

EST. 1964
NOUSE

Students taking the strain

The University's decision to award unfinished degrees will come as a relief for those students who faced not being able to graduate this summer, but with it will come a new batch of problems. No one can predict how employees will treat graduates qualifications that they know not to be completely marked, and many students from the year across the country will be in a similar predicament, but degrees that have been the product of three years or more of hard work and major financial investment will now be tainted. The AUT have unsurprisingly decided to continue their strike and chosen not to be swayed by the latest University response, and the rights and wrongs of this decision will be no consolation to the students whose education is suffering. The dispute between lecturers and their employees is a difficult situation, and with it has come a long period of resentment, anger and misinformation from both sides. Seemingly we are no closer to a settlement, and students need to be reassured that they aren't going to continue to be forced to suffer the consequences.

Wanted: an ethical policy

York University students may often be teased for being apathetic, unpolitical and surprisingly right-wing considering most of them are sponging off the state, yet there is a heartening and growing campaign for the University to pull out of their shares in major arms manufacturers.

At the end of the days, the money invested is students money: our money which we have chosen to invest in an education at this institution. Obviously money does need to be made by the University, but this doesn't mean that it can continue to shun moral and ethical responsibilities, which should (but often aren't) be considered a priority for any company, even one whose customers aren't putting pressure on them.

The next few weeks are vitally important, and the profile must continue to be raised by campus media and YUSU for this issue so it doesn't go away. Societies like People and Planet need our support: they can only take on the might of the University by themselves for so long.

So sign the petition in Vision, continue to support Micky's push and show students do care, and look for any ways in which you can pressure the University. It may sound idealistic, but a change can be made. It may sound overdramatic, but a chance needs to be made.

New Eco
Officers
**Charlotte
Bonner &**

Clare Hawley discuss
their future policies

Change comes at every level. From making sure one light bulb is switched off to ensuring Heslington



SU President
**Micky
Armstrong**

It heads towards the end of term and finalists look towards the future, for those of you that have been effected by the AUT's action, the future may seem to be in jeopardy. Let me take this opportunity to reassure you that the University has taken vital steps

East is sustainable are all aspects of our work. As a pair we feel qualified to make a difference; one of us, Charlotte, is an experienced environment and ethical officer while the other, Clare, has done a lot of good work with recycling and the 'Love your bike' day.

Part of the job is to increase the knowledge on green issues such as energy efficiency, waste management and green transport. This applies to second and third years, as well as first years. There needs to be changes on the ground - we want to finally sort out carrier bag recycling and increase bike security. Students and lecturers should be able to use

to ensure that you face as little disruption as possible. Although not orange the future is bright.

The action the AUT has taken has made me reflect on the work that the Union does. 300 people turned out to vote whether or not we support the action that the AUT has taken, yet 3,000 people signed our save the bars campaign. Does this really mean that more people care about their campus bars than their degree? Do students come to university to study, learn, and get a degree or do students come to University to get pissed and go to Ziggys? I know what I did and I

bikes without fear of theft or damage, especially while on campus.

The bike sale is always a success. Not only does it give students a cheap, green and healthy method of transport, but it also raises money a lot of money. This year it allowed a donation of £1000 to be made to Target TB, which supplies bikes to doctors in Africa.

An extension of the kitchen sale to a campus wide scale would raise more money that can be given away to charity. At the end of the last academic year, we sterilised all kitchen items people did not want and sold them to freshers. With the money raised we bought 11 goats through

know what I wish I did.

As we leave York I assume that many people will feel as I do, there will always be a place for York in our lives. Be it a distant memory or as an active member of the alumni. There is something about our university that will stay with us. Yes we live in a concrete monstrosity, yes we never want to see wildfowl again, but deep down we will always be proud of what we have given the University and what the University has given us.

Just take Roses for example; there was so much pride in the York teams that competed in Roses.

the Oxfam Unwrapped program.

York University proudly earned fair trade status in 2005. To uphold this status we need to campaign for more fair-trade consumption. Our main target is the vending machines, as increasing access to fair-trade goods allows students to decide easier how their chocolate is made.

Merchandise for JCRCs, societies, YUSU and the AU can currently come from any company. Corners should not be cut to save money by tolerating sweat shops and child labour. We want to see only ethical companies being used.

To do all of this we need people. We want to reward those who run

three revelled in the competition of the weekend. That's my point, no matter how much we dislike the University at times, or complain about this, that, and the other, compared to Lancaster we will always be better. WE are the University of York.

