, and Jurassic 5 show their experience in the live arena as they produce one of the best sets I have ever witnessed. Despite such a hardcore fanbase, everyone in the room is satisfied as song after song is rolled out, with all four albums represented. A lot of the show is taken up with medleys, often with just a verse and a chorus being performed, but the tightness of the group makes the switches more awe-inspiring than frustrating. Frequently rapping their complicated rhymes in unison, they also give a masterclass in tag team hip hop, with two often taking to the stage at a time, interacting expertly.

Anyone thinking that the show is just too slick for a true hip hop band is left with no doubts of their underground origins and remaining credibility as they take turns to freestyle as an encore and invite frequent collaborator and up-and-coming New York MC, Percy P, to spit a verse a capella. Apart from his Sesame Street-style interlude, Nu-Mark stays at the decks but his impressive skills still catch your ear, with scratching that is not only technically perfect but fits in flawlessly with the whole live experience whilst maintaining the band's spontaneity.

This is even more impressive considering that, up until eight months ago, he was joined at the decks by DJ Cut Chemist, who left the group to concentrate on his solo work. However, the transition from a six piece to a five piece seems to have been relatively smooth. "It was something I was afraid of," said Soup. "People get their favourites in the group, and they could have been like, 'oh it was better when so and so was in it,' but I haven't heard that. When I hear people saying that the show was amazing, that's when I know people love the music and it's not whether one person is here or not."

As the band leave the stage to one of Nu-Mark's trademark instrumentals, they genuinely appear to love and believe in the live arena. Despite losing a founding member and their move over 16 years from underground hip hop gigs to selling out venues across the world, they still enjoy making music together, both in the studio and on the road. Nu-Mark sums up their ethic. "The thing about Jurassic 5 is it is completely a team effort, it's always been that way and it always will."



## The scientific briefing with Luke Boulter

### A fresher take on the science of alcohol



Welcome to the University of York! A phrase which by now you will no doubt be familiar with and more than likely a little tired of hearing. First I must ask you to calm down; breathe deeply and continue to read. I do appreciate that as a fresher you have perhaps just looked at the front page of Vision, realised that it is poorly laid out and has content to rival an NHS finance leaflet, and sworn never to approach campus news again. That is why this column is dedicated to the science of being a fresher: why you will inevitably wake up feeling a bit groggy and why alcohol affects you so much. I will also attempt to answer the ultimate question: can you live on beer?

So what does alcohol do to you? Well, you have fought your way to the bar and you have your tall, glistening pint. The main alcohol in drinks is known as ethanol. As you drink, the alcohol is absorbed in your stomach: about 20% of total alcohol absorption occurs here, the other 80% is absorbed in the small intestine. From this point the alcohol is dissolved in the blood and carried into the tissues. All tissues are affected, from your muscles to your brain. The only exempt tissue is fat, so it is a myth that fatter people have a higher alcohol tolerance; it's more likely due to the increase in muscle required to move larger people. Blood alcohol levels increase significantly within 20 minutes. At this point the tissues become progressively more saturated and the 'tipsy' feeling kicks in. Obviously, lots of factors affect the rate of alcohol absorption: whether you have eaten; concentration of alcohol and whether the drink is carbonated.

There are actually defined physiological states which alcohol induces: with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of less than 0.12% you are in the phase known as euphoria; the following stages are excitement, confusion, stupor, coma and death, the latter occurring if the BAC level hits more than 50% of total blood volume.

So you've been out drinking. You've managed to get home, asked the porter for your forgotten door code, and collapsed semi-clothed on your bed. Wishing the room would stop moving, you fall asleep. Your body works tirelessly through the night and most of the morning removing the alcohol from your body, at approximately 1 unit per hour. When you wake up you are more than likely to have removed most of the alcohol from your body, but you feel awful. Two factors are involved in the great student hangover. The first is dehydration: alcohol inhibits anti-diuretic hormone, so your kidneys don't reabsorb as much water as they filter through your blood, thus you have a full bladder and very low blood water level. Also, the drinks we have don't just contain alcohol and water; they contain other compounds known as congeners. These can give

flavour, but also give a wretched hangover as they are toxins and effectively poison the body. There are more of these in less purified beverages such as red wine and bourbons; drinking white wine and vodka-mixers is generally better, and research has shown that 33% of people who drank 'dark' drinks were hungover compared to only 3% of people who stuck to 'white' drinks.

So what can be done to help with these self inflicted student maladies? Hair of the Dog, despite being popular, doesn't work; it puts off the inevitable, and puts more pressure on the liver to remove toxins, making the final hangover worse. Coffee and burnt toast may help; the carbon found on burnt toast could act in a similar way to activated charcoal used to filter poisons through the body. Coffee is a stimulant, but also a diuretic, so perhaps not the best thing to rehydrate your body with.

The best cure seems to be bananas and eggs. Bananas contain a lot of potassium, a crucial neural electrolyte lost during dehydration, so bananas can alleviate the headache commonly found with a hangover. Eggs contain cysteine which breaks down the hangover-causing toxin acetaldehyde. Fruit juice though seems to be the friend of the student; it contains fructose to give you an energy boost and has been shown to speed up the loss of toxins. It also contains vitamins to replace those which were lost when drinking.

If you fancy something a bit special and don't think fruit juice is for you, Ergopharma have come up with the 'beer neutralizer,' which its creators claim can remove congeners – so no hangovers! It also prevents the breakdown of starches and complex carbohydrates, eliminating the worry of those beer belly-producing carbs!

As for the ultimate question (to which I hope to give an answer more useful than 42): can you live on beer? This question was posed to the best of the best when *New Scientist* published it in its 'Last Word' section. One contributor showed that one pint alone can offer more than 5% RDA of vitamins B2, B6 and B9. However, essential vitamins such as vitamins D, C and A are lacking. Truth be told no one really knows; it's too unethical an experiment (although I know at least a few of you would disagree). The closest anyone has come was during the 1756-63 seven years war. The physician to the British Naval Fleet took three crews on three ships, each of which had a spirits allowance. He gave one ship, the *Grampus*, large amounts of beer as well as the spirits allowance. The *Daedalus* and the *Tortoise* were just allowed spirits; at the end of the war the spirit based ships had 112 and 62 men needing hospitalisation respectively, the *Grampus* however only needed 13.

I'm not sure what this says for early medical research, but it's bottoms up to beer, the most medicinal drink of all!

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# Chris Cowan



# My random theories: drinking, domestic violence and ducks

## Why can't Micklegate be more like Europe?

Perhaps the best thing about going to Europe is the general atmosphere. It's just the relaxed attitude they have, whether in their houses or out in bars/town. Recently I was sipping beer in Brussels (as one does) from a 200ml glass. '200ml glass?' I hear you shout. Yes, and it was plenty. It was nice to just sit and enjoy the beer and sample three or four varieties.

The bar ran a 'bill' system, paying at the end, which of course requires a degree of trust between bar and clients. Surprisingly, it worked. In fact, the only

bars without it seemed to be those attracting the Brits on holiday or stag weekends.

The 'binge drinking' problem is well-documented. While it's nice to have a few drinks, and occasionally in 'large' quantities, somewhere in the evolutionary cycle the Brits obtained a 'must-drink-to-have-a-good-night' gene.

While other countries, such as Sweden, have used taxes and government legislation to rid them of these problems, they don't seem to be able to curb the issue over here. I thought long and hard about the possible cause.

But how is Starbucks to

blame? It's as tedious a link as Dan Brown may make, but maybe copious amounts of poor coffee and tea consumption ruins one's taste buds, making drinks such as Fosters and Carling acceptable. The logic is there, I promise. Obviously coffee and alcohol consumption aren't linked but if only we could respect our tastebuds and all enjoy a small glass of something more palatable, such as Leffe, I think that the town at least would be a much prettier sight, particularly at the weekends.

Why would I waste a column on this ill-prepared theory? Well, living on Micklegate brings its rewards, but also the obvious perils, such as sick and kebabs (aren't they synonymous?) on the doorstep. So please, next time you want to throw up, find somewhere politer, like a bin.

## A social theory of daytime television

Over the summer I had a tedious job doing data entry, but one of the perks was that I worked from home where I could watch TV. The downside of this, however, was that although I managed a year of university only watching football and Neighbours, I can now recite the entire daytime tv schedule.

One of my new daytime TV legends is Jeremy Kyle, famed for his outlandish and harsh views of people. Surprisingly for daytime TV, one of his shows actually got me thinking. It involved a case of man 'A' hitting his lady, 'B.' Kyle verbally attacked 'A' for aggression towards his partner, and rightly so. However, he claimed that 'men don't hit women' and to do so strips him of his label as a male.

The presenter may have been making a reference to it being almost animalistic behavior, but it does raise an interesting childhood experience. While I certainly don't condone violence, the sex of the

offenders and victims is irresponsible. It harks back to the playground rules of it being ok for girls to hit boys, but not for the boys to hit girls. I remember dinnerladies (or Midday Assistants as they're now known) excusing the girls' vicious attacks (and yes, they were vicious!) by pointing out that the girl was not in the wrong, even if she was the instigator. Or perhaps this is unintentionally instilling a sense of inferiority into the young and susceptible brains of children.

Obviously it doesn't have a widespread effect, but could it be the early nudge for socially unstable children towards a more distorted view of inter-gender relationships? Another observation is that at no point in these cases does he ask the abuser about their consumption of Stella. However, Jeremy Kyle does somehow manage to reel in a wide selection of people with their 'interesting tales.' While the mental instability of 'wife beaters' is unlikely to be solely attributable to this early socialization in the playground, I'd like to think that the next little kid struck down by a girl twice his size will get justice.

**Greg Dyke:**  
University of York's Jeremy Kyle for ducks

## Greg Dyke's duck jibe at Alistair Campbell

Greg Dyke isn't your normal football chairman, with a status that somewhat outshines that of his team, and mine, Brentford FC. After a pre-season 'meet the board' session, it seemed a good time to question him about his second most important role, that of being Chancellor of our wonderful University.

Like Brentford's new stadium proposal, it's the sports facilities on the controversial Heslington East development which Dyke believes to be 'key to the success of the



development.' He also believes that the development won't detract from the close feel that is integral to the appeal of York (reaffirmed by the recent Sunday Times rating of York in the top 10 universities in the country).

Although reluctant to discuss the 'big' issues of last year, such as the bar campaign and AUT strikes, he was willing to offer his views on possibly the most important issue hitting campus (or at least Langwith) - naming THAT duck. Anyone accustomed to Facebook navigation will no doubt have noticed the Fit Duck/Trevor/King Duck debate, but if you haven't come across the golden bird then there is quite a ruckus developing around his mantle.

I put forward a few of the

names mentioned, and offered a photo to jog his memory. Not impressed, he enquired into why this particular duck is special. It's only when I mention the duck's short temper that he looks up, and with a hint of a smile, says, 'well, if it's an aggressive and persistent bugger, then surely there's only one name - the Alistair Campbell duck.'

It's easy to see why the man is a hit amongst Brentford fans. Here is a chairman who has time for the fans, doesn't expect preferential treatment and shares the same hopes and fears of this small club as people who have attended it for many years. Perhaps an extra appearance or two around the university could help lift spirits in the way it has at Brentford.

# Grumpy old students

Are the annoyances of student life stressing you out? **Chris Cowan** examines how to avoid becoming grumpy before your time

**M**ost people, at some point or another, will have seen the BBC programme 'Grumpy Old Men.' Everyone certainly has heard an older relative moan and whinge about the various things which justify their hazy impression of the 'good old days.' But why must you be old - or more 'mature' - to be in a position to have a chip, or indeed an entire potato, on your shoulder? Perhaps people feel the younger generations are ill qualified due to a lack of life experiences, yet with what I have experienced already, how much grumpier can I get?

I don't mean about the huge things like taxes and crime, but the niggling, smaller but oh-so-much-more irritating issues. The consequences of not sorting out people that are annoying is scary: a lifetime of bitching behind their backs. Perhaps a naming and shaming punishment should be adopted? Or by highlighting the problems, perhaps we can aim to halt the offenders early in their actions before they become untameable.

Firstly what qualifies something to be annoying? It could be anything from crazy frogs to uneven layouts in rooms. Annoyance is an individual matter. But the convenience of letting these things go by is too great. Maybe it's time to take a stand and say something. But how do they affect us in the (sometimes) sunny town of York? What could be more productive, and potentially friend-saving, in this first edition of the academic year, than flagging the quickest ways to alienate yourself from fellow students?

The first in a long line of such 'issues' is the Aussie gap year experience student. I myself took a gap year, and I by no means think going 'down under' to be a waste. However, it can spawn something quite frightening - a rambling backpacker, who visited the set of Neighbours, met some of the cast, spent their time with fellow Brits and profess it to be the single greatest place - on earth. You, of course, cannot possibly understand the importance of this experience as you didn't go. I beg of anyone reading this who took a gap year and did the above activities: mention it,

fine, but don't go on about it! I'm sure it was wonderful, and the drink Milo is nice, the weather so much better, but we're in Northern England, so deal with it...

Perhaps even more annoying is the less verbal, hidden offender - namely the Baby Belling abusers. The lone jacket potato left in there for days at a time, the endlessly boiled pasta or soup. They prey on their kitchen-mates by consuming as much space and as many functions of these already limited cookers as is humanly possible. Perhaps the best way to deal with them is to place a note for them, reminding them of the University's strict rules on leaving cooking equipment unattended while in use. Yes it's a bit anal, but think of the greater good: more people being fed.

There's only one kitchen-based crime which outdoes this: the frozen bread culprit. Especially Tesco Value bread. Firstly, it takes up a lot of space. Secondly, people who freeze bread do so because they get through it slowly, so it'll take up the space for a long time.

**"I'm sure Australia was wonderful, the drink Milo is nice and the weather so much better, but we're in Northern England now"**

The solution? Multiple! Share bread! It's not expensive! Or buy half loaves! Or there's always cutting your losses; it's only 20p or so for a new loaf, hardly an extravagance. It's not even the price of half a pint...

A more general bad habit that students are often guilty of is social snobbery. Although everyone has at one time or another had a pop at chavs and those who still rant on about their general existence really wind me up. Perhaps the chav is merely an upstanding member of society with the wrong outfit? It's surprising how this level of pre-judgement based primarily on clothing is



**Students have more reasons to grumble than you may think**

acceptable and widely encouraged in modern Britain.

What it comes down to is a lot of people having no particular reason to hate them besides the 'associated trouble' they bring, as publicised in fine publications such as the Daily Mail. In fact, recently, after a night out, I was walking home and the only people around at some ungodly hour were a local 'group' who rather helpfully pointed me in the right direction of my house. Overall they were fairly polite and nice. So rather than spending the entire time complaining about these groups, get a hobby! Check out the YUSU site, there are plenty of societies to join...

What with the new bus company's 'efficient' way of processing people, another gripe has come to my attention, and this occurs daily. Whenever money or tickets need to be shown, there inevitably are ill-prepared people. They won't get their wallet or card ready until the very last moment, in which time a small queue has formed behind them. Why not be a little bit prepared? Are you prolonging the length of time your wallet stays in your pocket? Is it some sort of widespread game of follow the leader? People should have a bit of initiative.

The worst example of this is at concerts. If people have queued all day, they are under no illusions as to why they're there. They should be prepared with the ticket when they know the doors are about to open, so you can dash to the

front and get a good spot. However there is always someone not ready, effectively making the long, cold, and often wet day of standing around entirely pointless.

I'm all for seriousness at the right times, in the same way that the rest of the time I like to be childish and say/think stupid things. However, there are a band of people who, regardless of the situation, sit there with a stony face, entirely unimpressed at any hint of sexual innuendo, unless of course, it's through analysis of a great text of the English canon, or, worse, something muttered by a seminar leader. Lighten up! Or if you have to live in a bubble of smirks and frowns, please do so in a suitable newly erected building, some 69 yards from the campus where you have maths debates. Hardly childish, now, is it?

I'm sure people could come up with even more annoyances to write about, but I'd rather hope this article starts something: a movement towards the end of the really irritating things. Although who is to say that a lack of niggles would be good? We all secretly like a moan about something, it makes us feel better about ourselves. If we didn't have outlets for our little bad habits, maybe they'd manifest themselves into an almighty 'higher' annoyance - perhaps not just hogging the Baby Belling, but doing a 6 month shop and freezing the entire contents. Either way, frozen bread and ranting Aussie gap yearers hold no sway with me.

# York thesp swap University Drama Barn for fame at Edinburgh Fringe

This year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival was graced by ten productions from York University. An actor, a director and a groupie relive their festival stories

**E**dinburgh, as anyone who has ever visited will tell you, is an endurance trial. If you were to watch every show at the Fringe back-to-back it would take you almost two and a half months of non-stop theatre-going and, as most of us only attend for a few days, the pace required to see all that you want to see is pretty back-breaking.

How much more demanding then is trying to maintain this pace if one is involved with a show? My Edinburgh this year actually included two, back-staging for one and acting with the other. This meant that the average day began at 8 o'clock with a performance from ten until eleven then straight into full costume and greasepaint for flying a performance until five when I could start my theatre-watching day. Gruelling.

But I loved every minute of it. Edinburgh during festival time is like nowhere else, a place where you are as likely to end up chatting with Bill Bailey as drinking with a Ukrainian juggler. The atmosphere of inclusion is fantastic and it transforms a potentially threatening city into a place where you can quite happily stagger home at the crack of dawn without the slightest fear of being mugged and where everyone is a potential friend.

Nice as it is to make new friends, the best way to experience the festival is with people you know, a definite "Fringe" benefit of taking a show. This year's Edinburgh showing by York was fantastic with over ten productions affiliated with the University making an appearance, including a couple of sell-out shows. To be in this fantastic city with almost everyone I know was the best possible way to spend my last York Uni summer...

