

## STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

Be the boss  
Pages M2- M5

A SECRET University report has been uncovered by *nouse*, which reveals that the Heslington East plans are so flawed, that there are now even louder calls for an independent public enquiry into the suspect nature of the development.

The Vice-Chancellor has refused to accept a dossier of concerns which *nouse* has compiled on the development, which includes the suppressed report and a range of statements and criticisms from local residents, academic staff and students.

Admin have reacted angrily to our findings by pressurising *nouse* journalists, accusing them incorrectly of being in breach of their "media code of conduct" and unprofessional behaviour for attempting to hand the documents to Cantor.

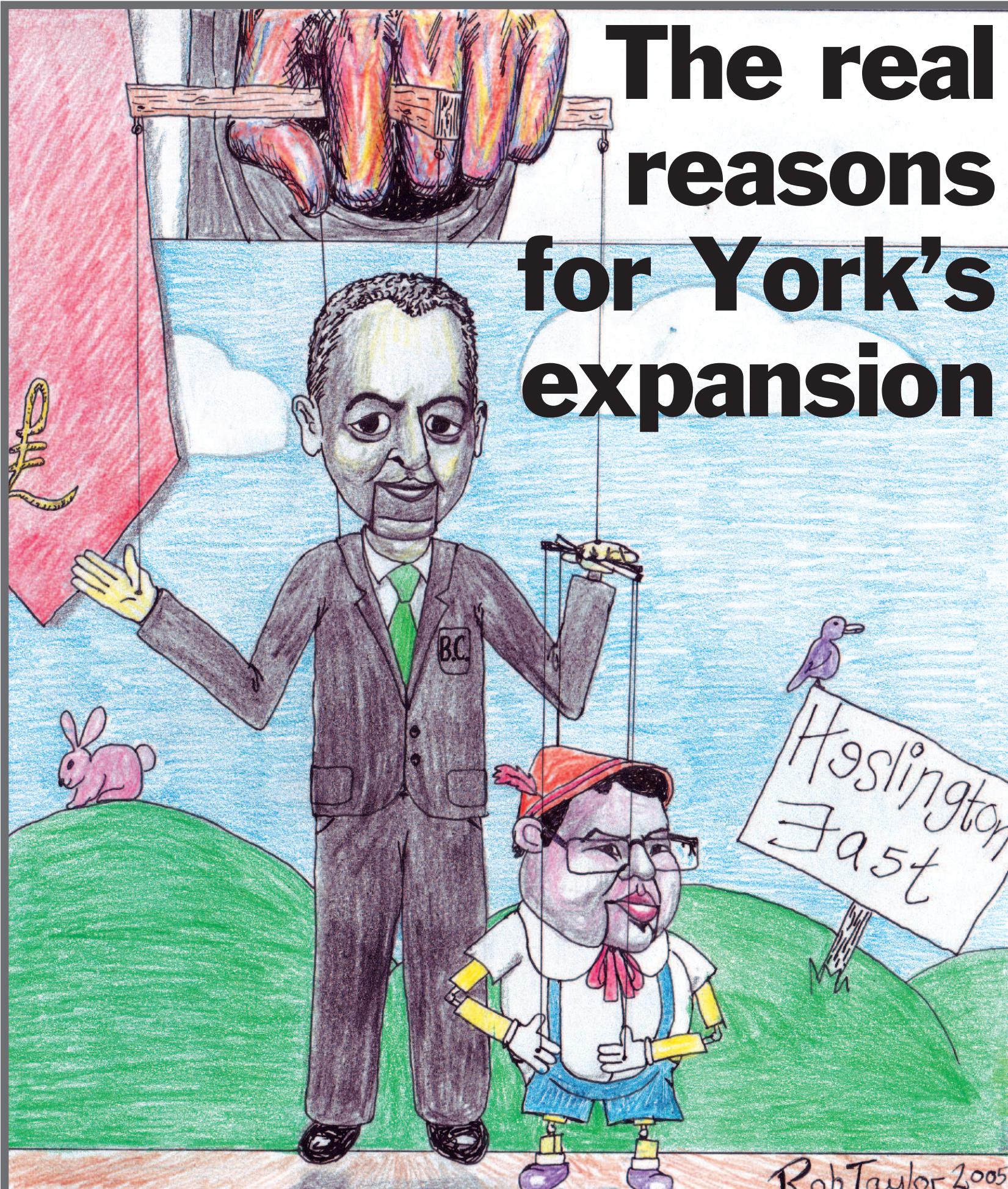
However, four senior Government ministers; John Prescott, Margaret Beckett, Ruth Kelly and Bill Rammall have all accepted the Heslington East Dossier from *nouse* for their consideration and meanwhile concerns have taken on a national dimension, despite the inflexible stance of the University.

The University has a poor case for expansion into greenbelt land and this, *nouse* can reveal, is undermined by three major issues: Firstly, the unrealistic requirement to make 5,000 students stay in campus accommodation for the duration of their degree; secondly, plans for 38 per cent of Campus three to be a business site (to fund the whole project) and finally a serious disregard for environmental concerns.

### Inside

- Full report into the roles of University officials
- Plans for Public Enquiry headed by John Prescott
- What you can do to help fight Hes East

## The real reasons for York's expansion



# Heslington East proposal fatally

**By Simon Davis**  
NEWS EDITOR

YORK UNIVERSITY has been accused of 'losing the plot' by a senior academic over its plans for Heslington East, which requires students to live on campus for the course of their degree, when its own report shows this is impractical.

The forty-five page report, condemned as "shoddy work", has not been made public by the University as the Accommodation Officer, David Maughan, insisted that it was still being considered for release by the University.

This report which *nouse* secretly obtained, shows the Student Housing Preferences study was done too late, the methods flawed and if its observations are ignored, expansion plans could prompt a housing crisis throughout York.

It has exposed the University's poor record of addressing the housing needs of current York students, and shows that it is failing to provide enough accommodation for its current students. In 1995 58 per cent of students were provided for, a figure which has since dropped to 43 per cent.

Despite its poor record, The University of York have assured the Council that they are committed to housing the additional 5,000 students Heslington East will bring. However, the report shows that students consistently leave campus after their first year, with only ten per cent of second years choosing to stay on campus and fourteen percent of third years.

The most controversial statistics in the report reveal that 84 per cent of off-campus respondents in the survey wanted to continue renting with friends in flats in their next year. However, the University has not in the past built flats for groups of students who want to

live together on the 'Friends' model, and has not released any plans to do so for Heslington East.

The preference is to build single hotel room cells, without communal lounges, which maximise income from conference guests.

Dr. Jeffrey Stern, one of the local residents heading the campaign against Heslington East, to whom we showed the report, said that one major implication is that the University won't be able to stop students from wanting to move off campus, away from what he has described as a "boring open prison". This influx of students would drown the local housing market, pushing up rents and forcing out local residents.

Dr. Stern expressed concern that this report concluded that private landlords were attracting more students than the University and commented: "Private landlords have already taken the initiative both in offering lower prices and greater facilities, and are running rings round University plans – a typical case of quick-witted private enterprise defeating ponderous public institutions."

He fears that if Campus Three goes ahead, it could spark a "feeding frenzy" with landlords buying up houses for students at an unprecedented rate. This already is a serious problem in Badger Hill, Heslington Road and parts of Fulford and Fishergate.

Following the environmental concerns of Dr. Richard Firn, of the Biology Department, reported in the last edition of *nouse*, this report even gives legitimacy to discarded plans of building on sites in the city centre, instead of using up valuable greenbelt land.

A third of students found it to be a disadvantage to be



**From top to bottom:** John Prescott, Ruth Kelly and Bill Rammell

away from the city, which adds fuel to the argument of building some of the new campus on existing brownfield sites, in buildings which are subject dedicated, with accommodation halls or groups of flats nearby. The successful example of the Centre for Medieval Studies at King's Manor shows



**Simon Davis, News Editor, presents Margaret Beckett with Heslington East dossier**

that this could be an excellent model.

In light of this report, Dr. Firn remarked, "to plough on with a weak case could just involve the University in lots of costs and maybe a failure to get full permission. What a waste of money that would be."

Dr. Stern is now calling

for a repeated survey by an independent group on a larger sample (only 29 per cent responded), with standard interviews taken over a long period and professional review techniques. He has castigated the survey as flawed, because of the largely female response and the limited nature of an online based survey.

The survey, which he believes should have been performed before the University assured the Council it could house all its new students, actually manifestly shows the University doing its market research after it has launched its product.

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# flawed but University press on



Lauren Carter, Editor, takes dossier to London to present to John Prescott, Ruth Kelly and Bill Rammell

## Cantor's credentials point to commerce over students

By Simon Davis  
NEWS EDITOR

A MAJOR reason for Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor's appointment to the University was his experience as a commercial fix-it man, with a history of setting up successful businesses and science parks. This lead to his appointment in 2002 once Heslington East plans were underway.

An informed source within the University revealed that Brian Cantor had set up a successful Science Park in Begbroke, as part of the University of Oxford's development plans, and that this experience was a vital qualification for the new VC because of the University's plans to commercially build on the greenbelt.

However, a report published by a York academic demonstrates that the University has a poor record with its current Science Park. It

concludes: "The majority of tenants have not been chosen on the basis of their need to link to academic departments elsewhere on campus. It seems highly likely that the tenants are chosen simply because they are prepared to pay premium rental rates."

Simon Newton, the University's new Director of Enterprise and Innovation, confirmed that there have been only two or three spin-off companies a year and that the University only takes a "minimal stake" in them.

The Science Park report suggests that there is enough existing capacity on the present site to house new spin-offs for "decades to come" and "that any new property development planned for Heslington East is being planned for commercial reasons." Campus Three is therefore a way of grabbing greenbelt land for commerce. The Heslington East plans consist of a 54 per cent increase in

actual student numbers, but a massive 436 per cent increase of other people on campus. Businesses, under the guise of Science City staff, will be 38 per cent of the new campus. Yet the ethos of placing industry next to academics has been condemned as spurious, especially as the University has lost virtually all control over the current Science Park.

Moreover, a national report aired June 10th by the *Times Higher Educational Supplement* into spin-off companies, has shown that universities "significantly overestimate the number they generate" and that in fact "creation[s] peaked in 2001 with 89 new companies. The number fell to just 30 in 2003." This illustrates that just a quarter of spin-off companies are actually profitable.

However, the University are pressing on with the planned Science City development and newly appointed

Director of Enterprise, Simon Newton, demonstrated their commercial priority, stating: I believe the University is well positioned to really make an impact in its relationships with industry and the public sector."

## 'SU President is just a puppet of the University'

By Simon Davis and Lauren Carter

YORK STUDENTS feel they are not being represented by their SU President who has swallowed wholesale admin's ideas about Campus Three. Alexander has belittled student campaigns against the campus development and has explicitly stated that he does not support them.

Alexander is convinced that Heslington East students will want to stay on campus for the duration of their course, which will be assured he says "by agreeing to share [University] rent models with the City of York Council to make sure they are locally competitive and by providing decent facilities."

He also insisted that students had been properly represented in the Heslington East development. However Politics student, Nick Baron, commented: "We haven't been consulted properly, and have certainly not been asked if we would like to stay on campus for three years. Alexander is just a puppet of the University - he's out of touch with what we want."

Alexander, ignorant of the University's secret market research on housing, refused to recognise the consequences of 5,000 extra students on the local housing market if they were to stay on campus.

He also expressed disinterest in claims that the University was putting business interests over academic ones, and was insistent that he had not seen a figure suggesting 38 per cent of the new campus would be business based.

In reaction, an enraged Dr.

Richard Firn, from the Biology Department, commented: "The scale of the Science City is clearly described in the planning documents, of which there are copies in the library if the SU Pres ever decides to read them. To be ignorant of that aspect of the scheme is to betray a lack of serious study."

When asked what his opinion was on Dr. Firn's extensive environmental concerns for the development of Heslington East as reported in the last edition of *nouse*, Alexander stressed that he did not remember any of these being put forward.

Dr. Firn accused the SU President of "lazy thinking", and remarked: "I presented my opinion to the Council in writing and presented them at the Council meeting which I think he attended. The Pres does admit it may be a fault of his memory and clearly it is.

"The President is entitled to his opinions but I wish he was better informed about the issues." In this, Dr. Firn reflects the concerns of misrepresented students across campus.

The big questions which students have not been asked about, let alone been allowed to answer, remain; firstly, whether they can be made to stay on campus; secondly, whether they are happy to be subordinated to allow business expansion; and finally, whether they want their new campus to be ecologically unsound and gobble up valuable greenbelt land.

The more students that speak out and say no to these propositions the more untenable it will be for the Heslington East plans to be passed by a public enquiry.

## Plans for a public enquiry

The controversial Heslington East plans are almost certain to go to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for a public enquiry. *nouse* has already compiled a dossier of information to be considered by John Prescott and other ministers who are likely to be involved in the national investigation, but we also want to hear your opinions.

■ Visit [www.nouse.co.uk/heslingtongoose](http://www.nouse.co.uk/heslingtongoose) and send us your comments. You can also sign our online petition. All responses will be forwarded to the Vice Chancellor for his consideration.

■ A full copy of the suppressed housing report will also be available until the University decide to consider it for release.

# SU impotent to help make poverty history

By Justin Webber  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT UNION policy to support the international Make Poverty History coalition has run into difficulties after it was revealed that Charity Commission rules prevent it from committing funds to supporting the campaign.

The Make Poverty History policy, which was passed at a UGM earlier this term, seeks to commit the SU to both promoting awareness of international development issues on campus as well as lobbying political representatives in the wider community.

However, Charity Commission regulations state that the SU cannot financially support Campaigns such as MPH, which do not "directly affect members of the union as students." On a practical level this means that YUSU cannot subsidise transport up to the MPH gathering in Edinburgh early next month and cannot even use office hours for activities such as letter writing.

"It's really disappointing that the SU cannot act on the one issue which has really caught the imagination of students this year. Even after the union have been given a mandate to act over this issue, there appears very little they can do to help", explained Graeme Cooke from the MPH coalition.

Student Union President James Alexander has been quick to explain the continuing problems he is faced with. "The charity commission regulations are important but are not appropriate for governing student unions. I have endeavoured to contact other unions to

see how they are dealing with it. The only conclusion I have come to is they are breaking the law."

At York the approach has been to emphasise, through publicity materials, the educational aspects of the MPH campaign. "It's annoying but I have been quite at a loss to do much else", Alexander explained.

This isn't the first time that the SU has been hampered in its attempts to implement policy by external regulations. Last June a policy to oppose the BNP was deemed to contravene charity commission regulations, which state the Union "should not seek to support or oppose a political party". The legal proceedings that followed resulted in the incumbent SU President Chris Jones having to pay for publicity materials out of his own pocket.

A new charities bill going through parliament is set to make the operational environment under which YUSU works both clearer and more accountable.

"Hopefully we will be able to do more things that the electorate wish us to do and not be so paralysed by grey areas of murky legislation", Alexander commented.

In the absence of funding from the Students' Union, the MPH coalition of campus societies have continued to organise activities independently. The coalition has announced that they have sold out seats on both of the coaches going up to the Edinburgh protests early next month.

The MPH campaigners are calling for as many people from York to get up to the G8 Summit on 2nd July.



Students read through the EGM petition in the hope that they can stop radical change. Photo by Georgi Mabee

# Radical plans to overhaul societies prompt outcry

By Toby Green  
NEWS DEPUTY

AN EXTRAORDINARY General Meeting was called on Friday for only the second time in three years after student societies reacted angrily to new reforms implemented by the Student Union.

The reforms, the first actions of newly elected Society Officers Carl Nuttall and Adam Stevenson, mean that societies have been forced to complete vital Health and Safety forms in six days and complete ratification in two weeks. If not they could face missing out on funding next year equivalent to £1.50 for every member.

The move of the deadline from the end of the autumn

term has been defended by Nuttall and Stevenson as "having several purposes... by moving ratification to the summer term societies will receive their money sooner."

However society heads have complained about the pressure this now puts them under, especially due to the quantity of exams in the summer term. 441 people signed a petition circulated by Adam Leith, president of Concert Band, calling for the reversal of the policies. Leith attacked the plans as "badly handled" and called for societies to show the SU "they can't take these kinds of decisions without consultation."

The petition forced the SU to call the meeting which 120 students attended, although this

wasn't enough to make policy change.

Nuttall and Stevenson revealed they were "surprised" at the "over the top" reaction, but admitted that "in retrospect we probably haven't explained what we're doing well enough to everybody. The policies have originated out of a lot of informal conversations with society chairs but there has been no formal consultation".

Nuttall also claimed that societies which experienced difficulties with filling in the forms would "be given maximum help and support... we will be flexible and can extend deadlines."

Speaking after the meeting, Adam Leith admitted that he was "quite disappointed" that the turnout had not been

sufficient to make any amendments but said that "a lot of what we have suggested the Society Officers have taken on board. They said they are going to listen, so I guess we have to trust them."

The bill also makes significant changes to the way societies can apply for extra funding. Previously any society with more than 40 members would qualify. However now any extra money will have to be decided by a special committee chosen by the Students' Union.

An unnamed student writing on the Ask YUSU website argued that the reforms will "only benefit new, smaller societies, rather than larger more established ones", showing that many concerns have not yet been addressed.

# 'Nicked It' Campaign stopped in its tracks

By Toby Green  
NEWS DEPUTY

THE WELFARE Office's controversial plans to break into campus bedrooms to highlight student security have been scrapped after Security Services controversially withdrew their support and advised against it.

The 'Nicked It!' campaign, first reported in *nouse* in May, was spearheaded by the Welfare Officer, John Rose. Student Union officials were to gain entry to campus bedrooms through open windows or unlocked doors unsupervised and place red stickers on any



**John Rose, Welfare Officer**  
Negative publicity 'made everyone aware they should be locking their doors and windows'

valuables left visible.

However the article in *nouse* revealed deep doubts over the campaign and questioned its legality. James Flinders, the Halifax JCRC chair, commented that he had "massive reservations" over the original plans, and students declared that it wasn't up to the SU "to decide whether you should close your door or not."

A lawyer from Cambridge University, James Burke, also warned that entering student's bedrooms without permission would "be an encroachment by the University... and indeed a potentially separate trespass by

any SU personnel."

Originally the Security Services had placed their full backing behind Rose. Mick Watkins, Operations Manager, praised it for being "a really positive initiative" and declared that he was "very keen for the campaign to go ahead." Security Services officers would not accompany the campaign, but had promised their support and guidance.

However only a fortnight later this stance had significantly changed. Minutes of the Welfare Committee Meeting on 27th May note that "the Welfare Committee did not want to go against Security's

advice". Added to this, the University had now got involved and said "they didn't like the idea of the campaign".

Security Services were unavailable for comment on the new advice they had given to the Welfare Committee. But in an interview with *nouse* John Rose confirmed that instead of welcoming the campaign as they had done before, they were now telling the SU "not to enter into people's rooms".

In the absence of an effective SU campaign, the University campus has been declared a crime "hotspot" by Fulford Police. An Officer confirmed that the "increase of

high visibility patrols" were a "preventative method" because of the increasing crime rate on campus.

James Flinders has welcomed the police presence as "highly encouraging" and it has already appeared to work. An undercover Police Officer on campus confirmed that they had made one arrest after just an hour of surveillance. Rose also commented that the negative publicity for his 'Nicked It!' campaign had actually done its job by raising student awareness of security, and that it had "made everyone aware that they should be locking their doors and their windows."

# Halifax students cautioned after killing protected campus wildlife

By Lauren Carter  
EDITOR

A GROUP of Halifax students have been cautioned by the College Dean after it emerged that they had been killing protected wildlife for elaborate feasts in their campus accommodation.

The first years were discovered last Wednesday by the Dean, Carl Thompson, skinning a rabbit in front of a bemused crowd in St. Lawrence Court. Onlookers revealed that the students, all residents of House Q, were notorious for their culinary skills, having killed and plucked a pheasant in the previous week. One neighbour commented: "this is typical of that house, they're always getting into trouble."

Elise Raffray from House R defended her neighbours' antics: "All I know was it smelt really good and there isn't much else to comment on. They didn't do anything wrong; not University-wise anyway."

The University, however, prohibit students from killing campus wildlife, which includes the first year's delicacies of rabbits and pheasants. Thompson also raised his con-

cerns that the animals had been shot, and reiterated to those involved that air rifles and BB guns were banned from campus accommodation.

The students had previously boasted to noose reporters of how they'd shot the rabbit using a BB gun in the Halifax grounds. However, Ryan Carter, who took responsibility for the group, vehemently denied shooting the animals when the Dean arrived and told him that the rabbit they were in the process of skinning had been brought from a stranger in a pub.

Thompson expressed disbelief at the story, exclaiming: "Do you really think I believe that men still come into pubs and sell dead rabbits? Maybe fifty years ago, but not now. I've lived in York for ten years and I've never seen anything like that."

The Dean decided not to search the students' house for a weapon and left them with a warning. He also advised them to continue skinning their catch inside to prevent distressing passers-by.

The House Q residents have since revealed that they continued preparing the feast in their kitchen, and were highly

impressed with the dish. Carter told noose: "The rabbit went well with some potatoes and carrots in a stew." He also remarked: "You should have seen the pheasant... red wine and shallots!"

Some students, however, have reacted angrily to House Q's behaviour. One student has even reported the case to the RSPCA. The University have also been accused of letting the students off lightly; a former case of a student killing one of the campus ducks is reported to have resulted in their expulsion.

Chair of Halifax College, James Flinders, said "it is a worrying development and I will look into it. However, with these incidents, there's not a lot the JCR can do. The College and University have the disciplinary procedures in place to deal with these cases."

"These are the actions of a very small minority of Halifax students. We're not all gun-wielding animal killers!"

Thompson has confirmed that no further action will be taken against the students involved. He also denied claims that the acts could be in reaction to high prices in the local Costcutters store.



Students get in touch with their primitive side in Halifax. Photo by Lauren Carter

## Crackdown on gun crime as replicas banned

By Elliot Taylor  
DEPUTY EDITOR

NEW LEGISLATION has been passed by Parliament which bans the manufacture, import and sale of replica guns; a weapon which was used earlier this year in a gun siege involving a Costcutter employee.

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill has come in light of a sixty-six per cent increase in replica gun offences over the last year. Previously it had been illegal to carry a replica gun in public, but not to buy one.

Last November, *nouse* reported on the employee of a campus Costcutter store was involved in a five hour armed siege on the border of campus, highlighting the problem replica guns pose for the police. Nine armed police officers surrounded his house and after his arrest it was revealed he was brandishing a replica.

Sir Ian Blair, the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police, said: "The police service has been pushing

for a change in the law in this direction for some time.

"We are particularly concerned for public safety in respect to the use of replica weapons. Police officers face a difficult job when they can't tell if a gun is real or not and have to make split second decisions."

The police have argued that the lack of visual difference between replica and real firearms is a serious cause for concern, and can often cause confusion. An armed police unit will be forced to take extreme action in the event of an incident involving any kind of firearm, and they are hoping that this new legislation will prevent this.

Also in the Bill was an increase in the age limit of buying a knife from 16 to 18 years of age and granting headteachers the permission to search pupils. Bars that sell drinks to minors can now be temporarily shut, and ones in binge drinking hotspots will have to pay for extra policing.

By Heloise Wood  
DEPUTY EDITOR

A SECOND YEAR student lost his hearing after being hit around the head with a cricket bat in Fulford last month.

Ben Taite feared he had been struck deaf in one ear following the attack, which occurred near the river on Friday 13th May. The assault is the latest local example of the nationwide 'slap happy' craze, where teenage gangs film themselves attacking others on their mobile phones.

"I was sitting by the river in Fulford, an area I had always considered fairly safe. It was about quarter to eight and I was engrossed in my book but there were other people about", Taite said.

"Suddenly I felt the full force of a cricket bat against my right ear. I looked up and there were eight or ten kids standing there, probably aged between twelve and fifteen. I just yelled 'what have you done?' I thought they had

deafened me."

The teenagers, who had filmed the incident on their mobiles, ran off when Taite rang the police. Because he had been in a fairly secluded spot by the river, no one else on the green had seen the attack take place.

When Taite arrived at York City Hospital, nurses told him there were three other victims of slap happy attacks in there at the same time. The other incidents had occurred when the victims were walking down the street and attacked from behind.

