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Roses victory 2005

York graduate steals £30,000 from professor in identity fraud

- Former student given four year sentence
- Credit card and loans run up huge debts
- Six month drinking and gambling spree

By Lauren Carter
EDITOR

YORK PROFESSOR Sultan Barakat unknowingly funded the extravagant lifestyle of a former student who stole his financial details and defrauded him of £29,000 to spend on drinking and gambling.

Joseph Ashby, a graduate from the University, received a four year prison sentence during the Easter vacation for running up debts of over £40,000 in other people's names, including the substantial sum stolen using Professor Barakat's identity.

York Crown Court heard how Ashby drank and gambled away most of the money in venues around the city in just six months. Andrew Kershaw, prosecuting, explained: "People who knew him when he was in York say his life was simply a party. He lived in hotels and bars."

Professor Barakat, a Politics academic at the University, was a close neighbour of Ashby and living in the same building in Melrose Court when he was targeted at the end of last year. Ashby applied for a £20,000 loan in the Professor's name and also set up two credit card accounts, running them both to their limits. Professor Barakat, who had been away from home, realised what had happened when he returned to find a "nightmare postbag" of payment demands and letters from solicitors regarding credit agreements he had never made.

When Ashby was finally caught by the police in October, he had nearly £10,000 in cash as well as a list of personal details and credit card numbers

for 140 people in the York area. Defending, Simon Waley claimed Ashby had been given the list by a stranger and had only used some of the details to feed his alcohol and betting addictions.

However, when passing sentence, the Honorary Recorder of York, Judge Paul Hoffman, told Ashby: "I have no doubt that had you not been apprehended when you were, you would have gone on to use the full extent of the list."

Ashby pleaded guilty to seven charges of deception and four of transferring criminal property. His defence requested a further nineteen offenses to be taken into consideration on the basis of his addiction. "He was continuing to lead a completely fake life", Waley said.

As well as spending excessively on nights out, the Court heard how Ashby ran up further debts buying computers. Detective Constable Pete Bentall, one of the police officers investigating the case, revealed that they found two rooms full of computer equipment at one of his home addresses in York.

Bentall has confirmed that the police are currently trying to reunite Professor Barakat and the other victims of Ashby's fraud with their money. The fraudulent

accounts that Ashby created have all been frozen and he will learn at a hearing on July 15th how much of his illegal goods will be confiscated.

Recent police reports reveal that identity theft and large-scale fraud of this nature is becoming an increasing problem in York and as many as three cases are seen each month. Bentall also explained that many incidents are left unreported because credit card companies offer insurance and regularly write off debts.

Ron Johnson, spokesperson for North Yorkshire Police, warned students to be particularly vigilant and be aware of how easily these crimes are perpetrated. He commented: "the recent government campaign offers sound advice. People need to be careful and keep their personal details secure."

Johnson explained students should be aware that identity thieves will try and gather as many personal details as possible; going through bins, mailboxes and using the internet to deceive people into divulging information.

Concluding the trial of Ashby, Judge Paul Hoffman exclaimed: "It is disturbing that one can obtain other people's identities and credit card details so easily."



HESLINGTON EAST

Exclusive interviews with the York academics leading the fight against the University's development plans

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Joseph Ashby starting his four year term for fraud. Photo by York Evening Press

Controversy over student voting fraud on campus

By Toby Green
NEWS DEPUTY

YORK UNIVERSITY students could have voted illegally in last week's general election, casting two votes without fear of being caught.

No system has been implemented to prevent students committing fraud, tarnishing Labour's historic third term win. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, disclosed that she had illegally used both her votes. "I had sent off my postal vote for my home constituency a few days earlier, so when poll day came round I thought I might as well use my vote here as well since there's nothing to stop me."

Students are automatically registered by the University to vote in the Selby constituency, despite many already being registered at home. Receiving polling cards from each constituency, many students use the opportunity to vote twice.

Students' Union President, James Alexander, fronted a campus campaign try to persuade more students to vote, in which he warned that "You can only vote here OR at home, to do both is illegal."

However, Gemma Crossland from the Electoral Commission, an independent body that regulates elections, admitted that although "it's not lawful to vote twice... there's little to stop people. It does concern us."

The problem lies in the way the electoral register works. There is no centralised list of where people are registered, and who has a polling card. Instead it is done locally, in individual constituencies.

A lack of communication means no-one can tell if someone has registered or has voted in two constituencies.



A student casts their postal vote before the elections

The Electoral Reform Society has pushed for changes in the voting system and has been vocal in its attack on how it currently works, running a campaign entitled 'Make This The Last Unjust Election'. Even before the election they were predicting that many MPs' victories could be challenged on their legitimacy.

As well as campaigning for a national electoral register, they have also called for a system of proportional representation. Electoral Reforms' press officer, Alex Folkes, said "that there is nothing wrong with students being registered in both

constituencies but we do need some sort of system to make sure double voting won't happen. At the moment it's all based on honesty".

He also revealed that since 2001 they have been calling for the government to make changes, something supported by Crossland who said "the Electoral Commission has told the Government that there has to be a national electoral register. It is an old issue that needs sorting out."

The Conservative Party, who narrowly lost the Selby seat by 467 votes to the Labour MP, John Grogan, have reacted

angrily to the lack of action by Tony Blair over voting reform.

An anonymous member of the University Conservative Society attacked the Labour government for not addressing the problem, accusing them of "not dealing with a situation that could possibly have affected vital seats, such as Selby. This is obviously a deeply serious issue, which I cannot believe has not been sorted out yet."

Dr. Liam Fox, co-chairman of the Conservative Party, had already made a more general attack on the voting system, stating: "The electoral practices of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, such as intimidation and fraud, risk becoming the hallmark of the twenty-first century."

Although the Electoral Reform Society, speaking before the election, commented that fraud "would not affect who is the Prime Minister", they agreed "that it will lead to disputes over some seats."

These new revelations have come at the end of a campaign dogged by allegations of voting fraud, specifically postal voting. A judge exposed postal vote fraud as "widespread" in the 2004 local elections in Birmingham after the results of six Labour seats were challenged by Liberal Democrat opposition.

Recently two men have been arrested in Bradford after allegations against the Conservative candidate Jamshed Khan that thirteen people applied for postal votes at his address.

At the time of going to print the NUS was unable to comment on whether they felt that the student vote was potentially fraudulent.

Comment, page 10

Baldwin inquest confirms unlawful killing in Rome

By Toby Green
NEWS DEPUTY

THE BRITISH inquest into the death of Sally Baldwin, a popular York University Professor, has confirmed a case of unlawful killing.

Baldwin, a Sociology lecturer, died after falling through a hole in a Rome train station moving walkway on 28th October 2004. She sustained fatal, multiple injuries after being crushed, and was killed instantly, the first person ever to be killed by a moving people carrier.

Two workmen, who were conducting maintenance work at the time, have already been convicted of manslaughter in Italy and received suspended sentences after submitting plea bargains.

The York coroner, Donald Coverdale, confirmed that the men were to blame for numerous examples of negligence. They had left the walkway in neutral, meaning the emergency brake could not be implemented to prevent Baldwin from being crushed

and had failed to construct barriers around the area to prevent passengers from using the walkway. The workers had previously denied the charges, saying that the walkway was cordoned off, but were contradicted by several witnesses to the accident.

The incident received substantial coverage in Italy after a fellow passenger, Vincenzo Pratico, was awarded the Golden Medal for Civil Merit for attempting to save Professor Baldwin, suffering serious leg injuries in the process. The lecturer's family continue to press for damages and the conviction of two directors from OCS, the maintenance firm, for negligence and manslaughter.

Sally Baldwin spent thirty years at York University after completing her diploma in Social Administration here in 1973, and instantly became part of the new Social Policy Research Unit. She became director in 1987 and Professor in 1990. She was also a keen supporter of women's rights on campus, specifically supporting the Centre for Women's Studies.

Students to live on a 'dollar a day' diet

By Simon Davis
NEWS EDITOR

A GROUP of York students are to try and live on a dollar a day to raise money to support the Make Poverty History campaign.

Members of 'Speak', a Christian group which campaigns for social justice, will join the ranks of half the world's population and try and live on a dollar worth of food a day, which is roughly equiv-

alent to fifty pence.

The five day challenge will take place this week, from Monday to Friday, and they hope this will help them to empathise with people caught in the poverty trap.

This comes at the same time as People and Planet are planning a UGM motion in week three to get the Student Union to support the Make Poverty History Campaign. They are asking for as many students as possible to attend.

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Student Union to break into student bedrooms in ‘shock tactic’ campaign

By Simon Davis
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENT UNION officials are set to storm into campus bedrooms in a legally questionable security crackdown, with the full support of the University Security Services.

The ‘nicked-it’ campaign will involve partially trained Student Union picked officials, under the guidance of Security Services, entering any student bedroom with an open window or unlocked door, and placing ‘nicked it’ stickers on any property they could have stolen. SU Welfare Officer John Rose confirmed that, despite endorsing the campaign, University security staff will not be present when the rooms are checked.

This has prompted lawyer, James Burke, from Cambridge University, to cast doubt upon the right of members of the University to enter student rooms without their express permission.

The law clearly states that any unauthorised or unreserved entry onto land can amount to trespass. Burke said that although it would be up to a court to decide the exact scope of the student’s rights, the actions “would prima facie be an encroachment by the University, through their agent the Security Service, and indeed a potentially separate trespass by any SU personnel.”

Not a man afraid of controversy, Rose said, “I think in this kind of thing you do need to go for a shock tactic. I told people at the start of the year to close their windows. But when it comes to shock tactics, sometimes you just have to do it.”

North Yorkshire Police were unable to comment on the



Students’ valuables will be stickered with the ‘nicked it’ slogan to encourage them to lock their doors and windows. Photo by Toby Hall

heated legal debate that this campaign has sparked, and insisted that they were going to investigate the “ins and outs” further, particularly the views of the SU and Security Services.

William Humphreys, a first year Philosophy student, commented: “I’m not a big fan

of that idea. I just don’t think it’s up to them to decide whether you should close your door or not. If people leave their door unlocked it’s their choice. I’d be a bit pissed off [if he found his room had been invaded], because it’s a bit of a nuisance finding stickers everywhere.”

Although controversial, some students have defended Rose’s campaign, Pascal Costello, a second year History student, said: “I think it’s quite a good idea, because a lot of students have had their stuff stolen and people aren’t aware that they are actually at risk.”

Concerns have also been

raised over what will happen if the searchers find any illegal possessions in student rooms. However, Rose insisted: “We’re not going to find stuff that shouldn’t be there. If we did find something, it’s their room, the University owns it, I’m a third party going in and I’ll keep my nose out.”

The campaign is planned to begin in week four, and has the full support of Mick Watkins, the Security Services Operations Manager, who said: “I think this is a really positive initiative and I am very keen for the campaign to go ahead.”

Comment, page 11

Former SU Officer jailed for night club attack

A FORMER Union officer has been jailed for nine months after attacking a fellow York undergraduate in Ziggy’s nightclub with a bottle. The SU ruled on Friday that *nouse* cannot name the student, who pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawful wounding.

In a case described by the judge as “serious”, York Crown Court heard how the student approached Jonathan Percy on the dance floor in Ziggy’s around 1am on 27th May last year. Percy was subsequently hit on the face with a bottle, causing a wound which had to be repaired with Steri-strips.

Prosecuting, Tim Stead said the student had used a bottle to hit the victim on the left side of his forehead. Having

deflected to the left.” The offending student, the Counsel suggested, had delivered another blow. When interviewed, the student said he had been drinking that evening, the Court heard.

In mitigation, Nicholas Johnson stated that up until the incident, the student had always been of “outstanding and exemplary character.” Referring to his work in the Student Union, Johnson noted that he had “served the very community from which the complainant came - free of charge and extremely well.”

He said that the student initially set out to talk to Percy, a fellow York student at the time, having mistaken him for someone who was dating his

former girlfriend. “He concedes this was foolish.”

Johnson said it was an unplanned “extremely short-lived attack”, with no prior intention to do serious harm. The student, he added, “expressed genuine remorse and insight”.

The student, who had previously been a non-sabbatical officer on the Students’ Union, pleaded guilty to one charge of unlawful wounding under Section 20 of the Offenses Against the Person Act.

Arguing against the imposition of a custodial sentence, the defence Counsel stated that he would need to repeat a year of university in order to graduate and would lose potential job opportunities lined up for the

summer. He had been seeking a career in politics. But a nine-month prison term was given at the sentencing, which took place in the penultimate week of the Easter vacation.

Judge Paul Hoffman, Honorary Recorder of York, told the student: “In temper, drink and frustration, you hit [Percy] with a bottle. It was the wrong man.” He went on: “It wasn’t the only blow you struck,” but noted it wasn’t clear whether the bottle was used a second time.

“I accept you acted out of character and have performed good works for your University.”

Even though the student was openly named in court and in copies of the *York Evening*

Press sold on campus, *nouse* has been prevented from disclosing his identity.

The SU invoked its latest powers established under the Media Charter to rule that the student cannot be named. The Charter, which was forced through in October, states that students who remain members of the University cannot be named in campus papers if such action threatens their welfare.

Controversially, this ‘gagging’ policy operates at the discretion of the Union Welfare Officer. Current post-holder John Rose rejected allegations of a Union cover-up, saying: “I’m not going to go against a student’s rights just because they’re an ex-Union officer or someone high profile.”

Lecturers, staff and students hit out over planned 'Heslington East'

By Justin Webber and Simon Davis

THE UNIVERSITY'S plans to expand on Heslington East have provoked a backlash from academics both within the campus and in the wider community.

The plans, which favour an expansion on an unprecedented scale to the east of the village of Heslington, were recently approved by the Councils planning committee in a lengthy and bitter meeting lasting over nine hours.

Ever since the University's inception there have been plans to expand onto the farmland east of Heslington. This expansion, it has been argued, is essential if the University is not to stagnate as other 'less constrained' institutions seize opportunities at York's expense.

Unfortunately the plans for what will be one of the largest commercial developments in York for decades have been attacked by critics as both "unimaginative and unsustainable". Not only have the usual suspects of local residents and student pressure group, been up in arms, but also numerous academics have launched vitriolic attacks on the premise that the University's plans are universally supported.

While the need for the University to expand on academic grounds has been met with little opposition, the manner in which expansion will occur has angered many. Dr. Richard Firn, from the Biology department has spoken out against what he sees as the University's "selfish and horrific attitude" that has marked every stage of the planning process.

Instead of being a development simply for the improvement of educational facilities, he sees it as an opportunity for business expansion on green belt land by the back door. The plans show that over thirty per cent of developed land will be devoted to companies not directly involved in the running of the University.

Under the guise of a 'science park', non-academic staff levels will rise by around 370

per cent compared to student number increases of just 50 per cent. The suspicion that students are being marginalized in the development is further compounded by the admission that more land will be allocated on the new site for a conference centre than for sporting facilities.

Students can however look forward to "guaranteed accommodation on the new campus". The Vice Chancellor, Brian Cantor, along with his team of consultants, have attempted to reassure concerned counsellors and residents that Heslington East will house all the extra 3,700 full time students it is set to attract.

However, according to evidence from the existing campus this assumption is wildly optimistic. Currently, only ten to fifteen per cent of second and third year students return to campus accommodation each year, preferring the freedom of private lets with the unique opportunities they provide.

The University have yet to answer how they are going to persuade students to stay on campus, other than offering Alcuin style facilities, but not cheaper rents. The potential strain on local housing if the University cannot contain expanded student numbers remains one of the chief concerns of Labour councillors who favour a comprehensive study into the issue.

The design of the new campus has also come under heavy fire from a series of academics including Dr. Geoffrey Stern, Dr. Guy Wooley and Dr. Roger Pierce. Dr. Pierce, a Politics lecturer who has experience in planning, has voiced his "strong reservations about the proposals to accommodate the expansion by extending the University into Heslington East."

Pierce believes that the University did not properly consider its alternative options, arguing that the original planning restrictions on the current campus could have been lifted.

"Innovative design could dramatically reduce the extent of the proposed site but the potential size of Heslington

East has worked against radical design solutions." He added, "By utilising sites within the city as well as the existing campus, the potential for greater integration between the University and the city could be realised."

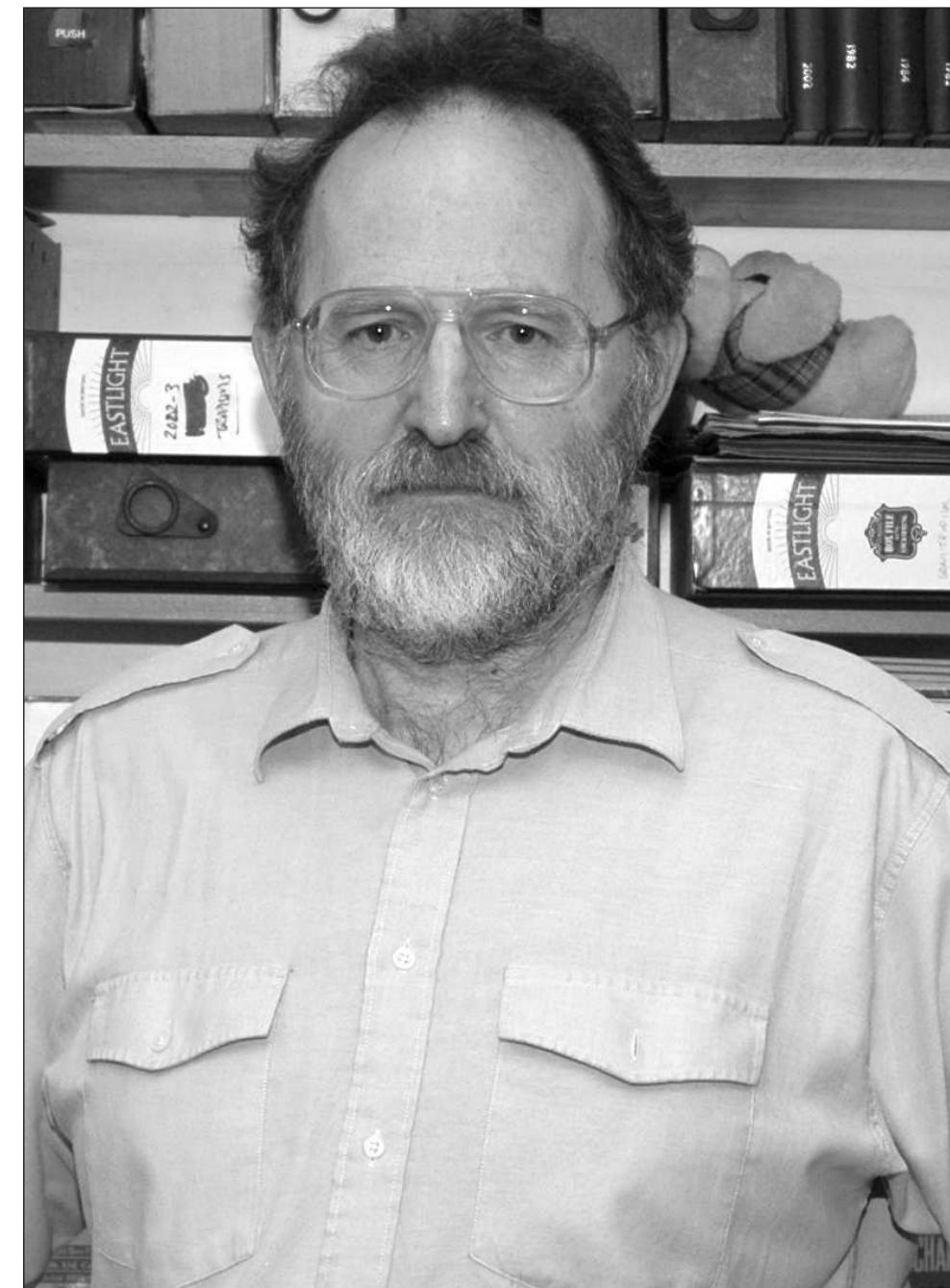
Crucially, the needs of students to be "centred on one site" has been the guiding force behind the Heslington East expansion plans. These are the grounds on which the University has dismissed alternative sites in and around York, insisting on an all-inclusive joined up campus.

Furthermore, the choice of Heslington East for the University's expansion has provoked such severe criticism because it will mean a large swathe of green belt land will be developed. Dr. John Lovett, from the Environmental Science department, argues that this is against planning policy guidance on green belts, which clearly states that "higher education institutions are no longer appropriate developments in the green belt".

The University defends its proposals by claiming that it has exceptional circumstances, which mean it is adhering to both government policy and its own development plan, which also favours "development within the city". These include its commitments to "sustainability" throughout the work on the new site with an extensive environmental portfolio including "recycling and sustainable building practices throughout".

"The Heslington East proposals involve great emphasis on its commitment to sustainable development, yet it is not committing itself to the highest European standards for developing the site" maintains Dr. Firn. "I also have great concern about their interpretation of 'sustainability', which they

The University's "selfish and horrific attitude" marked every planning stage



Clockwise from picture above:
Dr. Richard Firn leads the protest; an illustration of the Heslington East site; the planned location. Photos by Toby Hall



take to include potentially environmentally damaging economic factors."

The central feature of the landscape plans for the site feature a lake that will occupy ten per cent of the total footprint. The highly managed lake will involve the pumping of ground water supplies to keep it at adequate levels. "Creating a system which places extra demand on limited water supplies is hardly indicative of sustainable

design", said Dr Firn.

The precedent of the existing campus is not encouraging. Recent developments such as the £21 million Biosciences building have been plagued by "spiralling costs leading to cutbacks in features to improve energy efficiency" a source within the university revealed.

Elsewhere the provision of recycling within accommodation blocks relies on student volunteers to both set up and

run schemes. If no-one is willing to run these schemes, as occurred recently in Languith College, they collapse.

Dr. Firn also questioned why the University needs to build huge business facilities, including a conference complex that features a hotel, with two hundred bedrooms, right next to the academic structures. And why a science park should be built next door to academic counterparts.

Issues in brief

The reality of the campus expansion

Student venue

Heslington East will in theory include the long awaited central venue. With a potential capacity of 1,000 people, events like last Saturday's Roses Ball will finally be catered for on campus. Ominously though, the plans contain the sentence "uncertainty in planning and funding will require flexibility in the layout of the campus and the design of the building complexes."

Sports facilities

Highlights of the proposed new sporting facilities include a swimming pool, large sports hall complex and athletics stadium. A sporting facility of "regional importance" is also promised although it is unclear what this will be, especially considering the current poor standard of regional facilities. Sporting societies such as the

Swimming club will no longer have to travel off campus to practice although the funding implications for such extensive new facilities are yet to be resolved.

Moat lake

Other potential developments contained in the University's plans are the Lake which will act as wetland habitat, flood storage facility and will be a "deterrent to inappropriate movement patterns. By adopting 'moat like' qualities, the lake will prevent short-cuts by students."

Meanwhile the all year round conference facility will contain a health spa. This may come as little cheer to Derwent students luxuriating in accommodation with one shower between sixteen residents.

Colleges

The new campus will retain the collegiate structure of the existing campus and will feature several new academic departments. These could include Dentistry, Law and Film and Media studies which have been assigned a place on the new campus although Geography will remain uncatered for.

The new estimated bed-space is 3,300 student rooms in a hub of new colleges, which will feature Alcuin-style facilities, but which are not designed to be affordable. The project assumes all students will remain in their campus lets.

Radical plans for campus transport

PLANS TO enlarge the University onto the Heslington East campus will include radical initiatives to control car use and encourage "sustainable alternative travel solutions" it has been revealed.

Central to the application for planning permission is the need to control potential gridlock around the expanded campus and the village of Heslington. To this end the University is planning to restrict car access into the site and develop a University Transit System (UTS).

The UTS or 'bus' will carry people around an extensive route, tackling the problem of movement between the two fragmented campuses.

Potential systems mooted include the 'Philias' Bus system, which has been introduced on the continent. Featuring electronic guidance systems, futuristic design and dynamic passenger information systems, "the optimum passenger experience" is promised.

However, concern has been expressed over the poten-

tial cost implications of systems like 'Philias' following the University's announcement that they intend for the buses to be free for users. No evidence has been provided as to how such potentially expensive transport infrastructure will be funded at this stage although comparable schemes involving extensive public partnerships may give part of the solution.

Further worries rest on the ability of the UTS to respond to the highly volatile patterns of demand that occur within the University environment. A number of speakers at the recent City of York council meeting to discuss the plans for Heslington East expressed scepticism over a system, which is better suited to "conditions of continual movement such as airports".

