

SU officers accused of sexism over freshers' bag distribution

<< CONTINUED from front

Academic and Welfare Officer, Grace Fletcher-Hall and ex-Women's Officer, Amy Burge who also sat in on discussions at the open meeting on October 10. Burge spoke out against the bags, saying "they are not only sexist to women; they also assume that all male students are interested in viewing sexually explicit photographs of women, and completely ignore gay men."

Matthew Pallas, LGBT Officer said he found FHM to be "degrading to women" and thought the bags were "heteronormative, subconsciously sending out the message that everyone is straight."

Leaked emails obtained by Nouse have shown continued disquiet within YUSU since the motion was passed. Sam Bayley sent out emails reminding all officers "that they are required by the Union Code (and thus the constitution) to abide by and carry out decisions of the Executive Committee, and that officers must not campaign against the decisions of a committee once they have been voted upon."

To counter the distribution of bags at YUSU Fair, Amy Burge gave students the opportunity to swap their copies of FHM and cellulite cream for "sexism free" cakes. About 250 copies of FHM were swapped. During the fair,



The bags aimed at male students contained copies of FHM

freshers showed mixed reactions to the bags. One female student said: "What I find really offensive

is the implication that women eat less than men. I don't know many women who aren't capable of eat-

ing a full tin of beans and a chocolate bar, yet those items weren't included in our bags." One male student said of the controversy "some people need to be shipped off to the Third World. Then they'd have something worth complaining about."

Pallas will put forward a motion regarding the bags at a Union General Meeting on Tuesday October 23. The motion, which has been seconded by Environment and Ethics Officers, the Academic and Welfare Officer, and the Women's Officers, states that "any Union sabbatical, part-time officer or staff member who orders or receives products...to be distributed free to students during Freshers' Week or at any other freshers' welcome event must consult the Academic & Welfare Officer, Equality & Diversity Officers and Environment & Ethics Officers" to make sure that any products detrimental to the welfare of students will not be distributed.

"I was disappointed by FHM. Not by the sexist images, but the exclusion of the Ladies' Confessions section. It's the best bit, because it's clearly written by men. Real women don't say 'it's just too big' nearly that often"

COMMENT >> P10

Minibars removed from student rooms

MINI-BARS WERE removed from the bedrooms of Freshers being accommodated at Holiday Inn, Tadcaster Road for fear of further expenditure resulting from their stay there, which will already cost the University an estimated £30,000. According to Won Youn, JCRC Chair of Langwith College, minibars were removed from the hotel rooms of 47 new Langwith College residents, who were placed there as a result of the accommodation shortage. Managers of the Holiday Inn were unavailable for comment. One fresher said, "It was a strange way to start my university experience but we had lots of fun, and we weren't too bothered about the mini-bars."

SU chlamydia drive

ON MONDAY October 22, 15 students were tested for chlamydia in the Charles as part of a YUSU awareness drive. The campaign is being fronted by Academic and Welfare Officer Grace Fletcher-Hall and Women's Officer Laura Payne. Fletcher Hall said "1 in 10 students are infected with Chlamydia. It's vital that people get tested, because if they find out they have it, it's very easy to treat." Under the new testing system, labelled the "Take-away Service, test samples can be taken at home and returned to the Clinic. Testing kits can be collected from Fletcher Hall or can be sent through internal mail for discretion. The trial will run throughout October and, if successful, should be permanently available to all students.

100 Toffs and Gallery gold cards for YUSU

YUSU has obtained 100 gold cards for the Gallery and Toffs, which are to be distributed to select members of the Union's committees. The cards permit students to get into Gallery and Toffs for free with one guest. Matt Burton, Services and Finance Officer, has been actioned by the other Officers on the Executive committee to create a list of potential frontrunners out of other committees such as RAG, Student Action, the AU and Ents Tech. Concern was expressed by Executive officers who stated that it was difficult to distinguish which positions would qualify without offending some individuals.

Haleh Afshar takes House of Lords peerage

By Jennifer O'Mahony
DEPUTY EDITOR

PROFESSOR HALEH Afshar OBE, the Politics and Women's Studies academic, has been given a peerage.

Professor Afshar will take up a seat on the House of Lords cross-benches as a non-party political peer in recognition of her work. She is an advisor to the

Government on public policy relating to Muslim women and Islamic law and is the founder and Chair of the Muslim Women's Network.

Afshar was chosen as a 'People's Peer', an appointment for people who will bring distinction and expertise to the House of Lords. She said: "I was really very surprised and very honoured to be considered a 'People's Peer'. In fact, I was lost for words when I

was told. I shall certainly be fighting for equal opportunities for minorities and for women as I have always done."

Born in Iran, Professor Afshar is one of the most prolific Muslims in Britain today. She was an undergraduate at the University of York in the 1960s, became a committed Marxist during the Iranian revolution and describes Feminism as "my most important and constant commit-

ment." Professor Afshar has served on the British Council and the United Nations Association of which she is Honorary President of International Services. She is also Visiting Professor of Islamic Law at the International Faculty of Comparative Law, University of Strasbourg.

In addition to her academic studies, she has written widely as a journalist on Muslim women and the 'War on Terror'.

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Nouse speaks to second year student, Fusion president and professional model Amy Browne about drug abuse, travelling around the world, and how they make her look like that.

MUSE >> 10-11

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