

Est. 1964

# nouse

## Library Long Overdue

Everyone is already aware of how poor the JB Morell is, but with the possible closure of the Minster Library, and *nouse's* investigations into the new (and empty) Raymond Burton Library it is clear how impoverished York students are. The University has always seemed loath to hand over the cash for student facilities, preferring new conference buildings while our stunning '60s concrete colleges slowly subside into the lake and York slips down the league tables.

Despite University excuses that development is too expensive, they should examine the finances of the average York student. With debts expected to run over £10,000, and the diminishing advantages of a degree (especially in Arts subjects, as Charles Clarke gleefully reminds us), life can be daunting. Especially as when a quick look round campus will reveal how expensive the basics of student living can be (pasta, beer, chocolate etc).

But this trend is set to continue for future generations of students as the UPP scheme (University Private Partnership - think New Labour's PPP) looks set to continue as campus expands. Yes, you'll be glad to know Costcutter and Campus Fare are here to stay...

## Nomination Crisis?

The nominations for the new Chancellor of York University throw up a few important issues. Firstly, it is clear that aside from Judi Dench, none of the candidates have any real link to York. While *nouse* has little love for the absent tabloid darling Christine Hamilton, she at least can boast a better connection to the University than most on the list. This raises the question of what will the selection committee do if this obvious first choice declines the offer. David Sainsbury is Lord of somewhere in Hampshire, was educated at Oxford and lives down south. He also happens to have a few supermarkets bearing his surname in the region (well at least it might be an improvement on Costcutter). Meanwhile Mary Robinson is already Chancellor of another University - Trinity Dublin, while Chris Patten is similarly engaged at Oxford.

How can our Chancellor then truly represent York if they have not even been here? True, the post is hardly a full time job, but it is a sad indictment of our university that there in 40 years so few people went here who have achieved enough in their lifetime to conceivably be Chancellor. *nouse* suggests Greg Dyke, or possibly Harry Enfield instead, if Dame Dench is unavailable. At least we would then be spared the trauma of Robin Cook as a possible Chancellor

## nouse thanks!

*nouse* is complete for another year, but a small army of editors-past and section writers of the near present are leaving for the real world. The current squad of hacks would like to thank Jamie Khoo and Andy Plowman, former editors trying to break into the professionals, Johan Palme, a big Swedish man with an odd taste in music, Pete Sivey a fine young man of upstanding virtue who played with the Politics section till he nearly went blind, Dave Gent who went blind, the 'Clarke and Lois' of the *nouse* office Chris Mercer and Laura Bell who never recovered from searching for a nonexistent wasps' nest, Giles Rushden a man of extreme talent and orange underpants, Sarah Morgan, we're not quite sure if she's Welsh but she definitely was a supreme Deputy Editor, Rory Palmer, a man with a slick attitude and an even slicker hairstyle, David White a Scottish man who featured a spurrin but never revealed exactly what it was, Gareth Arnold, a sophisticated gent with an unnatural interest in David White, Simon Aldridge and the elusive Alex Hitchcock for an eventful year in the Innuendo post, Sarah Linsley and Tara Spinks for bringing new arty films to the masses, Lydia Wysocki and Martin Nicholson for aiding them in their quest, Tim Fassam a musical man from far away, but he couldn't play, and the most fantastic Will Gaskell, Deputy Sports with an ever changing hairstyle and superb digger of AU treasures.

We love you all.

# NUS Discount, Anyone?

For most of us, apart from the discounts, saving those vital pounds, the value and relevance of NUS membership is minute.

Jamie Willard



For union bodies across the country the benefits of NUS affiliation are somewhat more tangible. With access to discounted wholesale prices for beer and crisps, through National Union of Students Service Limited (NUSSL), meaning bigger profits to invest in student services. Additionally, affiliation to NUS means university students are represented on the national stage. A win-win situation?

Forty grand is the price we pay for the privilege, roughly £5 for every student on campus. Meanwhile down the A64 Leeds Student's Union (over four times the size) pays roughly the same. Value for money-wise York is clearly getting ripped off.

It sounds great on paper, but it doesn't quite add up, to quote Tom Connor "the NUS is a farce... nothing ever gets done". The NUS mission statement is "to constantly improve the lives and experiences of students in the UK" However for those who've been to NUS conference there's a different

picture - imagine sharing a small enclosed space with the Loony Left, the Socialist Workers Party, Matthew David Platts, the Tories, New Labour, Old Labour, In Labour and the Lib Dems. Glorified UGMS with more egos encapsulate all that is bad about the NUS. Nothing is ever achieved due to partisan affiliations, as political factions refuse to back each other's proposals, even if they make sense. Given York's relatively small size, I'm deeply sceptical of those who claim we're better off seeking reform of NUS from within. This is rubbish - as a Union we're worse off to the tune of £40,000.