**Crowds of festival-goers rub shoulders with Edinburgh locals on the Royal Mile**



**I**t's amazing just how much a few hundred words can change your spirits. From damning ambivalence in *The Scotsman* to 'this is bloody brilliant' and 4-star euphoria courtesy of *Three Weeks*, our emotions sky-rocketed with each new edition of hastily photocopied rags or dubiously punctuated review sites. Not only were

**'The Royal Mile becomes a battle ground of gladiatorial proportions, where silent Hungarian clowns and Japanese banjo players slog it out with fresh-faced innocents and hung-over comedians'**

our opinions of ourselves reassessed daily, (of course, naturally, we did believe our own hype) but also how we judged the publications we were appearing in shifted with the tides. Funny how within 24 hours a paper with a hundred year history can change from being the most god-awful gutter-clogging filth in the history of Western civilisation to the pinnacle of man's lit-

**T**he Edinburgh Fringe is a bit like communism. There are some very worthy ideas behind it, but in practise it can be really quite unpleasant. Actually scrap that; the Fringe is not like communism at all and false equivalents are the bane of modern society and should be avoided at all costs. From the top: the Edinburgh Fringe is very exciting for all involved in the actual performances; for audiences, unless you catch the rogue brilliant show which proves the rule, it can be a bit like being stuck in a gulag for a zillion years. Dammit, there I go again. The Fringe's saving grace, however, is

erary and intellectual achievement, (and, in all likelihood, back again before tea-time).

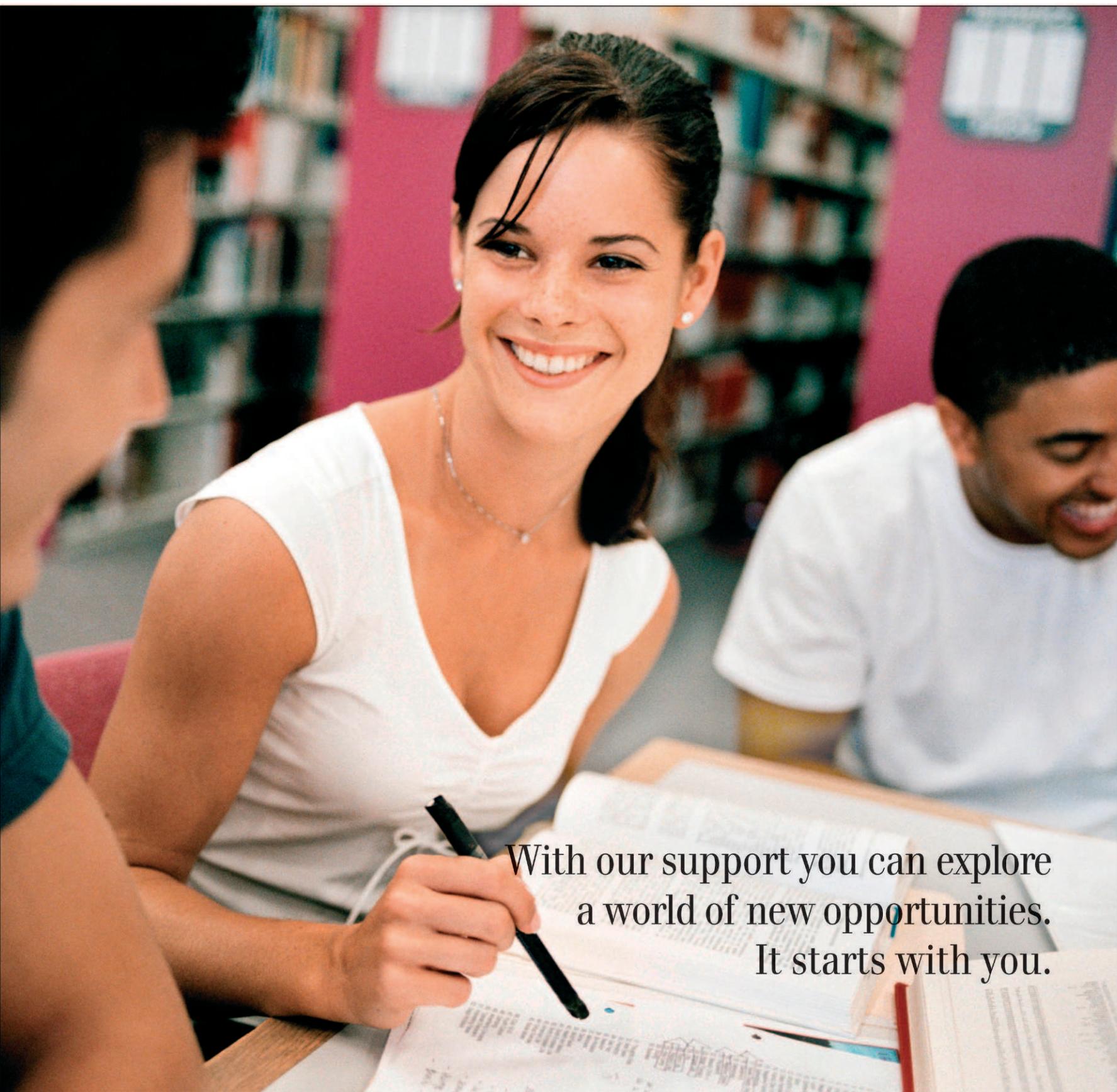
This is what Edinburgh was all about: it's an all or nothing type of place, and most, if not all of the time, you are nothing. The sheer scale of the festival is mind-boggling: over a thousand shows all vying for their place in the limelight. The Royal Mile becomes a battle ground of gladiatorial proportions, where silent Hungarian clowns and Japanese banjo players slog it out with fresh-faced innocents and hung-over comedians, all desperately struggling to be heard above the mob. Few succeed.

that it is just that - a fringe - to another festival with better quality control. Nowadays it's not just the one festival either; there are about eight to choose from - the international festival, the book festival, the film festival, the comedy festival... the list goes on. And what the Fringe does do with finesse is ensure that there are lots and lots of people in a lovely city having fun and the general philosophy of the whole thing means they've got to let you join in. So, to conclude, go go go to the Fringe! Just maybe not actually to the Fringe.

**Nan Flory**

So, children, what did we learn? That free tickets are plentiful, though a pint may set you back £4. That the Scots are a proud and outspoken people, who do not all take kindly to middle-class students invading their city, especially those dressed as divine beings. That you should never let your lead actor also direct a version of *Hamlet* on a bouncy castle. Oh yes, and that the opinions of the good people at *Three Weeks* should be held above all others, for they only speak the truth. (for this year, at least.)

**Chris Bush**



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# Your introduction to York

Now you've committed to at least three years at York, **Bob Higson** explains how to get the most out of it

**F**irst and foremost - welcome freshers! Congratulations on getting into this fine university. No doubt you've been excited about this moment, losing days of sleep over the prospect of the Vengaboys gracing our fair campus. The next few weeks are most likely going to pass you by in a furious blur of new faces, alcohol, awkward conversations, ducks and queues - lots and lots of queues.

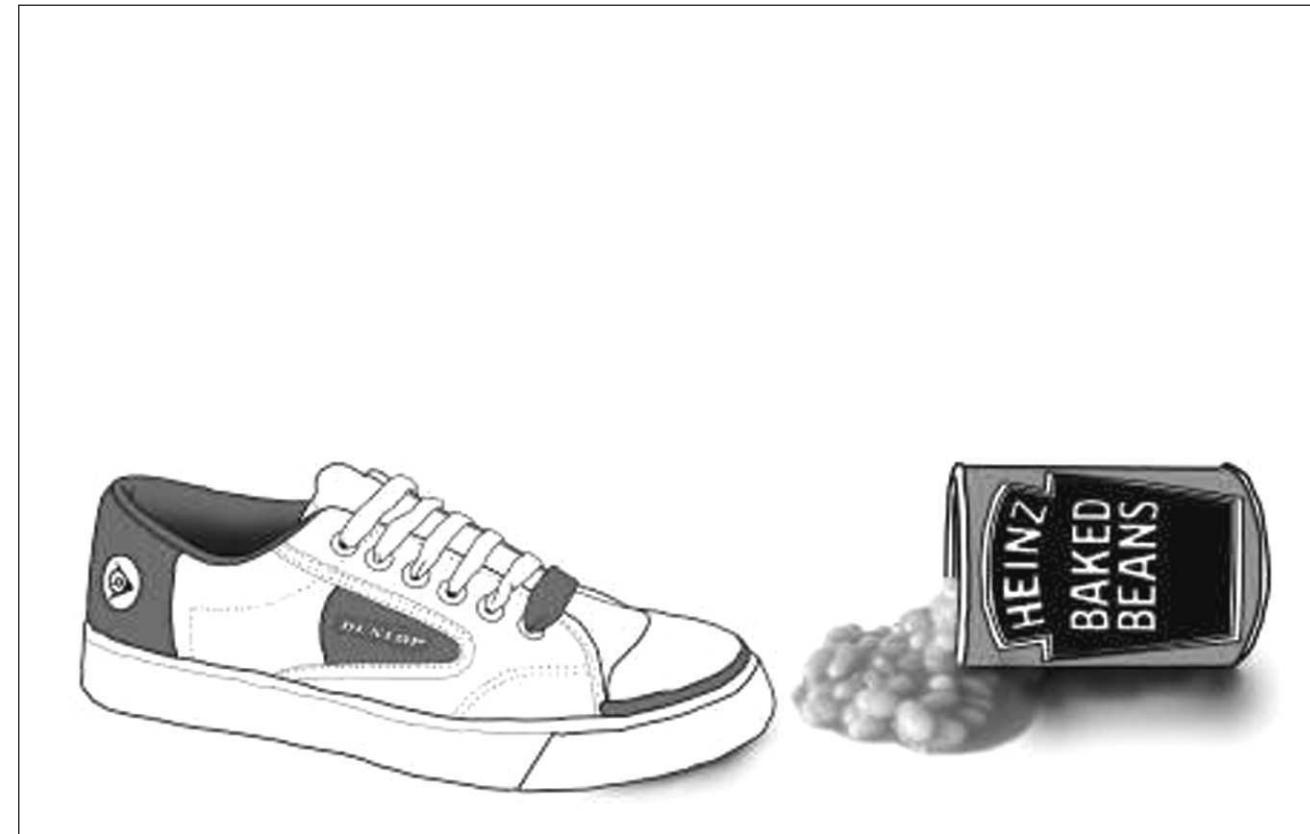
Now, for some reason, the way that people talk about Freshers' Week, (in our case, fortnight) you'd think that unless you partied continually, injecting vodka for 24 hours a day, you were something of a Ming Campbell type: dull to the point of oblivion. This is, of course, utter tripe. But it is true that probably never in your life will you have as much free time, disposable income and people of the same age as you than at university. Admittedly, I'm biased. I love York, and to be honest I wouldn't swap it for anything. And here's why.

Firstly, York itself. Needless to say, York is a beautiful city steeped in tradition, history and inspiring architecture. I still remember the first time I got off the train and was confronted with city walls and the towering spires of the Minster in the distance. I'd never really seen anything like it and it still impresses me now. It's not in every city that you can pop to the shops whilst passing sights such as Clifford's Tower, or even meander down the Shambles for a sandwich. So go and explore the city and make the most of it. Should the start of your university career be daunting or the campus environment ever get too much, always remember that York is a truly fantastic place to be studying.

Freshers' Fortnight itself is a hectic bombardment of leaflets, advice, freebies and events of varying quality. If booze isn't your cup of tea, then no worries - there's still plenty to immerse yourself with. There's the York Student Cinema, for example, or RAG (Raising And Giving). For the politically minded, there are the societies of the various political parties and then groups such as Amnesty International. Your best bet is to head to the Freshers' Fair and check out all the stalls. There's a chance you'll meet your future housemates at one of these fresher events (as I did) or, equally, there's the chance you'll meet someone you want to throw into the Ouse. Either way, get out and about and get chatting.

Should you need help negotiating your way round York during the early days, there's your STYC (Second or Third Year Contact) whose job it is to help with any teething troubles. If

Spend all your loan on trainers, and you'll only have beans to eat.  
Image by Ed Maier



you're unsure of anything, contact them and they will more than happy to help. College porters, though pesky when they nick your footballs in the summer, are also founts of knowledge about who to speak to and where to go when

**'The next few weeks at York will pass you by in a blur of new faces, awkward conversations, ducks, alcohol and queues - lots and lots of queues'**

slightly confused.

It's certainly a quirky place. My jaw hit the flaw when I moved into my room in Langwith to find out that Jimmy Hendrix, my hero, had played in the hall opposite my bedroom window a few decades before. Yes, the buildings look so hideously monstrous that even Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen would recoil in horror; yes, Central Hall looks like a cosmic toasty-maker when

bleary-eyed and yes, there is duck shit everywhere, but I still think it's ace.

York's greatest strength though is its dizzying number of clubs and societies to join. Try and think of a society that hasn't been thought of and chances are it exists. If it doesn't, then you can always get up and create it yourself and the Students' Union will help you do so.

Just look at YUSU's A-Z list of societies on their website: Comedy Soc, Hitch to Morocco Soc, Love Soc, Medieval Re-enactment Soc, Poker Soc, and so on. Fancy an in-depth convo about Karl and Susan's recent smooch - there's Neighbours Soc. Not liking the words of your humble narrator? Well, come and write for Nouse then!

Here in York, you may come to love your college, or hate it, but either way, it forms part of the day-to-day experience for most of us. The different colleges form a social structure - a sort of university family each with their own defining foibles, charms and characteristics. Derwent would be the trendy teenager, forever aiming to be as cool as possible; Halifax, the second-cousin no-one ever visits and Langwith, the pissed uncle who turns up late and ruins it for

everybody.

As York operates a collegiate system you can also get involved through joining the Junior Common Room Committees. This is not only a great way to meet new people, but also to get your say in how you want to see your university run. After all, you're the one paying to be here so if you want to see something done, then tell people come election time.

For the athletic amongst us, there are many opportunities to play college sport. Quality and years of experience is not essential; enthusiasm and simply turning up goes a long way. Try your hand at squash, footy, rugby, tennis, ultimate Frisbee - just look out for team signing up sheets around your college and speak to your college sports reps. University sports trials are mostly held in week 1 - check yusu.org for details.

York's Achilles Heel, however - and a big one at that - is its club-scene. Indeed, club-life centres on drunken nights in Ziggy's and Toffs. I recommend trying both, though it's not for everybody (when your nose stumbles into someone's armpit on a sweaty Wednesday night you'll see what I mean). Having said that, Leeds is half an hour away by train with regular services. Still, there are some great pubs, bars and cafés in York that deserve a visit. For example there's Fibbers, who book some cracking bands - October showcases The Young Knives, Ed Harcourt and MTV 2's Gonzo On Tour.

Make the most of your first few weeks here. Get to know people. Should you find yourself sat in your room with nothing but the walls as company, go knock on your neighbour's door. Try and involve yourself with people from your course too by going to the free departmental get-togethers - free drink and food, if anything - can't be bad. Remember: help is at hand for those who find it all a bit daunting, and I truly wish you the best!

## Socialise with these people at your peril

### One Night Wonder

You've had a few in the campus bar and suddenly a hormone-fuelled wave of euphoria renders the boy or girl in the corner rather attractive. "Why not?", you reason. It's weeks later amidst deathly awkward chit-chat in Costcutters that you'll feel the pangs of regret. Remember folks: York is a very small place.

### The Second Year Perv

A usual subset of the first group (although only if you let them, boys and girls!) "fresh meat" and "new blood" are phrases I've heard countless times. Not many second or third years go to the campus events, so if do you see one skulking on the dance floor periphery eyeing up unsuspecting freshers, be wary.

### The Boring Gapper

A familiar stereotype, but still sadly prevalent at York, especially during Freshers' Week. Although for the sake of politeness we may initially appear interested, there's only so long we can listen to inane stories of how you spent £2,000 'finding yourself' washing toilet huts in the depths of Outer Mongolia.

# What not to wear: campus fashion

Worried you won't be able to keep up with campus trends at York? **Flora Ellettsen** and **Sophy Welch** take you through the style traps you might fall prey to

**U**niversity is traditionally the time when people branch out, try something new and embrace their independence. Hand in hand with this new lease of life comes the urge to express yourself in the fashion stakes. However, despite this foray into self representation and discovery, it soon emerges that the vast majority of students fall into one of the following five broad 'style tribes'.

First and foremost it is inevitable that at some point during your career at York you will encounter the fashion phenomenon that is the Sports Society Member. By day this tribe can be found sporting (no pun intended) their appropriate sport soc merchandise, or "stash", in the form of hoodies, rugby shirts and various other paraphelia, all suitably emblazoned with society logo and bizarrely acquired nickname. Other than ensuring full tribal membership, this merchandise also has the added bonus of invaluable advertising - how else would the good students of York be alerted to

the existence of Extreme Frisbee Soc? This merchandise is, of course, propped up by worn-in jeans and well-loved trainers, the latter must look as though they have actually been used frequently and in suitably muddy conditions, or your tribal status will not be taken seriously.

So far all this seems perfectly normal student attire; however, it is by night that this particular tribe really comes into its own. Lacy, fluorescent pink bras are standard and not gender specific; in fact, it is the sports soc male who tends to prefer this choice. (Whether or not other people would prefer them to is a different matter). This tendency towards pink or glittery articles of clothing is a general theme for this tribe's night wear. Last term, in an effort to procure a pair of Disney-esque fairy wings, I resorted to asking every rugby player within the general vicinity and the result was very satisfying: white net, in a lovely butterfly design, complete with pink glitter surround. The supporting act to this upper wear is generally a skirt, preferably a pencil one, and leopard print so much the better. Heels really pull the look together, but are only attempted by the very brave, experienced and unfortunately drunk tribal elder: The Sports Soc Captain. The whole beautiful picture is completed by a blonde wig (mismatching chest hair optional) and extra tribal distinction is allocated to those members able to incorporate the society merchandise logo into the night-time look (especially worked into the chest hair option).

