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10th college as part of £390m expansion

HESLINGTON WEST is set for a £390 million revamp, aiming to enhance accommodation, teaching and research facilities.

As part of the plans, a tenth college will be created - but, crucially, the University say there will not be a large increase in student numbers, one of the main criticisms of the Heslington East expansion.

The University aim to make "campus as a whole one of the best in the country".

YUSU have welcomed the news saying they "completely back the plans to restructure Hes West before Heslington East leaves it behind."

Full story on pages 4-5

Fine dining and jewellery: University's attempts to charm investors revealed

Neil Johnston
NEWS EDITOR

THOUSANDS OF pounds have been spent by the University on luxurious 'gifts' for donors, as well as other 'excessive' purchases for senior staff.

The University has splashed out on Michelin star restaurants, luxury hotel stays and even one £500 trip to a jewellers, an analysis of the credit card bills of senior staff by

Nouse has revealed.

Over £20,000 has been spent on credit cards belonging to the Vice-Chancellor's Department, in addition to tens of thousands of pounds of expenses over the same period.

The University have confirmed the expenses were claimed by several staff, and that many of the claims were gifts.

Among the claims featured on the 'hospitality' bill were hundreds

of pounds on iTunes, and bills from Betty's tea room also appeared on the list of purchases.

The credit card bill included a £100 meal at Loch Fyne restaurant and a £588.25 spend at the Murano Michelin star restaurant in London.

In New York, £474.90 was spent at luxury restaurant Patroon, described by *Time Out* magazine as place to enjoy "bigwig style".

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President described the claims as "excessive,

and worryingly contradictory", adding that he was "uncomfortable" with the revelations given the current economic climate.

These claims are on top of the £32,888 of expenses the VC claimed last year, which the University refused to break down.

However, *Nouse* was able to reveal earlier in the year that the University was spending money on gardeners, paintings, iPads, and luxury travel. A University spokesperson

said: "The credit card bills relate to the Vice-Chancellor's department and so include the expenses not only of the VC but also seven other senior academic managers, making average annual expenses for each at around a modest £1,250. The records also include such items as

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FRESHERS GUIDE

Your complete guide to Freshers' Week and beyond...



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News

Dinner for donations: iTunes purchases and luxury hotels charged to credit cards

>> Continued from front

a £216 charge from West One Cars London, a cab company that offer an 'executive service' which provides 'luxury travel in one of our Mercedes E-Class or S-Class vehicles.'



cles.' There was also a £600 transaction to Europcar in York.

The total spent on lavish London hotels contradicts the University's justification earlier in the year for providing the VC with a Mercedes.

Taylor said: "As a registered charity, I find the University's expenses excessive, and worryingly contradictory: featuring 'gifts' for 'donors' and overnight stays in London for those despite the expensive chauffeurs to bring them home after late meetings in other cities."

"Everyone else seems to be tightening their belts, so even when it's slightly uncomfortable or impractical, the University should really consider how this looks."

After senior staff perks were revealed by *Nouse* last term the University commented: "The E-Class Mercedes (there is only one) is used to transport VIP visitors the Vice-Chancellor. In the case of the Vice-Chancellor, the car is frequently used to transport him home

from evening meetings in London and other locations outside York, thus avoiding the cost of an overnight hotel stay." The only other vehicles operated by the University are service vehicles used by Estates

“I find the University expenses excessive and worryingly contradictory... The University should consider how this looks”

YUSU President
Kallum Taylor

& Campus Services, and Commercial Services." But the spending went beyond charges in the UK, as senior staff enjoyed luxuries worldwide.

In total thousands was spent on hotels in London and several thousand in hotels in York, despite the VC being provided with a house in the city.



£588.25 was spent at the Murano Michelin star restaurant in London, and £474.90 at a "bigwig style" New York restaurant

York In Brief

YuSnow collaborating with Bangers and Mash

YuSnow, the University skiing society, will hold a launch party later this term presented by house night organisers Bangers and Mash. You'll also spot them at Freshers' Fair, where they're expected to be blaring out house music from decks mounted on top of a van. Banger and Mash organisers said working with YuSnow, who organise the University ski trip in the Easter holidays, was "very exciting".

YUSU Disability to launch 'human library'

Thomas Ron, YUSU Disability Officer, is to set up a record of the experience of disabled and autistic students. Video clips and voice recordings will be made and stored, in a bid to raise awareness and understanding of disabilities on campus. Katharine Bramwell, third year history student, said of the plans: "I think it's a great shout. Often the challenges disabled people face are ignored, and anything that combats that must be a good thing."

Students showcase work at BAFTAs

Student film makers from the University of York will have a chance to showcase their own work at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). The University of York Film Showcase in London this Thursday will be hosted by York Chancellor and British Film Institute Chairman, Greg Dyke. The student film makers will be competing for the showcase's STUDIOCANAL Grand Jury Prize.

Reporting by Anwen Baker and Tom Witherow

Nouse Photography competition

The four categories are:

- Landscape
- Campus
- Portrait
- Open

Maximum 2 entries per category
Send as .jpeg



Deadline: Sunday 13 October

Send your photos to aggie.torrance@nouse.co.uk

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Wrap photo credit: Agatha Torrance

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Mansion mounting fightback for York sports teams' loyalty

Tom Witherow
NEWS REPORTER

MANSION HAVE launched a new offensive in a bid to woo sports teams back to their unofficial Wednesday night, Ziggy's Wednesdays.

The nightclub is offering unofficial sponsorship to sports teams and stepping up advertising, as well as threatening aggressive pricing tactics.

"My offer of sponsorship still stands. And if they have exclusivity I can make a donation to YUSU as a charity," Matthew Trolle, general manager at Mansion told *Nouse*.

"There will be no stipulations, no requirement for bums on seats, no minimum attendance."

There is a clause in the Salvation contract which reads: "Salvation and Revolution to be the exclusive Club sponsors for Wednesday and Sunday nights."

It also states that all Wednesday night socials must finish in Salvation.

He added that Mansion may pursue aggressive pricing tactics: "If push comes to shove I can do discounts – go to free entry and 50p drinks."

"Students will make their own mind up where they go, that's why they go to the Willow seven nights a week and why they've been coming

here for 25 years.

"My whole tactics are based on the students making the choice and

“There will be no stipulations, no requirements for bums on seats, no minimum attendance”

General manager, Mansion
Matthew Trolle

not being told by the Union."

There is interest in the donation, with Luke

B r a d - ley, the University Men's Football C l u b President, commenting: "It would be silly to turn down free money. We have been great customers to Mansion over the years and a goodwill donation would be nice obviously."

Mansion has also placed advertise-

ments in both of today's campus newspapers. But sports clubs have responded positively to the move to Salvation.

"I'm looking forward to Wednesday nights," Bradley added. "The main thing is celebrating the earlier wins with your teammates and friends, so it doesn't really matter where we are."

Lo Verroken-Jones, President of the University Women's Cricket Club, said: "It'll be strange to think of a Wednesday night without Ziggys, but as long as teams are there and having fun, I don't think the choice of venue will have an overall effect. Let's hope Salvation becomes a bigger, better version of all the antics at Ziggys."

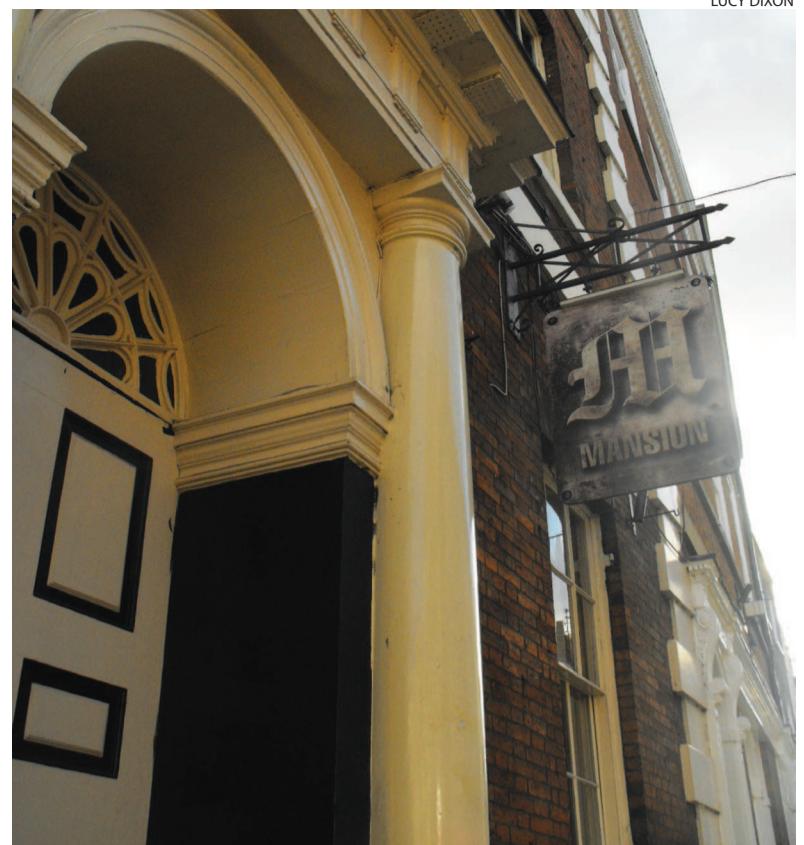
Nina Rawlings, President of University Women's Hockey Club agreed, saying: "We're genuinely

“We're definitely going to stick to it. And anyway, we score runs on any wicket”

University Cricket Club President
Matija Pisk

excited about the prospect of being amongst the trailblazers of the new tradition of Salvation Wednesdays. We understand that everyone has a special affinity with Ziggy's, but it seems that most people have come around to the idea now."

Matija Pisk, President of the University Cricket club said: "Providing everyone goes there and we



Sports clubs will be heading to Salvation this year rather than Mansion

don't have to queue for 20 minutes to buy a drink I think we'll be happy. We're definitely going to stick to it. And anyway,

w we score runs on any wicket."

There are still some who are not pleased with the move, with one anonymous college hockey player saying, "Ziggy's Wednesday has been going 25 years, it's just a thing!"

Another University player said that the change was "not ideal" but that sportsmen and women will still have a great



Wednesday night regardless of which venue club's go to.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said that clubs must promise to take students' wellbeing seriously. "Drinks prices should be great value for money but we want them to be responsible too. This year's partners Kuda, Salvation, Tokyo and Revs all take this seriously. Further, they all adhere to tasteful branding of our nights, provide student friendly door staff, and have zero tolerance to sexual harassment."

The contract negotiations, which took place during the latter half of the summer term, came under suspicion. YUSU's approach to their dealings being described as being in some cases 'manipulative' and 'underhand'.

Mansion claims that YUSU did not approach them for sponsorship this year, despite offering clubs an equivalent sum of money.

£300k offered to hard-up students

Neil Johnston
NEWS EDITOR

THE AMOUNT claimed by students in hardship funds has increased by a fifth to over £300,000 over the past year.

Eight students have already applied for hardship funds before arriving at for this academic year. Over the course of 2013/2013 there were a total of 291 students who applied of which just under 230 were successful.

In total students claimed £321,495.49 last year, increasing from £260,111.79 in 2011/12.

£168, 180.333 was given out through the Access to learning Fund and £54, 668.51 was allocated to students from the International Students Hardship Fund during 2012/2013.

The additional £69,395.65 allocated during 2012 coincides with



Just under 300 students claimed hardship funds for last academic year

the University's decision to increase fees to £9,000

YUSU Welfare Officer, George Offer, has welcomed the fact the University has been able to help

nearly 300 students, but added that "the University really needs to step up and help students in financial difficulty."

A spokesperson for the Uni-

versity said: "As a proportion of the total student population there are relatively few students who find themselves in financial hardship. Student Support Services are able to offer assistance and ongoing support students via Welfare Advisers, based in our Student Support Hub. They offer students an impartial, non-judgemental money advice service."

Budgeting and other financial advice is available in person, online and in the workshops and advice sessions Student Support Services provides throughout the year across the University.

They added: "Finally, our advice is to seek information and advice on managing finances as early as possible. Managing money is not a skill that everybody has but is one that everyone can learn."

Offer told *Nouse*: "It's great that 300 students have been helped by

the fund, but this is just a drop in the ocean.

"Students are paying more than ever to be at University and the University really needs to step up

“The University really needs to step up and help students in financial difficulty”

YUSU Welfare Officer
George Offer

and help students in financial difficulty. If anyone does want advice on finance pop into Student Support Services upstairs on Market Square".

News

£390m scheme to make York campus 'best in the country'

Neil Johnston

NEWS EDITOR

HESLINGTON WEST is set for a £390million revamp, aiming to enhance accommodation, teaching and research facilities.

As part of the plans, a tenth college will be created - but, crucially, the University says there will not be a large increase in student numbers, one of the main criticisms of the Heslington East expansion.

As well as improving research, the new development aims to enhance student experience, an area where York has often struggled, having been ranked 37th in the UK for student experience by Times Higher Education.

The University is seeking to build high quality residential accommodation, a new teaching facility and a further expansion of the library.

York's sports facilities, which have already seen improvements over the summer will also be further enhanced with an aim to specialise in cycling.

"Our aim is to make the Heslington campus as a whole one of the best in the country"

University Registrar and Secretary
David Duncan

While campus will be given a new look, the parkland layout will remain.

This new investment, which will be introduced over ten years, comes after the addition of Hes East campus.

Since 2000, the University has invested in 20 new buildings on the original Heslington West campus and has completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion at Heslington East.

A further £60 million was invested throughout 2011/2012 to deliver the new Sports Village, a new Langwith College, library refurbishments and new chemistry research facilities.

For current and future students at York, the investment means major improvements to existing cam-

pus facilities, and the construction of new academic and social buildings, study spaces and college accommodation.

The first buildings to be completed will be ready by the start of the next academic year in 2014, including the new Biomedicine facility.

The new Environment Building, which will be built on the site of Wentworth Block E, will be ready for use at the start of the academic year in 2015.

David Duncan, the University Registrar and Secretary said: "Last term the Campus Development Steering Group looked for the first time at comprehensive plans for the phased redevelopment of Heslington West.

"These plans have been developed further over the summer and now go forward for consideration by the senior management group and Council.

"Our aim is to make the Heslington campus as a whole one of the best in the country for both student experience and research."

He added: "We estimate the total cost of the proposed works to be just under £400m, with an additional £40m for IT infrastructure and research equipment.

"The plans will include major new developments for the sciences, high quality residential accommodation for all students living on campus, a new teaching facility and a further significant expansion of the library.

"There will be further enhancements to our sports facilities, which after this summer's works are already something to be proud of.

"We intend to keep faith with the original layout of the parkland campus, while dramatically improving the overall quality of the estate."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, commented: "Some of the buildings on Hes West should've been replaced 25 years ago, and not to say you can't have a good time in the older blocks, they're a bit of an embarrassing quirk about the campus.

"We completely back the plans to restructure Hes West before Heslington East leaves it behind and will look to play a role in these plans.

"It'll make for several loud years and lots of building work, but will be worth it in the end."

RIGHT: Artists impression for outline scheme for a replacement for Chemistry B Block. This scheme is at concept stage only and there is no known/expected delivery date for it as yet.



By numbers

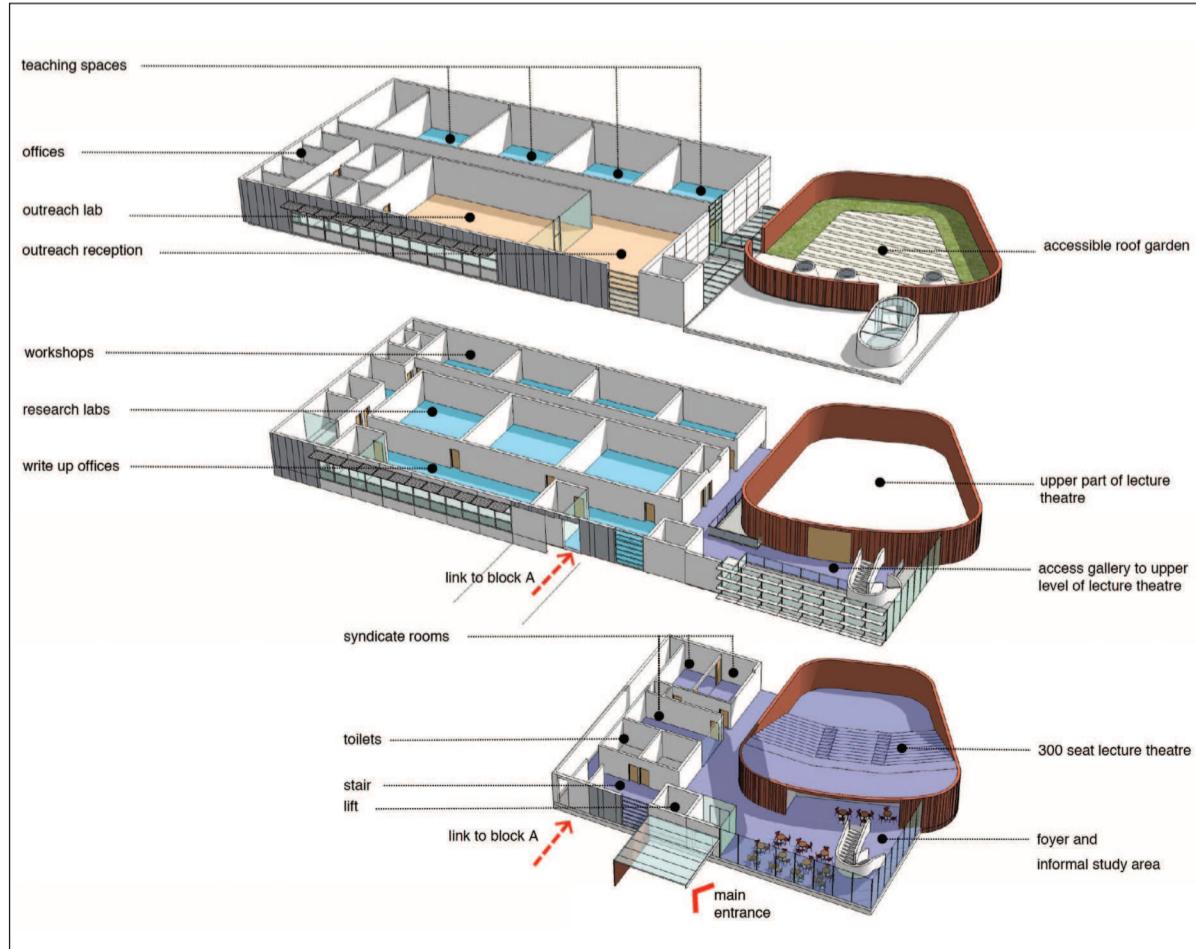
£390m
investment

10 colleges

£750m
Cost of the Hes East campus

£40m extra for IT and infrastructure

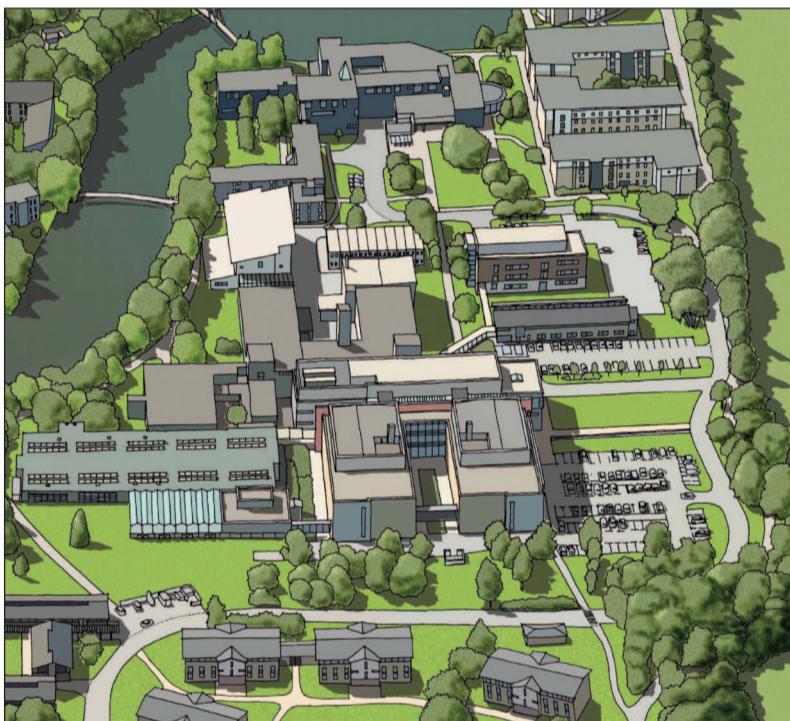
The first building will be completed in 2014





ABOVE: Drawings for the new Biomedicine facility that is currently under construction (adjacent to Biology) and will be ready for use at the start of the next academic year in 2014.

BETWEEN: A master plan showing existing and potential future developments for the Biology Department.



COMMENT

Long overdue revamp is just the beginning

Anwen Baker
Deputy News
Editor



I came to the University of York in 2012 having never actually visited before. This turned out to be somewhat of a blessing. Campus is essentially a big park, with some bits of cement thrown around and a thriving population of psychopathic geese. "Hidden charms" one might say.

I was a resident of the infamous Eric Milner A Block. We had rats, we had floods, unfortunately no locusts, but plenty of flies. Give us all your first born children and a few hours of Mel Gibson's time and we'll give you a biblical epic.

“We need the services and infrastructure to cater for the increasing number of York students”

It had its own particular allure. Classic 60s build, complete with authentic 1960s plumbing system too. It might be a stretch to say that we learned to love it, but we certainly learned to tolerate it. You really do get used to the smell of damp after a while.

York often struggles when it comes to student experience. The Times Higher Education student experience survey rated York as 37th in the UK.

This marked a jump from the previous year's rating of 61st, but was a nonetheless disappointing figure. As the university experience becomes more commercialised, universities must learn to cater for students and recognise the importance of student experience. Campus environment is a large part of ensuring that.

Serious investment in the future of this campus is long overdue. Heslington East has had over £750m poured into it since 2000, whilst Heslington West, despite a few new buildings such as Berrick Saul and the Exhibition Centre, has been largely left neglected.

Whilst the expansion of campus is a much welcomed development, the University must maintain some more basic, affordable housing. A wide price range is essential to cater for all potential students. It is also hugely important that this work is carried out with minimal disruption to students.

The demolition of Eric Milner D, though much needed, is going to displace students and force them to take accommodation in different parts of the University, possibly separated from their flatmates of first term.

However, physical improvements can only do so much. We

need the services and the infrastructure to cater for the ever increasing numbers of York students.

The University must not sacrifice student experience as a whole purely for the sake of expansion, a mistake which many would argue was made in the case of Hes East.

It would appear that swanky

“Investment across the board is the only way to ensure York is a world class institution”

new buildings and fancy sports complexes do not make a welcoming environment.

More money for mental health and wellbeing services, such as the Open Door team. More money for YUSU and for the societies, sports clubs, and student initiatives that they support.

Investment in new accommodation, in new teaching buildings and library expansions is only the beginning.

Investment across the board is the only way to ensure that York is, and continues to be, a world class institution.

York is a beautiful city and a lovely place to live. We deserve a University campus and a student experience able to match that.

Constantine to be followed by College Ten

George Wood
NEWS REPORTER

HESLINGTON WEST is set for a massive development aiming to enhance accommodation, teaching and research facilities.

As part of the plans a tenth college will be created. Although criticisms have arisen over the potential increase in student numbers, the University have reassured that this should not be a concern.

Instead, the tenth college would help in the University's plans to keep more second and third years on campus.

York's ninth college, recently named Constantine, is expected to open its doors to students next year on Hes East.

However, the details surrounding the tenth college and its future additional facilities are still largely unknown.

YUSU President, Kallum Taylor said: "The prospect of a tenth college is rather daunting; it's not something the University should rule out completely but there'll be

a harder case to make for this than with college nine. Simply speaking, there should be no further expansion of accommodation anywhere until there's more student facilities built on Hes East such as a supermarket, more study space, a bar/canteen, space for societies to use and more in the way of essential student support services.

"We're still trying to nail dates down on these because the University seems to agree... Whether this gets stalled or diluted is yet to be seen - but we'll do our best to make sure that we get commitments, and timings, on these before any plans for college ten are drawn up."

The University of York is one of the six of UK universities with a collegiate system. Unlike Oxford and Cambridge, York's colleges are not individual academic institutions, but do continue to provide pastoral, social and accommodation services.

Lancaster University, recently named best university in the North West, has 4000 students less than York but one more college than York's current eight. With Constan-

tine and the tenth college expected, this will bring York's college-to-student ratio more in line with Lancaster's collegiate system, where colleges play a similar, non-academic role in university administration.

In September, *Nouse* reported that the University's ninth college, which opens next year, will be named 'Constantine College'.

At the time, Dr Jane Grenville, Deputy Vice Chancellor, gave her reasons for supporting the name: "There are two reasons. To date, we have not celebrated the Roman origin of the city and Constantine, declared Emperor here in 306AD, was undoubtedly the most significant historical figure associated with the city in its entire history.

"He converted to Christianity and ensured religious toleration in the Roman Empire. Without him, the course of European history would have been completely different. And he's

a Yorkie! We'll have Constantine to rhyme with line not lean."

These are among the first details of comprehensive plans for a phased redevelopment of Heslington West, which entered initial discussions last term and are now being put forward



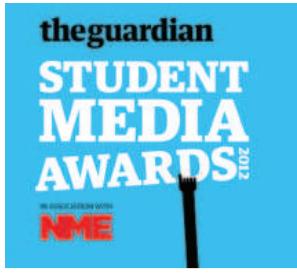
into consideration by senior management. The aim is to make Hes West "one of the best in the country" for student experience and research.

The as yet unnamed college is a part of new development plans to include "high quality residential accommodation for all students living on campus, a new teaching facility and a further significant expansion of the library", according to David Duncan, the University Registrar, .

The estimated costs of the project are just under £400 million, with an additional £40 million budget for IT infrastructure and research equipment.

Enhancements to York's sports facilities and major new developments for the sciences are also among the proposed future improvements.

While the changes to Hes West are expected to give the campus a new look, the development plans intend to keep with the original "parkland" layout and design of the University.



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Game on for Tron

Katie Carnell, pictured above with YUSU Disabled Students Officer Thomas Ron, has been announced as the University's first Disabled Sport Activator.

Carnell's plans include the introduction of a 'traffic-light'

system to grade club's provisions for disabled students, a buddy scheme, and the introduction of new disability sports clubs. She told *Nouse*, "My long term goal is to produce disability sport equivalents to the sports clubs that exist across

the university, I strongly believe there should not be a single sport club that is unavailable to disabled students. Disability sport is not exclusively for people with a physical disability, so whatever your disability come and get involved."

University staff ballot to strike

Harry Gallivan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS AT the University of York and across the UK may face disruption to their studies as staff ballot to strike over pay.

The UK-wide action involves members of the University and College Union, who suggest balloting for action is necessary due to a "miserly" one per cent pay rise by the Government.

The protest will be the first since the union launched industrial action over pensions in 2011 and the first action related to pay since 2006.

Should the ballots be successful, lecturers and staff at the University will take part in a "sustained campaign" of walk outs in the autumn, causing nationwide "disruptive action" to university lectures and tutorials.

The UCU claim the action is because their members have not received a "meaningful" pay increase since October 2008 and have seen a "13 per cent average real-terms cut in wages" and "they need a substantial rise."

Extra grants demanded by placement students

Laura Hughes
EDITOR

HEALTH SCIENCE students' have complained of the costs involved in traveling to and from Summer placements during their course.

York's student union told *Nouse* these "upsetting findings" will, "form a few campaigns" this term.

The university's Health Science students work full time over the summer on placements, without a student loan.

Many students who do not rely on parental income are required to work part-time to cover their expenses. A YUSU survey asked what would help students improve their experience of travelling to placements, and what they thought about the time it took to reimburse travel expenses.

A total of 149 health science students completed the survey and students left over 280 comments.

Respondents of the survey revealed their travel affected health and impacted their work in and out of university.

One student commented, "I do think there should be extra grants or funding available for student nurses and midwives as it is impossible to have a part time job or more than a few hours a week to help pay for expenses because of our 30 hour a week placements. "Other students have the opportunity to work and earn extra money and I do know of many student nurses having to leave the course due to funding. There-



The service offered to claim back travel expenses was called 'unreliable and often slow' by students who responded to the Union's investigation

fore I do think the funding needs to be reviewed especially for travel expenses to practice."

Many who completed the survey have commented on the amount of time it took to have their travel expenses reimbursed. One student handed their first claims form in at the end of January and did not receive the money back until May.

One respondent commented, "7-8 weeks is too long for travel expenses to come back to students. Myself and other students have had

weeks were something has to give 'food or travel' it's not right that we should have to make that choice!"

" I do know of many students nurses having to leave the course due to funding "

Health Science Student

The survey revealed students believe inflexible policies surrounding termly accommodation payments for halls don't help the situation.

One commented, "It's very crushing to be told as a mature nursing student to find part-time work when my placement hours do not allow this, and to be sent to a placement which is pretty much inaccessible by public transport and takes away five hours of my time each weekday."

When asked to comment on the amount of time it took to have their travel expenses reimbursed. Students revealed, "Travel expense costs and the problems they cause are a serious issue for healthcare students and a better system needs to be in place."

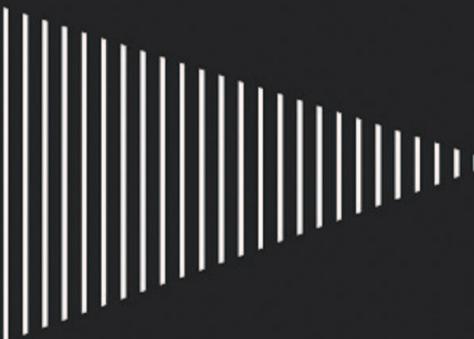
The service offered was called 'very unreliable and often slow.' For students in Scarborough where it costs £80 a week for travel, it can impact on food, social life and lead to serious debt.

EY Live

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Tuesday, 22 October 2013, 6:00pm
Exhibition Centre, Physics and Electronics
Building, University of York, Heslington,
York YO10 5DD



Building a better
working world

Students to vote on YUSU letting agency

Laura Hughes
EDITOR

STUDENTS WILL vote in a referendum this term to decide if they want York's student union to put together a business plan to run a letting agency.

YUSU President Kallum Taylor told *Nouse*, "We've had a strong lobby from over 800 students asking us to take action on the issue of off campus housing."

He added, "Students will get to decide if they want their Union to put together a business plan to run a letting agency as a means to cut costs for their members - be it on upfront admin fees or, longer term, rent costs."

"It is potentially a huge thing for YUSU, and could be a game changer within the city, so we do want a big turnout on the vote. I'll be voting yes."

This year freshers have been denied campus accommodation for the first time in three years, after the university accepted too many students. In September, the Accommodation Services were forced to ad-

mit there were "simply not enough rooms on campus to go round."

It was confirmed that 264 students have not been allocated rooms with on-campus accommodation this year.

“It is potentially a huge thing for YUSU and could be a game changer within the city”

YUSU President
Kallum Taylor

This breaks down at 100 Langwith students housed in private accommodation off-campus, 120 Goodricke students at the Boulevard and 44 Langwith students split between Catherine House, and on Walmgate.

The University had previously said it guaranteed campus accommodation for undergraduate freshers who applied before the 24th August.

Speaking to *Nouse* in September, the University cited increased



On your marks...

The University are involved in extensive planning to develop York's sport facilities.

A new running track is to be built in place of the existing track and

there are plans in place for a new outdoor velodrome on Heslington East.

A brand new strength and conditioning suite has been built in the Hes West

Sports Centre and is set to open this month. Additionally, there are proposals to re-develop the Sports Tent after planning permission on the temporary structure runs out next year.

Anstey's fixed international fees put to the University

George Wood
NEWS REPORTER

PROPOSALS TO lower, cap, and clarify the University's tuition fee structure for international students have been under discussion between YUSU International Officer Mike Anstey and University Registrar David Duncan.

International fees are set high and are subject to rise each year.

These proposals aim to clarify what overseas students will be expected to pay for the duration of their study from the start of their course, with the possibility of a

“This is hugely important to all students paying overseas fees who face huge costs and have no idea what they will rise to”

YUSU International Officer
Mike Anstey



Tuition fees for international students are subject to rise each year

options for me - I would be able to choose the financially preferable one.

"I could choose to pay the full amount at once, or earn interest on the money in the bank or invest it."

"This will make the process of parting with such a large sum less painful."

None of these proposals will be confirmed until the financial and administrative consequences are considered.

However, Mike Anstey is pushing the ISA 'Fix Fees' campaign with its three aims of clarifying the fee structure prior to course

student numbers as the reason for the shortage: "The reason why it's taking us longer than usual is because we've had a much higher intake of students this year - which is of course really positive for students who have been successful in getting

a place on a course here, but it also means that there are simply not enough rooms on campus to go around."

In response to the accommodation shortfall, YUSU have secured free bus travel for freshers living

outside of campus.

The deal permits free travel on either the Unibus number 44 or SB1 buses for first years living in The Boulevard or Catherine House, as long as they met the accommodation guarantee deadline.

YourShop to start charity token project

George Wood
NEWS REPORTER

YOUR SHOP, the YUSU-managed shop on campus, will start running a token-run charity project this term similar to schemes operating in supermarkets such as Waitrose and Asda.

Customers who purchase a meal deal at Your Shop will receive a token they can use to vote for a charity they wish Your Shop to contribute towards.

At the end of each term, the charity with the most votes will be given a cash donation.

In the same way, similar charity schemes are already in place in certain supermarkets. The containers where the tokens should be deposited are transparent so customers can see which is the most popular charity.

Possible charities to be involved in the scheme will be shortlisted and backed by RAG.

The charities will have college support, using the Your Shop Facebook page to publicise the charities and the shortlisting process.

Second-year History student Harriet Page said of the plans: "This new scheme sounds like it will promote charity spirit on campus by giving students the choice of who should receive the donation, but I think it should be extended beyond meal deals."

Starting on Monday of week three, the project has been described as "a great way to consolidate to students that Your Shop is run by the student union and does get involved in student activities".

In addition to supporting the student-chosen charities, the aim of the project is to promote the use of the union shop where profits are recycled back to the University.

Unlike other shops and outlets in and around campus, Your Shop is run both for and by the student union.



York fifth worst in Russell Group for graduate prospects

Harry Gallivan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York has been ranked 19th in the Russell Group for graduate prospects, according to *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The news comes despite the University's recent success in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Good University Guide 2014, placing York 11th nationally in the overall league tables.

In total, 73.9 per cent of York students who responded said they were either in work or further study. This percentage placed York 29th out of 121 institutions in the UK that were ranked.

The data is based on the percentage of graduates in professional jobs or further study six months after graduation, according to the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, con-

ducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

A university spokesman said: "While 29th nationally is still not where we want to be, it represents a substantial improvement from last year."

"Also, in terms of number of graduates in any job we have outperformed many of the Russell Group (including Oxford, Imperial, UCL, Warwick) in the latest survey."

"A number of measures are already in place to secure further improvements including enhancing the Employability Tutorial which more than 50 per cent of students are already using; developing campaigns aimed specifically at year groups; offering more than twice as many internships as two years ago, with plans for more expansion and to market the scheme more clearly to students in the Summer term."

"We have introduced [...] 300 per cent increase in the number of

employers coming onto campus last year."

"More than 80 per cent of *The Times* Top 100 employers are now advertising vacancies on our system and more than half are now coming onto campus to deliver skills sessions/employer presentations etc., with plans in place to increase those numbers."

The University of York's Liz Smith, Director of Careers, told *Nouse*: "Although we've exceeded our targets, what we need to do is set ourselves some more that are equally ambitious. We want to be in the top 20 next year and the top 10 by 2015."

According to the careers department, currently around "60 per cent" of students use their flagship Employability Tutorial.

She added, "One of our big messages is, you can put all of this in place, but you've got to share this with us and you've got to take responsibility for developing your own employability."

"Then we can give you loads of help, but you've got to take that decision and make it happen."

Smith also acknowledged that the Careers Service must be careful not to switch off students "who aren't looking for the top corporate jobs."

Medicine was top of the table at York for graduate prospects at 97.8 per cent, followed by Nursing and Computer Science at 97.3 and 85.4



Swanning around

England's premier spin bowler, Graeme Swann, gave York's men's

cricket team a masterclass last week thanks to their sponsorship from Kingfisher Beer.

per cent respectively.

Chemistry, Economics, Law, Electronic Engineering, Politics, Social Work and Archaeology also made it into the top 10 courses at York for graduate prospects.

Smith explained that some employability on some courses suffered due to problems with work experience: "You're not likely to walk into an archaeology graduate job until you've done your bit out in the field and doing all of those things which are often voluntary, so given we do this survey after six months and the government prescribe that and we can't budge it, it's a bit early for that cohort."

"Psychology is another one; with psychology you need to be out there getting experience before you

can get into the types of jobs that will take you down towards chartered status, or again the media..."

The average salary for York graduates is currently at £19,638, however this varies from course to course. Students with Computer

Science, PPE or Economic degrees from York on average earned the most, with upwards of £25,000 starting salary.

Students with Science based degrees, such as Electronic Engineering and Physics, also ranked highly, with average earnings of £23,000 and £22,000 respectively six months after graduating.

Imperial College London topped the graduate prospects table, followed by Cambridge and the University of Bath respectively.

Breakdown by course (%)

Medicine	97.8
Nursing	97.3
Computer Science	85.4
Chemistry	83.5
Economics	83.4
Law	82
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	81.1
Politics	78.5
Social Work	77.8
Archaeology	77.7
Business Studies	76.5
Education	76.1
Mathematics	76
Physics and Astronomy	75.5
Music	72.3
Average Employability 74.4%	
<i>National Survey</i>	

York 'liked' twice as much as Durham

Sofia Geraghty
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has almost twice as many likes on Facebook and Twitter as league table rival Durham.

