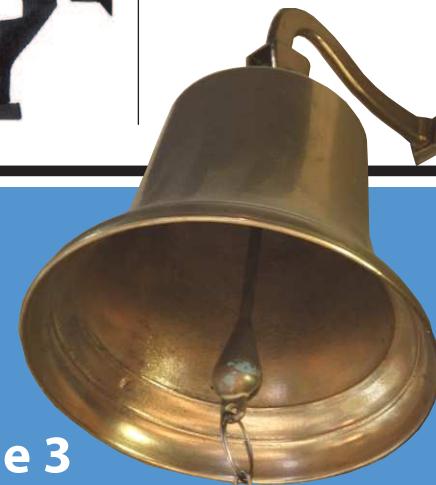


# NOUSE



## University call time for campus bars

Results of 'Save The Bars' campaign revealed: find out where you'll be able to drink on campus next year **Page 3**

# Students to graduate without degree class as boycott continues

By Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

**YORK UNIVERSITY** last week announced plans to award students' degrees that are incomplete as a result of work not being marked or set, after the Association of University Teachers (AUT) assessment boycott continued into its third month.

The announcement comes as concerns heighten in universities throughout the UK over the chances of examinations being marked in time for final-year students to graduate this summer, with the University of York admitting this week that 10% of its students will be affected by the dispute.

The contingency plans, which were passed by York University Senate on Tuesday 16th May, promise to "safeguard academic standards while giving priority to students interests" by ensuring students graduate even when they cannot sit their exams or have them marked.

This will involve students who have work missing as a result of examinations not being set or marked still being able to receive their degree on their scheduled graduation day if at least 7/8ths of the work is already marked. Students who have less than the required amount will be forced to wait until the end of industrial action before their work can be marked or they can sit exams.

However Brian Cantor, York Vice-Chancellor, said he expected scheduled exams to go ahead as advertised. "Students will be informed by their departmental offices if there are any changes to scheduled examinations and assessments and planning for grad-

uation ceremonies is proceeding as normal.

"I deeply regret any anxiety which students experience as a result of the action. My primary objective during this period is to ensure that all students can complete examinations and assessments, that final years can graduate and others can progress on to the next phase of their studies."

However, AUT members have reacted angrily to the decision, and voted unanimously on Thursday to continue the boycott. Dr John Thornton of the Department of Electronics called the verdict a "disgrace", adding that he thought there was a "much better solution" from achieving a proper pay deal. Other members thought that by allowing students to graduate without completing their degree would mean the "dumbing down" of degrees and would be "very bad for the university".

In a recent press statement, Simon Parker, Vice-President of the York AUT called the decision "concerning", adding "it is a sad day when the University of York, which justly enjoys a reputation for the quality of its degrees, is prepared to harm the reputation and devalue the currency of its students." However Sue Hardman, University Academic Registrar, has said that the University is "safeguarding academic standards and its excellent reputation".

The move has been supported by YUSU, which became one of several SU's nationwide to criticise the AUT's methods in negotiations with employers. SU President Micky Armstrong called the decision "the best of a bad situation".

"The University is in a very awkward position which is the result of the AUT's actions.

Students are kicking off big style."

The decision made by the Senate on Tuesday means that it is following universities such as Keele in awarding incomplete degrees to their students. A published document, which outlined the plans for how degrees will be awarded, stated that the situation was "deeply regrettable".

"The situation has become more acute and there is a significant risk that some assessments will not be completed and/or marked". 10% of York undergraduates are set to be affected if the industrial action continues.

An email from the Politics department to its students emphasised the concerns of several departments within the university and stated that there is a possibility of exams being postponed until next academic year if the dispute is to continue throughout the summer term. A second-year Politics undergraduate, who wished to remain anonymous, said he was "deeply worried" by having to sit even more exams in his final year, adding "this is just added pressure which we don't need, the dispute needs to be resolved immediately."

Meanwhile at Manchester University some students are being forced to attend exams even though exam papers have not been set as a requirement for them to pass the module.

Nationally the likelihood of a settlement was reduced last week with the University and Colleges Employers Association's (UCEA) new offer of 12.6% being rejected unanimously by national AUT representatives who called the offer "unacceptable" and said that "only a credible offer would be put to the full membership for acceptance."

*See page 4-5 for full report*



Some exams have started to be cancelled. Photo: Ally Carmichael

# Student outrage at arms shares



The UK based BAE Systems plc is the world's third largest defence contractor

By Toby Green

EDITOR

THE PEOPLE and Planet Society has hit out over the University's continued investment in BAE Systems, the third largest arms exporter in the world.

Ric Lander, the Chair of the York Student group, said that the University's policy is a "complete misnomer" and has continued to call for the Vice-Chancellor to pull out



Nouse, October 2005

of the company. In October 2005 Nouse first revealed that York had 115,000 shares in BAE after the information was revealed through the Freedom of Information Act, and York Vision has since joined the campaign against the investments.

Since the issue was first brought to light, the University has bought over 30,000 more shares in direct holdings in the company, which was the result of a 1999 merger between British Aerospace plc and Marconi, an American-based electronics company. The University has previously claimed that it subjects itself to the ethical policy of the investors Schroders plc, through which it holds over £5 million worth of shares in GKN, who are involved in automotive and aerospace engineering. However in an email seen by Nouse that was sent to The People and Planet Society, Bill Hemingway, the

Payroll and Pensions Manager of the University, confirmed that the shares in BAE were not brought through Schroders.

Lander has reiterated the need for the University to set its own ethical policy regarding shares. "The University's decision to default to Schroder's policy shows a lack of interest and understanding of the issue."

He has also stated the need for students to show that it is an issue they care about, and has praised Micky Armstrong, and the SU for its continued interest. He said "I believe a strong showing of student support is needed to make the University understand how important this issue really is."

"I find it difficult to understand that Brian Cantor knows nothing of this issue when it has been raised in both student papers and through the Unions proper channels."

# Goodricke ignores University's Fairtrade stance with Nestlé event sponsorship deal

By Robin Seaton and  
Kate Smith

GOODRICKE COLLEGE'S flagship event, 'Playboy Mansion', is to be sponsored by international food giant Nestlé, whose Rowntree division is based in York.

The event, which will take place on Friday week five, is being billed as 'Playboy Mansion: Chocolate Encore' with the Nestlé logo appearing on promotional material for the event. In exchange, Nestlé has given Goodricke 800 bars of chocolate for distribution at

the event.

Nestlé are traditionally unpopular on university campuses due to their particularly controversial methods in the 1980s in marketing baby milk formula in the Third World.

Their activities provoked outrage in many quarters, and led to a boycott that is still supported in over 20 countries.

Andreas Masoura, one of Goodricke College's Entertainment Representatives, said "Nestlé were keen to emphasise that this is a goodwill gesture".

Rob Wilson, another Goodricke Ents Rep, said "Our job is to put on the best events we can, with severely limited resources, not to uphold ethical stances. Everyone happily queues up to get a Kit-Kat Chunky from the numerous vending machines between lectures. We're not even giving Nestlé any money. It's just some free chocolate".

The position taken by Goodricke in looking for sponsorship from a company such as Nestlé can be interpreted as contradictory in the light of current Students'

Union policy. The Ethical Investment Policy, passed last December, stated that the SU would "lobby the University to adopt an ethical investment policy". The SU has previously been supportive of the Make Poverty History campaign and at one point resolved to "refuse publicity to Coca-Cola, in our publications, at Student Union events, and in our buildings", although this has now been revoked.

Th!nk Week 2005 saw a vigorous debate take place in Vanbrugh between representatives of the Nestlé

Corporation, the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Association, and Phil Wells, the former director of the Fairtrade Foundation. During the debate, Nestlé's representative was closely questioned by students about the company's commitment to Fairtrade, following the introduction of their Fairtrade range.

Molly Bird, the former SU Environment Officer, commented "Whilst I understand that Goodricke have done this to beef the popularity of their event, which is

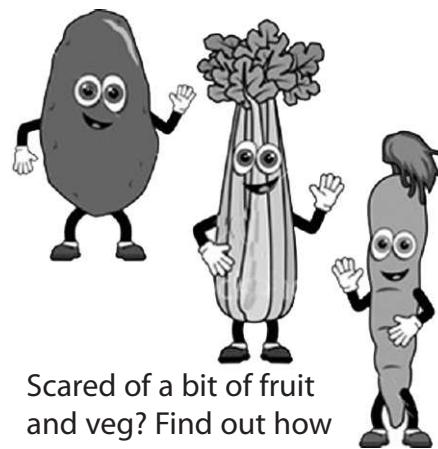
a good thing, it's always good to explore other options. Many people have worked very hard to achieve York's Fairtrade University status, and accepting sponsorship from a company with a reputation such as Nestlé's undermines this good work".

Fairtrade chocolate was provided at a previous Goodricke college event by the SU, and Bird said that she believed "the (new) Environment Officers would be willing to consider doing a similar thing in the future".

Nestlé were unable to comment.

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*The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors, writers or advertisers*

# Campus bar closures confirmed

By Jamie Merrill and  
Kate Smith

DESPITE THE 'Save our Bars' campaign, Commercial Services are proceeding with planned closures of campus bars next academic year.

A leaked report entitled 'Bar Closures - An update from the Students' Union' sets out the University's plans to restrict Langwith, Alcuin and Wentworth bars' opening hours to only two nights a week. JJ's is set to open four nights a week, with only Derwent, Goodricke and Vanbrugh facing minimal or no changes to their opening.

David Garner, the University Press Officer, has been unable to confirm the exact configuration of bar opening hours next term, as "Some details of these [closures] are still under discussion". Nat Thwaites-McGowan, the SU Services and Finance Officer, has confirmed, however, that the SU report is correct and that the bar closures will take effect from October.

The SU report contains financial figures which reveal that Langwith, Alcuin and Wentworth bars made combined losses of nearly £14,000 over the autumn and spring terms. However, all seven bars made a profit

of almost £80,000 over the same period. The report also shows that Commercial Services hope to save around £18,000 by restricting bar opening times.

The University first announced plans to close campus bars at the end of February as part of a University-wide effort to counter its financial deficit of over £3 million. Andy Summers, the University Bar and Licensing Manager, originally presented the University's plans to close all but three bars in confidential meetings with Micky Armstrong, SU President. At the time Armstrong complained that he had experienced "quite a lot of resistance" from Commercial Services.

The ensuing 'Save our Bars' campaign, which involved a week long 'barcott', has been declared "very successful" by the SU. During the boycott, all but two bars were closed by the University. Over two thousand signatures were collected in a petition and the SU urged students to 'Use It or Lose It' and pack out campus bars in the week following the barcott.

The adoption of Model 29+, which leaves 29 bar nights open per week, is being seen as a victory by the SU despite the closures.

Armstrong has said "the University had been planning to completely close Alcuin, Langwith and Wentworth bars... we've managed to save the service provision in every college. I think it's a huge success".

Thwaites-McGowan said "A lot of our wins are not extra nights, we got our wins in that the University are not closing four bars. They are not restricting bar opening this term, and our biggest win is that they're talking to us properly". Alcuin, the most unprofitable bar, made a loss of £6,000 in the last two terms. The SU see the fact that Alcuin and Langwith are staying open on nights when they have consistently failed to break even as a major victory.

Despite these successes, Goodricke bar is set to close on Sunday nights. Matt Burton, Goodricke JCR Chair, has expressed his "disappointment" that service provision is still being reduced despite Commercial Services' figures showing that the bar made a profit on Sunday nights over the autumn and spring terms.

All seven campus bars will open every night of week one during Freshers' Fortnight, bar closures will take effect from week two in Langwith and Alcuin.



**Derwent bar faces only one night of closure from next term; other bars' opening hours will be greatly reduced.**  
**Photo: Georgie Mabee**

'It's difficult being a classic eco warrior; I'm just trying to be the best I can be'  
**Living green P.6**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Vanbrugh	open	open	open	open	open	open	open
Derwent	open	open	open	open	open	open	closed
Goodricke	open	open	open	open	open	open	closed
Halifax	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	open
Alcuin	closed	closed	closed	open	open	closed	closed
Langwith	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	closed
Wentworth	closed	closed	closed	open	open	closed	closed

## Anger at lack of 'dialogue'

By Nick Dingwall  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS UNION Services officer, Nat Thwaites McGowan's assertion that "dialogue" established with the University was the ultimate success of the "Save our Bars" campaign has been contradicted

by several college JCRC chairs who have complained that the Commercial Services have refused to consult with them.

Micky Macefield, the Vanbrugh Chair, accused the SU of "leading everybody to believe that closures were negotiable."

On Wednesday, a meet-

ing attended by the University and student representatives was the first that JCRC chairs had been invited to. In it, the opening times for next term were presented and Andy Summers, the University Bars and Licensing Manager, said he was not willing to negotiate.

The finality of the news

has infuriated college chairs who felt they weren't given an opportunity to defend their bars. Sam Bayley, the Halifax College Students' Association President, said "As I see it, the plan I have in front of me is exactly the same as the one put forward by the University a couple of months ago."

Anne-Marie Canning, the James College Chair, said that "the university administration have handled this situation with a chronic lack of understanding and negotiation", while Tom Stratton, the Alcuin Chair, complained that they "treat us like little kids that have to be placated, but at the end of the day do what they had always intended to do".

The SUs report details their acceptance of the University's proposal to con-

tinued opening on only those nights "that make a financial contribution", with the exception of nights in Alcuin and Langwith.

In response, Matt Burton, the Goodricke Chair, said "I feel that Commercial Services have been running circles around the Students' Union". Bayley said "I cannot stand by while [the SU] agrees to bar closures on this scale" and threatened "a bloody good fight" before he would concede defeat.

# Sides clash over AUT strike

**By Daniel Whitehead**  
NEWS EDITOR

PRESSURE IS mounting on the Association of University Teachers (AUT) and University and Colleges Employers Association's (UCEA) to resolve the ongoing dispute involving University lecturers' pay, which is threatening hundreds of students' degrees in York, and thousands of undergraduates nationwide.

As final year graduation dates approach, the past fortnight has seen several attempts by external groups to solve the dispute through protests, meetings and discussions. A rally was held on Friday at Liverpool University by students from across the country in protest of the action the AUT is taking, under the slogan 'We Are Not Pawns'.

The rally is part of a much larger campaign run by Paul Freeman-Powell, a student from the University of Liverpool, who has started a petition for lecturers to back down over their pay dispute. The petition, which has been signed by several York students and over 3000 others across the country, has received widespread national media coverage with the Guardian, Times Education supplement and the BBC all running stories on the campaign since the latest pay offer was rejected.

However some students have also shown their support for the lecturers. York graduate Mike Wood is one

of the members of Free-Education, an organisation that supports the AUT and National Union of Students (NUS) in their campaign to increase lecturers' pay. The organisation argues that lecturers are being "exploited" by their employers and that since students are members of a union we should be supporting union solidarity.

Wood criticised the employers for being "extremely hypocritical" in their actions, adding that York University has "taken the sting out of the boycott" by allowing incomplete degrees to be awarded to final year students. On the subject of YUSU's recent withdrawal from the NUS's support of the boycott, Wood emphasised the importance of gathering signatures from York students in order to "show that YUSU does not represent the whole of York". He has also accused YUSU of supporting the lecturers' pay claim but not allowing them the "right do anything about it".

The government has now stepped in on a national scale in an effort to resolve the dispute. The Education Select Committee, an organisation linked to the Commons, called in members of the AUT and UCEA last Wednesday in an attempt to re-open negotiations. However, progress was stagnant as both parties refused to budge, with employers claiming that further increases on their 12.6% offer would result in the loss of jobs.



**Members of the AUT at York last week attended a meeting to discuss the dispute**

'It seems to me that YUSU is guilty of short-sightedness'

**Comment P.9**

## Lecturers face pay

**By Daniel Whitehead**  
NEWS EDITOR

THIRTY UNIVERSITIES across the UK are set to dock lecturers' pay for refusal to set and mark examinations.

Northumbria University were one of the first to begin the capping of salaries just over a fortnight ago; and the situation has led to a full-scale walk-out from lectures within the institution that condemn their actions. Martin Levy chariman of

NATFE in Northumbria said that members were still in full support of the strike despite having all of their pay docked.

Other universities, including Essex and Huddersfield have also taken action although York University is yet to. In a recent interview, John Tarrant the vice-chancellor of Huddersfield University said "as there appears to be no solution to the national

dispute we believe there is an obligation on us to do everything we reasonably can to bring the dispute at Huddersfield to an end".

The docking of pay comes after NATFE and AUT members refused to mark exams until their 23% pay increase is met by university employers. The AUT have also taken the action a step further by refusing to set exams, leading to the chance of up to 300,000 students

# Croker's policy proposals cause concerns among Students' Union Liberation Officers

**By Daniel Whitehead**  
NEWS EDITOR

SU PRESIDENT elect Rich Croker has been condemned by liberation officers, who threatened to resign if his plans to degrade their posts once he takes charge at the end of the present academic year were implemented.

Croker has said "I believe there is no need for a LGBT nor Women's Officer" within the Executive; the committee which controls the day-to-day running of the Union.

He added that although he said the roles were "essential to the running of the



**Croker plans to change the role of liberation officers**

Students' Union", he felt they could achieve this by only being constitutionally recognised in Senate, the SU's chief governing body.

there is great need to maintain their current status as members of both Executive and Senate committees. LGBT officer for 2006/07, Rose Rickford added that she didn't believe he felt that women are discriminated against.

Grace Fletcher-Hall, current SU Women's officer, who had resigned earlier in the year in protest of the proposed constitution explained that even though she has had discussions with Croker at the recent NUS regional conference and admitted the issue had been taken out of context she still believes there is a "problem".

The argument from lib-

eration officers about the proposed plans is that current members of the SU do not understand the role they play.

Erin McAlister, recently elected SU Woman's Officer said "there is a big issue regarding the understanding of the liberation officers within the SU. It is very important to have someone representing you at a higher level".

Of Croker she said "he doesn't want anyone disadvantaged to have a vote," concluding "ultimately its about representation".

Croker has also caused a stir after he revealed plans to review the role that the

National Union of Students play in the running of the Students' Union.

This comes after relations between the two organisations were brought into question by the SU's recent withdrawal of support of the AUT strike.

Croker said "the NUS conference [he recently attended] was highly politicised and was not representative of student bodies across the country" commenting that he doesn't believe in politics in the SU. However, he was keen to stress the changes of a suggested disaffiliation from the body was unlikely during his tenure.

# NUS face continued opposition

By Daniel Whitehead  
NEWS EDITOR

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students is receiving renewed threats from Students' Unions across the UK that they will withdraw from its support of the examinations boycott.

Students' Unions, including those of Exeter and Bristol Universities, have threatened the NUS that they will withhold affiliation fees, which are critical to the financial support of the Union, if they continue to support the action being taken by AUT and NATHFE members.

Students' Guild President of Exeter University, Alain Desmier said "We want NUS to be an effective fighting force for all students not just those on the far left of the political spectrum".

He added, "The NUS

## dock

being affected this summer.

Last Friday, chances of a national pay agreement became less likely after Vice-Chancellors ruled out any improve offer on their current 12.6% over 3 years. UCEA Chairman, Geoffrey Copland said "our members are clear they cannot go beyond this offer".

AUT officials still disagree saying they are only asking for what was promised.

has consistently refused to listen to those students' unions whose opinion aren't in line with their own. The students' union of the future will need a safeguard to prevent this happening again so we are urging students' unions to debate keeping back half their affiliation fee next year and as a group decide what should and shouldn't be discussed at conference and pay accordingly".

Gaston Dolle, president of Bristol's Students' Union called for "an active NUS leadership to ensure that students can revise for and sit exams and ultimately end up graduating," adding that the time of "blinkered trade union solidarity has passed".

The NUS reacted angrily towards the suggestions being made, with a spokesperson commenting, "it is interesting to note that Bristol held a referendum two months ago and 80% of students voted to stay in the NUS".

Anger towards the boycott has been building across the country. Last week the Students' Union President of the University of Aberystwyth, Rebecca Corn, resigned from her position saying that the dispute has caused "the biggest disruption to students' lives and futures that I can imagine."

Although not taking such an extreme position as other unions, York University Students' Union is one of 30 students' unions who last month signed a letter sent to NUS President,

Kat Fletcher, stating their opposition to the Union's position. YUSU have publicly stated that they are unwilling to take any more action without the full support of York students. Union President, Micky Armstrong, added that although it is within his constitutional power to withhold fees it was not a decision he was willing to make without balloting his full membership.

NUS have argued that Students' Unions would not be able to withhold fees without a referendum of their membership, but there have been increasing signs of the weakening of its support for the boycott in recent weeks. On 9th May the Union stated that despite still supporting the lecturers' call for better pay it "opposed the AUT's decision not to set exams as it is having a great impact on many students."

Speaking after an emergency AUT council meeting held in Scarborough on 11th May, Fletcher added "the continuing stance [of the AUT] is extremely concerning for our members and we will continue to make the AUT aware of the consequences of this policy."

After originally insisting that the boycott should be supported by its members, Fletcher said "The most important thing for our members now is for the dispute to be settled.

"The refusal to set exams is having the biggest impact on students at this time, which is why we have always opposed it".



Kat Fletcher has led the NUS in supporting the AUT's continued exam boycott

# Hindson succeeds at second election attempt as '06 SU team is completed

By Heidi Blake  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE REMAINING six SU Officers have been elected to their positions on the York Students' Union of 2006-2007, after 697 students voted online last week.

The six positions up for election included two sabbatical posts: Student Development and Charities, won by Ben Griffiths with a margin of 13 votes; and Societies and Communications Officer, won by Colin Hindson with a margin of 175 votes.

The post of Women's Officer, which has been a

source of contention this year, will be filled by Erin McAlister & Amy Burge, who won with a margin of 306 votes. Grace Fletcher Hall, the divisive outgoing Women's Officer, and Matt Balding have been elected next year's Policy and Campaigns Officers.

While Caren Onanda & Buckky Ojo will fill the post of Racial Equality Officer. Clare Hawley & Charlotte Bonner are the new Environment and Ethics Officers.

The result comes after

flaws were revealed in the Online Voting system once more, pioneered by the cur-

rent SU Services Officer, as the SU website was down for the first two days of voting. To compensate for this, voting was closed at midnight, as opposed to 2pm, on Friday.

Of this, Alcuin student Francesca Archer-Todde said: "It's ridiculous. This is yet another example of something new-fangled and fancy failing to deliver a service adequately. It's just like the new buses. Why can't they just keep the old systems in place? At least they work!"

However, some students were quick to defend the SU. One Halifax student, who

did not wish to be named, said: "I think we should give the SU a chance with this sort of thing. They do their best, and of course there are going to be teething problems with any new system. It's entirely natural, and the SU get too much flack as it is."

The 697 students who chose to vote constituted just 7% of the student population. Of these, 26 spoiled their ballot papers.

Next year's newly elected Societies and Communications Officer, Colin Hindson, has declared his intention to: "make the SU an organisation that the



Colin Hindson was elected students of this university feel a part of."

to get involved with YUSU at any level.

"Societies, as one of the best ways to get involved, need the levels of support that other groups receive and I believe that I can use my achievements and experience to help facilitate this."

Ben Wales Griffiths, newly elected next year's Societies and Communications Officer, has promised, among other things, a Volunteer Discount Card with rewards for volunteer hours and money raised; increased sponsorship for events, and five kids' camps through the year "to satisfy demand."