The 'bus' network will have to serve on the public highway as well, which will be effected by normal traffic. Planners evidently have a lot of work to do to make this system work and at a price, which is both fair and sustainable.

The planners suggest that this will provide a fusion of ideas between the science park employees and the academics. Firn, however, has pointed out that surely this would lead to businesses putting restrictions on academic freedom, forcing research to follow the needs of businesses rather than the wider community.

Research by Dr. Firn conversely reveals that the University is unwilling or unable to explain how a number of companies based on the Science Park, such as the Yorkshire Housing Trust, relate to academic departments in any meaningful way.

Regardless of wider problems the proposals do at least address the failure of the University to provide students with a central venue they can use.

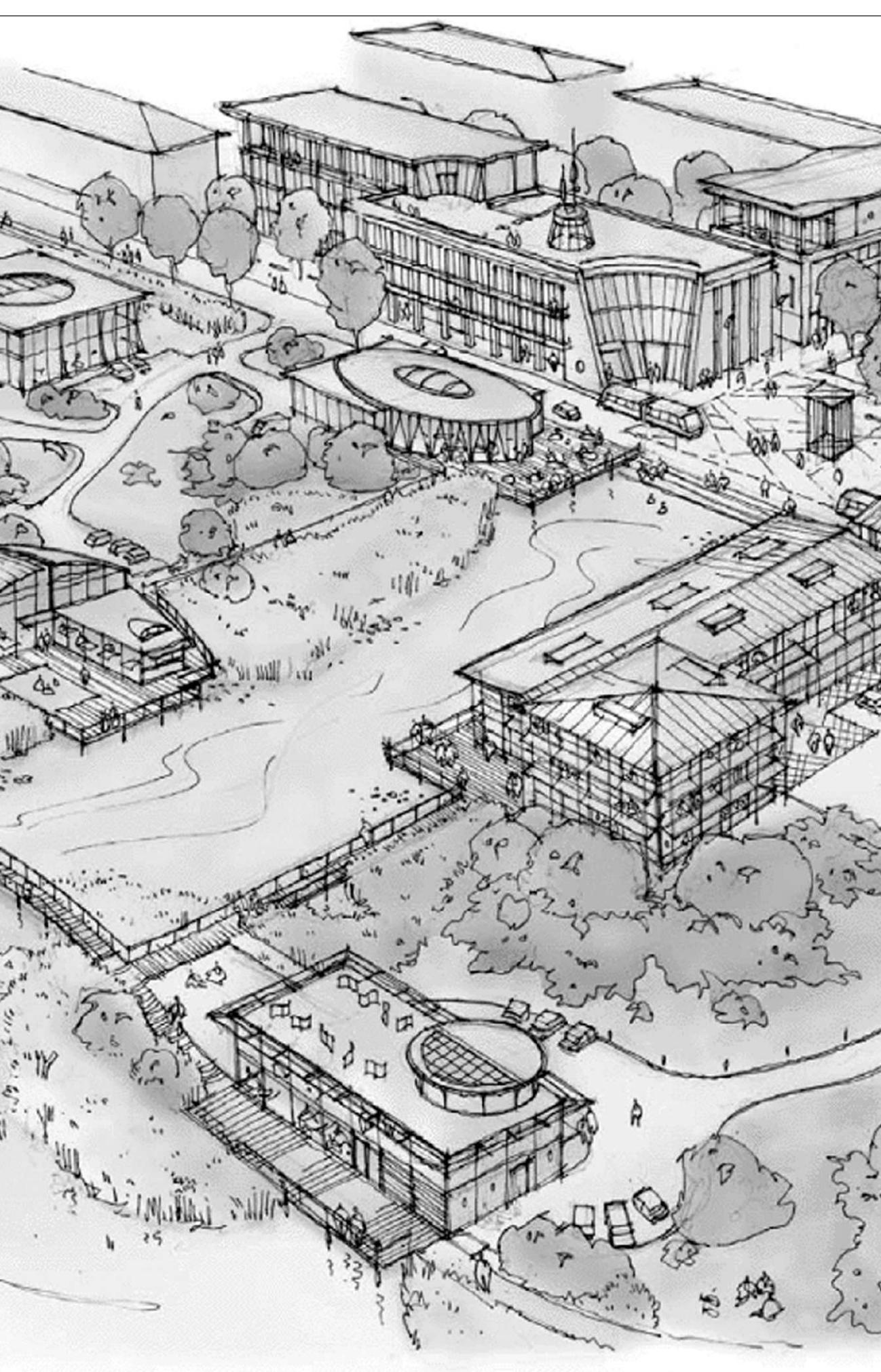
James Alexander, SU President maintains, "We do not have a usable space for large-scale events which can permit big acts or large shows to be put on".

However, there is no guarantee that we will get the fabled

central venue as the plans state "uncertainty in planning and funding will require flexibility in the layout of the campus and the design of building."

This has fuelled further criticisms that the University are failing to prioritise students in the planned development.

"I can't find anything positive in the University's plans to expand and develop. Their solution is unimaginative at best" Dr. Firn concluded.



Halifax Chair back on campus after serious attack of meningitis

By Simon Davis
NEWS EDITOR

JAMES FLINDERS, Halifax Chair, has returned to campus after suffering from a severe bout of meningococcal septicaemia at the end of last term. The gruelling experience, which lasted for over a week, has left James reeling from the unpredictable killer bug.

For almost two weeks he had felt tired, lethargic and suffered from joint pains, but he put it down to a simple lack of sleep. But after attending Xtra, the Halifax College club night, the disease finally got the better of him and he was struck down as he struggled to make his way home from campus.

It was only thanks to the timely response of his housemates, who noticed he wasn't eating or drinking and couldn't rouse him from sleep the next day, that a then delirious James made it to hospital.

He commented, "My housemates saved my life. If I hadn't been taken to hospital, I would have died within two weeks."

Under isolation, James

had to spend a week in York District Hospital, where a meningitis rash was discovered and it dawned on hospital staff that he had the infamous disease. Describing the experience as confusing, James was dosed up on antibiotics and was subject to a comprehensive series of tests, but was reassured by visits from a range of friends and family.

Praising the hospital treatment, James said: "The care I received was excellent; the medical staff couldn't have done a better job." But he went on to warn that, "Meningitis kills. If you or a housemate has any of the symptoms, make sure that you get it checked out with a doctor. I had no idea I was ill until I was sent to hospital."

Now back on campus, and in the driving seat of the largest College on campus, James explained that the disease had made it difficult to settle back into his routine. However, he is keen to continue his work for the College, including the introduction of ethical college merchandise, an inclusion programme and improving the

JCRC's constitution. He said: "I'm glad that I can continue to work with others to make the biggest and best College even better."

James suffered from meningococcal septicaemia, which invades the body entering from the throat. It then passes into the bloodstream and travels via the blood to the meninges (the lining of the brain). The bacteria releases toxins, which can damage any organ of the body, and in the worst cases affects the brain.

The symptoms for meningitis include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, severe headache, neck stiffness, joint pains, dislike of bright lights, drowsiness and confusion. If you suspect you have meningitis or septicaemia, then you are advised to contact your GP immediately, or ring the NHS Direct helpline on 0845 46 47.

Links

Meningitis Trust
Get information about meningitis at:
<http://www.meningitis-trust.org.uk>
NHS Direct Online
<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk>
www.nouse.co.uk



James Flinders is recovering after falling ill at a Halifax club night last term

Scholarships to be established in memory of York 9/11 victim

By Toby Green
DEPUTY NEWS

THREE NEW Economics scholarships have been created at the University in memory of a former York student, Nigel Thompson, who died in the World Trade terrorist attacks on 11th September 2001.

The scholarships are to be funded by his twin, Neal Thompson, who is also a York graduate, and will be made available to students whose household income is less than £21,000 a year.

The twins both graduated in 1990 with a BSc in

Economics, and Nigel went on to become a senior partner at Cantor Fitzgerald, a leading global financial services provider. At the time of the attacks he was working in his office on the 105th floor of the north tower as a broker, and was aged 33.

Neal attributed his brother's success in his field of work to his time at the University. "Studying Economics at the University of York was fundamental to Nigel's success in life. My brother and I both credited York as an essential link in our career success," Neal said.

"I believe that a quality education from an institution such as York is vital to one's future, and I sincerely hope that these scholarships will help students to achieve their dreams of pursuing a career in finance."

The scholarship will consist of £2000 per annum for three years, designed to pay for accommodation costs, plus £1,000 a year for living costs which will be provided by the Department of Economics and Related Studies. The head of the Economics department, Huw Dixon, said that the scholarship would "provide a lasting memorial... We are grateful to

Neal Thompson for giving future students this wonderful opportunity."

Neal Thompson has dedicated the scholarships to his brother because he was "never afraid to reach for his dreams." He also sees it as a "way to thank York and to help others who wish to follow the path my brother and I chose in economics."

The scholarships join a plaque unveiled by Pat and Norman Thompson, the twins' parents, that was laid in February 2004 next to a memorial tree by the Economics building.

Students' condoms sabotaged at Oxford

By Toby Green
DEPUTY NEWS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY students have been left stunned by the news that free condoms have been sabotaged.

Condoms handed out by Trinity College JCR were discovered to have been pierced by a pin. They were instantly removed and an investigation has been launched.

The revelation has sent shockwaves throughout the University, with many colleges removing condom supplies not under constant surveillance.

Students have been warned to check all condoms before use, although the Student Union Welfare Officer, Nicky Ellis, has warned "You cannot necessarily see if a condom has been pierced. Don't assume it will be visible."

Trinity JCR President, Ed Mason, attacked the culprits, who are as yet unknown, as "cowards", saying they showed "a complete disregard for the health, safety and wellbeing of their friends and peers."

Vision reported a similar scare in York in October 2002, which was eventually dismissed as an "urban legend".

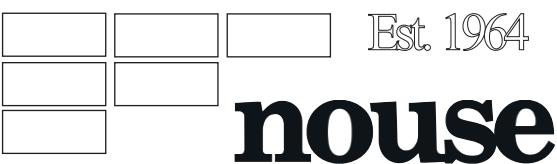
WIN ONE OF FIVE GUIDES TO EUROPE

The definitive guide to Europe on a shoestring

Just answer this simple question: What is the capital of Lichtenstein:

A: Kiev B: Bratislava C: Vaduz





nouse
Pruning red roses

It has been the general form of Roses that the home side wins, though the margin of the weekend's York victory was certainly not run of the mill. Perhaps the home advantage is due to the teams familiarity with the environment, or perhaps the fact that they do not have to travel? But based on Roses 2005, there might be a different reason.

Home support has to be a major factor, and this year's hockey is a case in point. There were massive shouts of support, with 'Come on York!' gravelling the throats of many spectators, adding a bit more passion to the Yorvik sprints down the line. Congratulations must go to all those who turned out in a weird mixture of sun, rain and hail to provide a sufficiently noisy accompaniment to some increasingly vocal hockey matches - should Lancaster really have tried to red-card the umpire after a decision didn't go their way?

As well as shouting, the hockey sidelines saw a particularly well watered set of fanatics form a five-piece band. In the end, the black and white shirts of the York teams had a guitar, two bongo drums, a trumpet and, wait for it, a didgeridoo, blasting out disparate but heartfelt rhythms, partly because they had had a drink or ten, but mainly because they were excited at the prospect of a York victory. Two particularly 'excited' members of the York brigade even dropped their trousers, both to reveal 'York Uni' printed across their boxer shorts. Sadly, those boxer shorts didn't match *nouse* in terms of coverage.

So maybe full-bodied home support gives the home side the necessary cutting edge. Whatever the reason for the trend, the aim of each team has to be to buck it. York have managed to kill Lancaster's attempt, with style - next year it's our attempt to go against the grain. Judging by the final scores this year, we may have a bit of leeway.

Now what Labour?

nouse have covered much to do with the student effort against modern poverty. Stories on the Make Poverty History campaign, student moves against Fruit of the Loom, and in this edition, Speak and their publicity effort to live on one dollar a day (the standard poverty line), have all shown the student commitment to a war on the biggest killer of our age.

These very students form a large part of a local electorate who this general election voted by majority to send two Labour chaps to parliament to represent us - both City of York and Selby stayed as Labour Party seats. Now that 'we' have given them their jobs back, what are they going to do? If they have any sense, they will push the issue of poverty with a view to the next election, especially if they want to claw back any of the 49 per cent of the student vote that the Liberal Democrats withheld from them this time. If Blair goes, or perhaps even if he doesn't, Labour have a chance to take the focus off Bush's imperialist war on terror, and have an attempt at something less gung-ho.

Your:Platform

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

1. Did you vote in the recent general election?
2. Is Heslington East beneficial for York students?



Name: Samir Jeraj
College: Derwent
Course: History and Economics
Year: 2nd



Name: Pascal Costello
College: Goodricke
Course: History
Year: 2nd



Name: Jo Carter
College: Vanbrugh
Course: English Literature
Year: 1st

1. Yes I did. I've already placed a vote at a polling station in the town centre.
2. It won't effect me at all, I'll have graduated by the time it is built. It's unlikely that the students around when it is completed will be the University's focus.
3. I think it's unlikely.
4. Now that he's been convicted and his court case has finished, yes, certainly.

LETTERS

Please send your comments and complaints by email to letters@nouse.co.uk or by post to **nouse**, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College

Win!

Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps

 1 HOUR PHOTOS

Star letter

Web success

I want to add my whole-hearted support and say well done to your web team for getting campus media back online.

As Web Editor for *York Vision* 2001-2002, I worked as part of a hard-working team to help get issues online. In 2002 we won Best Student Website in the Guardian Student Media awards - we won £500 for the paper, and were going to put the money towards replacing the hopelessly out-of-date server in the *Vision* office. The money disappeared into the *Vision* coffers and we've never saw a penny of it despite frequent requests. (Perhaps if they'd let us upgrade machines at the time they might not have had some of their recent catastrophic prob-

lems with computers...)

When I left *Vision* to generally do more Uni work and go off on placement year, there was one Web Editor after me, but after that no-one took up the post. The site was left to go completely out of date - an issue hasn't been put online for about a year now.

So I was delighted to find out you're starting a *nouse* site with each issue online. I know it's a lot of work and we never felt appreciated by *Vision* at the time, but it's a really important part of a newspaper in this day in age. It's also such a great way to find out what's going on on campus when you're away from York.

Good luck with the site in the future & keep up the good work!

Laura Pearson
Vision Web Editor, 2001-02

Cost-Cutting

In the wake of the Sudan-1 farce, covered in the last edition of *nouse*, you may have been forgiven for thinking Costcutter would pay a bit more attention to what was on its shelves. However, a quick inspection of the cheese section at the Market Square store would quickly flatten that thought.

You will not only find Cheshire cheese at the outrageous price of £1.45 per 200g but also that it's out of date. Now admittedly it is only a few days out of date so perhaps Costcutter management would think it unreasonable to make such a fuss... Not if it's glowing blue within the packet! I bet it will still be there tomorrow despite the fact that I told one of the cashiers. Costcutter needs to get it's act together, you'd think that with it's monopoly on campus it might actually consider listening to its customer base.

John Atkinson
James College

Motionless?

I was very disappointed to read your article 'UGM's riddled with mundane motions'. The motion of censor was not just against the

President but two of his fellow officers, namely the Services and Communications Officers. You also claim that the censor motion was proposed by the Conservatives, it certainly was not. It was seconded by a couple of their members as well as several Liberal Democrats and people of no particular party allegiance.

Your article goes on to mention the humorous motion regarding the demolition of Langwith College as an example of the problems with the lack of serious motions yet you have ignored that there are motions for improved sports facilities and whether the Union should move its accounts to a fair trade bank. Both of these are serious issues and are worth debating. As for the presence of a frivolous motion, I don't believe such motions bring the system into disrepute but can add some colour to the agenda; joke motions are certainly better than no motions.

Can I conclude by suggesting that societies have policy they want to see the Union implement actually right [sic] them up and submit them to a UGM. Next term I, and I am sure my colleagues on the SU Rules Committee, would be delighted to see more motions submitted and hopefully actually debated in quorate UGMs.

Simon Drage
SU Rules Committee

Alexander's lack of wisdom

I would like to display my disgust at the behaviour of the SU President on election night last term. Whilst the other sabs were gracious in announcing their replacements and clearly realised that the night was about the next generation of officers, James Alexander seemed surly and unwilling to get in the swing of the evening.

Before he announced the Presidential results Alexander took to his political soap box and had the cheek to suggest that his best friend Ozzy Atton was "the best President York never had". Someone so enamoured with politics as Alexander should have faith in the democratic process, rather than be so patronising to suggest that given the opportunity we would all jump at the chance to elect his crony to such a position of responsibility. Alexander should not be so arrogant to think that his opinion matters so much and he should remember his responsibility to the Union and ALL its students.

Frances Halliday
Halifax College

Retreat Lane sex attack

You recent top story on the rape in Retreat Lane displayed extreme insensitivity. Especially in view of the paper's being published just a day before International Woman's Day, and coinciding with a number of V-Day events on campus. It is evident that little information was available concerning the rape. In this situation, the article should have merely objectively reported the facts. I imagine that SU Welfare Officer John Rose, who thinks "people shouldn't be worried" about recurrent attacks would be of much comfort, I will be grateful if he gives me ten minutes to recover from the rape before telling me to "become a survivor", not a victim.

The four main authorities concerned with the case shirked responsibility for the lane where, as John Rose dismissively noted, "it's bound to happen". The quotes from your interviews should have been edited to remove phrases like "clutching at straws". None of the representatives you interviewed are reported as expressing any sympathy for the student. I welcome the push for security on campus mentioned in the article by Heloise Wood and Alex Stevens; I hope this is something you'll pursue until the situation improves. I hope that such a campaign would raise consciousness about issues of rape, not least in your News Editor.

Polly Cassidy
Wentworth College

1. I will vote later. The details of how to vote were not published clearly enough. I registered on the last day possible.
2. I doubt that it will be. They just want to make money and get more applications, not look after the students who live here already.
3. No. Sure, we get a hard deal, but you don't have to get wasted every night or indulge in clothes shopping!
4. Absolutely.

1. I voted by post, it was pretty easy.
2. It won't be good for me because I'll have graduated by then!
3. There are enough hardship grants and things for people to get money if they really need it. Fraud is pretty extreme, I can't imagine defrauding someone rather than trying other routes.
4. Yes, I think that you should be allowed to print his name. It's pretty ridiculous that someone elected into the SU should be so irresponsible as to commit assault.

Third term secured but Labour's standing weak

John Grogan scrapes by in Selby

Jessica Levy reports from the University's constituency of Selby on election night 2005, where the sitting Labour MP, John Grogan, was re-elected for a third term in office but with a wafer-thin majority

Labour MP John Grogan was narrowly returned to Parliament for the University of York's Selby constituency last week after a gruelling nine hour count. His win brought pledges to continue his connection with the University, placing particular emphasis on a wish to tackle the issue of student safety.

Defending an already slight 2138 majority, Mr Grogan saw his hold over the constituency slashed to just 467 votes. The winning margin made Selby one of the most closely fought seats in the country, and was slim enough to prompt a recount of the vote bundles.

With the closeness of the result keeping tensions high throughout the night, Mr Grogan's Conservative challenger, Mark Menzies, eventually accepted defeat 24 hours after ballot boxes had opened. At a little before

The re-elected Labour MP promised to address issues of safety such as good lighting for Walmgate Stray, and continue his support for the campus extension Heslington East

seven o'clock Friday morning, acting returning officer Martin Connor announced the result, the recount having made Selby one of the last constituencies to declare.

Labour had been tipped to lose Selby, number 25 on the Conservative's list of target seats. Mr Grogan, however, secured 22,623 votes to Mr Menzies' 22,156. The Liberal Democrat candidate, York City Councillor Ian Cuthbertson, was pleased to poll 7770 votes, up 3.71 per cent from the Party's 2001 share. A reduced Labour majority and Tory and Lib Dem gains saw Selby's result mirror that of the UK as a whole.

The apprehension of Labour officials following the verification stage of the count at Selby Abbey Leisure Centre was palpable. This first phase of the evening saw the parties form crude estimates of the vote share in advance of the real count. Labour officials were reluctant to talk to *nouse*, while their Conservative opposite numbers were less reticent.

Dave Sammels, former Chair of the Conservative society on campus, spoke of the Party's confidence. "I think it's going to be fairly decisive", he revealed. As the official count began, one Tory Councillor told *nouse* he believed the Conservative's were approximately four per cent ahead.

Mr Grogan's delight and relief were evident: "I want to thank the people of this constituency who have put their trust in me... I pledge for the next four or five year's to be worthy of that trust", he told the few remaining party



Victorious Labour MP, John Grogan (centre), with challengers Mark Menzies for the Conservatives (left), and the Liberal Democrats' Ian Cuthbertson (right). Mr. Grogan retained his seat after a bundle recount was requested by the Conservatives. Photo by Adam Roney

renewed promises made to students at

workers, count staff, and journalists.

In the University hustings Mr. Grogan provided an indication of the effects his win will have for York students. He played heavily on his opposition to the government's decision to go to war in Iraq and to introduce top-up fees for university students to seek support from those who may have been thinking of supporting Mr. Cuthbertson because of these controversial issues.

Mr. Grogan promised more interaction with the Students' Union, safety measures such as lighting for Walmgate Stray, and support for campus extension to Heslington East.

At the hustings and in Selby on election night, Labour and Tory officials alike spoke highly of their respect-

tive campaigns. Mr. Cuthbertson,

who talked at length to *nouse* about the local and national contests, also endorsed the professionalism and good nature of the battle fought in Selby. The Lib Dem candidate lamented, however, the failure of the constituency campaign to debate key concerns. "It would have been nice to have something serious to discuss like the closure of rural bus services."

Turnout in Selby was 67.55 per cent, up from three per cent in 2001. 11,000 of those who voted did so by post. It was the lengthy verification process of these ballots which was thought to have contributed to the slow pace of the count. Despite these measures taken to prevent fraud, *nouse* learnt that concerns about the safety of postal votes remained, especially amongst Lib Dem party workers in Selby.

Mr Grogan's delight and relief were evident: "I want to thank the people of this constituency who have put their trust in me... I pledge for the next four or five year's to be worthy of that trust", he told the few remaining party

Additional reporting by Adam Roney

Blair's win tainted by net seat loss

Jamie Merrill unravels the results of the general election and examines the implications for the Labour and Conservative leaderships, and the government's ability to deliver manifesto promises in its new term

After a fiercely contested campaign, one day of voting and one long night of results, Tony Blair has won an historic third term for Labour. This, however, has come at the cost of a dramatically reduced majority and some poor individual results.

Although the Conservative Party has welcomed its strong gains as a sign of progress, Michael Howard has stepped down citing his age, and the need for a new Conservative leader to fight the next election.

The Labour Party lost seats both to the Conservatives in London and parts of the South East, and the Liberal Democrats, predominantly on the back of Iraq, in larger urban areas.

In Scotland Labour lost seats to the SNP, the Lib Dems and the Conservatives, who, in taking Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweedale from Labour, gained their first seat in Scotland since 1997. In Wales, the Lib Dems and Tories made gains, but Plaid Cymru failed to take its top target seat and lost elsewhere.

The Conservatives have secured roughly 200 seats in what will be seen as a step on the road to recovery for the Party. The Liberal Democrats will be returning to Parliament with their largest number of MPs since 1929.

Commenting on the result Mr. Blair said it was clear that "the British people wanted to return a Labour government but with a reduced majority".

The Prime Minister acknowledged the Iraq effects and pledged to respond "sensibly and wisely" to the result. In an unusual concession



Prime Minister, Tony Blair, humbled as Labour is returned to power with their overall majority slashed

speech Michael Howard congratulated Mr. Blair and told him that he will support him if he delivers on his promises. Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy said voters had created a new era of three party politics.

The results give Labour 356 seats,

Accepting the damage Iraq did to Labour's vote share, Mr Blair pledged to respond "sensibly and wisely" to the result.

the Conservatives 197, and the Lib Dems 62. With one constituency yet to declare - the vote was delayed for a week on the death of a candidate - the final result is predicted to give Labour a 66 seat majority, down from 165.

The Conservatives unseated three junior Labour ministers and won back pre-1997 marginal Conservative seats. However the Liberal Democrat decapitation tactic, targeting, in particular, Tory high flyers, largely failed with only Tim Collins, the Conservative shadow minister for education, unseated.

Whilst the election campaign was criticised as lack-lustre, election night was nothing of the sort. Many marginal constituencies added excitement to the

count. The biggest upset was victory for George Galloway, of the anti-war Respect party. With a large handful of votes, he beat Labour's Oona King in the bitter battle for Bethnal Green.