York's position in the social media standings was revealed in a study of the social media presence of universities up and down the UK.

The rankings, produced by UniPod.com, have placed York 39th overall in the country for its use of social media for marketing and brand strategy.

Figures from the survey were published on 20th September 2013 and recorded 17,155 Facebook likes and 20,714 Twitter followers. Since then figures have increased to 26,548 and 21,714 respectively.

YouTube figures were less impressive with only 749 subscribers. They were not the only University to fall short on YouTube subscribers, however.

Sunderland (just below York at 40th) had only 245 despite around 30,000 Facebook likes.

A spokesperson from the University said: "We have put in place a range of measures to enhance our engagement with social media."

"We employed a recent York graduate as an intern in the Communications Office from December 2012 - August 2013 principally to increase our social media presence."

"We saw a substantial increase in engagement during this period and continue to use the similar methods today and we are hoping to employ another intern in the coming academic year."

Scoring first and second in the survey were Oxford and Cambridge, however this is perhaps somewhat unsurprising given they are the most famous. Oxford was recorded as having 1,109,699 likes.

In terms of the country's other top universities, York did lag behind Exeter, LSE and Warwick (34th, 3rd and 17th).

Although performed much better than fellow Russell Group member, the University of Manchester, which was recorded as having only 12,600 Facebook likes and 2,971

Twitter followers.

David Nelkin, the Founder of UniPod.com noted the importance of using social media due to its low costs and international reach.

The University of York added: "Meanwhile, members of the Comms Office team monitor social media on a daily basis and our social media strategy group meets on a monthly basis to plan activity."

"We recruited a Head of Digital Marketing and Communications in June 2013 in recognition of the importance of digital communications, social media in particular."

"We are developing a social media strategy that not only covers social networks such as Facebook and Twitter but Chinese equivalents including RenRen and Weibo."

"There are 7,000 of our alumni on LinkedIn and we are also seeking to expand this network."

"We shall soon be rolling out our new website which will embed more social media throughout."

"Overall we aim to be agile in embracing new developments in social media."

First impressions

As the latest batch of students join the University, **Harry Gallivan** travels around campus to catch up with a few fresh faces.



What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
Nothing really, except some random guy asked where we were going

Emma and Maddie,
English Language/Environmental Science

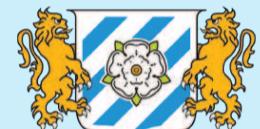
Did you facebook stalk your flatmates? Yes

Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
Yes please, I hate that song

Have you thought of joining any societies?
Maybe, I haven't really thought about it yet. Anything which will keep us exercising!

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No

What do you think of the STYC system?
Oh they're nice and helpful



What do you think of the STYC system?
They're very nice people

Where are you from?
Denmark

What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
Not sure! Probably you asking me funny questions

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
Isn't he the YUSU president?

Did you facebook stalk your flatmates?
Not too much, I tried not to

Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
Yes



Have you thought of joining any societies?
Yes, I'm quite into theatre, but I don't have much time

Oisin,
English Literature and Linguistics

Did you facebook stalk your flatmates?
A little bit, yeah!

What do you think of the STYC system?
Very helpful

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No

What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
At the top of my head, I'm not sure

Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
Don't know, I can see two sides to it. There's a lot of hype about it.



What do you think of the STYC system?
They are really friendly and helpful

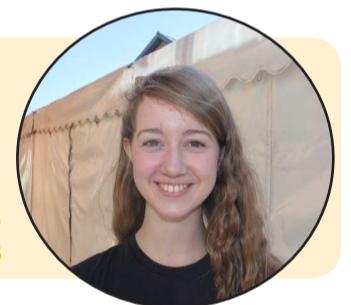
What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
Nothing, but I did see some furry mascots walking around

Have you thought of joining any societies?
I have a whole list, but I'm looking at the drama society

Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
Yes

Did you facebook stalk your flatmates?
Yes, but only found some on my course

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
He's the YUSU President



What do you think of the STYC system?
The STYC's have been in control and really friendly

Matt,
Psychology

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
I have no idea

What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
I've literally just got here, no one has said much

Did you facebook stalk your flatmates?
No

Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
Yes

Have you thought of joining any societies?
Yeah, athletics and hockey



What do you think of the STYC system?
They're friendly and helpful

Have you thought of joining any societies?
Not really, but I may apply to be a STYC next year

What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
Nothing so far

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
No

Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
No

Did you facebook stalk your flatmates?
No, but I did meet them yesterday

Louise,
Accounting and Business Management



Would you support the banning of *Blurred Lines* at York?
No

Do you know who Kallum Taylor is?
Yeah, the president of the student union

Did you facebook stalk your flatmates?
Yes I did

Have you thought of joining any societies?
I play floorball, it's kind of like hockey. I think they have it here.

What do you think of the STYC system?
They're good, they're helpful

What's the strangest thing someone's said to you today?
I haven't had any strange conversations





Comment

Holly Dale



The perversion of the freshers experience

Freshers' week is always a time of indulgence in many forms, but the pressure to be sexually active is too much.

My biggest worry about the rapidly approaching start of term is not the prospect of having to live with six complete strangers, nor is it the impending workload. It is not, even, the daunting prospect of having to navigate my way around a big new city. No, what is keeping me up at night is the unspoken expectation to copulate with one's fellow freshers.

With so much media hype around today regarding the subject of sex, it is almost as if there is an unspoken assumption that if you don't partake in such activities you are one of the minority or even abnormal. Everywhere we look we are bombarded with images of barely post-pubescent girls in little more than their underwear, arrogant musicians insisting they 'know you want it' and programs such as Skins glamorising the dangerous culture of drink, drugs and promiscuity.

The taboo around sex has largely dissolved in the last two generations, with even people's grandmothers jumping aboard the sexual-liberation train and indulging in the odd piece of erotic literature (note: I use the term 'literature' loosely) such as Fifty Shades of Grey. Channel 4 is even due to air a programme where couples have sex live on TV (granted they do so in an opaque box) before openly, and very publicly, discussing their intimate experiences before a panel of four 'sexperts' – and an entire studio audience. Even medical profession-

als are talking like a liberal sexual lifestyle is the expected thing, with endless NHS advertisements for free Chlamydia tests advertised at

“There is an unconscious belief that promiscuous living is the norm and this leads to pressure”

still-spotty adolescents.

In my first week of sixth form, for instance, I distinctly remember a desk set up in the foyer giving out pink pens advertising free tests for STIs. All you had to do was go to one of the college rooms on a Tuesday afternoon, provide a urine sample, and, whilst waiting for the all-clear, you could stock up on condoms to your heart's content. The two women at the desk, adorned with big smiles and information leaflets on what to do if you had itchy genitals, talked about this with an unsettling enthusiasm – as if we were all at it like rabbits.

Don't get me wrong; this willingness to talk about sex, in all its glory and shame, is certainly a good thing. It has led to easier access to sexual services and information for all kinds of people, young and old, and made sex feel like much less of

a big mystery to the inexperienced and curious teen. However, we must remember this increase in publicity is a double-edged sword: it creates an unconscious belief that promiscuous living is the norm and consequently pressurises young people to feel as if they must be more sexually active and/or adventurous.

University lifestyle is, nowadays, portrayed as one big party – the focus has been pulled away from the educational aspect and redirected itself much more onto the social side.

For the modern generation, bed-post notches are worn like badges of honour, hangovers with pride rather than shame, and promiscuous individuals are given hearty pats on the back by their giggling mates as last night's 'conquest' scurries down the hall back to wherever they

came from, with panda eyes and ripped tights. Freshers' week – with its incredibly cheap alcohol – only makes matters worse in terms of creating an atmosphere of expectation that undergraduates must act as recklessly as possible. In fact, the week seems to be little more than a justification for dressing up in skimpy outfits under the pretence of some not-overly-inventive theme, getting mindlessly drunk and parading around clubs with your assets on show as if you're part of some perverse pageant.

Perhaps this is something that we make a big deal out of but happens less than we think. But even if that is the case, there does seem to be a very real danger of our generation developing a rather perverted image of what real sexual relationships involve.



BRANDON SEAGER

Niall Whitehead



Treat the conspiracies with caution

Recent polls suggest that we all love a good conspiracy theory, but most of them seem like total nonsense.

Diana was shot by the third tower on the grassy knoll because we never went to the moon! Spread the word!

That's just a conspiracy theory I made up. But a couple more of them seem to have gained some prominence this week. According to recent YouGov polls, a surprising number of British people think Diana's death was an accident (41 per cent, with another 21 per cent in the "don't know" camp), while over in America 38 per cent of citizens doubt the government's account of 9/11. Another 10 per cent disbelieve it entirely.

In the latter case, the "smoking gun" is Building 7, a high-rise skyscraper 400m away from the Twin Towers, that collapsed shortly after they did. The way the building seems to collapse (symmetrically, in free-fall) looks remarkably like a controlled demolition. After seeing the video footage, the poll says, 46 per cent are sure or suspect it was

a controlled demolition that caused it, and then win a free tinfoil hat and a guide to using the word "sheeple".

But the video is obscured by smoke, and doesn't show the south side of the building. Falling debris made a hole in that side "20 stories tall", according to firefighters at the scene, who also report it was predicted the building was going to collapse early on.

With nothing fighting the office fires, the supporting girders expanded and fell out of place. While other nearer buildings didn't collapse, Building 7 also had 40 stories to support, making it the winner of the "Most Likely Building To Collapse If Destabilized" Award.

At any rate, NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology) wrote a report in 2008 saying much the same things, even explaining the symmetrical fall with the fact that the interior collapsed first, dragging the rest with it. They were immediately dismissed as

Bush-administration shills, and the theorists asked for another one.

We'll always have conspiracy theories. They can be fun to believe. You're not average. You've seen through the Matrix: above the brainwashed masses. You're in the club now. The TRUTH club! Besides, after finding out that your government lied about spending your money on second homes and has the NSA read your emails to check for terrorists, you tend to drift over to scepticism. That can be good, healthy levels of scepticism can uncover corruption and keep the system in check.

But blind scepticism can be as blinkered as blind optimism. Any conspiracy big enough to orchestrate 9/11 would have to be huge: for reference, just the NIST's attempt to study 9/11 needed help from four other agencies. This, at a time when lack of co-operation between government agencies could well have been partially to blame for 9/11 in

the first place (the CIA hiding two participating Al-Qaeda members so they could make them double-agents, for instance).

And everyone involved would need to be a-OK with the casual murder of a few thousand innocents, and no-one could make a mistake, and no-one would leak any information (this being the age of the expose of NSA spying-on-your-emails). Including the covert involvement of the media.

The BBC were in on it too, supposedly, and CNN. Because chances to break a story of government evil that'd make Watergate look like losing your keys just kind of bore journalists, honestly.

So like a bouncy castle, conspiracy theories are fun but usually pretty much hollow, and most of them tend to shrivel up in the end. Anyway, the chip in my head's beginning to buzz so I think that means we're starting up the New World Order. See you then.



Laura Hughes
Editor



Come dine with the VC

The VC's expenses cross a line, but his aren't the only accounts that need to be examined.

When it comes to the University racking up bills on the last Vice-Chancellor's credit card, student's perception of expenses claimed is more important than their perceived legitimacy. It's no bad thing the University's expenses are being sought out and held to account by students. When dozens of MPs misused their expenses, there was a natural public outcry; our own institutions' expenses matter to students.

It matters to students that the powers who govern us are transparent.

This University is not a business, and rising VC salaries and corporate confidentiality have not gone unnoticed. Whilst our lecturers debate income distribution and poverty rates in seminars on campus, someone was wining and dining in New York, slipping £474.90 on the Vice-Chancellor's credit card.

Last year the sum claimed by students in hardship funds has increased by a fifth to over £300,000, whilst a whopping £588.25 was spent at Murano's Michelin star restaurant in London.

A quick gander at the menu reveals that whilst students are subsisting on oat cakes, the University credit card is paying for someone's 'heavenly' chestnut parfait, and loin of pork 'braised in milk.'

Vice-Chancellors are increasingly leading universities' governing bodies as though they were chief executives of large corporate organisations.

But universities' identities are not 're-branded' in response to market positioning or key performance indicators.

When asked to comment, the University seemed unable to grasp, even now, that the claims made on the credit card have destroyed the institution's moral authority.

Yes the University needs investors, of course we have to schmooze and charm alumni and friends. The University is entitled to put flowers for the bereaved onto the credit card, but a large proportion of expenses claimed crossed a line; or

“The University seemed unable to grasp, even now, that the claims destroyed their moral authority”

rather drove over it in the University's E-Class Mercedes.

It is disingenuous to not admit that excesses have been claimed on the Vice-Chancellors credit card. The University should be run with the efficiency of a business, whilst management remembers that we students are souls and not stocks.

Our new VC should share sovereignty with his students. Spend the £2.7m projected net gain from raising tuition fees, on investing time and money in student job prospects.

Put the University's failure to miss its long term carbon emissions target back on the agenda.

They should ensure, for example, that our Postgrads are not the donkeys of the department when re-

source-based constraints force them to 'cut corners,' whilst the University attempts to cope with existing student numbers.

The University's response to our findings don't even attempt to defend spending priorities. Why do investors and friends of the University need hundreds of pounds worth of iTunes vouchers?

As a fresher, I had a utopian idea of universities as centres of political agitation.

Student's power is real but not always realised, and our Union and societies are also not exempt from criticism. We too have a duty to be honest about our expenses claims. *Nouse* cannot purport to be the student auditors, and just like other societies – must practice what we preach.

I don't necessarily believe that absolute power corrupts absolutely, but I am not sure it should fall on the discretion of the head of a society to decide.

Like our Student Union, societies should have their accounts published for the scrutiny of the student body.

On a very basic level we are running our own micro-enterprises, and it's all too tempting to cover the cost of booze on a night out with a legitimate claim.

Students feel detached from University management and these latest findings further erode our confidence in the institution that runs us.

If our new Vice-Chancellor wants to gain an empathetic perspective and gain our trust, I can only suggest he reaches out an arm earnestly across the abyss.

GTA backlash is boring now

Janis Hopkins



It's 5pm on a Saturday, and the last warmth of the late afternoon sun drifts down onto a young boy in a field. He is digging a trench with a plastic spade, and vegetables litter the grass around him. A cow stands a few metres away from him, watching passively.

A hundred metres away his parents stand on the doorstep watching him in concern. The wife turns to her husband and says "he's just not been the same recently. Why won't he play with his friends like a normal boy?". "It's been like this ever since we bought him that Farm Simulator computer game" he replies, sadness clouding his features.

"Curse you, *FarmSim2013!*" he howls at the sky, waving his first. "Curse you!"

The seasons pass, the leaves fall and grow again, the calendars are replaced and, like clockwork, we all get upset about a violent video game. Peter Hitchens comes flying out right on cue like a furiously conservative cuckoo clock and the same tedious debate arises about whether playing *GTA V* will really encourage teenagers to buy an Uzi and go mad in Primark (presumably tidying it up slightly in the process).

It's a narrative that's so well worn that it's beginning to fray at the seams but a good scare story always goes down well so once again it rears its stupid head.

Increasingly this is a generation reared on games. Most parents' early years were spent on a retro RPG called *Outside* but eventually even its top of the range graphics and super realistic sense of existential ennui was eclipsed by the ability to virtually run over prostitutes in fast cars and drive helicopters into buildings.

Video games tapped into a need for vicariously blowing things up usually only fulfilled by inept scientists and drone controllers. It's hard to know what people did to dissipate their explosive urges before GTA but the consistently falling murder rate would suggest it was actually killing people, and that's science.

Perhaps we're doing GTA an injustice, and instead of blaming it for being a bad influence we should be hailing it for ameliorating all the teenage aggression which would otherwise be taken out on smaller teenagers and neighbourhood cats. Without violent video games we'd be living in a society with no outlet. Maybe the banking crisis would have been averted if more bankers got all their greed out on Monopoly? A solid few months on Pong might have averted Tim Henman's career altogether, and we'd all be a lot happier for that.

All that's left is to convince the people behind GTA to rewrite their characters based on the novel suggestion that women are people too and we'll have an upstanding addition to society to be proud of, and not only an upstanding addition to society but one that really upsets Peter Hitchens. That's the dream.

Comment

Runner-up in Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2012



NOUSE
Est. 1964

Welcome Freshers

Thanks for picking up *Nouse* today, we hope you'll enjoy your read and that it will inspire you to join our society. *Nouse*, as I'm sure you will have heard by now, is the oldest society on campus. And in our humble opinion, one of the best. It's not just writers that we look for, we welcome cartoonists, photographers and those looking to take on a role in our editorial team, where there are around 60 positions up for grabs later this term. We produce a newspaper three times a term, contribute to a website everyday and send teams to London Fashion Week, restaurants, gigs and galleries. Our team is incredibly diverse, from all academic years, studying all subjects. We are run entirely by students, reporting the latest news from campus, cutting opinion, sports coverage, and commentary on arts, music, fashion, film and more. If it happens in York, we've got it covered, and the 15,000 students on campus want to hear what you've got to say about it. Anybody can get involved with *Nouse*. If you can string a sentence together, we'd like to have your name in print.

So, if you'd like to get involved, find us at the freshers fair, online (facebook, twitter, nouse.co.uk) or email our lovely editor, Laura (editor@nouse.co.uk)

A College too Far

Since Hes East's first student intake in 2009 maintaining the balance of student experience and resources between the two campuses has been recurring mis-managed. With plans after Constantine's construction to start work on a tenth college, serious thought must be given to the pressure on Hes West infrastructure. To be fair, there are plenty of blocks on Hes West that are in serious need of renovation - the notorious N block of James, for example. But if renovations mean tearing down parts of Derwent and replacing it with shiny new, expensive buildings, the options for cheap accommodation will shrink even further.

Finally there's the question of how York's social life is going to adapt to the prospect of a tenth college. Constantine makes sense, adding much needed collegiate diversity to Hes East. But the six colleges of the Hes West campus are pretty balanced right now, it seems pointless to add another college identity into the mix.

The road to Salvation?

At long last our first Wednesday night at Salvation approaches after the months of negotiations over contracts with YUSU and club managers. It's set to become a big night in the clubbing week, if not the biggest, but there are going to be a couple of hurdles to get over before club presidents and YUSU deal-brokers can pat themselves on the back. The committees have accepted the move and will be on a drive to create excitement and loyalty to the night amongst freshers and returning members. But there's no doubt that the Ziggy's faithful still exist.

They're out there - biding their time until next Wednesday when after their first discount double at Salvo they'll dash up the road into Mansion's familiar arms. We're not one to stop them going, but we've all got to remember that Wednesday nights aren't about Rumours, Ziggy's or anywhere else; they're about the teams, the players, the wins, the losses. We go out as a sports unit to share in our ups and downs. If people choose to split in a bid to draw the masses back up the hill then we'll spend the next term and a half with empty clubs - it's a lose-lose. But loyalty isn't the only thing that's required to make the Salvo night work. The new venue is much bigger than Mansion. If there's a quiet week at Salvo, it may be just that. Quiet. But so far the omens are good, with Salvation accommodating clubs' wishes, so we await the first night in eight days time with excitement.

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Make Gove to me

Mary O'Connor



In recent news, Michael Gove has landed a new job in addition to his government duties...that of Cupid. The education secretary has headed up a new initiative urging teenagers to stop 'sexting' and instead use poetry to express their hopelessly unruly passions with the help of a new app called 'The Love Book.'

If the title doesn't prove mortifying enough to the most hormone-ravaged teenagers (as a 'mature' 21 year old, I find it difficult to listen to anything by Boyz II men without feeling nauseous), the fact that the fogey-ish Gove is trying to play matchmaker will spell a quick death for this new wave of odd parental intervention. It conjures disturbing images of Mr Gove 'gracefully' expressing his love for wife Sarah, through the presentation of some illuminated manuscript, which is ever so slightly out of step with the modern young person.

The problem lies with the way in which 'sexting' is portrayed by

'concerned' adults. While sending sexually explicit content to others can be open to abuse (which must be dealt with accordingly) there are positive connotations to young people exploring and experimenting with their sexuality.

With the ubiquity of smart phones, 'sexting' has ballooned internationally, and is very much in the public eye, with celebrities like Vanessa Hudgens and Miley Cyrus being caught sending filthy snaps.

Studies into sexual behaviour and social media conducted by the American Journal of Family Planning echo the prominence of the practice, citing 54 per cent of a study sample of adult couples had sent sexually explicit pictures or videos to their partners at least once, and one third of their sample had engaged in such activities occasionally.

Such results indicate that there are significant benefits from engaging in the practice, predominantly the cementing of relationships and for young people especially, ascer-

taining one's own sexual identity.

For this reason, Gove's pitifully hopeful attempt at stemming this ingrained culture through the power of poetry seems to miss the point entirely. Introducing more poetry into schools is a vital necessity for improving the oral and written communication of students, but it will do little to ameliorate their romantic prospects, or better their understanding of the reality of sexual relationships.

Teenagers are a devious and questioning breed of human and will naturally stumble upon some of our nation's best filthy lyricists - John Donne especially. What does Mr Gove propose to do when this happens? Censor any form of lewd limerick? Stifle the sexy sonnet?

Instead of adopting this two-birds-one-stone approach, the education secretary should appreciate the literacy merits his poetry initiative has, and not try to mould it to 'solve' another completely removed from the first one.

With the rise of 'sexting', it needs to be tempered with sex education in schools that encourages dialogue with teachers and students about appropriate ways in which sexuality can be explored and expressed without abusing or becoming a victim of abuse as a result.

Although optimistic, sending love poems to your amour (if we consider the culture with teenagers in the UK) will not stem the abusive culture of sexually explicit material, but rather encourage a contempt for the valid educational aims that Mr Gove is trying to achieve with this proposed scheme.

George Wood

Deputy Comment Editor



Cobble confusion

Removing the cobbles as part of the Council's Kings Square improvements comes with a hefty price tag.

Much furore has been raised over the City of York Council's diabolical plans to revamp the King's Square public space, namely the ripping up of the historic cobbles leading up to York's most-treasured street, The Shambles.

But unless "historic" means 1970s, there's not much heritage to be found in these stones - certainly nothing medieval.

With that, on top of the confusion in thinking The Shambles itself was in danger of being re-paved, it seems most of the anger that has been vented recently is based on misinformation and instant reaction.

Even so, there are several reasons why the council's plans shouldn't go through.

For one, those cobbles are pretty authentic, fitting into that whimsical, Hogwarts-esque allure which made many a student or tourist choose to come to York. Our city is loved for its quaint streets and picturesque alleyways; adding splashes

of grey concrete would take something away from this image.

However, it's the £490,000 price tag attached to the council's proposals that's the real kicker. The council's recent financial forecast for 2013/14 warns of multimillion pound overspend, and at a time of national austerity, should these "improvements" really be something of the council's considerations?

The council sees their investments in King's Square, which are a part of their £3.3 million Reinvigorate York scheme, as necessary to improve pedestrian access. York's residents disagree.

Wheelchair user, Michelle Wyatt has started a petition against the refurbishment, arguing that she has been travelling between the Shambles and King's Square over the past 17 years with sufficient access: "You simply followed the paving path next to the cobbles... This area doesn't need new paving stones - just the current stones adjusting with a spirit level."

"The reason it doesn't need reinvigorating is that the tourists come to see the cobbles, the history. They are killing our source of strength

not invigorating us." Wyatt's comments herald common sense; while change shouldn't be resisted for the sake of change, one of the council's top priorities should be to preserve the charm that makes York such a popular tourist destination in the first place. Investments that contradict this goal are poor ones.

Plus, modern paving is the ultimate embodiment of blandness when it comes to town planning.

As Wyatt mentions, councils are under pressure to keep health and safety up to scratch, but there's a certain irony to be found in calling such a scheme "Reinvigorate York" when the city's being reduced to look like any other.

Unfortunately Wyatt's efforts may not amount to anything; the consultation period passed long ago, before the scheme was agreed. If we can't save our cobbles, perhaps we should learn a lesson about town planning and pay more attention to future schemes put forward by the council.

Hopefully further developments in the Reinvigorate York initiative won't be met with as much distaste.



Fiona Parker

Taking credit for hardship funds

When I was a little girl I was obsessed with stickers. I was not particularly fussed about colour, shape or size. Birthdays, Christmases and pieces of homework would each bring a yield of new additions to my collection. However, my favourite source through which I yielded was undoubtedly through charity collection.

“It is very easy to be generous with other people’s money”

I must admit, I got a real thrill from letting a single pound coin fall from my hand and into a plastic container. All day I would strut around the school showing off the sticker that branded me as a better person.

It is very easy to be generous with other people's money. The pound coins I had been generously offering up were in fact my mother's, and, unsurprisingly, I am far less frequently seen with as many decorations on my coat nowadays.

The fact that a fifth more applicants for hardship funds are now being accepted, can, in my opinion, only ever be good news. Money granted to students through this system funds the bare essentials of student life for those who would be unable to finance them through any other method. Students in need of financial support for childcare, gas bills and dyslexia tests which usually set you back £300, can apply for

funds through the University.

Those who are given priority when applying for the Fund include single parents, those who have arrived at university from Care and disabled students who, due to their disability, are unable to earn money through part-time work.

Considering this year, around two thirds of us currently studying will be paying £27,000 for a three year course in tuition fees alone, the £300,000 claimed through the hardship funds system would hardly appear to be blowing the budget.

When this figure is further broken down into the three sources through which the funds are granted, we can better analyse just how much of their own money the University is putting into the system. In 2012/13 £168,180.33, well over half of the money granted through the York Hardship system, was provided through the Access to learning Fund (ALF).

Any money claimed through the ALF is money provided directly by the government and given to individual institutions who can distribute the money through the Hardship scheme as they see fit.

Funding which came directly out of the University's pocket last year included the very fairly meagre £54,668.51 which came out of the University's International Student Hardship Fund. The international student community supposedly make up 23 per cent of the student population and many of whom are not granted access to the ALF. The 2012 fund, created supposedly to combat the fee rise fallout, donated £69,395.65 to the fund. This is the

below the cost of three sets of tuition fees.

Therefore, although I must congratulate the University on the increase of hardship funds granted, with 291 applications made and 230

“There are still students who are in genuine need of support and who need the University to assist them”

grants given last year, I would think that there are still students who are in genuine need of support and who deserve the University to assist them. It is uncertain how long the

University can rely on the ALF. The Government's fund has shrunk significantly and, in April 2012, it was reported that the budget had seen a 40 per cent cut over the past six years.

The University need to start investing more of their own money into the scheme, particularly for the sake of the international student community, who rarely have access to the ALF.

Yes, there are more successful applicants, but undoubtedly, as we reflect on the year that marks the beginning of a new and highly costly era of private education, there were almost certainly more applicants. For this reason I don't think the University deserves an "excellent" sticker just yet. Instead I will congratulate it on their efforts by writing in green pen "Good work", but I'll also ensure that I follow it with a dash and a reflective, "Must try harder!"



KATE MITCHELL



Gary Holland

Comment Editor

Challenging our culture of careerism

A recent Spectator article written by Anthony Seldon claims that British universities have some work to do if they want to be the best option for the majority of sixth-form students.

Seldon argues this is because most students see education simply as a means to employment, and university tutors—what with their penchant for high-flown discussion of abstract concepts rather than the real-world applications of their subjects—don't produce the kind of well-rounded graduates that are suited to a life of employment.

Seldon's approach to solving the disparity between what students want and what students get is to change universities.

Change the whole culture of higher education so that it better suits the salary-obsessed mentality of today's sixth-formers. It's true that higher education is seen as a tool for securing a "decent job"—as a philosophy student I'm regularly asked why I'd bother with a degree that doesn't plant me firmly at the beginning of a lucrative career path.

And here's the answer that I give: I really like philosophy.

“Most students see education simply as a means to employment”

And the career you end up with is all too often how your success in life is measured. This isn't necessarily to say that your achievements are judged in monetary terms, though.

Today's society romanticizes the individual who pursues a career that they have a real passion for but that doesn't pay much.

The struggling musician, actor, or comedian even is a shining example of someone with their priorities sorted. They aren't valuing a steady income above their passions and we all tip our hats to them for it.

But it's still the career we're judging them for. The middle-aged insurance salesman who plays the

bass in a band with some high school friends every Thursday night—perhaps practicing then because that's when his wife is out at bingo—is not such a enticing role model.

Perhaps, you might say, he hasn't given his all. He hasn't put everything he possibly could into playing the bass. If his priorities were truly in order then he'd play tiny unknown gig after tiny unknown gig until his band finally got its Big Break, and the only reason he'd have anything to do with an insurance broker would be to take out a policy on his fretting hand.

But this betrays a bizarre perception that also being your career makes your hobby or your passion more valuable. What is the intrinsic value of careerism exactly?

I have no plans to pursue a career in academic philosophy, but I also have no plans to stop reading or writing about it. Is the worth of my interest so diminished by its lack of financial compensation?

I love my degree and the high-flown debates about abstract concepts. I read a six-page paper on whether two distinct objects can exist in the same place at the same

time last year (spoilers: they totally can!) and I bloody loved it. Having read it, it won't prepare me for the workplace, but I'm glad I did it.

Not everyone's ambitions take the form of future careers and that's fine. Kids shouldn't be taught that they ought to.

I think Seldon is right about what most sixth-form students want, but I'm not sure he's questioned whether they want it for the right reasons.

“Not everyone's ambitions take the form of a career”

Perhaps there's an argument that anything that costs £9,000 per year for three years can only be justified by the promise of future financial compensation.

But bear this in mind: I'm paying nothing back until I'm earning £21,000. If Seldon and his sixth-form students are right about my career prospects, the joke's on them, because I'm indulging my interest in philosophy for free!

A STYC situation

Ellie Rice

Deputy Comment Editor



Imagine being alone in an unfamiliar city, far too drunk to know which ways what, or to text an SOS coherently... And then your guardian angel appears, guiding you reassuringly towards your new friends.

Alternatively, they could just be a bit too busy catching up with old friends to notice which of their fresher's is where. This is a situation many freshers may find themselves in this week, STYCs are meant to play the role of guardian angel, but all too often they fall to the dark side.

STYCs have lost their purpose at this university and it's time we considered creating a new system, one which allows freshers far more freedom. I propose we eradicate STYCs.

There certainly are pros and cons to having non-freshers at Fresher's Week events, but I think we'd do well to let new students bond between themselves during their first week at university as much as possible.

They're young adults who don't need to be directed at every turn, half of them have travelled the world, York is not a big problem for them.

The first older students the fresher's tend to get to know are their STYCS and they do admittedly serve a purpose, but only on paper. I know of very few people who signed up for the role with the sole intention of protecting and guiding their freshers. And I'm sure you can also think of very few who did it for the right reasons.

We do it to get drunk and seem like the big guys, it's a shame, but it is true. Furthermore, there's no effective way to police STYCs once they are with their freshers; head STYCs can only go so far, the STYClets are unlikely to complain.

The solution could be to ban everyone else (aside from STYCs) from attending the fresher events; this at least limits the potential problems and would help STYCs focus on the role they signed up for.

However, not only is this nearly impossible to police, but the colleges would struggle to get enough STYCs if they said they were the only people allowed out.

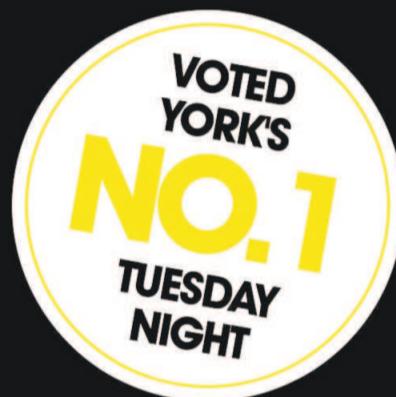
Who wants to risk spending a week with people who you possibly won't get on with and who will only see you at your most embarrassingly drunk?

I do appreciate the benefits of breaking down the boundaries between the year groups. However, the majority of friends you make outside your year group tend to be created through mutual interests in a sport or society, not because they were randomly assigned to run pre-drinks at your house.

They will be able to form stronger bonds by exploring their new city with a sense of adventure, not just being told by their STYCs go to X but not Y. Sure, they are bound to make some mistakes, but ultimately it's a great story to tell, and a good way to really get to know someone, which is the purpose of Fresher's week.



YORK UNI'S OFFICIAL TUESDAY NIGHT DESTINATION



TUE 1ST OCT:
TUE 8TH OCT:
TUE 15TH OCT:
TUE 22ND OCT:
TUE 29TH OCT:
TUE 5TH NOV:
TUE 12TH NOV:
TUE 19TH NOV:
TUE 26TH NOV:
TUE 3RD DEC:

HUGE FRESHERS WELCOME PARTY
SCHOOL DISCO & HOT HOT HOT TUB PARTY!
THAI FULL MOON UV PARTY
TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY
HALLOWEEN MONSTER RAVE
YORK BONFIRE NIGHT OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY
GIANT HARIBO CANNON
MOVEMBER CHARITY TASH RAVE
HUGE END OF TERM PARTY P1
END OF TERM KISSMAS PARTY

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'Kiss my ass, Häagen Daz'

Ice cream made of human breast milk, holy water and viagra? We meet the Icecreamists.



**'My two years of
National Service'**

**The Art of
Sleeping Alone**

**Music Interview:
Sub Focus**



M5. The **Elle France editor** went celibate for 12 years. She tells **Fiona Parker** why sex isn't for everyone.

Arts.

M7. Artist **Saba Barnard** paints the vibrant faces of Muslim women colouring the veil debate.

M9. Bond is back, in the imagination of fanboy **William Boyd**. **Emily Ross** reviews.

Fashion.

M10. India Block chats to online **Editor of UK Vogue** about getting the brand online, and the shows to look out for in A/W'14

Poppy Bullard

Anthem 4 Doom3d Yoof

Lovingly borrowed from Wilfred Owen

What sorrowed sighs for those who drink as alcoholics?
Only the fleeting comfort of the toilet bowl.
Only the brief euphoria of the frolic
Can fill the sunken drunkards hole.
No personal statements now for them, no merits nor A*'s
Nor any hope of extra-curricular accreditation -
Only a rum be-spattered deck of cards;
To honour their demise; their degradation.
What lights guide them on toward their final sojourn,
No more in the library, but in Salvation hence
Shall the glory of their doom commence.
The recklessness of the first fresher morn.

They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old,
But forever remain; a creature of the night.
Not in splendour decked, but painted gold;
C3PO a bittersweet testament to their fancy-dress might.
So they lie where they fall; in Coney Street gutters
To the ears of no congregation, only the bouncer's mutters.
In better times we can but try to impart our knowledge
When, soft, the dawn breaks upon that mourning college.

M12. **Yu Neng** spent two years in the Singaporean army on National Service. We find out what it takes to train to be a jungle fighter.

Music.

M21. **Tegan and Sara** don't really like working together so a co-written album is a miracle, as **Francesca Donovan** finds out.

M20. The music team preview the official Freshers' Ball, **Live and Loud**.

Film.

M25. **Alfie Packham** looks ahead to **Harry Potter** spin-off **Fantastic Beasts**, and asks whether Rowling's inclusion bodes well.

M18. Breast milk ice cream marketed as Lady GooGoo? **Charlotte Wainright** finds out more.

Food & Drink.

M26. We've binged to bring you the definitive guide to York's take-aways. **Helena Parker**'s waistline may never be the same again.

M27. Get ready to crumble as **Sunaina Suri** brings you a twist on the classic apple crumble.

Image Credits.

Cover and above right: Courtesy of Matt O'Connor
M2 and M6: Courtesy of Sophie Fontanel; M3: Courtesy of Shirley Eaton; M5: Marianne.d

CARTOON BY BRANDON SEAGER





Shirley Eaton

Bond Girl, *Goldfinger*.

My greatest fear is to have an illness where I would be left paralysed, could not communicate and would never be independent again.

I worry that technology will take over our lives completely, as it has been doing with its rapid growth - a frightening, almost anti-human pace.

The best thing about being in my seventies is to feel young in spirit and heart, to be grateful for a blessed life so far, and to be utterly myself and not to worry about what other people think and trust my own judgment. I love the fact that I have seventy six years experience of life behind me.

Bond wouldn't be Bond if film-goers didn't need fantasy in their lives.

Young people should learn to have courage in all things and try to be caring to all people with confidence but humility. Follow your dreams with those attributes! Remember experience is the font of all knowledge. Always listen to others as well as airing your own opinions!

I love swimming naked in the warm Mediter-

ranean sea. But I also love seeing my two sons and five grandchildren, being loved and loving the man in my life, painting or photography when I feel something else has taken over, listening to music and getting lost in it.

A song I'm particularly connected to is "How Deep is the Ocean" because I was singing it on the stage when I first met my husband when I was nineteen. It was the first time he had seen me perform. Then because of its meaning I sang it to my husband on his death bed.

There is nothing I would change about my life. That may seem arrogant, however I am stuck with me and my life and I love it.

I've come close to death. It was a near fatal car accident on my honey moon. If I had been driving my husband and I would have died, thankfully he was driving at the time and accelerated past the lorry, where I would have stepped on the breaks and we would have gone crashing into its side.

Bond wouldn't be Bond if all those film goers out there, rich or poor, didn't need some fantasy in their lives, be it the fantasy all the men want and some women too, Bond would never have become so iconic.

The last Bond "Skyfall" wasn't like the old Bond. Fans tell me the first seven films with Sean Connery were the real "Fantasy Bond".

Interview by Fiona Parker. The review of the latest Bond book, by William Boyd can be found on M9

Tom Witherow

Battling the Freshers Haters

Aged beings (yours truly included) can get a bit twitchy as this time of year. The fresher invasion make me feel like a haggard old grandfather bored stiff of his duties of care to the little brutes that he has to call his grandchildren.