Ironically, Taite had read about 'happy slapping' in a newspaper that morning. The craze, which started in South London, has already led to the rape of an eleven-year old school girl, whose experience was circulated around the school. However, York Police claimed to have never heard of the craze before.

Taite suffered internal bleeding in his ear and a perforated ear drum. The specialist

couldn't be sure how much hearing would return and for some weeks he had very minimal hearing in his right ear.

Fortunately, now his hearing has almost completely returned. "I'm very thankful that I haven't lost my hearing, because I really thought it had gone. I was just so annoyed

## Police issue warning

North Yorkshire Police have urged students to guard against violent crime when walking near campus, following a spate of attacks on the main pedestrian routes.

Spokesman Tony Lidgate stressed that York has a very low crime rate, but advised that students should take precautions, using taxis rather than walking alone at night. He cautioned against wearing things that identify you as a student, like college sweatshirts. "Make sure your body language says I'm not afraid - I'm a capable person. If you

look vulnerable and scared you are an easier target."

Since January there have been three attacks on students on Hull Road and Tang Hall, all between 8 and 10pm. Police patrols have increased, while Community Support Officers and University Security have tightened security on campus. The descriptions of the various attackers do not concur but the University's advice is to be alert against "violently anti-social behaviour, by teenage white males" and to stay in groups where possible.

# Societies denied space on campus whilst Pole Exercise reaps rewards

By Simon Davis  
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENT SOCIETIES are up in arms over the University's decision to remove their right to book out Vanbrugh Dining Hall. This leaves only Goodricke as an option by the middle of next term, which is constantly booked out by the profit-orientated Pole Exercise Society.

The University plans to begin refurbishment of Langwith Dining Hall half way through next term, which has caused space-hungry societies to worry about their future. Some have expressed fears that they will have to shut down, because Goodricke hall is prioritised for Pole Exercise Soc, whose President personally profits from the sessions.

Freesoc, who prompted the Free Vanbrugh campaign in reaction to the University, commented: "Once again the University has put its own convenience ahead of student needs and interests... The University belongs to students. It should be a place for students to learn, to explore their interests, to develop new skills."

Kenjutsu Club President,

Paul Nicholls, revealed that his club has suffered numerous setbacks, and due to booking policy problems, lost more than half of their training sessions after Vanbrugh closed. The high profile club went from training 24 people in week 10 of the autumn term in Vanbrugh, to only 12 in Goodricke at present.

Nicholls fears that his club will not survive, as they are failing to keep up with interested members, of which they had 28 at the AU Mart, and fears they may be forced to turn people away due to lack of space. Kenjutsu club, which twice hosted Vic Cook Sensei, one of Europe's highest ranked iaidoka, faces an uncertain future. Nicholls commented: "I bet if they made money from the clubs who want Vanbrugh back then they'd let us have it."

Numerous other clubs and societies have been affected in similar ways, including Jiu Jitsu Club, DanceSoc and BalletSoc. Nat Farren from Dance Soc has expressed concern that they would have trouble finding another venue, stating: "By carrying out moves such as this one the University are making it harder and harder

for societies to function on campus."

James Alexander, the Student Union President, has faced criticisms of ignorance and not supporting societies interests. It was reported that he arrived uninvited to a meeting of societies, and insisted that they could still book out Vanbrugh, which a member of admin later confirmed was not the case.

However, he has since issued a statement explaining that he had not received any complaints from the societies concerned, other than DanceSport, Dance Soc and Pole Exercise Club, but that he is now willing to try and address specific problems. In support of the profit-making society, Alexander said "as far as I know pole exercise are now happy with Goodricke."

The campaigners are now proposing "that an understanding is reached between management and the wider community whereby it is recognised that Vanbrugh, while primarily functioning as a dining hall, also serves a dual purpose as a community facility, and as such it is in no ones interest to monopolise its use."

## Goodricke: The only space left



**'With Vanbrugh and Langwith totally unavailable...there won't be anywhere for clubs to meet.'**

**Tom Dugmore,  
Jiu Jitsu Club**

**'People won't be able to train and will leave. With no new intake, the club won't last.'**

**Paul Nicholls,  
Kenjutsu Club**

**'If we can't have classes at a time which suits our teacher we can't run.'**

**Helen Edge  
Ballet Society**

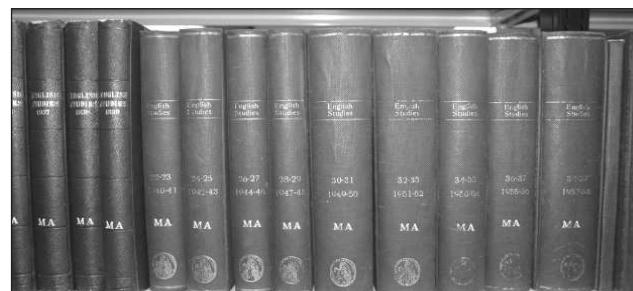
# Library told to put books back onto the shelves

By Toby Green  
DEPUTY NEWS

LIBRARY SERVICES have been forced to take a u-turn over plans to take academic journals off the shelves and make them available on the internet, after a report uncovered widespread resistance.

The internal report noted results of a year-long trial of the scheme. According to Library Services, the aim of the trial was to "find out whether e-journals are a viable alternative to print", creating a cheap way to provide more shelf space. However, both students and departments have reacted negatively to the trial, and expressed their displeasure at being denied access to hard copies of journals. As a result the Library has had to provide open access to the journals in a humiliating climb-down.

The Library's provision of 'e-journals' has been widely praised, with 207 people contacting the Library during the scheme and praising it as their "best feature". However there were complaints over the com-



plete disposal of print journals, with many believing that students would lose out.

Departments reacted with concern to students not being able to gain satisfactory access to the journals and the History Department even lodged a formal complaint. In it they noted that undergraduates had clearly expressed that they "were strongly opposed to the restriction of access." The report also concluded that "without print journals the Library would be a less effective place in which to research and to study."

Computer availability was a major discussion point, with many students unable to afford a computer of their own and not able to access one in crowded computer rooms. The

report also noted doubts over the reliability and cost of printing on campus, as well as a loss of quality of images when reproduced electronically.

Matthew Platts, the SU Campaigns Officer, welcomed the increased accessibility provided by online journals, but warned that "a problem arises when electronic archives are the exclusive vector to getting access to journals."

Students have also reacted with worry about the extra financial burden it would create. Sam Williams, a first year Economics student, demanded "that if the library wants to cut costs, they should make printing free, otherwise students lose out. Reading off the screen just isn't good enough."

# York tops duck leagues

By Chris Spillane  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY of York has fought off competition from Oxbridge and other 'red-brick' institutions to come top of the table once again with something a little closer to the student's heart.

Volunteers, including a group of environmentalist Quakers, have tallied the number of wildfowl per rood (or ducks per 1,011 square metres) of the country's leading universities. York leads

the pack with an impressive duck density of 11.6, only approached by Loughborough University with 8.5 duck and Leeds University with 7.0 ducks, according to website duckdensity.org.uk.

The unpopular Greylag geese which dominate the York campus, has been described by Electronics student Ben Jarvis as a "poor man's Canada goose". Clearly showing that popularity isn't in numbers, the sole Ruddy Shelduck, known as 'Damien' to several second year Biology students,

is a campus favourite as Gaz Jenkins was willing to reveal. "Damien bosses all the other ducks, I've seen him fell a Greylag when he's on form."

However not all students are happy with York topping the university bird table, as James college members witnessed during the mass duck excrement clear up before the 2004 Quad Dash. Second year History student Shaun Messenger said: "Instead of a duck culling at the end of term there could be a welcome addition to the Vanbrugh roast."

# Student abuses poverty

By Toby Green  
DEPUTY NEWS

A YORK student has been caught out selling charity Live 8 tickets through the small ads section on the University website for personal profit.

The second year Economics student, offered the tickets for £250 or highest offer and claimed they were for "a charitable cause to relieve student debt." When asked to explain his actions he

replied "Charity doesn't lose out my son, I sent in many texts at £1.50 each."

Online auction site, Ebay, were recently involved in controversy after Bob Geldof, the driving force behind Live 8 and previously Live Aid, labelled them "electronic pimps" for allowing Live 8 tickets to be sold on the side. He also branded the attempted sale of tickets as "sick profiteering."

"It is filthy money made on the back of the poorest peo-

ple in the world." Angry users of the site took to bidding millions of pounds in an effort to sabotage the sale of tickets.

Live 8 will consist of five concerts, one each in the UK, France, Germany, Italy and the USA. 125,000 tickets were distributed to the Hyde Park Concert on 2nd July, featuring acts such as Coldplay, U2, Madonna and a reformed Pink Floyd, through an automated prize draw which over a million people entered by text.

# Ascot up north was in a class of its own as crowds flock to Knavesmire

THE ROYAL ASCOT meeting has been deemed a success. After Wednesday the weather picked up, and so did the attendance. Altogether, 220,000 people have visited Knavesmire for Royal Ascot at York.

With £3 million in prize money to be won, racegoers have flocked to York from across the country. The event has been well received by the surrounding areas as well. In particular, the city has prospered from the influx of tourism. York Racecourse was chosen to host the event this year, while the Berkshire racecourse undergoes a £185 million redevelopment. However, if building work over runs, York is likely to be the first choice for the event.

Photos: Toby Hall



## York academics' Honours

By Clive Crouch

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of two York Professors have been recognised by their inclusion in the Queen's 2005 Birthday Honours List.

Professor Jonathan Bradshaw, Head of the Social Policy and Social Work Department, received the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for his services to child welfare.

An advisor to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee and Associate Director of the Social Policy Research Unit, he first joined the University as a research student in 1967.

Speaking to *nouse*, Bradshaw said he was "very pleased" to have been given the accolade.

"It was a great surprise. I did not think that trouble makers like me got awards," he remarked.

Bradshaw's research has involved studies of child poverty in the UK and other comparative countries. He has also done work on the topics of social security, family change and the social needs of the elderly.

Professor Haleh Afshar, a member of the University's Politics Department, was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire

(OBE), for services concerning equal opportunities.

Afshar's research centres around the Politics of the Middle East, and the fields of women's studies and development studies.

She has been a member of the Group which advises the Cabinet Office Women's Unit, seeking to raise awareness of gender issues among the civil servants who process the applications of female asylum seekers.

'I think the award was in recognition for a life-time work with minority Muslim women in West Yorkshire but also nationally.'

'It was totally unexpected

since most of my campaigns had been aimed at changing policy and therefore highly critical of the status quo.'

'I am lost in admiration for a country that rewards you for criticising it,' she added.

The Birthday Honours List, published a week ago, is intended to acknowledge the services and achievements of individuals in a diverse range of areas, including sport, academia, community projects and charity work.

The two York academics' awards follow the recent election of Alastair Fitter to a Royal Society Fellowship, continuing a long line of successful academics at York.

## York to get first black Archbishop

By Samir Jeraj  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE RT Reverend John Sentamu, a former Ugandan judge and the current Bishop of Birmingham, has become the new Archbishop of York and the first black Archbishop in English history.

The Archbishop was chosen by Prime Minister Tony Blair from a list submitted by the Church of England to be promoted to the second most important job in the Church of England.

The former Archbishop of York, David Hope, resigned

to become a parish priest in February of this year.

John Sentamu has a long record of social and political campaigning, being active in his birth country Uganda against the dictatorship of Idi Amin in the 1970s.

In his numerous posts in England he has taken part in campaigns against racism, including the Stephen Lawrence and Damiola Taylor inquiries.

As Bishop of Birmingham, he helped the MG Rover workers who were made redundant after the closure of the Longbridge plant.

# G8 leaders must now grasp decisive opportunity to make a difference

As the leaders prepare to meet in Gleneagles, **Zak Azimov** discusses the issues headlining July's summit, and the problems the G8 will have to face in achieving consensus on debt relief, aid and climate change

**A**fter Genoa, Cananakis, Evian, and Sea Island, it is the turn of Gleneagles in Scotland to host the annual G8 summit this July.

If previous summits are anything to go by then we are likely to see plenty of anti-globalisation rallies, and talks of the greater, brighter future world leaders have in store for us.

The summits are intended as forums for debating the major global issues of the day. Leaders of the eight member countries seek to reach informal agreements. At each summit leaders agree on certain initiatives, with follow-up meetings held throughout the year to make sure commitments are being honoured.

Tony Blair, who, given the British Presidency of the G8, will be hosting this year's summit, has made preparatory visits to Washington and Moscow, and held brief meetings with Paris and Berlin to push for a commitment for further aid.

On top of the agenda at Gleneagles will be African debt relief and global climate change. Long-standing issues, long forgotten and abandoned, have finally been brought to the world-wide attention.

Other issues most likely to be discussed at the summit are countering terrorism, non-proliferation and



The world's most powerful leaders have been charged with the responsibility of tackling key global issues before they reach crisis point

recommended that on top of current agreements, an extra aid flow equivalent to \$25bn a year needs to be established for optimum results.

Former Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Mr Bush was "spectacularly out of a limb" over climate change. Mr Cook said climate change had to be treated as seriously as African poverty because the two were intrinsically linked.

With a lot at stake we must hope

that the world leaders stay on target and deliver the best results for the future development of our common civilisation, as is widely, but pessimistically, expected of them.

sively Christian club. Socialists, on the other hand, feared the encroaching free market and what they see as an 'Anglo-Saxon' economic model being imposed upon them.

split the Ukraine in two. Yushchenko represented the desires of western Ukraine for further integration into Europe and eventually the EU. The ambassador described how the Ukraine is "now a member of the family of European nations". By contrast, Yanukovich represented the old order of the Russian-oriented east of the country.

Whilst calling for closer European integration Yushchenko must consider Ukraine's relationship with Russia. Yanukovich was the pro-Russian candidate and received support from the Russian President Vladimir Putin. The bitter nature of the election has left relations with Russia sour.

For Yushchenko, further European integration is essential for Ukraine to unite these.

However, moves to make Ukraine

President Bush maintains that there isn't enough scientific evidence on climate change to justify significant action and that the matter needs further examination

supporting reform in the Middle East.

Progress on debt relief has previously been secured (though there is still obviously remaining controversy over remaining debt.) At past summits, the G8 have agreed \$70bn of debt relief for 27 countries, 23 of which are in Africa reducing their debts by around two-thirds on average and freeing up resources for spending on poverty reduction.

The newest agreement, engineered by the UK Chancellor Gordon Brown, promises to write off the £22bn worth of debt currently faced by 18 of the most heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC).

The debts to be written off were owed to the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank.

The so-called 'New Marshall Plan' will cost rich countries \$1.2bn a year over the next three years.

The G8 countries made it clear that initial payments would come out of existing aid budgets, a fact that has attracted some criticism.

The Commission for Africa has

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efforts to forge a global partnership with co-ordinated actions and planning to increase international security.

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Over the past few years, the G8 has been actively involved in leading international efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Under its presidency, the UK will continue this vital work.

Nuclear enrichment and reprocessing, and the fight against bio-terrorism are on the agenda along with

the battle for the Presidency

He described the Ukraine as "a European nation" sharing a common vision with the rest of Europe

After initially leading last

October's Presidential elections, Mr Yushchenko and his supporters were shocked to find themselves defeated in the second round of voting to Viktor Yanukovich. The ambassador described the gross levels of electoral fraud perpetuated by Yanukovich's supporters and the reaction of the Ukrainian people to the falsified election. New elections in December 2004 saw Yushchenko elected as President.

His Excellency, the Ukrainian ambassador to the UK since 2002, previously held positions under then Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. Drawing on a close relationship with the now President Yushchenko, His Excellency was able to give students a valuable insight into the future of Ukrainian politics.

The battle for the Presidency

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# Britian left to pick up pieces after EU constitution collapses

**Alex Grant** analyses the implications of the recent failed referenda and renewed disputes over the budget

**F**or the European Union the past month has been one of the most dramatic since its inception. Prior to the two upsetting referendums on the constitution the continent's political elite seemed, at best overconfident, at worst complacent with regards to the result.

Others, it seems, merely wanted to give President Chirac a kick in the teeth. Perhaps above all, many are concerned about the state of their economies, with support for the Euro waning.

Chirac seems to be trying to deflect attention away from the recent referendum defeat by highlighting the UK as an uncooperative partner.

dead but reform of the Union is still needed so that its 25 member states can operate without gridlock.

However, visions of what the future direction of the continent should be are varied to say the least. Such disparity continues to throw the proposed EU into confusion. It is now Blair's challenge to try and reconcile these differences and to forge a way forward through this particularly turbulent time.

Despite earlier indications in the polls, nobody really expected the French to vote no. French and Dutch decisive rejection of the blueprint for 'ever closer union' throws the entire project into an unprecedented crisis.

British farming is relatively small and efficient and thus receives a small slice of the subsidy pie.

rebate if the French agree to reform of CAP, which they are refusing to do.

Chirac seems to be trying to deflect attention away from the recent referendum defeat by highlighting the UK as an uncooperative partner.

It is plain that, at some point, the rebate will have to be revised. However, CAP too warrants drastic reform. The constitution may be

The people in the 'no' camps in the Netherlands and France were as varied as they were numerous; seemingly voting against the constitution for any reason other than the document's contents.

Right-wingers feared being swamped by immigrants from the East, and are extremely concerned at the potential entrance of Islamic Turkey to what some see as an excluded crisis.

With unanimous ratification required, many argue it would plainly be ridiculous for Britain, and indeed other countries, to hold a referendum when France and Holland have already said 'non' and 'niyet' respectively. Such sentiment is thought to let Tony Blair off the hook.

The constitution referendum in Britain would have been near impossible for the government to win. However, Mr Blair now faces a new problem: for the next six months, he will hold the Presidency of the European Union. It is up to him to pick up the pieces after the past few weeks and he seems to have got off to an extremely shaky start.

Early June saw an increasingly bitter dispute develop between Britain and France. The points of controversy are the British rebate and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The two are inextricably linked as Blair had pointed out. CAP, the system that distributes subsidies to farmers across Europe, costs around half of the EU's overall budget. Yet there are many more farmers in France than there are in the UK. The rebate (about £3.6 billion annually) exists to compensate Britain for its unfairly high net contributions.



The victory of the 'no' camps in France and Holland have thrown the future of the EU into turmoil

# Ukraine looks to Europe for stable future

**Jamie Merrill** reports on the Ukrainian Ambassador's vision for his country as it passes through a pivotal period after last year's Orange Revolution

**T**he events of last year's Orange Revolution were regarded worldwide as a triumph for democracy. Six months on, however, Ukraine's future is far from certain.

In response to an invitation from the Club of PEP (Politics, Economic and Philosophy) His Excellency Ihor Mitiukov visited the University to talk about the revolution and Ukraine's future in Europe.

more democratic may offset these domestic problems. Certainly the ambassador was confident that Yushchenko will be "able to build a democratic nation" and that "the base of corruption and oligarchy" that so plagued the Ukraine has, in his words, been "cancelled, cancelled, cancelled".

Whilst calling for closer European integration Yushchenko must consider Ukraine's relationship with Russia. Yanukovich was the pro-Russian candidate and received support from the Russian President Vladimir Putin. The bitter nature of the election has left relations with Russia sour.

However there are problems, with the rejection of the European Union constitution and the lack of popularity regarding further enlargement.

Ukrainian entry into the EU, therefore, does not look likely in the near future. Furthermore, with Ukraine's withdrawal of its forces from Iraq, America's support for Ukraine to join NATO is cooling.

His Excellency Ihor Mitiukov's

split the Ukraine in two. Yushchenko represented the desires of western Ukraine for further integration into Europe and eventually the EU. The ambassador described how the Ukraine is "now a member of the family of European nations". By contrast, Yanukovich represented the old order of the Russian-oriented east of the country.

These divisions leave the new administration with the problem of how to incorporate the eastern provinces into Yushchenko's dream of a Ukraine integrated into Europe. The ambassador talked of "two different mentalities" and of "two different visions" effectively dividing Ukraine. It will be a hard task for Yushchenko to unite these.

For Yushchenko, further European integration is essential for Ukraine to enable its political and

economic development. To the ambassador, a close ally of Yushchenko, "Ukraine is a European nation" sharing a common vision with the rest of Europe

After initially leading last



His Excellency, Ihor Mitiukov

# MUSE



## Tomorrow's chip paper

We take a look at what's been making the headlines this year



FEATURE Student entrepreneurs M2



FASHION Style for summer M6



BAND INTERVIEW Fightstar M9



# Being your own boss before you graduate

**Rachel Ringstead and Becky Mitchell** talk to York's student entrepreneurs who share their tricks of the trade and reveal how to go it alone in the cut-throat world of business

The idea of being a student can often conjure up the image of three years spent boozing, cramming for exams and spiralling into enough debt to rival a small African country. For most people at university the biggest challenge in life is simply to get a 2:1. The closest many of us get to entering the world of work before we graduate is a nightshift at JJ's, or for those really ambitious young hopefuls, an internship at some swanky bank in London. And why not? University is often heralded as the one time in life when you are protected from the pressures of the real world and 'real work'. To simply have the motivation and organisation to juggle a part-time job while at university, however soul-crushing and menial it might seem, is not only impressive but really quite admirable. Yet, a surprising number of students across the country are going one step further. Not content to be someone else's minion, many students are creating their own businesses and becoming their own boss before they even finish their degrees.

A recent study published by the London School of Economics illustrates this trend. The numbers of young people starting their own businesses while at university has risen from 0.9 per cent in 2003 to 2.3 per cent in 2004. Whilst initially this may not seem the most overpowering of statistics (if statistics ever are), it does show a sustained increase in entrepreneurial activity among students. Such figures support further evidence to show that the UK's entrepreneurial culture is developing most among young people. But how representative is this of York? Being one of the smaller universities, it would be easy to assume that all these budding Richard Branson's would flock to business schools. Yet on closer inspection the University of York does have a surprising array of student business talent.

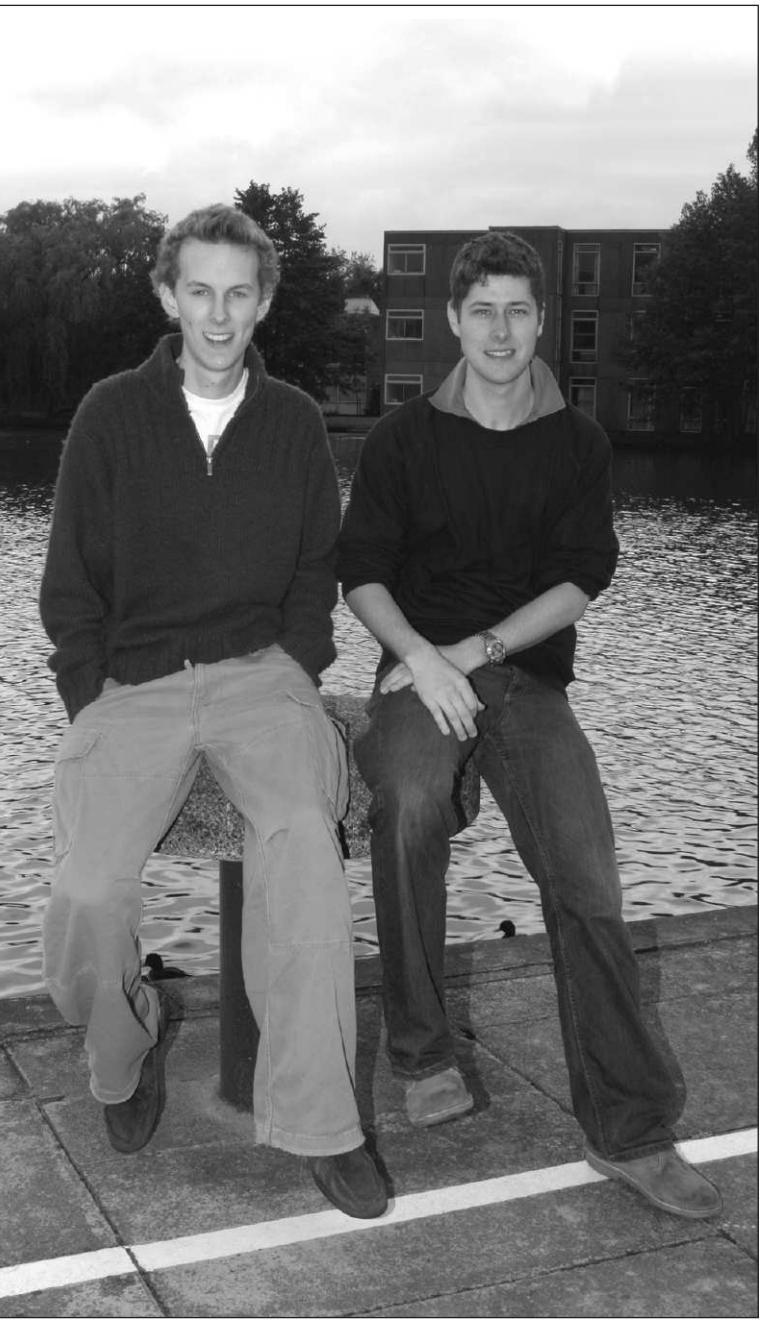
We interviewed a cross-section of students

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Nowadays, many of the barriers which had previously prevented students from starting their own businesses are gradually being broken down

juggling their degrees alongside running a business venture. The most noticeable feature of York's entrepreneurial activity was simply its sheer diversity. There was Johnny Fianu, a second year Economics student, who is steadily taking over the world from his Hull Road residence by running three web companies. In stark contrast Becks Lyle, a second year History of Art student who set up her own fashion label 'Beguile' and has since lived in a world strewn with buttons, sequins and ribbon. We also met a first-year partnership, James Carter and Rory Shank, who formed Grinning Records, a record company that helps to develop school bands across the country. Finally one of the most intriguing cases was Nick Grayson and his team at the University's Computer Recycling Project, who gallantly provide the community with free computers that they reassemble from scrap.