At the other end of the spectrum are those who actually do the work that has earned York its prestigious academic reputation. These 'Clever Subject People' (CSPs) are generally to be found in the environs of the library or those dauntingly strange science departments - and they dress the part. Checked shirts of various forms are a staple, short sleeves being an optional preference. These are almost always tucked in (the tucking in of anything being a distinct rarity amongst university students, making them instantly recognisable.) The supporting act to

these is the oddly clean jeans or chinos, which appear to be strangely bereft of all rips, holes, mud or duck poo. CSPs have mastered the art of using the treacherous and severely lacking washing machines. Their smart and clean shoes complete the image of academic responsibility and prowess which often leads them to be mistaken for tutors, lecturers and others of academic note. CSPs are rarely found out of tribal dress, but even if this rare sighting does occur, you can be sure to classify them by their disturbingly 'awake', 'alert', 'have actually slept in the last 6 months' appearance, not commonly found amongst other tribes.

Alternatively you have the parallel tribe of the art student, which puts its own stamp on university fashion. Topshop is a feature - a big feature. The uniform of skinny jeans, alternated with denim mini and legging combo, all worn with flat pumps of various colours, is easily obtained on the high street. Horizontal stripes also feature, probably due to the fact that these largely skinny people are among the few individuals who can pull it off. For those select and somewhat unfortunate few who cannot, brightly coloured but clashing t-shirt and cardigan combos are popular. All supporting equipment is transported in an oversized Topshop tote. This equipment is essential for the permanently edgy hair styles and copious amounts of smudgy black eye-liner. The overall aim is to look as individual and arty as possible. The only flaw is that due to a distinct lack of resources a uniform does emerge.

The heavy black eyeliner can also be translated to a slightly more specialist look: the 'dungeons and dragons' soc member. Take The Matrix, add a student budget and velvet and you're getting close. These guys aim to look spectacular and, in fairness, many do pull it off. It's just that, when encountered in dark campus corners while mildly inebriated, most other people heed their first and most basic instinct - to run. Black is the major, if not only, staple colour palette, although accents of purple, deep red and royal blue are popular to break-up the look, especially in the form of velvet-lined cloaks, which float atmospherically behind the wearer, adding extra drama. Impossibly high, generally internet obtained and well-sprung black rubber boots are a must, especially if they require half an hour's intensive labour to



Above: the various York style tribes.

Right: pyjamas are a common sight in Costcutter.

Photos by Ian Martindale

lace them up. Accessories also can include broad swords (I swear it's true!), cross bows, axes and various other forms of weaponry, as well as heavy silver jewellery, generally in form of a medieval crucifix and multiple piercings for the true tribal heavy weight. Just remember darlings, black never goes out of fashion!

The other thing to bear in mind when dressing at York, tribes aside, is location. You may already be aware that York contains three, yes three, glorious nightclubs and each are special and unique. Let's start at the bottom and work up: The Gallery. While many would argue that Ziggy's should be here, experience of The Gallery leads me to the conclusion that it falls very much lower down the list. Clientele mainly consists of lost freshers, who have not yet learnt to know better, and locals. Dress should be in keeping with the 'cattle market' theme of the layout. Girls: the Gallery is the place to don your shortest skirt, highest heels, and experiment with 'Croydon' facelifts - it's a good look. Various issues to bear in mind when preparing for this expedition are: stairs on the way up, more importantly: stairs on the way

down, the namesake 'gallery'. Beware, this is where the more predatory and more mature local resides: please note they are not gender specific in their prey. Moving swiftly on: Ziggy's. Ziggy's is a special place, very special place, and like Marmite: you either love it or you hate it. There is no entry fee; this should be an immediate indicator of the kind of clothing you should wear. Absolutely nothing of any sentimental, emotional or monetary value should be worn. In fact clothing should be kept to a minimum. You will sweat, and sweat a lot. The walls sweat. You may think this is somewhat hyperbolic: just trust us, touch them if you must, but this should be avoided on

medical grounds. Do not be under any pretension that you need make any kind of effort when dressing for Ziggy's; make-up sweats off, clothing is sweated off or else destroyed, again on medical grounds feet should be covered, but heels are not advised due to preponderance of stairs. There are no holds barred on theme of dressing, fancy dress in all and any form is perfectly acceptable, you do not need a reason. Various sightings last year have included: bin liners creatively draped, togas, cheerleaders and superheroes. Be creative, innovative and lose all inhibitions about the wearing of clothes and the covering of body parts you may previously have held.

Toffs is a very different ball game, knowing the difference is essential. Toffs is the only place in York which bears any resemblance to a nightclub you would want to go to. Do make a reasonable effort (although we are students), it can get hot, but unlike Ziggy's you can venture into jeans every so often. There is also, unusually, a choice of sub-location: the indie room. For the indie room long, unbrushed hair is essential on all genders, and grungy clothes are also a must:

think Nirvana, think 90s. For the main room: comfortable on the bottom, attractive on the top is a good rule of thumb, think day wear with a twist, shaken with added make-up and jewellery if a girl.

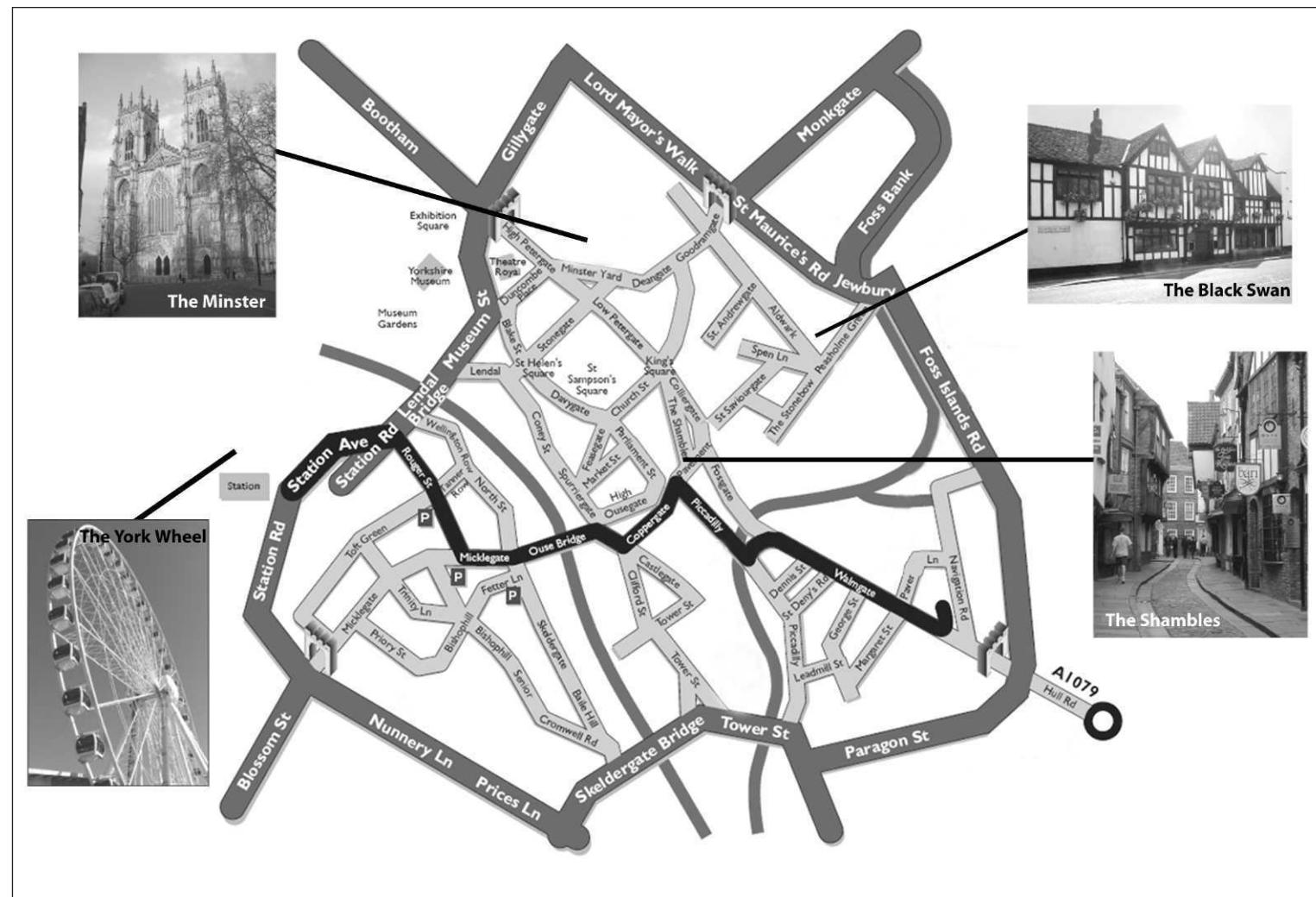
By the end of Freshers' Fortnight, you will realise that the majority of the time, the majority of students make minimal effort with their daily wardrobe. Pyjamas ARE acceptable day wear, in fact they are also perfectly at home in the various campus bars: we assure you this has been tried and tested. Consciously or unconsciously you will gravitate towards a style tribe, be it one we have mentioned here, or a brand spanking new one of your own making. Above all be comfortable; you will inevitably spend hours wandering around campus looking in perplexed agitation for that library book/tutor/thing you really need but totally fail to find in Costcutter, and you do not want to be caught off guard in a high-fashion yet completely impractical ensemble. And always remember: this is York, no one really cares what you are wearing anyway, so it is best to dress exactly as you wish and maximise the growth period that is university.



# The hidden history of York

Thousands of tourists flock to York each year. **Adam Sloan and Ben Toone** discover the sights students should check out too

Just a few of the sights that York has to offer



The city of York, which too many of us only glimpse whilst in the taxi from campus to Ziggys, is celebrating being named the best city in England for tourism. Venture into the market area on a Sunday and you will be surprised at how packed full of tourists the centre is, especially if you tend to spend your weekends on the University's usually deserted campus. However, despite the dislike that most of us generally have for visitors to 'our' city, it's true that even students can occasionally enjoy becoming tourists, and the sights that the city offers are more than enough to persuade even the laziest student to pick up a tourist book and map, and set out on a day of sightseeing.

If you made your first arrival into the city from the train station, you will no doubt have been confronted with the awe-inspiring Minster, York's most famous attraction and the star of its own TV documentary. The area and sights surrounding the Minster, however, are less well known and newcomers are often surprised by just how many historical places of interest York boasts. The sheer number of tourists the city attracts on a day-to-day basis is even more surprising. So here's a brief guide to York's historical highlights for you newcomers to help you become more York savvy - and maybe even inspire your own tour of the city.

A good place for any student to start is with a pint of ale in one of York's finest medieval watering holes. As the well-worn adage goes, the city has a pub for every day of the year, so you have plenty to choose from! A personal choice, though, would be the Black Swan Pub - a finely restored, 15th cen-



**'Dick Turpin, the highwayman, was imprisoned in York after being accused of horse stealing, and hanged at what is ironically now the York Racecourse'**

tury building, boasting a roaring fire and dark wood interior, which provides the perfect setting for a quiet drink or two.

If, one pint down, you're beginning to develop a taste for the medieval, why not then venture inside the Minster, take a tour of some of York's many beautiful churches and guildhalls, or wander the winding streets of the Shambles? To give you that extra nudge off your seat, it is worth noting that entry to the Minster is free with an N.U.S. card. It is,

also, the largest gothic cathedral in Northern Europe and second only to Canterbury Cathedral in terms of importance for the Church of England. The building boasts more medieval stained glass than any other English church and is an impressive setting for services and concerts.

The Shambles is the most visited street in Europe. It was once home to York's butchers' shops, (the name derives from the Saxon for 'flesh-shelves') and you can still see the gutter-like middle where the offal and gore used to run freely. Nice. It's more picturesque nowadays, though, albeit horrendously crowded at weekends.

As you embark on your first night of doing the Micklegate run, home to York's most lively bars and popular nightclubs, you will enter through the traditional royal entrance of Micklegate Bar, one of the city's gates. During medieval and early modern times, the heads of traitors were displayed on top of the bar as a warning to those entering the city. Many still report sightings of the ghost of Thomas Percy, one of the principal conspirators in the gunpowder plot, wandering around Holy Trinity church looking for his head. (Curiously, the chances of happening upon Mr Percy are greatly increased in line with Micklegate 'trebles for singles' consumption.)

Guy Fawkes himself was actually born and schooled right here in York. Keep an eye out for the commemorative plaque in the shadow of the Minster by Michael-le-Belfrey church. Another infamous social deviant, Dick Turpin the highwayman, was imprisoned in York after being accused of horse stealing and hanged at what is now, rather

ironically, York Racecourse.

York's primary medieval event of the year takes place in mid-February when the city is transformed for the Jorvik Viking Festival. For this week, the city is occupied (invaded if you like) by overly blonde, bearded men in chain mail, the river cruises are replaced with long boats and fierce medieval battles are re-enacted outside Clifford's tower. Last year there was even a re-enactment of a Viking wedding in York Minster. The activities are certainly a spectacle and it's well worth heading down to the banks of the Ouse early to get a prime spot.

For those of you who love your steam engines: what York lacks in amazing clubs or cheap campus bars, it makes up for with the National Railway Museum (small consolation for the rest of us). Amongst the exhibits here are a replica of Robert Stevenson's rocket, a Japanese bullet train, the Flying Scotsman and even a working mini railway for those who still have some growing up to do. If you're not so passionate about historic locomotives, maybe take a stroll along the city walls (in the right weather) or visit the nearby York Eye instead. It may not exactly rival the London Eye in skyline or design, but it certainly provides an interesting perspective on your surroundings.

As you will soon find, with or without one of the city's organised tours, York's narrow streets and impressive squares are brimming with history. This guide is only a taste of the many attractions you cannot help but stumble across - drunk or sober. So make the most of your time here and see what else you can discover about your second home.

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# The best days of your life?

Freshers' Fortnight isn't all drinking games and deep conversations with new-found soulmates. **Jo Shelley** looks at problems faced by freshers and where to find help

**T**ons of information is being thrown at new blood on campus this week. The University has delivered its rulebook (shelved), YUSU has plastered the kitchens with posters (ignored) and the local pizza delivery service has stuffed your letterbox with flyers (which, as of 2 a.m. this morning, proved the most useful of the lot). Most of this hyped-up, overblown blurb screams out how staggeringly amazing your first term is going to be. Little, however, advertises the fact that your initial weeks at university could potentially be the most stressful and scary of your life so far – as well as the most exciting.

Already into the first of a two-week, YUSU-led offensive, freshers are currently following a demanding timetable of late night partying and early morning meetings, aimed to help them settle in, make friends and discover what's available to them at their university. It's a hurricane of activity and with any luck (and often little choice) you'll get swept along. But, as many a wizened second year will admit, at some point this term – if not this week – you might feel alone and, bizarre as it may sound, under attack. Perhaps your STYC has crashed drunkenly into your corridor in the middle of the night once too often, your seminar tutor has ripped into your first essay or your kitchen has been ruthlessly plundered by the flat upstairs – but you're left wondering why on earth you came

to York, or even applied to university, in the first place.

The issues faced by freshers are well recognised by the Students' Union Welfare Officer, Amy Foxton. "Leaving home, family and friends is a lot harder than most people realise," she says. "There's a lot of pressure on students,

**"Where else but university would it be expected that you stay out drinking until 3 a.m. and make a valid contribution to a 9:15 seminar?"**

to succeed academically, to make lots of friends, to go out every night of the week and still get a good degree." While her fellow Union officers spend Freshers' Fortnight marshalling first years from bar to bar, downing shot after shot, it's Foxton's job to fend for their sanity. She emphasises the need for freshers to anticipate that "it can take time to adjust to a completely new lifestyle. Where else would it be expected that you stay out drinking until 3 a.m. and make a valid contribution to a 9:15 seminar?"

Foxton's advice is echoed by Mandy Alderson, Acting Head of the

University Counselling Service. Every year, Alderson and her colleagues at the Counselling Service see freshers at York struggling to cope with the pressure to do everything – go out, meet people, join lots of societies and love every minute of it – while battling the inevitable feeling of homesickness, which, according to recent estimates, affects up to 75 per cent of new students. "We see a lot of first years in the first term", she says. "Homesickness and loneliness are the main issues. Others are concerned if this is the right place for them, or whether they will fit in."

Long after Freshers' Fortnight has slipped into hazy memory, a blur of passing faces and crowded bars, even students who survived – and perhaps enjoyed – the experience may begin to feel uncomfortable in their new situation. Many of Alderson's conversations with first years focus on helping them answer, in retrospect, the entirely obvious question: "why am I here?" Often students have felt and, despite being many miles from home, continue to feel pressure from their families to complete and succeed in what is today a virtual rite of passage for many young people. "They've done well at school and come here because it seems like the automatic next step," explains Alderson. "But when they get away from their teachers and their family, they're not sure if it's the right move."

With much of the responsibility and cost of higher education now falling on the students themselves, it's not just pressure from outside that's putting people under large amounts of strain. Today's student wants more from the university experience; the opportunity to immerse yourself in Aristotle or get to grips with quantum theory just isn't enough anymore – if, a degree often being merely a means to a career, studying has ever even been a factor in your decision-making. Coming to university was an expensive decision, involving loans, debt and first-time contracts and, thanks to 'top-up' fees, you want your money's worth – in teaching, in accommodation and in your social life. The bad news is that these factors aren't always easy to balance. There's nothing worse than waking up at 7 a.m. with a post-Toffs hangover because the builders have started demolishing the block next door, to find an e-mail from your tutor refusing

you an extension for the 2,500-word essay due the next day. Well, except knowing that you're paying £3,000 for the privilege, that is.