First is all that 'fun' they're having, loaded up months in advance and forced upon them by grinning union officers in need of a good shag to put a lid on all that excess energy. Nobody has 'so much fun' in the way that a fresher does - how did we look upon the Willow queue as a thing of such joy in my early months? How did I wear Moroccan harem pants and tell my critics that I looked 'ream' (means cool in 'Essex') and that they really didn't understand? A crotch that low is never a good look.

Fancy dress is an embodiment of this inexhaustible drive for the F-word, but it rarely ends well. An unfortunate friend of mine woke up in a strange bed wondering why the sheets were red, only to remember that he'd been unfortunate enough to make love to a burgundy-hued M&M.

Freshers being the age of our little siblings, is number two on the hit list. How are we meant to take them seriously when they're the same age as our little sister, who only three years ago left the house in 'make-up' and got picked up by the police on accusations of prostitution?

Número trio isn't exactly the fault of the freshers, but pansying around the eggshells of the welfare brigade is enough to frustrate even the most conscientious Feminist Society panderer.

Last year, I sat around in a circle of head-STYC's (who were almost all JCR committee members) as we decided whether a naughty little parent (female, before you ask) should have her fresher's wrist band 'cut'. The mood was solemn, as the case was weighed - the JCRC Welfare Vice-Chair presiding over the intense discussion. "I saw her buying the fresher vodka" is met with sharp intakes of breath; "I think they may have taken a taxi together" sees the slow shaking of heads. And then the vote. The decision. IT WILL BE CUT. The jury rose - assured in their duty of justice, their sense of power and self-aggrandisement - and walked like a funeral procession leading said girl to the gallows.

But fear not freshers. Freshers Haters will always be Hatin' as I believe the expression goes (and if not, it does now). It's Freshers' Week. There are no bed times, no parents, no vegetables. And to top it off you've got a quota of at least 20 photos of you passed out with your head in a piss-filled urinal before your housemates start asking questions.

Slag 'n' Drag is gone. Robin Thicke is being banned by unions across the country. The very hand that once dolled out fun

by the YUSU welcome pack-load (even of the 'organised-not-spontaneous-and-so-not-that-fun' variety) is withering. And you fresher reader must thwart them. S'n'D might be a grim prospect, but CabaretD just gives us boys an excuse to pop a white shirt and braces on. What do the girls have to wear? Oh wait... Still not much.

At the end of this year you too will have to endure the freezing cold of pseudo-middle-class perjury (it doesn't feel like an Indian summer in my bedroom). You too will bore of Kuda and its queues, swelled by the latest influx of excited little freshers, until you also form up in front Bangers and Mash, a house night so achingly impoverish-chic they might as well have called it *House and Hummus*.

So go forth fresher, and when York veterans sneer down their noses, long denied their sense of smell by the Ziggy's toilets, you can tell them that you've got big plans for Fun.

You're going to dress as a slutty Moroccan Lawrence of Arabia, get with your STYC in the Willow queue before returning to your over-heated flat in the Boulevard to sleep before you go out tomorrow night. They will have little to say, except perhaps, through clammy hands and shaking rage: "I... library...dissertation... destitution..."



Mary O'Connor: Downton and my Fresher respite

After speaking to a handful of traumatised friends after their first night with the darling new arrivals, you'd think a ritual sacrifice had taken place. With profuse sweating, dilated pupils and a bewildering trepidation they divulged their tales of woe. Freshers are characterised, I came to learn, by one or all of the following three things.

A) They moan more than Jenna Jameson - "Mummy didn't send me money to go on the lash with." All of these comments are anathema to a third year who has a partially functioning liver, is surviving day-to-day on diet cokes; and faces the small challenge of completing finals with a decent enough degree to avoid destitution. B) They display behaviour resembling the antics of a group of drunken clowns at a divorce hearing. In the bizarre no man's land between funny and angry, this common species go from sharing good natured anecdotes about the 'shire' and 'gap yahs', to transforming into these putrid individuals who vainly attempt to threaten the towering door staff. C) Their sex drive and apparent experience makes Hugh Hefner look frigid. I was fortunate enough to have one upstanding young man remark: "there are so many new people to meet. And to f**k!" Cretin.

So I have decided to wait out the winter from this rambunctious lot of degenerates by watching 'the box', 'the telly' or, to you and me, the TV. Thus far in my university career, I have been far from a fanatic in this field, so learning the ways of the box will be something of a new venture. So far, it has been a very enlightening experience. Two programmes that I have been following with interest are *Downton Abbey* and *The Chicken Shop*. They're hardly in the same category, but some surprising parallels have emerged. Whilst Hugh Bonneville's Lord Grantham hunts fowl and other game, the Chicken Shop boys coat it in breadcrumbs. Now that

Lady Edith sports a far more provocative wardrobe, she is only a hop, skip and a jump away from the clientele of the Chicken establishment, with laddered tights and broken Primark heels.

How could anything be better than Twitter parody 'O'Brien's Bangs' commenting on the Havisham-esque descent of Downton's Lady Mary? *The Chicken Shop* offered a close rival: Local transvestite 'Jessie' chastises a girl sat in the chicken shop for not wearing 'nice, colourful clothes' whilst sitting with legs unshaved in a soiled fuchsia miniskirt. But as time went on, a change began to occur. Like a mother who conceals the fact that she really prefers child A, to the little shit, child B, I too began harbouring a preference for one of the two - the greasy goodness of the chicken shop. And this, gentleman of the jury, is where I believe it all starting falling apart. In watching the colourful punters of this establishment, I came to realise that they weren't so different from the freshers I had fled from - "So I'm pan sexual. Yeah, it's this new cool term when you f**k everyone." And so I was bitten once more. And last night I found myself walking down a residential area in a dalmatian onesie. If you can't beat them, then joining them seems the only sensible thing to do.



GOING UP...

Jumpers. The temperature's dropping and we're doing a little jig inside. Freshers who don't like winter sort it out - Purple Haze do the cheapest and the thickest knits to survive the Yorkshire cool.



Zara. It is just everywhere. Blazers, jeans and shirts for the boys, jewellery, blouses and handbags for the girls. Go there (once your loan's in).

Netflix. Clearly the basis of all modern relationships. We know it costs money, but how many times are you actually going to hunt down all those infuriating pop-up Xs and wait for buffering before you realise that 6 quid a month is fuck all for guaranteed TV.



Mug Cakes. Cupcakes, loafs, parkins etc. We don't have time - it's all about microwave cakes in a mug now. Decadent chocolatey sludge in under 5 minutes. Win.

Go Pros. The latest in 'do awesome sports and make a video about it' tech. Strap it to a helmet, your boot, or its remote 'arm' and bang some M83 over the top for summer holiday memory goodness.



Fluorescent shit. It's everywhere and it screams, 'please let me into your hipster party'. Noone wants to go to the hipster party. Don't buy it.

Jessie J. The new track doesn't quite hit the spot. She used to sing about mandems, which are now painfully lacking. We demand more mandems.



Value spirits. Freshers listen: It is worth the extra £3 to stop the rotting of your soul (liver).

GTA V Haters. The Rockstar team have smashed it. Satirical, endlessly detailed, and has absolutely zero impact on violent crime... And we'll samurai anyone who says otherwise.



Miley Cyrus. If we see a picture of Miley Cyrus's tummy, her tongue, or the look on her face as she is all but penetrated by Robin Thicke again, we may be forced into an angry tweet (or whatever modern protest consists of now).

Banning songs. Since when did lefty student unions become North Korea. YUSU, don't go there.

GOING DOWN...



CREDIT: FRANCESCA BUTCHER

Spotted... on Spotted This week: Leeds Festival 2013

Spotted: Leeds Festival 2013
4 September

Shout out to the guy who had his bag checked at security and the security women finding two hot roast chickens and some Yorkshire pudding mix!! Haha

Like · Comment · Share

211 people like this.

Top Comments ▾

Spotted: Leeds Festival 2013
12 September

To the guy near yellow camp that had to watch me take shit from the rear end, because of the light reflections at the bottom of the bogs... I am so sorry

Like · Comment · Share

16 people like this.

Top Comments ▾

Keen bean festivalling, Yorkshire style. We can't overstate our respect for this. Certainly beats shoving a beer down your crotch and claiming...

"Shatter the reflection with a well aimed piss" said one commenter. Probably sums up festival problems - if it's annoying you, piss on it.

Features.



The Joy Of No Sex

You're 18, you're a fresher at York and you're being told that the next three years are all about the sack. The Editor of *ELLE* France teaches Fiona Parker about the art of sleeping alone.

We are obsessed with sex. Through printed and online media, fiction, documentary and pornography, almost every taboo has been broken. The message is clear, in order to fully understand the act and subsequently to perform to the best of our abilities we must see, touch and shag everything as frequently as our busy lives will allow.

Whoever should dare to suggest an alternative curriculum to learning about sex beyond immersing ourselves in every aspect of it will be laughed out of the room. Sophie Fontanel's self-taught method of understanding sex is even more shocking than bondage, asphyxiation or anything that can be conceivably performed by feet.

The final taboo is abstinence. And Sophie has practised it for 12 years.

At the age of 27, the Editor-at-Large of *ELLE France* came to the conclusion that she was tired of being, as she phrases it, "taken and shaken". *The Art of Sleeping Alone* is the novella that documents the next twelve years which were to follow. Fontanel summarises: "It's the story of a woman who realised that her sexual life was absurd. She decides to give up sex and wait for a real miracle."

Fontanel, like many others, is fascinated by sex. It was this inborn curiosity, she claims, that led her early adolescent self to the hotel room of a 27-year-old "honey-tongued" tourist from Mexico. "I began very young, too young, just because I was so interested by THE THING. I was 13 years old, with boobs and a beautiful body. I used to wear mini-shorts and Santiags, whilst lying about my age to get into nightclubs. I'd met a man in Paris, a tourist, a handsome and green-eyed Mexican. I asked to visit his hotel room, which I did. I wanted to fully understand what THE THING was. He pulled off his pants. I was fascinated by the details of his body..."

Thus Sophie began her sex life and continued to explore the secrets of what she had once referred to as "the hidden part of life". At twenty, she had her first serious boyfriend. "He glorified in putting me through my paces: it fed his pride. He had taken to striding around his apartment like a king." She recalls another sexual encounter: "I was in a bed with a man, who was telling me how together, we were such erotic lovers. I was thinking, 'He's a fool!' I was not so happy with what we were doing. But I kept silent. I kept the silence for God's sake!"

It was not long before Sophie began to question what she was getting out of her sex life. I wanted to know what prompted her drastic decision. "I was disappointed", she told me "not because of a lack of desire on my part, nor a lack of pleasure, but I was disappointed with all the boring aspects of the routine. I wanted to recover a true freedom."

Fontanel's new lifestyle was something that her friends

found very difficult to comprehend. For them, Sophie had given up something quantifiable, and they frequently used the phrase "having nothing" to describe her abstinence. "Nobody understood. For them, it was like a waste of time. I was losing my youth and very soon I would be an old woman with NOTHING. They tried to organise some dates for me, they even tried to convince me that I was a lesbian. One even asked me, "Why don't you marry GOD, if you don't make love?"

As Sophie distanced herself from the sexual world, she began to consider the privileged view of the outsider. Sex, for her, is not simply a physical act, "improved" by repetitive and devoted "practice". "Our society has made a too huge simplification," she explains, "if sex is everywhere, it doesn't mean we have to practise the act itself so often. Sometimes sex is just a dream, and it's a good thing. Sometimes sex is just a neck, a smile, a song. Sex is not only a sport!"

But what Fontanel was referring to at this point, were the connotations and unbreakable bonds which the physical act has with the non-physical. For many of us, sex is not simply a pastime, but a way of bonding and connecting with someone that no other act can surpass. I speak in clichés, of course, but

so many words have been written on the subject that it is hard to come up with anything original. But for Fontanel, giving too much to someone else, can sometimes cause us to inadvertently forget ourselves in the act.

"You know, I have spent so much time alone, with no sexual activity, I can tell you that without sexual activity you forget something about how the Other is important, his presence and his body. But when you're alone, you never forget yourself, you never lose your head or your mind. Only good sex can free your mind like that. That's a treasure. But it is so rare." As she wakes from something of a reverie, urgent advice bursts forth. "You young people need to learn to listen to your bodies. You must do that even before you listen to your best friends."

But what does Sophie think about the sex lives of students? Each year Studentbeans relies entirely on the honesty of a sample of students from each institution across the country, in order to rank the UK's universities by the average number of sexual partners a student can expect to have throughout their course. Here, is one league table where Oxford fails to make the top ten, coming in at 33. However, before we get too pleased with ourselves, I should mention that York comes in at

a fairly mediocre 42nd place, with 3.88 partners to be expected on average – whether to round that figure up or down is a decision I shall leave to the individual.

I asked Sophie why she thought, aside from the obvious hormonal urges, we viewed sex as such a crucial part of our education, alongside our bachelor honours. "You're so used to learning things, that it's easy for you to think that sex can be learnt. You are in a scholarly mind set. But sex is not something to be learned in the same way. It's a softness and a wildness we all have inside of us. We have to learn how to trust and be honest with ourselves, while of course, respecting the Other."

For Sophie, our culture places too much emphasis on the physical "losing of virginity" as a rite of passage into adulthood. "But if we just say that sex is a step, it is stupid," she retaliates, "We are sexual from our childhood. We contain the whole thing." Sophie tells me that many of her early sexual experiences lacked the fulfilment she would gain in her later years, arguing that doing does not equate to fully understanding and having the best sex.

"I went to university for four years. History of language,

"I remember on several occasions, making love without really being there, just because everybody else was doing the same."

sex and love were my obsessions. But many other things such as film, dance, philosophy, soul, clothes, and friendship were all leading to the same hope - to feel the GREAT DAMNED THING. It's the same everywhere. I understand perfectly that sex is often the main thing on a young person's mind. But because it is so important, we have to treat ourselves well. I remember several occasions, when I was a teenager, making love without really being there, just because everybody else was doing the same."

I am conscious of one obvious factor which may cause our conversation to be less credible. We are both women. Yes, there are numerous women across the world who would report a sex drive to rival, and furthermore put to shame, the desires of their male friends. However, on average the majority of scientific experiments and social surveys point to the female as the less sexually driven sex. Did this alleged gender difference show itself in the response to her book?

"After my book was published in France, a lot of men began to write to me, and tell me that sex was not an obvious and regular thing for them. There is a real taboo concerning this question, no?"

What this all seems to suggest, is that the decision to abstain from sex should not concern gender, age, exposure to a sexualised media or even the people you might sleep with. As long we have consenting partners, we must remember that the final say lies with ourselves and not with the society which we may feel demands us to jump into bed. Fontanel felt she had to abstain from sex in order to find the strength to be this honest with herself.

Desire, for Sophie, is "natural", "But is it natural to be taken and shaken while all that you want is to be charmed by an inexplicable mystery? Good sex is good for health, oh yes. Bad or boring sex is not." But this doesn't mean that we can't learn to satisfy these desires ourselves. Sophie tells me that masturbation is, in her opinion, "universal", but she was purposefully discrete about the subject in her book. It is a very personal matter. "The pleasure you give to yourself is important," she declares.

So if we like having sex and if we find it fulfilling and life-enhancing, should we stop? "If you receive pleasure, if it makes you happy, well, enjoy, you lucky people! But if you feel that there is something wrong or untrue in your attitude, you must know that you have the possibility, among all the possibilities, to make a break. Of course, sex is not the same thing for you and me. For me, due to my beginnings in sexual life, sex was the place where I was telling lies. For other people, sex is the only place where they are truly themselves."

The Art of Sleeping Alone is an important read for anyone, because in one way or another, most of us have a relationship with sex which few of us have taken an outsider's perspective on. Sophie often asks herself whether she was ever happier than during her first few months of abstinence. In an attempt to "treat" her body after the "rough treatment" she had put it through by "forgetting about herself". She took lavender milk baths and felt "some divinity rejoicing" for her. Her ex-lover remarked on her radiant skin, confident posture and was prompted to tempt her into confessing the only possible explanation – that she was in love. "If sex liberates you if it's an amazing thing," she pauses, "if not, it's just another jail." M



ARTS.

'Don't define me by the veil'

Saba Barnard is a fiery woman. She tells Katy Gregory how Muslim women are kicking ass the world over

Saba is straight up. She comes out with a description of herself. "Brown-skinned, big-haired, mosque-going, curry-eating mustached girl who couldn't date...or wear shorts", she barks. "The imagery I create of Muslim women is influenced greatly by the women that I grew up with in North Carolina (NC)." Understandably, Barnard, who says she aims "to create art that fosters human connection and understanding", felt a kind of 'otherness' growing up as both American and Muslim - two terms that the Western media would have you believe contradict each other. She declares: "Eventually, after years of torturing myself trying to blend in, trying to stand out, trying to 'find myself' within these little boxes, I began to realize that it was all bullshit."

Through her uplifting series *Technicolor Muslimah*, she hopes to dispel the myths and stereotypes surrounding Muslim women. Barnard, who tells me she doesn't use skin tone in her work "but an array of prismatic colours" to render the women she paints, says her artistic influences range from "religious artwork across cultures" to a recent Wangeci Mutu exhibition which blew her mind. She says: "I love colour, patterns, symbols, symmetry, and gold."

Technicolor Muslimah, which was completed in 2011 and first exhibited at the Carrack Modern Art in Durham NC in 2012, is a series of 15 acrylic paintings of real Muslim women portrayed very differently from one to the next. Barnard, who tells me she shows "at local galleries and venues for temporary shows when opportunities arise", is sick of the solely emotive depictions of Muslim women in the media. These women's identities are reduced to the veil, a garment the Western media defines them by and propagates as their main source of oppression. Very often they are pitted against western women whose uncovered hair completes this damaging East-West dichotomy. Barnard adds: "Even in this age of instant information, there is a tendency to see a woman wearing a hijab, and imagine a patriarch forcing that veil upon her." Muslimahs make their own choices.

This type of colonial feminism, often used to justify American intervention in Afghanistan or 'the war on terror', plays a part in the myth disseminated by the Western media that the East is in direct opposition to the West. As we converse about this binary, Barnard cleverly instigates: "I've never been to the Muslim world, where is it?" In a sphere where feminism has apparently already happened, popular media representations of Muslim women allow Western women to feel smugly superior. *Technicolor Muslimah* is part of Barnard's departure from the manipulation of women as icons for these geo-political locations. "I choose women", Barnard finalises, "because I believe that they are often the clearest representatives of the Muslim world, and the most misunderstood".

I'm intrigued about which media representations (or misrepresentations) of Muslim women she has in mind. Reeling off countless examples, Barnard, who recognizes: "politics is all kind of bullshit anyway", begins with "the images of Afghani women living under the Taliban that were all over the news after September 11th." She also cites the media's relentless focus on practices such as honour killings and child marriages which she says: "support a certain narrative about Muslim women (as helpless victims), especially when they are told in such a way that Islam is cited as the root of this awful violence." Although she is in no way

denying that these things go on, through her art work she tries to represent the diverse existences of Muslim women throughout the world who are also empowered. Shockingly, she has even been asked, "by people who were genuinely concerned", if she was worried about being honour killed herself.

Nonetheless, she believes there is some hope. "Just this week", Barnard divulges: "I have seen multiple articles in large publications about Muslim women who are kicking ass and making waves." In her work she aims to do the same, to present "a nuanced perspective and still have it speak loudly."

Barnard, who is also a certified art teacher after studying Art Education at North Carolina Central University, says she creates "work which recognizes and responds to the status quo," and she hopes "that it touches upon truths that are unmarred by politics as well". This is why she renders the 15 women in these pictures not as a homogenous group, like the Western media would have us believe, but as individuals with a "different, brightly coloured and comical side." She says: "it's not about defining women, or anyone, but undefining them."

The paintings of these women are accompanied by their own written statement are where the women are given the opportunity to freely express who they are, in their own words. Afreen, for instance, is an entrepreneur (which complicates popular western discourse dictating that Muslim Women are always economically dependent upon their husbands). Afreen discloses that she "started a nanotechnology company for target drug delivery and bio-imaging for cancer patients," but adds: "I also love baking and cake decorating."

No one can deny that Afreen is joyful and radiant; she is smiling and wearing a playful diamond tiara. Barnard tells me the headscarf is the only visual symbol truly suggestive of these women's religion in the series. However, even their headscarves aren't in the usual dark style; Afreen's headscarf is blue against a fuchsia pink background. Barnard, who says she is also inspired by the artist Sarah Maples for her "smart use of humour in approaching intersectional subject matter," presents the women using or wearing typical American props in order "to show the humour of these women and identify them as both American and Muslim."

Ayesha K, an educator, is a Muslim-American portrayed in yet another of Barnard's stirring creations: She can laugh at herself. She isn't a victim. Audaciously, this Muslimah reveals: "I used to pray that Justin Timberlake would convert to Islam so I could marry him."

When I ask her about her general political influences, she emphasises that her 'politics' comes from a place of humanism'. Her compassion for individuals is something I admire. "Different histories, expressions of different circumstances, and manifestations of differently structured desires," Barnard says, are used "to artificially divide the world into separate spheres recreating an imaginative geography of West versus East." Perhaps this Muslimah can narrow the gap. **M**

Saba Barnard will be showing Technicolor Muslimah in London at the end of October with the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation's arts festival, MOCAFest, October 29-31st. www.artbysaba.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SABA BARNARD



Why Dahl's adult lit is under-rated

Deborah Lam

What do Matilda and a gruesome tale of a husband murderer have in common? Psychotic females certainly, but they were both also written by the same beloved children's author whose short stories for adults often go forgotten.

Born in Wales to Norwegian parents in 1916, Roald Dahl enlisted with the Royal Air Force in Nairobi as a pilot officer when he was twenty-three, and it was not until he crash landed in a desert, fractured his skull, smashed his nose, and even survived the 'Battle of Athens', that he was transferred to Washington in 1942.

There, he met C.S. Forester, author of Captain Hornblower, who having received an article detailing his experiences wrote back saying, "Did you know you were a writer - I haven't changed a word." Enclosed was a check for \$900 from the *Saturday Evening Post*, for Dahl's account, *Shot Down Over Libya*.

Not unlike Dahl's children's books that often have moralistic themes in their narratives, his adult stories, written in the first 15 years of his writing career, also refrain from being didactic because of the shocking prose that delivers these morals. You learn to beware the addictive snares of gambling from *Man from the South* where said exotic man bets his Cadillac for a young sailor's left little finger. From *Skin*, when a heavily varnished painting that resembles a tattoo on an old man's back turns up in Buenos Aires, you learn not to be blinded by greed.

But perhaps what makes Dahl's adult prose so dangerously seductive is the unsettling way he takes things familiar to us, whether it be archetypal characters or thoughts that everyone has (but tries to shut away) and tests their limits by using them in extraordinary circumstances.

In one of his more sinister stories, *Lamb to the Slaughter*, Dahl takes the stereotypical, eager-to-please traits of a housewife à la Meg in Pinter's *The Birthday Party* and exaggerates them greatly to create Mary Maloney, a high-strung woman whose happiness is just a bit too dependent on her husband's.

In one passage the hyperbolic repetition in the description of how she 'loved' everything about her husband, even the most pedestrian of traits, is disturbingly obsessive, and tragically so when his misinterpreted silent 'tiredness' is actually him contemplating how to tell her that he is leaving her. And what does she do? She does the only thing a mad housewife can do. She smashes his head in with the frozen leg of lamb she was about to cook for his dinner, creates an alibi, calls the police to report his death, and then serves the very murder weapon to the hungry policemen who have been investigating her husband's death.

However, because Dahl's adult works are much more daring than his children's ones, they often elicit a polarised reaction from critics with a journalist even calling his risqué story, *The Great Switchoo*, of two lusty men who decide, under the guise of nightfall, to sleep with the other man's wife. Described as being "designed for an adolescent male audience in a pre-politically correct age where casual misogyny went even more unnoticed than now". Strong words.

At the back of all his children's books is often a line from Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem 'A Few Figs from Thistles' that reads, "My candle burns at both ends/ It will not last the night/ But ah my foes, and oh, my friends/ It gives such lovely light. In the same way, Dahl's creative range and ability to entertain both children and adults, despite the controversial latter, still give light to those who remember it."

The most contrived works in art history

Tom Cox discovers why Dutch 'genre painting' masterpieces are worth a second look.

On discovering I was studying Dutch 'genre painting' I considered quitting school. Whenever I saw a room of Dutch art in a gallery I walked past thinking how meticulous and samey it all looked. I see people now flicking through books or wafting through galleries catching glimpses of genre paintings, doing the same thing. At first glance they all seem to be perfectly well conceived, delicately drafted, some a bit drab and others quite garish - not enough to grab people's attention.

I began to pick up interest-igniting snippets about the paintings. They were first thought to be historical documents of interiors and everyday life in the seventeenth century. However, extensive research has brought to light patterns throughout the images.

Every tiny detail is included or excluded for a reason, mostly symbolical. Moral instruction was rife amongst the world of genre paintings with the seven deadly sins - greed, lust, envy, pride, anger, covetousness and sloth - projected from many a canvas. As a result these vast paintings were initially created for the aristocracy to hang on their walls as an ugly warning and to make sure they appreciated the virtues in their lives.



They are in fact some of the most carefully contrived works in art history. You see people recognising the name, appreciating the draughtsmanship but not understanding their apparent lack of meaning in a period where other genres of painting were landscapes, mythical stories, portraits of aristocracy and still-lives.

These, of course, are classic themes which have been painted for centuries, being recognised and understood the world over. Genre paintings became quickly established by the middle of the seventeenth century and are said to adopt the middle rung of ranking in terms of intellectuality.

Jan Steen - one of the most prestigious artists of the time - had a particular penchant for this theme. He specialised in depicting messy households aimed at warning wealthy families of the evils of greed which create such

an easy transition into lust or sloth. While his contemporaries, Terborch, de Hooch and Dou reproached sloth and warned against lust.

By the middle of the 1600s there began a slight change in the style: patrons wanted their moral lessons presented with a veneer of ambiguity and elegance. Therefore throughout the second half of the century we see a growing popularity in beautifully clad people and highly interpretative meanings within the works. Vermeer quickly became famed for his exquisite interpretations such as 'The Milkmaid'; artists such as Metsu and Terborch followed suit.

Genre paintings are becoming increasingly sought after: several years ago Christie's sold a Maes for £792,000; while just last year one of Steen's paintings sold through Sotheby's for £5.6 million. This suggests that these scrupulous art works are literally appreciating.

Get Your Fix

Tom Cox

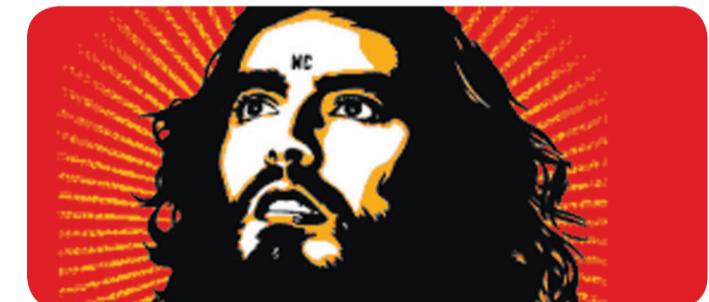
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The Name's Boyd...

Bond is back, this time on the page in a controversial new novel by self-confessed Fleming geek William Boyd.

Emily Rose Ross reviews *Solo*.

The mission, should you chose to accept it, is the ultimate in formidable foes: the die-hard Ian Fleming fan base. With varying degrees of success, many have attempted to show that James Bond missions can continue after Fleming. Amis, Faulks, Connolly, Gardner, Benson, Deaver: the roll call of writers to don the weighty 007 mantle is by no means short, and the fatalities for such a mission are high. Something William Boyd, as the latest writer to be approached by Ian Fleming Publications Limited, must be painfully aware of as the latest Bond instalment hit the shelves this week.

Solo, the latest reincarnation of 007 at the hands of Boyd, sees the 45-year-old James Bond dispatched to the fictional west-African Zanzarim with the task of single-handedly stopping a civil war. Published with the backing of the Fleming estate to much pomp and critical acclaim, it would seem that the 'ultimate Bond geek' has accomplished the ultimate coup: the faithful rebirth of a legend. Why then, does the longest mission to date leave me so unsatisfied? Reading the plethora of positive reviews currently circling the latest saga, I wonder whether I've bought a first draft by accident.

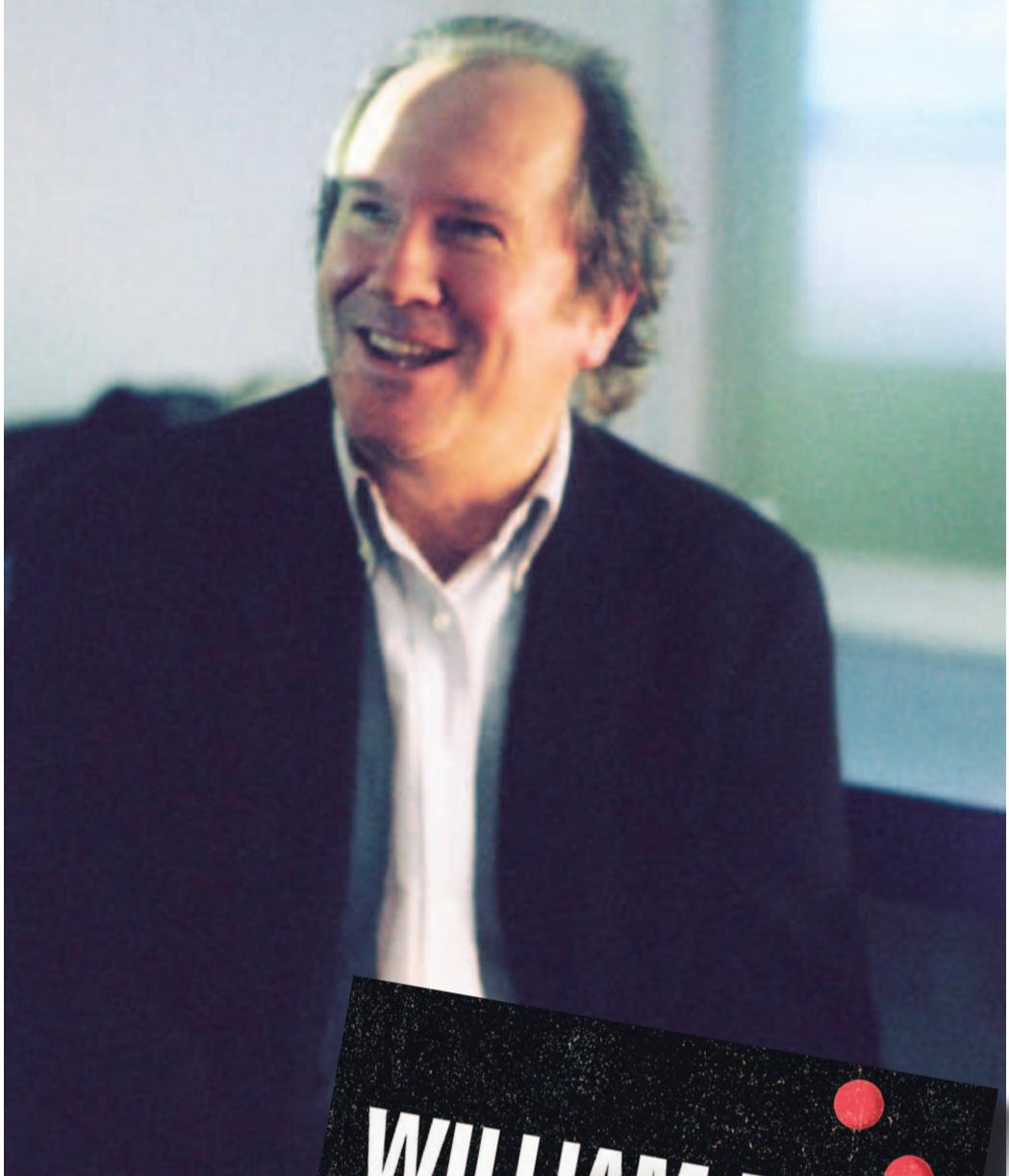
The first chapters of Bond, drinking, smoking, and lustng in Chelsea read beautifully. Boyd's 1969 is plush, decadent and glamorous. With an eye for detail that will please any Bond aficionado. The cars, clothes and cocktails described tick every box, like carefully studied fan-fiction. The martinis are suitably shaken, the eggs suitably scrambled, the wine suitably vintage, and the girl suitably...catsuited. Boyd has

kept Bond thoroughly and shamelessly like Fleming's. As a perfect example, the reader waits less than 50 pages for 'Bond, James Bond' gratification. Story: nicely set up. Bond: hedonistic perfection. Mission: a little vague.

And so, to Zanzarim, where Boyd really comes into his own. With several of his own best sellers set in Africa, Boyd is safely in home territory. The landscapes are skilfully diverse and richly described. In due Cold-War style the politics are duly convoluted and corrupted with by power struggles over money and oil. This particular facet of the story is well-considered, developed and has just the right amount of character complexity. The only real story crease ironed out nicely later. The gun-slinging action seems to be written particularly with a transfer to screen in mind, but arguably these frequent tête-à-têtes are unnecessarily complicated and don't produce the same adrenaline rush on paper as they might on film.

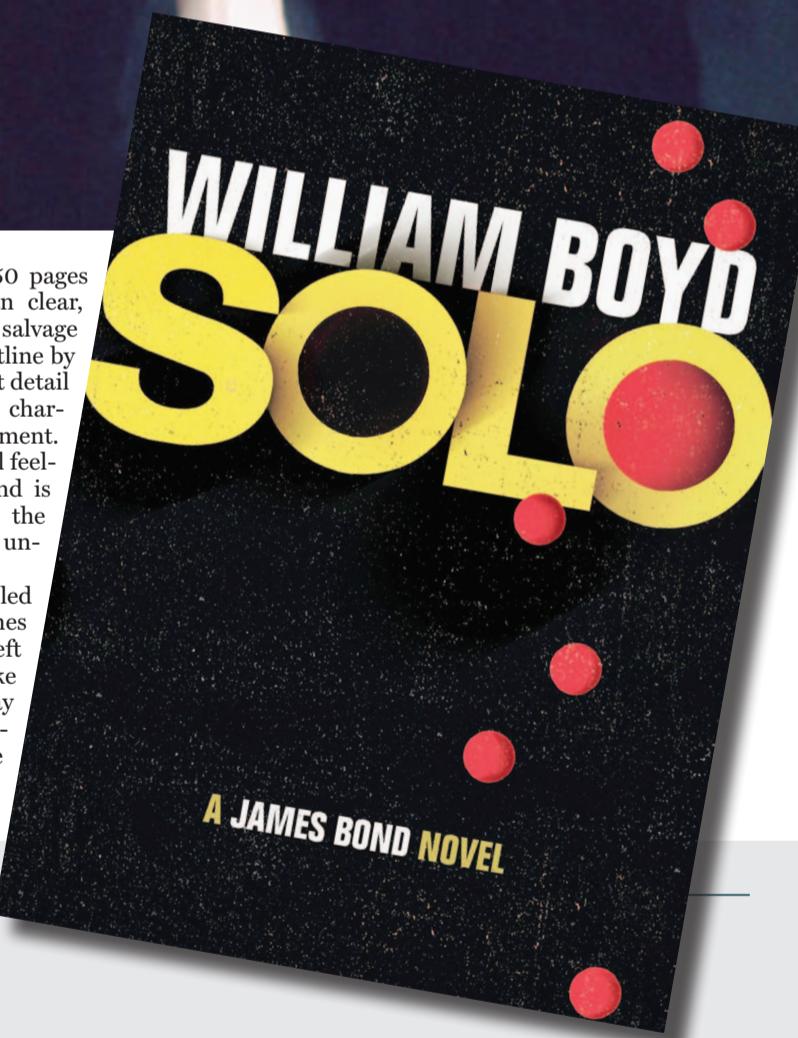
As Bond returns to England, everything seems perfectly set up for the unravelling of villains, the foiling of underhand schemes and the settling of personal scores. However, in the second half of the book when the rogue Bond embarks solo, the plot thickens. And by thickens, I'm afraid I mean spoils. Reading perhaps like an editors' draft, with unclear subplots and multiple smoke screen villains, one rarely feels sure-footed. There are so many twists and turns – with seemingly very little in the way of real incentive or explanation – that Bond's reflective debrief at the end comes as quite the relief. "Go on," Felix said, leaning forward. "This is where it gets confusing for me." And he's right. It would seem that,

PHOTO CREDIT: LONDON SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



realising the last 150 pages have been less than clear, Boyd attempts to salvage the remnants of plotline by inserting all relevant detail into a penny-drops character disillusionment. This leaves the novel feeling a bit hollow, and is really why I closed the book feeling rather unsatisfied.

Rather than coiled nicely, the plot lines are knotted and left hanging more like a recent film-foray than the self-contained stories of the great man himself.



— Think you know your Bond? —

We've seen the films, we know our Connery from our Moore and we can all shout 9mm Waltham PPK at Paxman (okay maybe not that one). But how well do we really know Bond? Jordan Licht has trawled the archives for the toughest in Bond trivia:

- Where did Ian Fleming get the name James Bond?
- What in Fleming's original novel is Pussy Galore?"
- What is Q's full name?"
- What two cars is Bond most famous for driving?
- What did Bond study at university?
- Who wrote the first Bond continuation novel?
- What branch of the military did Bond serve in?
- What is the motto of the Bond Family Crest?
- How do you make the famous Bond martini?