On the other hand, the Conservatives have now faced three defeats on the trot and with the resignation of Mr. Howard have, yet again, leadership problems of their own. Much

has been made of the historic nature of this third Labour term but with a reduced majority, comprising of a number of rebels, Labour's progressive agenda to move "Britain forward not back" is going to be increasingly difficult to push through and raises serious questions about the Party's ability to fulfil its manifesto promises.

Election campaigning infused by negativity

Sylvia Rowley explores the parties' tactics in 2005 and comments on the nature of the few issues which drove the debate

Many things have been said about the 2005 election campaign. *The Sun* called it the most boring ever, while the BBC questioned whether or not it was in fact "policy-free".

But this campaign also had its fair share of controversy and unexpected twists. The Conservative Party were accused of racism over their focus on immigration control while the Prime Minister now faces legal action from the relatives of soldiers killed in Iraq. More bizarrely, a celebrity chef's crusade persuaded all three main parties to promise quality school dinners.

A few key issues dominated the election campaign: immigration,

MRSA, and Iraq. Mr. Howard put immigration control to the forefront of his Party's election bid, stating that quotas would be introduced for asylum seekers and economic migrants. MRSA, the superbug responsible for roughly 1,000 deaths per year, was a daily news item.

Iraq cast a shadow over the second half of the campaign following the leak of the Attorney General's advice on the legality of war. While Tony Blair wanted to talk about anything but Iraq, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, grieving relatives and journalists ensured that questions of legality and intention hounded the Labour Party.

These are not, however, the issues where the parties have their greatest policy divides.

Indeed, Labour and the Conservatives have very similar policies regarding MRSA; Mr. Howard backed Mr. Blair's decision to go to war and Labour have followed the Conservative's lead by presenting themselves as "tough on immigration".

Why then were these issues the focus of the campaign? Joe Farrington-Douglas of the Institute of Public Policy Research has commented that "the election has been fought on fear, whether it is asylum seekers, immigration or superbugs".

Real policy divides such as the desirability of private sector involve-

ment in the NHS, were given less attention than the problem of MRSA, which boiled down to a slanging match over the cleanliness of hospitals.

This campaign also saw increasingly personal attacks on party leaders. A Tory poster targeting Mr. Blair read "If he's prepared to lie to take us to war, he's prepared to lie in an election".

This campaign has been primarily fought on fear, with immigration and superbugs dominating the central debate

Labour denounced the Conservatives' personalised attacks but then proceeded to release posters accusing Mr. Howard of having a "hidden agenda" for NHS charges.

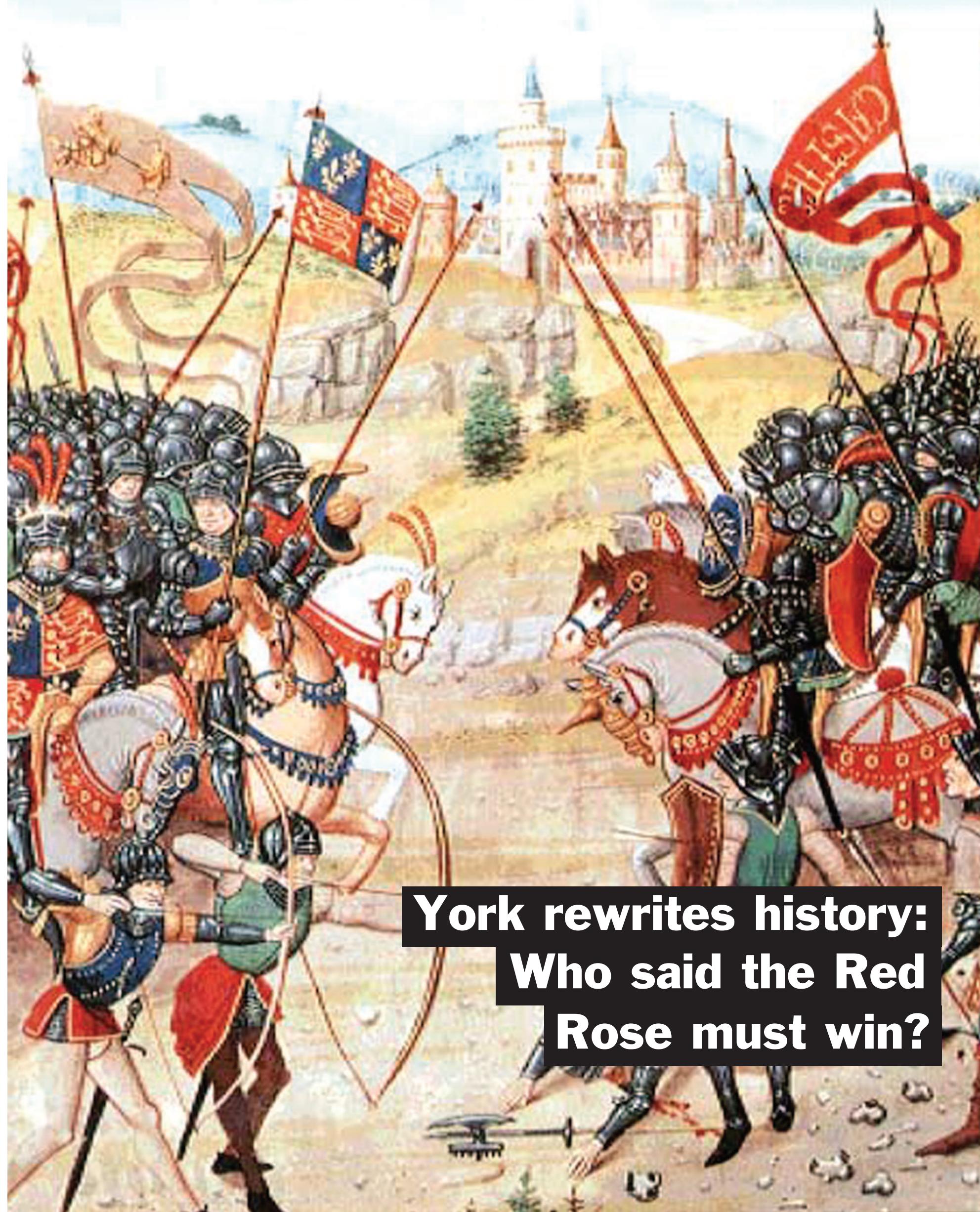
Certain issues were notable for their absence. To the disappointment of many environmental groups, green issues had a low profile during the campaign despite new warnings of climate change. Europe, too, was notably absent.

Labour held the lead throughout this campaign, though different polls varied widely on the exact figures and they are far from conclusive. In a campaign where concrete policy debates have not had a high profile, it remains to be seen what the Labour Party will reveal now that it is safely back in Downing Street.

election not on their own merits, but on the faults of their opponents.

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York rewrites history: Who said the Red Rose must win?

The confessions of a student spin doctor

Forget the straight-laced general election. **Dan Searle**, chief campus spin doctor for gracious loser Henry Sauntson gives us the real scoop on the dirty world of Students' Union politics. Who cares about winning, coming third has never been so much fun

If I were to claim that Henry Sauntson's campaign to become SU President began as nothing more than the idle amusement foxtrot of two workless English undergraduates, it might, given our subsequent failure, smack resoundingly of sour grapes. It is fair to say, though, that recalling the maxim that nobody remembers the guy who finishes second, we initially set out to avoid such a dishonour, by finishing third. However, as soon as we contracted election fever via the proboscis of the mosquito of potential victory, these sour grapes sweetened in our mouths and became very much the grapes of electoral wrath. Suddenly, what had appeared on the ultrasound to be a perfectly healthy pastime had gestated into an obsession, soon to burst out of our womb, scuttle into the ventilation shafts, and return, now a monster or a god, to destroy us. We began by buying some felt-tip pens.

Following a rendezvous and an egg baguette, our merciless propaganda was designed and all but ready to go to print. The felt-tips had, with our help, created an uncannily accurate replica of Henry's face, which became emblazoned with a devastatingly clever slogan: "Henry for SU President". Our little media Reich was completed by a series of smaller flyers. Some bore mottos and watchwords, such as "Henry: Not just a hoover", "Henry: Caress me with your vote", "Henry: I will cure you", and "Henry = Good". A set of four were laden with policies, each one a personal dream of Sauntson, harboured since his passionate embrace with York University began. Yes! There would be a 24-hour library. Yes! There would be a cash point in Halifax. Yes! There would be a pharmacy on campus, and the bars would be made a bit better! Yes! Yes! YES! I can still vividly remember this moment, watching Henry recite these reveries with fists held high, voice wavering with emotion, and eyes tightly clenched, as these campus-improving fantasies became, just for a moment, reality. His eyes opened and a solitary tear trickled down one face; he had just witnessed the potential nirvana he was to dub 'Sauntopia'. We decided that the only way in which we could express how much these four cradled delights meant to Henry was to make each set of the four flyers exchangeable for a signed photo.

Equipped with a bundle of brightly coloured flyers, a few brightly coloured posters, and some disappointingly monochrome blottack, we began, just over a week before the election, to daub campus with visual persuasion. We had no Mayflower in which to travel, and we were but one of many vying to proselytise these polytheistic heretics, but, by gosh, we had enthusiasm, spirit, and far too much spare time. Our first setback came with a warning from the SU

How to run an unsuccessful campaign

Mr. Searle generously reveals his pearls of wisdom on the art of campaigning. It's a fail-safe strategy for a convincing and mildly embarrassing defeat, personally tried and tested to great effect by the Tories. Just remember; nice guys finish third.

Make use of crayola pens

The essential ingredients for a sophisticated and mature media campaign. The Early Learning Centre has never been so useful for wanabee politicians.

Keep slogans simple

Optimise generic, monosyllabic slogans during the campaign. Forget the long words, the proletariat are just too ignorant to understand.

Services Officer Verity Radley, who informed us that we weren't allowed to unfurl our banners in the Derwent toilets, as we had done, until the following day. We didn't enquire as to how she'd found them, but, with the sound of wrist slapping now accompanying our quest to erect our flags, our determination hardened, poised at any moment to erupt in a shower of fluid campaigning. Following the distribution of our handicraft, Henry was invited to record a sixty second bout of integrity for YSTV, in which he could explain his agenda; this useful promotional medium was then broadcast, completely silently, to a rapt proletariat.

The final week arrived, and with it the luscious stench of democratic approval; it wafted; and as it did so, our eyes became large, and the light that it shone could be seen. Our tactics took a decidedly unsavoury downturn. Henry chose to conclude his URY interview with *Wired For Sound* by Cliff Richard, a song notorious for its Wagnerian ability to instil political doctrines into agnostic prey. Drunken chinwagging with the current SU President took place in Toffs, while paparazzi swarmed around. Most underhand of all was a Machiavellian ruse which was never allowed to rear its shameful arse in public. Noting that the main poster of one of the candidates featured both a lengthy spiel, and a quasi-sexual photo, we rustled up a few lines of literature, printed it out several times in the corresponding size and font, and were fully prepared to make a late-night visit to campus, and doctor the posters with our own, glued-on manifesto.

Make ambitious promises

Go crazy with promises that you can't possibly deliver. Who cares if you are lying, you can always do a Stalin and purge the critics who don't appreciate your electioneering.

Break rules and regulations

Rules are meant to be broken - it's only the SU, treat it as a practice experiment before you go into real politics, where people actually care. Corruption, collusion and bribery are your chief weapons of mass destruction.

Remember sex sells

That picture of you licking your ballot paper, might not be a conventional political portrait, but the public will love it. All photos must sleep with sexual innuendos.

We were prevented, however, by the fag-end of a collective conscience which we retained at this point. In retrospect, Henry commented "I wish I'd had the balls to go through with it, because it would've been very funny" - such is the effect of political machinations on a hitherto innocent mind.

And so the Thursday and Friday of the elections came to be. Several hours were spent patrolling campus, and several texts were sent, encouraging those whom we knew, and those whom we didn't, to spare a vote for Henry. Friday saw a last-gasp campaign charge in Halifax; having identified it as the swing college, we had already directed much of our attention to making its members feel like we, or, in fact, anybody else on campus, cared even remotely about the welfare of their odd little residential outcrop, and had decided to spend the concluding moments of the election there, harvesting any additional votes that we could. However, due to an administrative error, Halifax was breached with around ten minutes, rather than an hour and ten minutes, remaining, and Henry's tally was increased by a rather disappointing total of three. And what of the signed photos? Well. They went very much like hot cakes in an uncomfortably warm diabetics ward, with a mere handful being presented to merry punters clutching their set of leaflets, and one or two being dispensed to damned chancers who wanted one without having collected the necessary bartering tools.

Results night arrived, and, undeterred by a

YSTV exit poll having placed Henry third, we strode into Derwent carrying sizeable ambitions, as well as a bag full of beverages. We collected our wristbands and immediately relocated with our entourage to a quiet corridor in the Politics department above Derwent. How ironic, we mused, that we should be drinking our cheap alcohol in the Politics department, when we ourselves were involved in politics at that very moment. Then we found a male toilet with no urinals, and this state of perfection was broken.

Steady alcohol consumption somewhat hijacked a YSTV interview, with myself claiming that I was, in fact, called 'Sad Burglar', and then letting fly a series of obscenities which I can only assign to an insatiable hunger for political success. The general inebriation also increased the expectation of emerging victorious to levels previously regarded as "well stupid", but these were, fortunately, defused early in the evening, when Henry was invited to witness the vote count, and discovered that he would not, in fact, be appearing on SU coins next year. What he himself described as "an illicit hope that I might win" had been tragically killed, but we considered the final tally, of around two hundred votes, as a relative success for a candidate with no experience and a campaign based around childlike drawings.

The result was also super for other reasons; to increase our chances of a victory legitimising our copious alcohol intake and over-enthusiastic outfits, we'd placed our loyalties on an 'each way' bet, with Henry our first choice of president, and the eventual winner second, on the basis that he's on our English course and he's nice. We felt, perhaps misguidedly, that our efforts had, in some small way, confused the voting public into believing Henry was, in fact, anything other than an entirely ridiculous choice, and aided the future president en route to his victory. There is, perhaps, a sense that one of the candidates was frustrated by our campaign, and saw it as unnecessarily detrimental to his own, but then, not everyone can be the winner.

And so more alcohol was consumed, and the night proved a fitting conclusion to an excursion which Henry himself described as "rock shit."

Henry proves that he's still the main man on campus, despite his electoral defeat at the end of last term.

Photo by Toby Hall



The city that hides behind



Coldplay named a song after it, Ian McEwan set his Booker Prize winning novel there and Angelina Jolie keeled over in one of its tattoo parlours. Yes I'm talking about Amsterdam; the city where anything goes.

Famed for its fusion of vice and high brow culture, Amsterdam is a place of contradictions. It resists classification, combining world-renowned, laissez faire liberalism with a typical European homage to rules and regulations. This is a place where soliciting is legal, provided that you have the right paperwork. Wander down a street in Amsterdam and you will find baby clothing stores happily residing next to rastafarian coffeeshops. Galleries dedicated to sixteenth century art are only a tram ride away from museums plotting the history of porn. And shoe shops display 'Hush Puppies' alongside neon, plastic platforms that would provoke a raised eyebrow from Marilynn Manson.

For Amsterdam has something to offer everyone, from the shockingly perverted to the über-conservative. This is why it consistently ranks as one of Europe's most popular city break destinations. Yet, like kebabs and Che Guevera T-shirts, the "crazy" weekend away in Amsterdam, is one of those student clichés that you might feel you are simply too unshakably cool to indulge in - this would be a shame.

If ever a place was created for the young, the beautiful and the open minded, it is Amsterdam. This city simply oozes style and soul - but at half the cost of New York prices. With the ascent of low cost airlines such as Easy Jet and Ryanair, flights to Amsterdam Schiphol from regional airports can cost less than a train fair to London (www.cheapflights.co.uk/flights/Amsterdam).

Accommodation doesn't have to break the bank either; you can pick up good offers at www.amsterdam-hotels-guide.com and www.hotels.nl, to name but a few. Indeed, booking over the internet reduces costs significantly, especially if you go off-peak, in term time. But if you are prepared to embrace Amsterdam's hippie-child ethos in full and stay in a youth hostel,

prices are even lower (see www.hosteleurope.com). Amsterdam is a Mecca for travellers and there are numerous backpacking lodges, so provided that you do your research, you could end up staying somewhere quite decent.

Furthermore, contrary to contemporary myth you do not have to spend your entire visit inebriated in an opium-fuelled rhapsody, or paying a fortune to be serviced by an exiled Russian courtesan (unless you want to). No, Amsterdam might be famous for all things continental and controversial, but it is too chilled out to care if you're not. And although the red light district is well worth a visit, if only to point and laugh at the bizarre notion of consumerised copulation, there are plenty of other things to see and do in this historical and deliciously cosmopolitan Venice of the North.

Instead, you could visit Anne Frank's house, or cruise along the pretty cat's cradle of canals on a boat tour, or stroll around Dam Square to see the Royal Palace. If art is your thing, then spend the morning with the Dutch masters in the famous Van Gogh gallery or Rijksmuseum, which houses works by Vermeer and Rembrandt, particularly his impressive masterpiece *The Night Watch*.

If you are feeling decadent, you could always visit one of the city's numerous diamond factories and try on Elizabeth Taylor-esque jewellery that you have absolutely no intention of buying. In addition, there are countless museums, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. And although the museums of sex, beer and marijuana tend to stand out in people's minds for obvious reasons (the sex museum comes complete with its own mechanised, plastic flasher), it is also possible to receive a comprehensive education in Jewish history, anthropology, modern art or film. However, even traditional museums embody an unconventional Dutch twist, the Maritime museum features the arm of a Dutch naval hero thoughtfully preserved in alcohol.

Getting around is easy too. Although there is no metro service, inexpensive trams and buses run regularly. Indeed, Holland has a unique pub-

clockwise from top left: A picturesque canal that runs through the city; one of the many flower shops; bicycles and canal boats can always be seen in Holland; a tram that provides cheap transport across the city.
Photos by Rachel Ringstead



lic transport system, whereby you purchase tram and bus 'strippen' cards in advance of your journey. This works out to be a lot cheaper than in the UK. But if you would prefer to go native, you could always hire a bike, or tag on the end of a bike tour (be warned this entails sporting an obligatory plastic, orange cagool).

However one of the best ways to capture local colour is simply on foot, loosing yourself in the city's web of narrow streets, whilst picking up kitsch, bohemian bargains that would make Sienna Miller proud. For although Amsterdam could never market itself as a fashion capital, the city does have some lovely shops, albeit in a quirky, 'incense-burning-overkill' kind of way. A trip to a local market is also a must see, especially a cheese market or the charming 'bloemenmarkt', Amsterdam's famous, floating flower emporium.

Failing that, if you just want to go to Amsterdam to get hammered in celebration of an immortal right of passage - such as a friend's twenty-first, you could always take the notorious tasting tour around the Heineken Brewery. Once you have sampled the goods and survived the 'beer bottle ride' (to allow you to successfully imagine life as a beer bottle of course), toss a

dice in your stupor to see where you end up. Amsterdam is probably the best place to do this, as you will be hard pressed to drift into the 'wrong side of town'.

But if you are strictly an after hours kind of drinker, there are plenty of establishments to delight and entertain. If you are still in tourist mode, visit Amsterdam's first gay bar dating back to the 1920s, or try your luck at the Holland Casino. The lure of the banana bar will inevitably appeal to certain individuals, probably of the alpha male variety. However, if you fancy something a little less seedy, there are numerous pubs, clubs and cafés, where you can seduce people who aren't enduring your lustful lechery for cash. The Leidseplein strip is a particularly vibrant centre for nightlife, but Amsterdam's restaurant scene is also buzzing. The city offers an eclectic range of local cuisine to choose from, ranging from pancake houses to authentic Thai and Indonesian.

However anyone staying in Amsterdam for more than a few days really would be a philistine not to venture out of the capital, to see what the rest of Holland has to offer. Although the provinces lack something of Amsterdam's carnival-esque aura, after a while this can be a tonic,

the red lights



providing a richer and more relaxed insight into Dutch culture. The Netherlands has a reliable and inexpensive rail network, which can allow you to visit some of its other historic cities, whilst also providing a glimpse of the country's picturesque rural scenery. Cities such as Leiden, with its famous windmill, the pottery town of Delft and The Hague, which houses the country's parliament, can all be reached cheaply and conveniently.

In addition, if your visit happens to coincide with a heat wave (admittedly this is rare in Northern Europe), you could follow the exodus and flock to the coast. Holland's beaches border the North Sea, with many offering surfing, sailing and other watersports. Although such places can be more reminiscent of Scarborough than St Tropez, if you are prepared to do the walking to find a suitably quiet beach, they can be remarkably pleasant. However depending on your views on exhibitionism, you might want to beware of the nudist colonies which you will invariably stumble across if you wander too far into the wilderness.

The summer is also festival time in Amsterdam, with Dance Valley, Lowlands and the Gay Pride Parade all taking place. Such

events feature live music and entertainment, attracting a whole host of revellers (and drug addicts) from all over the world.

Furthermore Holland can be a fantastic base for a more extensive exploration of the rest of Europe. Old favourites like Berlin and Paris can be easily reached by international rail in a matter of hours. However there is also scope to go to less mainstream destinations in Belgium, such as Antwerp, Brugge and Ghent. For this you can either purchase an all inclusive rail ticket in advance (www.inter-rail.co.uk), which will allow you to travel through certain zones in Europe for a specific length of time, or you could buy tickets for individual trips direct from Holland itself. The Dutch rail authorities frequently run special student offers, which include discounted fares and accommodation (www.ns.nl).

Whatever you are looking for in a city break, Amsterdam's dynamic blend of the crazy and the cultural cannot fail to satisfy partisans of hedonism and sensible shoes alike. Just like people always forget how good cornflakes taste, don't dismiss Amsterdam, because sometimes the old classics truly are the most satisfying.

By Rachel Ringstead

The scientific briefing with Chris Williams



The British culture of drinking to get drunk

Distinct from alcohol dependency, or going on non-stop drinking benders lasting several days, binge drinking is a socially accepted part of British culture. To quote the immortal satire of Christopher Morris in his *Brass Eye* incarnation, "Alcohol's not a drug, it's a drink!"

However, our 'drinking to get drunk' culture is forcing its way up the political and scientific agenda. It certainly came as something of a shock to read how little it takes to qualify as a binge drinker: just 2.6 pints of premium lager in two hours for men, even less for women.

Most students would struggle to make 2.6 pints last two hours on a night out. Moreover, the primary effects of a binge are longlasting. It takes approximately one hour for your body to process one unit of alcohol. Consequently, if you start drinking at 8pm and have, say, 16 units (easily done in six pints of lager), by 9.15 in the morning you'd still be well over the drink-drive limit, and certainly shouldn't be driving to campus, never mind attempting to concentrate on a lecture.

For students, conspicuous consumption of alcohol has always been a part of the lifestyle, and has been largely regarded as a rights of passage. As it turns out, drunken students were merely the vanguard of a wider trend toward a nation of binge drinkers, the cost of booze actually having fallen considerably in real terms since our parents' day. Nevertheless, it is most common in the 16 to 24 year old demographic, with about one third of us bingeing at least once a week according to the charity Alcohol Concern.

Potential health perks (e.g. reduced risk of coronary heart disease) from moderate alcohol consumption have been widely reported. Yet studies show that such advantages do not apply when concentrating consumption in one or two heavy sessions each week. Indeed, by increasing blood clots, affecting blood pressure and blood lipids, heart disease is in fact a potential consequence of bingeing. Even if it were possible to reduce the chances of a heart attack later in life by downing ten bottles of K2 Ice in Ziggy's every Wednesday, the benefit would be far outweighed by the behavioural risks we take on simply by being intoxicated.

The relationship between binge drinking and admissions to accident and emergency departments is well established. To illustrate; one in four acute male admissions to UK hospitals are now alcohol related. We are more likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent crime when drunk and incidence of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections is higher. Detrimental health effects such as liver disease and alcohol's

contribution to the tidal wave of obesity washing over the UK are also common. It would be interesting to track the average body fat of undergraduates during their time here, correlated with their drinking habits. From personal experience, it's pretty clear that third years pack a bit more 'York pork'.

Faced with a spiralling health and crime bill to pick up, it is not surprising that government and local authorities have begun to act to clamp down on bars and night clubs that encourage bingeing. Ikon's Thursday unlimited drinks for £10 offer was quietly shelved and replaced with a limited voucher system after a drunk grabbed the wheel of a bus on its way back to town, crashing it into a wall and causing the death of the driver.