# It's not easy being green

**By Heidi Blake**

**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR**

NO ONE COULD accuse James Strawbridge of being a typical student. Alongside completing his History degree at York, he has been heavily occupied with his family's BBC televised project "It's Not Easy Being Green" which has involved, among other things, producing diesel out of chip fat, slaughtering pigs with his bare hands, and being propositioned by older women via email.

In an exclusive interview on Sunday with Nouse, he explained: "My family's always tried to be green, but we moved around a lot. We had goats and chickens and things like that, but my mum and dad decided that they wanted to take it to a bigger level."

That "bigger level", for the Strawbridges, involved moving to Tywardreath on the South coast of Cornwall, to a derelict, roofless house previously inhabited by gypsies, and undertaking an entirely sustainable lifestyle.

On arriving at their new home, the Strawbridges were initially preoccupied with repairs: installing running water; planting vegetables, and signing up with the sustainable energy firm, Ecotricity. Their next step was to purchase some livestock. Their first buy was a set of "rescue chickens" from the local battery farm; their second were a pair of pigs, which were reared for meat, because: "buying bacon in little plastic wrapped things from Costcutter is just shit really." The pigs were eventually killed before New Year's Eve 2005, with the aid of what James described as "the local slaughter man." One was consumed at a



James Strawbridge during the filming of the series

"spit-roast party" held to celebrate the end of the series, and the other was "turned into salamis, chorizos and sausages." He described the process of helping to slaughter the pigs with his bare hands as "traumatic".

"It was horrible butchery. It made me think a lot more about eating meat. Pigs when they die are a bit like chickens: they don't stop moving straight away. A pig's a powerful animal, so they were kicking and stuff. And you have to bleed them to get the blood for black pudding and stop the heart from pumping. I was up in the tractor with it hanging down, and it was disgusting. It was pretty brutal."

The Strawbridges then set about establishing their own power supply, involving aqueduct, a watermill and a homemade generator, which now powers all the lights in the house. They recently installed a wind-turbine to provide the electricity to power household appliances such as the washing machine.

They run their cars on the diesel they produce by putting fat from the local chip shop through a small bio diesel reactor; a system which James describes as being "completely efficient, apart from a little chippie smell in one of the cars."

They built a composting lavatory, which retains human waste for a year, after which it can be recycled to fertilise fruit trees. James claims that this lavatory is "very clean and nice and doesn't smell."

In order to avoid the "massive environmental cost" of using mains water, the family pipe spring water into their house, heated with solar thermal tubing. The

house is insulated with recycled textiles, and heated through a ventilation system using hot air from wood burning stoves.

James describes the reality of seeing himself on television as "pretty weird" and relates tales of being stopped in the street and sent propositioning emails by female fans, one of whom offered her services as "a beautiful, experienced older woman." At this point, a friend at the next table starts inexplicably chanting "pantyhose", but is silenced by James, who blushingly refuses to elaborate on the matter.

While James is in York, he continues to try to live sustainably. He grows his own garlic, basil, lettuce and onions in the garden of his student house, and is planning to use the proceeds from the sale of his car to "buy a horse and build a gypsy carriage with a solar powered shower in the back."

His dissertation was entitled "Green is the New Black", and focused on the historic relationship of Native American Indians with the environment.

When, apropos of the twenty-pack

of Marlborough Reds before him on the table, I ask him how he feels about the ecological footprint of the tobacco industry, he grins and replies "That's the great thing: being a contradiction. I love it. Yeah, I smoke Marlborough reds, and they're bad for the environment. But I also build water mills and windmills. I've bought t-shirts in gap, but I wear hemp trousers. It's really really difficult to be a classic ecowarrior. I'm not going to try and be something I'm not, I'm just trying

to be the best I can be. I might fall down in some areas [he gestures at the packet of Marlborough Red] but I promise you I'm aiming to be a good person, and that's what counts."

James describes the process of trying to live in an environmentally friendly way as a student as "really difficult", though he claims "everyone's been great about it". He tells tales of large summer gatherings of his friends at the house in Cornwall, at which "we get up very early with hangovers and start digging in the garden and building things. Then we have nice healthy lunches from the garden, and then get pissed in the evening. It's a really relaxed atmosphere."

Despite the wide range of friends he has apparently acquired at York, James does not reflect on his time here fondly. "I hate York. It's a shit-hole. Students are lazy...and York's pretty dull. It's quite boring. On an environmental front it's bad too, which pisses me off a little bit. And I haven't liked my course - it's a little bit traditional, a bit conventional. But I've made good friends, I'm not slagging it off completely."

When he finishes his degree at York at the end of this term, he plans to move back down to Cornwall with his newly built, horse-driven gypsy caravan and get involved in the ongoing filming of the second series, for which the family are planning to build a "reed bedded swimming pool" and a pair of Mongolian Yurts. When asked what else the new series might entail, James replies: "I really don't know, that's the great thing. Anything could happen."

## URY set to hit nation's airwaves

**By Daniel Whitehead**  
**NEWS EDITOR**

UNIVERSITY RADIO York is to be broadcast on national BBC Radio 1 over the May Bank Holiday.

The prestigious broadcast has been awarded after the independent radio station won Best Student Radio Station 2005 at the end of last year with a large amount of members from the past and present attending the ceremony held in London's Covent Garden. The show will be live on air from 4am-7am on Monday

29 May in the slot usually taken by JK & Joel.

URY, the oldest independent radio broadcaster in the country, is renowned for its wide-ranging coverage of music, news and events and is broadcast all over campus.

The pioneering station began its life as a student hobby in 1967 and is run fully by students promising to give "exactly what they want to hear." This includes their popular show source@six covering a wide range of local, national and international news.

## York leads technological advance

**By Daniel Whitehead**  
**NEWS EDITOR**

YORK UNIVERSITY has been awarded part of a £5.3 million grant to fund research into the next generation of electronic gadgets.

York, one of several universities, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, and Southampton, to be part of the scheme will be developing ways in which gadgets of the future such as mobile phones and mp3 players can be smaller, smarter and more powerful.

The project involves research into the creation of "nanoscale" circuits, making

use of transistors which are 80,000 times smaller than a hair's breadth. Such research is being done in order to keep in line with the relentless advancements of technology, which have overtaken the physical abilities of circuit manufacturers. The project will involve the use of massive-scale computing power to bring together simulations of circuit behaviour.

The York-based team which works within the Electronics Department will receive £300,000 of the total grant money. The research group is being led by head of department

Professor Andy Tyrell, who has been given the task of providing statistical models for the new devices. Professor Tyrell said that



Nano technology-based

the project was "looking to the future and answering a real-world problem", adding that he felt it was a "really funky project" calling it "very exciting".

Professor Alan Murray who is project coordinator between the five institutions involved said in a recent press statement "the circuits we currently use cannot cope" with new technology developments: "they will require re-design - possibly even complete replacement - with circuits that have not yet been invented. We can't wait for silicon technology to create viable, production-line nanoscale transistors."

# FTR buses meet fierce criticism

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

THE NEW FTR buses that have come in to serve the No. 4 route through the University have come under fire just two weeks after its arrival onto the streets of York.

The multi-million pound venture by the First Bus Company has been the subject of various teething problems, including technical problems and complaints by York residents. Rachel Lacy, a resident on Heslington Road, complained after being trapped by a door suddenly closing. "I was waiting to get off the back of the bus, while other people were getting off at the front."

"But when I stepped through the doors, it shut on me and trapped my shoulders inside with quite strong pressure, before opening again."

First Bus Company were also forced to drop fares for a weekend after passengers struggled to cope with the malfunctioning ticket machines, which are specially designed to not give change in an attempt to speed up the boarding process.

Two buses were also taken off the road on the first

day due to malfunctioning problems.

The debacle has even attracted the attention of the national press. Andrew Clark, writing in The Guardian, described the FTR buses as "purple people-eaters" and pointed that despite being twice the size, the FTR buses only carry one more passenger than their predecessors despite being twice the length.

Students have been similarly bemused by the vehicles. Sam Williams, a 2nd year student from Langwith, said "I can't really see the point of them unless the old buses were due for replacement."

"It seems to take longer to get on the buses than before, although this might speed up though once people get used to them, and the seats near the back are pretty uncomfortable. However I am very impressed by the very futuristic buzzer."

The City Council has continued to defend the buses, and Council member, Bill Woolley, said "The ftr offers a unique opportunity in York to move the quality public transport provision to a new level."

"It will ensure our phenomenal success in growing public transport usage continues."



The First Bus Company and York City Council have repeatedly defended the new buses. Photo: Ally Carmichael

## Students forced to work for fees

**By Heidi Blake**  
**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR**

STUDENT DEMAND for part-time work is soaring, following the introduction of top-up fees up to £3,000 from the start of the next academic year, a leading student recruitment company has revealed.

Figures from "Employment 4 Students" show a dramatic increase in demand for student jobs. Chris Eccles, Managing Director of Employment 4 Students, says: "top up fees are having a huge impact on university life and the cost of student living. As a result we have experienced a significant increase in demand from students for term time and holiday jobs."

There is concern that an increased need for students to undertake employment could have a negative effect on studies.

UCAS has recently reported a decline in univer-

sity applications for the 2006 intake; the first such drop for six years. The National Union of Students claim the introduction of top up fees is preventing fair and equal access to higher education.

Alan Johnson, the Education Secretary, denies that top-up-fees are having an adverse effect on applications, dismissing the fees as "the price of a pint." After graduation, a student will not start paying back fees until they are earning more than £15,000 per year.

Mr. Johnson has also refused to rule out an increase in top up fees when the current 'price cap' of £3,000 expires in 2010, claiming that by then attitudes to fees will have softened from the initial hostility that was experienced when they were proposed in 2002.

The University of York recommends that students restrict part time work to less than 15 hours per week to prevent a negative impact.

## Budget cuts mean rooms to be cleaned fortnightly

**By Heidi Blake**  
**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR**

THE UNIVERSITY has confirmed that Room Cleaning is set to be cut by 50%.

After protracted negotiations between the SU and the University over a new Service Level Agreement, a decision has been reached to reduce room cleaning from once a week to once a fortnight, and kitchen cleaning to once a week, rather than every day.

These cuts come at a time when rents are increasing across campus by up to 9%.

Initially, Commercial Services proposed to cut room cleaning to once a month. However, when the SU protested that this would be detrimental to students, the two bodies entered into negotiations.

SU Services Officer Nat Thwaites McGowan, who was at the forefront of nego-

tiations alongside President Micky Armstrong, reflected positively on the process. He said: "Jon's a businessman. We both knew our positions, and we settled in the middle.

It was refreshing to just be able to sit down, department to department, and talk things through without any politics."

The cuts to room cleaning are as the result of what



York cleaning staff

Thwaites McGowan described as "funding problems" in the University, following a projected budgetary shortfall of £3 million.

Thwaites McGowan claimed that Commercial Services were "looking to cut costs in an area where they seemed to be providing a service that wasn't needed." He added "Cleaning is a difficult issue: half of the students don't want it; half do."

One cleaner, who cannot be named, said of the cuts: "It's just going to make our jobs harder. Most rooms we go into are disgusting after a week of no cleaning. Imagine what they'll be like after two."

When asked about the rent increases, Thwaites McGowan explained that the economic model applied by the university shows that the total cost of providing an en suite room per week, including "welfare expenses" such as porters' wages, is £79.80;

£0.45 short of the £79.35 students will be charged for such rooms from next year. This still represents a 9% increase from the £72.80 they are currently paying.

One Alcuin student said of the rent increase: "It's ridiculous. You could get an absolutely gorgeous house in Heslington for that kind of money. There's just no point in staying on campus."

It is thought that the increased average cost of providing a room has risen so steeply as a result of the newly built accommodation in Alcuin. The cost of providing a single room in one of the new blocks is £31,000. The buildings have a projected lifespan of 35 years.

There will be a 5% rent increase for standard and economy rooms, from £61.88 to £64.97 for standard rooms, and from £58.45 to £61.37 for Economy rooms.



## Students taking the strain

The University's decision to award unfinished degrees will come as a relief for those students who faced not being able to graduate this summer, but with it will come a new batch of problems.

No one can predict how employees will treat graduates qualifications that they know not to be completely marked, and many students from the year across the country will be in a similar predicament, but degrees that have been the product of three years or more of hard work and major financial investment will now be tainted.

The AUT have unsurprisingly decided to continue their strike and chosen not to be swayed by the latest University response, and the rights and wrongs of this decision will be no consolation to the students whose education is suffering. The dispute between lecturers and their employees is a difficult situation, and with it has come a long period of resentment, anger and misinformation from both sides.

Seemingly we are no closer to a settlement, and students need to be reassured that they aren't going to continue to be forced to suffer the consequences.

## Wanted: an ethical policy

York University students may often be teased for being apathetic, unpolitical and surprisingly right-wing considering most of them are sponging off the state, yet there is a heartening and growing campaign for the University to pull out of their shares in major arms manufacturers.

At the end of the days, the money invested is students' money: our money which we have chosen to invest in an education at this institution. Obviously money does need to be made by the University, but this doesn't mean that it can continue to shun moral and ethical responsibilities, which should (but often aren't) be considered a priority for any company, even one whose customers aren't putting pressure on them.

The next few weeks are vitally important, and the profile must continue to be raised by campus media and YUSU for this issue so it doesn't go away. Societies like People and Planet need our support: they can only take on the might of the University by themselves for so long.

So sign the petition in Vision, continue to support Micky's push and show students do care, and look for any ways in which you can pressure the University. It may sound idealistic, but a change can be made. It may sound over-dramatic, but a chance needs to be made.



New Eco Officers  
**Charlotte Bonner &**

**Clare Hawley discuss their future policies**

Change comes at every level. From making sure one light bulb is switched off to ensuring Heslington

**SU President Micky Armstrong**

It heads towards the end of term and finalists look towards the future, for those of you that have been effected by the AUT's action, the future may seem to be in jeopardy. Let me take this opportunity to reassure you that the University has taken vital steps



East

sustainable

are all aspects of our work. As a pair we feel qualified to make a difference; one of us, Charlotte, is an experienced environment and ethical officer while the other, Clare, has done a lot of good work with recycling and the 'Love your bike' day.

Part of the job is to increase the knowledge on green issues such as energy efficiency, waste management and green transport. This applies to second and third years, as well as first years. There needs to be changes on the ground - we want to finally sort out carrier bag recycling and increase bike security. Students and lecturers should be able to use

bikes without fear of theft or damage, especially while on campus.

The bike sale is always a success. Not only does it give students a cheap, green and healthy method of transport, but it also raises money a lot of money. This year it allowed a donation of £1000 to be made to Target TB, which supplies bikes to students in Africa.

An extension of the kitchen sale to a campus wide scale would raise more money that can be given away to charity. At the end of the last academic year, we sterilised all kitchen items people did not want and sold them to freshers. With the money raised we bought 11 goats through

the Oxfam Unwrapped program.

York University proudly earned fair trade status in 2005. To uphold this status we need to campaign for more fair-trade consumption. Our main target is the vending machines, as increasing access to fair-trade goods allows students to decide easier how their chocolate is made.

Merchandise for JCRCs, societies, YUSU and the AU can currently come from any company. Corners should not be cut to save money by tolerating sweat shops and child labour. We want to see only ethical companies being used.

To do all of this we need people. We want to reward those who run

recycling systems on campus. The communication, organisation and support for the college eco-reps must be improved and formalised. Our view is that an official committee should be set up.

Planning is vital to many of the jobs of environment officers have to undertake. We will endeavour to plan publicity and events in advance, and use broader media such as Nouse to publicise and raise awareness of campaigns.

We look forward to trying to make a difference. We believe that we have the enthusiasm and experience to make a visible, material improvement.

As a rule of thumb, I do my utmost to avoid people attempting to get me to sign petitions. I have mastered the art of zig-zagging across busy high streets in order to get to my chosen destination without being accosted by well-meaning but highly irritating people, bedecked in red bibs and bobble hats.

Should this strategy of evasion fail, I have memorised several verbal responses to ensure I am left well alone: "Sorry, my car park expired ten minutes ago, I really must get back"; "I would love to sign your piece of paper, but I have to get to my interview"; "Perdón, yo no hablo inglés".

The arguments for doing so seemed fairly straightforward to me at the time, and this remains the case. The quality of British higher education rests on this dispute being resolved. Our academic staff, when compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world, are highly undervalued. Their current level of pay, given their high level of training and expertise, is far lower than it should be. According to a study conducted by the AUT the average salary of a lecturer in Britain is only £32,500 while in the United States lecturers are earning a whole 47.5% more.

As the finalists move on to pastures new I wish you all the best, and for those who have the privilege of remaining here I say (with a hint of envy) enjoy your time, you will miss it when its gone.

If anybody is worried about the future of their degrees please contact me at president@yusu.org

Although we did not win we were successful in the way that we performed and participated. I would like to thank all the teams and all the players who put in effort over that weekend. We were incredibly close to pulling off an away victory-something very rare in the history of the competition. I would also like to thank Nik and all the AU exec that helped run the weekend so successfully.

During the weekend I had a chance to speak to our vice-chancellor and the vice-chancellor and chancellor of Lancaster, and I was pleasantly surprised to see how all

# York gave up on bars

**Charlotta Salmi** questions why the University failed to take adequate measures in time to prevent the need for the impending bar closures

So, the university has finalised plans to cut opening hours of campus bars. As a Halifax student approaching the end of my second year at York, I feel sorry for those who will be arriving next term. After an exciting and lively Freshers' Week they will be faced with the reality that the social life our university has to offer them is restricted at best. With limited access to the bars they will quickly discover that the alternatives in Heslington and York are more suited to their needs and will soon fit their social lives around non-campus bars instead. Wouldn't it be nice if it took more than a week for students to become disenchanted by the services provided for them by the University?

Despite the Commercial Services' 'concessions' to keep all bars open at least a few nights per week, the impending closures will threaten the collegiate system that lies at the centre of the University experience at York.

What could be more depressing to a new Langwith

student than walking into their bar to find a dark, deserted room with a dark, deserted bar? Would you blame them for feeling a lack of allegiance to their college, or even the University?

So why did it have to come to this? Why are the bars mak-

ing less than half of what they made two years ago? The University claims that it's due to the changing drinking habits of students, but a quick look in the Charles will confirm that this is anything but the case. Students are drinking just as much as before; they just choose to do it elsewhere.

So the real reason why the campus bars are increasingly failing to attract students is that the University provisions are not offering what the students want. The University has spent time and money not just refurbishing the college bars but making them increasingly homogenized. With seven different bars there is enormous potential to create a varied social scene that could rival the allure of town. So why has Commercial Services insisted on having the same pricing structure, the same drinks on offer and the same decor in all the bars? It means that visiting one bar in an evening is essentially visiting them all and this naturally discourages students from spending an entire night on campus.

When the original proposal was released, the YUSU suggested alternative uses for less successful venues, such as turning Langwith into a juice bar. This would appeal to students who don't necessarily want to drink alcohol but want to go out on

campus, and as such the University could profit from a larger proportion of their students.

Not only would introducing clearly-defined themes to the other bars rejuvenate them individually, it would also add much-needed diversity to the University's social structure as a whole. For instance, Wentworth could become a cocktail bar while Derwent could focus on live sports. This added variety would encourage more societies and sports teams to use campus rather than town for their socials, and as such the University could expect to see profits increase by far more than the required £50,000.

If the prospect of a campus-wide bar makeover seems daunting to the University's financial outlook there are other concerns that could be more cheaply solved. Primarily, drinking on campus just doesn't feel cheap. Is it coincidence that the shift in profitability coincided with a rise in prices two years ago that saw lager go from £1.40 to £1.60? Although it's not a large increase, it's the difference between being by far the cheapest student bar and being one of many cheap student bars.

The SU and University's "Where will you drink this Friday?" campaign to show that drinking on campus is cheaper and profits.

than in popular student bars was missing the point: no-one buys the same round in every bar they go to. Anyone who buys a pint in The Nag's Head is either rich enough not to care or stupid. Students' choices of drink are fuelled by promotions and this is what makes bars in town feel cheaper than campus.

The University should exploit this attitude by providing different deals in different bars. While they may call upon the new licensing laws to explain why this isn't possible, they have managed to do a promotion on Lambrini recently. However, due to the unpopularity of this drink it was never going to be a success, and so the fact that they sold so few bottles doesn't suggest that promotions are a bad solution.

There are of course other deals available. But what are they? We all know about the doubles for singles on vodka Red Bull, but why are there no posters in bars and kitchens publicising all this and any other cheap drinks?

The fact that none of these suggestions appear to have been explored before the decision was made to close bars leads us only to conclude that the University

has given up before even trying to make college bars successful in terms of student satisfaction and profits.

# Quality of British degrees depends on support for the ongoing AUT strikes

By James Caldwell

As a rule of thumb, I do my utmost to avoid people attempting to get me to sign petitions. I have mastered the art of zig-zagging across busy high streets in order to get to my chosen destination without being accosted by well-meaning but highly irritating people, bedecked in red bibs and bobble hats.

Although we did not win we were successful in the way that we performed and participated. I would like to thank all the teams and all the players who put in effort over that weekend. We were incredibly close to pulling off an away victory-something very rare in the history of the competition. I would also like to thank Nik and all the AU exec that helped run the weekend so successfully.

As the finalists move on to pastures new I wish you all the best, and for those who have the privilege of remaining here I say (with a hint of envy) enjoy your time, you will miss it when its gone.

If anybody is worried about the future of their degrees please contact me at president@yusu.org

details and sign my name in support of the cause.

By signing the petition, I was expressing my support for the industrial action being carried out by the AUT and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

The arguments for doing so seemed fairly straightforward to me at the time, and this remains the case. The quality of British higher education rests on this dispute being resolved. Our academic staff, when compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world, are highly undervalued. Their current level of pay, given their high level of training and expertise, is far lower than it should be. According to a study conducted by the AUT the average salary of a lecturer in Britain is only £32,500 while in the United States lecturers are earning a whole 47.5% more.

The NUS is working hard on many levels, it is engaging in talks with the AUT over exam boycotts, with the University Continuing Education Association over their reluctance to re-enter negotiations, and with various MPs and Vice-Chancellors - to find a resolution to this problem as quickly as possible, in order to minimise the damaging impact this action could have on

the offer of a six per cent pay increase over two years as "desirous."

In fact considering that 1,000 lecturers have chosen to work for universities abroad, over a quarter of them being employed in the U.S., the small pay increase is unlikely to make a drastic difference.

The National Union of Students has supported the academic union from the beginning, and is justified in its concern that unless lecturers receive a fairer pay deal, academics will be attracted overseas, thus diminishing the quality of British universities.

As a first-year History with French student, the industrial action has had no impact on me whatsoever. I am concerned about sitting my French exams in Week 6, and whether I will achieve the result I want; I have no concerns as to whether they will or will not be marked. Thus my stance may seem somewhat superficial, as I am not experiencing any of the distress that many finalists, at this university and at others around the country, are going through.

However, my concern that the qualities of British universities should not diminish over the coming years means that I have no qualms supporting the academic unions over the industrial action, and I would strongly urge YUSU to do the same.