1. It was the name of the author of a book titled *Birds of the West Indies* (Fleming was an enthusiastic birdwatcher) 2. In Goldfinger, Pussy Galore is the name of the leader of an all-lebian orgiastic crime gang. Known as the Cement Mixers, after an unsuccessful stint as a prostitute it was appropriately brief and informative. 3. Major Geoffrey Boothroyd. Named after an actual weapons expert who advised Fleming on the munitions aspects of the Bond stories, Major Boothroyd, or Q, as we would come to be known, was first played by Peter Burton in Dr No. Before the role was taken up by Desmond Llewelyn in From Russia with Love, who would occupy the role until his death in 1999. 4. Bentley and Aston Martin, although they were taken up by Desmond Llewelyn in From Russia with Love, who would occupy the role until his death in 1999. 5. Oriental languages at Cambridge. 6. Kensingtonian was the first to write a continuation novel after Ian Fleming's death in 1964. Colonial Sun was published in 1968 under the pseudonym "Robert Marthain". It was serialised in the Daily Express newspaper in 1968 and adapted as a comic strip in You Only Live Twice received the enormous display of a Royal Navy burial at sea. 7. He was in the Royal Navy and was a Commandee; he served of the films allies and MI-6 staff refer to 007 as Com- 1968 and adapted as a comic strip in You Only Live Twice. Hence the title of the 1999 film starring Pierce Brosnan as Bond. 8. The World Is Not Enough. Hence the title of the first Bond book Casino Royale: "Three measures of Gordon's, one of vodka, half a measure of Kina Lillet. Shake it very well until it's ice-cold, then add a large slice of lemon-peel. Got it?" 9. This is how Bond orders it in the first Bond book Casino Royale: "Three measures of Gordon's, one of vodka, half a measure of Kina Lillet. Shake it very well until it's ice-cold, then add a large slice of lemon-peel. Got it?"

FASHION.

Hello Dolly

India Block talks to the Editor of Vogue online, **Dolly Jones**, about creating Vogue's digital presence, the rise of LFW and the life changing powers of fashion.

After graduation Dolly Jones had little idea about what career she wanted to embark on, a situation the majority of student readers will identify with. Equipped with a History of Art degree from Manchester and an inclination for writing, she set off for London for a stint of work experience on *The Daily Telegraph*. Bitten by the journalism bug, Dolly chose to forgo the time and expense of a year-long course, signing up instead for a three month intensive periodicals qualification. Afterwards, she "wrote to every magazine in the land, and *Vogue* was the one that replied." A brief internship with the iconic magazine and a position as an editorial assistant (then a minor role, now a job highly coveted by all graduates looking to get on the publishing ladder) lead to an offer to become a news writer on the newly established *Vogue* website. At first Dolly admits she was "too scared" to jump at the opening but, not wanting to miss out on an opportunity, she worked up the courage to accept the role. That was in 1999 and, in her own impeccably modest words, she "never left"; Dolly is now *British Vogue's* Digital Editor, spearheading a dedicated team of writers and editors who work tirelessly to bring everything on trend online and to the masses.

Back then the internet presence of the media was still in its infancy. Writing for a website wasn't seen as glamorous or covetable; "everyone thought the internet was totally un-chic." The sleek, beautiful face of modern-day *Vogue.co.uk* is "completely unrecognisable" from its early years, when there "used to be only one or two stories put up a day." Despite the multiple face lifts, the *Vogue* website's ethos has stayed true to itself. "We wanted to open a window into the fashion world," explains Dolly. Realising they could never do the legacy of *Vogue* justice by simply re-creating the magazine in a digital format, Dolly and her team strive instead to create "a little bit of *Vogue*" in cyberspace, opening up a world of shows and fashion news that had previously been closed off to all but a select few.

Opening that window turned out to have open the floodgates for public interest in the inner workings of the fashion industry. "The more we put up, the more people wanted it," elaborates Dolly, "although there wasn't much competition at first, we always aimed to be the premier fashion news outlet." Like any good business, there has to be a market for the brand. "You have to need a product," she explains "and we tap into that appetite for fashion knowledge."

Feeding the voracious appetite for breaking fashion news whilst simultaneously translating the iconic *Vogue* brand into the digital

arena is, obviously, not without its challenges. Technology is constantly evolving at break-neck pace, fuelling the race between media outlets to be the first to break a piece of news, and the competition between fashion magazines is no less fierce. In order to stay in the vanguard Dolly knows that you can "never get complacent. The main thing is it's important to be agile. You have to know how to translate your brand across all the mediums, from computer screen to iPad." It's a precarious act when the digital world is "constantly in flux, with everybody tweeting constantly, creating brands of themselves." Although the pressure is always on, Dolly knows that the rewards are worth the challenges; "the consumer is closer to their products now than ever before."

The job also comes with a delicious array of perks. When I spoke to Dolly she was in transit between Milan and Paris, in the midst of the glamour and barely contained chaos of bookended international fashion weeks, a "brilliant, amazing and exhausting whirlwind." Dolly assures me there is no such thing as a typical day in the office, each day bringing a different "spectrum from the mundane to the exciting. You leave your desk and when you come back something has changed. New designers pop up all the time. It's never the same – that's probably why I've stayed so long."

One minute she is trawling through her email inbox, the next meeting with designers and attending fabulous events. Parties and shows are the stuff that every aspiring fashion intern dreams of, but even an editor has the occasional pinch-me moment. Attending Alexandra Shulman's

(Editor of *British Vogue*) London Fashion Week party dressed in a Matthew Williamson dress, modelled by Cara Delevingne on the catwalk was one of them. "There are moments like that when you just think 'this is the best job in the world!'"

Fashion has always been a pleasure for Dolly. Her first, although perhaps not formative, memory of fashion, is a vivid recollection of her mother "carrying me on her shoulders, and she was wearing this huge, bright yellow, shaggy afghan coat. Unfortunately she didn't keep it, although I'm not sure I would have worn it. It was a very bright yellow." What you wear is important because it's all about "communicating the kind of person that you want to be." Describing h

er personal style, Dolly admits "I normally dress quite soberly and I don't actually shop that much – I'd go broke very quickly if I did!" However, she will be allowing herself just one treat: "a Lanvin handbag will be my new best friend for the entire winter season." Dolly strongly believes that fashion has deeply transformative and self-esteem giving powers. "However nervous you are socially, one key



piece can make you feel confident. Fashion can change your world, that's what makes it so compelling and addictive." Mixing business with pleasure always makes for an exciting life, and Dolly is passionate about the business of fashion, particularly British fashion. Her enthusiasm is palpable as she describes to me the energy and talent of the London fashion scene and its protégées. In recent years, London Fashion Week has risen through the ranks to become an unmissable fixture on the diaries of the international fashion set. "In the last five years LFW has become very powerful," she assures me. "No one could miss it now. However important you are, you have to come to London."

Dolly believes this ascension is down to a perfect storm of ideal creative conditions. "British fashion has been unconstrained by commerciality," she explains "We have brilliant fashion colleges where students are encouraged to be imaginative, and British eccentricity is celebrated on the catwalk." The British Fashion Council and its new chairman Natalie Massenet is helping to inject some "hot business sense" into the field. Ultimately, fashion is "a massive industry, a massive employer and a huge PR tool for Britain." Designer and high street collaborations have also been a "good way for people who maybe can't afford designer pieces to still get involved with new fashion stories." Dolly's hot tip for autumn/winter is the widely anticipated collaboration

between H&M and Isabel Marant. The British fashion scene has also recently witnessed the rise of some of its brightest new talents, something that Dolly has found incredibly rewarding over her time on the front rows. Christopher Kane is one such bright star; now "one of the most talked about shows on the global calendar," Dolly was there for his very first graduate show. "Sometimes you just know," she explains "And on that day everybody in the room felt a thrill." Kane has recently received a huge investment from fashion conglomerate PPR, a move that Dolly hopes will mean Kane's brand will "flourish and maybe even lead to a store opening, although hopefully he won't move his show to Paris now!"

"Christopher Kane is now one of the most talked about shows on the global calendar"

After hearing about the exciting, challenging and varied world of fashion journalism on the digital frontier, it would be remiss of me not to ask Dolly Jones for some pieces of advice on breaking into the industry and impressing at that all important internship or work experience placement. "Work really hard," she recommends. "Get in early, stay late, and never leave until the job is done. People who put the effort in do get noticed, and when a job comes up they'll be the ones getting the call." Finally, I asked Dolly to describe *Vogue.co.uk* in three words. Without any hesitation she offered "Authoritative, Stylish and Essential." Fashion wannabes take note; to make it at *Vogue.co.uk* you need to get serious about the business of fashion. M



CELINE AW13



HOUNDSTOOTH COAT, ZARA, £109

Checks, tartan, tweed: you think of a square based print and without a doubt the autumn/winter 2013 catwalks presented it. Tweed is no longer for grandmothers and shooting trips, as everyone from Celine to Emilia Wickstead showed coats, evening dresses, hats, bags and more in checkered prints in every fabric you could wish for: fur, sequins, silks and of course, traditional wool.

Celine's laundry-bag checks are already the desire of every woman's wardrobe having made their way onto Vogue's August 2013 cover worn by the enviably cool Freja Beha. On the runway Celine paired their checks with more checks for a full impact and modern look. Emilia Wickstead too presented head-to-toe contrasting checks. Her checked mini dress and full-length coat ensemble felt young and fun and full of charm in soft hues. Such powerhouses as Dolce & Gabbana and Lanvin too dared to show top-to-toe checks.

However, this trend is easily accessible with a tartan coat thrown over the top of any outfit. See Stella McCartney for inspiration for the perfect tartan coat and search in most high street stores and you'll find a varied selection of checked coats. In the shops now, a particular favourite is

Silence + Noise's long tartan duster coat from Urban Outfitters. Its slouchy fit makes it casual and the perfect coat for the everyday walks to lectures in the bitter Yorkshire weather.

On the other hand, if you've already bought your winter coat for this season buy into the trend with checkered accessories. Michael Kors showed houndstooth stoles, Tommy Hilfiger presented plaid hats and ties, Celine and Stella had checked clutches, Emilia Wickstead offered tweed shoes, or, for a bit of glamour, go sequined like Ashish. ASOS's clutch in sequin check adds AW13 style to your evening outfit.

Houndstooth is the ideal solution for the chromophobic, not only did Michael Kors put forward the monochromatic print but Ashish, Dior and Gucci all churned out pieces in the print. For a high street take, head to Zara and purchase their houndstooth coat, effortless and colour-free for all those frightened to step away from their grayscale wardrobes.

Conversely, if all this check business seems a but too much, take a leaf out of Mulberry's book and just dress your dog in checks instead.



MULBERRY AW09

CLUTCH IN SEQUIN CHECK, ASOS, £30

S/S/S: Marching Orders

The military look has grown up; it's moved on from the surplus store take to become army gear with a twist. Inspired by designers like MCQ by Alexander McQueen, Burberry Prorsum and Acne and their collections based around the distinctive print, featuring on everything from long military coats to structured khaki skirts. This is a trend that has evolved from the catwalk onto the streets, championed by influential street stylists and pop stars. To rock the modern camouflage style we're talking brass-buttoned jackets with a peplum and reimagined parkas with black leather sleeves. This military trend is spot on for autumn and can be so chic if you know how to work it.

SPEND: SUPERDRY ARCTIC CAMO WINDCHEATER

£70, Superdry. Step aside leopard, camouflage is the new neutral of the season. This army print parka is a perfect staple to add to your wardrobe. They're universally flattering and will go with everything.



SAVE: ASOS ALLIANCE LEATHER ANKLE BOOTS

£51, asos.com. These ankle boots by ASOS Collection have been crafted with leather, patent, tassel fringe detail and three strap detailing. The heeled shoe encompasses the military style without being too in-your-face.



STEAL: PRIMARK CAMO JEANS

£22, Primark. This style was once a path to the slightly unattractive dorky adolescent boy look. Not something anyone wants to channel. Luckily, as this trend has grown the high streets have been producing some brilliant autumn must-haves on the cheap. These denim camo trousers are great for the colder months and won't leave you blending into the background of blacks and macs.



- Rachel Thompson

Return of the Peter Pan Students

Emily Russell
FASHION WRITER

A trend has been engulfing the teens and twenty-something's of York recently with a somewhat 'Peter Pan' vibe. No, hoards of students have not been donning green tights. They have however been revisiting their childhood style thanks to many 90s trends hitting the runway. Simpler times, the Golden Years, the 1990s, call them what you want, we each have scrapbooks full of memories from that decade, but many now have wardrobes full too. These hipsters all take Peter's phrase 'I'll never grow up' quite literally.

All it takes is a Friday night visit to The Duchess to notice it - you may well feel like you've opened the wrong door and stepped into an urban school disco. Scrunchies, platformed trainers and high-waisted Levi shorts all seem to be style staples. As are 90's band t-shirts, usually purchased in Topshop (with a like totally believable story about mummy and daddy having their one year anniversary at the gig so its totally relevant and so vintage.) You can see more double-denim ensembles than those teeny tiny white plastic cups that they hand out. There are even crop top and leggings pairings, as impossible to forget as the Destiny's Child lyrics on the tip of their tongues. Some unfortunate 'fashion' followers revert so far back to their school days that



they brand themselves with playground taunts such as 'Geek' and 'Nerd' on their t-shirts. And there, through a crowd of Phat-goers, looking remarkably like extras from *Saved By The Bell*, you see a couple huddled in the corner and you cannot quite work out if they're exchanging numbers or swapping Pokémon cards. You are now fully submerged in a weekend Neverland of sticky floors and jelly shoes.

And of course, this trend does not just stop on the dance floor. A visit to JB Morrell library shows its continuation, with students carrying back packs. They seem useful enough but peer inside and they are filled with nothing but a solo can of Tizer and the broken promises of an on-trend term, rather than a pile of books.

So why is it that so many of us at the start of our journey into adult-hood seem to think it's appropriate to dress like our 6 year old selves? I, admittedly, whilst watching Friends repeats in the heat of procrastination have admired Monica's dungarees. This sent memories of me visiting the hairdressers with a clipping of Rachel Green and 'the do' on a Saturday morning, all flooding back to me.

Deadlines, work experience, bills and *gasp* hangovers getting far, far worse have sent us running in the opposite direction. What's wrong with emailing your tutor about a very important matter with your freshly manicured Pacman nails? So beat Monday morning blues and the reality of the real world by grabbing a Lunchable, and don't you dare forget your Walkman. We are all but a Tamagotchi I-phone app away from a complete childhood revival.

My life as a jungle warrior



Thought you had an exciting summer? Before he came to York **Yu Neng** was conscripted for 2 years, drove tanks, and learnt how to build bombs. Charlotte Wainwright hears his remarkable story.

I remember it felt like a roll call. There were people standing there, calling out names. Most of us were really nervous; we didn't know what to expect." These are the recollections of Yu Neng ('Gan' in the UK) on his first day of two years that would be spent being taught alongside his peers. Yet this wasn't the first day of college or University as one might expect, but the first day of National Service.

Gan is a second year English Literature student, at the University of York. He is also from Singapore, a country in which two years' National Service is compulsory for all males who have reached the age of 18. It is also open to women who choose to serve, although this is often seen as a step to a mili-

tary career, as opposed to a citizenship commitment.

National Service was introduced in Singapore in the 1960s. For most people, Gan explains, this begins with two months of intense, Basic Military Training (BMT). This, he informs me, was a bit of a shock to the system. "In BMT you are called a recruit and you get treated like shit. The aim is to re-socialise you and break your spirit down so that you get used to the idea of working as a platoon, instead of as an individual. And then, from this batch of people, some will be selected to go to Officer Cadet School, some to Specialist Cadet School and the rest will go straight into their respective vocations."

Gan recollects his first day: "Our parents were allowed to see us off. They were invited into the canteen to see what the food was like. The canteen, of course, prepared food that was especially nice, so that the army left the parents thinking that this was the food we were going to get every day. After that, the boys all waved goodbye to their parents and girlfriends."

During BMT, recruits are required to carry out a large number of activities, ranging from lectures to more physically challenging tasks. "We did different things every day. We had a lot of lectures, where they would teach us the theories behind different formations, and the theory behind the workings of a gun. Aside from that we had a lot strength and speed training."

Gan describes one activity that really stood out to him, which he labels as "one of the highlights" of BMT. "We had to do field camps, where you get stuck in the jungle for a week. You don't get a tent." You sleep in a hole that you dig yourself, he informs me. And it's got to be "big enough to put your coffin in." Not exactly what you want to think about as you go to bed. "It also has to have a step in the front so you can rest your elbows and hold your gun. You learn to sleep on your belly with your gun in front of you, so that at any point in time you can just get up and start shooting. That was a surprise for me, because I always thought in the army you had a tent."

The punishments during this time, however, he recalls with less enthusiasm. "The standard punishments were things like push-ups and runs. They were fine, but let's say you were in the middle of your field camp for instance, and you were tired and had a lot of things to do, and you were made to do

the same run over and over again. It can get kind of wearing, mentally. There was one punishment that became famous in our batch. A platoon didn't cover one of their latrine points properly, so they were made to crawl across the whole latrine on their bellies. Stories like that stay with you."

After his two months in BMT, Gan was assigned the post of Combat Engineer Specialist, and was sent to carry out a two month Basic Specialist Course. Here he learnt numerous skills, including infantry drills and more advanced jungle fighting. "We started learning how to use not just our basic rifles, but a number of different weapons. We also had to learn a lot of different section movements. As Specialists, we go on to lead a squad of 6-8 men, so learning these movements was important, as they were different ways you could arrange your squad if you encountered an enemy."

"As Specialists, we also did a lot more digging, to build encampments. It was always really smelly. You go into the jungle and you are covered in sweat and you have the strong smell of insect repellent, as well as the smell of half decomposed food."

Despite this seeming like an incredibly tough journey, Gan looks back at this experience with a positive light. "Was it hard? After a while these are just things, you know? You have something to do and you get it done. The smell just becomes something you get used to. I wouldn't say it was difficult. But it was tiring, and mentally exhausting. I can see why not everyone makes it to be a specialist."

After these two months, Gan was sent to Engineer Specialist Training, where he learnt everything that a Combat Engineer is required to know. "That was the part of my army life that was most similar to school. We had a lot of lectures, because being an engineer is very technical. I learnt how bombs are made and how explosives function. I learnt how to dispose of different types of explosives, such as rockets and missiles. I was taught how to make them and how to detonate them, and how to detect them and dig them out when someone else had left them. I also learnt how to drive a tank! Although, it doesn't really look much like a tank - it looks like two boxes on tracks!"

Despite being both physically and mentally draining, Gan was able to find a way of coping throughout his training. "To-



day, I have this thing where every day I have to fill one page of a notebook, and the root of this idea started in the army. From the first night onwards I sent a message to my friends and family telling them what had happened that day. It was like a journal but to my friends, and was a way of venting I guess, a way of getting through the day. Even when the day was really shit I'd just be thinking, well, this is going to sound really funny when I write it to my friends."

After his training, Gan was promoted to a Sergeant, and took part in quite an unusual parade. "All the new Sergeants were coming together for this parade. Our parents were going to be the ones to pin our new rank to our chest. We had practiced for an entire month. But on that day, there was a thunderstorm. It looked like it was going to be cancelled. We were all really upset, because we had trained really hard. So we just refused to move. And then, finally, the lightning stopped. Everyone grabbed their equipment and body armour and slung it on. It was soaked, but no-one cared, and we carried out the parade. Then we did the Specialist pledge and the Specialist roar, which is a big cheer – kind of like an enormous haka!"

Gan was then posted to his unit, a Field Engineers unit known as the 30th Battalion of Singapore Combat Engineers (30SCE), where he spent his last one and a half years. Here, was put in charge of a group of men, which, he explains, changed his experience of National Service completely. "What I learnt in training in 5 months, I had to teach people in a year. I suddenly went from being the one who always got shouted at to the person who did all the shouting. As a Sergeant, I had the authority to punish people, and other people were no longer allowed to publicly punish me. My punishments were no longer physical. They were additional duties I had to carry out on the weekend, rather than being able to go home."

After this, Gan reached his ORD (Operationally Ready Date), completing his time in National Service. Looking back, he believes that this was a hugely worthwhile experience, and something that is valuable for Singaporean men as a whole. "I do think I've learnt a lot, and that I've benefitted a lot from National Service. It was a very positive experience for me, even though I know it wasn't for everyone."

"You have to sleep in a hole. They told us it's got to be big enough to put your coffin in..."

"For me, the benefits of National Service are not evident in the defence of Singapore, but rather in the common experience that this gives all Singaporean men. Some people like to say that National Service is what ties men together in Singapore and I think that this is true. I can stop any man, be he a taxi driver, or a fellow that looks my age, and I have a common topic with him. It also lets us mix with people from different backgrounds. Socioeconomically, Singaporeans are very stratified. It took going into the army for me to start communicating with people who had very little formal schooling at all. That was definitely educational."

Yet despite this, Gan does not feel that the UK would benefit from it: "Society in the UK is structured completely differently to Singapore. You make friends based on where you live or the town you come from, rather than what type of school you go to, and so benefits for the UK would be different. Compared to other countries that have conscription, such as Taiwan and Israel, the UK also has many international allies, so I don't think there is a case for it."

On a more personal level, I ask Gan whether he feels his time in National Service has hindered his studies here at the University of York, and whether the age difference has had an impact on his University life. "In terms of age, I don't really feel older than everyone until we start talking about relationships. We're pretty much the same age where culture is concerned."

"In terms of studies, I know a LOT of guys complain about it. They say that it's just two years wasted, and that their studies are thwarted because it puts you out of practice. But for me, it was just a switch, like, OK, I'm back in my academic life now. My first year English exam was the first exam I had taken in three years. But I think I caught up."

What seems evident in speaking to Gan is the positive outlook which he brought to his time in National Service. "I went in with a pretty positive attitude, and I think I adjusted to army life quite well. I threw myself into all of my duties, and that's what I'm doing here at York now. Although, let's just hope the English Professors don't start making me do push-ups!" M



WORKING IT

The mood in modern interview-wear is sharp and powerful.

Aisling wears Fluffy swing boyfriend coat in pale pink: £89, Knitted fluffy crew jumper: £38, White shirt: £24, Seam cigarette trousers: £30, Shoes Model's own. Edi wears Navy Skinny Suit Jacket and Trousers: £110, Pale blue checked long sleeve shirt: £50, Newspaper print bowtie: £6. Olivia wears Printed Duster Coat: £79, Black Panel Pencil Skirt: £45, Pink heart Blouse: £34, Shoes Models own. All garments from **Topshop** & all accessories stylists' own.





CREATIVE DIRECTOR - Rachel Thompson
PHOTOGRAPHY- Luke Sheard Photography ©
FASHION EDITOR - India Block
MODELS- Aisling Coyle, Edi Adegbola and Olivia Head



What do you get when you mix Lady Gaga, the Sex Pistols and human breast milk?



Photographs provided by Matt O'Connor

Ice cream afficianado **Matt O'Connor** certainly knows how to whip up a storm. Charlotte Wainwright found out more.

Kiss my ass, Häagen Dazs". These are the words of Matt O'Connor, founder of the controversial ice-cream brand, "The Icecreamists". Famed for their original and provocative ice-cream creations, including breast milk ice-cream and the "Vice Lolly", The Icecreamists have brought a whole new outlook to the world of cool summertime treats.

Whilst many of us have enjoyed a classic '99 on a warm summer's day, Matt has spent his time pushing the boundaries of ice-cream to their limits and beyond. Founded in 2009, Matt created The Icecreamists in order to bring about a different take on ice-cream, a change which he believes was very

much needed. "Most ice-cream today hasn't seen a cow in its life - it's just vegetable fat. Then you have brands like Ben & Jerry's, which have been taken over by big, nasty, corporate monsters. It's our mission to do something different."

The philosophy behind The Icecreamists goes much further than this. For Matt, it wasn't simply about creating a new brand of ice-cream that would sit alongside the many others in supermarket freezers, but about creating a brand that truly stood out from crowd. "We wanted to do something that was disruptive and challenging, something a bit darker, sort of sugary on top but a bit more twisted and deviant underneath. That's the essence behind The Icecreamists."

The Icecreamists were launched in 2009, in a pop up shop in Selfridges. The opening, Matt explains, caused a huge stir. "We started off by selling the "Sex Pistol" ice-cream. But before we had even sold a lick of it, we were in trouble."

The Sex Pistol that Matt is referring to is an ice-cream that shocked the nation, and brought about a hefty legal battle with the famous rock and roll band. Now named the "Sex Bomb", this ice-cream is laced with natural stimulants, containing "enough erectile properties to bring people back from the dead". Served to you by a 'nurse', this ice-cream cocktail comes complete with an IV drip of absinthe, from which an "immobilising" shot is injected into the ice-cream and set alight. The

experience is described as "like being hit in the face by a tranquilizer dart".

The reaction from the band the Sex Pistols, however, was far from favourable. "The Sex Pistols' lawyers approached us, telling us that we were infringing copyright of the Sex Pistols. I told them I thought the Sex Pistols were dead, but somehow that seemed to upset them even more. They somehow thought that this tiny brand would be making millions out of it, but in reality it was just a satire. Their reaction was extreme. It's a great rock and roll fucking ice-cream! But eventually we saw them off."

Yet this was not to be the end of the disruption caused by this ice-cream. 'The Sex Pistol' also encountered problems with Mexican authorities, who refused to allow it to be exported into the country, for an ice-cream conference being held there. "They refused to let it in on the grounds that they were concerned about the product and what it might contain. I was thinking, you can get cocaine and drugs, but Sex Pistol ice-cream, no, that's too dangerous for Mexico!"

Despite this, Matt has never shied away from controversy. "We're always provocative, that's the nature of what we do. We're provocateurs as well as entrepreneurs." This attitude has propelled The Icecreamists even further in their bid to break down established boundaries, leading to the development of the breast milk ice-cream that hit headlines across the world.

Originally named "Baby Gaga", the "Baby GooGoo" ice-cream was launched in 2011. Whilst it may seem shocking to some, for Matt, it all boils down to the politics of food. "I spoke to a few people who said that breast milk is for kids. Well guess what, cow's milk is for calves. Then they said, but breast milk is a bodily fluid. Well guess what, so is cow's milk. It was a political statement about our food and where it comes from."

The response the ice-cream received was something Matt was not prepared for. "We sold out of it within the first two hours of opening. On that same day it was banned by Westminster Council. That was ironic though, because nobody ever, in the history of humanity, has ever died from drinking breast milk."

The name of the product, however, caused a greater amount of trouble than the product itself. "We tongue-in-cheek called it "Baby Gaga", because a baby's first utterance after it has been born is "gaga". However, we soon received a legal letter from Lady Gaga, which claimed that the product was provocative and nausea inducing. It was a very unpleasant and heavy-handed letter. But the name was simply intended as a playful thing. And after all, she got Gaga from Queen and Radio Gaga."

Matt explains how he attempted to deal with the situation in a typical Icecreamist way – with humour. "We offered her a list of alternative names, which included Gelato Germanotta (Lady Gaga's real surname) and the cross-dressing version, Lady Boy Gaga, but clearly her lawyers were not in possession of a fine sense of humour. We offered her ice-cream and told her to chill out. I even offered to bring it to her in my tender-loin jockstrap in a Mr Nippy van, but they declined that offer. She tried to intimidate and bully us, so in the end we basically just had to tell her to f***k off in more polite terms, and she eventually did. Now I'm just grateful for all the publicity she gave us."

Today, Matt's breast milk ice-cream is more popular than ever. "It's a real talking point; people travel from all over the world for it. We have over 1000 breast milk donors for it now too. Contrary to popular belief though, it's 95% of women who eat the ice-cream. You very rarely see a man eating it. But then, it was inspired by women."

The Icecreamists have now developed a long list of interesting and unique products. These range from the likes of the popcorn ice-cream, which is described as "an ice-cream that's like crack cocaine", to the "Vice Lolly", which is made with holy water and absinthe, and moulded into the shape of a gun. For Matt, though, ice-cream is much more than just a simple snack. "Ice-cream is like a metaphor for life - it's fickle, it's fleeting. It has always interested me, and it interests me politically too."

Whilst at first it seems difficult to understand the connection between ice-cream and politics, for Matt it is a very important relationship. "It's my ambition to drive to Gaza in an ice-cream van and go to where the Israelis blew up the only ice-cream factory they had there, and serve ice-cream to the children there. Then I want to go across the border and serve ice-cream to the Prime Minister of Israel, who loves ice-cream. Ice-cream is a unifying thing. Everyone loves ice-cream. Even the Taliban love ice-cream!"

Matt's interest in politics, though, spans much further than just ice-cream. In 2001 he founded Fathers 4 Justice, a father's rights group that hit headlines for its famous superhero stunts. Developing from Matt's own personal experience, (he was denied access to his sons in Britain's Secret Family Courts) Matt formed this group in order to stop his sons from having to endure the pain that he himself faced. "I believe that mothers and fathers should be treated equally in eyes of law and at the moment they're not. There are now 4 million kids in Britain living without a father. It's a social catastrophe that isn't being dealt with because it's politically taboo."



Matt started Fathers 4 Justice whose stunts included the scaling of Buckingham Palace by an "iconic and ironic" Batman

"We basically told Lady Gaga to f*k off. She eventually did."**



The Sex Pistol is served with an absinthe drip. And that's before a porno style nurse injects your ice cream...

The years 2004-2006 saw an enormous amount of direct action from Fathers 4 Justice, which involved numerous stunts by F4J members. The most famous of these perhaps came in September 2004, when one F4J member, who was dressed as Batman, scaled the front ledge of Buckingham Palace. "I developed the superhero idea because I wanted something that was iconic and ironic. I wanted to do something that would get people talking, or at least make them aware that there was an issue. If we remain invisible, the truth will remain hidden."

2004 also saw the flour bombing of Tony Blair within the House of Commons, by F4J members. "I don't think Parliament will ever forgive us for that, which is a big issue for us. They'll talk to the Taliban but they still won't talk to us. I think that's astonishing."

Today, Matt states that the campaign is much more serious, yet this year has seen moves back to direct action. In June, one F4J member defaced the Queen's portrait in Westminster Abbey, painting the word "help" across the surface. Later that month, another member glued his son's photograph to John Constable's "The Hay Wain" in the National Gallery. Matt explains why he feels this has been necessary. "We were given promises by the Conservatives in the last election. But guess what? Their promises were broken. There's going to be a lot more direct action in the next few months. We're going to shake things up."

Matt is also working on a new political platform that he plans to launch just before the next election, named *People Not Politicians*. "I believe we need to change the way we approach politics in this country. Politics is broken. It doesn't work for anybody, except politicians. I believe there is a better way of doing it. People not Politicians is a revolutionary model. I have no ambition to be a politician, but I'm creating a vehicle for people to use".

So how does this connect to The Icecreamists? Matt explains that he keeps the two very separate. "F4J deals with very serious and very dark stuff, with people who are committing suicide. The Icecreamists is like my therapy. But it's a tricky balancing act between the two, because one could easily affect other. But I will not compromise on my politics. Whilst I love doing the ice-cream, politics is fundamental. However, we do have ideas for political ice-creams – the David Cameron, with a toffee nose twist!"

Like with F4J though, Matt is never afraid to ruffle a few feathers with his ice-cream. "It's all the same for me; it's just a different medium. We're disruptive, and we challenge conventions, and it's the same thing with ice-cream."

This provocative attitude, however, comes not without consequence. "The Government are always monitoring me, watching me closely. They tried to ban me from the Olympics. I think they thought that I was going to burst out with a giant flaming Cornetto and hijack the event."

Yet Matt tells me that he does have one thing to thank the authorities for. "They gave me the name for my ice-cream brand. I retired from campaigning a few years ago, but the police came down to see me. They didn't believe I was going into ice-cream, but I turned round to them and said, don't be ridiculous, I'm not an extremist, I'm an Icecreamist. There, The Icecreamists were born." M

MUSIC.

In The Spotlight: Live & Loud

York's flagship Fresher's event looks set to be bigger than ever before. We speculate on the move to Hes East and what you can expect from the bands on offer.

Live & Loud is a Freshers' Week event set in a large, outdoor wind-tunnel between other, more architecturally picturesque wind-tunnels. It includes such delights as "a massive outdoor stage" and a "photo booth", this year's event is shaping up to put a field between Badger's Hill and the A64 on the live music map.

YUSU's optimism aside, L&L appears to have potential. The question is, however,

whether underneath the endless hype a worthwhile Freshers' Week headline event exists. Inside the Ron Cooke Hub, you'll find URY musically jousting with York's big-name club DJs... silently. A silent disco in a building akin to modern-day hospital foyer (complete with water fountains and reception desk) would probably be considered a strange experience at any other time of the year, but in the context of Freshers' Week, it's just another evening out.

Expect to pay £2.50 for a vodka mixer, and don't even consider trying to BYOB: security teams on the gate do full-body pat-downs. If tickets are still available at the time of printing, you can purchase them from yusu.org and probably from the YUSU building in James College. We'd recommend the latter - Kallum often looks lonely in his office. £26 gets you a sexy wristband for entry to the event and an easy conversation starter for the rest of the year.

KATY B.



SHY FX.



Although a name some may not recognise, Shy FX's sounds have been much closer than you think over the last 12 months; DJ Fresh's (incidentally, a former L&L performer himself) 'Gold Dust' from a couple of years ago was remixed by Mr FX into a track fusing reggae brass with an aggressive drum 'n' bass beat, leading to it taking the coveted position of Kuda favourite.

Shy FX has also profited from various production jobs, ranging from tracks on Dizzee Rascal's albums *Maths + English* and *Tongue N' Cheek* to Yasmin's 'Light Up (The World)', which features Ms. Dynamite.

Additionally, this summer, a track with Liam Bailey - namely 'Soon Come', made it onto Radio 1 and 1Xtra daytime playlists. Having honed his craft since '92, expect a set filled with non-stop jungle and drum 'n' bass and no filler, in what promises to be the highlight performance of the evening. Definitely the one to watch from the 2013 line-up.



PIDGEON DETECTIVES.

If it's indie you're yearning for at this year's L&L, look no further than Pigeon Detectives. The rocky five piece offer a change of tone from the rest of this year's acts, with catchy, garagey tracks. Having done the rounds this summer, from Kubana Festival in Russia to V Festival closer to home, the band have set out to promote their relatively newly released album, *We Met at Sea*.

As resident West-Yorkshirians, Pigeon Detectives also offer an opportunity for freshers to dip their toes in to the wide pond of local music that the county boasts. The boys are proud of their Leeds heritage and often perform locally, once calling it "their little thank you to those who have stuck by us".

While the album has been met with mixed critical response, (NME commenting that it's "more of the same minus the big hooks") many fans are arguing that this is their best work to date. Definitely the alternative option for this year's festival.

The Return of 90s Fever



Alex Donaldson

Avicii is a genius. His musical production might be more straight forward than a Dora the Explorer sticker book, but he definitely knows his demographic - children of the 90s. Born into that infamous decade, there lies within us a hidden desire to experience a renaissance of neon raves and out of tune guitars. 'Wake Me Up' is the apocalyptic second coming of 'Cotton-Eyed Joe'. He's taken a Mumford & Sons chord progression, vomited on some abysmal pre-sets and lo 'n' behold, you've sold the most records in two years. Veritable Goebbels.

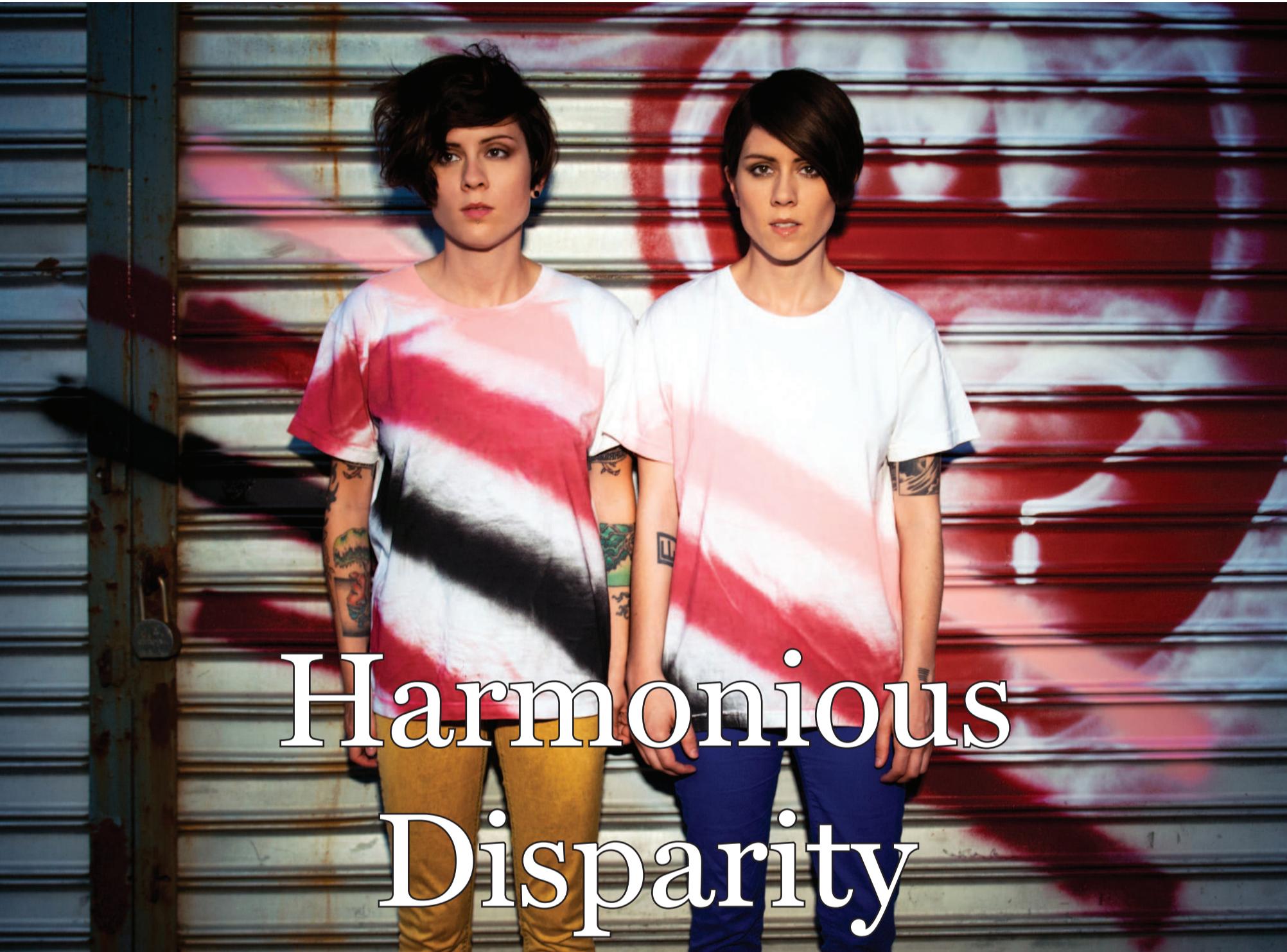
But there's only one truly reliable way to test musical trends. And that's Sean Paul.

