

“Top-Secret” Chancellor Nominations Revealed

By Toby Hall

Speculation has been growing over the last few months regarding the nominations for the next Chancellor of York. However, secrecy over who will replace Dame Janet Baker is tightly guarded by the University, with a closed sub-committee of big guns apparently ‘still considering nominations’ according to Chief Press Officer Hilary Layton.

Even if the group have chosen, nobody would know until much later: ‘The details of the nominations are “Top Secret” within the University’ emphasised Layton. However, through undisclosed sources *nouse* has managed to discover that a decision has been made on nominees, leaked out of the committee’s own members. With the proverbial cat now out of the bag we decided to let the nominees themselves know. Unsurprisingly, many were taken aback, refusing to comment. However, we will, so here is the *nouse* guide to York’s future Chancellor:

Dame Judi Dench is one of Britain’s most respected actors, winning critical acclaim, born and bred in York (she went to the Mount boarding school here in 1947) Judi Dench scores over many other applicants.

The link to the town helps her cause, as does a string of awards

including an Oscar. There is no doubt that she fulfils the selection criteria to ‘achieve distinction in their own field’. Someone that high profile is also bound to be able to help fund-raise for the University.

But Dame Judi is a busy lady and we do wonder how much time she will be able to devote to York considering her position.

Robin Cook, the lovable ex-Foreign minister, statesman and Leader of the Commons is now considered as a possibility for Chancellorship here at York. At least he now has plenty of time on his hands.

Cook’s life at the top of politics has undoubtedly left him with prestigious contacts and friends, something the University clearly values, since the committee states that the ‘successful appointee must have connections...beneficial to the University.’

There can’t be a person in Britain who hasn’t heard his surname, but the supermarket mogul, **Lord Sainsbury**, is also Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science, a Fabian and was Chairman of the London Business School.

He is clearly capable of making connections with the people who matter, and with his vast fortune could spare a few quid to help the poor kids in Goodricke get a prop-

er college. *nouse* also hopes he could influence the University to swap Costcutter for a Sainsbury’s Local.

Unfortunately, Sainsbury is a very busy man. How much time could he spend helping York whilst balancing the problems of government and commerce?

Chris Patten is apparently under consideration, however he is an unlikely candidate, being as the former Governor of Hong Kong is already Chancellor of Oxford University.

Mary Robinson, the popular ex-Irish president, and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights appears to have been ‘voluntarily’ unemployed for nearly twelve months.

One of the first female heads of state in Europe, she is clearly a good ambassador for the University. Her long career in politics would also give her contacts and knowledge that could help York progress. While she may have advanced the cause of Irish democracy, the lack of any link with York is significant.



Firm Favourite Judi Dench (above) will battle it out with Chris Patten, Robin Cook, Mary Robinson and David Sainsbury (Below from Left to Right)

And guess who let the cat out of the bag...

So, only 11 people were supposed to know the details of the nominations, one of the following can’t hold their own water, but which one?

Mr Gordon Horsfield, Chair of Council
Prof Brian Cantor, Vice-Chancellor
Prof Felicity Riddy, Deputy VC
Prof Haleh Afshar, Academic Member
Mr Howard Bryan, Council lay member
Mr Tom Connor, SU President

Ms Nicki Cooper-Harvey, GSA Pres
Dr Ken Dixon, Court lay member
Prof Alastair Fitter, academic member
Dr Jane Moody, academic member
Mr Tim Willson, non-academic member

The final decision is announced in the November 2003.



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Lecturer: My Child Porn Truth

Following the recent Magistrates Court decision placing York University lecturer Ralph Harrington, **James Redgrave** speaks exclusively to a close friend of the convicted man.

AS AN INTERMEDIARY in a case as emotive as Ralph Harrington’s it is understandable that the man to whom I have spoken wishes to have his anonymity preserved. He is, nevertheless, the lecturer’s closest friend, with intimate access to his thoughts and privations, and, as such, feels that he has a duty to contradict some of what he calls the “misapprehensions circulated in the local and campus media”.

Specifically he is angered at many of the “sordidly inaccurate” facts and figures which have gone unchallenged in the press, concerning both the nature and gravity of Ralph’s conviction. “The 16,000 just referred to the number of graphic images on his computer, of which only 4,000 were pornographic. The rest were for his thesis – they were pictures of trains”.

As far as the illegal images go my interviewee insists that they came part and parcel with larger

downloads and constituted less than a quarter of the total pornography. “Ralph wasn’t as careful as he should have been with what he downloaded, but fewer than 1,000 of the pictures were deemed to be illegal. Furthermore these activities date from the period between 1996

“The 16,000 figure just referred to the number of graphic images on his computer. Most were pictures of trains, for his thesis.”

and 1998. From what you read you’d think he was dragged from his computer by the police yesterday, a download still in progress”.

Ralph’s ally believes his comments are borne out by the leniency of the sentence administered to his friend. “He was put on the sex offender list out of precedent, he

would not have been if it was left to the magistrates discretion. Other than that he is on a three year probation which merely entails annual visits to his officer”.

Crucially he argues that the court records “substantiate all his assertions” and “provide evidence for his case”. If so his claims bear the weight of more than just conjecture and “deserve attention on campus”.

Finally I was left only with a request to make clear that neither he, nor Ralph Harrington, were trying to negate the seriousness of the issue, merely add “a little perspective” to the “hysteria” in the press. “It was a time in Ralph’s life with a lot of stress, both personal and professional. Some people would have smoked something, he looked at something. But obviously it wasn’t all pleasant and he regrets that”.

***nouse* in no way condones the actions of Mr Harrington**