But your university days are the best days of your life, right? That's what Melissa-Lauren, 21, thought when she arrived at York this time last year, ready to start an English Language degree. She was soon disappointed: "In my first term I realised that the course I'd always wanted to do was nothing like I'd expected it to be and I found it incredibly hard. I'd never thought about doing anything else and I suppose I felt like my dream was shattered."

Melissa-Lauren waited until her second term to speak to somebody about the problems she was having with her studies. "I tried to carry on with my course and sought help from one of my lecturers, but in the end I realised it wasn't for me. I think it's important to follow your instincts and not to feel like you're the only one who feels that way, because it happens to a lot of people." Claire Rees, a careers advisor at the Careers Service, sympathises with students who find themselves in this position. "Making a decision about what to do can take time. It is hard not to worry when you feel that things are not working out but there is lots of help available."

If there are problems that you're having difficulty dealing with, don't worry if there isn't someone you've met in your first week who you feel you can talk to. It's a strange kind of environment that you're in now and there is something almost taboo about admitting that you might need help; it's not something you necessarily would want to publicise to people who, as of yesterday, are your new 'best mates'. This week, everybody's taking everybody else's name and college, mobile number and A level grades, but sharing anything more personal is strictly avoided – or left for instantly regrettable nights of deep, drunken conversations over tumblers of Tesco Value gin in your kitchen.

If you do want to talk to somebody, there's no lack of willing, trained listeners on campus. Last academic year at York, over 500 students registered with the Counselling Service. This involves an initial 30-minute chat and, if you want to continue, a course of one-on-one sessions to follow. Alternatively, if

## Where to find support at York

### The Counselling Service:

01904 432140  
[counselling@york.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@york.ac.uk)  
[www.york.ac.uk/admin/scs](http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/scs).  
 Free, professional and confidential counselling.

### The Careers Service:

01904 432684  
[careers@york.ac.uk](mailtocareers@york.ac.uk)  
[www.york.ac.uk/services/careers](http://www.york.ac.uk/services/careers)  
 Trained advisors and a wealth of resources to help you decide what next, whether or not university's for you.

### The Overseas Student Association:

Help for foreign students having difficulty adjusting to living and studying in the UK.

### Nightline:

01904 433735  
[nighthmail@york.ac.uk](mailto:nighthmail@york.ac.uk)  
[www.york.ac.uk/student/nightline](http://www.york.ac.uk/student/nightline).  
 A confidential, friendly and student-run listening and information service located in Goodricke College. Open between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

### Your supervisor:

Personal support available throughout your degree in academic or personal matters. Email, call or drop in to their office.

### Your college JCRC Welfare Representative:

Weekly drop-in sessions at your college for a cup of tea and a chat.



**The pressure of settling in and being away from home can leave many students feeling homesick and lonely**

### Tips from the Counselling Service

Give yourself time to adjust to the new situation.

Don't feel like you're the only one feeling homesick.

Keep in touch with family and friends at home – you'll need your support networks while settling in.

If you're feeling unhappy, seek support and try to talk about your experience.

Don't expect to find your best friends during Freshers' Week.

you're having problems with your course or are worried about your post-university prospects, drop into the Careers Service between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Both services can be found in the centre of campus, behind the Computing Service, just off Vanbrugh walkway. Your supervisor is also available for a talk about academic or personal problems; otherwise, your college welfare team offer weekly drop-in sessions for a more informal chat and a cup of tea. Nightline is also on hand between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. for phone

calls or visits to its Goodricke headquarters.

The good news is that you've come to a University that retains the majority of its student body. The Times Good University Guide predicts that, based on York's previous drop-out rates, 95.1% of students arriving here this year will graduate, a statistic that compares favourably with other higher education institutions. So will you make it through your first year at York? Probably, yes, but not without some problems – and possibly some help – along the way.

### Academic & Welfare Officer

## Amy Foxton

**Take care of yourself during Freshers' Week**



You've seen it on Hollyoaks and because York starts ridiculously late you've probably heard all about your friends' experiences, but now your Freshers' Week is finally here. Amid all the expectation and excitement it's easy to forget how daunting your first week at uni can be. For every confident gap year student there's someone else who's finding it harder than they expected to live away from home for the first time. And of course just because everyone else seems to be coping well and having the best week of their lives it doesn't necessarily mean they're finding it any easier than you are. Remember that everyone is in the same situation as you are, nervous about making friends and settling in to life at York.

The people you socialise with in Freshers' Week, at least at first, will be the people you live with. It's likely that all you'll have in common is your allocation to one corridor or house by University admin and a common bond over the state of your accommodation – perversely colleagues with the worst accommodation tend to have the best community spirit. Maybe your new housemates will become your best friends, maybe you'll just meet occasionally in your kitchen, but it's best to try and get along with each other. That way when someone drunkenly steals your food you'll be able to laugh about it rather than taking it personally.

Being considerate to the people you're going to spend the next 30 weeks of the year living with will make things a lot easier and it's a good idea to look out for those around you. Maybe you're having an amazing week but chances are there's someone on your corridor who's not having such a great time, and who could do with a friend. Similarly, try not to judge people too quickly; you might form close friendships with people in Freshers' Week which last the year, but in other cases you might find you bond the most with the people you initially overlooked.

Whether you get on with your housemates or not, it's a good idea to get to know as many people as possible, so go and introduce yourself to the people who live next door or on the next corridor or even the people you bump into at events. Freshers' Week is the one time you can do this without seeming weird, so go on and take advantage of it. Similarly if you get to know everyone in your seminar group, you can discuss how you're all finding the transition from A level to degree and discover that you're not the only person feeling overwhelmed by the massive reading list your department has given you.

Go out and get involved with as much as possible in your first week – your Students' Union and JCRC have spent months planning events for Freshers' Fortnight, with a greater variety of things to do than ever before.

Although you may feel like staying in your room because you miss your boyfriend/girlfriend/pet/family this will only make you feel worse. One of my best friends stayed in her room for her first night at uni because she was homesick and went on to regret it for the next three years. Hopefully you'll soon be having so much fun that you'll forget how many miles away from home you are.

If you drink, do it responsibly. Watch your drinks; drink spiking is rare in York but that doesn't mean it won't happen to you. Look after your friends and those around you, chances are they'll return the favour at some point during the year. Make sure you get home safely, and don't walk home alone. No one in York knows how much drink you can handle, so don't let yourself be pressurised into drinking more than you would at home or do the same to anyone you're out with. Look beyond the student myths, there are some students who do go out drinking every night but they're a tiny minority.

In fact, a survey last year of over 3000 York students showed that 8 out of 10 drank twice a week or less. Similarly the vast majority of students don't have sex in Freshers' Week, and you shouldn't feel pressurised to sleep with someone if you don't want to. If you do have sex, wear a condom, no one is worth risking your sexual health for.

The media don't tend to focus on the less glamorous aspects of student life, like hours spent in the library or lab, or doing laundry and going to the supermarket. So if the reality of student life is different to your expectations, don't be surprised.

It's important to create a new support network in York and have someone you can talk to if you have any problems or just a bad day – you can talk in confidence to your college welfare reps, ring Nightline (01904 433735) or drop in to their flat in Goodricke D block between 8pm and 8am for coffee and a chat. You can also email [nightmail@york.ac.uk](mailto:nightmail@york.ac.uk) for a reply within 48 hours.

Finally, realise that Freshers' Week will be even better the second time around, when along with your new best friends you can get involved with running it, or be a STYC. You'll know where all the best bars are and you won't spend ages getting lost looking for a taxi rank or a decent takeaway.

# Write for Nouse

Come to our first meeting  
at 5.30pm on Wednesday  
week 2 in Physics L/001,  
everyone is welcome!



Daily Mirror  
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Student  
Newspaper  
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2005



The Guardian Student  
Newspaper  
of the Year  
2005  
runner-up

Winner of Mirror/NUS Student Newspaper of the Year 2005

# NOUSE



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Top-up fees, Ronald  
Reagan and vomiting  
on your girlfriend Page M2

**Lord Hutton**  
On the report which left  
York Chancellor Greg Dyke  
unemployed Page M12

Spring Term Week Four  
Tuesday 31 January 06  
www.nouse.co.uk  
Estd 1964



## York graduate remains 'person of interest' in America double murder

- Neil Entwistle, 27, flees to Britain after wife and baby found murdered
- Police investigate vendetta after suspected York based Internet scam

BY Toby Green  
EDITOR

A YORK graduate remains a "person of interest" in relation to the shooting of his wife and nine-month old baby.

The bodies of Rachel Entwistle, 27, who also spent two years studying at York University as an overseas student, and the couple's baby daughter, Lillian, were found by US detectives in their family home in the small town of Hopkinton near Boston, Massachusetts on Sunday 22nd January.

Initially the police believed that they had suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning, but it was later discovered that Rachel had been killed by a gunshot wound to the head and Lillian by a shot to the torso.

Neil, who took a degree in Electronics Engineering at York and graduated in 2002, met Rachel whilst they were both members of the University's boat club. A former member of the club who had rowed with the couple, Richard Skinner, said "Having known both Neil and Rachel ever since they first met at university, this news comes as a great shock to me and I hope that justice can be done in finding the perpetrators."

Another friend of the couple at university, John Gibbard, said "Given that they met while rowing at York and many of [the club] will have been coxed by Rachel or rowed with Neil, [the case] is very close to the club's heart." The Students'



Neil and Rachel Entwistle, 27, met whilst at York through the University Boat Club before moving to America

Union and the University Boat club declined to comment on the case.

Neil Entwistle, 27, left the US and flew to London from Boston two days before the bodies were found. The

discovery was made after guests invited to a dinner party on the 21st found the lights in the house turned off. The American authorities launched a hunt to get in contact with Mr Entwistle after finding his abandoned

BMW in the car park of Boston's airport, and they were not aware of his whereabouts until he contacted them at the beginning of last week from his parents' house in Worksop.

He was persuaded by four police officers who travelled over from America to attend the US embassy in London to answer questions, after a lack of evidence and refusal to brand him as a suspect meant he could not

town for over 10 years, did not appear random killings.

Neither of the Entwistles had a gun permit and the murder weapon has not yet been recovered. When police were called to the Entwistles' rented house they had to force the front door open as it had been locked by the last person to leave. A post-mortem was conducted on Rachel and Lillian Entwistle at the end of last week and forensic evidence shows the murders took place late on the Friday or early Saturday morning.

The couple married in August 2003 in Manomet, Massachusetts after having moved from England to America to start a family. An entry on Mr Entwistle's profile on the Friends Reunited site reads "Getting married to the most amazing woman in the world this summer: Rachel. We met through rowing. She was my cox, I her stroke! She's from the good ol' US, Boston to be more specific, Plymouth if you're really curious."

The Boston Herald has reported that Neil Entwistle answered investigators' question of whether he would return to the US for the funeral with the response "I don't know. Maybe."

Police are also investigating the possibility of a vendetta against the couple, as investigations have revealed a number of websites linked to Neil Entwistle and York that are believed to be scam sites.

In-depth: Page 5

Join York's  
oldest paper  
at the YUSU  
Fair 2006

If you want to be part of one of the biggest media societies on campus, find us at the YUSU fair this Saturday. We are always looking for new writers, no experience is necessary!  
**reporting**  
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**music**  
**politics**  
**sport**  
**film**

# Music Reviews

## Singles Reviews

### Betty Curse – *Girl With Yellow Hair*

Goth, apparently, is the new black. Riding on a black-laced wave comes Betty Curse, spewing Avril-esque guitar hooks and silly couplets about a girl who doesn't want to do what other people want her to do, and the terrible angst this state of affairs causes her.

### Moby and Debbie Harry – New York, New York

Inevitably, Harry's voice is by far the best thing about this strangely joyless celebration of the NYC. It's the only new track on Moby's soon to be released Best Of, created to promote the album, and it seems as if the bald vegan beatmaster couldn't really be arsed to do much more than press 'demo' on his keyboard.

### McFly – *Star Girl*

Weirdly reminiscent of S Club 7's 'Reach', Star Girl sounds exactly as you might imagine it would. In fact, you might as well listen to it with your ears closed, although if you did, you'd miss the immortal lyric: "I felt afraid as you kissed me/On your intergalactic Frisbee", not to mention an entirely predictable pun on 'Uranus'.

### The Young Knives – The Decision

Easily the best thing in this column, if only by default, 'The Decision' involves lots of shouting about colours, being the Prince of Wales and having been a difficult child. Much like a gentler and less Hispanic Pixies, The Young Knives are afraid of neither a well-placed yelp, nor of entirely nonsensical and unconnected lyrics.

*Singles this week were reviewed by Kathryn Bromwich, Sara Sayeed and Robin Seaton.*

## Competition



To win a copy of Four Tet's ace new remixes album, *Remixes*, email the answer to the following question to [socs12@york.ac.uk](mailto:socs12@york.ac.uk): what is Four Tet's real name? Please put 'Four Tet' in the subject line.

**The Walkmen**

*Live at the Koko Club,  
London*

Reviewed by  
Sara Sayeed

27/09/06



The Walkmen trundled on stage about an hour late – nonchalant, with sensible haircuts and lager bottles in hand, you could easily mistake them for slightly sozzled, fumbling techies. Then a guttural wail erupts from amidst the blazed stage, some guitars screech into place and it seems it's finally started.

The band soon launch into the notorious track, "Little House of Savages" which is arguably definitive of the Walkmen's sound, both in tone and title: music that's often savagely warped but also tentatively contained. The track propelled the Walkmen from the depths of the New York underground scene into the popular consciousness, when they played it on the little-known American soap, *The O.C.* Some of you may have come across the show's indie-saturated soundtracks, on

which "Little House of Savages" was included in its live version. A good decision on the producers' part, since, live, the Walkmen's music is infused with a compelling dynamism that is sometimes absent from the album versions.

Hamilton Leithauser's Dylan-on-acid voice is an instrument in itself; he screeches and croons with such a primal and ferocious intensity, it's a wonder he doesn't collapse or start spouting blood mid gig. But Leithauser isn't the sole focus and is often upstaged by the frenzy of atomised guitars, bass and organ, not forgetting Matt Barrick who, for a weedy looking guy, not only bashes his drum kit with the savagery of a starving cannibal but manages to rhythmically ground and control what sometimes threatens to become a cacophonic jumble. Barrick certainly shines on "Louisiana" (the forthcoming single), slowing down the pace to a more laid-back bluesy pulse, and then revving it up again for the encore tune "The Rat".

Fantastic, if a little feral, the Walkmen are definitely worth checking out if you get the chance – just don't be too alarmed if Leithauser's torn and tattered larynx wings itself your way.



**Scott Matthews**

*Passing Stranger*

Reviewed by  
Daniel Whitehead

Out Now



Scott Matthews' debut LP, 'Passing Stranger', is a complex, varied affair that combines traditional folk with rock and blues. The young singer-songwriter from Wolverhampton takes much from other songwriters such as Ryan Adams, Jeff Buckley and Robert Plant, occasionally a bit too much; it sounds as if it's something you've heard before.

The seventeen track LP undoubtedly has its high points, with the soulful 'Passing Stranger' providing an invigorating spark to what is a lacklustre opening. The feeling of disappointment continues throughout though, and it seems that there are more meandering interludes than actual songs.

This leaves the underlying feeling that Matthews is trying to build himself up for something bigger and better, but when it finally arrives in the form of his excellent, harmonious recent single 'Elusive' you've already had enough.

While *Passing Stranger* is a relatively commendable debut which features in spurts soul-bearing lyrics, Matthews is unable to provide anything special which differentiates him from the competition. Essentially, his work drifts from the hypnotic to the downright dull, lacking the catchy tunes to make this a mainstream hit.



**Clinic**

*Visitations*

Reviewed by  
Sam Thomas

Out 16/10/06



For their latest outing, Clinic promise us "surreal ballads next to subhuman riffs," and dutifully cram as many of both as possible into this thirty-three minute waif of an album, without ever seriously threatening to reconcile the two. Instead, the songs seem to tolerate rather than exploit any such tensions, and this goes some way to explaining the mystery of how a record that so obviously yearns to burst with ideas can sound and feel so very thin.

Part of the problem lies in Ade Blackburn's vocal affectations, which occasionally near the territory of the pub mimic. His dodgy impressions range from a younger, more lucid Mark E. Smith, who presides over some four-square pub thrash to no effect on 'Tusk', to a rasping Thom Yorke on 'Paradise'.

The latter counts as one of the few successes here: lilting whimsy which, ably assisted by a well-placed melodica solo (never a bad idea), becomes more than the sum of its parts. The closing title track also has much to recommend it, not least that it could be incidental music from a Bond film. But the song's refrain lays bare the real issue here: "just don't get close," Blackburn cautions. Anyone choosing to ignore him will see that there's not much holding these songs together.



**Albert Hammond Jr**

*Yours to Keep*

Reviewed by  
Robin Seaton

Out this week



"Goodnight, I say to you: goodnight" begins Albert Hammond Jr's first solo record, sounding ever so slightly like The Sound of Music's 'So Long, Farewell'. It's a slightly disingenuous beginning, because the second song, 'In Transit', immediately returns to more familiar territory for the Strokes' guitarist. Although his vocals never manage to be quite as laid back or half-arsed as Julian Casablancas', Hammond is definitely in the region of the musical map labelled 'Strokes album tracks'.

It's not bad place to be; tales of boys and girls lost in New York City have been a staple rock subject matter ever since Lou Reed first put a needle in his arm.

As it turns out, the album is split roughly evenly between more gentle tunes, and those that would not sound out of place on a Strokes LP, which stand in the corner of the record and sneer at the other, more exuberant songs - self consciously cool but slightly awkward.