The esoteric relationship between Homo Sapiens and the hard stuff is likely at least as old as our species itself. It has been proposed, for example, that early hominids were heavily dependent on fruit in their diet. Ripe fruit naturally contains alcohol, as wild yeast slowly ferments the sugars it contains. Perhaps an attraction to alcohol was thus hard-wired into human brains by natural selection, an association similar to our cravings for fatty, high-energy junk foods.

We are not alone in our tendency to over-indulge; the sight of drunken monkeys falling out of trees must be one of the natural world's funniest spectacles. More sinisterly though, reports came out from Western Uganda early this year of groups of booze-crazed chimpanzees raiding illegal forest brewing operations, with wildlife park officials claiming the chimps get drunk and aggressive, and have killed local children after drinking.

As humans we are not mere slaves to our evolutionary history though, we have consciousness and free choice, yet so many of us choose to endanger ourselves and disable these unique faculties with ethanol. Through excessively over indulging we risk squandering some of our most basic biological faculties.

The effects of drink on our brains and bodies are familiar to all who enjoy a tipple. Relaxation, confidence and fewer inhibitions (including, for some, a curious love for karaoke) are all possible happy consequences of drinking, and more often than not no harm is done. Chances are, we'll grow out of binge drinking and eventually settle down to a brandy in front of the fire before bed at 10 o'clock.

However, in the meantime, we ought to be careful that our penchant for the occasional overindulgence during the university years doesn't become too great a habit, susceptible to that other human predilection - addiction.

Why students will pay a high price for the Gap Year with a conscience

Sam Fugill discovers that travelling and trying to save the planet could cost the earth

Taking a gap year to do some volunteering sounded like exactly the kind of thing that I wanted to do after my degree. It seemed like the ideal way to bridge the gap between my university drinking days and the cold sober life of the world of work. It would be the chance for me to travel, to experience a different culture, to gain all of those exciting skills that I'm told would be incredibly appealing to graduate employers, and so on. A year spent volunteering would also prove to my cynical friends that I do indeed have at least a handful of moral fibers within my body and a little compassion for those who aren't as fortunate as I.

There was no shortage of firms willing to fulfil all my ambitions

There was no shortage of companies willing to take me abroad to fulfil my ambitions in having 'the year of my life'; all claimed to have the best packages, offering me everything from the reassuringly named 'in-country logistical support' to the eyebrow-raising 'emergency evacuation insurance'. Faced with the child in a sweetshop dilemma, I had the somewhat difficult task of deciding which company would have the honour and privilege of taking me abroad.

Having filled in numerous 'contact us', 'get in touch' and 'find out more' forms on charity websites and sent countless emails, it wasn't long until our local postman began to deliver lots of brightly coloured and exciting looking information packs. Enclosed was a whole host of papers, brochures and DVDs each with an arsenal of information specially prepared to bombard my impressionable mind. The projects each company offered really were exceptional. I could be helping eight year olds in Ecuador practice their skills in English language, saving endangered turtles in Equatorial New Guinea or building a school from mud bricks in Nigeria. The choices were endless.

Then I discovered that this gap year was going to be somewhat of a pricey affair. Of course, I was aware that I would have to pay a little bit, but not even three years of paying tuition fees had prepared me for this. For a three month trip (and remember that I was really wanting to travel for a year), I was given quotes in excess of three thousand pounds. Add to this the additional cost of flights which, when flying half way around the world, was going to be quite a substantial extra. This all added up to be quite lot of money, and it is even more when you are leaving university having acquired debt amounting to something in the region of ten thousand



When organising your travel through a specialist company don't forget to bring your credit cards

pounds.

I wasn't, however, going to let this setback force me to abandon my ambitious plans. I wanted to travel, and I refused to be put off this early. If the plans had to be revised and six months of grim temporary work would have to separate me from the exciting day when I finally boarded the plane, then so be it. After all, volunteering was going to be self-sacrificial hard work, and it seemed to me that there would be no harm in practicing before I went.

Then I began to get lots of hounding telephone calls from vari-

ous companies, "Hello? Mr Fugill? We are ever so keen to have you travel with us, and we were wondering if there is anything we can do to help you make the right decision...". Call me naïve, but it wasn't until these calls became more and more frequent and intense that it finally dawned on me that these apparently just-trying-to-be-helpful companies seemed incredibly keen to have me sign all of the paperwork. It wasn't long until I realised that they weren't going to stop until I had signed the cheque. I was about to discover some hidden costs.

I began to ask questions of the companies that called me. I wanted to know how much of the project fee actually went to the project itself. I wanted to know whether the people and communities that I wanted to help were actually going to benefit from the money I would have to raise. Although I was well aware that these companies would take a proportion to cover their own costs, the true extent of this was absolutely staggering.

One company, *i-to-i travel*, takes two thirds of the project fee for themselves, while *Challenges Worldwide* invests approximately 50 per cent of

the project fee directly into the project itself. *UNA Exchange*, *Youth Action for Peace UK* and *Global Vision International* also maintain a degree of ambiguity regarding the breakdown of the fees that they charge. If they are not marked as not-for-profit, or registered as a charity, they are likely to be commercial companies and could be taking a large proportion of the cost for their own profit.

I spoke with some of my friends who had travelled on volunteer programs before. Kat Woolford travelled with *Teaching & Projects Abroad* before coming to university. Her three month journalism based project in Romania cost her in the region of three thousand pounds, a price she admits seemed excessively high. She was informed by the company that the project costs that much so that it can subsidise some of their more expensive projects, such as those in America. Another York Student, travelling with *Gap Challenge* in Ecuador on a conservation project, questioned the company with regards to how the money he paid for the project was spent, but was ultimately given no satisfactory answer. This was not encouraging news.

I asked what on earth could justify the companies taking from me such seemingly excessive amounts of money. Administration, handling fees, office expenses, advertising, marketing, research, publicity were all reasons quoted at me in an attempt to calm down my angry complaining. This, however, wasn't good enough. Why should I raise all the money and do all the work to pay for the marketing campaign of a commercial company? That wasn't what I had in mind when I decided to volunteer.

It wasn't long before I was to come to a resigned decision. The gap year was off. If I had known that the majority of my money-making efforts had been directed towards whatever project I was to go on, then I might have been able to cope with the dead-end work needed to make it happen. I couldn't, however, bring myself to do all of that hard work just to cover somebody's 'administration costs'.

Perhaps most startling was that I would have never found out about these cost breakdowns if I had never asked. This isn't information that these companies were shouting about. Instead, the forms and web pages concerned with costs, said nothing about the money that they would be quietly setting aside for themselves. This gave the slightly misleading impression that the companies shared the same altruistic motives as the would-be-volunteers.

It seems disappointing that it's not even possible to do some worthwhile work without lining the pockets of somebody else. Volunteering, in peculiar contradiction to its name, seems to have become a profit-making activity.

Hitchhikers guide to the blogiverse

Self-confessed internet blogger, Anne Marie Canning explores the latest cyber craze of online journals on the web and reveals why 'Dear Diary' may never be the same again

In the past to sneakily read someone's diary and invade their private world of thoughts was tantamount to treason, a crime of the worst degree. However a new craze is sweeping the world - 'blogging' has arrived. Today, rather than carefully concealing their thoughts, people are now using the internet as a platform to reveal and communicate their views and ideas to a mass audience.

Before we go on a whistle stop tour of blog culture it is important to equip ourselves with some essential 'blogspeak.' For anyone who doesn't know (i.e. isn't a web geek) a 'blog' is an online diary which can be used for a multitude of reasons and purposes. It is a small part of what is termed the 'blogiverse'; a cyber universe comprised of all the blogs on the web. If your blog is on the bottom of the pile then it is mere 'blogroll', but if it rises above the others you are a fully-fledged VIP guest in the 'bloggerati'!

I might as well admit now that blogs have been a pet interest of mine for a while. There's just something about those online diaries which makes for compulsive reading and I suppose it is a form of sanctioned diary snooping. Indeed the appeal for blogging is yet another manifestation of human voyeuristic tendencies, reflected most notably through the success of reality TV programmes, including the hit shows Big Brother and I'm a Celebrity Get me out of Here.

A lot has been touted about blogs being the revolutionary new media, growing in strength, power and numbers. And it is true that there has been a massive explosion in the number of blogs out there in the world wide wilderness. The rise of the blog has even spawned multiple awards ceremonies such as The Bloggies, which have been running for the last five years. Even *The Guardian* has securely affixed itself to the phenomenon with its annual blog awards, which aim to be a "testament to the growing richness of British blogging". It seems everyone is getting in on the act, so to save you hours of googling here lies a selection of the best blogs out there for your perusal.

Starting close to home in York, we have the newly launched 'Officer Blogs' on www.yusu.org/blog/, which according to outgoing Communications Officer Nat Thwaites-Gowan, will act as a "more informal and frequent officers report system, allowing us to keep those interested up-to-date with the less publicised developments in YUSU Towers." But, the insight that is given, all depends on how often the officers really post on the blog and how much

they reveal - it will be interesting to see how they develop. At the moment the blogs are very up to date and informative but, of course, this could change.

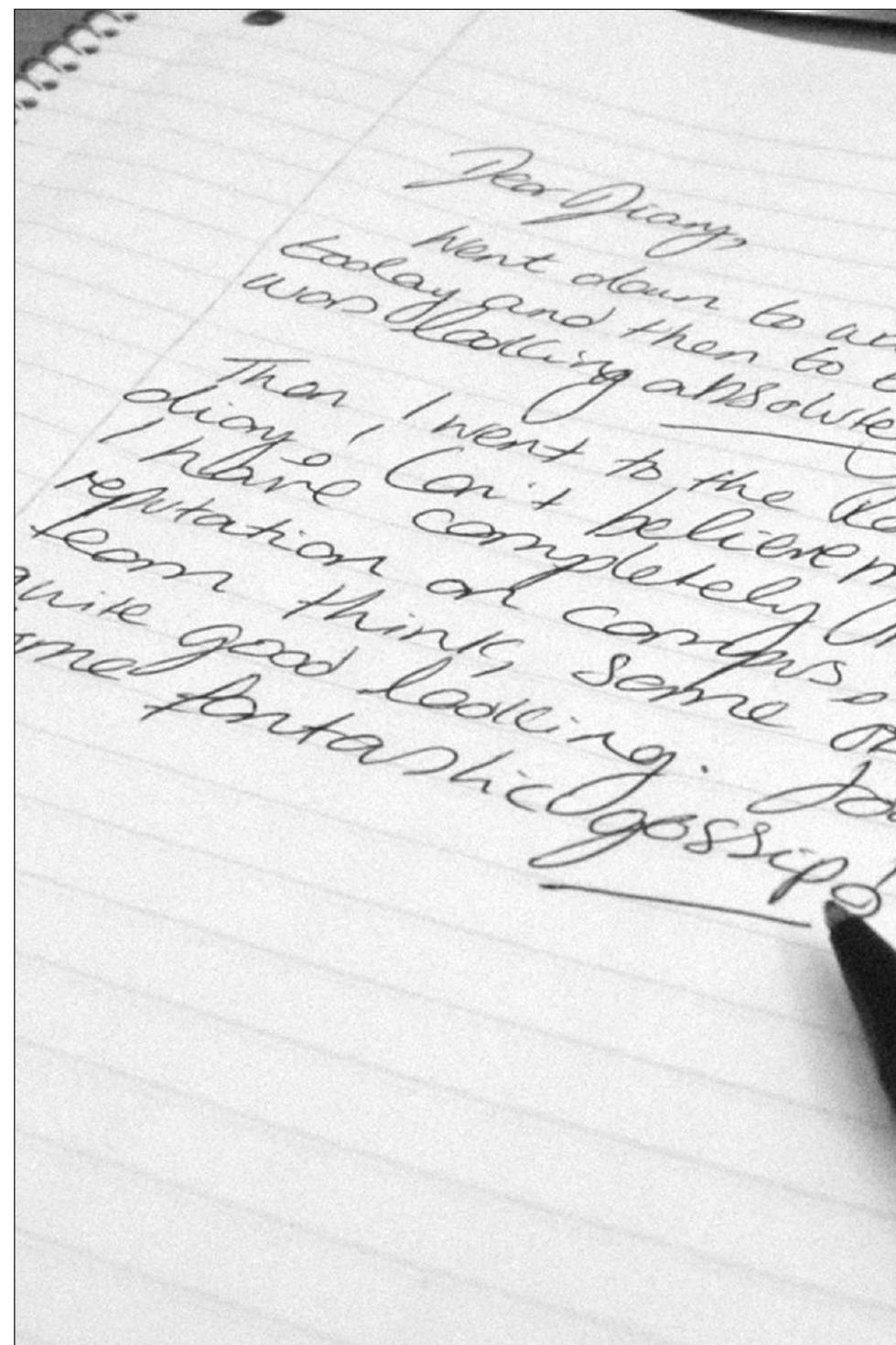
Alternatively, if you want a view from the average student there is always the York Student Diarists on the BBC website; www.bbc.co.uk/northyorkshire/students. Although it does seem a bit of a 'who's who' in the English Department, it is interesting to read other students take on life in York. Moving further a field in the blogiverse you might want to check out the legendary www.myboyfriendisaway.com, for amusing anecdotes of modern domesticity. Clearly someone enjoys reading this creation as it won Best European Blog 2005.

However, if you want something a little more seedy how about the deliciously intriguing www.belledejour-uk.blogspot.com, which offers the memoirs of a high class London call girl. This blog was so popular that it eventually came to be published in book form and is currently being made into a TV series. Belle also triggered the biggest 'bloghunt' ever, with journalist types employing linguistic experts to track down the person who penned the blog entries. However, it is up to you to decide whether the account is authentic or not.

This is a classic example of eager readers becoming attached to their favourite blogger - it can become a very addictive habit. However, as long as you are careful and sensible you can keep weirdos at bay and successfully keep people guessing about your identity.

Yet, blogs aren't just a wordy medium - they have mutated into many different strands. If you prefer pictures over words, why not try a good quality 'photoblog' such as The 1095 Project over at www.naughtyjames.com, which chronicles the life of a London fashion student with curiously pathological images each day. Some bloggers mix both mediums of photography and comment to brilliant effect, such as the beautiful www.japanwindow.com. This site offers insight and enlightenment into one of the most fascinating cultures to be found (and is a must read for any japanophile out there). There are also the doodle blogs, where drawings are unleashed upon the world; www.guildofghostwriters.com is more than above average, as you can trace the artists gradual development and improvement.

If you would like something a bit more highbrow (ha!) then the general election has generated mass blogging by candidates desperate for



Gone are the days of private diary entries, now the world can read your life online

those extra votes. As you can imagine the content on such blogs is all very sterile spin spouted by would-be MPs. However, for an alternative view of the political lifestyle 'The Awful Life of an MP's Wife' is a jaunty little blog which can be found at: www.mpswife.blogspot.com. This anonymous female author has filled the site with the many trials of propping up a parliamentary spouse, which verge on farcical. However, you can't get much more serious and topical than 'Baghdad Burning' where one Iraqi girl talks frankly about politics, war and occupation at www.riverbendblog.blogspot.com. She dares to report the stuff that the general public never get to hear, so get a view from the inside and read this blog.

One of the most gruesome blogs on the web has to be www.autopsyreport.netfirms.com and I think the domain is pretty self explanatory. This medical examiner throws taboo aside with graphic descriptions such as "his liver was a yellowish

colour when it should have been the colour of a Hershey bar." His affinity for using food similes in his horrific descriptions is stomach turning (you will never look at pasta again without envisioning the aorta). Be warned.

Whilst for most people blogs are a mere hobby, others are actually earning a crust from their online ramblings. Weblogs are increasing in popularity with businesses and many people make their dollar from offering blog platforms or technical assistance. But some of the more blatant bloggers simply ask for donations from their readers and, amazingly enough, it works! So for the entrepreneurs out there, blogging could be a lucrative way to pay off that nasty student debt.

So do you fancy having a whack at this blog malarkey? If it all seems a bit daunting, why not start off with one of the many freebies available. To test your blogging talent, the BBC North Yorkshire students site offer the chance to create your own blog (or if you don't feel that you are particularly interesting, you could always invent a new and more exciting identity).

However, if you want something a bit more professional then www.blogger.com is a good starting point and the weapon of choice for most writers out there. Team it up with a witty/pretty (delete as applicable) domain name and you're away. But remember, this is not a decision to be taken lightly: a blog requires time, attention and commitment! After all you don't want to end up as mere blogroll in the ever expanding blogiverse, do you now?

There's just something about those online diaries which makes for compulsive reading and I suppose it is a form of sanctioned diary snooping



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The War of the Roses in pictures



Clockwise from top: York's batsmen score an unassailable 178-9 in Friday's men's 1sts. Both the men's and women's pool teams fall to Lancaster at Megabowl. The men's 1sts lacrosse team dispatch Lancaster 11-3. Despite their aerobatics, Lancaster's Ultimate team are unable to challenge York's supremacy. Vanbrugh dining hall provides the venue for Ballroom dancing, won by York. An iron shot from the fairway of Fulford golf course sets York on track for the points. York's hockey team hide in goal to defend a short corner. Celebration in the hail as Leslie raises the trophy. Photos by Toby Hall, Georgi Mabee and David Martin.

The new etiquette of sex

Ever wondered if it is good grace to offer your one night stand a cup of tea? A confused **Becky Mitchell and Rachel Ringstead** explore the complicated world of modern day sex

Jane Austen knew good sex. To 'pull' back then was easy; picking up a partner merely involved having a good pair of child-bearing hips, or some pretty impressive sideburns. All you needed was a decent rendition of Greensleves on the harpsicord and a carefully suggestive flash of the ankle and you were shacked up in your Derbyshire love pad in no time. But the twenty-first century sex game is more complicated and the plot thickens even further at university.

Nowadays, even the most conservative among us can be left scouring the History department notice board, to simply find out the name of that random who climbed out of the bedroom window in the middle of the night (swiping petty cash on the way out). Just because we no longer have to take pains over drafting obligatory quill penned love letters to our beloved, doesn't mean that composing that perfect 'fancy me' text message is any easier. Those classic dilemmas over how long to wait before you reply and how many kisses to use, can keep the discerning passion hunter awake until the wee hours (for the record one is mean, two is acceptable, but four is just far too keen).

Whilst today we can get away with discussing sex at the dinner table, the rules of sexual conduct have not become any less confusing. In fact they can seem even more complex than ever.

Thankfully Emma Taylor and Loreli Sharky (Em and Lo as they are affectionately known to their bed partners) have come up with a shining light for those fumbling around in the dark over this sexual grey area. Their book, *Nerve's guide to sex etiquette for ladies and gentlemen*, answers all the burning questions about sexual decorum that you have been dying to ask, but were too polite to bring up (without taking a trip to such well established centres of education as a Swiss finishing school or a Thai brothel).

From what to wear on a date, to what to say, to how many drinks to accept before the obligations mount up and the sexual protocol of how to behave at that crucial moment and afterwards, this is the book that might just save your life - or at least your sexual reputation on campus.

Firstly, Em and Lo deal with the essential art of 'the pickup'. Here the advice is crystal clear: no lines. Never any lines. As they say "far

'Schmoozing, wooing, courting, romancing – whatever you term it, please dear reader, do it with class.'

too much emphasis is placed on the pickup line". Whilst "was your father a thief? Because he must have stolen the stars to put in your eyes" might not be a winner, "nice shoes, wanna' fuck", certainly isn't going to work on the classy types either. Instead get them talking about themselves, everyone likes to feel that they are interesting. However, be careful about the questions that you ask. Em and Lo explain, "it is considered gauche to discuss any of the following: astrology, predicted degree results, exes, abortion, infidelity or children". Most of all listen, flatter, smile and make eye contact (but not the extent that you look like Tony Blair in a *Newnight* interview with Paxman).



'Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn'. The gentlemanly response to questions relating to overpowering body odour

But whether your success at the pickup generates a first date or a drunken fumble, you may still be stuck as to what to do next. Often it is too easy to stereotype men and women. Women are generally dubbed as being commitment seeking, bunny boilers, whereas men are perceived as being likely to run at the first "you should meet my housemates" remark. However, it is important not to second guess your desired's motives. Forget any preconceived notions of your date's long term relationship plottings, most of the time people don't know what they want - but they do know that they want to be wanted. Em and Lo make it clear that keeping things classy is the key, but whatever your intentions, flirt responsibly.

Whilst it is somewhat of a passion killer to explain your disinclination to marry whilst in the throws of desire, it might be worth gently hinting at your distaste for monogamy at some point. It is a fact universally known that only the exquisitely vulgar intentionally string people along.

Although formal dating is rare at university, if you do end up in one of these terrifying situations, you should at least make sure you are on time; "only a savage is late for a date".

The 'asker' is expected to pay by everyone other than the one who is asked. Whatever you do, don't order anything overly messy, expensive or suggestively phallic. And for the record, accepting a casual drink does not translate to accepting a casual frolic. You are not expected to

do anything that you don't feel comfortable with - including ten-pin bowling and karaoke.

But what happens if you change your mind, or they are simply not as attractive in the daylight as you remember? This is where the art of disengagement comes into play. While this might not prevent hearts from being broken, it might just ease your conscience. Being kind but firm is the guiding principle here. Whilst it is uncouth to suggest to a woman that it is her facial hair problem that is standing in the way of things, it is equally vulgar to simply phase them out by ignoring their ever more desperate messages. While emailing is a safe option for those who feel like hiding behind a computer screen, politely explaining the reasons why you don't want to take things any further, face to face, will earn you much more respect from your victim and their friends (who you could possibly go on to date).

Em and Lo give further advice on many more topics, tackling issues ranging from perverse sexual acts that you never knew existed, to how to successfully initiate a booty call. However don't be distracted by the naughty bits, this is a comprehensive guide to an issue that affects us all. The most important thing to remember is however embarrassing, shameful or awkward the sexual situation that you entangle yourself in, never forget your manners. As they say, "Schmoozing, wooing, courting, romancing – whatever you term it, please dear reader, do it with class." Amen.

A complete guide to bedroom etiquette

- It is uncouth to feign a foreign accent to get laid. No matter how sexy the latino in the corner, dishonesty is just so unattractive. All accents have a surprising tendency to drift into Indian after a while anyway.
- To lick one's lips or run one's tongue over one's teeth is not considered an effective method of seduction by anyone with good taste. Particularly when the remnants of your lunch are on public display.
- Although a gentlemen or lady never assumes that buying someone a drink means that they are owed something, it is gauche to accept a second drink as a gift and then turn to talk to their more attractive friend to your left.
- And finally, do not play games. A gentleman or lady avoids petty manipulations simply to gain the upper hand.

Nerve's guide to sex etiquette is available from Amazon, priced £7.99



Those bad things in the charts

Chris Spillane meets the blues/pop/rock/soul/metal/anything nine piece from South London who insist they're not the next Scissor Sisters and explain why U2's The Edge is a whore

Are you bored? Stuck in a dead end job? Want to see the world? These questions may be presented to you if you were considering a career in her Majesty's armed forces, but answering yes to these questions in Croydon gets you an entry-level position in the latest band to join British music revolution. With five main vocalists, three guitarists and a drummer, I can confidently say that with nine members counted for, all vacancies have been filled. Do Me Bad Things have just arrived in London from the bright lights of Aldershot on their UK tour to promote the release of their debut album *Yes!*

I take a moment to consider what events may transpire when surrounded by nine musicians of various shapes and sizes before entering the Mean Fiddler where they had been rehearsing for tonight's gig, sitting myself down near a Pac Man counsel in the corner. Hearing a band live in an empty venue is a new experience; I was expecting them to plough through it half-hearted yet front woman Chantal Brown sang with unreserved passion and Tom Shotton on drums doesn't miss a beat on his kit.

The music stops and Pac Man annoyingly dominates the atmosphere again. The tour manager James appears, thankfully with only one member of the nine piece, 'Hurricane Tommy', the band's drummer. He is introduced with a firm handshake as Tom Shotton. To my annoyance we take a sit next to the dreaded Pac Man video game where Tom informs me he's just been doing his laundry. I smile and nod politely sitting in my lenor fresh clothes eager to begin the interview.