With the release of 'The Other Side Of Love' in June we heard confirmation that the 90s really are stuck here. With that drop, we witness a moment in musical history, perhaps only rivalled by Dylan going electric. Even Chase & Status have sold their drum and bass souls to the mortgage brokers, with latest single 'Count on Me'. House might have been the Viagra of should've-gone-to-Sports-Direct-apparelled hipsters, from Shoreditch to Shoreditch, but no longer. 2013 has seen that 90s sound penetrate deep into the mainstream club scene, impregnating it with such hits as 'White Noise' and 'Need U 100%'. Giving birth to a nineties messiah, destined to save our eternally inebriated souls from the Abercrombie clad, bro-dance bully of the noughties.

With the Stone Roses reunion, Blur's new material, and the constant Oasis rumour, it's increasingly clear that the 90s didn't pay enough first time round. Even Nirvana's 'In Utero' is being re-milked this month for its 20th anniversary. Thankfully, the B-town explosion, fronted by pop-grunge fusion act Peace, looks like it could be fuelling a musical revolution to match that of the electronic hemisphere.

Can't really write a comment on the 90s resurgence without mentioning the OD time-bomb that is Miley Cyrus. The effort she puts to maintain those stereotypical buns is about as sincere as Robin Thicke's erection. 'We Can't Stop' was basically her bragging about how euphoric her molly 'come up' was. If she's really committed to the 90s mantra her follow-up should have been her crying in the foetal position, dry-retching for 45 minutes, not midget abuse. Even Tesco's latest advert features deep house anthem 'What I Might Do'. Cashing in quicker than Kanye West's clothing line.

We might be lapping up every chilled-house compilation MOS can ejaculate, but if we want anything out of this comeback, we're all better off stocking up on the only two things certain to increase in value. Ecstasy and hair gel.



Harmonious Disparity

Francesca Donovan talks commercialism, artistic difference and sonics with Sara Quin of twin duo **Tegan and Sara.**

Artistic relationships have always intrigued the listening public. Whether it was the tumultuous affairs of Fleetwood Mac circa *Rumours* or the McCartney/Lennon discord, the pinnacles of musical creativity often benefit from emotional and artistic disparity. For indie-rock duo Tegan and Sara, this outlook couldn't be more apt.

The Canadian-born identical twin sisters, hailing from Calgary, may boast the same elfin features and tenacious political beliefs but it is here wherein the similarity ends. Despite their mirror image, the pair couldn't be more different: where Tegan typically inputs the upbeat facet to the duo's sound - as in *Heartthrob*, Sara is more commonly linked to the melancholic, introverted sounds of early albums like *The Con*.

Although the sisters have always reunited for their band, as individuals they have collaborated with artists of musical polarity, illustrating their opposing tastes and interests. Tegan and Sara have been consistently touring as a band since graduating high school, bought together for live shows after lengthy spells working independently of each other. Both these intensely close quarters and creative differences perhaps explain why the two live on opposite sides of the US. Tegan Rain Quin - West Coast at heart - lives and works in LA while her sister, Sara Kiersten Quin resides on the East Coast in New York. Sara says of this separation that "it's nice to cultivate our own friendships and lives in order to grow and develop our song writing and professional lives."

Thousands of miles apart, Tegan and Sara have "spent the past ten years living in different cities from one another and that distance has allowed us to develop our songs in private first. I think that has been healthy and exciting for us as a band." The twins are even reluctant to conduct interviews together for fear of talking over one another in contradictory and

confusing terms. Thus, it is with Sara alone that I converse.

Tegan and Sara, though, unlike most groups, are well equipped for coping with such pressures; in Sara's own words, "being siblings we were familiar with spending a lot of time together and reading each other's moods" and are "very good at resolving our conflicts in a (mostly) civilised way." Perhaps this is why, after nearly two decades in the music business, the pair were able to release their seventh studio album, *Heartthrob*, in January of this year. The album signifies a monumental change in the twins' working relationship; they have, for the first time, co-written all 12 songs, of course retaining their signature harmonies throughout the manifestation of their music.

The record is heavily keyboard-based - a platform that allows Tegan and Sara to show off their hauntingly soft vocal melodies to prodigious effect. *Heartthrob* goes a long way to contextualising Tegan and Sara's previous collaborations with dance legends such as Tiesto, Guetta and Alessio. An obvious conclusion that one may jump to, on hearing the chunky tones of dance anthems is to assume a lack of musical depth. That assumption would be rash, to say the least. In fact, Tegan and Sara confront the usual subjects of love, hero worship and insecurity with the same lyricism they are famed for, alongside a newfound maturity.

The duo's reasoning for this musical removal from their typical, mellower sound is twofold. Sara stressed that "the most ingenuous thing we could have done was make a record that pandered to our audience." She went on to add, "we knew we needed to do something big and also something that wasn't expected from our band. But we also didn't want to completely change the band's signature sound. Sonically, the album is bigger and bolder and working with Greg Kurstin allowed us to really elevate the songs to a much higher level." Some of Tegan

and Sara's longer standing devotees have expressed disappointment at the new direction in which *Heartthrob* has led the sisters. This narrow-minded reaction is perhaps an inevitable fate for all successful musicians as they evolve and mature, a sad consequence of artistic progression. Sara seems to brush off with little concern during our interview: "After seven albums one thing I've learned is that no matter what you do you will lose people but if you're doing something viable you will also gain people. It's the nature of things!" Certainly, the past sounds of Tegan and Sara have influenced the current record; their indie credibility allowing the girls confidence to try new directions. Sara relished the opportunity "to mature both lyrically and musically. The scope of this album was by far the greatest we've attempted to date and we needed the experience of the past ten years to help us achieve that!"

What's more, controversially, both Tegan and Sara have spoken out about their desire to reach a wider, mainstream audience - a feat fuelled, in part, by commercialism. A touchy subject for many purists, it is rare to hear a 21st century band discuss the industry's commercial mechanisms so openly. Perhaps this is because, for many artists, these contrivances are an afterthought to their absolute priority: making music. According to Sara, until the production of *Heartthrob*, her and her sister had similarly placed their music ahead of commercial success. "I don't think we ever said we wanted our previous albums to be non-commercial, but, there were decisions made with regards to arrangements and sonics that likely prevented us from achieving greater mainstream recognition." Sara also noted that "Our most beloved albums to our die-hard fans weren't made to please anyone but ourselves" - an approach that is still pivotal in the band's musical output.

Continued on next page >>

Review

From the very first second of CHVRCHES' debut, *The Bones of What You Believe*, everything just seems to come together. Resisting singular definition in terms of genre, each track emanates gripping riffs and drops, with Lauren Mayberry's floating vocals blending seamlessly with generous lashings of synth. The record is so much more than just an indie mashup; it's the best of intelligent pop married with energetic electronica, producing something that's palpably unique and accessible.

'Lies' and 'Under the Tide' offer up heavier, 80s-inspired synth and some of the catchiest rhythms of the album, while 'Gun' and opener 'The Mother We Share' present some fascinat-

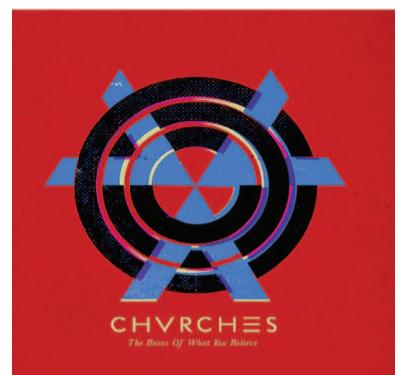
ing lyrics, as in the former - "Now I'll be a gun / and it's you I come for / Hide, hide, never felt so easy." Omens of what's to come throughout the album, these lyrics unearth some of the darkness laced in to the intricacies of the work as a whole. Tracks such as 'Tether' and 'Science/Visions' are made all the more eerie by Lauren's girlish, accented tone.

What makes *The Bones of What You Believe* all the more great is its breadth, which spans both styles and sentiments. Moving from the sinister sounds of aforementioned tracks, both 'Recover' and 'Lungs' are cheerful, uplifting tracks with just as much appeal as their melancholy counterparts. It's rare for an album to nail both sides of

the emotional spectrum, but CHVRCHES have done so, with stunningly intricate melodies to match. Some of the dance moves that this album have induced in me personally are frankly unfit for human eyes.

Even the slower tracks are engaging, with the lingering vocals and drawn-out discord of 'You Caught the Light' changing the feel of the album once again. The album builds to a brilliant finale in 'Broken Bones' which turns the tone back towards the darkness, with guttural beats and drawn-out, developmental riffs.

So there it is, a brilliant album from a band with masses of potential - Scottish synthpop - who knew?



The Bones of What You Believe
CHVRCHES
Alex Osborne



Mechanical Bull
KINGS OF LEON
Katrina Northern

Mechanical Bull, Kings of Leon's sixth studio album, is an album of recovery, of getting back on track after the storm. It's far from perfect but is perhaps a necessary phase in their journey after the events following *Come Around Sundown* (2010), when their tour had to be cancelled due to alcohol problems, pigeon droppings and general in-band tensions. Following a three year hiatus, Caleb claims he has learnt to control his drinking and three of the band are now married with families. Their days of reckless hedonism are behind them. Maybe.

The quick momentum of opener 'Super-soaker' is a positive start to the album. With its frantic guitar, regular changes in pace and the grizzly tones of Caleb Followill, at their

best, it's one of their most infectious Southern rock tracks. It slips into the languorous guitar tones of 'Rock City' with softly wailing string bends and blunted distortion. Lyrically, 'Rock City' evokes Caleb's own struggles ("I've been several miles and plenty more / and I found myself face-first on the floor / searching for something").

'Beautiful War' is a steady rock ballad, which builds slowly from a sparse beginning but doesn't exactly arrive anywhere. One of the band's weaknesses is their comfort in repetition, playing it safe rather than searching for the right lyrics. This is partly a by-product of Caleb's penchant from improvising verses as he goes, which can result in cathartic, re-

pressed honesty or moderately vacuous repetition. Too often it's the latter. 'Wait For Me' feels more personal. As Caleb achingly sings "gonna open my heart / right at the scars... wait for me, wait for me / it's all better now", it's hard to see it as anything other than a letter of reassurance to his band-mates.

There are some weaker tracks, the retro-funky 'Family Tree' gets tiresome quickly and sounds ripe for sitcom theme-tune, while 'Temple' is the kind of song that might thrive in a buzzing arena but doesn't have much to say and is frustratingly forgettable.

The Followill's want this to be their 'Come-back Story'; it may be the beginning of it, but there is still a long way to go.

I'm a grown woman now," proclaims Jessie J on *Alive* opener 'It's My Party'. How so, then, that she doesn't seem to have added any new chords to her musical repertoire since her career began. Four songs in to her album, I'm still unsure as to whether the track has actually changed. Her voice, so acrobatic in quality, decries an inability to actually hold one note for over a second, and essentially sounds as if she's swallowed a slinky and is now painstakingly drawing it back out of her throat across sixteen tracks.

What happened to the mandemz, Jessie? Where did they go? 'I Miss Her,' a paltry attempt at sad Jessie, moves swiftly in to the equally uninspiring 'Daydreamin' - so joyful you can drop a letter! Casual Jessie. The whole album feels so insincere and plagiarised that it's hard to take any

of her emotions seriously. Turmoil tends not to be accompanied by cheerful guitar riffs and semi-shouted confessions, Jessie.

Club crowd-pleaser 'Excuse My Rude' has sick, heavy beatz to please the bass-lovers, juicy as a peach with all the insubstantial fluff to match. I'd like to comment on the vocals here, but they're so distorted it's hard to tell what's real and what's been artificially manufactured; the first bars sound like angry children reciting playground rhymes. Quite frankly, a dancing android with a couple of Duracells in the back would probably be more entertaining.

As for 'Wild', the first track to be released as a single, we are offered up double Jessie, one voice vomiting vibrato over another, lower and higher. As we know from Jessie's hit 'Price Tag', she has a

mighty political head on her shoulders, and this is demonstrated once again on 'Conquer the World', a romantic power ballad showing that love conquers all, and cures all the problems. Obvs.

Did you know that Jessie J also has a drummer who can do all the classic drum beats? Title track 'Alive' reminds us that Jessie J is indeed alive, as metaphorically represented in the heartbeat of the song's drum. Deep Jessie.

Each track works through predictable progressions with boring lyrics lacking flair. Coming soon to a club near you, sticking to the charts like a limpet. For pop lovers, of course, the album is a welcome dose of the standard fare, but even for box-ticking formulaic tunes, *Alive* offers little. Jessie J's reputation precedes her, and it's this alone which'll save the record from the bargain bin.



Alive
JESSIE J
Alex Osborne

The Manic Street Preachers are part of a dying breed - a band with something to say about politics. In many songs on eleventh studio album, *Rewind the Film*, there's a sense of disappointment that their music failed to mobilise a generation. They have no obvious heirs; it's a serious and tragic statement, and a reminder that there are still things that should make people angry. They didn't need to shout it; in fact, this quiet(er), predominantly acoustic, meditation is much more haunting.

The album is likely to be an emotional listen for anyone familiar with the Manic Street Preachers' previous work. Opener 'This Sullen Welsh Heart' (lead singer James Dean Bradfield duets with Lucy Rose) is a solemn start to the album, but Rose's breezy vocal lifts the tone, dragging it away from despair. Next is 'Show me the Wonder' exploding in a paroxysm of brass-

fuelled joy. Reminiscent of some of their big numbers, it celebrates that wonder which eludes explanation through science and religion. Richard Hawley lends his voice to title track 'Rewind the Film', a loving tribute to the band's childhoods, while Cate Le Bon takes the lead on '4 Lonely Roads'.

Perhaps the most emotional song for those versed in Manics history is 'As Holy As the Soil (That Buries Your Skin)'. With elements of gospel, it's a heart-rending call to lost band mate Richey Edwards. Founding member, lyricist and rhythm-guitarist Richey Edwards was a talismanic figure in the Manics' early days before he went missing in 1995, and has never been truly absent from a Manics album since. 'As Holy as the Soil' is primarily for Richey, but also about all of the people the band have lost.

The personal themes abound as the album

is also about the band's home of Wales. 'Manobier' is a loving instrumental picture of the village in Pembrokeshire. Wire has described it as the "calm before the storm" of final track '30 Year War' - a chance for Wire to unleash his venom at the governments of the last 30 years. He rages against the "endless parade of old Etonian scum" who "line the front benches" before going on to quote Lenin: "I ask you again/what is to be done?". His targets are Thatcherism and all the scandals, mistruths and hypocrisy since. In interviews, Wire has been equally scathing about opposition leader Ed Miliband, describing him "pitiful".

With a 'Krautrock' album coming next year, *Rewind the Film* is a space for breathing and processing, a mid-life moment of calm which nevertheless retains the band's intensity and even gains something in the way of subtlety.



Rewind the Film
MANIC STREET PREACHERS
Katrina Northern

Continued from M21 >>

It is true, Tegan has previously spoken out against the lack of diversity on radio - an undeniable issue in contemporary music. She stated, in an interview with *Rolling Stone* that she wanted to create music that could be played on the radio, representing diverse genres. Her ambition was to see "me reflected back at me". Sara, in our interview, also lamented the "narrowness to the playlists on most radio stations, but, there have been some exciting exceptions," further enthusing a time when Tegan and she could see "radio changing and expanding to be more inclusive. Our attitude toward the possibility of being on radio shifted."

This attitude shift came at the right time, paving the way for Tegan and Sara's highly acclaimed *Heartthrob* to rise to

commercial success. Once more, in light of this, the duo found themselves under attack from the shadowy yet (sometimes justifiably) self-righteous marginalised corners of the music sphere. Sara puts it neatly when the notion of 'selling out' is brought to the forefront of our discussion: "Growing up in the 1990s it was common to label successful bands 'sell-outs'. That never sat right with me. I think our business is one of a few that people assume if you're rewarded too greatly for your art that somehow reduces the value of it."

Having just completed the UK leg of a sell-out tour supporting FUN., Tegan and Sara have been officially initiated into the British music scene. After previously only attaining, in Sara's words, a "cult status abroad", the twins have been

thrown onto the mainstream radar thanks to their latest single, 'Closer' reaching poll position on the UK Charts and cameo appearances on hit shows broadcast in England such as 90210. Clearly, Tegan and Sara have achieved the commercial success they strived for without completely losing sight of their creative heritage - no mean feat, in the 21st century musical climate. Surely, it would be outdated and regressive to critique them for breaking out of the marginalisation of certain genres and dispelling the limitations they impose? The trajectory of Tegan and Sara's career shows that perhaps commercialisation isn't as dirty a word as we may believe. M

Heartthrob is out now.

Maintaining Focus

Sticking to one brand of electronic music has never crossed **Sub Focus'** mind. He speaks with Chris Morris about custom-built live shows, spaceship design and writing albums in bedrooms.

Speak to any successful artist, and they'll most likely tell stories of how their passion, interest and enthusiasm for music has roots stemming back to an early age – a constant clattering of wooden spoons on saucepans as a toddler, perhaps, or taking every solo opportunity given in the school choir. Indeed, during live performances, Dave Grohl often instructs the thousands before him to get together with a couple of pals in a garage and start a band, further proving a rich passion for the art of musical performance. Usually, though, these artists tend to form such illustrious careers by continuing with these early musical escapades.

For Nick Doumwa – known better by stage moniker Sub Focus – it hasn't quite worked out that way. Starting a band aged 13 and playing bass guitar, his evolution into producing the electronic brutes of noise you'll most likely have heard in Kuda this week needs a few pointers to help join the dots. Interestingly, Nick's route into the production of EDM began by covering all aspects of the band's production – not just composing the music itself. "When I was in my early teens, I started a rock band with some friends at school, and that led me to get into electronic music production. I wanted to write the songs for the band, and then worked out how to record the band."

Nick's approach of understanding and controlling every aspect of his music, from its production through to the live show, is refreshing in a world where the Guetta-style can't-be-arssed attitude to live sets is becoming increasingly common. "I want to get away from this thing where live shows are being criticised for not being visual enough. I want people to see that I'm doing things, not just pressing play."

Of course, there are a number of ways to respond to such general criticism of EDM live shows. Nick's approach, however, is one of the more unique answers. Having spent "the last couple of years" developing the concept, a brand new, entirely immersive circular LED-rig will accompany Sub Focus on his upcoming UK and global tours, which had its inception at this year's Coachella festival in California and has since been used a couple of times across the summer. "The live show is a step up from DJing – we have a huge lighting rig that I've had custom-made for the show. Over the last couple of years, I've been developing this for the show, and the technical side



of it is quite groundbreaking; the LEDs are arranged in circles, which is very unusual."

It's not only the lighting that Nick's developed from scratch, either: "A lot of the instruments I use are custom-built", he explains, further proving the importance he puts on maintaining a close relationship between every audio and visual aspect of his performances. "They're made by this inventor guy

festivals across the summer, headlining Isle of Wight's second stage and the new Radio 1 Dance Tent at Reading & Leeds. Laughing, Nick jokes how "some festivals were better than others", before explaining a sense of achievement and integrity at headlining Reading at this stage in his career: "Having played there a few times before earlier in the afternoon, it's nice to see progression to the

reached third position in the UK charts, and that he "wouldn't class as a Sub Focus song" – was produced by Nick, marking one of his most successful projects to date. "We met at the Winter Miami Music Conference through some mutual friends", Nick reminisces, "and I just wanted to get involved with producing more." But with new album *Torus* released last week, his efforts are now concentrated to Sub Focus: "It's difficult to balance it all, so I'm trying to streamline things."

The evolution of Nick's music has led to a style more open and loose than most others in his field; his willingness to incorporate all aspects of electronic music – dubstep, electro, drum and bass, house – is a conscious mantra he lives by to ensure his music remains fresh. He explains how he "just kind of started off making drum and bass in my bedroom". Nick's passion his craft begins to flood out: "Sometimes I think it'd be a hell of a lot easier if I just wrote one style... but I also feel it'd be incredibly boring to write an electronic album at one tempo. I mean, why would anyone want to do that?"

This attitude is clear throughout *Torus*. Having "decided after the last album" to work with more vocalists – the new album features Bloc Party's Kele and Alex Clare, to name a few – and "skilled players", it's clear that a four-year wait between 2009 debut *Sub Focus* and last week's follow-up has brought Nick's sound into a multi-dimensional space unlike any other EDM artists around. And the name '*Torus*'? "It's the name of the geometric shape on the cover. It's all about energy and simplicity. It's the ideal shape for spaceship design in the future... and, it can be used for artificial gravity whilst it's rotating. There's some interesting theories behind it." M

"We found this inventor guy in the States who created two boxes. They basically allow me to control the set by moving my hands around."

we found in the States who created these two boxes that basically allow me to control the set by moving my hands around in the air. It's a futuristic way of performing."

With an upcoming UK tour, Nick's new live show is sure to be a unique immersion into live electronic music. But his shows aren't confined exclusively to tours, having taken a residency at Ibiza's Amnesia nightclub over the summer. In fact, when speaking with him, he explained to me how he "played last night", but is "used to it".

Indeed, playing gigs almost every weekend has hardened him into a veteran of dealing with the consequences of such intense live performances.

In addition, Sub Focus played a host of

stage where headlining feels credible." But the outstanding memory would be his experiences at this year's Glastonbury Festival. "I ended up playing three times: I did a set for Radio 1, then the actual stage set, and I did an after-hours set right at the end in this sort of temporary amphitheatre construction. I finished the set as the sun was coming up on the final morning."

But it's not only in records and live performances under the Sub Focus banner that Nick's interests lay, as he details how, "after album number one, people were interested." So much so, that in the years since his first LP, talks discussing writing material for Ellie Goulding have taken place. Moreover, Example's 2009 single 'Kickstarts' – a track that

REVERB.

Kanye West on the relationship between music and environment

"I don't even listen to rap. My apartment is too nice to listen to rap in."

FILM.

Taking on the Smartphone Generation

BAFTA winning director and Lords peer **Beeban Kidron** wants to start a conversation about the internet, as she explains to James Tyas.

Novelist Jonathan Franzen wrote in his lengthy essay, provocatively entitled ‘what’s wrong with the modern world’ (published in *the Guardian* earlier this month), that ‘with technocentrism, a humanist rhetoric of “empowerment” and “creativity” and “freedom” and “connection” and “democracy” abets the frank monopolism of the technotitans; the new infernal machine seems increasingly to obey nothing but its own development logic, and it’s far more enslavingly addictive, and far more pandering to people’s worst impulses, than the newspapers ever were.’

This, and a clip of comedian Louis C.K., currently doing the rounds on Twitter, talking about how he won’t allow his daughters to have smartphones because they don’t allow children to develop empathy, runs along similar lines to the argument that British director Beeban Kidron puts forward in her latest documentary *InRealLife*.

It appears that an ideological sea change about the internet and its implications, for teens in particular, is rapidly gathering momentum. But why is it only now that people are beginning to ask questions? Kidron believes that, for her generation (“the generation still writing in the papers”), “the internet was going to be this huge liberatory technology. That was the idea of the internet. So it’s only now that we see that it might have been hijacked a bit, that we say ‘hang on a minute. We were promised something different.’ And we could have something different, so we all start shouting and it does take time, but it has been very very rapid. It’s recent. It’s new.”

“The funny thing about being a filmmaker is that you ask questions of yourself every day but there are some questions with which you suddenly get a tingle in your tummy and think ‘I need to know the answer,’” she explains. The question that prompted her to make *InRealLife* came when she realised that she was never in the presence of a teenager who wasn’t tapping away at a smartphone. “They talk and look down at the phone. They text and look up from the phone. It was developing as a third limb and I just wondered ‘does this make a difference?’

InRealLife focusses on various case studies of teenagers and their, often unhealthy, relationships with the internet and how it is modifying their behaviour and values. One particularly distressing story comes from a young girl whose intractable obsession with her BlackBerry forced her to perform sexual acts on a gang of boys in order to retrieve it from them. Another centres around Tobin, a former Oxford Student who was expelled due to his addiction to online gaming. Kidron argues that the accounts of those featured in the film aren’t outliers: they represent widespread issues that affect an entire generation of adolescents.

I ask Kidron how she elicited such candid testimony from her teenage subjects (most of whom she found by heading out onto the street with her camera), particularly Ryan, who spoke about his ritualistic daily viewing or pornography. “It was just a very real thing for him and he was not ashamed and I think the fact that he was not ashamed of looking at porn was very useful because there are hundreds of thousands of kids looking at porn. Just because he talks about it doesn’t make him singular. What makes him singular is the way that he talks about it.”

Indeed, later in the film Ryan speaks, with astonishing insight, about the harmful effect watching pornography had on how he perceives women. “I think what’s interesting about his self reflective moment at the end when he sort of analyses it is that, without the film, he possibly would not have said that. That is to say, I didn’t put the words in his mouth,” she stresses. “That was clearly what he thought. But it was the sheer act of sitting, doing nothing, thinking and reflecting [that allowed him to say that]. I suppose, in a way, that it is a metaphor for the whole film: if you don’t, as a young person, have time to sit and reflect, you may never deeply think about your own intimacies and choices because you are always on to the next little



beep or interruption.”

Despite an aversion to pornography (“I don’t like its violence or its male gaze”), Kidron is at pains not to portray as a Mary Whitehouse-esque, won’t-somebody-please-think-of-the-children concerned parent: “I’m not against sex, or finding out about sex, or using the internet to find out about sex. I’m just very keen that we look at a much, much bigger picture of how the internet is effecting young people’s sense of self and sense of intimacy.”

“This film is a cultural intervention.”

She also baulks at certain critics interpretation of her film as a ‘shock-doc’: “I think people who are shocked aren’t looking very closely around them. We have had a huge number of teenagers come and see this film. They aren’t shocked. They aren’t shocked at all.”

She also pays little heed to those critics who have insinuated that the director of *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* making a serious documentary seems like a mismatch. “To be honest, you know, those people should do their research a little bit more carefully because, of course, as well as *Bridget Jones’s*, since 1982 I have been making documentaries about serious subjects.” For Kidron, this highlights another problem concerning our constant connectivity: “although its fantastic that everyone has access to the airwaves, I suggest those people who take the privilege of access to the airwaves treat it seriously. I don’t care what people say about me. I just want them to think about the issue.”

I suggest that *InRealLife* raises many intriguing issues but doesn’t appear to have an overarching thesis. “That’s interest-

ing,” she says. “I think it does have a thesis. The thesis is that we have to reconsider the net as a neutral space. We have to consider the collateral damage of the great desire for profit. But in terms of giving you a list of things to do, people to write to, me being angry at the end like Michael Moore – it doesn’t have that thing stylistically.”

But what were her aims in making this film? “I wanted to start a conversation. There are many people that need to be involved in that conversation. And as a documentarian, I speak up for people and give them the opportunity to get issues on the table but I don’t speak on behalf of anyone. That is a really important difference for me.”

Kidron tells me that her film has definitely touched a nerve. “I’ve had messages from people in parliament who want to look at this. I’ve had messages from schools and parents and every screening I’ve been to, a whole bunch of teenagers have said ‘you know what, we’re actually really impressed by Facebook but we no longer have tools to communicate outside of that. What do you suggest we do?’ And as far as I’m concerned, this film is a cultural intervention and making people think and making people talk and making people desire things that they may have to go on and organize themselves is really what my job is.”

I suggest that a pessimist might argue that *InRealLife* isn’t so much about the medium of the internet but about capitalism. “And I would say that is very astute (laughs).” But, for that reason, it seems there is little young people can do to affect change. “Hang on a minute,” she interrupts. “You guys are the next generation. You want to inherit the world. You know that global capital is leaving you with the melting icecaps and your means of expression is being reduced to 140 characters. But you have to do that willingly is what I say. If we decide that global capitalism, global debt, and lack of respect for the planet, young people growing up and everything from sex onwards is what we want; fine. But I’m going down shouting.”

Kidron’s desire to question the new normal is infectious and it’s telling that companies such as Facebook and Google refused to be interviewed for this film. Kidron tells me that, “It’s just inevitable that we’re going to look at this and say ‘ooh, hang on, these guys can’t just make billions of pounds of profit without making it a little bit safer and taking a bit more care. Coca Cola can’t put any old thing in their mixture, we’ve stopped putting asbestos in our insulation and when there’s a lot of cars on the road we put in a traffic system.’” She then poses the question, “Can you think of any other area of life where you deliver a service or a product to the consumer where you don’t have a duty of care?” Well. Can you? M

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Can Rowling reignite the magic?

Alfie Packham

Warner Brothers have released a spin-off film to the Harry Potter series to be made in partnership with J.K. Rowling. A move which seems inevitable now for any successful movie franchise nowadays.

The film will take place in the Potter universe with all its familiar wizarding customs, but with the entirely different setting of New York 70 years before Harry Potter's antics. It will be based on *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, Harry's school text book which was also published as a supplement to the novel series. Harking to Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* and the tale "There and Back Again", the movie will explain how Fantastic Beasts came to be written by the main character Newt Scamander through his encounters with, well, fantastic beasts.

J.K. Rowling has stressed that it will not be a prequel or related to the scar-headed teen in any way, but an "extension of the wizarding world".

This is welcome news indeed for those lost souls who still haunt Pottermore and its various fan forums, feeding from the last morsels of magical trivia left over from J.K. Rowling's notes. But what about the rest of us? For those who enjoyed the closure of the final film, that is, without the need for factoids about the manufacture of quaffles salvaged from a napkin Rowling once doodled on, this new premise could be filled with flaws.

Rowling's magical settings were partly to credit for the phenomenal popularity of the Harry Potter books and movies, yet it is likely that not a single one we know will be featured

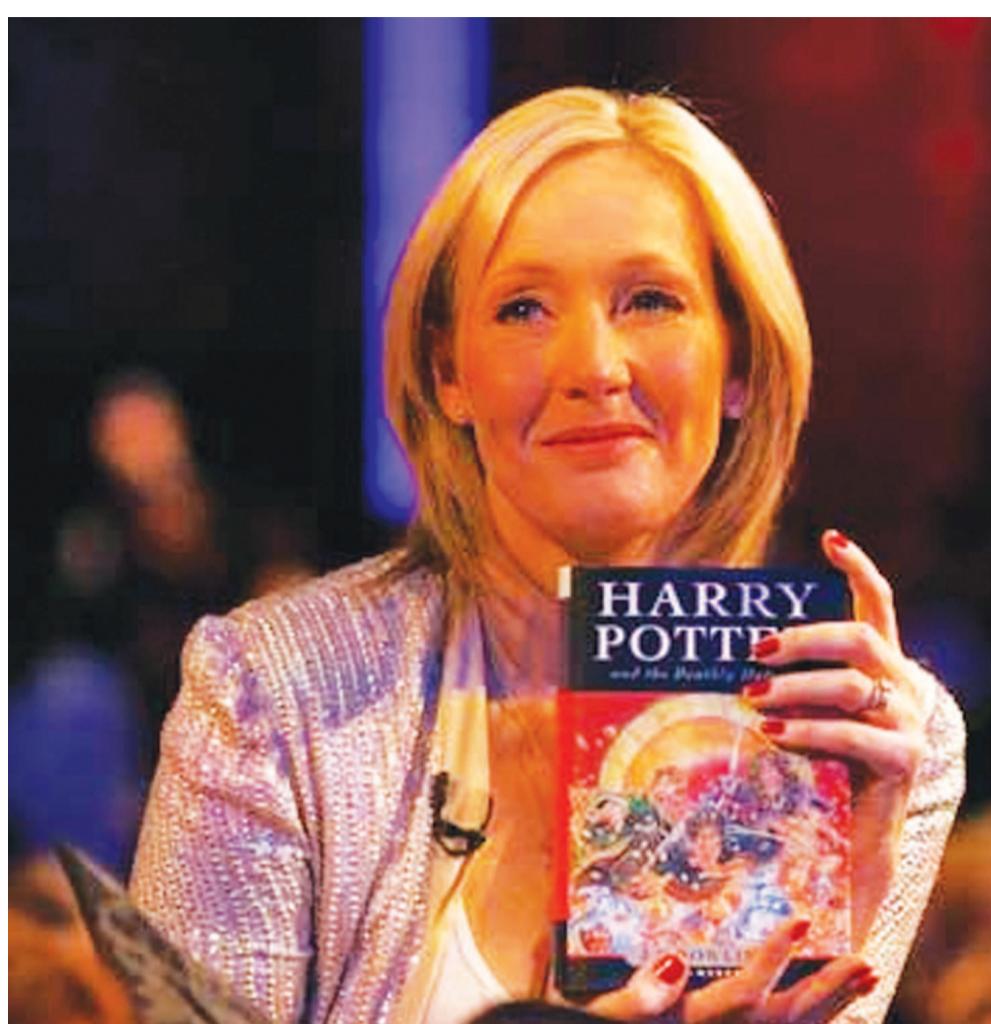
in the proposed film. The importance of location was revealed by *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I*, which felt hollow with its lack of scenes taking place within the great hall, magical staircases and beast-filled grounds of Hogwarts. By omitting the beloved castle with its moving staircases and rival houses, the audience was denied a chunk of Rowling's rich world. In this upcoming instalment, a relocation to New York could therefore dislocate the fantasy altogether.

J.K. Rowling's debut as screenwriter will further distance the new franchise from its predecessors. Rowling was involved with previous films at an advisory level, but for the novelist "the idea of seeing Newt Scamander, the supposed author of Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, realised by another writer was difficult". Rather than another second-hand interpretation of her work, the new film can be considered as "authentic Rowling" with the original author of the series as its scribe.

Then again, Rowling's increased creative influence over the project may also prove to be hazardous. We have already seen the author

expand her world without enough regulation in her novel *Harry Potter and the Order of The Phoenix*.

This 766-page product of under-editing was filled with indulgent details irrelevant to the central narrative. If film producers pander to Rowling's every artistic whim, and without due focus on a story needing to be told within



three hours, we could end up with the film equivalent of a fat book full of skipped pages.

But perhaps we should have a little more trust and a little more respect for the author of the best-selling novels of all time. Amidst the groans of "oh no, Rowling's doing a George Lucas", the author's statements on the new film suggest that this will be no mere *Phantom Menace* cash-in. Rowling has always maintained that she would only return to Potter "if I had an idea that I was really excited about", and, according to her, "this is it." Any doubtful Potterhead can rest assured that story-telling will at least in part be a driving force of the new franchise.

As for the dreaded move across the Atlantic, a change in scenery might not be all bad. Who knows? A New York period drama with

a magical twist could be more stylish than the hunk of American wizard-cheese many will expect it to be. With the promise of a Rowling script, the film will provide interesting insights into the workings of magical society overseas, and for the first time introduce us to wand-wielding characters from outside of the British Isles.

The adaptation *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* will no doubt be a film written under the immense pressure of expectation. It will be a film whose very production will divide opinion, and whose final cut will be huge whatever its quality.

But we have every reason to believe that the new Potter film will be good, because J.K. Rowling says she's excited. And if J.K. Rowling's excited, we probably should be too.



Diana

Director: Oliver Hirschbieger
Review: Mary O'Connor



"I'll never be happy again, it's the end I just know it."

And this was the final nail in the coffin of Hirschbiegel's ill-advised venture – coming only a pitiful 50 minutes in. The nation's enchantment with the Diana affair has since long abated; a reality which the film's architects did not seem to have considered. Countless retellings and probes into her troubled life and tragic death have been mounted, leaving little room for Hirschbiegel

to strike out with a unique vision. The entire film was plagued by a stale heaviness that could not be lifted even by the erstwhile sterling leading lady, Naomi Watts.

The potential for excavating serious insights on reflection of Diana's final days was exasperatingly untapped by Hirschbiegel's clouded directorial line. There is an attempt at the beginning, as well as flickers throughout the film, where Hirschbiegel looks to convey the media maelstrom that Diana constantly found herself in, with the first 10 minutes of the film featuring long shots and panning that suggested a perspective of complicity in hunting the princess. As with most of the missed opportunities in the film, this lack of delving deeper into the lingering spectre of the media signals something of the lacklustre nature of the piece. Where Diana is fetishised in the opening scenes, and later as she models a blonde wig in an attempt to disguise herself, the subliminal undertones are not pushed further as scenes are too brief and cross-cut together for any real inspection.

Naomi Watts' portrayal of the nation's princess left much to be desired. Before being too severe, it must be admitted that Watts' Diana was the unfortunate victim of another type of car crash: the fatal union between directorial impotence and a mortifyingly embarrassing script. Watts' portrayal of the Princess of Wales was painfully frustrating to endure; with forced English manner-

isms whilst sporting a butter-wouldn't-melt expression akin to that of Helen Mirren, Watts' performance was embarrassingly off the mark. These surface indicators combined with the excruciatingly clichéd comments, ("he doesn't treat me like a princess, he doesn't know who I am") characterised the royal as an irritatingly wistful woman who has awful sexual banter ("The palace stays open very late") and a particularly patronising and naïve attitude towards the working class. At one awkwardly placed moment, Diana explains to her Pakistani lover, Hasnat that she in fact, "loves 'telly', especially 'Corrie' and Eastenders and then proceeds to squeal with excitement at the prospect of "sending out" for a hamburger.