**'British higher education rests on this dispute being resolved'**

AUT action will graduate in much the same way as those whose degrees have been unaffected. This should, to an extent, be applauded. Yet it seems to me that YUSU, by withdrawing its support for its national equivalent, is guilty of short-sightedness, and risks undermining the excellent work being done by the NUS to resolve the pay dispute at the national level. The quality of British universities will remain in jeopardy

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LAUREN CARTER  
FIGHTS BACK

NAT EXCLUSIVE

# New York and all that

**Nan Flory** spent a few weeks of the Easter break taking a bite out of the world's biggest apple. capital, but also arguably the cultural capital of the world. Can any similarities be found between



**D**espite the similarity in names, old York has no special place in either the historical or present day heart of the New version: New York has two international airports, York has one train station; New York has five boroughs, York has South and North Bank. I suppose, if the rumours are true, York is home to 365 pubs – an impressive number – but somehow it's not hard to believe that New York City, with its eight million residents, could have enough bars to beat us there too.

Any connection is even more tenuous when you find out that the 'York' part of America's most iconic East Coast city's name has little to do with the English city. New York was apparently christened in honour of King James II when he was Duke of York. But James was born in London, not York, and spent a good deal of his life in France, Spain and Belgium escaping religious persecution. It's pretty certain he didn't spend a lot of time hanging out within the city walls. The fact that New York's sister city in the UK is not its eponymous predecessor, but London instead, says it all. Even if New York had earned its name from remarkable parallels between itself and

York back in 1664 when it first adopted the moniker, the city that we know today was entirely different. It started out as a modest farming settlement on the tip of Manhattan Island, populated by farmers and milkmaids rather than haute couture-wearing business people and avant-garde artists.

However, most people, even if they've never visited the place (and this goes way beyond York's petite borders), feel an odd sort of affinity with New York that doesn't exist with any other holiday destination in the world. Travelling to New York is a little like setting out for Disney Land, except the characters you expect to populate it are Annie Hall and Holly Golightly, rather than Snow White and the seven dwarves. Everyone has a New York fantasy, be it based on Sex and the City or Friends, Woody Allen or Audrey Hepburn, punk rock or jazz; nobody goes to New York without great expectations. When you divulge that you're going there, people emit a knowing exclamation 'Oo, New York, an amazing place'. If you ask them to tell you about it, though, they will generally answer 'never been'. Presenting a less travelled companion with the joyous news that you'll be jetting off to Tunisia

for the Easter break, on the other hand, will more likely provoke 'have a nice time, isn't that in Africa somewhere?'

So how does it change your tourist experience when you go to a place with such an international presence? Arriving in New York, you don't just recognise it from your guidebook, you see a lifetime of movies and TV shows. The city is home to much of the world's greatest art, it's where hip hop – arguably the most widespread youth culture in the world today – dropped its first beats. You've seen it in fashion magazines, read about it in novels and followed its stock exchange. It's where the 'War on Terror' began, with the tragic events of 11th September 2001 now themselves entering the international public sphere with the release of Oliver Stone's forthcoming docudrama, *The World Trade Centre*. When you go to New York, you go to the origin of modern pop culture, the headquarters of the cultural hegemony. Everyday life for New Yorkers is the stuff of legends for plain old York residents.

When I went to the city during the Easter holiday, I found that the expectations I carried with me made all my experiences much more striking. Usually, when travelling, you just immerse yourself in the place and enjoy the novelties, be they sunshine, historical artefacts, nightlife, or food; in New York, everything is either a confirmation or subversion of pre-conceived ideas, so you're super-conscious the whole time. The disappointments of New York arise when the outside world's myth-making gets ahead of itself and idealises the city's actual reality. It's easy to forget that New York is a living, breathing place. It still has the quotidian, unlike, for instance, Venice, another renowned city, which nobody really lives in anymore. New York is what Venice might have been in the days of the silk route, when it was a centre of commerce and culture.

Culture is something New York is in no way short of. Novelist Tom Wolfe once said, in a rare, enlightened moment, 'culture just seems to be in the air, like part of the weather'. Some of Kandinsky's most stunning work was commissioned to hang in the lobby of an exclusive apartment building. Anywhere else, you'd have Ikea prints, but in the Big Apple, you have genuine art in the true sense of the word. Chagalls hang in the Metropolitan Opera House and one of the most impressive galleries, the Frick, was originally a private home. Its owner, an über successful businessman, spent his money on collecting one of the most extensive private collections of old masters in the world. And somehow it doesn't seem too strange, the prospect

of all those wonderful paintings decorating the walls of his family home. New York is the real thing, not only in a coca cola sense; it's where every other major city takes its cue.

In the same vein, while I was there, a rainy evening trip to the cinema led to an encounter with none other than Steve Buscemi. The actor/director made an appearance at a screening of *Lonesome Jim*, a film he directed, which premiered at the Sundance film festival but has only just landed a distribution deal. In true New York style, no one but my companion and I were awed by the fact that a man who appeared in *The Big Lebowski* and *Reservoir Dogs* was standing in front of us. They just got on with it, asked him a few questions, didn't take any photographs with stupidly bright flash guns;



**'New York has an "embarrassment of riches" - the sheer variety in the city is ridiculous - but the real "embarrassment" lies in its riches' uneven distribution'**

they were nothing short of cool. I can't really see Buscemi casually appearing at the Odeon, or a York audience displaying similar restraint if ever he did.

New York's universities are similarly incredible to the outside viewer, but calmly accepted by native students. I stayed at Columbia with two friends from York University who are completing an exchange year there. The Columbia library is pretty much solid marble and definitely contains over a zillion books. They are kept in 'the stacks', a series of low-ceilinged rooms 'stacked' on top of one another, filled with books. The stacks are like huge bookshelves, except instead of individual volumes, they hold whole bookcases. My host explained that one of the must-dos for Columbia students before they graduate is have steamy sex in the stacks. Can you imagine a corner of the J.B. Morrell being remote enough for carnal exploration? I think not. At Columbia, however, there are rooms no

# jazz...

New York is not only America's cultural  
the US city and its very English namesake?

one has ever been into; it's actively conducive to the more racy kind of study break.

Then there's the local park. New York's version, Central Park, is actually bigger than Monaco. (Yes, than a country.) I spent several days exploring, visiting the turtle pond, the Jackie Onassis reservoir, the Swedish puppet theatre and the zoo. Central Park is an oasis of calm in such a frenetic city and is made all the more striking by the fact that, deep in greenery, you'll suddenly spot the spire of the Empire State building poking up between trees.

As New York is so densely packed with skyscrapers, its parks are the only places where the sun shines comprehensively. Elsewhere, there is always shade on one side of the street and then there are those slightly unsettling times when light, out of nowhere, streams up the avenues and avoids the cross-town streets almost entirely.

Another of the city's odd features is the incredibly sharp borders between different parts of town. One block makes all the difference between areas. The city is divided by cultures – there's Chinatown, Little Italy, Spanish Harlem or El Barrio, and Jewish areas. There are also divides between hip and arty places, old money quarters like the Westside 70s or the financial district. New York's artistic part of town - and by that I mean the ultra hip, leotard wearing quarter that used to be lower East side - has moved. I made the trip, to Williamsburg, Brooklyn. On Manhattan itself there's broadly downtown and uptown, east and west, all surrounding Central Park. Downtown and east are cooler than uptown and west, although the latter two do have their charms. Then, at the top of the island, there's Harlem, which is a whole other story.

Spending a day in Harlem is what seriously alerts you to the fact that New York is a real place, not a theme park. Harlem's main landmark is Strivers Row, a strip of wonderfully preserved brown stones, encompassing the best of New York architecture. The row has its origins in the days of the Harlem renaissance when African Americans established a rich, artistic community in the area. The beautiful houses were

reserved (somewhat obviously) for the real strivers, who worked to extreme lengths to achieve successes, usually barred from their community by the institutional racism of the time. Harlem today, despite being only a few streets up from Columbia (one of the most prestigious, and expensive, tertiary institutions in the world) is run down and poor, populated almost exclusively by disadvantaged African and Hispanic communities. It doesn't give the impression that New York's 'melting pot' (that term was coined about the city) is actually blending particularly well. Although there aren't exclusively white neighbourhoods so much, it's obvious that poor New Yorkers are still black New Yorkers.

Tourists are encouraged to take bus tours through Harlem rather than walk the streets. The area is probably a lot more typical of America than the bright lights of Manhattan and it seems wrong that most visitors will avoid it, keeping to the usual landmarks. While places like Times Square and St Mark's Place work to maintain mythical New York, Harlem can't afford such a luxury. Despite a brand new shopping complex, featuring H&M rather than New York's more exclusive labels, and new efforts to pump some money into the neighbourhood, the difference in the standard of living between 116th and 125th streets, (separated by just one subway stop) is clear.

The standard line is that New York presents 'an embarrassment of riches'. The sheer variety available in the city is ridiculous: every time I ordered food I had a little crisis of confidence and ended up just choosing the first thing on the menu; I went to supermarkets bigger than my hometown. However, the phrase can be read in another way: the 'embarrassment' is the uneven distribution of New York's riches. It is a city of extremes where people sleep on the streets outside apartment buildings decorated with Kandinskys; where the sun shines fiercely on one side of street, leaving the other in darkness. If New York has any similarities with Disney Land, I certainly didn't see them. There is no techni-colour simplicity to the Big Apple, as much as the rest of the world would love it to be so.

## The Five Boroughs of New York City

### The Bronx

Hip hop began in this area, which is characterised by poverty and crime.

### Brooklyn

Recently it has become a haven for artists.

### Manhattan

Famed for its impressive skyline, this island contains the most tourist attractions.

### Queens

Birthplace of director Martin Scorsese and site

of the Shea Stadium - home of baseball's New York Mets.

Staten Island  
The forgotten borough's ferry is popular for its view of the Statue of Liberty.



New York's skyline features the world's most beautiful skyscraper, the Chrysler building

# Give whiskey a chance: why life is

Students are bombarded with posters and lectures warning against the dangers of meaning campaigns just out to spoil our fun? **Flora Bradwell** looks at the joys of



**Flora Bradwell tests out her theory that beer goggles do indeed make you, and everyone else, much more attractive**

Has anyone else had enough of being told not to drink? First the student population of Britain is named among the worst offenders of the binge drinking culture; then we are warned that one in ten adults self-medicates with alcohol and we will most likely be feckless drunks by the time we reach middle age. One of the main aims of the 2002 campaign by the Portman group and the National Union of Students against binge drinking among students was to make drinking just to get drunk as socially unacceptable as drink driving. This, quite frankly, is ridiculous and condescending; and is, in my humble opinion, part of the dangerous trend amongst the powers that be to conspire against us having any fun.

Throughout my time at York there has been a barrage of anti-alcohol campaigns: I have witnessed campus newspapers running features about binge drinking with pictures of overweight drunk students snogging tramps in gutters; have heard horror stories on the news about the alcoholic tendencies of the 'youth of today'; and have received numerous distressed phone calls from my mother imploring me not to give into the vices of the demon drink. Clearly parents are among the worst offenders, constantly alert for any sign that their beloved son or daughter has become a raving drunkard, they go to any length to lecture and patronise. Third year psychologist Lizzie Bailey returned home after a hard working term only to be dubbed 'boozy bill' by her apparently not so

adoring father, despite the fact that she isn't even called Bill. Other York students have encountered similar treatment from parents, discovering anti-alcohol pamphlets left lying indiscreetly around their bedrooms on their return home for the holidays. As if the parents weren't bad enough, you can't even escape the nagging when you return to what you thought would be the haven of university life.

The Student Union DR!NK SAFE campaign already manages to lose a degree of authority as the use of ridiculous punctuation and misspelling fails to bring it 'down with the kids'; but instead renders it about as cool as any one of those saccharine alcopop groups such as 5ive, boyz2men and misteeq. And although all the information is of course accurate, it still feels patronising. As well as the condescending tone, this campaign is further undermined by the 'get home safe' game that you can find on the SU website. Instead of a link to a game where you must manoeuvre yourself round alcohol bottles and cans and pick up food, the unsuspecting student looking for alcohol advice lands on the 'don't do drunk' website. It seems that the promised game is nowhere to be found, however this website provides you with several links to the top ten websites for liquor, with 'liquors from gifts2drink' and 'register and bid for liquor on eBay' being among the most popular. This shameless liquor promotion seems rather to defeat the object of warning against the dangers of alcohol.

But what about the 'Fact Monkey' cam-

paign currently swamping our college bars? It's slick, looks pretty cool and even has a beer mat puzzle, which I must admit provides hours and hours of fun as you drunkenly shuffle it around your table in a state of semi confusion. The 'Fact Monkey' campaign also steers clear of all those horror stories that make other anti-drink campaigns so

## 'What it lacks in eye-candy York sure makes up for in pubs'

scary and thus distasteful to the ears of your average student in the street. This campaign is even headed by a monkey, a creature that can never fail to inspire consumer confidence as well as a little comedy: think the PG Tips adds and Johnny Vegas's sidekick. However, despite having ticked all the right boxes the campaign still fails to inspire me to change. The main issue I have with these beer mats of (potentially) never ending glee are the statistics on the back of the puzzle. '4 out of 5 university of York students stay safe by making sure their drinks are never left unattended' boasts one beer mat; '9 out of 10 University of York students have never underachieved on a piece of work or exam as a result of alcohol use' brags another. On the face of it these statistics seem commendable; the idea behind them is that potential binge drinkers see that the majority of their fellow

York University students drink responsibly and will thus follow the masses. However some of these figures are much more sinister than they originally appear to be. The fact that '4 out of 5 University of York students believe that drinking alcohol should not affect academic or other responsibilities' seems fair enough, but when looked at closely you realise that 1 out of every 5 University of York students, 20% of us, believe that drinking alcohol should affect academic or other responsibilities. In this way the initially encouraging statement that the beer mat seems to suggest actually translates to mean that 20% of York students believe that their academic work should be affected by drinking alcohol; 20% of York students consider it their right, and the norm, to allow drinking to affect their academic work. This, I am sure, is not the encouraging norm that the Fact Monkey campaign would have us follow.

But the real problem with any campaign trying to inspire you to drink less is the fact that drink is being targeted as something negative. As students, most of us won't have reached the self-medicating stage and see drinking as a social activity or a way to celebrate. There are just so many great things about alcohol that make it an irresistible and enjoyable part of our lives.

The most obvious benefit of alcohol is that it helps us pull. Sadly, being members of the affectionately named University of Dork, there are, on average, fewer pretty people than at other universities. First years finding themselves in this predicament might lose all faith and resign themselves to remaining chaste. However, what it lacks in eye candy York sure makes up for in pubs, with more than one drinking hole for every day of the year. Problem solved. Beer goggles make even computer scientists seem like muscle-bound gods. Likewise, seen through beer goggles you undoubtedly appear much more desirable. Not only does being drunk automatically add soft focus to even the most repulsive of features, but it makes you feel hotter too. Hotter, in this sense, means more attractive. However, temperature-wise, the oriental flush produced after a couple at the Nag's Head and the sweat induced by the dangerously high temperatures of Ziggy's, are other side-effects of alcohol which, although in reality they detract from the hotness of your appearance, with the aid of beer goggles are transformed into the subtle blush of youth, and the glow of good health.

Once you have managed to pull your potentially not entirely pretty prey, alcohol can often help bring your relationship to the next level. A definite hotspot for first dates in York is the infamous Evil Eye, where the seductive lighting and tremendously alcoholic concoctions on sale are enough to win anyone over. Equally, drunk texting can often lead to situations coming to a head. Alcohol gives you the confidence to drunkenly type things like 'mis u', 'yr fit', or 'xxxxxxxxx' into your phone and send into the ether, which, if sober, the rules of texting would definitely not permit. And, despite the fact that one night stands are often described as a negative effect of drinking in

# more fun drunk

excessive drinking, but are all these well alcohol and its place in university life

anti-alcohol campaigns, alcohol does have the glorious effect of lowering your inhibitions, often leading to sometimes exciting, but more often than not, hilarious sex. If it wasn't for alcohol most of my friends in relationships would be single. In fact Samuel Emanuel Mann, of Derwent college, admits: "I wouldn't be with my girlfriend of nearly two years had it not been for red wine". Liquor has undeniably on more than one occasion helped pave the way to love. Indeed Lizzie (aka Boozy Bill) Bailey asks the ques-



## The facts speak for themselves: York would be nothing without alcohol'

tion: "is it mere coincidence that cultures in which arranged marriages are prevalent are the ones where alcohol is prohibited?"

Not only does alcohol help you meet potential partners, or at least get laid, it also helps you make friends. Those heady days of Freshers' Week were made so much easier by the fact that they were lubricated with snakebite and black. People bonded over what drinks they liked and didn't; and hilarious drunken anecdotes from the night before bonded people who had hitherto been strangers. Even the act of drunken pulling has cemented the firmest of friendships: most friendship groups have a bit of healthy inbreeding. And as you progress through your university career you realise that almost everyone in York has pulled each other indirectly, and that strengthens the bond of our small incestuous community. Reminiscing now with friends about those early heydays of university, we honestly don't know how we would have met each other had it not been for Derwent bar, or the drunken singing on the Ikon bus (sadly deceased). Even the less pleasant side-effects of alcohol allow people to bond. No night out is complete without the hangover, and sharing the pain with new friends makes you realise that you're not quite so different. It is a sad fact that if not for alcohol you would know fewer people at university.

Of course, there is the obvious argument that joining societies is a great, non-alcoholic, way to meet people, and this is true. However, more often than not a society social revolves around, you've guessed it, drinking. This is most true of sports teams, where members play the game on the pitch, and drinking games off it. However painful or childish some might find games like 'Never Have I Ever' or 'Truth Or Dare', they

are undeniably used as the glue which sticks the social fabric of sports clubs together. Without such games netball, rugby and football teams would fail to bond as they do, thus leading to an absence of teamwork on the pitch and ultimate failure. Despite York's not very inspiring performance at Roses this year I am still confident in my theory that sporting prowess is improved through social drinking. Clearly Lancaster must have drunk more than York in preparation for the head-to-head. No trials into the effects drinking games have on sporting achievement have yet been run but I am sure that when they are, the results will be startling. John Griffiths of Derwent Seconds football team believes drinking is an integral part of the game. Although he admits that "drinking with sports is a way of punishing people for doing good things", referring to the challenges the man of the match must undergo; he feels that this benefits the equilibrium of the team itself as "the balance between very good and very bad is moderated". Obviously alcohol not only seals love and friendship, but also enables teamwork to flourish.

Added to these truly miraculous powers is the power to make everything seem better. How are the attendees of this summer's ball going to be able to stand the incessant noise of Bjorn Again without indulging in some alcoholic beverages? How would Ziggy's be fun at all without being proceeded by the Micklegate run? How would any campus event seem like anything other than a glorified school disco without double vodka red bulls? I must confess to having once ventured to Toff's without having imbibed any alcohol, and the experience, never to be repeated again, was indeed a sobering one. Just as the nightlife of York is undoubtedly improved by alcohol, so is the cuisine offered to those reaching the end of their night out. The Golden Grill becomes a delicatessen of delight after a night on t' town; and at any time past midnight the array of deep fried goodies York's Yummy Chicken's menu boasts well outstrips anything the Blue Bicycle might have to offer. The facts speak for themselves: York would be nothing without alcohol.

It is not only York that is improved by watching it through thick blurry beer goggles. The average York student undergoes a similar transformation. This is not only true in the physical appearance stakes, but in fact in every aspect of your being. Pretty much like Bananaman, once you have had a drink you assume magical powers, transforming from an everyday scruffy spotbag to an alcohol fuelled superhero. Among your powers are: strength you never knew you had; the ability to dance like they do on Strictly Dance Fever; the quick-witted intelligence of Stephen Fry; and the ability to brave all weather conditions wearing minimal clothing. With such an impressive array of talents it is little wonder that sticking a picture of a monkey on the back of a couple of beer mats won't change students' lifestyles. The powers of Alcohol-Man are too great and too tempting to be overcome by even the cutest of chimps. The simple fact of the matter is that drinking is fun and makes everything great.

## The scientific briefing with Luke Boulter

Nuclear power – the 'new' fuel, or has it lost its



In July 1945 the US tested a bomb with an explosive impact equivalent to 200,000 tonnes of TNT: the bomb named Trinity was the first (not so small) step in nuclear technology. Now several hundred thousand tonnes of plutonium and enriched uranium are available, and 27,000 atomic bombs are stored away. Having said this, 16% of the world's energy supply comes from nuclear power. It is of massive benefit to people; the question is, at what cost?

In the last fortnight the World Wildlife Federation-UK (WWF-UK) has produced a report which states in no uncertain terms that the UK can meet its energy demands and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in line with the Kyoto protocols without the need to use nuclear technology. With some small tweaks to current government policy it would be feasible to reduce 1990 carbon emissions levels by 40% by 2010, and to further reduce these levels to 55% by 2025. Great, you might think, and this is true: the notion of replacing our carbon based energy sources with nuclear and renewable fuels is a positive one. However, there are some unavoidable issues concerning the use of unstable fuels to power our country.

The most compelling argument against the widespread use of nuclear power for energy is not one of safety; it is the longevity of radioactive isotopes that the main problem. The decomposition of an isotope (nuclear fission) is measured in half-lives, that is, the amount of time it takes for a sample of material to reach half its activity. Uranium-235, the Uranium isotope that is used in nuclear fission, has a half-life of 760 million years, and upon decomposition Uranium becomes plutonium.

In 1995 it was reported that Japan, one of the world's key proponents in nuclear fuels (40% of the country's energy comes from nuclear reactors) had a surplus of 4.7 tonnes of plutonium. It is these stockpiles of nuclear waste that are causing massive concern in nuclear countries. This issue is so pertinent that many governments have set up councils to deal with the situation that is looming on a none-too-distant horizon.

Even with these advisory bodies on nuclear disposal at hand there is still much confusion and some confrontation as to what should be done with the waste from our energy production. The UK's Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) has taken three years to come to one conclusion: that nuclear waste from the UK should be buried, an idea that has been proposed three times in the last 30 years and has been rejected each time.

The proposal is simple: bury the UK's 400,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste between 300m and 2km below the earth's surface in stable geological formations. This may sound

extreme, depending on your point of view, but there are massive implications for the countryside if we do bury our nuclear litter.

The area in Ukraine where Chernobyl nuclear reactor number 4 once stood remains to this day extremely radioactive and entirely uninhabitable, and the long-term implications of that one explosion are still uncertain 20 years on, with a predicted 60,000 deaths from the after effects of radiation. The depth that the UK wishes to bury its nuclear waste is sensible, but for how long can this problem have a layer of earth neatly placed atop it? How about one thousand years?

In practice these wastes are no more dangerous than any others: they are, if deactivated and shielded, perfectly safe. In fact, for a sample of Uranium to reach one thousandth of its activity takes less than 100 years, and after a few thousand years its radioactivity has reduced to levels similar to that when it is mined. However, there is a horribly ironic twist to the story. The UK Environment Agency has suggested that rising sea levels, a consequence of global warming, will jeopardise many of the nuclear waste sites around the world within the next 500 years, making them impossible to use for storing nuclear waste.

So, what are the alternatives to Uranium, if we decide that this is too much of a long term commitment for a short term advantage? There are the obvious options to explore: an increase in wind farms and hydro- and solar-based energies. The success of these types of energies can be seen in Canada, which supplies more than 50% of its energy requirement in this way.

Another option is to use nuclear fusion. Up until now nuclear power has resulted from the decay of isotopes, but in 2005 France won an exciting bid to build a fusion reactor and attempt to make the world's first source of clean, safe and almost infinite energy. The process relies on the fusion of two hydrogen atoms to produce helium; this mechanism expels a lot of energy without creating a lasting nuclear legacy. The only problem facing this plan is that the research has lasted half a century and cost \$20 billion, no small bill.