"Do Me Bad Things came about from this Greek fella [sic]" muses Tom. "This guy was shocked with what these teenage girls about town had written on their tops". I contribute a puzzled look as Tom takes a drag on his cigarette; "you know, slogans such as 'no one knows I'm a lesbian'. He couldn't understand why this girl had one saying 'do me bad things' and it just stuck." On first glance this band may be considered a novelty act with their nine members, excessive make up and striking band name. Nonetheless Tom tries to reassure me they're not by declaring "ninety-five per cent of the people you meet are idiots, therefore ninety-five per cent of public opinion is wrong." Pausing for breath, "It's not like we thought about portraying a novelty angle, that's something the critics have picked up on." Be that as it may, listening to the album it sounds like the Scissor Sisters doing The Darkness i.e. overtly homosexual cock rock, with heavy sounding guitars and riffs that wouldn't sound out of place on a rock album paired with melodies in tribute to The Beach Boys. It shouldn't work but it's strangely enticing. With the forthcoming releases from Coldplay and Oasis this year, you wouldn't imagine Do Me Bad Things to be Top of the Pops with the press yet interviews in *Q Magazine* and *NME* beg to differ.

Do Me Bad Things started as something of a Friday night project before ultimately becoming a signed band much to Tom's disdain: "To be honest I didn't want a record deal, it was meant to be a two gig thing for a mate, but we played a few more times and were signed at our fifth gig. Then we toured for a while and wrote the

album." When asked whether *Yes!* would be there sole release, the question is greeted with a mischievous smile: "We're antagonistic fuckers, we told *NME* that our next album will be a full on reggae album for a laugh, it's more likely to be more like Katrina and The Waves doing Black Metal." At this point I feel that I'm being mocked and consider cutting the interview short when

'We're antagonistic fuckers, we told NME that our next album will be full on reggae for a laugh'

Tom declares "Anyway, I'm more of a music lover than anything, for me, *Speakerboxx* by OutKast is the ultimate album for music lovers." I tell him I disagree; "well at least you like a type of music" he sympathises.

Feeling uncomfortable I change the topic of discussion to the politics of the band, I'm told the band is democratic and bands like Metallica (where financial and voting percentages in the band are split unjustly) are detached from why they started. "If the band is equal then why am I interviewing one person instead of nine?" I say forgetting that I was getting Dutch courage from a banana milkshake half an hour ago, Tom responds "Myself, Alex and Rich are the spokespersons for the band and I was told to do it." Not very democratic I note.

In spite of this slight hypocrisy I feel more at ease after his reassuring attitude and the upcoming election is brought into conversation. Tom proudly announces he will be voting Liberal Democrat, when asked why he replied "I'm from a super conservative environment and I recognise their threat, Michael Howard is a little fucker". Laughing, I probe further and discover that Tom thinks "Michael Howard is a racist right wing fuck." Swiftly I return to the agenda of the day, music. "Being a music lover, is there any music you don't love?" I inquire. Instantly, Tom tackles the question: "U2 shouldn't be big, they're irrelevant and redundant ... Coldplay produce useless music". A few moments later Tom expresses his derision for The Edge (U2's guitarist) "He's a whore ... he wants MTV to pay U2 each time they show their videos, his attitude is ridiculous."

I asked him if there is anything that he doesn't like being reported about his band; contemplating this for a few moments Tom answers jokingly, "we don't sound like the Scissor Sisters, I've never heard them but we definitely don't sound like them." Refraining from a debate about whom they do and don't sound like, I thank him for taking the time to talk to me, wish them luck on the rest of their tour and head for the exit. As I leave Tom asks me if I'm seeing them play tonight. I reply with a nod and he says he'll look out for me, yet when I saw him ten minutes later outside the Dominion theatre he ignored me. Bastard.

• The debut album *Yes!* by Do Me Bad Things is out now, Atlantic Records

Bold new future for City Gallery

Laura Hodgen and Nan Langfeldt-Flory revisit York City Gallery after its half million pound refurbishment and discover that, despite the money spent, some things are best left alone

Hiding on the outskirts of York City centre there is a little known centre of culture: the York City Art Gallery. Set up in a temporary wooden building in 1879 for the second Yorkshire Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition, architect Edward Taylor designed the permanent gallery which was opened as York City Art Gallery in 1892. However, in recent years the gallery, run down and dilapidated, has not been popular as York's many other cultural attractions and the gallery was closed on 6th June 2004.

On the 19th March of this year, after a £445,000 revamp, the gallery re-opened to the public. The changes include the installation of a new lighting rig and the creation of The Studio, a special area allocated for educational activities, such as workshops for visiting school and evening lectures. Also, key paintings have been cleaned and repaired in a £10,000 pound conservation programme paid for by the Friends of York Art Gallery, an independent group of interested members of the public who support the gallery. These paintings have been restored to their former glory, revealing the original colours and exposing hidden details. The interior of the 19th Century building now has a fresh, contemporary feel, the collection has been completely re-displayed and the gallery redecorated. With additions such as a new Hartley's café and interactive, educational activities the gallery hopes to entice locals and tourists alike.

The opening exhibition and focal point to the new-look gallery is titled Reflections and is positioned on the ground floor directly in front of the main entrance. To access it, you have to walk, rather oddly, through the café area. It includes work on loan from the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and various galleries in Yorkshire as well as paintings from York's permanent collection. It's a varied group of works, notable ones being Monet's Flood Waters (1896), showing, (surprise, surprise) the flood waters of the River Epte, a tributary of the Seine and its neighbour, The Wave (1898) by Roderic O'Connor. This pairing allows the viewer to see Monet's influence over O'Connor with the latter's acquisition of Monet's loose, confident brush strokes. There is also work by Titian, Rembrandt and Hepworth. This is evidently, judging by its flash, new spotlights which outshine the dull strip lighting of most other rooms in the gallery, the room which has been blessed with the new lighting rig. Unfortunately, this blessing is more of a curse as the harsh spotlights are reflected by the painting covered with glass and don't offer the even illumination needed to see the detail in many of the dark toned oil paintings. A particularly regrettable example is Sir William Beechey's Sarah Siddons, a beautiful portrait of the first major tragic actress. It is a large canvas built up out of shadows but most of the time you spend in front of it you spend looking at yourself or the painting opposite it. Even when you move away from it only a small band of the painting is in the light and this is given a slightly green tinge – a bit of a disappointment.

An unusual feature of the room is the bright purple far wall. The gallery has rejected the long-established use of white walls in favour of vibrant colours to divide the layout of the gallery into clear sections. Apart from the purple monstrosity on the ground floor, the first floor houses an outstanding collection of British and European art created during the last 600 years, including work by Lowry. This area is divided into three themes: People, Stories and Places. For each theme the area is given a particular colour, red for People, blue for Stories and green for Places. This has a dramatic clashing effect managing to break down the display of paintings feed to viewers in bite sized pieces, but also making



Photo by Toby Hall

An explanation of his painting of Christ: 'He doesn't need arms.'

one realise why most galleries stick to white or cream.

Having said this, the work displayed on these brightly coloured walls is impressive; the green Places section is home to some of my favourite work in the gallery – Lowry's impression of York's Clifford Tower, a beautiful little piece called Washing Day by Arthur Studd, a contemporary of Gauguin's, something which can clearly be seen in the piece. The integration of two modern installations amongst older works has been very carefully considered; one is an eye-catching modern photograph of a woman in traditional Victorian dress presenting the contrast between times, the other is a video piece about the life cycle of trees. They are situated at opposite ends of the room and provide an effective contrast to the works surrounding them. A third modern work by Paul Scott verges on strange – it consists of three porcelain works; a mug, a plate and a vignette, which protest against the harm humans are doing to the environment. My favourite is the vignette which shows, in delicate

blue and white, a nuclear power station surrounded by some upset sheep, but the mug is also good. Called Foot and Mouth Mug it is inscribed with the words 'English Farmstead, Spring 2001....but where are all the animals?'

There are a few contemporary works shown in virtually all of the rooms of the gallery. Possibly most eye-catching is an installation by contemporary artist Susie MacMurray entitled Flock which is on the ground floor in a room called Morality. It consists of dyed black turkey feathers pasted in layers on the outer wall of an archway and the gallery curators anticipate visitors desire to stroke the work by including a little bunch of feathers you're allowed to touch. Also in this room is a collection of still life paintings, unified by the fact that they all carry a moral message in their symbolist images and there is a cute little addition for younger visitors, a make-your-own-still-life table, filled with all sorts of objects and pen and paper to draw your creation with.

Through the feather-covered archway you come to the Devotion room, filled with religious images. These are some amazing alter panels which hark back to the days when Europe's culture was largely ruled by religion and much art was part of devotional exercises or used to decorate places of worship. The room has an eerie feel

to it – there are lots of very violent images of the crucifixion of Christ – but this is let down slightly by a modern painting by Craigie Aitcison showing Christ on the cross minus, for no obvious reason, his arms. It is accompanied by the somewhat bizarre quote 'Everybody knows who he is. He doesn't need arms.' Right then.

The gallery also appeals to those interested in the decorative arts with its exhibition of studio pottery; this is a collection of objects made using traditional methods in a protest against 20th century industrialisation. What is particularly special about the display is the level of interaction the visitor is able to have with the works. They can be handled and are displayed with guidebooks pointing out key areas of importance. There are some lovely items, including a dinky little cup and saucer which I was very tempted to put in my handbag; it's only a shame they're displayed under the stairwell!

The gallery is very easy to access, located next to Kings Manor and opposite the main Tourist Centre and admission is free. With its recent extensive refurbishment involving modern display techniques and the display of newly acquired works, the gallery is well worth visiting despite the feeling that in an attempt to display their collection in a new, jazzy manner, the gallery has made it more difficult to appreciate.

Arts Reviews

Rebecca Hammond gets glitz with *Guys and Dolls* at the York Theatre Royal



Tension is high as Sky (John Haigh) risks everything on a single roll of the dice

From the 27th April to the 7th May, York's Theatre Royal is playing host to the likes of Nathan Detroit, Sky (Obadiah) Masterson and Adelaide in Paul Laidlaw's new production of *Guys and Dolls*. The musical has enjoyed continued success on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean since its debut.

The hit musical centres around the ongoing and flu-inducing engagement between Nathan Detroit and Adelaide, the search for a venue for an illegal crap game, and a bet between Detroit and Masterson. Meanwhile, the upstanding Mission leader Sarah Brown finds herself mixed up in the whole shebang. Well-known and loved songs include 'Luck Be A Lady Tonight', 'Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat' and of course, 'Guys and Dolls'.

The musical first opened on 24th November 1950 on Broadway and played for 1,200 performances. Two and a half years later it found its way to the London Coliseum and ran for 555 nights. This gem of American musical theatre has been made into a film starring Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando. Surprisingly, considering the show's success, the text was constructed around the set of songs, which had originally been written as part of a different, unsuccessful show.

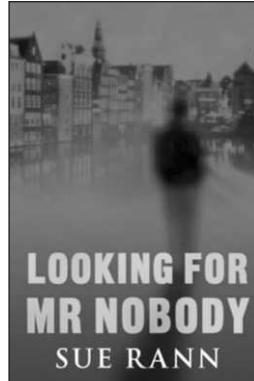
The New York depicted in *Guys and Dolls* is Damon Runyon's own very personalised and highly stylised view; perhaps the most notable

features of this portrayal of the city are the idiosyncratic speech-patterns and nasal tones. These are exploited in the musical's lyrical prose and the songs themselves, and the racy lifestyle of these inhabitants.

Laidlaw's company are enjoying a well-earned successful run. The musical numbers are performed with a polished slickness and light-hearted feel that are perfectly in tune with the musical's enjoyable and somewhat comic nature. Particular mention must be given to Toni Feeney as Adelaide, and John Haigh as Sky Masterson whose voices and acting are notably strong.

The odd combination of broad Yorkshire accents, from those that haven't quite mastered the idiosyncrasies of the city's speech-patterns, and the Brooklyn intonation of those who have, do cause the musical to jolt along in places. The audience's suspension of disbelief is certainly tested. Despite the regional embellishments, however, the company's clear enjoyment in performing the show inevitably rubs off on the audience.

One of the highlights of the show is the orchestra; a combination of a jazz ensemble and a big band, which sails through the musical numbers. It also keeps up the pace of the musical during the many scene changes, which span from a street in downtown New York to an evening setting in Havana.



LOOKING FOR MR NOBODY
SUE RANN

Reviewed by
Nadine Cotton
£6.99
No Exit Press



Looking for Mr. Nobody
Sue Rann

Reviewed by
Nadine Cotton

Reviewed by
Nadine Cotton
£6.99
No Exit Press



One Pill Makes You Smaller
Lisa Dierbeck

Reviewed by
Ana Fletcher
£10.99
Canongate



Disturbingly compelling, contradictory and provocative, Lisa Dierbeck's debut novel manages to attract while it repels, and is impossible to remain indifferent to. *One Pill Makes You Smaller* is a bold parody of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, relocated to 1970's New York City.

Eleven-year old Alice lives with her drug-taking, teenage Aunt Esme, and struggles to cope with the 'premature onset of pubescence' that has left her with a girl's mind inside a woman's body. Terrified of the physical changes she's going through, and of the strange power she seems to have over adult men, taunted by those her own age, Alice curses "THE BREASTS" that have stolen her childhood away from her.

When she is sent away to a curious Summer art school and comes into contact with the magnetic drug-pushers JD, Alice is forced to confront the confusing attraction she feels for him. What unfolds is a story of abuse on very uncertain terms; the reader is challenged to witness a degree of complicity on Alice's behalf that many will find very hard to accept.

Dierbeck has accomplished a sharp and original work that is well worth reading, and will stay with you for a long time.



Smashed
Koren Zailckas

Reviewed by
Rebecca Hammond
£12.99
Ebury Press



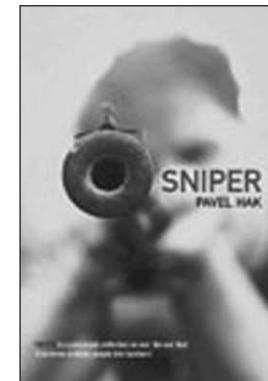
Koren Zailckas's *Smashed*, is the compelling autobiography of a young woman, unable to cope with the demands of her developing adolescence, and finding solace in a decade of solid drinking. While the style may seem sensationalist, it would be wrong to pin it down as that of a naive American.

Koren first experiences alcohol at fourteen, when on another bored night in small-town America, the pressure of an unsteady friendship leads to experimentation with the contents of her friend's parent's liquor cabinet.

As Koren continues to get routinely smashed and to black out, she surpasses even English drinking expectations. She binges until black specks from her shredding stomach lining start to appear in her morning vomit.

This book focuses on the gender specific implications of drinking. Zailckas explains that "drinking confirms men's gender role, whereas it diminishes women's. We are meant to believe that men who drink heavily are men's men... a girl's drinking makes her less feminine". Moreover, in Koren's social circles, date-rape and other aggression seem perpetually prevalent.

The book, though not a classic, is enjoyable, interesting, and extremely cathartic.



Reviewed by
Nan Langfeldt-Flory
£7.99
Serpent's Tail



Pavel Hak's short novel is a violent account of an imagined war in an unnamed country, clearly inspired by the terrible conflicts in the Balkans. The book is made up of four interlinking stories; an evil commander who carries out the most horrific torture, all graphically described, a group of refugees trying to flee the country, a man trying to recover his family's remains from a mass grave to give them a proper burial and a psychopathic, nihilistic sniper who takes pot shots at anyone rude enough to try and survive the conflict.

The novel is not for the faint-hearted; its accounts of the brutality of war are disturbing and sickening, reminding the safe West of the terrifying reality faced by those trapped in conflict zones around the world. Overall, however, Hak is unable to back up his graphic descriptions with much substance, making the novel a rather gratuitous mess of shock tactics. Hak is trying to be hard-hitting and controversial and to an extent he is, making the reader square up to the human suffering caused by conflicts often ignored by those who could help solve them, but his characters are underdeveloped and unconvincing. The book becomes an orgy of violence which is far less effective than a human story one can relate to.

Looking for Mr. Nobody
Sue Rann

Jan Wolf is the guy everyone's searching for, a homeless man with a fairly vague past in the midst of all the action; but he doesn't want to be found. The storyline behind it all is dark and disturbing, and raises questions about everything you thought you knew regarding scientific research.

Sue Rann writes in a distinctive style; in the sections that trace Robin's story she writes in first person, conversely when she writes about Wolf it is in third person. Throughout the book this makes for an interesting change in perspective but the first time it happens it's very disconcerting.

The book is extremely descriptive, everything from the characters' living conditions, to scarily graphic effects of a new wonder drug tested on humans, is described in eerie detail. A book for a person with time on their hands.

Music Reviews

Single Honours

Due to the unprecedented Sunday sunshine, fewer people than usual turned up to sample the latest selection of singular delights (there were three of us). However, this doesn't seem to have affected the diversity of our collective opinion, as we all seemed to disagree on just about everything.

My Chemical Sunshine - *I'm not Ok*

Although clearly a piece of pop-punk, this song seemed to be labouring under the impression that it was actually emo. Jen insightfully wrote that the song is "about fame; not the life it seems", whereas Kat was a bit more cryptic with "trying a little too hard but still". Overall it was enjoyed, but as a chirpy summer tune, which can hardly be what MCR intended.

Gorillaz - *Feel Good Inc*

Definitely a choon with a capital 'CH', this fuses De La Soul and Beck samples and quite simply, rocks. Funky was the word on everyone's lips, and so we made it Single of the Week. It was the only thing we could all agree on.

Charlie Wilson Ft. Justin Timberlake and Snoop Dogg - *Signs*

Gorgeously upbeat track, which iTunes tells me has been played seventeen times since its purchase a week ago. Jen and Cat weren't quite so enthusiastic, citing the Dogg's dodgy rhyming as off putting, although "You'll see Venus and Sere-na/ In the Wimbledon are-na" is clearly a point of comedy.

Hiding Place - *What If*

This is terribly self-indulgent complaint indie. Jen simply wrote "boring" (well, it looks like "boning", but I don't want to think about what that implies) and Kat scathingly declared that the best thing about it was the sleeve. However, she did ask if she could keep it, apparently for her friend...we're not sure if we believe her.

Maximo Park - *Graffiti*

It bounced along pleasingly despite containing no real hook, at Kat was very impressed by their regional accents. The band is unlikely to stand out in a massive indie crowd, but this is decidedly sunshiny.

Singles reviewed by Kat Boyd, Jenni Marsh and Kitty Fischer.



Feeder

Live at Brixton Academy

Reviewed by
Chris Spillane

01/04/05



After a combustion of scatty Libertine-esque Indie from young Cockney upstarts Thee Unstrung and few moments of sensitivity and reflection by the amiable Scottish lads Cherryfalls, it was time for Feeder to fill the Brixton Academy with an array of radio friendly rock and polished melodies. Front man Grant Nicholas suddenly emerges with a humble wave

leading the remainder of the band on stage. A group of young teenagers to my left begin declaring their undying love for Grant, unimpressed I await the first few chords of the set opener "feeling a moment" as Feeder put on a smile and effortlessly plough through the first three or four songs before Grant addresses his public with a simple 'Hello.'

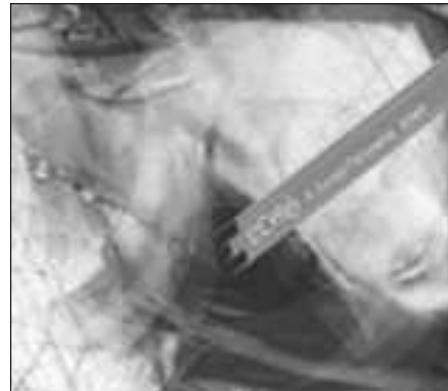
The past decade has seen Feeder leave their Smashing Pumpkin influenced roots and

head towards a more mellow Coldplay style of music,

concentrating more on melodies rather than loud, fast guitars. With the new album being played against a backdrop of computer generated images ranging from children dancing to an array of hands grasping at thin air, it is easy to think that Feeder, in particular Grant Nicholas have become rather pretentious and detached from their roots.

Grant raises his voice to mere shout for the first time declaring "We're gonna play some old ones" and launches into live favourite "High" which causes a sea of lighters to fill the academy. After a moment of genuine sincerity Feeder turn up the amps and soar into "descend" from their first commercial release with the Echo Label, E.P Swim.

Everyone seems happy, but at times the fun seems limited like something similar to rock 'n roll with rules, maybe Grant is being more reserved in his old age. Feeder close with 'Just a Day' arguably their best song to date, perform the obligatory ritual of throwing various Feeder related paraphernalia into the crowd and hurriedly head backstage, where is it likely that Grant Nicholas will curl up with a good book and a cup of cocoa, bless.



Logh

Sunset, Paranoia

Reviewed by
Jenny Marsh

Out (24/05/05)
(Indie)



Logh are back. Nordic emo at its finest, set to reinvent the wheel of Scandinavian rock. Building on the fine foundations laid by Benny and Bjorn, Logh have taken the twinkles of Abba and dusted them across a leathery black sky. These rock-a-byes of misery spread wide, reaching into dark corners of teen angst and light the flame of Euro-pop rebellion.

The album title already triggered the 'Emo-Poet' alarm, but even wailing sirens couldn't divert you from noticing this album has an identity crisis; Coldplay sound-scapes raped by Gothic lyrics and pink-techno artwork that would have Kylie spinning around at G.A.Y for weeks, it's hard to get a handle on what Logh are aiming for, and the music suffers as a consequence..

The lyrics are unusual and paint some vivid images. 'Fell into a Well' outlines the pitfalls of rural areas lacking modern plumbing systems and as Friberg reveals 'death lies in my teacher's bed' a new sympathy is found for those stuck in the short days and bad weather of northern Europe. Unfortunately, the music is humdrum and the vocals are bland throughout. Every track starts with good intentions, yet it then disappointingly chooses to fade out rather rock on.



Garbage

Bleed Like Me

Reviewed by
Lucy Penden

Out Now
(Geffen)



Shirley and the boys have been out of the public eye since the release of 2001's Beautiful Garbage. Having met with a distinct lack of commercial success on that particular outing, this reviewer is more anxious than ever for their return to be the triumph they deserve. *Bleed Like Me* has already gone Top Ten all over Europe, vanquishing any fears that the band's popularity may be waning, and so only one pressing question is left to be answered; is it any good, and is it godd enough to match their earliest work?

Thankfully this album is nothing if not a return to form, opening with Ms Manson at her most devastatingly sexy, somewhere between growling and purring, imploring the listener to be her "Bad Boyfriend".

First time around, *Run Baby Run* is guitar pop, as pure as it comes, but this being Garbage, the destructive element makes itself apparent through the lyric "Let it burn through you", all compounded by an industrial baseline.

The album becomes static in places, with some tracks initially sounding formulaic, but the current single is fast and dark and rocky and punky and perfect. *Bleed Like Me* is possibly the most challenging and rewarding piece of the band's career.



Ambulance Ltd

Ambulance Ltd

Reviewed by
Laurence Newman

Out Now
(TVL)



I have to admit, the prospect of listening to another 'cool' indie rock quartet from New York filled me with a sense of immediate boredom, and with a name as bad as Ambulance Ltd, you can appreciate where I was coming from. So I was pleasantly surprised when I put the album on to find that Ambulance Ltd, with their self titled debut record stand out from the crowd of inane indie blandness saturating the airwaves from here all the way to New York (and full marks for the glossy booklet in the sleeve of the attractive album.)

The album is a mellow collection of eleven understated songs with at least a passing resemblance to Radiohead's Amnesiac and Kid A in the song Ophelia, and The Doves in track 6, Stay Where You Are. The highlights for me were the opening track, Yoga Means Union, a layered five minute guitar driven instrumental song which loses nothing from being without the vocals of singer Marcus Congleton, the random 15 second instrumentals are a nice touch and Heavy Lifting, which sounds like an obvious single, has a nice upbeat feel and an energetic chorus.

What lets the album down is that it is repetitive in places, and tedious in others, but all in all worth a listen all the same.

Film Reviews



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Director: Garth Jennings
With: Martin Freeman, Mos Def

Runtime: 110 min

Reviewed by
Tom King



In 1971 a young hitch-hiker lying in a field in Innsbruck, hideously drunk, looking up at the stars, had an idea. This idea was to spawn a classic radio series, a slew of bestselling novels, a hit television series and now a big budget blockbuster. The hitchhiker was Douglas Adams and the idea was *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

The Hitchhiker's Guide follows put-upon English everyman Arthur Dent. Dragged screaming from the Earth, moments before its destruction to make way for a hyperspace bypass, Arthur is condemned to wander the cosmos with only his best friend Ford (revealed to be not from Guilford, but from a small planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse), a towel and the titular intergalactic Rough Guide for company.

