



JIM BULLEY

Carnage returns to York despite YUSU opposition

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CONTROVERSIAL STUDENT bar crawl Carnage returned to York this weekend despite strong opposition from YUSU and the NUS.

In a statement on the YUSU website, president Tim Ngwena stated that the Union were "disappointed to see Carnage coming to York again" after "vocally speaking out on Carnage" in the past year. He said that YUSU had been working with the community, North Yorkshire Police and York St. John Student Union to minimise the effect of the event on students and the community.

This is the latest incident of a long history of clashes between YUSU and Carnage. In 2007 former YUSU president Anne-Marie Canning called the event "disrespectful" and unethical in the way that they produced their t-shirts, causing Carnage to threaten YUSU with legal action.

Last year's president Tom Scott successfully motioned the NUS to condemn the event and at this year's annual conference the NUS resolved to "oppose Carnage and write to local authorities and MPs to ensure that NUS and students' unions are not associated with this behaviour".

Carnage York was organised by Varsity Leisure Group who run Carnage bar crawls all over the UK. The event in York saw participants pass through venues such as Varsity and Revolution before ending the night in Tru. The bar crawl was fancy-dress, with a doctors and

nurses theme and the tagline "Will you miss out?"

The event has been hit by a wave of controversy in the past months after student Phillip Laing was arrested after urinating on a war memorial whilst attending a Carnage event in Sheffield. Last Wednesday he appeared at Sheffield magistrates' court where District Judge Anthony Browne criticised the Carnage event for their role in the incident saying, "some might say someone should be standing alongside you this morning."

Last year Gethin Bevan, a student at the University of Bath, hung himself just after attending a Carnage night out.

A spokesman from Varsity Leisure Group has said that they "do not promote binge drinking" or "drinking to dangerous levels". The event poster told participants to "drink responsibly, be safe" and to know their limits.

YUSU have made clear in their statement that the event was "not a YUSU organised event" and carried "no endorsement from YUSU". In the past Varsity Leisure Group have accused YUSU of opposing Carnage because "they clearly compete with their own, less well-resourced events" such as YUSU's Viking Raid.

Ngwena warned students attending the event that in the past there "has been heavy pressure to drink excessively". He also asked students to be aware of themselves and their friends so that "we can avoid serious repercussions that have followed such events in the past."

Bretts fails to deliver election pledges

Jess Haines
NEWS REPORTER

YUSU DEMOCRACY and Services Officer Lewis Bretts has been criticised for failing to fulfil the key principles outlined in his election manifesto.

Bretts pledged in his July campaign that he would enable a temporary cash point in Halifax College throughout Freshers' Week, but failed to fulfill this pledge for those students who are a 15-minute walk away from central campus.

Bretts explained: "I couldn't reach an agreement with the company I was hoping to deal with, to create a deal that didn't represent too high a financial risk to the Union, and as Freshers' Week drew closer I didn't have time to shop around as efficiently as I would have liked."

When asked why he didn't immediately inform the student body about these complications,

Bretts replied: "Maybe I should have done."

Bretts has also been accused of failing to fulfill his primary campaign pledge to establish a weekly 'fresh fruit and veg' market stall, which was outlined in his manifesto. Bretts stated that the delay has occurred due to complications with licensing laws.

Third-year Nick Hawkins, who voted for Bretts in July, commented: "Being the 'fruit and veg' man was kind of the hallmark of his campaign."

Brett's added: "Co-ordinating Freshers Week has taken time. But we're onto long term stuff now. I have a whole term in office."

Philip Lee-Wright, another third-year who backed Bretts in July, added "He seems a really nice guy but we haven't heard much yet. 'A work in progress' is all we know so far."

Bretts' campaign was based around four key principles; 'More Service You'll Use', 'Stronger Colleges', 'A More Accountable

YUSU' and 'Clearer Financial Management'.

Concerns have been raised that the 'More Service You'll Use' pledges, which included promises to run a weekly minibus service to Morrisons, have not been sufficiently concentrated on.

Regarding the issue, Bretts said: "I can't confirm any details yet because we're still in talks."

Bretts was keen to highlight the success of some of his pledges: "The Courtyard is now selling takeaway drinks at the end of the night and Student Cards have been improved. They now include the NUS and YUSU logos."

In response to whether the University Student Cards should also include expiry dates - a feature which many notable high street stores require to allow student discounts - Bretts voiced difficulties over the procedure. He stated: "We have been looking into it, there's possible options of holographic stickers too, to prove the validity of the cards."

Portering motion dominates UGM as YUSU Officers argue over budget cuts

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NEWS REPORTER

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR portering was one of eight issues debated at the Union General Meeting on Wednesday, where YUSU Welfare Officer Ben Humphrys surprisingly spoke against the motion.

If passed the motion would mandate the union to campaign for a return to staff levels of June 2009, as well as highlight the importance of 24-hour portering by involving national and local media.

The motion was proposed by Campaigns officer Chris Etheridge. In the debate, Etheridge said that University seemed "short sighted and ignorant of the views of stu-

dents".

However, Humphrys spoke against the motion, saying that it was "unrealistic to require the University to be both prudent in its finances safeguarding our degrees and not impose careful budget restraint across the board".

He went on to say that the University has "worked to ensure that the loss of portering is kept at a minimum and made changes to push this through. The crisis in Higher Education Funding is a battle that YUSU and the University face together". Humphrys will be releasing a blog to fully clarify his position.

A motion regarding YUSU joining the 10:10 campaign was also discussed, which if passed would pledge YUSU to reduce car-

bon emissions by 10% in 2010. Sabbatical Officers would be mandated to ensure that the right measures are put in place.

An ethical gas and electricity purchasing motion was also discussed. This motion, which was proposed by Jason Rose, would mandate the Union to lobby the University to switch to ethical gas supplies if it is economically viable.

Other motions debated included a constitutional tidy up, reducing free carrier bag usage, ethical alternatives in YUSU businesses, change of RAG and Student Action ordinary members election times, and changing the name of Student Action.

Voting takes place at <http://www.yusu.org/vote> and closes tomorrow.

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V/045 - 18:15