Instead of emphasising the heartbreak and mental trauma behind Diana's disturbed behaviour, Hirschbiegel's vision resembled something closer to *Cirque du Freak*. On ending the relationship with her beloved Hasnat, her mental breakdown becomes almost comical as she sprints across gravel barefoot and proceeds to pound on her piano like a Miss Havisham on acid. The final image of the film – the sea of flowers outside Buckingham Palace – was crudely obvious with the emotional response it demanded. Where Hirschbiegel tried to inhabit the Diana myth, the opportunity to engage in a dialogue between events and interpreting them failed, leaving the story of a wronged and confused young woman unjustly told.

Take It Away, Boys

Helena Parker takes on the arduous task of the York takeaways, with the help of a few willing volunteers.

If there's one thing you will discover this week (if you haven't already) it will be the joy of a post-night out takeaway. It will probably be suggested by your STYC, it may well be from that sub-human pit of grease and crumpled dignities, Efes Pizza, and it will either dramatically increase or gradually decrease your desire to vomit.

Crazy though it seems, there is more to takeaway in York than Efes. Indeed, there is far more to food in York than a takeaway, but that is for another time, when you are neither hungover nor in need of many carbs in little time.

If you've made it to The Willow and endured the inevitable hour-long queues, you are probably so elated to get into this place that everyone has been telling you about, and so far gone from the novelty of the £1 shot/prawn cracker combination, that you very likely have met the delightful Mr Okie and his kebab van, lying in wait around the corner.

Top marks for being a chatty guy, breaking up bitch-fights, and for knowing exactly who he is catering for - namely the mildly drunk to the completely paralytic. Also, lots of Yorkshiresmen. Hence the prevalence of gravy with everything, an expanse of elephant-leg donner, and a tendency to call you 'love' or 'chuck'.

Mr Dennis (I am reliably informed) at the bottom of Parliament St, and the Efes van at the top, both sell very similar fare, at very similar prices, with equally unidentifiable meat. Anyone would have thought there were freshers and stag parties around.

However, there is an option that does not involve you eating cold shame-pizza off of your floor the next morning. It is not a requirement to wonder if the flecks of grey matter on your pizza are meat or in fact the recurring contents of your stomach. 'Revelations!' I hear you cry. Although not the cheapest option on the market, it certainly is one for the occasional comfort fix.

In terms of actually edible takeaways, York has a surprising amount to offer. Dispel all thoughts of grey, grizzly, greasy Efes from your mind, and look to the brighter side of takeaway.

For pizza, you could do worse than **Sizzlers**. Rated one of the top take-outs in the UK by hungryhouse.co.uk, they serve up a good selection of pizza, calzone, jacket potatoes and more.

In a pre-Freshers' Week foray into the joys of take-away (this is where the volunteers came in), they scored well on appearance (although how far wrong can you go with pizza?).

the ratio of meat to everything else, and they also managed to come up with a cheerful deliveryman. Something of a rarity, I would say.

We shared a meat calzone, which was crisp, steaming and enormous. Costing £6.50, it's easily a meal for one guy or two girls. And at £5.60 per 10" pizza, it's less than half the price of **Dominos**.

Moving on, but not away from carbs by any means, we come to fish and chips. As I may have mentioned already, it can be tricky to escape the gravy, but do not be discouraged by the stony silence at your refusal.

In my experience, the best chippy by miles is **Harpers of Wetwang**. Despite the unappealing name, it serves fresh, crunchy and generous portions of fish, pie (and gravy), sausage, and chips.

What's more, it's opposite the Shell garage, so well within walking distance of campus. It's not the cheapest around; **Jenny's Fish and Chip** opposite Walmgate Bar is fairly good value, but in terms of quality, Harpers is unparalleled.

We moved on in our carb-laden takeaway feast to Indian food. That staple of takeaways which seems to crop up on every street corner and waft into every hungry nostril.

There are many possibilities around; **Chenab** on Hull Road, **Indian Fusion**,



Top tips include (anti-clockwise from top-right): trying to ignore floating grease, boiling your own rice, keeping curry warm in a 50 degree oven, and of course smiling through the spice of a vindaloo



"You wonder if the grey flecks on your shame-pizza are meat or in fact the recurring contents of your stomach"

Mirchiz on Fishergate, to name a few, and probably in that order.

Chenab is fine, but nothing more. **Indian Fusion** was involved in our Pre-Freshers experiment, and had an excellent delivery time; almost twice as fast as everyone else. We had vegetable samosas which were fiery and crisp, sog-free and flavoursome.

We also tried a chicken tikka balti which, although the chicken looked 'like fluorescent

industrial waste' according to one takeaway companion, tasted spicy but not overpowering, and had a melting, gentle, and not too runny sauce.

pes, but the taste is enough to make up for that.

From the usual to the less so, we looked for Thai, Cantonese, or Japanese takeaway as a change from curry or chips.

What we found was **OneCook**, a takeaway which caters for all these and more. In a way, they almost spread themselves too thin. As a result we had the bewildering combination of mixed dim sum, which was delightfully fluffy, flavoursome, and had a good variety; a tapas size panaeng neua which was slightly watery but had a good selection of vegetables and plenty of meat; and miso soup. The miso was a disappointment with overcooked, slimy tofu, but the soup itself had good flavour.

Takeaway is not just something for a hangover. It can make a girly night in or a post-lads' night out just that little bit better, if you know where to go.

It is worth hunting around for the best places; an advantage of York being so small is that most places deliver.

So, just occasionally, forget Dominos, forget cooking, and as the annoying and mildly 118-esque advert says, "Don't cook, just eat". And don't eat the shame-pizza. Just don't. M

Hurry, Curry: The Best and Worst of the York Takeaways

Best for:

Speedy meals: Indian Fusion. At 20 mins they've got it down.
Banter with delivery boys: Sizzlers. He couldn't think of a joke, but at least he had a crack at it.

Presentation: Mirchiz. Not just your average sloppy curry.
Cheap as chips: Sizzlers. Full meal for £6.50? Yes please.

Reusable Tupperware: OneCook. Solid.

Losing your dignity: Efes. Oh the pain.
Losing an eye: Outside Okies Kebab. All of the bitch-slaps.
The ultimate carb-load: Any of the above. There will be a chip bap, chip wrap, or super-size chips with curry sauce and gravy somewhere on the menu.

Vegetarian options: OneCook or Indian Fusion.



Worst for:

Food-poisoning: Jumbo's Chinese. Don't do it.
Speedy delivery: Mirchiz, but you can BYOB if you go to their restaurant... so why not?

Breaking the bank: Dominos. Bye-bye student loan.
Banter with delivery boys: York Tandoori for making you pay £15 before they will deliver. No banter for you.

Blow your brains out: Madras curry from Mirchiz. If you're not sweating by the end of that...

Dieting: Harpers. Oh the waft of chippy glory. Unavoidable.
Meat to everything else ratio: Chenab. All of the sauce, none of the substance.

Grease release: Efes. Horrendous.



PHOTO CREDIT: BLUE MOON IN HER EYES

A Bite of the Big Apple

Over the summer I was lucky enough to visit New York and Massachusetts and even luckier to "sample" (scuff greedily) the delicious food. American cuisine might suggest greasy burgers and fast food, and whilst you'll certainly find some of that, there is a far wider variety on offer.

New York's food is multi-cultural. Influenced by immigrants from everywhere over centuries, there is cuisine from backgrounds as varied as Italian, Chinese and Jewish. So whatever you have a craving for, chances are that New York's endless delis, street stalls and restaurants will offer it.

New York's pizza is particularly iconic. A far cry from your Domino's margarita, New York has made the Italian dish its own. Wide with a thin crust, you can order a pie (that's a whole pizza) or more sensibly opt for a \$3 single slice (which is bigger than your face). When you've selected your toppings, your slice is baked then and there in a pizza oven. Because the slices are big and thin, there is a folding technique to eating New York pizza which adds to the fun. It's not date food (or diet food for that matter) but it is delicious.

A few hours away, Massachusetts's capital Boston is famed for its seafood. Stalls and

restaurants sell New England offerings like clams casino, fried clam strips, and chowder bread bowls (tasty seafood soup served inside a hollowed out bun). Lobster rolls were definitely the most popular seafood choice. This delicious \$15 sandwich consists of chunks of lobster meat, mayonnaise and lettuce served on a bun. More expensive than a Brown's lunch but the closest you'll get to luxury seafood on a student budget! Boston is also the birthplace of the humble tin of baked beans. A popular side dish, Boston baked beans are sweeter and darker than their UK cousins.

For dessert you can have traditional Yank favourites like brownies, apple pie and chocolate chip cookies. New York's specialty cheesecake is flavoured with vanilla, rich and creamy. Whoopie Pies are a typical New England choice: white frosting sandwiched between two round chocolate cakes, they are like supersized Oreos. And of course American candy is pretty awesome - I recommend Reese's Pieces and Peanut Butter Cups.

American blueberry pancakes were a favourite breakfast, but you can also enjoy them for pudding with ice cream or, if you're feeling really American, maple syrup. Serves 4 as dessert.

Ingredients

3 large eggs
125g plain flour
1tsp baking powder
150ml milk in a jug
1tbsp oil
2tbsp caster sugar
100g blueberries

Sift the flour, sugar and baking powder in a large bowl. Separate the yolks from whites. Put the whites in a large bowl and whisk to soft peaks (electric whisks are quicker and less tiring).

Mix the egg yolks with the milk, then add to flour. Stir with a whisk to make a smooth batter. Gently fold batter into egg whites and stir to combine. The mixture should be light and fluffy. Stir in the blueberries.

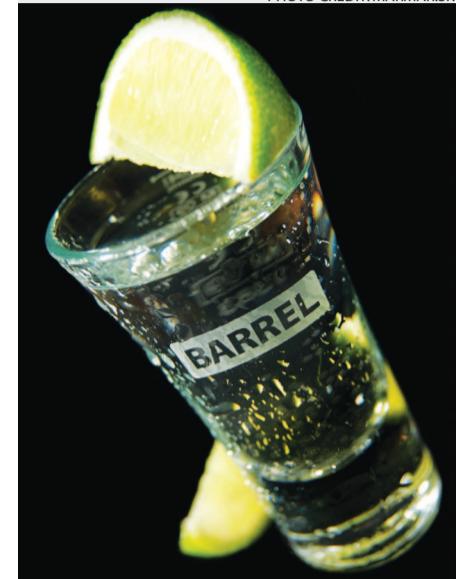
Add a tablespoonful of blueberry mixture to a hot oiled pan, to make one small pancake. Don't tilt the pan as you want them to be small, thicker and circular rather than thin.

After 2 minutes, flip with a spatula to cook the other side till both sides are golden brown. Keep on a plate whilst you repeat to use up all the mixture. *Sonali Dutta*

The Signature Drink

Rachael Thompson

PHOTO CREDIT: MARMAR.SK



Inspired by recent European city travels and a return to University where I am prepared for another onslaught of homemade concoctions and civilised drinks in York's wine bar, Lucia, I started to ponder how a certain drink becomes exclusive to its surroundings, and vice versa.

I am not just referring to the French climate being perfect for world renowned wines, rather how bars themselves have signature drinks that complement the ambience and vibe of the establishment.

At an exclusive bar in the centre of Paris, for example, you would logically expect to sample a classic French martini straight up. Whereas a tankard of cold beer, namely Dubar, would be far more suited to an afternoon in a German Pub.

Just as the smell and taste of mulled wine each Christmas conjures up memories spent in the French Alps, enjoying a Vin Chaud on the piste. No matter where I am that warm wine and whiskey drink is reminiscent of the snow and skiing.

When in Berlin, one must do as the Berliners do and have a Rye whiskey and Benedictine in one of the underground establishments dotted around the city.

Champagne has often been used as the base for signature cocktails in some of the most exclusive European cities. Nestled on the edge of St Mark's square in Venice, Harry's Bar was the birthing place for Giuseppe Cipriani's iconic Bellini. In Barcelona too the bars on the chic boulevard, El Born, blend champagne foam and martini to create their exclusive drink, a Porn star martini.

A more stereotypical drink-bar relationship is a Gin & Tonic at a prestigious London Hotel, like Tanqueray's Gin Palace.

Closer to home, the beloved Willow wouldn't be the same without a shot of sambuka and a prawn cracker. Nor would any valiant sports player be content without a dose of Rumours Kryptonite.

I had thought that bars chose their signature drinks based on popularity, I now realise that a drink can say a lot about a place. Alcohol can become as much as part of the character and tradition of a place as any other of its features.

So next time you order the house special of sambuka with a side of prawn crackers, take a second to ponder what it says about you, the establishment, and the drink...



For the filling:
5 cooking apples
240ml of water
½ cinnamon stick
½ lemon, juiced
45g brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup of raisins (optional)
Butter and flour for baking pan

For the crumble:
15g cold butter, cubed
210g all-purpose flour
115g brown sugar

CABBIES' CORNER

WHEN WE TOLD JOHN WE WERE 'PICKING SOMETHING UP' HE THOUGHT THE LESS HE KNEW THE BETTER... WE WEREN'T ACTUALLY AFTER THE HARD STUFF, BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME JOHN HAD SEE A PICK UP...



“ I've heard some excuses in my time. One boy said he was 'picking up' some keys from his mum - it was three in the morning. ”

John
Driving cabs in York for 4 years

Comprehensive Listings. To Monday week 4.

*Muse recommends. Online and advance prices do not include booking fees.

MUSIC

- 1st October - Terry Reid - The Duchess. £15
- 2nd October - Zico Chain - The Duchess. £7
- 2nd October - Tankus and the Henge - Fibbers. £5
- 3rd October - Spacehog - Fibbers. £12.50
- 4th October - La Petite Mort - Fibbers. £5
- 4th October - Breakz' End of Freshers Party - Mansion. £2 before midnight/£3 after
- *4th October - Ellie Goulding - The Barbican. *Sold Out*
- 4th October - Kid Karate - The Duchess. £5
- 5th October - Who's Next: 10th Anniversary Tour - Fibbers. £8
- 5th October - Freakin' 16th Birthday Party - Mansion. Chris Dickenfield and Pipes. £6
- 5th October - Live & Loud - Hes East. £26 online.
- 6th October - Fibbers. £5
- *7th October - Canterbury - Fibbers. £6.50
- 8th October - Idiom - Fibbers. £6
- 8th October - Nordic Giants - The Duchess. £5
- 9th October - Metal Sludge presents a UK Hairband Extravaganza 2013 with Tuff and Shame. Fibbers. £5
- 9th October - Ahab - The Duchess. £5
- 9th October - 4Four - Courtyard.Theo, 2Kind, Timoren and Party Guilt's residents. Free
- *9th October - Gin & Juice - Fibbers. 90s Hip-Hop and Old Skool. £3.50 advance / £4.50 OTD
- 10th October - 3 Daft Monkeys - Fibbers. £10
- 10th October - Spector - The Duchess. £10
- 11th October - Marsicans - Fibbers. £5
- 11th October - Troumaca - The Duchess. £6
- 11th October - The Dub Lounge - Courtyard. Dandy, DeLions, Nubiyan Twist, and City Walls. £5 advance/£6 OTD
- *11th October - Original Flavour Presents: Paul Woolford + TBA - Tokyo. £8.50 advance/£10 OTD
- 12th October - Madina Lake - Fibbers. £15
- 12th October - The Ramona Flowers - The Duchess. £5
- 13th October - Hawklords - Fibbers. £13
- 14th October - Bangers and Mash - Fibbers. £3.50 advance/£4.50 OTD
- 15th October - First World Problems: Launch Party - Fibbers. £3 advance/£4 OTD
- 16th October - Mark Eitzel - The Duchess. £14

17th October - Goldie Lookin Chain - Fibbers. £12

17th October - Temples - The Duchess. £9

*18th October - Glass Caves + Siblings. Fibbers. £6

19th October - Hope & Social - Fibbers. £8

19th October - Touchstone // Von Herten Brothers - The Duchess. £12.50

19th October - York Guildhall Orchestra - The Barbican. £15 - £22

20th October - Big Country - Fibbers. £20

20th October - Sixties Gold: The 50th Anniversary Tour - The Barbican. £27.50

21st October - Oxjam presents King No-One - Fibbers. £5

21st October - Catfish and the Bottlemen - The Duchess. £6

FILM

1st October (onwards) - About Time - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

1st October (onwards) - Blue Jasmine - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student)

1st October (onwards) - It's Such a Beautiful Day - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

*1st October (onwards) - Prisoners - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

6th October - Amelie: Tenth anniversary showing - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

7th October - The Mist - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

8th October - Upstream Colour - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

9th October - The Hangover III - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. £3 OTD

*11th October - The Great Gatsby - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. £3 OTD

12th October - Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters 2D - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

13th October - I am Breathing - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

*14th October - This is the End - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. £3 OTD

14th October - Salem's Lot - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

15th October - The Crash Reel - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

*16th October - ROH Live: Don Quixote - York Picturehouse - £15 online (student).

17th October - The Internship - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. £3 OTD

16th October - Sunshine on Leith - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

*18th October - Man of Steel - York Student Cinema, P/X/001. £3 OTD

19th October - Planes - York Picturehouse - £6.60 online (student).

*20th October - Bolshoi: Spartacus - York Picturehouse - £15 online (student).

THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK: MY SHIT WEEK SO FAR

THOMAS FENNELL

So fresher's week is upon us once again. The week of your life. Despite the timetable lasting eight days when you include YUSU events. Otherwise it would last six days. It is universally regarded as a week you will never forget or, conversely, want to forget. So, freshers, make the most of your amazing week, but spare a thought for the other ten thousand or so students who still have to graft in order to get by. A generic, aged, provincial Northern cleaner will sweep your halls and clean your kitchens; hot water and heating is there in an instant; security sit in an office waiting for your call; there's a guy on a desk who protects your oversized parcels; and for a certain lucky (or lazy) few, even ten of your meals are cooked for you every week.

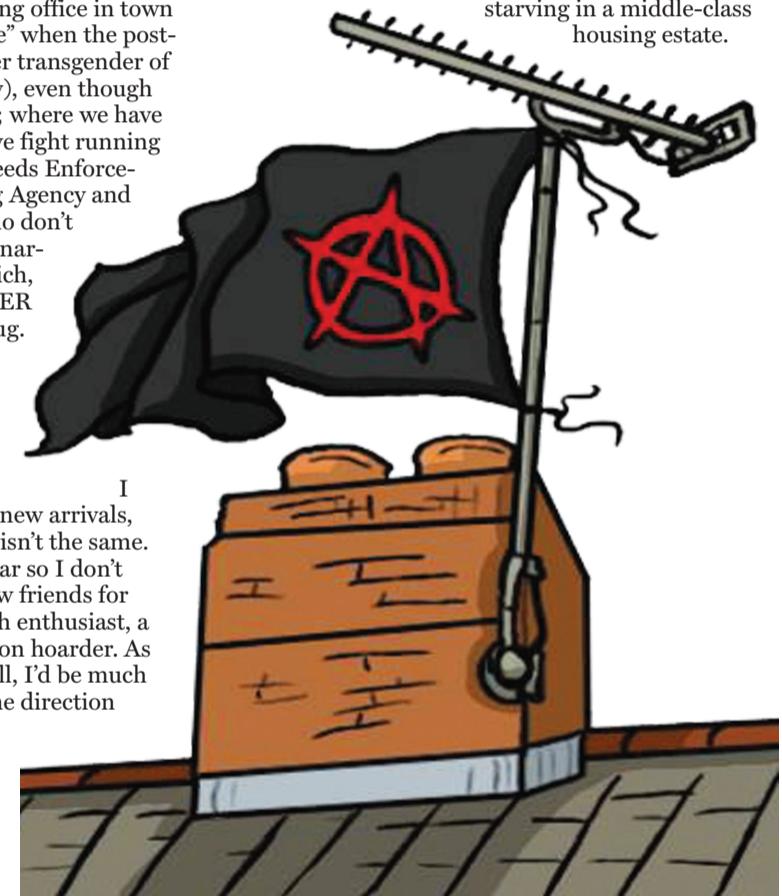
As for those living in the wilderness – more colloquially known as those 'living off campus' – we live in a much scarier world. We dread turning on hot water taps for fear that it'll ignite the boiler and it might cost us something; where parcels have to be collected from the sorting office in town because "you weren't in at the time" when the postman came (or woman, or any other transgender of that matter, regardless of sexuality), even though I was watching him from upstairs; where we have to bleach our own toilets; where we fight running battles on the street against the Leeds Enforcement Division of the TV Licensing Agency and tax collectors from the Council who don't think we're students, despite the anarchy flag flying from the aerial (which, for licensing purposes, we've NEVER USED). Fresher's week sounds snug. And life in the real world is one thwart with danger.

I've turned up to my house a week early so I can have myself my own refresher's week before I have to run round babysitting the new arrivals, but compared to last year it really isn't the same. I know who I'm living with this year so I don't have the excitement of making new friends for life. Instead, I'm stuck with a fetish enthusiast, a recovering drug addict and an onion hoarder. As for the fun I've had this week? Well, I'd be much obliged if you could point me in the direction of it. There's nothing fun to do in Osbaldwick except visit the Last Shop Before Mars at silly hours in morning, or sit in the middle of the Hull Road roundabout sobbing (yes, that was me). I've not even met local legend Lee

who works in Sainsbury's Local (Osbaldwick mandem know what manz on about, innit).

Really, all I've done this week is drink two bottles of wine, alone; hoover, then realise that choosing to live in a laminate fortress was a mistake; clean a sink; lose money on William Hill; download the Fifa 14 demo; assess my house's bath drainage, which, as it turns out, just runs straight down the side of the house and into the garden; stroll through Hes East to realise that the atmosphere with students in its halls is just the same as the atmosphere without them; see three magpie's; and bump into the York Sport President on an Astroturf. At one REALLY exciting point, we managed to inadvertently drag a slug into our kitchen and collectively, thinking it was dead, left it there. The next morning it was gone. To this day we have no idea where it is. Surely is couldn't have got far...

So make the most of it, freshers. It only lasts a week. Next year you'll be cold and starving in a middle-class housing estate.



LISTINGS

STAGE

- 3rd October (until 20th) - Blood and Chocolate - York Theatre Royal. £12
- 7th October - Studio Talks: Narrative and Food - York Theatre Royal. Free
- 11th October - Hay Fever, by Neol Coward - The Drama Barn, 3 nights. £3.50 (Fri)/£5 (Sat and Sun)
- 12th October (finishes) - See How They Run - York Theatre Royal.
- 12th October (finishes) - The Boy Who Cried Wolf - York Theatre Royal Studio. £10
- 12th October - The Old Woman, The Buffalo and The Lion of Manding - York Theatre Royal Studio. £8 (students)
- 14th October - ODН: Pride and Prejudice - The Drama Barn. Free
- 15th October (to 19th) - The Only Way is Chelsea - York Theatre Royal Studio. £6 (students).
- 17th October - Titus Andronicus - York Theatre Royal. £8 (students).
- 18th October - The Ghost Hunter - York Theatre Royal. £8 (students).
- 18th October - That Face, by Polly Stenham - The Drama Barn, 3 nights. £3.50/£5
- 19th October - The Elephant Bridesmaid - York Theatre Royal. £6
- 19th October - Play in a day: A Midsummer Night's Dream - York Theatre Royal. £10
- 19th October - Champions of Magic - York Theatre Royal. £6
- 20th October - Mamma Mia: Here I ODН, by Grace Winpenny - The Drama Barn. Free

COMEDY

- 6th October - YUSU Comedy Night - Central Hall. Sean Walsh et al. £10.75 online
- *13th October - Milton Jones: On The Road - The Barbican. £20
- 15th October - Ed Byrne: Roaring Forties - The Barbican. £22.50
- 17th October (and 18th) - Sarah Millican: Home Bird - The Barbican. *Sold Out*

OTHER

- *Ongoing - York Food and Drink Festival - Parliament Street. Free
- 4th October - Mary and Neil's BIG BIRTHDAY BASH - Kennedy's. *Invite Only*
- 6th October - York Does Vintage - Merchant Adventurer's Hall. Free
- 6th October - An Evening with Petula Clark - The Barbican. £19.50 - £45
- 16th October - Young Reviewer's Workshop with The Guardian's Lyn Gardner - York Theatre Royal Geregan Room. £5

EXHIBITION

- 14th October (until 20th) - 198th Autumn Exhibition, York Art Society - De Grey Rooms. Free

Comment



Nicole
Sørlie

The recent Halloween costume scandal is indicative of a much deeper problem that needs addressing.

The real Horrors of the Halloween blunder

The supermarket chains ASDA and Tesco recently advertised Halloween costumes for sale on their websites under the titles of "mental patient fancy dress costume" and "psycho ward". The costumes mimicked familiar images which have been used many times in horror films, but the nation feels this time it was a step too far.

The supermarkets very quickly took the products off their website, after masses of complaints flooded in about the stigmatisation of people with mental health problems. They donated money to the mental health charity Mind and have apologised sincerely for the "completely unacceptable error" which has clearly upset many people.

Although they have apologised for the mistake, it's hard to believe that ASDA, Tesco and Amazon put this product on the market accidentally. When it comes down to it, their buyers would buy products they think will sell and there are probably many people who would've bought the costume without thinking anything of it.

Many horror films have protagonists who have mental health problems and the directors play into this stigmatised stereotype without having to avoid screening their films. In reality, we wouldn't have these images as a stereotype if it wasn't for the films we watch and

the books we read. So why is it that these costumes have caused a moral panic now?

Websites, such as Ebay, offer similar costumes, modelled after specific characters such as Hannibal Lecter from the horror film Hannibal, and there are countless costumes which entail straight jackets and masks.

"There are even costumes labelled "psychotic nympho costume" "

There are even costumes labelled, "psychotic nympho costume", "psychopath crazy mental child costume" and "shock therapy mental patient...child costume" which definitely seem a lot worse than the ones ASDA and Tesco were selling. As a nation we've become so PC about everything, but in this case we don't seem to question things which are fed to us through popular culture. People have picked up on the idea that selling those costumes was wrong, but have completely ignored the fact that many people don't have a problem with buying them.

The mental health charity, Mind, have been campaigning for change through Twitter ever since

this incident arose. People have been tweeting photos of themselves as people who suffer from mental health illnesses to @TimeToChange and @MindCharity as a statement to show they are real people who aren't scary, despite the stigma which is so often attached. They've been calling their mental health illness their outfit for the day, whilst others have been blogging their response to the incident.

It often takes 'moral panics' like this to shock people into having an opinion about stigmas and deeper issues within our society and encourages those who already had an opinion to actively fight against the issue, in this case through campaigning on Twitter. However, what does it really achieve? It gives people who are suffering with a mental health illness the chance to stand up for themselves and to a certain extent break the stigma which is at work within society by bringing people face to face with the reality.

However, what's really being done about the images represented in popular culture, through film especially?

There will always be characters in horror films and psychological thrillers who have schizophrenia and other personality disorders, because it makes an interesting plot. It also taps into fears of not understanding people with mental health

illnesses, which definitely isn't helped by making those characters the ones who are 'psycho killers'.

It does instil fear and stigma unnecessarily and more films should confront the topic of mental health illnesses in a new way. There are already films and campaigns to raise awareness of eating disorders, not to make it any less of an issue, but really it's stigmas attached to personality disorders such as schizophrenia which will take the longest to break, because people have no way of relating to it.

"It instills fear and stigma unnecessarily"

The controversy of the "mental patient costume" is only an indication of a wider issue in our society in the way in which we passively consume media without questioning where we get our ideologies and stereotypes from.

This incident has brought to light the issue of stigmatisation of mental health illnesses, but has done nothing as of yet to explore further why it is that we have these stigmas.

It is a time to change, but change will only happen once we address the root of the problem.

Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



@MadeleineSpink
Madeleine Spink

28 September

#uoYfreshers repack your bags, escape while you still can. Run. They are coming. THEY ARE COMING. Geese.



25 September

@JessDouglas30
Jess Douglas



I just packed all my clothes for university!
I'M SO EXCITED. #UoYFreshers



@yusuprez
Kallum Taylor
YUSU President

26 September

So I've been asked to lobby the @UniOfYork on getting the ball pool in the Harry Fairhurst Building. @YorkUniSU



22 September

@YUSUBastard
YUSU Bastard



STYC's don't actually do anything

Maddy Kirkman



Disability is a political identity

Disability is fundamentally misunderstood by the majority of society, many institutions and organisations, and even some disabled people themselves. Not only does society fail to implement a useful model of disability, but we (as disabled people) hesitate to embrace disability as a political identity, to our detriment.

My blindness is part of who I am, it is not my disability. I do not carry it around with me as a cumbersome addition to my identity. It has shaped all my experiences and formed my character. I believe this is true of all disabled people.

That disability is an identity is clear then, but many overlook its political nature. Disability is political by virtue of the society in which we live: one which disables us.

The social model of disability means that there is nothing 'wrong' with the individual; everybody has different needs and it is society that fails to meet them. This is in contrast to the medical model of disability which says that society functions to the benefit of the majority and anyone who cannot operate within its framework is physically or psychologically flawed.

Firstly, we can fully reject the medical model. It is possible to liken it to the psychiatric diagnoses

of homosexuality in previous eras. The first step towards LGBT+ rights was to break the idea that divergent sexualities constitute illnesses. Similarly, we need to stop viewing disabled people as ill.

This frees a disabled person from many of the boundaries that hold them back. It dissipates feelings of self-blame or self-rejection, because there is nothing wrong with you.

"We need to stop viewing disabled people as ill"

My blindness constitutes a disability because not enough reading material is available; because people don't understand I might not recognise; because urban planners don't take into account my needs.

Mental health conditions constitute disabilities because the pressure of our working environment induces stress; because the prevalence of an aspirational culture leads to depression; and because of the inability of most people to be patient with someone who is anxious.

Mobility impairments constitute a disability because doors are not wide enough for wheelchairs; because public transport is inad-

equate; and because nobody bothers to grit the step-free routes when it snows. The list is endless. And none of it is the fault of the disabled person.

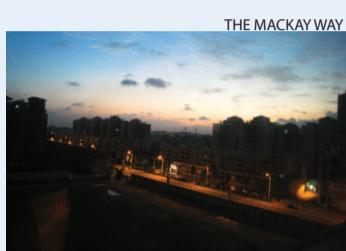
These physical and social barriers that create disability are as fundamental as the structural disadvantages that have made (and continue to make) women second-class citizens. Gender is widely recognised as a political identity by virtue of its ability to affect not only the way in which you see the world, but also how the world sees you.

In similar fashion, it's time for disabled people to embrace disability as a political identity. This is a positive step in many respects. Firstly, self-acceptance is a liberating act in itself. Secondly, removing the stigma of disability allows the rest of society to understand how disability is created and reflect upon this injustice. Finally, for me, 'political' is synonymous with 'active'.

Right now, things are changing for the worse when they could easily be changing for the better. There is no way that disabled people can engage in political struggle until we have accepted that disability is a political identity.

Politics

STUDENT HACK



New students at City College of Dongguan University of Technology in China have been forced to sign suicide agreements. This ensures that the university cannot be blamed should any student commit suicide.



Black women have joined a number of sororities at the University of Alabama for the first time after protests were carried out against the predominantly white 'Greek' college culture. The plan is to beat segregation across the whole university campus.



Students at the University of Edinburgh have apologised for using an image of a golliwog on posters to advertise a debate on political correctness. The material has been deemed 'puerile and ill-considered' by Fred Mackintosh, who was due to speak at the now cancelled event.

Transgender professor asked to leave post after 15 years

George Wood
POLITICAL REPORTER

A former chair of theology was asked to leave his post at the Evangelical Azusa Pacific University (APU) after coming out as transgender. Heather Ann Clements, now identifying himself as H. Adam Ackley, was asked to resign halfway throughout a five-year contract.

Mr Ackley and APU have agreed to split ways with the university continuing to pay him for the rest of the academic year, though denying insurance for the medical treatment needed for gender transition. Ackley also expressed his wish for other professors to take over his classes: "I did not get a sense directly from the individuals with whom I was speaking that they had a theological problem with transgender identity. I did get the message that it has to do with their concern that other people will have problems not understanding transgender identity."

APU have declined questions regarding Mr Ackley's employment, in order to "treat all parties with dignity and respect". The university stated, "It is an ongoing conversation and a confidential matter."

At 47, with two children and getting a divorce, Ackley spoke out about Christian transphobia. He admitted that in his struggle against "Christian shame as a transgendered person", he carved crosses on his body. "Told by my spiritual advi-



Azusa Pacific University forces transgender professor to leave after fears that other people will have problems

sors and then spouse that recovery, sanity and preservation of my family required me to deny my now recognised transgendered identity, I once again struggled with self-medicating self-injuring, and self-starving of the female body during a suicidal relapse.

"I tried to be the best Christian woman I could be... but I have to ac-

cept something difficult about myself," he said. "I've never been fully myself, I've always been living a lie."

APU students have mostly been supportive, with 1500 signing a petition in response to "create safety for transgender students and faculty" at the university. However, one law student admitted that Ackley's presence on campus "is distracting

and would take away from the theological importance of the classes"

APU describe themselves as "a private, interdenominational, evangelical Christian university". Their statement on human sexuality states: "Humans were created as gendered beings", though does not include an explicit policy on transgender identity.

Police lied about mining massacre

David Scullion
POLITICAL REPORTER

South African police lied about miners' strike shootings, an inquiry has revealed. The commission of inquiry, set up by President Jacob Zuma, was in response to the police massacre of 34 striking mine workers in April 2012. The inquiry, which has been delayed several times due to funding issues, publicly criticised police even before its official conclusion, something which is very rare especially in such a secretive country.

The files obtained from the police "demonstrate that the [police] version of the events at Marikana... is in material respects not the truth," the commission said. The information was obtained from previously unseen documents and computer hard drives.

The clash occurred last year during a pay dispute between Lonmin, the third largest producer of Platinum, and the mining unions at a plant near Marikana, North West of Johannesburg. The ensuing strike action saw mineworkers face down police who claimed they were



The Marikana Commission inquiry found police covered up massacre

fearful of attack by machetes and other weapons.

Although both sides suffered fatalities, many have criticised the police who delivered a level of violence comparable to that of the apartheid era. Furthermore, reports from post-mortem examinations at the time indicated that many of the

34 miners that died had been shot in the back, throwing doubt on the police claim that they were acting in self-defence. Immediately after the shootings, the authorities were quick to blame all the bloodshed on the miners, leading to the arrest and murder charge of around 270 miners.

To make matters worse, both the police and Lonmin have been able to employ private lawyers for the case, leaving the hundreds of minors poorly represented. Many of the miners, after losing their jobs, are struggling with the basic cost of living, without expensive legal bills.

The man leading the Commission, Judge Ian Farlam, has halted proceedings after accusing the police of a string of damning indictments including falsification of documents, withholding of information and the fabrication of testimonies.

"We do not make this statement lightly," the Commission wrote, "We recognise that it is important that [the police] should have the opportunity to explain the matters which have raised our concern."

"However absent a convincing explanation, the material which we have found has serious consequences for the further conduct of the Commission."

The initial verdict was made after 10 days of analysing documents but thousands of pages worth of evidence is still to be checked and the Commission is actively seeking to obtain more computer hard disks.



politics@nouse.co.uk

www.nouse.co.uk/politics

Peace has little to do with EU integration

Daniel Cooper
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, has claimed that listening to eurosceptics and rolling back European integration would lead to a return to "the pre-integrated Europe of the divisions, the war, the trenches". He also stated that the "long period of peace" which Europe currently enjoys is due to "the creation of the European Community" – something which Europeans should apparently be mindful of due to the centenary of the First World War.

Barroso must have quite the imagination if he truly believes that, were the EU to collapse tomorrow, by the end of the week Angela Merkel would have her Panzers on the Oder-Neisse line.

His view that bureaucrats in Brussels are needed to suppress the violence of European nation states ignores the massive changes which have taken place in societies throughout Europe, not least in German society, since the end of the Second World War.

Some might argue in Barroso's defense that the EU has built a democratic Europe out of the ashes of totalitarianism and this spread of democracy led to peace. It is absolutely true that democracies are unlikely to go to war with one another. However, the prevalence of democracy in Europe today has nothing to do with the EU. King Juan Carlos deserves more credit for Spain's transition to democracy than Brussels does, and

the EU was basically an irrelevance during the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. Furthermore, given the EU's track record of imposing unelected technocrats in charge of sovereign states such as Italy and Greece, a strong case could be made that the EU weakens democracy in Europe.

Harvard historian Niall Ferguson argues that "European integration has had absolutely nothing to do with peace in Europe since World War II; that has been the achievement of NATO". Indeed, the presence of tens of thousands of US

"European integration has absolutely nothing to do with peace in Europe since World War II "

troops, tanks and bombers continuously stationed on bases in Europe since 1945 has quite clearly been a major factor in preventing war. The threat of nuclear annihilation has of course been another reason why Great Powers have been less willing to have a scrap.

But the idea that all of Europe has been in a state of complete peace since the defeat of the Nazis is simply false. In the 1990s when Bosnia was descending into war and genocide, the perfect opportunity arose for the EU to prove that it was capa-



Barroso's claim that the European Union is responsible for avoiding another world war is wrong

ble of maintaining peace in Europe.

A leading EU figure declared that "the hour of Europe has dawned" and there were high expectations that the organisation would be able to solve a violent crisis on the European continent. But the EU completely and utterly failed to stop over 100,000 people being killed right on its doorstep, and it required a US-led intervention to bring an

end to the bloodshed.

In addition to the EU having shown itself to be an utter failure at preventing wars from taking place in Europe, a strong case could be made that it actually fosters conflict. In Greece, violence on the streets is a regular occurrence – perhaps because of the immense hardships the Greeks are suffering as a consequence of EU-imposed austerity.

Marx once said "history repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce". Barroso, a former Communist, is clearly taking his old hero Karl's words a bit too literally here. The only farcical thing about this situation is that someone like Barroso could have risen to such a high position in an institution which has such a massive impact on the everyday lives of British people.