To give director Garth Jennings his due, this movie was a sticky proposition. To strike a balance between making an audience-friendly movie and appeasing the baying hordes of hardcore fans is no easy task but he pulls it off with flying colours. All of the old familiar touches are there but bigger, louder and much more glossier. The same theme music is reigned but with orchestral backing, the same planets are there but in jaw-dropping CGI and the same characters are there but in haute couture (or an old dressing gown). And this is the key to the movie's success. By not allowing the big budget to overwhelm the

essential spirit of the movie it becomes exactly what it should be: an grand realisation of a world previously only seen on a BBC budget.

Obviously some concessions have been made. The plot is not entirely faithful to the book but most points that have been added sit fairly comfortably and overall the storyline keeps the audience engaged with very little effort. Also, the casting is a slight mish-mash. Most parts are cast excellently (Martin Freeman is great as Arthur) but there are a couple of misfires. Mos Def manages the essential weirdness of Ford Prefect very well but there are times when he's just a little blank. At the same time, Sam Rockwell's take on Zaphod Beeblebrox as a kind of galactic rock star is perfect but there are times when he is just simply too annoying. Thankfully though, this problem is solved after not too long and so is not a major issue.

But it's not all perfect. There are one or two fairly important criticisms to be made. For a start, though most of the new plot points fit in quite happily, a love story angle is introduced which jars with the overall mood of the film and makes Freeman look extremely uncomfortable and unconvincing.

However, the main problem is that, with so much plot to fit in and only an hour and a half to do it, the film moves at a rocketing pace meaning that there are moments where the casual watcher may be bemused. This is easily solved if you've heard the story before but may well affect its box office success.

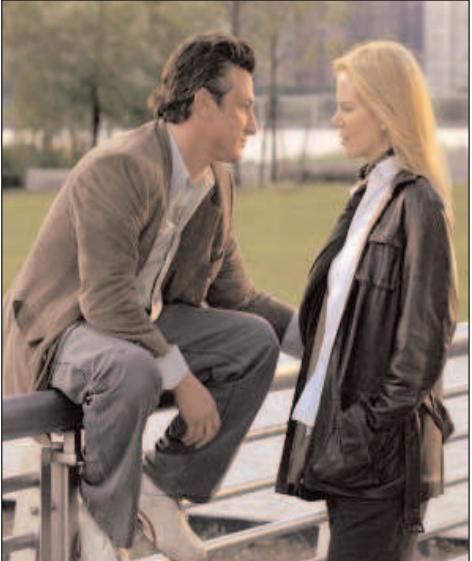
This is a well made and consistently enjoyable movie. It should be five stars but there are just a few too many niggling little complaints. Don't Panic, don't expect perfection either but definitely do go and see it.

The Interpreter

Director: Sydney Pollack
With: Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn

Runtime: 128 min

Reviewed by
Rob Perkins



a lot in common with a chess game; cold, calculating, tense, deliberate and dull.

Penn's character Keller is assigned to investigate Afrikaan translator Silvia Broome (Nicole Kidman), who claims to have overheard a coup to assassinate the despotic dictator of her native Kundu. Against the backdrop of their tense and oddly tedious cat and mouse exchanges the plot unravels a preposterous and contradictory conspiracy which keeps you guessing, but doesn't keep you caring.

A Sydney Pollack film starring two Oscar winners is guaranteed critical success. And it is not altogether undeserved; Kidman and Penn both deliver masterful and engaging performances. Penn plays angst-ridden very well, and is compelling, even if his character is dull and underdeveloped. The film is dominated by Penn and Kidman; their conversations, their histories and their simmering sexual tension. The screenplay, though focuses on the dialogue at the expense of the plot itself. It leaves holes and contradictions, and, more importantly, neglects the adrenaline rushes and excitement (except for a memorable bus sequence) which should be a major feature of any thriller.

Although it's good to see an intelligent and thoughtful thriller amid the mire of mindless violence and hormones, there must be a compromise between underestimating your audience and boring them. Pollack's direction, normally spot on, is mushy and self-indulgent and while he has sealed a coup of his own in becoming the first director to film inside the U.N., he seems brainwashed by the gravitas of his surroundings. As a result, *The Interpreter* adopts the old Hollywood role of producing pro-government propaganda: its message is perfectly in tune with that of the Bush administration, and this is the worst aspect of this film, guaranteed to turn off audiences everywhere. Kidman's speeches about the wonders of democracy are, at times, so overblown that I'm tempted to revolt myself. My own dictatorship would, indeed, be a sight to see.

Sean Penn is not the kind of actor to fear type-casting. His characters are usually intelligent, fragile, and brimming with tension and understated menace. They are also quite boring. These are characteristics prominent not only in his latest role, as CIA agent Tobin Keller, but also the film itself.

The Interpreter is a polished and poised political drama which dimly recalls the glory days of Hitchcock. It is also a cold and dull 'thriller' notable more for its self-importance than for any actual thrills or suspense. The film shares

Melinda Melinda

Director: Woody Allen
With: Radha Mitchell, Will Ferrell

Runtime: 100 min

Reviewed by
Oliver Chadwick



In a softly lit bistro, somewhere tres chic in Manhattan, two writers are making their case for the fundamental nature of the universe by each telling the same story but with a different slant: one presenting it as a tragedy, the other as comedy. Why yes! Woody Allen is involved, how on earth did you guess?

The conflict between tragedy and comedy has been at the heart of Allen's work for the last thirty years, as we have seen him either turn away from his juvenile roots to focus upon more serious works, or neglect his comic genius to

make third-rate Ingmar Bergman clones, depending on your point of view.

So an interesting basis for a film then? Certainly. Tons of fun though? Unfortunately not. The initial promise is not lived up to, indeed, the initial premise is not lived up to. This is a film that does not do what it says on the tin. Despite what the tag-line: "Life can be a comedy or a tragedy, it all depends on how you look at it" might make you think, this is not the same narrative presented in two different ways. Though there are parallels, these are clearly two entirely different stories. So life can be tragic or comic depending on whether tragic or comic things happen? That's pretty deep. Oh no, wait. No it's not! It's just a colossal waste of a pretty good idea.

Perhaps Allen shied away from telling exactly the same story twice because, his tragedies tending to be comic and his comedies tragic, if they weren't, we wouldn't be able to tell the difference. As it is you shouldn't have much trouble understanding which is which, the differing hairstyles of Melinda (Radha Mitchell), the only cast member to feature in both strands, being enough to let you know what's going on (long and lank = tragic, short and shiny = kooky).

So how are these two different strands then? Well, as is usually the case with Allen, the attempt at drama is clearly the inferior. Rich, pretty New Yorkers burbling on about their souls? Excuse me while I stop paying attention. The dialogue is horribly clunky and, though the piece is well acted, I wouldn't have cared if they'd all decided to jump through their large, penthouse windows. At one point I was actively wishing for it.

The comedy is a lot more engaging. Will Ferrell shines as the Allen-esque New York neurotic, and though the ending is at once entirely predictable and completely unrealistic, Allen's trademark comic dialogue is enough to keep you interested along the way. You just wish he'd put some of it in the other half.

Food and Drink Reviews



Wednesdays
Beverly

Reviewed by
Tom Crockett



After an enjoyable day's polo at Beverley Polo Club, we met up with the rest of the players taking part in the Northern Universities Polo Competition, and whom, (if I may smugly say,) we beat, winning the tournament. We made our way to Wednesdays.

Wednesdays is one of these "trying-desperately-to-be-trendy" restaurants, and I don't think it manages to pull it off. From the outside it resembles a down-market estate agents; and inside, one word struck me- "Ikea". I was determined to make the best of the night, being accompanied by more than our fair share of grimey polo girls, and after a couple of overly-full glasses of cheap Italian chenin, (which was foul and under chilled,) things seemed better.

I started with scallops, which I could not fault. They were served with beautiful slithers of Bavarian black pudding on a poached apple-

based salad. This unlikely combination was interesting and in no small part saved by the beautifully-cooked scallop's supreme freshness.

Service was slow, the staff were insolent and rather too intolerant of our party's drunken and foul behaviour; annoyingly the pictures kept falling off the walls, and our room was frightfully stuffy and hot. Thankfully our maincourses arrived reasonably swiftly, finally saving me from the inane polo chatter of my friends and neighbouring ladies. My duck salad was nothing more than a pre-prepared salad, decoratively served intermixed with overly greasy, Chinese-style duck. It was poor, as were the majority of main courses I saw. The "sausages and pureed potatoes" looked no better than the bangers and mash available at home, and the vegetarian risotto was not large enough to feed Calista Flockhart on a particularly strict diet.

As I often write, I hate pretension. Wednesdays tries to be something it's clearly not. I cringe to say they cannot deliver, as they do takeaway; but the restaurant cannot provide adequate return for the steep £30-£50 a head prices. If a restaurant demands such prices, they should ensure the quality of the food reflects the image of the restaurant and the prices on the menu.



Which ice?

Yes, the summer term is here and we see people on campus bravely ignoring the still frosty wind in their flip flops and ever increasingly revealing lecture-wear. This is the time of year to scorn the last throes of cold weather and entice the sun to come out to bring life to flowers and things, by eating the foodstuff which comes second best only to chocolate... Ice cream.

Thorntons, £1.40

At £1.40 these ice creams are not only the most pretentious, but close to being the cheapest! with several posh sounding flavours which one simply cannot resist, Thorntons is possibly the best place in York to eat ice cream! If you have not yet tasted the heaven that is the chocolate seville flavour, then you have not yet lived. You will never look back. The nice ladies behind the counter will also give you a free fudge stick (the exciting version of a flake), which will add that extra edge to your ice cream eating experience!

Millies, £1.50

Milly is no longer only the vendor of delicious cookies! She has also adopted ice cream into her plentiful bosom, with a little help from Baskin Robbins). With their famous 31 flavours, (allowing one flavour for every day of the month) you are certainly spoilt for choice. All are delicious, presented in those good old fashioned cones that brings back childhood images of the sea side donkey rides and sandcastles. Not quite as mouth watering as Thornton's irresistible creme de la creme of ice creams, Millies still comes up trumps providing Yorkians with high quality dairy based delights.

Debbie's, £1.40

Despite the the quaint interior of this vendor of ice creams and sugared mice the the ice creams Debbie's has to offer are not up to scratch. The bizarrely coloured cherry flavour ice leaves you feeling sick and giddy. This saccarine abomination is an offense to ice cream and the cardboard cone over which this purple glop drips menacingly is not fit for consumption. Ice creams from this outlet, which poses as a friendly village shop, are passable at best and offensive at worst. Although the portions at Debbie's are undeniably generous most of it will probably end up in the bin.

Carte D'ore, £2.49

If you're a fan of vanilla flavoured ice cream, but aren't a fan of this eating out of doors malarchy, then Carte D'ore is the way to go. The best vanilla ice cream i've ever tasted, its got those vanilla pod things in it which everyone's getting excited about nowadays. Creamy and smooth and actually tasting like it hasn't been made with about a million preservatives this is a league apart from the man in the ice cream van.

Fiesta Mehcicana
Clifford Street

Reviewed by
Vicky Hallam



Ai carumba! Ditch your college hoodies, don your sombreros and ponchos and head on down to Fiesta Mehcicana! You can fully immerse yourself in the Mexican culture with traditional and colourful décor; Mexicans certainly live life loud and you can't avoid the lively atmosphere here, no time for romantic canoodling in this place. Fiesta Mehcicana prides itself on authenticity of its cuisine, they only use fresh ingredients and the restaurant has developed all the recipes itself.

The service was enthusiastic, and they took time out to help us decipher the menu. I soon realised that there is more to Mexican food than just spices. I tried the Mole Poblano, which was chicken breast in a dark chilli sauce. Surprisingly all Fiesta Mehcicana's sauces are prepared using vegetable stock, and there's even the option of getting a vegetarian version of all of the main course dishes.

Now, to the most important part of the Mexican experience...alcohol! You can't leave without taking full advantage of the drinks menu. I would advise avoiding all 9.15's the next morning! Even better, all the cocktails are discounted before 8pm Sunday – Friday! There is also a Special Party Menu available for groups of 10 or more and to top off a great night they offer 10% off your total bill before 7pm, Sunday – Friday!

Cafe Veranda
Micklegate

Reviewed by
Choling Pow



Located next to in its prime position by the river and wedged between the popular nightspots of Micklegate and Argos, Cafe Veranda combines an eclectic mix of (wannabe) classy and just down-right tacky. Being greeted upon entering by a mechanical fisherman sets the scene for a meal you'd rather not remember. The complimentary colours of blue and orange on the walls and tables assault your senses rendering your tastebuds immobile. This may sound like the ideal caff for curing that hangover but it's attempt at being more bistro than greasy spoon leaves you wondering about the intentions of the proprietors. However, everybody knows the miracle effect that a plate of sausages, bacon, chips, hash browns, eggs, beans and toast has on the feeble stomach apres Micklegate Run; and considering the meals on offer at Cafe Veranda won't break the bank this grease-fest is all the more easy to swallow down with your sweet cup of tea.

Let's face it fry-ups are pretty much one and the same whether served on tables and chairs bolted to the ground or on silver platters. Cafe Veranda manages to out-do KwikSave Cafe but never quite reaches the heights of the dizzying Copper Kettle on Walmgate. If you find yourself past out in The Priory the morning after the night before than this is the place for you. My only advice is eat with your eyes closed.

Franke & Bennie's
Clifton Moor

Reviewed by
Raul Sellez



For a unique dining experience, Frankie and Bennie's is in a league of its own, transporting you back to 1950's New York. The decor and ambience is reminiscent of a 1980's Martin Scorsese flick. Think Goodfellas, red and white checked table cloths and photographs of flat nosed Italian types adorning the walls. Coupled with Dean Martin and ol' blue eyes playing in the background, the scene is set for a experience to remember before you've even ordered.

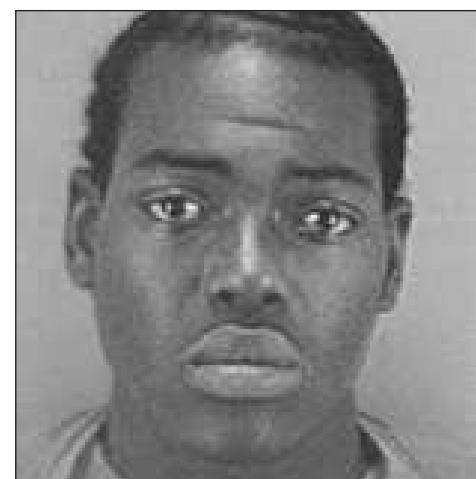
The menu offers a variety of Traditional New York style fare, big steaks, pork ribs, pizza, and a collection of other cliché'd dishes, thought don't let you put this off. Although, if it's your birthday, there's no hiding from the shame of having "happy birthday random woman" sang to you by an entire restaurant of people who don't know your name, as one old lady found out.

The dessert selection is amazing! A must try is the delicious cheesecake, with the lemon merangue tart and apple pie following behind with huge portions. These make up for the slightly undersized, yet fantastic main dishes. My eating companion - a 15 stone bear of a man - was left wanting a second helping of dessert. I, however, made him take me to the cinema instead. For a restaurant that meets all the 1950's American cliché's, go to Frankie and Bennie's, you won't be dissapointed.

The last word

Are you thinking what **David Cole** is thinking? Probably not, unless you too have an unhealthy fixation with badgers.

Are you drinking what we're drinking?



Howard: look into the cold, dead eyes of a psychopathic killer, and vote Conservative

Shock spread through the office like anthrax this week as my in-depth research unveiled the horrific truth of the private life of Michael Howard.

Contrary to popular belief, *nouse* can today reveal that Michael Howard is, in fact, a 23 year old, 6'4", 180lb black American man. Furthermore, he is in fact on the list of the San

Francisco Police Department's Ten Most Wanted. Not content with being convicted of homicide in 2002, he is also wanted in relation to parole violations. It is not clear what exactly these violations entail, but presumably they are connected with some sort of 'running away' type of activity. It is still not clear what the implications of these startling revelations will be for the Tory party, whose initial response to this news was one of complete and violent disinterest. Liberal Democrat spokespeople, however, were quick to inform us that they would be happy to jump on any ensuing bandwagon just as long as someone could name it.

Despite the furore surrounding this article, it is still reassuring to know that the valuable research capacity of the Google image search has finally been highlighted by this information.

Chariots of mire

On a more serious note, let me just send a big shout out to our courageous Roses athletes, who have, or will have by the time you read this, been sweating for the glory of this most coveted prize.

I speak of course of our elite team of Canoe Polo players, who could have won it for us last year if only their sport was worth about fifty more points than anything else. Sadly it was worth flip all, but I'd like to pledge my support for them anyway. If nothing else, at least we'll win the Ultimate Frisbee competition.

This year is particularly special because it marks the 520th anniversary of the first ever time this prize was originally awarded to Lancaster in

1485. Granted the trophy was a lot bigger then, about the size of a small island in fact, but it still means a lot to a couple of people, even though it's now very tiny and inconsequential.



Nº 04, Politics

Blag your degree



It's pinky out, Tony. Didn't your mother or Peter Mandelson ever tell you that?

Slightly misleading start there, I've tricked you into thinking that Anthony Blair Esquire has some sort of connection with the world of politics. As anyone academically or intimately connected with the subject will inform you, this is bollocks.

You can imagine how easy it is to make this sort of mistake, along with many others, when encountering the veritable plethora of information concerning politics. With this in mind, let me spell out for all you gormless idiots just what the deal is. It's going to hurt you a lot more than it's hurting me, but you'll thank me in the end. When you walk away from this homage with more than a third or a 'great experience' you'll thank me.

Well really, I don't actually give a toss. I'm only doing this so I can put it on my C.V. As far as I'm concerned you can all swivel. I hope you find the following advice as useful as a chocolate Pope.

1. First things first. You must enter your Politics degree with a flourishing interest in the issues covered and a burning desire to examine all possible approaches and ideologies. This high level of motivation is vital, so that it will be all the more impressive to see it utterly sapped and shat on as you're inevitably forced to face the grim reality of your situation.

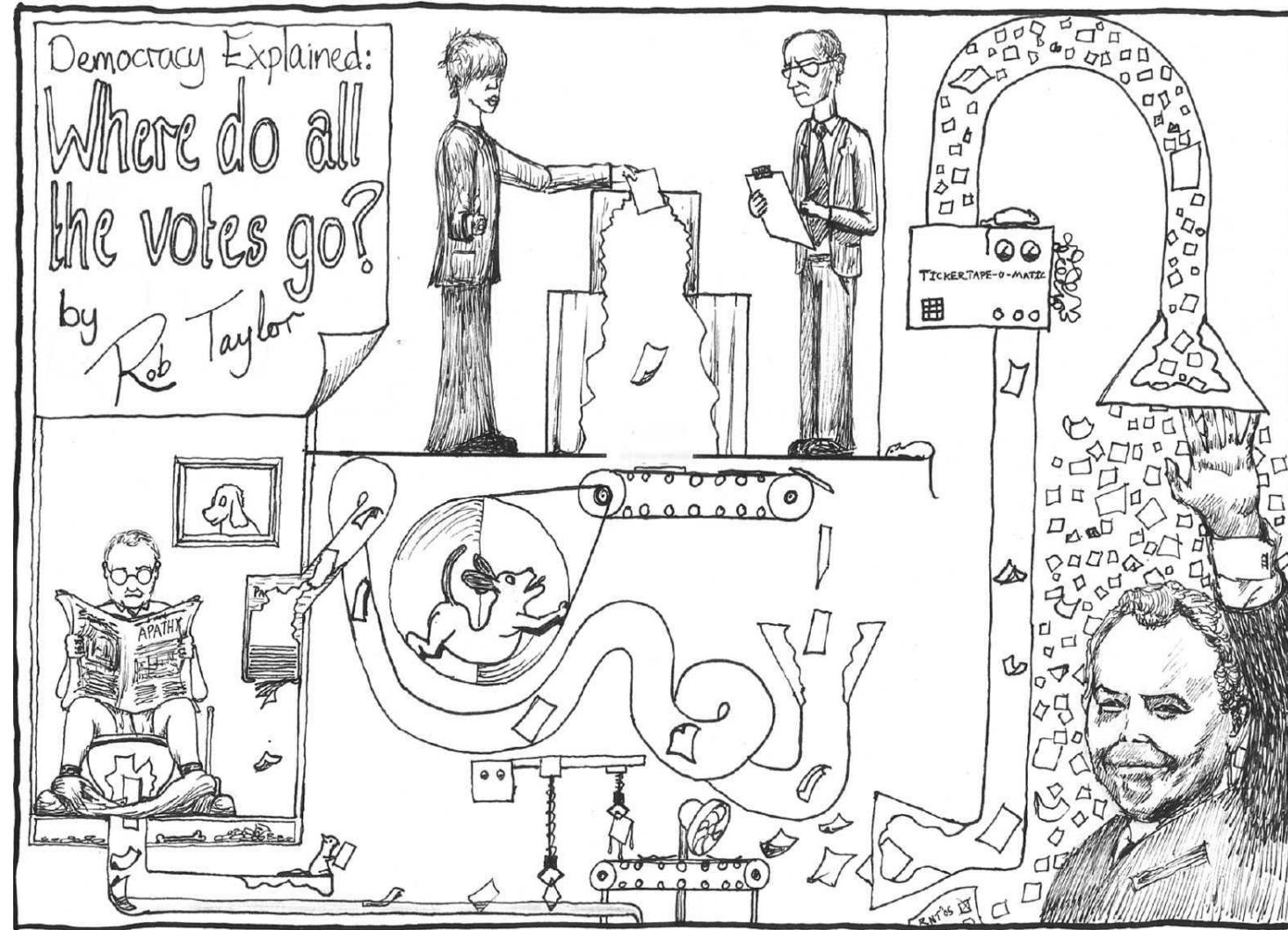
2. Forget the reading list, all you really need to buy is a copy of *Politics* by Ricky Gervais, available from all good DVD retailers. The fat man knows what he's talking about. Seriously, it's the good stuff.

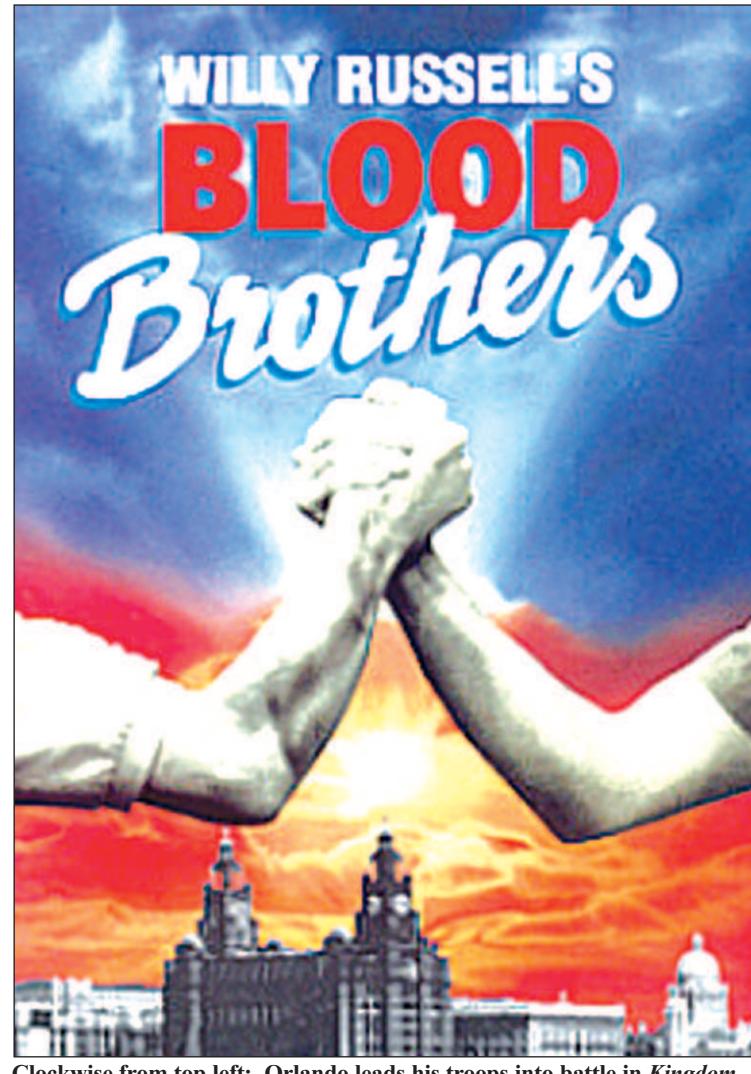
3. If, however, you must rely on books, I would recommend *The Prince* by Machiavelli. This can be useful because it enables you to say things like: "That's a bit Machiavellian." If you can regularly pinch nuggets of knowledge like that, you're bound to be the toast of the tutorial, and will be welcome at countless fashionable parties.