Ultimately, it seems, this album is an excuse to put out some ideas that would not have worked within the context of the Strokes, and some others that weren't good enough for the former biggest indie band in the world.

# Arts Reviews

Holly Williams offers you a guide to the theatre venues on and around campus, and our book reviewers look at a selection of student guides and recipe books

## On campus

### The Drama Barn

Probably the mostly aptly named venue on campus, the barn is also the most used. With an ambitious timetable of a production a week, a variety of shows gives lots of students a chance to get involved. But, yes, it really is like a barn. Difficult to find at first, I must admit, but do not give up your search! Check out *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in week 3 and *The Crucible* in week 9 for productions that take advantage of the intimacy of the venue.

### Central Hall

For many students it's just an exam hall in the shape of a spaceship, somewhere they prefer to stay away from, especially considering its looming presence over the lake. Yet, every now and then, Central Hall is home to large-scale performances. 'Fusion', an eclectic fashion show, and The Central Hall Musical Society both put on flashy shows here - look out for *West Side Story* next term.

### Dixon Drama Studio

Much money is spent, but little is put on in this black box theatre, closely guarded by members of the Writing and Performance staff. Occasionally used for students to trial run their own work, or for department shows, offering a chance for the expensive lighting rig to be put to good use.

## In York

### York Theatre Royal

With £4 student tickets, York Theatre Royal is cheaper than the cinema, so there's no excuse not to check out both its main house and more intense studio theatre.

One to watch this term is The English Touring Theatre Company's production of Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*, on in the main house 21st October-5th November. This powerful anti-war play from an acclaimed company promises to provide a seriously good night of theatre, with award-winning actress Diana Quick in the lead role.

### Grand Opera House

Another large venue, the Opera House hosts a range of musical and theatrical shows, including the much-loved Christmas panto that has acquired legendary status with locals.

Don't be put off by the names - this term, the so-called Grand offers you the chance to see both *Puppetry of the Penis* (1st Nov) and *The Vagina Monologues* (6th Nov). Opera it ain't. Expect audience participation and problem solving. For more information, see: [www.thisistheatre.com/regionals/yorkgrandoperahouse.html](http://www.thisistheatre.com/regionals/yorkgrandoperahouse.html).

There are also many smaller local theatres to support in York. Watch out for details of productions in local publicity.

## A train ride away

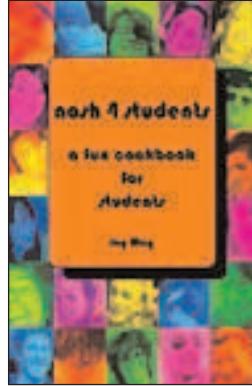
### The West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

Getting some high profile performances, it's worth the train fare to Leeds for a chance to see shows that might not make it to York. The innovative touring company Kneehigh Theatre present an irreverent new adaptation of *Cymbeline* in association with the RSC from 10th- 14th October. Promising to include 'heart-stopping poetry, electrifying live music and characteristic madness', *Cymbeline* sounds like essential viewing, especially given WYP's £5 ticket deal for under 26s. Certainly a good excuse to venture to Leeds and embrace the multitude of shops and art galleries.

See: [www.wyplayhouse.com](http://www.wyplayhouse.com) for further details.

### Crucible/Lyceum/Studio theatres, Sheffield

Further afield, but well worth the effort, Sheffield's trio of theatres offer some of the best productions in the North. Particular highlights this season include Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* in the Crucible from 11th October, and the West-End smash hit *The Play What I Wrote* from 6th- 11th November. Directed by Kenneth Branagh, the latter is a hugely successful production which will include a mystery guest star. This sounds dubious, but given that past guests include Roger Moore, Ewan McGregor, Glenn Close, Kylie Minogue, and Sting, there's every chance it could be someone unmissable.



### Nosh 4 Students

Reviewed by Holly Williams

£6.99  
inTRADE



Like many student cookbooks, *Nosh 4 Students* seems to think that without a stupid name and a cover that resembles a 70's light-up dancefloor, your average student won't be persuaded to cook. It's a shame, because if you can get past the text-speak title, this book is actually quite helpful.

With sections on things that I've often heard people in actual student kitchens pondering - 'How long does it take to boil cabbage?'; 'How long can I keep chicken before it kills me?' - *Nosh 4 Students* includes advice on the basics you feel you should know (but don't).

May's other bright idea is to have photos of every meal. While this undoubtedly helps you tell if you've screwed up royally, the pictures for some dishes are about as appealing as an Asda Smart Price ready meal, which is of course the alternative.

Given that the book was inspired by her son's university experience, May's relatively restrained with the 'fun' anecdotes and patronising tone, making *Nosh 4 Students* more palatable than it might look (hopefully the same goes for the dishes).



### Pocket Mom

Dina Fayer

Reviewed by Kirran Shah

£8.99  
Quirk Books

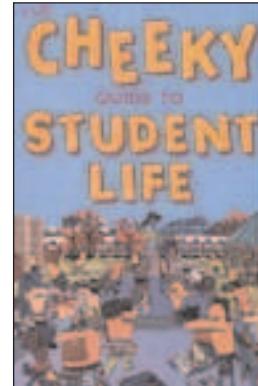


If you're looking for an extremely light read to take the edge off homesickness and the realisation you now have to do your own washing, *Pocket Mom* is a modestly amusing book to dip into throughout the day. 'Everyday wisdom, practical tips and down-home advice,' reads the cover.

Unfortunately, it has been sitting under a pile of books for a year but leafing through it idly, I noticed some categorical imperatives. 'Take a seat when you eat,' was enough to produce a wry smile and 'Listening isn't the same as hearing.'

While making your bed every morning is something you went to University to get away from, there are tips that are indispensable. These include 'Damage Control: Mom's best stain removal tips,' 'Proper Chicken Protocol,' and vital tips to stop you burning down your kitchen.

From 'Servicing your Toenails' to the 'Anatomy of the Kitchen', this effortless read has the potential either to reaffirm your decision to leave home or to cause you to run a mile from your new found independence.



### The Cheeky Guide to Student Life

Reviewed by Kirran Shah

£8.95  
Cheeky Chops



The first thing that struck me about this book was 'how to ditch your childhood sweetheart': a piece of advice which just about sums up the whole book. Not necessarily realistic advice, but certainly humorous. I would endeavour to find out whether the information is actually valuable to anyone. A pointless read, but boasting the wonderful realization that your degree is worthless - a mandatory aspect of university life.

This book is an enjoyable read if you are looking for the weirdest places to study in the UK, perhaps to take the edge off the hoards of ducks following you around campus.

It is an extremely easy read, broken up with many graphics and hilarious anecdotes. There are also plenty of games to toy with, if you are particularly bored with drinking your Freshers' Fortnight away.

The book makes a simple gift for a fresher, or perhaps for just reminiscing about your earlier student days. It has been labeled the Bible for students! An ideal book to pass around the kitchen table amongst the layers of mould growing off plates.



### The Classic 1000 Cocktails

Reviewed by Kirran Shah

£5.22  
Foulsham



If by some strange inclination you fancy experimenting with alcohol this year (what an absurd notion!), this is the book for you.

Yes, this is your chance to be creative. An ideal way to bond with fellow housemates while blending to your heart's content. There is a huge range of cocktails to choose from, and there are non-alcoholic options too. You may even find you quite like using your kitchen.

The index of ingredients is especially useful for when you want to make use of your old alcohol at the back of the cupboard. Any combination is possible! A warning, though: the rating system for each cocktail is persuasive, but do not be swayed by other peoples taste buds.

The book has been praised for being user-friendly, if you actually get round to using it. More likely, though, it will end up sitting on the shelf all year, looking attractive amongst stained student cook books.

The purchase of this book may lead to the impulse buying of alcohol on a grand scale, so do be careful. I recommend the book be enjoyed in moderation.

# Film Reviews

## The Departed

**Director:** Martin Scorsese  
**With:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson

**Runtime:** 149 mins

**Reviewed by**  
Rob Perkins



Whoever said: 'You don't really know a person until they're dead?' At any rate, this seems to be the theme of Martin Scorsese's new film, where everyone pretends to be someone else. Matt Damon is a gangster who pretends to be a cop; Leonardo DiCaprio is a cop who pretends to be a gangster; they work, respectively, for and against Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), Irish-Bostonian crime kingpin, who pretends to be the devil.

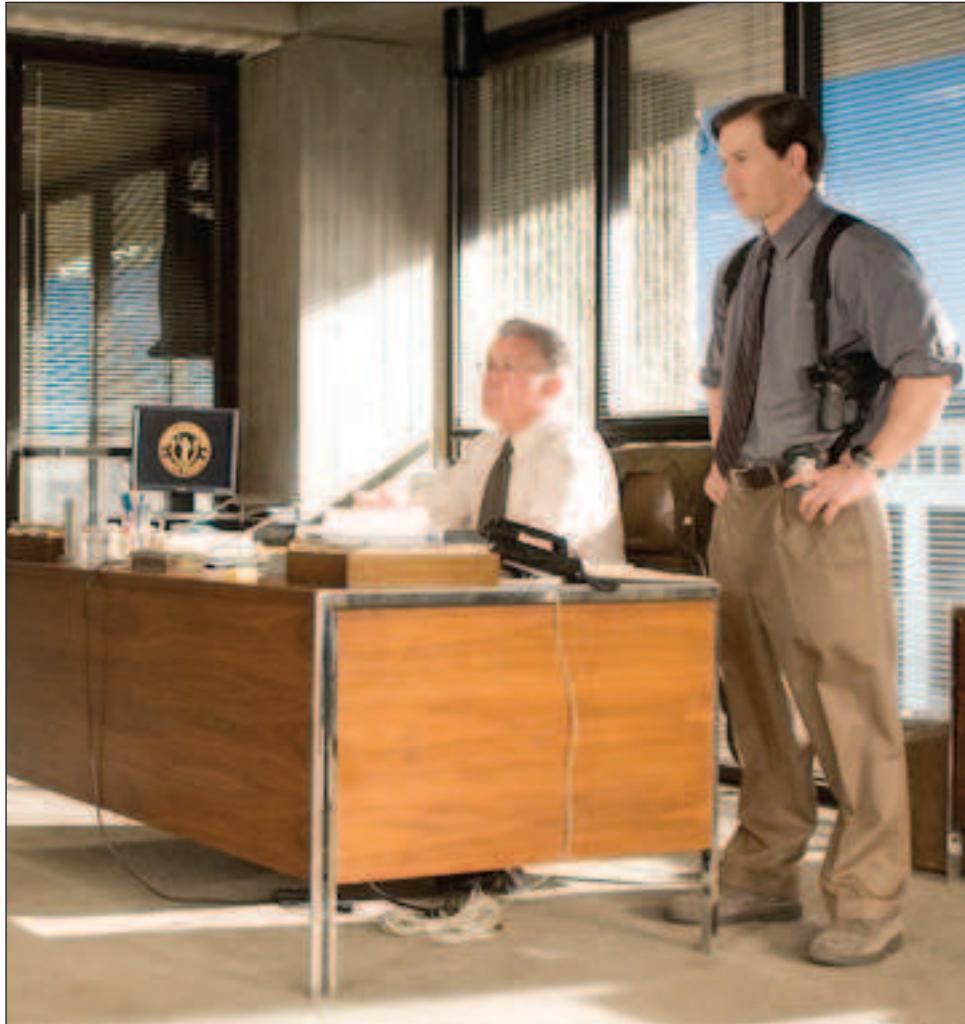
I had my doubts when halfway through the film, out of nowhere, came a scene with Costello going to the theatre with a lady, then taking her home for some cocaine and whatever else seemed appropriate, the whole suffused with red light. Unsubtle, Martin. I far preferred Billy Costigan, DiCaprio's character, having a quiet drink when who should enter the bar but Costello, covered in blood like it ain't no thing. Ambition cramps Nicholson's style; his performance is an assortment of bits, entertaining but uneven.

Far better is DiCaprio, who effectively conveys the cramped desperation of an orphan with nowhere to hide but the lion's lair. Matt Damon makes a weird villain, though – you feel kind of sorry for him when, towards the end, he tries to stroke his neigh-

bour's dog only to be bluntly rebuffed and ignored. A broad slash through this parade of lonely hearts comes, surprisingly, in the person of Mark Wahlberg, who plays Dignam, Costigan's gruff but strangely adorable superior officer. I thought I'd never forgive Wahlberg his cowardly turn in *The Italian Job*, but here he never flinches while chewing through most of the film's best lines. "Treat FBI agents like mushrooms – feed 'em shit and keep 'em in the dark."

The only way to sustain a film with a hero so alienated you can't imagine him happy, with Jack Nicholson on the other side (a film with nobody to root for) is to keep coming at us incessantly. *Heat* had the best setpiece of any action film of the past decade, a shootout so pure and lyrical in its simplicity that the only way to top it is to substitute wits for guns. In a brilliant move, Damon almost wipes out DiCaprio and finds a scapegoat for his own double-dealings; as he sits in his office, listening to gunfire over his walkie-talkie before switching it off, it reminds us of the beauty to be found in well-plotted amorality.

There is no soul in Scorsese's really rather horrible fictional landscape outside the eyes of Vera Farmiga, Damon's psychiatrist girlfriend who falls in love with DiCaprio, but who needs it in a film with a gobsmacking finale and which, with few exceptions, treats its characters like so much small change? What is important when a person is dead is whose hands are soiled by his blood – who needs to join him in hell. Those of you who have seen *The Third Man* will feel plenty clever come the ending.



## The Devil Wears Prada

**Director:** David Frankel  
**With:** Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep

**Runtime:** 109 mins

**Reviewed by**  
Paul Becker



I couldn't help speculating that my little sister seemed a more suitable reviewer for *The Devil Wears Prada*, not only because her grammar is far superior to mine. *The Devil Wears Prada* didn't seem to be intended for an extremely macho super-stud like myself (a slight exaggeration perhaps, but a valid point nonetheless). This movie either taught me not to pre-judge so much, or that my opinion of my manliness is vastly over-inflated.

Based on a novel by Lauren Weisberger, the film follows naïve young Andy (Anne Hathaway) as she attempts to make it as a New York journalist by becoming 2nd assis-

tant to "Ice Queen" Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep) at a 'Vogue'-esque fashion magazine. As Andy struggles to adjust to the job that a million girls would kill for, she begins to lose her integrity and sense of self under the steely gaze and diva mannerisms of her egocentric boss. Although the rather predictable plot only has one 'solemn' point to hammer home – repeatedly, and with limited subtlety – the script itself sparkles with catty put-downs and dazzlingly cynical quips. Director David Frankel may pay careful homage to the fashion industry throughout, but the film is unafraid to pick away at the industry's vacuous façade in one-liners like "Yes, that is what this million dollar business is all about. Inner beauty..." This is, in short, a fun film.

*The Devil Wears Prada* may follow the conventions of every single 'chick-flick' ever made, but it still left me with a broad smile on my face. Everyone in the film seems to be having great fun with the material. Streep in particular revels in her Cruella De Vil impression, and while her savage tongue provides many great moments, the best lines belong to Stanley Tucci, who has his own tongue so firmly in cheek that I feared he might choke.

This film is not without significant flaws. It remains in essence a chick flick. Even during its 'heavy' moments it's as light as one of the magazine's models themselves, and the plot is rushed, despite having very little to say. Andy's friends constantly bemoan how much she has changed, a fact the audience has to take for granted as the only noticeable shift is in her hairstyle. Endless product placement wears thin before even the opening credits are over.

However, while the film prioritises all this above the development of both plot and character, it rarely interferes with the general merriment. Ultimately this film is about priorities. I'm just grateful that it never prioritises anything over its sense of humour.

## Lego Star Wars II

**Publisher:** Activision  
**Platform:** PS2, XBox, PC

**Age:** 3 and above

**Reviewed by**  
James Gerlis



Not technically a film, this video game makes it into the page purely for its original and hilarious treatment of the world's most famous trilogy. Whether you are a Star Wars fan or nostalgic for those days making castles out of bricks, *Lego Star Wars II* provides an entertaining experience for gamers of any age.

Everything you would expect from your standard Star Wars game is here: lightsabers, Storm Troopers and (thankfully due to the sequel addressing the first trilogy) no Jar Jar Binks. The game is set across the first three films, with the player able to take control of

pretty much every character in the set, over 50 in total. Different characters have different powers: jedi knights have lightsabers and the force, whilst Chewbacca has his bow and arrow.

However the not so obvious twist is that everything is made out of lego: oh yes, I've got your attention now haven't I! First of all this looks great visually, when characters die they explode in a mess of blocks and Jedi characters can summon the force to build space ships and other helpful objects much in the same way you used to construct houses when you were a child and a fan of the multi-coloured bricks.

Secondly, the whole concept of the Star Wars universe being made out of lego brings a much needed humorous side to the often po-faced films. Examples include discovering Storm Troopers bathing together and Chewbacca generally being the butt of all the jokes, but almost every level and cut scene promises some new visual gag. Admittedly they are often childish, but this doesn't stop them from being laugh out loud funny.

The multiplayer function is also great, with a chance to do the missions in a cooperative style as well as a free play. This is perhaps the best aspect, with the story gaining even more depth and with access to areas which are only available with two players.

The negatives are the same as the first: it is far too easy (especially as you can die as many times as you want), it's too short and it has a camera angle that occasionally gets in your way. But, it is a kids' game. All too often that means that developers can get away with substandard, but brightly coloured games; happily this is not the case for *Lego Star Wars II*. However, rest assured that this game is a real pleasure to play, and arguably the finest Star Wars game to exist – and there have been a fair few. You may not spend hours playing it, but those hours you do will be fun filled.