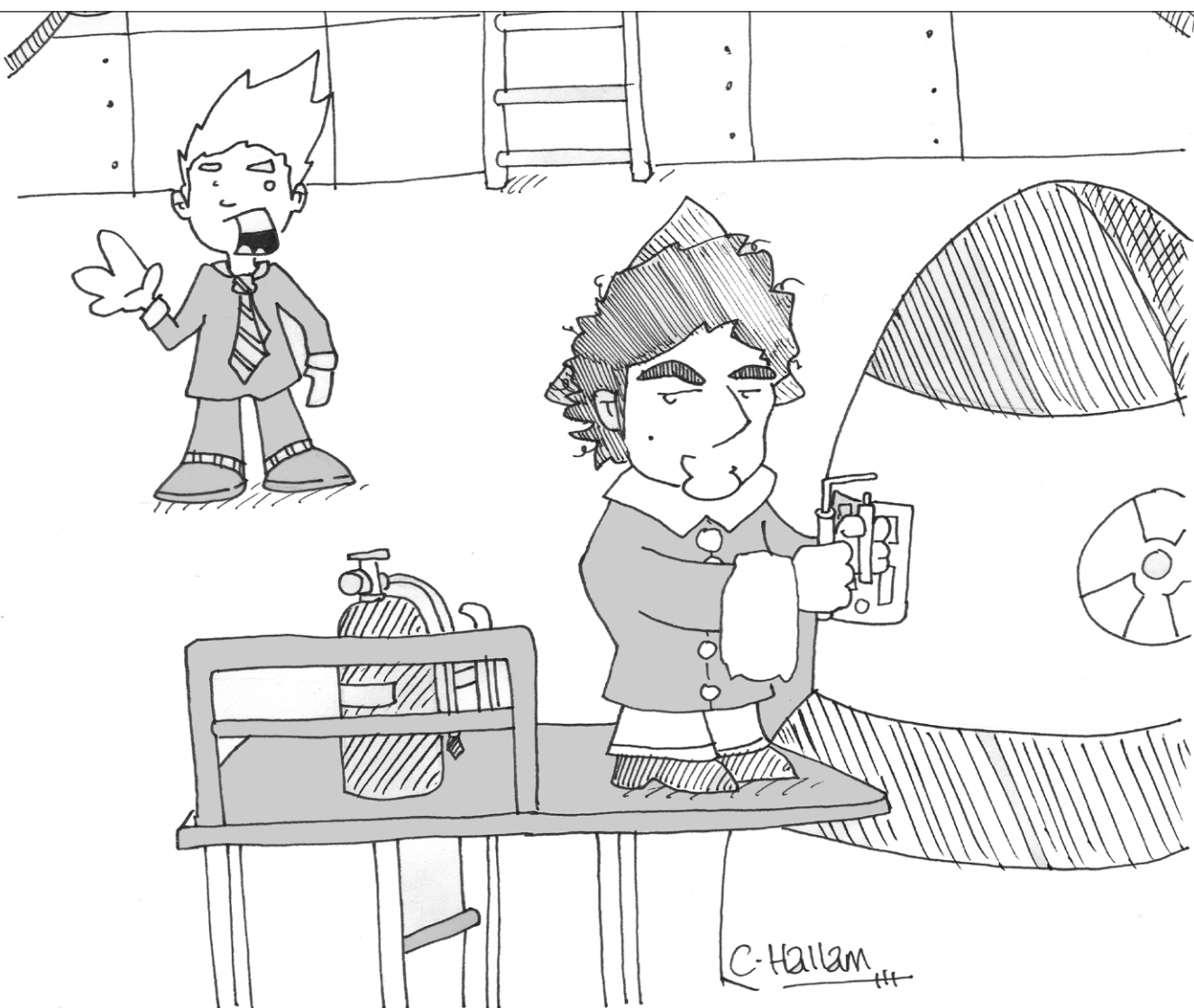
As the finalists move on to pastures new I wish you all the best, and for those who have the privilege of remaining here I say (with a hint of envy) enjoy your time, you will miss it when its gone.

If anybody is worried about the future of their degrees please contact me at president@yusu.org

recycling systems on campus. The communication, organisation and support for the college eco-reps must be improved and formalised. Our view is that an official committee should be set up.

Planning is vital to many of the jobs jobs of environment officers have to undertake. We will endeavour to plan publicity and events in advance, and use broader media such as Nouse to publicise and raise awareness of campaigns.

We look forward to trying to make a difference. We believe that we have the enthusiasm and experience to make a visible, material improvement.



"AFTER MUCH, DEBATING PLANET V HAS BEEN MOVED TO A WEDNESDAY AND SO THE MEDIEVAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY HAVE THE HALL ON MONDAY"

CROKER: "EXCELLENT, EVERYTHING IS FALLING INTO PLACE!"

C. Hallam

York gave up on bars

Charlotta Salmi questions why the University failed to take adequate measures in time to prevent the need for the impending bar closures

So, the university has finalised plans to cut opening hours of campus bars. As a Halifax student approaching the end of my second year at York, I feel sorry for those who will be arriving next term. After an exciting and lively Freshers' Week they will be faced with the reality that the social life our university has to offer them is restricted at best. With limited access to the bars they will quickly discover that the alternatives in Heslington and York are more suited to their needs and will soon fit their social lives around non-campus bars instead. Wouldn't it be nice if it took more than a week for students to become disenfranchised by the services provided for them by the University?

Despite the Commercial Services' 'concessions' to keep all bars open at least a few nights pers week, the impending closures will threaten the collegiate system that lies at the centre of the University experience at York.