With money so tight, YUSU with its limited commercial activities, (a Second Hand bookshop and a glammed up newsagents), isn't exactly

rolling in cash. In addition to York's poor revenue generating activities, the SU incurs the same increases in costs each year, as every other business. Ever increasing numbers of campus societies demanding money squeezes the pot further. At a stroke the Union would gain an extra 40k in cash to spend more fruitfully on, more effective campaigns, better AU funding and maybe even providing sabbatical media editors.

It's not even as if York would be doing something radical in withdrawing: Southampton, Glasgow, Edinburgh, UMIST and Imperial have disaffiliated, after concluding NUS doesn't work for them. The consequences of disaffiliating, if we're honest, would be mini-

mal: we'd save oodles of cash, lose out on subsidised training for Union officers (which I'm sure we can organise elsewhere for significantly less than forty grand), and the opportunity to attend Conferences. Hmm, sounds tough. Even the highly prized student discounts wouldn't be threatened, with the experiences of those Unions who have already disaffiliated indicating that companies are so desperate for students their Union card entitles them to all the same deals locally.

Until such times as we have a central bar and venue (never), when being a member of NUSSL makes financial sense, it seems clear to me that at the very least we should start to have a serious debate about disaffiliation. To put it crudely York can survive outside the NUS freeloading on the benefits of its work, whilst having the flexibility to spend money on things that the Union and York students really need.



Mandy Telford: NUS President

“Not everywhere can be Soho or Brighton but no gay bars at all?!”

Sarah Morgan



'Have you come out lately? Thinking of coming out? Why? No seriously, I'm not some kind of crazy gay basher, who thinks that you should be marching yourself off into therapy to 'get it all out of your system'. I'm just saying if you're coming out, don't go out, well not in York at least. I've always been disinclined to tread the streets of this city after hours, lets face it, it pretty damn dull. But if you're gay about town...

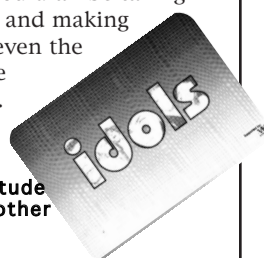
If you took the plunge many years ago and are already basking in sexual self confidence, for a start congratulations, I've still got friends who haven't mustered up the courage to take the plunge. But you might know where I'm going with this article. To give the rest of you a clue, how many gay bars do you think there are in town. One? Two? I'm telling you now that there are none. That's right none, once upon a time there was the mystical Bay orse. It closed down.

Toffs now run an "attitude free" night, which makes you wonder whether all the other nights spill over with attitude that must necessarily be detoxed weekly. Surely a gay night deserves a title a little more fun than something that sounds like a pacifists convention. Do you see where I'm

going now? The first contention that you entered reading this article, gay or straight was whether I was gay or not, admittedly perhaps here I'm making it an issue, but does it really matter. I'm just writing about one of the many things that piss me off about York. You can't expect everywhere to be Soho or Brighton, but no gay bars at all? Although having said that the idea of a gay bar has always pissed me off. Too idealistic I guess, but I've always been a fan of mixing everything up. Mods with Rockers, Young with Old, Gay with Straight. It concerns me when there is always a threat with bars in Soho that you will be turned away on suspicion of being, shock horror, straight.

I guess there is always a fear with a lifestyle and culture that someone will co-opt it, but if that means that one side feels vulnerable, while the other side feels excluded perhaps we should all be taking the plunge and making York, hell even the world more interesting.

Idols is 'attitude free' every other Sunday at Toffs



“This isn't advocacy of press censorship, but it is a call for sensible discretion”

James Redgrave



The Ralph Harrington revelations should have come as a surprise to everyone. Never mind whether or not they knew him, he was their tutor/supervisor/best friend in the whole university (as no shortage of people will tell you he was, in the light of his recently acquired celebrity). A 'lecturers: child porn shame' is an extremely unusual scenario.

Unless of course you have already got that T-shirt. Ralph Harrington was never meant to be my supervisor, he merely undertook the role when its previous incumbent (Rod Hill) was suspended

Ralph Harrington was never meant to be my supervisor, he merely undertook the role when its previous incumbent (Rod Hill) was suspended

To qualify this apparent stream of insensitivity, the delicacy of Ralph's story is neither lost nor wasted on me, as I hope the interview overleaf demonstrates. My point is that Rod Hill had his charges lifted, was pro-

claimed innocent - but apparently not innocent enough. To this day, within the confines of York, he is seen as a reprobate. His denunciation was enough to seal his reputation, the facts notwithstanding. 'Innocent 'till proven guilty', utterly cliched though the phrase may have become, is a concept rendered irrelevant in such cases and Harrington, therefore, may never be allowed to forget this. What is particularly unfortunate is that Harrington has been convicted, adding to his potential detraction, and, while this was not what it has been reported as being, it will be more than enough to haunt him in a way that even the unfortunate Mr Hill has not experienced.

This is not an advocacy for some form of press censorship but it is a call for sensible discretion on the part of those who have the ability to damage others with what they say or write. The abuse of such a power is a negligence that it is hard to ethically condone.