# Food and Drink Reviews



## Which Takeaway?

Lets face it; the takeaway is a student institution. It's the staple food of any self-confessing student diet. Being a student is your only opportunity to have a healthy eating amnesty. Embrace the turkey twizzle, cheesy chips, doner kebab, hash browns, chilli burger special, calzone kiev. Raise your head up high, go forth to clog those arteries and choose to takeaway!

### Efes Pizza, 26 Heslington Road.

Efes claims to be 'The Students' Favourite Takeaway'. They wouldn't be lying, Efes is a legendary takeaway amongst York Uni students. With a shiny new menu which pays tribute to students, thanking them for their custom, it's certainly evident that we've put a whole lot of business their way recently! It's easy to see why, with 20% student discount, and a wide range of special offers they certainly cater for the empty student pocket. Efes has set a new takeaway precedent, its gone all technological on us! You can now order online. Could this spell an end to confused phone calls and missing orders? A takeaway revolution is upon us.

### Micklegate Takeaway, 36 Micklegate.

With special offers for York University students only, Micklegate Takeaway offer a slice of exclusivity with your pizza! This takeaway is perfectly positioned for stumbling out of Ziggys.

### York's Yummy Chicken, 28 Pavement.

The chips here are amazing and in a drunken blunder you wouldn't be wrong in believing that they put a magical tastetastic ingredient on them. It is in fact paprika, but just ask for a shake of the red stuff and you're good to go. But be warned, you'll find yourself making the trek across town in a quest for these 'yummy' chips more often than you would like to admit.

### Osbaldwick Fisheries, 171d Osbaldwick Lane.

The best fish and chips in York, well so say the Nouse office. They wouldn't be far off either, a trip to Osbaldwick fisheries is definitely necessary, not only do they offer delicious food but you'll also get to see the signed picture of Michael Cain on the wall. It also has a certificate of approval from the local Beaver pack. They must be good. No one wants to mess with a hungry Beaver.

Words: Vicky Hallam.

**The Milk Shack**  
14 Church Street

Reviewed by  
Vicky Hallam



Absolutely delicious. If you choose wisely, that is. With 150 flavours to choose from, this is not a place for the indecisive. Give yourself at least 10 minutes to scan the menu, or you could make the potential error of choosing something with sounds great but tastes revolting...pink shrimp, for example. A relatively new concept for York is Milkshack, York's first and only Milkshake bar.

It's hard to miss; in true milkshake style it's painted bright pink and bubblegum blue. Your milkshake is made right in front of you in one of their extensive range of blenders. I was glad to see that they were using fresh ingredients wherever possible and it was quite fun to watch too.

The idea is that first you choose the size of your shake: regular at £2.35 or large at £3.35. You then choose your flavour: Love

hearts, Aeromint, chilli, Dime bar, Wine Gums, Terry's Chocolate Orange, lemon drizzle cake and toffee popcorn, Marsbar, walnut whip, just to name a few. They then select your chosen treat from its cubby-hole, and blend it into your shake. You can add additional flavours for an extra 70p, or a topper, like jelly tots or marshmallows for 30p. Whipped cream, a necessity in my book, is 35p. I was surprised that you can opt to add soya milk or boost your shake by adding protein, muscle builder or wheat germ. I had the special of the day, Crunchie and Dime Bar with White Chocolate Maltesers.

I was less than convinced that I would still be able to taste all the different combinations once they have been blended into oblivion. But I was so wrong; you could actually taste all the flavours in there. I would however, suggest sticking with a regular unless you are particularly hungry and/or thirsty as in true American style they don't hold back on portion size.

All milkshakes can also be served hot, which is perfect for the cold winter months which will soon be upon us (although I'm not sure what hot Haribo would taste like).



**Wrapid**  
4 Coney Street

Reviewed by  
Vicky Hallam



Love to all my badass food M.C.'s. Word on the street is that there's a new place opened in town and it's off the ends. Ok, tedious link over. Wrapid is the latest eatery addition to Coney Street. Offering up 'awesome food, hot and prepared-crammed into a tasty wrap.'

I was slightly dubious of another chain sandwich bar opening in York, as it already seems we are over run with them. However, I have to say I was won round by Wrapid. They really do offer a whole meal in your hand. All day breakfast wrap, bangers and mash wrap, stir-fry chicken with noodles wrap, pepperoni pizza wrap, the choice on offer is surprising.

I had the Chicken Tikka Balti Wrap, it was really tasty and was 'wrapped' in a Naan Bread which I thought was a really nice touch. At £3.75 you really did get value for money as they didn't skimp on ingredients and was packed with flavour. I also sampled the Rich Chocolate Pudding Crepe, it was slightly sickly but a real indulgence. It's perhaps more of a snack to pick up rather than a treat to eat and finish you off. But at £1.99 I couldn't complain. Just present your student card and you can receive a free drink, with unlimited free refills. Wrapid are also open everyday until midnight.

**Ate O'Clock**  
13a High Ousegate

Reviewed by  
Emma Fite-Wassilak



Easy to miss unless you're looking for it, Ate O'Clock is tucked away in between the shops on High Ousegate. Upon entrance, the décor manages to give a vibe of casual but chic – and the menu reflects that. It offers such typical options as steak and chips, intermingled with more posh items such as smoked salmon terrine on a smoked paprika crûte with pineapple salsa.

After complimentary freshly baked flavoured bread (fennel or celery, that day) – the food that arrives is anything but standard. The presentation was appealing yet didn't complicate consumption, and the service was impeccable: attentive even when the restaurant grew busy. The portion size is generous, especially considering the relatively low prices (the average main course was £7).

The dessert (shared on account of the large main course sizes) was gorgeous – a chilled white chocolate rice pudding with warm tropical fruit compote. In general, the restaurant has a good atmosphere, great staff, and delicious food at reasonable prices – although perhaps lunchtime is a bit lighter on the wallet. Overall, it's a brilliant choice for relaxed luxurious lunch breaks in town, when you're looking for something classy and tasty that won't break the bank.

**Evil Eye Lounge**  
42 Stonegate

Reviewed by  
Farsheen Husain



For all freshers new to York, there is just one place you need to know about: The Evil Eye Lounge. Located in Stonegate, this small internet café-come-bar, with its ultra trendy East Asian décor, is home to the best and most exciting cocktails in town. Every evening will prove lively and loud.

Basically, the Evil Eye is shamelessly cool – even Johnny Depp was rumoured to frequent it during filming of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Even for those familiar with the Eye's unique evening experience, you mightn't be aware of what I love most about this place: the food.

Keeping in style with the décor, they offer a fantastic range of Thai food before 9pm every day (except Sundays, when they serve an equally good hearty Sunday roast). Everything is rich in ingredients, full of flavour, and relentlessly spicy (so watch out for any item with a 3 or 4 star chilli rating!). My personal favourite is the shrimp pad thai, and at a mere £5.50, it's an absolute bargain. No item exceeds £9 and I've never had to wait longer than 15 minutes for an order. Better yet, if you wish to enjoy the Eye's funky atmosphere but aren't too fond of the exotic cuisine, then don't worry – they do a pretty good teriyaki burger too.

# The last word

**Andreas Masoura** has just moved in next door to our editor, whose house was broken into the next day. Coincidence?

## Goodricke screws Vision

Unfortunately, this year's hoard of freshers will be missing out on a vital part of their Freshers' Week experience. No, I'm not referring to the kitchens in Goodricke that have gone missing, but to the delay in Vision's publication. Don't worry, simply pick up a copy of the Daily Sport from Your:Shop for similar, some would even say more stimulating and informative, reading. Apparently Vision have been telling people it's because they want to get shit-faced in Freshers' Week, rather than providing students with a worthwhile newspaper. Perhaps the lure of unsuspecting 18 year olds is too much to resist. Or maybe Vision's inability to use computers forced them to publish a week late? Oh the shame. A frantic (dare I say desperate?) attempt to get Matt Burton (Goodricke's Chair) to fix the problem proved unsuccessful. Burton, holidaying in Scarborough at the time, simply refused since he vitally needed to top up his tan by sunbathing in the nude. So if any freshers have the misfortune of bumping into any of the Vision editorial

team during the forthcoming week, I can only apologise. In future, it would help to actually turn the brightness up rather than have it on zero.

## Unlucky, you have to eat at the Roger Kirk Centre

On my way to my spiritual culinary home that is the Roger Kirk Centre on Saturday, I couldn't help but notice the freshers moving into Goodricke. On arrival, the joy on their faces was radiant as they were handed two complimentary bottles of water. This abruptly faded as they realised the only reason they were given water was because Goodricke A block has no running water. In fact it has no kitchens. Next, I saw students frantically stuffing their faces with mummy's homemade cake (apparently cake needs to be refrigerated) whilst downing bottles of milk. At least they're learning that you can't call yourself a true student if you waste food. Think of all the hungry people in Malawi, like



The Roger Kirk Centre

Rob. Anyway, three months over the summer proved insufficient time for the University to refit a handful of kitchens. Well I suppose it would have been rude to refit kitchens whilst conference guests were residing in Goodricke. So instead the University have

waited to do it while students are staying there. This is one detail the prospectus omitted. Once the gloss of being a fresher is replaced by duck shit, those of you that live in substandard accommodation will realise that the University prioritises facilities for conference guests over students. A fine example is the Roger Kirk toilet. Don't worry though, all you Goodricke A block freshers will definitely get to use it. Why? Well, as a substitute for kitchens you are to be given Roger Kirk dinner vouchers. On eating dinner, I can assure you that you won't be able to make the 50 yards to your own toilets.

## Freshers' Guide

I'm sure you've all read plenty of freshers' guides but I thought I could add a few pointers that have perhaps been overlooked. Ok, as far as York's nightlife goes I have one suggestion: Go to Leeds. It's only a 20 minute train journey away, and I can assure you (particularly any males) that it is more than worth it. You might even fancy a change of scene once you've told the 2000th person what you're studying and where you're from. However, York's not actually that bad anymore. The newly opened strip club will not only provide me with a chance to show off my pole dancing technique and students with entertainment before Ziggy's on a Wednesday, it will also contribute positively to the local economy. Oh, one other thing. Former SU President, Mickey Armstrong, now works at Tesco so if you want a discount on your Ribena, shop there. Just say that you go to York on arrival at the checkout.

## Crime hits York

Another thing. As I'm sure you've been warned several times already, York is a very dangerous place. Tang Hall Lane could compare to any grimy London suburb (like Peckham, for example). Gun crime on campus is especially on the rise as a fellow student found out. As the gunman thrust his weapon at the student's face, he heroically tackled the gunman, dispossessing him of the offensive firearm in question. It turned out to be a harmless incident since the supersoaker was in fact empty. The offender was promptly picked up by his parents and driven back to school in time for his maths lesson.

## It takes more than good writers to make an award-winning newspaper

We're looking for people to get involved with:

**Finance  
Advertising  
Website  
IT  
Proofreading  
Design**

Come along to Freshers' Fair on Saturday or email us at [socs12@york.ac.uk](mailto:socs12@york.ac.uk) for more information



[www.NOUSE.co.uk](http://www.NOUSE.co.uk)



Clockwise from top left: Nicholas Cage stars in the Oliver Stone epic *World Trade Center*; Owen Wilson adds some laughter to the screen with his character Dupree; Jimmy Carr comes to York this Autumn for his UK tour and the Vikings show us how it's done at the Jorvik centre.

## Live Music

### Monday 9th October Bullets Octane, Fibbers

Calling any punk rock fans out there. This gig comes highly recommended by those at Fibbers. Support is provided by Takota, Sucioperro and Joseph. Get ready to head bang!

### Tuesday 10th October

#### NME Rock 'n' Roll Riot Tour 2006, Leeds Cockpit

The Cockpit is a fantastic venue in Leeds and this gig is bound to be incredible. The Fratellis join the lineup of this year's infamous NME Tour and are sure to please the crowd.

### Sunday 15th October The Automatic, The Refectory, Leeds University Union

This band, already extremely popular, are tipped to be huge! Everyone knows their hit 'Monster' but they will also play tracks from their newly released album 'Not Accepted Anywhere'.

### Thursday 19th October The Glitterati, Fibbers

When producers who have worked with Guns and Roses want to work a band, little more needs to be said about their talent. An absolute bargain, with tickets only £5 on the door with a flyer.

## Campus Events

### Monday, Week one Access All Areas, Campus bars

The opening night of Freshers' Fortnight 2006 kicks off with Access All Areas. One ticket is all you need for entry to all six campus bars. There's music to suit everyone's tastes ranging from student anthems in Derwent to chillout and Jazz in Alcuin.

### Saturday, Week one YUSU Freshers' Fair

Sign up to any society or sports club you want! Ranging from Lacrosse to Rugby and Lovesoc to the wonderful Nouse! There really is a society for everyone. Remember to get there early for all the freebies...

### Thursday, Week two Viking Raid, York

Supposedly the biggest thing to hit York since the Vikings. You will not want to miss this. 1,500 students hit York's many drinking establishments on two massive bar crawls ending in either Toffs or the Gallery.

### Saturday, Week 2 Fresh, York Racecourse

"The Vengabus is coming and everybody's jumping". Cheesy '90s pop sensations The Vengaboys perform along with Vulu of Basement Jaxx fame to mark the end of Freshers' Fortnight 2006.

## Art and Performance

### Tuesday 10th October - Saturday 14th October

#### *The Gondoliers*, York Theatre Royal

This Gilbert and Sullivan opera, dealing with themes of politics and equality, is one of their most loved and most upbeat. Tickets at the Theatre Royal are only £4 for students with an NUS card.

### Thursday 12th October

#### Jimmy Carr, Grand Opera House,

For one night only, well known comedian and presenter Jimmy Carr comes to York's Grand Opera House. Expect plenty of fun and laughter as he delivers his scathing one liners.

### Until 17th December

#### The Other Side Comedy club, City Screen

This event will be held every Sunday night until mid-December with different comedians and drinks promotions all night. The club is not very well known to students, which is a shame as top comedians often do stand up here and tickets are only £7.

### Until 31st December

#### Jorvik Gallery talks, Jorvik Centre

How can you live in York and not go and visit the Jorvik centre at least once? These gallery talks give you the chance to hear more detail about Viking life in York thousands of years ago.

## Cinema

### *The Devil wears Prada* (PG)

Think Trinny and Susannah on the big screen! Anne Hathaway, of *The Princess Diaries* fame, and Meryl Streep star in this fashion conscious yet feel good movie adapted from the popular book by Lauren Weisberger. Definitely one for the girls!

### *You, Me and Dupree* (12A)

If you haven't already seen this then it is a must. Kate Hudson and Matt Dillon play a newlywed couple whose start in married life is somewhat disrupted by the groom's best friend, Dupree - played fantastically by the enigmatic Owen Wilson - who descends on their home.

### *World Trade Center* (12A)

Nicholas Cage stars as a New York firefighter in this emotionally charged movie from Oliver Stone. Some might consider it too soon for Hollywood to adapt the terrorist attacks of September 11 into profits, but at least some proceeds from the film do go to charity.

### *The Queen* (12A)

Veteran actress Helen Mirren plays the title role in this English drama. The film beautifully depicts the struggle and conflict between Tony Blair and the Queen following the death of Princess Diana in 1997.

# Floating above the ruins: art amidst chaos of war

By Rachael Marsh

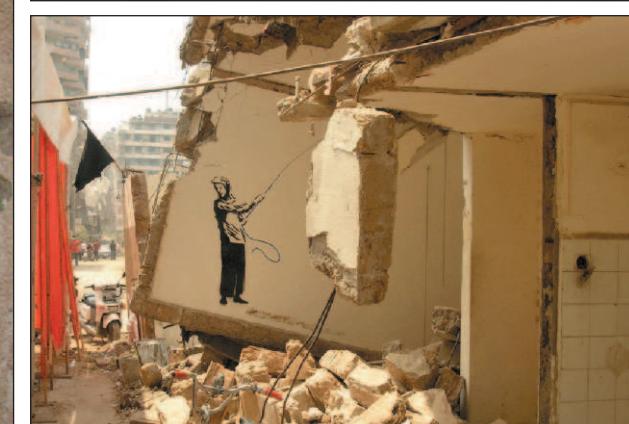
Walking round Dahiyeh, the shattered southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Beirut, there is a pleasant surprise for those able to look beyond the piles of rubble and tattered remains of people's homes. Out of the trauma and chaos, children flying brightly coloured kites adorn some of the few walls that are still standing. Elsewhere, there are kites set loose and floating above the ruins. These lost kites, explains the graffiti artist Arofish who is the artist responsible for the designs, represent the children who have died in the conflict. He was invited to Beirut by residents to create art that would reflect the community's spirit in the wake of the recent war.

Arofish developed the idea from his previous experience in Ramallah, Palestine, where the curfew imposed by the Israeli army meant that children sometimes had to stay inside for days at a time. They got round this by climbing onto the roofs of their houses and flying colourful kites. He remembered seeing this and felt that it was exactly the message of vitality that would reflect what he was witnessing in Lebanon.

The drawings form part of his 'Scrawls of War' project which has featured Arofish's work in Iraq, Palestine and



Graffiti artist Arofish was invited to Beirut suburbs by local residents to create art reflecting community spirit in the aftermath of the war



Lebanon over the last three years. He travels to these areas which are under siege to create his work in collaboration with the local communities. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. He jokes that the secrecy he's used to working in, throwing up a design under cover of darkness and watching for the response next morning, is impossible. The moment someone spots what he's

doing, whatever time of day or night, crowds start to gather round him, sometimes even offering comments and suggestions. He is a welcome distraction from the struggle of putting devastated homes and lives back together.

Arofish is not alone in his imaginative response to the war. A number of artistic projects have begun in the immediate aftermath and

responding to the experiences of those in the country during that time. Most notable is the huge, conical statue in the centre of Beirut's 'Martyr's Square', which already features a statue commemorating those who died in the civil war. The memorial to the victims of the Sixth War is made from household objects and personal possessions rescued from the rubble of Dahiyeh.