Conscription should not be taken lightly

Charlie Kingsbury
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

In the last century, the United Kingdom has introduced conscription twice. Both of these times it was the result of two major world wars. It could then be seen as a rather strange time for Conservative MP Philip Hollobone to sponsor a bill seeking to reintroduce National Service for young people. Conscription is not something to be taken lightly; the threat to people's liberty has led many to question Hollobone's plan.

The bill is just one of many proposals in the so-called 'Alternative Queen's Speech' pushed by Tory radicals such as Peter Bone and Philip Hollobone. This 'modern' National Service would see young people being compelled to take part in services to society, ranging from work in the armed forces to the slightly less militaristic participation in the NHS through services like care for the elderly. Ultimately the bill aims to foster a sense of 'self-respect, personal reliance, discipline and behaviour' in those who would take part. Yet is this to say that the people in society who have not 'benefited' from compulsory national service neither respect themselves, have any discipline, or know how to behave?

It seems that politics is still afflicted with a generational distrust



To get the most out of volunteering people should choose to do it themselves instead of being told to

of the younger generation. The bill is riddled with assumptions about younger people being lazy and disrespectful, a harmful stereotype that is often mistakenly used. Of course, if younger generations come out of schools without having learnt basic life skills like 'time-keeping' and 'fi-

nancial budgeting', then something in our education system is failing them. Perhaps then a change in schools is needed rather than Hollobone's bill.

Proponents of the notion of a 'modern' National Service often point out that since many people

would choose not to participate in military service, the benefit to charities and other institutions such as the NHS would be substantial. Charitable work has always been associated with the idea of 'social capital' within society; that we're better people for having done some work

for charity, and in turn that makes our society a better place for us to live in. This may well be true, but if we aren't afforded the liberty of choice then surely it detracts from the sincerity of the action. Voluntary schemes like the Duke of Edinburgh Award already run in most schools, encouraging people to take up a form of charity work that they are interested in. Getting people involved in voluntary activities that benefit society and at the same time keep in line with their interests, whether they be Girl Guiding and Scouting or hospital care, is undoubtedly good - just as long as it remains voluntary. That way people, not only enjoy it more, but work harder.

Civil liberties are something we should all be thankful for. The freedom to determine our own future and to live our lives however we want, so long as we do no harm to others, is a characteristic for us to cherish in the United Kingdom.

This is especially so considering the number of totalitarian regimes that still exist in the world (even in Europe) which place substantial restrictions on the kind of lives their citizens are able to lead, affording them few choices in determining their own future. It is a slippery slope should MPs vote to begin directing the futures of millions of people in our society without an option for us to refuse.

Politics

Miliband: Populism versus Policy

Lizzie Lynch
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

On the Sunday prior to Ed Miliband's party conference address, Andrew Marr posited, "What is it that people out there haven't got about you?" He was referring to the Sunday Times poll rating which indicated a continued apprehension towards the prospect of Ed Miliband as the UK's future Prime Minister.

Ed Miliband's hour long unaided address to conference the following Tuesday did little to invigorate any monumental shift in these statistics. A spectacle purportedly orchestrated by a Hollywood director, his humbling anecdotes gave far less insight into our nation than the delegates themselves offered during conference unaided by Oscar-winning spin.

What's more, despite these clear efforts to ensure his impassioned beliefs were presented with a leading-man conviction, Mr Miliband arrived on stage already impaled by his performance in his Sunday morning interview, failing to present any real detail or commitment to policy that would enable Britain to do better.

In attempting to illustrate that Labour had learnt the lessons of the past he recollected his opposition to military intervention in Syria, his dealings with McBride and emphasis on the concept of responsible economics.

In reality, the One Nation ethos with cautious attempts to challenge the role of Union involvement with Labour was not dissimilar to Tony Blair's address to conference in Brighton eight years previously.

Mr Miliband's leadership would abandon the bedroom tax, lower voting age, set out taxing solutions for improved redistribution of wealth, cap immigration and gas and electricity bills.

He would ensure that this would be the generation that dealt head on with global warming, who drew together as a society and was not driven apart.

Regurgitation of rhetoric is undoubtedly expected in an age of



The real question remains to be answered by Ed Miliband: how can Britain do better than this?

largely accepted socially democratic values.

Few would argue against the want for social responsibility, cooperation and cohesion. What differentiates one cycle of promises from the next is the generating of inspiration and innovation. And what Mr Miliband failed to do was exactly that.

While Nick Clegg's carefully crafted rhetoric posed interesting debate as to the future of our democracy, the potential need for establishing a framework for future coalition governance, Mr Miliband closed the door to party cooperation; Labour will win outright, he claimed.

While Boris Johnson proposed a need to extend education beyond school years, to the re-education of the wealthiest to ensure they take

on greater social responsibility, Mr Miliband warbled a vague and standard commitment to alternative taxation plans that was neither dazzling nor particularly convincing.

One Nation Labour rolls off

“What differentiates one cycle of promises from another is the generating of inspiration”

the tongue and tickles the fancy of all the ideals that the Labour party should hold.

Yes we should address wealth inequalities, unclear immigration commitments, the future of the en-

vironment and how we cope with increasingly importing fuel to meet our energy needs. And while solace can be taken in the way Labour has stood up to major issues of Syria, the bedroom tax, and women's representation in parliament, they have proved dangerously hesitant in opposition.

Policy commitments, raw political argument, big questions on Britain from devolution, to social cohesion, pragmatic changes to education are answered with an unconvincing collage of tentative reassurance.

Indeed, as the world watched on as McBride's story pasted another questionable mark on the true legacy of the later years of New Labour, the real question remains to be answered: How can Britain do better than this?



@frasernelson
Fraser Nelson,
Spectator Editor

"Labour is now most interesting political party. It's all taking shape and stakes in 2015 higher than ever." #Labour

24 Sept



@SophyRidgeSky
Sophy Ridge,
Political Reporter,
Sky News

"Ed M - "when markets fail I do think Gvt has a responsibility to step in & uphold the public interest" "#Labour

25 Sept



@hugorifkind
Hugo Rifkind,
Journalist,
The Times

"What are these "financial interests in energy companies" that Caroline Flint claims Mandelson has?"

#Labour

26 Sept



@cathynewman
Cathy Newman
Presenter,
C4 News

"Govt's fuel poverty adviser Derek Lickorish tells #c4news: hard to avoid price rises before and after @Ed_Miliband energy price freeze" #Labour

25 Sept



@BBCNormanS
Norman Smith,
BBC News

"Ed Miliband accuses energy companies of being like the banks and telling scare stories" #Labour

25 Sept

Nouse Photography competition

The four categories are:

- Landscape
- Campus
- Portrait
- Open

Maximum 2 entries per category
Send as .jpeg



Deadline: Sunday 13 October

Send your photos to aggie.torrance@nouse.co.uk

'Remove your troops or prepare for war'

Gabriela Gross talks to **Yvoni Efthathiou** about the attack in Nairobi and her personal experience in Kenya. Was the attack the end or the outset for future attacks in eastern African countries?

On the morning of Saturday 21st al-Shabab, a Somali Islamist group, launched an attack in a shopping mall in Nairobi in retaliation to the Kenyan army operation in Somalia. Since 2011 Kenyan troops have been serving in the south of Somalia as part of an African Union force supporting the Somali government. So far 67 people have been found dead and many more are expected to have lost their lives, while lots were kept as hostages.

Unfortunately the Kenyan tragedy raises concerns not only with regards to the premises in the mall but also concerning the stability of the region. Specialists argue that there might have been ties between the Islamist group and the shopping mall staff, explaining the continuous attack for four consecutive days without running out of bombs, grenades and explosive devices. There are those who predict further attacks in east Africa like Uganda which has sent troops too and Ethiopia which has deployed troops across their border with Somalia.

"The group is in decline in Somalia and therefore it is even possible that they would resolve to more terrorist strategies to survive. It can be also said though that the massacre was a successful operation for the group which will boost the organisation, as happened with the Taliban who benefitted from the over-reaction of security forces. Indeed, it has gained support especially in Eastleigh eastern area in Nairobi where Somalis have already been radicalised. They are expected to be stronger and more unified af-



BHASKAR SUNKARA

Uhuru (Kenya forces) during training in Nairobi, Kenya. It seems Kenya is still a very hostile environment.

ter the terrorist attack."

Godane, leader of al-Shabab said that 'You are part of the massacre in Kenya carried out in Kisumu and in other towns because you elected your politicians. The tax you pay is used to arm Uhuru (Kenya forces) that massacre Muslims. You have supported the fight against us'. How does this make Kenyans feel?

"Westgate was one of the most popular malls in Nairobi, especially frequented by the foreign community in Kenya. So this has had a great impact nationally and internation-

ally. Kenya has been under constant

"The country has been under constant threatening terror "

threats by al-Shabab for many years now, and they have always threat-

ened public places. My family and I would constantly get security alerts warning us to stay away from public places because of the most recent al-Shabab threat, and this was very often.

"We would simply stay away from the malls for a little while, and sometimes to be honest we wouldn't pay attention to the threats at all, which was risky from our part, but they were just so often. The country had been under constant threatening terror and there was nothing the people could do, but go ahead

with their lives and always have that risk lurking behind. The fact that al-Shabab targeted a mall, civilians, innocent people is a really impacting image and one that goes beyond political disagreement. It really is pure terrorism.

According to Sky's Ramsay, some witnesses said they saw gunmen put down their weapons, change clothes and leave with the people being guided out. Do people feel safe now or are they afraid of future attacks?

"It is scary but what is worse is that they managed to escape justice and get away truly in front of everyone, as "victims" rather than a perpetrators despite, all the pain they caused. It really is shocking, but I don't think the al-shabab will be starting a new attack any time soon. If anything, it will take them some time to reorganise and now all of eastern Africa is under huge alert and is supported internationally. Kenya has been through a lot and one thing I know, and have seen, is that they always rise up again and stay strong.

The Kenya tragedy has touched and shocked us all, but we cannot forget about the world's other tragedies. During the siege a wave of shootings have occurred in Iraq, not of soldiers but civilians attending the funerals of loved ones; in Pakistan a suicide bomber killed 60 people outside a church; meanwhile in Syria the war continues and more innocents are killed. Perhaps it was the shocking images broadcast from the siege or that it seemed to happen in an ordinary setting with ordinary western, people.

What is the future for Syrian intervention?



THE LAST WORD
Rosie Shields

fluent, there's a level of moral responsibility that must be exerted to help people in war stricken areas. Working together manufactures support for the countries involved. Of course it could also lead to stalemates and disagreements. Even so,

"We cannot ignore what is going on in other countries "

as Rosemary Righter said in The Times we need to 'bear a bit more reality'. We cannot ignore what is going on in other countries, but at the same time we have to bear the burden of the consequences and not make hasty decisions. In fact all of these considerations must be carried out whilst remembering that lack of action could cost lives- it's a very tricky balance to keep.

After all, which political party wants to 'take the blame' for intervention this time round after seeing what happened with Iraq?

Nevertheless with global governance becoming ever more in-



GOVERNMENTZA

Without some sort of intervention countries like Syria could be left in ruin

all chemical weapons wouldn't be enough.

With an oppositional force that holds so many different factions and no coherent government strategy for a post-Assad Syria, civil war would surely ensue. Helping 'rebel' forces is never as clear cut as it seems, and this is certainly the case in Syria where many of the various factions are helped by Arab states within the region.

By intervening militarily there is a huge risk of a long embroiled

war, something which could go either way. As Matthew Yglesias explains in Slate, intervention often isn't the right answer and helping-by-killing causes obvious problems.

It becomes a vicious circle where killing leads to more killing and opposition forces begin to realise, as in Libya, that even a low likelihood of military success has a good chance of receiving a NATO bailout.

So then if this isn't the solution, what is? Putting a level of trust in Assad to hand over his chemical

weapons and allow surveys of all his sites is a risk. In fact many have called Obama foolish with Charles Krauthammer calling Assad 'the greatest liar of all time'.

Even Obama himself is now pushing for the UN to take serious action if Assad's promises are not kept and really who is to say they will be kept? But it's a start.

With an olive branch to Iran maybe Syria, and Iran for that matter, will see the value of some level of cooperation and if not at least there are better grounds for intervention if there are deals made with these countries in the first place.

Despite the UN study not placing any direct blame on the Assad regime, it seems fair to say that there is little doubt that the attack was from government.

We cannot forget the people of Syria who are suffering or the instability conflict is causing in the surrounding areas. Just because it may not be as prominent in the media in the next few months does not mean that it is not important. We need to work hard on repairing our relations with the Middle East. Syria, whether we intervene or not, is no different.

Business

Getting a head start on employability

Fergus Nolan presents a roundup of essential tips for making the most of the university experience

For all new freshers arriving, the next few weeks will be an amazing blur of alcohol and takeaways. The first year is there to be enjoyed, with the importance of employment creeping in as you move through second and third year. However, students can avoid the third year CV panic by getting a head start on employability.

Insight days

Big businesses love to see that you have been to Insight days, as they are principally designed to let students see what the working environment is like and whether it is right for you. Ernst & Young is one of the largest supporters of these schemes as they are often limited to first year undergraduates, with attendance signifying a strong career focus.

Even if you do decide not to pursue any further interest following the Insight day, the experience of a corporate environment is highly transferable to most sectors. Law firms such as DLA Piper and Addleshaw Goddard have similar schemes which are perfect for those considering a career in the legal profession, with work placements in law notoriously difficult to acquire for first years.

Developing commercial awareness

Commercial awareness is known for being a much hated term filled with ambiguity, but put simply it asks you to demonstrate an understanding of the corporate environment. This can include a lot of information, from knowing who the businesses' biggest competitors are to what deals they were involved in recently.



University offers numerous different opportunities for students, all of which will benefit your employability

The best way to increase this skill is simply by doing as much work experience as possible. In addition to Insight days, other work placement schemes are available to make you stand out and develop that all important commercial awareness.

For instance, those interested

“Students can avoid the third year C.V. panic by getting a head start on employability”

in the professional services should consider the Ernst & Young Leadership Academy for first years. Although places are limited, being accepted on this course would kick

start your understanding of commercial awareness, alongside the development of other important skills.

Alternatively, if you are considering a career in banking, the HSBC First Year Internship is a very appealing opportunity to get an in-depth look into the profession with the possibility of a job offer following completion of the scheme.

Sports and Societies

Regardless of what year you are in, work experience is vital for showing potential employers that you are committed and genuinely interested in the career you choose.

For first years, it is not crucial that you have numerous placements, but if you are able to talk about one of two experiences in the corporate environment it will help future applications hugely. Of course, it is not only about how much work experi-

ence you can do, employers want to know that you were sociable and able to work in a team.

One of the best things you could do in your first year would be to join a sports team or a society. Not only is this a great distraction from work, but employers love to see that you are involved in all parts of university life outside of studying. In many internship and vacation scheme interviews there is a big emphasis on demonstrating teamwork. Sports and other societies are a fantastic way to firmly tick this box.

Thinking about future employment has become ever more important, following the continual increase in competition for graduate level jobs. This is not a cause for constant concern, but sparing a thought for your employability now and again will reap rewards as you move through university life.

Another BRIC in the wall?

Between 2010 and 2013, the BRIC economies (Brazil, Russia, India and China) have been gradually sputtering. Indeed, in only three years the BRIC real GDP growth fell from 8.08 per cent to 4.80 per cent according to Bloomberg Professionals. This trend is not surprising considering the state of the global economy.

So, with decelerating industrial production, a lack of investment and a weak rupee, is India's economic fate doomed? Or is the country epitomizing what might be lying ahead for the BRIC economies?

There are several key factors for India's economic slowdown: the rupee, which lost more than 25 per cent of its value against the dollar since 2011, declining consumer confidence, plus lacklustre investment and current account deficit.

But the problems are also political. India's protectionism and corruption are undermining investors' confidence thereby impeding economic growth. The recent corrup-



tion scandal surrounding the Indian Cricket Premier League is nothing but one manifestation of the nation's rampant corruption. According to Transparency International's 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index, India ranked 94.

But it is not only corruption that led to a slowdown in the country's economic expansion. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report for 2012/2013, "inadequate supply of infrastructure" and "inefficient government bureaucracy", were

the most deterrent reasons for doing business in India. Indeed, more than 600 million people were left without power last year, mainly due to corruption in the energy sector, an industry that could represent billions of dollars of investment if reforms were carried out efficiently.

India is experiencing a stagflation-type situation, with inflation at around 4.8 per cent alongside its undervalued currency. Both of these factors are severely impeding India's economic growth. More importantly, consumer spending is low. The

nation's fiscal and current account deficits have been raising interest rates for the private sector, as well as limiting the implementation of any efficient monetary stimulus to bolster the economy.

India's future looks bleak. However it is not alone, and in spite of the nation's diversification of exports, its growth is likely to be subdued in the coming fiscal year due to the bleak future of the Developed economies. The IMF has cut Russia's growth forecast from 3.8 to 3 per cent for 2013, Brazil's was slashed from 4 to 3.2, and South Africa's from 4.1 to 3.3. Even China has amended its forecast for 2014, from 7.4 per cent to 7.1.

Notwithstanding this, India is accounting for one fifth of the world's working age population. The government should act, fighting corruption and shifting the nation's isolationism into a more liberal one, in which India's sovereignty and economic growth would be protected and promoted.

Gustave Laurent

Twitter IPO - a success?

Allastair Ellerington

Twitter will become the latest social networking website to go public, as it announced a filing for an IPO expected to be worth \$15 billion. This follows the public sale of Facebook shares last year, which resulted in a share price bubble caused by the massive hype surrounding the deal.

Social networks do not seem to be the obvious choice of investment; however they can make big money in advertising. Social networks allow companies to specialise in targeted adverts in a way that no other platform can, with users actively publishing their interests and likes on these sites. This in turn gives advertisers greater access to much more relevant data than be offered elsewhere. Twitter is expected to earn \$583 million in advertising revenues alone this year, highlighting the pivotal it plays in determining the profitability of social networking sites.

Indeed, Facebook's share price fell from £32 to £23 between January and June, as doubts arose regarding its ability to generate revenues from mobile advertising, and its to effectively incorporate adverts into its mobile services. Twitter will be hoping to learn from those mistakes - it is already much better placed to integrate mobile advertising, largely due to the greater experience operating on mobile platforms than Facebook had at the time of its IPO.

However, there exists an inherent risk of such dependence on advertising revenues. Stifling users with adverts could quash the creative and social aspects of the sites that are the reason for their success, and lead to greater 'churn' - where users sign up for a site, but never get hooked on it - as well as disinterest.

Time will only tell on what the repercussions of this IPO will be, but the longevity and increased growth of social networks as a whole lie in a more flexible approach to advertising. Too much emphasis on profit will only lead to more advertising, disinterest and ultimately a loss of users. The demise of Bebo and Myspace will be threat enough to sites such as Twitter, that they need to stop such disinterest before it becomes more prevalent than the site.



JOHANGRANT

Merkel faces biggest economic challenge yet

Daniel Jordan

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



The world's fourth largest economy finished another election on the 22nd of September. Going in to the polls Chancellor Merkel looked secure in leading her party, the union of conservatives CDU/CSU, to a third victory.

Recent economic performance had been on the up, with growth finally returning and the shadow of European bailouts beginning to fade. Whilst Greek opinion of the chancellor was terrible, domestically Merkel is a popular figure often referred to as 'Mutti' (mother). The uncertainty in this election lay in whether her then coalition partners, the Free Democrats, would be able to maintain a presence in the Bundestag.

The conservative bloc managed to achieve a 41.5 per cent vote share, leaving them just short of a majority. This was one of the highest vote shares in German history, outperforming the already high expectations that the party held. Although a significant achievement, the result means that once again Merkel will need to go into coalition talks.

Her options are more limited this time, and it seems likely that another grand coalition will have to be formed with the Social Democrats.

This may not be all too appeal-

ing for the opposition however, as they were punished in the 2009 election for their role in the coali-

“The conservative bloc managed to achieve a 41.5% vote share... just short of a majority”

tion. The Social Democrats may therefore approach another partnership with caution, and use this fact to get a better return for their support in terms of legislative influence. The SDP is seen as being less keen on austerity measures, yet the scale of Merkel's victory means it is unlikely to have a big impact. Germany will still maintain high expectations of economic reforms in return for their fronting of European bailouts.

The initial reaction of the markets has been muted. The re-election was fully expected, and the true response will come when the full details of any coalition agreement have been revealed. There is much to keep the eyes of investors elsewhere, especially following news of the unexpected continuation of monetary stimulus in the United

States. If the sovereign debt crisis were to flare up again, that is when the true effects of this election will be felt upon the world's markets.

With three elections won, Angela Merkel has equalled Margaret Thatcher in electoral results, the politician that she is most often compared with. But she may well be the one to lead to the tightest union yet. Germany will still be the powerhouse of the European economy and the counterweight to France's more relaxed approach to austerity.

With the rise of right-wing parties such as Golden Dawn, the prospect of tighter European integration has been put on the back burner. Yet not all are dissuaded from the European project, with former Polish president Lech Walesa calling for a full union between the two coun-

“If the sovereign debt crisis were to flare up again... the true effects of this election will be felt”

tries.

The next big test of Merkel may well not be economic but a political one.

Lehman Brothers, still too big to fail?

Harry Ashcroft
BUSINESS REPORTER

No two words characterise the global financial crisis like 'Lehman Brothers' do. Memories of financiers being told of their redundancy in September 2008 echo through the popular consciousness, as recognisable in financial history as images of the worst excesses of the potato famine.

We know why Lehman failed, it rode the tidal wave of the noughties boom like no other company, having such misplaced confidence in the markets that for every \$31 Lehman held in loans or other products, it held only \$1 in reserve. It had massive exposure to the sub-prime mortgage business, with continuous lending to those who could never hope to pay it back. When these customers inevitably defaulted,

Lehman Brothers simply had too little money in reserve to even begin to recapitalise their balance sheet, or account for their overexposure in the lending business.

Lehman collapsed with a record \$613bn held in assets, constituting to date the largest bankruptcy in American history. Here we see that, perhaps contrary to public opinion, Lehman Brothers still operates on quite a large scale. Not only was Lehman deemed 'too big to fail', but it is and continues to be too big and complicated to simply cease being a firm. The sheer size of Lehman's portfolio - the firm owned shares in everything from US Treasury securities to housing - combined with the practise of leveraging much of its business against its own assets, has resulted in an extremely complicated bankruptcy case. It has taken this long alone, and a suspected five

years more for accountancy firm PwC to unravel the mess, and de-

“for every \$31 Lehman held in loans or other products, it held only \$1 in reserves”

cide who gets what from the most extensive financial portfolio ever to be declared bankrupt.

Lehman owned and owed huge amounts to an incredible number of vested parties, and it is only this year that PwC have begun reimbursing creditors and private client funds with the money squandered. The administration of large investment banks has always been complicated - the Bank of Credit and

BlackBerry: a bad apple?

Ashley Hibben

as WhatsApp have overtaken BBM; WhatsApp now handles 31 billion messages a day, compared to BBM's 10 billion.

Of the two pioneers, Nokia appears to be the most likely to weather the storm and re-emerge as a contender, thanks to its tie up with Microsoft and Windows Phone. Microsoft's operating system, which has been installed on all Nokia products since 2011, has gradually gained market share against Apple's iOS over the last year.

The company has also kept hold of its patent library, which is likely to be a lucrative source of revenue.

Microsoft developers, desperate to attract Android's 900 million users to their products, are likely to want some of Nokia's technologies. Unfortunately, BlackBerry appears to be facing a far harder road.

The company had already announced its withdrawal from the lucrative consumer market following the failure of its Z10 smartphones earlier this year, in an effort to focus on its core business services. The seemingly enforced sale of the company for a fraction of its worth five years ago would suggest that this might not save the once-great brand.

It's remarkable to think that a product that practically everybody once enjoyed being associated with, has drifted away into the distance of the smartphone race. BlackBerry and Nokia have sown the seeds of their own demise.

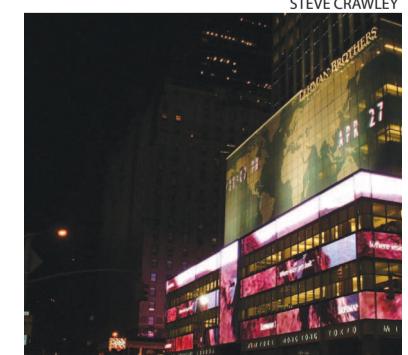
BLACKBERRY OFFICIAL IMAGES



Commerce International took 21 years to complete, earning Deloitte roughly £245 million for the trouble - but many industry analysts see Lehman as an extraordinary case. The administration here has given PwC over £100 million for the European arm of the bank alone, with many years of administration ahead for the remnants of the business.

Interestingly, PwC have chosen to maintain some of the senior staff who oversaw the collapse of the firm, with Tom Bolland, ironically previously in charge of Risk, heading Lehman staff employed by administrators. What this tells us is rather shocking: if it takes upwards of ten years to administer the end of Lehman, how could a corporation's board maintain a business of this size successfully, and without being overexposed to any number of markets. After all, Lehman was only

America's fourth investment house, so what do the JP Morgan's have for in store for them in the future? Surely their balance sheets (which are considerably larger than that of Lehman) could cause another crisis? Is the industry safe? Only time will tell if the lessons of Lehman have been comprehensively learnt.



STEVE CRAWLEY

Science

Beer goggle success, cheers to that!

Sarah Pryor
SCIENCE REPORTER

It's that time of year again when the bizarre and bamboozling are celebrated for their brilliance.

The Annals of Improbable Research have handed out their annual Ig Nobel Prizes, honouring research and successes which, according to their website: "first make people laugh, then make them think."

Emerging from the 10 studies noted this year is some serious science that might interest many students.

'Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder' is the title of a study published by scientists at Ohio State, and Grenoble universities, which discusses the proof they found for the legitimacy of the 'beer goggle' phenomenon.

In a bar, half of the people were given alcoholic beverages, and the other half were given placebos.

They were then asked to deliver their opinions on how attractive they deemed themselves.

It transpired that people who both had, and simply thought they had been drinking alcohol, were more positive regarding their own

level of attractiveness (including characteristics such as brightness and humour, as well as appearance), despite the judges ratings showing that this consumption was unrelated to actual performance.

Obviously, as many are aware, perceived charm can strongly effect the way a person might act towards others.

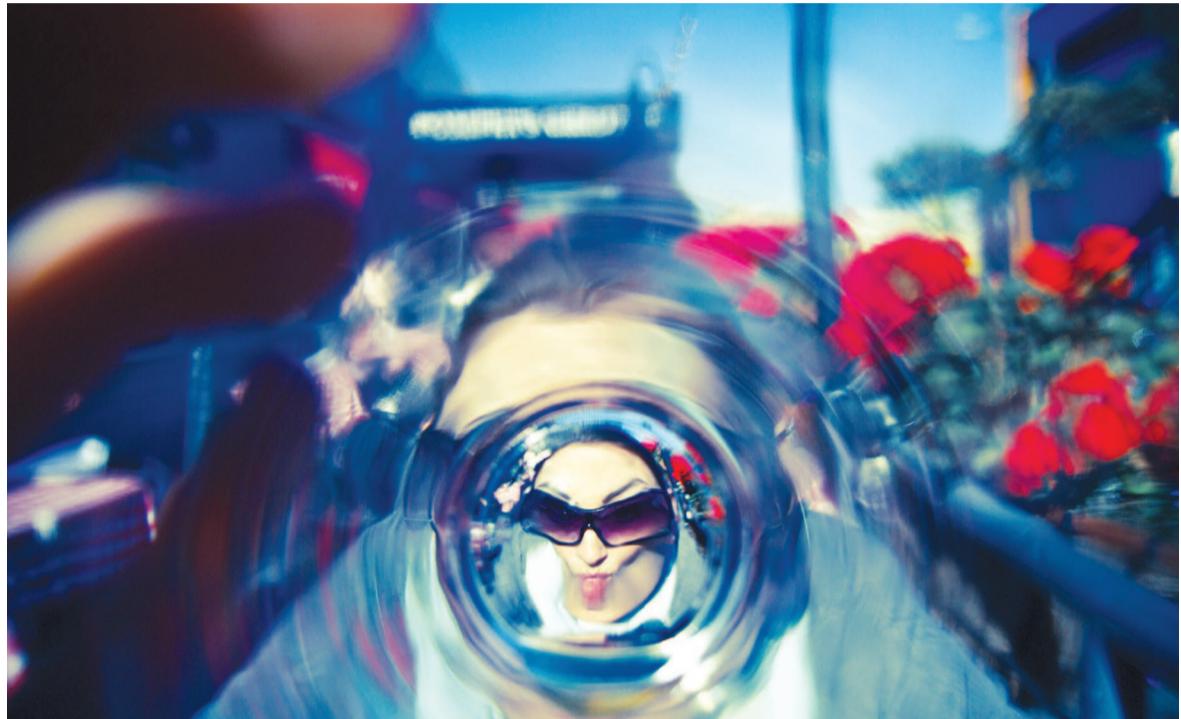
Research in the past has shown that 'beer goggles' work when someone who has consumed alcohol assesses other people, but now it has been proven that it reflects our opinions of ourselves as well.

Interestingly, in 2005 researchers at the University of Manchester developed an actual equation for quantitatively measuring the 'beer goggle' effect, which took into consideration factors such as: lighting, smokiness in a bar, distance from the subject in question, and obviously the number of units of alcohol consumed.

The idea was that the effect in a given scenario was calculated from one (no effect) to 100 (someone you would normally find unattractive suddenly looks like a model).

The Ig Nobel prizes have once again showcased a plethora of absurd, yet fascinating research.

Past research has been hon-



Scientists at Ohio State and Grenoble universities have found proof of the 'beer goggle' phenomenon

oured on the physics of the ponytail, and the invention of a bra which can convert into a pair of protective masks.

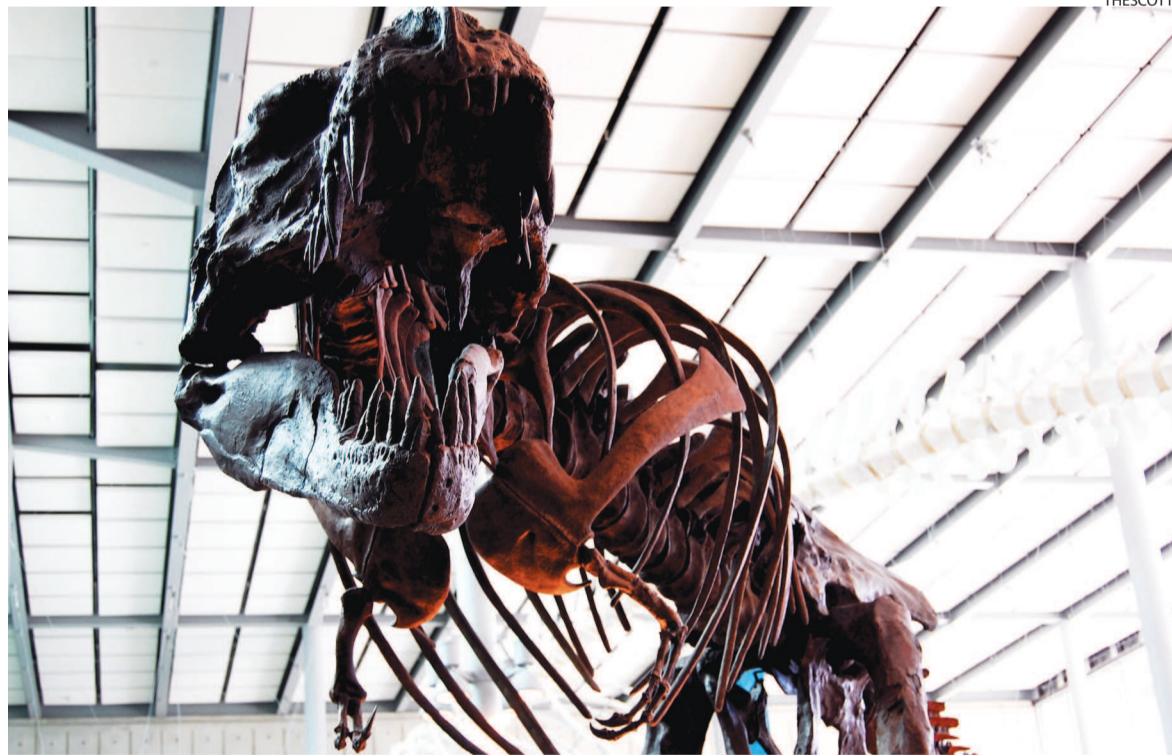
As a side note, this year's Ig Nobel Peace Prize went to the

president of Belarus, for banning clapping in public. One of the men arrested for disobeying this ruling only had one arm.

Following the successful paths of these previous winners this year

was a group who showed that opera could help heal mouse heart transplant patients, and another group came up with evidence proving that dung beetles can navigate by the night skies.

Feathering Dinosaurs: silent bones are beginning to talk



Over the last decade Dr Schweitzer's work has been gaining acceptance in the scientific community

Sarah Pryor
SCIENCE REPORTER

At the age of six my grandfather took me to the Natural History Museum; I was greeted by a huge Sauropod skeleton, and later, was terrified by a giant animated model of a Tyrannosaurus.

This experience, together with

the film Jurassic Park (1993), my children's Dinosaur Encyclopaedia and Documentaries, formed concrete images of the appearances, sounds and movements of dinosaurs in my mind.

Over the last two decades though, palaeontology has progressed. Fifty new species of dinosaur are defined every year, with each discovered fossil and technolo-

logical development expanding our knowledge.

It was thought that fossilisation destroyed everything living in the bone. But, in 1991, Dr Mary Schweitzer (a palaeontologist at North Carolina State University) changed the face of molecular palaeontology when, looking through her microscope at a tyrannosaurus bone sample, she saw micro-

structures resembling blood cells. This suggests that organic matter can survive fossilisation, and Schweitzer has set out to prove it, and to find the macromolecule of dreams; dinosaur DNA.

In 2000 Dr Schweitzer was analysing a sample from a tyrannosaurus femur, and found it was not in its usual hollow state. Instead the outside cortical layer of bone was filled with yellow tissue (appearing) to be a group of specialised cells.

If her suspicions were correct, she was looking at the yellow tissue only found in birds needed to lay eggs. To test this she compared a sample of a pregnant ostrich's bone, and saw that it had the medullary bone in exactly the same position.

This was the first time that the gender and pregnancy of a dinosaur had ever been potentially identified.

In a comprehensive analysis, dinosaurs appear to be related more to birds than reptiles: Schweitzer's blood cells resemble ostriches', meat eating dinosaurs had furculas (wishbones), they laid hard shelled eggs, and had hollow bones. Also, by looking at the skeleton of an ostrich, the parallels to that of a tyrannosaurus are astonishing. The hard-skinned reptilian creatures we once imagined perhaps more like feathered birds.

After finding cells Dr Schweitzer decided to test for minerals. It was believed that in fossilisation only the collagen of the bone (the

hard part) was left. To test this Dr Schweitzer put a tyrannosaurus bone in an acid bath, which would dissolve all the collagen. When she returned the following day, to her amazement, there was substance left, and in theory, Dr Schweitzer was able to travel back 68 million years to touch, identify, and isolate, the soft tissue of a dinosaur: "it was magic, just magic" she said. Prior to this, the oldest soft tissue recovered from a fossil was less than 1 million years old.

On publishing her findings in 2005 they were not universally accepted, unlike most pioneering research.

Over the last decade Dr Schweitzer's work has been gaining acceptance and she continues to gather data and make new discoveries. In 2007 she was able to retrieve proteins. Currently her occupation is running tests to find DNA, and amazingly she has found a substance inside a cell that behaves and appears like it when tested – her objective now to isolate and sequence it.

Despite celebrating the evolution in our understanding of these creatures, this knowledge has not yet reached the public domain. Dr Schweitzer's ground-breaking work with cells, proteins, and possibly DNA, is pioneering a new era in our th anniversary of the film Jurassic Park, it is incredible to see how our understanding of dinosaurs, as the silent bones are beginning to talk.



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No need for freshers to stress

Jessica Smith
SCIENCE REPORTER

What do freshers' week and a shark attack have in common?

Answer: the fight or flight response. For those people who feel nervous at the idea of leaving home, meeting new people and having to support yourself for the first time, your body is reacting in the same way it would during a shark attack.

Some of the effects of this are easy to see – racing heart, butterflies in your stomach, sweaty palms – but why do those responses occur? What about those we can't see? And more importantly, how can we manage this?

Acute stress stimulates the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) system in the brain to release excess stress hormones (including Cortisol) and certain neurotransmitters called Catecholamines (e.g. adrenaline).

This means that the body has less energy to produce other necessary hormones such as Aldosterone, which prevents the kidneys from absorbing sodium causing you to crave salt, this is thought to be one of the reasons why stress causes some people to 'comfort eat'.

Where sodium goes, water follows, causing fluid to be directed away from non-essential locations such as the mouth, resulting in dryness and difficulty talking.

The increased activity in the brain and muscles causes an increased demand for oxygen in these areas. To compensate for this, the body directs the blood flow away from the skin causing a cool, clammy sensation.

At the same time, neurotransmitters stimulate the spleen to increase the production of red blood cells, causing blood flow to increase by up to 400 per cent resulting in increased heart rate and blood pressure.

While these physical effects



Bad breathing can exacerbate other symptoms and disrupt the balance of gasses in the human body

are easy to monitor, stress has also been shown to provoke changes in the brain.

During the event, Catecholamines suppress activity in the areas of the brain concerned with short term memory, concentration, inhibition and rational thought. Although incredibly beneficial if you really were confronted by a shark, this interferes with the brain's ability to handle difficult social and intellectual tasks.

At the same time, neurotransmitters signal a part of the brain called the hippocampus to store the emotional experience in your long-term memory. This is why we can often remember a humiliating or stressful experience years after the event, but can forget the simplest things in everyday life.

The good news is that scientists are developing all sorts of amazing treatments, from an iPhone app that tells you when you're stressed

to video games that are believed to augment traditional stress management techniques.

