



Flash mob highlights homelessness

Drama students attempted to raise awareness about homelessness in Norwich through a flash mob-style performance.

Seven actors from the University of East Anglia took part in the city centre stunt yesterday afternoon – much to the surprise of shoppers on Haymarket.

It began with an actor tripping over another who was dressed as a homeless person, before breaking into a dance routine.

The performance ended with handfuls of fake money being thrown into the air.

Director Ruth Phillips, a second year drama student, said: “We are hoping that people would have picked up the notes thinking it was money.”

“They actually feature a QR code that when scanned directs them to the People’s Picnic.”

The People’s Picnic is a homeless charity.



■ UEA drama students during their flash mob performance highlighting homelessness.

Picture: DENISE BRADLEY

IN BRIEF

Men arrested after spate of shed burglaries

KING’S LYNN: Two men remain in police custody after being arrested in connection with a recent spate of shed burglaries in King’s Lynn.

The men, aged 19 and 30, are from the King’s Lynn area. Chief Inspector Terry Lordan said: “I would strongly urge anyone leaving any items of value in sheds or garages to get their property marked, whether it’s electronically or through DNA technology.”

Beard trimmer is stolen from store

NORWICH: Police are seeking a man after a beard trimmer and an electric toothbrush were stolen from a Norwich store. The theft took place from Roys in Bowthorpe on February 1.

Anyone with information should contact PC Richard Walker at Earlham Police Station on 101 or alternatively Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Teenager sentenced over the rape of girl

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A 16-year-old boy from Norwich who raped a girl in an alleyway has been spared a custodial sentence, on the grounds there was hope he would learn his behaviour was unacceptable.

The boy and his victim were both aged 15 at the time of the attack, which happened in the city.

He had pleaded not guilty to rape, but was convicted after a trial during which the girl had to testify.

The boy, who cannot be identified due to his age, was sentenced at a youth court hearing before South East Suffolk Magistrates’ Court in Ipswich.

District Judge Celia Dawson told the teenager, whose parents were in court with him: “You put your victim, not only through the trauma of the offence you committed, but also through the trauma of having to give evidence and being cross-examined. That made her relive a horrible incident.”

“There is hope that you can learn that this sort of sexual behaviour with girls is not acceptable”

District Judge Celia Dawson

The boy was told the sentence for the rape, if it had been committed by an adult, would have been between four and seven years’ imprisonment.

However, despite her previous remarks the judge added: “However, you have some things in your favour.

“You were only 15 when the offence was committed.

“There is hope that you can learn that this sort of sexual behaviour with girls is not acceptable.”

The court heard the boy, who had no previous convictions, had not committed any further offences since the rape.

The boy received a two-year youth rehabilitation order which included an intensive supervision requirement.

He will also be subject to a three-month electronic curfew from 7pm to 7am.

As part of his sentence he must undertake a 91-day activity requirement during which he must complete a course designed to alter his attitude towards sexual offending.

The boy’s parents were told they must pay £250 towards prosecution costs.

The boy must also sign the Sex Offenders’ Register for two-and-a-half years.

Earlier in the hearing it was said the boy and the girl originally contacted each other through Facebook and by telephone before agreeing they would meet.

The boy had claimed the girl consented to sex, although this was found to be untrue at his trial in December last year.

The rape occurred on December 29, 2014.

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