One of the most striking things about this collection of people was their surprisingly different attitudes towards money and motivation. Whilst business minded Johnny seemed particularly financially driven, Becks was happy to be paid in wine. Furthermore, although the Computer Recycling Project turns over three to four thousand pounds per annum, this is all donated to York RAG. James and Rory on the other



**Left:** James and Rory make a neat profit as owners of the Grinning Records label. **Far left:** One of their successful bands playing at a live gig

ed to York RAG. James and Rory on the other hand are excited at the prospect of finally making a profit this summer, although they do admit they are not in it for the money, describing their venture more as a "hobby".

So what makes all of these people tick? Why would any student give themselves any more work than was really necessary? For Becks it is easy, she wouldn't have it any other way. As she wryly confesses, "I will often emerge from my room after passing a day spent with my sewing machine, with thread in my hair and paint all over my face. But I don't care, I love it." In Johnny's case he is passionate about business and it seems to be the thrill of the chase that drives him most. His business minded brain was first displayed as a child when he started selling drinks on a stall in Zimbabwe. Since then he has created and dissolved several companies and is currently operating three simultaneously. But this doesn't phase him; "Many of my Internet companies fail, but the more companies that I start, the higher the probability that one of them will succeed."

In James and Rory's case their business was inspired by a niche that they identified in the market. Frustrated at the lack of opportunity for youth music they established Grinning Records while they were at school together in Lincolnshire. Together they created the only record company in the country, which caters specifically for school bands, assisting this previously neglected and unsupported area of young talent. "These people have bags of enthusiasm but no real business acumen about how to develop image and get themselves out there. We're not out to turn people into superstars but what we can offer is crucial help in developing young bands." Their idea has certainly been a hit and they are currently marketing bands from over 250 schools across the country.

A gap in the market was also identified seven years ago by York University students, who recognised the potential value in seemingly useless, broken or outdated campus computers, which were merely being thrown out and replaced by newer models. To them this seemed like such a waste. There were so many people in the community who could not afford new computers, yet there were perfectly serviceable computers on campus that were quite literally being dumped. With the help of the SU a team of dedicated volunteers with the skills to repair and update these dilapidated resources was enlisted to restore the computers that the University was simply discarding. Seven years on the Computer Recycling Project has really taken off. Last term alone they raised £1,000 for charity and donated 38 computers to RAG. Alongside this, the project also loans and sells recycled computers to students at a low cost.

However despite such examples of students who have taken the plunge and started a business, there remains a large body of young people who are discouraged from taking their entrepreneurial ideas further. One of the main deterrents is the fear that their youth will go against them. Indeed as Johnny says, "I see my age as my only real hindrance".

However, nowadays many of the barriers which previously prevented students from starting their own businesses are gradually being broken down. The internet has been instrumental to this process. Johnny, James and Rory all agree that running their business through websites has greatly increased their chances of success. As Johnny has found, "If my clients were to find out that I was a student they might lose confidence in me. The internet means that I don't have this disadvantage, it provides a layer of anonymity."

To James and Rory the internet is crucial to the way that they operate their business. They



**Becks Lyle, fashion expert**

**'it's nice to be able to put that I've launched my own independent fashion label on my CV'**



**Johnny Fianu, web master**

**'The more internet companies I start, the higher the probability that one will succeed.'**



**Nick Grayson, Computer Recycling Project**

**'OK, so we don't make any profits, but at least the business is sound'**

admit that, "there is no real need for us to meet the bands, we do most of our work via email. Furthermore it is easy to create an image over the internet, as our business is essentially a virtual business." The internet also saves greatly on time and can reduce overheads, two of the main reasons why businesses often fail.

However if like Becks students decide not to run their business over the Internet, being young doesn't have to be a drawback. Through targeting a younger market audience, students can actually use their youth to their advantage. For example the vivacity of Becks's fresh, kitsch style, generated partly by her age, really appeals to people at a similar stage in life. This is also the case for James and Rory, who believe that their clients respond well to their youth. "Our age allows our clients to trust us, they see as being on their side and the tone of our advertising reflects this," Grinning Record's mission statement is "We take school bands and make em' cool." Such a slogan clearly wouldn't appeal to bands that have been on the music scene for a while.

However, one of the main factors which turns students off from starting their own companies, aside from their youth and inexperience, is money. Indeed in many cases funding can be one of the main obstacles deterring students from realising their entrepreneurial dreams. Yet Johnny waves this aside as a myth; "Most people see money as the big issue – but it is much less of a problem than people think".

Yet clearly the nature of your idea will dictate the funding required. If your business plan involves rescuing MG Rover or producing a better version of Concorde, then obviously a bit more financial aid will be required (preferably from a benefactor like Bill Gates). However if you start small and operate via the web business start up costs are much lower.

Although James and Rory admit that they can't work at a loss, they did not really dwell on money when they spoke to us. Initial investment was provided from personal funds and support from family and friends, which they hope to recoup in the summer.

So if funding and age aren't a problem, what are the key ingredients for running a successful student enterprise? Above all having a good idea is paramount. Yet the next stages of developing this idea into something concrete and successful will undoubtedly determine whether or not the business has a real future.

Johnny cannot stress the importance of networking enough (in fact we suspect in the interview that he might actually be trying to network with us). Over the years Johnny has developed global links, establishing a supplier base in Asia, particularly in Singapore's electronics industry. It doesn't have to be this scary though. Global contacts are not the be all and end all and sometimes the most helpful people can be those close to home. Indeed James, Rory and Becks rely more on networks of friends, family and word of mouth.

Furthermore since the Computer Recycling Project has been in operation it has gradually expanded from its campus base and developed links within the community, especially with local businesses and charities. This network is also crucial to forging a good reputation – a very important thing, for as Bill Gates once said "reputation is crucial to dictating a companies success".

James and Rory are keen to stress that they are not just a two-man band. They recognise the areas where their skills are lacking and bring expert help in to tackle those problem areas. As they have found it is important not to neglect nitty-gritty essential skills which can make or break your business. If you don't know how to balance your books – learn. If you can't design your own website recruit someone to help you (preferably for free). It's about ticking all of the boxes, because if you are going to be successful you have to pay attention to detail, while keeping the bigger picture in sight.

As every successful entrepreneur will tell you, starting your own business can be very

*Continued on following page*

**512MB  
120 SONGS  
75 BUCKS**



douglas j.

**512MB - MP3 / WAV / WMV COMPATIBLE - VOICE RECORDER  
SONG LYRICS - PRELOADED MUSIC - SHUFFLE MODE  
E-BOOK - TELEPHONE DIRECTORY - SLEEP TIMER**

Ad Example Copyright 2005 GETSMedia Marketing



**Clockwise from top left:** One of Johnny's adverts to show off his latest gadget; Beck's trend setting hand crafted bags; The Fusion fashion show at Leeds



## Computer recycling

One of the first things that you are struck by when you enter the Computer Recycling Project's office in Grimston House is the utter shortage of space. One cannot help but wonder how a student business that specialises in the restoration of old computers, with a growing team of dedicated volunteers, can function so successfully in an area the size of a broom cupboard. But they do it and they do it very well. On average the company makes £100 a week, which is really quite impressive considering they are only open on Wednesday afternoons. Last term was particularly successful and they raised £1,000 for RAG.

In fact the business is expanding all the time, but being a charity this is problematic.

"We would like to expand into York but even in conjunction with other community groups the cost of renting warehouses etc. is

very expensive and in previous discussions with possible partners it generally comes down to the lack of space or money or both."

With regards to money it is a purely voluntary organisation. As Nick says, "OK so we don't make any profits, we are far too nice, but the business is sound. We can charge for picking up computers from businesses, of which there seems to be an endless supply, and then sell the items that we pick up, again of which again there is plenty of demand for."

The volunteers are not afraid to get their hands dirty, they will take anything and everything that they can and gut it. Just from our experience this seems to be a very dusty job. However someone has to do just and for the volunteers the technical and business skills that they are using and developing will be invaluable in later life.

The Computer Recycling Project is open from 2-6pm on Wednesday afternoons in Grimstone House.

Visit its website at [www.comprec.org.uk](http://www.comprec.org.uk).

*Continued from M3*

problematic but also extremely rewarding. At the end of the day it is down to your perseverance, sheer drive and overriding faith in yourself and your idea that will prevent you from giving up and calling it a day. It would have been easy for Johnny to lose faith the first time one of his companies failed, but instead he views failure objectively, seeing it merely as an occupational hazard of business. As Johnny says, "a successful company requires a lot of time and drive and failing is an opportunity to learn".

Furthermore there may be occasions where you will have to adapt your idea, however painful it might feel. Inevitably there will also be times when it will seem like your venture is taking over your life. Becks could probably relate to this when she spent seemingly endless hours customising over a hundred T-Shirts for the Fusion fashion show last March, which lead to her room beginning to resemble a small sweat shop.

As she states, her business can sometimes be "Everything that I do other than my degree". Yet it is her passion and creative flair that keeps her going when others might have stopped trying.

For many people the prospect of starting their own business and shouldering the risks and sacrifices that this involves is simply not worth it, being tantamount to a living realisation of their worse nightmare. In reality, entrepreneurs are an extremely rare breed and it is true to say that to become one you have to have something of an X-Factor spirit that cannot be bottled - it has to come naturally.

Behind this determination will be different sources of motivation, whether that be the pure thrill of taking business risks, as in Johnny's case, or for Becks, the essential love of what she does, or even for James and Rory and the volunteers of the Computer Recylcing Project, who are spurred on by their social ideals. However what these different people do have in common is the inability to fit into a specified box.

But remember, for every maverick whose worst nightmare is to be merely a cog in the KPMG or PWC or PG machine, starting your own business, however risky and time consuming, can be the most satisfying, fulfilling and ultimately exhilarating adventure of your life.

## Setting up on the net

On first impressions, Johnny seems like your average twenty something, but when the conversation turns to business his whole tone and persona transforms. We are impressed by his professionalism and sheer business acumen.

When we first meet him, he is sporting his latest gadget, the smallest MP3 player in the world that has been specially customised to his personal specification by his "agent supply contacts" in Singapore. "I hope that this can compete with the IPOD shuffle, we should be able to sell it at a much lower cost". Johnny isn't all talk. He shows us the prototype, which true to his word really is tiny. But even though the product looks perfect to us, this isn't good enough for Johnny. "I'm about to get back to them to instruct the features that I want changing."

Never one to do things by halves Johnny now has three companies on the go, which sell products and services over the Internet for a global audience. His main venture at the moment is Celus, which is run through his parent company Mengduo.

Johnny flippantly tells us that one day the thought came to him 'that it was a shame that you couldn't buy ready made businesses over the Internet.' Instead of waving this thought aside Johnny has made this a reality through his business Celus.

Johnny hopes to continue with his companies after university and after having lunch with him we can't help but think that that we might be hearing of him in the future.

To find out more visit [www.celus.co.uk](http://www.celus.co.uk).

## Grinning Records

James and Rory have always had a passion for music, indeed Rory has played in bands before. They met at school and shared a concern for the lack of support for school bands, so they established "Grinning Records as a company aiming to promote youth music and guide young bands in the right direction so that their efforts are not wasted".

They explain, "These people have so much enthusiasm and it can be wasted so often. There is a lot of negativity associated with young people who are interested in music, but the question to ask is what else would they be doing, if they weren't doing this? We want to channel their energy effectively".

The service that Grinning Records offers is two fold: first it creates a website for the band and a CD and sometimes even merchandise. The company then takes a cut of the merchandise and CD sales, which is about 40-50 per cent. They sometimes go one step further through running events, where they aim to get 'good music to local towns and cities across the United Kingdom. We help young bands all over the country gig in front of a reasonable audience, whilst also providing the youth of that town with a decent event'.

In many ways Grinning Records acts as a feeder record company which James and Rory admit. "Ninety per cent of the bands cannot make it commercially because the genre that they are operating in just isn't tailored for that market. However not many of these bands really want to make it commercial anyway. They just want to get gigs, at least at this stage."

As a partnership they provide an interesting insight into a joint entrepreneurial venture. Their advice is simple, "you have to work with people that you trust, who have useful and different skills from you". Rory admits that although he is the music mistro behind the business and could possibly run it as a sole trader he needs James' calming pragmatism to curb his wild enthusiasm to take on too much.

Asked about plans for the future both can see the scope to expand the business, but recognise the obstacles involved. "We don't have the resources and as we are all in full time education, neither us nor our clients really have the time to be able to be able to do that." However Grinning Records hopes to run some new events this summer.

*For more information visit the website [www.grinningrecords.co.uk](http://www.grinningrecords.co.uk).*

## Creating fashion

When you first meet Becks, you can tell that she is into fashion. She started making bags around the age of 16, which she gave to family and friends. Since then she has expanded into all things creative. Making clothes, jewellery and hand crafted cards "basically lots of things for friends birthdays".

She describes her original style as "very girly, glittery, sparkly and even a bit OTT". You can't help thinking that Becks could be talking about herself. Her vibrant and bubbly personality is reflected in the pieces that she creates.

Indeed her passion sometimes overtakes her and she freely admits that she doesn't always run her business in the most economical way. "Sometimes I will go to Duttons and just get really carried away buying ribbon and sequins. But at the end of the day I know that I will always use the things that I buy".

Yet even if she was offered money, knowing Becks she wouldn't feel happy taking it.

"We are all students and I don't feel comfortable accepting money from people for doing something that I enjoy anyway. The compromise is being paid in alcohol. If someone gives me a bottle of wine in exchange for one of my bags

etc. I see it as covering my costs. It saves on awkwardness, as well as the money I would otherwise inevitably spend on drink."

Beck's biggest statement at York so far has been at Fusion where she customised over a hundred T-Shirts for the models and committee at Fusion. On top of this she has recently showcased fashions at the three-day "Guilty Pleasures", a student fashion show which was held in Leeds. Although Becks is unsure whether or not she will carry on with her enterprise in the future as she has no hard qualifications, you can't help thinking that she won't let her creative flair die. And anyway as she explains, "it's nice to be able to put 'launched my own fashion label', on my CV."

*For more information on Beck's products email her at [rell105@york.ac.uk](mailto:rell105@york.ac.uk)*



**One of the campus Fusion models shows off Becks' customised clothing**

## The scientific briefing with Luke Boulter



### Creating life: The Frankenstein of today

With a flash of lightning and a groan from the lab bench 'the monster' was born. Constructed from a cocktail of reclaimed body parts, Frankenstein's creature roams the village, kidnapping maidens and eventually is chased up to a windmill, which is subsequently burnt to the ground by a hoard of pitchfork-wielding villagers. Not all together that inspiring then for Steen Rasmussen, who since early last year has worked obsessively to do what scientists and the eccentrics amongst us have dreamt of for years... create life.

Don't, however, place your order for a creature of your own just yet. At the moment what you will receive in the post will be nothing more than a beaker with what looks like a few contently floating blobs of oil and even these won't be as interesting as you'd have hoped. The plan is to create a being from scratch - A small organism; one tenth the diameter of a normal human hair which will autonomously grow and replicate. Its name: the Protocell.

So why has the Los Alamos National Laboratory just put up five million dollars for research into something that many scientists believe to be a little too sci-fi to be true? Well, initially (considering Rasmussen is successful) we will be able to see what we looked like four billion years ago. We'll have some understanding of how our ancestors formed from nothing more than a collection of gasses, which due to a random spark began to react and form amino acids - the basic building blocks of life. Success in this project would offer all manner of answers: Why did we form as we did? How did we form these stray molecules? Whatever the outcome, according to Peter Nielson, a biochemist from Copenhagen and partner in the Protocell project, the key answer that will arise from this research is "was life an accident or inevitable?" In either case this will have profound implications on how we consider ourselves in the universe.

The research however does not merely offer a quasi-profound notion of existence, there are practical applications to what Rasmussen and his team are doing. Once the basics have been mastered, the thought of home made multicellular organisms isn't too big a jump. We need only look at the decade or so to see exactly how genetic engineering has moulded our production of crops and medicines. Steven Benner, a biophysicist from the University of Florida, envisages new organisms that can "offer qualities outside the realm of whatever nature can conceivably provide". Who knows, a few years down the line there may be a little creature scampering around the lake clearing up after the geese!

So what are the bare essentials required for the production of these little creatures? Well, basically exactly the same as ours. They will require principally three things: a metabolism to generate energy, some genetic material to be passed on to the offspring of the protocell, and a sac to hold the other two components and divide into new cells.

There you have it, simple! Well not really, the problems arise really when you try to make this happen, especially when the components aren't meant to go together. One way to get around this is the 'top-down' method; take the simplest unicellular organism you can find, and then prune its genome, gene by gene until removing any one of the remaining genes will kill the organism. The result: the basic components for life. That's the simple part, now all you are required to do is synthetically reconstruct this stripped down genome and reinsert it into the cell. One catch remains, however, the cell has to live once the transplant has taken place!

The second method it to deny nature completely, and go 'bottom-up' – Rasmussen's protocell will be made using this method. He'll make the sac for the genetic material by using a molecule – one end loves water, and the other end hates it. So what do the molecules do? They form a ball with the water-loving parts on the outside (known as a Micelle). Next, in true entrepreneur style, he will add the genome – DNA and RNA won't do though, they're a little too natural, so instead Rasmussen will use PNA (Peptide Nucleic Acid). The PNA has two main parts; the bases, similar to those in DNA allow replication and the transmission of genetic material from parent to child.

The second section however is completely different to the sugar phosphate backbone in DNA; it is made of molecules called peptides which are normally associated with proteins. The peptide backbone is conductive, so when coupled with a light sensitive molecule an electron will shoot through the peptide spine of the genetic material like electricity through a wire and metabolism is kicked off. In the presence of food the cell will grow and parts can replicate until the whole thing becomes unstable, and splits into two cells. – Or at least that's the idea.

So what does it all mean? Well in the long term Rasmussen envisions self-healing planes and self-cleaning surfaces where a layer of his creation feeds of your mess. Now, however, the possibilities are a little less radical. Getting it to work seems to be the priority.

One thing can be said though, don't look to the sky for alien life; look in the bottom of a test tube somewhere in Los Alamos, Mexico.

# Save the world on a budget

In the seventies it was vogue to dance around barefoot to John Lennon and campaign to save the world - nowadays people seem to have given up and thrown their maracas away. It is common knowledge that apathy is on the rise, even among young people who traditionally embody the greatest social idealism. Indeed students form a large proportion of the forty per cent of the UK population that doesn't even turn out to vote.

Yet a newly published book entitled Change the world for a fiver, argues that it is not that people have lost their social conscience but rather that the insurmountable 'scale of the problems induces a state of paralysis'.

This statement rings true. Despite the fact that the government's chief scientific advisers have pinpointed climate change as a far greater threat to our planet than international terrorism, it is easy to become numb to this reality, even when we can actually see great chunks of Greenland falling into the ocean. The thought of becoming 'environmentally friendly' can not only conjure up the unpleasant image of living in a tree and weaving your clothes out of recycled hemp, but also the disquieting possibility that perhaps we are all too insignificant and too late to make a real difference to our world.

After all crusading to save the planet alongside trying to save your degree and enjoying your youth is a pretty tall order. Not many students have the time or the finances to install a solar powered generator to their James College ensuite, or buy a car that runs on vegetable oil. Yet Change the World for a Fiver with its 'fifty actions to change the world and make you feel good' aims to provide easier and more affordable solutions to going green.

The book is created by the We are What we Do movement and it's philosophy is simple; 'We aim to show the power of a simple shift in attitudes and day-to-day behaviour'. As it argues, people 'think we have to leave change to governments or big business even though we also know that we elect governments and that our spending is what creates big business. Surely the question is not whether we should act alone but how we can act together'.

So if you are up for it, how can you change the world for a fiver? The first thing that the book suggests is simply to carry a shopping bag and 'decline using plastic bags wherever possible'. It sounds small but 'every person in the country uses an average of 134 plastic bags every year. That's 8 billion bags all together. All of which take 500 years to decay'. And anyway you will look so much more chic and continental carrying your carrots in a nice wicker number, than in a rather passé Costcutter original.

Other small acts include turning off unnecessary lights and using energy saving lightbulbs. In fact the book estimates that energy saving lightbulbs can save you around £65 in the long run. Furthermore merely turning your central heating thermostat down by 1° and switching off electrical applications at the mains can really reduce a household's energy consumption. According to We are what we do, 'a video recorder on standby uses almost as much electricity as one playing a tape.' Not only do such actions save energy but they also save money;

**Ride to lectures,  
don't drive.  
Tuition fees will  
be enough to  
worry about  
without having  
to pay for  
parking too**

reducing the temperature on your thermostat can actually cut your heating bill by £25 per year.

Another surprising fact is the amount of waste that is generated simply by leaving the tap on while you are brushing your teeth. 'It wastes up to 9 litres of water a minute, or 26'000 litres of water per household, per year. This means your street alone could fill an Olympic sized swimming pool every year.' Furthermore, so much power and water could be saved if people only used less water in their kettles, and this has the added benefit that it saves you hanging around for your caffeine fix.

Recycling is a really easy way to make a difference, yet it is something that very few people do. Most of York's JCRC's provide recycling facilities for glass, paper and plastic goods. However, if you live off campus you may be in one of the lucky zones that has access to a kerbside recycling scheme, or if not recycling banks shouldn't be too far away. See [www.york.gov.uk/waste/recycling](http://www.york.gov.uk/waste/recycling) for more information.

However there are also less obvious products that you can recycle too. Many people don't realise that '15 million mobile phones are replaced in the UK every year. This equates to 1500 tonnes of landfill. That's about the same as burying a World War 2 Destroyer'. However if

you go to [www.fonebak.org](http://www.fonebak.org) you can recycle your old mobile and stop it becoming part of the problem.

The Computer Recycling Project in Grimston house will also happily take old or broken computers and donate them to a worthy cause.

Furthermore, if you have empty printer inkjet cartridges, Tommy's, a baby charity will recycle them at no cost, just call 0800 435576 to order some free envelopes. Recycling books is also a good idea and this can make you money too, Your:Books normally offer a rebate of at least 45% of what you paid for a book originally. Another nice thing to do is to donate your old glasses to a charity like [www.vao.org.uk](http://www.vao.org.uk) who send them to people in developing countries who can't afford them - '200 million people around the world need spectacles every year'. Recycling these kind of things really can make a difference to people's lives.

The book goes on to advocate many other ideas that would change society for the better, such as sticking to the 30mph speed limit, building links with your neighbours, smiling at strangers more and spending time with different generations. Admittedly at times it can be a cheesy read that was quite possibly written by a bunch of vegans in a room full of dream-catch-

ers, Enya and idealism. However at the same time even staunch cynics cannot deny that the suggestions the book makes are so easy to do and can actually save you money to render it worth a shot.