For some people, small amounts of stress can be beneficial; it increases focus, sharpens memory and improves the body's immune response. It is therefore important to be able to recognise whether the stress you are experiencing is having a positive or negative effect.

It is natural to feel anxious when moving away from home for the first time, meeting new people or struggling to meet a deadline but if this is interfering with your mood, appetite or sleep then it could be harming more than helping your body.

Try breathing exercises. Short, shallow breathing, often a side effect of harmful stress levels, can exacerbate the other symptoms and disrupt the balance of gasses in the body.

Deliberately copying a re-

laxed breathing pattern can relax the nervous system which controls the body's involuntary functions, reducing the levels of stress hormones in the blood.

Make sure you're getting regular exercise. Rigorous exercise causes your body to secrete endorphins, improving your mood. Additionally, exercise uses up the stress hormones faster than they can be produced.

Change your diet. High amounts of caffeine produce an adrenaline-like effect which triggers the fight or flight response. Prolonged stress can damage the adrenal glands causing them to release excess stress hormones which exacerbate the stress reaction.

However, foods high in vitamin B5 have been shown to help support the adrenal glands and improve coping mechanisms. This can be found in food such as sunflower seeds, mushrooms and fish.

Redefining time as we know it

Matthew Wells
SCIENCE REPORTER

A team of physicists in America have created the most precise atomic clock ever, with the ability to measure time in intervals lasting less than 500 trillionths of a second.

This is just one of a number of recent developments in atomic clocks that could, quite literally, redefine the way we live.

Atomic clocks are most commonly used in applications such as GPS and radio transmissions and advancements in the field mean satellites can be used to track objects with greater levels of precision, potentially leading to an age of fully autonomous vehicles.

They function using the known resonant frequency of an atom such as caesium. By setting an oscillator to operate at a certain frequency, an atom can be made to switch rapidly between two energy states.

The International System of Units (SI) has, since 1967, defined one second as the amount of time taken for a group of caesium atoms to switch between two energy states 9,192,631,770 times.

Rather than using caesium, Andrew Ludlow and his team at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology used ytterbium as the basis for their atomic clock, achieving around 518,000,000,000 oscillations every second.

That makes the ytterbium clock notably more precise than the standard caesium clock.

Strange though it may seem, however, accuracy is the reason these developments have not already been used to redefine our standard units of time.

Although more precise, the ytterbium atomic clock can not yet be trusted to be as consistently reliable as the caesium equivalent.

It may therefore be some time before the International System of Units change their definition of a second; however, once any reliability issues have been ironed out, ytterbium clocks could pave the way for some exciting new technologies.

The ytterbium clock could even be used to verify, or find fault with, Einstein's theory of general relativity; this predicts that time runs slower in a strong gravitational field, and hence that objects on the ground experience time passing slower than objects raised even a centimetre above it.

The ytterbium clock is the first that could realistically be used to measure these differences, and could well lead to a potentially whole new understanding of physics.

You may not be replacing your egg timer just yet, but there can be no denying the implications of the atomic clock are immensely exciting.

How to keep your student house hygienic

Sara Farish
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

In your first few months in York, whether you are immersing yourself in academia or not, another very important part of university life will be taking up a lot of your time: learning to live independently and take on new responsibilities. It may be you, it may be the people you live with, or it may be the people you sit downwind of in lectures, but some people out there can find hygiene hard to manage by themselves.

Starting with the bed, a plethora of bacteria, dust mites, bed bugs and mould threaten to make that mid-afternoon lie-in unhealthy. The bed is used more than most items of clothing, yet whilst laundry is done (or at least attempted) regularly, bed sheets are often left to stew from the start of term to the end. The heat, humidity and dead skin in a bed make the perfect environment for dust mites.

These microscopic animals eat, breed and die in your sheets. Male dust mites have a 10-20 day life cycle but females live for 70 days – the same length as a 10 week term. In that time a single female can lay 60-100 eggs and leave around 2000 faecal deposits in your bed. Next time you crawl straight into bed fully dressed, or find yourself with a plate of toast at three in the morning, think of all the dust mites you are helping to feed.

Dead dust mites and their excretions can cause allergic reactions. General hay fever type allergy symptoms such as sneezing, watering eyes and coughing can be symptoms of dust mite allergy. Dust mites can also aggravate asthma and the allergic reaction to them can cause respiratory problems. Regular washing of bed clothes should remove their food and the exposure to the high temperatures of a dryer should kill an infestation.

Another source of problems in any house is the washing up. Lazi-

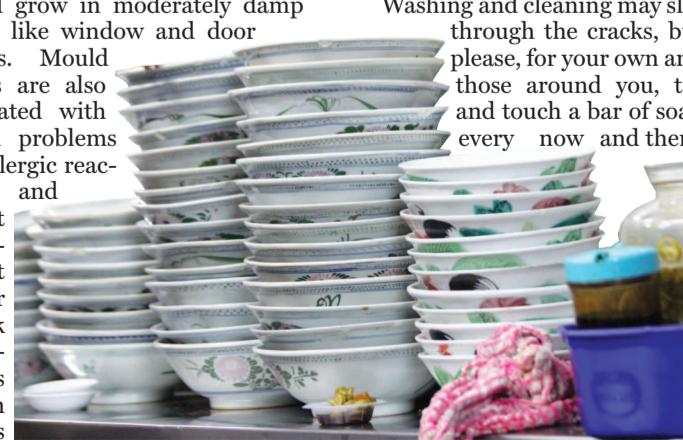
ness disputes about who used what and 'just leaving it to soak' leads to a several day old pile of washing up in every good student household. This damp environment is perfect for mould growth. Mildew is a generic term for most common household moulds. Most can take root in just 24 hours on a damp surface such as unwashed cups and plates. More serious moulds such as black mould grow in moderately damp places like window and door frames. Mould

spores are also associated with health problems like allergic reactions and p u t p e o - people at higher r i s k of illnesses s u c h a s

bronchitis.

Not washing up can lead to food lying around on benches. This, along with the overflowing warzones of bins and recycling, can attract ants. Foraging ants leave a pheromone trail so they can relocate a region with a good food source. These are scout ants and are often the first signs of an impending mass invasion.

Washing and cleaning may slip through the cracks, but please, for your own and those around you, try and touch a bar of soap every now and then.



Sport

PARK LIFE

Beth Jakubowski

SPORTS EDITOR

Another summer of glorious sporting tradition has once again disappeared with deceptive speed. The Ashes were regained, a Lions tour was won and the Tour de France marked its 100th birthday with prestige. Once again, we find ourselves ready to embark on another year of sport at York, and it promises to be a special one.

Last year York experienced its highs and lows; while Varsity was lost for the first time in its short history, Roses bragging rights were reclaimed in resplendent fashion. York didn't quite make the top 40 despite a fantastic campaign, but we achieved more BUCS points than we ever have before.

“Joining a club may be the best decision you make at university”

So, where does that leave York this year? Once again the York Sport Union are aiming for a top 40 spot, building on the efforts of the previous committee.

Playing for a university club is a brilliant way to meet new people and have a social life outside your flat and your degree.

But sport at York is not quite as glamorous as what we've been treated to over the summer. From torrential hail storms on the 3G to horizontal blizzards over on 22 Acres, this university has seen it all as far as the weather is concerned.

Another way to get involved with the sporting life on campus is through college sport, which has grown impressively over the past few years. The pinnacle of college sport lies in the beauty of the College Cup, an event which sees all college football teams pitted against each other during the summer term on the unfamiliar surface of the JLD.

The highlight of any year at York is the annual Roses tournament. This year is the 50th anniversary of Roses and it's due to take place at Lancaster. Roses is something truly special. For an entire weekend the campus is swarming with sports men and women vying to bring home the trophy.

The crowds can range from alarming hostility to outright hilarity. When there's a Roses tournament on, expect the unexpected. But this year should be a vintage year for the competition, traditionally the home side has a distinct advantage, but York will be aiming for a historic away victory.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with sport here at York, both at university and college level. Joining a club may just be one the best decisions you make while at university. Don't miss out.

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Season previews for some of York's elite university teams

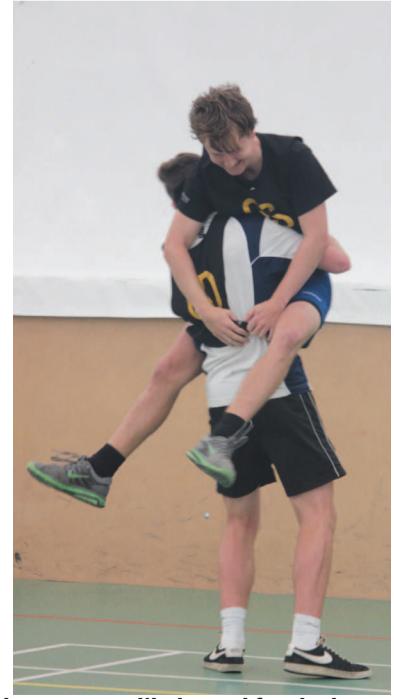
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Pre-season: In Pictures



DAN HOLLAND

Rugby, hockey, and badminton were all in friendly action, with Cass Brown and Keith Morris (both below) addressing clubs at either end of the week



Freddie Ferrao tries to get a shot away during a fiercely contested UYAFc vs UYNC friendly, before Joe Easter celebrates an unlikely goal for the boys

Keep the Faith

Beginning a 'Faith in Sport' series, **George Barrett** speaks to Linvoy Primus about his Christian beliefs

It's not every day that an ex-Premier League footballer opens up his heart to you, but, then again, Linvoy Primus is not your everyday footballer.

Easy-going, amicable and brutally honest with himself, Primus is far removed from the brash, overpaid and arrogant stereotype that many would attribute to the modern football player.

Having played the majority of his career at Portsmouth as a centre-back, Primus has now retired from football after a difficult period on the side-lines with injuries.

Primus is deeply involved in work with his charity, Faith and Football, which seeks to give disadvantaged children an opportunity to play football whilst also supporting their education-alneeds.

He is, unashamedly, a Christian.

Involved also with the Alpha course, and a number of prayer groups and churches, Primus does quite a bit for the community.

When asked about his career in football, he is very willing to share his memories.

"My first memory of football was watching the cup final between Manchester City and Tottenham (FA Cup 1981) and from there I just wanted to do whatever I could to play football, whether it was at school or for the Sunday team."

"I had lots of positive influences around me. My parents took me to the games, and the manager of my Sunday team told me he'd write to every football club in London to try and get trials for every single one of them. It all went from there."

Primus mentions his parents as a positive influence and I am interested in his background, particularly as his parents are Christians.

But Primus is quick to point out that he was not brought up a Christian and they are not the reason for his faith.

"We went to church on a Sunday, there was always a Bible around in my house, but we didn't pray together or anything like that. That was as far as it went really. I didn't enjoy church so when I had the opportunity to leave and play football on a Sunday I was happy for that. I was a church-goer but I knew nothing about having a relationship with Jesus. I was definitely not a Christian [at that stage]."

So if Jesus had no importance to Primus back then and in the early stages of his career, what did?

"I found my identity in football. People would ask me 'who are you?' and I would say 'I'm a footballer.' That was my identity. But when I was 27 I started to ask a few questions because I wasn't happy with football or life in general."

Primus makes it clear that football did not satisfy him and that his constant craving and desire for success was always dashed because he frequently did not live up to the standards that he would set for himself. He looked for satisfaction for things in life that he says could not satisfy him. But all that soon changed.

"Later some friends invited me and my wife along to church because they recognised my wife wasn't too well at the time. So I went along to the church and had some conversations with people in the church and also footballers at the

club who were Christians.

"I needed and wanted what they had, which was a relationship with Jesus.

"So after going to church and hearing all about Jesus I gave my life to Jesus. After hearing about salvation through Christ and my relationship with God not being what I thought it was I recognised that there was more to life than the way I was living."

So what changed?

"Straight away I didn't really feel an immediate change... but I noticed my life started to change [gradually]. I started to think about God more, I started to read [the Bible], started to pray, and starting to apply it [to my life]."

I had decisions to make in different areas of my football but I started to use the scriptures of the Bible to give me guidance."

With the possibility that Primus might have left Portsmouth, his faith offered him perspective.

"I had to make a big decision about what I was going to do, whether I was going to stay at the football club or leave," he says.

"Then I read in the scriptures about putting faith in God and not in man, and I started to play with freedom for the first time in my life."

"I played with peace because I knew I didn't have to impress anybody. All I had to do was play for God first... and my career really took off because I wasn't playing with any shackles."

That was in the 2002-03 season, when Primus helped Portsmouth gain promotion to the Premier League for only their second time in 45 years.

Harry Redknapp was manager at the time, and Primus speaks very highly of his former boss.

"I am forever grateful to Harry. I had my most successful spell of football under him. He was a real character, the players respected him, and you knew where you stood with him."

"If you weren't in the team you knew that once you got your chance you had to take it because he was quite loyal to the players on his side. He was a good man-manager, he knew what made people tick, and he knew what to say to certain people to get the best performances out of them."

I asked him how he related to his teammates after his newfound faith, interested to know the details of how they reacted to his conversion.

"This was one of the tests that I had going along my Christian walk. How do I cope with someone's abuse?"

"But after a while they stopped laughing at me and taking the mickey out of me and asked if I could pray for them."

"There was then a healthy respect and in the end we got to the point where we started to pray before games with people. It was a huge change in the culture of the club."

"There were people who didn't un-



"They stopped laughing at me and asked if I could pray for them"

derstand it but when they saw that we [Primus and the other Christians at the club] were just normal guys who got on and loved Jesus, they understood that and respected that."

Christians often speak of their church as a real support to them in their walk in faith, and this is clearly the case with Primus.

"My church has been a huge support to me as a family. Before we became

Christians we struggled to find friends who didn't want anything from us. I played football and there was always an expectation from people who wanted things from us, but in the [church] family we

found people who loved us because of the people we are not the work we do."

Primus stresses that his faith is not something that he has relegated to Sundays.

"You're not a Christian on a Sunday and then live another life every other day of the week. Every day of the week you are supposed to live for Jesus."

"I have been challenged in my Christian life in all sorts of areas, and where I have applied God's word and the advice of godly people I've come through time and time again."

"When situations come they do rock me, but I know that God knows what's going on and it's not a surprise to him to know what's going on."

Primus at this point cites the Bible verse Jeremiah 29:11 as a verse that is close to his heart. It says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the

Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

He pauses, mulling over the beauty of those words.

"I've got a hope in those words. I know that God is good."

And how about his injury problems? How did this truth sustain him when he was going through a difficult time on the side-lines?

"The last three or four years of my career I had a number of operations but after a while I knew it was okay. I could hold onto the truths of Scripture. I knew God was moving me into another stage of my life."

"I was weaned off, so when the moment came for me to retire I knew I was ready... to retire. I was rejoicing because I knew I was moving into something else."

Now in his new stage of life, Primus has helped set up his charity 'Faith and Football'. Right now they are flourishing, with over 200 volunteers working in Portsmouth, Plymouth, Birmingham and Barnsley.

As a result, many children have been given a chance to succeed, when previously they hadn't had a hope. This is real evidence of Primus' new found love for others, which has been borne out of his love for God.

As a Christian, I'm interested to know in this highly secularised age what the place is for Christians in sport.

Whether or not you accept the claims on which Primus bases his life, his life and his love for others stand as a contrast to the pattern associated with many of his sporting peers.

Primus' unusual answers to the big questions about life break the mould of success-seeking and self-satisfaction that characterises our current age. We should be prepared to ask those questions honestly ourselves.

Sport

Honest, United, Relentless

In a poignant and meaningful talk last week, Jon Roberts spoke to York Sport Union about creating a winning culture and how to instil a winning mentality. **Beth Jakubowski** reports.

A quiet, reserved man in person, it seems strange that Jon Roberts has a ruthlessly efficient side to him. As Director of Performance and Coaching for the England Rugby League, he has a job few would envy. Nearly five years ago he had the task of rebuilding a side who had failed spectacularly at the World Cup.

In his hour long talk, Roberts didn't merely tell the sportsmen and women assembled about his exploits in charge of the RFL - his overarching message was to create a 'culture' within your club.

It was an idea that should appeal to every club of every ability, whether you play football, cricket or even ultimate frisbee, Roberts' strategy is bound to be applicable.

He didn't focus solely on a winning mentality either, he aptly pointed out that the culture within your club didn't necessarily have to be one that is centered around winning.

It could be a culture that emphasises enjoying the sport and enjoying the atmosphere of being involved in a university club.

Roberts emphasised the importance of ensuring that the culture of each club should be endorsed by each member. In other words every member of the team must buy into the same ethos and values. This thinking underpinned Roberts role as Director of Performance and Coaching.

Under Roberts, the England Rugby League side coined the phrase 'Honest, United, Relentless' as their personal team values for the World Cup. Team values which are both admirable and highly unusual.

It's rare to see an international side place so much emphasis on honesty, but it is part of the culture that Roberts has been installing in the team.

It's also something that any sports team can use as inspiration. Grassroots sport has a firm basis in university clubs and Roberts was keen to help the assembled squads realise their potential by creating a definitive culture.

At the start of the talk he instructed us to write the word 'attitude' down on a piece of paper, we then had to assign each letter a number according to its position in the alphabet.

After adding up all the numbers the word attitude equalled 100. In the first five minutes of his talk, Roberts had managed to hit home his under-lying message.

Even if you don't have all the fancy equipment and back room staff available to an international side, there's one thing you can always change - your attitude.

Regardless of your chosen sport, a change in attitude that the whole team align to can not only benefit the squad but also the University as a whole.

York Sport President Cass Brown is following her predecessor's aim to get York into the top 40 of the BUCS league.

A dual objective is something Roberts spoke about and, again, is something York can benefit from. Clubs should aim to better themselves for a higher cause, in this case, the improvements to York's sport teams gets us closer to that top 40 goal.

Prior to the 2008 Rugby League World Cup, England were a fragmented and broken team, riddled with arguments over club and country.

But then Roberts proceeded to show the group a video of England's World Cup hopes; an emotionally charged, patriotic affair that very much defined the term 'spine tingling'.

The 'culture' that Roberts had suggested to the team looked like it had been fully taken on board.

Even if you were not a rugby league fan upon attending the talk, you left with a feeling

of intense admiration for what they are trying to achieve.

Roberts alluded to the problems the England football team face, where club means more than country.

Rugby league had the same problem, yet, unlike football, they are doing everything they possibly can to rectify the situation. If the video is anything to go by, his methods have certainly worked.

Everywhere you look in professional sport, there are athletes who have achieved incredible successes by adopting a new culture and attitude.

Take as a perfect example of this, Andy Murray, who changed his entire culture, right down to his coach, after a disappointing straight sets loss to David Ferrer in the ATP World Tour Finals. With a new coach in tow and a new team around him, Murray went on to win the US Open, Olympic gold and Wimbledon. He has become Great Britain's greatest tennis player since Fred Perry.

Murray's success demonstrates that a change in culture is not just beneficial to team sports, but also to individual sports.

While Roberts' did focus on team sports considering his role within the RFL, it was clear that his 'seven steps' can apply to anyone.

'Culture, Behaviour, Responsibility, Accountability, Team, Execution, Attitude.' Those seven words exemplified what Roberts' has been trying to do within the RFL.

Most of the catch phrases and tag lines he had been hammering into us were ones that the England team had come up with themselves.

York's own rugby union team attempted to change their own culture last year into a 'winning mentality'.

It proved to be a resounding success, they achieved promotion and entertained crowds with a thumping win over Lancaster at Roses in the stunning shadow of the Huntington Stadium.

Despite losing some influential third years, their new 'winning mentality' will stand them in good stead as they try to assert themselves in the BUCS Northern Premier Division.

Equally, other clubs at York have seen a positive attitude and strong mentality achieve them success.

The Boat Club have been plagued with fewer resources and less funding than the majority of their opposition and yet still managed to get their women's four squad to the semi finals at Henley and achieve a string of fantastic results at the White Rose Regatta and the York Summer Regatta, with wins for the women's four and the men's novice eights.

Despite being at a distinct disadvantage, they have demonstrated incredible dedication and commitment that proves Roberts' message. A change in attitude is the most important tool for success.

The crux of Roberts' message was driven home at the end of the talk. Change the culture of your club to something everyone buys into.

Whilst Roberts' evident expertise lies in Rugby, it was hard not to see that their shift in culture under Roberts' guidance has proved successful.

Although I'm not an avid follower of the Rugby League, after the talk I'm desperate to watch the World Cup in November.

It wasn't because Roberts' had convinced me Rugby League was the best sport in the world, it was because Roberts had convinced me that what he had done to our national side was install honesty, pride and passion.

Regardless of the sport, that's a team you want to see succeed.



Jon Roberts speaking to members of York's sports clubs last week during the pre-season camp

England Rugby League Factfile

- November 1972 England last lifted the Rugby League World Cup.
- In 1995 they were runners-up, their best position since the winning the trophy.
- Jon Roberts appointed Director of Coaching and Performance at the RFL in February 2008.
- Lost in the semi-final of the 2008 World Cup to eventual winners New Zealand.
- Finished third in the 2010 Four Nations Tournament with a young, inexperienced squad.
- Moved to Loughborough training ground in 2011 to give the team an English identity.
- Created the 'Exiles' series in 2011.
- Finished second in the 2011 Four Nations tournament - a significant improvement.

York teams ready for kickoff

Dan Holland, Beth Jakubowski, and Tom Fennelly assess some of York's top University sides ahead of the coming BUCS season

Men's Football

UYAFC's first team were incredibly unlucky to miss out on promotion last year, undone by some freak weather and the quirks of the BUCS league table system. As with all clubs, they've lost a few players over the summer - most notably Matt Mawdesley, Tom Day, and Tom Clarke. There is still a good core of quality players here though, and there are sure to be a few freshers coming in to supplement the squad. The key for new captain James Davies' side will be to hit the ground running this season - they didn't hit top form quickly enough last year and paid the price come the end of the season. Promotion is unquestionably the aim this time around, and avenging last year's heartbreak is certainly within their grasp.



Rowing

The Boat Club look in great shape for the coming season with new club President, Patrick Somerville-Large. The novice squads were in great shape last season, with the men's eights winning at the York Summer Regatta and losing their novice status. Even with some of the senior rowers graduating including ex-President Ed Scobie, they certainly look like they're ready for the coming season. Last season was a vintage one for the women's fours, as they reached the semi-finals of their Henley event and won at the White Rose Regatta. With a grant from Sport England already secured they will be looking to build on their record number of sign ups at last year's freshers fair to help bolster their squads for the coming year.

Hockey

Both the men's and women's firsts teams lost their captains to graduation - George Richards and Sally Dolton respectively were both central defenders so each team's defence are set for a shake-up. However, Phil Blackburn and Izzi Hutchinson have stepped in and look set to build on the Roses successes from last season, although both teams will be hoping for stronger finishers in their BUCS leagues this season. The men's side have lost their midfield rock Leo Watton, as well as Dougie MacAtee and Laurie Torrington (who scored the vital winner in the indoors hockey at Roses). More critically, the women's side have lost their reliable goalkeeper Laura Porter but, thankfully for them, the ambitious fresher Liz Furber has stepped up to the plate even before fresher's week, keeping a clean sheet in midweek.



All sports clubs can be found at Freshers' Fair, Saturday week one.
Check out our A-Z Sports Clubs Guide and overviews of both University and College Sport at nouse.co.uk/freshers.

Volleyball

The women's firsts side narrowly missed out on promotion last season as they finished as the runners-up in Division 2B for the second year running - here's hoping that they finally crack into Division 1 this season. The ladies team were also nominated as the Roses Team of the Tournament as they provided one of the spectacles of the summer in their emphatic win over Lancaster. It will certainly be exciting to see if this squad can match and hopefully better their successes from last season. As for the men's side, the firsts team will miss the talismanic powerhouse that is Chris Stent; the former club president was a frequent provider of winning points with from his strong right arm. Nevertheless, the company of current club president Rory Kelly and team captain Kai Chan, along with the alarmingly tall Mark Woodward, means that the team will be tactically sound this season.



Netball

It will be a season full of change for York's netballers. They had a solid season last year, with all three teams impressing at Varsity and Roses, as well as a good performance in BUCS. But the firsts team have lost their influential captain Nina Pullman as well as star players Amy Moye and Charlotte Ferris as all were third years and have now graduated. But with a strong second team, they will be hoping to pull up players from their lower teams as well as rely on a strong intake of freshers to bolster their squad. New President Lucy Daymond will be hoping that the netball team can build on last year's promising season and last year's freshers can step up to fill the void created by the departure of Pullman, Ferris and Moye.

Swimming and Water Polo

A club that has shown massive improvement in the past few years and can only get better. The new pool facilities at the York Sport Village made a huge difference to UYSWC last year, and will have hopefully gone some way to attracting another set of talented athletes for 2013/14. On the swimming side of things, York very much went out with a bang last year, clinching an epic victory over Lancaster at Roses. That was the culmination of a year that saw a succession of club records and personal bests - maintaining and even surpassing that standard will be the order of business this season. Water polo is a *Nouse* favourite - frenetic action and a chance for reporters to get out of the cold. The men's side were in spectacular form throughout last year and will be looking to replicate that form against higher-calibre opposition. York's women came on leaps and bounds last season, to the point at which captain Sophie Gorman was nearing a state of shock after their historic Roses win. There is nothing to suggest that they can't continue to go from strength to strength.



Sport

Rugby firsts prepared for Premier League challenge

Dan Holland assesses UYRUFC's prospects for the coming season after a promising friendly display against Loughborough last week

WITH A new-look first team squad taking over the reigns from last season's title-winning side, UYRUFC's debut season in the BUCS Northern Premier Division B provides a stern test.

Their opening pre-season match against Leeds Met provided little encouragement as York failed to do themselves justice, but last week's display against Loughborough seconds has injected a real sense of optimism into Fraser Kirkley's side.

The scoreline on 22 Acres may have been 14-40 in the visitors' favour, but it must be remembered that Loughborough finished third in this division last season - and, of course, when it comes to university sport the Leicestershire outfit have by far the greatest resources and talent to call on.

For the majority of the match, York more than held their own against some illustrious opposition, and the good news is that the Black and Gold should only improve from here on.

It was something of an unfamiliar starting XV, with captain Kirkley and explosive wing Will Sharp on the sidelines, and plenty more of last year's regulars having graduated.

With that in mind, it was little surprise that Loughborough started with the greater fluency.

York were immediately on the back foot, but showed their defensive qualities in abundance.

The home side's backs were well organised, but after some good work in the scrum from Loughborough and a monstrous driving maul, it took a thumping tackle from Conan Osborne to put the visitors winger into touch and prevent a certain try.

Loughborough led soon after, capitalising on a poor lineout and switching the play quickly to the right hand side to score in the corner.

The York response was perfect. Making their way into the Loughborough half for what seemed like the first time, the White Rose found a try of their own as Matt Thorpe broke through to score.

York 1sts 14 - 40 Loughborough 2nds

York try scorers: Thorpe, Watson.

Coversions: Chadwick (2).

York XV: Burd, Thorpe, Golding, Arnott, Peacock, Boyd, Gaskell, Woods, Robson, Chadwick, Durno, Watson, Osborne, O'Connell, Cormack.

Clearly there is something about the number two shirt that lends itself to try-scoring, after Hugh Draycott's prolific exploits last season.

Tom Chadwick's conversion made it 7-5 to York and allowed fans to briefly enjoy that rare sensation of beating Loughborough.

For a time the match was evenly balanced, to be expected after a frantic start.

But Loughborough were quickest to spring back into life, and made their pressure pay with a second try courtesy of their scrum half.

York's last-ditch defending was put to the test once more, this time Chadwick provided a superb tackle to rip the ball out of the Loughborough winger's arms as he dived over the try-line.

The home side's defending was a sight to behold at times, but they were the victims of a ruthless onslaught just before half-time.

Two quickfire tries, the second coming from an unfathomably powerful burst from the Loughborough number eight.

That made the score 7-26 at the break, flattering the visitors.

York began the second half in slightly sloppy fashion, but quickly recovered to the standards set in the first half.

Dominating possession and finding themselves camped in the Loughborough half for the first real time in the match, York pulled back the deficit through Hugo Watson. It was no more than they deserved.

For the next ten minutes, York continued to more than match their opponents, even if they struggled to carve out any try-scoring opportunities.

As the home side began to tire, though, they were hit with another cruel blow.

Just as in the first half, Loughborough got the rub of the green and there was little that York full-back Alex Cormack could do as his opposite number blasted past him.

There was one final sucker punch from the visitors to make it 14-40 at the full-time whistle, but as Kirkley delivered his post-match analysis there was a palpable sense of belief around his side.

Just a week after a poor display in Leeds, York had proved to themselves that they are very much capable of playing at this level.

No doubt it will be the toughest season any of these players have experienced before as the Black and Gold mix it with some of the country's best.



Action from last week's pre-season rugby match, as York produced a promising display against Loughborough

The value of a test against some high calibre opposition was not lost on Kirkley, who told *Nouse* afterwards, "Last week we didn't put in a great performance at all. But we showed today for 50 minutes that we can compete in this league."

"Pre-season has been really good so far. We've worked on some things and mixed in the new lads with the old players."

"We've been up to Teesdale for a team-building weekend there."

"We've tried to keep things fresh and new, and their progress has shown."

"I don't know what kind of squad Loughborough had out today, but from our point of view it was clear that the boys who haven't had

first team rugby before have really stepped it up."

"The unknown quantity in this league isn't there any more, and we are well up there."

"It's going to be a really exciting year."

York kick off their league campaign next Wednesday, travelling to Durham, before their first home fixture against Manchester a week later.

Nobody is expecting to enjoy the same kind of rampant form that made winning almost an inevitability last season, even in the most unlikely of circumstances (down to 13 men and clinging on against a fiery Liverpool side, anyone?).

But after last week's heart-

warming effort against Loughborough from a York side that face the unenviable task of replacing a host of title-winning players from 2012/13, there is most certainly a renewed sense of optimism around the club.

Greater fitness, organisation, and fluidity will undoubtedly arrive in the coming weeks and months.

But most important will be the self-belief and relentless will to win that served UYRUFC so well last year, never more evident than in yet another Roses whitewash back in May.

They have proved to themselves, and to those of us who watched from the touchline, that they can compete at this level.

Badminton prepare for new season



York's women looked impressive on Friday after a resounding 7-1 victory against Leeds ahead of the new season

Beth Jakubowski
SPORTS EDITOR

IT WAS a mixed afternoon for York's badminton teams on Friday. While the women beat their Leeds opponents 7-1, the men fell to a 6-2 defeat.

The day started brightly for the women's team as their doubles partners Alison Cannon and Alice Garcia played fantastically against the Leeds pair. Often unplayable, the pair helped York surge ahead of

Leeds' squad in emphatic fashion. Meanwhile, the men were struggling after losing both their first singles and doubles matches. But there were some positives to take away from the afternoon for the men's team in the form of Rolf Choutan.

He played exceptionally well to win his singles matches, earning the men their only two points of the day.

Considering the men's team lost three key players to graduation and rested some other regulars,

Choutan's performance gives them a timely boost for this season.

With victory wrapped up for the women, one of the last matches of the day was York's doubles pairing of Alex Ray and Ollie Griffin.

It proved to be a thrilling match, with Leeds winning the first set 21-17. But Ray and Griffin fought back impressively in the second to win 25-23.

There was a tense finish in store, while Leeds had already clinched victory, York were playing



for pride.

Neither Ray nor Griffin let their team down, they played with tenacity but eventually lost the nail biting third set 21-19.

Badminton Club President, Andy Henderson spoke to *Nouse* about his hopes for their upcoming season. "I think it's going to be tough this season because we've lost a lot of players. We're going to need to build up our team again".

The men's side lost their star player, Baillie Watterson, who won player of the tournament at last year's Varsity, to graduation last year. Two other members of their first team have also graduated, leaving Henderson relying on fresher participation to bolster his squad.

"We definitely need a couple more freshers," Henderson acknowledged. But he is also hoping that the badminton club's bid to be

a focus sport will boost their campaign and improve their chances for the new season.

"Hopefully we'll become a focus sport and that'll mean we'll get a lot more training. We've put in quite a substantial bid."

Henderson was hopeful of their chances to be one of the successful bids, "I think we're deserving of it, we're one of the biggest clubs on campus and we really deserve to be a focus sport."

One of the more innovative idea's the badminton club have had to recruit new players is through the college system. They have a new campaign called 'no strings badminton' which encourages anybody to join badminton at college level.

"We're working on building up college teams and making them stronger. We're turning our attention to coaching college players".

Changes in place for college sport

George Barrett
SPORTS EDITOR

COLLEGE SPORT at York has undergone a number of exciting changes in time for the start of the year.

New College Sport officers, Dave Washington and Tom Merriman have helped transform College Sport over the summer and the start of the academic year sees an exciting time ahead for College Sport at York.

A new website was launched last week to coincide with the start of pre-season making college sport accessible to more people than ever before.

Added to this, Washington and Merriman have appointed a number of College Sport 'Activators' to help with the administration of their sports.

Activators have been appointed in sports such as football, netball and rugby, as well as a host of other popular sports on campus.

Both Washington and Merriman are keen to see the advertising of college sport improve upon re-

cent years, and they hope that these new additions will see College Sport grow.

"One of our main aims is to improve the way that College Sport is advertised," Washington told *Nouse*. "This development will undoubtedly aid that."

"We hope that the website can become a central hub for all information on college sport, and will be

informative, reliable and up to date."

Washington and Merriman will also be implementing a new points system in college sport, after it was recognised that the old one was misunderstood by a number of people.

The new points system is thought to be far simpler and a big improvement.

Each sport will be graded as to how many points they will be worth

- for example, Football firsts and Netball firsts will receive a grade 4, but Pool will receive a grade 2.

At the end of each term, colleges will earn a certain number of points depending on where they are in their respective league tables, and their position will be multiplied by the position given to the sport.

A number of college sport taster sessions will be taking place in

Freshers' Week, including Rugby on Wednesday and Volleyball on Friday to give incoming students the opportunity to experience College Sport at its finest.

One of the major advantages of York's college system is the sporting opportunities that are presented for students of all abilities.

Whether you are a county badminton player, have played nationals in squash, or simply want to have some fun and meet new people through the volleyball teams, the opportunities are almost limitless.

In recent years college sport has developed into one of the key characteristics of university life with the highlight of the college sport calendar being the College Cup in the summer term.

The College Cup is a football tournament that sees each college put forward three teams.

Last year Halifax firsts beat Derwent firsts in the final in what was described as one of the most exciting finals in York history.

With all these changes in place, college sport looks set for one of its best years yet.



The Derwent team engaging in a Tug of War at last year's College Sports Day, where they were crowned champions

Sport

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Jon Roberts

His thoughts on the mentality of winning and creating a club 'culture'

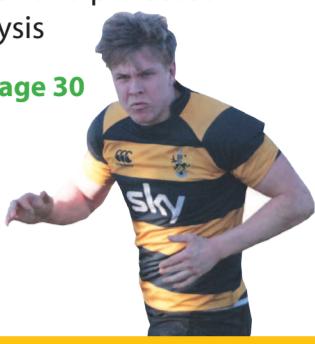
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Rugby

Report from Wednesday's match and pre-season analysis

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'About time' York breaks into top 40

Beth Jakubowski
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK SPORT President Cass Brown has re-affirmed her ambition to make the University's top 40 campaign "more than a hashtag".

After a successful week of pre-season for York's teams, as they kick started their campaigns ahead of the new BUCS season, Brown said that it was "about time" that York achieved a long-standing ambition to break into the top 40 sporting universities in the country.

A week of intensive fitness sessions and lectures organised by the new York Sport Committee provided York's elite University teams with the chance to prepare for the upcoming season. There were testing home matches for the hockey, badminton and rugby teams. While the results were somewhat mixed, many squads had the chance to experiment with their teams after the loss of influential third years.

York Sport President Cass Brown, was pleased with how the week's events unfolded, telling *Nouse*, "Everything we've done this week will hopefully set us up for a top 40 push".

There are plenty of changes in store for York's sport facilities with the new strength and conditioning suite on Heslington West set to open in October. Brown pointed out the benefits of having a strength and conditioning suite: "If you can train together as a team then you can up the momentum and team spirit".

Brown was particularly happy with how York were shaping up for the new season, with high hopes for both the top 40 and Roses, "I'm continuing with the Top 40 campaign, I want to make it more than a hashtag. I think people got bogged down in the concept rather than the strategy."

Brown went on to say, "I'm going to be working with Keith [Morris, Head of Sport] all year to get a strategy in place to support clubs.

We're going to sit down with individual clubs and look at where they are in their league tables".

Brown said that she wanted to change "basic things that don't require that much effort like turning up to training with the right mentality". Her determination to get York into the top 40 was obvious: "It's about time we got in the Top 40, we need that last push".

With an away Roses looming Brown was keen to stress her hopes for a historic victory on Lancastrian soil, stating emphatically, "I want to win, why not be ambitious? I think

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Linvoy Primus opens up about his faith and his footballing career

we have the edge". Continuing on the theme of changing club's mentality, Brown wanted to abolish the "tour mentality" of an away Roses.

"There's no point slaving away all year and then getting to Roses and thinking 'just because it's a tour' we don't have to try as hard".

One of Brown's strategies for an away victory included holding a pre-Roses training camp to ensure that every squad is ready for the stern challenge. On Varsity, Brown said she wanted to "replace it with something" because "the calendar for term two isn't particularly busy".

A new addition to the pre-season camp is the end of week awards introduced this year.

Sportsman of the week went to boxer Kevin Wang who lost an astonishing amount of weight in preparation for pre-season.

Sportswoman of the week was awarded to Gabrielle Brough from the Sailing and Windsurfing club.

The last award went to Swimming and Water Polo, who won team of the week for outstanding commitment after attending many of the pre-season events.



AGATHA TORRANCE

BUCS previews for the new season >> Page 29



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

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