

We all sat in a circle, linked arms and sang, as they unleashed the bulldozers



Interview

By James Doughty

A YORK STUDENT who clashed with Israeli military police has returned back to Britain.

Edward Lewis, a Politics and Philosophy student, was arrested in the West Bank along with a hand full of other protesters. He was taking part in a demonstration over "aggressive" Israeli treatment of Palestinians.

Lewis had travelled to Israel to help draw attention towards the continuing plight of

Palestinians who are allegedly being "uprooted" from their homes. "These people are prisoners, without food and water. Their every move is checked and monitored".

The houses lie along the path of a controversial wall being constructed. The Israeli government hope it will block out potential Palestinian suicide bombers. But it is the effect on ordinary Palestinians which compelled Lewis to resort to his extraordinary action. "This issue isn't nearly enough addressed in the international community. They need to take note and open their eyes to this suffering," weeks before he was apprehended by the authorities, Lewis dedicated his time to helping to provide aid to one family living in Jayyous, isolated by the "apartheid wall". Their humble home had now become a closed military zone, with predatory bulldozers circling around the area. Lewis, along with around twenty other

International aid workers, supplied the family with food and water, both of which were cut off by the construction of the wall.

Lewis travelled to Qalqilya where he witnessed large, angry Palestinian protests. The Palestinians threw paint bombs filled with patriotic colours. The Israeli army wielded rubber bullets and tear gas. "The atmosphere was tense. These people were desperate. Some of them had

lost everything, and they simply tried in vein to attack the humanity of the soldiers."

A few days later, Lewis and a group of protesters demonstrated against the demolition of houses and farm land. They all sat in a circle, linked hands and sang. "We wanted to do things peacefully" The authorities broke up the vigil and they were all arrested. Lewis and the group were taken to a nearby police station, where they would stay locked up for over 20 hours. Lawyers were called, and a deal was struck up. "It wasn't much of a deal" said Lewis. "We either signed the paper to say we would never come back, or we couldn't leave. It wasn't much of a choice for us or for the Palestinians."

"In the latter part of last century, globalisation largely demolished barriers between people. At the start of this new century, we are building them back, every last brick."

We were forced to make a deal with the Israeli police

Water of University Life

The Vice Chancellor, Brian Cantor, is planning an application to the Environment Agency, for the go ahead to begin work on extracting water from rock underneath the campus. The plans for the underground water extraction have been drafted in anticipation of a man-made lake which is to be built on York's new campus, Heslington East. Plans are thought to include a boating lake, just one of the sports facilities the University is intent on improving in the current round of redevelopment.

Sixty's architecture supported

Speculation is mounting that there are plans to make certain parts of York University's earliest colleges grade II listed buildings. If this is the case it would not be possible to modify the buildings on the outside in any way. They would be considered as part of our national heritage, much to the distress of most students who live in them.

New Corporate Centre: Final Insult, Say Students

THE COMPLETION OF the new Roger Kirk building on campus has sparked fresh controversy surrounding the misuse of university funds. The vast building constructed just metres from crumbling student accommodation has incensed many, who see it as symbolic of the University's ethos of placing student welfare second. One Goodricke resident whose window faces the centre, described it as "living in the gutter of a palace".

University officials have conceded that although the venue will be used for student

dining, it will not be available for student events. Instead, corporate events will continue throughout the year, despite protests from students campaigning for a central bar venue.

Ents Officer, Robbie Dale, expressed his disappointment at the limited use of the centre for students.

To add to its troubles, a series of embarrassing blunders have plagued the centre since it opened in June. Guests were initially greeted with JCB's and a leaking roof as contractors struggled to finish the

building work in time. Even long after building work has been completed, huge basic errors have been exposed. A sweeping interior balcony, was described as "illegal" and a "waste of money" as it contravenes new disability access legislation.

Whether it will bring financial benefits in the long term or not, current students are reeling from another private initiative, which has left many feeling increasingly sidelined on campus.

METRES AWAY, A WORLD APART
Left: Goodricke C Block, Right: Roger Kirk Centre