It was begun just days after the official end to the conflict. At the foot of the statue, stretched across a large area of the square, over 1000 small cuboids of stone were laid out, one for each person who died during the 33 days of war.

After completing the work in Beirut, Arofish travelled south to the devastated village of Aita al-Shaab, where he worked on a num-

ber of other pieces commemorating those from the region who had died, and are continuing to die in Lebanon.

Numerous people are still being killed as they return to their homes because of the huge amount of unexploded ordnance dropped across the entire region. Arofish's work is one part of the long healing process that Lebanon now faces.

## York graduate joins Lebanon relief effort

By Daniel Whitehead

As many of the estimated 100,000 Lebanese refugees fled to the Syrian border in July 2006 during the Israeli bombings of Lebanon, there was one woman in particular who felt frustrated at her inability to help fellow compatriots who were still trapped in villages and towns throughout the country.

York graduate Christine Hamieh, a Shiite Muslim from Southern Lebanon, had returned to her home during the summer vacation after completing her PhD to care for her sick father, but was forced to flee the country after war broke out between Israel and militant group

Hezbollah. When a UN ceasefire was called between the two parties on 14 August, much of the aid which could not be given while the bombing continued could then be offered to those in need.

For Christine, she saw this as an opportunity to offer the help she was so desperate to give during the conflict. "[During the war] I was like any other Lebanese citizen, frustrated at not being able to do anything, at just being paralysed, and the minute the ceasefire was declared I decided I wanted to go back to Lebanon and volunteer in the humanitarian field."

Christine immediately returned home and took up a

position with Oxfam (based in Beirut). She told *Nouse* of how, when she first arrived back in Lebanon to volunteer, the organisation was still very much in the emergency stages of offering aid with the main focus being on IDP (Internally Displaced People) centres, providing water, sanitation and hygiene packs to refugees still in the country.

With estimates suggesting 15,000 housing units are now inhospitable, many refugees returned to their homes finding they lacked basic needs. In effect, Oxfam began to concentrate further on replacing pumps and providing reservoirs to areas which lacked basic needs



View over Bourj el Barajneh refugee camp, Lebanon

such as water and suitable sanitation. Christine spoke of how her main responsibility was to visit residential areas in Southern Lebanon that had been severely affected by Israeli shells and assess the needs of the area, reporting back with information.

While travelling the

tude of Lebanese people towards the West "has definitely changed", and that they blame the American government and UN secretary General Kofi Annan for the 33 day wait before a ceasefire was called.

For Christine, her work continued until late September, when she travelled back to York. At the University of York, Christine has been the Dean of James College, York GSA President and a lecturer and tutor to many Politics students.

Christine Hamieh has now left the University to work in a full-time position with Oxfam GB as a Field Policy Officer in Southern Lebanon.

# Should we apologise for our past role in slavery?

By Claire Yeo

**N**ext year marks the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. For countries like Britain who played a huge role in the trade, the anniversary is an opportunity to commemorate the beginning of the end of the transatlantic slave trade, and a reminder that this part of our history in Britain still needs to be addressed.

The bicentenary raises the key question of how should we commemorate the event. How exactly should Britain today respond to the darker side of imperialism, to the country's complicity in the slave trade?

The University of York is hosting an international bicentenary conference in April 2007. Speakers from all over the globe are to address the meaning and impact of the western abolition of slavery and its legacy. David Lammy, MP and Minister for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, has already visited Hull this year to inspect the preparations for the event.

Yorkshire itself has its own particular connections to the slave trade. William Wilberforce, one of the key leaders in the Emancipation of the Slaves movement, was born in Hull. John Beecroft of Whitby was responsible, as British Consul to West Africa, for persuading local chiefs to discontinue the sale



**People trafficking and forced, bonded and child labour are just a few examples of the slavery that exists today**

of their fellow Africans into a life of slavery.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has, this year, apologised on behalf of the Anglican Church for its role in the slave trade. The Church was one of the great profiteers from the slave trade through its sugar plantations in the West Indies. This apology follows in line with the City of Liverpool's apology in 1999. Bristol, also

a key centre for the trade is as yet to follow suit, but before it will do this, a response needs to be made by the government to the fierce debate about the relevance and, even, adequacy of these apologies.

The argument is that if Britain apologises for its role in the slave trade, then should not the Italians apologise for the slavery of the British under the Roman Empire? Should not Africa

apologise to its own people for its role in the capture and sale of its own citizens into slavery? Should not an apology be made for the virtual slavery 200 years ago of the British working class?

This debate, while important, detracts from the contemporary nature of slavery. Should we not be concentrating our attention on the slavery that is occurring now, in Africa, South Asia, China and in parts of

the Arab world? UN figures show that 12.3 million people are still subjected to modern forms of slavery, be it people trafficking or forced, bonded or child labour.

Continuing the battle begun by the anti-slavery activists, such as William Wilberforce, should be a key part of the commemoration.

Indeed, the recognition of Britain's not so glorious past is crucial to under-

standing that much of this nation's power, then and now, has been built on the back of horrific and unjustifiable exploitation. It is a part of our heritage that we must confront.

These events "have profound meaning for everyone in this country. It is an event of such significance to Britain's history and our identity today," MP David Lammy has commented.

James Walvin, speaker at the conference and member of the committee advising the government on the issue, explains, "The bicentenary presents an opportunity for Britain to come to terms with its past." The British Empire put more slaves into plantations in the Americas than any other imperial power.

The key issue is that it provides a chance to remember that things were not at all as glorious as we are often so keen to imagine. There was barely an institution existing in the eighteenth century that was not in some way connected to the slave trade. For Walvin, while apologies are all very well, Britain's coming to terms with this heritage is more important.

Apologies will do little to rectify the terrible atrocity of slavery. Reparation payments to descendants of the oppressed will not aid those who are still enslaved. Only by intensifying the fight against modern slavery will the commemoration be fully complete.

## The Campus Soapbox

By Kirran Shah  
York Young Greens

**A**s exciting events unfold around us, such as the scrapping of the Barbican pool, the new pedestrian crossing point on Fishergate and the Old York Garden Club giving a little

back this year by decorating miniature Christmas trees, I feel it my duty to inform you there are even more exhilarating things York students can do to make a difference in the local area.

Reasons to get involved: The Green Party are committed to education. They are willing to advocate an independent source of

finance - from the day students turn 16. This would give every student a grant and entitlement to benefits during the vacations. We believe students should be able to drop in and out of learning as fits their needs. A citizen's income scheme would ensure that adults could afford to do this and you could afford to stop worrying about how much a masters degree will cost.

Furthermore, The Greens oppose the 'Heslington East' expansion to York University. Despite City Council backing, there is no Local Plan or agreed Green Belt, so we are calling for a public enquiry. We



**York Railway Station**

want to reduce traffic in the area and encourage the University to offer more residence places on campus, at lower rent. 'Studentification' is not damaging to Heslington so long as the

Green Party has provision to save our local shops. We will be launching a local food campaign on campus this term and hope to motion against Nestle advertising on campus. Last year, with support, we managed to boycott the advertising of Coca-Cola

If that's not enough, the Greens are the only party standing in York that advocates the return of the railways to public ownership, saving billions of pounds that are going on bureaucracy and private shareholders. Surely, you would prefer a better rail service with cheaper fares? In 1997 John Prescott said: "I will have

failed if in five years time there are not many more people using public transport and far fewer journeys by car." Bearing in mind these forgotten promises, as a student, you can easily invest in public transport, including the nationalisation of the Railtrack.

Green voters are growing steadily each year, and now there a higher percentage of Green than Tory voters in York. The more votes we have, the more impact we can make locally and nationally. What would you rather facilitate decorating miniature Christmas trees or building political change? It's your choice.

# Blast from the Editorial Past

**Julian Hammerton and Charlotta**

**Salmi** delve into the Nouse archive for you and find out what made front page news in the consecutive freshers' weeks editions from 1965 to 1967

## Ugly Buildings, 1965

Freshers admiring the beautiful sights of campus may be shocked to know the Lord Mayor was reported by Nouse in 1965 as expressing "his and apparently the Queen's, views that the pre-fabricated stonework of York [University] is ugly and externally inferior to the grand old red brick facades that cover most of Britain's universities". Although admitting that the new college buildings were hardly "calculated to arouse the undergraduate body to a frenzy of acclamation" as they arose from "the mud-covered concrete of Heslington" Nouse felt the architecture wasn't inferior but "revolutionary"!

## Derwent's Betsy "Must Go" in 1966

In a somewhat less exciting Freshers' week edition, Nouse reports: Betsy, the "dilapidated vehicle" of Derwent JCR chairman, John Atkinson, is ordered to be removed from the Heslington student car park by University Administration. Peter Smith of the University, who was according to Nouse "a character well-known, if little-heeded by most car owners" remained ignored however as the car, a campus legend, was not moved and left to gather "leaves and abuse".

## University Challenge Record Defeat, 1967



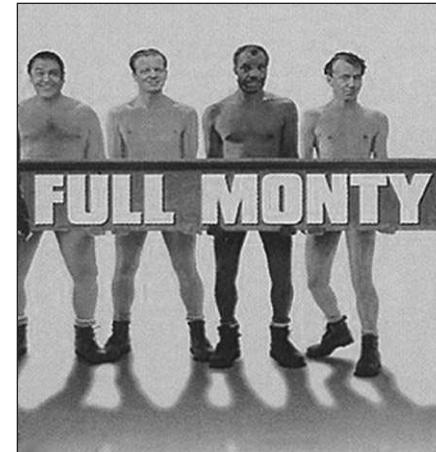
In 1967, it was York University's recent defeat in University Challenge which worried the Senior Common Room Committee (the old Student Union) in freshers' week. After the loss to Cardiff University by "a record margin of 225-15" the SRC decided it was time to act and held a meeting to discuss the "haphazard" way students were being selected to represent the University in the competition. The poor selection process proved to be the organizer inviting a few select friends and "someone for sport".

# Letters

Please send your comments and complaints by email to [letters@nouse.co.uk](mailto:letters@nouse.co.uk) or by post to Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Win!

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No jobs. No money. No underwear.

All it seems like they're doing is trying to capitalise on the changes in the kitchen facilities in many colleges that drive students to the bars and cafeterias to buy food, when in fact this will fail as many more students will head into cheaper bars in Heslington and in town.

In my day students were already shunning campus bars in favour of better drinks promotions in the Charles, or even in the dark smokey Deramore; the flow of students away from campus will surely become a spiralling flood. This really the way to encourage them to spend their evenings, and their money, on campus?

**Pete Kennaugh**  
Third Year Computer Science  
Student

### Star letter

## Costly campus

Having used the college bars for the first time this year, I was disgusted to see that the prices of drinks have gone up again! I thought the university bars were supposed to be cheap? I remember when a double-vodka red bull was only 2.50, a bargain!

Surely with bars having to close because they ran at a loss on certain days, the University administration should be trying their best to encourage the current freshers to use the campus facilities by reasonable prices and good, student friendly bar deals.

## Stop Badgering

For quite some time there have been complaints in the York press about the increase of the student population in display of laundry was too "degrading" Badger Hill. The residents of this estate for them to bear seeing. It wasn't that we are unhappy that landlords are buying properties and letting them to students, was because we were students. If all the complaining that they bring nothing to residents of Badger Hill are this irrational. Although we are unlikely to fill their schools, I know that the shops estate with students, and we'll show them are relied on by the students because I how a community really works.

It is no surprise that students want to live there because it is the nearest estate to the campus. I think the real problem is their bizarre hatred of students. My next door neighbours last year complained about the noise coming from my house, specifically talking and doors closing -natural noises to come from any house, and certainly no worse than our other next door neighbours, a young family. Indeed, in a letter they sent to my 'rock' housemates this hatred was unequivocally laid out. They were unhappy with us

hanging a washing line at the back of our house, and told us, "We are not going to be downgraded by students not falling in with our standards and requests." Our increase of the student population in display of laundry was too "degrading" Badger Hill. The residents of this estate for them to bear seeing. It wasn't that we are unhappy that landlords are buying properties and letting them to students, was because we were students. If all the complaining that they bring nothing to residents of Badger Hill are this irrational. Although we are unlikely to fill their schools, I know that the shops estate with students, and we'll show them are relied on by the students because I how a community really works.

**Tim Yeomans,**  
Third Year Maths Student

## Montey's Moan

This bar is truly crap and empty most of the time. its staff are rude and it serves the worst cocktails I have ever had in my whole life. If I want to pay that much for a crap cocktail I'll go to the Living room or Capital (at least the staff are friendly!). Also the music is cheesy popular stuff, that could hardly be classed as

**Victoria,**  
Comment left on website

In response to your comment "how can it call itself a Rock cafe when it plays the shit that it does?" - umm do you mean the off the beaten track, acoustic sounds from Metallica? Or the rock and blues of the great Eric Clapton? Or was it the softer U2 and Dire Straits tracks?

Just so you know and I am not trying to be sexist here, just honest, the softer tracks are there so that the music does not frighten the girl friends away. Most of whom will run a mile rather than listen to some good wholesome LOUD ROCK!

You should try visiting Montey's when it is not so busy, you might actually get a feel for the place. The staff are quite friendly although one girl that works behind the bar can be a bit brash with customers at times.

I don't work there. I unlike you actually have made an effort to get to know the place. There are things I like about it and there are things I don't but, at least unlike someone who is not just an opinionated inexperienced know it all, I dont go and write a place up after one visit.

**Kevin Ireson,**  
Response to Victoria on website

I think you will find that the review was based more around the drinks that the bar offers rather than an critique of the actual place itself. The whole point of reviewing places is to give your personal opinion rather than trying to please the masses, so okay you don't seem to agree with Lucy but this doesn't make it any less of a review.

These words obviously mean something Kevin if they have enraged you to the point where you feel it necessary to come here and write a comment.

**Vicky Hallam,**  
B & R Editor,  
Comment left on website

# Your:Platform

Enough of what our writers and editors have to say, we sent reporters to find out what York freshers think of today's issues

### 1. What are your views of the campus so far?

### 2. What campus cards will you get and are they worth it?



**Name:** Jack Baldwin  
**College:** Halifax  
**Course:** Physics  
**Year:** Fresher

1. It is really nice and so green. I was glad about getting a Halifax house as it is smaller than some hotel like blocks.
2. I got a Halifax card and going to upgrade to NUS Extra tomorrow. Already used it for tickets, but time will tell.
3. You need a kettle, hob and oven. Maybe a toaster and a microwave. Definitely a fridge.
4. I am not one way or the other. It has its down sides but research always leads to discoveries useful in other fields.



**Name:** Alice Fisher  
**College:** James  
**Course:** English language & linguistics  
**Year:** Fresher

1. It is certainly beautiful. It's really nice. I have been here lots of times before so knew what to expect
2. I brought my NUS extra over the internet. I have already used it today so it is brilliant value for money as you get discounts on Topshop and other shops.
3. Cooker, cupboard, kettle and a fridge.
4. It probably wouldn't have effected my decision on whether to apply for York or not.



**Name:** Aiden Short  
**College:** Derwent  
**Course:** Environmental Sciences  
**Year:** Fresher

1. I have not seen much of it but it seems alright. It is close to town which is good.
2. I don't know too much about the cards. I don't think they sent me much, if any, information.
3. A fridge full of beer and perhaps a bottle of single malt. Definitely 4 walls and even maybe a door.
4. It depends on the research. Don't know if I would think of it at the time, so it might not have effected my looking.

# The guv'nor

The former England manager, Sir Bobby Robson, talks to **Toby Green** about the Premiership, Italy and how football has dominated his life

THE TITLE of arguably the greatest living England manager may not appear the most prestigious accolade amidst mixed opposition, but Sir Bobby Robson's achievements are not to be sniffed at.

The achievements of the coalminer's son are numerous: managing England to their best World Cup performance post-1966, capturing the UEFA and FA Cup with a home grown Ipswich team and being named European Manager of the Year in 1997 whilst managing at Barcelona. His period at Newcastle may have slightly tainted his reputation, but he remains a living legend in the English game.

I met the great man at a personal appearance at a new golf course in Oxfordshire only two weeks before being taken to hospital after feeling unwell during an Ipswich Town match. This was the latest in a string of health problems after it was revealed in May that he was suffering from cancer for the third time. At the time he did seem weak, but on the mend. However once engaged in a conversation about football the intensity and passion for the game in his eyes was clear to see.

I asked him whether he missed being so involved in the game he had lived with all his life. "Football was my work, football was my life and football was my love," he said. "My mother told me that I was playing football

since the age of seven months, although unfortunately for her I was still in her stomach at the time. But because it took over my life, one of my regrets was that I never had the time to do the other things I loved, such as golf. When I got the chance, that was my relaxation and



In trophy-winning days

my pleasure, although the way I play, my heartache as well!"

One of the old guard in English football, his career in Europe, managing PSV twice, Sporting Lisbon and Barca, showed his progressive attitude towards management. However he still feels strongly about the difference in lifestyles between today's players and those of his generation (he played for Fulham, West Brom and was capped 20 times for England). "When I first started playing I used to travel down to Oxford to manage the University team, where I was paid two guineas an hour. Can you imagine

any of today's players doing that? Things have changed a lot and I just pretend to keep up with the modern world, although I'll admit I have no idea what an iPod is."

The modern world however is one that is still very much interested in Robson, and in January he was appointed the International Football Consultant for the Republic of Ireland national team, working with their new manager Steve Staunton.

His current relationship with his boyhood love, Newcastle United, is not quite as friendly. In their wisdom the event organisers had supplied a black and white ribbon to be cut by Robson, and he chuckled that it was "a delight to smash". He doesn't appear much more positive about their chances this season. "I think they'll struggle," was his honest opinion, "it won't be easy at all. They've lost their twin strikers in Michael and Alan, and without them they'll have no power."