Understandably most students feel disillusioned by the knowledge that just because they do the decent thing and recycle their vodka bottles every week, this will probably not counter the damage caused to the environment by the millions of petrol guzzling Chevrolet drivers over in Kansas. It is true that the future of our environment will largely be dictated by the decisions made by major world leaders, such as those meeting at the forthcoming G8 summit in Scotland. However despite all of the reasons encouraging passivity, anyone who reads 'Change the World for a fiver' cannot help being inspired and empowered by its suggestions. It is perhaps because this book really shows how people can do their bit and take responsibility for their piece of the world, however small that might be, which lies behind its appeal.

*Rachel Ringstead*

• *Change the World for a Fiver, £5, Amazon, or if you want to save paper, visit their website at [www.wearewhatwe do.com](http://www.wearewhatwe do.com)*



# The latest statements

**Helen Edge** explores the new debate on charity wristbands and questions whether we really wear them for a good cause



Look around your seminar group or, indeed, any group of people on a night out in town and more likely than not you'll see them sporting the latest fashion accessory: the plastic, coloured wristband. Turn on the television and you're faced with a similar scenario as celebrities from pop stars and footballers to Tony Blair are wearing wristbands of a variety of colours. However, this is a trend with a difference and not purely to keep up with the times, as money from the bands goes straight to the charity which produces them. The question though is why? Why are charities suddenly producing plastic fashion accessories to raise money? Are the days of ribbons, stuffed toy animal keyrings and flowers now a thing of the past and how did this trend come about?

The wristband craze was initiated by Tour de France multiple winner Lance Armstrong after he was diagnosed with testicular cancer and given a 40 per cent chance of survival. He set up the Lance Armstrong Foundation and produced yellow wristbands with his motto 'Livestrong' imprinted on them. Not only was yellow the colour of the winner's top in the Tour de France, it also symbolises the hope, courage and perseverance of cancer patients. After Armstrong's recovery and subsequent sixth Tour de France win, the sale of wristbands escalated and is now in constant demand.

Further wristband campaigns were launched after seeing the success of 'Livestrong'. These included black and white double ones, as worn by footballer Thierry Henry campaigning against violence in football and blue ones launched by Radio One to coincide with the Government's anti-bullying week last November. HIV and AIDS charity Until There's a Cure also launched a range of silver and gold metal bracelets, emblazoned with a raised AIDS ribbon to help raise awareness and recognition that anyone can be infected with AIDS. Other charities soon followed suit, with pink for breast cancer care, red for heart disease, purple for Cystic Fibrosis, blue for the Asian Tsunami relief fund and white for the prominent Make Poverty History campaign, urging rich countries to cancel Third World debt.

It would appear then that the desire to produce ribbons and flowers is rapidly wearing thin, now that a large proportion of the population are cashing in on the wristbands, therefore donating much-needed money to charities. There are obviously many reasons for this sudden shift, and here are a couple from people on campus. Firstly, as Steph Thomson, Merchandise and Sponsorship Officer for Halifax suggests "it's because celebs wear them and it's also a chance to support a certain charity like Make Poverty History", which means that not only are we helping a good cause, but in doing so we're also emulating our favourite stars. Oliver Griffiths, a second year English student also agrees that the wristbands are a good way of showing support for a chosen charity. He also wears a Make Poverty History one, as he thinks it's "especially important to awareness just before the G8 as

some people don't know about it".

But it's not just Make Poverty History that students on campus are supporting. Second year History student Noel Davies sports a pink breast cancer awareness band, as "my mother had to go for a mammogram a couple of years ago and although everything turned out to be fine, it was still a terrifying experience. Although I'm a man and less likely to be affected myself by breast cancer, I still want to show my support to the cause". As a whole then, it seems that the major-

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Charities are constantly searching for new ways to raise money. The wristbands are just one of many ideas designed to make people give

ity of students on campus are wearing their bands with pride to show their support and awareness.

The charities themselves must be benefiting then as the wristbands are easier to notice in most cases than the lapel badges previously worn and in buying a wristband you're also making yourself fashionable. More people than ever are giving to charities in this way and Diabetes UK have sold out of their magenta "a future without diabetes" wristbands and are launching a limited edition two-coloured one to mark Diabetes Week in June. Make Poverty History also use their white wristbands to convey a sense of unity to a cause to end acute poverty, stressing on their website that the most important thing is that "you just wear it".

Is this a sure-fire way of fundraising for charities then? The outlook looks good, but there are some snags. Obviously the majority of charities in the country are under funded and constantly searching for new ways to raise money, the wristbands are just one of many ideas designed to make people give. The major problem they do face, though, is bogus suppliers of fake bands, often on the streets of large cities, where none of the money goes to the charity, so it's worthwhile to make sure that you buy bands from reputable suppliers or from the charity's official website.

Wristbands were also subject to bad publicity when it emerged that the silicon Make Poverty History ones were made in Chinese sweat shops, so whilst you were supporting the cause to end global poverty, simultaneously you were giving money to exploitative factories, which Jon Wilkinson points out is "pretty awful, because exploitation is being used alongside an honourable cause".

For now, though, the wristband craze is a popular way of supporting and recognising a certain charity. It has definitely pushed lapel badges into the history books and has helped raising awareness and money into the front line of fashion. Long may it continue!

# Robbie Dale



## Rule of the mob: does democracy really work?

**E**lections are so depressing. Most people you ask don't bother to use their vote, the ones that do are usually caught up in some irrelevant agenda, and many voters will take to the polls with little knowledge at all of the issue they have been given the power to decide. There was clearly a case of this in France and The Netherlands recently as 'the mob' chose to vote against the adoption of the European Constitution. I will save the pro-Europe rant for another time however, as what I have in mind today is something far more crucial to all our lives; the prevailing insistence that democracy is something useful.

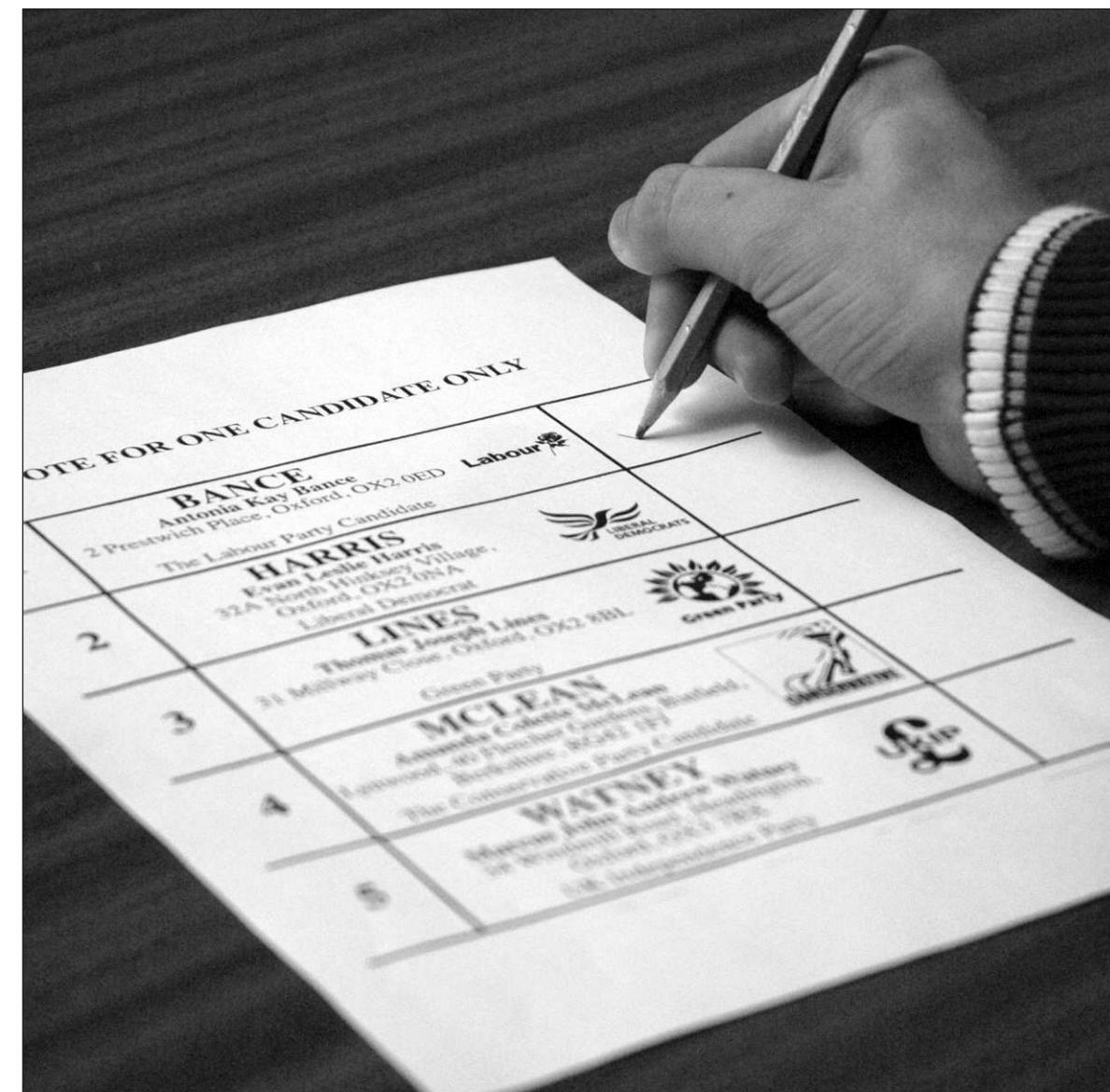
All that the French and Dutch have done if force the EU and its member states to spend even more public money on fiddling around with the political building blocks to get a shape 'the mob' are more happy with. All those who think money should be spent on health and education say Merci Beaucoup...

inevitability is that the European nations will have to pull together if America and China are ever going to have some middle ground to help balance the planet.

My real point here, irrelevant of the implications surrounding this particular political issue, is that there seems to be little positive effect to ever arise from democracy. I'm sure people will be searching for their soap-boxes as they read this, but I will need to hear something pretty persuasive to change my mind. Democracy, in theory is a great idea, in fact in theory (and I mean theory in such a clinical way it hurts) it is one of the greatest ideas in history. Unfortunately, it relies on the voters to be objective, intelligent and sensible. By nature, humanity is none of these things.

We've just had a general election; imagine how many talented would-be MPs were shunned by narrow-minded party fanatics? We have

To take the European Constitution votes as a case in point, those of you who have had a glance at the paper will know that the main point is to provide better working practices for the European Union. This will not as such change the aims of the EU, but allow more transparency and accountability that can only be of benefit to the populations of member states. I can only imagine that those who are against the constitution are against a European Union altogether. Unfortunately voting against the constitution (which, lets face it, is already being put into effect whether you like it or not) makes no real difference in the long term. The



The voice of the people is always the loudest, but it's not necessarily always right. Photo: Toby Hall

campus elections regularly throughout the year (and some of those elected actually do important things despite what the student population will forever believe). I shudder to think how many incompetents have been elected over the years to the detriment of student welfare.

The question I pose therefore is why does society continue to consider democracy a valid form of dictating the future? To my mind a process that puts the general consensus of popularity above an informed choice made by

well educated experts is, well, a bit crap.

I suppose the draw of democracy is all to do with keeping rights that have been fought for over the years. Although maybe it's that democracy allows the blame to be spread far and wide? I suspect, however, that for the most part no one's really thought about it. When a problem arises, and ministers or other leaders are too scared to make decisions on it, they can call for a referendum, a vote from the masses to give the magic answer.

Indeed, one could argue that it is only in contentious times, times when even the experts are baffled by exactly what to do that the great unwashed are allowed to have their say!

Of course, here in the UK we are unlikely to have a vote on the European Constitution in the current climate, so I guess we'll have to make do with Big Brother. Unlike the real world of politics however, at least on Channel 4 the public cannot fail but do the right thing and vote an idiot out of 'the house'.

## Worship the domestic goddess within

OK, it's time to own up - who can't make their own bed yet? Ok, and who is still at a loss to understand how the washing machine works? Fine, fine... and who still can't cook? I thought you were doing a PhD? You are?! And you still can't cook?

No... Pot Noodles don't count. I'm nearing the end of my third year here at York, and it still never fails to amaze me how useless some people

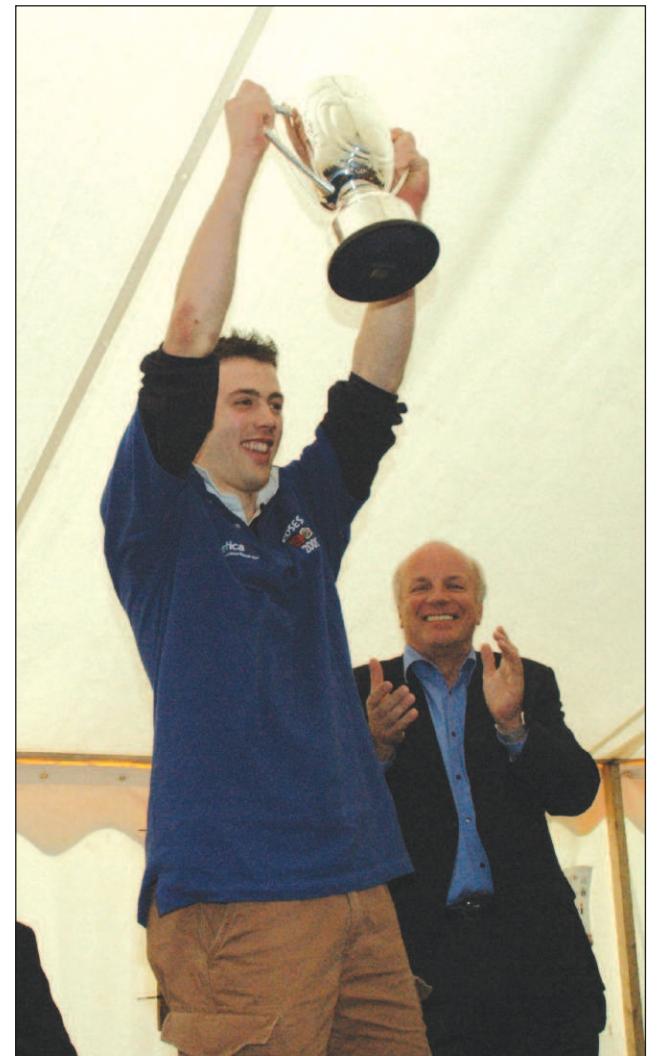
are. This was brought to my attention most recently when I was round at a friend's house and one of their flat mates asked the immortal question: "how do you fry an egg?" Now, I wouldn't normally knock someone for lacking certain skills, or even for lacking knowledge on the most basic of subjects, but I'm sure you'd have been on my side when, after half-choking on a stifled laugh, I told him you fry

an egg the same way you fry anything else and achieved the blank look I was after. It just makes me wonder sometimes, how many blokes are in Toff's of a Tuesday nervous that if they pull, the girl will invite herself back to his place, because as it's nearing the end of term, it has been ten weeks since Mum washed the sheets...

At least (in some vague sense) all is ok while you're still at

University. We're even encouraged to embrace the student stereotype and this, of course, means being as domestically backwards as possible. But what of the real world? A third of all Undergraduates are about to head off into real jobs, in real places with real houses to look after; let's hope a degree from York is enough to secure the kind of salary that brings with it a maid.

# The stories that made the paper this year



Clockwise from top left: Stuart Leslie raises the Roses trophy as York win their forth title in three years; York graduate James Brandon is filmed by Reuters in the hands of Iraqi terrorists last year; Colleges stop buying unethical clothing for their hoodies and other merchandise, part of a campaign by *nouse*; The improbably titled Nadsat Fashion perform at battle of the bands - won by rockers The Morning Thieves; York take on Lancaster head to head in men's lacrosse during Roses; the Media Charter debate at the start of the year raised questions about freedom of speech and press responsibility; Students collecting money for charity around York on the annual 'Rag Parade'



**Pro Plus has teamed up with 8 times Memory World Champion, Dominic O'Brien, to provide students with some memory tips to help them revise**

- 1) Association 2) Acronyms 3) Mental Pictures
- 4) The Journey Method 5) The Rule of Five

The Pro Plus research also shows that the top revision break activity is watching daytime TV, with Neighbours as the most popular choice of programme. To help students work out exactly what their revision break should be Pro Plus has developed a revision reward fruit machine. Visit [www.revisionreward.co.uk](http://www.revisionreward.co.uk) to see if you are entitled to enjoy a half hour session of Countdown, a cup of tea or a drink in your local with mates.

Also to help students get through exams Pro Plus is giving away revision reward packs. Each one contains a PlayStation game, cinema tickets and a chocolate bar – all in a record bag. To enter simply answer the following question:

**What is the name of the eight times Memory World Champion?**

Answer's sent to competition@nouse.co.uk, response required by end of week ten. The editor's decision is, of course, final

# The Japanese

**Ana Fletcher discovers a passion for Japan**

Lord Tokugawa Ieyasu is probably not a name you remember from school history lessons; in fact, you may well never have encountered it before. It hardly rolls off the (Western) tongue, and just getting the spelling right requires more effort than the average student is likely to expend in a day. But hop on the next flight to Japan, or, alternatively, get googling old Ieyasu, and you'll soon realise that you've been missing out on a serious legend. Responsible for unifying hundreds of rival factions into what we now know as Japan, as well as bringing peace and prosperity under his lengthy rule, Tokugawa is still today revered as a God. Move over Bismarck, make way Garibaldi; Lord Tokugawa is the unifier of the moment.

For all readers now tearing their hair out, cursing the Eurocentric bias of their schooling, and begging for it to be redressed, fear not; the path to enlightenment is short, and costs a mere £5.80 return with a Young Person's Railcard. That's right, the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds is currently the home of 'Shogun: The Life of Lord Tokugawa Ieyasu', an exhibition dedicated to (surprisingly enough) documenting Lord Tokugawa's ascension to power and glory through a series of spectacular battles and deft political manoeuvres.

Admittedly, a day trip to a museum with the words 'Royal Armouries' in its title is perhaps simply asking for too much. At least these

were my thoughts as D-day (that's 'D' for deadline) loomed ever nearer, and the inevitability of the visit became impossible to ignore. Childhood memories of aching feet while being dragged around war museums, each featuring the same, endless, green-tinged replicas of rifles and gas masks, had made me wary of all things bellicose, as well as of all things old for that matter.

Happily, a lot has changed since my oh-so-distant childhood days, and the Royal Armouries Museum is actually leading the way. Hell, it's won a 'Visitor Attraction of the Year' award, quite the achievement by any standards, and in particular considering it's based in Leeds. The museum is a great big modern building on the River Aire, with five separate galleries and more interactive activities than you could shake a child at. It's an easy walk from the city centre, free entry, and boasts a well-stocked shop where you can pick up anything from a full set of samurai swords, great for impressing guests *a la* 'Kill Bill', to a full set of Warhammer models, great for, well, not a lot really.

But I digress. The purpose of my visit was to check out what is being hailed as 'one of the most important displays of Japanese heritage and culture ever to be seen within the United Kingdom'. If that hasn't impressed you, bear in mind that the eighty 'breathtaking' objects on display are leaving their sacred shrine for the first time, and are of such religious importance

# YORKRAG PRESENTS: Woodstock

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# invade Yorkshire

when she visits the latest offering from the Royal Armouries Museum

that they were accompanied by two priests on the journey over from Japan, to ensure their safekeeping. Keep bearing it in mind as you hand over the £4.50 for your entry ticket; surely a couple of drinks can be forsaken for such a unique learning experience.

Because, yes, 'Shogun' is actually a highly impressive, and unquestionably unique exhibition. You may think you've seen enough objects in glass cases to last you a lifetime, but the ones on display in Leeds at the moment will beat them all hands down. The armour, costumes, screens, weapons, scrolls, books and banners that make up the exhibition are of genuine interest, and are complemented by engaging and informative panels. I can now tell you that Tokugawa Ieyasu came to power in the early 17th century, largely due to his leadership of the massive battle of Seki-ga-Hara, which left over 36,000 dead in one day (alright, I had to check the website for the number). At the exhibition you can see the actual battle plan diagrams used, as well as the massive golden fan that was Tokugawa's battle standard. Tokugawa was subsequently given the title of Shogun, which granted him full control of the army, and upon his death was made into a deity.

The highlights are undoubtedly the amazing full-sets of armour on display, so much more colourful and enjoyable than the Western stuff, in particular the helmets that cover the full face and come with bushy moustaches stuck on, presumably to intimidate the enemy. Also enticing are the computerised touch-screen reproductions of the original books held within the cases, so that you can actually browse through the pages (they even turn from right to left).

There's also a special section for the less energetic of the visitors; a zen area with benches for relaxation and meditation; a little tacky in relation to the rest of the exhibition, but decidedly useful for putting up the aforementioned tired feet and shutting out restless children.

**Move over Bismarck,  
make way Garibaldi;  
Lord Tokugawa is the  
unifier of the moment.**

If you're still not convinced, time your trip well and you may catch one of the many extra cultural and artistic activities organised by the Museum to make your experience all the more enriching. These include origami, temari, and kumihimo demonstrations (that's paper-folding, thread balls and braiding to us), and there's also flower-arranging, painting, and calligraphy. For those seeking more visceral entertainment, there are martial arts demonstrations, as well as the rather ominous-sounding horse archery. And if you find that you just can't get enough of that Samurai sensation, you can go all out and sign up for my personal favourite, the Shogun Sleepover.

The exhibition's final merit rests in its size, which is mercifully small. A well-administered shot of quality over quantity that allows you to walk out feeling simultaneously erudite and itching for more.

To exit the exhibition you must first pass through the inevitable gift shop, this one exclusively dedicated to Shogun-related material. Which doesn't quite explain the plastic monkey keyrings, but we'll let that one pass.

'*Shogun: the Life of Lord Tokugawa Ieyasu*' is on at the Royal Armouries Exhibition in Leeds until the 30th August 2005. Check out [www.shogun.org.uk](http://www.shogun.org.uk)



A schoolboy challenges two fully-clad samurais at the exhibition's opening

## What have the Shoguns ever done for us?

The word 'Shogun' is a shortened version of the longer 'Seii Taishogun', which translates as 'Barbarian-destroying Commander in Chief'. For centuries, real power in Japan was held by the Shogun, who commanded the military, while the Emperor saw to the ceremonial aspect of government. An integral part of the social hierarchy were the samurais, warriors and members of the military class, widely renowned for their sword skills.

We've been influenced by Japan in more ways than you may realise, check these out:

- The 1960 Western 'The Magnificent Seven' is based on the Kurosawa classic, 'Seven Samurai'. One review calls it 'nowhere near as good'.
- Darth Vader's iconic mask is based on those worn by 16th and 17th century samurai. Don't believe us? Go over to Leeds and see for yourself.
- Remember Otomo, the cyborg samurai in Robocop III? Neither do we, but the film wouldn't have been the same without him.

## Exclusive British Asian Theatre Showcase in York

Behind every door there is...an unseen woman. - *The Unseen Woman*, a production to be performed on Tuesday and Wednesday in Week 9, reveals these women and tells their stories. The innovative interweaving of three contemporary plays by British Asian writers - *Bells* by Yasmin Whittaker Kahn; *Chaos* by Azma Dar; and *Ammaah* by Takbir Uddin - will allow British audiences access to a strikingly different culture, but one that very much exists within their own. Latest official estimates indicate that British-Indians number almost a million, the British-Pakistani community a further 675,000 and Bangladeshi 257,000 (source: BBC news). Additionally, a further 242,000 people in Britain have varying Asian backgrounds; a clear indication that the time is ripe for their culture to be discovered and understood by the rest of the country. The Birmingham Rep certainly thinks so; Kali Theatre Company's touring productions of *Bells* and *Chaos* began life in The Door, the theatre's studio space, and *Ammaah* debuted at their showcase for new, young writers, The Transmissions Festival, last July. In 21st century, multicultural Britain, the issues raised in the plays, as the productions' acclaimed runs show, can no longer be ignored.

Each of the plays lets us into a world rarely seen and often suppressed; from the decadent mujra club hidden behind the façade of a respectable butcher's shop in *Bells*, to the local muslim councilor hiding his cultural identity that creates *Chaos*, via the eponymous *Ammaah*, featuring a matriarch trying to hide her dishonoured son's marriage to a gori (white girl), behind an arranged marriage. As articulated by Azma Dar, all three explore and combine the 'clichés of a British-Asian family battling to straddle two cultures'. Dar's central characters in *Chaos* represent the difficulties of such duplicity through the juxtaposition of Mr Rizvi's westernised attitude with Mrs Rizvi's traditional, almost fundamentalist views. Yasmin Whittaker Khan exposes in *Bells* the supposedly respectful, religious Asians who visit the exotic mujra clubs, with their dancing girls and prostitutes, 'condemning these vulnerable women in public whilst pursuing them in private'. Finally, *Ammaah* by Takbir Uddin addresses the problem of mixed race relationships in contemporary Britain: 'I wanted to get the message across that these things happen and we have to accept it and move on to bring cultures closer together.'