It is disheartening, then, that no massive advancements have been made, as this method requires a massive magnetic field, and plasma hitting temperatures that have never been achieved before.

This nuclear dream could become reality over the next half a century, but living in the here and now there is no effective energy source which will not, in some way, affect us or the environment. Carbon-based emissions must be reduced, but whether a progressive takeover by nuclear is a good idea, only time and environmental security will tell.

# A religious foray into science

Intelligent design theory is now taught alongside evolution in science lessons. Bob Higson considers the implications of allowing religion into scientific theory

**E**volution and Creationism have long been pitted against one another, crudely categorised as science battling against faith or simply 'God vs Science'. The issue is a source of contention, particularly with regards to what should be taught in schools. Does Creationism belong in the religious studies classroom or in the science lab alongside the theory of evolution by natural selection?

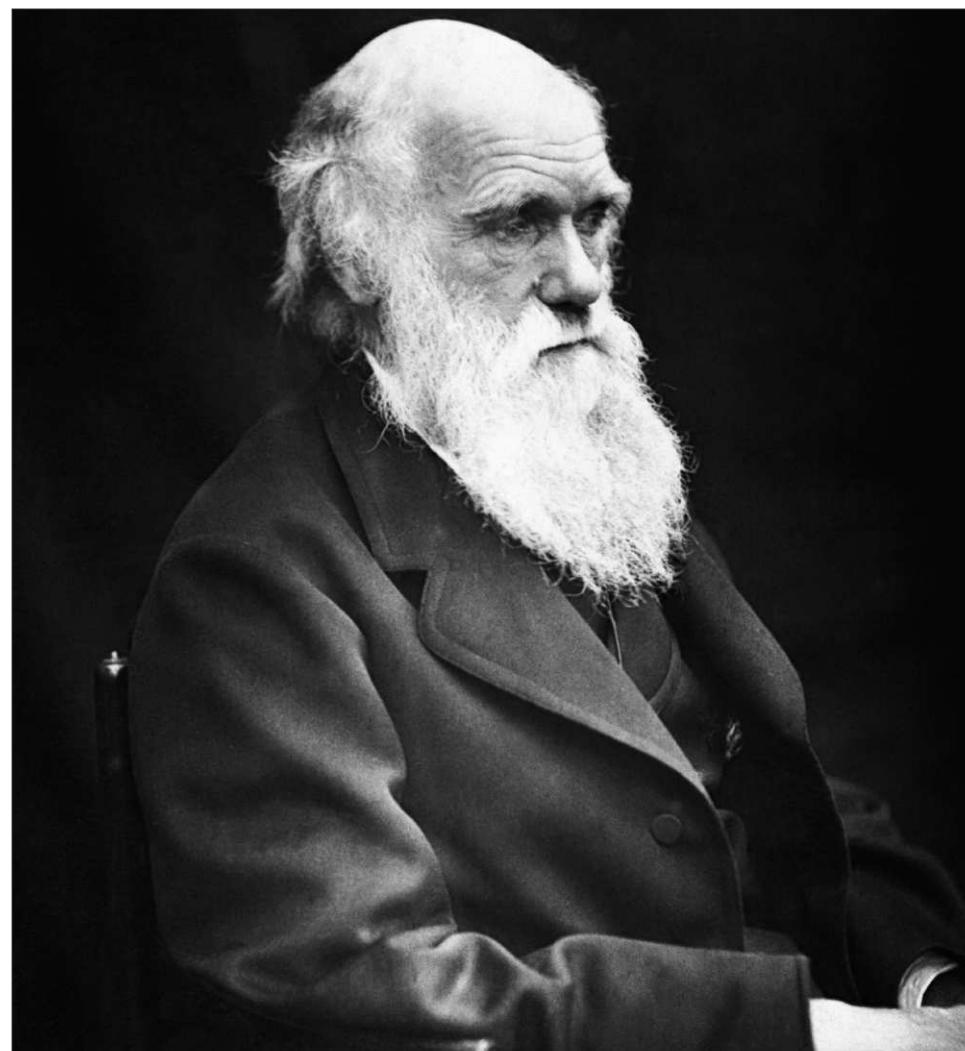
For some, the two being taught in schools is not a problem, rather, they are competing theories to be explained alongside one another. There is, however, an increasingly vocal argument that evolution should not be taught to children in schools as "fact", but as one possible theory amongst others, such as intelligent design. Opponents feel that teaching intelligent design as 'science' lends it undue credibility, believing that the theories are nothing more than indoctrinating pseudoscience.

Intelligent design theories have been a source of both controversy and increasing popularity of late. They are theories that President Bush thinks should be taught in schools, yet that the Archbishop of Canterbury feels shouldn't be. Though modern conceptions of the argument stem from the 1980s, the theories have stretched over millennia: from Plato, through Aquinas and Paley (author of the watchmaker theory).

Proponents of intelligent design maintain that life on Earth is too complex to have evolved randomly. Natural systems, it is argued, display characteristics that cannot be attributable to natural order and evolution. Scientists behind the anti-evolution movement cite a number of specific examples, including the vertebrate blood clotting cascade, the immune system, the cilium, and most notably, the bacterial flagellum.

Intelligent design does not necessarily imply a Creator in the traditional theistic sense, but merely that one, or more, must exist. Furthermore, they point to the fact that 'evolution is only a theory' and should be valued as nothing more. However, intelligent design is branded by its harsher opponents as blatant neo-Creationism circumventing evolutionary biology, in order to lend scientific kudos to pre-held religious beliefs.

But describing evolution as being 'only a theory' undermines the scientific usage of the term. As Dr. Paul Elliott, postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Chemistry at York explains, "evolution is both a fact and a theory, just as gravity is both a fact (you are pulled down to the floor) and a theory (explained by Einstein by the mass of the Earth warping space-time in the theory of general relativity)" he offers. "The facts of evolution are that we can observe it happening with a great many examples of speciation by natural selection having been observed both in the lab and in the wild. The fossil record shows that fossils of a given species are only ever found within specific bands of rock, none are found out of place, suggesting they were in existence for a finite period of time. Further, for several groups of species, sequential lineages can be seen where one species follows the disappearance of and pre-



Intelligent Design is a proposed alternative to Darwin's theory of evolution

cedes the appearance of related species."

'Discarding evolution' was the topic of a recent lecture held on campus. Entitled "The theory of evolution proved false," it attempted to prove the impossibility of evolution, using disputed claims and contentious sources that were challenged by many in attendance.

## A negative argument against evolution is not a default argument in favour of intelligent design'

To some students the lecture itself bordered on the farcical. Albi Furlan - who describes himself as a committed atheist - viewed the event disparagingly. "When challenged with contrary facts, the lecturer tried to avoid confrontation... Even people I sat near who had various different beliefs - agnostic, Christian and atheist - felt embarrassed," he says.

Literature handed out at the lecture, with copyright owned by the ministry of

Creation Science Foundation Ltd., included such propaganda as, "Atheism kills, because without God there are no rules - anything goes! Atheists are at the forefront of efforts to legitimize euthanasia, abortion, drug-taking, prostitution, pornography and promiscuity. All these things cause misery, suffering and death. Atheism is the philosophy of death."

So is there any scientific validity to intelligent design theories? "Intelligent design and the argument from design are not theories, they are opinions at best," says Dr. Elliott. "They are based on no evidence, merely an argument from personal incredulity and, as such, are not science. Intelligent design arguments basically rest on the notion that life is complex and therefore has to have been designed, i.e. 'I personally don't understand how this could happen therefore it can't', which as you can see is hardly scientific... Not one argument in favour of intelligent design has ever been made, only negative arguments against evolution. A negative argument against evolution is not a default argument in favour of design."

Just recently, the exam board OCR announced its new GCSE biology syllabus, including the debate on Creationism and

intelligent design. Critics argue, however, that it should only be discussed in lessons on religion, as teaching Creationist theories in science lessons affords them unwarranted plausibility.

Supporters of such theories in America were dealt a heavy blow in December when, in the case of Kitzmiller vs. Dover Area School District, courts ruled that intelligent design should not be taught in schools as it was essentially "Creationism re-labelled." The trial included testimony from both sides and from experts on philosophy, Creationism and evolutionary biology. Summarising the verdict, the judge stated that, "the intelligent design argument is dependent upon setting a scientifically unreasonable burden of proof for the theory of evolution". Accusations of a lack of judicial objectivity were easily overcome, the judge having been appointed by President Bush, a lifelong church-goer himself. As Dr. Elliott puts it, "on the public stage with the world press watching and given the opportunity to justify itself as science, intelligent design found itself utterly devastated by the weight of evidence against its claims."

But must evolution and Creationism be seen as necessarily contradictory? Perhaps evolution can be viewed as God's 'guiding hand' after his original Creation? "There is no suggestion of a guiding hand and so no justification for suggesting that there is one involved," says Dr. Elliott. "The theory of evolution explains many things just fine without the need to invoke God. To include God in science, He must be observable and testable. Since He is not, by the definition of 'being supernatural', it is not by choice but by necessity that the notion of God is excluded."

There are those who feel that by even confronting arguments from those practising intelligent design and those that dismiss the science behind evolution, Creationist theories are being given a platform that they do not deserve, elevating their respectability and plausibility. Others feel that Creationism is an issue to be confronted head on: only by exposing its faults will it wither away. Still, the issue remains contentious: by engaging in debate are we breathing respectability into a position that should be marginalised, or acknowledging the lack of certainty that we have over how the world came to be?

Belief in a six-day Creation, Adam and Eve and the story of Genesis has been disputed by scientists of many faiths for years. Need we therefore worry about elevating theories of Creationism and intelligent design? Given a recent BBC *Horizon* poll which showed more than 40% of those surveyed believe that alternative theories to evolution - such as Creationism and intelligent design - should be taught in science lessons, the answer is probably yes. In truth, it is an issue that comes down to faith, not science. Indeed, many scientist opponents of intelligent design have been devoutly religious, drawn from all Christian denominations. But, religious beliefs aside, to put God into the equation because of a lack of certainty does an incredible disservice to science; science is observable and testable; God, by definition, is not.

# So, who are The Earlies?

Following their recent gig at Fibbers, **Sara Sayeed** talks to The Earlies about groupies, the Arctic Monkeys and the problem of making music over different sides of the Atlantic



**The Earlies, including their "Simon Cowell-esque svengali" John Mark Lapham (top), who doesn't do tours but does do trees**

don't make that much money!"

Yet, this is only one side of Brandon and Charlie's personalities. When asked about contemporary music they subtly change from the amiable, laddish selves to more discerning musicians. Brandon's verdict on the Arctic Monkeys, seems superficially congenial. "Well, you know, I don't really mind it so much. I, er... I haven't really heard much of their stuff, I mean I respect... well stuff gets played on the radio, like pop music, regardless of whether or not you like it; there are certain things like catchy hooks, well written little pop songs, and there is a skill in that". However, on closer inspection, references to their "well written little pop songs" and his satisfaction that "the pendulum has really swung back to the band thing and not the boy band thing" betrays a more quietly critical attitude.

Charlie is a little more forthcoming; "I think that there are a lot of bands, especially last year, that probably didn't deserve the amount of hype that they got". But just when I'm getting all geared up for a pleasingly acerbic proclamation on the over-venerated, well-coiffured participants of the contemporary musical scene, Charlie reverts to diplomacy, declaring that he "won't name names" and that the Arctic Monkeys are "a very good band" who "would probably be quite embarrassed about the hype they got if you were to interview them". Arrogant band bashers the Earlies clearly are not. In terms of contemporary bands, what seems to irk them more than anything is their effect on the Earlies' own "groupie action". After being quite cool and blasé so far, Brandon gets a little ruffled. "You know, I don't understand this at all. Well, I'm married so I can't do anything, but I mean I don't even get propositioned! All

these other bands... it's crazy, I mean I don't get it. I mean, I don't think we're absolutely disgusting..." Poor guy, it's been a long tour. Flitting between the personas of 'too cool for school' progressive musicians and piqued schoolboys, the Earlies are definitely not easy to pin down. On top of that, one of their core members, John Mark Lapham just 'doesn't do' touring. When asked why he's not around, Brandon and Charlie have a little chuckle and say, "No, no he's not here, he's a very, very mysterious, brooding studio genius". Charlie then cuts in: "he's an avant-garde svengali!" When I respond with a slightly baffled look, he explains, "He's the Simon Cowell of the Avant-garde - he auditioned us all, I mean he put us all together".

Even more difficult to define is their music itself. That's not to say many haven't had a valiant go at it: "A work of baroque detail, crossing between Mercury Rev's psychedelic Americana and The Beta Band's bucolic electronica" (Q. Magazine); "This music is the electronic, Warp-inspired answer to Brian Wilson's 'Smile'." (New Musical Express); and my personal favourite, "Imagine the Beach Boys getting strung out in a field on cider midmorning in some alternative universe Texas, surrounded by retro-

sounding DIY synths, a raggedy brass section, and a hippy cello player" (PopMatters). So, I went for the contentious (or exasperating) route of asking Brandon himself to define their music. "Umm... it's mainly psychedelic stuff: psychedelic pop is what it all boils down to". Charlie has a jab at clarifying; "We set out really to make an accessible pop album. When we were making it we were listening to the Beach Boys and all '60s sort of pop stuff. And we just figured that nobody was doing it anymore, so we thought we would". Well, if the Earlies see themselves as a psychedelic, Beach Boys influenced, eleven piece orchestral ensemble with a Simon Cowell figure at the helm, it is no wonder that they have caused a little confusion.

Granted, the title of the debut album, *These were the Earlies* does prompt the question "What are they going to be?" According to Brandon, "Most of the stuff on the first album is not even tapping into a tenth of the stuff that [we] could do. But with the second album, we're getting pretty wacky". The additional wackiness could prompt another wave of critical contention, but, if they manage even a couple of tenths of what "they could do", September, when the new album will be released, should be a pretty exciting month.

For more music content visit [www.NOUSE.co.uk](http://www.NOUSE.co.uk)

Following their JJ's gig, Irish band **Director** discuss their recent tour with Hard Fi, their new headline shows and writing their debut album, with **Jenni Marsh**.

**Buck 65** talks to **Adam Sloan** about his desire for a hermetic existence, his backwoods hometown of Mount Euniacke and annoying almost everyone in hip-hop.

We've also got live reviews of **Sway** and **the Streets** in Leeds, **Angels and Airwaves** at Manchester's Give It A Name festival and **Tunng**, **Vashti Bunyan** and **Adem** in Leeds.

# Rebecca Gower



## Controversy over content: why advertising is missing the point

**I**t's been reported that French Connection has had a collapse in sales recently, blamed in part on their recent advertising campaign, which attracted a large number of complaints. I don't know if you saw it, but I certainly found it quite off-putting: it showed two women beating each other before enjoying a kiss, while covered in oil.

Obviously, the company were trying to invite controversy (they've never exactly been arbiters of good taste in advertising), but it was just rather offensive, and it certainly didn't fill me with the urge to go and buy any of their clothes. If their sales have been affected, well, they've only brought it upon themselves.

It's all just part of the great power of advertising, I suppose. From reading the papers, you'd think that Marks & Spencer's fortunes have been turned round single-handedly by Twiggy, in those adverts where she, Laura Bailey and Erin O'Connor (and that other one, whose name nobody knows – since she's the least famous, she's the one that has to do all the underwear modelling) flounce around some stately home in various outfits. People have said that this is a great victory for the use of older women in advertising. Which might be true, if Twiggy didn't look about fifteen years younger than she actually is, and if she weren't surrounded by three women who are in their twenties and thirties. I'm sure the average 'older woman' feels just thrilled.

I hate Marks & Spencer's adverts, anyway. The clothes ones

are annoying enough, but then there's the unashamed gastro-porn of the food commercials. I used to think Dervla Kirwan was great (mainly because I was a big Ballykissangel fan many years ago), but now she's just the woman who works herself up into some kind of breathy, orgasmic glow while listing the delights of smoked ham, or whatever other delicacy we're all supposed to rush out to buy. Apparently I'm in the minority, though, as the food section has had record profits.

It could just be, of course, that I generally miss the point of most adverts. I mean, there's a brilliant one on at the moment which I really like, where a gangster gets cremated and then turned into a diamond, or something along those lines. The thing is, though, that I have absolutely no idea what the product is that is being advertised. I always mean to look out for it, but forget, and it's getting increasingly frustrating: either it's just not explicit enough in terms of what it's selling, or else I'm being stunningly slow-witted about it (which is more likely, really: recently, what with the whole it's-my-final-term debacle, I've felt my ability to concentrate, or indeed think about anything in any kind of detail, deteriorate).

Then there are advertisements which I feel are deliberately designed just to irritate me. So, for example, some girl with flawless skin will ramble on about how she went shopping, and there was a fantastically attractive male assistant, but she just couldn't look at him because she looked so awful



Barry Scott arguably remains the only true classic advertising icon currently on our television

that day. (Get over it, I say. Why do people want to look their best when they're shopping? I can't understand it). But then she used some magical face wash and the very next day, she went back and got his number. I always think, what, am I supposed to be thrilled for you? Brilliant, you're going on a date: well, I don't know you, and this thirty-second film has not endeared you to me in such a way that I care what happens to you. Or else, there'll be some emaciated model who clearly hasn't eaten an

actual meal in months, and she'll be inhaling ice-creams whole, as if to tell me, look, you too can look like me while indulging in this calorific snack!

I can't cope with it; I hate people trying to sell me a look, or a product, or a lifestyle, in such a vacuous and thoughtless way. In fairness, I'm not particularly consistent in this. If the actors used are fabulously good-looking, I get annoyed at the presumption that they're meant to represent normal people; if they're less attractive, I

decide that the company couldn't be bothered to shell out enough money, and that I don't want to look at a load of ugly people on screen. What I really can't stand, though, is celebrity endorsements. When Eva Longoria simpers at me that I should use some shampoo or other, because I'm worth it, I almost want to scream. It's not really her fault – my dislike of her is inextricably bound up with the fact that I pretty much loathe Gabrielle on Desperate Housewives, and Desperate Housewives in general – but I really resent the implication that my life is so anodyne and unsatisfactory that I must be striving to be more like her, and that, therefore, I must want to use the products that she claims to use (and she so obviously doesn't, anyway).

My all-time favourite advert, and the one which I reckon has been most effective on me, is that Ferrero Rocher one from years ago: you know, about the Ambassador's parties being noted for their style. It is the cheesiest, most unconvincing advert ever, and yet that's what makes it work. I don't even like Ferrero Rocher, but I buy them sometimes because I have some kind of weird affection for that advert. They don't make them like that any more...

## Struggling towards the finish line

**W**hen people used to talk to me about finals, I assumed they'd be like my A Levels: I'd be permanently exhausted, wandering from one exam to the next, and all I'd ever do was work.

I also thought that I'd get rather stressed – or, at the very least, panicked – and end up having arguments with everyone I knew. Thus far, that hasn't happened. Mainly because I do English, so I've had a single exam (which I did worry about no end,

but I can't summon the energy to be concerned about it now it's over); but also because the mood that appears to be characterising this final term at York is boredom.

Every morning I wake up insanely early to the sinking feeling that I'm going to have to spend the whole day in front of a computer, and it's beyond depressing. I would stay at home to work, but my laptop's chosen this crucial moment to break down (I swear, it has some kind of sixth sense about how best to get at me), so I have to trek over

to campus; and now that the sun is out, all I can hear, wherever I'm working, is the sound of all the lucky, carefree students who still have years at university ahead of them. It's made me bitter enough that whenever it starts raining torrentially, I cheer up no end.

It'll all be over soon enough I suppose. What's driving me mad, though, is the fact that I could finish the essays I'm currently working on much more quickly, and be free to go and sit outside, if only I weren't so bored of them that I

# Kicking the meat habit

Many people see those who choose not to eat meat as over-idealistic hippies. **Dan Whitehead** and **Sam Noble** explore their different reasons for shunning the red stuff



## Dan's story

**A**fter almost twenty years of tearing away chunks of flesh from a cow's derriere, I decided that turning into a herbivore was the ethical path of enlightenment that I wished to follow. On the two week anniversary of my new life, I have decided to report from the front line of the world of lettuce leaf munching.

Day 1: When I first experienced my "epiphany", as a friend tastefully put it, I was fully dedicated to the vegan cause. I wanted to help Daisy's udders fight for freedom from the oppression of farmers' milk-thirsty, fondling hands; I wanted to stop those egg-robbing bastards (farmers again) from taking Chicken Little's children. After all, how hard could it be to stop consuming animal products for the greater good?

Apparently harder than I thought. I was dirtier when I came out of the shower that morning than when I went in, as I realised that no longer could I use my toiletries as both contained animal products. Upon getting dressed, I concluded that my favourite jumper was also out of the question as it was made from wool. When I realised I was going to have to re-paint my room due to the paint containing "animal-based ingredients" I decided the vegan way of life just wasn't for me.

Day 2: Having lowered the ethical ambitions of my new way of life, day two promised to be painless. How wrong could I have been? Everywhere I looked there were succulent steaks, sausages, pasties and Roger Kirk food (well maybe that wasn't so tempting). Then came the Satan of all meats: bacon. As a student walked past me, fat dribbling off his jaw, I began wondering how I would ever cope.

Day 7: After surviving mainly off Ploughman sandwiches it was decided that a visit to Tesco was a must. Upon arriving at the store, a voice crackled in the background "I would like to inform you that this store will be closing in 15 minutes". "Fifteen minutes!" I cried, "How do I possibly have time to shop for an entire week's worth of vegetarian food in 15 minutes?" The fruit and veg section was right in front of me so I dived in, grabbing all manner of

**Variety in your vegetables is the key for a meat free diet, whilst not going crazy**

Pythagorean necessities. Swede, sweet potato, leeks, celeriac?! Don't know what it is but it sounds vegetarian, I'll have two.

This continued for several minutes. As the woman screeched over the speakers "5 minutes to go", I raced towards the Quorn, feet riding on top of the trolley wheels like an 8 year old

**'I can see the stares in the street as mothers shield their children and slyly whisper to them "We don't mix with that sort"**

child. But where was the Quorn? I couldn't find it in the frozen section. Panicking, I turned to the crisps (I heard they offer a very balanced diet) especially with such varieties as roast beef and chicken, then I remembered I can't eat them. I arrived at the checkout, tail between my legs, knowing that the second week was going to be another feast of cheese sandwiches.

Day 11: Munching my way through a lettuce sandwich I notice a small bug on one of the leaves. With my new sense of nature-loving still intact I carefully remove the bug and place it outside. I then notice the small present it has left placed next to where it was sat. Does eating insect faeces count as going against the principles of vegetarianism?

Day 14: Looking back over the fortnight it is amazing how much shock and displeasure I got from friends and family. I can see the stares in the street, the whispers as the mothers shield their children and tell them "We don't mix with that sort". At least it can be said that I have my own place in life now, and can proudly say to the next chef who asks, "I don't eat Sunday roast!"

## Sam's story

**T**he choice to become a vegetarian is one you should not take lightly, nor is it something which as an experienced and accomplished carnivore you should fear. I took the plunge at the beginning of term, partly to feel healthier and to save money but also to prove the sceptics wrong. They have a point; my motivation is far from moral, having no 'beef' with eating animals or a desire to rally behind the cause for animal rights; I just wanted to see if I could shake the nineteen year habit. So far so good, but be warned: ham roll nightmares, farts that can strip paint off walls and a distrust of solid food are some of the side-effects you won't be told about.