4. Remember to purchase some sort of Socialist repellent spray, as close contact can result in severe irritation, even for the most liberal minded of us. I personally find soap to be tremendously effective.

5. Of course, the whining, Guevara worshiping lefties are pussycats compared to the Sodding Tories. Avoid these bastards at all costs, lest ye be drawn into a highly infuriating and pointless debate about immigration or income tax. They should be easy enough to spot by their middle England pronunciation, uninspiring dress sense or gross facial disfigurement.

6. Above all, don't worry about your pointless degree. You can always take up some modules from Philosophy or Economics. They're much more fun, and tutors are far more likely to have interesting beards.





Clockwise from top left: Orlando leads his troops into battle in *Kingdom of Heaven*; Dramatic musical *Blood Brothers* showing in Leeds; Derren Brown thinks he's the Demon Headmaster; *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*

Live Music

Sunday 15th May

The Music, The Blank Canvas, Leeds

Catch these Britpop/Indie-rockers at the highlight of their summer tour; their homecoming.

Monday 30th May

Raging Speedhorn, Fibbers

This band should come with a health warning. Raging Speedhorn are seriously heavy metal and, as such, are described as the UK's answer to *Slipknot*. And their name? Don't ask!

Monday 23rd May

The Caesars, The Cockpit, Leeds

You know, the band on the ipod shuffle ad. This Swedish band has a number of catchy

tunes in addition to the all-too-familiar 'Jerk it Out'.

Monday 23rd May

The Bravery, The Blank Canvas, Leeds

Famous for their single 'Honest Mistake' and for their high-profile feud with *Killers*, the New-Yorkers are causing controversy wherever they go, and they're revelling in it.

Wednesday 8th June

Phantom Planet, The Leadmill, Sheffield

All together now: "Californiaaaa..." This gig is a must for any O.C addict. Alternatively, organise a pool-party and revive the age-old debate: who's hotter, Summer or Marissa?

Campus Events

Friday 13th May

Chav Night, Alcuin, 8.30pm-1am

Sheer genius- bring on the bling. And if the trek over the bridge puts you off, don't despair there is an incentive; the best-dressed chav wins a bottle of lambrini!

Friday 13th May

Xtra Live, JJs, Halifax

York Ents Reps are clearly not superstitious! If you can't bring yourself to wear Burberry even in jest, perhaps Xtra Live is for you. Local band Cardboard Radio are supported by Battle of the Bands winners The Morning Thieves and Halifax's own Creative Inspiration. Just don't walk under any ladders on your way there.

Friday 13th May

Graduate Student Event, Wentworth

Same night, yet another far-flung college. We'll let Wentworth off though; their exclusive events probably have an air of sophistication that would be tainted by the usual snakebite and greasy pizza combo.

Saturday 14th May

Platinum at Planet V, Vanbrugh

A tried and tested formula but in the glossy new setting of V Bar. If you're a fan of urban music this is the event for you, if you're from Vanbrugh it's an excuse to support the bar and if you're from James College feel free to turn green with envy.

Theatre and Performance

Friday 13th and Saturday 14th May

Inter Vivos, Theatre Royal

Cutting-edge graphics, birdsong and a mirrored ceiling provide the backdrop for nine contemporary dancers. This exploration of 'sea, land and city' will certainly prove a visual spectacle, but will it put the 'f' back into arty?

Monday 16th- Saturday 28th May

Blood Brothers, Grand Theatre, Leeds

Don't miss your chance to see this smash hit musical. Willy Russell's story of twins separated at birth has received universal critical acclaim, seven Tony nominations from Broadway and a standing ovation in all performances to date.

Saturday 14th May

Derren Brown, Grand Opera House

Wow, the man himself. Here. In York! (Yes, he is still alive, if you missed the end of *Russian Roulette*) Unsurprisingly, it's a sell-out, so now is the time to suck up to friends, look on e-bay or get ripped off by ticket touts. Alternatively, if you saw him last time he was here, look smug.

Wednesday 11th May- Saturday 4th June

Third Finger Left Hand, Theatre Royal

Domestic violence and disco-dancing? Well it's novel, I suppose. Adam Canavan's story of escapism and family feud is centred around the memories of two sisters who share a passion for dance.

Kingdom of Heaven (15)

First *Troy*, then *Alexander*, now *Kingdom of Heaven...* Is this just another Hollywood epic? Apparently not. The only cliché is the smoulder-hearthrob, but we can forgive them that!

Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith (12A)

Lucas' epic finally comes to its conclusion (though not chronologically, you understand) This is the moment die-hard fans have been waiting for: why did Anakin turn to the dark side? For the rest of us, it signifies the re-emergence of Darth Vader impressions. Very annoying.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (PG)

Not a film which will split sides or satisfy fans,

I'm told. Read the book instead.

The Interpreter (12A)

Nicole Kidman plays a UN interpreter who overhears an assassination plot, and Sean Penn as a US secret agent. Alas, a good idea is ruined by predictable twists (victim becomes suspect, bodyguard falls in love with client, etc.)

The Edukators (15)

No, it's not a spelling mistake, the film's in German. A band of anti-capitalist students demonstrate by breaking into richmen's houses and moving around their furniture... Ooh scary! Sarcasm aside, the break-in scenes will put manicurists back into business.



Local MP, John Grogan, is surprised he still has a job

My thank you to York campus

At about 4am on Saturday 7 May I awoke with a start. My first thought was "When is the election count?". My second thought I savoured in my mind for as long as possible "The count happened yesterday - I won!".

Twenty four hours previously I had only recently arrived at the Abbey Leisure Centre in Selby to witness the count itself. Things are not done in a rush in Selby and from previous experience I arrived expecting to be there long after dawn. I also expected to lose and just before my arrival local Tories had been doing briefings for the local press predicting a 5,000 Tory majority. I did my best to compose myself and then some of the most amazing 15 minutes of my life unfolded. From being well behind in the count of votes, suddenly we were ahead as the boxes from the stronger Labour areas were opened and counted.

One recount later the Acting Returning Officer was declaring that I was the newly elected Member of Parliament for the Selby constituency and we were borrowing a discarded bottle of champagne from the Tories for the obligatory local newspaper photographs. There was just time for celebratory bacon or egg sandwiches from the local café before the first phone call came through to my office. My constituent had two questions. The first was nothing if not succinct; "Did you win then?". The second was nothing if not practical; "Now what about my housing benefit?"

On Sunday lunchtime whilst watching one of the football matches in the Roses contest I reflected on the important part the University had played in the election campaign.

Turnout figures are available for each ballot box, which for the first time included one at Vanbrugh College. Altogether about 1200 students out of a possible 2488 on the electoral roll voted, but of course this does not include those who had postal votes in their home constituencies or indeed foreign students entitled to vote in EU but not parliamentary elections. Our best estimates are that Labour secured between 600-700 student votes with the Liberal Democrats very close behind and the Tories a distant third. As my majority was only 467 I would not be writing this article in my House of Commons office without support from the campus. Thanks very much indeed!

I now have two more home Roses contests to look forward to long after many readers of this column have left the University to make their own mark on the world.

Later this month at the meeting of the University Court, which is the supreme governing body of the University, I shall underline my support for the new Heslington East campus, but with the added proviso that central student facilities are provided and the principle of 24 hour portering is extended to all the new colleges being built.

Comment



Illustration by Flora Bradwell

Would York University students exploit Labour's new loophole? asks Sam Fugill It's a case of one for all but two for some

At every general election since the genesis of our concrete home, students have had to decide which party deserved their vote the most. During this election, the choice was broadened to constituency, as well as party, due to many being registered at home and at university.

Urged by the University and Students' Union to use their vote in the marginal Selby constituency, many students were also pressed to place their vote back at home ("Why not

come home for the evening dear? Your father and I would be absolutely thrilled to see you...").

Would York students vote twice? Would they enter into fraud aided by the postal vote? No. Students, when faced with politics, break into one of two classes. Neither of them would actually place two votes.

The first class was that of the militant fanatics. They had placed their vote, donning an indecently large rosette, and hit

the campus campaign trail by nine o'clock in the morning. Such was the loyalty to their party that they could not knowingly place an additional fraudulent vote for them, nor could they spare the time for such activity during the last frantic hours of campaigning. They were doing democracy, and were proud of it.

The second class was that of the apathetic. Many people whom I spoke with during the election campaign didn't know

who they would vote for and were unconvinced that their vote would make a difference even if they did bother. One of my friends remarked "Why vote for anyone? It only encourages them!"

Immersed in such apathy, it seemed unlikely that many students were going to place one vote, let alone make the effort and take the risk to place a second. I really cannot see that students, whether they blindly march to the beat of

their political party's drum or whether they could not care the slightest about the election, would go to the lengths to place a second vote.

It highlights a worrying administrative failing that it is so very easy for students to place more than one vote. It is especially worrying that the University had automatically registered all on campus to vote, with no regard for whether or not they were already registered in their home

constituencies.

Whilst the University did the right thing by encouraging all students to exercise their democratic right, they seem to forget that they are helping to lay the way open to electoral fraud.

A system should be judged on what *could* happen, rather than what *does* happen. One just has to be thankful that the students of York do not seem to be the types to exploit such an opportunity.

and Analysis

Toby Green finds it abhorrent that the Student Union proposes trespass as a policy for a better university

Meet your new parents, the York Student Union

The Student Union want you to think that they are focused on your personal privacy. But now they want to go into your room without asking. To me, that smacks of hypocrisy, bad planning and a disregard for the rights of students.

Imagine the scene: you pop out of your room for five minutes to make a cup of tea, and return only to find John Rose, unaccompanied by Security Services, rummaging through your undergarments in order to find valuables to stick their shiny new red stickers on.

"Hang on a minute", I hear you cry, "Surely this isn't allowed?" Well no it isn't, Rose is opening himself up to a civil action - he could be sued by any students whose room he invades. It is a ludicrous situation for him to get into. The Union is supposed to be the lawyer of York students, not its' governess - soon they might be checking whether we have our rain macs when it gets a bit windy!

We do need to be aware of security on campus, but Rose

is not the one to tell us, especially not by breaking and entering.

This provokes serious doubts over the Student Unions' ability to run practical and effective campaigns. Obviously student security is a problem; a big problem in the coming summer months where windows and doors are left open as campus begins to enjoy the great outdoors. Therefore students need to be made aware of this by the Welfare Office. But this is a case where the end does not justify the means, especially since there are other security issues that should and can be addressed first.

One of these is the ridiculous door code system. Combinations are widely shared amongst students, creating an entry point for thieves. A keycard system would only allow residents, and their friends, entry to buildings. The Union has already dismissed the idea of replacing the weak locks on campus. Matthew Platts' suggestion was sensible,

but ignored.

I have seen two locks being broken by a quick shove, thankfully in legitimate circumstances. The Welfare Office should be attacking the University for scrimping on student security rather than targeting the students themselves.

There are also huge moral questions that will be raised by this campaign if it goes ahead, questions which the Union will be unable and is in no position to answer. How will they respond if a student alleges that something has gone missing in the time period Rose was known to be in their room? What happens if they come across something illegal, such as drugs, or something sensitive? Rose has claimed that the SU will turn a blind eye, but how can he guarantee the same can be said for the University officials that support his scheme?

More worryingly is the response from the Security Services, who have publicly supported it. The Students' Union has a bad record in

regards to getting on the wrong side of the law; last year they were almost sued for deciding to campaign against the BNP, a clear breach of Union rules as they are supposed to remain firmly apolitical.

University organisations should be expected to have a better grasp of the law, yet their unequivocal support is another example of their lack of respect for students. Security need to remember who they are protecting.

Where will this end? Are we going to have the environment officers hiding in our closet making sure we recycle? Will James Alexander have access to our rooms so that he can enforce the Union's Safe Sex campaign?

This idea should have been nipped early in the bud by the University, showing that they would take a stand against personal invasion, a stand which would have left students without the constant fear of discovering John Rose clambering through their windows at any time of day.



Alex Stevens tells us why we should all be annoyed

Not sincere or flattering at all

It's a poor man's 'Catch Me If You Can', but instead of millions of dollars, it's thousands of pounds. For "globetrotting between Manhattan and Paris", read "A1 and M50 to Bristol via Birmingham". Instead of Leonardo DiCaprio playing your hero, imagine J.C. Ashby, the criminal who's so gormless he picks a University professor as his main target for swindling the cash that'll make him rich.

Investment bankers? Lawyers? Footballers? No, our hero impersonates a man whose profession is possibly the most notoriously badly paid in history. We have to laugh at a man who is incompetent at his crime. But while we're giggling, let's not forget to be annoyed.

What annoys me most isn't Ashby's choice of Professor Sultan Barakat (Head of the Politics Department's Post-war Recovery and Development Unit) as his man to defraud. It is, predictably, the fact that he had to do it at all.

Now, I know this isn't the most interesting or insightful observation you'll read this week - "Comment writer slams convict! 'What you did was wrong!' proclaims champion of the people!" - but there's something just nigglingly annoying about this crime because it lacks that truly malicious intent, and may even have a bit of charm.

I mentioned DiCaprio, but we've also seen Clooney and Connery (amongst others) play master criminals in the past few years. Weirdly, we seem to see something a little entrepreneurial in non-violent crime. It's

just so unnecessary - you can't hate what he did, but you can hate that he did it.

For a start, everyone who lost money will get it back, and while I don't want to downplay how awful this must have been for his victims, they haven't been put in danger or made to face any long term hardship. Please understand that I am not saying that it was a victimless crime.

He's also spent wisely on gambling, booze, and hotel rooms. And then it's also difficult to condemn a man who's prepared to move his entire business operation in close proximity to Professor Barakat's mailbox (with its steady stream of loans and credit cards to defraud).

We could also glean some kind of revenge satisfaction from the fact that he has been caught. He took £40,000, and he's now been given four years in prison - his earnings of £10,000 per annum prove that, sometimes, crime doesn't pay.

No. He annoys me because this isn't the crime of someone with a screw loose, or of passion borne from righteous anger. This is a man who wanted more than he could get, and decided he might as well take it anyway.

I deplore his arrogance. Ashby's disregard for society was so lazily easy, his lack of respect towards his victims so complete, that he really, really succeeds in getting under my skin and quietly pisses me off.

Controversial fraudster maybe, but isn't it time for criminals to try just a little bit harder?

Why do we have to expand? asks Daniel Fairbrother

Campus East is open to business

Heslington East should not be controversial. All of the arguments (of which there are some good ones) against University expansion are quashed by a bottom-line that undercuts all other bottom-lines; Heslington East is good business. As we are increasingly thrown out onto the tough streets of the free market, good business means good University.

I really do sympathise with the arguments against expansion. More students might mean worse relations with the local community - too great a presence of any one social group in a community is going to provoke a dislike for that social group. Even if we stop stealing traffic cones, the

community will like us less because there will be more of us.

It should also be assumed that the new accommodation is going to be better than much of what we have now (if it is not, there is a problem). I think that this will have one of two effects. On one hand, the University could charge more for accommodation in the new colleges. This will surely polarise our community, with the poorer students going for cheaper, poorer quality options and wealthier students spending more and getting more.

On the other hand, the University could charge similar amounts for all of the accommodation of varying quality -

this is more like the current practice. This is unfair. The solution? Put the money set aside for Heslington East into improving the buildings that we already have.

Also, academics and students should be troubled by the fact that the site covers a large area of 'greenfield' designated land. I thought, perhaps naively, that we had reserved this land so that we don't cover our country with concrete. Even when we have poured the concrete on, I doubt how much of it will be used to the advantage of students - at least a third of the site will be designed in the mode of Alcuin Science Park. But that will attract companies to invest, and that is good busi-

ness.

Given the commercial nature of education today, I cannot see far past the argument for expansion as a business move, unless the rest of the country could plump up the cash.

I am willing to pay higher taxes in my later life to improve universities, just as I do not begrudge the fact that I will pay taxes for four-year-olds to go to primary schools. Four-year-olds do not produce anything that I want, but education of people improves society. I do not hold the common view. The common position is to take now and think later. Heslington East is necessary because of Britain's attitude problem.



York captain Matt Belk bowls his way to 3-41 as Lancaster give York a target of 178 which the White Rose was able to overcome with 3 overs to spare. Photo: Toby Hall

Turnbull the hero in cricket triumph

By Daniel Whitehead
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

ON A BLUSTERY Friday afternoon at 22 Acres, James Turnbull produced a match-winning batting performance to give York University an impressive 5 wicket Roses victory over Lancaster. Turnbull provided a determined, vital performance, batting throughout the innings, and ending with an unbeaten 74.

In a match dominated by

two excellent batting performances, York proved to have the edge in both the batting and the bowling as they took 9 wickets for 178 in the lunchtime session. Although the score set was reasonably competitive, Lancaster's inability to remove York's main run scorers proved to be their downfall, as the White Rose won with only three overs to spare with a score of 179-5.

On a day where rain was expected but never came,

Lancaster will no doubt feel disappointed that they did not set a higher total for York to chase. An aggressive opening partnership which included several boundaries saw the visitors reach a run total of 38 after 8 overs. However York's captain Matthew Belk and fellow teammate Andrew Milnes, who took 3-41 and 2-22 respectively, tightened up the bowling attack and the first wicket was taken at 43-1.

The Lancastrians began to

become frustrated as the runs dried up, this lead to several late dismissals. However credit must go to a sterling batting performance from the Lancaster opener Matthew Bottomley who at times carried a one-man fight to the York fielders and managed 56 runs before being dismissed.

After the break it was clear that the only way Lancaster could win was by taking early wickets, the most important being James

Turnbull. The White Rose opener proved to be the thorn in the side of a Lancaster attack spearheaded by ex-York first-team captain Chris Oldfield's younger brother, who took two wickets. Turnbull's reputation for being a slow, solid batsman was cemented as he showed superb concentration to bat throughout the innings and end with a match high of 74 not out.

With such solid batting performances, victory looked straight forward for York

throughout the innings, and a quick-fire 23 from captain Matt Belk eased any nerves towards the end. After the game Belk was in a buoyant mood and stated that it was an 'amazing game to participate in' and was keen to point out that 'everyone involved was brilliant'.

York's cricket team can now look on to the season ahead and with positive all-round displays such as this it has the potential to be very successful.

Men's basketball produce performance to end Roses

By Luke Chiverton
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK MEN'S basketball team produced an outstanding second half display to beat Lancaster at Roses for the first time in seven years. Playing against a side ranked above them in BUSA, York dominated their rivals after a very closely fought first half and eventually ran out 86-63 winners.

'The score might not look that close but it was certainly a

very close match' explained club President Simon Thomas after the match. Lancaster had led 34-33 after a tight half in which both teams produced some excellent shots and played good defence. With barely anything to separate the teams York finished strongly and produced some excellent passing to grab the win.

'They struggled to cope with our size,' added Thomas referring to Lancaster's relatively short team. Subsequently Lancaster found York's Richard

Webb very difficult to cope with and he scored a number of points for the home side.

Size wasn't the only difficulty for Lancaster who had problems throughout the match defending against York's impressive long range shooting from outside the D which required them to defend further out whilst also having to deal with York's height around the basket on rebounds.

Point guard Gerardo Garcia, who has been instrumental all season for York, was

vintage drought

in superb form, whilst Captain Stefan Kuhner also put in a match-winning performance as York's top scorer.

He was very happy with his side's performance after the game describing how York had 'really wanted it because we knew we had a great chance to beat Lancaster this year.' For him it was 'the perfect end to the perfect season' as York added a very special Roses victory to success in BUSA and the local Leeds league this year.



York strong in Netball

By Jessica Levy

Cat Doukin and Morley for Lancaster.

YORK NETBALL club built on the success of wins at last year's Roses by taking six points from a possible seven. The home side came through in both the 1sts and 2nds matches, but lost 25-34 in the thirds.

Club President Emily Woods, who was injured towards the end of the second quarter, appeared delighted with the result and stated that Roses success was 'a good end to a difficult season.'

Coming into the 1sts match Lancaster Captain Shauna Morley predicted that it would be a 'close game that could go either way,' and after a tight opening the teams were tied at 8-8 at half time, with the shooting dominated by York's

The pace of the match increased in the third quarter, with both teams determined to push into the lead, but it was York that took the initiative as their shooters got 14 goals in lightning-quick succession to make the score 22-15.

The game finished a close 28-23, not quite the 'walkover' that 1sts captain Caroline Murphy had described last year's Roses as, but nonetheless a resounding success. Shauna Morley praised her Lancaster players, saying she 'couldn't have asked for more. They played really well.' For Woods York's win was down to 'a lot of hard work, determination', and using the home advantage to good effect.

Home win after tense badminton finale

By Daniel Whitehead
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

YORK MEN'S badminton team were triumphant in the final match of a thrilling contest on Friday. In what proved to be a successful evening, maximum points were picked up by York's men's and women's doubles against a determined but weaker Lancaster opposition.

Victory must have proved a major relief for the men's team, who looked comfortable

at 3-1 up with straight set victories in the second, third and fourth games. But a superb fifth game, in which Lancaster edged a nail-biting third set (15-13), gave the opposition confidence.

Suddenly the Lancastrian followers began to chant, and the pressure was on York. The York pairing of Chakravarti and Baxter won a fascinating match (15-7, 15-10) to level the scores at 4-4 and set up a tense deciding match. However, a weary Lancaster pair failed to repro-

duce the dogged displays which had helped Lancaster to get back into the match. Instead they wilted, handing York victory, and the points.

While the crowd's attention was firmly placed on the men's badminton, it was York's women who should take a large share of the glory. A brilliant start to the summer term has seen them win promotion to the Premiership North division for the first time in their history. Captained by Katie Marchbank, the team played

Dyke huffs and puffs, but goes the distance in five-a-side game

AS STUDENTS from York and Lancaster got the historic Roses competition underway, there was chance for an old face to compete again after an absence of over thirty years. York Chancellor Greg Dyke participated in a 5-a-side tournament, and described how it was 'terrifying to be back! I had to rewrite my own press release to make it clear that the game shouldn't be taken too seriously.' Instead Dyke requested oxygen cylinders and the St. Johns Ambulance service to be present in his typically light-hearted manner.

'I think it must have been 1972 when I last played at Roses, back in the days when everyone had ridiculously long hair and big spliffs,' he joked. His hair might have thinned a bit since those days, but Dyke showed how he hadn't lost his edge too much with some tenacious displays that saw his team 'Showtime' come second.



York sink Lancaster in the pool

By Mark Macdonald and Alannah Crux

THERE WAS drama in the pool as York's swimmers clinched a dramatic 84-76 victory after a close-fought competition.

With just three relays remaining Lancaster needed to win all three to draw level. The visitors won two of the remaining races, but York sealed victory in the Mens 4x50m medley with captain Dan Pietkiewicz powering home in the final leg after an extremely close race which left everybody holding their breath.

Lancaster had taken an early 21-19 points lead after the first three events, but York were able to turn this around with strong wins from Phil Gaffney in the 100m medley and Dominic Halls in the 50m fly to take control of the fixture. The whole squad consistently managed to pick up points as York looked to make the win a formality.

The Womens 4x50m freestyle team consisting of Sarah Darwin, Charlotte Emery, Corinne Brass and Jemma Senczyszyn put in a particularly sensational performance, winning by a huge margin to ensure that the swimming club avenged last years defeat in Lancaster with style.

In the Mens Water Polo, York cruised to a convincing 12-1 victory as they outclassed a disorganised Lancaster team. Having gone behind, impressive points from Dominic Halls, Giles Martin and Romello Fernando allowed York to take the initiative from the second quarter onwards.

Having taken the lead York never looked like losing their grip on the game. David Wheeler led a tight defence which made the home side's lead seemingly unassailable, before points from Dan Fellows and Halls again rounded off an outstanding performance.

Unfortunately the women's team had a much tougher time, as they lost 14-1 to an experienced Lancaster team that took advantage of every scoring opportunity. Fliss Staff netted York's only goal, but it wasn't enough as Lancaster's American import Annie Richardson scored five to condemn York.

Despite the heavy defeat there were valiant efforts from York's Sally Archer and Karen Buckle in a team which was simply less experienced than their Lancastrian opponents, but still promises much for the future.

Injury gift aids Volleyball's points quest

By Philip Worthington
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WITH ROSES finely poised at 51-42, York's fortunes received a boost when eight of the twelve points on offer in the men's, women's and mixed volleyball went to the home side.

The female volleyball team started brightly with Kana Umeda's defence ensuring every Lancaster attack was repulsed and captain Jess Toale ruthlessly punishing some poor serving. York were dominating at 24-19 in the first set when controversy erupted.