The York University production, from the same team who presented last term's *The Vagina Monologues* to you, is a benefit performance for the Anah project, a Women's Refuge for Asian Women who have suffered from domestic violence, based in Bradford. The women that receive help from the project are very much like those represented on stage in *The Unseen Woman*, in that they all face varieties of domestic abuse: financial, emotional, physical, psychological, sexual. Women fight this treatment daily, unseen and unacknowledged and since the charity's inception in 1993, The Anah Project has offered safe and secure accommodation for Asian women without children. The work of the Anah project is vital, as Asian women fleeing domestic abuse need a refuge in which their culture, tradition and unique situation will be both understood and respected.

By buying a ticket to this show you will not only be treating yourself to an evening's entertainment, but also helping women who, without charities and events such as this, would remain unseen. As the director Amy Beeson demands, 'If women don't draw attention to the plight of other women, then who else will?' - Beth Pitts

Watch *The Unseen Woman* at 7.30 in PX001 on 21st and 22nd June. Tickets are £4, available from Your:Shop.

# Things to do when you finish your degree

**Dan Searle** clearly has some spare time on his hands

**W**ooooo! We've all finished!!! Unless you do a proper degree, like one involving numbers, or if you're not a third year, or if you're not even a student, or if you've failed all your exams and have to do them again.

But ignoring this small majority, it's time to party! Then, when you've run out of money within a few days, it's time to not party! Wahey!!! So what can the metropolitan graduand-about-town do with their newly-acquired spare time? Hmm? No, you can't do that. Or that. Sorry. Hey, don't worry, little guy. Things will turn out O.K, I promise. I compiled a list for you. It's called 'Things you could and shouldn't do'. It'll make everything better again, like they were before Daddy left.

Organise a protest march. After everyone realised that Bush's War on Foreigners and tuition fees were really great ideas after all, there's been a dearth of banner-bearing students gallivanting down roads in London. More please. There'll be at least one amateur political theorist who, in an attempt to impress a girl, protests too eagerly and gets ACTUALLY DEVOURED by police dogs. Also, the march as a whole will be shown for around twenty seconds on Channel 4 News, and, from above, resemble a huge, politically active Chinese dragon. But made of placards. If there aren't any issues against which to slap your umbrage, then abuse a social minority first. Then protest away!

In every group of friends, except those who met through a sports team, there's always one pseudo-intellectual BASTARD who physically poops a philological poop on the post-degree party by informing everyone that, now they've finished, they're going to attend the lectures of other subjects. Instead of embarking upon this Pooptopian voyage, however, you could write and present a series of your own lectures. Try it yourself! For example, I know a lot about the computer game 'Lemmings' – so I might give one lecture on the different skills, one on some of the more interesting levels, and one on the sequels, such as 'Oh No! More Lemmings', 'Lemmings 2', and 'Lemmings 3D'. What am I saying. I'm such a breast.

Don't jump in the lake. Too many other people have been there before, it's cold, wet, and slimy, you'll contract numerous diseases, and you might get a duck lodged up your anus. If you want that experience, go on the bonk in Ziggy's on a Friday.

Have a campus wank.

Have a nuzzle through your old photos from the first year. When the nostalgic tears have dried, and the scars reopened by memories of Hilda, and the good old boys who went to fight for their country, have once again closed, oh, times were hard, then do this please: Find a photo taken at a party. Find a person who you don't know in the background of said photo. Then actually go and find them, and, brandishing the photo, talk to them about how great that party was! Yeah! Those were wild times, man, wild times! We should totally catch up sometime! Yeah! Then, after befriending them for the last two weeks of your university life, deliberately offend them and never see them again.

When I was young, if I told my mum that I was bored, she'd always suggest the same list of activities. 'You could draw a picture,' she'd proffer, 'or play in the garden, or write a story.' But, mum, I know I can do those things. You've suggested them every time I've asked for the past seven years. Have you got any other ideas? 'You could draw a picture. Or play in the garden, or write a story.' Good idea, mum! They all sound like lots of fun! You big spanner. So why not pay homage to having too much spare time by ringing up my mum and, without so much as a by-your-leave, repeatedly tell her to 'Draw a picture! Play in the garden! Write a story! Draw a picture! Play in the garden! Write a story!' Try variations, such as foreign languages, or culminating in a four-part harmonised choral piece which makes t'old Brenda Searle believe she's actually just received a phonecall from God.

One night, when the moon is shining beams of celestial value unto rogues and vagabonds, nip into all the computer rooms on campus. Log on to each computer individually, then push the mouse down through the inevitable brush-covered hole. The mice, having crossed their equivalent of the river Styx, will never be found again, and you will have total control over the university. And infinite lives. Get a job.

# The ways of boring JCRCs and their kids

**Miranda Addey** does something involving JCRCs that will take up two whole lines of exciting subhead textings no I think that three lines are needed for the full excitement

**W**hat does the average York University student think of when they hear the letters JCR? Is it an organisation designed to give students the best opportunities and support, or is it some secret society tainted with cliqueness, student politics and boring committee meetings? Miranda Addey peruses the world of JCRCs, and asks what is it JCRCs do?

JCRCs, which stands for Junior Common Room Committee, are elected annually in the autumn term by each college as a whole and officially take over at the Christmas Ball. They range from about 35 to the maximum 45, sharing about 20 posts. These cover all the aspects of student life, and provide the main focus for college life (as opposed to university life).

The positions vary greatly, and provide a framework of activities and resources for each college's students to enjoy. Goodricke Eco reps recently put on a successful Eco afternoon where people could find out about environmental issues, and win prizes for recycling. Without JCRCs Fresher's week wouldn't be as diverse, and show such a complete guide to student life. Ents reps across the Uni have provided students with big DJs such as DJ Spoony, love dough DJs and drum'n'bass DJs. Bar officers make sure your trip down to your college bar is always interesting. With them you couldn't win that crate of beer at the quiz or humiliate yourself in front of all your peers singing bad oasis. Each college has welfare students whose sole purpose is to look after the wellbeing of their college's students. They usually offer drop-in sessions and supply their own personal email addresses as a starting point for people with concerns about any issues.

But what are the motivations behind people getting involved in these things? There will always be a great polarisation of people who attend university- those that really want to have a part in absolutely everything and those on the polar opposite who do nothing other than degrees. Anouska Widdess, James Chair, encompasses this with her statement: "people are either really enthusiastic or massively apathetic." JCRCs definitely offer a great opportunity to get involved in the running of those things that effect students the most. As most JCRC chairs agree, they provide a first step on that ladder. In the words of Fran Tarrant, Alcuin Chair: "a bridge between college students, the students

union, and the administrative side of Uni."

Without the college systems, there probably wouldn't be such a diverse range of events. James Flinders the chair of Halifax college says "There is rivalry with other colleges, although this encourages us to offer the very best services to our students." There is definitely rivalry, for example rag reps are encouraged to raise as much as possible to increases their college totals (amount raised), and college sport relies on this to entice people to play. But is this a good thing? The rag Parade, earlier this year, was marred with petty rivalry between colleges. As Stephen Hill, chair of Langwith says "The rivalries are good and promote participation and loyalty to your college as long as it is not taken too far." How far is too far?

The main complaint of people surveyed about the JCR system is about their cliqueness, and therefore the difficulty to get involved in them, if you did want to. In response to this most colleges say that JCRCs are simply not cliquey. Fran Tarrant says "One of the positive benefits of joining JCRCs' is the social life, which is very involved and can often appear to be cliquey." Compare it to living with people in halls. You become friends, to outsiders this seems cliquey. The same thing happens in JCRCs, except in that case they all have something in common: they all want to get involved. Stephen encapsulates this "By their very nature, the people in them spend a lot of time together so do become friends and are social - this may appear cliquey to outsiders." Outsiders?

It is possible to tell a lot about the mindset of a JCRC by its constitution. A constitution basically sets out what the role of the JCRC is and the role of each position. Halifax for example: its new (passed) constitution basically sets itself apart from any governing body.

"HCSA is an unincorporated association which derives its exempt charitable status from its association with Halifax College at the University of York."

James Flinders says: "We're an independent unincorporated association which is an exempt charity. We have no formal relationship with YUSU, although we work closely with YUSU and the GSA to get the best deals for Halifaxers." It has combined the JCR and GCR and has become a charitable organisation, known as Halifax College

Student's Association. To get people involved they: "have worked incredibly hard to include all students in our decision making. The minutes from our meetings are on our website. We have Question Time (where any member of Halifax can ask questions to any Officer) for the first fifteen minutes of every meeting." Should representing more people get you more money? Halifax is by far the biggest college and James Flinders thinks so: "We believe that college funding should be done on the number of students, rather than by YUSU's finance committee."

---

**Things can sometimes seem unfair: the JCR of Derwent get into Club D for free as it is traditionally a richer college than the others**

Certainly things appear unfair in other sides of college provision. Derwent are traditionally a rich college, as Anouska Widdess says: "Their JCR gets into Club D for free, whereas James can't really afford that." Vanbrugh have recently had a refit, making old Vanbrugh bar completely over. Langwith have just had their eating provisions taken away to make way for a new lecture room. Stephen doesn't find this fair: "we feel Langwith is neglected by commercial services and the university as a whole - much money has been plied into Vanbrugh and Derwent whilst ignoring that Langwith blatantly needs a refurbishment" And nowhere for Langwith to eat as a college, "is ridiculous as this provided a good meeting place and focus for the college".

Student politics it may well be but without them there would be less options for York students to explore in their everyday life. It is definitely a goal of JCRCs to represent and provide for the students. As Richard Croker, Derwent chair, puts it "(If I could have one thing for my JCRC) I suppose a college where every member was involved and active and had a strong collegiate nature." JCRCs can't represent everyone; but they sure try.



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## Roses victory 2005

Turn to back pages and Muse

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

- 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.

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

Pages 4-5



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

We're looking for students with flair, dedication and passion to join our team for next year. If you're interested in any of the following fields, then let us know.

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**satire**  
**the arts**  
**music**  
**politics**  
**film**

# Arts Reviews

## Nan Langfeldt-Flory experiences Stephan Poliakoff's *Sweet Panic* at the Drama Barn



The weekend of week six, Francesca Seeley brought Stephan Poliakoff's *Sweet Panic* to the Drama Barn. The play is a dark piece which follows the relationship between child therapist Clare Atwood (Panda Cox) and the neurotic, obsessive mother of one of her patients, Mrs. Trevel (Becky Baxter). When Clare goes away for a bank holiday weekend with her metro-bus expert boyfriend, Martin (Nick Payne), she refuses to give Mrs. Trevel her mobile number and thus can't be contacted when George, Mrs. Trevel's son, goes missing. Mrs. Trevel begins stalking Clare, demanding George's files; at the same time, a former patient, Richard (Alexander Hargreaves), returns in a less

than stable state, another child, Jess, terminates her sessions and a parent, Mr. Boulton (Stevie Ratcliff), is determined to demonstrate to Clare the importance of his work perfecting the meal-in-a-cup. Clare's regimented and controlled world begins to crumble against a haunting London backdrop and Mrs. Trevel reveals her complexity as she imparts to Clare the wisdom "panic is good".

The play is slightly disconcerting, like an Escher drawing in that you can't quite identify what it is that gives it such a strange and menacing tone. It has a disturbingly spooky effect; you are constantly waiting for something really terrible to happen, for some dark secret to be revealed

and for cardboard London to come crashing down around Clare's ears. As it is, there are some major potential crises, such as Richard's frightening attack in the park, but by the end of the play you realise that it is Clare's fear of the collapse of her rigorously structured world that puts her and the audience so on edge. When she finally relinquishes her strangle hold on life, the ominous shadow ceases to follow her. An interesting concept, the play lacks believability; why would a woman with such control over her life, who apparently holds her work so close to her heart (if anything too close), risk everything by not reporting Mrs. Trevel to the police straight away? Why would such a by-the-book professional go off for a picnic in a deserted park with an ex-patient whom (it is later revealed) she suspects of being less sane and successful than he makes out.

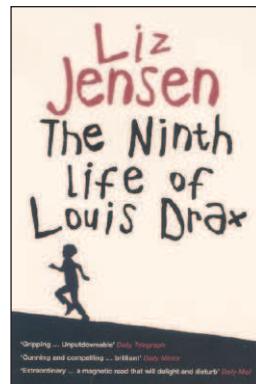
These issues may render the play somewhat moot as Clare's dilemmas seem far too obviously solvable and her reactions don't always fit with her characterisation. However, I was impressed by what the cast and crew did with a difficult script, at times excellent in its attention to detail and the truth of its dialogue, but patchy as a whole. The most striking feature was its all round high quality acting; the cast was a York University all-star offering, with Panda Cox following up her work in *Far Away* with another memorable and natural performance as Clare Atwood. She was matched by Becky Baxter's

scarily uptight Mrs. Trevel and an equally believably Alex Hargreaves as Richard, although he did falter a little in the more highly charged, emotional scene in the park.

The use of 13-year-old patient Jess' cardboard models of London to set the different scenes around the city was an effective technique, demonstrating how Clare is defined by her young patients; she, as Jess earlier demands, is seeing London through Jess' eyes. Throughout the play, Clare acts as the children's mouthpiece, taking on their voices, but at the same time they are her bridge to the world. She even keeps a recording of herself as a child, as if the only way she can engage with herself is to go back to her childhood state of mind.

The photographic backdrops used worked well in the park scenes when large prints of leaves indicated an outdoor setting, but the black and white art prints in Clare's office, though beautiful, were a little self-indulgent. Would a child therapist not be more likely to decorate her walls with something more suited to her clientele? The prints served only to further confuse our image of Clare although they were an ingenious way of indicating scene changes.

A play that, ultimately, did not quite succeed in examining the questions it raised, this was nonetheless an impressively performed and thought provoking production which showcased the high calibre of our student actors.



*The Ninth Life of Louis Drax*  
Liz Jensen

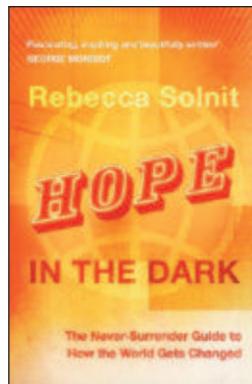
Reviewed by  
Rebecca Gower  
£7.99  
Bloomsbury

★★★★★

"I'm not most kids ... Stuff happens to me that shouldn't happen, like going on a picnic where you drown." So begins *The Ninth Life of Louis Drax*, Liz Jensen's compelling tale of lies, obsession, and the hidden workings of the human mind.

Louis is a precocious but difficult nine-year-old who has always been accident prone – as he puts it, "Everyone said that one day I was going to have a big accident, an accident to end all accidents." On a picnic to celebrate his ninth birthday, that is exactly what happens: by the end of it, Louis, having fallen from a cliff into a ravine, is in a deep coma from which he may never awaken, and his father has disappeared. The book centres around the attempts of Pascal Dannachet, Louis' doctor, to piece together exactly what happened on that fateful day: was it an accident, or did someone push him? This search for the truth is complicated by Dannachet's growing attachment to Natalie, Louis' mother, and by the fact that Louis may not be as unable to communicate with the world as everyone assumes.

Darkly amusing and more than a little disturbing, it's a brilliantly woven story that hints at how badly wrong families can go.



*Hope in the Dark*  
Rebecca Solnit

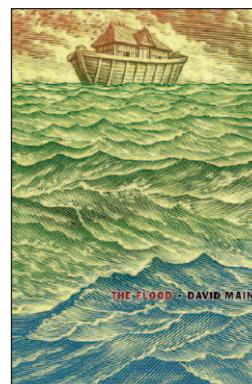
Reviewed by  
Ben Wilcock  
£7.99  
Canongate

★★★★★

It was with some degree of trepidation that I picked up *Hope in the Dark*; another semi-activist, sociological chronicle in the wake of 9/11. I was, however, pleasantly surprised. Rebecca Solnit weaves together significant political events in the period leading up to the new millennium in a thought-provoking and enlightening manner, gradually guiding the reader to a refreshingly ambiguous climax.

The first chapter begins with a Virginia Woolf quotation, "the future is dark, which is on the whole, the best thing the future can be, I think". This is to become a recurrent theme throughout the book; the idea that the unknowability of future events is indicative of the positivity of human choice.

Solnit's philosophy is that the individual can make a political difference, and dedicates her work in part to Wes Niskes, a US radio presenter who famously said "if you don't like the news, go out and make your own". She chronicles her personal beliefs on direct action and political movements in a witty and mature way which more than makes plausible connections between Solnit as a cultural historian and the likes of Simon Schama and Susan Sontag. Well worth the read.



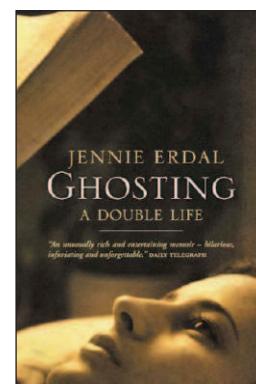
*The Flood*  
David Maine

Reviewed by  
Rebecca Hammond  
£12.99  
Canongate

★★

In *The Flood*, David Maine attempts to flesh out the Bible's rather brief depiction of Noah's Ark and the forty day flood. He imagines the impracticality of gathering two of every beast whilst building a huge boat in a dry, sparse landscape. Noah's success is accounted for, somewhat satirically, by convenient coincidences, or rather God's foresight; one of Noah's sons is a ship-builder, his fourteen-year-old daughter-in-law manages to solve the logistical problems of stowing the ship's live cargo. Noah laments the challenge as he attempts to describe his wood requirement to two irreligious giants, "things were much clearer when God was explaining".

The novel is fun, easy to read and contains some undeniably witty passages, but it might be worth casting a glance at Dick King Smith's children's book *Noah's Brother* before giving Maine exclusive credit. Certain characterisations disappoint; Noah's son Japheth is based on the assumption that all sixteen-year-old boys relate stories exclusively in the present tense under the delusion of being from Brooklyn, "So we're standing on this great rutting monster, going nowhere in a hurry", though Brooklyn is another few thousand years in the making. Entertaining food for thought for a lazy mind.



*Ghosting: A Double Life*  
Jennie Erdal

Reviewed by  
Heloise Wood  
£7.99  
Canongate

★★★★★

Jennie Erdal's *Ghosting* is a literary feast which effectively deconstructs the writing process and sheds light on the enigma of ghost writing. Each character is immediately brought to life, particularly the key player Tiger, the pseudonym Erdal gives to the man she spent years working for, writing articles, even novels, under his name. He is ebullient, absurd and charismatic, a one man theatre. Erdal reveals how she tried to use semi-colons as frequently as possible because they were his favourite type of punctuation and the difficulties she encountered when the main criteria for 'his' novel was the inclusion of simultaneous orgasm between female twins.

She struggles inwardly as she tries desperately to appease him, her considerable intellect suffocated in writing slushy romance novels. And indeed, Erdal shows great literary talent, her love of language spilling out of every page. She pays frequent homage to philosophers and writers, untangling their theories on time and creativity, making the most complex statement accessible.

Ultimately, *Ghosting* shows itself to be a great novel by creating more questions than answers, making one marvel at the sheer ingenuity of writing.

# Music Reviews

## Single Honours

It was with a sense of sadness and, erm, possibly relief that we assembled in Langwith coffee bar for the last time this year. Well, in truth we shall probably return before the term is out, but it was the last time we came together in order to pass a harsh judgement on the efforts of the musical community. Which is a poney way of saying that most of the singles were shite. Plain shite.

### Mercedes - Daydream

An intriguing offering from a young lady who clearly can't decide whether to be a little bit country or a little bit rock 'n' roll and isn't really either. Lyrics of increasing sexual suggestiveness are ruined by the vocal, which sounds like prolonged vomiting played back on a reel-to-reel at reduced speed, and the guitars are migraine inducing. Jen was a little more generous, describing it overall as "not bad to sleep to".

### Do Me Bad Things - Move in Stereo

A fresh, quirky little tune from the purveyors of glamourous indie rock and roll. It's only a matter of time before the Toffs' indie boy collective are seen doing their special headrolling dance to this. Jen thought it lacked the catchy quality of some of their earlier single releases, "but you can't hate a sing with a guitar solo that poppy". She went on to add that they were probably "the meatloaf of glam rock". Quite.

### Little Barrie - Long Hair

This is so stripped down it could be arrested on an obscenity charge. For a gorgeous moment it sounds like Der Stuhl era White Stripes - is that bluegrass I hear? - then the chorus kicks in and it gets a little dull. Still, there are definite Gomez echoes and they pick up coolness points for being called Barrie.

### The Raveonettes - Ode to LA

This is the tune that made all our hard work this week worth it, the Raveonettes have, in Jen's words, "become the chilled, melodic band they want to be". She thought the festive bells reduced the driving-around-to-it-in-a-convertible potential, but this saccharine bitter masterpiece about smog and heartbreak is our Single of the Week.

### Nelly - N Dey Say

This single deserves a mention purely because it samples the Spandau Ballet 80s classic *True*, and seamlessly makes it into an R'n'B track (and that's something I think none of us would have ever expected!) However, Martin Kemp won't have to worry about his pop crown being taken by this 'gangster rapper' because, quite frankly, Spandau Ballet did it best.

Written by Jenni Marsh and Daisy Steinway



Oasis

*Don't Believe the Truth*

Reviewed by  
Chris Spillane

Out Now  
(Big Brother)



When asked if Ringo Starr was the best drummer in the world, Paul McCartney replied he wasn't the best drummer in The Beatles let alone the world. Bad drumming must be hereditary as Ringo's son, Zak Starkey demonstrates on *Don't Believe The Truth*. Nevertheless, his effortless approach to music brings a new dynamic to the group and encourages a more relaxed, understated Oasis.

*Turn Up The Sun* is the driving album opener that was to be expected, followed by the one chord affair that is *Mucky Fingers* flavoured with a Harmonica solo that sounds like a derailing train. The album closes with *Let There Be Love* which features a Gallagher duet. With the nineties over *Lyla* is the closest Oasis get to their original sound, a song which Noel Gallagher has described as their poppiest single since *Roll With It* from (*What's the Story*) *Morning Glory*.

The composing duties were shared amongst the band, with Noel contributing five songs, three by Liam, two from Andy Bell and Gem Archer writing one song. This has resulted in a different Oasis sound and the outcome is shown in accomplished numbers such as *The Importance of Being Idle*, the Liam penned confessional *Guess God Thinks I'm Able* and guitarist Gem's soul contribution, the ever optimistic *A Bell Will Ring*. These tunes justify Oasis' longevity and if Andy Bell sticks to playing bass and not composing, Oasis should be around for a long time to come. *Don't Believe the Truth* marks the maturing songwriting of the younger Gallagher brother, with Liam's contributions showing great improvement from *Little James*. In comparison with Gallagher senior's songs, Liam's songs lack the inconsistency of Noel's, yet he can still write anthemic flag wavers like the impressive *Let There Be Love*.

*Don't Believe The Truth* lacks the edge of *Definitely Maybe*, the god awfulness of *Standing on the Shoulder of Giants* and is far, far removed from the rock n' roll swindle that is *Be Here Now*. The truth being that by abandoning their rock n' roll swagger for pensive acoustic music, their sixth record is their most thoughtful and mellow release to date.



Rob Thomas  
*Something to Be*

Reviewed by  
Laurence Newman  
Out Now  
(Atlantic)



Blandness is never a good thing in a pop record, especially from an album that promised so much, but tragically delivers so little. *Something To Be*, the new album from Matchbox 20 singer Rob Thomas, is possibly the most disappointing release to pass through the *nouse* office this year, especially since his last release, the collaboration *Smooth* with Carlos Santana, was such a big hit in the UK.

Unfortunately, with his latest album it seems like Thomas is pandering to the kind of sanitised over-produced Latin pop niche that Ricky Martin had such phenomenal success with in the late 1990s. Not that this would be a problem, if he had not made a career out of releasing records like *Mad Season* which make *Something To Be* sound uninspired and distinctly average.