What could be more depressing to a new Langwith student than walking into their bar to find a dark, deserted room with a dark, deserted bar? Would you blame them for feeling a lack of allegiance to their college, or even the University?

So why did it have to come to this? Why are the bars mak-

ing less than half of what they made two years ago? The University claims that it's due to the changing drinking habits of students, but a quick look in the Charles will confirm that this is anything but the case. Students are drinking just as much as before; they just choose to do it elsewhere.

So the real reason why the campus bars are increasingly failing to attract students is that the University provisions are not offering what the students want. The University has spent time and money not just refurbishing the college bars but making them increasingly homogenized. With seven different bars there is enormous potential to create a varied social scene that could rival the allure of town. So why has Commercial Services insisted on having the same pricing structure, the same drinks on offer and the same décor in all the bars? It means that visiting one bar in an evening is essentially visiting them all and this naturally discourages students from spending an entire night on campus.

When the original proposal was released, the YUSU suggested alternative uses for less successful venues, such as turning Langwith into a juice bar. This would appeal to students who don't necessarily want to drink alcohol but want to go out on

campus, and as such the University could profit from a larger proportion of their students.

Not only would introducing clearly-defined themes to the other bars rejuvenate them individually, it would also add much-needed diversity to the University's social structure as a whole. For instance, Wentworth could become a cocktail bar while Derwent could focus on live sports. This added variety would encourage more societies and sports teams to use campus rather than town for their socials, and as such the University could expect to see profits increase by far more than the required £50,000.

If the prospect of a campus-wide bar makeover seems daunting to the University's financial outlook there are other concerns that could be more cheaply solved. Primarily, drinking on campus just doesn't feel cheap. Is it coincidence that the shift in profitability coincided with a rise in prices two years ago that saw lager go from £1.40 to £1.60? Although it's not a large increase, it's the difference between being by far the cheapest student bar and being one of many cheap student bars.

The SU and University's "Where will you drink this Friday?" campaign to show that drinking on campus is cheaper

thousands of finalists.

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'British higher education rests on this dispute being resolved'

AUT action will graduate in much the same way as those whose degrees have been unaffected. This should, to an extent, be applauded. Yet it seems to me that YUSU, by withdrawing its support for its national equivalent, is guilty of short-sightedness, and risks undermining the excellent work being done by the NUS to resolve the pay dispute at the national level. The quality of British universities will remain in jeopardy

until lecturers receive a fairer pay deal. YUSU's decision to break away from the NUS will act only as a hindrance to a just resolution to this disquieting situation.

As a first-year History with French student, the industrial action has had no impact on me whatsoever. I am concerned about sitting my French exams in Week 6, and whether I will achieve the result I want; I have no concerns as to whether they will or will not be marked. Thus my stance may seem somewhat superficial, as I am not experiencing any of the distress that many finalists, at this university and at others around the country, are going through.

However, my concern that the qualities of British universities should not diminish over the coming years means that I have no qualms supporting the academic unions over the industrial action, and I would strongly urge YUSU to do the same.

Quality of British degrees depends on support for the ongoing AUT strikes

By James Caldwell

As a rule of thumb, I do my utmost to avoid people attempting to get me to sign petitions. I have mastered the art of zig-zagging across busy high streets in order to get to my chosen destination without being accosted by well-meaning but highly irritating people, bedecked in red bibs and bobble hats.

Should this strategy of evasion fail, I have memorised several verbal responses to ensure I am left well alone: "Sorry, my car park expired ten minutes ago, I really must get back"; "I would love to sign your piece of paper, but I have to get to my interview"; "Perdón, yo no hablo inglés."

Thus I was extremely surprised a few weeks ago to find myself asking a student outside Vanbrugh College, "Excuse me, could I sign your petition?" He looked rather surprised himself, but duly handed over the clipboard for me to leave my

details and sign my name in support of the cause.

By signing the petition, I was expressing my support for the industrial action being carried out by the AUT and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

The arguments for doing so seemed fairly straightforward to me at the time, and this remains the case. The quality of British higher education rests on this dispute being resolved. Our academic staff, when compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world, are highly undervalued. Their current level of pay, given their high level of training and expertise, is far lower than it should be. According to a study conducted by the AUT the average salary of a lecturer in Britain is only £32,500 while in the United States lecturers are earning a whole 47.5% more.

As such, representatives of the lecturers' unions are right to dismiss

the offer of a six per cent pay increase over two years as "derisory."

In fact considering that 1,000 lecturers have chosen to work for universities abroad, over a quarter of them being employed in the U.S., the small pay increase is unlikely to make a drastic difference.

The National Union of Students has supported the academic union from the beginning, and is justified in its concern that unless lecturers receive a fairer pay deal, academics will be attracted overseas, thus diminishing the quality of British universities.

The NUS is working hard on many levels, it is engaging in talks with the AUT over exam boycotts, with the University Continuing Education Association over their reluctance to re-enter negotiations, and with various MPs and Vice-Chancellors - to find a resolution to this problem as quickly as possible, in order to minimise the damaging impact this action could have on

thousands of finalists.

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