Although he believes the title race will go "right down to the wire", he's still betting on a familiar face to prevail. "As soon as the World Cup was over, it became clear that Chelsea were favourites for the title amongst the experts and I personally don't believe that will change. However the Premiership is still extremely competitive. Chelsea are currently dominating, but the other three will be strong enough to take



Sir Bobby Robson at the course opening. Photo by Marc West/Courier Newspapers

up the mantle."

He was also clearly impressed with Italy's performance in the World Cup, especially the efforts of the management team. "They got the players focused incredibly well, and didn't let all the match-fixing furore

infiltrate their mind. It was a great credit to the coach. Also the players did extremely well, and to win the World Cup whilst their domestic game is in turmoil was a great achievement."

And with those words, he left. Despite ill health, his

charisma and charm was such that he had various youngsters queuing up to get a photo taken with him. It cannot be long before a return to full health will bring further glories for the grandfather of English management.

# One lap to go for a controversial great

By Simon Lickley  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE WORD 'great' is an often overused term in sport. These days it seems that anyone with half an ounce of skill or promise is given this label.

However within a few years their names are often forgotten, when compared to those who have gone before. Only a few names such as Pele or Donald Bradman have the label stuck to them long enough to tell your grandchildren about. These are the sort of sportsmen who leave your jaw open, whose achievements are a source of inspiration for youngsters hoping to follow

in their wake.

On 22 October in Sao Paulo, the career of one person who will surely join this pantheon of sporting legends will come to an end. Michael Schumacher, who has won far more titles and races than anyone else, has finally decided to call it a day. Schumacher will not be remembered with the almost religious devotion of the late Ayrton Senna or the madcap hero that was Gilles Villeneuve. His ruthless domination of the last decade of Formula 1 has made him respected but not necessarily admired. His perceived arrogance and numerous scraps with other drivers has meant that he

will not be remembered with affection. His old rival Damon Hill recently argued that Schumacher's domination has been detrimental to the sport, his inevitable wins not always making for spectacular viewing. Rather, Schumacher is a figure who will be remembered as legendary but dogged throughout by controversy and alleged foul play.

Controversy tainted his first title-winning year in 1994 where he was banned for two races owing to his car having an illegal advantage over the rest of the field. It dogged him again when he collided at the title showdown race with rival Damon Hill, a move which many still



Michael Schumacher

feel was a deliberate attempt to take Hill out of race. It led him to become the only driver in the history of Formula 1 to be stripped of his World Championship place after deliberately crashing into Jacques Villeneuve in the 1997 title decider.

Yet, in the passage of time, these incidents, although not making Schumacher a well-loved driver, will not necessarily taint his image of being a great one. This is because Schumacher has shown time and time again, including this year, the mark of a truly great sportsman.

Despite the fact that he holds every single record in the book, and has the best car, often seen as the only pre-requisite to driver success in Formula 1, it must not be forgotten that Ferrari, the most legendary name in the sport, was in decline in the early '90's, and would probably still have been in the doldrums had Schumacher not

accepted the challenge back in 1996. The likes of Williams, McLaren and Renault would probably still have been world champions whatever driver they had in their car. Without Schumacher, Ferrari would not.

So for that last Grand Prix in Brazil, watch this legend for one last time. Who knows, he may even show the young pretender to his throne, Fernando Alonso, who really is boss in this title decider. And one thing is certain, greats like him only come along once in a generation. And Schumacher, for all his controversy, ruthlessness and arrogance, is one of them.

# Moore aims for fresh start



AU President Tom Moore will be hoping for an improvement from men's football. Photo by Georgi Mabee

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**continued from back page**

Ireland due to injury but praised his team-mates, commenting: "we are very proud of the number of international players we have in our squad." Individual excellence was backed up by victories in the Anglo-Scottish Lacrosse league in which the men's team lost only once, and victory in the BUSA championships over Edinburgh in a tight 1-0 victory.

For many clubs though it was a poor year, with relegation the outcome for the men's football 1sts from the already inadequate sixth division of the BUSA northern leagues down to the seventh. Relegation was also suffered by the men's hockey 1sts and badminton 1sts. Women's sport was even worse as their rugby union team finished bottom of their division with only three points at the close of the season.

Moore felt there were several reasons for teams struggling last year, blaming

the large turnover of players for some clubs and the late start which the University of York makes to the Autumn term. "The clubs play without really knowing their team which means you've lost the first two games." But he denied that sport struggled due to a lack of finance: "A lot of problems in sport are due to a lack of money but at York we do have a lot of money in comparison to other universities."

Whatever the reason for recent disappointments it is now up to the various sports clubs to find new talent at the AU Fair in Week 1 of Freshers' Fortnight, with the men's hockey team especially hoping for an influx of new blood to make up for the large losses of personnel last year. To try and encourage more students to sign up, gimmicks are being employed such as pool tables, gliders and the Boat Club running a rowing machine competition, in which the fastest male and female rowers at the end of the day win a prize.

# Promising year marred by scandal

**By Ed Humphreys**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THIS SUMMER'S sport promised so much, yet the big events were marred by incompetence and, more distressingly, the unsavoury side of sport.

Let's first go back to the beginning of July, the height of summer, with so much sport ahead of us. The England football team soon dampened any optimism as they managed to go through the whole World Cup without playing well and succumbed meekly to a cynical Portuguese side. The final, contested by two similarly mediocre teams, was decided by a misdirected header from one of the few 'great' players to live up to his reputation in the competition. The winners were a team who admittedly played beautifully against Germany, but whose league is in disgrace.

The Tour de France offered a welcome diversion from headbutt analysis and the discrediting of the lip reading profession. Yet, days before the race, Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso were implicated, alongside 200 others, in the Operación Puerto doping case. The two favourites



**Landis tested positive**

withdrew from a Tour severely lacking star appeal.

However, the quality of the racing made up for this, with the yellow jersey being passed around like after dinner mints. After taking the race lead on the infamous L'Alpe D'Huez, Landis cracked the next day and slid eight minutes behind the pace and seemingly out of contention. The following day though, Landis embarked on a lung-bursting 120km solo breakaway which snatched the yellow jersey back. It was hailed one of the most remarkable comebacks in cycling history and Landis went on to win a memorable Tour.

The euphoria did not last long. On July 27, Landis tested positive for a high ratio of testosterone. The American was sacked from

his team despite making numerous excuses.

Just two days later, with sport still reeling, another drug scandal hit the headlines. Justin Gatlin, the American sprinter, had also tested positive for excess testosterone. This drug story is even more frustrating: whereas Landis was set for a hip operation, Gatlin was beginning an epic rivalry with Asafa Powell as they had both run 9.77 secs, a world record, this season. Their refusal to race against each other just further whetted the appetite, but they will not meet on the track again.

The cricket season was also marred when umpire Darrell Hair decided to steal the limelight again. The disruption which followed overshadowed an excellent series victory for England, in which Ian Bell and his coverdrive were a revelation.

Thank goodness the Ryder Cup provided an uplifting end to summer. It was great sporting theatre without a headbutt, excess testosterone, or tampered balls in sight. The only cheating seen was in the post match knees-up when Ian Woosnam left half his pint of Guinness on his top lip after claiming to down it.

# Minstermen start brightly

By Ben Masters  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

FRUSTRATING, exciting and inconsistent: York City's start to the 2006/2007 Nationwide Conference season can be said to have encompassed all four of these adjectives for the club's fans, many of whom are still incredulous that their side is competing one rung below that of the Football League.

But in York City's quest to regain their League status, a feeling of déjà-vu lingers. An opening day goalless draw, this time against Exeter City, mirrored the start to last season and a subsequent run of four consecutive victories this campaign was halted only by a disappointing goalless draw at home to relegation favourites Stafford Rangers. Again this year Billy McEwan's side have threatened to challenge the League leaders, this time Oxford United, only to fall back into the familiar challenge for the play-offs.

Indeed it appears that



Despite a few slip ups, such as losing to Oxford, York City have made a impressive start to this season

any promotion for City will have to be through the play-offs as Oxford United have sprinted away with an eight point lead at the top of the Conference. With veteran manager Jim Smith, and facilities and a stadium to match many Championship sides, with attendances in excess of 6,000, it seems to be a case of when, rather than if, Oxford United regain their League status as Conference champions.

But even if City boss Billy McEwan cannot claim to match the resources of the League leaders, the Scot has significantly strengthened his squad over the summer. Talented 29 year old goalkeeper Tom Evans arrived from Scunthorpe to replace the erratic Chris

Porter, and this signing has proved to be a real success. Evans has firmly established himself as a favourite with the York City faithful, although his sending off during the early stages of a surprising 3-0 away defeat at Crawley can be seen as the beginning of the current stuttering nature of the club's form. Further signings such as Steve Bowey and Martyn Woolford have added to a squad that McEwan himself has admitted was short on quality last season.

However the main playing attraction at Kit-Kat Crescent is once again the sight of Clayton Donaldson. City's gangly striker had by September's end chipped in with six

League goals and his pace will no doubt continue to trouble defences. Shorn of last season's top scorer Andy Bishop though, whose brace for new club Bury against Sunderland in the Carling Cup hastened Niall Quinn's decision to sack himself, City have on occasions appeared a little one dimensional. This hasn't been aided by new signing Craig Farrell's sluggish adjustment to his new surroundings, although McEwan will hope that Farrell's first goal for the club in the 2-2 draw with Southport will kick-start the striker's form.

October should provide the Minstermen with more opportunities to push on further. Away trips to Northwich Victoria, St

Albans City and Tamworth should be expected to yield maximum points, whilst the visits of Aldershot and Cambridge United are two fixtures of the sort that City will be looking to be winning consistently if they are to improve on last season's eighth place finish.

The familiar story of a York City side confidently striding a few paces forward only to be pegged back by the unexpected dropping of points has continued this year. However, the steady improvement of the side under McEwan is another recurring theme and City fans can wait in expectation rather than hope for a play-off place by the time this Conference season draws to a close.



AU  
Edge  
With AU President  
Tom Moore

Welcome (back) to York University. As the President of the Athletic Union, it is my job to tell you everything there is to know about sport at University. I haven't got nearly enough space for everything that there is to know so I'll start with the most important things. Firstly, the ducks are all evil, apart from Trevor - he's the golden one. He gets around quite a lot so you'll soon become friends.

As for the sport itself, last year the AU had over 3000 members, which means that almost a third of students were members. Partly this is because the Athletic Union has a lot more to offer than the traditional sports such as football, hockey, rugby and rowing.

Whether you are a fresher or a returning student, now is the time to get involved with a whole range of sports. We have no less than 58 sport clubs that range from the traditional to the obscure and every one of them will be more than willing to show you what they do, and how much fun they have doing it.

If you're thinking 'I'm not good enough to play university sport,' that really is no excuse! All clubs encourage people of all abilities to get involved and will answer any questions you might have.

Another option to those who prefer sport on a much more social basis is the Deloitte inter-college sport championship. High level University sportspersons are banned from this competition and therefore it offers a second tier to University sport. College sport is coordinated by your College sport reps so watch out for upcoming opportunities and events.

Even if you do not get involved in playing sport the AU still has something to offer. The AU provides non-playing opportunities and runs a sports volunteer project, and first aid courses as well as generously subsidising coaching awards.

All that's left for me to say is that if you have any questions at all, please feel free to call into the AU office or check out our website at [www.yusu.org.au](http://www.yusu.org.au). Also make sure that you check out the Sports Centre at the YUSU fair on Saturday Week 1 where you will see what University sport is really all about. It is no lie to say that your three years at university are the best time of your life and you can and should do everything possible to make it an unforgettable experience.

## The Quick Crossword

### Across

23. One Across' possibly crucial decider (9)

### Down

2. Toffs belong in this class (5)

3. Inflictor of pain (10)

4. More greasy (6)

5. What this publication has a lot of (4)

6. Used to keep your tresses in place (7)

7. One Across' number queen, Carol \_\_\_\_\_ (9)

10. One of two options Carol (Seven Down) might give you (9)

12. H (8)

14. Executor of the will (7)

15. What beefeaters prefer to be called (6)

18. Wilde; vied for by

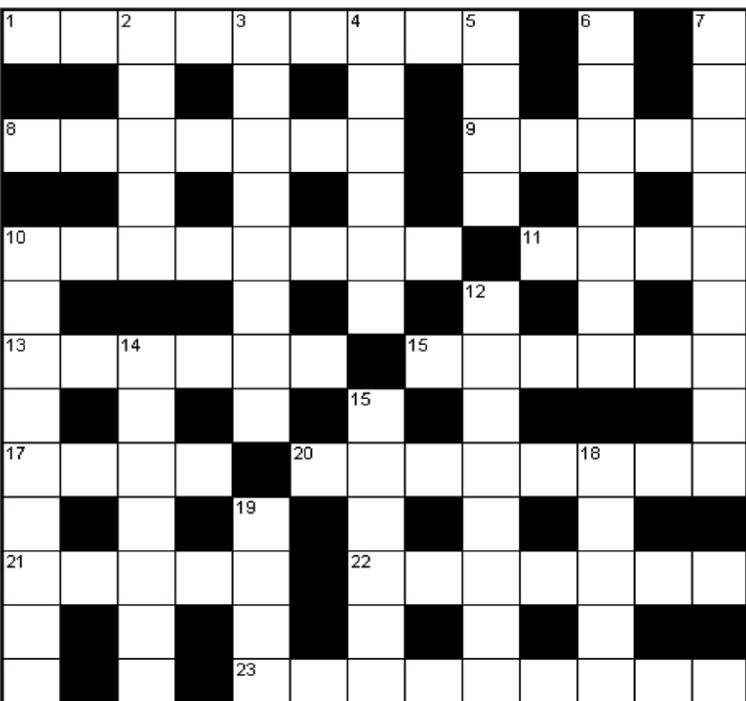
Twenty-one Across (5)  
19. Clapton or Cantona (4)

Solutions for 26th June



Stuck? Solutions for this edition's Quick Crossword can be found on our website at <http://www.nouse.com/crossword> at the start of Week 2 (Monday, 17th October). A full solution crossword will also be printed in the next edition

Wednesday October 11, set by Cornius



# SPORT

Sir Bobby Robson exclusively previews the Premiership season for Nouse, and looks back on the World Cup

**Page 13**



# York Rower picks up bronze in World Championships at Eton



Hester Goodsell (far right) shows off her second consecutive medal at the rowing World Championships

**By Robert Reyner**

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK Graduate and former Boat Club President Hester Goodsell, 21, won her second consecutive rowing World Championship medal at the proposed 2012 Olympic rowing venue of Dorney Lake, Eton at the end of August.

In a fast final in front of twenty-thousand expectant British rowing fans, Goodsell's lightweight quad (a sculling boat with four women and eight blades) raced exceptionally to claim a bronze medal. The winning Chinese crew not only smashed the existing world record by a staggering seven seconds but also contained an oarswoman who was just 15 years old.

Goddess's achievement is made all the more impressive because she has also been studying for her PGCE at Cambridge this year whilst most of her co-competitors are full-time athletes.

The rowing World Championships take place every year and are comprised of Olympic and non-Olympic events. Although Goodsell's event this year is not on the Olympic programme for 2008 she has a very real chance of stepping up to the Olympic class lightweight women's crew next year.

For lightweight women there are just two Olympic places in a double (a sculling boat with two women and four blades), compared to fourteen for men's open-weight rowing, the former

domain of Pinsent and Redgrave. This obviously makes the competition for those two places extremely intense and it will be an unbelievable achievement if Goodsell makes it to the start line for Beijing in 2008.

The rowing events at the World Championships break down into both open weight and lightweight categories. To race as a lightweight at the world Championships Goodsell had to weigh in at less than 57.5kg just two hours before the race. As any of you who have been on a rowing machine before will know, the physical demands of the sport are incredibly high.

For lightweights the added pressure of having to factor in worries about your weight can virtually double the stress of competing. Last year, whilst still a full-time undergraduate studying music at the University of York, Hester became U23 lightweight single sculling World Champion and added to this success with a bronze at the senior World Championships in Japan later that summer.

She is now by some distance the most internationally successful athlete that the University has produced in recent years.

Hester's training is funded by the national lottery so just bear in mind the next time you are considering buying a lottery ticket that you may be helping one of the University of York's own realise her Olympic dreams in Beijing.

## Moore seeks to capitalise on campus expansion

**By Daniel Whitehead**

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

NEW AU PRESIDENT Tom Moore does not seem the type for revolutions, but he certainly has plans for sport at the University of York.

In his first interview since becoming Athletic Union President for the aca-

demic year 2006/07, Moore said he felt that we should be "looking to the future," and with the new Heslington East development on the way, York should be aiming for a top ten finish in the BUSA rankings in future years. "This year is going to be big. There is going to be a lot of planning for the new

campus. One of my main aims this year is to get Top 30 BUSA."

Unfortunately such optimism hasn't always led to achieving the desired results. Last year York lost their Roses title to Lancaster and finished a disappointing 34th place in the BUSA rankings, with several clubs

seeing their first teams relegated from their respective divisions. In order to counteract this slump Moore plans on bringing in coaches to help improve standards and with the new grass pitch behind the sports centre he hopes that clubs will be given "more time" to practice before big matches.

Despite several sports clubs failing to live up to expectations last year Moore was keen to single out for praise clubs such as the Boat and Lacrosse teams who both had members or ex-members playing in international competitions over the summer. The Lacrosse team has an especially impressive

line-up of internationals such as Stevie Schumacher and Richard Gilligan who both took part in the World Lacrosse Games, representing Wales and Ireland respectively.

Club President Alan Ward missed out on playing internationally for *Continued on page 38*