My mind must have approached my decision like a recovering alcoholic: meat was the enemy and my addictions to it lead to bad places such as putting on a stone over Christmas and always feeling bloated. The first week went swimmingly as the novelty resulted in lots of innovative cooking. However, it went downhill as the weather brightened. Now, I'm a Southern pansy and I get tetchy if there is a cloud in the sky,

but the invite to a barbecue I knew would be a test. I was already gutted (the mini Sainsbury's on Scarcroft Road had no veggie burgers) so I retaliated by buying an assortment of chocolate snacks. It's never good to comfort eat, but I was sulking. Upon arriving at the barbecue, the sensitive hosts had home made hummus and sixteen veggie burgers for my delight. I had managed to pass the test!

That night the nightmares began. I woke up racked with guilt, prepared to phone my girlfriend to tell her of my shame that I had given in and had a ham roll. I opened the fridge only to find vegetables, Orange Juice and Friscuino. Now this only strengthened my resolve and the benefits began to show.

Over three weeks I had lost a stone and as a result started to run around campus at eight in the morning every day (hangover permitting). It's my Forrest Gump ideology - I ran this far so I might as well keep on going. I feel more motivated, less bloated and genuinely pleased for myself of accomplishing so much with honestly little effort. Although, be warned, my farts are the deadliest smells around this town.

Our resident chef, **Johan Carlin**, provides a tasty recipe suitable for student vegetarians

### Peanut wok

Serves 3

200 g basmati rice  
3 cloves garlic  
1 large onion  
1 pepper  
6 mushrooms  
1 leek  
25 g ginger

1 red chilli  
1 tin of coconut milk  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 tablespoon tomato puree  
4 tablespoons peanut butter  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
cooking oil

While the rice boils, start chopping the vegetables. Garlic is a lot easier to peel if you first smash it with the blade of a knife and ginger is best peeled by scraping it with a teaspoon.

You can control the strength of the wok with the chilli. Chop the remaining vegetables into rough chunks.

Pour some oil into the

wok, and set it to maximum heat. Add all the vegetables once the oil is hot, and fry for less than two minutes while stirring.

Add coconut milk, lemon juice, tomato puree, peanut butter and soy sauce, stir and taste.

Try adding some more soy or a dash of salt. Serve immediately once the wok has been brought to a boil.

# The altruistic masochism of the London Marathon runner

**William Bowry** recounts the sweat, tears and other bodily fluids he encountered when he ran the 26th London Marathon

I loved sports day at school. In the balmy summer sun, as athletes stretched toned muscles and hurled javelins in fury, I would enjoy an afternoon of doing absolutely nothing. Occasionally I might go down to the sports field and amuse myself by watching runners wearing the school's buttock-bracing athletic shorts, but I never competed. To me, there was simply no logic in running 5000m only to finish in the same place that an athletic showcase culminated in a group of fat kids, strenuously pulling a bit of rope attached to another group of fat kids who, in my mind, evidence enough that the whole event was ridiculous.

With such an inauspicious athletic background, you can understand why I was greeted with screams of laughter when I told people I was running the London Marathon. Prior to 2006, I had occasionally run to a few bus stops, once ventured into a mild jog during a football game and sauntered 22 yards down a cricket pitch on a number of occasions, but I'd never come close to the 26 miles it takes to complete a marathon.

People change, however, and, back in November, one of my mother's friends (a long-suffering NHS nurse at the Royal London Hospital) was having a rant about the fact that none of the hospital staff wanted to run the Marathon. Normally, the hospital provides runners to fundraise for the 'Friends of the RLH' (an organisation set up to provide support for the families of those taken ill) but, so far, 2006 was drawing a blank and the Marathon deadline was fast approaching. Perhaps ill-advisedly, (probably sipping a glass of Sangria and dragging heavily on a Cuban cigar) I raised my hand to offer my support. If old Grannies, people in fancy dress and Gordon Ramsay could run the Marathon, then surely I could as well? A few days later a 'Golden Bond London Marathon Entry Form' was deposited through my letterbox and suddenly, without really knowing how it happened, I was running the London Marathon.

Feeling enthusiastic, I bought a book in Oxfam called *The Expert's Guide to Marathon Training* which included a 24-week training schedule. Flicking through chapters on 'Dietary Recommendations' and 'Endurance Training' I realised my training should have begun in earnest on November 6th. As it was now nearing the end of the year, a good chunk of my training schedule had already elapsed and I didn't even own a pair of trainers. Things got worse when the trauma of this realisation made me decide to 'rest' during the month of January - better to start mentally fresh in February I felt.

So on a rather dull morning at the beginning of February, I went jogging. After running up Hull Rd for fifteen minutes, I passed a large roundabout only to realise I was running along the A166. I spent the rest of my run breathing in fuel emissions, getting soaked by oncoming vehicles speeding through puddles and narrowly evading death as large haulage lorries swerved past

my plodding legs. Eventually, I ended up in a town called 'Dunninton' which was thankfully so depressing that I was physically impelled to run back to York. I eventually made it home feeling miserably tired but thankful that I was still alive. The internet informed me I had run just over 6 miles: not even a quarter of a Marathon.

I embraced the learning curve, however, and towards the end of term I was comfortably completing a six mile run within the city walls. I even started feeling confident. Unfortunately, from the 1st-7th April, I went to a theatre festival in Scarborough where I had originally planned to continue my training by running along Scarborough beach every morning. Inevitably, the nearest I got to such athletic vision was stumbling onto the beach at 4am so I could urinate on a child's sandcastle with a cigarette dripping out my mouth. During the whole seven days I didn't even break into a brisk walk, let alone a run. I returned to York with lungs lined with tar, still a bit pissed, knowing I had two weeks to go before attempting to run a race whose first competitor, Philippiades, actually dropped down dead.

For the following fortnight I was either sleeping or running, and when I went to London on the 22nd April I was feeling pretty good. I registered, got my official London Marathon number and, in the spirit of the occasion, even bought a can of Lucozade. Of course such enthusiasm quickly waned when a friend's birthday party beckoned and with it came an obligatory flute of champagne. As I was glugging it down, I did manage to convince myself that Matthew Pinsent and Steve Redgrave were probably enjoying a hearty bottle of scotch in preparation for the 26 miles they were also due to embark upon the very next day.

On said morning, I arrived in Greenwich Park ready to run. Having completed a brief warm-up, I positioned myself in the massive throng of limbering bodies and waited. After a few minutes I was on my way, part of a bounding mass of bodies that was threading its way through London. After an hour's running I had completed 7 miles and didn't feel too bad. I had overtaken a man dressed as a banana, sped past Elvis Presley twice and was settling into my natural rhythm. I had even got used to, everytime I passed a pub, being subjected to the sight of fat men clutching pints singing Bruce Springsteen's "Baby you were born to run".

Things were less peachy when, on around 14 miles, I hit a problem. My nipples started to bleed. I don't mean they started lactating blood; it was the abrasion caused by my T-shirt that had removed their top skin and suddenly I was in the throes of serious nipple-agony. For the next 12 miles, every movement of my T-shirt was greeted with a sharp bolt of pain from my nipples, skinned raw. To make matters worse, blisters formed on the balls of my feet, which steadily got bigger until it felt like I had a squishy golf ball trapped in each shoe. Unpleasant



William Bowry in full stride, pushing through the torturous pain barrier

chaffing in the groin area also started to occur - more pain. My body seemed to be falling to bits, while my legs were turning to jelly.

In hindsight, the period around 17 miles was undoubtedly the worst. I had been running for nearly 3 hours, was utterly exhausted, had no compulsion to continue and yet there was another 9 miles to the finish line. I had hit the proverbial 'runners wall' and felt like I was dragging my broken body (bleeding nipples and all) through the streets of London. The final mile, however, when I ran down the Embankment, past Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, was, on so many levels, breath taking. The sheer elation I felt on finishing the Marathon is something I can't express in words; suffice to say that, almost immediately after crossing the line, I broke down in a pool of tears.

After 3 hours, 52 minutes and 56 seconds of continuous running I had finished the London Marathon; a time which, judged against the winner of the first timed marathon (G. Grigorou who took 3 hours and

45 minutes), makes me an elite athlete by the standards of 1896. Chris Brasher, (the initial organiser of the first London Marathon), described the inaugural 1981 runners as "one joyous family, working together, laughing together, achieving the impossible". With this in mind, my memories of the Marathon are not bleeding nipples, blisters or pain, but runners who had T-shirts with 'Running for Dad' or "Running for Jessica" written across them. They made it feel wrong to stop running.

Every year, the London Marathon, with participants from all walks of life, raises around 30 million pounds for charity. Some will run, some will walk, but that's of little importance. The Marathon creates a sense of community: everyone striving towards the same end. If anyone is thinking about running the London Marathon in 2007, then go to [www.londonmarathon.com](http://www.londonmarathon.com) and download an application pack. I can guarantee it will be an experience that you never forget. Just remember to pop some tape on your nipples beforehand...

# York's writing workshop

**Holly Williams** considers the opportunities available for new writers in the theatre scene

In his recent appointment as artistic director for the Globe theatre, Dominic Dromgoole has made a commitment to emulate the original conditions of Shakespeare's Globe, 'the greatest new-writing theatre in the history of the world', when the stage was filled with the recent scribblings of Will and his contemporaries. If even a theatre often seen as offering simply an historical experience is showing such a interest in new writing, then surely a university should be a hotbed for it? As we are often told, university offers a chance to try out new things, discover hidden talents, and even to muck up spectacularly, but in an environment where just to give it a go is encouraged. But, as anyone who's penned even the odd self-indulgent poem knows, to share what you've written is no easy feat. When what you've written is a play, this can be exaggerated – it has to be messed around by actors, directors, techies and designers before your words can reach the ears of a (hopefully) adoring public. So does York University offer opportunities for budding young bards?

Look no further than the Drama Barn. This term there are two new plays, by Chris Bush and Nick Payne, and an adaptation on show, offering a chance for aspiring writers to see their words onstage and find out what works in front of a real live audience. Sophie Larsmon, new chair of Drama Soc, confirms that the society "will be definitely, definitely encouraging new writing", and of course new plays work well for the society financially, as they don't have to pay rights. Plus, in the audience, you get the thrill of knowing you might be watching the early works of York's answer to Harold Pinter.

Having your work performed in the Barn, necessarily interpreted by fellow students, brings its own unique curses and blessings and can impact on what you write. The somewhat claustrophobic space of the Barn can work with what you write – an intense, personal drama can really suit the space. If you've got your sights set on something spectacular rather than intimate however, then it might be worth venturing further afield. Student-written play *Whorticuture* was put on at Stagecoach Theatre in York earlier this year, and the larger space certainly suited this ambitious production. From the moment the fast-paced montage of the opening sequence began, the size of the projection screens alone leant Sam Haddow's astonishing play a sense of scale beyond anything the Drama Barn is capable of.

Theatre is by its very nature collaborative, and it can be hard for a writer to see their 'baby' interpreted by other students, themselves still developing directing or acting skills. Chris Bush, who directed his own plays, *Olympia* and *Man and God* in the Barn, is reluctant to give artistic control to another

student, feeling that at this stage, there's not much difference in ability between himself and fellow students. Plus, in the smallness of York's drama society, it would be impossible "to keep distanced" and let another director get on with it. Nick Payne also had reservations about letting someone else direct his work, citing the importance of finding someone you can trust to work with. Currently co-directing with John Hoyle on his new play, *Flourless*, they're aiming to achieve a collaborative effect, and the production is "going well – we're on the same wavelength".

Then there are the health and safety restrictions of university drama. When I spoke to Nick and John, they were slightly bemused, having just been informed their poster for *Flourless* will have to carry a warning: 'contains material that may be offensive'. No such warning was necessary for *Whorticulture* despite the perhaps more controversial inclusions of baby-licking and frequent use of expletives ("swearing is big and it is fucking clever"), suggesting that if you want to do something shocking, take it off campus. I wondered if the Drama Barn's H&S precaution was slapped on because *Flourless* is a new piece of student writing – with all its connotations of being a bit edgy, trying to get a reaction. Nick responded that he's "not interested in really shocking an audience", aiming instead to get people talking after the play: "A good play gets in your head for weeks... hopefully people will be able to relate to *Flourless*, people will want to talk about it." *Flourless* developed after he spent some time in London last summer, and the "silent, uneasy atmosphere that was around after the bombings" influenced the play. The context is implicit, and as he points out, you now can't write about London without an awareness of the July bombings. But while the backdrop for his play may be London at an unsteady moment, it is there to support the drama, to get people thinking and talking, not to outright offend.

Chris Bush's play *Man and God* was also intended to get audiences thinking, and certainly succeeded in sparking debate. Not only did I begin my post-performance interview by questioning several alternate interpretations of the ending, someone else also came over halfway through to clear up the same debate they were having over a pint. But Chris thinks the primary purpose of theatre is to entertain: "by all means write plays about ideas, but it's crucial they are presented in an entertaining way. Don't let your message get in the way of good writing. Have a message, but first you need firm dialogue to make people listen."

But what if you're still in the fledgling stages of writing, and fancy developing your work, or just seeing what it's

**Mathew Lacey,  
Will Seaward  
and Jenny  
Calder in Chris  
Bush's *Man and  
God***



like in performance? Beth Pitts, who's in the process of writing her first play, took advantage of the Monday's Open Drama Night slot to do a workshop on new writing and look at draft play scripts. A more regular writing group is also being set up. With a website as a forum to post work on, alongside weekly workshops providing an opportunity to share work and do some writing exercises, it will hopefully bring together a more solid group of writers and lead to rehearsed readings and performances. Not forgetting the only thing students have ever autonomously been allowed to put on in the ridiculously under-used Dixon drama studio was an evening of new writing!

Sophie Larsmon is keen for Drama Soc to provide a "safe and supportive atmosphere for creating drama of all kinds," obviously including new writing. The society is currently developing links with the National Student Drama Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, following the success of

*Gagarin Way* at the former and the wealth of York student productions going this year to the latter. Both are seen as places for showcasing new writing, and Chris is hoping that, "although it's a slim chance, *Man and God* might get noticed" in Edinburgh. He has set up, with other York students, White Rose Theatre Company and may pursue this as a way of getting his own work performed after university. Chris also intends to start "bombarding theatres with scripts." Other post-uni opportunities for those serious about pursuing a career in theatre writing include scriptwriting MAs, the route Nick and Sam are both pursuing. So grab the chance to see some hot new talent while it's still hanging around in York.

*Flourless* and adaption *Cyrano* are on in the Drama Barn in Weeks 7 and 10. *Man and God*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and Nick Payne's new play are on in Edinburgh this summer.

## Advice for new writers

Get in touch with your local theatres at home to see if they have any schemes or competitions for new writers.

Be aware of a few simple technicalities: never submit handwritten scripts, double space, use font that is easy to read and only put text on one side of the page.

The Bridport Prize is one of the most prestigious competitions for poetry and short stories. The deadline is 30th June.

Check out the BBC website for a wealth of information on everything from getting the creative juices going to showcasing your work to a wider audience.

# Arts Reviews

**Rosanna Trigg and Holly Williams take a look at *Man and God* and *Blasted* - two controversial productions for this term, one playing on and one off campus**

No man, and certainly no student at York University, can claim to know the answers to the questions posed by modern cynicism. However a valiant attempt at some humorous philosophising is always welcomed by the Drama Barn audience, and Chris Bush's newest offering certainly proves more satisfying than the traditional drunken debate. Indeed, an answer to the question of whether a God flawed enough to have created an imperfect world would be accepted by its naturally sceptical inhabitants is attempted with wit and originality.

The discourse of the piece flows naturally, allowing the audience to suspend their disbelief as they watch the archangels struggle with the public image of a slightly incompetent and eccentric God. Will Seaward bravely tackles the daunting role of the creator of mankind with a vulnerability that makes his flaws seem all the more human and therefore disturbing. This deficiency in charisma on God's part makes the public preference for the polished Man, played by Andy Birnie, worryingly believable. Sophie Reynolds, playing Claire, the undervalued assistant to Matthew Lacey's oddly faithless angel Gabriel, plausibly represents the modern loss

of faith in anything not endorsed by the media. In fact, it seems unsurprising that in the end it is Michael, the eloquent and organised yet one dimensional female angel, that Claire eventually chooses to accept as the new God. Jenny Calder is well cast as this appealing public face of heaven as she presents a more consistent and media friendly deity than the robe clad original. Through her, Bush suggests that truth has been replaced by something more in keeping with changing public ideals.

The plain white costumes and scant set, with its juxtaposed symbols of traditional religion and modern society, ensure that the uncommon strength of the script takes centre stage throughout the performance. Whether you agree with *Man and God*'s controversial subject matter or find it blasphemous and offensive, it cannot be denied that Bush makes his point both explicit and plausible.

The York Theatre Royal has also been tackling controversial themes with the recent production of *Blasted*, performed by touring theatre company Graeae.

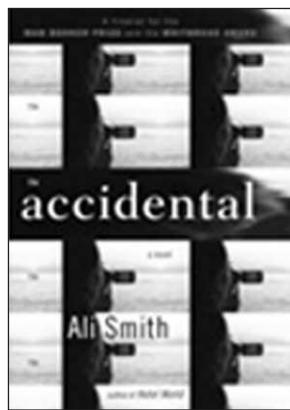
Sarah Kane's first play is infamous as the most shocking example of '90s, in-yer-face theatre, which fuelled tabloid fury as well as

being critically acclaimed, yet actually very few productions of it are staged in Britain. The Graeae production offers a first chance to see this controversial play outside London, and the first interpretation of the play by a disabled company. Set up in 1980, Graeae create work that is both performed by, and accessible to, disabled people. *Blasted* seems a particularly appropriate play for their accessible aesthetic, and the use of disabled actors allows new interpretations of the script. Gerard McDermott, a powerful presence as Ian, the dying middle-aged journalist who rapes a younger girl in a hotel room in Leeds, is blind. This sets up interesting resonances in the second half of the play, where Ian has his eyes sucked out. Similarly, the physical frailty of actress Jennifer-Jay Ellison strengthens her portrayal of the vulnerable Cate.

Kane's script includes stage directions that are intended to be read aloud. For a company who does this anyway (in order to increase the accessibility of the performance for a blind audience) this 'felt like a gift' for artistic director Jenny Sealey. The reading of stage directions produces a distancing effect, and prevents some of the violence of the piece from being too gratuitous, encouraging

an audience to probe a little deeper into just what is going on and why. There were inconsistencies, however, with regards to how many of the spoken directions were also acted, and at times it felt like the production lost some of its impact owing to so many of the truly disturbing images only being spoken.

The choice not to use blood or attempt to simulate the more graphic moments (Ian eating the baby for example) may also have softened the blow of the play, yet staged as it was in the intimate setting of the studio theatre, the decision to eschew tricks and props seemed like a wise one. The intimacy of the setting and the ferocity of both script and performance meant that no guns or blood were necessary to convey the violence and cruelty of the world that Kane exposes. *Blasted* forges links between personal violence - the abuse of power in Ian and Cate's relationship in the first half - and political violence, where in the second half the hotel room is literally blasted apart, and Leeds gives way to some hellish warzone. This unsettling production illuminates our human capacity for brutality, and the cyclical, perpetuating nature of acts of violence.



**The Accidental**  
Ali Smith

Reviewed by Sharmin Ahammad  
£7.99  
Penguin Books

★★★

*The Accidental*, winner of the prestigious Whitbread award, is a quirky novel sewn together in a patchwork of exuberantly refreshing and vivid narratives. Set during a family holiday in Norfolk, Smith weaves in and out of the insular, funny, poignant interior worlds of the Smart family.

There is twelve year old Astrid, who like her name, burns with astronomical verve as she captures her eccentric childhood days on camera; seventeen year old Magnus who is tormented with the knowledge that he is partly responsible for a trick that led to a girl's suicide; Dr Michael Smart, a lecherous lecturer who insidiously and irresponsibly seduces his students; and finally Eve, a historical novelist, who discovers that, despite recent literary success, she lacks any remarkable stories to tell. However, when the mysterious and ruddy "Amber" emerges on their doorstep, a new focus infuses their lives, drawing them towards a light that will alter their lives irreparably.

Smith's high-spirited style, fruity wordplay and uncanny capacity to evoke the tone of her protagonists' narratives, renders *The Accidental* an inspiring and unrelenting tour de force of human folly, fate and self-discovery. The form of this semi-experimental novel is both thought-provoking and intriguing. By turns humorous, playful and tender, *The Accidental* will linger long after you've turned the last page.



**Chroniclers of the Wind**  
Henning Mankell

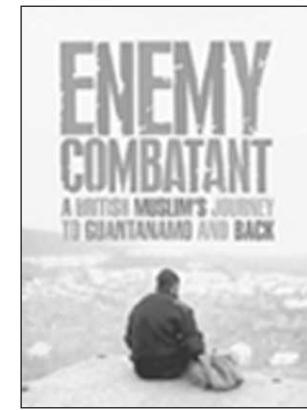
Reviewed by Amy Milka  
£12.99  
Harvill Secker

★★★

*Chroniclers of the Wind* marks a departure from author Henning Mankell's usual line of crime fiction, although it explores some similar thematic issues. The novel is full of little amusing but sad anecdotes about a street urchin in an unnamed African port town, Nelio, renowned throughout the city for living on his wits. It is also about Jose Antonio Maria Vaz, a baker who hears gunfire and finds Nelio on his roof.

At the age of five, Nelio watched bandits burn his village to the ground and massacre his people. When ordered to shoot another boy, he turned the gun on the bandit and ran, making his way to the coast and encountering a bizarre character en route who gave him guidance. Upon arrival in the city, Nelio joined a rough street gang, and began a very different way of life.

Comical elements are balanced by Mankell's realism, most likely created from his own experience as the director of Teatro Avenida (Street Theatre) in Mozambique's capital Maputo and his long involvement in AIDS awareness programmes there. It is difficult to tell if the book is intended just to show a picture of misery or provide a solution to it. Although Jose decides to become a "chronicler of the wind" by telling Nelio's story, it is unclear if he will carry out his new calling by whispering to African storm-clouds or take up arms against them. Mankell's portrayal of the harrowing children's ordeal is remarkable, and makes for compelling reading.



**Enemy Combatant: A British Muslim's Journey to Guantanamo and Back**

Moazzam Begg (with Victoria Brittain)  
Reviewed by Ella Paremain  
£18.99  
Free Press

★★★

Following closely in the wake of Michael Winterbottom's film *The Road to Guantanamo* comes Moazzam Begg's autobiography *Enemy Combatant*, which provides yet another shocking account of life in the infamous Cuban detention camp. No doubt in the years to come there will be a growing proliferation of such testimonies, each offering their own catalogue of criticism against the political leaders which cast them into a "black hole of detention", as the English court of appeal put it in a judgment on a November 2002 case that went far in highlighting the plight of the Guantanamo detainees. Yet, whilst Begg's narrative does indeed contain savage criticism of the Bush and Blair administrations, it is his surprisingly generous attitude toward some of his captors and his sense of humour which resonates.

In a world of polarities, where the media and politicians alike are quick to demonise either side of the 'War on Terror', Begg's measured response is a breath of fresh air, humanising where all humanity had been stripped away. The penetrating description of his treatment in the camp is punctuated with anecdotal tales and poetry written while in isolation - hope persisting on the very threshold of despair.