A collision between two Lancastrian players led to one being unable to continue. As Lancaster had no substitutes they were forced to concede, but, sportingly, the sides played on, six against five. This enormous inequality stimulated a Roy of the Rovers style comeback, with the Lancastrians going on to win the next three sets 25-16, 25-9 and 25-21.

With nothing at stake, York shuffled their squad and eased their playing intensity. Lancaster meanwhile, exhibited great competitive zeal, and, to the away fans' delight, recorded a result that was nigh

on unbelievable in the circumstances.

The men's teams were, on paper, closely matched. Volleyball president Michael Ghelfi explained: "It should be very close, whilst we came second in our BUSA table, they got to the Student Cup finals." Like two lions facing off over territory, the first set was a trial of strength as both teams tried to smash winners.

After the Lancastrian behemoth roared to a 25-18 victory, York struck back to take the next two sets 25-19 and 25-23. Based upon Stuart Leslie's impenetrable blocks

and Sunny Kuok's pinpoint winners, York dominated and looked on course for victory.

However, despite leading throughout, York were unable to kill off the fourth set, going down 25-21. As tension mounted, York wilted 15-8 in the cauldron-like atmosphere - a result which was harsh upon a team that had matched Lancaster throughout.

The mixed team went into Sunday's match looking to widen the chasm in the overall Roses score. Their greater cohesion and sound tactics created a stranglehold on the game as they took the first two sets

25-20 and 25-9.

York's slick serving routines from Roman Ashauer contrasted with the calamitous Lancaster performance, whose lacklustre players frequently went for the same ball or left it to each other. Despite the third set being closer at 25-21, York exhibited a ruthless killer instinct - one that had been sorely lacking the night before.

Speaking afterwards, AU maestro Stuart Leslie was delighted at the crushing mixed victory and vital eight points picked up in volleyball; a jewel in Leslie's crowning achievement of a Roses victory.

Hockey redeem last years Roses failure

YORK HOCKEY club epitomised the spirit that characterised this years Roses victory for the White Rose as they spectacularly reversed last years string of defeats by dominating the hockey fixtures this time around.

AU President Stuart Leslie acknowledged the magnitude of this feat as he gave the hockey club a special mention in his speech at Sunday's awards ceremony.

York managed to take an incredible 20 of the available 26 points in the hockey fixtures, some of the most passionately fought matches in the tournament.

The Mens 3rds were the only team to suffer defeat,

with the Mens 1sts picking up an excellent 4-1 victory and the Mixed 1sts destroying Lancaster 12-0. The Women's 1sts and 2nds both managed draws as York proved themselves difficult to beat in stark contrast with their performance this time last year when poor defending let Lancaster run away with the points.

The indoor matches produced some thrilling moments for the spectators that packed out the viewing platform. The Men's and Women's 1sts both saw off their rivals in extremely close games, 4-3 and 3-2 respectively, whilst the other indoor games were predominantly drawn.

Tennis spoils go to Lancaster

By Shaun Messenger
and Chris Love

YORK'S TENNIS teams struggled to impose themselves against a strong Lancaster squad. The players had to contend with numerous rain breaks and a hail storm whilst strong winds wreaked havoc on attempted lobs and cross court passing shots. The conditions favoured those who could hit consistently and powerfully and maintain composure.

The mixed doubles were unable to produce a victory in six matches. A brave effort from the pairing of Brocklehurst and Luggage characterised York's spirit. Having lost the first set they battled into a 5-4 lead,

demonstrating some subtle drop shots. But, Lancaster showed their class as York lost the second set 7-5.

Meanwhile against a Men's team ranked two divisions higher in BUSA, captain Ed Fitzgerald reflected on a 'reasonable performance' despite losing 12-3, and singled out credit for Hywel Care and Jean-Luke Morretti who won in the doubles, whilst Keith Gracia claimed York's only other victory. The pick of the singles games was Morretti's epic encounter which lasted nearly three hours. In a match containing excellent net play, he cruised to a 6-2 first set win. Losing the second, he then regained form, only to lose 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 after a thrilling tiebreak.

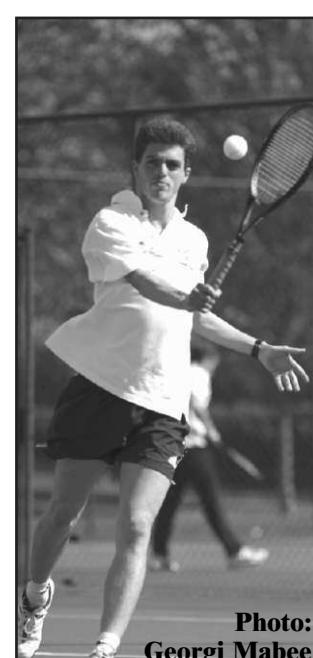


Photo:
Georgi Mabee

ROSES XXXXI | **York** **159.5** 
Lancaster **91.5**

	Y	L	Pts		Y	L	Pts
Archery				Karate			
Team	5	4	(4-0)	Men's Kumite	W	-	(1-0)
Novice	W	-	(4-0)	Men's Kata	W	-	(1-0)
Men's	W	-	(4-0)	Women's Kumite	W	-	(1-0)
Women's	W	-	(4-0)	Women's Kata	W	-	(1-0)
Badminton				Lacrosse			
Men's 1sts	5	4	(4-0)	Men's	11	3	(4-0)
Men's 2nds	7	2	(2-0)	Women's	5	5	(2-2)
Women's 1sts	8	1	(4-0)	Mixed	4	11	(0-4)
Mixed	9	0	(4-0)				
Ballroom Dancing				Netball			
Beg Ballroom	-	W	(0-4)	Women's 1sts	28	23	(4-0)
Beg Latin	-	W	(0-4)	Women's 2nds	31	28	(2-0)
Adv Ballroom	W	-	(4-0)	Women's 3rds	25	34	(0-1)
Adv Latin	-	W	(0-4)				
Basketball				Pool			
Men's	63	86	(0-4)	Men's	4	5	(0-2)
Women's	34	37	(0-4)	Women's	3	6	(0-2)
Canoe Polo							
Open	4	0	(2-0)	Riding			
Women's	0	2	(0-2)	Mixed 1sts	-	W	(0-4)
Canoe Slalom				Mixed 2nds	-	W	(0-2)
Men's	W	-	(4-0)				
Women's	-	W	(0-4)	Rowing			
Cricket				Men's N4s	W	-	(2-0)
Men's 1sts	178	179	(4-0)	Men's S4s	W	-	(4-0)
Men's 2nds	D	D	(1-1)	Men's 8s	W	-	(4-0)
Darts				Women's N4s	-	W	(0-2)
Men's	4	6	(0-2)	Women's S4s	-	W	(0-4)
Women's	5	4	(0-2)	Women's 8s	W	-	(4-0)
Fencing							
Men's	133	95	(0-4)	Rugby Union			
Women's	129	97	(0-4)	Women's 15s	17	7	(4-0)
Football				Women's 1sts	5	10	(0-2)
Men's 1sts	3	3	(2-2)	Women's 2nds	27	0	(1-0)
Women's 1sts	1	1	(2-2)				
Men's 2nds	0	1	(0-2)	Rugby League			
Men's 3rds	1	1	(.5-.5)	Men's	33	30	(4-0)
Men's 4ths	2	4	(0-1)				
Golf				Sailing			
Men's	2	1	(4-0)	Mixed 1sts	-	W	(0-4)
Hockey				Mixed 2nds	W	-	(2-0)
Men's 1sts	4	1	(4-0)				
Men's 2nds	2	2	(1-1)	Ski			
Men's 3rds	3	0	(0-1)	Mixed 1sts	0	3	(0-4)
Women's 1sts	1	1	(2-2)	Mixed 2nds	2	1	(1-0)
Womens 2nd's	2	2	(1-1)				
Mixed 1sts	12	0	(4-0)	Snooker			
Mixed 2nds	4	2	(2-0)	Mixed 1sts	3	3	(2-2)
Mixed 3rds	7	1	(1-0)				
Indoor Football				Squash			
Men's 1sts	0	3	(0-2)	Men's 1sts	2	3	(0-4)
Men's 2nds	2	1	(1-0)	Men's 2nds	4	1	(2-0)
Men's 3rds	4	3	(1-0)	Women's 1sts	5	0	(4-0)
Men's 4ths	1	9	(1-0)				
Women's 1sts	1	3	(0-1)	Swimming			
Women's 2nds	1	3	(0-1)	Mixed	84	76	(4-0)
Indoor Hockey							
Men's 1sts	4	3	(2-0)	Table Tennis			
Men's 2nds	3	3	(.5-.5)	Men's 1sts	11	5	(4-0)
Women's 1sts	3	2	(2-0)	Mixed	15	2	(2-0)
Women's 2nds	1	1	(.5-.5)				
Judo				Tennis			
Mixed	-	W	(0-4)	Men's 1sts	11	5	(4-0)
				Men's 2nds	7	8	(0-2)
				Women's	12	3	(4-0)
				Mixed	0	6	(0-4)
Ultimate Frisbee				Volleyball			
Mixed	14	5	(4-0)	Men's	2	3	(0-4)
				Women's	3	0	(4-0)
				Mixed	3	0	(4-0)
Water Polo				Water Polo			
Men's 1sts	12	1	(2-0)	Men's 1sts	12	1	(2-0)
Women's 1sts	1	14	(0-2)				

York take the



Photo: Toby Hall

Men's crews take maximum points as rowers dominate

By Robert Michaels

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK'S ROWERS won four out of their six races on Sunday morning, capturing 14 out of the available 20 points to equal their record win in last year's competition.

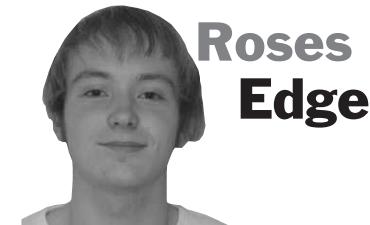
The Women's senior 8s left Lancaster trailing by a length and a half in the first race of the day, with an aggressive coxing style and high stroke rate giving the home side an early lead which they never looked like losing. While the

turned out today, especially as there was lots of support from the home crowd. There were spectators on all the bridges, cycling along next to us and generally getting drunk and having fun,' he added.

There have been suggestions that in 2007 the races could take place in a prime location between bridges in the city, boosting support and interest in the Roses event.

Rowing has consistently been one of York's strongest sports, with last year's squad losing only two races.

spoils at Roses 2005



Roses Edge



Photo: Georgi Mabee

converted the spot-kick to make it 2-1.

The teams then had to brave difficult conditions with hail and torrential rain, and it was York that seemed to cope better. Chasing the game early in the second half they created a string of good chances before the equaliser came. Mark Redding found Paul Heggarty with a superb long pass, and the midfielder showed good strength before poking the ball to Matt Martin who made no mistake with just the keeper to beat.

Martin and Rodney Lewis squandered good chances for York who should have been able to kill the game off long before Lancaster looked to have stolen it, but Burke's last minute effort gave York a much deserved draw.

'We've had a poor season,' said Wall after the match, 'and we didn't want to bail out like that.' 'We get a lot of criticism around campus, and its good to prove to people, like Langwith, that we can play football.'

The Women's 1sts also picked up a draw, as Lancaster held them 1-1.

A first-half own goal had given the away team the advantage, but Lizzie Stewart equalised early in the second half. This set up an exciting end to end finish, but neither side could find the clinical touch to take the points.

The Men's seconds lost 1-0 in a bad tempered match which saw Lancaster reduced to ten men late on, but they held on and their first half strike was enough.

With Sports Deputy Daniel Whitehead

It may have been an imperfect weekend of weather to compete for the Carter-James Trophy, but for a rejuvenated York team under Stuart Leslie's influential command it was simply perfect.

In the past, home advantage has proved a major deciding factor in the final result, and there is no doubt that York University began this weekend as favourites to regain the trophy, which they lost so cruelly to the Lancastrians a year ago. However this was one of the only parts of this year's Roses event which followed the form book.

A prime example of the oddities which made up this years event was the sensational draw obtained by the York Men's Firsts in the football on Sunday afternoon. After a terrible season for Nick Wall's team, which included relegation in their BUSA division, an inspiring performance and a dramatic last minute equaliser proved to be a suitable tonic against a Lancaster side who are ranked three divisions above them.

The York players were buoyed by the confirmation of an early-morning Roses victory and a jubilant crowd, and they consequently produced a magnificent performance. Had it not been for a series of missed chances and a questionable penalty decision the day might have been even better.

Such unexpected results prove that the Roses weekend is truly a one off occasion, in which the current form of the teams involved counts for nothing. The historic nature of the event inspires sportsmen and women to up the level of their game and the party atmosphere which surrounds the weekend creates brilliant sporting spectacles.

Such spectacles included the Men's Badminton Firsts, which although in the pre-match build-up might have appeared an unlikely contender for being an enthralling encounter, the dogged display which Lancaster provided shocked York and forced them into an engaging final game decider.

Despite this year's Roses offering many surprises, there is no question that this was a truly convincing victory for the White Rose. Rob Walker's Lancaster team never looked like they had the belief or class to repeat the heroics of last year. For the next twelve months York University can not only boast of their superior academic reputation but can couple this with pride in their sporting achievements.

Football 1sts shock Lancaster with tenacious Roses display

Men's 1sts Football
York 3 Lancaster 3

By Luke Chiverton
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK CENTRE back Aaron Burke scored a memorable injury time equaliser to salvage a 3-3 draw for the White Rose just minutes after Lancaster thought they had stolen the points, in a grandstand finish to the Roses weekend.

Lancaster had taken the

lead with just a minute remaining when their striker was quickest to react after Ben Macpherson in the York goal had parried a shot from the edge of the box. It looked as if it was going to be heartbreak for York who had been pushing hard for a winner and had missed a series of great chances. But Burke sparked celebrations when a low ball across the Lancaster box landed at his feet and he drilled home from close range.

'We never looked like los-

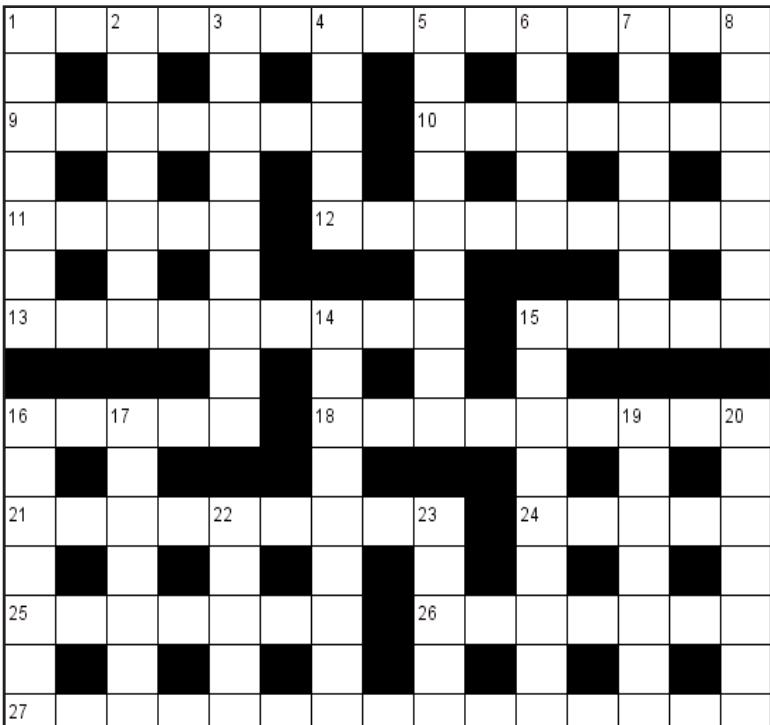
ing,' said a delighted captain Nick Wall after the game, whose goal in the first half had got York back on terms after the reds had opened the scoring.

Paul Rayer's pace had caught the York defence napping as he latched onto a long ball before clipping it over Macpherson beautifully to put Lancaster in front. Many might have expected York to fold given performances this season, but Wall pulled his team level with a true captain's goal. Andy Day hooked the ball into the

box and Wall bravely nodded it past the onrushing keeper before beating the last Lancaster defender to the ball and smashing home for the equaliser.

It was the referee who then took centre stage when he gifted Lancaster a questionable penalty. The York defence looked to have repelled a Lancaster break with two great tackles, but the referee deemed that the second challenge had been a foul, and Lancaster coolly

Tuesday 10th May, set by Cornius



Stuck? Solutions for this edition's Quick Crossword can be found on our website at <http://www.nouse.co.uk/crossword> at the start of Week 4 (Monday, 17th May). A full solution crossword will also be printed in the next edition

The Quick Crossword

Across

1. Tripodal horse (5, 6, 4)
9. Prince; His Wain makes up the Plough (7)
10. Shakespearean night; Ordinal (7)
11. Throw (5)
12. Overwhelming political victory (9)
13. Type of painting; do the gardening (9)
15. Stakes (5)
16. Widow's inheritance (5)
18. Pulling competitions (4, 2, 3)
21. Church wings (9)
24. Drunk; close (5)
25. Secret partnership (7)
26. Quarantine (7)
27. Shy, hesitant person (9, 6)

Down

1. Diplomatic (7)
2. Adjust (7)
3. Funeral orator (9)
4. Art supporter (5)
5. German printer; Bug regent (anag.) (9)
6. Apply seasoning (5)
7. Cause distress (7)
8. Parrots (7)
14. What Italians have before the main course (9)
15. Italian has stronger reason (1, 8)
16. Discovers metal beneath the ground (7)
17. Climate (7)
19. Bird; Obsequious person (7)
20. Fall back (7)
22. Eating utensil (5)
23. Style of jazz (5)
27. What Italians have before the main course (9)
15. Italian has stronger reason (1, 8)
16. Discovers metal beneath the ground (7)

Sport

10 MAY 2005

**Football 1sts end Roses
on a high with six
goal thriller**

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Leslie returns Carter-James trophy with emphatic win

York cruise to fourth Roses win in five years after 159.5 to 91.5 point victory over rivals

By Luke Chiverton
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK'S SPORTSMEN and women exceeded even their own expectations as they crushed their Lancastrian rivals by a massive 159.5 points to 91.5 to ensure that the Carter-James trophy was returned to the White Rose after an enthralling weekend of sport.

York led comfortably for almost the entirety of the tournament and never looked back as they wrapped up a memorable Roses victory on Sunday morning with many of the main team fixtures still remaining. The score was 107-65 overnight on Saturday and with numerous successes for the home team in the rowing competition on Sunday morning the home team quickly ensured a huge win.

'I'm absolutely over the moon, it's been an incredible day,' said ecstatic AU President Stuart Leslie after the trophy ceremony. 'Even though the lead was so big I still couldn't believe it when we finally clinched it and I was relieved more than anything else,' he added. 'People from the clubs had been asking me the score all through the weekend and I almost didn't want to tell them in case they got too complacent and went out and celebrated prematurely on Saturday before their fixtures.'

It was a huge winning margin in the end for York who continued to pick up big points in the matches on Sunday afternoon to produce an impressive final total. The



Seven pages of sports coverage

Complete scores
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Dyke's Roses return
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Weekend in pictures
In Muse

statisticians might have dived into the archives to see if this would go down as a record win, but this was not the case given that Lancaster had previously beaten York by over 100 points in both 1994 and 1996. However it still remains one of the largest deficits in recent memory, especially given that Roses 2002 came down to a single point.

This victory continues York's superb run of Roses results since the turn of the century which has seen the White Rose claim victory in four of the last five contests, and this was easily the most comfortable yet with a York triumph never in doubt at any stage over the three days.

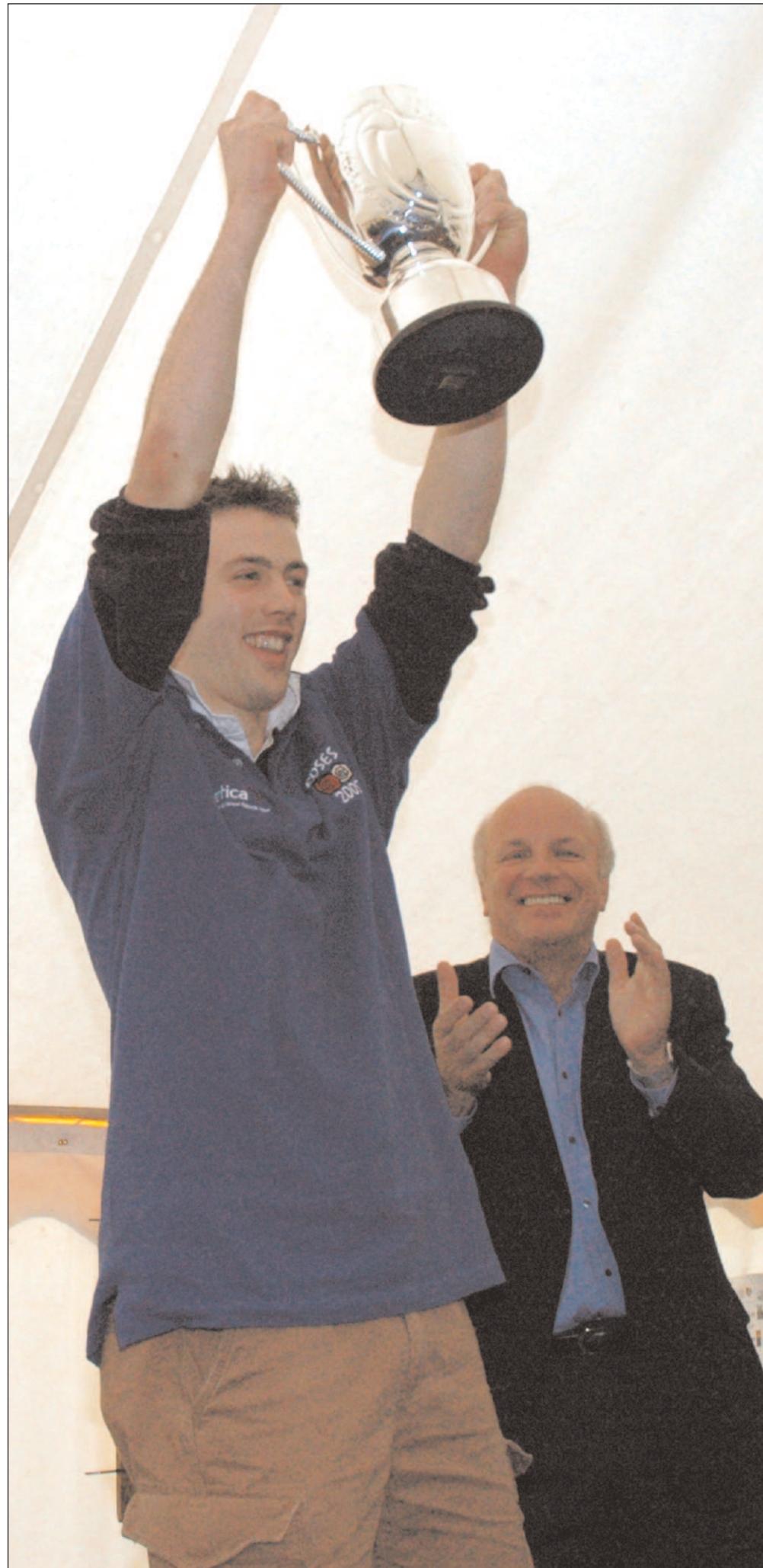
For AU President elect Nik Engineer 'Roses is all about moments; the moments when you clinch that victory, or the moments when you take part in Roses for the last time, and we've won this weekend because we've had better moments. It's brilliant isn't it.'

This year's Roses was filled with so many highlights for York, from the flawless victories gained by the archery and badminton clubs, down to the impressive dominance of the home team in both hockey and rowing. This all culminated in the Men's Football 1sts clash which provided two goals in the dying minutes for a dramatic finale to the whole tournament.

Lancaster AU President Rob Walker conceded that 'York were the better team' but stated that it had been 'a marvellous weekend, and I've had a wonderful time.'

Engineer praised the spirit of the two teams over the course of the weekend, 'the general attitude was phenomenal, it was fiercely competitive but at the same time fiercely enjoyable.' Leslie echoed these sentiments expressing his pride in the fact that 'both Athletics Unions got on so amicably.'

As a spectacle it was certainly very impressive with supporters turning out in some adverse weather conditions which included hail and constant outbreaks of rain. For Leslie 'the vocal support made a massive difference' and certainly helped home advantage to be a decisive factor in York's domination.



AU President Stuart Leslie is presented the trophy by Greg Dyke. Photo: Toby Hall