*Lonely No More*, the first single to be released, sounds like a cast off from Enrique Iglesias with Spanish influences that should be left to Jennifer Lopez, and after four weeks it is languishing at number twenty-four in the charts

The only saving grace on this record is *Problem Girl*, a song which is so much better than any of the others that it seems almost strange to hear it amongst this bad bunch, although the fact that *Problem Girl* sounds like a Matchbox 20 song may have more than a little to do with this.



The Coral  
*The Invisible Invasion*

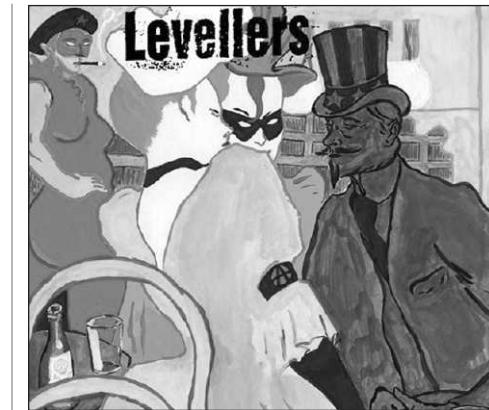
Reviewed by  
Jenny Lee  
Out Now  
(Delta Sonic)



Back with their fourth album in three years, Scouse scamps The Coral have never really been away since they released their self-titled debut, and the result seems to be that their sound hasn't moved on much since then. *The Invisible Invasion* is pretty much more of the same psychedelic jangly pop, but this time it sounds watered down and frankly it isn't a patch on past efforts.

Much has been made in the music press of the presence of former Portishead knob-twiddlers Geoff Barrow and Adrian Utley on production duties, but they don't seem to have made any significant contribution to the sound. Instead, the band have crafted twelve pleasant pop songs that may fit in well on the radio playlists but don't offer the originality and exhilaration of previous efforts.

If an album could be damned by faint praise, this would be it. *The Invisible Invasion* is simply 'quite good.' At less than forty minutes long, it's brief and most memorable song is lead single *In The Morning* which has quite rightly been all over the radio in recent weeks. On this, James Skelly actually sounds like he can sing. Meanwhile *Arabian Sand* sounds like the Zutons, and *So Long Ago* reminded me of Belle and Sebastian. There is nothing wrong with anything here, it just doesn't do anything new.



The Levellers  
*Truth and Lies*

Reviewed by  
Laurence Newman  
Out Now  
(Eagle)



Brighton based folk-rock-punk group The Levellers have a sound and cult following that is the stuff of legend. In 1994 the band headlined Glastonbury to the biggest main stage crowd in the festival's history, and with their new album they stick to their musical roots which gave us the 90s crusty classics *Beautiful Day* and *Far From Home*.

*Truth and Lies* captures the infectious live energy of the band in the opening track *Last Man Alive* which is almost a throwback to the anthemic sound of *One Way* and *Make You Happy*. As the first single to be released, it shows that the band can still make a great pop song. *For Us All* sees the band at their most folky with some sublime fiddle playing and a kazoo solo.

*Truth and Lies* is an album that was born to be heard live and loud, and when The Levellers played a recent gig in Leeds the songs made the transition from studio to stage effortlessly and with the conviction of a band that has been on the road for the last fifteen years and made more albums than you could shake a fiddle at.

Although the first few tracks give *Truth and Lies* a phenomenal opening, the mixing leaves something to be desired. By the end of the album you get the feeling that the band have used the best songs first and the record seems to lose its sense of energy from then on.

# Film Reviews



## *Sin City*

**Director:** Robert Rodriguez  
**With:** Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke

**Runtime:** 124 min

**Reviewed by**  
Rob Perkins



Quentin Tarantino was recently voted one of the most influential directors of all time, and although he only 'guest-directed' one scene of Frank Miller's *Sin City* his influence is prevalent throughout. *Sin City* is a film very much in the Tarantino mould: a cool but brutal, modern classic. Its no over-statement to call it the first true successor to the glorious bravado and swagger of *Pulp Fiction*. The structure is even reminiscent as director Robert Rodriguez weaves together three separate and personal stories of passion, revenge and mind boggling violence against the bleak canvas of a sprawling metropolis filled with amoral low-lives, vicious power struggles and yet more violence! It is simultaneously a faithful and detailed adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novels and a wonderfully original, rule-breaking, genre-defying movie.

The most remarkable and breath-taking aspect of Miller's stunning creation is the use of colour. The film is shot entirely in black and white; the rare splashes of colour are used as a weapon for dramatic and artistic impact. It works superbly, adding a captivating and shocking edge to the atmosphere of sinister tension and simmering passions. It's especially effective in moments of extreme gore and savagery; the violence made more cartoon-like. It stops it from becoming gratuitous, merely omnipresent.

The acting isn't bad either; a large and eclectic cast of nobodies, much-maligned journey-men and Bruce Willis add flesh to the stylish bones. Mickey Rourke is a revelation as the sweet yet sadistic freak Marv. Actors like Benicio Del Toro, Rosario Dawson and Clive Owen work wonders with a clichéd script, making the strangely similar characters seem believable and important. Its not easy to make an audience care about two dimensional characters whose contrasting moral codes are as black and white as the colour scheme of the film itself. Don't get me wrong, it won't win awards, but then *Sin City* isn't that kind of film: it's an edgy and increasingly notorious cult classic rather than an Oscar-polishing Hollywood love-fest. The ultimate effect is a triumph of style over substance, undoubtedly the film's greatest asset (other than the scintillating Jessica Alba, this summer's biggest new star).

There are those who will criticise *Sin City*'s lack of morality, its sexist outlook and its horrific violence (when you have to use a plural to describe castrations you know you've stepped over the line) but these critics miss out on the film's vital point. It is an adaptation of the highest fidelity, both a tribute and parody of 1940s 'film-noir', simultaneously mimicking and replicating the classic crime movies now deemed either too dull or pretentious for modern consumption. These criticisms cannot be levelled at the awesome adrenalin rush that is *Sin City*. It is the boldest, coolest and most exciting film I've seen in a long while, and a far cry from the turgid comic-book rubbish which currently congests the cinema screens. If you like crime films, cool films, Tarantino-esque films, or films at all, then see *Sin City*. See it, see it now, and if you can afford it at this late stage of the year, see it again.

## *Batman Begins*

**Director:** Christopher Nolan  
**With:** Christian Bale, Katie Holmes

**Runtime:** 141 min

**Reviewed by**  
Lewis Charlesworth



audience are aware of what happens before the characters in the film. For fans only familiar with the Batman films, this is not the case with *Batman Begins*. After the opening flashback from his childhood, we see our protagonist in the middle of a Mongolian prison, not something normally associated with millionaire playboy Bruce Wayne. The first third of the film charts his journey from grief stricken child to angst ridden adult intent on bringing real justice to Gotham.

But hold on guys, this is Christopher Nolan, things don't run so predictably as that. The adult and child storylines run parallel to each other, with little Bruce's story interrupting the present action to give weight to the emotional and dramatic aspect of the film. Here we also see the director of *Memento* effectively playing with narrative to place us in the perspective of one of the central characters Ducard, as we simultaneously learn more about Bruce's fear.

In the midst of shallow, generic comic book capers (*Underworld*, *X-Men*, *Blade*) *Batman Begins* gives us a complex protagonist, who is as much an empathetic human as a hero. This is why it is so refreshing. Nolan manages to effectively reveal the mechanics behind Batman's powers while also changing the perspective, when needed, to create an element of surprise for us and his foe's in the action sequences.

Although the cast were generally very good, there were some interesting cast choices. Tom Wilkinson, for example, seemed miscast as mob boss, Falconi. The way he played the role seemed more 'Bugsy Malone' than Al Capone, which is strange because little kid, he ain't. Katie Holmes was out of place as a 'lawyer', but Nolan has to make some concessions to appease those movie dates looking for a pretty couple on the screen to emulate.

The odd cast decisions were insignificant however, compared to the achievement of a British director and a mainly British cast who rejuvenated a very American franchise.

With *Batman Begins*, Christopher Nolan accepted the difficult task of breathing new life into a franchise that was seriously on the 'Wayne'. (Sorry, couldn't resist). The Batman films generated a new wave of comic book adaptations in the 90s that began as a successful stylistic/gothic crime caper and ended as a camp, star studded flop. With this installment Nolan ignores the styles of the previous films and in some cases most contemporary comic book adaptations to re-imagine an old icon.

The new Star Wars films revealed that a prequel could give a concrete back-story to the original film, allowing for many sly asides as the

## *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*

**Director:** Doug Liman  
**With:** Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie

**Runtime:** 120 min

**Reviewed by**  
Tom King



It looks like the domestic scene so typical of modern relationship films. A couple who seem to have it all, looks, money and style, sitting across the dinner table from each other and quite deliberately not saying anything. However, there's a twist... Most failing marriages aren't accompanied by an oven full of hi-tech weaponry or a toolshed full of grenades.

*Mr. and Mrs. Smith* follows John and Jane Smith, married for half a decade but now suffering 'marriage fatigue' and a loss of passion. But under the well-mannered veneer of suburban sits an explosive secret – they're both top assassins working for rival agencies. This secret is the

basis of what is tearing their marriage apart but everything changes when they both get assigned - somewhat predictably you might argue - each other as their next targets.

What follows is an excellent example of how a big dumb movie should be done. It follows the ever-reliable template of guns, explosions and car chases and it does it very well. The guns are huge, the explosions would make Jerry 'Bang' Bruckheimer jump and the chase scene nearly equals Liman's Mini chase from *The Bourne Identity*. And yet it also has hidden depths. Liman proved his action calibre with *The Bourne Identity* but his roots lie in slick and ironic indie comedies such as *Swingers* and *Go* and he brings this sensibility to *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* as the bickering banter between the leads fairly sizzles with darkly barbed quips.

Speaking of the leads, how are they? Well they ain't bad to look at for a start and their sexual chemistry (while unsurprising in the wake of Pitt's divorce from Jennifer Aniston) is electric. Pitt, as usual, plays it cool-but-goofy with a winning smile but it is Jolie who really comes out smelling of roses. One gets the feeling that the *Tomb Raider* films were just training for this as she gets to play a proper kick-ass heroine with quips to match.

Obviously it's not perfect, there are several moments that feel slightly uncomfortable, not least the moment where John gives Jane a surprisingly savage kicking (thankfully off-screen). While this is not blatantly shown, the implied violence feels a little extreme despite the 15 certificate. Also, while Pitt and Jolie have a considerable amount of chemistry and screen presence, they seem to struggle somewhat with some of the comedy, meaning that some potentially excellent lines are lost.

*Mr. and Mrs. Smith* is unashamed action-movie fun and, lets be honest, with two such obscenely attractive leads, deep philosophy was never going to be the most important aspect. Disengage your brain, sit back, and enjoy.

# Food and Drink Reviews



## Which wine?

Recently the wine market has become flooded with bottles and bottles of cheap generic plonk, which the less refined palates of students will guzzle with gusto: a little like blackcurrant or pineapple cordial at 14% proof. Wine is becoming the drink of all peoples, yet I mourn the death of realised appreciation of this most noble and ancient of liquids.

### The Italian Job, £3.99, 3 for £9.99, Costcutter

This is an obvious 'student wine', although relatively low in alcohol at 11.5% this wine has a heady and full character and is typically earthy, as are many Italian reds. The wine has deep purple colour and is clearly very young and, I should say, be drank young too. I didn't rate this wine, the heavy body was not adequately tempered by fruit. I would imagine this wine is made from poor quality and randomly mixed grapes (mainly nebbiolo?), as the overall impression I got was a coarse and unrefined wine, which really needs red meat to balance it. I think it would be better slightly warmer than I tasted it and would be more than adequate for those summer barbecues.

### Jacob's Creek, Chardonnay 2004, £5.99, Costcutters

Hasn't the sun set on the reign of the chardonnay? Certainly its not as universally popular with aspiring sophisticates and women wishing to reform their Essex-girl reputations by not drinking pints of lager. What we have seen with chardonnay is a complete reinvention. A move has been thankfully made away from over-oaked, over-ripe, hot and fat-tasting wines. Jacob's Creek is a case in point. The characteristic tropical fruit is acceptably balanced by enough vanilla-scented American oak, to make it an enjoyable, if a little predictable, drink on a warm summers afternoon. I should say this wine ought to be chilled, but not as low as I see many people (and restaurants) chilling wines; to about seven or eight degrees would be perfect.

### Les Meslieres, AC Touraine, 2003, £6.59, Majestic

This is a wine I bought during my last trip to France, and have subsequently found it available at Majestic. Following a trend in lesser-known French appellations, it is of a single grape variety - in this case, gamay. The gamay grape is not known really for anything other than Beaujolais. This wine is described as a 'vin de soif' and I cannot think of a better description. It is beautifully smooth and light and is full of sweet red fruit without being sickly or unpalatable. This is a wine I regularly drink and is best drank very slightly chilled, and is a complex rarity to enjoy, especially in the summer. This is also a good wine for those who do not regularly drink red.

*Written by Tom Crockett*

The Juice Place  
The Shambles

Reviewed by  
Vicky Hallam



Are you sick of Pizzas and greasy Takeaways? Probably not! But if you are like me, and somehow strangely crave fruit and vegetables, the Juice Place can provide an easy option to your healthy eating conundrums. This juice emporium is hidden away in the Shambles, it offers over forty delicious Juices and Smoothies, from immune boosters to hangover cures and is perfect for those in need of post-exam invigoration.

Please don't be afraid to try the strange blends of Juices and Smoothies on offer, although I have to say the prospects of apple and spinach, and even beetroot, pear and cucumber can be quite daunting! But if that's just too much fruit to handle in one day, you should try a student favourite; the smoothie. They contain no additives, and come in delicious combinations such as raspberry, banana, apple and yogurt. All drinks come in 3 sizes and the regular is very rea-

sonable at only £2.30.

The drinks come in very trendy take-out cups - you can rival Star Bucks any day, safe in the knowing you are slurping healthy goodness. Whilst there I was persuaded into trying a shot of wheat grass, I knocked it back as if it were a shot of Sambuca, however I'm sure the Wheat grass is far more beneficial for my general well being, as it contains the equivalent of 1kg of fruit and vegetables.

The benefits of wheat grass are endless, it boosts the immune system, helps repair sports injuries and if you, along with most students, feel queasy at the very sight of sprouts and broccoli, this is a great way of avoiding actually having to eat something 'good for you', for just £1.95.

The Juice Place doesn't just sell drinks; they also have home made jams, salads, quiches and a wide selection of fair trade products on offer.

You may be thinking this all sounds terribly new age, but I really can't stress enough the benefits of these healthy innovations. Not only do they take the effort out of getting your recommended daily intake of fruit and vegetables, but they give you a natural high without the killer hangover! The Juice Place are also considering offering students a ten per cent discount...



Kapadokja  
George Hudson St.

Reviewed by  
Tom Crockett



I have often staggered past the garish yellow exterior of Kapadokja on my way to Toffs and wondered what the food was like. The menu was certainly more lamb-based than I expected. The lamb here is served in every possible form, from steaks, kebabs, köftes, dumplings, and the superb lamb shank which we made short work of.

Service was friendly and swift, our waiter revelled in the fact that he was able to speak in his native tongue with our friend and warmly recommended the Turkish Efes beer. Everything possible was done to accommodate us, which was really nice to see in a world of snippy waiters and insolent service. The food was frightfully good. I started with humus, which was rather dry for my taste but otherwise excellent. Other starters were also of a high standard and I recommend the vegetarian options. The mains were very filling to the extent that light eaters should think about having two starters. Despite there being a selection of every form of lamb, there are other dishes and vegetarians are not forgotten.

Perhaps it is my Turkish friend Selen's views which are of more consequence than mine. She felt the food was very traditional and cooked in an authentic way. Speaking personally I will definitely return to Kapadokja, which is praise enough; specially as I find it hard to say a bad word for this restaurant, which may surprise you!

Cross Keys  
Goodramgate

Reviewed by  
Raul Sellez



"What the f\*\*\*?!" Whilst I'm no prude, the use of profanity in public isn't normally my thing. But if you've ever ventured into the Cross Key's on a Monday night - I defy anyone not to mutter the same three words. From the outset the Cross Keys seems a good bet, a semi-historic venue, a stones throw away from the Minster but looks can be deceiving. Upon approaching the venue at around two minutes past seven (funny how you remember the little things when you feel you're going to die) "Surely", I thought "Nothing can possibly be that bad". Boy was I wrong.

The layout of the pub - if you can get past the broken glass and overflowing ashtrays - isn't too bad. A large horse-shoe shaped bar dominates (and divides) the bulk of the peculiar shaped room. I witnessed two groups of males at either side of the bar, glaring at each other over dirty pint glasses. Monday, as it turned out, was £1.50 a pint night. There are various other offers. A single vodka coke is a measly £1.50, as would a bottle of Carlsberg. But at what price? The so-called football thugs were whooping with delight when a woman closely resembling Dorian from Birds of a Feather staggered inside! So, if you don't want to end up like Burt Reynolds in that movie *Deliverance* or spend an hour talking to some senile old guy about his rheumatism; avoid the Cross Keys. The risks far outweigh the rewards.

Butterfingers  
Hull Road

Reviewed by  
Flora Bradwell



Picture the scene, you wake up in an unfamiliar house, with drool on your face and the distinct impression that you may not have been the most eloquent individual the night before. The only place any self respecting student (or indeed anyone who feels they may have lost all self respect they had the night before) is Butterfingers.

Perfectly placed between campus and town there is no excuse not to stagger to Hull Road and saturate yourself with a huge sandwich. The joy of being able to purchase the entirety of a fry-up between two baps for under three quid can only be rivalled by the elation felt when you realise you are biting into a delicacy that is aptly named 'the big boy'. With sausages, eggs, bacon, mushrooms and tomatoes, this beast of a breakfast fulfills all your nutritional requirements and is perfectly succulent to boot. For the vegetarian there is a wide range, my favourite being 'the vegetarian full house' which comes with cheese, egg, tomatoes, mushrooms and beans, with additional onion if you so desire it. Unlike the offerings of other York eateries, none of the ingredients seem to have been stewing for days in grease, however the calorific nature of these delights can not be denied. The high quality grease fest that Butterfingers has to offer at a relatively low price coupled with service with a smile makes this one of the best sandwich shops in York.

# The last word

If you like your light-hearted comment thrust violently into your digestive system, you've come to the right place, says David Cole

## The S.E.X. Issue



Pick up the phone now and you'll be hooked up with busty babes like this gem in minutes!

Hello, good afternoon, and welcome to this, the special, extended edition of *nouse* (est. 1964, 'Best font'- Guardian Student Media Awards, 2004), with 25% more text!!! As we all know, students invariably are a bunch of dirty little tramps, and you lot at York are no exception. I'll wager the majority of you can be found at the biweekly 'dogging' marathons in James' College car park, if not taking part with the SU exec then heckling from the sidelines, salivating like an Alsatian.

I bet some of you are a tad fed up and disillusioned with pursuing this perversion. Do you feel dirty? Defiled? Deviant? Well now you don't have to worry about what other people think, YUSU are here to ensure that you can live out your subversive fantasies from the cum-fort of

your own home.

"Call now for hot sex talk! Tonnes of sex-starved YUSU Committee sluts gagging to take the full length of your call! We go all the way! Call now to find out what exactly goes on backstage at the UGM, behind closed doors. We'll give you an officer's report you'll never forget - you're bound to cum back for more! Just call now on extension number 6969."

Calls charged at only £5 per minute, five pence of every call guaranteed to go to the minibus fund. Calls may be monitored or, indeed, minuted by Jolene for unnecessary and overly bureaucratic purposes.

## I've got a bad feeling about this...

Right now, in a galaxy far, far away (Goodricke Delta Prime Spunk, to be precise), the fate of our media societies is being decided.

The evil Galactic Union, led by the powerful Darth Alexander, has joined forces with the Impaired Vision Federation ('Biggest breasts' - Guardian Student Media Awards, 2004) with the common purpose of eliminating all logic and harnessing the Media Rebellion under its tyrannical regime.

We must stop them before any more articles are written about ducks! For more information contact [Toby\\_wan\\_Kenobi@rebellion.nouse](mailto:Toby_wan_Kenobi@rebellion.nouse).



Mmmmg... talking complete bollocks, you are

## Shove it

"O Death, where is thy sting" - *1 Corinthians 15:55*.

"It's been emotional" - *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

Never, in my life, would I have expected to find that Jesus Christ and Vinnie Jones could convey the exact same sentiment in such erudite, inherently similar vocalisations. Even less likely, would I have expected their parallels to be so perfectly representative of my present situation. Nevertheless, they certainly are.

To word this feeling in my own, sesquipedalian way, I guess I just have to say, "You can stick your light-hearted comment section up your arse. I quit." Forever yours, this is me, signing off, with love, arriverdeci, sayonara, bon appetit, break a leg. I recommend blagging Women's Studies in the next issue. That'll get their bra-burning, hairy-armed boy-featured knickers in a twist.

Nº 05, Management Studies

## Blag your degree



Gimme some Sugar: mmm... just look at that authentic management facial lustre

Wakey, wakey! Rise and shine ya bastards. Once again it's up to me to sort out the putrid mess you've made of your lives. You know, you should really start putting some effort in, I won't be here to wipe your nose forever. I've got beef with some serious idlers this issue; Management students, here it is, crazy fools.

It is the U-bend into which flows the annual, excremental discharge from all other academic departments. Are you a complete and utter failure? Have your parents threatened to divorce you? Never fear, Management is here! This course spawns the next generation of embittered, misanthropic lechers required for 'important' positions in managing 'companies.' Examples of companies are shops. Despite not being capable of hanging on to a decent degree, you now have the chance to redeem yourself at a microscopic level.

So take note, the dog may have eaten your Chemistry degree, but this one is laminated, so that won't happen again. If you cock up Management, you're a royal genetically transmitted disorder. Let's do this thang:

1. Okay, so you've escaped shit creek for now. You buggered up your Philosophy degree, but you've been given a second chance. Don't think you can relax yet though, or there may be a bowel eruption of volcanic proportions. If you fail again, you won't get another chance here. You may even have to go to a former polytechnic (cringe) if you want to try again.

2. Obviously you can see that it's important for you to pull your fecking finger out this time. To this end, here comes the choice snippets of advice, straight from the horse's arse. For starters, it's imperative that you have some sort of mild personality disorder to get ahead in this subject, preferably sociopathy. Practice your firebrand aggressive tendencies by spontaneously and literally throwing the book at your housemates. Your 10kg management textbook will work best.

3. Once you've mastered this art, and/or been evicted by your friends, you must try and find happiness. Buy a pack of cigars called Hamlet, a big leather swivel chair, and get puffing! Try to accompany this with sporadic outbursts of, "Get out of my office, see?" or, "I built this company from a nickel and a rusty shoe, see?"

4. Photocopy your arse. Repeat *Ad nauseam*.

5. Employers view work experience as extremely attractive in Management applicants. Try to get this in as early as possible, i.e. now! One simple way of doing this would be to become an amateur pervert. Experience as a sex pest is the first step towards professional sexual harassment. Go team!





Clockwise from top left: Willy Wonka 'hmm, its strawberry!'; Ballet Boyz get balletic in a manly way; Woodstock 2004 - looks promising for this year; Madagascar - after years of cabin fever, freedom didn't look so great either!

## Live Music

### Saturday 25th June

#### The Bluetones, Fibbers

Gradball perennials and a Fibbers' favourite, The Bluetones are known for the psychedelic twist to their guitar pop. If you are not familiar with their music, expect something between Oasis and The Stone Roses.

### Thursday 30th June

#### Funeral For a Friend, Leeds University

Whether you love them or hate them, it has been a great year for Funeral For A Friend; their headline set at London's 'Ally Pally' last weekend was broadcast live on BBC Radio One. They are set to play at Reading and Leeds Festivals and their album, *Hours*, is released on 13th July.

### Friday 1st July

#### Once in a Lifetime, Hallam Fm Arena, Sheffield

David Cassidy, David Essex, The Osmonds and The Bay City Rollers... Let's hope the title is a promise, because once is definitely more than enough in my lifetime, thank you very much! (If you are a fan, tickets are still available- I wonder why...)

### Tuesday 5th July

#### Finch, Leeds Metropolitan

The Californian emo-rockers are playing eight UK gigs before their massive US tour this summer. *Say Hello to Sunshine* is their heaviest and most ambitious album yet, but it retains their characteristic pop element.