Whatever your political standpoint, *Enemy Combatant* is a compelling tale of survival, told in a detailed and unpretentious manner, which for some will no doubt prove an uncomfortable read.

# Film Reviews



## *The Da Vinci Code*

Director: Ron Howard  
With: Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou

Runtime: 149 min

Reviewed by  
Rob Perkins



Every year a few films are hyped to the high heavens prior to their release. Such excessive trumpeting is often treacherous because it raises expectations which inevitably far outstrip the film's capacity to deliver. Unless the film is phenomenal, it will fail to live up to the media circus. This has been the case with *The Da Vinci Code* which has promised so much, but has massively failed to deliver.

The story follows unlikely hero Robert Langdon, a Harvard symbologist who becomes embroiled in a convoluted murder mystery regarding the Catholic Church and an ancient sect's battle over the true nature of the Holy Grail. Ron Howard has remained admirably faithful to the original plot, although, inevitably, there are areas which have been 'adapted' to suit the Hollywood style.

What is perhaps the film's greatest flaw is that it fails to translate the excitement and intrigue of the novel to the big screen. The massive controversy and fast-paced entertainment which is embedded in the original story is not so adequately reflected by the film, which is so terrified of causing offence that it stumbles back from both stepping on toes and raising heartbeats. Fatally, it is actually quite dull in places. Howard fails to

strike the necessary balance between the extensive 'talky' parts and the adrenalin-boosting action and adventure. The movie becomes weighed down by ponderous intellectual expositions and theological jargon.

Many have criticised stars Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou as woefully miscast. In Hank's case this isn't entirely justifiable, but regardless of the actor's suitability, the main problem for both stars is that neither character is charismatic enough to let the actors inject the chemistry which could have enlivened the flat narrative. Tautou in particular has astonishingly little to do throughout apart from a slightly perplexed reaction shot. The sparks of credibility and entertainment, if they are to be found anywhere, are in the supporting cast: Jean Reno, the ever wonderful Sir Ian McKellen, Alfred Molina, and in particular Paul Bettany as the sinister albino monk, Silas. Silas represents the main problem with this film: the lack of balance. While Paul Bettany is a great actor, and is superb as the desperate and terrifying hitman monk, he is also criminally underused and the reaction from the audience does not reflect the potential that the character had.

Ron Howard seems so cautious in his retelling that the film adds nothing new, and is therefore instantly forgettable as a story. Its real positives (like Hank Zermian's perfectly eerie score) are lost in the confused and complacent quagmire. Whilst the book was one of the most talked about of the decade, the film will not be remembered this time next year and it is disappointing to report that *The Da Vinci Code* is overblown, long-winded and neither as engaging nor as entertaining as one would have hoped.

## *Mission Impossible 3*

Director: J.J. Abrams  
With: Tom Cruise, Philip Seymour Hoffman

Runtime: 126 min

Reviewed by  
Dave Coates



The Oscars are done and dusted, and Hollywood is back to doing what it does best. This year promises a bumper crop: *Superman Returns*, *X-men: The Last Stand*, *Poseidon*, *The Da Vinci Code*, even the 'instant classic' *Snakes on a Plane*. It seems fitting that the biggest of the lot, *Mission: Impossible 3*, should lead the way.

The plot is fairly standard: Cruise's secret agent Ethan Hunt is forced to recover a priceless weapon referred to as 'the Rabbit's Foot', (presumably a WMD) for a villainous arms dealer before his kidnapped wife is murdered. There are plot holes and con-

trivances, of course, but that's more or less to be expected. The main attraction is the international action set-pieces. These are never disappointing, but still fail to deliver the excitement which should accompany them.

The main problem to point out (and it's hard to miss) is Cruise. As important as it is to detach the artist from the art, it's a struggle to ignore the nagging feeling that this is his party, and we've been graciously invited to watch. The sequence in which Cruise sprints down a busy Shanghai street, for instance, is impressive but it knocks out the timing of the scene, and eases the tension. This happens repeatedly, and it becomes just too tempting to make the jump into real life. He is the centre of his universe, and too often it's possible to see the man overwhelming the character.

Though it goes against the grain for a film of this size, it is in behind the lead performance that the film shines. Philip Seymour Hoffman (unfortunately underused) is hands-down the best thing going as an unrepentant psychopath. Simon Pegg's performance as a nervous techie is noteworthy, but over far too soon, while Laurence Fishburne and Billy Crudup give credible efforts as Hunt's office-bound superiors. The spies-in-the-field team of Ving Rhames, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Maggie Q are decent enough, as is Hunt's wife (Michelle Monaghan), but the attempts to give the film emotional depth are mediocre at best, and former *Alias* director JJ Abrams seems happy enough to resort to stock characters and stilted sentiment over engaging character development.

That said, *Mission: Impossible 3* provides enough excitement to fill its two-hour runtime, and there are plenty of twists in the plot, though at times it seems weighed down by its star. It is perfectly passable as a summer blockbuster, but movie fans will have hoped for more.

## *Confetti*

Director: Debbie Isitt  
With: Jessica Stevenson, Martin Freeman

Runtime: 119 min

Reviewed by  
Dan Kipling



The CVs of the actors in *Confetti* read like a list of British cringe comedy: to name but a few, there is talent from *Green Wing*, *Spaced*, *The Office*, *Peep Show* and *My Family and Other Animals* on show. Expectations for such an ensemble are deservedly high, and *Confetti* makes excellent use of its resources, but it is also tinged with a certain disappointment.

The pitch: three couples battle it out to win a new house by providing the most original wedding to a panel of judges from 'Confetti' wedding magazine. On offer is a naturist wedding (Robert Webb and Olivia

Colman), a tennis themed wedding (Stephen Mangan and Meredith MacNeill) and a musical wedding (Martin Freeman and Jessica Stevenson). The result is a light-hearted, ridiculous and cringing silliness, which is just what to expect from such a bunch. If there's one thing that this lot are good at it's that genuine fly-on-the-wall documentary feeling, and this is the film's greatest strength. Martin Freeman's reactions, true to *The Office*, are brilliant (particularly in relation to his mother- and sister-in-laws to be), and Mangan shines with his characteristic petulantly blunt outbursts.

Stealing the show, though, are the two wedding planners (Jason Watkins and Vincent Franklin): stereotypically, two camp, wailing eccentrics who, in contrast to the normal irritation caused by such roles, provide the best laughs. Improvised around a rough script, the film is all the more impressive for its comic excellence, but one unfortunate result is flabby dialogue that drags on a number of occasions and ultimately leaves us clinging onto the actors' reactions for the humour. This is not a quotable film.

Jimmy Carr, furthermore, is far too soft-spoken to make a ruthless magazine editor, and his humour regularly falls flat because the character is an arrogant and irritating softie. The final wedding "shows" also drag, and smack of a low budget. They leave us questioning the gaping plot holes but, worst of all, neglect the potential of Mark Heap (surely everyone's favourite consultant radiologist in *Green Wing*), who is a boring and unanimated registrar.

For light comic relief, *Confetti* ticks all the boxes. It has all the elements we love and hate about the comedies that made its cast famous. Don't go expecting hilarity, though. This film has enough to keep you chuckling, but just doesn't have the magic of the likes of *Green Wing* and *The Office*. It seems that it takes more than a few cringe actors to make these sitcoms what they are.

# Music Reviews

## Singles Reviews

### Buck 65 - Devil's Eyes

If we had a single of the week, this would be it, especially for the b-side 'Blood of a Young Wolf'. 'Devil's Eyes' is a dark and haunting slice of Nova Scotian hip-hop, with a sinister string section. Buck 65 is a rapper of some sophistication, not only able to rattle off lyrics at speed when the occasion calls for it, but also able to produce poignant arrays of images to tell his backwoods stories.

### Less Than Jake - Overrated (Everything Is)

Yep, that includes this single. Now that they've lost the horn section, they're indistinguishable from Sum 41, Blink 182, Bowling for Soup and a host of other baggy-shorted, angsty, whining green haired goons.

### Radio 4 - Enemies Like This

Apparently, they've 'stripped back' their sound. Not a great move on this evidence. It's not that 'Enemies Like This' is a bad song, it's just that, where so many of the tracks on *Gotham!* jumped out and ordered the listener to dance, 'Enemies Like This' blends slightly insipidly into the indie background.

### The Automatic - Monster

There's nothing quite like a novelty single, and 'Monster' falls firmly into that category. "What's that coming over the hill? Is it a monster? Is it a monster?" they sing, and it's clear they're not referring to some cuddly Shrek-a-like, but an evil rock 'n' roll beast, drunken, sweaty and stinking of old fag smoke. Entertaining, like being shouted at by a friendly drunk.

### Revere - Skin

Weirdly, no-one's been calling them the new Radiohead, although, judging by this single, it shouldn't be long before someone does. They'll be wrong of course, but the comparison's not too inaccurate, if a little too flattering. Still, someone probably called Thirteen Senses the new Radiohead at some point, and Revere shouldn't be put in the same toe-curling bracket as the likes of them.

### Placebo - Infra-Red

"One last thing before I shuffle off the planet", pipes Brian, querulously, keen to remind us that he's not dead yet. It's got a slightly nonsensical chorus, in which Brian claims to be able to see in the dark, as he's "coming up on infra-red", although how he's managed to ingest light is left as a mystery.

*Singles were reviewed by Mike McGovern, Sara Sayeed and Robin Seaton*

Radiohead

Live at the Empress Ballroom,  
Blackpool

Reviewed by  
Mike  
McGovern

13/05/06



Blackpool is rough as hell. Walk down the promenade, and you'll be confronted with drunken stag parties cavorting with similarly inebriated slag parties - bits hanging out and all - set against the backdrop of lap dancing clubs and sex shops. Not a pretty sight. But the Empress Ballroom provides a remedy: its beauty (barrel-vaulted ceiling complete with chandeliers), combined with a support set from the excellent Willy Mason, creates a sense of calm in the venue. The crowd seem friendlier and happier than at your average gig, but why wouldn't you be when you're about to see the best band in the world in such an intimate arena?

Radiohead start their set with 'Everything In Its Right Place', and build with songs from their last three albums, from '2+2=5' to 'Idioteque'. The combination of

electronic dance beats and lighting effects builds a sense of euphoria, and the ballroom at times resembles a rave rather than a rock concert. The band confidently mixes established material with new tracks - some getting their first airings - ranging from jazzy pieces to my own favourite, combining more electronica-influenced drumbeats with a high octane, dirty garage rock riff from a swaggering Jonny Greenwood.

Meanwhile, Tom Yorke is on excellent form. He dances round the stage, flirts with a keyhole camera mounted on his piano and sports a Transylvanian accent for his exchanges with the crowd. But he doesn't neglect politics either, at one point launching into a scathing attack on the media's treatment of Hugo Chavez. As the gig progresses, more classic Radiohead is brought out, with 'Karma Police' and the newer 'There There'. But it's not until the two encores that Radiohead really unleash their back catalogue; the first contains the power soaked 'Just' and 'The Bends' back to back, whilst the second is dominated by *OK Computer*. Radiohead play out with 'Paranoid Android', leaving the crowd crying out for more. There truly is no other band that compares.



Tilly and the Wall

Fibbers,  
York

Reviewed by  
Robin Seaton

18/05/06



Tilly and the Wall are, as a concept, brilliant: five stylish Nebraskans, playing happy summer songs about boys and girls, with a tap dancer as percussion. This gig should have been fantastic, and, on record, many of their songs are excellent, especially 'Bad Education' and 'Reckless'. Notably, these songs, available on their website, were easily the best on the night.

The Tillys started well, coming on stage chanting "T-I-L-L-Y! We don't give a fuck!" like off-kilter cheerleaders. Despite the chanting, the show soon became sickly sweet, and, while the band themselves clearly took the tap dancing seriously, it began to feel a little gimmicky too.

When playing their best songs, Tilly and the Wall were great, and a euphoric response was evident on almost every face. However, it was a massive disappointment that a band with such potential just didn't have enough good songs to sustain their performance.

The crowd response seemed heavily polarised, into those who fell in love with the Tillys' tales of teenage adventure, heartbreak and cross-dressing, and those for whom the incessant sweetness became unbearable. In the end, it seemed that the people who enjoyed themselves the most were the band.



Neil Young

Living With War

Reviewed by  
Robin Seaton

Out Now



Neil Young's latest album comes with a sense of urgency in tow, arriving hot on the heels of his last, *Prairie Wind*. It was written in two weeks, and released over the internet before the CDs began to shoot off the presses. Let's be clear: this is as anti-war an album as you could hope (or fear) to find.

Self-consciously polemical, Young is also clear about the album's place in the history of protest music: 'Flags of Freedom' refers to Bob Dylan in both its lyrics and title. In interviews, Young commented that he was "waiting for...some young singer 18 to 22 years old to write these songs. Maybe the generation that has to do this is still the '60s generation. We're still here".

Frequent references to Colin Powell, Illinois senator Barack Obama and flat-screen TVs root this collection of songs even more firmly in the present. Young's opposition to Bush is made clear.

On 'Let's Impeach the President' he turns Dubya's 'flip-flop' taunt against the president himself, alternating shouts of "Flip!" and "Flop!" with soundbites of Bush saying completely contradictory things. It's a little bit Michael Moore, possibly a bit childish, but hearing Bush shooting his mouth off is always pretty entertaining.



Serena-Maneesh

Serena-Maneesh

Reviewed by  
Emma Fite-Wassilak

Out 26/06/06



The US government should reconsider their choice of music for use in torture: instead of Metallica, Serena-Maneesh would be far more effective. Each song sounds as if it could potentially be good, but good beginnings are dragged out to last at least six minutes. Add to the boredom of that off-tempo, distant vocals, random sounds issued from various different instruments (also out of time), and off-key guitar solos, and after three songs (or less), one begins to feel as if someone is scraping their nails along the inside of your skull.

Sometimes they are almost successful in attempting a pop or indie sound, but the rest of the time their attempts to branch out and do something different are, well, too far out there. There's a reason no one's tried these ideas before: they're rubbish. Like many Nordic bands they have a fascination with draggingly long songs (perhaps it has something to do with the long winters) and this, along with the bizarre noises masking their musical proficiency, is their downfall.

The non-structure of their songs is clearly meant to be questioning traditional song writing, which is admirable as an aspiration, but in practice simply makes listening a chore.

# Food and Drink Reviews



## Which Ben & Jerry's?

Mellowed by the gorgeous summer sunshine the Bar and Restaurant team decided to diverge from their normal Which? method of making it up as we go along. Instead, we assembled a motley crew of testers, all on a mission to gorge themselves on premium ice cream. Seven girls, one boy, four pints of ice cream and fifty plastic spoons later, we were able to draw some conclusions. Here's how we got on...

### Peace of Cake, £3.78

This ice cream creation is based on the traditional strawberry cheesecake, so we were happy to find bits of 'real' fruit and biscuit when we delved our spoons into the tub. The extra crunch provided by the biscuit was loved by all, however we couldn't help thinking that the strawberry flavour was somewhat superficial. Despite the lack of strawberry taste sensation, this ice cream has real addictive potential.

### Oh My Apple Pie, £3.78

This was a favourite with our esteemed editor who declared it to be "well nice". The rest of us were rather more discerning, and although we decided it was rich, sweet and refreshing, the "real pie crust" was a bizarre touch, as the salty nuggets of exploding pastry did not seem to bond with the cinnamon infused ice cream. Still, why go to the trouble of buying a separate pie and ice cream when you can buy the whole thing in one tub?

### Phish Food, £3.78

This ice cream was the clear winner amongst our tasting panel. Incorporating smiley chocolate fish, caramel swirls, marshmallow nuggets and a whole lot of chocolatey goodness, it's not hard to see why the tub soon became empty. The sweet oozing caramel is nicely complemented by the soft marshmallows, and chocolate fish blend together nicely to provide the epitome of sickly treats.

### Chocolate Therapy, £3.78

At this point, Kate had surrounded herself with what was left of the test cases. Through a mouthful of pie, cake and phishy goodness she was heard to mutter "needs more caramel". There was a general consensus that, although this was most appropriate for pyjama bound girls with boy trouble, the combination of textures made it super-sexy and the depth of the cocoa rich chocolate holds itself on one's tongue in a very naughty way.

Reviewers: Vicky Hallam, Lucy Peden, Toby Green, Marisa Tuffnell, Clare Croskery, Ellen Carpenter, Kate Smith & Jo Shelley

Vanilla Black  
26 Swinegate

Reviewed by  
Emma Fite-Wassilak



Vanilla Black does not serve your typical student fodder. The dress code is business-casual, reservations are recommended, and the prices are quite high. The setting is small and cosy and the staff are attentive, if a bit over-eager. The use of seasonal produce and regular rotation mean that the vegetarian menu (with vegan options) does not have a great range of selection.

Wines are not cheap (the cheapest bottle being £11.95) on account of their organic, vegetarian production, but beverages such as cider are reasonable. The menu is pretentious, using culinary phrases that confuse the average layman, and, when the food arrived, it looked correspondingly over-presented. Despite being sceptical of the small (but reasonably portioned) towers of food, the taste was superb. The mille feuille of truffled

mushroom duxelle (with tomato relish and sage infused jus) provoked its own moments of ecstatic pleasure, though it became too rich after a while. The baked portabella mushroom and brioche crumble (with red cabbage marmalade and brown tamarind sauce) was not quite as striking, though still delicious; the cabbage marmalade didn't seem to bring much to the dish, it seemed as though the chef just wanted to randomly add extra ingredients.

When it came to dessert, my companions chose the white and dark chocolate cheesecake with raspberry puree, while I decided on the cinnamon braised apple with vanilla pod ice cream and almond crisp. The cheesecake was divine, the raspberry perfectly complementing its richness. My apple arrived with layers of biscuit and ice cream. Attempts to eat the creation, however, required some hacking, and were disappointing after the standard of the previous dishes.

Despite my complaints of the pretentious nature of Vanilla Black's dishes, however, the meal was amazing, satisfying to even ardent carnivores, and well worth the £20 per person.



The Bay Horse  
105 Main Street,  
Fulford

Reviewed by  
Marisa Tuffnell



Deciding it had been a while since our last roast dinner, my friends and I turned our backs on town and went to Fulford to sample the Sunday Carvery at The Bay Horse.

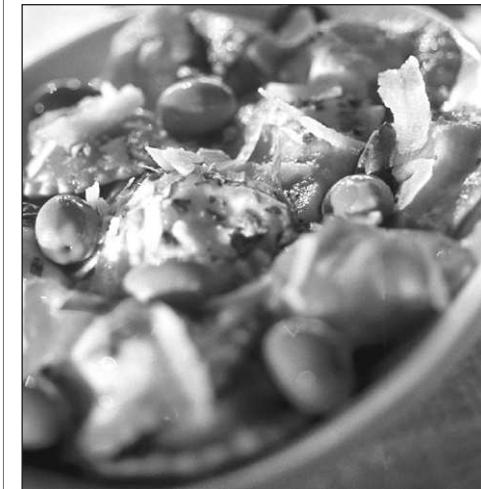
This was a meal wracked with indecision: firstly, out of a choice of beef, pork or turkey, which meat to go for? Then came the Yorkshire puddings, one or two? What a ridiculous question – as these were going to be my first Yorkshire puddings in Yorkshire it was always going to be two. (Especially after a traumatic experience in The Charles where not only did my meal come later than everyone else's, but I was regrettably informed that they had run out of Yorkshire puddings and had thus been given extra broccoli.)

However, as my friend pointed out, space can be maximised by placing things inside the Yorkshire puddings, as well as simply piling more and more on top. The extras included potatoes, new, roasted or mashed, various vegetables and even stuffing.

As there were no available seats in the main part of the pub, we ate in a room at the back that lacked the cosy pub atmosphere that is so comforting on a Sunday afternoon. However, the food was good and plentiful, and for only about £6, it was pretty reasonable as well.

Ask  
Blake Street

Reviewed by  
Lucy Peden



Like Tiffany's, nothing bad could ever happen to a girl at the York Assembly Rooms. The pillars of rose coloured marble are easy on the eye, erring on the side of kitsch elegance rather than imposing grandeur.

One can imagine Jane Austen types going to balls here, getting all flustered because they had just danced with Colonel Shennanagins and he dared to glance at their ankle. Going on this assumption, a prospective diner might expect teeny tiny parcels of smoked salmon surrounding an earnest guardsman of asparagus, Black Forest gateau for pudding – you get the idea. Sadly, myself and my companion were a little inebriated. However, the waiting staff danced attendance on us in a manner that was nothing short of charming.

We shared a starter of hazelnut pate, which was dense, nutty and so rich that I was absolutely full by the time the ravioli alla pesche arrived. The delicate salmon flavour was complemented by the firmness of the hand made pasta but sadly this was marred by the oiliness of the sauce. My companion ordered the honeycomb cheesecake which I stole. We are no longer on speaking terms but it was so crunchily creamy perfect as to be worth it.

Alley Cats  
3, Coffee Yard

Reviewed by  
Ella Paremain



When roaming the network of snickleways, desperately attempting to escape the hoards of tourists that have suddenly decided to descend on York, I stumbled across Alley Cats. Tucked secretly next to Barley Hall in the aptly named Coffee Yard, this café-bar is the ideal retreat at the heart of city.

Offering a wide selection of snacks and meals, Alley Cats is open between 12 noon and 11pm, with seating inside and out. They serve tasty traditional pub food in generous portions, however it is the relaxed, classy and romantic atmosphere that is memorable, and the location is perfect for those group photos you keep meaning to take.

Although not the cheapest option, this is the perfect place for when you are feeling particularly sophisticated, or in need of some post-exams/essay therapy. I was particularly taken with their impossibly layered café latte. However, the unfortunate downside here is being gawped at by the few tourists who do discover the labyrinth, in particular when the Hidden York tour passes; evidently my brie and mushroom baguette was infinitely more interesting than what educational morsels the colossal 'monk' had to impart. Definitely worth a visit for those seeking a historical haven, if you can find it.

# The last word

**Andreas Masoura** spurts his satirical love juice over the week's events

## Bars. Well, not for much longer.

Due to missed profit targets (since overall bar profits were positive), bar opening times have been significantly reduced, in a move that will inevitably pave the way for complete closure of some college bars. Apparently York is a university. Rather than catering for students, this fiasco has reinforced the idea that the university exists primarily as a profit maximising business rather than as a provider of a suitable environment in which to take a degree. I suppose the library will be closed down if they don't generate enough revenue from the fines. Books are required for study in the same way that bars provide a sense of community within the colleges, in which to study. Without bars the collegiate system would evaporate since colleges would merely provide rooms to sleep in. I think the problem could be resolved quite simply. If the University can't successfully run a few bars amidst several thousand people whose primary purpose in life is drinking (the phrase 'piss-up in a brewery' comes to mind), then I think there needs to be some answers. No excuses please. Especially ones like 'the JCRCs are not doing enough to attract people'. Well, firstly, it's not their job to since they are not getting paid to. Anything they do should be appreciated in its

own right, an example being the last Goodricke event which provided McQ's with about 350 customers. Rather than staff the bar accordingly, it was staffed minimally, ensuring huge waiting times at the bar and lost profit. I don't think these people could sell a bottle of water to Bin Laden in the dessert after he'd spent two years running from the Americans.

## Protein shakes

What's that Dave? (Says Andreas pointing to a massive bucket of powder) Errr, Protein Shake. It's the strawberry one.

