

Who's nouse

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BREAKING AND ENTERING: Students spark security alert



Student break-in highlights campus wide security failures

● Search takes three months

TWO DRUNKEN York University students have unwittingly exposed lax security measures in place across campus.

The incident took place in October, but Security Services have only just taken action after the third year duo were able to wander into the multi-million pound Roger Kirk Centre late at night through the outer doors.

The intruders smashed one of the inner doors and took off with a "handful" of crisps.

After a three-month campus-wide manhunt, the intruders were finally caught.

The students were arrested and charged by the police for the theft of £10 of food, but there was

By Simon Davis
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

insufficient evidence for any charges to be brought for criminal damage to the door.

However, the University took matters into their own hands, reprimanding the two with heavy fines.

The break-in highlights serious security issues, as no alarm or security personnel detected the breach at the time. By leaving the outer doors open, the University exposed itself to a possible theft of thousands of pounds worth of equipment and furniture.

Nouse's discovery of the University's slipshod security pro-

● Con men active on campus

cedures comes in light of recent problems with possible confidence tricksters, who have descended on the campus.

Alcuin College's Provost, Tony Ward, has revealed that door-to-door salesmen had "breached our first level of security". The men were able to access private student accommodation, demanding to know if there were "any girls [they] could talk to?"

They claimed to be selling makeovers and photograph sessions in Manchester at "economy" prices. These men could have easily stolen personal possessions, as they went into student bedrooms to make their offer.

Later in the week, the con

men were seen around the college again, and were forcibly removed by a swarm of security personnel. Tony Ward issued the following statement, "do not allow anybody to come through the main door to the house or into any flat without knowing who they are and why they want entry. Do not put yourself at risk by challenging anybody."

The University refused to comment on the current failings in its security systems, and its dealings with the Roger Kirk break-in. Ken Batten, Head of Security on York campus, insisted that students remain as safe as possible and that the campus has a low and falling crime rate.

Barbican faces closure for two years

FOR DECADES it has been the student mecca for affordable exercise. But now the Barbican has confirmed that it will be closing its doors for two years.

The sports and gig venue has long had a close relationship with the University, providing students with convenient swimming and fit-

ness facilities, a luxury they are soon to be deprived of.

The Athletic Union are anticipating a rise in membership of the University's own gym as a result of the closure. However, many students have complained that the closure of the Barbican Centre will leave them "stranded" without a

pool, highlighting the limited facilities available in York University grounds.

Councillors have endured rigorous rounds of meetings in the last months and thousands of pounds has been spent establishing a redevelopment strategy. A final decision on its rejuvenation

has however, been made.

The plans include proposals for more affordable housing, a better location for the pool and a high quality hotel.

The Barbican Centre is expected to close at the end of May, with the new pool taking at least two years to complete.