## Campus Events

### Friday 24th-Saturday 25th June

#### Woodstock, Vanbrugh Bowl

Glastonbury tickets sold out in three hours, so for all of you disappointed and ticketless, York RAG presents Woodstock; two days' worth of the best campus bands, DJs, theatre and more. Forget those exams, pack a picnic, and see out the year in style. Woodstock is free but RAG relies on your donations so bring your spare change.

### Thursday 30th June

#### Big D, Derwent and Langwith

This is a 1,200 capacity all-day charity event which is rumoured to have five rooms of music, BBC Radio One's very own DJ Spoony, a beer tent, a bouncy castle and a bucking bronco. Come along and help reach the £5000 target.

### Tues 12th July

#### Gradball, York Racecourse

This year's extravaganza boasts Liberty X, Edith Bowman, a drinks reception, a three-course meal, a fairground, a fire cave and an ice-rink. They are even promising snow in July!

### Wednesday 22nd June

#### Twilight, Halifax Ball, Museum Gardens

Includes a barbecue and drinks reception.

### Thursday 30th June

#### James Summer Ball, York Racecourse

Includes a drinks reception, a four-course meal, a DJ and a live samba band.

### Tuesday 28th June

#### Languith Summer Ball, Ask

Live jazz and Pimms reception

## Theatre and Performance Movies

### Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd June *Unseen Woman*, University P/X/001

Three interwoven plays by British Asian writers on social issues, such as arranged marriage and fundamentalism. Proceeds to The Anah Project; a women's refuge in Bradford. (Tickets £4 Your:Shop)

### Wednesday 26th June- Saturday 2nd July *The Fence*, York Theatre Royal

"Britain's greatest living playwright". Howard Barker portrays the identity struggle of a blind boy living in the Gaza strip who becomes an illegal immigrant.

### Friday 17th June- Saturday 2nd July

#### *The 39 Steps*, West Yorks. Playhouse, Leeds

A London 'suit' wishes for more excitement in

life but gets more than he bargained for when a stranger is knifed in his flat and he gets framed for the murder! (Anyone spot the not-so-hidden moral?)

### Friday 8th- Saturday 23rd July

#### *Abigail's Party*, York Theatre Royal.

Mike Leigh's classic; a 1970s party brings unhappy couples into "a circle of hatred" at the mercy of an over-bearing hostess. (*The Good Life* meets *The Weakest Link*)

### Tuesday 12th- Wednesday 13th July

#### *Ballet Boyz*, Grand Opera House, York.

As seen on TV; grown-up Billy Elliots on tour to prove to 'da youf' that there's more to ballet than the tights. Let's hope that their cinematic backdrop is more tasteful than their spelling.

### *Batman Begins* (12a)

Finally, after the disaster that was *Batman and Robin*, a good sequel. What's more, fans can rest assured that Batman's costume no longer has nipples. This is very important, apparently!

### *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (tba)

Johnny Depp and an entire chocolate factory! Surely this is every girl's dream? What twists will Burton add to the original, and will the Oompa Loompas scare yet another generation?

### *War of the Worlds* (tba)

Another disaster movie (yawn). This time Earth is being destroyed by alien forces. You are in for the usual emotional manipulation as couples are separated and Cruise tries to protect his young family at all costs. Spielberg directs.

### *Madagascar* (PG)

This one's for you, finalists! A zebra, a lion, a hippo and a giraffe are persuaded by four penguins to escape from their zoo in Central Park and rediscover their wild side. After years of containment though, the world seems like a big, scary place. It's not *Finding Nemo*, but it's worth watching just to hear Ali G as a lemur.

### *The Island* (tba)

Lincoln Six-Echo (Ewan McGregor) and Jordan Two-Delta (Scarlett Johansson) long to leave their contained environment and reach 'the island', the last unspoilt place on Earth. However, they soon realise the more sinister reality; that they are clones and that 'the island' is where their body parts will be harvested.



Local MP, John Grogan, has his first ever PMB

## Supporters are vital to our sport

Contrary to the popular adage, sport and politics have always mixed. Just reflect back on the sports boycott of South Africa in the 1980s which helped to isolate the apartheid regime. Alternatively, look forward to the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and there can be little doubt that politics will play a role. The open question is whether the fact that the attention of the world will be focused on China will provide a window of opportunity for democratic voices or rather the chance to assert Chinese nationalism and power.

I myself will be seeking this week to raise two sporting issues in Parliament. For the first time in my eight years in the House of Commons I have been lucky in the Private Members Bill ballot. Although I am told by the Senior Committee Clerk that at number 19 in the draw my Bill will probably never even be debated, at least I have the opportunity to publicise a cause. My Bill which I must present to the House this week is entitled the Professional Football Clubs (Supporter Involvement) Bill. The aim would simply be to compel each of the 92 Premier League and Football League clubs to produce a plan which involves its supporters playing a part in decision making.

"A" list events must be shown live and "B" list events at least in highlights form. SKY have refused to sell highlights of the British Lions test matches against New Zealand to the BBC, depriving many keen rugby union fans of a chance to see their team play. Similarly this summer's cricket test matches will be the last to be shown on Channel 4 before SKY's exclusive deal with the England and Wales Cricket Board takes effect from next summer.

Why does any of this matter? It is simply because our football clubs and our great sporting events belong in some way to us all and should be enjoyed by all, rich and poor alike, not least so that future generations are inspired to take up sport.

The more exclusive these football clubs and events become, the more diminished they are.

## President Elect, Micky Armstrong, tells us his plans for the year ahead and asks what we want from the SU



If you can't be bothered to read this don't bother to condemn it! My first column for a student newspaper; I do not want to seem patronising, dictatorial, bombastic or idiotic... so bear with me.

I start my term in office having been elected in the most poorly attended elections of my

university career. This does not shock me. Throughout campaigning I was amazed that many people didn't know what the SU was, never mind what it was meant to be doing. Therefore perhaps it wasn't student apathy that led to only about ten per cent of people voting. Then again, perhaps it

was.

I see the SU and, particularly my job, as serving the needs and interests of all students throughout the University of York; be it from ensuring that the development of Heslington East has our interests at heart, to the welfare of people walking back from

Toffs or Ziggys.

However, it seems that the SU is doomed. Students don't like to be told what they need, nor how to live their lives. Any action the SU takes seems to be doing this. If students don't tell us what's wrong or what they want how are we meant to know.

To go back to my election campaign; I ran on the basis that the SU was meant to work for the student body, not the student body working for the SU. Therefore this year I aim to ask more of what the students want. This can't fall on deaf ears, I need an answer.

It may seem great if nobody speaks out - I just do whatever I want and try and get

away with it. But that is not what I want and that is not why I stood for President. Obviously I will continue the good work of my predecessors in the (seemingly) never ending issues of a central venue and student welfare etc. but I would love to know what else you would like from the SU.

I can't promise much, I would love to have a union bar that sells a pound a pint, for every room to be en suite and for everybody to get a first without attending a lecture, but

**This year I aim to make more of what the students want**

that might not happen. However I am sure there are things I am able to do and, therefore, if you ask, I can promise I will try.

My point is not to have a go at people for not voting, or to tell you to stop hating me or the SU, it's your right to have an opinion. I don't want to sound preachy or arrogant and if you think what I am writing is crap then turn the page.

My point is simply this, if you don't tell me what's wrong I can't fix it, if you don't tell me what you want I can't give it to you. The SU is easily contactable and I'll try my best to make it more so, so its now down to you. What do you want? What's the beef?

# Comment



# and Analysis

Taking the society activities out of a college obscures the whole point of a college, says **Daniel Fairbrother**

## The newly drawn lines of Vanbrugh are shaky

Hopefully, many will have heard of the protest over the ousting of societies from Vanbrugh dining hall. Reclaim Vanbrugh is a message that I have seen on posters and chalked across paving slabs along the University walkways. The message is not immediately apparent for those not in the know. Seeing one example near the library, I thought that perhaps the Vanbrugh JCR were trying to extend the boundaries of Vanbrugh College, perhaps with a view to a full campus take-over! But no.

That, given about ten seconds of thought, seemed quite implausible – the JCR have enough on their hands with Vanbrugh. What else could it be? Could it be another college trying to get their hands on our shiny new dining hall and cafeteria?

The actual campaign behind the slogans I saw is quite a modest one – people who used Vanbrugh before it

was refitted want to carry on using it. That does not sound particularly radical to me. Surely a campaign like that would simply need a ‘please’ to a reasonable person in charge, as opposed to an organised public/student awareness campaign? However, a quiet and rational ‘please’ would only work given one important assumption, that the people in charge are reasonable. In terms of results, it seems that that would be far too presumptuous.

Am I too quick to point the finger? The simple relocation of societies from one large hall to another surely cannot be considered unreasonable? There are other large spaces on campus that would be just as useful to societies as Vanbrugh (it is the space not the décor of Vanbrugh that is wanted – I’ll get to that in a minute). We have Langwith and Goodricke halls that could be utilised in the same way. If these alternatives were practical, then the

protest would not have a case.

However, as far as I can see, the alternatives are not practical. Langwith hall’s closure next term will squeeze everyone into Goodricke. Can Goodricke cope? Apparently, even now it is impossible to book space there because of the committed Pole Dancing Soc using it with great frequency. Maybe I misunderstand, but I cannot see Yoga Soc sharing with Pole Dancing Soc. The serious point here is that they really should not have to.

It is certainly true that the refit of Vanbrugh has made it a nicer place to be (it is a lot cleaner and feels less like a rugby clubhouse) although I have a major gripe about the use of the Mondrian style. It does not take a Professor of Art History to tell you that our dear old Piet was all about clean lines and uninterrupted blocks of colour.

So why have the designers of Vanbrugh ignored that and whacked two great big

splurges of disorganised mess in the middle of an otherwise effective décor? I refer, if it is not obvious, to the two paintings hung on the walls of the Vanbrugh dining hall. This aesthetic (and perhaps personal) complaint may be irrelevant to the Vanbrugh campaign.

However, the confusion is analogous to the confusion of kicking societies out – the whole point of Mondrian is his straight lines and bold colours, and the whole point of a college is the combination of the social, functional and academic activities that take place within it. Not only do admin demonstrate a clear lack of appreciation for art – they also fail to recognise what the functions of a college should be!

We waited patiently for the refurbishment of Vanbrugh and now it’s re-opened, students can’t even use it for what they want. There are three words that need to be said to those who have taken away Vanbrugh: Give it back!

## Students should be prioritised, says Thomas Fremlin Just a money-making machine?

Upon hearing about Heslington East, I naturally assumed it was a train station. Realising that it was, in fact, the plan for York University to expand, I have to confess that I was initially rather enthusiastic. Good, I thought, a young and successful establishment is looking to provide more for its students and, furthermore, to grow as an institution.

However, since then, the picture painted has been less enticing, one of money spinning and corporate domination, with student opinion at best taking a back seat and, at worst, being thrown out of the window.

Business is undeniably vital to the University’s financial viability, and so to an extent, one expects to see it embraced and, where neces-

sary, provided for. On the other hand, when those at the top fail to consult students, and yet provide 38 per cent of the footprint for business, there is a tendency for it to appear investment orientated. Sustainable development is the guise that the University uses to cover the fact that, if we’re being totally honest, business is dictating the new expansion – Heslington East.

Where, then, does the line come in? At what point is it safe to say that the University, which should ostensibly be about students, has become a money-spinning venture. I think now, for two reasons, firstly the aforementioned plans for the Heslington East expansion, and, more controversially, new plans to incarcerate students on the University campus

for three years.

Three years on campus, with its miserable grey atmosphere, lack of facilities, and often poor accommodation is, to say the least, repulsive to most students. Surely moving off campus is part of growing up - the idea of fostering independence, spreading wings and entering the real world (not to mention the saved expenditure that not being forced to shop in Costcutter will ensure). For many this is where lessons in household diplomacy, day-to-day chores and domestic finance are learned. Removing the option of living away is certainly not going to be popular amongst the student population, just ask a few students. So, why on earth is the University even considering it? Hardly surprisingly, it comes down to

making money. Here, it is clear that students are losing as a result of the university’s plans to accumulate, and so it seems only right that we should take a stand.

Personally I think the University should try something new, and consult the students. Most realise that you cannot have a University without investment. However, the running of a University has to be related to students, and the best way to do that is to talk to them. How should this be achieved? What is certain is that there needs to be a reprioritisation such that students are at the fore of everything that goes on. It will be a feature of the focus on students that business has to be involved, not to make money, but to make learning and opportunities better.



Decadence is on the rise, says **Matthew Platts**

## Killing rabbits is not good taste

No doubt, dear reader, from time to time you will have followed that traditional route of students; up Clifford Street, past the tower, and into the Gallery. Now, here is a pop quiz for all of who you have been there recently – what was the original purpose of the building that houses the Gallery, the York Dungeon and other bastions of culture? No? Time’s up. Blazoned on its fascia is the original purpose of the building: the York Institute, founded in 1827 as York’s abode of art, science, and literature. Now the Gallery, abode of Northern Soul and cheesy chips. Vive le difference!

For it seems that the times, they are a-changing. The York Institute has become the Gallery. Vanbrugh has become, well, Vanbrugh and some of the residents of an area of campus in St. Lawrence Court, have become the cast of *Lord of the Flies*.

That’s right. These particular students have satisfied the main plot element of *Watership Down* in shooting down a fluffy bunny with a trusty 22 air-rifle and skinning it in preparation for the pot. How delightfully primitive!

Primitive indeed; so much so that I would like to reiterate: at least one student has taken out a rifle, shot a rabbit, killed it, and skinned it. With the intention of eating the damn thing. Now, normally, human beings being the squeamish creatures they are, they like to pretend to be rather above that sort of thing. If we really must eat rabbit (and I don’t), then we have the good taste and decency not to relish it. We hire

butchers to prepare the meat, we do not eat the meat raw, we do not eat the meat with blood.

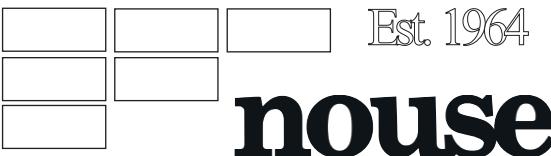
In short, we may eat meat, but we have the good taste not to like the fact that it’s meat. The modern trend, notwithstanding the Atkins Diet, is to eat less meat and to pay attention to proper farming conditions and animal welfare. This

Residents of an area of campus have become the cast of *Lord of the Flies*

is a sign of an advanced civilisation. Yet the times they are a-changing, and this atavistic act is a haunting thought. For the reference to the change of use of the Gallery is deliberate.

Once the centre of enlightenment, now the centre of intoxication and license.

Decadence is growing. I don’t want to sound like Richard Littlejohn – partly because I’m not. I am as progressive as you would like me to be. I’m not a bigot or a prude – but I can’t help but think that society is changing for the worse. In years gone by, people would be oppressed by tradition and close-knit spying networks. We are now oppressed by commercialism in products and ideas. A uniformity which brings in its wake a disassociated, disillusioned and arrogant populace happy to do anything they like to relieve the boredom. The Crazy Frog drags happy slapping behind it on its coat-tails – so, too, does it bring the home-shot and home-skinned rabbit.



Est. 1964

# LETTERS

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

Win!

**Best letter receives a party camera from Snappy Snaps**  
  
**1 HOUR PHOTOS**

**York are a knock out at Roses 2005**

## York's first fence

The York area, we are told, has gained massively from playing host to Royal Ascot 2005. £60 million extra in immediate financial terms, and perhaps a lot more if York manages to learn how to put on big events like this, and do more in the future. Those were probably not the immediate thoughts of most York students however - the glitz of Ascot has to come first in the minds of most. Horses are big money, and as we know, the event attracts big hats and big entrances. Most locals, including students, seemed to get into the spirit of things and many could be seen in Ladbrooks flaunting the remains of their student loans in the hope of hitting the big time.

So that is that. Ascot was great. But why 'was'?' Because York only gets it when the South cannot manage it. But why should Ascot just be a Home Counties affair? This year has shown that the North can cope just as well, if not better, with organising the national event and it created the most wonderful atmosphere in the city.

It's simply tradition that keeps the heart of Ascot in the South, but whilst there are some good traditions associated with Ascot, like Pimms and weird lampshade-hats, the traditional location is perhaps a little out-dated. The event was not spoiled by re-rooting it to a more Northerly clime this year so why not allow the financial benefits to be spread across the country? York racecourse was not solely designed to host Grad Ball and JCR Christmas meals.

Lets just hope Ascot at York will be tried again - It may just become a tradition.

## nouse thanks

To all the members of the *nouse* team who will be graduating this summer, thank you for all your hard work and dedication over the years and good luck in the real world!

A special credit must go to the former Deputy Editors Clive Crouch and Sam Fugill for spending many a sleepless night in the office trying to meet print deadlines, and for continuing to help out behind the scenes after standing down. Thanks also to the former News Editor James Doughty for bringing us endless stories and exclusives. Previous Music Editors Daniel Searle and his partner in crime Rob Taylor (also our extremely talented cartoonist) will be fondly remembered for their amusing reviews. Similarly, Gemma Ware, former Arts Editor, is not to be forgotten for her hard work and immaculately produced section. Another thank you to past Features Editor Jo-Anne Hodgson for contributing a range of stylish and original features to the paper.

Finally, we can't even begin to thank Toby Hall for his continued commitment to the paper for three long years. As the former Editor, Toby worked hard to get *nouse* to the standard it is now and has remained an indispensable member of the team. Thank you to everyone and we look forward to seeing your names in the nationals...

### Star letter

## SU's campaign is a step too far

I'm sure I speak for everyone (apart from possibly all those who think good government is a police state), when I say that I'm immensely glad that the idiotic plan from the SU to go into people's rooms when they leave their door open, is finally dead and buried.

Now I'm not against the principles behind it. I don't want any of my property stolen and neither does anyone else, but invasion of privacy doesn't seem to be the best way to get the idea across. All the points have obviously already been made against it; law suits, illicit finds, and the fact that those stickers leave a nasty residue all over the laptop they've just been placed on, so I'm not going to list them again. But it just seems to me that seeing as their principle is to be there to support the students, interference of this sort may be over-stepping their bounds. They obviously mean well, and John Rose is clearly just looking out for the well being of the students. But as we are a top ten uni in this country you'd hope the students would

be able to reason to a level where they realise what's best for themselves without the parental guidance the SU's welfare officers seem to be providing. Are we really that stupid that we need to be told all the time what's good for us? And I'd hope that if someone on my corridor saw a strange person walk into my room then they'd go and knock and check it was ok, or ask someone else to help them. There is such a thing as a student community and looking out for each other is one part of the role that community plays.

And lastly I'd probably say that the fuss made over the whole campaign was probably enough to make people aware of the issues involved and lock their rooms more often. So if the welfare officers had just targeted their campaign more carefully, maybe in the student newspapers or used posters and the like they probably could have got the same effect without having to go through the whole argument about the legality and principle of the issue in the first place.

I'm all for the SU providing services, but I came to uni to get away from my parents, I don't need a new set while I'm up here.

**Tom Cullum**  
Vanbrugh College

stand in the way and make things difficult!

Robbie goes on to suggest that these student 'crusades' are arrogant because they're unlikely to make a difference. I admit, it's difficult to actually change anything - especially when you're up against the University like we are with Free Vanbrugh. However, that is exactly why we elect fellow students into the SU - to represent us! Can he really be surprised that he failed miserably when he stood for SU President and, more recently, Communications when he is so resistant to the student voice?

I applaud your efforts to raise important issues in your paper, but Robbie's column belittles both your efforts and the efforts of all your readers.

**Name and College supplied**

*Robbie's views are not necessarily shared by the editorial team and, in general, our paper strives to support student campaigns. Ed.*

## Roses coverage

Dear Toby and Luke

I am writing to express my sincerest thanks for the hard work put in by yourselves and the entire *nouse* crew during Roses 2005.

Without doubt the success of the weekend was helped by the huge contribution of your publication to what was a thoroughly enjoyable few days for everyone in attendance. The reports, stories, and pictures collected by your paper really did a fantastic job of chronographing the weekend and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in what must have been quite a frantic weekend!

Thanks again for passing on those pictures and I hope that you enjoyed being involved in Roses 2005.

**Stuart Leslie**  
Athletic Union President

On behalf of the Roses 2005 Committee

## Take a joke

Don't listen to James Goulding (Letters - 8th March), the ComSci *Blag your degree* was hilarious! It made a Friday night shift at Alcuin bar almost bearable, (no small feat). I'm a second year ComSci student and while I can testify that there are some wierdos on the course, the majority of us are OK. Unfortunately James Goulding and his inability to take a joke only makes the article look less like the bit of fun it was intended to be and more like a factual piece!

**Gareth Haigh**  
Alcuin College

# 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. Should Halifax students have eaten a campus rabbit?  
2. Could you live on campus for your entire degree?**



**Name:** Ken Toe  
**College:** Vanbrugh  
**Course:** Music Tech / Electronics  
**Year:** 1st Year



**Name:** Jasmina Mataz  
**College:** James  
**Course:** History of Art / English  
**Year:** 1st Year



**Name:** Angeline Delebecq  
**College:** Goodricke  
**Course:** Linguistics  
**Year:** Visiting Student

1. It sounds horrific. I thought you'd get kicked out of Uni.
2. I'd love to stay on campus. In fact I'm planning to stay on campus next year. It brings us together and it's easy to socialise. I want to stay on campus for three years.
3. They just seem to bitch a lot between themselves. Im sure they are doing some good stuff, but I'd like to hear about it more.
4. Its a shame, but I'm not a member of a society affected by it.

1. They should be shot and cooked.
2. I would, because I'm just getting to know everyone. It would be nice to stay for another year.
3. I started off with good expectations, but some officers haven't done their jobs properly and the UGMs have been a mess.
4. Definitely. Vanbrugh is the best college and having their society space taken away is rubbish. Heslington east is also about commercial interests and not students.

1. That's a shame. You shouldn't kill a rabbit, never. Especially on campus.
2. Yes, I would like to stay on campus but only if it wasn't Goodricke. If I could change the college I was in, then I would stay for all my course.
3. Really good impression. There is a good atmosphere, nice people and it's a nice place.
4. They should let societies use the dining hall.

# Federer leads Wimbledon challenge

**Chris Love and Shaun Messenger look forward to a fortnight of tennis at SW19**

IT'S THAT TIME of the year again when footballers pack their suitcases and head off to exclusive sunny beaches full of Playboy models. While their overpaid agents go to war with clubs selling off their clients silky skills to the highest bidder, that we are able to consider other sports. Neighbours will be disrupted but that's acceptable due to the return of Wimbledon and Henman to television screens around campus. Daily coverage will play havoc with revision and exams as we become obsessed with the annual question of 'is this Tim's year?' while indulging in strawberries and cream.

Number one seed Roger Federer is odds on to join Pete Sampras and Bjorn Borg as the only players to win three successive titles. Unbeaten on grass since 2002 and having lost only three times this year, Federer's ability to hit winners from any angle, to control a rally from the baseline and then seamlessly convert to a serve and volley game combined with his ice cold composure, makes him the man to beat.

Top of the chasing pack is the world's fastest server Andy Roddick, who looks the most likely to stop Federer claiming his third successive title.

Having lost to the Swiss in his past two outings at SW19 Roddick will be thankful that following his victory at Queens he is now on the opposite side

of the draw. A potential second round clash with Queens Finalist Ivo Karlovic, the tallest man in tennis makes Roddicks progress into the later stages less than certain.

The newly crowned master of clay Rafael Nadal is an unknown quantity on grass, having only previously played once in Wimbledon. All will depend if he can adapt his game to the grass quickly, and Nadal's draw contains none of the other main contenders until a semi-final, which may be the best the Spaniard can hope for.

No guide to Wimbledon would be complete without the Tim Henman factor. Another year on he is again our only hope of a British winner since Fred Perry 69 years ago. Henman remains the best vollyer in the world but is let down by a lack of penetration on serve which was highlighted following a disappointing Queen's. However, few would bet against Tim reaching the quarter finals and a likely clash with Roddick. Henman will have to produce the best tennis of his career if we are to hear the cries of 'come on Tim' echoing down halls at the end of week 10.

Despite Henman's best efforts it would take a brave man to bet against another epic encounter between the conflicting styles of the powerhouse that is Roddick and the subtle mastery of Federer.