Apparently a certain student is cashing in on the rugby club's failure to win at Roses. Having found the perfect formula for a cheap



A vicious mob of Goodricke geese

protein shake, (raw eggs mixed with milkshake) this gentleman's concoction will ensure they do not get as comprehensively out-muscled next year. Boys, stop fannying about with milkshakes and eat some proper food.

## York Terrorist

Wanted: Fairly dark complexion, suspicious looking, large beak, occasionally wears a headscarf. Yes, Members of Goodricke College are being intimidated by a psychotic goose that, according to one eyewitness account, "chased me into the lake by pecking at my face." I suggest one of the following options. Either people stop acting like five year old girls or give me half an hour with a shotgun. Problem solved.

## Kit Kat Chunky, by Nestle

A fine, crispy, wafer based chocolate bar made with cocoa so delicious you can taste the Third World's suffering caused by its production. Nestle are sponsoring the next Goodricke event, aptly named Chocolate. Outrageous, many of you must be thinking as you put 50p in the vending machine and

select those tasty Fruit Pastels. Those poor Third World children, you contemplate as you put on a pair of trainers whose production probably caused the death of several workers in Cambodia. When you decide to go to the event because there's nothing better to do you will probably ram as much free chocolate down your throat as possible while you show off your Fair Trade stripey t-shirt to fellow revellers. Fair Trade is the future, but for now Kit Kat chunky tastes better. If this does not represent the attitude of the average York student consumer, then I apologise for my inaccuracy.

## Facebook

A phenomenon that has hit York harder than bird flu. Degrees have been destroyed, not as a consequence of the AUT strike but because of the arrival of Facebook. For those of you who did not believe or realise the true extent of York's close knit community, Facebook provides diagrammatic evidence. You are connected to absolutely everyone through your friends and so can track down information on and communicate with more or less anyone you see, as a friend of mine soon discovered. A certain female who had a dislike for him (not sure why) used Facebook to track him down and deliver the most venomous written attack I have ever read. Facebook means the end of the 'player'. We have hit tragic times in York.





Clockwise from top left: The cast of the *Rocky Horror Show*; An example of Jackie Stonehouse's artwork; Kate Winslet in *Romance and Cigarettes*; a scene from the eagerly anticipated *Brick*; and a character from the latest *X-Men* film

## Live Music

### Tuesday 23rd May, 65 Days of Static, Fibbers

This gig comes highly recommended by those at Fibbers and is sure to be a good night. As part of the Kerrang tour, 65 Days of Static are supported by The Disco Ensemble and The Morning After Girls. Buy your tickets online at [www.fibbers.co.uk](http://www.fibbers.co.uk).

### Tuesday 23rd May, Orson, Leeds Met Student Union

If you're more of a pop or R'n'B fan, then a trip to Leeds will be more to your taste tonight. See the recent sensation Orson showcase their latest hit *No Tomorrow*

amongst others.

### Wednesday 31st May, Futureheads, Leeds University Student Union

Their debut album was a success in 2004 and this gig follows the release of their eagerly awaited second album out on the 29th May, entitled *News and Tributes*.

### Thursday 1st June Zero 7, Leeds Met Student Union

They won Best Newcomer at the Brits in 2002 but have been a bit quiet recently. Well worth the trip to Leeds to see what they have to offer in 2006.

## Campus Events

### Thursday, Week 5

#### Comedy Night, Wentworth

YUSU comedy nights, organised alongside the Comedy Society, are always popular and compere Dan Atkinson has even got his own fanbase on campus! This is guaranteed to be something different to the usual drunken night in a bar campus event.

bit disastrous.

### Saturday, Week 5 Club D, Derwent

Club D is always considered one of the best nights on campus and this night should be no different. Buying tickets in advance from Your:Shop is highly recommended.

### Saturday, Week 6 Beach Party, Alcuin

The weather may not be good enough for sunbathing, but head on over to Alcuin, (you never know, it could be sunny at such dizzy heights) don your shorts, flip-flops and sunglasses and party the night away.

## Art and Performance

### Until Friday 26th May

#### Jackie Stonehouse Exhibition, Norman Rea Gallery, Langwith

Mainly abstract landscapes of the Yorkshire countryside. The exhibition is only on for a few more days, so head down to Langwith and get a taste of the countryside.

### Until Saturday 27th May

#### Rocky Horror Show, Grand Opera House

For one week only, the legendary rock and roll musical hits York. If you have never seen this before then reading the 'Virgin's Survival Guide' on the website [www.rocky-horror.co.uk](http://www.rocky-horror.co.uk) is highly recommended. It gives invaluable advice on what to wear,

what not to wear (stripes apparently!) and general Rocky Horror etiquette.

### Friday 26th May- Saturday 17th June Two, York Theatre Royal

Written by Jim Cartwright, this play depicts a typical evening in a northern pub - something I think we are all familiar with! The two actors play fourteen different characters ranging from an old woman to a young boy.

### Saturday 27th May- Saturday 17th June Pygmalion, York Theatre Royal

The non-musical version of *My Fair Lady* follows the story of cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle.

## Cinema

### *The Da Vinci Code* (12A)

An all star cast of Tom Hanks, Audrey Tatou, Ian McKellen and Paul Bettany bring Dan Brown's bestselling and highly controversial book to the big screen. A must-see if you are a fan, but be warned that reviews from the Cannes Film Festival weren't favourable.

### *Brick* (15)

This directorial debut for Rian Johnson, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt is an intriguing drama mystery. It follows the story of a young student who will go to any lengths to find his girlfriend after she goes missing. Judging by the trailers, this film appears very fast-moving and is already tipped for much success.

### *X-Men: The Last Stand* (tbc)

Halle Berry, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen and the rest of the cast from the other X-Men films return for the last installment of the trilogy. How will it all end? See this if you enjoyed the other movies as it is sure to continue in the same fashion.

### *Romance and Cigarettes* (15)

Kate Winslet follows in the footsteps of Catherine Zeta-Jones and Nicole Kidman by starring in her own modern day musical. Set in contemporary working-class New York, Winslet plays the lover in a sordid love triangle while Susan Sarandon stars as the jilted wife.

# The apathetic generation

**Lucy Cranshaw** goes to the Power Commission in Westminster to investigate why nobody seems to care about politics anymore

What has happened to democracy in Britain? Citizens are now becoming increasingly disengaged. The Power Commission was set up to investigate how these worrying trends might be reversed. So on a wet and windy Saturday morning I found myself in Westminster, feeling a little over-keen, in a queue to hear what the Power Commission and a few of our leading politicians had to say about democracy.

For the Commission itself to be as representative as possible it consulted 175 experts, received 1500 public submissions and set up a Citizens Panel in Gateshead. This meant that more people were consulted about their feelings on democracy than ever before in Britain.

Baroness Kennedy, chair of the Commission, explained that the conference was set up to confront feelings of 'anti-politics' in Britain. In the last general election 64% of the electorate did not choose this government. This disengagement and disaffection with formal politics needs to be addressed.

David Cameron, gave his support for much of the Commission's findings including more decentralisation and a partly elected House of Lords. Yet, he did not agree with the Commission's proposals for a proportional system of voting, saying it would destroy the 'clear link between MPs and constituencies.'

A key finding of the Commission was that people do not feel represented.



**The report found that people feel unrepresented by politicians in Westminster**

However, looking around the conference I could see little evidence of an attempt at representation. Everyone in the audience seemed to be white and middle class. The Commission did appear to be 'preaching to the converted' - ironic for an inquiry set up to combat an unrepresentative and alienating system.

An important finding of the inquiry was that it is not apathy that creates anti-political feelings in Britain, but alienation. People give to

charity, run school fetes and campaign on single issues which shows that they want to get involved. Yet they feel powerless and alienated by the political system. People cannot, therefore, be blamed for having a lack of interest - they want to get involved; it is the system that they cannot relate to.

The Commission is certainly an innovative initiative and demonstrates that people are concerned about the important issues of political

control and representation. But until politics becomes more accessible there is the danger that initiatives such as the Commission will remain unnoticed and misunderstood. To confront the disengagement concrete action needs to be taken. As the Commission says, only a radical overhaul of the existing system will do. Only when this is accomplished will we be able to say that power is really being shared with the people.

# The Campus Soapbox

**By Tim Holmes**

Student Action for Palestine

It is a fairly basic moral principle that we are primarily responsible for actions we commit ourselves - or help others commit - and not for those committed by others. It follows that, as citizens in a democratic country, who exercise some degree of control over our government, we share some degree of moral responsibility for its actions. And the crimes Britain has assisted Israel in committing against the Palestinians are grave indeed.

Last September, *The Guardian* reported the testimony of "dozens of troops" from Israeli pressure group Breaking The Silence, who "acted on standing orders" to "open fire on people regardless of whether they were armed or not." In one soldier's words, there was "pressure to get kills". According to another, "The commanders said kill as many as possible". Gaza, he claimed, "was considered a playground for sharpshooters".

This April *The Guardian* reported a "huge jump" in British arms sales to Israel. According to the Foreign Office, these sales are perfectly legal: "The bottom line" being "that no piece of kit is used for external aggression or internal repression".

Shockingly, this comes a mere four years after Jack Straw publicly admitted Israel was breaching assurances that military equipment would not be used against civilians or in the

occupied territories. Despite the government's public posturing, Britain has since sold Israel leg-irons, electric shock belts, chemical and biological agents, categories covering mortars, rocket launchers, anti-tank weapons, military explosives, infrared and radar sensors.

**'This April there was a huge jump in arms sales to Israel'**

A mere two months after Straw's admission, in a move which ministers said was dictated by the interests of British arms companies", *The Guardian* reported, BAE Systems were still selling Israel "Head up Displays" for F16 aircraft - the same F16s that, according to Amnesty International, Israel "routinely used" to "bomb and shell Palestinian residential areas".

As Straw explained, "Any interruption to the supply of these components would have serious implications for Britain's defence relations with the United States." Their supply continues to this day - providing some insight not only into the priorities of the British government, but also, dear reader, into where your tuition fees are going.

This is an ongoing crime which needs to be stopped, if we take our moral responsibilities seriously. We can certainly do a lot worse, it seems to me, than start by supporting the Ethical Investment campaign here at York.

# Devolution failing to resolve sectarianism

**By Claire Yeo**

Last week, Northern Ireland's devolved assembly reopened for the first time since October 2002. Members resumed debate after finally being asked to reconvene by Peter Hain, Northern Ireland Secretary.

For the first six months, the assembly will have no legislative powers, and will be continued to be ruled from Westminster. The absence of the 108 members from the chamber has cost the taxpayer nearly £100m in members' salaries. We must ask, however, whether

this new attempt at devolution in Northern Ireland will lead to any permanent stability for the province?

The Mr Hain's new policy provides a framework to timetable events, rather than allowing them to drift on endlessly. A 24 November 2006 deadline has been imposed, by which time the assembly must have a power-sharing agreement or face salaries being withdrawn.

The 2003 elections saw the polarisation of political representation, with moderate parties losing substantial ground to extremists. The formation of an executive must be by coalition but Sinn

Fein and the DUP, the two largest parties, have so far refused to negotiate. Mr Hain's ultimatum, however, should provide politicians with incentives to approach the negotiating table.

Recent outbreaks of sectarian violence have again led to doubts about the stability of the peace settlement. The murders of Catholic schoolboy Michael McIlveen, and of Denis Donaldson, a high ranking Sinn Fein official who had been an informant for the British government, have deepened tensions.

The IRA's final decommissioning of its weapons



**Sinn Fein (above) and DUP negotiations had stalled**

has, however, been a landmark of progress in the period between sessions. The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning reported last September that the IRA

had met its commitments to withdraw all of its arms and this has been a crucial step in the peace process. The situation is again at a deadlock. Sectarianism appears to be ingrained into Northern Ireland politics. The deadline could potentially be just what is needed to force the politicians to the bargaining table. If it does not force some kind of solution, however, the democratic deficit is set to continue. This, while being undoubtedly better than the violence of previous decades, cannot be endured indefinitely.

The sectarian divide is two-sided, however, and the accusations of republican

terrorist links are not the only ones holding up the process. The loyalist paramilitaries, UVF and UDA, have not been recognised as observing the ceasefire.

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# Rape of the Congo - the war against women and children

**Adam Sloan** meets Johann Hari, *The Independent* writer, and discusses his experiences covering the war in Congo

**I**t is the most deadly conflict since the Second World War, raging across nine countries and causing four million deaths. Yet weeks will go by and the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo barely gets a mention in the media. For years eastern Congo has effectively been outside central government control. Congo, a country the size of Western Europe, has seen hundreds of thousands of children orphaned since 1994. Every day, women are kidnapped by militias, and rape is used as a weapon of war.

Last week I travelled down to London to meet Johann Hari, the 27 year old columnist for the *Independent*, author and playwright who last month visited Congo to see for himself why the war has continued and to listen to the voices of the women and children who are most affected by the continuing violence. I met with Hari, a left-leaning journalist and member of the Labour Party, in his trendy Brick Lane apartment.

As well as writing for the *Independent*, Hari has contributed to the New York Times, Le Monde and The Guardian, won the 2003 Young Journalist of the Year award and been the youngest ever person to be nominated for the Orwell Prize for political writing. Hari famously described religion as "organised superstition" and has been labelled "fat" by the Dalai Lama as well as being called a "c\*\*\*" by Busted.

Hari visited Congo along with a fact-finding mission from the Labour Party that also included his

friend, ex-MP and York graduate Oona King. Hari was particularly interested in the consequences of the conflict for Congolese women. Hari visited a "rape clinic, the only rape clinic in Eastern Congo, where there were dozens of women who had been gang raped and shot in the vagina." This is an increasingly common occurrence in Congo. Rather than fighting each other, the militias are trying to destroy the other side's moral by fighting their women; "sexual violence is now absolutely endemic as a tool of war in Congo," said Hari.

Hari also visited a hospital run by Denis Mukwege, whom he described as "the Oskar Schindler" of the Congolese. For many years Dr. Mukwege was not allowed to treat rape victims, so he ran his hospital in secret. "He had a three year old girl brought in where, as he put it, 'everything had been shot away', and the father committed suicide because he couldn't cope

## 'Sexual violence is now endemic as a tool of war in Congo'

with it." Hari described how Dr Mukwege saw an old woman who had been gang raped in front of her sons-in-law." The relationship between a mother and her son-in-law is a very holy one in Congo, "she just said 'don't feed me, I want to die, I can never go back.'" The women that make it to Dr. Mukwege's hospital are, of



War in Congo has caused 4 million deaths and left hundreds of thousands of Congolese children orphaned

course, the lucky ones. Most women are just left to die.

So why have things ended up like this? Why does this war that officially ended in 2003, with the Lusaka peace accords, continue to destroy so many lives? The answer is probably sitting right in front of you, in your computer, in your iPod and in your mobile phone. All of these electronic devices contain a metal called coltan, 80% of known supplies of which lie under Congo.

The official story of how the war started centres around the tiny mountain state of Rwanda. After the 1994 genocide, many of its perpetrators fled across the border into Congo. What is said to have happened is the Rwandan forces then went across the border to capture them. Other countries then invaded as a countervailing force resulting in what former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called Africa's first world war.

The UN panel of experts set up to look into the causes of the war discovered a more sinister story. What it found

was that Rwanda did not invade to go after the perpetrators of the genocide, but to seize the mineral resources of Congo and sell them on to us in the West. Due to the increasing popularity of mobile phones and PlayStations, the price of coltan has boomed. This made it much more attractive for Rwanda and the other international armies and militias to go into Congo and take it. "As Oona King puts it, kids in Congo were being sent down mines to die so that kids in Europe and America could kill imaginary aliens in their living room."

Hari and King visited an orphanage just outside the capital, Kinshasa; "we were told this was one of the best orphanages in Congo. When we arrived, the first room we went into, the children were just lying on the floor covered in s\*\*\*, and flies and vomit. They said this was where the Aids babies go."

"One boy was just rocking back and forward, we asked, 'what is wrong with this kid?' They said, 'he's been like that since he



Accusations of child witchcraft have become rife

arrived here.' We asked what his name was and they said 'he doesn't have a name.'

It is not only Congo's physical landscape that is in ruins, but its psychological one too. Stories of witchcraft have been around for a long time in Congo, but now as a consequence of the war, people have started accusing children of being witches; "in the orphanage we saw a child who they called 'Fidel', who had his penis cut off by his parents because they thought he was a witch. I went to one of the evangelical churches promoting this idea of witchcraft in a place called Bukavu. I met a 14-year-old girl who was accused of being a witch. She said that her grandmother had come to her in her sleep, and forced her to eat an evil doughnut, and this had meant she had killed her baby sister." At this point of the interview Hari paused for a while and said, "if Britain had 4 million people murdered, and the rest of us displaced from our homes, living in terror and gang raped, we would start to believe some pretty crazy things too."

## For more information visit:

**MONUC**  
[www.monuc.org](http://www.monuc.org)  
Web page of the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Johann Hari**  
[www.johannhari.com](http://www.johannhari.com)  
Visit this website to find out more about the *Independent* columnist, author and playwright.

# Blast from the Editorial Past

**Julian Hammerton and Charlotta Salmi** delve into the Nouse archive

## New Bar Opening

With regard to the social programme of next term two main events are planned. Besides the Cellars, a Grand Dance on the lawns at the back of Heslington on May 15th, the occasion of the York - Lancashire Tournament; the main attraction being most likely "Long John Barley and his Hoochi Coochi Men".

If this University wants a social centre then it has to support it in two ways: first by patronising events organised and secondly by offering to help in the running of the Cellars on the actual night.

Social Secretary Dave Spells is asking for more help with refreshments and the door for the Cellars.



## University Curfew

No decision has yet been reached about a college or room curfew. Although the time has not been fixed it is thought that undergraduates will normally be expected to return to their respective colleges by midnight. Some members of staff feel that a fine should be issued on latecomers, others that they should be made to sign back in.

Although certain members of staff appear to be certain about the nature of the institution we study in, we are not (I think) at school.

Nouse is prepared to issue a questionnaire to find out exactly what students feel about the curfew.

## College System Birth

The collegiate system will come into full operation October 1965 with the completion of the first two colleges - Derwent and Langwith.

Power is being decentralised, and handed out to the respective colleges, but there is a remarkable lack of knowledge and thought preparation for the inevitable upheavals of October among the student body.

# 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!

Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps



### Star letter

#### AUT support?

"YUSU defy NUS over boycott" screams Nouse, as if Kat Fletcher were even now hurtling to York to break Micky Armstrong's legs unless he changes his line. The editorial of page 12 states YUSU have decided not to "have an easy life" and support the boycott. Indeed, the "easy life" of support for the lecturers to improve our education system was spurned in favour of the tough strategy of doing bugger all and selling out campus workers in struggle.

Neither YUSU nor Nouse seem to have much faith in UCEA's benevolence

towards the lecturers. They "support" the lecturers pay claim. But when push comes to shove YUSU and Nouse have parroted UCEA's propaganda.

If we want an education system that is properly funded, with well paid staff, we have to actually fight for it. Yes, that will always involve disruption, but the alternative is to give a free reign to those who care only about the universities balance sheet, not the staff or students. YUSU and Nouse have taken a definite political stance in this strike and it's clear whose side this has put them on. If we really support our lecturers then we need to actually translate that into action when they most need it.

**Mike Wood,  
Politics Dept. Postgrad**

### YUSU Stance

Whatever happened to some solidarity? As anybody ever involved in a employer-union dispute will tell you, they key to resolving the issue when demands are reasonable (Blair did when he was justifying fees) is pressure - the more pressure is applied to the employers, the quicker they concede.

The action YUSU and its peers are taking massively undermines this - by breaking ranks they reduce the pressure on the VC's, who can then turn around and say to the lecturers 'The Students are against you!'. YUSU suggests they are looking after our interests as students by breaking rank, but the fact is if a united front had been presented to the VC's and supportive action offered by all student unions this may well have already been settled - at the very least it would be settled more quickly. Surely \*that\* is in student's best interests?

Perhaps if our union spent less time desperately trying not to be a Union ('Senators'...ugh, represent our interests, don't play at being our parliament) and

devoted its energies to assisting the lecturers (who we have much more in common with than the VC - whose salary is outrageous yet never mentioned) and some actual political activity (gasp!) beyond putting up posters then we wouldn't be seeing the marking process paralyzed and one amenity after another privatized or closed for no good reason by the VC.

**Anonymous  
Comment left on website**

I absolutely agree with YUSU - the strike's affecting exams at Queen's University, Belfast as well and in 3rd year now I really don't have time for listening to lecturers mope about how poorly paid they are.

Even if I were to agree with them on that, there's no excuse for holding students hostage by refusing to set and mark exams which for many of us form the culmination of our formal academic education.

**Anonymous  
Comment left on website**

## Poster Power

As a candidate who ran in last term's elections, I take real offence at James' comments. First of all, the absence of email addresses on posters is a regulation of the elections - electronic campaigning is not allowed.

Second, there was ample opportunity to speak to us at the numerous hustings which were well publicised. If he is too lazy to peel himself away from his computer to go to hustings that is his problem.

Finally, I did not see any campaign based on claims such as, 'I was head girl,' or, 'I'm hardworking and well liked.' I do believe that these are important pieces of information to make a character judgement but being a head girl or well liked does not make you a 'public school sloane' or a 'joker.' I went to a state school and it has never been an issue.

I would be keen to hear James' response and any other peoples' opinions

**Russell Norton  
Response to J. Rand on website**

If we can vote online then I don't see why we shouldn't be able to ask questions online. If this is against the rules then perhaps that needs to be changed: how about a public forum to address candidates on the model of 'Ask YUSU'? If people cannot be peeled away from their computers to vote in person surely it unlikely they will go hustings...

However, much as I disliked the invasion of posters and candidates into my kitchen, how else are candidates supposed to gather support?

**Response to R. Norton on website  
Emma Gawan**

## Your:Platform

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

- 1. Do you think the new Ftr buses are an improvement?  
2. Do you feel you benefit from NUS membership?**



**Name:** Laurence Roach  
**College:** Derwent  
**Course:** English  
**Year:** 2nd Year



**Name:** Jamie Tyler  
**College:** Derwent  
**Course:** Applied Social Science Crime  
**Year:** 1st Year



**Name:** Nathalie Dalton  
**College:** Langwith  
**Course:** Nursing  
**Year:** 1st Year

- No. They are too big. They're not going to be able to solve the congestion problems. And you need the right change and that's a money-grabbing idea.
- I suppose it's a good thing to have an NUS card.
- It's unfair for the people who are affected by it.
- That's crap for the first years as all you do as a first year is sit in the bars.

- They're a lot worse. The system doesn't work
- You get the discounts I guess. I can't really think of anything else that you gain from it.
- It's not cool, I don't like it. I thin there's better things to than strike.
- Definite no go. If they have to go ahead with the closures they should close a few of the bars completely and keep the rest open all the time.

- Yes, they're a lot better. There's more space, more seats, and they're a lot more attractive.
- I find it very beneficial. The card is useful for getting discounts in bars and restaurants.
- I think it's diabolical that people aren't going to be able to graduate just because of them.
- It's unfair. If students want to be able to go to bars around uni they should be able to. That's part of uni life.

# Clay courts offer fans new rivalry

**By Ed Humphreys**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE WINTER, football fans often check two results first; their team and their team's hated, inferior, scummy neighbour. When the football season closes, it is important that another sporting rivalry emerges to fill the void.