Liam Cunnah scores 51 off 51 as York defeat Westminster. Photo: Toby Hall

## Cricketers defeat Westminster to win plate

*Continued from back page*

team's only threatening batsmen who had reached his half century. Ollie Butterworth was brought on to finish off the overs, and helped by the quick thinking of keeper Arthur Vaughan as well as an amazing catch from Andy Milnes, York won by 32 runs.

Still coming to terms with his team's success Belk said to get this far was 'unbelievable' adding that the win was 'a team performance and I'm very proud of everyone'. With their Presidents' weekend coming up next week, the Cricket Club will no doubt continue to celebrate their well-fought, if slightly unexpected victory as Plate Champions for a good while to come.

- The University's Women's Cricket team had a highly successful start to their season before losing to Leeds University in the Quarter-final of the BUSA Shield.

They had an unbeaten record in their group division, bowling Newcastle out for 10 runs in one of their matches, and were in a strong position going into the knock-out stages. Easing past a boastful Warwick side in their last 16 tie, they faced a tough match against Premier Division side Leeds. York struggled to make an impact on Leeds' batting but did manage to limit them to 140 with some good bowling by Debbie Farrington. However, Leed's bowlers demolished York's batting order and won comfortably by 104 runs.

Despite this disappointing end, the girls have performed well against top-class opposition and will hope to build on their successes next season

# Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust: Is the curtain falling on Australia's cricketing dominance?

**By Daniel Whitehead  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR**

FIN 1989, an Australian team captained by Allan Border took the Ashes back Down Under in an emphatic 4-0 test series victory over England. Who would think that 16 years on the Ashes would still remain in the hands of Oz? However the 2005 Ashes brings new hope, England have arguably their best test team for decades, and an ageing Australian team in the past fortnight have wilted in games that a few years ago would have been in the bag before the first ball was bowled.

As Ricky Ponting's team

stood in the sweltering sunshine after their embarrassing defeat to a Bangladeshi team on Saturday evening they must have been left with plenty to ponder. After all the world-champions had just been outclassed by a team described by the English press as being 'no better than a minor counties side', and who's victories occur about as often as Tim Henman winning a major competition. This wasn't a one off occasion though, with two other successive defeats to England in the Twenty20 and Somerset just a few days earlier and defeat then again to England this Sunday this has to go down as the worst week ever suffered in

Australian cricketing history. The unwritten rules of sport state that all great teams come to end, just look at Manchester United's and Wigan Warriors decade of dominance in their respective sports. And the fact that Australia has followed the same ugly path as these two teams, of not replacing their aging veterans with new blood fast enough must be a high cause for concern at this present time for the ACB. Of even greater cause for anxiety for the Australian Cricket Board right now may be that the most obvious successors to their crown of cricket's number one team are their most hated rivals England.

**'The unwritten rules of the sport state that all great teams come to an end'**

Although it would be foolish to get carried away with saying that this summer's Ashes is already won, and that England are now officially superior to the Aussies, it is fair to say that Michael Vaughan's side have all the makings of a truly great cricketing team.



They are young, determined, and in the likes of Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen they possess a killer instinct that English cricket has been without since the days of Ian Botham. It is not as if England's rise has not been coming for several years now

though. With emphatic wins in the West Indies and victories both home and away against previous world number two's South Africa, England have removed the image of being distinctly average and replaced it with a team who are generally feared by everyone, even the Aussies in the cricketing arena.

So with the Test series just weeks away, and with England unbeaten in their five previous encounters against the Australian's I would suggest watching the Ashes with a pint of extra cold lager would be an excellent way of spending your vacation. This could prove to be a truly momentous occasion in English sporting history.



Photo: Toby Hall

## Nik Engineer's plans for York

**By Daniel Whitehead**  
**DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR**

FROM THE end of Week 10 Stuart Leslie will be replaced by the towering figure of Nik Engineer as Athletic Union President. Interrupting him from his busy schedule as current vice-president, Nik was able to explain what York has to look forward to in the coming year.

When asked about his plans for the year ahead Nik said "revitalising the AU" was a key aim, with "increased efficiency and professionalism" his main priority.

Although he didn't wish to go into specifics about the policies he would be looking to implement, he did promise a "summer of policy planning" from him and the other officials which will make up the team leading the Athletic Union next year.

Nik's main ideas for transforming the AU seem to revolve around the "modernisation of the way people join the AU" with the introduction of online forms for signing up "vital" to his plans.

This will be a great relief to many students who have been forced into attending an AU mart, an event which has suffered as first years stay away with Fresher's Week hangovers. Such simple improvements will no doubt increase the appeal and accessibility of the AU.

With continuous improvement of the AU the main theme, it will be no doubt a great benefit to University sport when the new facilities are completed which Nik hopes will open in the spring term.

And with the sporting "advancements in the Heslington East development" he claims 2006 will be one of the "most important and interesting years in recent history."

On a final note before Stuart hands over the reigns to his deputy, Nik wanted to thank "the wonderful people" that he has worked with over the past twelve months for "one of the best years for a long time" in York's recent sporting history.

But with a "better and stronger AU" promised for 2005/06, things may get even better.

## Squash Club taste tri-racket glory

**By Clive Crouch**

MEMBERS OF the University Squash team emerged victorious when the campus racket clubs faced off against each other in a three-way tournament last weekend.

In a competition to find York's 'ultimate racket club,' men's and women's sides from Tennis, Squash and Badminton played matches against each other in their two respective non-specialist sports.

The tournament, conceived and organised by committee members from the three clubs,

took place throughout the afternoon of Saturday Week 7.

Squash, who are somewhat renowned within the Union for their self-proclaimed 'legendary' socials, eventually won the competition.

After beating the Tennis club at badminton, they proceeded to see off the Badminton Club's challenge on the tennis courts, amassing a total of 33 points.

The Badminton Club finished second, with 21 points, having put a clear margin between themselves and third-placed Tennis.

## Student winners and losers as Ascot comes to the Knavesmire

**By Toby Hall**  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

ROYAL ASCOT may have been an unprecedented success for the Knavesmire racecourse and the thousands of punters who bet on the favourite Westerner in the Gold Cup on Thursday, but my experience of Ladies Day in York taught me one valuable lesson: never bet your bus money on a horse with an amusing name.

I was forced to return home on foot after some casual gambling that left me without a win on any of the day's six races. Preferring the rank outsider Mr Dinos at a speculative 20/1 for the Gold Cup, as well as placing a hopeful fiver each way on Beaver Patrol in the Britannia Stakes left me penniless. When the favourite Indigo Cat cruised home in the fifth race of the day to uproarious applause, I realised that I'd

spent everything before the bookies had put up the odds for the last race. No Pimm's, no cheap champagne and only the walk home to reflect on a wasted £60.

At least I drew comfort from knowing there were people worse off than myself. Probably the only safe bet I made all day was to turn up without a ticket, as wild-eyed touts begged passers-by to buy tickets at half their face value. There was more than a hint of desperation in their bartering, and a minute or so of haggling under the noses of the racecourse security guards led to some serious discounts.

It seemed to me that the sensible money was all in the pockets of students who had decided to dump their lectures and seminars for a week and work behind one of the many bars. Despite surprisingly few tips from stingy race goers,

catering companies were desperate to recruit anyone who could take the pressure of delivering the gallons of alcohol needed to quench the masses of northerners basking in the uncharacteristic sun. Second year Flora Bradwell commented that 'things were pretty quiet in the mornings, but when the

racing got going you couldn't stop them. Some of them were pretty disgusting on Ladies day – one woman had a shit in a urinal, and there were plenty of couples having sex behind my Pimm's tent.' In retrospect, maybe working wouldn't have been worth it, at least not for the unlucky toilet attendants.

### The best bets at this year's festival

- **Tuesday, 4.55, Leg Spinner, 9/1**  
Under pressure throughout race, just held off challenge to win
- **Wednesday, 3.05, Peeress, 14/1**  
Held up behind leaders for most of race, led in final furlong
- **Thursday 3.05 Thakafaat 22/1**  
Took an early lead after two furlongs, and just held on
- **Friday 4.20 Imperial Stride 25/1**  
Held up early, but led final furlong to win by two lengths
- **Saturday 5.30 Cruzspiel 10/1**  
Led over five furlongs, driven out in final furlong

## Birth of a British champion, but can Ricky Hatton take the pressure at this level?

**By Paul van der Neut**  
**BOXING CLUB PRESIDENT**

RICKY HATTON'S victory over Kostya Tszyu has been quite rightly described as one of the greatest fights on British soil in the last two decades, providing a master class of preparation, execution and determination.

Few commentators expected Hatton to beat a fighter of the calibre of Tszyu. The pace and intensity of Hatton's performance in the early hours of June 5th were staggering and ultimately more than the ageing Tszyu could bear. Tszyu failed to make it out of his corner for the twelve-rounds to the absolute delight of the 22,000

fans packed into the MEN Arena in Manchester. Afterwards both warriors were the epitome of sportsmanship with Hatton magnanimous in victory and Tszyu full of praise for the younger fighter.

However, Hatton's win should be seen as the beginning of his journey rather than the end point. This is a journey that



needs to be planned as meticulously as Hatton's preparations for the fight itself. At 26, to

leave a lasting legacy and fulfil his potential he has to pick his fights well.

The most likely option hinted at by Frank Warren, Hatton's promoter, is of Hatton taking on Diego Corrales the WBC and WBO lightweight champion, in November on the same card as WBO middleweight champion Joe Calzaghe.

Welshman Calzaghe is due to fight the American IBF middleweight title-holder Jeff Lacy and has come out publicly in support of a lucrative British 'super-fight-night'. Lacy happens to have the same promoter, Gary Shaw, as Corrales with

Frank Warren handily the promoter of Hatton and Calzaghe. This exposure would cement Hatton's image in the US and allow him to fight against potential contenders such as Floyd Mayweather and Arturo Gatti. The last step of Hatton's journey may be a fight against the Puerto Rican golden boy, Miguel Cotto. Cotto who is unbeaten in 24 fights would be an even more challenging prospect than Tszyu. That fight would be the defining moment of his career.

The path Hatton takes will end in either a waste of talent, or the emergence of a boxing legend. Good luck Ricky.



**AU Edge**  
With AU President  
**Stuart Leslie**

# Sports day victory for Goodricke not enough as Langwith take title

By Daniel Whitehead  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

IT WAS a damp, miserable day to be competing in the penultimate event of the college sporting calendar, but for Goodricke it seemed perfect. The team who dominated York University's college sport scene between 1997 and 2002 were giving current leaders Langwith serious cause for concern as they finished 18.5 points ahead of them on Wednesday. Yet the consistency displayed by Langwith, and their convincing lead they had built throughout the year was enough to see them clinch their first ever college sport title over the weekend.

For Goodricke it must have felt like quite an achievement to finish second in the final standings, after what could only be described as a mediocre few years by their standards. After finishing in mid-table obscurity in 2003/04, and being in a similar position for the first two terms this year, to finish only 14.5 points off the winners was an extraordinary feat. They must now look to carry forward this momentum in the winter months of the 2005/06 season.

As for third place Derwent, they may not be as content with their final position. At around the half-way stage of this marathon competition they were just three points adrift of leaders Langwith. However, their disappointing final term was made up for by an impressive performance on sports day, leaving them with the bronze and a feeling of needing to do better next time round.

Shock 2003/04 winners Vanbrugh were unable to produce the same heroics which

## The final standings

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| 1. Langwith  | 247   |
| 2. Goodricke | 232.5 |
| 3. Derwent   | 230   |
| 4. Vanbrugh  | 206.5 |
| 5. Halifax   | 177.5 |
| 6. James     | 145.5 |
| 7. Alcuin    | 117.5 |

saw them steal the title from Langwith on the final day last year, and it does now seem that the new holders did have the last laugh. Vanbrugh were steady throughout the three terms, with there never really being a worry of being sucked into the lower end of the table and never a sign of confidence in their ability to push for victory either.

The award for the most disappointing performance of the year must go to Halifax. They were touted as obvious favourites for this year's competition due to their size in comparison to other colleges. Yet despite a decent mid-season their final term was shambolic, and as they came ahead of only Alcuin on Sports Day their reps have plenty to ponder over the summer months if they are to mount any serious challenge next year.

To wrap up the final standings were the two newest colleges, James and Alcuin, who were stuck fighting for the wooden-spoon throughout the season. They must be giving credit for still competing successfully in several sports though, despite their small size.

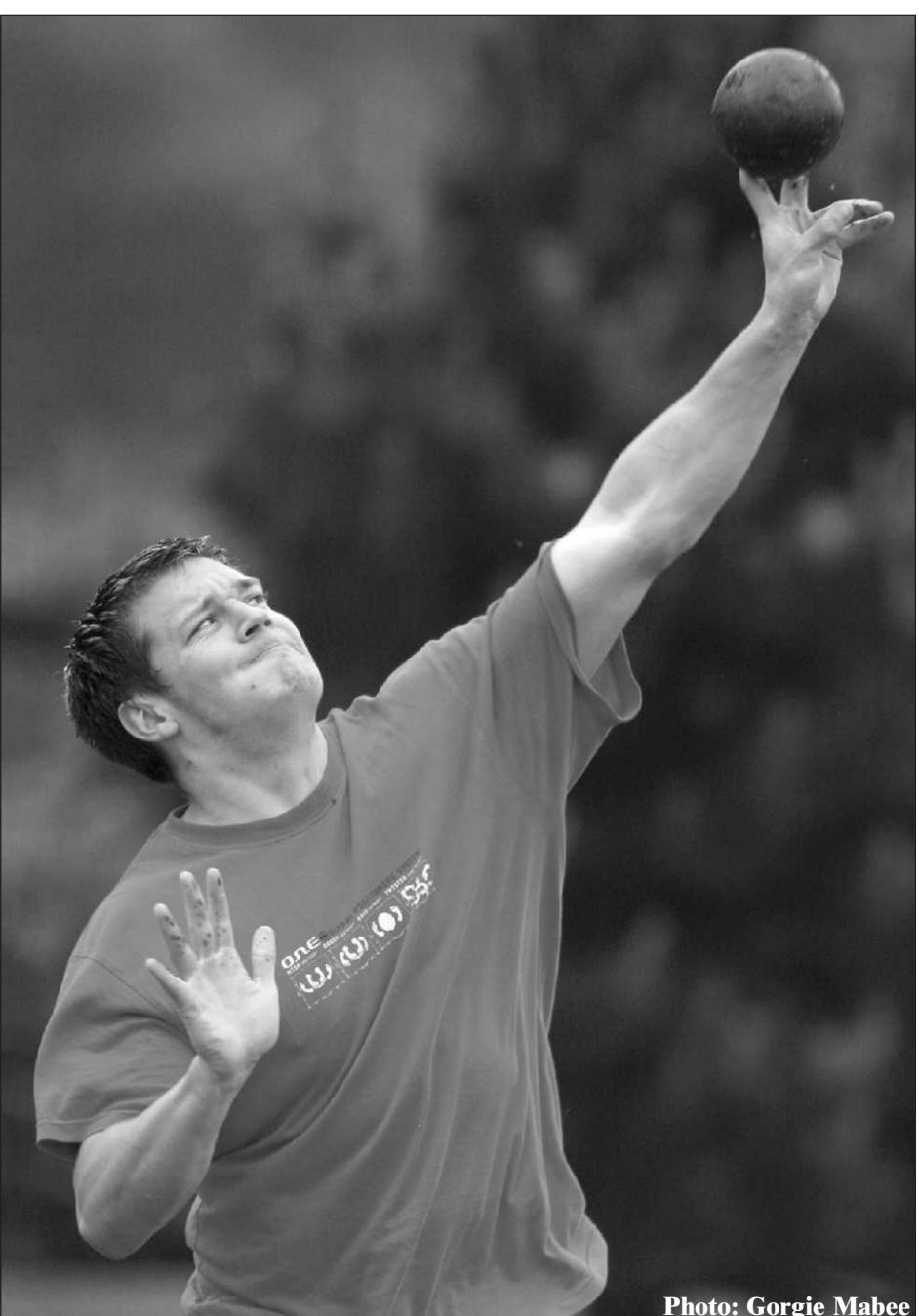


Photo: Gorgie Mabee

The Shot Putt was one of a few field events that did not fall foul of the weather

## The Quick Crossword

### Across

- 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...(9)
- Old fashioned clothing (7)
- Vibratory sound (5)
- What you pick your luggage off at an airport (8)
- At the beginning of stories, does this get up on time? (4)
- Idle gossip; light conversation (6)
- Of a Down (6)
- A musical work (4)
- approach; result of ursine wrong footing (4,4)
- For him, getting shot is part of the job description (5)
- Like Paul Daniels or David Copperfield (7)

- One Across' possibly crucial decider (9)

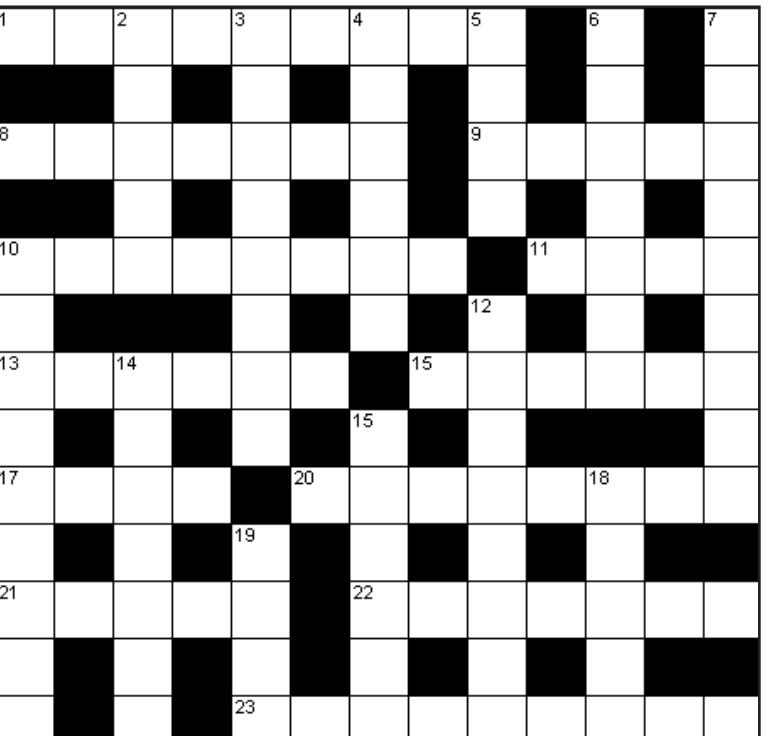
### Down

- Toffs belong in this class (5)
- Inflictor of pain (10)
- More greasy (6)
- What this publication has a lot of (4)
- Used to keep your tresses in place (7)
- One Across' number queen, Carol \_\_\_\_\_ (9)
- One of two options Carol (Seven Down) might give you (9)
- H (8)
- Executor of the will (7)
- What beefeaters prefer to be called (6)
- Wilde; vied for by



**Solution for 8th March**  
Stuck? Solutions for this edition's Quick Crossword can be found on our website at <http://www.nouse.com/crossword> at the start of Week 10 (Monday, 27th June). A full solution crossword will also be printed in the next edition

Tuesday 21st June, set by Cornius



Recently, the Colours Committee have considered several nominations for Club and Team of the Year, and on receiving these applications it became apparent just how much initiative and dedication has gone into the success of the past twelve months. All 16 applications for Club of the Year were excellent, and I was genuinely impressed by the efforts put in by volunteers on all the club committees. Without doubt it is such hard work that has contributed to the drastic improvement of our teams' performances this year. In the BUSA University Points Table, York has had its best year on record, potentially ending up with a top 25 finish, once the points for winning the Men's Cricket Plate have been added this week. I can assure you that this result is an incredible achievement for the Athletic Union and the University, considering that York has failed to finish in the top 50 for the past three years, and has placed above several institutions with considerably more students, let alone resources.

It is not only our BUSA-playing clubs that have experienced good fortune in their exploits. Whatever personal opinions you may have on the statement expressed by Pole Exercise Club, I challenge anyone to doubt that to accelerate from 0-300 in less than six months in terms of membership is an incredible achievement, and the club's integration into the AU has been almost seamless; a credit to those at the helm.

Looking to the future, a new indoor facility will be on campus by the end of this calendar year, solving many of the problems of demand for space in the current Sports Centre. This will provide an ideal stop-gap for the next 5-7 years until Heslington East acquires its own high-quality sports provision.

To briefly sum up the year, we won Roses by the largest margin in recent memory, a new Varsity tournament was not only established but conquered, the AU raised more than double the amount of money for charity than ever before and several teams have got promoted. I feel proud to have been involved over the past twelve months and would like to thank all of the AU's 2500-strong membership for making this all possible, along with a flock of other invaluable devotees. All in all it's been an experience I know I'll never forget.

Finally, I'd just like to wish Nik and his team the best of luck for 2005-2006, and let you all know that if you happen to be offering employment (or alternatively a plane ticket to South America) you know where my office is for the next two weeks!!

# Sport

21 JUNE 2005



Royal Ascot in York:  
The winners and  
losers at this  
year's festival

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## Langwith victorious in three way fight

By Daniel Whitehead  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

LANGWITH made history in the early hours of Monday morning as confirmation came through that they had won their first ever college sport title.

They fought off strong competition from York University's two most historically successful sporting colleges, Goodricke and Derwent, who finished second and third respectively, and took the top spot by a margin of fourteen and a half points.

The victory will have come as a huge relief for a college who exactly a year ago were agonisingly knocked off the top spot on the final day by Vanbrugh, who took the title by an unbelievable half point margin. However, Langwith did not mourn their defeat over the summer period, but came back even stronger this year, as they produced convincing displays throughout the winter months, and took a comfortable lead

into the final term.

This is not to suggest that it was straight forward though. Langwith had to fight off a Spring term resurgence from early favourites Halifax who looked liked they might overhaul them at one stage. It wasn't to be though as Halifax self-destructed in the later stages of the year. More problems were to follow in the final week though, as they suffered a disappointing Sports Day on the Wednesday of Week 8, finishing a long way behind late challengers Derwent and Goodricke. But their Langwith spirit (which is apparently part of us all, so we're told) and excellent form throughout the year saw them through to a well deserved victory.

Now they must look ahead to becoming only the third college to ever retain their title. But in 2005/06 they must improve in the athletics and their one-day events or face a less impressive final position next time around.



Langwith's strong college spirit helped to a first title, despite poor sports day results. Photo: Toby Hall

## Northern weather and Southern opposition no match as York Men's Cricket team take title

By Gemma Ware



THE UNIVERSITY'S Men's 1st Cricket team finished off their season in style last Wednesday by beating the University of Westminster in the final of the Men's Plate to become BUSA Champions. Having only progressed into the knockout stages of the competition because of an administrative error by Newcastle, York never took their progress for granted and continually stepped up their game to meet the challenges of each opponent. With an impressive victo-

ry over Liverpool John Moores in the quarter final which saw them chasing 249 to win, York eased past Bolton in the semis to secure the chance to prove themselves at home against Westminster.

In a match hampered by bad weather, which reduced the innings to thirty overs apiece, York never really looked like being the losing team. A few spectators braved the weather and sat huddled under the veranda of the pavilion, but it was an inauspicious start to

such a highly anticipated match. York opened the batting, but the wet ground led to a slow outfield and initially many of the runs were gained from hard-won and nervy singles.

Westminster's bowling was never a great threat and at times it seemed like York were making it hard for themselves at the crease. Some dubious calling led to York's first three wickets being lost to over-ambitious run-outs. Despite these early problems, York's opener Liam Cunnah scored 51

off 51 balls in an impressive display, which formed the backbone of an innings in which he went on to make 72. Other useful scores were reached by Andy Exley who made 39 and Jamie Vanner whose 20 not out helped shepherd York to a total of 168 -7.

Westminster's chance to pile on the pressure after tea fell victim to some superb bowling by the home team, with James Hallam starting the run of wickets in only the second over with a tidy caught and

bowled. Then York's captain Matt Belk brought on the spinners, in a timely move which saw Jamie Vanner take 3 for 28. However, it was York's sharpness in the field that steered them to victory with some superb catches around the ground. And as Westminster were left needing 54 off 26 balls to win, and Liam Cunnah secured his position as Man of the Match by making a superb running catch to take the wicket of Kamran Akthar, the away *Continued, page 13*