In recent years we have had the Ashes, a Lions tour and Lewis vs. Tyson to satisfy our need for sporting rivalry. A week last Sunday, I became breathless and panicky, when considering where this summer's sporting duel was going to come from? Alonso and Schumacher may be an intriguingly poised battle but thus far has lacked the thrills and spills of Pros and Senna or Schumacher and Hill.

The last day of the seasons also saw the rebirth of the North London rivalry between Tottenham and Arsenal, as they found themselves fighting for fourth spot. That Arsenal succeeded over Spurs in the race must have made their Champions League qualification extra sweet despite their disappointing league standing.

Even the classic national rivalry, England and Germany, may not have the chance to meet at the World Cup, mainly because the Germans are now pretty rubbish (except after extra time of course). We won't even have the chance for banter

with the Australians, another traditionally frayed sporting relationship, as the Ashes does not resume till next November.

Salvation arrived after another dropped catch at Lords. Disgruntled and angry, a housemate tossed me the TV control, which I spilled, jiggled and dropped. The remote juggling caused the channel to change to the greatest tennis match I have ever had the good luck to witness in my life. This is an accolade I do not hand out lightly, considering I did watch the sensational and epic Barry Cowan vs Pete Sampras match a few years ago.

The ATP Masters Final in Rome had everything; players and umpires clashing over disputed line calls, nail-biting tie breaks, saved match points and epic rallies galore. After five hours, Raphael Nadal, the ripped young Spaniard, defeated world number one, and previously all-conquering, Roger Federer. More importantly than these however is that I had found my sporting rivalry for the summer.

This is not the traditional sporting rivalry that is felt most by the fans. It is not a rivalry based on geographical proximity or social and political tensions. It is rivalry forged out of frequent, dramatic meetings.

The statistics concerning these titans are remark-

able. Roger Federer has only lost seven out of the last one hundred and eighteen matches. Five of these defeats have been against Nadal, who has won fifty three consecutive matches on clay. Last year Federer won eighty one matches, and Nadal seventy nine. They dominate the men's game, true titans in their chosen sport.

The next meeting between the two is scheduled to be on 11th June in the French Open final, and promises to be a spectacle that can not be afforded to be missed. Nadal has beaten Federer in the final of the last two tournaments they have contested, but the Swiss man is getting closer. He had two match points in Rome, and is steadily developing his outrageous array of skills which are enough to dominate on the other playing fields, to suit the slower clay surfaces on which he struggles to defeat Nadal.

Nadal and Federer's probable meeting in Paris does clash with Serbia & Montenegro v Holland in the World Cup. However, the short history of the Balkan state ensures no significant sporting rivalry with the Dutch. Therefore, the tennis must be chosen. Using an ingrained sporting rivalry calculator is the essential way of choosing your sport for viewing for the coming summer.



Federer has won 111 of his last 118 matches, but all losses have been to Nadal



Rafael Nadal is undefeated in his last 53 matches on his favoured clay surface

# Who are the surprise packages of the summer?

**By Simon Lickley**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE WORLD CUP is often seen as being about the hand of God, penalty shoot outs and Russian linesman.

But it is also about the more obscure footballing

nations trying to make their mark on the world game, in the past these have included the likes of Jamaica, New Zealand and Wales. Below are five not so well known footballing nations who this summer will be trying to cause shocks equal to that of

North Korea's victory over Italy in 1966 or Senegal's run to the quarter finals in 2002.

**Angola:** The fact that this war torn country are making their World Cup debut is a miracle in itself. The lack of infrastructure within the country, resulting from a 27 year civil war, makes development in football very difficult and there are few star players to name of. Up against former colonial masters Portugal and dark horses Mexico, progress to the Second Round seems unlikely but it should be remembered that they qualified at the expense of Nigeria, one of Africa's most successful football nations.

**Costa Rica:** This Central American nation will have its chance in the spotlight when they open the tournament

against hosts Germany. Making their third appearance at the World Cup, they have acquitted themselves well in their previous two outings.

In 1990 they reached the last 16, embarrassing Scotland on the way. Twelve years later they only went out on goal difference to eventual semi-finalists Turkey in the group stages. Germany and Poland will be tough matches but don't be surprised if they cause an upset.

**Ivory Coast:** Perhaps Africa's strongest representative at this World Cup, Ivory Coast boast Premiership stars such as Kolo Toure and Didier Drogba.

Finishing ahead of more established football nations such as Egypt and Cameroon

was a major achievement and with some already well known stars in their team, there is a real possibility of them matching Senegal's achievements of the last World Cup. However first they must overcome a tough group containing Argentina and Holland.

**Togo:** Making their World Cup debut this summer, Togo qualified at the expense of Senegal. Reaching the World Cup was a major surprise, Togo are often seen as the whipping boys of Africa and with the exception of Arsenal's Emmanuel Adebayor, have few stars of note.

Bearing that in mind, victory over France will be a sensation though a point or three is possible against their other two opponents,

South Korea and Switzerland.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** In terms of sporting pedigree Trinidad and Tobago are probably better known for cricket than football. However they have the chance to condemn England to what would surely be their biggest ever sporting embarrassment when the two meet on June 15th.

The chances are unlikely but it must be remembered that they have ex-Manchester United star Dwight Yorke and West Ham keeper Shaka Hislop in their ranks to help try and cause an upset. With Paraguay and Sweden also in their group however, their first appearance at the World Cup may well be brief.



Drogba is hoping to help Ivory Coast's chances

# Juventus tainted by fixing scam

By Robert Cantarero  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

UP TO TEN years ago, the Italian Serie A was envied by the rest of the world: not only was it the only place for players such as Zinedine Zidane, Marco van Basten, Paul Gascoigne and Ronaldo to pursue their careers.

Now, with the 2006 World Cup less than a month away, four Serie A clubs, including champions Juventus, find themselves in the most catastrophic situation ever to have engulfed the footballing world. It is a situation which not even the genius of Francis Ford Coppola could have possibly conjured up as a possible storyline for his "Godfather" trilogy, and yet is frighteningly real: a tale involving match-fixing by wire-taps, illegal betting, world-class players facing a lifetime ban, secret meetings and referees locked in dressing rooms.

The first signs of this scandal were uncovered a fortnight ago when prosecutors, whilst investigating allegations of doping made against Juve, uncovered a bewildering number of phone transcripts which contained clear proof of phone taps made by Luciano Moggi, former director of football of Juventus, Italy's most successful and popular club. Two weeks on from the first discovery of those transcripts, it has been revealed that Moggi manipulated much of Serie A in two ways.

First, telephone conversations with Pierluigi Pairetto, the vice-chairman of Uefa's referees' commission, reveal that Moggi chose

at his pleasure those officials who would referee Juventus' games and completely vetoed others he didn't like. In one of the latest to have been uncovered he is heard asking a federation official: "Who the hell was that ref you sent us? I don't want him to referee ever again for us".

Secondly, Moggi is alleged to have used GEA World (a football agency run by Moggi's), to orchestrate football transfers and to influence matches for the past two seasons.

If proven guilty by the Italian Court of Justice and by the Italian FA, two-time European champions Juventus face the prospect of being relegated to the lower divisions. However this scandal also includes three other clubs, namely Fiorentina, Lazio, Siena and AC Milan. The referees concerned is also facing repercussions.

Massimo De Santis for example, has been banned from refereeing at the World Cup and several members of law enforcement agencies and executives of the Italian Football Association including the President, have been forced to resign. Nineteen matches in the 2004-2005 season, twelve of them including Juventus, are being carefully monitored to pick up any suspicious irregularities and "mistakes" in refereeing. One allegation states that some referees were made to book important players from teams that Juventus were due to play.

Moggi is also under investigation for allegedly detaining referee Gianluca Paparesta and his assistants in their changing room in November 2004, after Juve



**Italian giants Juventus face the possibility of relegation to lower leagues after allegations of match fixing**

had lost to lowly Reggina, and berating them for not having favoured Juve during the match.

Moggi even attempted to convince the Italian FA to allow a match to go ahead immediately after the death of the Pope.

The accusations against Moggi don't stop there, as he is also under investigation for his operation of GEA World and a racket of illegal gambling not only concern-

ing his family, but also referees and many professional Serie A players, including star Juve goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. The final but equally serious accusation involves his close relationship with current Italy coach Marcello Lippi. Moggi is alleged to have influenced his choice of players for the Italy squad, not only by telling him to select only players who were members of GEA but also by encourag-

ing him to leave out Juventus players, so to avoid the risk of them getting injured.

It is almost certain that considering the vast amount of time court trials will take in the summer, Serie A will have to be delayed from August till October, and may include sixteen teams instead of twenty. The other solution, in the event of those clubs concerned being proved guilty of match-fixing, would be for Fiorentina

and Juventus to be relegated to a lower division, and for two of the currently relegated teams to stay up. This would result in a complete revolution in the Italian teams participating in Europe next season and would further see Inter Milan made Serie A winners, a title which they have been chasing for years and which could arguably be seen as a reward for playing by the rules.

# English domestic season proves stressful for football fans in run-up to World Cup

By Ben Masters  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE FORTHCOMING World Cup will ensure that running water rather than football will be in short supply but, as many fans will agree, the fortunes of their clubs will have caused enough stress over the past seven months or so to be able to delight in a break of at least a couple of weeks from the national game.

The real excitement in domestic football takes place from about fourteenth place in the Premiership downwards. Chelsea's name may as well have been engraved

on the Premiership back in October and, while Arsenal and Tottenham's final day of the season fight for the final Champions League place was the highlight in the top

half of the table, it was a somewhat unedifying spectacle witnessing two clubs fight for merely fourth place.

So the Premiership says farewell to Sunderland, West Brom and Birmingham, who can consider themselves unlucky that Portsmouth somehow clawed their way out of trouble.

With the Football League play-offs resolved, Reading and Sheffield United and Watford have gained promotion into the Premiership. Of the three, Reading would seem most likely to stave off relegation. Manager Steve Coppell has the Berkshire club playing outstanding football and has

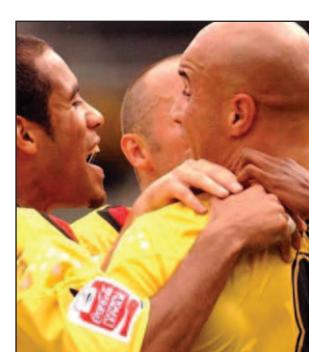
strong financial backing..

Sheffield United's survival prospects look bleaker, but in manager Neil Warnock the Premiership has a controversial figure to rival Jose Mourinho.

Brighton, Millwall and Crewe are relegated from the Championship and head into League One, a division that Nottingham Forest will probably start as favourites for next season. This term Southend and Colchester are celebrating promotion to the Championship. Three of the relegated teams from League One would all appear to be clubs in free-fall. Walsall drop into League Two on the back of a season in which

they started, under Paul Merson, as promotion contenders. Swindon Town have suffered a similar fall, and are joined by the MK Dons and Hartlepool.

The story of League Two was undoubtedly the dramatic last day of the season, where eight clubs were embroiled in a battle to avoid relegation to the Conference. With Rushden and Diamonds already down, Oxford United lost to Leyton Orient and thus ended their forty-four year stay in the Football League. The cruelty of football never proves to be far away though, and the scene at Oxford's impressive Kassam Stadium was a scene



**Watford win promotion**

of celebration as well, as Orient secured automatic promotion to League One. Carlisle and Northampton took up the other two automatic places.

Accrington Stanley return the league having won the Conference after a forty-four year absence. Halifax or Hereford will join them in leaving a division that, next season.

A domestic season that ended in the best FA Cup final in living memory will fizzle out over the coming week leaving fans with the World Cup. Avid fans will only have to wait until 12 August for club football to take centre stage again.

# Play-off heartbreak for Leeds

By Steven Morrison  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

## Leeds 0 - 3 Watford

LEEDS UNITED'S dreams of a 2006 Premiership return were abruptly ended on Sunday as Watford pounced on opportunities at Cardiff's Millenium Stadium. However manager Kevin Blackwell promises another strong campaign next season.

The Whites showed little intent from the off - leaving star man David Healy on the bench in an unadventurous 4-5-1 formation.

It was a party atmosphere in the Championship playoff final as 64,736 fans swamped the Welsh capital. The mood was dampened for the Leeds fans when Demerit headed Watford ahead just 25 minutes in, following some lacklustre defending from Leeds striker Rob Hulse.

Things were looking up before half time however when Eddy Lewis went close with a trade-mark free kick, but the half was riddled with questionable refereeing decisions from Premiership offi-

cial Mike Dean.

At the start of the second half things were made worse for the Yorkshire outfit when 'keeper Neil Sullivan put through his own net in comical fashion. Not even the introductions of Healy, Bakke and Blake could do anything to stop the rot and on 84 miutes Watford were rightly awarded a penalty which Henderson smartly converted.

On the day, Watford had too much for Leeds, something Blackwell was quick to confess. His former assistant (Watford's manager) and former Sheffield United manager will both be looking forward to Liverpool and Arsenal whilst Leeds will hope for results against Colchester and Southend.

Leeds will surely rue the two red cards in the second leg against Preston which meant semi-final hero Matthew Killgallon had to play make-shift left back in a shaky defence.

It was a day when nothing went right for the Yorkshire outfit, chances were cleared off the line, a penalty decision was turned away and the third official,



**The Millenium Stadium in Cardiff hosted this year's play-offs for the last time**

who actually awarded Leeds a few decisions, had to go off hurt.

More seriously for Leeds, the fact that they miss out on a £40 million bonus for reaching the Premier

League may mean further financial hardship, though a summer move for Francis Jeffers is rumoured.

Take nothing away from Watford as this was their day. A place in England's top

league seemed a distant hope back in August. However, with strong summer signings and the threat of Marlon King, can the Hornets make a go of the Premiership?

## The Quick Crossword

Tuesday 23rd May, set by Cornius

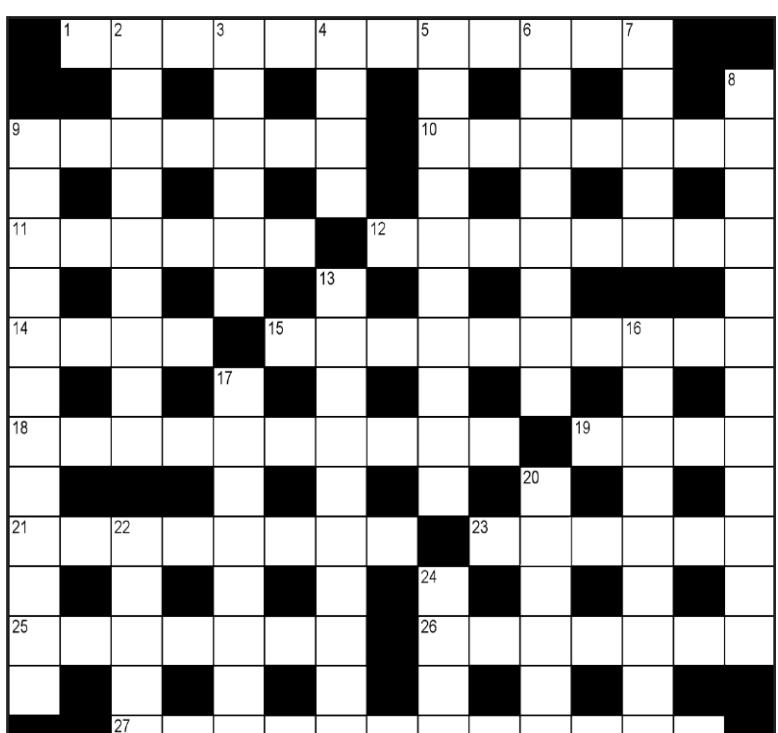
### Across

- Devestated if Cafu prowl gained first deutsh summer tournament (4, 5, 3)
- One rugged crack user (7)
- Once more apply to disorganised chapter (7)
- 500 fish flap (6)
- I don't know what customs officers do (5, 2)
- Beheaded bear in whirlpool (4)
- Bolt at alert losing first & last to arguer (10)
- Tooth like projections damage countries, but not at first (10)
- Tailless lizard gets round with fellow dinosaur (9)
- 1 across entrant gets an awful goal (6)
- Finished above (4)
- Silence heads of house under small hats (4)
- Prove wrong & help out with too much money (8)
- Waugh & Knievel back New York (6)
- Missing 1/4 of body but managed hot drum (7)
- 2006 1 across hosts use gravity of queen lots (7)
- 1 across star, actor Jason & singer Jeff have meat (5, 7)

- Big text made by dinosaur? (5, 5)
- Horse around at dinner with black herbal drink (5-3)
- Tone of field (5)
- 1 across star gives welcome hidden by another polygamous king (7, 5)
- 1 across star is a confused brigade droid (6, 6)
- Tested car wreck on diet (10)
- European capital's used at first in banal JJ's destruction (9)
- Chess master sounds like a ghost by half of cooker (8)
- Composer almost drove out gun that's missing, 47" (6)
- Done over in cack-

### Down

- Tailless lizard gets round with fellow dinosaur (9)
- 1 across entrant gets an awful goal (6)
- Finished above (4)
- Handed nepotism (5)
- Own goal by the French (4)
- Stare indulgently at
22. Done over in cack-
23. Handed nepotism (5)
24. Stare indulgently at
25. Own goal by the French (4)
26. Handed nepotism (5)
27. Stare indulgently at



For solutions go to [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk)



**AU Edge**  
With AU President  
Nik Engineer

Every year, 1,200 students from the Universities of York and Lancaster come together to compete in the largest competition of its kind in the UK. The Roses competition, which has been running for over 40 years, engenders one of the most intense sporting rivalries in the country and is recognised as one of the highlights of the year for both Universities.

Despite all this, stories are flying around about a lack of commitment from some clubs and individuals being at least in part responsible for York's loss this year. Whilst it would be impossible to say that this certainly is not the case, I see no point on focussing on this assignment of blame. Roses was a success. The final score was uncomfortably close, the weather was wonderful for two days of competition, the passion shown by all was amazing, and with the exception of a few incidents that are being acted upon, was competed in good spirit.

Having been involved in four years of competitions, I can safely say that every occasion York and Lancaster clash has its own unique characteristics. One of the central issues this year was the honesty of individuals, teams, clubs and institutions. The long term future depends on everyone involved being honest and believing in something more important than who wins. Everyone must believe in the history and tradition of Roses. Everyone must realise that they are part of something bigger than themselves, and that they owe it to the thousands of students that have gone before them to conduct themselves in the highest manner possible.

The event none-the-less produced a number of highlights. The Men's squash firsts won for the first time in 18 years, the men's rugby firsts gave their best performance I've seen this year in the XV's, and the outstanding performance from the women's tennis team to name a few.

Every year there is one moment where I've felt fate has got it wrong. This year was the Netball first's game. To see a team, club and President that I care about so much and who care about what they do so much, lose was a cruel end to an outstanding year for an outstanding group of players. Well done to everyone.

# SPORT

The next big rivalry:  
Federer and Nadal's  
clay battle examined

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## York student entrepreneur creates new sport protein supplement

**By Jamie Merrill**  
**SPORTS CORRESPONDENT**

**YORK** UNIVERSITY'S sports clubs are benefiting from the business acumen of one York undergraduate, John Quentin; a 2nd year History and Economics student has successfully launched his own sports nutritional company funded with his student loan.

The company, called Q-Sports, is solely owned and run by Quentin and is now making profit, after only 11 months trading should see a turn over of £6000 for the next academic year. The student entrepreneur's business has already sponsored the University Rowing Club £200 and will be an official sponsor of York University Rugby Club next season.

The company's first product, Q-Extreme, is a protein supplement designed by Quentin to enhance recovery after exer-

cise. The product which can be mixed with water or milk is sold in the flavours of strawberry, banana and chocolate and costs £30 for two kilo's, including student discount.

In a recent interview Quentin described how after his first season playing for York University Rugby Club he became "disgusted at how much protein supplements were costing, and at how awful they were". Quentin went onto to describe how over the summer between his first and second year he used his personal contact in the sports industry and spent over 100 hours in the laboratory to create Q-Extreme.

John Quentin is not alone as a young entrepreneur starting a business whilst at university. A study by the London School of Economics illustrates that more young people than ever before are launching business ventures whilst at



**The Rugby club have become regular customers for Quentin's protein supplement. Photos by Georgie Mabee**

university. By 2004, 2.3% of students ran their own business. Quentin seems to have a relaxed view on the matter, he says, "it's a part time job...but one with a lot of potential, I've had interest from a sports product distributor who is keen to get hold of the product, which is potentially really big...I'd have to do very little work and also that's a massive increase in the volume". Q-Sports he argues is more than just protein supplements, products such high energy drinks are planned.

Quentin who plays Rugby for York University 1sts and 2nds as well as being

the current Rugby Club Treasurers admits that "the business is as much time as I give it", and he is "very careful to keep it in balance with the rest of my life", saying "I'm at university for a degree and to also enjoy student life, playing sport and socializing".

Whilst Quentin has acknowledged that "Q-Sports has no brand recognition" he has managed to build up a solid customer base in York and from his website. As well as the Rugby Club and Rowing Club other students who box, run or play cricket have used the product according to

Quentin. Even the Pole Exercise Society has apparently expressed interest. Perhaps as Quentin suggests, it is because the product "isn't about bulking up," but is "meant to help your recovery after exercise".

Quentin had funded his exercise with his student loan and a part-time job but is unconcerned about building up debts; "student loans are the best loans you could be offered in your life, they just run at the rate of inflation... so even if the whole thing folds I've got the best repayment plan possible". However the business made back all its development



**John Quentin's product**

costs in its first run of 70 kilos and the consumer base is expanding.



**Women's cricket have had an impressive season start**

After a lady's lunch York took to the field and refused to let Newcastle have any easy runs, with fielding that can only be described as sensational. A superb array of catches and run outs at the wicket, not to mention some beautifully orchestrated long barriers from Laura Valentine, created the pressure that forced Newcastle's hand. The game finishing with Newcastle 91 runs all out; a colossal 89 runs short of victory. The season contin-

ued to blossom when York faced their toughest rivals; Leeds Met at 22 acres. Loosing the toss pressurised York to bat first; accurate bowling, and sharp fielding from Leeds Met meant that York slowly climbed to a total of 109 runs for 7. Never ones to shy from a challenge the York girls aimed to emulate the tight fielding they had witnessed. They did this to great success, exhibiting a fabulous team effort in the field combined with a won-

derous bowling debut from Sophie Foxall. York had persevered and won the game, with a final score York 109 runs for 7 and Leeds Met 90 for 9.

On the shoulders of such a hard fought victory York were in fine form to play Northumbria last Wednesday. York took to the field first and witnessed some undeniably impressive batting from Northumbria, but the field held firm, and Northumbria completed

their overs for 170 runs. Yet as the day wore on the weather turned, causing the match to be rained off and announced a draw. A decision which robbed York of the chance to display their impeccable batting skills. However nothing was lost from York's outstanding sea-

son, the girls already having claimed their right to play in the National Championships by beating both Newcastle and Leeds met.

Now with the National Championships just around the corner, York's women's cricket team have never looked so formidable.

## Women's Cricket First 11 qualify for the National Championships

**By Chloe Schroeter**  
**SPORTS CORRESPONDENT**

THE THIRD of May saw the beginning of what was to set the ball rolling for a fantastic season of women's cricket for York University. At their first match, away at Newcastle the York girls began their valiant fight on strike. Encountering some strong bowling York coped brilliantly, knocking the ball all over the pitch and scoring 180 runs from 30 overs.

